

RFP Questions and Clarifications Memorandum

To: Vendors Responding to RFP Number 3558 for the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH)
From: David L. Litchlitter
Date: September 9, 2008
Subject: Responses to Questions Submitted and Clarifications to Specifications
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The following questions were submitted to ITS and are being presented as they were submitted, except to remove any reference to a specific vendor. This information should assist you in formulating your response.

Question 1: *Page 116, Requirement 14, "Interface Requirements"*

The list of the required interfaces includes interface with Patient Information Management System (PIMS). Does MSDH expect that PIMS plays role of central Person Registry in the overall solution containing reference set of Person Information or it simply expects that propose solution where able to transfer patient information in PIMS?

Response: **The proposed solution, Mississippi Immunization and Disease Surveillance System (MIDSS), is expected to securely and automatically exchange information from PIMS to MIDSS.**

Question 2: *Page 69, Requirement 8.3*

Compliance with some of PHIN requirements listed in this section includes requirement to business processes, policies and procedures that need to be adopted and enforced by the Public Health Agency and that can not be addressed by a technical solution itself. What are MSDH expectations regarding covering these types of non-technical PHIN requirements in the proposals response?

Response: **MSDH has adopted Public Health Information Network (PHIN) and will address the business process policies and procedures as necessary.**

Question 3: *Page 125, Section 21, "Data Conversion Requirements," Item 21.1*

Could the State provide a table that clearly describes each legacy database that needs to be migrated, both in Phase 1 and Phase 2? For example, to include the name of the database, how many records, how many fields in a typical record, and the database platform.

Response:

Name	Number of Records	Fields in Record	Platform
Immunization Demographics	2.1 million	Up to 30	VSAM
Immunization History	24 million	Up to 34	DB2
Morbid	21,882	57	Foxpro 2.6 Windows
Morbid History	45,559	57	Foxpro 2.6 Windows
West Nile Virus	9,653	Up to 152	Foxpro 2.6 Windows
Animal	15,642	Up to 74	Foxpro 2.6 Windows
BT-Erlog	89,938	Up to 30	Foxpro 2.6 Windows
Asthma	70,000	Up to 30	Excel

Question 4: Will the State entertain an extension on the response due date?

Response: **No.**

Question 5: Because the system must operate over the existing MSDH network and make full utilization of the current State infrastructure and available network options, VII, 8.9.1, will user access to the new MIDSS system be governed exclusively by MSDH's existing Active Directory?

Response: **MSDH will use the existing Active Directory.**

Question 6: Do any of the existing applications require IPX to be routed over the wide area?

Response: **No.**

Question 7: Do any of the existing applications require the use of "tunneling of IPX" through IP in GRE tunnels?

Response: **No.**

Questions 8: Is the XML file mentioned in 3.3.2.2 generated once a year, or manually?

Response: **The XML file is generated annually through a manual process.**

Question 9: What specific GIS mapping system is being used as noted in VII, 3.3.2.3?

Response: ESRI ARC GIS is being used.

Questions 10: What is SPSS as mentioned in VII, 3.5.2?

Response: SPSS is Comprehensive Statistical Software (see www.spss.com)

Questions 11: What specific Security system is being used to protect the Siemens SIGNATURE proprietary mainframe system, i.e. RACF? CA Top Secret?

Response: RACF is being used.

Questions 12: Is there a preference to standardize on Oracle across all of the Labware and MLAB LIMS?

Response: No. MSDH is currently using Oracle across all LabWare. LabWare is replacing MLAB.

Questions 13: What is PRAMS as mentioned in VII, 3.8.1?

Response: PRAMS, the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, is a surveillance project of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state health departments. PRAMS collects state-specific, population-based data on maternal attitudes and experiences before, during, and shortly after pregnancy.

Question 14: In VII, 5.9, the RFP language eludes to areas which might have been overlooked by the State. Will the State be open to accepting an RFP response that only addresses what is perceived to be the missing, but most important portion of the solution?

Response: The proposed solution must address each requirement as stated and clarified in the RFP. The Vendor is expected to propose a complete functional solution. Vendors may include any additional components, details, etc. in his proposal to provide the most comprehensive solution addressing the needs of a Statewide Immunization and Disease Surveillance System beyond what is required in the RFP.

Question 15: Will they accept an ASP Model and a hosted Solution? If so, then will they accept the solution to be hosted in another state? (Our Hosting site is in Chicago, IL.)

References: page 34 "will operate within the confines of the existing State IT infrastructure"

page 35, "state will be responsible for securing all hardware,"etc...

Page 116, "use existing technical infrastructure and services"

Response: No.

Question 16: Please define "unlimited" in some numerical context?
Reference: Page 136, para 28.8 "provide the cost for a statewide enterprise license for an unlimited number of users"
They do stipulate they will accept an optional per user pricing, but they still require pricing for an unlimited number of users.

Response: **The MSDH currently has approximately 2,500 employees. This number is being provided for estimation purposes only. The license for unlimited use must not be limited to the number of employees specified.**

Question 17: Can the Vendor attach its own contract document(s) to the response and Exception Form?

Response: **Yes, but inclusion of the Vendor's contract does not imply that the State will use the Vendor's contract as the final document for signature.**

Question 18: In order to provide this pricing we request quantification for users for the "unlimited".

Response: See response to Question 16.

Questions 19: What reportable conditions are expected to be reported out of the new solution to the CDC in Phase I either using HL7 or the existing CDC NETSS format?

Response: **See Reportable Disease and Condition List attached.**

Question 20: Are all of the systems mentioned in the RFP in the Immunization and Disease Surveillance Areas expected to be replaced in Phase I?

- a. Immunization
 - i. PIMS Immunization Component?
 - ii. VACMAN?
 - iii. CoCASA?
- b. Epidemiology
 - i. MORBID
 - ii. West Nile
 - iii. Syndromic Surveillance
 - iv. Early Aberration Reporting System?

Response: **The systems to be replaced in Phase I include PIMS Immunization Component, Morbid, West Nile, Syndromic Surveillance and Early Aberration Reporting System. Vaccine Management System (VACMAN) is**

no longer used and Comprehensive Clinic Assessment Software Application (CoCASA) will be interfaced, since it is a CDC application.

Question 21: What is the priority of the desired interfaces ranked numerically in the order of desired implementation?

Response: While all components are important the suggested order might be:

- 1 – PIMS**
- 2 – LIMS**
- 3 – Pharmacy**
- 4 - Vital Records**
- 5 - Electronic Surveillance**
- 6 - TB/STD/HIV.**

Question 22: Can we have the data formats / file formats for all the different databases mentioned in the RFP?

Response: Please refer to Question 3 for Number of Records and Platform. Data and file formats will be provided to the awarded Vendor during the design phase.

Question 23: In a previous state bid, MSDH indicated that the district offices are connected back to the main office in Jackson via T1. MSDH indicated that some of the offices/clinics were in the process of having their bandwidth upgraded. Can you confirm whether this has been completed? Can MSDH confirm the bandwidth of all these sites?

Response: All sites are currently using at least a DSL or greater connection.

Question 24: MSDH requires a vendor-staffed help desk at the implementation stage of the project. Will the Tier 1 and 2 issues require on site visit or is remote assistance also acceptable?

Response: Both are acceptable.

Question 25: Will Mississippi consider a four week extension for proposal submissions?

Response: No.

Questions 26: Please identify the specific Class 1, 2, 3, 4 diseases that will be included in the MIDSS.

Response: See response to Question 19, and the Reportable Disease and Condition List.

Question 27: Please confirm the following databases must be converted to the MIDSS:
a. MORBID

- b. West Nile Virus System
- c. Syndromic Surveillance BT_ER
- d. Syndromic Surveillance EARS

Response : Morbid and West Nile Virus will be converted. The Syndromic Surveillance BT_ER may be converted. MSDH envisions the new system will be more robust. EARS data will be imported as they are currently stored in an Oracle table.

Question 28: Please confirm the STELLAR database must be converted to the MIDSS.

Response: MSDH is uncertain whether conversion of the STELLAR database will be necessary. STELLAR is a CDC provided application and must be replaced. Vendors should provide the cost to replace the functionality provided by STELLAR and the cost of converting the data to MIDSS.

Question 29: Please confirm the Asthma database must be converted to the MIDSS.

Response: Yes, Asthma data currently resides in Excel spreadsheets and must be converted.

Question 30: Please identify the specific TB databases that must be converted to the MIDSS.

Response: TB is an interface. There is no conversion necessary.

Question 31: Requirement 12.6.3 specifies: “Collect, store, select and report patients by agency-specified standard nomenclature.” Please provide agency-specific standard nomenclature expected by MSDH in order to facilitate vendor’s ability to respond to this requirement.

Response: Examples of the MSDH Standard nomenclature are: the PHIN Vocabulary Access and Distribution system (VADS), National Uniform Billing Committee (NUBC) UB-04, and International Classification of Disease Clinical modification ninth revision and tenth revision (vital statistics only).

Question 32: Requirement 12.4.1 states “Provide data files as defined by each Program area for upload to CDC and other state systems in accordance with the current CDC PHIN Requirements.” Please provide specific data files required and defined by each program area. What is the number of data files required? How many program areas are there?

Response: Epidemiology currently provides National Notifiable Disease Surveillance Data to CDC via the National Electronic Telecommunications System for Surveillance (NETSS). CDC has developed message guides for several reportable conditions. Epidemiology currently sends one file weekly via

NETSS to CDC. As message guides are developed for all conditions, the NETSS file will eventually be replaced.

Question 33: Requirement 13.2.11 states “Track billing/accounts receivable within the STD/HIV system.” The PIMS provides billing functionality. Does MSDH expect the new MIDSS to provide billing and financial accounting functionality or will the MIDSS interface with PIMS and PIMS will continue providing billing and financial services? Please confirm that STD/HIV is not in scope for this project.

Response: **PIMS will continue to handle the billing. The proposed solution must interface with STD/HIV; see Section VII, 14 on page 116 of the RFP.**

Questions 34: How should vendors mark proprietary information provided within the proposal to insure this information is not released should an external entity request copies of the proposal submissions via FOIA?

Response: **Vendors may either footnote the material or provide a cover page indicating pages to be considered confidential. When ITS receives a request to release Third Party Information, the provider of this information is notified of the name and address of the party requesting the information and the nature of the information requested. The provider of the information is given ten (10) working days to obtain a court order protecting the information as confidential. See Section 019-010 ITS Public Record Procedures, of the Procurement Handbook located on the ITS website www.its.ms.gov under Procurement.**

RFP responses are due **September 22, 2008**, at 3:00 p.m. (Central Time).

If you have any questions concerning the information above or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Donna Hamilton at 601-359-9613 or via email at Donna.Hamilton@its.ms.gov.

cc: File 37526