



Solicitation Information

March 26, 2015

Addendum #1

RFP #7549370

TITLE: SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCIAL DATA VISUALIZATION TOOL

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 3, 2015 AT 3:00 PM (ET)

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2015 AT 3:00 PM (ET).

ATTACHED ARE VENDOR QUESTIONS WITH STATE RESPONSES. NO FURTHER QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED.

**Gail Walsh
Chief Buyer**

Responses to Questions

7549370 – School District Financial Management System

Vendor A

Question 1: Is there a specific type of platform that is desired for the District Financial Data Visualization system? For example, Would you expect that the solution work exclusively on an existing platform in the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), and if so, what is that platform?

Ideally the Data Visualization System would be available to users on all platforms, but at a minimum, it must work with in both Windows and Mac browsers.

Question 2: Are there any restrictions on where the data for the system is hosted? For example, would it be acceptable to have the data stored on 3rd party cloud providers such as Amazon or Microsoft, or on EY's own secure internal servers? Are there any geographical limitations on where the data can be stored?

RIDE is open to the possibility of third party cloud hosting. Preferably, servers should be located state-side.

Question 3: What is the expected number of users of the system, and would the users be in geographically separated locations? If the answer is yes to the second question, does RIDE have a secure internal network in which the system can operate?

The number of expected users is not known, however we believe that the maximum number of concurrent users should not exceed 1000. Users will be in geographically separated locations. RIDE does operate a secure internal network.

Question 4: Could you provide us with a fuller explanation of the term "create investment profiles" (Solicitation Information, Pg. 4)

By investment profile we mean, a report that illustrates the funds a district receives and how those funds are spent. The assigned internal work team at RIDE will work closely with the selected vendor to identify the critical elements for suggested reports.

Question 5: How large is the UCOA dataset (rows & columns) and will the data be at a monthly, quarterly, yearly or other level of periodicity?

There are currently 3 separate data sets published for UCOA. They are: Expenditures excluding those for debt service and capital; Debt Service and Capital Expenditures only; and Revenue. A data set also exists for the Balance Sheet lines which are not currently published. The first two data sets can be found by visiting www.ride.ri.gov/UCOA

Sizes are as follows:

Expenditures excluding Debt & Capital: 22 columns and 234,929 rows

Debt Services and Capital only: 22 columns and 415 rows

Revenue: 12 columns and 2,234 rows

Balance Sheet: 13 columns and 6,650 rows

Please note: The number of columns are not expected to change in the near future, however, the number of rows will vary depending on the lines items created by a district within its budget which can expand year over year.

Question 6: “The system should be structured for future expansion of data sets such as student achievement scores and personnel FTEs”. (Solicitation Information, Pg. 6). Our read of this is that the system should be able to cope with data at the pupil level of granularity. Is this correct? If so, approximately how many rows of data do we envisage this to be?

We do not anticipate that this system will handle any pupil level data. All data will be at the aggregate level.

Vendor B

1. Does the UCOA currently interface with any existing software/tools to run reports?

All UCOA work is currently done within Microsoft Excel.

2. Are you currently using software in connection with this application? If so, please provide the names of the product(s).

Please see above response.

Vendor C

1. Can you explain what is meant by the requirement for “The ability to create investment profiles”?

By investment profile we mean, a report that illustrates the funds a district receives and how those funds are spent. The assigned internal work team at RIDE will work closely with the selected vendor to identify the critical elements for suggested reports.

2. Are Licensing Fees for the complete Visualization Tool expected to be included in or excluded from the not-to-exceed price of \$50,000?

We suggest that the pricing be provided both with and without licensing fees to allow RIDE the option of purchasing the licensing separately.

3. Are travel-related costs expected to be included in or excluded from the not-to-exceed price of \$50,000?

Any travel-related costs would be included in the not-to-exceed price of \$50,000.

4. The Cost Proposal section includes a not-to-exceed price of \$10,000 for the period from 7/1/15 through 6/30/16. Should the ending date be September 30, 2015 instead to coincide with the deliver requirements?

The delivery requirements remain in place with a Final Delivery of the tool is 9/30/15, and are not impacted by the fiscal year noted which is included to ensure that RIDE has the necessary flexibility that may be needed internally.

5. How many predefined reports with drill down capabilities are expected?

No specific number has been assigned to pre-defined reports. Vendors are being asked to identify and create pre-set reports and queries and will work closely with the internal RIDE team to arrive at a final set of reports and queries.

Vendor D

1. Where is the UCOA data housed, is it onsite at RIDE?

This data is currently on the server at RIDE and available on our public website at www.ride.ri.gov/UCOA

2. Is all of the data needed for the data visualization tool housed in one source or database? If not in one source, please provide details on all data sources.

Currently all of the data for the tool is housed in the databases described in response to question #5 from Vendor A.

3. What type of database management system is used to store the data?

RIDE currently stores UCOA data in SQL Server 2008 R2.

4. Can RIDE provide a data model and data dictionary to vendors for review prior to responding?

The definitions attached to the UCOA coding are table driven. The Data Model for the tool you develop may differ. RIDE will work with the selected vendor to determine any additional information that may be needed. The following link will take you to the Data Dictionary which contains the information in each table.

<https://www.eride.ri.gov/eRide40/DataDictionary/Default.aspx>

5. Does RIDE expect the data visualization tool to retrieve data from the active or live database or would RIDE prefer that the data be replicated at some regular interval to another storage location and the data visualization tool pull from that (less active) source?

At the present time the data visualization tool will utilize static annual data rather than data which is updated on a quarterly basis. We anticipate, however, that once all district audits are completed, a one-time update of the annual data will occur each year to ensure that the most accurate information is available.

6. Is the data for all 7 segments of the UCOA in sync and complete each day? Or, is there a closing period that should be used?

This is static, prior year-end data.

7. Is any of this data sensitive? Basically, are there any security concerns around this data?

No, this is all publically accessible financial data and aggregate level student data. There are no security concerns around this data.

8. Does RIDE expect the data visualization tool to include a user authentication and user access component?

No, not at this time.

9. Does RIDE have any other platforms/licenses that could be shared for this solution? Any preferred?

New licenses would have to be purchased for this project. RIDE would prefer that the solution is developed in a .NET environment with a SQL Server 2008 R2 (or greater) database.

10. Does RIDE have Office365 subscriptions that could be utilized if that was a proposed solution?

Currently RIDE does not have any subscriptions for Office365.

11. What specific export capabilities are required by the visualization tool?

The tool should be able to export excel and csv files at a minimum and to export prepared charts, graphs and other visualizations.

12. Does the solution need to be on premise or is a cloud solution acceptable?

Both onsite and cloud based hosting solutions are acceptable.

13. What is the estimated total number of users? Concurrent users? Monthly usage (could affect licensing)?

We do not have a current estimate on the total number of users or concurrent users. The tool is expected to be used by the general public, our school districts, and leaders at the state and local level and will likely be accessed by users researching education finance data from other geographic areas. The number of concurrent users will likely be less than 1,000.

14. Could RIDE prioritize/rank desired support of browsers and mobile devices?

The tool should work with the most commonly used browsers: Safari, Mozilla FireFox, Microsoft Internet Explorer, and Google Chrome. The tool should also work with Ipads and tablets as an initial priority.

There are wide range of platforms including Windows, Mac OS, Linux, and z/OS. Is the visualization tool expected to work on every platform or is there a distinct set of platforms that are in scope for this tool?

Ideally the Data Visualization System would work on all platforms, but at a minimum, it must work with Windows and Mac.

15. Does RIDE have any samples of desired report output? Or better yet, is the list of canned reports already determined?

No, Vendors are being asked to identify and create pre-set reports and queries and will work closely with the internal RIDE team to arrive at a final set of reports and queries. A pre-determined list has not been identified.

16. Are the expected reports, visualizations, and data models well defined or is discovery and analysis to be performed by the Bidder?

Please see response to question 15 above.

Vendor E

The Cost Proposal section on page 8 of the proposal refers to a lump sum submittal, cost proposal and annual service/licensing fees.

- What is the difference between the cost proposal and fee proposal or are they both the same?

The cost proposal applies to those costs associated with the development and delivery of the data visualization tool. The term fee proposal used in the first sentence of the Cost Proposal section is the same as the cost proposal.

- The proposal states that initial project costs for the period 2.1.2015 - 6.30.2015 and 7.1.2015 - 6.30.2016 shall not exceed \$50,000. Are initial project costs different and separate from hosting and licensing fees?

Yes.

- Are these costs expected to cover development, travel, meetings and other related fees?

Development, travel, meeting and other related fees are expected to be included in the cost proposal for system delivery, the not to exceed \$50,000 amount.

- Any additional clarification would be helpful.

None at this time