

New York State Department of Health

Bureau of Vital Records

Solicitation of Interest #C041205

Vital Events Integrated System

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Questions below were received by the deadline announced in the Solicitation of Interest (SOI). The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) is not responsible for any errors or misinterpretation of any questions received.

The responses to questions included herein are the official responses by the State to questions posted by potential bidders and are hereby incorporated into the SOI # C041205. In the event of any conflict between the SOI and these responses, the requirements or information contained in these responses will prevail.

Question 1. Which programming language/platform is the legacy system built in?

Answer 1. All documentation, road maps, programming languages and other information explaining the legacy applications will be provided at time of contract award.

Question 2 a. What is the data output format from the legacy system for the migration?

Answer 2 a. The documentation, including data output formats, for the databases and legacy applications will be provided to the vendor.

Question 2 b. Will the data be provided to the vendor, or does the vendor need to extract the data from the system?

Answer 2 b. The data will need to be extracted from the databases.

Question 3. If the vendor is FHIR certified but hasn't had to use it yet to transmit data to NCHS, would a sample test run suffice to meet this requirement so that the vendor can demonstrate capacity to do this? Can this be done prior to bid being awarded or during the Acceptance Test period?

Answer 3. In the SOI, under the "Description" section, paragraph 6, it indicates the vendor must be FHIR certified and have implemented or tested the transmission of FHIR mortality data between jurisdictional Vital Records Offices and the NCHS. Therefore, the vendor must be able to provide proof of meeting this requirement at the time of SOI response.

Question 4. Would there be any allocation for MBE/WBE vendors in this contract?

Answer 4. The allocation, or lack thereof, for MBE/WBE will be determined at the time of the RFP issuance and/or at the time of contract award. DOH cannot provide that information at this time.

Question 5. The legacy system will be completely replaced with the new vital records management system including the ordering system. Is this correct, or will the new system just be used for placing orders but need to integrate with the legacy system?

Answer 5. The vendor will provide a comprehensive service package, including all functional elements (e.g. software, infrastructure, customer services, integration, etc.) to implement remote order and payment processing services, secure digital mailroom services and vital event electronic registration management system. The new system would integrate all of the above and include integration with existing systems.

Question 6. Will the new system be printing the certificates as well, and are there template specifications for this that will be provided, or does that need to be extracted from the legacy system?

Answer 6. The new system will not be printing certificates.

Question 7. Can there be a joint bid with multiple partner companies (not subcontractors) to provide the distinct services?

Answer 7. NYSDOH will utilize a single organization to provide the services outlined in the SOI. Vendors cannot propose a joint bid with partners or subcontractors.

Question 8. When is the RFP expected to be announced, and when is the bid expected to be awarded?

Answer 8. If an RFP is released, it would be released sometime in early 2025. Contract award from an RFP usually follows within 6 to 8 months from the RFP release date.

Question 9. Does the mail sorting facility have to be in a specific city/geographic location in New York State?

Answer 9. To provide NYSDOH with efficient mail order processing the mail sorting facility must be within the continental United States.

Question 10. What is the functional relationship between the current solicitation and the current Vital Records work that has already been completed or in flight?

Answer 10. The SOI seeks to identify organizations who have the ability to provide a comprehensive service package, including all functional elements (e.g. software, infrastructure,

etc.) to deliver a fully integrated vital event electronic registration management system, remote order and payment processing system and secure digital mailroom operations.

Question 11. What is the status of the vendor who was recently awarded the work supporting Fetal Birth and Death Modules?

Answer 11. C034882 contract was awarded to LexisNexis VitalChek Network, Inc. on 7/1/2019 for the services supporting Fetal Birth and Death Modules, and that contract is currently active. Any additional information needed should be submitted via a FOIL request.

Question 12. Is the government open to a custom-built solution, or is a pre-packaged commercial solution required?

Answer 12. The vendor may propose a Commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) product or a custom-built product.

Question 13. Does the government anticipate significant customizations would be required should a pre-packaged commercial solution be selected?

Answer 13. The pre-packed commercial solution may need to be tailored to meet the specific requirements, regulations and unique workflows required of the system.

Question 14. Is it acceptable to the government if the prime contractor is not FHIR certified, as long as a teaming partner possesses the required FHIR certification?

Answer 14. The vendor must be FHIR certified and have implemented or tested the transmission of FHIR mortality data between jurisdictional Vital Records Offices and the NCHS. NYSDOH will utilize a single organization to provide the services outlined in the SOI. Vendors cannot propose a joint bid with partners or use of subcontractors.

Question 15. Will the government accept references from a combination of prime and sub-contractors, towards the required three references?

Answer 15. The references must be based on the single organization performing the same or similar services described in the SOI, successfully implemented and still active.

Question 16. Will the government accept years of vital records experience from a combination of prime and sub-contractors towards the required five years of vital records experience?

Answer 16. As NYSDOH will utilize a single organization to provide the services outlined in the SOI and vendors cannot propose a joint bid with partners or use of subcontractors, the vendor must have the years of experience as a single organization performing each of the services described within the SOI.