REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ADDENDUM
PURCHASING OFFICE
CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: GAL0603 ADDENDUM NO. 2
DATE OF ADDENDUM: July 12, 2016

This addendum is to incorporate the following:

Q1. Will Windows Server/IIS solutions be considered (T5.1.1 /T5.2.1)?

A1. Yes we can consider a solution based on Windows/IIS although the preference would be a solution based on WebSphere or other JEE based.

Q2. What is the future of support for older browsers (IE 8) (M6.2)?

A2. Our standard client image is held to Win7 with IE8 due to compatibility of several critical and widely used applications.

Q3. Is Austin expecting the BFE application to consume data from Web Services or for components of our application to be made available on an Enterprise Service Bus (T7.2.1-T7.2.6)?

A3. We prefer to have this capability for integration. If no support for web service exists, then the solution should provide support for other interfaces such as JDBC based or file based.

Q4. Regarding T7.2.6 “The application shall support IEC CIM standard 61968.” Can you supply examples of other smart Grid compliant functions carried on your Enterprise Service Bus?

A4. One example is ADMS (Automated Distribution Management System) interfaces.

Q6. Can you elaborate on the Internal COA financial systems (eCapris, eCombs, Advantage)? Were they internally developed? What methods are available to access Data controlled by these applications?

A6. eCAPRIS and eCOMBS were internally developed by City of Austin staff. They are web based systems used by all departments within the City of Austin. Advantage Financial is the City of Austin accounting/general ledger system from software firm CGI. Austin Energy currently receives daily data integrations from Advantage which flow into the City of Austin systems eCAPRIS, eCOMBS. Austin Energy also gets daily general ledger information from Advantage integrated into Austin Energy used systems Maximo and Powerplan.

Q7. Does COA Expect the solution to simply pull data from Oracle or must leverage Oracle as the only datastore? Infor would prefer to pull data from Oracle (or other data sources) into a multi-dimensional cube.

A7. We give preference to Oracle as the datastore, but other platforms are considered. We also prefer to evaluate the specific ETL/loading/staging architecture based on the functional/technical requirements and data frequencies/volumes.

Q8. We are in receipt of the Addendum 1 with the Q & A’s. Can you please reconcile the title of the RFP “Budgeting, Planning & Forecasting System” with the answer to question #5 which states you are not looking for a budging system? Please explain the inconsistency, what exactly are you looking for?

A8. Austin Energy is not looking to replace its current budgeting system. We are looking for a system that will work with our current budget data and budget system to provide additional data analytics tools as well the ability to integrate data to and from a rates, forecasting and accounting system.

Q9. Explain you planning process in terms of the dimensions that describe your data.

A9. Accounts - e.g. Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow, Statistics, Calculations, etc: AE uses balance sheets, income statements, cash flow statements, various calculations for metrics such as debt service coverage, quick ratio. Also uses governmental statements such the Fund Summary
Time Periods – YearTotal, Qtr's, Months, QTD's, YTD's, Estimate to Completion(ETC)?: Monthly, Quarterly and Fiscal Year. YTD and Current Year Estimate
Years – FY08, FY07, etc.: Data goes back to FY 2007
Scenarios - Actual, Budget, Forecast, Variances, etc.: Budget, Actual, Current Year Estimate, Variances by $ and %.
Entities – Organization hierarchy: There are 13 Mega Business Units; 40 Business Units and 220 Cost Centers (Units)
Cost Center: Includes 220 cost centers we call units
Currencies – CAD, USD, etc. (not applicable): USD
Project: Tracked by 10 digit task order numbers in Advantage, Work Order numbers in Maximo and 4 digit FERC codes.
Tasks: Tracked by Maximo work order numbers and 10 digit task order numbers in Advantage
Other: Austin Energy uses Fund Accounting and tracks costs by Fund, City Department number, Cost Center (unit) Cost Object Code, FERC reporting category, FERC activity code.

Q10. Please describe and/or provide samples of all dimensional hierarchies – Entity Structure, Tasks, Projects, etc.?

A10. Example: Electric Service Delivery Construction South = Fund 5010, Department 1100, Unit = 3504 Activity = 5830 Object Code = 7600 Task Order = 1120000000.

Q11. How are your chart of accounts, account numbers and cost centers organized? What is the structure? How are the account numbers structured?

A11. By Fund/Department/Unit. Each Business Unit has Units or Cost Centers assigned to them.

Q12. What are the roll-ups or hierarchies in your data? For example, what is your fiscal year? Is it the same as the calendar year or other? Do you require roll-ups for quarters, YTD's, QTD's, etc.? How is your Organization structured? Do you have alternate roll-ups, e.g. Management or Functional roll-up vs. a responsibility roll-up? Where are these hierarchies maintained?

A12. Units roll up to Business Units which roll up to Mega Business Units which roll up to the Department and Fund. Fiscal year is October 1 to September 30. We require monthly, YTD quarterly and annual reports. We do have alternate functional roll-ups included in our budget submission that are maintained in our eCOMBS budget system.

Q13. What are the proposed data sources? Who will be responsible for extracting these data sources? Can they be automated? Please provide examples.

A13. Data sources are Advantage financial general ledger data, Forecast model data, Customer Care and Billing system, Maximo work management system, Power Plan fixed assets system, Open Link financial system. AE internal staff (most likely IT) would be responsible for extracting these by automation.

Q14. Do you utilize zero-based budgeting or pre-populate the budget with trends from historical data?

A14. Pre-populate.

Q15. Do you budget at the same level that you report Actuals?

A15. Yes.

Q16. Will the budget need to be loaded from Planning back to a source system?

A16. Yes.

Q17. Are budgets yearly, monthly, quarterly, or weekly?

A17. Yearly.

Q18. Do you conduct a periodic forecast? If so, what is the forecast cycle?

A18. Yes, yearly.

Q19. Do you need to support multiple currencies and translations (current year rate, next year rate)?

A19. No.

Q20. How much historical data do you need included? Actuals – 1 -2 years? Budget – current year budget only.

A20. Historical 5 years for expenses, 10 years for revenue. Budget – current year.

Q21. What is your company's fiscal calendar?

A21. October 1 through September 30.

Q22. What information is essential for inputting data for planning purposes?

A22. Prior year actual expenditures and revenue.

Q23. Do you currently conduct or require balance sheet planning? If so, please describe the process.

A23. Yes, part of five year financial forecast.

Q24. Do you currently conduct or require cash flow planning? If so, please describe the process.

A24. Yes, part of five year financial forecast.

Q25. Do you currently conduct or require detailed revenue planning? If so, please describe the process.

A25. Yes, part of five year financial forecast.

Q26. Do you currently conduct or require detailed expense planning? If so, please describe the process.

A26. Yes, part of five year financial forecast.

Q27. Do you currently conduct or require detailed workforce planning? If so, please describe the process.

A27. Yes, part of five year financial forecast.

Q28. Do you currently conduct or require detailed capital asset planning? If so, please describe the process.

A28. Yes, part of five year financial forecast.

Q29. What are output requirements for reporting? Can you provide examples and identify each report?

A29. Monthly financial statements including balance sheet, income statement, budget to actual fund summary, revenue collection reports, debt schedules.

Q30. Is drill-through to a relational component required?

A30. Yes.

Q31. How do you typically roll-out and deploy an application to end users? What is your procedure for deployment?

A31. Internal staff testing from a test environment, then Go-Live in production.

Q32. Who are the proposed end users? Are they on the same domain? Where are they located? Do they have any restricted access, e.g. within Entities? Restricted READ, WRITE access?

A32. Finance staff are end users on the same domain. Most located at main office with restricted access to certain users. Need restricted READ/WRITE access.

Q33. Who are the designated system administrators? What is the percentage of time allocated to this function? Who is responsible for managing security?

A33. Finance staff and IT staff will be system administrators on a part-time basis. Finance staff will manage security with IT staff.

Q34. Who is designated individual who will provide assistance with coordinating automation routines and refresh jobs? This also includes the automation of Hyperion system back up procedures.

A34. IT staff at AE.

Q35. Will you require any training services?

A35. Yes.

Q36. Do you want to perform a 'train the trainer' type session?

A36. Yes.

Q37. What locations reflect where your users reside?

A37. 98% of users will reside at AE headquarters.

No other questions will be considered. If there is a question that would affect the basis for information that you provide as part of your response to this Request for Information, please feel free to note it accordingly.

All other terms and conditions remain the same.

BY THE SIGNATURES affixed below, this Addendum is hereby incorporated and made a part of the above-referenced Solicitation.

APPROVED BY:

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