

Questions and Answers

Question #44: Ref: Section 6.6, Government Furnished Property, are the 21 developer-grade laptops of a common type (i.e. MacBooks) and are they currently in use?

Answer: The GFE is usually Windows-based and has the standard VA image used for developers. No indication is provided regarding their usage history.

Question #45: Is telework authorized?

Answer: Telework may be authorized in accordance with contractor's policy, however, some of the contractor's personnel may be required to attend some in-person meetings.

Question #48: Is a specific CMS required for the tool's development?

Answer: There is no development of the tool on this contract.

Question #49: The numbers of web applications (350), web sites (5,400) etc – do these refer to actual web sites or web pages (ie are there 350 pages in your web applications or are 350 web applications?)

Answer: Numbers are approximate. There are 350 web applications scanned annually, 5,400 web sites scanned annually, etc.

Question #50: If the proposed tool does not meet requirements 1, 2 and 3 of the Mobile Requirements on page 41 and 42 will it be be disbarred from consideration?

Answer: Yes.

Question #51: I am inquiring about Solicitation VA11817R2278 to see if there is an incumbent currently or previously completing this requirement? Or is this a new requirement?

Answer: See question 9.

Question #52: 5.2 The Contractor shall finalize and implement the plan of approach for installation and integration of the Accessibility Compliance Scanning Tool in VA.

Enterprise-grade, Cloud-hosted solutions offer the Government incredible efficiency and savings; on premis installations are cost-prohibitive and require significant overhead to maintain. Please confirm VA is accepting vendor/cloud-hosted solutions. Or is the requirement to provide a blackbox/on premis solution installed within VA infrastructure/network?

Answer: The requirement could be met by either premises-based or cloud-based solutions. Both Intranet (inside the VA firewall) and Internet sites will need to be audited.

Question #53: 5.2 The Contractor shall describe in their plan how they will conduct the automated testing of a web application. This will include all steps detailing the actions of the tool administrator, tools operator, and test requestor from the time the Contractor receives the request until the time that the audit results are available to the requestor. At a minimum, ninety-five per cent (95%) of audits must be completed within 15 business days of submission by stakeholder and approval for auditing by government PM.

Please confirm that the 15-day time period pertains to the delivery of an automated scan. Requirement refers to "audit" and, hence, needs clarification.

Answer: The 15-day time period pertains to the delivery of an automated scan.

Question #54: 5.2 Deliverable - Plan of Approach

When is the Plan of Approach due? In conjunction w/ CPMP?

Answer:

Timelines are in the CLINs listing:

0002AA Plan of Approach – 7 days after contract Award

0001AA Contractor Project Management Plan – 15 days after contract Award

Question #55: 5.3 Tool and plug-ins/browser extensions shall be VA Technical Reference Model (TRM) approved

Currently, our tool is not TRM approved. Please confirm that this is not an issue or hindrance in any way.

Answer: Vendors may compete on this RFP and apply for TRM approval after the award.

Question #61: Given the potential breadth of the Scope, which includes the auditing of hundreds of thousands of websites, is the VA looking to award a single provider the entire project/RFQ to service the needs of the VA or is there any intention/capacity to award multiple parties? Although not ideal given the VA's desire to consolidate an audit trail for all web domains and projects across the VA ecosystem, awarding multiple providers could be warranted. Please clarify the VA's intent.

Answer: This will be a single award.

Question #62: If a certain requirement cannot be met "out of the box", but can be achieved through product enhancement, is the VA open to awarding a vendor, who is committed to enhancing the capabilities of its product to meet the needs of the VA

requirements, but will require time to achieve such enhancement? In other words, is the VA open to awarding contract to a vendor who will be a Partner of the VA and take lead from key VA project stakeholders to further enhance and customize it's leading edge accessibility technology solutions to meet the VA's needs for the benefit of the Government and all those served by the VA?

Answer: Please refer to 5.3 SECTION 508 ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE SCANNING TOOL (FFP):

1. All parts of the tool including administrative functionalities and plug-ins/browser extensions must be 508-compliant and accessible without further development ("configurable out of the box").
2. Tool and components must be fully functional and configurable "out of the box".

Question #63: Is there anything special we need to know about this solicitation? We currently operate on a few contracts pertaining to this RFP with the VA – so appreciate if there's anything more you think we might need to know.

Answer: The content of this solicitation describes the work to be performed.

Question #65: Can you confirm that NSP in the Price Schedule (B3) stands for "Not Separately Priced or equivalent"? In other words the sub items marked as NSP are accounted for in the parent items.

Answer: Yes, you are correct.

Question #66: With the SDVOSBS/VOSBs involvement factor – can you explain what the algorithm is from a weight standpoint? Trying to understand if this would be heavily weighted when factoring the veterans in contract (how much does it weigh).

Answer: Please see Volume IV – Veterans Involvement Factor.

Question #67: If we prime on this RFP, can we also be a sub on another bid?

Answer: Yes.

Question #72: Does the Statement of Work (SOW) document have a limit like Volume I (25 pages)?

Answer: Technical has a 25 page limit, all others are unlimited pages.