



Solicitation Information
February 5, 2019

Addendum #1

RFI #7598562

TITLE: Modernization of Permitting Program Databases – DEM, Water Resources

Submission Deadline: February 13, 2019 at 2:30 PM (ET)

Attached are vendor questions with State responses. No further questions will be answered.

Gail Walsh
Chief Buyer

RFI #7598562 - MODERNIZATION OF PERMITTING PROGRAM DATABASES - DEM, WATER RESOURCES

Vendor A

1. Was the MS Visual FoxPro system that is currently in place originally provided by a vendor?

Answer: Yes, Blais Burnham Associates.

2. Is there still a contract in place for any maintenance or related services with a vendor? Or has this system just been maintained in house?

Answer: DEM has a maintenance contract with Blais Burnham Associates.

3. Is this considered to be an urgent need for the Department? If there is to be a solicitation that follows, is there an estimated timeframe as to when it might be released? Is there an anticipated project start or implementation timeline for the replacement system?

Answer: This is a high priority for the Department. Timelines for the project will be based on the outcome of this RFI investigation, we anticipate preparation and release of an RFP in the beginning of the state fiscal year 2020.

4. Has funding been secured for this project at this time?

Answer: Funding has been secured for the initial phase of the project from multiple state and federal sources. Information from the RFI process will be used to secure funding for follow on phases.

Vendor B

What is the estimated cost of the project?

Answer: To be determined.

- Has the Department allocated funding for the project yet? If so, through which source (budget, CIP, state/federal grant etc)?

Answer: Funding has been secured for the initial phase of the project from multiple state and federal sources. Information from the RFI process will be used to secure funding for follow on phases.

- Which vendor provides the incumbent system?

Answer: Blais Burnham Associates.

- Would it be possible to name the three greatest challenges the Department is having with the current solution?

Answer: The primary driver of this project is to retire an unsupported legacy system.

- Should the Department decide to proceed past the RFI process, has a time frame been established in which an RFP may be issued?

Answer: Timelines for the project will be based on the outcome of this RFI investigation. We anticipate preparation and release of an RFP in the beginning of the state fiscal year 2020.

- Which other systems will have to integrate or interface with the system, and will the State provide incumbent vendors for each system?

Answer: The solution must be integrated with the current services on the state portal, the in-house permit tracking system, and EPA systems.

- Which operating platform does the Department currently use? / Is desired for the Permitting Program Database?

Answer: The existing permit tracking system was created in SQL with a C# front end. However, DEM does not have a preferred platform.

- Can the Department elaborate on any additional drivers behind this acquisition that may not be addressed in the RFI?

Answer: The primary driver of this project is to retire an unsupported legacy system.

- What is the number of users anticipated for the Permitting Program Database?

Answer: We estimate 200 internal DEM users and the public as external users.

- Who is the technical contact and/or project manager for the Permitting Program Database?

Answer: Information not available at this time.

- Have you had any external assistance preparing this RFI?

Answer: Yes, Blais Burnham Associates.

- Does the Department anticipate any professional or consulting services may be needed to accomplish this effort? (i.e. project planning/oversight, PM, QA, IV&V, staff augmentation, implementation services etc.)?

Answer: Yes, a Project Manager.

- As dealing with public sector, we understand that there is generally a process of board approval, has this process been completed?

Answer: This project has the approval of DEM and DoIT management.

Vendor C

I am a Microsoft-certified Visual FoxPro developer. I am also up-to-date in current Microsoft technology, including Office 365, 5harepoint Online, and Azure. I would like to suggest an alternative approach, but I first need to know if it would even be considered before I spend time on a proposal.

I'm wondering if the DEM would considering as a proposed Step 1 to host the Visual FoxPro program and data on Microsoft Azure. This would allow the immediate use of tablets and other mobile devices, as well as access from personal computers, from any location. Step 2 would then be a carefully considered, agile-based redesign of the program and database using current Microsoft technology.

Answer: You must meet the goal stated in the RFI "The goal is to gather information regarding system solutions available through vendors who could provide either (1) a complete Commercial Off the Shelf (COTS) system with some customization or (2) services to work with the DEM/DoIT team to provide components of a system which would be integrated into another existing DEM database system... " and your solution will be reviewed based on how well you address the key features and ability for future enhancements as described in the RFI.

Can you make the Visual FoxPro source code and database available? I don't need the database to be populated with production data - a few test records would be sufficient. This would greatly facilitate the proposal and redesign process.

Answer: No.