

**Request for Proposals**

**For**

**ESX and SAN Upgrade**

**Rhode Island Student Loan Authority**

560 Jefferson Blvd., Suite 200

Warwick, RI 02886

401.468.1700

**October 09, 2014**

Please note the following critical dates:

RFP Issued: October 08, 2014

Due date for written questions: October 22, 2014

Due date for receipt of proposals: October 29, 2014

Anticipated decision date: November 7, 2014

## **Agency Background**

The Rhode Island Student Loan Authority (RISLA) was established in 1981 as a public agency of the State of Rhode Island (the "State") and is a leading originator of non-federal education loans and the sponsor of the College Planning Center of Rhode Island.

RISLA's employees are not employees of the State. RISLA does not receive funding from the State and RISLA's debt obligations are not backed by the State.

RISLA is governed by a six member board of directors, five of whom are appointed by the Governor of the State and the sixth of whom is the General Treasurer of the State.

## Introduction

RISLA is soliciting proposals from qualified firms to provide "**Upgrade to ESX and SAN**". One or more qualified vendors may be awarded this work at an agreed upon rate or cost as needs arise in the future. There is no guarantee of any level of activity to any vendor or vendors awarded a contract. In addition, the Authority reserves the right to reject all proposals.

## Notifications and Instructions

Bidders are instructed to review all sections of this RFP carefully and follow instructions completely. All costs associated with developing or submitting a proposal in response to this RFP shall be borne by the bidder. Alternative approaches and methodologies to accomplish the desired or intended results of the Authority are welcome.

## Overview

RISLA is currently using (2) IBM x3550's, ESX 4.0 Essentials+ and a NetApp FAS2020 attached to a 14TB shelf via fiber channel for its virtual server infrastructure. Our goal is to upgrade and replace these systems.

The purpose of this RFP is to solicit proposals to provide the following parts and labor items:

1. (2) IBM System x3550 M4 7914 servers
  - (2) Xeon E5-2609V2 2.5Ghz CPUs per server (4-Total)
  - 128GB ECC/Registered DDR3 RAM per server (256-Total)
  - Redundant hot swappable power supplies in each.
  - (1) Intel PCIe quad port GbE NIC (2-Total)
  - IBM 3 year on-site 24x7 4-hour response warranty per server.
2. (1) EMC VNXe3150 SAN (or equivalent NetApp)
  - VNX Operating Environment License (v2.0)
  - Extended Warranty (Parts: WU-ENHWW-001 & M-ENHSW-011)
3. (1) Disk Array Enclosure – 12 Bay
4. (12) 2TB SAS2 7200RPM Hard Disk Drives (24TB Total)
5. Install/Upgrade/Configure all above devices; Upgrading ESX from 4.0 to 5.5

## Scope of work

1. Introduce two new hosts to network infrastructure.
  - Installing VMware ESX 5.5.
2. Add new storage appliances to existing environment alongside existing FAS2020.
3. Upgrade existing vCenter server.
4. Add two new ESX 5.5 hosts to the existing ESX 4.0 two host cluster
5. Migrate virtual servers (14) to new data stores -Testing machines following each migration.
  - To be done after hours: Weekends or after 7:00pm Monday – Friday.
6. Migrate virtual servers (14) to new hosts – Testing machines following each migration.
  - To be done after hours: Weekends or after 7:00pm Monday – Friday.

## **Additional Requirements**

### **I. Executive Summary**

Provide an Executive Summary of your organization that will highlight the bidder's approach and ability to meet the requirements set forth in the RFP.

### **II. Staffing and organization overview**

RISLA will rely upon the expertise, experience, ability and capability of a qualified vendor. In response to this RFP, a qualified vendor shall present evidence of its professional competence, training, and any other relevant documentation. The firm selected and accepting this contract shall be of recognized standing within the profession of debt collection, particularly in debt collection of higher education loans. The respondent shall present the qualifications, technical expertise and experience of the firm's key personnel who will be assigned to the performance of services. The Proposal must include a resume or a statement of qualifications for all key personnel.

### **III. Experience and Capacity**

- i. Please provide a comprehensive listing of similar programs undertaken and implemented, as well as similar clients served.
- ii. Potential bidders should also include at least three references in written proposal.

## **Selection Process**

All questions concerning this RFP must be submitted in writing by no later than 4PM EST the close of business on October 15, 2014. Questions should be addressed to Michael Capraro via email at [mCapraro@risla.com](mailto:mCapraro@risla.com)

A bidder's conference call will be held on October 22, 2014 at 2:00pm EST for any questions you may have.

Dial in number: 1-800-704-9804

Participant Code: 355339#

**Proposals must be received by RISLA by no later than 4PM EST on October 29, 2014.** Proposals may be emailed to Michael Capraro via email at [mCapraro@risla.com](mailto:mCapraro@risla.com).

Any proposals received thereafter may, at the discretion of RISLA, shall be rejected.

Proposals will be evaluated by the Executive Director of RISLA and other RISLA staff. The award will be subject to the execution of a contract with terms and conditions acceptable to RISLA.

RISLA reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals.

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

DATE: October 09, 2014