

Request(s) for Information

Replace Fire Alarm System – Project 573-14-801

All RFI Questions Combined

RFI 1: Will there be any Liquidated Damages?

Response: No.

RFI 2: Work hours vs. hours of operation?

Response: Scope of Work currently calls for work to be performed between the hours of 8:00am and 4:30pm (first shift), with "after hours" work to requiring COR approval at least 3 days prior. The SOW shall be revised to read: "Work is to be performed between the hours of 8:00am and midnight (first and second shifts). All other hours, weekends, and holidays shall require prior approval from COR."

RFI 3: Are there any asbestos concerns for this project?

Response: Yes - the areas of concern are shown in Specification Section 02 82 11 Traditional Asbestos Abatement

RFI 4: Page 19 of the solicitation regarding "Fire Alarm Notification" states that Buildings #8, #16, #18, #23, and #29 are to be equipped with general evacuation horn/strobes, however the drawings for buildings 8 and 29 reflect speaker/strobes tied to voice evacuation system. In addition, there is not a drawing at all for buildings 16, 18, and 23.

Response: The drawings are correct. The specifications should read that Buildings 8 and 29 shall have voice evacuation rather than horn/strobes Also, Buildings 16, 18, and 23 have been demolished; they no longer exist

RFI 5: In the plan notes, it mentions the Medical Center Contractor Handbook, can we receive a copy of the Gainesville, Malcom Randall VA Medical Centers - Contractors Handbook

Response: Construction Policy can be provided.

RFI 6: Could we receive any as-builts that may exist of the existing Fire Alarm System?

Response: As-Builts included as part of this amendment.

RFI 7: As-Builts would help in the pricing of the new underground that will need to be installed, could we receive the current as-builts of underground utilities and infrastructure?

Response: As-Builts included as part of this amendment.

RFI 8: In the plan notes, a burn-in duration is requested, how long of a burn-in time is requested after an area is tested?

Response: Per Specification Section 28 31 00 - Fire Detection and Alarm, Paragraph 3.4-A, the burn-in period is 30 days.

- RFI 9: If during the course of construction an isolated shutdown is required of the Fire Alarm system, what is the desired shutdown time period?
- Response: Every shutdown activity needs to be coordinated with the COR to provide the desired shutdown time period**
- RFI 10: Typical low-voltage wiring can be ran in conjunction with other low-voltage wiring in the same system's conduit without difficulty, however some VA Medical Centers Electrical Departments desire for dissimilar wiring types (e.g.,... Cat5E, Fiber, Twisted Pair) to be run in separate conduit. If the system requires different wire types of low-voltage Please advise.
- Response: Please review electrical specs section.**
- RFI 11: Scope of Work Clarification. During the site visit – walkthrough the discussion regarding Asbestos Abatement was limited to a statement to the effect that “areas where conduit needs to be ran does not contain asbestos”, however the specs call for asbestos abatement, and details areas with instructions. Is it the intent for the Prime Contractor to perform Asbestos Abatement as directed by the specs, to perform Asbestos Abatement only in areas where the Replaced Fire Alarm System requires abatement, or is Asbestos Abatement the responsibility of others? If we are required to perform Asbestos Abatement as part of our scope of work we would like to have a site visit to investigate these areas with our Abatement Subcontractor.
- Response: It will be the contractor's responsibility to perform asbestos abatement as prescribed in Specification Section 02 82 11 Traditional Asbestos Abatement.**
- RFI 12: During the pre-bid meeting it was discussed that a second shift (4:30pm – 12:00am) would be advisable and possibly required in addition to the first shift (8am – 4:30pm). Will we also have the option for a third shift (12am – 8am)? Alternatively/additionally, is the VA amenable to working extended 10 hour or double shifts at variable duration to accomplish tasks more efficiently?
- Response: Option for a third shift and working extended 10 hours is acceptable, but need to be coordinated with COR.**
- RFI 13: Noted in the Plans and Specs are areas where other projects are done in conjunction to this project, will we be able to advance our scheduling to finish the project in a shorter amount of time, or does the 487 days for this project depend on the completion of other projects in the time allotted?
- Response: Other on-going projects were not considered in determining the contract performance period.**

RFI 14: Once the infrastructure for the project is installed, will we be able to phase in zone-by-zone or building-by-building areas of the new system and begin demolition of the old system? It is noted that the old system must remain fully functioning until the new system is brought online. Some clarification is requested.

Response: **If the new fire alarm system installed in any given zone or building has been certified, tested, and received final acceptance from the VA, the corresponding existing zone or building fire alarm devices/appliances could be demolished. Note that bringing existing zones off-line (at different time frames) may require re-programming of the existing main FACP, for each section demoed.**

RFI 15: Note 7 of the Demolition Notes, states that finishes need to be left in a paint ready condition "where applicable", is it the intent for the VA to paint the disturbed areas in-house?

Response: **VA is not painting disturbed areas.**

RFI 16: We would like to request a site visit explore the areas where existing and new underground needs to be addressed, as well as the new proposed raceway areas.

Response: **No further site visits will be conducted.**

RFI 17: Are existing TIS reports available from previous work? If so, could we investigate the reports to see the conditions of existing structural steel contained in concrete on-site?

Response: **Not available – Contractor to perform necessary core penetration investigation. (X-ray)**

RFI 18: The new graphic control station may be able to be more efficiently installed in the current wall where the existing panels are located, if a way can be developed to install in a more cost efficient manner, will the VA be amenable to any reasonable request to install in modified locations in that room?

Response: **Yes.**

RFI 19: In the plans some areas of the underground conduit show pull boxes, are we to assume there are empty conduit dedicated for the future use on this project?

Response: **Yes or available space within existing utilized raceway, or existing F/A conductors to be replaced with new.**

RFI 20: Typical with the install of new systems it is typical for the UPS to be installed newly for the new system, however the Specs do not include the VA Master spec section on UPS. Is it going to be required to install a new UPS, and if so can the Specs be amended to show such?

Response: **The F/A UPS is specified in Section 28 31 00.**

RFI 21: If available as an option, due to the short nature of the bidding process and the processing of multiple RFI's, the overall size and scope of the work and requests for additional site visits. It is requested that proposal due date be extended. Such should be to the advantage of the VA as it will enable Prime Contractors to trim costs through more detailed planning, and will enable the Prime Contractors to address possible site conditions that can affect cost.

Response: No further site visits will be conducted. Proposal due date will be extended.

RFI 22: Spec section 28-31-00.1.1. C.2 indicates that building 8, 16, 18, 23 29 shall be equipped with general evacuation horn/strobes "NOT" Voice Evacuation, however the drawings show speaker/ strobes tied to voice evacuation in buildings 8 & 29. In addition, there is not a drawing at all for buildings 16, 18 23.

Response: The drawings are correct. The specifications shall be revised to indicate Buildings 8 and 29 to have voice evacuation rather than horn/strobes. Also, Buildings 16, 18, and 23 have been demoed; they no longer exist.

RFI 23: Door holders are shown to be installed throughout the project. Are the door holders 120 volt or 24 volt and are they to be powered off of the fire alarm system? If from the fire alarm system will require additional remote power supplies.

Response: The existing are 24 volt and are to be powered by the fire alarm system. It is understood that this will require additional power supplies. Battery back-up for the existing power supply is located in the basement in room C085A-1.

RFI 24: Spec section 28-31-00.2.6. A.2 describes the voice evacuation messages to be different in buildings #1 & #12 and that the message should transmit the smoke zone that is in alarm for that smoke zone only in building 1 and 12. What if the alarm initiated in another building other than 1 or 12? Do we need to transmit anything in buildings 1 or 12 if the alarm originated from another building or zone? Please clarify.

Response: Alarms for other buildings are not to be broadcast in Buildings 1 and 12 as those buildings will have zoned evacuation. See Sheet FA-200 for detailed sequence of operations for each building.

RFI 25: Sheet #61 & 62 FA-B1-200A.1 and other sheets show utilizing 2-ea. monitor modules to monitor existing releasing panels. Generally, 3-ea. monitor modules are required to monitor alarm, trouble and supervision of releasing panels. Are we to just monitor for trouble and alarm only?

Response: We have shown to only monitor alarm and trouble because there were no supervisory signals from the releasing panel

RFI 26: Sheet #62 FA-B1-200A.2 tells us to provide 6- ea. additional speaker/strobes for every 100' of Shands Tunnel. We need to know the distance of the Shands tunnel to determine the number of speaker/strobes we need to cover. Distance of Shands tunnel is not shown on the drawings.

Response: The tunnel was measured to be 630 feet

RFI 27: Sheet #63 FA-B1-200B smoke zone B-A, shows two ea. door holders adjacent to the visitor's male toilet at the south end of the corridor. Drawings appear to be missing 2- ea. smoke detectors on each side of the door holders that would be required to activate the door holders.

Response: Yes, smoke detectors will be needed in that location.

RFI 28: What is required to complete the demo of the system. Are we required to remove the existing wire and conduit or do we remove the existing device and install a blank cover over the box?

Response: Specification Section 28 31 00 states that all existing fire alarm equipment, conductors, conduit, devices, and sub-systems that are not reused, shall be removed.

RFI 29: With the buildings receiving new fire alarm being occupied and hours of operations vary drastically between each specialty area, we feel that to complete this project; both fire alarm rough-in, fire alarm installation, and fire alarm removal, the duration seems inadequate to complete this project. Will this project duration remain at 487 calendar days or is the duration going to be increased? This is the same question for Bid Item #4, Building 1 only. Is 240 calendar days adequate for the electrical conduits and fire alarm installation; which includes the 30 days required between installation of new system and removal of existing system?

Response: Performance periods will remain as indicated in the solicitation.

RFI 30: The deadline for RFI's is 8-16-16. Vendors have notified us that they are still working on RFI's and feel they will need a few more days to complete the RFI's. Can the RFI deadline be extended to 8-18-16?

Response: Proposal due date extended.

RFI 31: Sheet # 130 FA-B30-201 sheet keynotes #3 tells us to provide new smoke detector & sounder base in all sleeping rooms. Do we need to provide a "Low Frequency 520 hz sounder base or a standard temporal sounder base? The new Florida building code requires "Low Frequency 520 hz." Sounders in sleeping rooms.

Response: Yes, low frequency devices are required in accordance with 2013 NFPA 72 Section 18.4.5.3.

RFI 32: The riser diagram on sheet 144- FA300 shows Building #29 fire alarm devices to be connected to the FACP located in Building #1. The drawing sheet 127 FA-B29-200 "Sheet Notes #C" indicates that building #29 should be connected & monitored by the FACP located in garage #1. Where should these devices be connected, building #1 or garage #1?

Response: These devices are to be tied to the Freedom Garage system. The riser is to be edited.