



CITY OF HOUSTON

Annise D. Parker

Mayor

P.O. Box 1562
Houston, Texas 77251-1562

Telephone – Dial 311
www.houstontx.gov
<http://purchasing.houstontx.gov>

October 15, 2014

Subject: Letter of Clarification No. 2 to Invitation to Bid No. S63-N25119 to Furnish and Install Manhole and Sewer Level Monitoring Devices for the Public Works and Engineering Department

To: All Prospective Bidders:

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

- **To revise Section “B” Scope of Work/Technical Specifications and respond to questions posed by perspective bidders:**

1. **NOTICE TO BIDDER:**

Remove Page No. 17 and replace with Page No. 17 of 30 marked, REVISED 10/15/2014.

2. The following questions and the City of Houston responses are hereby incorporated and made part of the Invitation to Bid:

Question No. 1: Has the City selected the sites to be instrumented?

Answer: **No, It’s the City’s intention to place these devices where necessary as the situation dictates. Close coordination between the City’s Project Manager and the Contractor will enable expedient installation.**

Question No. 2: Is it acceptable to be able to drill through the side of the manhole to install an antenna or device?

Answer: **Yes**

Question No 3: Will the City provide support to do confined space entries?

Answer: **No**

Question No. 4: Will the City provide traffic control?

Answer: **No**

Question No. 5: Are the physical dimensions (manhole depth, pipe diameter, manhole cover diameter) of all the anticipated sites available?

Answer: **No, refer to questions 6 & 7.**

Letter of Clarification No. 2 to Invitation to Bid No. S63-N25119

Furnish and Install Manhole and Sewer Level Monitoring Devices for the Public Works and Engineering Department

Question No. 6: What is the deepest manhole of the anticipated sites?

Answer: 50'

Question No. 7: What is the range of manhole depths?

Answer: 2'- 50'

Question No 8: What is the planned purchasing schedule? Initial installations, final end date installations?

Answer: Purchasing schedule has not been determined. The initial install is to begin in 2014, finale install to be determined. Section B of the bid document states 90 days to complete (upon contract award) the installation of the first 200 purchased.

Question No 9: What is the referenced manufacture and model number for the items listed in the Scope of Work Section 1.1.4?

Answer: Utility Systems Science and Software, Inc.
See Section B, sub para: 1.1.3

Question No 10: Is WiMAX the only communication platform that the City will accept?

Answer: The goal of the city is to reduce and/or eliminate ongoing or recurring communications cost. The City will entertain all options; however, it is the City's desire to utilize the City's WiMAX platform.

Question No 11: Will the City allow the sewer level information to be provided via an alternate communication channel(s) (other than WiMAX)?

Answer: Refer to question 10

Question No 12: Is the City committed to the WiMAX communication protocol for the next 2 to 3 years given the WiMAX providers' (Verizon and Sprint) recent indications that this service will be phased out soon and migrated to a 3G/4G LTE cellular data platform? We have provided additional information below concerning this phase out.

<http://www.fiercewireless.com/story/sprint-shutter-wimax-network-end-2015-will-turn-least-6000-clearwire-sites/2014-04-07>

<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2403490,00.asp>

<http://stopthecap.com/2013/10/16/sprints-clear-raises-prices-for-its-throttled-and-litigated-wimax-network/>

<http://www.wireless-mag.com/features/13881/does-wimax-have-a-future.aspx>

Letter of Clarification No. 2 to Invitation to Bid No. S63-N25119

Furnish and Install Manhole and Sewer Level Monitoring Devices for the Public Works and Engineering Department

Answer: The City Of Houston has deployed a WiMAX network and is committed to support the backhaul of information. The City's objective is to immediately detect and respond to sanitary sewer overflow alerts while keeping operational cost to a minimum. Commercial cellular providers and their conduct of operations are insignificant to the City if we utilize City owned and operated communications platforms.

Question No 13: Will the City extend the bid submittal date by 2 calendar weeks until October 23, 2014 given the new information regarding WiMAX being phased out?

Answer: Yes, the bid due date has been extended to October 23, 2014.

Question No 14: The bid document says that the City has the option to select as many units as needed, however there is no minimum or maximum number of units addressed, please clarify.

Answer: It is the City's intent to initially purchase a quantity of 200, with the option to purchase additional units at the same price as long as the City purchases them within the specified time as detailed in Section A of the bid document.

Question No 15: There are two locations in the bid document that address the warranty period; page 15, Section 4.0 says 12 months and page 18, Section 4.0, says 24 months, please clarify.

Answer: See Section B, sub para: 8.1. Should there be any conflict between the General Specifications and the Technical Specifications, the Technical Specifications shall prevail.

Question No 16: Where can I find the technical specifications for this equipment in the bid solicitation?

Answer: Section B, sub para: 1.1.4; 1-9

Question No 17: What level of integration with the City's SCADA system is required of this project?

Answer: The objective is to merge captured data into Ifix (SCADA). It is the City's objective to utilize its owned and operated communications infrastructure to host all data via the SCADA platform. The City understands this process might have to endure a migration scheme to achieve its desired objective; we will entertain all possibilities.

Question No 18: What data is required to be sent from the level sensors to the City's SCADA system?

Answer: Date, time stamp and level alerts/alarms.

Letter of Clarification No. 2 to Invitation to Bid No. S63-N25119

Furnish and Install Manhole and Sewer Level Monitoring Devices for the Public Works and Engineering Department

Question No 19: The attached specification of the ADS Triton+ is being submitted as an "Equivalent" device. As indicated in the specifications of this product it has the ability to measure level on multiple platforms, ultrasonic and pressure. Will the City accept this as equivalent to the Cricket device?

Answer: **Yes**

Note: No further questions will be accepted after the publication of this Letter of Clarification.

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, responses, 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.

Yesenia Chuca

Yesenia Chuca
Procurement Specialist
832-393-8727

Attachments:

Letter of Clarification No. 2 to Invitation to Bid No. S63-N25119

Furnish and Install Manhole and Sewer Level Monitoring Devices for the Public Works and Engineering Department

REVISED 10/15/2014

SECTION B

PART II

SCOPE OF WORK / TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

1.0 SCOPE OF WORK:

- 1.1 The Contractor shall be required to furnish all labor, materials, equipment, tools, permits, supervision and transportation, necessary to furnish and install manhole and sewer level monitoring devices and associated equipment citywide for the Waste Water Operation Division, Public Works and Engineering Department in strict accordance with the specifications included herein.
 - 1.1.1 Contractor data hosting or City Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) data management is required or a combination of both.
 - 1.1.2 The schedule for installation in addition to other project requirements to achieve completion shall be closely coordinated between the City's Project Manager and Contractor.
 - 1.1.3 **Referenced manufacture and model number: Utility Systems Science and Software, Inc.; Cricket Single Point Level Measurement with Wireless Automatic Meter Read (AMR) Interface, Part# ICSP-30R1, or City approved equal.**
 - 1.1.4 Equipment Description:
 - 1.1.4.1 Ruggedized in waterproof enclosures that withstand harsh environments, to include but not limited to wastewater and sewer gases. (National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) 4x housing model or City approved equal)
 - 1.1.4.2 Efficient mechanical/electronic circuitry for low power consumption.
 - 1.1.4.3 Radio transmitters that will interface with the City owned WiFi/WiMax system.
 - 1.1.4.4 Real time alarm notification and data management.
 - 1.1.4.5 Single point level instrument.
 - 1.1.4.6 Quick connecting antenna and float terminators for rapid installation/replacement.
 - 1.1.4.7 Versatile mounting bracket with cable management.
 - 1.1.4.8 To include battery operated Remote Terminal Unit (RTU), radios, street smart antenna, cables and connectors.
 - 1.1.4.9 All components must be field replaceable, i.e. battery, antenna, transmitter, monitor, or entire assembly.
- 1.2 The manhole and sewer level monitoring devices and associated equipment described shall be new, unused and of the current year's production. The manhole and sewer level monitoring devices and associated equipment shall be of the latest design and in current production completely serviced, ready for work and shall include all standard and optional equipment as specified herein.