

Solicitation # VA69D-12-B-1265

Amendment #1

RFI Document (Questions and Answers)

The following document contains RIFs and answers to those questions in response to a site visit performed 11/7/12. RIFs and answers are presented in the following format.

RFI Numbering Formats:

Overall Project – OP-#

Fire Alarm Project – FAP-#

Lighting Replacement Project –LRP-#

Answer Format:

Answers for each RFI are noted with “A:”.

Overall Project RIFs

- OP-1. Will there be a staging area on site to store fixtures, pipe, wire, etc...?
A: The VA will allow a storage area onsite in order to facilitate the project.
- i. How large?
A: Storage containers or an area of approximately 124’ x 15’ will be allowed onsite. These will be located in North area of the east parking lot here at HITC. A very small amount of storage space will be made available inside the building for tools that are needed on a daily basis. These will need to all be secured in lockable boxes. Up to two 3’x3’x4’ job boxes will be able to be stored inside the building. Large tools that are rarely used or used occasionally should be stored and potentially used outside the building.
- OP-2. Since there might be patching required for the lighting project I’m including this RFI question in the overall project questions as well.
 [For the Fire Alarm portion of the project, Drwg E102, Keynote 3 states "Patch and Finish Walls..." Can you provide a spec for the drywall and paint that will be required?]
A: Drywall within HITC is 5/8” Gypsum. Paint varies throughout the building but colors can be negotiated after the contract is awarded. Product we use should be a color of the following product:
 Harmony Interior Latex Eg-Shel, B9W551 — Odor Eliminating Technology, 0 g/L VOC
- OP-3. Please confirm that this job must be completed in primarily off hours?
A: Project drawings specify off hours in the appropriate areas where noted. The job should be planned to be completed primarily during non-business hours because a majority of the work is in office spaces. 3:30pm Monday through Friday should be

considered a typical start time for a majority of the project days. Typically mechanical spaces and electrical rooms can be completed during normal business hours as noted on the drawings. Arrangements with the COR and building occupants might be able to arrange earlier hours or daytime hours for certain areas. Other arrangements would be on a case by case basis with the COR.

Fire Alarm RFIs

- FAP-1. For the Fire Alarm portion of the project, Drwg E102, Keynote 3 states "Patch and Finish Walls..." Can you provide a spec for the drywall and paint that will be required?
A: Drywall within HITC is 5/8" Gypsum. Paint varies throughout the building but colors can be negotiated after the contract is awarded. Product we use should be a color of the following product:
 Harmony Interior Latex Eg-Shel, B9W551 — Odor Eliminating Technology, 0 g/L VOC
- FAP-2. For the Fire Alarm portion of the project, Drwg E103, Keynotes 1 & 2 refer to "New simplex devices..." Can you please clarify if this means we are to use Simplex products only on this job?
A: Simplex will be the preferred source since the VHA hospital campus uses this type of panel and system for their fire alarm and detection on the campus. HITC is connected to their services and uses their notification channels for alarms and alerts. The specification should be revised to read where products are noted "Simplex products or equal".
- FAP-3. It is my understanding through working with KJWW and Hines VA during the design phase of this project, the design intent for this project is to be an add to the existing Simplex Fire Alarm Network. To accomplish this, the Fire Alarm Control Panel shall be a Simplex 4100ES and tied to the existing campus Fire Alarm fiber optic Network. Please confirm this is a requirement for this project.
A: Using a Simplex panel will simplify the connections and programming needed to tie into the existing fire alarm system on campus. The specification should be revised to read where products are noted "Simplex products or equal".
- FAP-4. For the Fire Alarm work, we noticed that Simplex is the current/existing system in the VA. Shouldn't Simplex be the only manufacturer for bid in order to have the new equipment and existing equipment work together properly. Please advise.
A: Simplex will be the preferred source since the VHA hospital campus uses this type of panel and system for their fire alarm and detection on the campus. HITC is connected to their services and uses their notification channels for alarms and alerts. The VA however cannot specify Simplex as the only manufacturer. The specification should be revised to read where products are noted "Simplex products or equal".

Lighting Project RFIs

- LRP-1. For the Replace Lighting portion of this project, drwg. E104, keynote #9 states "Corridors shall have new 2'x2' ceiling grid. Coordinate with VA for Specs."
- i. Can you please clarify what areas will a new ceiling grid be required?
A: In order to ensure that costs are kept under control for this project the VA would like to propose that complete ceiling grid and tile replacement be deducted as an alternative addition in the project. The intent of the new ceiling grid is only to allow the new 2'x2' light fixture to fit into the existing drop ceiling. Complete replacement shall be noted in the bidding documents as a bid alternative adder that the VA can select if the budget allows.
 - ii. Can you confirm that New 2'x2' grid and ceiling panels are only needed where the 2x2 lights are going?
A: Drawing notes indicate where ceiling grid replacement would be necessary.
 - iii. Can you please provide a spec for the ceiling grid?
A: Match existing type.
- LRP-2. Key note #1 on drawing ED203 says to remove the existing 2'x4' ceiling grid and install new 2'x2' grid and tiles. In a previous phase, the existing grid was modified- instead of being replaced. This was also mentioned at the walk-thru. Please confirm whether modification of the existing grid is acceptable- or if replacement is truly required.
A: See answer for Question LRP-1.
- LRP-3. Sheet ED101 Keynote 1 states "unless otherwise noted, in corridors remove existing 2x4 grid and tiles and coordinate with VA engineer for specification of new 2x2 grid." Is this necessary and if so please specify grid and panel type and style.
A: See answer for question LRP-1 and LRP-1.iii.
- LRP-4. For the Replace Lighting portion of this project, can you confirm that Phase 1 is complete?
A: Phase I is complete. There may be some small areas where work has been completed for Phase II and III but these will be dealt with on a case by case basis during an initial construction kick off meeting.
- LRP-5. During walk-thru it was stated that Phase 1 as shown in the drawings has already been completed. Please verify extent of work.
A: Phase I is complete in areas according to the drawings and specifications. There may be some small areas where work has been completed for Phase II and III but these will be dealt with on a case by case basis during an initial construction kick off meeting.

- LRP-6. It was mentioned during the walk through that phase 1 was "completed". Does that mean Phase 1 as stated on drawing E001 is completed?
A: Phases and areas are clearly noted in the drawings. Phase I is complete. There may be some small areas where work has been completed for Phase II and III but these will be dealt with on a case by case basis during an initial construction kick off meeting.
- LRP-7. Specs say that contractor must turn over all fixtures removed by the contractor. Walk through made it seem as though the Contractor could keep. Please clarify.
A: Contractor should dispose of all materials removed from the lighting project. Fixtures, ballasts, wiring and waste. A space can be provided construction dumpsters. Recycling of the waste is encouraged and proper documented disposal of any hazardous materials (PCB containing ballasts) is needed.
- LRP-8. There is some overlap with the lighting controls between Phase I, II and III. Can we get a drawing of what has been installed and wired to the Phases?
A: Drawings indicate which areas were installed for Phase I. Assume that no controls were installed for Phases II and III. Quantum Hubs for Rm 142A were installed. The main server for the quantum system also exists. Quantum hubs in Rm 214B were not installed nor was wiring between Rm 142A and Rm 214B.
- LRP-9. Can we get back on site to look in the ceilings to see existing conduit?
A: No additional site visits will be arranged at this point.
- LRP-10. What about warranty on existing Lutron lighting control that is already installed in Phase I?
A: Lutron will continue to support the system as necessary and as required by the existing warranty for the VA. If there are issues with support of existing equipment the VA will work with Lutron to ensure that this does not hinder the new installation.
- LRP-11. Does the fixture with the symbol "SE" get a battery back up?
A: Draw E001 indicates that this fixture is capable of operation during power loss. Follow drawings and specifications for specific requirements for these fixtures.
- LRP-12. No schematic shown for low voltage wiring? Please advise
A: Please refer to manufacturer drawings for these details.
- LRP-13. Nothing is shown on how existing circuits get controlled through new Lutron. Please advise.
A: Manufacturer documentation should supply this information.

LRP-14. Do all the existing circuits have to get routed through the Lutron panel? Please advise
A: Not applicable. Existing power electrical circuits are not rerouted to a large extent.

LRP-15. The layout for the existing lighting fixtures differ significantly to the new layout for the lighting fixtures. Since the layout of the new light fixtures is different, there is an issue of compatibility of the new lighting layout with the existing tile system. In an event that the light fixtures cannot be installed as shown on the drawings. Does the VA expect the contractor to:

i. Install new ceiling tile system and adhere to the exact location of the light fixtures as shown in the drawings?

A: A majority of the rooms will not need any adjustments to lighting fixture replacements based on the new lighting plan. There are a few rooms where a significant number of lights are being removed but this should not hinder the installation of new fixtures in proper planned locations. Exceptions will be handled on a case by case basis with the COR and AE.

ii. Contractor may vary the location of the light fixtures and save the existing ceiling system.

A: Exceptions will be handled on a case by case basis with the COR and AE. All exceptions must be approved by the COR in writing.

END OF AMENDMENT #1