



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) – RFI# 7541369

RFI - DESIGN AND INSTALLATION OF A REDUNDANT INTERNET FEED

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Thursday, January 02, 2014 at 11:00 AM (ET)

PRE-BID CONFERENCE: **NO**
 YES _____

Mandatory: **NO**
 YES: Any vendor who intends to submit a bid proposal in response to this solicitation must have its designated representative attend the mandatory pre-bid conference. The representative must register at the pre-bid conference and disclose the identity of the vendor whom he/she represents. Because attendance at the pre-bid conference is mandatory, a vendor’s failure to attend and register at the pre-bid conference shall result in disqualification of the vendor’s bid proposal as non-responsive to the solicitation.

Buyer Name: GAIL WALSH
Title: CHIEF BUYER

QUESTIONS concerning this solicitation must be received by the Division of Purchases at (gail.walsh@purchasing.ri.gov) no later than (Wednesday, December 18, 2013, 5:00 PM (ET)). Questions should be submitted in a *Microsoft Word attachment*. Please reference the bid number (Bid #7541369) on all correspondence. Questions received, if any, will be posted on the Rhode Island Division of Purchases website as an addendum to this solicitation. It is the responsibility of all interested parties to download this information.

SURETY REQUIRED: NO

BOND REQUIRED: NO

DISK BASED BID: NO

NOTE TO VENDORS:
Vendors must register on-line at the Rhode Island Division of Purchases website at www.purchasing.ri.gov. Offers received without the completed four-page Rhode Island Vendor Information Program (RIVIP) Generated Bidder Certification Cover Form attached may result in disqualification.

THIS IS NOT A BIDDER CERTIFICATION FORM

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI):
DESIGN AND INSTALLATION OF A REDUNDANT INTERNET FEED FOR THE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

The Rhode Island Department of Administration/Division of Purchases, on behalf of the Department of Information Technology is soliciting responses from qualified firms to offer configurations, suggestions and ideas for a turnkey solution for a Redundant Internet Feed for the State of Rhode Island.

This is a Request for Information (RFI). No award will be made as a result of this solicitation.

INSTRUCTIONS AND NOTIFICATIONS TO OFFERORS:

- Potential respondents are advised to review all sections of this Request carefully and to follow instructions completely, as failure to make a complete submission as described elsewhere herein may result in rejection of the proposal.
- Alternative approaches and/or methodologies to accomplish the desired or intended results of this request are solicited. However, responses which depart from or materially alter the terms, requirements, or scope of work defined by this Request will be rejected as being non-responsive.
- All costs associated with developing or submitting a proposal in response to this Request, or to provide oral or written clarification of its contents shall be borne by the offeror. The State assumes no responsibility for these costs.
- Responses are considered to be irrevocable for a period of not less than sixty (60) days following the opening date, and may not be withdrawn, except with the express written permission of the State Purchasing Agent.
- Responses misdirected to other State locations or which are otherwise not present in the Division of Purchases at the time of opening for any cause will be determined to be late and may not be considered. The "Official" time clock is in the reception area of the Division of Purchases.
- Interested parties are instructed to peruse the Division of Purchases website on a regular basis, as additional information relating to this solicitation may be released in the form of an addendum to this RFI.

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI):
DESIGN AND INSTALLATION OF A REDUNDANT INTERNET FEED FOR THE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Summary:

The State of Rhode Island is seeking to supplement its existing internet connection with the addition of a secondary connection for the purposes of increased bandwidth and availability. This secondary connection will include an alternate internet service provider (ISP) along with all necessary equipment to provide a secure turnkey solution that mirrors support for all applications, features, and end user experience currently active at the primary Capitol Hill facility. The secondary connection should provide a completely separate pathway to the internet, including all equipment necessary for seamlessly integrating into the existing infrastructure for automatic packet rerouting in the event of a connection and/or associated equipment failure.

The State of Rhode Island currently has a 250Mb symmetrical internet connection which is terminated at the Capitol Hill facility in Providence RI, providing both inbound and outbound internet services for the State. The border router is owned and managed by the ISP. Routing, security, proxy and all DNS services and application equipment for the primary internet connection are also located at this facility. For the sake of ease of management the State of Rhode Island will seek to purchase equipment reasonably similar to that being used at the primary site. The new termination point and equipment will be located at the State's datacenter on 50 Service Avenue, Warwick, RI.

A network diagram of the equipment located in the Providence office has been attached for your review in appendix A for reference.

The State of Rhode Island is seeking assistance from perspective vendors, integrators or telco's and will evaluate proposed configurations, suggestions and ideas on a turnkey solution which meets the State's requirements. The information collected by the State may be used to solicit a formal request for proposal.

Technical Requirements:

- Secondary Internet connection with a minimum of 150Mb of symmetric bandwidth
 - a) To be located at facility on Service Road in Warwick, RI.
 - b) Ability to increase bandwidth with existing interface if necessary (i.e., Metro E)
 - c) Not share any common infrastructure with existing Internet Service Provider from the circuit handoff into the provider network.
- Automatic failover of traffic to available connection (inbound and outbound)
 - a) If either the current primary or new Internet connection were to fail, inbound and outbound traffic should continue to work with minimal disruption
- Seamless integration into existing infrastructure
 - a) The new equipment will be installed and function without disruption to existing network.
 - b) Electrical and UPS will be the responsibility of the State
- Router and interfaces for inbound and outbound connections
 - a) If possible would consider using existing router in data center
- Firewall Equipment
 - a) Will be replacing the aging firewall HA pair at Capitol Hill and adding a congruent HA pair at the Service Road location
- Intrusion detection and prevention equipment
- Proxy equipment

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Timeline:

- RFI released: December 4, 2013
- RFI questions in writing due: December 18, 2013 by 5:00 pm
- RFI responses due: January 2, 2014 at 11:00 am

Process for Prospective Vendors:

1. Refer to State of Rhode Island Purchasing Requirements
2. Identify and list requirements your business meet, including any qualifications
3. Prepare a proposal for how the business would meet the State's needs, in 10 pages or less including:
4. Supply a network diagram and a summary of equipment, software and licenses in your proposal. On a summary of each (Anything specific you want here; e.g., suggested equipment configuration?
5. Identification of resources to be assigned and technical qualifications of resources assigned?
6. A description of all estimated time for the procurement and installation of all equipment?

The State reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted as a result of this RFI process. Proposals found to be technically or substantially non-responsive at any point in the evaluation process will be rejected and not further considered.

The State may, at its sole discretion, request certifications or affirmations, as appropriate.

Proposal Submission:

Questions concerning this solicitation may be e-mailed to the Division of Purchases at gail.walsh@purchasing.ri.gov no later than the date and time indicated on page one of this solicitation. Please reference the RFP number on all correspondence. Questions should be submitted in **Microsoft Word** format. Answers to questions received, if any, will be posted on the Internet as an addendum to this solicitation. It is the responsibility of all interested parties to download this information. If technical assistance is required to download, call the Help Desk at (401) 222-3766 or lynda.moore@doit.ri.gov.

Responses (an original plus three (3) copies) should be mailed or hand-delivered in a sealed envelope marked "**RFI #7541369 – DESIGN & INSTALLATION OF REDUNDANT INTERNET FEED**" to:

RI Dept. of Administration
Division of Purchases, 2nd floor
One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5855

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NOTE: Proposals received after the above-referenced due date and time will not be considered. Proposals misdirected to other State locations or those not presented to the Division of Purchases by the scheduled due date and time will be determined to be late and will not be considered. Proposals faxed, or emailed, to the Division of Purchases will not be considered. The official time clock is in the reception area of the Division of Purchases.

Response Contents

Responses should include the following:

1. A completed and signed four-page R.I.V.I.P generated bidder certification cover sheet downloaded from the RI Division of Purchases Internet home page at www.purchasing.ri.gov.
2. A completed and signed W-9 downloaded from the RI Division of Purchases Internet home page at www.purchasing.ri.gov. **Please attach to original proposal only.**
3. A separate Technical Proposal describing the qualifications and background of the applicant and experience with and for similar projects, and all information described earlier in this solicitation.
4. A separate, signed and sealed Cost Proposal reflecting the hourly rate, or other fee structure, proposed to complete all of the requirements of this project.

In addition to the multiple hard copies of proposals required, Respondents are requested to provide their proposals in electronic format (CDRom, diskette, or flash drive). Microsoft Word / Excel OR PDF format is preferable. Only 1 electronic copy is requested and it should be placed in the proposal marked "original".

State of Rhode Island Department of Administration				
Current Internet security configuration				
DATE	SIZE	FSCM NO	DWG NO	REV
8/29/2013				
SCALE		1 : 1	SHEET	1 OF 1

