

**ODJFS Request for Proposals (RFP)**  
**Ohio Leading Indicators**  
**RFP#: R-04-05-0665**  
**ODJFS Final Question & Answer Document**  
**01/06/2004 – 01/16/2004**

from **M. Smi Khawaja, Ph.D., President**  
**Quantec, LLC**  
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- Q1.** What is the budget/budget range for the software component of the Ohio Leading Indicators solution?
- A1.** **Interested vendors should not require that information to prepare their proposals. Vendors are to consider the needs and expectations expressed in the RFP and propose the solution that they recommend. The price offered should be the vendor's best price for providing the work to ODJFS.**
- Q2.** Will ODJFS provide the necessary hardware and operating system/environment software to support the recommended software?
- A2.** **Objective 1.5.C. states in parentheses that "Any software or solution offered is subject to review and acceptance by ODJFS MIS to assure it can be supported by the current JFS IT operating platforms/systems."**
- Q3.** What are the current brands and levels ODJFS MIS operating system?
- A3.** **The Bureau of Labor Market Information is currently using Microsoft XP with Novell connectivity.**
- Q4.** Can you elaborate on the functions desired for the "Interface econometric output with graphics and publication software" task? Is it a simple file level interface you desire or something more elaborate?
- A4.** **The data should interface in an electronic format from the econometric output to graphics and publications software. It doesn't need to be any more elaborate than a file level interface.**
- Q5.** Do you prefer a commercial, off-the-shelf (COTS) software solution or will a custom solution be acceptable?
- A5.** **COTS software is preferred with the possibility of a custom solution operating within the COTS. A custom solution would be acceptable as long as source code is provided.**
- Q6.** Describe the current Internet delivery method that you utilize?

- A6. Electronic files are brought into a Pagemaker template and a PDF document created and posted on the Internet. Spreadsheet files are also created and posted through a batch process.**
- Q7. What are the extent of the technical support services that ODJFS requires for the software solution?**
- A7. Technical support services are expected to be minimal after training.**
- Q8. It is our understanding that what ODJFS is looking for is to continue to use indicators approach and create an automated process (update data, push a button, and the new index is calculated) and not to predict the various sectors of the economy, using a structural econometric model? Making the process automated is the main thrust of the proposal, for the methodology is well-known and easily replicated. In addition, ODJFS is looking for an easy way to test new variables to be included in the composite index or any other variables which are not included in the present index that may look promising. You are looking for a methodology that is very easy to defend and understand. No black boxes. Have we described the problem accurately?**
- A8. Yes, those are generally accurate statements. It would be up to the vendor to analyze data and techniques to recommend changes (if any) to components and econometric procedures.**

**This completes the ODJFS Final Question & Answer Document for Ohio Leading Indicators RFP #: R-04-05-0665. Thank you for your interest.**