



# CITY OF HOUSTON

Administration and Regulatory Affairs Department  
Strategic Purchasing Division

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June 18, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Letter of Clarification No. 2  
Automated License Plate Readers for the Houston Police  
Department

**REFERENCE:** RFP No.: S33-T24598

**TO:** All Prospective Respondents

This Letter of Clarification is issued for the following reasons:

- **The following questions and City of Houston responses are hereby incorporated and made a part of the Request for Proposal:**

- 1. Question** Is there a way I can get a list of police vehicle retrofitters/installers?  
**Answer** The department currently utilizes – PCS (MWBE) and Fleet Safety
- 2. Question** Is there a specific number of ALPR units that we should propose?  
**Answer** 30
- 3. Question** Does the City desire a three year warranty on functionality and operation as described in 11.3?  
**Answer** Yes
- 4. Question** Does the option of extended warranty beyond three years apply to all products and services offered in this solicitation, including section 11.3 where you describe a minimum one year warranty?  
**Answer** The warranty for the products & services will be for the 3 year contract period.
- 5. Question** We would like to clarify the City's expectation with regard to "on-site support within 24 hours of notification." Does this mean a person on-site within 24 hours of the City sending notification of an issue or within 24 hours of the contractor acknowledging the notification?  
**Answer** Within 24 hours of the contractor acknowledging the notification.
- 6. Question** What type of vehicles will the ALPR systems be mounted on?  
**Answer** Various. Crown Vic, Dodge Charger, Ford
- 7. Question** Is there a grant being utilized, if so which one?  
**Answer** No
- 8. Question** How many cameras per vehicle?  
**Answer** Whatever makes your system work optimally?
- 9. Question** Where are the cameras to be mounted?  
**Answer** This is in the requirements document.
- 10. Question** Does HPD want to own the server and maintain it or use a local LE Agency (Houston HIDTA) to store the data along with about 20 other Houston regional LE agencies?  
**Answer** HPD will own the server but will not share the data at this time. Could be sharing in the future.

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11. **Question** Please provide a list of Certified MWBE local contractors that can do LE installations of ALPR hardware.  
**Answer** Please contact Mr. Morris Scott with the Office of Business Opportunity at 832-393-0631
12. **Question** Expected accuracy and read rate?  
**Answer** Whatever the maximum is for your system.
13. **Question** Can you please confirm that the city plans to purchase 30, two camera mobile LPR systems?  
**Answer** There will be 30 systems purchased. Number of cameras is whatever makes your system work optimally.
14. **Question** Will the ALPR systems be purchased all at one time or over a period of time?  
**Answer** All at one time.
15. **Question** Please confirm the number of existing LPR systems that the vendor will be responsible for removing from your patrol vehicles.  
**Answer** 20-25
16. **Question** In regards to section 4.1.3: Our LPR camera technology is sold internationally so our equipment is not tested specifically to Military Standard 810G. Will the city acknowledge industry accepted standards other than the above-referenced military ratings?  
**Answer** If those standards are equal to the Mil Specs.
17. **Question** Section 4.2.5, 4.2.6, 4.2.7 and 4.2.8 appear to describe the LPR system provided by a specific manufacturer. Our system operates differently. Will the city consider having the vendor describe how their system meets these functional requirements in lieu of the meeting the specific requirements described in this section? To be more specific:
- a. Section 4.2.5: Why is 8GB required for the processor? In our solution the processor is only used to interpret the license plates. No additional software or user interaction is done with the processor. All other operations are handled by the MDC. As a result 8G of RAM is not required by the processor to read multiple plates per second at a high rate of speed.
  - b. Section 4.2.6: While our processor does have an SSD, images are stored on the MDC and not the ALPR processor.
  - c. Section 4.2.7: The latest version of Windows Embedded is Windows 8. Why is this version required? There is no requirement to remote into the Processor and use it as a computer. In our system, the sole purpose of the processor is to decipher plates.
  - d. Section 4.2.8: Why does the city require four USB Ports on the processor? In our system the USB port on the processor is only used for service
- Answer**
- a. If you are a standalone system this will be required for speed.
  - b. Again this is for standalone systems.
  - c. Windows is the HPD standard. Not any other operating system.
  - d. Again this is for standalone systems.
18. **Question** In regards to the requirement for the vendor to provide a color image of the plate (reference sections 4.14.1 and 5.3.3): The requirement to read plates at night necessitates the use of an IR camera which is only capable of producing a mono-chrome image of the plate. The color context image of the vehicle that the system is programmed to capture typically includes an image of the plate. Based on the need to use an IR plate read camera is the city willing to change the requirement in sections 4.14.1 and 5.3.3 to read: "Black and white license plate image"?
- Answer** We will accept the Mono-Chrome for IR only.

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19. **Question** Specification 4.1.4: Can you please clarify what aspect of the cameras or software should be "automated" in this specification?  
**Answer** Should there be software controlling all aspects of the camera then it shall be automated. No intervention from the officer. I.E. camera focus.
20. **Question** Specification 5.4: Can you please clarify what type of customization you are requesting? Is there specific information you are looking for? Please clarify the alarms you are referring to; and what types of customization are you requesting in regard to these alarms?  
**Answer** This refers to configuration. We should be able to configure the number of times an alarm is done as reminders to the officers. The screens should be your standard configuration abilities.
21. **Question** Is the wireless network in place for the vehicles/LPR solution to communicate with the LPR Back Office System? If so, what are the makes/models of the wireless access points? If not, are vendor to provide this equipment with installation?  
**Answer** No (to all)
22. **Question** In an effort to clarify how many cameras we should quote in our baseline proposal; what particular areas surrounding the HPD vehicle would the HPD like the LPR system to cover? For example: sides of the vehicle and front; sides only; or front of vehicle only.  
**Answer** Whatever makes your system work optimally
23. **Question** Can you please provide the make/model of laptop/MDC that is in use within the vehicle? Also, can you please provide the configurations of the laptop/MDC including RAM, Processor type and speed, hard drive space, available USB ports, available Ethernet ports, Wi-Fi card information?  
**Answer** Getac, Model B300, Windows 7 Pro, 4gig Ram, SSD 120gig HD.
24. **Question** Can you provide a breakdown of the quantities of each vehicle the system will be installed into? Also, if the LPR camera coverage area varies by vehicle type, can you provide the LPR camera coverage for each vehicle type? Example:  
a. 4x 2009 Dodge Chargers – 3 camera system (1 front camera, 2 side facing cameras)  
b. 15x 2006 Ford Crown Victoria's – 2 camera system (2 side facing cameras)  
**Answer** a. No. We are in the process of changing out patrol cars. Your system should be a universal mounting system. Cameras should be mounted on light bars.  
b. See response above.
25. **Question** Does the City have a preferred installation vendor for installation of the in-car equipment?  
**Answer** No.
26. **Question** Would the City consider postponing the due date by 1-week?  
**Answer** Yes one week, see section two of this letter.
27. **Question** Is a copy of the RFP available in Microsoft Word format? This would allow vendors to respond directly to specifications and complete forms directly into the document; thus, providing for an easy-to-read response for the City and its representatives.  
**Answer** This is an SPD issue.
28. **Question** The solution should be capable of both scanning databases statically loaded on the ALPR unit as well as databases that may be dynamically loaded via wireless or other type of broadcast communication. All license plate matches shall be delivered to the police officer via the patrol vehicle's existing Mobile Data Computer (MDC).  
a. Will the LPR Processor communicate via HPD internal network possibly using a VPN to upload/download to the LPR backend system?  
b. Please confirm HPD will provide communication between vehicle and backend management

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**Answer** a. Via wireless connectivity. Cell phone connection.  
b. Yes

29. **Question** The Solution's cameras shall have no moving parts.

a. Please confirm HPD is requesting is a fixed lens camera – meaning no lens adjustments. This eliminates all software control focus and zoom.

**Answer** a. See item 18 above.

30. **Question** The Solution's processor shall provide HPD with the ability to integrate to their existing Mobile Data Computer (MDC).

In order to integrate existing MDC to the LPR Processor, Ethernet is utilized. Is the MDC Ethernet port currently being used? If so, will HPD accept network switch to be included with the proposal or connecting the MDC to the second Ethernet port on the LPR Processor?

**Answer** No it is not being used.

31. **Question** The Solution shall provide sufficient software capabilities to recognize and interpret a variety of plate styles. i.e. Canada, USA and Mexico and shall be able to interpret plates that may be partially obscured by trailer hitches, dirt, etc. with a high degree of accuracy.

**Answer** Please clarify that HPD is NOT requesting the LPR engine to identify States and/or Countries If your software can do this then yes. This is not a requirement.

32. **Question** The Solution shall provide the ability to process or match the captured license plate numbers against a variety of target databases.

Could HPD provide an estimated number of "target" databases and the estimated size of each database?

**Answer** Three (3) at this time. Size is small. It takes approximately 40secs to download all three

33. **Question** Is a "Certificate of Fact" the same as "Certificate of Registration?"

**Answer** No.

34. **Question** Will you accept a black and white plate image?

**Answer** See Item 18.

35. **Question** Since the processor is located in a protected environment, is it required that the processor meet the Military environmental testing standards?

**Answer** Yes

36. **Question** As discussed at the pre-bid meeting, 3M stores the data on the MDC. The size of the package is about 35-50 KB per vehicle. This data is moved everyday to the server and would be around 200-400 megabytes in size on your MDC if done once a day. We can send the data back to the server through the MDC air card for almost real-time data transfer depending on the bandwidth and strength of signal.

At the pre-bid meeting you indicated this would not be a problem because of the small size. Will you allow us to store data on MDC instead of Processor?

**Answer** Yes

37. **Question** Our process does not require that much RAM to perform its functions. Will you allow a lower amount of RAM on the processor?

**Answer** You must state the size of your RAM in your proposal.

38. **Question** Will you allow Windows XP embedded on our processor?

**Answer** No. Only Latest Windows. XP will end life very soon

- **Change the Request for Proposal (RFP) closing date from 2:00 p.m., Thursday, June 27, 2013 to 2:00 p.m., Thursday, July 11, 2013.**

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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 respondent to ensure that it has obtained all such letter(s). By submitting a proposal on this project, respondents shall be deemed to have received all Letter(s) of Clarification and to have incorporated them into their proposals.

If you have any questions or if further clarification is needed regarding this solicitation, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Conley Jackson  
Senior Procurement Specialist  
Strategic Purchasing Division  
832-393-8733

END OF LETTER OF CLARIFICATION 2

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