

1. Will funding for the VAMC Richmond Laundry Facility Project be fully approved and appropriated on the date that the solicitation is released?

VA Response:

YES

2. Will the solicitation identify clear routes for flue gas ducting that will now be required for the five additional gas-fired heating systems being specified to be installed in the laundry production area and mechanical room?

VA Response:

NO. The contractor is responsible for identifying clear routes for the flue gas ducting. The solicitation is Design Build and proposals will be evaluated for the best design built that includes identifying clear routes for the flue gas ducting.

3. Will the solicitation identify the gas line available for the additional 4 to 8 million BTU's per hour that will now be required for the five additional gas-fired heating systems being specified?

VA Response:

The solicitation will not identify the gas line available. It is the contractors responsibility to identify and provide any additional utilities required to meet the requirements of their offer.

4. Will the facility identify current HVAC specifications regarding total CFM's and room air change over rates for the laundry?

VA Response:

The solicitation will not identify the current HVAC. It is the contractors responsibility to identify and provide any additional HVAC required to meet the requirements of their offer.

5. Will the facility be responsible for updating the HVAC infrastructure and balancing to support five additional gas-fired heating systems being specified by this specification, ensuring that air changes and quality meet all federal, state and local codes for installing

combustion systems in areas where staff are present?

VA Response:

NO. The contractor is responsible for identifying existing system needs. The solicitation is Design Build and proposals will be evaluated for the best design built that includes identifying existing conditions and meeting all federal codes.

6. Will the solicitation identify steam lines within the laundry space that must remain operational in support of other areas within the VAMC Richmond campus?

VA Response:

NO. The contractor is responsible for identifying existing steam systems. The solicitation is Design Build and proposals will be evaluated for the best design built that includes identifying existing conditions.

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7. If the existing electrical panels do not have a large enough service will the facility bring sufficient power to the panels?

VA Response:

NO. It is the contractor's responsibility to identify and provide any additional utilities required to meet the requirements of their offer.

8. The installation of the five additional gas-fired heating systems being specified will increase gas consumption in the laundry area by 4 to 8 million BTU's per hour. The VA Richmond Engineering Team stated at the meeting that they have already identified a cost savings based on reducing the steam pressure from 125 PSI to 60 PSI at the boiler facility. Will the VA Richmond Engineering Team be responsible for identifying the total gas savings as specified in the solicitation?

VA Response:

No. It is the contractor's responsibility to identify the cost savings.

9. The addition of at least 5-each gas fired units will likely increase electrical usage (combustion blowers, control units, exhaust fans). The VA Richmond Engineering Team stated at the meeting that they have already identified a cost savings based on reducing the steam pressure from 125 PSI to 60 PSI at the boiler facility. Will the VA Richmond Engineering Team be responsible for identifying the total electrical savings as specified in the solicitation?

VA Response:

No. It is the contractor's responsibility to identify the cost savings.

10. The specification calls for the installation of a water recycling system and a heat recovery

system. The use of a water recycling system negates the need for a heat recovery system as the water processed retains the majority of its thermal energy. Will the heat recovery system be removed from the solicitation as it is redundant?

VA Response:

No. The Heat Recovery system will stay in the solicitation.

11. Regarding the water recycling system, it is requested that the filter medium have a 10 year life span. Does the VA require a 10 year warranty on the filter medium?

VA Response:

YES

12. The hot water heating systems and heat exchangers are specified to have ASME certification as a standard of quality, safety and operability. Shouldn't the heating units and ironer chests for the self contained ironers carry the same certification of quality fabrication?

VA Response:

YES

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13. All major equipment is specified to be at 480 volts / 3 phase / 60 Hz. Will alternative equipment voltages be acceptable if utilizing internal and/or external transformers provided by the bidder?

VA Response:

YES, it is the intent to have all major equipment to be at 480 volts and request all bidders to meet the requirements of the solicitation. However more efficient alternatives will be considered.

14. Regarding Item L on page 53 (Continuous Batch Washer), Item 5 on page 59 (Wash/Extract Systems) and Item 13 on page 80 (100/110 Pound Washer Extractors). Will a clear definition of hot water injection be provided in the solicitation?

VA Response:

The solicitation will not define how hot water injection will be introduced to either the continuous batch washer or the 80/100 LB washers. It is the contractor's responsibility to identify and provide hot water injection in lieu of steam injection required to meet the requirements of their offer.

15. Regarding Item 11 (Garment Tunnel Finisher) on page 77:  
a. Is the production rate 200 items/hour or 600 items per hour?

VA Response:

200 items per hour

b. Is this specification asking for the goods to be conveyed automatically to the textile distribution area?

VA Response:

YES

16. Regarding Item 14a (Large Piece Blanket Folder), statement 1 on page 82, is the production rate specified 500 items/hour or 1500 items/hour?

VA Response:

500 items per hour

17. Regarding Item 6 on page 61 (600/700 Pound Gas Drying and Conditioning Tumbler), low

fire only operation is required. Will more efficient alternatives be considered?

Modulating

gas valves have been shown to operate more efficiently by adjusting input temperature based on load temperatures.

VA Response:

YES, more efficient alternatives will be considered

18. Will the solicitation clearly define when work can occur in the laundry based on noise restrictions?

VA Response:

Any excess noise affecting clinical areas during normal operations will not be allowed.

19. Will the solicitation identify when the loading dock area will be available for use during the project?

VA Response:

The loading dock will not be allowed to be used as a staging area. Deliveries will be expedited if the loading dock is needed to unload.

20. Will the solicitation identify material storage and job trailer locations on the VAMC Richmond grounds?

VA Response:

Material storage will be the responsibility of the contractor. One space for one storage trailer will be available once needed onsite.

21. Will VAMC Richmond be responsible for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week security for the job site, material storage location and job trailers?

VA Response:

NO

## Additional Questions

1. Pg. 2: As the project scope of work will include design drawing preparation & approval, equipment removal, demolition, facility infrastructure preparation and utility systems installation, how will be the 120-day delivery of equipment be determined?

The 120 day delivery of equipment will be the day after contract award.

2. Concerning the tunnel data management system, is this system separate from that of the conventional washers? The specification for the smaller non production washers does not include a data management part, is this required as well? Do all systems need to have a common data management system?

Yes. All washers (Tunnel and all non-production washers) shall be connected to a wash system control system to allow for formula input and monitoring of all wash systems.

3. Pg. 54 item E: Pls. confirm that this control system is specifically for the BTW System.

YES

4. Pg. 66 item 8: It is noted that the staph barrier wall must be glass. What type of glass is required? Is lexan acceptable?

NO. The staph barrier wall will be glass from the floor to approximately 15 feet high. The wall shall be supported by structural glazed steel with rust resistant finish, shall be constructed of a Type 1, glass, laminated.

5. Pg. 68 Ironing systems: The specification states that there must be "PC based controls" for the ironing systems. In this case is a touch screen PLC adequate?

Delete the requirement " PC based controls" Insert color touch screen controls.

## More Additional Questions

### Item #1 Water Systems

1. Water Heaters: Alternate, more energy efficient (non-water tube type) natural gas-fired water heating systems for laundries are available industry wide. Are such systems that which exceed the intent of the specification be considered acceptable?

YES

2. Water Storage/Pumping System: Is it a requirement that new properly sized floor sink drains must be installed and connected to the existing underground sanitary drain system that will accommodate drain and overflow piping for new water storage tanks?

YES

### Item #2 Soil Storage/Sorting Conveyor System

1. Does the VA intend to continue utilizing the existing overhead linen vacuum system with the new laundry system? Is it currently operable?

YES, YES

### Item #9 Clean-side Overhead Semi-Automatic Monorail/Storage/Clean Take-Away Conveyor System

1. Are caster-mounted sling carts required for unloading the (2) 500/600-lb. non-production washer extractors? If yes, what quantity is required?

6-8

### Item #10 Thermal Fluid Flatwork Ironing Systems

1. Specification (y) requires the ironer shall have a fully adjustable operating temperature between 300-450 degrees. Industry recommends 400 degrees to be the maximum operating temperature to prevent excessive damage to textile fibers, etc.

YES

2. Ordering data specification (1) requires all exhaust ducts to have access doors. Typically, local building code does not permit heating equipment flue systems to have access doors due to the presence of combustion gases. Will access doors be required in the ironer flue system?

Not Required

3. Ironer heater flue system – Is a flue system designed with UL-approved double-wall internally insulated vent pipe (stainless steel inner pipe/galvanized steel outer pipe) and like fitting materials, and installation methods required to be provided by the successful contractor?

YES

### Item #13 100/110 Lb. Washer Extractors

1. Specification requires gross cylinder capacity to be based on 5.7-lbs/c.f. of soiled textiles. These machines are by designated “non-production” washer extractors. The item #12 non-production 120/125-lb. dryers do not have a cylinder sizing requirement. Are commercially available washer extractors rated for 100/110-lbs by the equipment manufacturer acceptable?

5.7lbs/c.f. should not have been included, please use commercially manufactured rated 100/110 lb washers.

### CONTRACT CLAUSES

1. Section C.17 52.212-5 Contract Terms and Conditions requires the successful bidder comply with (13) 52.219.-16, Liquidated Damages – Subcontracting Plan (Jan 1999) (15 U.S.C. 687(d) (4) (F) (i)). Please define the terms of liquidate damages, and if applicable, any monetary dollar amount(s) and defined time period(s).

Contracting Officer to answer

### GENERAL INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS:

1. What is the pressure of the existing natural gas supply to the laundry?

2.5 psi

2. What is the hardness of the existing city water supply to the laundry prior to water treatment?

8.0 ph

3. Conduit: Specification contains a typo referring to (ENT) conduit. Please clarify that electrical metallic tubing (EMT) and fittings are acceptable for all power wiring accept where prohibited by code in exposed wet areas. Maximum size not to exceed 4 in.

YES