
Notice of Intent to Certify Sole Source

To: Interested Parties
From: Craig P. Orgeron, Ph.D.
CC: ITS Project Number 42077
Date: August 5, 2015
Re: Sole Source Certification Number 3800 for Maintenance and Support of the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) for the Mississippi Department of Public Safety (MDPS) Criminal Information Center (CIC)

Contact Name: Chris Grimmer

Contact Phone Number: 601-432-8208

Contact E-mail Address: Chris.Grimmer@its.ms.gov

Sole Source Certification Award Details

Regarding Information Technology Services (ITS) Sole Source Certification Number 3800 for maintenance and support of the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) for the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, please be advised that ITS intends to award AFIS maintenance to NEC Corporation of America as the sole source provider of manufacturer maintenance through June 30, 2016, in an amount not to exceed \$194,348.39. For an explanation regarding Mississippi state law, policy, and procedures for sole source procurements, refer to Attachment C: Sole Source Procurement Overview.

Sole Source Criteria

1. The product or services being purchased must perform a function for which no other product or source of services exist:

AFIS is a subsystem of the custom built Mississippi Criminal History System (MCHS), which processes fingerprints via cardscan and livescan machines from various law enforcement and non-law enforcement agencies. Support for the existing AFIS system is provided by NEC Corporation of America. The customer's sole source certification request is included as Attachment A.

2. The purchaser must be able to show specific business objectives that can be met only through the unique product or services:

Failure to have support and maintenance for AFIS would mean that MDPS would risk being unable to perform background checks and analyze fingerprints, which would cause delays in the hiring of teachers, bankers, doctors, and Commercial Driver

License (CDL) holders in the state of Mississippi. The customer's sole source certification request is included as Attachment A.

3. The product or services must be available only from the manufacturer and not through resellers who could submit competitive pricing for the product or services:

NEC has certified that the AFIS database structures, software applications and algorithms are proprietary to NEC. Its design can only be achieved through equipment and/or software provided and maintained by NEC. The vendor's sole source certification letter is included as Attachment B.

Schedule

Task	Date
First Advertisement Date	7/28/15
Second Advertisement Date	8/04/15
Response Deadline From Objectors	8/19/15, at 3:00 P.M. Central Time
Notice of Award/No Award Posted	Not before 8/20/15

Project Details

In June 1996, the ITS Board awarded RFP No. 2776 for the acquisition and implementation of a fully automated criminal history system with an integrated AFIS for the Mississippi Department of Public Safety to PRC, Inc. NEC Technologies was a subcontractor in the PRC proposal. PRC, Inc. was later acquired by Northrop Grumman Public Safety, Inc. (PSI). The MCHS was designed to operate on Hewlett Packard hardware platforms running the Unix operating system and a common Oracle database. At the time of implementation, Mississippi was one of fewer than ten states that had a state-of-the-art, coupled system whereby every arrest record in the system is automatically associated with a fingerprint record.

The MCHS is comprised of multiple subsystems, such as the Message Switch, the data Repository, the AFIS, the archiving Journal, and various COTS products. PSI had been the primary provider of maintenance services, not only for their products, but also for the other hardware and software subcontractors, which included NEC. AFIS, as a subsystem of MCHS, processes fingerprints via cardscan and livescan machines received from various law enforcement and non-law enforcement agencies.

The system was accepted by the State on April 13, 1998, with a one-year Warranty Period and an additional nine-year Maintenance Period. Pricing was established for the first four years, which ended April 13, 2003. PSI provided a quote for continued maintenance services for the remaining five years at a cost increase of eighty-two percent (82%) over what the State has been paying in the previous years. In October 2003, the ITS Board approved CIC's request to "unbundle" the maintenance contract and negotiate directly with NEC for hardware and software services for AFIS as the State would obtain better services at a lower cost.

In August 2007, CIC upgraded both AFIS hardware and software in accordance with the then-current emergency purchase law as outlined in Mississippi Code Annotated 31-7-13 (j). Since that time, NEC has continued to provide maintenance for AFIS.

MDPS CIC has made a business decision to continue using the existing AFIS system and to carry maintenance on the system, rather than incurring the expense of purchasing a new system.

Submission Instructions and Format of Response from Objecting Parties

Interested parties who have reason to believe that the manufacturer direct maintenance should not be certified as a sole source should provide information in the following format for the state

to use in determining whether or not to proceed with awarding the Sole Source contract to Avaya, Inc.

1.1 Interested Party Information

1.1.1 Contact Name, Phone Number and email address

1.1.2 Company Website URL, if applicable

1.2 Objection to Sole Source Certification

1.2.1 Interested parties must present specific objections to the Sole Source certification using the criteria listed above.

1.2.2 A statement regarding the Interested Party's capabilities as related to this Sole Source Certification Request.

1.3 Comments will be accepted at any time prior to Wednesday, August 19, 2015, at 3:00 p.m. (Central Time) to Chris Grimmer at Chris.Grimmer@its.ms.gov or at the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services, 3771 Eastwood Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39211. Responses may be delivered by hand, via regular mail, overnight delivery, e-mail, or by fax. Fax number is (601) 713-6380. ITS WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DELAYS IN THE DELIVERY OF RESPONSES. It is solely the responsibility of the Interested Parties that responses reach ITS on time. Interested Parties may contact Chris Grimmer to verify the receipt of their Responses. Responses received after the deadline will be rejected.

1.4 Interested Party responses should include the following information:

**SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO
Sole Source Certification No. 3800-42077
Accepted until August 19, 2015 @ 3:00 p.m.,
ATTENTION: Chris Grimmer**

If you have any questions concerning the information above or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Chris Grimmer at 601-432-8208 or via email at Chris.Grimmer@its.ms.gov.

Attachment A: Customer Sole Source Certification Request

Attachment B: Vendor Correspondence

Attachment C: Sole Source Procurement Overview

Sole Source Certification Request

Project Title: CIC AFIS Maintenance		Stimulus (ARRA) Funds? Yes No	
Customer Contact Information			
Agency/Public University: MS Dept. of Public Safety/CIC Address: 3891 Highway 468 West Pearl, MS 39208		Contact Person: Dewann Clark Phone: 601-933-2658 Fax: 601-933-2658 Email Address: dclark@dps.ms.gov	
MAGIC Customer Number (only required from state agencies):		Division/Dept: Handmail: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Project Summary <i>Narrative Description of Project</i> (include details of original acquisition if applicable): NEC provides support & maintenance for the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). NEC also provides onsite support for the AFIS system and contracts onsite support for the Mississippi Criminal History System (MCHS).			
ITS Acquisition Approval (CP-1) should be effective through this date (Please allow time for all vendor invoices to be paid):			
Cost Estimates <i>Fiscal Year</i>	Initial Costs	Ongoing Costs	Time Constraints Item Needed by: Funds Expire:
2016	\$194,348.39		Anticipated Lifecycle of Products/System (i.e. estimated years of effective use): one additional year of maintenance with the potential to be renewed yearly Discuss Funding (e.g. how much of needed funding is definite; total project budget; any matching or other non state funds) All of the funding is through DPS funds.
Total	\$194,348.39		
Acquisition Details			
Items Requested	Quantity	Description	Building Location(s)
Maintenance Support	1	NEC/ AFIS maintenance support	CIC
Describe platform & infrastructure (connectivity; software/hardware platforms; utilization of State Data Center resources: mainframe, eGovernment portal, payment engine, document management, hosting). For equipment or hosting outside the State Data Center, attach justification: There are no changes to the existing equipment/application.			
Progress to Date: What has been done related to this project, including any communication with ITS staff (data/voice/procurement/other)? A procurement request has been submitted. DPS has received a quote from the vendor.			
Sole Source Certification Note: Certification must be renewed for each revision or continuation of previous Sole Source Approvals.			
Specific business requirements to be met by the requested products or services: AFIS is a subsystem of the custom built Mississippi Criminal History System (MCHS), which processes fingerprints via cardscan and livescan machines from various law enforcement and non-law enforcement agencies. Support for the existing AFIS system is provided by NEC.			
Explain why these products or services are the only ones that can meet your needs (include unique features/special functionality): Failure to have support and maintenance for AFIS would mean that MDPS would risk being unable to perform background checks and analyze fingerprints, which would cause delays in the hiring of teachers, bankers, doctors, and Commercial Driver License holders in the State of Mississippi.			
Explain why the source is the only entity that can provide the products or services (Include other products/vendors researched or evaluated): NEC has states that the AFIS database structures, software applications and algorithms are NEC proprietary. The design of AFIS can only be achieved through equipment and/or software provided and maintained by NEC.			
Explain why the amount to be expended for the services is reasonable: N/A			
Explain what your agency did to obtain the best possible price for the services: N/A			
Vendor's Certification of Sole Source attached: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Vendor's proposal submitted: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
MAGIC Vendor Code(s) Vendor must be in MAGIC before a CP-1 can be issued.			
Place Order To Vendor Name: NEC America Vendor Address: 10850 Gold Center Dr. Suite 200 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670		Remit To Vendor Name: NEC America Vendor Address: JPM (Chase) LockBox-East PO Box 905362, Charlotte, NC 28290-5362	

By my signature, I certify that, to the best of my professional knowledge: the requested product or services are a sole source as outlined in the ITS Procurement Handbook, Rule 207.2:013-030 Procurement Types: Sole Source, and as outlined in Mississippi Code annotated Section 31-7-13. In addition, I acknowledge that there is a charge for ITS procurement services associated with this request which will be billed to the requestor by ITS and that my agency/public university is responsible for these charges/costs.


Name (Agency Head or Public University CIO)/Title


Signature Date



NEC Corporation of America
Biometrics Solutions Division
6535 N. State Hwy 161, 2nd Floor
Irving, TX 35039-2402

May 21, 2015

DeWann Clark
Business Systems Analyst for CIC
MS Department of Public Safety – MS

Ms. Clark,

This letter is to confirm the sole source availability for the design, coding, configuration and implementation of the Integra-ID Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) located at the Mississippi Department of Public Safety facility.

While input to the MDPS Integra Afis/Archive solution supports open and National Standards functionality approved for use by the Department of Public Safety, the database structures, software applications and algorithms are NEC proprietary. Furthermore, the design of the Integra AFIS can only be achieved through equipment and/or software provided by and maintained by NEC. No other vendor can modify proprietary data or make modification to products legally authorized to be marketed by NEC Corporation of America under penalty of patent infringement laws of the United States.

We do appreciate your confidence in NEC and our Biometrics products. Please do not hesitate to call me at 404-308-1166 if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Markham".

Tom Markham
Engineering Support Manager
Identification Solutions

Attachment C: Sole Source Procurement Overview

The acquisition of information technology for all state agencies and institutions of higher learning (IHLs) is within the scope of the ITS law, found in Mississippi Code Section 25-53-1, et seq., and the policies and procedures established in accordance with this statute, found in the ITS Procurement Handbook posted on the ITS website (www.its.ms.gov).

ITS enabling legislation requires that information technology hardware, software and services be acquired in a manner that insures the maximum of competition among all manufacturers and suppliers of such equipment and services. Accordingly, ITS promotes full and open competition through the issuance of open specifications and the objective evaluation of Interested Party proposals to determine the lowest and best offering to meet an agency's or public university's business requirements. True competition protects the integrity and credibility of purchasing in the public sector and is essential in providing best value and adequate contractual protection for the purchasing entity. In certain limited situations, information technology acquisitions may be sole-sourced.

ITS utilizes the provisions of Public Purchasing Law for Sole Source and Emergency procurements of information technology. Mississippi Public Purchasing Law (Mississippi Code Section 31-7-13) specifies that noncompetitive items available from one source only be exempted from bid requirements (sole-sourced). ITS statute, in Section 25-53-5 (p), permits ITS to utilize provisions in Public Purchasing Law or regulations, when applicable.

Per Public Purchasing law, acquisitions must meet the following criteria to be authorized as sole source:

1. The product or services being purchased must perform a function for which no other product or source of services exists,
2. The purchaser must be able to show specific business objectives that can be met only through the unique product or services, AND
3. The product or services must be available only from the manufacturer and NOT through resellers who could submit competitive pricing for the product or services. The vendor's correspondence regarding this criterion for this project is included as Attachment B.

By policy as documented in the ITS Procurement Handbook, acquisitions of IT services must include the following information to be authorized as sole source:

1. An explanation about why the amount to be expended is reasonable, and
2. An explanation regarding the efforts by the purchaser to obtain the best possible price.

For state agencies, approval of all technology purchases with a lifecycle cost of \$5,000 or less, including sole source purchases, has been delegated to the agency. The ITS Procurement Limits Policies for Agencies (a section in the ITS Procurement Handbook) require a minimum of two competitive written bids or proposals for technology purchases with a lifecycle cost over \$5,000 but not over \$50,000 (not over \$25,000 for projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act). Since, for single source items, the procuring agency will be unable to obtain two written bids, ITS must certify all sole source acquisitions of information technology with a lifecycle cost greater than \$5,000.

Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs) or public universities have been delegated the authority to certify sole source procurements up to \$250,000 lifecycle cost under the ITS Procurement Limits Policies for IHLs (a section in the ITS Procurement Handbook). For the certification of sole source procurements delegated to the CIOs at public universities, the public university must follow ITS' Sole Source Procedure, including advertisement of the intent to award as sole source. Institutions certifying a sole source purchase must ensure the criteria listed above are met and documented in writing by the institution and the Interested Party prior to certifying a product or service as sole source. Sole source documentation must be reviewed and approved by the IHL's CIO for any sole-source certification above \$5,000. All sole source documentation should be retained in the public university's procurement file. Sole source requests above \$250,000 lifecycle cost require ITS approval.

Attachment C: Sole Source Procurement Overview

Other than the delegations outlined above, all sole source technology procurements must be certified by ITS. The customer's Sole Source Certification Request for this project is included as Attachment A.

ITS thoroughly reviews Sole Source Certification Requests, determining if competing products and/or services exist. If so, ITS conducts a competitive procurement. If ITS' review confirms the sole source, then a Sole Source advertisement is issued, giving other Interested Parties an opportunity to identify competing products and/or services. Based upon the results of the Sole Source advertisement, ITS will either certify the request as a sole source or conduct a competitive procurement.