

**Project# 502-12-102/VA256-15-R-1083 Replace Obsolete HVAC Controls - RFI-AMENDMENT #P0006**

RFI	Item	Section	Para	Description	Response
#127				The below 68 reference items, taken from both plans and specifications, suggest that Siemens is intended to be the sole source energy management system provider for this project (since they are the only EMCS vendor able to comply with the below 68 items). It should be noted that although Siemens has an existing front-end server in place at Alexandria VA Medical Center, there is substantially more existing Johnson Controls Metasys DDC field controllers in place and operating than Siemens controllers. Item#3 below (23 09 23, 1.1.A.) places suppliers other than Siemens at a distinct disadvantage by forcing them to replace their existing systems in their entirety (even existing portions that comply with the specifications) as well as replacing all of the existing Siemens controllers, presenting an insurmountable cost disadvantage. Is the intent of the bid documents to sole source Siemens?	The basis of design for this project is the Siemens Apogee EMS system however this is not a sole source solicitation. The project is open to all vendors so long as the technical requirements are met and the entire campus as currently controlled by Siemens and the equipment shown on these drawings are controlled by the new system. At the completion of the project all controllers, panels, logic, etc. shall be native to the successful bidder. No gateways or other "black boxes" are allowed. Any existing controllers, panels, etc from the successful bidder may remain so long as they comply with the specifications and are native to the new front end. The new front end shall be equal to or better than the basis of design and shall have the latest software available.
#128		23 09 23	1.1.A.	"All Siemens sequences not shown but existing must be created for any non-Siemens system."	As-built documents for the existing Siemens system is available from the VA. See Documents Siemens Controls As Builts 1-4, Bldg 7 and 45 Controls as Builts
#129		23 09 23	1.2.A.3.	"The existing Siemens EMS presently monitors at least a portion of the following buildings, all existing functions not shown in the drawings shall be migrated to the upgraded server: a. Building 1 Admin b. Building 2 Admin c. Building 3 Admin d. Building 4 Dietary e. Building 7 Main Hospital f. Building 45 Nursing Home g. Building 49 Mental Health Rehab h. Building 147 Chiller Plant"	As-built documents for the existing Siemens system is available from the VA. See Documents Siemens Controls As Builts 1-4, Bldg 7 and 45 Controls as Builts
#130		23 09 23	1.2.A.4.	"The existing Siemens DDC system presently has control of at least a portion of the following buildings, all existing functions not shown in the drawings shall be migrated to the upgraded server: a. Building 7 Main Hospital b. Building 8 Canteen c. Building 9 Psychiatric Hospital d. Building 147 Central Chiller Plant"	As-built documents for the existing Siemens system is available from the VA. See Documents Siemens Controls As Builts 1-4, Bldg 7 and 45 Controls as Builts
#131		General	Bldg-147 Drawings	Drawings have been provided for all buildings except Bldg-147, which is the chiller plant presently controlled by Siemens? Can the Siemens As-Built Control drawings for this building be provided for pricing work in this building?	The chiller plant was under renovation during the design of this project. The as-builts that are available will be provided by the VA. See Documents Siemens Controls As Builts 1-4
#132		23 09 23	1.2.A.3 & 4	These two paragraphs list buildings where the existing Siemens EMS presently monitors/controls certain buildings and state, "all existing functions not shown in the drawings shall be migrated to the upgraded server". How are we to quantify what "existing functions not shown in the drawings" need to be replaced in accordance with 1.2.A.2? Please provide a list of systems and associated points that are to be "migrated" by Siemens or replaced by all other vendors.	As-built documents for the existing Siemens system is available from the VA. See Documents Siemens Controls As Builts 1-4, Bldg 7 and 45 Controls as Builts
#133		23 09 23	1.1.A.	States, "All Siemens sequences not shown but existing must be created for any non-Siemens System." Please provide Siemens' sequences of operation for replication using a non-Siemens system.	As-built documents for the existing Siemens system is available from the VA. See Documents Siemens Controls As Builts 1-4, Bldg 7 and 45 Controls as Builts
#134		23 09 23	1.2.A.6.h.	States, "The intent is to either use the OWS provided under this contract to communicate with control systems provided by other vendors or to allow information about the system provided in this contract to be sent to another workstation. This allows the user to have a single seat from which to perform daily operation." This statement seems to be describing a system in which two DDC systems by different manufacturers are allowed to co-exist and share information. However, 23 09 23, 1.1.A. states, "Any manufacturer other than Siemens must fully replace existing Siemens equipment in the same manner that these drawings show other existing manufacturer's equipment being replaced". This statement seems to be describing a system in which a DDC system by a single manufacturer is required. Which statement is correct?	The new DDC control system shall be capable of communicating via the protocols listed in 1.2.A.5 in the event that future system need to be added to the system. All controls shown in the contract documents and the existing Siemens controls shall be consolidated into one system will all controllers, panels, logic, etc. being manufactured by the new controls manufacturer.
#135	24			Asbestos – Is there any potential for encountering asbestos on the project? If so, to what degree? If so, who is responsible for schedule impacts and cost for abatement?	Yes. VA to provide Asbestos study for reference to asbestos locations. Minimal. Contractor to cover abatement. See Doc Pipe Asbestos Locations
#136		Page 21 of 97	Section 3.1.1.7	states, "Project Superintendent shall have Building Industry Consulting Service International (BICSI) Certified Commercial Installer Level 1, Level2, or Technician credentials to provide oversight. " And Drawing M100, Fiber Network Specifications Note 1.) "Contractor shall have a BICSI certified RCDD on staff to approve the final design and to oversee the installation" Is the overall Site Superintendent required to have BICSI certification OR is the BICSI Certification requirement only applicable to the person overseeing the Fiber installation and final design?	The Project Superintendent shall provide oversight for the entire project, therefore he/she shall have the following at a minimum; BICSI Installer Level 1, Level 2, Technician or RCDD credentials. If the Project Superintendent does not have the BICSI RCDD credentials, the contractor shall have a BICSI RCDD certified person on staff for the installation of the fiber.
#137				Is the Site Superintendent required to be a direct employee of the Prime Contractor?	No, but a document will be required specifying that the selects Site Superintendent has full authority for the Prime Contractor
#138				Can the Site Superintendent and the SSHO roles be fulfilled by a single person?	Yes
#139		Page 23 of 97	Section 3.3.1.2	Building Automation Control System Manufacturer's Training: Paragraph iii. Please confirm that we are required to submit a listing of all operation and Maintenance Manuals with our Proposal .	Yes
#140		M100	Construction Note-1	Does all new fiber optic cable have to be routed in existing underground ARCNET cable bank (or in new underground ducts) or can it be installed from building to building in raceway over existing covered walkways, where possible?	it cannot be routed over existing covered walkways.
#141		M101	Detail-1, Steam Meter & Detail-5	Detail-1 shows an Onicon F-2600 Inline Vortex (or equal) steam meter. However, Detail-5 states, "Replace Orifice Plate Steam meter and connect to new campus controls. Meter shall measure total campus use except autoclave. Meter shall have high turn-down ration." Is the intent of the bid documents to replace the existing orifice plate steam meter with a like orifice plate meter or to replace it with a new inline vortex type meter?	The intent is to replace the existing meter with a new inline vortex type meter.

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RFI	Item	Section	Para	Description	Response
#142		Amendment-4	RFI#106	Amendment#4, RFI#106 states, "Is contractor to assume that of the 24 strand MM fiber being installed that one strand of fiber will be utilized for the LAN for the BAS system?" Response: "All 24 strands are to be terminated. Per sheet M100, 12 strands are to be terminated for the BAS system and the remaining 12 are to be terminated for future use." However, M100, "Connector and Connector Housing Requirements", Note-2, states, "12 strands of every fiber optic cable shall be terminated on both ends. The remaining 12 strands shall be coiled in the fiber housing for future use." Note-2 seems to indicate that only 12 strands from each cable (not 24) are to be terminated and the remaining 12-strands coiled up for future termination. Which is correct?	It has been determined by VA staff that all 24 strands of the Fiber shall be terminated.
#143		M001	Note 24	the VFD's state ABB or approved equal – is that considered sole source ? It stated "or approved equal" Could we be provided any specifications on the VFD's?	All VFDs will be considered, so long as they meet performance characteristics required for this project, and can communicate properly with the selected system.
#144		clarification #39		the response from the VA was "Yes" that the VA DOES want all the air distribution terminal devices air flow tested and balanced (i.e. all supply air diffusers, return air grilles, and exhaust fans) within the buildings. Please verify that this is ONLY for Buildings #2, #4, #6, #7, #8, #9, #16, #45, #46, and #49.	Yes, only Buildings #2, #4, #6, #7, #8, #9, #16, #45, #46, and #49#
#145		Fiber Network Specifications/Construction: Note-1		States, "Fiber is to be routed in existing Arc Net cable bank. Provide new duct bank where space requires." Which segments of the new fiber network shown on M100 will require new underground duct bank to be installed? Can any of the existing Arc Net cabling in the duct bank be removed and used to pull in new fiber optic cable?	It has been determined that new duct bank will be required for the route external of the buildings as follows; Bldgs. 1 to 46, 46 to 45, 45 to 16, 16 to 13. Arc Net Duct bank can be used to connect 13 to 41, 147, 7 and 8. New duct bank required to connect bldgs. 8 to 6.