

RFP-IS-1804

Data Storage Solution Project

Inquiries and Responses

Inquiry #1, May 2, 2018:

1. Could you provide some details for these:

- The data storage solution must include a backup or export option.

This solution is intended to be primary file server storage, and we would like to be able to easily archive or backup data that is stored in this solution.

- The data storage solution should include the ability to view and export data usage information by file share or AD group.

The data storage solution should include a management or monitoring console that allows us to identify data usage by file share, by group, etc. We would like to be able to export that usage information (not the actual data) to support our billing process.

2. Also one more question, is there a budget in place for this project?

We do not have a specific amount budgeted for this project. The Contract award will be based on "best value." The County's evaluation team will evaluate all of the relevant factors, including responsiveness to the proposal requirements, qualifications of the proposer, the proposer's history in providing the service and any other reasonably established factor necessary to determine what proposer will provide the "best value" to the county.

Inquiry #2, May 2, 2018:

1. Do you use VMware or MS Hyper-V today?

Not in production.

2. Are you looking for a converged solution (e.g. Cisco UCS servers with storage in a Converged Architecture) for other projects in the future (databases, VDI, app servers)?

We are not looking for a specific type of solution.

3. Are you looking at doing some type of DR or Business Continuity after all the fires last year? The reason I ask is that I have a lot of County customers and some of them already are doing DR with us or are looking at doing it in the future.

The primary purpose of this solution is to replace aging file servers.

Inquiry #3, May 3, 2018:

1. Whether companies from Outside USA can apply for this?

(like, from India or Canada)

Yes.

2. Whether we need to come over there for meetings?

At this time, there is no requirement to travel to Inyo County; however, if we need a face-to-face meeting to finalize design and function, the contractor would be required to travel to Inyo County.

3. Can we perform the tasks (related to RFP) outside USA?

(like, from India or Canada)

The solution proposed will determine where the tasks will need to be performed; however, on-site training in Inyo County may be required and would be preferable.

4. Can we submit the proposals via email?

Yes.

Inquiry #4, May 3, 2018:

Is the data required to be stored on-prem or is a secure cloud solution a possibility?

We do not have a requirement that specifies where the data must be stored.

Inquiry #5, May 3, 2018:

1. Has the County considered a hyper-converged infrastructure (HCI) solution to this requirement?

We will consider all proposals.

2. You've got no SAN deployed now, according to the RFP. To deploy a SAN you'll need either Fibre Channel or iSCSI switches to do so. I'm assuming these would need to be provided?

Correct, we do not currently have a SAN in our datacenter. Any infrastructure necessary to deploy a proposed solution should be included in the proposal.

3. What backup software is currently being deployed?

Backup Exec.

4. Are you open to replacing your current tape backup approach with Cloud backup?

We will consider all proposals.

5. How important is performance? We ask this because we can provide either all hard disk, hybrid storage, or All Flash.

The primary purpose of this solution is to replace aging file servers. Performance should be sufficient for sharing networked files and folders.

Inquiry #6, May 3, 2018:

Regarding the standard county contract 113 - exhibit A- can you provide the information for exhibit A?

Exhibit A has just been posted. http://inyocounty.us/Bid_Packages.html -- Apologies for the oversight.

Also, you mentioned attachment B - What kind of insurance is associated with this? what are the limitations?

Attachment B to Exhibit A has been posted along with Exhibit A. Details are in that file.

Inquiry #7, May 7, 2018:

What is the timeline for this project? When would you like it to be implemented?

We do not have an established project timeline, but we are tentatively planning to begin implementation in early July 2018.

What is the reason you would like to upgrade your storage?

We have 10 file servers in our datacenter that are scheduled for replacement, and we are looking at alternatives to our traditional, server-per-department approach to providing networked storage.

What brands of storage have you considered? Have you also considered backup solutions?

We have considered several different brands and types of data storage. Types of data storage solutions that we have considered include traditional servers, distributed storage systems, hyperconverged systems, cloud storage, and storage area networks. We are interested in a data storage solution for this RFP and currently use LTO tape systems for data backup, but you are welcome to include backup solutions with your proposal.