



CITY OF HOUSTON
Strategic Purchasing Division
Finance and Administration
Department

Bill White
Mayor

Calvin D. Wells
City Purchasing Agent
P.O. Box 1562
Houston, Texas 77251-1562

F. 713.247.1811
www.houstontx.gov/purchasing

October 16, 2007

SUBJECT: Letter of Clarification No.4
700/800 MHz Trunked Radio & Communication System for the Information Technology
Department

REFERENCE: Request for Proposal No.: S29-T22459

TO: All Prospective Proposers

This Letter of Clarification is issued for the following reasons:

• **To revise the above referenced solicitation as follows:**

1. Vol. 1, Pages 43-45: Affidavit of Ownership or Control shall be replaced in its entirety. Remove Pages 43-45 and replace with attached Pages 43-45 marked Revised – October 16, 2007.
2. Vol. 2, Section 14- Pricing shall be replaced in its entirety. Remove Section 14-Pricing and replace with attached word version file Section 14- Pricing marked Revised – October 16, 2007. Please visit ***The City of Houston Strategic Purchasing Website at http://purchasing.houstontx.gov/Bid_Display.aspx?id=T22459 to download a copy of T22459 LOC 4 SECTION 14- PRICING REVISED 10-16-07.***

• **The following questions and City of Houston responses are as follows:**

1. Volume 1, Section III

Section III states, "For the point-by-point response, each paragraph in the RFP has been individually numbered for reference purposes. At the end of each RFP section, there is a response line with three possible responses, which include: Fully Compliant, Partially Compliant, and Non-Compliant. Proposers are to select and check one of the three responses that accurately reflect the proposed offering."

In lieu of this procedure, can the vendor's response be placed immediately after each numbered paragraph? Placing vendor responses at the end of each section will force the reviewer to page back and forth between the requirement and the vendor response. We will gladly do either, but suggest it might be easier to evaluate vendor answers if they are inserted immediately after each numbered paragraph.

ANSWER: Yes. As was stated in the pre-proposal conference, you may elect to place the compliant, partially compliant or non-compliance indication boxes at the end of each paragraph however, you must also leave the original compliance boxes at the end of each section as well. These are mandatory to be in compliance with the requirements of the RFP and for evaluation purposes.

In addition, as was stated in the RFP and again at the pre-proposal conference regarding being fully compliant and partially compliant. If you check the Fully Compliant box there is no “but” or “with the following explanation or clarification”. Fully Compliant means fully compliant.

If you elect to use compliance statements at the end of each paragraph in a particular section and 99 of 100 are compliant (for example) but one is partially compliant or non-compliant than you are partially compliant for that entire section as described in the RFP and by clarification at the pre-proposal conference on October 5th, 2007.

If there is any confusion on this point, contact Douglas Moore. Make no assumptions.

2. Volume 2, Section 1.2.3C- Section 1.2.3C states, “Houston Fire Department also maintains an 8 channel remote dispatch center located at Ben Taub.”

Is the City requesting that the Ben Taub dispatch center be upgraded and integrated into the new system?

ANSWER: No, the Ben Taub dispatch operation was moved to the HEC Center. Any equipment necessary for this operation has been included in other portions of the proposal and pricing sheets

3. Volume 2, Section 1.2.6M- Section 1.2.6M states, “The Department will need a desktop control station radios installed at local emergency rooms to facilitate radio communications between Fire/EMS personnel and the medical facilities.”

Are the control stations for the emergency rooms included in the Fire/EMS control station pricing in Section 14? If not, should they be included?

ANSWER: Yes. The control station numbers in the pricing sheets includes the control stations for the hospitals.

4. Volume 2, Section 1.4.2G- Section 1.4.2G states, “The radio equipment list includes 69 control stations used for dispatch.”

Should the control stations referenced in this section be replaced in the new system? If so, are they included in the pricing breakdown in Section 14? If they are not included currently, should pricing for these control stations be included?

ANSWER: Yes. The control stations referenced in this section are included in the 85 requested for Public Works and are already included in Section 14 pricing breakdown.

5. Volume 2, Section 1.5.1A- Section 1.5.1A states that additional control stations and mobile radios will be needed.

Are all the control stations and mobile radios mentioned in this section for replacement included in the pricing breakdown in Section 14? If they are not included currently, should pricing for these control stations be included?

ANSWER: Yes. The radio equipment referenced in this section for OEM has been included in other sections of HFD and HPD's requests and does not have to be added to the pricing breakdown sheet.

6. Volume 2, Section 2.1B and 2.1C- The RFP states: "The City recognizes that system costs will be substantial and is therefore also encouraging Proposers to submit an Alternate Proposal in addition to the Primary Proposal that utilizes other creative methods to achieve the required levels of radio coverage and system features. Coverage requirements for Alternate Proposals shall remain the same as the Primary Proposal with the exception that the infrastructure baseline coverage can be reduced from 20 db to 15 dB. *In-building and tunnel system coverage requirements remain unchanged, however alternative methods may be used to meet the in-building & tunnel system coverage requirements.*"

Can you please clarify the italicized statement above? Is the baseline coverage of 10, 15, and 30dB in-building coverage in the alternate proposal required to be provided by the infrastructure only, or can alternate solutions like vehicular repeaters be used to meet the baseline 10, 15, and 30dB in-building coverage?

ANSWER: In the "alternative proposal" the required coverage can be accomplished using the infrastructure and/or other methodologies such as vehicle repeaters or in building repeaters. The City recognizes that some vehicular repeater systems have an impact on the level of system features and capacity they support in the field. If vehicular repeaters are proposed, the Proposer shall clearly explain and define any deviation in functionality or system capacity through the vehicular repeater, relative to normal operation through the fixed trunked radio infrastructure.

With the alternate proposals, would the City consider allowing vendors to utilize a leather swivel case in lieu of a belt clip for the coverage test?

ANSWER: As mentioned above, we would consider alternate methods of achieving the required coverage levels in the alternate proposal(s), However, in order to maintain the ability to compare to other proposals, the use of a leather swivel in lieu of a belt clip for the coverage acceptance test will not be permitted.

Since the alternate proposal requested has the same requirements as the primary solution, with the exception of the 20dB coverage, is a separate alternate proposal with the same level of detail required (Point by Point, Section 13, etc)? Or, would it be preferred that vendors provide detail of the alternate solution in a more concise manner that describes the difference from the baseline primary solution?

ANSWER: Providing both a (Point by Point, Section 13) section and a complete and concise explanation with appropriate technical documentation is highly recommended.

The failure mode analysis required in the Primary proposal must also be provided for any alternate proposal submitted. Alternate proposals shall also include a completed compliance matrix that indicates the level of compliance that has been proposed, relative to the RFP.

7. Volume 2, Sections 2.1.1K through 2.1.1P- The RFP paragraphs are related to Project 25 Operation, Spectrum Efficiency, and Multiple Manufacturers of Subscriber Equipment

Is a Project 25 Phase 1 and/or Phase 2 trunking system required for the primary and any alternate proposals? Section 14 did not include pricing for Phase 2. Is pricing for Phase 2 required?

ANSWER: Project 25 Phase 1 is a requirement of the RFP and needs to be included in your primary response. . If Phase II operation is not proposed initially, Project 25 Phase 2 migration methodology and pricing is required as well, and as stated in the RFP needs to be included in Section 14 pricing, Updated Section 14 price sheets are included as part of this letter of clarification.

8. Volume 2, Section 2.1.1L- Given the interoperability requirements in the region with 800MHz Project 25 systems, do all radios need to support both 700 and 800MHz Project 25?

ANSWER: Yes. All radios need to operate in both 700 and 800MHz Project 25 modes.

9. Volume 2, Section 2.3.1G and H- Section 2.3.1G states, "The system shall be capable of Over-The-Air-Rekeying (OTAR) of the encryption algorithm. "

Over-The-Air-Rekeying (OTAR) is a Project 25 Integrated Voice and Data (IVD) service. Is it required that voice calls take priority over data services such as OTAR?

ANSWER: Yes.

10. Volume 2, Section 2.3.2W- Section 2.3.2W states, "City requires that all subscribers be capable of being "reprogrammed" over the air. Both the infrastructure equipment and all proposed subscribers shall be equipped with Over-The-Air-Programming (OTAP)."

OTAP is not specified in the price pages. Would the City like vendors to include pricing for this feature?

ANSWER: Yes, OTAP pricing is a requirement and needs to be included in your pricing. Section 14 has been updated to include (OTAP)

11. Volume 2, Section 2.3.2WW- Section 2.3.2WW states, "Each site controller and any auxiliary controllers shall provide for expansion to 30 radio channels of operation at a minimum without major hardware modifications."

Please confirm the infrastructure and subscribers must support 30 talk paths per subsystem.

ANSWER: Each site controller and any auxiliary controllers shall provide for the expansion to the maximum channels available for that particular manufacturer's product offering.

12. Volume 2, Section 3.4A- 3.4A states, "Grey shading denotes sites that may already have a utility microwave system on the tower, which will likely not be available for radio system use"

Please clarify the statement about water towers with utility microwave system on them. Will the tower be available for radio system use? Will the microwave be available for radio system use?

ANSWER: The towers will be available for Radio System use and/or microwave use providing they meet the criteria and can structurally handle the new system equipment. Utilizing existing water towers or other towers does not release the vendor from insuring that the equipment can be mounted safely, meet loading criteria, not inhibit the operational expectations of the water tower or tower and for the purposes of your primary proposal you should be proposing a new microwave system.

13. Volume 2, Section 4.5.5A- Section 4.5.5A states, "Radio equipment shelters shall be sized to house all trunked radio equipment and allow for substantial future growth."

Is the intent of the growth in rack space to accommodate 30% growth in system capacity?

ANSWER: This section specifically requires an addition of 5 full height 19" racks or a 30% growth factor in the total number of racks whichever is larger.

14. Volume 2, Section 4.5.5E- Section 4.5.5E states: "The access control system shall be fully configured to utilize the microwave or other T1 circuits at the site to provide remote monitoring and control from the site to the Houston Emergency Center."

Please describe the type of "control" desired.

ANSWER: This section is requesting monitoring and control of the specifically mention door locks via the microwave or other T1 circuits being utilized. Monitoring should include at a minimum intrusion alarms, open doors and have the capability to both unlock and lock doors remotely and to remotely start the auxiliary AC power generator.

15. Volume 2, Section 5.4.3D- Section 5.4.3D states, "A PBX station interface shall be provided at the Houston Emergency Center."

What is make and manufacturer of the existing PBX at the HEC?

ANSWER: Nortel Option 81, Dual Core Redundant

16. Volume 2, Section 6.1.1C- Section 6.1.1C states, "For maintenance support, each of the system's two Prime Sites that support the Master Network Controllers (MNCs) shall be equipped with one (1) full-featured IP based radio dispatch operation position."

These dispatch operator positions are not in listed the price pages. Should pricing be provided?

ANSWER: Yes, Pricing should be included and Section 14 has been updated to include (1) full featured based radio dispatch operation position at each of the system's two Prime Sites.

17. Volume 2, Section 6.2.10A- Section 6.2.10A mentions "50 Conventional Interfaces for upcoming Interoperability and Mutual Aid" that must be supported by the initial configuration of the system.

What are the locations of these 50 conventional resources?

ANSWER: These resources are tentatively to be located at the Houston Emergency Center.

18. Volume 2, Section 6.3.1Q7-Section 6.3.1Q7 states, "The HEC facility already has a master time source in operation."

What is the manufacturer and model number of this time source?

ANSWER: The Master time source is a NetClock/NTP Network Time Provider Model 9189

19. Volume 2, Section 6.7A&B- Section 6.7A states, "The IPC consoles provide the 2nd level of communication transport by interfacing to a 3rd party MDC1200 encoding device. There is an MDC1200 decoding device at each fire station."

Can you please describe the existing decoding device at the station and the encoder at the HEC? How is the existing encoder interfaced to the existing console?

ANSWER: The Cimarron card Model “C plus” provides encode and decode functionality via an interface to the IPC Console. The Cimarron cards decode all HFD frequencies and encode HFD channels A1, A8 and F22. The fire station has a Motorola mobile radio as the far end device, and uses the Call Alert functionality to control the station audio and lights.

20. Volume 2, Section 7.1.2e- Section 7.1.2E states, “It is essential that all equipment including receivers, transmitters, terminated circulators, filters, watt meters and any other RF carrying assemblies be supplied with type "N", "HN", "LC", Series "C", BNC, or EIA flange constant impedance connectors. Any other type of connector is not acceptable.”

Are 7/16” din connectors acceptable?

ANSWER: Yes, 7/16” din connectors are acceptable.

21. Volume 2, Section 11- Section 11.1A states, “Consequently, the city is requiring that the Contractor provide a comprehensive training program as outlined in this section.”

How many students and how many sessions of training are desired?

ANSWER: Please provide pricing for training based on the following matrix. Please note that first responders and dispatchers work diverse schedules 24 hours a day. Training will need to accommodate those diverse scheduling needs.

-	Number of sessions	12
-	Students/session	4
-	Type	Hands-On Instruction
-	Location	1 week, Vendor's Recommendation

22. Volume 2, Section 12.2.4B- Section 12.2.4B states, “Response to a major system failure, as defined above, shall be made within 30 minutes of notification by the City or other source of failure indication. “

Is the intent of the 30 minute response time for major system failure to begin the restoration of a failure as soon as possible? If so, can response be defined as effecting repair within 30 minutes or less?

ANSWER: The City expects a technician to be on-scene within 30 minutes after notification of a major system failure. The new section 14 will have additional price fields for 1 hour and 2 hour response times so the City may compare the financial impact of the response time and make an appropriate decision.

23. Volume 2, Section 14- Can you please provide the locations for the control stations for Police, Fire, and Public Works?

ANSWER: There are too many locations to identify all locations. Proposers should base their proposals for control station installation at Fire stations, PD locations, and PW&E facilities on a standardized control station installation that includes 100’ of ½’ LDF or superflex coax, two wall penetrations, and a desktop installation and setup. Once a proposer has been selected, the control station costs can be further refined. Clustered rack mounted control stations that are part of the radio infrastructure should be quoted in accordance with the particular installation environment at each location, e.g. rack mounted backup control stations at the HEC facility.

LETTER OF CLARIFICATION 4
700/800 MHz TRUNKED RADIO & COMMUNICATION SYSTEM
SOLICITATION NO. S29-T22459

24. General Question- Is prevailing wage required for labor? If so, what guidelines/standards are required - Service Contract Act, Davis-Bacon Wage Act, or other?

ANSWER: The City envisions utilizing both city and federal funds and therefore both the Davis Bacon rates and the city prevailing wage rates will apply as applicable to the funding of laborers, mechanics, electricians etc, for the construction of the towers.

25. Does the City require an electronic/cd version of price sheet submitted with proposals?

ANSWER: Yes, Please make a separate CD of Price Sheet in Excel format and place in sealed envelope labeled "Pricing Form" with original hard copy price sheet and completed M/WBE forms. Completed electronic M/WBE forms shall be attached to Price Sheet CD as well.

When issued, Letter(s) of Clarification shall automatically become a part of the proposal documents and shall supersede any previous specification(s) and/or provision(s) in conflict with the Letter(s) of Clarification. It is the responsibility of the proposers to ensure that it has obtained all such letter(s). By submitting a proposal on this project, proposers shall be deemed to have received all Letter(s) of Clarification and to have incorporated them into this proposal.

If you have any questions or if further clarification is needed regarding this Request for Proposal, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Douglas Moore
Division Manager
City of Houston, Strategic Purchasing Division
713-247-1073

Attached Revised Pages: 43, 44, & 45

Note: Please download copy of revised Section 14 – Pricing from City of Houston Purchasing Website.

ORIG. DEPT.: _____

FILE/I.D. NO.: _____

5. The information shown below is true and correct for the Contracting Entity and all owners of 5% or more of the Contracting Entity and, where the Contracting Entity is a non-profit entity, the required information has been shown for each officer, *i.e.*, president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, etc. **[NOTE: IN ALL CASES, USE FULL NAMES, LOCAL BUSINESS AND RESIDENCE ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS. DO NOT USE POST OFFICE BOXES FOR ANY ADDRESS. INCLUSION OF E-MAIL ADDRESSES IS OPTIONAL, BUT RECOMMENDED. ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS AS NEEDED.]**

Contracting Entity

Name: _____

Business Address **[No./STREET]** _____

[CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE] _____

Telephone Number (____) _____

Email Address **[OPTIONAL]** _____

Residence Address **[No./STREET]** _____

[CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE] _____

Telephone Number (____) _____

Email Address **[OPTIONAL]** _____

5% Owner(s) or More (IF NONE, STATE "NONE.")

Name: _____

Business Address **[No./STREET]** _____

[CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE] _____

Telephone Number (____) _____

Email Address **[OPTIONAL]** _____

Residence Address **[No./STREET]** _____

[CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE] _____

Telephone Number (____) _____

Email Address **[OPTIONAL]** _____

ORIG. DEPT.: _____

FILE/I.D. NO.: _____

6. Optional Information

Contracting Entity and/or _____ [NAME OF OWNER OR NON-PROFIT OFFICER] is actively protesting, challenging or appealing the accuracy and/or amount of taxes levied against _____ [CONTRACTING ENTITY, OWNER OR NON-PROFIT OFFICER] as follows:

Name of Debtor: _____

Tax Account Nos. _____

Case or File Nos. _____

Attorney/Agent Name _____

Attorney/Agent Phone No. (____) _____

Tax Years _____

Status of Appeal [DESCRIBE] _____

Affiant certifies that he or she is duly authorized to submit the above information on behalf of the Contracting Entity, that Affiant is associated with the Contracting Entity in the capacity noted above and has personal knowledge of the accuracy of the information provided herein, and that the information provided herein is true and correct to the best of Affiant's knowledge and belief.

Affiant

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me this _____ day of _____, 20____.

(Seal)

Notary Public

NOTE:
This affidavit constitutes a **government record** as defined by Section 37.01 of the Texas Penal Code. Submission of a false government record is punishable as provided in Section 37.10 of the Texas Penal Code. Attach additional pages if needed to supply the required names and addresses.

END OF CLARIFICATION NO. 4