

1. *Q: If data communications cabling is required for this project please provide plans indicating where the data communications cabling terminates (data comm closets) for each station.*
A: A/E: The P.T.S. basis of design is Swisslog Healthcare Solutions North America. Specific systems requirements (e.g. cabling) are dependent on actual manufacturer / supplier selected. Once a specific manufacturer has been selected system requirements for cabling terminations can be determined. Final data communication termination within existing facility data closets requires coordination with VA I.T. department.
2. *Q: Please indicate room location(s) of the System Control Center and the Redundant System Control Center required by Section 14 92 00 page 13 and 19 as well as the data closets serving these locations.*
A: A/E: Coordinate final space selection for new control center placement with VA Engineering and I.T. departments.
3. *Q: Please confirm demolition of the existing system is limited to what is required to be removed to install the new system.*
A: A/E: Over the years, the vast majority of the original PTS located within the Audie L. Murphy VA Hospital has been removed. Remnants of the defunct system remain within the interstitial spaces in addition to a few of the actual drop stations. Only remnants of the original PTS directly within the path of new equipment require removal. Refer to the response in question #39
4. *Q: Plans provided do not indicate the pathway required for the new pneumatic tube system. Please provide plans which show the routing of the new pneumatic tube system.*
A: The P.T.S. the basis of design is Swisslog Healthcare Solutions North America. Specific systems requirements (e.g. tube routing) are dependent on actual manufacturer / supplier selected.
5. *Q: General notes on the architectural plans do not require removal of the existing pneumatic tube system, reference General note D on architectural plans. Specifications Solicitation page 1 (form 1442) states "Contractor shall furnish all necessary labor, materials, equipment, and supervision for removal of existing system and install a new complete Pneumatic Tube System." If the entire existing system is required to be removed, please provide plan drawings indicating where the existing system is located including the tube runs so this work can be quantified.*
A: Document of the existing PTS does not exist. Field verification is required of the defunct PTS components to be removed based on new equipment installation requirements.
6. *Q: Plan sheet A101 references larger details on A401. Plan sheet A401 has not been provided. Please provide by amendment.*
A: Provided on Amendment A00003 issued on 4-20-2016
7. *Q: Plan sheet A102 references larger details on A402 and A403. These sheets have not been provided. Please provide by amendment.*
A: Provided on Amendment A00003 issued on 4-20-2016
8. *Q: Plan sheet A103 references larger details on A404 and A405. These sheets have not been provided. Please provide by amendment.*
A: Provided on Amendment A00003 issued on 4-20-2016
9. *Q: Plan sheet A104 references larger detail on A405. This sheet has not been provided.*
A: Provided on Amendment A00003 issued on 4-20-2016

10. Q: Plan sheet A105 references larger details on A406. This sheet has not been provided. Please provide by amendment.

A: Provided on Amendment A00003 issued on 4-20-2016

11. Q: Plan sheet A106 references larger details on A407. This sheet has not been provided. Please provide by amendment.

A: Provided on Amendment A00003 issued on 4-20-2016

12. Q: Plan sheet A107 references larger details on A408. This sheet has not been provided.

A: Provided on Amendment A00003 issued on 4-20-2016

13. Q: Plan sheet A108 references larger details on A409. This sheet has not been provided.

A: Provided on Amendment A00003 issued on 4-20-2016

14. Q: Section 02 26 23 Asbestos Abatement paragraph 1.0 Executive Summary states "...the abatement contractor will be selected by the VA." We assume this means the VA will be abating the asbestos for this project and that costs should not be included in bidder's proposals. If this is not a correct understanding, please clarify otherwise to all by amendment.

A: The contractor will provide asbestos abatement. The VA has the right to reject any asbestos abatement sub-contractor if the asbestos abatement contractor is in bad standing with the Texas Department of State Health Services or has a running history of violating this medical center's local asbestos abatement procedures

15. Q: Specification Section 01 00 00-5 paragraph 1.5.E Temporary Construction Partitions indicate to install temporary partitions from floor to deck above. Please confirm to all by amendment that partitions are to extend to deck above and not terminate at the ceiling.

A: Temporary construction partitions need to go to the drop ceiling. The scope of this project makes it not feasible to extend temporary construction barriers into the interstitial around at work in the interstitial.

16. Q: Specification Section 01 00 00-5 paragraph 1.5.E Temporary Construction Partitions indicate to install temporary partitions from floor to deck above. Please provide information to all bidders indicating height from floor to deck above in all areas.

A: Temporary construction partitions in the interstitial (area between the drop ceiling and the floor deck) will not be required.

17. Q: Specification Section 01 00 00-5 paragraph 1.5.E Temporary Construction Partitions indicate to install temporary partitions from floor to deck above utilizing Studs and fire retardant gypsum board. Please clarify to all if fire retardant poly and studs is acceptable in lieu of gypsum board.

A: Gypsum board and studs will be required for areas that will receive asbestos abatement and areas that will receive a dual drop stations. All other can be a 6mil fire retardant poly and studs.

18. Q: Please confirm that the scope of this work can be accomplished during normal working hours.

A: Work can be done during normal business hours (07:00 to 17:00). Electrical tie in may need to be done during early mornings or late evenings.

19. Q: Specification Section 05 50 00 Metal Fabrications has been provided but there is no plan detail showing any requirement for any metal fabrications. If required, please provide plan details by amendment indicating what is required for this project including as-built drawings of the structural plans if connection to the existing is required.

A: A/E: The P.T.S. basis of design is Swisslog Healthcare Solutions North America. Specific systems requirements (e.g. metal fabrication) are dependent on actual manufacturer /

supplier selected. Once a specific manufacturer has been selected system requirements for PTS support can be determined.

20. Q: *Specification Section 07 84 00 Firestopping is provided, but plans do not indicate where this is required. If required for this project, please clarify locations required to all bidders by amendment.*

A: Firestopping is required if penetrating an existing fire rated wall. The P.T.S. basis of design is Swisslog Healthcare Solutions North America. Specific systems requirements (e.g. tube routing / fire wall penetrations) are dependent on actual manufacturer / supplier selected.

21. Q: *Specification Section 09 65 19 Resilient Tile Flooring is provided. If required, please Indicate type of resilient tile floor required and in rooms required. Please indicate Manufacturer, Model, Color Required (basis of design). We did not find a room finish schedule on the plans or a Schedule of Finishes in the specifications. Please provide by amendment to all bidders.*

A: Reference sheet A601, Material and Finish Schedules, match existing adjacent color / style. Specific material selections not available at time of building survey.

22. Q: *General note 3 on Mechanical Electrical plans indicates "Contractor shall reroute any ductwork, mechanical or plumbing piping, dampers or terminal boxes located in the ceiling plenum as required to accommodate new pneumatic or associated equipment." Please provide as-built drawings for all affected areas so that re-routes of the aforementioned items can be quantified.*

A: See attached as-built drawings corresponding to each pneumatic tube station locations 1 – 37

- 2-SCIS.pdf
- 3-SCIC.pdf
- 4-CLC-1.pdf
- 4-CLC-2.pdf
- 5 9-blood-1.pdf
- 5 9-blood-2.pdf
- 6 8-inpatient.pdf
- 7-outpatient.xps
- 11 10 35-Emergency.pdf
- 12-CLC.pdf
- 13 14-LAB.pdf
- 15-2D.pdf
- 16 21-sugery.pdf
- 20-PRC.pdf
- 23-4A.pdf
- 24-4B.pdf
- 25-4C.pdf
- 26-5A.pdf
- 27-5B-1.pdf
- 27-5B-2.pdf
- 28-5C-1.pdf
- 28-5C-2.pdf
- 29-6A.pdf

- 30-6B.pdf
- 32-7B-1.pdf
- 32-7B-2.pdf
- 33-Oncology.pdf
- 34-7A.pdf36
- 37-2A 2B.xps

23. Q: We understand that there is a parking garage where we can pay for parking across the street from the VA hospital. Please clarify how many parking spots the VA will provide to the contractor for the performance of this project.

A: The contractor will not be provided with project parking or be provided with on site material storage / lay-down area on the exterior of the building. Vehicle access for additional deliveries of materials and equipment will be provided.

24. Q: Please clarify where the laydown area for this project is for the construction office trailer. If not available, will the VA provide the contractor a space within the hospital for a construction office?

A: The contract limit of the project is the only space available to the contractor for a lay down area and construction office.

25. Q: We see no specification provided for data communications cabling. If required for this project, please provide to all by amendment.

A: The P.T.S. basis of design is Swisslog Healthcare Solutions North America. Specific systems requirements (e.g. cabling) are dependent on actual manufacturer / supplier selected. Once a specific manufacturer has been selected system requirements for cabling terminations can be determined.

26. Q: If any millwork requires modification for the performance of this contract, please clarify to all by amendment indicating locations and modifications required.

A: Reference architectural sheets A401 through A409 for existing millwork requiring modifications for new PTS drop stations.

27. Q: Reference Section 149200 - Page 3 subparagraphs B. Electrical Items and C. Data Connections. If these items are to be provided by the Electrical and Data Communications Contractors, please clarify requirements to all pre-bid by amendment.

A: As listed in section 1.3 Work Included In this Section, all new electrical items and data connections required for installation of the new pneumatic tube system (PTS) shall be supplied and installed by the PTS installer.

28. Q: The following questions were provided by the specified pneumatic tube contractor and are forwarded for your review and response. Please provide clarification and guidance on the following items as identified in specification 14 92 00 as it relates to the Pneumatic Tube System to be installed at the Audie L Murphy VA Hospital in San Antonio, TX (**Questions a through e**):

a) Q: Page 4 Item 2.1.H – The system shall consist of the number of station shown on the drawings stations arranged on 6 separate zones. The system as designed and previously presented to the hospital is 5 zones, not 6. Based on our design parameters, 5 zones are sufficient to process the quantity of transactions as indicated in the specifications. Please advise.

A: Five PTS service zones in lieu of six is acceptable.

- b) Q: Page 6 Item 2.1.Y – Selective Bypass Interchange (SB Zone) Page 17, 2.2.I – Interzone tubing connections in multiple zone systems shall:

These two sections describe the two different methods of moving carriers between zones and are used independently and not simultaneously. Our design, as presented to the VA will utilize Selective Bypass Interchange as indicated in item 2.1.Y. Item 2.2.I will not be utilized for this installation. Please confirm.

A: Based on PTS manufacturer's equipment design requirements and VA PTS performance criteria, the A/E will defer to the PTS equipment designer if one system is better suited (inter-zone tubing connections) for the installation over the other (selective bypass inter-change).

- c) Q: Page 14 Item 2.1.7.A.2 – TL2009 control software. TL2009 software has been replaced and will not be utilized for this project. The Nexus software platform has replaced TL2009 and will be used for this project which will provide the most up to date control features available. Please confirm.

A: As PTS manufacturer's product lines develop and evolve, newer software and systems controls substitutions are acceptable provided VA PTS performance criteria is satisfied.

- d) Q: The cover page of Bid Solicitation #VA257-16-B-0347 mentions the removal of the existing Pneumatic Tube System. The extent of this system has not been identified in previous interactions with the facility nor in the contract documents. Please provide information concerning this item so that it can be fully addressed.

A: Over the years, the vast majority of the original PTS located within the Audie L. Murphy VA Hospital has been removed. Remnants of the defunct system remain within the interstitial spaces in addition to a few of the actual drop stations. Only remnants of the original PTS directly within the path of new equipment require removal / demolition. To date, no known documents (routing plans / routing sections / PTS details) of the original PTS are available.

- e) Q: 6. Swisslog would like to have the opportunity to have our installation team tour the facility now that the full scope of the project is being defined. Please provide an opportunity to tour the site with our installation team now that the scope has been vetted.

A: Site Visits must be coordinated with the COR, Roger DeVeaux, either by email: Roger.DeVeaux@va.gov or by phone: 210-617-5300 X14876.

29. Q: Section 149210. para 2.1.H.: The system Swisslog designed and previously presented to the hospital is based on 5 zones, not 6. Based on Swisslog's design parameters, 5 zones are sufficient to process the quantity of transactions indicated in the specifications. Please advise.

A: Five PTS service zones in lieu of six is acceptable based on manufacturer's design requirements.

30. Q: Section 149210, para 2.1.Y. (Selective Bypass Interchange) and para 2.2.1. (Interzone tubing connections in multiple zone systems): These two sections describe the two different methods of moving carriers between zones and are used independently and not simultaneously. Swisslog's design, as presented to the VA, will utilize the Selective Bypass Interchange as indicated in item 2.1.Y. Item 2.2.1 will not be utilized for this installation. Please confirm.

A: Based on PTS manufacturer's equipment design requirements and VA PTS performance criteria, the A/E will defer to the PTS equipment designer if one system is better suited (inter-zone tubing connections) for the installation over the other (selective bypass inter-change).

31. Q: Section 149210. para 2.2.H.7.A.2.: TL2009 software has been replaced and will not be utilized for this project according to Swisslog. The Nexus software platform has replaced TL2009 and will be used for this project which will provide the most up to date control features available. Please confirm.

A: As PTS manufacturer's product lines develop and evolve, newer software and systems controls substitutions are acceptable provided VA PTS performance criteria is satisfied.

32. Q: SF1442 Item 10: This document requires demolition of the existing pneumatic tube system in its entirety. Please provide the manufacturer and tube size of the existing pneumatic tube system

A: Over the years, the vast majority of the original (1970) PTS located within the Audie L. Murphy VA Hospital has been removed. Existing drop station, located in the SPD Department, room FB 31, is by Diebold, Incorporated. Tube size is estimated at 4" diameter piping.

33. Q: Interstitial Space: Please provide the height of the hospital interstitial space.

A: The interstitial space located in Building CC (Main Hospital Building) is approximately 7'-0" clear between ceiling and bottom of deck / structure above (FIELD VERIFY!). Reference as-built record documents dated 8/3/1970. Attached for quick reference are Stair Section & Details, Sheets 1-97 and 1-98.

34. Q: Phasing: In the absence of work restrictions, we assume we can work on multiple floors and corresponding interstitial spaces concurrently. Please confirm.

A: There is no phasing requirement for this project.

35. Q: Slab Penetrations: 8" diameter holes will have to be cored in the slabs to run PTS duct from floor to floor. Can the VA conclusively identify the location of conduits and piping that might be run in the slabs? If not, will ground penetrating radar (GPRS) be required to locate conduits and piping in the slab, if any, before coring?

A: The VA cannot conclusively identify objects within the slab. The contractor will be required to provide a technique to identify objects within the slab.

36. Q: Section 010000, para 1.22: Please confirm utilities will be furnished to Contractor without charge.

A: The contractor that is awarded this contract will not be charged for utilities for project related utilities.

37. Q: Interstitial Fall Protection: In lieu of safety netting, will the VA allow the Contractor to install planking/plywood in interstitial work areas off the catwalk?

A: The use of safety netting vs plank/plywood is based on the particular hazard. Planking is preferred for areas in the interstitial where workers will be working off the catwalk. Netting is used to catch tools and/or objects that has a risk of falling through the ceiling tile. In general planking can be used to catch items. Nets will not be allowed for walking on off the catwalk.

38. Q: Data Tie-In Locations: Typical hexnote 2 on drawings E(ME) 401 through 409 states, "Provide telephone/data outlet with ethernet, CAT5 outlet capability behind pneumatic tube system station." Please provide the closest telephone/data tie-in point for each outlet location.

A: See attached – Pneumatic tube work locations.pdf

39. Q: SF1442 Item 10 and Drawing MEPOOO, PTS General Note 6: The SF1442 mandates removal of the existing pneumatic tube system (PTS). Without accurate as-built drawings showing the routing and location of the existing PTS conduit and equipment, there is no way a contractor can accurately estimate the cost of removing the existing system. In reference to Note 6, the new PTS will not use existing system routing. Unless the VA can provide accurate as-built drawings, we would recommend the requirement to remove the existing PTS be deleted. Removing the existing PTS may be cost-prohibitive anyway. Please confirm what the VA wants us to do.

A: The VA does not have current drawing for the existing pneumatic tube system. Most of that system has already been removed. The contractor is responsible for removing enough of the existing system that is required to install the new system. Most of the branch lines components have already been removed and the remaining components are in the vertical chases. For example: the contractor will remove the components in the vertical chases because the new system will have to utilize the same chase. For bidding and clarifying purposes, the contractor will be required to remove all the existing pneumatic tubes and components within 10 foot radius of new tube system. This is mostly visible and not in an unused chase. This way the contractor will not be required to remove sections of tube system in area that are not intended to get a new system.

40. Q: Firestopping: What type of firestopping system or material needs to be installed in the annular space between the new PTS conduit and the side of the concrete penetration?

A: Reference Specifications Section 07 84 00, Firestopping and consult with PTS Manufacturer for material compatibility.

41. Q: Drawing MIP000, HVAC Demolition Notes: What is the purpose of the notes requiring demolition of HVAC systems in their entirety?

A: for demolition information please refer to response to question 39

42. Q: Interstitial Space As-Built Drawings: Please provide as-built floor plans of the interstitial spaces at each level if they are available.

A: As Built Record Documents (1970) already provide in plans A110 and A111

43. Q: Arrival Signals/Alarms: Are arrival signals/alarms required at each station location?

A: Yes, arrival signals / alarms are required at all station locations.

44. Q: Ultra Stations: Specifications call for ultra stations in the lab and the pharmacy. There are multiple labs and multiple pharmacies. Which locations, specifically, get the ultra-stations?

A: Reference sheet A601, PTS Department Station Schedule for "single" or "dual" (ultra) drop locations.

45. Q: Can the VA provide interstitial/catwalk as-built?

A: As-built record documents (1970) already in plans A110 and A111

46. Q: Please clarify the extent of demolition of the existing system required.

A: Over the years, the vast majority of the original (1970) PTS located within the Audie L. Murphy VA Hospital has been removed. Existing drop station is located in SPD Department, room FB31, is by Diebold, Incorporated. Tube size is 4" diameter piping.

47. Q: Please provide drawings of the existing system for pricing of demolition.

A: Removal of the existing PTS remnants. See response to question 39

48. Q: Can power, control, and communication cable be strapped to the pneumatic tube piping? Or is it required to be inside of conduit?

A: The PTS design is based on Swisslog Healthcare Solutions North America. Specific systems requirements (e.g. power, control, communication cable) are dependent on actual manufacturer / supplier selected. Once a specific manufacturer has been selected system requirements conduit, cabling can be determined.

49. Q: If power, control, and communication cable are required to be in conduit, please provide a conduit specification?

A: The PTS design is based on Swisslog Healthcare Solutions North America. Specific systems requirements (e.g. power, control, communication cable) are dependent on actual manufacturer / supplier selected. Once a specific manufacturer has been selected system requirements conduit, cabling can be determined.

50. Q: Are arrival signals required? If so, at which stations? Are they mounted on the station? Or remote from the station? If remote from the station, please locate them on the drawings. Or tell us what distance from the stations should be assumed? If remote from the station, does the project require that the control wire from the station to the signal be in conduit?

A: Yes, arrival signals are required at all stations. The PTS design is based on Swisslog Healthcare Solutions North America. Specific systems requirements (e.g. signals, remote stations, mounting control wire) are dependent on actual manufacturer / supplier selected. Once a specific manufacturer has been selected system requirements conduit, cabling can be determined.

51. Q: Specifications call for ultra-stations in the lab and the pharmacy. There are multiple labs and multiple pharmacies. Which ones specifically get the ultrastations?

A: Reference sheet A601, PTS Department Station Schedule for "single" or "dual" (ultra) drop stations.

52. Q: Drawing MEP000 – HVAC Demolition Notes: What is the purpose of the notes requiring demolition of HVAC system in their entirety?

A: If the unit, supports, accessories, controls, wiring, conduit, controls, piping ductwork, etc. is not noted as existing, removed/retained to be relocated, or is not part of the operating HVAC system, due to installation of the pneumatic tubing system it shall be removed.

53. Q: Please provide as built drawings for existing pneumatic tube system to be removed. If as built drawings cannot be provided will work associated with the demolition of the old system be considered a contract modification (change order)?

A: See response to question 39

54. Q: Can the VA provide drawings to show any ductwork, mechanical or plumbing piping, dampers, or terminal boxes located in the ceiling plenum that will need to be re-routed to accommodate the new pneumatic system or associated equipment? If drawings cannot be provided will work associated with re-routing be considered a contract modification (change order)?

A: see response to question 22

55. Q: Just to confirm what are the allowable work hours?

A: see response to question 18

56. Q: Does the VA have any restrictions on the number of crews that can be run simultaneously?
A: The VA has no restriction
57. Q: Does the VA have any restrictions on the phasing of the project?
A: see response to question 34
58. Q: All finishes on the finish schedule say match existing. Can you provide a schedule with the manufacturer, style and color for each PTS station to be installed?
A: there is no schedule of existing color. The standard color is ICI white whisper for most areas
59. Are we expected to match existing room finishes at the new wall enclosures? Ceramic tile, Corian, sheet vinyl flooring, crash guards, corner guards, etc.....
A: Yes
60. Q: Are we required to maintain negative air at all 37 locations? Many areas require minimal demo and or new construction.
A: Negative air pressure shall be maintained at areas with hazardous materials. See the ICRA for more information see IRCAs.pdf
61. Q: What is the maximum allowable (number of days) time for a plastic barrier?
A: Duration of the project.
62. Q: Will contractor be responsible for moving furniture that is currently located at location where new PTS station's will be installed? For example, filing cabinets are currently located where PTS #7 is scheduled to be installed. Will the VA or the contractor be responsible for moving?
A: No, The VA will move furniture from areas before contract begins
63. Q: Please identify the IT Com closets on the drawings.
A: see response to question 38
64. Q: Will the VA provide required hardware for additional ethernet ports to support the PTS system?
A: No, the contractor will provide the hardware that is recommended by the submitted manufacture. The contractor will purchase and install all equipment to provide a fully functional pneumatic tube system.
65. Q: In the site visit the VA indicated the contractor will need to install safety netting in the interstitial to protect people below while work is going on. Can the VA provide the desired weight load and mesh sizing of the safety netting?
A: There is not a weight load for the safety requirements. Netting and/or plank will be required for areas when the contractor is working in the interstitial space off the catwalk. See the response to question 37 for more insight
66. Q: Will the contractor be required to use the VA's fire alarm company to remove and reinstall equipment (smoke detectors / pull stations / etc...) related to fire alarm? If so please provide name and contact at the fire alarm company.
A: yes, Beckwith Electronic Engineering Company
67. Q: Will contractors / subcontractors be able to park in the VA parking lot?
A: only for unloading/ dropping off equipment tools and materials. The contractor will not be provided with project parking or be provided with on site material storage / lay-down area on the exterior of the building.

68. Q: *In the General Demolition Notes on drawing number MEP000, note # 3., it states that the plans do not show all the equipment which is to be demolished. Can the VA provide information on all equipment that needs to be demolished? If not will the demolition of unidentified equipment be considered a contract modification (change order)?*

A: see response to question 39

69. Q: Section 000115, List of Drawings: *The following drawings were not issued on Fed Biz Opps: A109 through A601 inclusive and E101 through E402 inclusive. As a result, a site visit was not conducted on March 29th. Understandably, we cannot prepare an accurate cost estimate without all of the drawings. First, please issue the missing drawings and allow time to print and distribute them. Then, please schedule a site visit and allow time for additional RFIs/Questions and bid preparation. This speaks to the need to extend the bid due date/opening date.*

A: see the response to questions 6 – 13 and response to question 28e

70. Q: *Infection Control: Please provide a project-specific Infection Control Risk Assessment (ICRA) for this project. Specific infection control measures that the VA will require the Contractor to implement must be stated. To simply state that this is (for example) an ICRA Class 3 or ICRA Class 4 project is not sufficient for bid purposes. Will hard construction barriers be required or would a Zip-Wall barrier suffice given the work required? Is negative air required? Is it necessary for workers to wear tyvek overalls and shoe covers, etc? If the project is ultimately designated an ICRA Class 4, please identify the ante room locations and where the negative air duct will have to be routed to exhaust the air. In short, the infection control requirements that will be imposed must be specifically stated so we know what to bid.*

A: see ICRAs.pdf

71. Q: Section 022623, para 1.3A: *Section 1.0, third paragraph, of the laboratory report provided by EHP Consulting states, ".....the abatement contractor will be selected by the VA". Please confirm that asbestos abatement will not be performed by the Contractor.*

A: see response to question 14

72. Q: Statement of Work: *At the initial pre-bid site visit on March 29th, a statement was made that a Statement of Work should have been published with the bid documents. We have been unable to find a SOW. Please provide the SOW if applicable.*

A: see SOW – Install Pneumatic Tube.pdf

73. Q: Section 013323, Submittals, para 1-10: *Subject reference requires samples, shop drawings, test reports, certificates, manufacturers literature and data to be submitted for approval to Fratto Engineering in Arlington. Is it acceptable for the Contractor to submit everything to the COTR and let the COTR involve Fratto Engineering as necessary? Will electronic submittals be allowed to the extent possible?*

A: The physical samples can be sent to the VA in San Antonio. Shop drawings, test reports, certificates, manufacturers literature and data can be submitted electronically to the COR, CO and A/E.

74. Q: Drawing MEPOOO, PTS General Notes: Our interpretation of Note 6 is if the existing pneumatic tube route is the "best route" for the new pneumatic tube system, the existing pneumatic tube system would need to be removed. It was our understanding that the existing pneumatic tube system has to be removed in its entirety regardless. Please confirm which is correct.

A: Please see the response to question 39

75. Q: Work Restrictions: As best we can tell, the bid documents are silent with respect to work restrictions. In the absence of work restrictions, we have to assume the work required can be performed during regular business hours Monday through Friday. Naturally, if we choose to work after regular business hours or on weekends or holidays, we would request approval through the COTR. Please confirm our understanding.

A: Any work done outside of normal business hours will need to be approval. Normal business hours are (07:00 to 17:00). Special consideration will be made based on impact to the patients

76. Q: The site visit on 4/26/16 was quite extensive (probably 2 1/2 to 3 hours in duration) and included the following stations: 6, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 22, 36, 37, and the location shown within a fenced area in the pipe space. Stations not listed here were not shown for lack of time within the site visit. Requesting photographs of the balance of the stations or another site visit to view the remaining stations.

A: Another site visit can be requested see response to question 28e

77. Q: Station located in Recovery 2A Z201 is located behind double doors (not shown on drawings) which seems to be a space constraint. If this location is not acceptable, please indicate new location by amendment to all bidders. At the time of the development of the drawings in 2013 the attached is the location approved by the VA. If this is not acceptable and current conditions have change the VA shall comment.

A: The locations are fine as is