



CITY OF HOUSTON

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July 9, 2008

SUBJECT: Letter of Clarification No. 1
Public Safety Helicopter Down Link System for the
Houston Police Department Air Bourne Division

REFERENCE: Request for Proposal No. S33-T22925

TO: All Prospective Bidders

This Letter of Clarification is issued for the following reasons:

• **To revise the above referenced solicitation and provide responses questions as follows:**

1. Revise Page 2 of 57, replace S37-T22925 with S33-T22925
2. Question and Answers below:

Question: What is the current make and model of video monitor in the aircraft?

Answer: The monitors are manufactured by L3, model L3 Video Vu 6000 12.1" display

Question: How many inputs are used on this monitor? FLIR, mapping system, etc...

Answer: The monitors have two video inputs and one BNC connector for the downlink input.

Question: Can pictures be provided of the aircraft? These pictures should include the crew cabin and passenger cabin.

Answer: Yes, pictures will be provided to vendors during the second round of the process (e.g. when we start face to face discussions). If there is a specific piece of information that would affect a contractor's ability to bid this job, please be more specific.

Question: What is the make and model of the helicopter transporter ground equipment? What is the height of this equipment?

Answer: We currently use wheels that attach to the skids of the helicopter or what is known as a chopper spotter, which is 10.5" tall. The Helicopters antennae must be able to clear this height because the spotter is coming in from the rear of the ship to attach itself.

Question: The helicopter integrator's facility is located in TN. It is preferable to perform the installation in their facility due to the engineering, fabrication of mounts, availability of tooling, and certification involved. Can the helicopter installation be done off-site?

Answer: We would prefer not to take the helicopters that far, due to the sheer number of ships. (13) and because additional equipment is being installed on each unit.

Question: Section II, 6.1. Is there a requirement for any remote control equipment for the Hangar Rx site?

Answer: The hanger should be setup the same as any other site.

Question: Since no site surveys have been performed for this site can the quote reflect estimates on certain types of hardware (antenna mounts, coax and control cable, etc.)?

Answer: It is very important that each supplier quote hardware and services separately. Estimates are not acceptable, as we are looking for hard numbers to review.

Question: Section II, 9.0, Specify the preferred type of training so we can we can quote correctly.

Answer: Training on use of the receive sites, Helicopter Operations & for technicians who can trouble shoot common problems both in the helicopter and receive sites. The ability to provide ongoing training as new people are brought on board is very important. A CD or web-based training class that can be used on demand in addition to any initial classroom training is preferable.

Question: Section II, paragraph 4, 4.0 & Exhibits - Exhibit III includes quantity of units proposed; however, paragraph 4.0 does not specify the required number of:

- Helicopter downlink transmission systems
- HPD patrol vehicles receive units
- Mobile hand held receivers
- Mobile command post vehicle receive systems

Answer: We will be installing downlink equipment in 13 MD 500 Helicopters. As previously mentioned mobile use in police vehicles is not in scope at this time (but will be in the future). The estimated number of required hand held's is six (6) and there are two Mobile Command Posts to be setup on a boom antennae.

Question: Section 4.1, 5.17 - Mobile hand held receivers will include a recording capability per paragraph 5.17.

- Is video recording equipment required onboard the helicopter?
- Is video recording equipment or NVR capability required in the patrol vehicles or the mobile command posts?

Is video recording equipment or NVR capability required in one or more of the four fixed receive sites?

Answer: Yes a Video DVR is required onboard the helicopter. For example, the Avalex 8100. No recording device is needed in the patrol vehicles. Receive sites have their own recording equipment.

Question: Section 4.2, 5.12 - Assuming line of site operation, what is the minimum required receive range in miles from any helicopter to the closest fixed receive site? Have any surveys been performed to determine path analysis, specify the height of the four receive site antennas, and required towers or masts?

Answer: The contractor should project and propose a maximum distance based on their equipment. The two towers (HEC and Transtar) will be 325', one site is 1100' (Chase) and the hanger is 45'.

Question: Section 4.6 - Paragraph 4.6, 5.2 and 5.10 require fixed and mobile command vehicles to receive video in two different bands (1.9 to 2.5 GHZ and 6.4 to 7.1 GHz) using a dual band digital diversity receiver. Paragraph 5.21 requires the helicopter downlinks to transmit only on 6.4 to 7.1 GHz. Paragraph 5.15 requires the hand held receivers to operate only in the 6.4 to 7.1 GHz. Please clarify need for two receive bands?

Answer: The 1.9 to 2.5 receivers will allow the mobile command post and the main receive sites to intercept news media signals when they are in the area. With regard to frequency, as mentioned at the pre-bid conference, the City is currently working in the 6.4 band, but is talking with other agencies around the nation regarding feasibility of 4.9. Contractors should offer a 6.4 design, but be aware the city may determine 4.9 is a better choice for us.

Question: Section 5.10 – 5.18 - Are exterior and interior mechanical and electrical drawings available to allow costing of mobile command vehicle equipment mounting and installation?

Answer: Yes, they will be provided after a contractor has been selected.

Question: Section 5.13 – What is the maximum payload of the command post mast and how much weight is currently mounted on the mast?

Answer: Payload of the mast is unknown. Currently a small camera is mounted on it.

Question: Section 5.13 – What is the maximum surface travel height limitation (with mast retracted) for the command post vehicle?

Answer: It is a standard News Media Van type boom and has the capability to extend its mast to 15'.

Question: Section 5.22 - Does "User" refer to the helo aircrew or the ground station operator or both?

Answer: The user here is referred to the Helicopter Officer.

Question: Section 5.29 - Are airframe schematics and mechanical drawings available for the MD-500 and MD-902 to facilitate design and installation of equipment.

Answer: Yes.

Question: The area to be covered by the video downlink system has been defined loosely as a 600 Square Mile area. We would like some clarification of what the specifics of this area is. Could you please define this in terms of county borders, or some easily referenced landmarks. For Example:

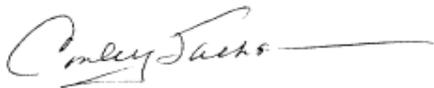
- Harris County
- Harris, Waller, Montgomery, Liberty, Chambers, Galveston,
- Brazoria, and Fort Bend Counties
- College Station - Beaumont – Bloomington

Answer: Harris County area and adjacent counties

Please be advised that all proposals should include solutions and any elements that the City of Houston may not have considered. If the City needs to augment its infrastructure to accommodate the most effective downlink solution, we will do so. Do not assume that the City of Houston is restricted to keeping the existing infrastructure in its current configuration.

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 Invitation for Bid, please contact me.



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