



**State of Rhode Island  
Department of Administration / Division of Purchases  
One Capitol Hill, Providence, Rhode Island 02908-5855  
Tel: (401) 574-8100 Fax: (401) 574-8387**

**Solicitation Information  
July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019**

**ADDENDUM # 1**

**RFQ# 7598882**

**TITLE: Carbon Pricing Study**

**Submission Deadline has been extended to:**

**Friday August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 10:00 am (EST)**

**Note to vendors:**

**Attached includes:**

- **Questions received with answers. No more questions will be answered.**

**Max Righter  
Senior Buyer**

*Interested parties should monitor this website, on a regular basis, for any additional information that may be posted*



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Website: [www.ridop.ri.gov](http://www.ridop.ri.gov)

### Questions Received

#### Solicitation #7598882

#### Carbon Pricing Study

1. Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI) conducted modeling work in 2015 for the Energize RI advocacy coalition that supported the Economic and Climate Resilience Act of 2019 bill. Are you seeking a different modeling tool? An update to the same? An independent analysis?

**Answer:** Bidders are welcome to submit their methodology and modeling for conducting the scope of work requested in the RFP. The objective of the RFP is to perform an independent analysis of a possible carbon pricing program that is outside of previous carbon studies conducted by non-governmental agencies. The bidder is welcome to utilize relevant past studies that they believe are appropriate, as part of the independent analysis/studies.

2. Can you clarify which items listed under “Specific Tasks” seek qualitative vs. quantitative assessment?

**Answer:** Most of the Specific Tasks referenced are expected to be both qualitative and quantitative in some capacity. Bidders are welcome to submit proposals that best achieve the objectives of each Specific Task.

3. For the bullet that reads “Produce results for target years 2030, 2035, 2040 and 2050” what results is that referring to – is that just emissions, or also costs, revenues, jobs, wages, and other economic impacts noted in the RFP?

**Answer:** The results for the target years referenced above are to include both emissions and other economic impacts referenced within the RFP.

4. Section 1 notes that, “The initial contract period will begin approximately September 1, 2019 for one year...and may be renewed for up to one additional 12-month period”, however, other sections identify status calls only through February 2020. Further, reporting in public domain appears to [target](#) (click for link) a January 2020 study completion to accommodate the commencement of the 2020 General Assembly session in January. Please confirm the intended timeline for the study?

**Answer:** In the event that there are delays with the study, then the contract will be extended beyond the timeline outline in the RFP. However, the expectation by OER is that the study and various analysis will be completed by the time period referenced in the RFP.

5. Please confirm if the not to exceed budget of \$250,000 reported in that same linked press release is accurate?

**Answer:** The budget is not to exceed \$250,000.

6. If yes to above, is that budget intended to be spent within a 6, or 12 month period or does that include the possible renewal period of an additional 12-months?

**Answer:** The budget is intended to be used during the duration of the study/public presentations period referenced in the RFP and not beyond that period.



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7. Staff Qualifications ask about “experience in the field of billing in general and water testing billing in particular”. Can you clarify why such experience is sought and how it relates to this RFP?

**Answer: That was an error within that document. Please disregard that language.**

8. If submitters provide additional information on qualifications beyond the 6 page limit, will that information be considered in scoring? Or will only resumes, required forms, and the cost proposal template be considered outside of the Technical Proposal 6 page limit?

**Answer: The Technical Proposals can be now up to 10 pages. All other aspects of the RFP proposal (resumes, required forms, cost proposal, etc.) are separate and not to be counted towards the 10 page limit for the technical proposal.**

9. Does the 6 page limit apply to the front/back covers, cover letter, and TOC?

**Answer: No those items are separate from the Technical Proposal. The Technical Proposals can be now up to 10 pages.**

10. Will a double-sided page be counted as 1 or 2 pages?

**Answer: 1 page.**

11. Does the 1 inch margins with 12 point font apply to the front cover, cover letter, and TOC?

**Answer: Proposals are welcome to use any margins that they prefer. The font size should not be below 12 point.**

12. May headings, graphics, tables, header/footers have text smaller than 12pt font?

**Answer: The font size should not be below 12 point.**

13. Please provide the Cost Template noted in the RFP under Section 7.

**Answer: Please disregard the Cost Template. Separate from the Technical Proposal, please provide a separate document with a lump sum bid to perform the services requested in the RFP.**

14. The RFP clearly states, “Do not include any copies in the Technical or Cost proposals” for the following:

- a) RIVIP Bidder Certification Cover Form
- b) Rhode Island W-9
- c) Appendix A. MBE, WBE, and/or Disability Business Enterprise Participation Plan

Both the RIVIP form and W-9 both states to included in the original copy only, so does that mean in the original technical proposal? Or are these 3 to be included altogether in a separate sealed envelope?

**Answer: Include RIVIP Bidder Certification Cover Form and W-9 with the original technical proposal. Appendix A should be submitted in a separate sealed envelope.**

15. How many copy versions are to be included for the MBE, WBE, and/or Disability Business Enterprise Participation Plan form? Please clarify because the RFP requested “2 completed original and *copy versions.*”

**Answer: Two copies, in a separate sealed envelope.**



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16. Page 5 - *In accordance with R. I. Gen. Laws § 7-1.2-1401 no foreign corporation has the right to transact business in Rhode Island until it has procured a certificate of authority so to do from the Secretary of State. This is a requirement only of the successful vendor(s). For further information, contact the Secretary of State at (401-222-3040).*

Does this apply to sub-contractors? Navigant is headquartered in the US, but the sub-contractor we would like to use is based in the UK.

**Answer: Required of any foreign corporation transacting business in Rhode Island.**

17. Page 9 - *What types of state agencies have other New England and Mid-Atlantic states considering in implementing a carbon pricing program through their respective legislatures and associated legislation*  
We are unclear on the wording. Can you please confirm is this is asking for a quick stock take of what other relevant states are doing in terms of selecting agencies for implementing carbon pricing programs?

**Answer: OER is looking for a summary as part of the final report on what New England and Mid-Atlantic states have done or have considered over the past few years when considering a carbon pricing program with their respective state legislatures, including what type of state agencies have been proposed as managing a carbon pricing program.**

18. Page 11 - *Provide staff resumes/CV and describe qualifications and experience of key staff who will be involved in this project, including their experience in the field of billing in general and water testing billing in particular, if any.*

Can you please elaborate on what is meant by billing and water testing billing?

**Answer: That was an error within that document. Please disregard that language about the water subjects.**

19. Page 15 - *The cost proposal shall be typed using the formatting provided on the provided template*  
Can you please direct us on where to find the provided template?

**Answer: Please disregard the Cost Template. Separate from the Technical Proposal, please provide a separate document with a lump sum bid to perform the services requested in the RFP.**

20. Will the vendor be provided with access to all of the relevant data which they may already possess including but not limited to state and sectoral emissions, energy/fuel consumption, industry production, demographics, forestry surveys etc.? Can you provide us with an indication of how complete your data is so that we can estimate how much data collection will be required?

**Answer: The state agencies will provide any relevant demographics, energy, forestry and emissions data sources that we have access to for the study, but the consultant can also propose any other relevant publicly available data that can be used for the various analyses.**

21. Is there tax withholding for foreign entities? We will be sub-contracting Cambridge Econometrics, headquartered in the UK.

**Answer: The foreign entity would be required to withhold income tax for employees working in Rhode Island; but the company would not be subject to withholding on its earnings.**

**If the entity has nexus with Rhode Island it would be subject to corporate income tax on its earnings in Rhode Island. If the tax was in excess of \$500 dollars, it would be required to make quarterly estimated payments.**



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22. Do we need to provide a copy of the economic model we will use to complete the tasks in the scope of work?  
**Answer: OER asks that the proposals indicate what types of economic model will be used for the scope of work. Bidders are welcome to attach a copy of the economic model that they will be proposing.**
23. Is there a separate contract for the chosen vendor or are the terms and conditions according to the RFP?  
**Answer: The State's purchase order, which incorporates by reference the General Conditions of Purchase, shall constitute the final binding contract.**
24. The RFP states that the contract period will be for 1 year with an additional option year, however, the main deliverables are due in January, 2020, with presentations through March, 2020. What services does OER envision will be required between March and September, 2020?  
**Answer: The study is not expected to continue beyond the timeline referenced for the tasks and scope of work within the RFP. The extension language was included if the study takes longer to complete.**
25. Can OER clarify the difference between the Work Plan and the Approach/Methodology sections of the Technical Proposal?  
**Answer: We don't have any further information beyond what is in the RFP.**
26. The RFP does not include a target budget. Does OER have a budget or ceiling in mind for this contract, either for the first set of deliverables due in January 2020, or for the entire Year 1 of contract?  
**Answer: The budget can't exceed \$250,000 and the objectives and tasks to be completed within the timeline in the RFP.**
27. Will OER considering increasing the page limit of the Technical Proposal to at least 8 pages?  
**Answer: Yes, the Technical Proposals can be now up to 10 pages.**
28. Given the current deadline for submission effectively gives prospective bidders two weeks to prepare the proposal, and less, if we factor in the time that will be needed to get responses to these questions, will OER consider extending the submission deadline to August 9, 5:00 PM, ET?  
**Answer: The RFP due date will be extended to Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.**
29. In the expected deliverables, it requests the consultant to develop a base case scenario and conduct sensitivity analyses. Does Rhode Island have scenarios or assumptions that it is using for other planning studies that the Consultant could leverage?  
**Answer: Please see the most recent reports from the RI Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council: <http://climatechange.ri.gov/documents/ec4ar17.pdf> <http://climatechange.ri.gov/documents/riggerr16.pdf>**
30. Based on published budgets for similar studies, the allocated funding for the project is may be insufficient given the scale of the effort. The RFP indicates that the contract period could be extended and additional funds could be allocated. Is OER able to provide a sense of what funds might be available to support the study?  
**Answer: The budget is not to exceed \$250,000 for the timeline referenced in the RFP for the task to be completed.**



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31. A portion of the study relies on policy analyses for electricity, thermal and transportation to determine pathways to 2050. Are there any previous models or assumptions that the Consultant Team will be able to utilize from other studies under the Resilient Rhode Island Act as a starting point for the carbon pricing model?

**Answer:** Please see the most recent reports from the RI Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council:  
<http://climatechange.ri.gov/documents/ec4ar17.pdf>    <http://climatechange.ri.gov/documents/riggerr16.pdf>

32. The RFP references the exploration of regional approaches to carbon pricing. Does OER have a planned approach for engaging and soliciting feedback from neighboring states in the study?

**Answer:** The consultant is expected to have an understanding of what other New England and Mid-Atlantic states have proposed for adopting carbon pricing programs over the past few years in their respective states that can be potentially used or referenced as part of the study performed.

33. Similarly, given the presence of existing regional collaborative with current or planned policies in electricity and transportation, should the consulting team plan avenues for feedback and engagement from these groups?

**Answer:** The consultant is welcome to propose their ideas as part of the proposal to achieve the objectives of the RFP.