



CITY OF HOUSTON

Administration and Regulatory Affairs Department
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April 22, 2013

Subject: Letter of Clarification No. 4 to Invitation to Bid No. S12-C24513 Remove, Furnish and Install Centrifugal Pumps and Associated Equipment for the Public Works & Engineering Department

To: All Prospective Bidders:

This letter of Clarification is being issued for the following reasons:

- **To revise/clarify the above referenced solicitation as follows:**

1) NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The following are responses to questions or clarifications as it relates to the subject project.

1. **Question:** Please provide a specific scope of supply.

COH Answer: ONLY the pumps are to be replaced, the existing valves are to stay in place and shall not be part of this pump replacement work.

2. **Question:** In the pump station we visited, I noticed that there was one (1) aftermarket vibration switch added to the 2D1 RAS pump. Does this switch stay? Should all the new pumps be provided with vibration switches? Where do the wires land for these new switches if they are applicable?

COH Answer: All vibration switches should stay. They were just installed on the 2nd step and installed on the 1st step after pump station 5 flooded.

3. **Question:** Does the City require new bolts, nuts, and gaskets for the pump connections? If so, what type...304 SS?

COH Answer: YES, Carbon Steel

4. **Question:** Please clarify the shaft system and the contractor's responsibility as to level and fit.

COH Answer: There are two different shaft systems in Step 1 and Step 2 reactor Pump Station. U-Joints in Step 1, and disc packs in Step 2. It is the contractor's responsibility to ensure acceptable levelness and fit for the City and the manufacturer.

Partnering to better serve Houston

Council Members: Helena Brown Jerry Davis Ellen R. Cohen Wanda Adams Mike Sullivan Al Hoang Oliver Pennington
Edward Gonzalez James G. Rodriguez Stephen C. Costello Andrew C. Burks, Jr. Melissa Noriega
C.O. "Brad" Bradford Jack Christie Larry Green Mike Laster **Controller: Ronald C. Green**

5. **Question:** Will the contractor will receive monthly progress payments throughout the duration of this project.

COH Answer: The City can issue progress payments to the awarded Contractor.

6. **Question:** Please confirm that there shall be no retainage withheld from monthly progress payment

COH Answer: It is not the City's intent to withhold retainage from progress payments. However; the contractor's request for payment must be submitted itemized as to the labor/service performed and/or the equipment supplied. The itemized request must also be verified/approved by authorized City of Houston personnel prior to payment.

7. **Question:** Please clarify that the City of Houston will allow for payment to the Contractor for stored materials. It is typical in other City contracts that the contractor is paid 85% of stored materials until they are installed.

COH Answer: It is the City's option to pay the awarded contractor up to 85% for the stored materials until said materials are installed.

8. **Question:** Clarify that the 3% MWDBE Goal is just that, a goal. Is the City's selection of the successful contractor based upon pricing, or satisfaction of the goal?

COH Answer: The Public Works & Engineering Department's Small Business Group and the Mayor's Office of Business Opportunity have determined this project lends itself to MWDBE subcontracting opportunity and have assessed/assigned a 3% subcontracting participation "goal". Note: A goal-oriented Award means any City award for the supply of goods or non-professional services of approximately \$100,000.00 or more. While it is the City's intent to award low bid meeting specifications, the award selection/criteria will include, but is not limited to the bidder's M/WDBE subcontracting capability/intent and/or good faith efforts.

9. **Question:** Will the pumps be painted.

COH Answer: The new pumps are to be painted with a finished coat in the field when installed.

10. **Question:** Are the existing base pads to be demoed?

COH Answer: The existing concrete base pads must be demoed and replaced with new concrete and anchor bolts. Note that the pads, upon inspection of the pump manufacture and approval of the City, may need to be replaced in order to maintain the extreme tolerances of the plumbness of these shafts and to meet warranty requirements.

11. **Question:** Clarify that the Contractor can utilize the existing monorail crane in the pump stations, and are they operable?

COH Answer: YES

12. **Question:** Clarify that the Contractor is only allowed to install two (2) pumps at one time, and this must be reflected in their bid pricing.

COH Answer: YES

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13. **Question:** Clarify that the contractor must allow for down time due to site conditions with the plant, and can only begin replacing pumps after receiving clearance from COHWWOPs. All bidders must account for the fact that the plant comes first, and must prepare in their bids, money to mobile and demobilize at COHWWOPs request.

COH Answer: YES

14. **Question:** Please clarify that a 7-day run test is required before the contractor is allowed to move to another pump.

COH Answer: YES

15. **Question:** Please identify the City's interpretation of the warranty for the pumps.

COH Answer: The awarded contractor shall provide a warranty for pumps supplied by it under this agreement.

16. **Question:** Please clarify that any and all electrical coordination and termination required are by the contractor with the exception of the standard lock out and tag out by the City.

COH Answer: YES

17. **Question:** Please identify if there are requirements from the City's programming integrator for this work. Please clarify a scope of work for this portion of the contract.

COH Answer: There are no COH programming integrator requirements.

18. **Question:** Please identify that warranty shall begin once the City accepts the pumping unit after the successful completion of the 7-day test.

COH Answer: YES

19. **Question:** Please identify who will be the inspector for the project.

COH Answer: PLANT PROCESS OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE SUPERVISORS.

20. **Question:** Please modify the days allotted for this project. There is not enough time to complete this project in the 160 day time frame.

COH Answer: The estimated completion time frame for all 24 pumps is a minimum of 540 days.

When issued, Letter(s) of Clarification shall automatically become a part of the solicitation documents and shall supersede any previous specification(s) and/or provision(s) in conflict with the Letter(s) of Clarification. All revisions and answers incorporated into the Letter(s) of Clarification are collaboratively from both the Strategic Purchasing Division and the applicable City Department(s). It is the responsibility of the bidder/respondent to ensure that it has obtained all such letter(s). By submitting a bid on this project, bidders/respondents shall be deemed to have received all Letter(s) of Clarification and to have incorporated them into this solicitation and resulting bid.

Furthermore, it is the responsibility of each Contractor to obtain any previous Letter of Clarification associated with this solicitation.

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