



## **RESPONSES TO ACADIANA REGIONAL GAUGE NETWORK RFQ QUESTIONS:**

Last Revised: 05/16/2023

### **Question #1:**

How does this RFQ differ from the previous RFP?

### **Answer:**

APC is not an eligible entity to design-build and as such, APC is required to remove the construction components of the original RFP. RFQ is for design, engineering, and survey services. This request seeks to find the best provider of these services for the design of the gauge systems, and the survey work that will accommodate the installation of the gauge systems. It also charges the awardee with the procurement of the construction team that will be responsible for the installation of the gauge systems at the pre-determined sites. Additionally, the web portal portion of the RFP has been removed from the RFQ.

### **Question #2: (two-part)**

Will APC be signing the contract with the successful gauge instruments provider and construction contractor or will it be the responsibility of the Contractor (proposer)?

Does this responsibility for the integrity of the equipment fall on the Contractor (proposer), Construction Contractor, or APC? (It may be an additional cost to the proposer if they are responsible for the purchase of the equipment, from a maintenance standpoint.)

### **Answer:**

APC will be signing the contract with the construction contractor.

The responsibility for the integrity of the equipment will lie with the construction contractor, once they have been procured.

### **Question #3:**

Will it be the responsibility of the Contractor (proposer) to provide the Web Portal Design or the responsibility of the Construction Contractor to provide the Web Portal Design? Or, has Web Portal Design been removed from this project?

### **Answer:**

As referenced in Question #1 and, at this time, the web portal design has been removed from this portion of the project. APC is reserving the ability to procure the web-design separately or

potentially utilize the professional services procured to select or design the portal. This task may be negotiated during the contracting phase.

**Question #4:**

Can the Construction Contractor be a part of the Contractor's (proposer's) design team or does their participation preclude them from bidding on the gauge instruments and installation portion of the project?

**Answer:**

The construction contractor needs to remain separate from the professional services.

**Question #5:**

Who pays for the spare parts maintained at a centrally located workspace? Who determines which spare parts are to be maintained at a centrally located workspace?

**Answer:**

This will be handled in the construction portion of a future contract.

**Question #6:**

Are the respondents required to submit new/updated lobbying activity disclosure forms/statements if they were submitted on the RFQ previously? Or can the forms included in the first submittal (if teams remain the same) be included in the response for the re-advertised RFQ?

**Answer:**

The previous disclosures, as long as they still apply, can be used, but they will need to be resubmitted in the new proposal.

**Question #7:**

Can the expected performance schedule/calendar for the scope of this project, including construction contracting, equipment identification, and the tasks outlined within the RFQ be provided?

**Answer:**

We are expecting the proposer selected for professional service to assist APC in scoping the expected performance, schedule, calendar, equipment identification, and tasks to assist us with this portion of the project.

**Question #8:**

Under Part 9: Evaluation Criteria, sub-part A. Scoring Matrix and Methodology, Part III Firm/Team Specialized Experience – 35 Points: It states the Proposer should also consider addressing the following:

- Define its approach in providing the services.

- Describe its approach in responding to task requests to meet agency requirements.
- Describe its approach to Project Management and Quality Assurance.
- Provide a sample proposed Project Work Plan that reflects the approach and methodology, task and services to be performed, deliverables, timetables and staffing.
- Provide an explanation of any additional tasks to be performed which are deemed necessary by the proposer for successful project completion; explanation of deviation from and/or deletion of any tasks listed in the Scope of Services.
- Etc.

The above bullet items within the RFQ are typically part of a Request for Proposal versus a Request for Qualifications; will the points for this category be used solely to assess the team's qualifications?

**Answer:**

The suggested considerations are firmly from the viewpoint of addressing experiences with similar projects. They are absolutely not required to submit, but references to previous experience show the evaluation committee that your experience is comparable to the goals of the project. The points in this category will be based on the Firm/Team's specialized experience.

**Question #9:**

Task 2 Construction Acquisition: It states Provide technical assistance to APC for procurement of gauge instruments and a construction contractor for the installation of Gauge Attachments and Support Systems. 1. Task 2 Construction Acquisition: It states Provide technical assistance to APC for procurement of gauge instruments and a construction contractor for the installation of Gauge Attachments and Support Systems. The gauge site location infrastructure will be installed by the procured construction contractor based on the final engineering design provided for each location. The specific scope of work for the various site types is provided in Table 3. The specific scope of work for the various site types is provided in Table 3.

*Who installs the gauge instruments? The description above indicates the construction contractor is responsible for the installation of Gauge Attachments and Support Systems (gauge site location infrastructure), but does not mention who will perform the actual Gauge installation.*

**Answer:**

The gauge site installations will be performed by the procured construction contractor. Procurement of the construction contractor will be accomplished by APC staff with guidance and consulting services from the selectee of this RFQ.

**Question #10:**

The proposal does not mention a cost estimate or budget request. However, Part 1. E. mentions a budget breakdown. We assume this is a general statement and no cost estimate is requested as part of the RFQ, and an estimate will be negotiated with the most qualified firm selected as the recipient of the project. Can you confirm?

**Answer:**

This is correct. There are no cost estimates required for the submission for this RFQ. The statement on Budget Breakdown is provided as general information for the submitters.

**Question #11:**

Our understanding is there will be no equipment purchased, gauge or ancillary equipment construction, or web portal development and implementation as part of this RFQ. Please confirm.

**Answer:**

This is accurate. Reference Question #3 for more explanation on the web portal.

**Question #12:**

Task 3 references maintenance of gauges and equipment. Our understanding is there will be no gauges or equipment purchased as part of this RFQ. Should we be planning to provide maintenance on any system that would be installed?

**Answer:**

It is the intent of APC to provide a seamless transition between the professional service rendered under this RFQ and the future selected construction contractor. For example, survey data collected, installation of the gauges, and any data management, should coincide with one another. To ensure this, APC is asking the selected contractor from this RFQ to potentially be responsible for assisting with maintenance operations, quality assurance, and quality control of the gauge sites after construction is complete at each gauge site. During the contract negotiation period, this will be finalized.

**Question #13:**

Task 4 references gauge network transfer and training. As part of this RFQ, we assume no network will be installed and operated. Will we be requested to provide a training manual later upon the installation of gauges and a network? Will that be part of this RFQ or a subsequent proposal?

**Answer:**

The selected contractor from this RFQ shall be responsible for the network transfer and training after installation by the procured construction contractor. The construction contractor shall be procured by the recipient of the contract for this RFQ.

**Question #14:**

Will the winning team for this RFQ be able to submit proposals and potentially be awarded projects on subsequent RFQs as part of the overall Acadiana Regional Gauge Network initiative?

**Answer (to Question #14):**

Professional services provided under this RFQ will need to be separate from Construction services provided under a future RFP.

**Question #15:**

What is the timing of the release of the task items?

**Answer:**

(Note: This question was withdrawn by the responder as the next question will answer.)

**Question #16:**

What is the planned timing for release of the RFQ for procurement, construction, network development, etc.?

**Answer:**

This will be determined in the contracting phase.

**Question #17:**

Is a rate sheet required to be submitted? Attachment II is an example rate schedule, but the RFQ does not request a rate schedule.

**Answer:**

The rate sheet is requested under Part 6, section E "Compensation to the Contractor for services rendered in connection with each Task Order shall be based on work-hours using the negotiated rate schedule described in Attachment II for the actual work performed on each Task Order."

This is requested for the contracting portion of the process.

Please note that this rate schedule is not considered in the evaluation process.

**Question #18:**

Will the winning team of this RFQ be responsible for completing all task items as referenced in Part 1: A – D? That narrative describes a larger, more in-depth effort than Tasks 1 – 4 as located in Part 2: Proposed Scope of Services in the RFQ.

**Answer:**

The "Administrative and General Information" section provides an overview of what APC is trying to accomplish with the Acadiana Regional Gauge Network. We feel this is significant to the process of design and implementation. All proposals should be responsive to the "Proposed Scope of Services". The project is laid out in the RFQ to assert that we are asking for a seamless transition between the network design and construction implementation of the project with appropriate levels of QA/QC, to the network transfer.

**Question #19:**

Will the construction contractor be sourced via a different bid or has one already been selected?

**Answer (to Question #19):**

As stated in the Scope of Services (Part 2), the Contractor selected via this RFQ process will be responsible in assisting APC for the procurement of gauge instruments and a construction contractor for the installation of the gauge attachments and support systems.

**Question #20:**

Can you confirm that a 3rd party (aka construction contractor) will now perform all installations of gauge equipment and support systems at each site (previously listed in Part 8, Section 1.D. of the original RFP)?

**Answer:**

The Contractor selected via this RFQ process will be responsible for the procurement of gauge instruments and a contractor for the installation of the gauge attachments and support systems.

**Question #21:**

We see that the tasks previously listed in Part 8, Sections 1.E. – 1.F. of the original RFP have been removed. Will these services/tasks be addressed by a 3rd party or are they being removed from the scope of work of the project completely?

**Answer:**

Those portions of the project will be procured and addressed at a later date. They are still a part of the overall project.

**Question #22:**

We see that the RFQ does not require any form of cost proposal or financial information. Can you please confirm that an updated cost proposal and associated financial information is not required as part of this RFQ submission?

**Answer:**

That is accurate. There is no cost proposal or financial information requested as a part of this RFQ.

**Question #23:**

Given the reduction in tasks in the proposed scope of services as compared with the original RFP, will the impacts to the price proposal be addressed with the winning firm during the contract negotiation event?

**Answer:**

This will be addressed during contract negotiations. However, nothing submitted with proposals to the original RFP have any bearing on this RFQ process.