



Department of Administrative Services

Department of Commerce
Mainframe and General Computer Personal Services

R E Q U E S T F O R C A N D I D A T E

State Term Schedule Only

OITRFQ-FY21-005

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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

PURPOSE OF THE REQUEST FOR CANDIDATE

Please consider this State of Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Office of Information Technology (OIT) Request for Candidate for the following request:

The State of Ohio, on behalf of the Department of Commerce, is requesting a candidate for a highly experienced z/OS Senior Systems Programmer with pronounced Distributed skills. The qualified candidate will have exceptional Distributed and z/OS skills spanning multiple Distributed and z/OS Operating Systems. The candidate will further possess other skills as listed in the statement of work.

Please include no more than three (3) resumes per supplier.

The work is for 2,080+ hours per year. Should the contracted resource leave, the contract holder has the right to replace the resource with a similar resource only if agreed to by the State. If this is not possible, the RFQ will be reposted. With thirty (30) days written notice from the State to the STS (State Term Schedule) holder, the resource may be removed, for any reason, as deemed to be in the best interest of the State. The contract may be renewed on a fiscal year by year basis solely at the discretion of the State.

The candidate will not necessarily be located at a State of Ohio facility and must agree to a remote working situation. The candidate must agree to adhere to all State protocols, both current and future, as they relate to working remotely.

Vendor's must hold a State Term Schedule (STS) to bid on this request.

BACKGROUND

The Department of Commerce operates a complex mixture of both Distributed and z/OS Platforms using CICS, DB2, z/OS and other Software Products. Owing to Staff attrition, the Department of Commerce needs to augment their existing z/OS Systems Programmer Staff.

STATEMENT OF WORK

The State of Ohio, on behalf of the Department of Commerce, is requesting a candidate for a highly experienced Distributed and z/OS Senior Systems Programmer. The qualified candidate will have exceptional Distributed and z/OS skills spanning multiple Operating Systems and other desirable Computer & Mainframe skills as listed below.

The following are the Skills the RFQ is requesting:

- 1) Must agree to a 24*7*365 Work Schedule with one (1) hour call back responsibilities
- 2) The candidate is responsible for the operational support and maintenance of the Commerce LITS System. The Commerce LITS System is comprised of both Distributed and Mainframe components
- 3) The candidate must, under general direction -
 - a) Review Commerce Distributed & Mainframe Systems and analyze and document their flow
 - b) Develop and document an operational risk assessment (ORA) of the Commerce Distributed and Mainframe Systems
 - c) Based upon the ORA, develop and document a risk mitigation implementation plan
 - d) Collaboration with Commerce & DAS/OIT project team(s) responsible for mainframe replacement
 1. Create a current state code/system process analysis document
 2. Create a best practice recommendations document to project team
 3. Existing batch job configuration and enhancement
 4. New batch job creation and implementation
 5. Collaboration with project team to implement ETL processes
- 4) The candidate must possess and demonstrate knowledge and skills of –
 - a) Disaster Recovery experience with both Distributed and Mainframe Environments
 - b) Mainframe virtual tape, data storage and offsite mirroring of virtual tape and data storage
 - c) System Support Skills: Assembler, CICS, COBOL, Db2, TSO, z/OS, z/VM, multiple OEM Products
 - d) Experience with Mainframe Operating Software Upgrades across multiple z/OS Release Levels
 - e) Troubleshooting with/of Distributed and Mainframe Operating Systems, operational support
- 5) The candidate must possess and demonstrate knowledge and skills of –
 - a. Installation of Virtual and Physical tape libraries and Automated libraries
 1. Installation and configuration of the equipment
 2. Logical and Physical migration from existing hardware to new equipment
 3. Implement and support Encryption
 4. Implement data replication between multiple sites
 5. Micro-code support and deployment
 - b. Installation of switch and firewall hardware
 1. Installation and configuration of the equipment
 2. Logical and Physical migration from existing hardware to new equipment
 - c. Supported & maintained operating systems and Database across multiple platforms
 1. JES, MVS, OS/390, z/OS, AIX, OS/400, Linux Ubuntu, Windows 2000, VMWare
 2. z/OS, DB2 (Distributed & Mainframe), IMS, MQ Series, SQL Server, etc.
 3. DFSMS HSM and DFSMS OAM
 4. z/OS DASD and Tape (and demonstrated/significant HCD & IOGEN knowledge)
 5. Performance and tuning reporting and planning expert
 6. Demonstrated RMF, SAS, MXG, etc. skills to analyze issues and take necessary actions
 7. Plan hardware upgrades to maximize performance while minimizing cost to the organization
 8. Support and maintain automation products
 9. OPS/MVS (or similar toolsets) for all system started tasks and IPL related automation
 10. Support z/OS Network connectivity applications
 11. Support TCPIP and all TCPIP related task to allow communications with other platforms
 12. Support VTAM and all z/OS definitions along with and SNA or CICS/O related statements
 13. Support Unix System Service Application running under z/OS

ADMINISTRATIVE

DUE DATES

All quotations are due by 1:00 PM EST, September 15, 2020. Any quotation received at the designated location after the required time and date specified for receipt shall be considered late and non-responsive. Any late quotations may not be evaluated for award.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

All times are Eastern Standard Time (EST).

Event	Date
1. RFQ Distribution to Suppliers	September 8, 2020
2. Q&A Period	N/A
3. Quotation Due Date	September 15, 2020
4. Target Date for Interviews	September 17, 2020
5. Anticipated Decision	September 21, 2020
6. Anticipated Commencement of Work	October 19, 2020

EVALUATION FACTORS FOR AWARD

EVALUATION

All viable candidates will be interviewed and evaluated for their fit and skills based upon the STATEMENT OF WORK discussed above. The evaluation categories and weights are listed below:

Rating Criteria

- Technical Acumen 40
- Experience & Education 40
- Communication/Management 20

A candidate must have a score of at least 90. The final decision of the award to the candidate rests solely with Commerce and OIT Staff.

RESPONSES

Offeror responses **must** include:

One (1) Biographical (4-page maximum) Resume for Each Proposed Candidate that identifies and focuses on the specific disciplines the candidate is qualified for as it relates to this solicitation and other pertinent information.

- Clearly demonstrate the capabilities of the proposed candidate to perform the work.
- Showcase the candidate's viability for the position
- Demonstrate the ability of the candidate to address highly complex, multi-Agency or Enterprise level business problems and present these elements to a variety of technical and non-technical audiences at all levels of the State IT community.

GUIDELINES FOR CANDIDATE PREPARATION

CANDIDATE SUBMITTAL

Each Supplier must submit an electronic copy in **PDF Format ONLY** of its candidate with the email subject clearly marked "Department of Commerce Mainframe and General Computer Staff Augmentation – OITRFQ-FY21-005" along with the Suppliers name.

Each candidate must be organized in the format described below. Any material deviation from the format outlined below may result in a rejection of the non-conforming candidate.

- Cover Letter
- Supplier contact name, email address, and phone number
- MBE or EDGE Certification – if applicable
- State Term Schedule (STS) Number
- Candidate Information:
 - Candidate Resume(s)
 - Discipline Expertise of Subject Matter
 - Additional Candidate Information (Optional)
- Conflict of Interest Statement (if applicable)
- Payment Address
- Proof of Insurance
- W-9 Form

The State will not be liable for any costs incurred by any supplier in responding to this RFQ, even if the State does not award a contract through this process. The State may decide not to award a contract at the State's discretion. The State may reject late candidates regardless of the cause for the delay. The State may also reject any candidate that it believes is not in its interest to accept and may decide not to do business with any of the Suppliers responding to this RFQ.

Candidates **MUST** be submitted electronically to the State's Procurement:
OITAPRRequests@das.ohio.gov

PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

All candidates and other material submitted will become the property of the State and may be returned only at the State's option. Proprietary information should not be included in a candidate or supporting materials because the State will have the right to use any materials or ideas submitted in any candidate without compensation to the Supplier. Additionally, all candidates will be open to the public after the contract is awarded.

The State may reject any Proposal if the Supplier takes exception to the terms and conditions of this RFQ.

WAIVER OF DEFECTS

The State has the right to waive any defects in any candidate or in the submission process followed by a Supplier. But the State will only do so if it believes that is in the State's interest and will not cause any material unfairness to other Suppliers.

REJECTION OF CANDIDATES

The State may reject any candidate that is not in the required format, does not address all the requirements of this RFQ, or that the State believes is excessive in price or otherwise not in its interest to consider or to accept. The State will reject any Non-STS responses. In addition, the State may cancel this RFQ, reject all the candidates, and seek to do the work through a new RFQ or other means.

TERM AND CONTRACT

- Compensation for work performed is at a per hour of time billed. All work must be agreed to and authorized by the Project Manager(s).
- No additional costs, such as travel, meals, lodging, taxes, parking or other associated costs may be charged separately for this work.
- All contractors shall read, acknowledge and follow agency policies, rules and guidelines.
- All work performed by the supplier shall be deemed a "work-for-hire," and shall be the sole property of the State of Ohio. The supplier may not use such work without DAS OIT's written consent.

STATUS REPORTING

The contractor will provide weekly status reports to the State. The contractor will be responsible for meeting all timelines designated by the assigned Project Manager.

NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT

Both candidate and company may be required to sign a non-disclosure agreement, which prevents disclosure of any data obtained while on the engagement, which can be used to personally identify any parties at any time either during or after the engagement.

EVALUTATION OF CANDIDATES

Clarifications and Corrections

During the evaluation process, the State may request clarifications from any Supplier under active consideration. It also may give any Supplier the opportunity to correct defects. But the State will allow corrections only if they do not result in an unfair advantage for the Supplier and it is in the State's best interest.

Requirements

This RFQ asks for responses and submissions from Suppliers. While each criterion represents only a part of the total basis for a decision to award the contract to a Supplier(s), a failure by a Supplier to make a required submission or meet a requirement will normally result in a rejection of that Supplier's candidate. The value assigned to each criterion is only a value used to determine which candidate is the most advantageous to the State in relation to the other candidates that the State received. It is not a basis for determining the importance of meeting any requirement to participate in the candidate process.

The evaluation process **may** consist of the following:

1. The procurement representative's initial review of all submittals
2. Interviews (mandatory for selected candidates)

Initial Review

The procurement representative normally will reject any incomplete or incorrectly formatted candidate, though the procurement representative may elect to waive any defects or allow a Supplier to submit a correction. If a late candidate is rejected, the procurement representative will not open or evaluate the late candidates. The procurement representative will forward all timely, complete, and properly formatted candidates to an evaluation committee, which the procurement representative will chair.

Committee Review of the Candidates

The State's review committee will evaluate and numerically score each candidate that the procurement representative has forwarded to it.

The evaluation will result in a point total being calculated for each candidate. Those Suppliers submitting the highest-rated candidates may be scheduled for the next phase. The number of candidates forwarded to the next phase will be within the committee's discretion, but regardless of the number of candidates selected for the next phase, they will always be the highest rated candidates from this phase.

At any time during this phase, the State may ask a Supplier to correct, revise, or clarify any portions of its candidate. The State will document all major decisions in writing and make these a part of the file along with the evaluation results for each candidate considered.

Once the technical merits of a candidate are considered, the costs of that candidate will be considered. But the State may also consider costs before evaluating the technical

merits of the candidates by doing an initial review of costs to determine if any candidates should be rejected because of excessive cost. And the State may reconsider the excessiveness of any candidate's cost at any time in the evaluation process.

Interviews

The State may record any presentations, demonstrations and interviews.

Determination of Responsibility

The State may review the highest-ranking Suppliers or its key team members to ensure that the Supplier is responsible. The Contract may not be awarded to a Supplier that is determined to be not responsible. The State's determination of a Supplier's responsibility may include the following factors: The Supplier's and its key team members' experience, past conduct on previous Contracts, past performance on previous Contracts, ability to execute this contract properly and management skill. The State will make such determination of responsibility based on the Supplier's candidate, reference evaluations and any other information the State requests or determines to be relevant.

Changing Candidates

The major criterion on which the State bases the award of the contract is the quality of the Supplier's candidate(s). Changing personnel after the award may be a basis for termination of the contract.

Contract Award Process

It is the State's intention to award one contract under the scope of this RFQ based on the RFQ Calendar of Events schedule, so long as the State determines that doing so is in the State's best interests and has not otherwise changed the award date. Any award decision by the State under this RFQ is final. After the State makes its decision under this RFQ, all suppliers will be notified in writing of the final evaluation and determination as to their candidates.