

## Data Warehouse RFP - Questions from Potential Vendors

Received Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020

1. Is the Town currently working with a partner to support the Exchange 2013 and SharePoint 2013 infrastructure?
  - a. Not applicable to the Ohio Department of Taxation (Taxation).
2. Is the preference to upgrade current Teradata, Cognos, SPSS environment?
  - a. Taxation wants the most cost-efficient solution that provides, at a minimum, the current DWH's functionality, security, and performance.
3. **Or** is the preference to replace existing DW integration software and hardware with cloud native solution such as Azure SQL by September 2021?
  - a. See response to #2 above.
4. Since ODT legacy DWH environment and its infrastructure will retire by September 2021, is it expected that only a 1-time data migration is needed to new DW?
  - a. Yes, there should be only one data migration for non-production and one for production. But existing daily/weekly/yearly ETL processes will also need to be replaced.
5. Is it safe to assume no integration is expected with the legacy DWH environment after cutover to new DW in September 2021?
  - a. Correct, if a replacement solution is chosen, the existing DWH will be physically removed from the site. The existing DWH will be gone, but all the integrations the current DWH has in place with the tax systems should be incorporated into the new solution.
6. Will an action to migrate IBM SPSS to Azure Machine Learning tools be considered for 2021 migration?
  - a. Taxation will consider all proposals that meet the RFP's functional, performance and security requirements and can be implemented in the project's time frame at the most cost-effective manner. Include in any replacement solution are the plans and cost to replace the entire environment and retain all technical and business staff/users.
7. Will an action to migrate reporting from Cognos to cloud native visualization tools such as Power BI be considered for 2021 migration?
  - a. Taxation will consider all proposals that meet the RFP's functional, performance and security requirements and can be implemented in the project's time frame at the most cost-effective manner. Include in any replacement solution are the plans and cost to replace the entire environment and retain all technical and business staff/users.
8. Is it acceptable to replace existing integration software (Teradata's Tools and Utilities) with Azure ETL resources such as Azure Data Factory and Databricks?
  - a. Taxation will consider all proposals that meet the RFP's functional, performance and security requirements and can be implemented in the project's time frame at the most cost-effective manner. Include in any replacement solution are the plans and cost to replace the entire environment and retain all technical and business staff/users.
9. Is ODT open to retiring current Data Conversion and Migration Services in 2021? This will retire existing ETL infrastructure in 2021 and re-create ODT's existing ETL processes on Azure?
  - a. Taxation will consider all proposals that meet the RFP's functional, performance and security requirements and can be implemented in the project's time frame at the most cost-

effective manner. Include in any replacement solution are the plans and cost to replace the entire environment and retain all technical and business staff/users.

10. Section 4.3, RFP, Evaluation Scoring Formula, P. 13 of 44 text: MBE Set-aside = 5%. Total Points = Technical Proposal Points + Cost Proposal Points.

**Question:** Within the Technical Proposal Points, Cost proposal points and the Total Points. MBE points are not reflected within the scoring formulas. Will MBE Set-aside not be calculated in the total points?

- a. Yes, the MBE set-aside will be included in the total points.

11. Section 1.3, Supplement 1, Solution Requested, p. 5 of 34 text: Software Licenses. The Offeror must provide or arrange for perpetual software licenses for all Commercial Software necessary to meet the requirements of this RFP.

**Question:** Many companies are offering Term licensing. Will the State accept Term (subscription) based licenses?

- a. Taxation is willing to entertain proposals for Term based licenses. We can discuss further during negotiations.

12. Section 1.3.2, Supplement 3, System Security Plan, p. 9 of 31 text: A completed System Security Plan must be provided by the Contractor to the State and the primary point of contact from the Office of Information Security and Privacy no later than the end of the project development phase of the System Development Life Cycle (SDLC).

**Question:** The embedded Ohio Security Plan Template.docx is an image. Please provide the actual document.

- a. The Ohio Security Plan Template will be added to the RFP on [procurement.ohio.gov](http://procurement.ohio.gov).

13. Section 2.1.2, Supplement 1, Backup and Recovery, p. 15 of 34 text: Include a backup and recovery and remote site disaster recovery strategy in your proposal that protects all data and programs related to this warehouse solution. Include hardware, software, storage, tape library, if appropriate.

**Question:** Would the State be interested in a cloud-based disaster recovery system?

- a. Taxation is interested in the most cost-efficient disaster recovery solution that meets all the required security, functionality, and performance criteria, for any chosen solution.

14. Section 2.1.2, Supplement 1, Back and Recovery, p. 15 of 34 text: Note: The state also offers disaster recovery for On-Premise distributed systems.

**Question:** Does this site (or recovery center) have VMware vSphere ESXI Virtualized Environment available for use as an interim DR site?

- a. Taxation has a disaster recovery site for VMware vSphere ESXI. The proposed solution should include the associated costs.

15. Section 2.2, RFP, Proposal Submittal, p. 8 of 44 text: under Technical Proposal Requirements 'Subcontractor Letters'

**Question:** Please elaborate on what this document needs to entail?

- a. For each proposed subcontractor, the Offeror must attach a letter from the subcontractor, signed by someone authorized to legally bind the subcontractor, with the following included in the letter:
1. The subcontractor's legal status, federal tax identification number, D-U-N-S number, and principal place of business address;
  2. The name, phone number, fax number, email address, and mailing address of a person who is authorized to legally bind the subcontractor to contractual obligations;
  3. A description of the work the subcontractor will do;

4. A commitment to do the work if the Offeror is selected; and
5. A statement that the subcontractor has read and understood the RFP and will comply with the requirements of the RFP.

16. Supplement 3, Overview and Scope,

**General Question:** In order to accurately answer questions within supplement 3, is it sufficient to limit our answers to an on-prem environment only and for any employees working directly on the on-prem contract?

- a. Please answer Supplement 3 in a manner that accurately reflects the type of product that you are proposing, whether on-prem or web based.

17. Section 2.2, RFP, Proposal Submittal, p. 7 of 44 text: Offeror responses to questions throughout this RFP and related Supplements should use a consistent contrasting color (blue is suggested to contrast with the black text of this RFP document) to provide their response to each requirement so that the Offeror response is readily distinguishable to the State.

**Question:** Is it acceptable to use a dark blue text, shading, or italics for ease in readability?

- a. Yes, that is acceptable.

18. Will you be changing from WebSphere to WebLogic?

- a. No, this RFP mentions one WebSphere application that consumes DWH data indirectly and therefore this change is not in scope.

19. Do you want Fit/Gap?

- a. Yes, if the question is in reference to how well the proposal fits the RFP, with Gaps listed. No, if referencing an implementation task to analyze the DWH content and identify data gaps.

20. Will you be implementing any new functionality or features with the new release?

- a. No new functionality or features are planned to be implemented within this RFP scope. That is not to say, that new features will not be consider if they aid implementation. Nor does it negate the RFP's required new functions and features listed in the supplements.

21. Who will do testing (Unit, Integration, System, UAT)?

- a. There will only be one non-production environment. It will be fully functional, and production sized.

22. Will there be any training required?

- a. Yes, see the RFS for both training and Knowledge Transfer details. If a replacement solution is chosen, the technical staff and users must be able to independently maintain and utilize the new solution.

23. Who will be responsible for the customizations?

- a. If customizations are included in the solution to meet the requirements, they are a deliverable and must be developed and tested by the vendor.