

**Q & A for the
Nuclear Medicine SPECT - SPECT/CT Special Consolidation
VA797R-16-Q-0006**

Present on the 4/21/2016 conference call:

- GE
- Siemens
- Spectrum Dynamics
- VISN 4, 5, 8, 12, 16, 20
- HTM
- NAC-HTME

Clarifications:

1. Baltimore VA specifications has been corrected to reflect the accurate PO number of 512-B20605.

Questions submitted in advance of conference call:

GE questions for the Nuclear Medicine SPECT - SPECT/CT Special Consolidation:

1. The Generic spec are significantly different from the original benchmarks, had the VA added additional funding to support the changes? –

The generic specifications as provided with the RFQ represent the VA's current need.

2. General question, there is a significant amount of training on each generic benchmark. Is all of the training really required, or do you want vendors to quote the recommended training to avoid unnecessary expenses?

Please submit bids that meet the minimum specifications.

3. Many of the workstations have a section for Hardware memory upgrade and an example is provided as 24GB. This type of upgrade maybe included as part of a service package, it should not be included as an equipment requirement, please remove this requirement from all workstation specs.

The generic specifications provided an example of 24GB RAM. Additional hardware memory is a requirement (i.e. 1 GB RAM, or 4 GB RAM, etc.). Please submit bids that meet the minimum specifications.

4. Please clarify Item 5, under the Main Nuclear Medicine System section on the Orlando 675-B57018, 675-B57019, 675-B57020, VA Maryland 512-B20168, VA Spokane 668-B20036. CTAC Timing Resolution equal to or less than 0.5 sec, multiple kVp, mA. This seems to be a CT requirement, not a Nuclear Medicine System Requirement.

Item 5 under the Main Nuclear Medicine System section for orders Orlando 675-B57018, 675-B57019, 675-B57020 will be removed from the specification.

***please note clarification made above concerning “VA Maryland’s number”**

Item 5 under the Main Nuclear Medicine System section for orders VA Maryland 512-B20605, VA Spokane 668-B20036 will be moved to the CT Specifications section.

5. Please clarify Item 6, under the Main Nuclear Medicine System section on the Orlando 675-B57018, 675-B57019, 675-B57020, Little Rock 598-B30007, Spokane 668-B20036, VA Maryland 512-B20168 - The requirement is Iterative Reconstruction for CTAC – should this be Iterative reconstruction for SPECT or should it just be removed. The SPECT Iterative reconstruction is covered in the Advanced applications section item 7. Please clarify.

Item 6 under the Main Nuclear Medicine System section for orders Orlando 675-B57018, 675-B57019, 675-B57020 will be removed from the specification.

*please note clarification made above concerning “VA Maryland’s number”

Item 5 under the Main Nuclear Medicine System section for orders Little Rock 598-B30007, VA Maryland 512-B20605, VA Spokane 668-B20036 will be moved to the CT Specifications section and changed to “Iterative Reconstruction for SPECT which shall include 1)CTAC, and 2) Scatter Correction, and 3) Ordered Subset Expectation Maximization (OSEM) reconstruction algorithm.”

6. Pittsburgh 646-B22019, 646-B22033, 646-B22020- Capital Equipment, the second bullet, please clarify:
 - a. Please remove the requirement for Cephalic and Caudal Tilt. This is a vendor specific unduly restrictive requirement.
 - b. CTAC Timing Resolution equal to or less than 0.5 sec, multiple kVp, mA. This seems to be a CT requirement, not a Nuclear Medicine System Requirement.

Cephalic and Caudal Tilt for orders Pittsburgh 646-B22019, 646-B22033, 646-B22020 will be removed from the specification.

CTAC Timing Resolution equal to or less than 0.5 sec, multiple kVp, mA for orders Pittsburgh 646-B22019, 646-B22033, 646-B22020 will be removed from the specification.

7. Pittsburgh 646-B22019, 646-B22033, 646-B22020- Capital Equipment, the last bullet in this section – Given the facility space constraints, please clarify do you want a full system UPS or only one that will safely bring the system down if there is a power loss.

The specification for orders Pittsburgh 646-B22019, 646-B22033, 646-B22020 will be changed to indicate the UPS requirement is for a UPS that will safely bring down the system if there is a power loss.

8. Pittsburgh 646-B22019, 646-B22033, 646-B22020- Options Eighth Bullet Point – Please clarify what is required by extended applications support, do you want additional days for the second year?

Extended applications support refers to the ability for users to call technical support and have them remote in for application issues (i.e. the users do not remember how to complete a certain task in the software and need guidance).

9. VA Jackson 586-B30012 – Capital Equipment, Item 1. Please remove the requirement for Cephalic and Caudal Tilt. This is a vendor specific unduly restrictive requirement.

Cephalic and Caudal Tilt for the above mentioned order will be removed from the specification.

10. VA Jackson 586-B30012 – Acquisition & Processing Stations, Item 12. Cardiac Analysis program Emory Cardiac Toolbox, please identify this as optional, it may not be required for this customer.

The generic specifications as provided with the RFQ represent the VA's current need.

11. VA Jackson 586-B30012 – Advanced Applications, Item 3 – SPECT QC Package (Cedars QGS/QPS, Emory TB, 4DM). Please clarify that a QC package is required and the courses in parenthesis are examples of the training, all four are not required.

The generic specifications as provided with the RFQ represent the VA's current need of all four applications.

12. VA Jackson 586-B30012 Training, Item 4 Offsite training for two technologists and item 6-11 -training for a second biomed engineer were added to the original requirements. Is this requirement accurate, was additional training funded?

The generic specifications as provided with the RFQ represent the VA's current need.

13. VA Jackson 586-B30012- Accessories and Additional items – The spec already requires workstation UPS's. Item 7 and Item 14 are additional UPS requirements. Does the facility want a UPS to protect the equipment if power is lost or is the request to actually scan with a UPS. The equipment and siting requirements are very different, please clarify.

The specification for the above mentioned order will be changed to indicate the UPS requirement is for a UPS that will safely bring down the system if there is a power loss.

14. Little Rock 598-B30007 – CT Specifications, Item 4. mA available up to at least 500. In order to improve competition, please change this threshold to 440mA.

Item 4 under the CT Specifications for the above mentioned order will be modified to read – “mA available up to at least 440 mA”

15. Little Rock 598-B30007 – Reading Workstations Item 5. Supplemental in-room SPECT Acquisition Control. This is not a generic spec for a reading workstation, please remove this requirement or clarify.

Item 5 under Reading Workstations will be removed from the specification.

16. Little Rock 598-B30007, VA Maryland 512-B20168 – Accessories/Additional Item – Item 5, 6, and 7 – Advanced Nuclear Oncology, Neurology and Advanced Iterative Reconstruction/processing for Nuclear Medicine/Nuclear Cardiology. In order to properly quote, please identify the clinical procedures.

*please note clarification made above concerning “VA Maryland’s number”

Item 5, 6 and 7 under the Accessories/Additional Item for the above mentioned orders will be modified to read – “Iterative Reconstruction/Processing for Nuclear Medicine including; Neurology, Cardiology, and Oncology”

17. VA Washington DC 688-B20618 – Main System Item 4. Chair/Table Weight limit >400LB and with Upright and supine positions. The Upright position is a very specific spec for one vendor and is unduly restrictive. Please change the spec to read Upright, prone or supine to allow for adequate competition, or just remove the word Upright.

Item 4 under the Main System for the above mentioned order will be modified to read – “State maximum Chair/Table Weight Limit and state ability to accommodate upright and supine positions.”

18. VA Washington DC 688-B20618 – Advanced Applications – Item 1. Advanced Nuclear Cardiology SPECT with upright and supine. The Upright position is a very specific spec for one vender and is unduly restrictive. Please change the spec to read Upright, prone or supine to allow for adequate competition, or just remove the word Upright.

Item 1 under the Advanced Applications for the above mentioned order will be modified to read – “State applications ability to provide Advanced Nuclear Cardiology SPECT with upright and supine imaging.”

Questions asked during the call:

GE:

No additional questions

Siemens:

1. Please clarify the definition of “one year of extended applications support”

Extended applications support refers to the ability for users to call technical support and have them remote in for application issues (i.e. the users do not remember how to complete a certain task in the software and need guidance).

2. Will there be any trade ins for the units at the Pittsburgh facilities?

Yes. The specifications will be updated to reflect the following trade in:

Order 646-B22019 trade in is:

Option 1

Vendor: SIEMENS

Model: E. Cam Signature series

Serial Number: 8906

Acquisition year: 2004

Order 646-B22020 trade in is:

Option 1

Vendor: SIEMENS

Model: E. Cam Signature Series

Serial Number: 9283

Acquisition year: 2004

Order 646-B22033 trade in is:

Option 1

Vendor: SIEMENS

Model: E. Cam Signature Series

Serial Number: 1270

Acquisition year: 2008

Spectrum Dynamics:

No additional questions