

I N S T I T U T E F O R W O R K & T H E E C O N O M Y

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Request for Proposals

Develop and Implement an online asset map of select academic researchers at Illinois institutions operating within the Chicago metropolitan area

December 19, 2014

The Institute for Work and the Economy is requesting proposals from qualified vendors to develop and implement an online asset map of select academic researchers at Illinois institutions operating within the Chicago metropolitan area. Proposals are due by email to Peter A. Creticos by 5 p.m. central standard time on Friday, January 16, 2015.

Background

The proposed online asset map is a database and web platform (the "Tool") is the primary deliverable of the Northeastern Illinois Research Talent Asset Map Initiative. The Initiative's objective is to showcase the rich array of academic research talent in the region. Funding is in place for the initial 12-month pilot phase of the project focusing on academic researchers involved in R&D with respect to the science, engineering, and design of manufactured goods and intermediate inputs as well as to manufacturing processes and assembly.

It will be accomplished through a dynamic web platform with the profiles of as many as 600 faculty at higher educational institutions (universities and community colleges) and research institutes in Northeastern Illinois by research achievement, specialization, global co-authorships, and institutional affiliations. The long-term goal is to expand the Tool to capture and include all research disciplines and higher educational institutions within the reach of the [Chicago metropolitan statistical area](#) and to extend it to applicable researchers in the private sector.

The web platform will have the following specifications:

1. A profile of each participating researcher IWE will collect, verify and provide the profile information to the winning vendor. Each profile will include the following fields:

- First name
- Last name(s)
- Primary and alternative email addresses
- Educational degrees
- Professional and research recognitions

- Current positions and titles
 - Current and prior institutional affiliations,
 - Current and prior research interests
 - Research achievements and recognitions
 - Patents, co-patents and other protected intellectual property
 - Domestic and international collaborators
 - U.S. funded (government, foundation, and non-proprietary) projects
 - Internationally funded/co-funded projects
 - Other professional information as determined by the project advisory committee
 - Each profile will be aligned with the organizational structure of the institution
3. Publications and links to publications found online that are either authored or co-authored by each profiled researcher, including:
- The title of each publication and complete citation
 - A searchable abstract and, if available, content index of each publication
 - Each co-author and institutional affiliation and location of each co-author
4. Tools for analyzing and visualizing relationships from the data
- Automatic weekly updates of the publications profiles
 - An interface for routine updates of research lists (addition, creation, deletion of profiles to reflect organizational changes)
 - A protocol for quarterly manual review and updates to researcher profiles
 - Scalability to cover the Chicago MSA and eventually replicate in international metropolitan areas

In addition, the vendor is required to host, operate and maintain the web platform and application, including enhancements to the interface and to the ontology required for searches through September 30, 2015 of the application.

In the event that further funding is not forthcoming beyond September 30, 2015 that extends the pilot or expands the web platform, the vendor will be required to archive the content and applications used in this pilot project for a period of no less than 24 months.

To the extent permissible by law and the rules and regulations governing the use of federal grants by the Economic Development Administration of the U. S. Department of Commerce, the vendor shall retain all rights, title and interest in and to the intellectual property rights of proprietary data, software, information technology, interfaces and design in the Tool. Notwithstanding the foregoing, IWE shall own all rights, title and interest in and to the data and information in hard or electronic forms included in the Tool.

The Tool is intended to accomplish the following minimum objectives:

- It will enable manufacturing enterprises to identify, connect with and leverage the region's research and design talent in higher education
- It will identify clusters of research strengths and enable stakeholders to mitigate the region's weaknesses in research and design capacity
- It will support the goals of the Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation Institute
- It will support greater agglomerations of research and development talent in manufacturing and design as well as support increased investment and expenditures by area research universities

It will enable the region to compete more effectively for manufacturing and manufacturing research investment (domestic and foreign, public and private) by demonstrating the intellectual and applied research capabilities of the region.

Budget

Vendor's budget shall itemize and include:

- Cost to customize or build the Tool
- Cost and to host the Tool for an identified term
- The budget available to the vendor for the design, development and implementation as described above shall not exceed \$50,000.

Timeframe and Project Plan

The vendor is required to launch the platform within 90 days of the date when a contract is executed by both parties. In its response, the vendor must provide a timetable for launching the platform within 90 days. The Tool must remain live until at least September 30, 2015.

The vendor's response shall include:

- Time to scope
- Time to build
- Time to receive comments, test and correct
- Time to rollout

Extension beyond September 30, 2015

Any extension or expansion of the asset map and renewal of the contract with the vendor beyond September 30, 2015 shall not require competitive rebidding, however, any such renewal is subject to evaluation and may be subject to additional terms and conditions negotiated with the Institute for Work and the Economy.

Desired Skills

Respondents to this proposal:

- Must have suitable experience in the development and implementation of similar web platforms
- Must have a strong track record for on-time, on-budget performance and high customer satisfaction
- Must have a strong working knowledge of higher education institutions and independent research institutions
- Must have clear resources to maintain, support, modify and scale up the Tool until at least September 30, 2020.

Response Content

Responses to this proposal shall include the follow elements:

- Conceptualization of the online asset map design and web platform
- A description of the respondent's capabilities and experiences in developing and implementing similar products and platforms
- A description of existing proprietary applications, data sets, and other intellectual property owned or licensed by the applicant that will be used in the development and maintenance of the asset map or that will be part of the web platform; Or, as an alternative: the capabilities of mining and capturing, organizing, and meta-tagging information that may be obtained freely on the Internet or from data sets held privately by participating higher education institutions but made available in accordance with the terms of their agreement, and presenting the information contemplated for the asset map on a web platform
- A description of the respondent's capability and elements of a strategy to support searches by users who are not experts in manufacturing, manufacturing design, and the associated sciences and management practices
- Requirements of the Institute for Work and the Economy by the respondent and timetable
- Timetable for development, testing and launch of the asset map platform

- Qualifications of core members of the respondent team
- References from similar previous or existing projects (may be limited by confidentiality)

Response Delivery

All responses must:

- Be in writing in Adobe Portable Document format (PDF)
- Signed by the vendor's management with authority to commit vendor to the terms in the submitted proposal
- Include name and contact details for the person with whom IWE will communicate and send questions and
- Delivered by email to: creticos@workandeconomy.org (cc to pacreticos@gmail.com as a backup).

A vendors' conference will be held on Monday, December 29, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. CST. The conference will be conducted as a BigMarker forum that supports real time audio and video conferencing on the Web. Video is via Flash: participants are not required to upload any software in order to participate.

Response evaluation

Responses will be evaluated on "best value."

Decision

The Institute for Work and the Economy expects to make an award to a single winning respondent, however, it reserves the option to request that two or more respondents re-submit a joint proposal when the Institute determines that such a joint proposal takes advantage of complementary strengths in each of the proposals and provides the highest likelihood of success and highest value. A final decision will be made within two weeks of the deadline for receiving proposals