



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
INTERNAL AFFAIRS
JUDICIAL COLLEGE OF MARYLAND
OPERATIONS
PROGRAMS

Questions/Responses No. 1 to the Request for Proposals (RFP) K17-0019-29 Data Center Cable Plant Design

1. Would any member from the design team be precluded from bidding on the implementation of the cable plant?
Response: No – we do not believe there would be a conflict of interest.
2. Who is the General Contractor for the Data Center Refresh?
Response: Facility Site Support
3. Can the past performance be with the partner and not the prime?
Response: Possibly. If you plan to use a subcontractor for a significant part of the job, you need to well define the subcontractor's role
4. Is the DCDC credentialed designer required to be full-time staff?
Response: No
5. Should a copy of the designer's DCDC certificate be submitted with the proposal response?
Response: Yes, a copy of the required certificate are to be submitted with the proposal.
6. Is the DCDC credentialed designer required to be local to the Annapolis area?
Response: No – however Contractor is required to be available for meetings and milestone walk thru and via phone for off cycle questions. Note: Video Conferencing is Available.
7. Is the design firm required to be an independent design consultant not affiliated with any products or manufacturers?
Response: No
8. If a cabling contractor is awarded this design contract, would they be prohibited from bidding on the installation scope of work?
Response: see Response #1
9. Approximately how many different user groups will need to be interviewed to determine and verify requirements? Will these meetings be scheduled in the same day or adjacent days?
Response: Four to six - Meetings will be scheduled as efficiently as possible.
10. Please confirm that the design drawings do not need to be stamped and sealed by a licensed professional engineer.
Response: Only stamped by RCDD and DCDC

11. Please confirm that the design drawings do need to be stamped and sealed by both a RCDD and DCDC.
Response: Yes
12. Please confirm that AutoCAD and/or Revit files will be provided to produce the design drawings.
Response: Yes
13. Please confirm that the MEP is completing the mechanical and electrical designs and that our scope of work includes review of and coordination with their design work.
Response: Yes
14. Please confirm that this scope of work does not include the specification or design of any new active network electronics (routers, switches, firewalls, SANs, network appliances, etc.).
Response: Yes, however comments expected on adaptability of devices.
15. Please confirm that all cabling design will be confined to the data center and cabling will not need to be designed from the data center to other locations within the building and outside of the data center.
Response: Requirement to connect to the closest adjacent IDF closet. Cabling plant design should include north wing (office) cubes on the ground floor.
16. Are phased drawings required as part of the migration plan to move critical applications? Are phased drawings required to document the use of swing space within the existing data center or will this be part of the cabling contractor's scope of work once they are engaged?
Response: Overall design should be developed – delivery of design detail should correspond with construction phases. It is expected vendor will coordinate with MEP to deliver detail as required to keep project on schedule.
17. Please confirm that no cost estimates or opinions of probable costs are required during the design process.
Response: YES
18. What is the estimated date of substantial completion for construction and occupancy of the data center? .
Response: Completion date undetermined at this time
19. Please confirm that 100% documents will be due 90 days after contract award.
Response: YES
20. Are hard copy drawings required with any deliverable? If so, should these be billed as expenses to the client, or included in the base bid?
Response: Included in base bid. Hard copy with each deliverable / plus technical specification document.
21. Regarding section 1.26 of the RFP and attachment C, please confirm that it is acceptable for the registration with the State to still be in-process on the RFP response date (currently 8/26/16). Application process will be completed by 8/26/16, but the final approval from the State of Maryland may occur after 8/26/16.
Response: It is acceptable for the registration application to be in-process. Please provide with the proposal a copy showing the date of the registration application was filed.
22. Is the government willing to provide the General Contractor's contact information prior to award?

Response: NO

23. Will this RFP be a lowest price or best value award?

Response: Section 4.1.1 The Contract resulting from this RFP shall be awarded to the Offerors that is most advantageous to the Judiciary, considering price and the evaluation factors set forth herein. In making this determination, technical factors shall receive greater weight than price factors.

24. In the meeting it was stated that we needed a RCDD for the project but in the document it states that only a DCDC is required. Can you verify the requirements?

Response: RCDD and DCDC.

25. Can the prime use past performance of one of its sub-contractors?

Response: See Response #3.

26. Can the awardee of this proposal also respond to the labor portion as well when it becomes available?

Response: See Response #1

27. Are there any specifications on any equipment that is preferred or is it at the vendor's discretion for the design? I.E. – current warranties or other contractual agreements with manufacturers.

Response: Not at this time.

28. What level of security clearances are needed? Standard Background, facility clearance, SCI read on, etc.

Response: Standard Background and will be Escorted by JIS Staff

29. What level of effort should we calculate the designer at? Attends all meetings and major milestones vs. needs to be on site every day.

Response: See Response #6.

30. Per the RFP Section 2.2 - Can the Judiciary please provide the full list of applicable standards that are required as part of this design? There are many different BICSI standards that could be utilized in the design, and the bidders need to know what standards and codes are to be applied to the design work.

Response: TIA 942 and the associated BICSI standards associated with same.

31. Per the RFP Section 2.2 (2) - Can the judiciary please provide the list of all of the key stakeholders that will need to be interviewed, and the different working groups that have equipment in the data center? This information will be needed to plan the hours that will be necessary for the interview process.

Response: Four to six interviews. Total interview time plus follow up questions estimated at 20 to 30 hours.

32. Per the RFP Section 2.2 (5) - Is it a requirement of the design to specify new cabinets/racks for the project, or is that a requirement of the data center refresh project.

Response: No, however, input to the process of selection would be expected.

33. Per the RFP Section 2.2 (8) - Will the Judiciary provide copies of the current data center refresh project plans and specifications? This information will be vital to bidders to determine the scope of the cable plant design and to determine what must be taken in consideration when planning cable routes throughout the spaces.

Response: Yes

34. Can the Judiciary provide the bidders with the expected hours and schedule that is required for the lead cable plant designer to be on site during the cable plant installation? This information is necessary to determine how many additional hours will be required on the project for time on site, hours of travel, and travel costs associated with these meetings after the final deliverable has been delivered to the customer.
Response: See Response #6
35. Can the Judiciary provide the hours associated with these relative project meetings and the final commissioning sequence? Will these relative project meetings be held weekly, bi-weekly, etc.? Unless the bidders know the length of time associated with these meetings and the overall duration of the installation project, these hours and associated costs will be very difficult to determine, and could cause the overall costs of the bids to be increased to cover the risk.
Response: Once the design is established – ongoing support Estimate 5 hours a week for the above activities.
36. Price Proposal - Are the bidders to roll in their costs for the interview phase and the team meeting phase once the 100% design has been submitted and the construction costs have begun, or will the price form be amended to include these costs outside of the design phase?
Response: One for price all – fixed fee price to include interviews, all meetings, design, and consultation during installation phase.
37. Will the Judiciary be able to provide the current record diagrams for the existing network for the data center? If there are no existing record diagrams, it will be required for the bidder to assume that they must perform an assessment of the entire current network. This assessment will be required to baseline the current network infrastructure so the successful bidder has an existing network conditions diagram so they can be successful in upgrading the design.
Response: No as is Exist. Discovery phase is in progress by equipment vendor; all findings will be shared.
38. During the site visit, it was mentioned that the current offices in the main data center space will be relocated to the LAN room underneath the data center refresh project. Is the successful bidder to assume that we must also provide the design for extending network services to these office underneath the network design project, or is that outside of scope?
Response: The design should include the office area on north side of ground floor / no cable design required for temporary relocation of staff into swing space in other parts of building.
39. Can the Judiciary provide contact information for the selected designer and contractor for the refresh project? Interviews and meetings with this team will be required as well to ensure that nothing from the network design project conflicts with the intentions and plans for the data center refresh project.
Response: Yes – all contact information will be provided once the contract is awarded.
40. Will the judiciary provide a copy of current IT equipment housed in the data centers, and a list of the equipment that is being eliminated and what is remaining at the completion of the refresh project? This information will assist in determining the extent of what network services are provided to all existing equipment.
Response: YES
41. Does the Judiciary have different network services that are provided to different working groups throughout the building?
Response: No

42. Is it the intention that the cable plant design is only responsible for the cable plant throughout the two data centers, or are aspects of the cable plant throughout the building, including network drops for offices, etc, also included in the scope?
Response: Cable plant design for north and south wings of ground floor.
43. Will the Judiciary consider an extension to the due date of the proposal? Based on the volume of questions and the period of time it takes to answer the questions, and how the answers will affect the proposed cost, the bidders may not have adequate time to prepare a response that is in the best interest of the Judiciary.
Response: The closing date has been extended to 08/31 @ 2pm. – see Amendment #1
44. Would it be possible to receive an itemized scope of renovations other than the structured cabling occurring within the data center?
Response: This information will be shared once the award is made.
45. How many relocation phases does the JIS anticipate?
Response: Five
46. How many stakeholder groups are anticipated to participate in the design interview process?
Response: Four to Six
47. For the structured cabling specifications, is there a preferred format?
Response: No
48. Will the winning design firm be precluded from bidding on the install?
Response: see Response #1
49. The Statement of work requires that the lead cable plant designer have the BICSI DCDC certification from BICSI. If the design firm has an RCDD on staff, would the state accept data center design certifications from accrediting organizations other than BICSI such as Cisco – CCNP or CNET - CDCDP (Certified Data Center Design Professional) etc.?
Response: No
50. During the pre-proposal meeting it was stated that drawings will need to be stamped by an RCDD. Please confirm if stamps are required by both an RCDD and the Data Center designer as they can be two different people.
Response: Yes
51. How many user groups are planning to have equipment located in the renovated Data Center? We need this information in order to estimate the time for tenant requirements interviews.
Response: Four to Six
52. Are there plans to replace any of the ceiling tiles or data center structure as part of the overall construction project?
Response: Yes all
53. During the pre-proposal conference there was mention of working with the existing A/E and MEP firms. Can you provide the name of the firms currently working on the project that we will need to work with for our designs?
Response: Facility Support Services, and CAS Severn