MARYLAND STATE TREASURER'S OFFICE
Louis L. Goldstein Treasury Building
80 Calvert Street, Room 109
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR I5-SERIES HOSTING

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

May 24, 2019

Q-1.   <u>In Archive Requirements #8... the IFB states:</u>

"8) Hosted system must run IBM OS 7.1 to maintain compatibility with existing applications."

The IBM OS 7.1 level went end of support from IBM on April 30, 2018. Is the State of Maryland willing to accept the risk that may be involved in running on an unsupported OS release level?

A-1.   That State accepts the risk.

Q-2.   <u>In Archive Requirements #16... the IFB states:</u>

"16) The Office will provide a system save backup of the current system, using an IBM LTO-2 tape drive, onto an LTO-2 tape. Contractor must use the Offices' provided tape(s) to restore all Office applications and data to the hosted system."

Since the LTO2 technology is so old we do NOT have an LTO2 tape drive attached to our hosting system. We can provide for the conversion of an LTO2 tape format to a higher compatible format that is connected to our hosting system... <u>but in doing so, that would seem to violate the statement that we **"must"** use the LTO2 provided tape(s) to restore the applications and data.</u>

Please confirm if the LTO2 tape **"must"** be used for the restore process or if a conversion is allowed to a higher level LTO format.

As a point of reference... the LTO2 tape format was released in 2003 and has been superseded by LTO3, LTO4, LTO5, LTO6, LTO7 and LTO8... and LTO9, LTO10, LTO11 and LTO12 are under development. IBM no longer sells any LTO formats below LTO6 as of 2018

If we "must" restore from tapes supplied by the Offices' then we can possibly provide a loaner tape drive, and tapes, of a higher format that could be attached to your system for the system save backup.

A-2.   The State agrees that the conversion from the LT02 format is the most practical solution. See the First Amendment to the IFB.

Q-3.   In item #9 you state:

"Processor compatible with #8952 model 520 with Processor Feature 7459 Enterprise Edition and with equivalent or better processing power. (Current physical system has #8952 with Processor Feature 7459 Enterprise Edition)."

According to IBM documentation a 9406-520-8952 with the 7459 Enterprise Edition Processor Feature contains the following characteristics:

eServer i5 520 Summary

Server Feature	0900	0901	0902	0903	0904	0905
Processor(s)	8950x1 (1-Way)	8951x1 (1-Way)	8952x1 (1-Way)	8953x1 (1-Way)	8954x1 (1-Way)	8955x1 (2-Way)
Processor CPW	500	1000	1000	2400	3300	6000

The chart above indicates that this processor has a CPW rating of 1000

Do you concur that your minimum requirement for CPW is 1000?

A-3.   Yes.

Q-4.   In addition, 9406-520-8952 with the 7459 Enterprise Edition Processor Feature contains the following Functions and Software.

Do you concur that you will "require" all of the following Functions and Software?

Model 520 Enterprise Edition (#7453, #7455, #7457, #7459)
Function
- Support for multiple operating systems (i5/OS, AIX 5L, and Linux)
- Support for Web modernization (enhanced Webfacing support)
- Support for LPAR (up to four partitions on the #7459 Enterprise Edition and up to ten partitions per processor on the other Model 520 Enterprise Editions)
- Support for 5250 OLTP (maximum 5250 capacity)
- Installation Assistant using VMI for selected software

<u>Software</u>
- Licensing for i5/OS (one processor license for each of the minimum number of processors always activated when shipped from IBM)

- Licensing for DB2 Query Manager and SQL Developers Toolkit (one server license)
- Licensing for Performance Tools, including manager option (one server license)
- Licensing for Portal Express Plus (20 per-user licenses)

A-4.   No. The STO will require the following functions and software:

- Support for 5250 OLTP (maximum 5250 capacity)

Software
- Licensing for i5/OS (one processor license for each of the minimum number of processors always activated when shipped from IBM)
- Licensing for DB2 Query Manager and SQL Developers Toolkit (one server license)

Q-5.   Does the current environment include any third party applications that are hardware serial number or processor group specific with regard to licensing or operation?

A-5.   No.

Q-6.   Will there be requirement for any daily, weekly or monthly saves/backups?

A-6.   No.

Q-7.   In table 3.2.1 of the Archive Requirements section #3 indicates the need for NIST compliance. The data center locations where our cloud infrastructure is located are NIST compliant, however our firm is in the middle of a gap assessment to obtain NIST compliance as a service provider. Can you clarify the need and requirement for NIST compliance?

A-7.   NIST 800-53 compliance is required, as sensitive and PII data is to be stored.

Q-8.   At present time our firm does not have the infrastructure to support LTO-2 tapes. Our minimum would be LTO-3. Is there another means to transfer the data over a more current tape method or will the lack of LTO-2 support disqualify us from this opportunity?

A-8.   See response to Q-2 above.

Q-9.   Do we have to complete the Maryland Living Wage agreement? These are remote services which won't be housed in Maryland and we have no existing offices in Maryland.

A-9.   Yes. This Maryland Living wage is to be completed by any company that wishes to do business with the State.

Q-10.   Regarding the contract Form of Contract and Contract Affidavit, do those two documents need to be fully completed and signed before the bid is awarded with our submission, or is that done after the bid is awarded?

A-10.   The Contract and Contract Affidavit are completed and signed by the bidder that is awarded the Contract.