COUNTY OF DANE
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
PURCHASING DIVISION
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TRAVIS MYREN
Director of Administration

CHARLES HICKLIN
Controller

ADDENDUM #2

DATE: November 12, 2009

TO: All Prospective Proposers

SUBJECT: Request for Proposal # 109116
Consulting Services – Siren Control and Related Warning System Improvements

The following addendum becomes a part of the above referenced RFP. All other terms and conditions remain in effect, unchanged.

A pre-proposal conference was held at the, 115 West Doty Street, Room 2107 Madison, WI 53703, WI, November 5,2009.

The following individuals were present at the pre-proposal conference:

Name	Affiliation
Greg Hubbard	Broychick & Associates
Neil Horden	Federal Engineering
Scott Fernhaber	Johnson Controls,
Duncan Kasukonis	American Signal Corp
Rick Wimberly	Galain Solutions
Tony Cypert	Federal Signal Corp
Dave Janda	Dane County Staff (Emergency Management)

The following is a listing of clarification answers to questions received up until November 10, 2009.

1. What is the budget for this project?

   Answer: There is $120,000 in the Department's approved 2009 capital budget and $581,250 in the 2010 capital budget request. The 2010 budget will be finalized the week of November 16, 2009 and the funding for the project is expected to be approved. Since the project is beginning late in the 2009 calendar year, the 2009 funding has also been carried forward to 2010.

2. Do you intend to evaluate or make improvements to siren coverage in the county?

Answer: No, we are making improvements to the radio control component only. Installation of new sirens is beyond the scope of this project.

3. Is it desired that all of the warning components listed in the RFP would be controlled by one computer?

Answer: Ideally yes, depending on feasibility and the results of the needs assessment and available alternatives identified in the study phase of this project. One goal of the project is to minimize the number of separate procedures for issuing warning messages across all of the various modes of dissemination.

4. Is the County's 911 Center the primary location of the computer control equipment?

Answer: Yes, however it is expected that there will be redundancies in the design, with backup equipment at other locations, including the County's Emergency Operations Center at a minimum.

5. Is it possible for a firm to submit a proposal for the consulting services in this RFP and then to also bid on the procurement of the selected alternative(s).

Answer: No. Adherence to the Statement of Objectivity is a mandatory requirement.

6. The consultant will need to meet with or be familiar with manufacturers and service suppliers in order to complete the market research step of the process, is there an intended path or direction to assure objectivity?

Answer: No, however, the end deliverable in this stage of the project is an RFP for procurement that includes a functional design for the system improvements. The RFP should not describe specific products, but rather describe the system capabilities and features such that fair competition is encouraged.

7. Is a radio propagation study available for the planned UHF radio system referenced in 1.2.4?

Answer: A propagation study is not currently available. Proposers can assume good county-wide coverage from the UHF system. The county is in the process of procuring significant improvements to the public safety radio system. Among those improvements is replacement of the current low-band VHF siren control radio link to a UHF path. Current designs are for transmitters to be located at the Verona and Larkin towers, both of which are expected to provide good county-wide coverage. Siren sites can be expected to include an outdoor pole-mounted or roof-top antenna at a minimum height of 25 to 30 feet.

8. Is there good county-wide EAS coverage?

Answer: The county does not independently operate an EAS system. The broadcast Emergency Alert System is countywide, dependant on individual radio and television station coverage. The county's entry point to the broadcast EAS is via arrangements with the National Weather Service in Sullivan and messages issued via NOAA Weather Radio and the NOAA Weather Wire Service. There is a NOAA Weather Radio transmitter in Madison that provides good countywide coverage. The county actively endorses the NOAA Weather Radio systems and promotes resident purchases of weather alert radios.

9. If a person is involved with two companies, one in the consulting business and one in the procurement business, can that person submit a proposal for this RFP?

Answer: No. Adherence to the Statement of Objectivity is a mandatory requirement.

10. How is the TTY feature used in the current Reverse 911 system?

Answer: TTY users can register their numbers in the system by contacting Emergency Management. A list of about 35 TTY numbers has been built in the system. Anytime a Tornado Warning is issued by the National Weather Service and the sirens are sounded, a brief text message is also sent to the TTY users. The actions of sounding the sirens and issuing the TTY messages are usually performed concurrently, but use separate computer systems, with separate procedures for activation.

11. Who has authority for issuing warnings? Is it possible to obtain copies of the county's emergency plans?

Answer: The county serves as a relay of weather-related warning issued by the National Weather Service. The relay is based on predetermined thresholds for variety of Watch and Warning products issued by the weather service. Local incident commanders have the authority to request activation of any or all components of the warning system for local, non-weather related events.

The county's emergency plan is not available as it is not a single document, but rather is in many volumes. However, an excerpt of the county's Emergency Support Function (ESF) 2B-Warning is included as an attachment for reference. This document is currently being updated and some information contained is no longer current. For example, the document makes reference to a county-operated tone-alert radio system. That system is obsolete and is no longer supported. The general concepts and policies described in the ESF are still accurate.

12. Is an interface with the WISCOM radio system desired?

Answer: No, interface with the WISCOM system is beyond the scope of this project.

13. Does the county use a web-based incident management application like WebEOC and is a link to warning system desired?

Answer: The county uses E-sponder as an incident management tool, but does not foresee or have plans for links to warning system.

14. Are any other links desired?

Answer: Yes, web-based dissemination of warning information, with text and visual presentation of the information is desired. Specific needs, scope and function of these applications will be further explored and clarified in the study phases of the project.

15. Are other indoor warning systems or devices planned or desired.

Answer: Not at this time. For indoor warnings, we would prefer to deliver messages and information over systems that people already have and use, such as telephone, TTY, cell phone, PDA, computer, and broadcast radio and television, rather than to promote the purchase of new devices. NOAA Weather Radio is an exception and the county does actively promote this system.

16. Can you explain what you mean by automating activation of the county warning system?

Answer: For example and discussion only, the details would be defined in the study phase of the project: When the National Weather Service issues a Tornado Warning, the text of the warning message and graphics of the warning area, along with coordinates of the warning area polygon are posted on weather service's website. An automated system could retrieve the data from the website and convert the text to email, TTY messaging, SMS message or other text system and automatically disseminate the information to system users. Related to the sirens, the system could retrieve the coordinates of the warning area polygon, overlay that polygon on a map of the siren system, dynamically group the sirens in that polygon, and on acknowledgement from the operator, automatically sound only the sirens in the warning area. Again, this is for discussion only and the operational, technical, and financial viability of this concept would be explored in the study phase of the project.

Please acknowledge receipt of addendum(s) on the bottom of the Signature Affidavit when you submit your proposal.

If you have any questions regarding this addendum, please contact me at 608/267-3523.

Francisco Silva, CPPB
Purchasing Agent