

## **Questions and Answers**

**Question #43:** Ref: Section B.4, Paragraph 5.3, Section 508 Accessibility Compliance Scanning Tool, NOTE, in the event the VA identifies it owns an Unrestricted, Enterprise-wide Site License for a proposed compliance tool, will an amendment be issued to allow offer(s) to provide adjusted pricing? If such license exists, will the Government make technical / training documentation available to the offer(s) so they may determine whether an adjustment is necessary to other CLINs?

**Answer:** We have identified WorldSpace, therefore no adjustment is necessary.

**Question #46:** To confirm, a Past Performance Questionnaire (PPQ) is not required for any of the past performance references in the solicitation?

**Answer:** A PPQ is required in the RFP. It has been attached to the updated amendment.

**Question #70:** Under the opportunity labeled as Section 508 Accessibility Compliance Scanning and Services, the existing tool vendors who are TRM approved are not willing to provide Enterprise License estimate to the vendor community interested in this solicitation. The bundling of the tools with the services has placed VA in a situation where there is limited competition and possibly gouging the government through non-competition of license costs. We respectfully request the government to unbundle the licenses costs from this solicitation or direct vendors who are TRM compliant to provide equal pricing (by product vendor and themselves, all should be equal in the solicitation response) for companies to propose without adding mandatory bundled services or forced partnership/workshare.

**Answer:** Government has an unrestricted, enterprise-wide, perpetual license to the Worldspace tool and will supply to the contractor as GFP.

**Question #71:** The tool vendors have an unequal competitive advantage of costs due to not providing equal pricing, would the government consider a two staged evaluation separating services from other direct costs (enterprise license)?

**Answer:** Due to the complex diversity of the various pricing components of this proposal, any potential competitive advantage of tool ownership pricing consideration is negated. .

**Question #77:** Is SCA required?

**Answer:** SCA does not apply for this effort.

**Question #78:** Please confirm telework or contractor-site can be conducted anywhere that is not considered a Government Facility.

**Answer:** Confirmed, but must reside within the 50 United States.

**Question #79:** Will the Government consider a week's extension?

**Answer:** We have extended it until August 24, 2017 at 3PM EDT time.

**Question #82:** Ref. PWS 5.3, Section 508 Accessibility Compliance Scanning Tool - If a contractor proposes a cost saving TRM-compliant software tool for PWS section 5.3 that the VA has current licensing for, and that satisfies the PWS requirements, may the contractor propose \$0 for that CLIN?

**Answer:** The VA has an unrestricted, enterprise-wide, perpetual license for the Worldspace tool, version 5.4.2. It is available for use at no cost for the license if the offeror chooses to use the Worldspace tool. The price for CLIN 0003AA should include all costs for unrestricted, enterprise-wide, perpetual site license for compliance tool and components to meet or exceed the annual maintenance cost.

**Question #84:** Ref. PWS 4.2, Place of Performance - How much of the current work is performed at the Central Office - % or # of persons

**Answer:** We do not keep track of that information. However, the contractor will have to be able to attend meetings at the VA Central Office. Work may be performed at other locations within the 50 United States.

**Question #87:** Re: the Government's response to Question #36, "the requirement could be met by either premises-based or cloud-based solutions..." - If a Contractor can offer both options, how should the pricing options be presented? Presumably through two separate Price Volumes or should the Contractor only provide the cheaper of the two options?

**Answer:** One proposal per offeror is encouraged.

**Question #89:** According to feedback from the TRM Operations Support Team, (solely) cloud-based solutions do not go on the TRM. What and how do you want vendors to address this so they meet the VA TRM requirements?

**Answer:** Vendor will not have to meet VA TRM requirement for solutions that are cloud based and outside the firewall.

**Question #90:** The Government's states the following with the initial synopsis document (i.e. VA118-17-R-2278-001.docx):

"contract action will provide VA with additional licenses and maintenance for the accessibility compliance scanning automated tool so that the entirety of the enterprise has licenses". Given that the existing contracts are limiting to the Government, how many user licenses are currently associated with the existing

contracts (Deque Systems; Contract VA118-14-C-0006. Technatomy; Contract VA118-11-D-1005)?

**Answer:** The VA has an unrestricted, enterprise-wide perpetual license for an unlimited number of users for the Worldspace tool.

**Question #91:** With the list of potential projects, what is the definition of a share point site? Do the 150k sites also include single landing pages?

**Answer:** Not intending to oversimplify, the SharePoint sites are precisely that: sites built with the SharePoint tool; any functionality offered in SharePoint may be used on those sites.

**Question #93:** In reference to section 5.3: SECTION 508 ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE SCANNING TOOL (FFP): What level of accessibility testing expertise will the user/s of the compliance scanning tool have? For instance, there are a couple of features called out in this section: *Tool and components must be fully functional and configurable “out of the box”*. Would require sufficient knowledge to configure tests and *“The tool shall allow the assignment of false positives to an “ignore” status concerning specific defects on specific pages so they are not reflagged on the next test.”* To what extent do these configurations need to be managed by individuals outside the vendor team?

**Answer:** Users who are Section 508 employees will have extensive testing experience, though it may not be on the tool under this contract. Users who are developers in VA will have testing expertise ranging from none to moderate expertise. Concerning the second question, Section 508 employees will need the ability to manage the configurations to a moderate extent, not necessarily as advanced as having “super-user” status of the vendor team.

**Question #106:** One more question: Are the following CLINs covered by the pricing for CLIN 0008? CLIN 0013? CLIN 0014? CLIN 1009? CLIN 2009?

**Answer:** All CLINS were removed on a previous amendment.

**Question #107:** Under the opportunity labeled as Section 508 Accessibility Compliance Scanning and Services, the existing tool vendors who are TRM approved are not willing to provide Enterprise License estimate to the vendor community interested in this solicitation. The bundling of the tools with the services has placed VA in a situation where there is limited competition and possibly gouging the government through non-competition of license costs. We respectfully request the government to unbundle the licenses costs from this solicitation or direct vendors who are TRM compliant to provide equal pricing (by product vendor and themselves, all should be equal in the solicitation response) for companies to propose without adding mandatory bundled services or forced partnership/workshare.

**Answer:** Government has an unrestricted, enterprise-wide, perpetual license to the Worldspace tool and will supply to the contractor as GFP.

**Question #108:** The tool vendors have an unequal competitive advantage of costs due to not providing equal pricing, would the government consider a two staged evaluation separating services from other direct costs (enterprise license)?

**Answer:** Due to the complex diversity of the various pricing components of this proposal, any potential competitive advantage of tool ownership pricing consideration is negated. .

**Question #109:** Regarding 5.4 Audit service: Our understanding is that last year's average Audit submissions were about 60/month, however this RFP asks for about 13,000/mth., primarily driven by the 150,000/yr SharePoint number. Please confirm this increase in scope.

**Answer:** An amendment has been completed. Please check 0005AD, 0009AD, 1003AD, 1005AD, 2003AD, and 2005AD. Also, please see revised section 3.0 Scope of Work in the PWS.

**Question #110:** Can you reconfirm that the 150,000 number for SharePoint is for individual audit requests, and not just SP web pages to be audited? The number of audits seems excessively high.

**Answer:** CLIN 0005AD has been revised.

**Question #111:** Can you provide info on how many submissions were done last yr. for each of the report categories?

**Answer:** Data and metrics from the past period of performance are not relevant for this current PWS. The PWS 3.0 Scope paragraph provides approximations of the quantities of work.

**Question 112:** For CLIN 0004; using the on-premises approach, will the server for installing the software be provided by the customer?

**Answer:** A VA server has been available historically for intranet audits; contractor will provide server space outside the VA firewall for the internet.

**Question 113:** For CLIN 0004; what is the approximate contract award date?

**Answer:** The current estimate is August 28, 2017.

**Question 114:** For CLIN 0004; how soon after contract award will the server be available for installation?

**Answer:** Server should be available at the time the final CPMP is submitted to the government. As shown in SLIN 0001AA, the CPMP is “Due 10 days after award and shall be concurred upon by the Government PM within 5 days of receipt. The final CPMP shall be due 15 business days after Government concurrence. The CPMP shall be updated monthly thereafter.”

**Question 115:** For CLIN 0004; since scanning will not be available until after the server & software are setup; how soon after contract award is auditing expected to begin?

**Answer:** Auditing will begin as soon after the submission of the final CPMP as possible. Per 5.1.1 in the PWS, auditing will begin as outlined in the Contract Project Management Plan; as shown in SLIN 0001AA, the CPMP is “Due 10 days after award and shall be concurred upon by the Government PM within 5 days of receipt. The final CPMP shall be due 15 business days after Government concurrence. The CPMP shall be updated monthly thereafter.”