

CITY OF YAKIMA

RFP 11225-P

**WATER UTILITY ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE
SYSTEM**

QUESTIONS RECEIVED FROM VENDORS

THROUGH NOVEMBER 7, 2012

BADGER

1. Will the City be granting an Extension for the RFP deadline?

Yes, Addendum No. 2 addresses this.

2. Are all meters located in meter pits/vaults?

All meters that the Contractor will change out are located in meter pits/vaults as indicated in Figures 3 and 4 of the RFP.

3. Will the City be pre-notifying its customers of the project?

The City will notify its customers when the project is ready to begin, but the Contractor is responsible for individual customer notifications based on their work schedule.

4. Will customer appointments be required for the meter change-out project?
If so will the City or the Contractor make the appointments?

The Contractor is responsible for making these arrangements while coordinating with the City.

5. Are meter pit/vault lids locked? If so, will the City be supplying tools to unlock and re-lock the meter pit/vault lids?

Lids are not locked.

6. Are any meter pit lids/vaults located in roadways/alleys?

Some are in roads and driveways, none are in alleys.

7. Are ALL meter pit lids as described with 7" and 10" cast iron inserts? How many 7" inserts and how many 10" inserts are in the City meter pit lid population?

Less than 50 lids are non-round, of the round lids approximately 50 percent are 7-inch inserts, and 50 percent are 10-inch inserts.

8. Who is the manufacture of the City's current cast iron meter pit lids?

Jordan Iron.

9. Are all 3/4" – 2" Positive Displacement meters in meter setters?

Yes.

10. Are all meter valves in working order? If not, can water be shut down at the curb stop by the contractor – without City notification OR will the City be responsible for turning off curb stops? Will the contractor or City be responsible for replacement inoperable valves? Will the City be providing replacement valves for the contractor?

All meters are in working order. The City will supply any valves found to be inoperable and the Contractor will replace under the MINOR WORK pay item.

11. Are pre and post meter change-out pictures required?

No, the only pre- and post- photos required are the sites where the data collection units will be installed.

12. Is the gathering of meter site GPS coordinates required?

The City will not require this, but if it is required for the design of the data collection system, the Contractor may choose to do this at their option.

13. Page 11680-10 "The contractor shall turn over existing registers to the Owner when they are removed." Are the registers to be tagged? Is there a schedule for when the registers are to be turned over to the Owner? (i.e., Daily, Weekly, Monthly?)

Per Addendum No. 2, the Contractor will remove and dispose of the registers.

14. What is the proposed disposition of changed-out meters? Contractor or City disposal?

Contractor will dispose.

15. The RFP states “Licenses & Permits” in several areas. Page 9 Section J. Subsection 1., Page 12, Section N., and Page 01160-1 Section 1.2. Other than the City of Yakima Business license, will the City be waiving any other additional Licenses, Permits, and Fees for the installation of water meters, endpoints, and gateway receivers and associated infrastructure? If not, what State, Municipal, and Local Permits, Licenses, and Fees are to be considered?

Addendum No. 2 addresses additional permit requirements.

16. When/how are installations turned back to the City for Bad Plumbing, Difficult Installation, Inoperable Valve(s), etc.?

This will be dealt with in the field on an as-needed basis.

17. What will the City supply in the way of parts, Connections, Gaskets, Valves, etc.?

The City will not furnish any materials or equipment for the project.

18. Does the City have a recycling plan for any project related packaging products such as cardboard? If so, how will the contractor have access to this plan?

The City has no recycling plan that applies to this project.

19. Can City street light poles be used for mounting Gateway Receiver infrastructure with the use of OWL’s for power? If so, are the City street lights powered 24 hours a day?

Yes, City street lights may be used for mounting data collectors. It is the Contractor’s responsibility to perform the necessary research for powering data collectors installed on City light poles.

20. Can City traffic signal poles be used for mounting Gateway Receiver infrastructure with the use of OWL’s for power? If so, are the City traffic signals powered 24 hours a day?

No, City traffic signals may not be used for mounting data collectors.

21. Do meters >3" have bypasses?

Compound meters 3-inch and larger have bypasses. These will be installed by the City.

22. Are 1.5" and 2" meters flanged?

Yes.

23. What % of 2" and greater meters DO NOT have existing strainers.

About 80 percent or more do not have strainers.

24. What is the material of existing service lines, i.e. copper, plastic, lead, galvanized, cast iron?

Service lines copper, galvanized, and cross-linked polyethylene.

25. There is reference to D/M/WBE's. Are the use of D/M/WBE's required for this project? If so, to what percentage of the overall project?

Use of D/M/WBEs are not "required," but a good faith effort to use D/M/WBE businesses is required, with the D/M/WBE goal being 10 percent of the total dollar value of the project (see Women and Minority Business Enterprise Policy in the Proposal).

26. Is there a City height limit for the installation of Service Poles and or Towers?

No.

27. Is it to be assumed that all meter installations are to be Like for Like?

Yes.

28. Can Gateway Receivers be installed ON provided City structures?

There is a potential for such mounting; however, the mounting location and configuration are subject to City approval.

FERGUSON WATERWORKS (SENSUS)

1. Can we have a water meter route file or list of meter accounts with the name, address, meter size and GPS locations for a formal propagation study?

List was provided on October 31, 2012.

2. In the RFP the City of Yakima indicates “The manufacturer selected to provide this work, as listed above, must serve as the prime contractor for the work”. Should or can the word manufacturer be replaced with “successful respondent selected” allowing for the company submitting the proposal to provide the City of Yakima with one complete performance bond as well as proper management of the project from start to finish?

This was clarified in Addendum No. 1.

3. Can the City of Yakima send us the RFP in word format?

The RFP will not be provided in Word format.

4. We also needed to know the projected residential and commercial growth within the City of Yakima in order to design the Sensus FlexNet System in the future.

The City of Yakima is not expanding at this time.

5. Can we receive some additional information on the manufacture of the meter box lids in the City of Yakima standard specification numbers W9, W10, W13 and W14? Quantities of each would be helpful.

Jordan Iron is the manufacturer. Please note that fewer than 50 lids are non-round, all others are as shown on Figure 3 (photo) and Figure 4 (drawing) of the RFP. Approximately half of the round lids have 7-inch inserts, and approximately half of the round lids have 10-inch inserts.

HD SUPPLY (NEPTUNE)

1. Per paragraph H, page 3, will we have an opportunity to negotiate contract terms and make changes in the contract upon award? Will we have the opportunity to object to additional changes introduced at the time the contract is negotiated?

The contract document in the RFP is not negotiable in terms of its language. Specific items of work in the Scope of Work may be negotiated prior to awarding a contract.

2. Performance Bond: Is the amount of the performance bond also limited to 25% of the proposal price?

The performance bond shall be equal to 25 percent of the proposal price per Item K (Performance Bond) in the General Information and Instructions to Proposers.

3. Is this a federal aid project? What is the funding source for the project?

The RFP cover states the funding source is Public Works Trust Fund, which are State dollars.

4. Does this project have a requirement for bidders to comply with D/M/WBE subcontracting provisions, and if so, which provisions? Do state or federal provisions apply? If federal, which agency provisions apply? Have D/M/WBE goals been set for this project, and if so, what are they? Does the City require documentation of compliance with D/M/WBE subcontracting provisions, including documentation of good faith efforts to be submitted with the bid? Is that documentation required to be submitted after award? If so, when must it be submitted? If there are D/M/WBE subcontracting requirements on this project, are they in addition to affirmative action requirements and goals of minority and women employment and training?

D/M/WBE goals are stated in the Proposal under the Women and Minority Business Enterprise Policy. A good faith effort in meeting the D/M/WBE goals is required on the part of the Contractor. Certification requirements stated in General Information and Instructions to Proposers, Item V (Subcontracting – D/M/WBE Reporting) do not apply to this project since the funding source is not the Contracting Agency.

5. General Conditions: Paragraph AA – Measurement and Payment: Where is “Section 1-09.9(1)” as referenced in subparagraph a on page 22? Where is “Section 1-05.1” referenced at the end of that section?

The referenced sections are from the WSDOT Standard Specifications, which have been incorporated into the RFP by reference in Item A (GENERAL) of the General Information and Instructions to Proposers.

6. Proposer’s Certification: Item 2 – What Subcontractor Certification is required by the Conditions?

Addressed in Addendum No. 2.

7. Is there retainage on this project?

Yes, in accordance with the referenced WSDOT Standard Specifications (specifically it is 1-09.9(1)), five (5) percent retainage is held with each progress payment; retainage is released when all work is completed and all contract conditions have been met.

8. On page 9 Paragraph I. Does the engineer have a list of approved independent testing agencies?

No.

9. In section 2.3 equipment Letter B it calls out for a Sensus T866 MicroRTU. Can you elaborate on what we are measuring here and if an equivalent has been identified?

The device integrated with the AMI system shall provide the same information as a meter register with MTU. No equivalents to the Sensus T866 have been identified in the RFP.

10. In section 4 Data Operations Center a detailed export file layout is given. Can we also contact the billing system provider, Paladin, and see if they are compatible with our native file transfer? Typically billing system providers are very adept at working with the transfer requirements of the different reading systems. It might be much cleaner to use a file transfer designed for the system selected.

Potential proposers may contact Paladin to ask clarifying questions such as this. The Paladin point of contact is listed in the RFP in the Technical Specifications, Section 11680-3.2A.

11. What wage classifications must be used for various sections of the meter install? Can we use one rate for general labor and another when a connection is broken i.e. when a meter is replaced?

The City is not the authority on the appropriate wage classifications to use, that authority resides with the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries.

12. The detail drawings for the Ring and cover show the insert as being a 10" or 7" diameter. Does the city have an approximate idea for the quantities for each size? Who is the current supplier(s)?

Approximately half the lids have 7-inch inserts and approximately half the lids have 10-inch inserts. The lid manufacturer is Jordan Iron.

13. Proposed contract language changes...

The City will not allow changes to the Contract Language.

ITRON

1. Can you tell me when the customer location data will be released? We are in urgent need to prepare a propagation study.

Copies of EXCEL spreadsheets with water service addresses and DCU site addresses were requested by and e-mailed to Itron on November 1, 2012.

2. Would the City be willing to extend the RFP response date by two weeks?

Extended to December 4, 2012, per Addendum 2 issued November 8, 2012.

3. Is there a deadline for technical questions?

Ten business days prior to proposal submission deadline.

4. The water service address file provided by the City has a list of over 29,000 meter locations and does not match the number of endpoints to be included within this proposal. Can you help clarify the discrepancy?

If you review the list there are many locations with 3 registers at one location; some are compounds with 2 registers; some are pits with 4 or 5 meters in one location; some are the fire service detect meters the City eliminated from the RFP (but will have an active service at the same location). The list also includes the 400 some deduct meters the City will address at a later time separate from this RFP. If the list is sorted by address or X-Y coordinates you should find the number of locations much closer to the number of meters in the Proposal.

5. Can you please provide a list of meter manufacturers for the 2440 meters that require retrofitting?

Badger Models 25, 35, 70, 55, 120, and 170 will be changing the register to make AMI compatible. The meters the City will be adding just an MTU are Badger, Elster, Hershey, and Metron, and they are all the three-wire type.

6. Can you please verify that the 104 registers that will be spliced are a 3-wire configuration?

Yes, they are three-wire type configuration.

7. Please provide the job classification under the prevailing wages for the following work to be done in the field:

- a. Meter Exchange including new meter, register, and MTU
- b. Register exchange including new register, and MTU
- c. ERT Retrofit including new MTU

The City is not the wage classification authority; that authority resides with Washington State Labor and Industries.

8. Please clarify if we should base our installation quantities using the Technical Specifications (TS) section on page 11680-32 or the in Section IV, Proposal on page 4 and 5. On page 11680-32 of the TS section it shows 2,206 ¾" meters are in the system requiring 2,100 register changes (this corresponds with item number 25 in the Proposal Sheet on page 5 in section Proposal). What is not known is the remaining 106. It states that we are to install MTU with existing meters, but the proposal sheet does not include a line item for just installing those 106 MTU's.

Installation quantities should be based on the Proposal on pages 4 and 5. All MTUs are included in line items 4 and 5.

9. The compound meters also state to install an MTU to the existing meter, but the proposal sheet does not have line items with these quantities specified. Since it's requested we install MTU's to the existing meter where would you like us to include the price to install these?

All of the MTUs, even for the compound meters, are included in line items 4 and 5 of the Proposal. Include the MTU hardware and installation price for all meters in these line items on page 4 of the Proposal.

10. Does the minimum minority participation goal of 10% as outlined on page 12 of Part IV, Proposal specifically apply to this project?

Minority participation goals are just that “goals,” they are not requirements. If you have minority businesses proposed for your team, you should mention that, otherwise we will assume you do not have any.

MUELLER SYSTEMS

1. In the interest of allowing time for proper investigation and preparation for the proposal, would the City please consider an extension of the Proposal due date by two weeks?

Addressed in Addendum No. 2.

2. Due to the requirement to review the contract and provide “Final Contract Language” - would the City please consider an extension to the close date for questions and contract issues? (to provide for our legal review and installation contractor review and offer questions).

Technical questions are due 10 business days prior to the Proposal submission deadline, questions received after that may not be answered prior to the Proposal submission deadline.

3. RFP 11225-P, Section X – Prosecution of Work, Item 1: Regarding “areas for protection or restoration, as described in the Contract,” how and when would such areas become apparent to the contractor. Does this apply in any case when a meter replacement and possibly a lid modification will likely be the only construction?

This applies to any situation during the course of the contract where the Contractor disturbs the existing meter vault and its surroundings as well as any facilities and surrounding areas used for the installation of DCUs.

4. In light of Addendum 1, must the Prime Contractor be a licensed general contractor?

Per Item N of the General Information and Instructions to Proposers, the Contractor is required to have a City of Yakima business license to perform the work. Addendum No. 2 addresses other licensing requirements for electrical service work.

5. Sect 01385, Part 1, 1.1 Scope – Requires pre and post construction photographs “including negatives.” Does this mean that film photography should be used and then be converted to a digital format, or would digital format be acceptable without negatives?

Digital photos are acceptable. Addendum No. 2 deletes references to negatives.

6. Seeing it as impractical for the contractor to survey 20k meter locations prior to the bid date, is there any estimate just how many meter boxes of each size and type would likely need to be removed and reset as part of the meter replacement process? Would the City consider having a cost item for each size meter and for such cases as this is required?

The total number of meters that needs to be removed and replaced is listed in the Proposal form. Resetting should be incorporated into the cost for meters to be installed by the Contractor.

7. Sect 11680 AMI System, Item 2.3, C2 – This item specifies use of a 4-20 mA signal output from the wastewater flow meters which is fine for flow rate but not conducive to accurate and reliable totalization. Is it the City’s intent to monitor flow rate or to have flow totalized? How is the City proposing to utilize and manage the data received from these wastewater meters? Please provide all wiring diagrams, power output, schematics, etc. for the 24 wastewater meters to be AMI equipped.

It is the City’s intent to obtain the same flow information from the wastewater meters as from the water meters. Wastewater flow meters manufacturers and models have been provided to allow the Proposer to determine how to integrate the commercial wastewater meters into the AMI system. Technical information on these meters can be obtained from the wastewater meter manufacturers.

8. Regarding meter lids, can a breakdown of the lid types be provided? We request a count on the circular lids, as well as confirmation that the circular lid is the only lid type in the City’s water system. Within the count of the circular lids, we also need a breakdown of the quantities of 7" and 10" inserts.

There are fewer than 50 non-round lids. There are approximately 50 percent 7-inch inserts and 50 percent 10-inch inserts for the round lids.

9. We request a sample of each of the circular lids, one with a 7" and one with a 10" insert for evaluation. We will pay the cost of freight to our facility and the return to the City. We anticipate a quick turnaround.

City can furnish lids. Prefer that proposers arrange to pick them up at the City public works office, but if that is not possible, they can be shipped.

10. Is it possible to use City light department equipment in the larger installation? We would anticipate a negotiated arrangement as to not negatively impact the City financially.

The City will not allow the use of its labor or equipment to install items that the Contractor is required to install under the contract.

11. We also request a list of locations where the street lights are equipped with a master photo cell/power source for multiple street lights. We have a couple of options for light pole installation and there are different configurations regarding the power source on the pole.

There is no list of list of locations where the streetlights are equipped with a master photo cell/power source for multiple streetlights, please contact Joe Rosenlund at (509) 576-6430 for further information in this regard.

12. Will all products under this project be shipped to the Public Works location at 2301 Fruitvale Blvd.? If so, will the contractor and installers have access to an area where the meters and other project materials are housed and that can be used to prep or stage for the day's work or does the City expect the awarded vendor to provide a non-City location for this purpose?

The Contractor shall provide all temporary facilities needed to stage materials and equipment for the project. No City facilities will be used as a shipping destination or staging site for materials and equipment except for City-installed items.

13. The Item Proposal Sheet does not allow for meter, register, and endpoint to be bundled as one price. We would like permission to provide as one unit price. Is this possible? When ordered and shipped as a complete unit, this is generally less expensive.

The Proposal form does not prevent the Proposer from offering reduced unit prices based on bundling meter, register, and MTU.

14. There are line items for ¾", 1", 1-1/2", 2", and 4" registers. Is it the City's intent to require the successful vendor to acquire the required encoded registers for the existing meters to be equipped with AMI-capable endpoints? Most manufacturers do not have access to multiple vendors' product, thus making the effort to acquire all of the various registers difficult. This could potentially cost the City additional monies and unnecessary time lost while procurement is completed. We would suggest that it would be in the City's best interests to procure these registers themselves and eliminate these line items from the cost proposal. If the City chooses to procure the registers, the City would supply the registers and installation could be completed by the contractor.

The City will consider this request.

15. There are some items that we typically propose with our AMI system that have no logical place in the Item Proposal Sheet. Would it be acceptable to the City to provide our pricing, as close to their suggested sheet, in a different format showing all products?

Please clarify what these additional items are.

16. Are taxes to be applied to materials, labor, and professional services? The annual hosting and maintenance would be a professional service that may not have tax applied. Please clarify.

Sales tax will apply to the data hosting services.

17. Also to confirm regarding taxes, we are to apply one tax charge for the aggregate project amount and not per line item. Please confirm.

Tax shall be applied to the subtotal amount shown on the Proposal form.

18. Regarding the 10-day question period, the RFP states that is 10 business days prior to the proposal submission date. Is that date Tuesday, November 6th or Monday, November 5th due to the Veteran's Day holiday on Monday, November 12th?

The due date for technical questions was November 5; with Addendum No. 2, the date has shifted to November 19.

19. After a thorough evaluation of the RFP document, it appears that the only items that need to be addressed are the items under the Proposer's Checklist. All other items throughout the document are to be used in the

preparation of the responses to those items in the Checklist. Please confirm.

The question is unclear.

20. Will all questions posed to the City from various vendors be answered, compiled, and provided to all vendors requesting that information?

Yes, this information will be made available the day after the pre-proposal conference.

21. Line item #8 in the Item Proposal Sheet shows “No Installation.” Who is responsible for these 2,000 meters becoming AMI capable? Please clarify.

The City will install the meters, but the Contractor will install the MTUs and make them AMI capable. The MTUs for these meters are included in the Proposal line item for MTUs.

22. Line item #22 in the Item Proposal Sheet does not show “City Installation” where all other 3" and larger meters indicate that. Is this single 6" meter to be installed by the successful bidder? If so, what type of meter – Turbine, Fire Service, or an alternative?

Line Item 22 will be installed by the City. Section 11680-1.6 Payment: 3-inch, 4-inch, and 6-inch Water Service Meter and Register (in the first bullets) should all have “, City Installation” added to them and they should be moved to the section for positive displacement water service meters. Addendum No. 2 covers this clarification.

23. The RFP document shows separate line items for meter/register and endpoint. Where the City is installing meters, will they also do final install of the endpoint?

Per Section 11680-1.6 the proposal price for all MTUs provided under this contract includes installation, accessories, software, programming, training, testing, and shipping. Therefore, all meters that will be installed by the City shall have an MTU installed by the Contractor.

24. May the successful vendor supply meters with factory-potted endpoints with no in-field splicing or connection?

Yes, this is what is called out in Section 11680-2.3C.

25. The RFP document states that 3/4" meters are to be utilized for residential services. The City previously has used 5/8" x 3/4" meters for residential services. Is this upsize to a 3/4" meter from a 5/8" x 3/4" meter a change being made in light of this project? If the 3/4" meter is in fact to be utilized, please indicate if it is to be a full 3/4" meter with a standard 9" lay length or a short 3/4" meter with a 7-1/2" lay length.

This question was previously responded to by Ken Alexander, Gray & Osborne, in his e-mail to Bryon Boyd of October 30, 2012. The response given was: Meters are 3/4 inch and have a 7-1/2-inch lay length.

26. Regarding Prevailing Wage, please confirm we can use Yakima Laborers - Underground Sewer & Water General Laborer & Topman \$32.75 7A 2Y classification.

The classification would appear to be appropriate, but the City is not the authority for labor classification, this is the purview of the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries.