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Department

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November 9, 2007

SUBJECT: Letter of Clarification No.6
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:

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

1. Letter of Clarification 4, Item 6 has a response that states: "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."

Question: If vehicle repeaters are used to accomplish the baseline 10, 15, and 30dB coverage, how many vehicular repeaters should be included in the proposal? If in-building repeaters are used to accomplish baseline 10, 15, and 30dB coverage, how many should be included in the proposal?

ANSWER:

Letter of Clarification No. 4 stated the following:

"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."

For alternate proposals, an infrastructure based baseline coverage level of at least 15 dB of in-building coverage shall be provided throughout the bounded 20 dB coverage area shown in the RFP. 20 dB in-building coverage must still be provided in that designated area, however, alternate methods may be proposed to extend the 15 dB coverage of the infrastructure to provide at least 20 dB of in-building coverage within the specified 20 dB coverage area.

The use of vehicular repeaters would be one possible method of extending the infrastructure coverage into and out of 20 dB structures.

The City's Public Safety personnel have a critical need for reliable cost effective two-way radio communications on the street and in buildings. The City has articulated its coverage requirements within the RFP. Each proposer is responsible for designing a system that will meet the City's needs and requirements. Without knowing what a particular company's proposed system will look like, there is no way that the City can identify the number of in-building bi-directional amplifier systems that may be needed to deliver the required level of coverage.

If proposers are considering utilizing vehicular repeaters for Police, Fire, and EMS personnel that are routinely called upon to respond to events throughout the City. Proposers should include 2,500 vehicle repeaters in their proposals. The cumulative and per unit costs for these vehicular repeaters should be clearly delineated within the alternate proposal.

2. Regarding the structure, content, and response format for Volume 2, Section 13:

In Volume 1, Section III - Proposal Outline and Content, the RFP says: "The purpose of Volume 2 Section 13 - Proposal Response, is to **obtain concise answers to specific questions about the proposed offering. Fill-in blanks are provided within the Section for the proposed responses.** All questions are to be answered as requested."

At the beginning of Volume 2, Section 13, the RFP says: "13A The purpose of this section is to provide Proposers with **format guidance for preparing the proposal which will help facilitate the development of a complete response.** The City of Houston is requiring that seven (7) complete printed copies of the proposal be provided, one (1) of which shall be designated the "Original" with all required original signatures. Seven (7) complete electronic copies on DVD media are also required.

13E In addition to a point-by-point response, the **City requires that each Proposer specifically provide the information outlined in the sections that follow. The Response Section of your proposal shall be bound separately from the remainder of the proposal and labeled as Section 13 Response Section.** You may include additional pages as necessary to make your response complete."

Question: Can the City please clarify the preferred response format for Volume 2, Section 13? Which set of instructions takes precedence?

ANSWER:

In direct response to the question "*Which set of instructions takes precedence?*" the answer is none.

All three of the items identified above are requirements of the RFP and are meant to provide guidance for proposers in preparing their response. None of the items identified are meant to be mutually exclusive.

Section 13 is intended to be a subset of the main proposal document, with certain "quick reference" items discussed in it. All items listed in Section 13 are to be addressed in the main body of the proposal, but are also to be provided in Section 13.

**LETTER OF CLARIFICATION 6
700/800 MHz TRUNKED RADIO & COMMUNICATION SYSTEM
SOLICITATION NO. S29-T22459**

3. "Is the intent to limit Prevailing Wages to work associated with new tower construction only? Or, does prevailing wage apply to all the site improvements and construction involving existing towers, shelters, and compounds etc.?"

ANSWER:

It will apply to all new and existing construction and related work where employees are used with the exception of demolition work.

4. Page 4-9/4.1.5B- The RFP states the AC wiring outside of the building/shelter shall be in heavy wall galvanized rigid steel conduit. If the local codes permit, would PVC pipe be an acceptable exterior conduit?

ANSWER:

For the purposes of developing proposals, conduit shall be provided as specified in the RFP. During contract negotiations, the City may revisit this issue if there is a compelling reason to do so.

5. Page 4-16/4.3.2A- At existing sites that will be getting new shelters, will new stone surfacing be required just around the new shelter installation or throughout the entire compound?

ANSWER:

New stone surfacing is not required throughout the entire compound. However, at existing sites that will be getting new shelters, new stone surfacing shall be required sufficient to ensure that the site has a homogenous and consistent appearance relating to stone surfacing.

6. Page 4-16/4.3.3A- Does this paragraph require new fencing at each existing City site? Does this also require the dismantling and removal of the existing fence?

ANSWER:

For all items relating to fencing and site security, please provide fencing which meets the requirements of the RFP, even for sites with recently upgraded fences. During the contracting phase of this project, the City of Houston will evaluate each site individually for final fencing requirements.

After performing the site surveys, we have noticed the City has recently upgraded the fences at many of the City owned sites. Do these sites require new fencing?

ANSWER:

See above.

These sites with the recent upgraded fencing do not have sliding gates. Are they to remain with the swing gates or be upgraded again for the slide gates with card access?

ANSWER:

See above.

7. Are Isolation Pads required on all rack installations at all locations?

Answer:

Yes, Isolation pads will be required for all racks at all locations and the appropriate bolt isolators are to be included.

8. Page 4-25/4.4.4R- Can some estimate be provided of how many plants would be expected to serve as a screening foliage? What will be the determining factor if the planning authorities decree a site either needs screening foliage or does not?

ANSWER:

Please refer to the City of Houston Code Section 41, which may be found in the following link: <http://www.houstontx.gov/codes/codes-41.pdf> This language is condensed below.

Sec. 41-56. Landscaping.

(a) A tower site shall have landscaping maintained in a healthy, growing condition at all times and in compliance with all applicable ordinances, deed restrictions and ARTICLE III. REGULATION OF TOWERS Page 6 of 15
[http://library5.municode.com/gateway.dll/tx/texas/1630/1895/1898?f=templates\\$fn=docu...](http://library5.municode.com/gateway.dll/tx/texas/1630/1895/1898?f=templates$fn=docu...) 9/23/2004 regulations.

(b) At a minimum, a tower site shall have one large shrub capable of reaching a minimum height of four feet for each four linear feet of required screening fence; provided that not less than eight large shrubs shall be provided for each tower site. The shrubs required by this subsection shall be installed at the tower site along the exterior side of the screening fence required in section 41-55 of this Code. All shrubs provided pursuant to this subsection shall be selected from the list of shrubs identified on Appendix D to article V, chapter 33, of this Code.

(c) At a minimum, a tower site shall have one street tree, with a minimum caliper of four inches, for each 50 linear feet of required screening fence; provided that not less than one street tree along each public right-of-way bordering the host tract shall be provided at each tower site. All trees shall be selected from the list of street trees identified on Appendix A-3 to article V, chapter 33, of this Code.

(d) The person or entity in whose name the tower permit is issued shall have complete responsibility for the maintenance of all landscaping required by this section.

(e) Any tower site that is excluded from the screening requirements of section 41-55

(c) of this Code shall also be excluded from the landscape requirements of this section for which any amount of linear footage of screening fence is required. (Ord. No. 91-1734, § 2, 12-11-91; Ord. No. 98-253, § 2, 4-8-98)

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9. Page 7-9, 7.2.2M- For Item 7.2.2M, we assume the EZ-Comm headset intercom system is the E-Z Radiocomm II Communications system sold by Scott Health and Safety (<http://www.scotthealthsafety.com/ezradiocom2.htm>). Please either confirm this assumption is correct or indicate in more detail, the headset intercom system being referred to.

ANSWER:

Yes this assumption is correct.

10. No. 1- T22459 Clarification 4, Q&A No. 22- Does the City's answer defining the 30 minute, and proposed 1 hour, and/or 2 hour response times apply to both RFP sections 12.2.4B and 12.2.4C?

ANSWER:

Yes.

11. No. 2- T22459 Section 12.2.4B, Last Sentence: "Response is defined as having a factory certified technician on-site at the City's facility where the failure occurred." - Would the City consider redefining this as: "Response is defined as having a factory certified technician en-route within 30 minutes to the City's facility where the failure occurred."

ANSWER:

No.

12. No. 3- T22459 Section 12.2.4 (A-L)- If the City elects to self-maintain all or a portion of the system after the initial warranty period, do the penalties delineated in these sections still apply to equipment not covered under the maintenance contract?

ANSWER:

No.

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

END OF CLARIFICATION NO. 6