

**Questions and Responses
For
Vehicle Tracking System, Software & Maintenance Service
T-23189**

ID #	Section # (ex. 1.0)	Sub-Section (ex. 1.1.1)	Page #	Question	Response
1.	2.0	2.1.1	20	Should the unit be MIL spec or is there a definition of extremely durable? This should be waterproof to how many atmospheres?	Extremely durable, power source internal and external options, vibration resistant, water resistant, not submersible, be able to function in the outside elements of weather if necessary for specific applications. The vendor should be able to supply several types of hardware.
2.	2.0	2.1.2	20	1. Is the purpose of this specification to conserve power so that the unit does not die? 2. If the unit were to send a notification if the power supply was cut and continue to report the location for 2-3 more hours, would this be sufficient?	1. Purpose is to eliminate false alerts from low battery conditions that the unit is attached too and if the battery dies will the unit function. 2. No, 6-8 hours. Should an alert happen at night resources are dispatched to investigate and it could take more than 3 hours to respond.
3.	2.0	2.1.7	20	Can we get more specific information on the personal computers that this needs to be compatible with? Linux, Mac, or just Windows. If only Windows, what versions?	Typically, Windows XP and Vista. However, there maybe a need to utilize other operating systems.
4.				Are there specific required temperature limits associated with the "heat resistant" requirement listed in the RPF?	The unit should be able a variety of temperature ranges.
5.				What is your requirements to be considered "water proof"?	Not submersible, just be able to endure rain and/or power washers.
6.				Is there a preference for a GPS provider by the city of Houston (central contracting?	GPS is preferred. However, some departments may not require GPS. Therefore, there should be additional options.
7.				In order to determine the level of effort on interfacing our mobile computing solution, please provide the brands, types and quantities of the vehicles in scope?	Parks tracks pickups, crew cab trucks, some tractors, and Toyota Prius. Parks want the ability to track mowers when needed. Quantities required could exceed 1,000 units.
8.				Are there any functional dialogues necessary for this project or future deployments? For instance vehicle inspection report, driver data, job data?	The general need is basic tracking. However, the system should be able to accommodate a variety of requirements.
9.				What specifically do you want to see for the organizational chart listed in item 4.2? If this a project organizational chart, ongoing operational support chart or something different?	The Organization Chart refers to individuals that are part of the implementation and support team.
10				What is the tentative complete data of Installation and Training if the contract start date remains July 1, 2009?	July 30, 2009
11				Is the Lease plan the only available option?	Yes

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12				Can the hardware be purchased up front with the monitoring ongoing	No. The service shall be lease only and include hardware and communication services.
13				Can payments made be split between hardware and service provider?	No. All payment will be made to the prime contractor.
14				What is the preferred update interval? (5 seconds, 10 seconds, 30 seconds, 1 min, etc.)	5 seconds
15				1. Does the City of Houston expect tampering, accidental damage, and destruction of a unit to be covered under the warranty? 2. Or, can standard Manufacturers Warranty apply and have damage covered under a per basis fee or over X number of incidents fee? (2.1.4, 2.4.1)	1 Yes. 2. No, prime contractor is responsible for all repairs and replacement.
16				As a privately held company, it is not standard practice to for us to provide financials. Will this preclude us from successfully obtaining the bid?	All potential suppliers are asked to submit the documents requested in the RFP. The award of this contract will be made to the respondent offering the response which best meets the needs of the City.
17				Are inspections and audits of books specific to City of Houston accounts, or is full access required?	Any work that is undertaken in connection with this Agreement
18				Is there any interest in remote engine diagnostic reporting and fuel usage?	Not at this time
19				Number of units required?	A specific number has been determined at this time. However, we estimate 1,000 or greater.
20				What type of vehicles are you installing the GPS devices on?	Various. See ID# 7 for examples
21				Is a vehicle list available?	Not at this time. Will be provide at contract execution
22				What is "status message?"	It should real time information about the tracking unit. Whether the vehicle in operation, moving, parked etc.
23				Are vendors who missed the pre proposal conference also allowed to bid?	Yes
24	1.0	1.3	19	What is meant by "security services"	Tracking in the event of theft.
25				What is the budget for this bid?	Details may be provided to the selected vendors at a later date.

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26				1. Will other technology other than MLAT be considered, i.e. GSM or CDMA. 2. If yes, is a web based system acceptable? 3. If the answer to # 2 is yes, then what would be the preferred database scenario? a. Offsite shared b. Offsite private c. Onsite d. Onsite with offsite backup	1. Yes, GPS 2. No. 3.
27					
28					
29				Are there any bid bond or performance bond requirements for this RFP?	Not at this time
30				1. What is the minimum number of references required? 2. Will references from Canada, Europe and Asia be considered?	1. We are requesting at least 4. Please see page page 33. 2. Yes, but US customers are preferred.
31				Will references not specifically from local govt. be considered?	Yes
32				Will the city consider an outright purchase price model instead of a monthly lease purchase model	No.
33				Though the RFP mentions that the system should have the capability to scale to support 200 vehicles without upgrading, what is the minimum number of vehicles that will be in scope when the contract is awarded.	A specific number has been determined at this time. However, we estimate 1,000 or greater.
34				Does the City currently use a similar tracking service for any of its vehicles?	Yes
35				Will a pure web based tracking system be an acceptable solution for the needs of the City?	Not at this time.

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36				Does this mean 8 total copies or 8 copies and one original?	The eight copies should include one original
37				1. Sealed envelope – Does a FedEx box qualify or do they need a sealed envelope? 2. Can we put each in a separate envelope and label them “original” and “copy”?	1 & 2. All eight copies can be placed in a single box or sealed envelope.
38				Do we have an assigned “Control Number” that we can cross reference on our cover page?	No. Please disregard.
39	2.0	2.1.1	20	1. Can the city please provide a vehicle list comprising the make, model, and year of all assets expected to be part of the implementation expected to begin July 1? 2. If a detailed list is not possible, can the city provide the make, model, year of the top ten vehicle types that expect to make up the majority of the fleet?	1. See ID # 7 for a sample list. 2. “ditto”
40	2.0	2.1.1	20	1. Again regarding 2.1.1, regarding the requirements for “heat resistant” and “waterproof”, does the city expect to install the units in an enclosed space protected from the environment or will they be exposed to weather? 2. Are there specific vehicle types that require the units to be water proof or is it all vehicles? If so, what are they?	1. This may vary, some departments may require and/or provide an enclosed space while other may not. 2. Yes
41	2.0	2.2.3	20	Regarding 2.2.3, “Status Message” and “Message Display”, is it the city’s desire to have drivers utilize a display terminal in the vehicles to send and/or receive messages to/from Dispatch?	No.
42				If the City’s requirements for newer AVL technology can be met by the City’s current vendor, would the City prefer to keep that vendor?	No. This proposal is independent of any current vendor contract(s).

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43				1. Which of the following additional specialty AVL/telematics options would the City like us to propose? a) Route Geofencing (a narrowly defined route along a stretch of road between two points) b) Smart Combination Telemetry (e.g., the ability to know when a specific combination of vehicle telemetry events occurs, such as a left or rear sweeper brush down while the sprayer is turned off, etc.) c) Remote Control Telemetry (e.g., the ability to remotely disable a vehicle's starter or unlock its doors, etc.) d) Advanced engine telematics such as: 1. Idle time reporting 2. Amount of fuel consumed and fuel efficiency reporting 3. Hard braking reporting 4. Diagnostic Trouble Codes (DTCs) 5. Exhaust CO2 reporting 6. Continuous Remote Smog Testing	The City of Houston is interested in the solution that best fits the requirements outlined in the RFP.
44	1.0	1.3	19	1. The City is asking for mobile data communications. Is there a requirement for any mobile data PC's/laptops? 2. If so please provide specifications. 3. If not, what type of in car device/laptop will this be working on and/or in conjunction with or is it a standalone device not requiring any PC intervention?	1. Yes. 2. Wireless cards are used to transmit and receive data 3.
45	2.0	2.1.2	20	Please clarify "...low power sleep mode..." and define low voltage and at what point does the City want it to shut off. Is this a proprietary feature for a vendor?	Lower and sleep mode should work similar to the monitor sleep mode on a computer. When not in use it should power down, but when moved it should engage the tracking service.

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46	1.0	1.5	19	<p>“The system shall be stand alone and shall not require a separate channel to transmit the data to a base station.”</p> <p>1. What form of RF transmission is the City requiring for the transmission?</p> <p>2. Is it private data over and if so over what frequency? Is it public data such as an aircard and if so is there a preference of carrier</p>	<p>1. Transmitting of data is required</p> <p>2. Unknown. Vendor should provide a complete solution. Currently data is being transmitted via radio frequency, GPS, and wireless cards.</p>
47	2.0	2.1.5.1	20	<p>“The feature discussed is a remote button with the ability to activate an alert message signal up to 300 feet from vehicle”. Please explain this feature further and is it a proprietary feature for a vendor?</p>	<p>Currently, this feature is not being used.</p>
48	2.0	2.1.6	20	<p>1. Please define an external antenna that is concealed? 2. Is the intent a disguise antenna or a ruggedized antenna?</p>	<p>1. All tracking units should be equipped with concealed antennas. If not, the antenna should be small and installed out viewing range. 2. Both</p>
49	2.0	2.2.2	20	<p>In regards to the software storing GPS data when out of range is this a function of the host application or a function of the GPS device’s software?</p>	<p>Host</p>
50	2.0	2.2.3	20	<p>In reference to the software requirements, are these server end software requirements or vehicle/device software requirements?</p>	<p>Server end</p>
51				<p>Formally request a 30 day extension for response due to complexity of the project.</p>	<p>Unfortunately, an extension is not available at this time.</p>
52				<p>What quantity are you considering leasing?</p>	<p>See ID # 7 for example and qty’s</p>
53	2.0	2.1.5.1	20	<p>Is this for a separate dongle for emergency or worker not moving for several minutes i. e. worker distress or motion sensor away from or in vehicle?</p>	<p>N/A</p>
54	2.0	2.2.3.1 & 2.2.3.2	20	<p>Is this message display for in cab communication via Mobile Data Terminal or Garmin from Dispatch? Or do you even want in cab workflow requirements?</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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55				Integration to your ERP or CAD Dispatch Systems required?	N/A
56				Does the City expect a software solution or is a hosted web-based solution, offering the same features listed, acceptable?	Web Based is ok
57				Does the City have a cellular carrier preference?	No.
58	2.0	2.1.4	20	We have found that MLAT technology is generally used in the avionic industry. If this is the correct MLAT technology referenced by the RFP, please explain the exact requirements for this technology.	N/A
59	2.0	2.1.5 2.1.5.1	20	<p>The item listed below references an emergency alert feature. Can you specify the intended use of the feature? Are there any regulations as to the size of the remote button? Is it required that the remote button be wireless (the assumption is "yes", but we would like to be certain)?</p> <p>2.1.5 The digital transceiver shall be equipped with an emergency alert feature.</p> <p>2.1.5.1 This feature must have a remote button or some form of ability to activate an alert message signal up to 300 or more feet from the vehicle.</p>	N/A