

# **Merrillville Community School Corporation**

6701 Delaware Street, Merrillville, IN 46410-3586

(219) 650-5300 FAX (219) 650-5320

**Bid# 567**

## **NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

The Board of School Trustees of the Merrillville Community School Corporation with its office located at 6701 Delaware Street, Merrillville, Indiana will receive sealed bids on or before 9:30 AM (local time) on November 22, 2024, at which time they will be opened for the following:

Virtual Server Platform Upgrade

Bids received after the above time and date will be returned unopened.

Specifications are on file at the Merrillville Community School Corporation, 6701 Delaware Street, Merrillville, Indiana, and may be picked up from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.

Specifications can also be accessed on the website: [www.mvsc.k12.in.us/bid](http://www.mvsc.k12.in.us/bid)

Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope with a return address. A certified check or a bid bond is to be filed with each bid in the amount of at least five percent (5%) of the total amount of the bid. A non-collusion affidavit must be executed.

The Board reserves the right to accept or reject all or any part of any bid or bids presented, reject all bids, or waive all informalities or irregularities in the bidding.

Dated this 1st day of November, 2024

**BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
MERRILLVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION**

November 1, 2024

Dear Vendor:

The enclosed packet of information includes an invitation to bid for a virtual server platform upgrade. This Invitation to Bid should give you important information relative to terms and conditions upon our receiving and awarding of the bid.

Additionally, we have included a Bid Cover Sheet, a Non-Collusion Affidavit, Instructions, and specifications for Bidders. Questions regarding the specifications should be directed to:

Steven J. Kerr, Director of Technology

Email: [sjkerr@mvsc.k12.in.us](mailto:sjkerr@mvsc.k12.in.us)

Ph: 219.650.5355

The bid opening is scheduled for November 22, 2024, at 9:30 AM local time. We look forward to receiving a bid from you.

Sincerely

Steven J. Kerr

Director of Technology

Merrillville Community School Corporation

## Bid Cover Sheet

<b>Owner:</b>	Merrillville Community School Corporation
<b>Project:</b>	Virtual Server Platform Upgrade
<b>Name of Bidder:</b>	
<b>Agent of Bidder (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>City/State:</b>	
<b>Telephone:</b>	
<b>Fax:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	
<b>Total Cost of all Items Bid:</b>	
<b>Anticipated Start Date(s):</b>	

The attached bid(s) conform(s) to the conditions as specified in the Invitation to Bid, the Instructions to Bidders, and the specifications furnished except where noted in the bid documents.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Bidder

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**NON-COLLUSION AFFIDAVIT**

The undersigned bidder or agent, being duly sworn on oath, says that he has not, nor has any other member, representative, or agent of the firm, company, corporation or partnership represented by him, entered into any combination, collusion or agreement with any person relative to the price to be bid by anyone at such letting nor to prevent any person from bidding nor to induce anyone to refrain from bidding, and that this bid is made without reference to any other bid and without any agreement, understanding or combination with any other person in reference to such bidding.

He further says that no person or persons, firms, or corporation has, have or will receive directly or indirectly, any rebate, fee, gift, commission or thing of value on account of such sale.

Bidder (Firm)\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Bidder or Agent\_\_\_\_\_

Subscribed and sworn to before me this\_\_\_\_ day of\_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_ .

My Commission Expires:\_\_\_\_\_

Notary Public Signature:\_\_\_\_\_

County and State of Residence:\_\_\_\_\_

## **Instructions and Specifications for Virtual Server Platform Upgrade**

Bid # 567

Due: 11/22/2024

### **I. Scope**

This specification intends to provide the Merrillville Community School Corporation(MCSC) with an upgrade to the current virtual server environment in the Network Operation Center(NOC) located at 276 East 68th Place, Merrillville, IN 46410. The upgrade will replace three of the five current running B200 blades on the Cisco UCS platform, the remaining two blades will continue to operate in the current configuration.

### **II. Bid Form**

The Non-Collusion Affidavit which is part of Bid Form 95 shall be properly completed, signed, and notarized.

### **III. Bid Deposit**

A Certified Check or Bid Bond in the amount of 5% of the Base Bid shall accompany each proposal. The Bonding Company on issuing a Bid Bond, thereby obligated themselves to furnish a Performance, Labor, and Material Bond in the full amount to the contract should the subject bidder be the low bidder.

### **IV. Submission of Bids**

Bids shall be submitted in sealed envelopes addressed to the Merrillville Community School Corporation and shall be clearly marked "Virtual Server Platform Upgrade". Bids will be received until 9:30 A.M. on November 22, 2024, at 6701 Delaware Street, Merrillville, Indiana 46410 at which time and place all bids will be opened and read aloud. Bids received subsequent to the date and time stated will be returned to the bidder unopened. No bid may be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days after the opening of the bids.

### **V. Board's Right Reserved**

The Board of School Trustees of the Merrillville Community School Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informality in the bidding. This includes the right to extend the date and time for receipt of the bids.

### **VI. Award of Contract – Rejection of Bids**

The contract will be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder or bidders on an item-by-item basis who comply with the conditions of these specifications provided the bid is reasonable and it is in the best interest of the owner to accept it. The bidder to whom the award is made will be notified at the earliest possible date. The owner also reserves the right to reject the bid of any bidder who had previously failed to perform properly or complete on time, contracts of a similar nature, who is not in a position to perform the contract, or who has habitually and without just cause neglected the payment of bills or otherwise disregarded their obligation to subcontractors,

material men, or employees. In determining the lowest responsible bidder, the following elements in addition to those previously mentioned will be considered:

1. Maintains a permanent place of business;
2. Has suitable financial status to meet the obligations incident to the work;
3. Has appropriate technical expertise.

## **VII Instructions to Bidders**

1. Each Bidder, by making a bid, represents an understanding of the Bidding Documents.
2. Each Bidder, by making a bid, represents that they have familiarized themselves with the local virtual environment and network setups. No claims for extra compensation shall be allowed due to the failure of any Bidder to examine the conditions that exist neither at the building site nor for conditions or difficulties encountered in the execution of the work which may have been avoided by such examination.

## **VIII Specific Requirements/Scope of Work**

The Vendor is responsible for fulfilling all of the responsibilities and requirements listed below. Any changes made to the responsibilities will need to be approved by the Merrillville Community School Corporation.

1. Remove all trash from the building daily during the installation.
2. Clean up, daily, the area they are working in during installation.
3. Prior to the beginning of any work, Merrillville Community School Corporation and the Vendor will meet to discuss all of the responsibilities laid out in the statement of work and to determine timelines for the project at an initial kickoff meeting.
4. The vendor must document and provide to MCSC all passwords, access codes, license keys, and any and all information needed to operate the hardware and software. Merrillville School Corporation must have ownership of all licensing and access to manufacturer-provided support.
5. Provide an appropriate timeline for the project installation and go-live time.
6. All work will be performed during normal working hours Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Changes in the schedule can be accommodated if done so in advance.
7. Security protocols for working in the building will be established during the kickoff meeting.
8. Installation of the entire project should not exceed 90 days from the start of the project. The project start date will be coordinated with the school corporation and winning bid vendor. The start date should not exceed 60 days past the award of the bid.
9. Weekly project meetings are mandatory and will include the vendor's project manager and a representative of the MCSC Technology Department.

10. The current VM environment must be maintained throughout the process. The voice server will remain in the current environment.
11. Brand names and Model Numbers are offered for the purpose of comparison only and are in no way intended to limit competition. However, other products must meet and/or exceed the specifications of the ones listed. Any substitutions must be submitted with complete cut sheets and warranty information.
12. Bid prices must include all delivery charges. Warranty information is to be provided for review. All warranties described in product literature are to be in effect. Warranty information should include all details of the warranty procedure for any warranty claims.
13. Manufacture-certified installers and a dedicated project manager are mandatory for this project.
14. A list of School corporations to which the bidder has sold the requested bid item(s) within the last 2 years, including contact information for references.
15. The vendor must be an authorized retailer of the hardware/software with certified staff available for installation and support.
16. The vendor will work with MCSC to determine any changes or additions needed to these specifications prior to the bid submission.
17. The vendor will perform Installation, configuration, and integration of new hardware with existing VMware infrastructure.
18. The vendor will perform the migration of existing VMs to new hardware, ensuring minimal downtime.
19. The vendor will perform performance testing and validation post-upgrade.
20. The vendor will provide documentation of the upgrade process and new infrastructure.
21. The vendor will provide staff training for MCSC technology staff.

### **Current Environment**

Cisco UCS 5108 with 5 B200M4 blades. Three blades are running the virtual server environment and the other two are running the Cisco Call management. Storage for all of these blades is handled by a NETAPP Array for storage. These are connected to dual Nexus 9000 switches and port-channelled to the backbone. This system will stay in place for the use of the Cisco Call Manager blades running VMware 5.5

The three B200 blades are running VMWare 6.0. There are 38 current VM servers running in the environment.

These environments will need to run in parallel as downtime must be limited.

MCSC currently uses Veeam for backups of the virtual machines and will continue to use this after the upgrade.

**Bid Item #1 Server**

- Dell PowerEdge R760 - ESX Host - Qty 3

## Server Specs

<b>PowerEdge R760 Server</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>No Trusted Platform Module</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>No HD, No Backplane, 2 CPU</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Intel® Xeon® Gold 6526Y 2.8G, 16C/32T, 20GT/s, 37.5M Cache, Turbo, HT (195W) DDR5-5200</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Intel® Xeon® Gold 6526Y 2.8G, 16C/32T, 20GT/s, 37.5M Cache, Turbo, HT (195W) DDR5-5200</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>No HBM</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Heatsink for 2 CPU configuration (CPU greater than 165W)</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Performance Optimized</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>5600MT/s RDIMMs</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>32GB RDIMM, 5600MT/s, Dual Rank</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>C0, Diskless Configuration (No RAID, No Controller)</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>No Controller</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>No Hard Drive</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Power Saving Dell Active Power Controller</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>UEFI BIOS Boot Mode with GPT Partition</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>No Energy Star</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>High Performance Fan x6</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Dual, Fully Redundant (1+1),Hot-Plug Power Supply 1400W, Mixed Mode</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>NEMA 5-15P to C13 Wall Plug, 125 Volt, 15 AMP, 10 Feet (3m), Power Cord, North America</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Riser Config 2, 2x8 FH Slots (Gen4), 4x8 FH Slots (Gen5), 2x16 LP Slots (Gen4)</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Motherboard supports ONLY CPUs below 250W (cannot upgrade to CPUs 250W and above), MLK</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>OpenManage Enterprise Advanced</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>iDRAC9, Enterprise 16G</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Intel E810-XXV Dual Port 10/25GbE SFP28, OCP NIC 3.0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Broadcom 5720 Dual Port 1GbE LOM</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Intel E810-XXV Dual Port 10/25GbE SFP28 Adapter, PCIe Low Profile</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>No Cables Required, No GPU Blanks</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>PowerEdge 2U Standard Bezel</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>BOSS-N1 controller card + with 2 M.2 480GB (RAID 1)</b>	<b>1</b>

<b>No Quick Sync</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>iDRAC,Factory Generated Password</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>iDRAC Service Module (ISM), NOT Installed</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>iDRAC Group Manager, Disabled</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>No Operating System, No Utility Partition, BOSS</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>No Media Required</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>ReadyRails Sliding Rails With Cable Management Arm</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Fan Foam, HDD 2U</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>No Systems Documentation, No OpenManage DVD Kit</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>PowerEdge R760 Shipping</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>PowerEdge R760 Shipping Material</b>	<b>1</b>

- Server Support 5 years
- All Cable and Transceivers will be included.

#### **Bid Item #2 Backup Hardware Solution**

- Dell PowerVault ME5084 - 100.8TB Raw Capacity

<b>Description</b>	<b>Qty</b>
<b>Dell ME5084 Storage Array</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>25Gb iSCSI 8 Port Dual 5U Controller</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>DAC Cable, SFP+, Copper, .5M</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>2.4TB 10K RPM SAS ISE 12Gbps 512e 2.5in Hot-plug Hard Drive</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Rack Rails 5U</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Power Supply, 2200W, Redundant, WW</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>C19-C20, PDU Style, 2.5 meter Power Cord, Qty 2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Dell PowerVault ME Series 5U-84, CE Marking</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Dell ME5084 Shipping</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>5 Years ProSupport Next Business Day Onsite Service</b>	<b>1</b>

- PowerVault ME5084 5-Year Support
- All necessary cables and transceivers will be included

### **Bid Item #3 Backup Cloud Solution**

- Using AWS or equivalent provides 100TB of cloud storage for backups of on-premise servers
- Backups will be performed using Veeam
- The vendor will work with MCSC on the configuration of Veeam Backups to the cloud-hosted solution using industry best practices.

### **Bid Item #4 Storage Array**

- Pure Storage FA-X20R4-ETH 22TB-10x2.2TB Qty 1
- All-Flash Tier 1
- Snapshots, Clones, In-line Data Reduction, Encryption (Includes all future software releases as long as on support)
- Enterprise Reliability and Consistent Performance
- SLA of Sub-millisecond average response times to all and critical applications
- Pure installation included
- Evergreen Forever Subscription, 4-Hour Delivery, 5Yr 24/7 Support

### **Bid Item #5 Installation**

- Install and configure server(s)
- Connect servers to the network with proper throughput and redundancy.
- Install the PureStorage all-flash storage array
- Connect storage to the network with proper redundancy.
- Work with MCSC to Configure network switches to support servers and PureStorage arrays.
- Ensure redundant paths for fault tolerance and proper cabling.
- Install and configure the virtualization platform (e.g., VMware) compatible with Dell and PureStorage systems.
- Use MCSC's existing VMware Licensing
- Ensure that the management software provides centralized control and monitoring.
- Apply necessary firmware updates and ensure hypervisor integration.
- Plan and execute data migration from the current Cisco-NetApp system with minimal downtime, ensuring secure transfer and data integrity.
- Perform end-to-end testing to verify performance, network connectivity, redundancy, and failover mechanisms before going live.
- The vendor will work with MCSC to configure the newest version of Veeam to backup VMs on the new system using industry best practices.
- Provide knowledge sharing with MCSC representatives before completion of the project.

**Alternate Bid Item # 6**

- Additional Pure Storage Array same spec as Item #4
- An additional storage array will be used for redundant storage at a separate location in the district.
- If this option is selected the Vendor will be responsible for installation and configuration of this device to work with the other storage array.

# Bid Sheet

Merrillville Community School Corporation  
6701 Delaware Street  
Merrillville, Indiana 46410  
Virtual Server Platform Upgrade

**Bid# 567**

**Due:** November 22, 2024

Bid Item #1 Server

Bid Price \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Bid Item #2 Backup Hardware Solution

Bid Price \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Bid Item #3 Backup Cloud Solution

Bid Price \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Bid Item #4 Storage Array

Bid Price \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Bid Item #5 Installation

Bid Price \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Bid Item # 6

Bid Price \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total for items bid

Bid Price \$ \_\_\_\_\_