

Questions and Answers

RFQ VA797H-14-Q-0010

VISN 22 Special Consolidation

1. **Question:** Could you please clarify that there will be no [Ultra Sound] requirements being bid for [Loma Linda].
1.1. Answer: Vendors shall refer to the attached generic specifications incorporated in this amendment.
2. **Question:** I couldn't find the benchmarks for the following two c-arm obligation # 664-B20053 & 664-B40002
2.1. Answer: Vendors shall refer to the attached generic specifications incorporated in this amendment.
3. **Question:** Is there a specification for the US (Port & GP)? There are 13 Ultrasounds (Port & GP) where the comments section is blank – so I am unsure as to which department/configuration required.
3.1. Answer: Vendors shall refer to the attached generic specifications incorporated in this amendment. Vendors to include all options identified in the generic specifications within the primary and/or alternate quotation.
4. **Question:** For any obligation that was previously on an earlier consolidation (September 2012, May 2013, etc.) do those specifications/ benchmarks remain the same as those prior consolidations, or do we adjust our quotes to meet the general specifications of the VISN 22 Special Consolidation?
4.1. Answer: Vendors shall refer to the attached generic specifications incorporated in this amendment. Quotations based on specifications from previous solicitations will not be considered.
5. **Question:** The RFQ identifies 81 line item requirements but does not identify a (benchmark) specification for each line item. All previous Consolidation RFQs have specifically identified either a benchmark quote or a generic specification for each line item, and that document was clearly identified with the line item number. The specifications you have provided in this RFQ do not identify a line item number and their titles do not cross reference to any of the 81 line item numbers on the Schedule. We have no method to determine exactly which line item requires which of your specifications. We cannot make assumptions without risk of error. If we were to wait for your question/answer process there would not be sufficient time remaining to respond. As such I am requesting you place the RFQ in a suspended status.
5.1. Answer: Vendors shall refer to the attached generic specifications and revised schedule incorporated in this amendment.
6. **Question:** All of the specification documents included in the RFQ includes Optional requirements. Your "Vendor Workup Spreadsheet" are in a locked format and do not provide any method to price "optional" items without having the price automatically included. As such, we are not able to price the 81 line items on your Schedule. In view of this I am requesting you suspend the RFQ until a method is provided to address Optional requirements.

- 6.1. Answer: Vendors shall refer to the attached “unlocked” vendor workup spreadsheet incorporated in this amendment.**
- 7. Question:** Which Consolidation Schedule are we to follow? I thought this Special Consolidation for VISN 22 is separate from the September Consolidation. Dates are conflicting between the two Schedule.
- 7.1. Answer: The Government has revised the schedule and is identified in an attachment within this amendment.**
- 8. Question:** How do we do this as the Consolidation Line Item spreadsheet does not identified the required configuration or benchmark Vendor?
- 8.1. Answer: Vendors shall refer to the attached generic specifications incorporated in this amendment. The Government does not intend to identify a “benchmark vendor”.**
- 9. Question:** There are numerous line items that are requiring a turnkey quote. Why turnkey quotes must be submitted along with the equipment quotes if they are not considered part of the Best Value Source Selection process and should not be part of the evaluation. Turnkey quotes take a lot of time and effort when we must solicit at least 3 contractors’ quotes as well as needing to visit each site accordingly. Why can't turnkeys be provided by whatever equipment vendor is selected once that selection is made vs. prior to the bid response?
- 9.1. Answer: The Government intends to evaluate turnkey requirements after vendor selection has been completed and the delivery order has been awarded.**
- 10. Question:** I do not see enough trade in information listed to actually get a trade in value. All of the line items with trade-ins have incomplete info. Some of the just say “yes.” How should I get the necessary information?
- 10.1. Answer: Vendors are encouraged to quote in accordance with industry standards.**
- 11.** Some of the ultrasound line items do not specify what department they are going to. For example, VA Long Beach has several ultrasounds that are labeled XR-US (Port-GP) without a department in the comments section. Can you provide information as to where these systems are going?
- 11.1. Answer: See Attached Generic Specifications Broken Down by Obligation Number. Vendors to include all options identified in the generic specifications within the primary and/or alternate quotation.**
- 12. Question:** The following items were part of the September 2012 consolidation, where the specifications were for a mini c-arm. There are no specs for a mini c-arm in the general specifications of the VISN 22 Special Consolidation. All specifications for c-arms are for large c-arms. These items are: Line 6 - 593-B30003; Line 7 - 593-B30004; Line 8 - 593-B30005; Line 43 - 664-B20053
- 12.1. Answer: Vendors shall refer to the attached generic specifications incorporated in this amendment.**
- 13.** Is there further clarification for these items where the general specifications do not match the prior consolidation, or should we consider the specs to have been changed for these items and re-quote based on the general specifications of the VISN 22 Special Consolidation?
- 13.1. Answer: Vendors shall refer to the attached generic specifications incorporated in this amendment. Quotations based on specifications from previous solicitations will not be considered.**

- 14. Question:** You have a specification titled “Cath Lab” which describes a Bi-plane Cath Lab. The Schedule listing the 81 line items has a column title “Equip Type” but does not identify any Cath Lab requirements. Is there actually a Bi-plane Cath Lab requirement among these 81 Line Items?
- 14.1. Answer:** Vendors shall refer to the attached generic specifications incorporated in this amendment.
- 15. Question:** You have a specification for Radiology Ultrasound. The Schedule listing the 81 line items identifies 12 “XR-US (Rad)” requirements. We would normally expect these to be Radiology Ultrasound units and respond according to your specifications. The Schedule also list 34 “XR-US (Port & GP)”. We have no idea what specs to use for a response to these 34 items. Do we do the same Radiology Ultrasound specs? Do we use your spec titled Portable Digital X-ray or the one titled Digital Radiographic? Some of the 81 Line Items are identified as XR-RAD and some XR-RAD PORT. These would seem to be X-ray systems leaving us no choice but to use your spec Radiology Ultrasound for the 34 lines identified as “XR-US (Port & GP).
- 15.1. Answer:** Vendors shall refer to the attached generic specifications incorporated in this amendment.
- 16. Question:** One of the 81 line items is identified as a Workstation. There are no specifications titled Workstation.
- 16.1. Answer:** The Government hereby removes this line item from the solicitation.
- 17. Question:** One of the 81 line items is identified as XR-C/R. We would normally expect this to be for a Computed Radiography system but none of your specifications are titled as such.
- 17.1. Answer:** The Government hereby removes this line item from the solicitation.
- 18. Question:** After removing the above lines we are left with 33 line items that have a name correlating to the name of your specifications.
- 18.1. Answer:** Vendors shall refer to the attached generic specifications incorporated in this amendment.
- 19. Question:** All the specifications request an option for 6-month extended warranty. It is my understanding the Gov’t cannot purchase “extended” warranty as it occurs after the fiscal year of the procurement meaning it’s a future year need that cannot be paid out of current fiscal funds. Are you expecting [vendors] to offer a FREE Extended Warranty? The contract terms were negotiated many years ago. We are willing to review possible additional discounting for a better price but it has been my understanding the NAC would “not” be attempting (directly or indirectly) to negotiate different contract terms with any vendor. We received this information in details provided us by the VA Central Office. This option request should be removed. It is unfair.
- 19.1. Answer:** The Government has the authority ask for considerations including value add items. This does not violate terms and conditions of the existing contract.
- 20. Question:** Your pricing worksheet is in a “locked” format without any provision for options. This has been identified several times and never addressed. All of your specifications list Optional Items. Are this Options required? We cannot use your pricing worksheet to provide prices for the optional items without the prices automatically being included in the total price. Are you aware that “imaging systems” require a specific configuration and must be purchased according to the system configuration we quote? You cannot pick and choose items in the basic system configuration. Options can be shown separately on our quote but the Quote document itself is furnished for

“equipment description and configuration purposes”. The price on the quote is always superseded by the price on the pricing worksheet. This leaves us with no method to provide you a price for options and all 81 line items require Options to be offered.

20.1. Answer: See 6.1

21. Question: Please provide benchmark quote or requirements for item 664-B20058, WORKSTATION, VA SAN DIEGO, CA (VA797H-13-J-0881)

21.1. Answer: The Government hereby removes this requirement from the solicitation.

22. Question: Please provide benchmark quote or requirements for item 691-B20072, XR-C/R, VA LOS ANGELES, CA (VA797H-13-J-0100)

22.1. Answer: The Government hereby removes this requirement from the solicitation.

23. Question: Please clarify instructions in regards to Vendor / Customer communications. Paragraph c of VA797H-14-Q-0010-001 states that customers are engaged in Market Research and is followed up with a sub-paragraph 1 that after April 1 2014 all Vendor Inquires are to go through the VA NAC. Does that mean that after April 1, 2014 there is to be no direct communication between the customers and the vendors? Does that include product demonstrations and customer calls?

23.1. Answer: Vendor communication after April 1, 2014 must be facilitated by a warranted Contracting Officer including product demonstrations and customer calls.

24. Question: There are no specifications for the following line items 664-B20058 & 691-B20072

24.1. Answer: See 21.1 and 22.1

25. Question: Loma Linda and Long Beach have no XR RAD or XR PORT RAD opportunities. Is this correct or are they with the Los Angeles acquisitions?

25.1. Answer: Vendors shall refer to the attached generic specifications incorporated in this amendment.

26. Question: Is there a VISN 22 requirement to standardize user interfaces, across all DR Platforms?

26.1. Answer: The Government does not intend to “standardize” modalities.

27. Question: Does VISN 22 require enhanced clinical applications with their DR platforms, for example: Bone Visualization and Suppression; Pneumothorax Visualization and enhancements.

27.1. Answer: See 26.1

28. Question: Does VISN 22 require enhanced workflow and efficiency applications with their DR platforms, for example: Tube and Line visualization enhancement; Prior Image Review; Tube and Grid alignment system; Auto-Correct for Image Display / Chest Imaging; Technologist Assist – Highlight clipped anatomy, Display CNR & Exposure Index Deviation.

28.1. Answer: Vendors shall refer to the attached generic specifications incorporated in this amendment. Vendors to include all options within the primary and/or alternate quotation.

29. Question: Does VISN 22 require a tube & head display and user interface in addition to main deck display?

29.1. Answer: Vendors shall refer to the attached generic specifications incorporated in this amendment. Vendors to include all options within the primary and/or alternate quotation.

30. Question: Does VISN 22 require quality analysis and reporting tools for their DR platforms?

30.1. Answer: The Governments requirement includes quality analysis and reporting tools for DR platforms.

- 31. Question:** Does the Bio-medical department perform regular image and quality control tests and track those analyses over time?
- 31.1. Answer:** The VA Bio-medical department performs regular image and quality control tests and tracks those analyses over time.
- 32. Question:** Are any of the following features to be included on the DRX portable units for VISN 22: collapsing vertical support column allowing for unobstructed view while driving, independent drive wheels for enhanced maneuverability in confined spaces, a display indicating status of all batteries, or on-board storage for various items that technologists needs (i.e., bags, gloves, sanitizer wipes, paperwork, pens, paper clips, detectors, grid frame, 2 detector batteries)?
- 32.1. Answer:** Vendors shall refer to the attached generic specifications incorporated in this amendment.
- 33. Question:** On portable units, what is the minimum required tube head reach with boom extension? For example: 53" with boom extension
- 33.1. Answer:** Vendors shall refer to the attached generic specifications incorporated in this amendment.
- 34. Question:** There are 3 line items for VA Las Vegas and they represent 'mini C-arms'. There are no specifications for Mini C-Arms
- 34.1. Answer:** Vendors shall refer to the attached generic specifications incorporated in this amendment.
- 35. Question:** C-arm Specs: No single vendor can meet this criteria. (Ex.: The specifications for the C-arm should read 'flat panel detector or II based system'). The line item should represent a 'system name' to help qualify quoting needs.
- 35.1. Answer:** The Government hereby changes its requirement to read "flat panel detector or II based system"
- 36. Question:** Some of the generic benchmarks are "too generic" and for C-arm, x-ray, and ultrasound it is too difficult to decipher which line item goes with the facility's request. Some facilities want laptop style ultrasound but the spec is too generic and some facilities want mini c-arm but the spec only calls for a c-arm. Should vendors just refer to old obligation numbers and look at the prior benchmarks for further clarification if needed?
- 36.1. Answer:** Vendors shall refer to the attached generic specifications incorporated in this amendment.
- 37. Long Beach line item 600-B20003 calls for a CT. Can you please confirm what the second part of the line item calls for regarding B20006? Is B20006 construction? It was stated that construction/DCS would not be part of this consolidation. The following line items have the same question: Same with 605-B20019 / B20027; Same with 605-B20020 / B20026; Same with 664-B20046 / B20057; Same with 664-B20047 / B20052; Same with 691-B20035 / B20058; Same with 691-B20026 / B20057; Same with 691-B20027/ B20075; Same with 691-B20035/ B20074; Same with 691-B20036 / B20056; Same with 691-B20037 / B20055; Same with 691-B20038 / B20077; Same with 691-B20038 / B20076; Same with 691-B20039 / B20059; Same with 691-B20040 / B20076; 691-B20045/ B20089; 691-B20046 / B20088; 691-B20047 / B20087;**

37.1. Answer: The second obligation number represents turnkey requirements, however the Government intends to evaluate turnkey requirements after vendor selection has been completed and the delivery order has been awarded.

38. Question: Portable Digital X-ray System:

38.1. Portable System Requirements – Item 5. Ability to move portable unit from tube head/extension arm. Please remove this requirement; the function is not clinically relevant.

38.1.1. Answer: The Government hereby removes the requirement for the Ability to move portable unit from tube head/extension arm. However; this functionality specification now serves as an optional item.

38.2. Portable System Requirements – Item 24. Workstations run on Windows 7 or latest version
Not all systems have a Windows OS, please change to read....IF the Workstation has a Windows based OS, it must run on Windows 7 or the latest version

38.2.1. Answer: The Government hereby removes the requirement for workstations to run on Windows 7 or latest version.

38.3. Support and other Documentation to Provide: 4. Please provide version/platform long-range plan. Please clarify or remove this requirement, the NAC contract and the FDA prohibits vendors from pre-selling non-approved devices (futures). (please note this same language is in many of the specifications, if you would please address for all products)

38.3.1. Answer: The Government requests a narrative confirmation that systems on vendor quotations are technologically relevant, and not at the end of their manufacturing model run and can be maintained throughout its life cycle.

39. Question: CT Scan Specifications

39.1. Please clarify the difference between – Advanced Applications Item 6. Dual-energy imaging and Optional item 2. Dual energy scanning. If they are the same requirements, please clarify if this is a required application or optional.

39.1.1. Answer: The Government has identified Dual-Energy Imaging as the primary requirement.

40. Question: Ultrasound Radiology

40.1. System Requirements: Item 9. Minimum monitor 20 inches. This is a very restrictive requirement please change to minimum monitor size of 19 inches.

40.1.1. Answer: The Government hereby changes the requirement for Minimum monitor 20 inches to ≥ 17 inches.

40.2. Transducers /Probe Types – Item 6. X-plane. X-plane is a vendor specific term, please change to the common industry standard name – Multi-planar

40.2.1. Answer: The Government hereby changes the requirement to Multi-planar.

40.3. US (Port & GP) – No Specification Included.

40.3.1. Answer: Vendors shall refer to the attached generic specifications incorporated in this amendment.

40.4. Please develop a separate Specification for Portable Ultrasound and Cardiovascular Ultrasound

40.4.1. Answer: Vendors shall refer to the attached generic specifications incorporated in this amendment.

40.5. Please identify the departments for all of the Portable Ultrasound Systems.

40.5.1. Answer: See Attached Generic Specifications Broken Down by Obligation Number.

41. Question: IR Suite

41.1. Table 2.2. Ability to tilt cranial and caudal ≥ 15 degrees. This is an unduly restrictive requirement, Please remove the ≥ 15 degrees from the requirement

41.1.1. Answer: The Government hereby removes the requirement for Ability to tilt cranial and caudal ≥ 15 degrees. However; this functionality specification now serves as an optional item.

41.2. Table 2.3. Cradeling. Please remove this requirement, there is no clinical requirement for Cradeling in Interventional Radiology

41.2.1. Answer: The Government hereby removes the requirement Cradeling. However; this functionality specification now serves as an optional item.

41.3. Table 2.6. Integrated Ultrasound Capability. This is an unduly restrictive requirement, please remove from the proposal or move to options.

41.3.1. Answer: The Government hereby removes the requirement for Integrated Ultrasound Capability. However; this functionality specification now serves as an optional item.

41.4. Hardware 3.2 Fusion between Modalities....with laser guidance. Please remove the laser guidance, this portion is not required by most vendors

41.4.1. Answer: The Government hereby removes the requirement for Fusion between Modalities....with laser guidance. However; this functionality specification now serves as an optional item.

41.5. Hardware 3.12 – Rubber Leg Filters. Please remove from the required equipment; this is not required (needed) on all vendors' equipment.

41.5.1. Answer: The Government hereby removes the requirement for Rubber Leg Filters. However; this functionality specification now serves as an optional item.

42. Question: PET/CT Software Application Options. Please confirm that the software are all optional not standard requirements.

42.1. Answer: Vendors shall refer to the attached generic specifications incorporated in this amendment. Vendors to include all options identified in the generic specifications within the primary and/or alternate quotation.

43. Question: DR Requirements – Item 18. Workstations run on Windows 7 or latest version. Not all systems have a Windows OS, please change to read....IF the Workstation has a Windows based OS, it must run on Windows 7 or the latest version

43.1. Answer: The Government hereby removes the requirement for workstations to run on Windows 7 or latest version.

44. Question: Cath Lab

44.1. Table 2.2 Ability to tilt Cranial and Caudal. Please move this capability to the optional items

44.1.1. Answer: The Government hereby removes the requirement for Ability to tilt Cranial and Caudal. However; this functionality specification now serves as an optional item.

44.2. Table 2.4 Integrated Ultrasound / X-ray guidance capability. This is an unduly restrictive requirement, please remove from the proposal or move to options.

- 44.2.1. Answer: The Government hereby removes the requirement for Integrated Ultrasound / X-ray guidance capability. However; this functionality specification now serves as an optional item.**
- 44.3.** Table 2.8 Table side floor mats that are specifically antimicrobial. Please remove and add this to options
- 44.3.1. Answer: The Government hereby removes the requirement Table side floor mats that are specifically antimicrobial. However; this functionality specification now serves as an optional item.**
- 45. Question:** Digital R/F Specifications
- 45.1.** Digital Fluoroscopy acquisition – 4.1 Flat detector. Please change this requirement to Flat detector or II system.
- 45.1.1. Answer: See 35.1**
- 45.2.** Control Room Workstations 8.4 Runs on Windows or latest version. Not all systems have a Windows OS, please change to read....IF the Workstation has a Windows based OS, it must run on Windows 7 or the latest version
- 45.2.1. Answer: The Government hereby removes the requirement for workstations to run on Windows 7 or latest version.**
- 46. Question:** Mammography System....obligation 593-B30021 has a very different requirement from the original posting. The original posting was for a specimen radiography system, the new benchmark is for a complete mammography system. Please clarify the requirement.
- 46.1. Answer: Vendors shall refer to the attached generic specifications incorporated in this amendment.**
- 47. Question:** Obligation number 664-B20058 Workstation – Please provide the benchmark details for this obligation
- 47.1. Answer: The Government hereby removes this line item from the solicitation.**