

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

System-Wide Print Solution Software

Project No. 11-41

August 30, 2011

To: All Prospective Respondents

From: Houston Community College, Procurement Operations

Subject: Informational Letter #1 – The following questions were received in Procurement Operations within the time period specified in the solicitation document Request for Proposals (RFP) for System-Wide Print Solution Software (#11-41).

Question #1:

Do you prefer "off the shelf" software, or custom developed software? There are "off the shelf" software options that do 90% of what you want, but there isn't anything that can do 100% of what you've outlined. So that means we can develop "plugins" for commercial software that's already out there or create software from scratch.

HCC Answer:

Vendors are to submit a bid based on the specifications in the RFP and to outline in detail all costs associated with the bid and method(s) proposed.

Question #2:

Can we submit 2 separate bids? One for using commercial "off the shelf" software and one for a custom developed solution? Each approach has its own pros and cons, as well as, short and long term benefits. For this reason, I think separate bids might better outline those differences.

HCC Answer:

Vendors are to submit a bid with their primary method of performing the requirements of the RFP. If there is a second method, the vendor can submit it as a secondary option. The primary method will be evaluated as the vendor's preferred method of delivery.

Question #3:

If you choose to have a custom developed solution, can we make it an open source project? Open source type licenses are very popular in academics. This particular project I feel would develop interest amongst many people, which in the long term, would reduce costs. This would also provide the opportunity to use interns, teachers and students that are interested in software development and open source projects and apply that interest in a real world solution.

HCC Answer:

See above answers.