

Questions and Answers for RFP 27-002JO

Storage Area Network Replacement

1. Are we able to submit these electronically? Just trying to understand if there is any benefit to physical or hand-delivered copies versus sending them electronically.
A: We are in transition between procurement platforms and for this bid it needs to be paper with a flash drive as well.
2. Payment and performance bonds are briefly mentioned in the bid, but there is no further guidance. Is there a form PflSD wants vendors to complete to accompany the bonds? Any additional information would be helpful.
A: For a technology project we do not need a payment and performance bond, usually only for construction projects. Please provide your insurance information that is requested on Addendum 2. Corrections have been made in the amended workbook.
3. Option 1 lists the five-year VMware Cloud Foundation term as October 1, 2027 through October 1, 2032. Should bidders retain those dates, or begin licensing at installation/contract start?
A: Begin the licensing at installation/contract start date as this will be a separate Broadcom licensing agreement not tied to any existing licensing.
4. Is an OEM-guaranteed effective usable capacity of at least 200 TB, after the documented data-reduction ratio, acceptable when physical usable capacity before reduction is below 200 TB?
A: The usable capacity of at least 200 TB must be guaranteed from the PFISD's end user, usable storage. The physical capacity can be less than, as long as the vendor guarantees adding capacity at no cost to the district if the 200 TB is not achieved during the full supported lifespan of the hardware.
5. What percentages or amounts are required for the payment and performance bonds, and is a bid bond also required?
A: For a technology project we do not need a payment and performance bond, usually only for construction projects. Please provide your insurance information that is requested on Addendum 2. Corrections have been made in the amended workbook.
6. May the prime satisfy the comparable Texas K-12 references and local support criteria through a fully disclosed OEM-authorized implementation subcontractor, with the prime remaining responsible for performance?
A: The Texas K-12 reference requests are intended for direct references. If the prime lists a Texas K-12 reference and local support that are met via a subcontractor, the subcontractor must be listed on the reference line.

7. The standard bid form states delivery within five business days after purchase order, while the pricing workbook requests product lead times. Will accepted quoted OEM lead times govern for this project?

A: Accepted and agreed upon lead time will govern this project.

8. For Option 1 storage, are FIPS drives a requirement? The RFP mandates encryption at rest and in transit as a functional requirement, but it does not specify FIPS 140-2/140-3 validation as a compliance standard for the drives, encryption modules, or overall solution. Additionally, this appears not to be listed as a technology requirement for Options 2-4.

A: Immediate FIPS 140-2 with a written plan and time frame to move to FIPS 140-3 with certification is a requirement. This can be done with either hardware or software as long as it is certified.

9. For Option 1 servers, is Broadcom 5719 Quad Port 1GbE Base-T Adapter, OCP 3.0 NIC +Sec required?

A: For Option 1 servers, it is NOT required as long as there is a separate dedicated iDRAC for out of band management.

10. For Option 1 servers, is iDRAC10, Datacenter 17G required or will iDRAC10 Enterprise suffice for PfISD's use case?

A: The edition and hardware version does not matter as long as it retains all the features, licensing, and support of the enterprise edition.

11. Can you please specify the CPU and memory requirements for your workloads? It was noticed that the CPU's are different across some of the solutions in the workbook. The CPU in Options 3 and 4 have a lower clock speed than the other solutions. We would expect the CPU in any hyper-converged solution to have more cores or more clock speed to account for hyper converged overhead. Same for RAM as there is also memory overhead requirements for HCI solutions.

A: The required HCI / iSCSI storage solutions were built meeting all the requirements of PFISD and solution products listed at the release of the RFP. No additional changes with CPU, clock speeds, or memory will be accepted at this time.

12. For Option 1 software, VMWare Cloud Foundation is listed as the required licensing. For options 2-4, the software requested is NCI Pro. Would PfISD allow VMWare vSphere Foundation (VVF) to be quoted instead, as this product aligns with the features and functionality of NCI Pro?

A: VVF will be accepted as the hypervisor only in the case that Broadcom will fully license and support VVF for the full length of the hardware of no less than 5 years. If quoting 7 years, the license must be all inclusive upfront. If Broadcom will not license, in total, for the full 5 or 7 years, upfront with no additional future charges, VVF will not be accepted.

13. Can PflISD please clarify the term and type of support that are required for the hardware? It appears that in Options 1-4 the support SLA's (4 hour, NBD, Mission Critical, 24x7, etc.) and terms (5 year, 7 year) listed on the Solution Workbook are each different, which can lead to massive pricing discrepancies.

A: Please quote all combinations of options with a minimum of 5 years and 7 years, if 7 years warranty is available. Quotes should be 24x7 phone support with hardware replacement in either 4 hours or NBD. Adjustments have been made in the workbook to allow for all options to be quoted.

14. Since the District's existing environment is 100% VMware/vSphere-based, will the evaluation of 'Implementation Plan' (criteria #6a) account for the relative migration complexity, cutover risk, and retraining effort associated with proposals that require a hypervisor change, versus proposals that preserve the existing hypervisor platform?

A: The district is aware of the difference in the migration impact and will evaluate the proposed solution accordingly.

15. If the sku's listed have changed, how should respondent correct? Can we make the update on the Solutions Workbook?

A: Respondent may change the sku on the Workbook in Column B and indicate "change" in column A for the corresponding sku change.

16. In Form F: Bid Form, item 3, we are agreeing to delivery to PflISD within 5 days of receipt of order. Are we able to amend that delivery window based on each hardware provider's ability to ship due to part constraints? Some will be able to ship in 7-14 days but others may need a 30 day window. Let us know if we can take exception to that based on each hardware manufacturer.

A: Accepted and agreed upon lead time will govern this project.