Human Portable Radiation Detection (Backpacks)

- Quantities are not defined. How many units are expected to be procured under this contract?
  - We anticipate buying a minimum of 40 units over the contract period.

- Section 2.0 MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS, 2.1.1 Detector Requirements, pg. 5: Is there a preference for neutron detector type (i.e., helium He-3 alternatives)?
  - He3 or alternatives will be acceptable

- Section 2.0 MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS, 2.1.5 Other, pg. 6: “Vendor must provide electronic inventory record file to the STC region, using .csv template provided by STC, at the time of delivery.” and “Vendor must integrate create real time data feed from system into the STC Information Sharing Environment, using smart phone application or embedded cellular transmission device. Details to be provided at the time of award” Can you please clarify whether and how these requirements are related?
  - Those are two different aspects:
    1) The inventory record is required for each delivery
    2) Real time data feed into the STC Information Sharing Environment is the ability for detectors to feed data into the DHS system (more information provided upon contracting)

- Section 3.0 WARRANTY, pg. 6: “Vendor must provide quarterly reports to purchaser showing repair and maintenance costs of radiation human portable detector using STC provided Excel spreadsheet template for the lifetime of the human portable radiation detectors at no cost.”
  The lifetime of the radiation detector may exceed the lifetime of the award and/or warranty period. Is it the expectation that the Supplier will continue to submit quarterly reports after the warranty period and that these costs should be rolled into the bid?
  - Yes. This shouldn’t be that hard of a request. We need to report repair and maintenance costs to DHS even after the grant expires. The expectation is that there will be grant sustainment funds being used for this purpose as well as the need to help other regions understand the costs of long term sustainment. This report could simply be an excel sheet with the quarterly costs (if any) needed to keep the gear up and running.

- Section 3.0 WARRANTY, pg. 6: If no warranty activity is conducted during the quarter, will the City still require a quarterly warranty report?
  - No. Only when a warrantee repair is needed do we need a report stating what was done.

- Section 18.0 INSURANCE, pg. 13: “If performance of the Award requires Supplier to provide labor in addition to supplies, labor and materials, the Supplier shall have insurance coverage and furnish certificated of insurance showing the City as an addition insured…”
  Can you please clarify what is meant by the term “labor”?
  - Standard form. In this case, labor may be needed for equipment installation (i.e. attaching a backpack system to a boat). If we need that type of service, then the city requires the insurance. For now, we don’t anticipate any on-site labor being needed.

- Is this purchase funded by the US Government?
  - Yes, via DHS grant through the Securing the Cities program

- Does the Buy American statute have to be followed for this procurement?
  - No

- 2.0 Minimum Specifications, 2.1.1 Detector Requirement. Is there a specific minimum quantity and/or volume of sodium iodide (NaI) required?
2.0 Minimum Specifications, 2.1.2 System’s Software. In “Support data Transfer from the system by Bluetooth 4.0 (or later) and at least one other of the following methods: USB cable, SD card, and/or native WIFI or cellular connectivity. Are there any specific protocols that must be followed for Bluetooth 4.0? Is there a specific reason that Bluetooth 4.0 is a requirement with others being a secondary? Would you consider restating that the vendor would be required to provide one wireless method (Bluetooth, WIFI or Cellular) and one physical method such as USB cable or SD card. Bluetooth is one of the weakest and slowest wireless transmission methods. WIFI is more widely used in the industry. SD cards are not allowed to the used in many applications when working with the US Federal Government.

Data connectivity via BT4.0 or WIFI is required. This connectivity is needed to connect the detector to a DHS provided hotspot (probably Android based phone) in order that the data can be transmitted to a DHS system. A third means may be possible if the detector can utilize a DHS sim card in order to use onboard cellular connectivity but this is not fully determined yet. If a vendor’s system has one or more of these capabilities, then a detailed description of that capability should be provided in the bid packet. BT4.0 is listed as a primary since this means of data transmission is compatible with existing equipment like mobile hotspots. If your system does not have BT4.0 but an alternative means, please give us a good description of its capabilities in order that we can forward this info to our SMEs and see if it will meet our connectivity requirement.

2.0 Minimum Specifications, 2.1.3 User Interface. Does the interface have to the physically attached to the radiation detector equipment? Such as a wrist display or some other screen on the instrument? If using only a wireless interface (Bluetooth or WIFI) such as phone or PDA will be troublesome in a no communications environment (Safety Issue) or where there are multiple wireless devices (Operator will loss communication). Are you requesting both wired and wireless?

The interface does not have to be physically connected or unconnected. Please describe your system’s capability so that end users can decide based on their needs. Each method has advantages and disadvantages and both methods are being considered.

Section 1.2 of Section B “Specifications” states: “Bidder must provide documentation listing … detailed product specifications, including applicable warranty information”. Does the City of Houston have any specific preferred format for the submission of this information?

These details are usually included in the documentation as a written attachment or annex of the packet.

Section 2.1.2 of Section B “Specifications”: The specification states “Output data in ANSI N42.42-2012 and N42.42-2016 compliant formats”. However, the ANSI N42.42-2016 standard does not exist. Could the City please clarify/correct this requirement?

We need to output to be compliant with the most current version of ANSI N42.42

Section 2.1.4 of Section B “Specifications”: Could the City please provide additional information on the specifications for the required training apps and on the STC curriculum?

We need to have two means of training users. The first is an app type training guide that can be developed shortly after the contract is completed. This app may be required to have some level of detail that is STC specific such as reporting procedures etc. Most vendors already have something that can be easily modified with STC specific details. The second means of training is that we need procedures for equipment operation in a document that can be inserted into the training curriculum. This document may need to be modified to include the same procedures mentioned in the app.

Section 2.1.4 of Section B “Specifications”: In addition to the smart phone app for training, would the City like to specify any additional training, such as classroom or hands-on training?
• The city would like to include a minimum three day training course from the vendor to teach key aspects of the equipment that are relevant from a super-user or administrative level. This could include in-house repair of easily repaired components (if applicable), administrative level setting modifications etc. The attendees of this training would be STC employees and select users who would be performing routine maintenance of the equipment.

6) Section 2.1.5 of Section B “Specifications”: Could the City please provide details regarding the STC Information Sharing Environment?
   o The STC region works with DHS and the FBI for rad/nuc detection. As partners working together for a national level preparedness, data that can be streamed or transmitted will need to compatible with federal systems. Details of this connectivity will be provided to the selected vendor. An example of this may include working with a government specified cell company utilizing secure data.

7) Section 6.0 of Section B “Specifications”: Could the City please clarify what is meant by an “ANSI compliant calibration certificate”, i.e. which ANSI standard is used for this requirement?

8) The electronic bid form requests pricing for “Human Portable Radiation Detectors” and the specifications state that a Pelican or equivalent case must also be supplied. Are there any additional accessories that the City would like to specify? For example, options could include items such as spare batteries, mounting brackets, tripod mounts, etc.
   o Each backpack system should include a spare battery, AC charger, DC charger, remote display (if equipped), waterproof pelican style case for using detector in maritime environment, owner’s manual, quick start guide, and any required data cables.
   o Please provide the costs for additional purchased equipment including:
     ▪ Spare batteries
     ▪ Mounting brackets (for boat mounting)

9) Under section 2.1.1 Detector Requirement, are we able to supply both gamma and neutron detection capability in the same unit OR we can have modules swapped out.
   o The systems we intend to purchase are required to have gamma and neutron detection simultaneously.

10) Under 2.1.1 Detector Requirement. Is it acceptable to show directionality by having the user turn towards/away from the location of the source?
    o This is acceptable. The requirement for directionality has been removed. If your system has this capability, please note it and any additional costs and weights as an option in the bid packet.

11) Under 2.1.2 System Software, is N42.42-2016 a typographical error?
    o For this procurement, we will use the most recent approved N42.42 standard. It appears that the N42.42-2012 is the accepted standard at this time.