

CITY OF HOUSTON

Sylvester Turner

Mayor



Mario C. Diaz Director of Aviation

George Bush Intercontinental ~ William P. Hobby ~ Ellington Airport

September 14, 2023

SUBJECT: Letter of Clarification No. 1

REFERENCE: Request for Qualification(s) (RFQ) for Design-Build Services for the TSU Flight

Academy at Ellington Airport (EFD); Solicitation No.: H93-EFDTFA-2024-003

TO: All Prospective Respondents:

This Letter of Clarification (LOC) is issued for the following reasons:

- I. To replace/delete the following:
- 1. Replace page 14 and 16, with the attached revised RFQ evaluation criteria weights.
- 2. **Delete** section 12.4.6.2 on page 21 of the RFQ in its entirety.
- 3. **Delete** section 5.5.B.3 on page 15 of the Scope of Work in its entirety.
- 4. **Delete** section 6.6 on page 22 of the Scope of Work in its entirety.
- II. To respond to questions.
- 1. **Question:** Can an architect be on more than one team?

Response: Yes.

Question: We understand the requirements for MWBE participation with regard to design but has there been a requirement set for total construction participation as it is written in the RFQ (TBD)?

Response: The M/WBE goal for construction is 30% (23% MBE and 7% WBE).

3. Question: In the Design-Build Scope of Services (attachment A), it references a 90-day design schedule. Does this take into account the time for review/approval of the drawings, permitting and approval of the request form 7460? Past history of the permitting approval process and the FAA approval of the 7460 form would make this infeasible. Please clarify the intent of the 90-day schedule.

Response: Yes, several supporting documents are currently being prepared. HAS Infrastructure is working to streamline issues ranging from FAA 7460, CSPP compliance, Drainage (Detention) requirements, Environmental Compliance, etc. which could potentially slow our progress during this tight proposed design and permitting schedule.

Council Members: Amy Peck Tarsha Jackson Abbie Kamin Carolyn Evans-Shabazz Dave Martin Tiffany D. Thomas Mary Nan Huffman Karla Cisneros Robert Gallegos Edward Pollard Martha Castex-Tatum Mike Knox David W. Robinson Michael Kubosh Letitia Plummer Sallie Alcorn

Controller: Chris B. Brown

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4. Question: Due to experienced current lead times for critical building components, there is concern that the designated 275-day construction schedule may not be met. Will there be an extension of time or variances be granted for these critical lead times?

Response: An extension may be granted as needed.

5. Question: Please clarify the night work and other off-work hour requirements listed in Item 3.1.3 of the RFQ. What are the allowed days/hours that work can be performed? What work processes would require night hours?

Response: Typical hours will be 7AM to 3PM with other hours as required by Operations. Off hours due to expedited construction schedule is not anticipated at this time.

6. Question: Please provide the anticipated city council meeting dates where the DB will be selected and the council meeting date for when the NTP for design-build services will be provided.

Response: Please refer to the estimated procurement schedule in Section 5.1 on page 5 of the RFQ document.

7. Question: Please provide an estimated project value. This will be required for our mandatory surety letter.

Response: In response to this RFQ, each respondent is required to provide the surety letter of intent, please do not include the amount. The required bond documents will be given to the shortlisted firms.

8. Question: In the RFQ it states that there should be a separate sealed proposal for safety records and a separate sealed proposal for financial records. On page 18 it shows the breakdown of 2 envelopes to be prepared, one for city required forms and the other for the statement of qualifications. In which envelope should the safety sealed proposal and financial sealed proposals be placed?

Response: The safety records and the separate sealed financial capabilities shall be in the envelope #2.

- 9. Question: On page 15 (Paragraph 5.5.B.3.) of the Design-Build Scope of Services indicates an option to use an existing Red-Dot Company Pre-Engineered Metal Building (PEMB).
 - a. Does this option include the dismantling and relocation of said existing structure?
 - b. If so, where is this located, and what/if any warranty would be required?
 - c. What is the size of the existing Red-Dot PEMB structure that is being considered and are there shop drawings that can be provided?

Response: This section has been deleted from the Design-Build Scope of Services.

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10. Question: Is there a HAS or COH pre-approved vendors list that needs to be considered for subcontractor/vendor solicitations?

Response: No, there are no pre-approved vendors.

11. Question: What is going to be the required date for meeting the final GMP? On page 6 line 5.1 in the solicitation schedule, it calls for technical and cost proposals due 10/23/2023.

Response: RFQ Respondents (STEP 1) MUST FIRST BE selected for the short list (STEP 2) in which fees and pricing will be required. If selected, respondents are expected to provide cost proposals per the estimated solicitation schedule in Section 5.1 by 10/23/2023.

NOTE: Per Section 11.5.9: No fees or pricing should be submitted in this STEP ONE: RFQ Response (due 9/28/2023).

Question: In relation to question 11 above, is this cost proposal referenced just the Design-Build teams Fees? On page 17 line 11.7.7.7 it states that the city intends to accept a GMP based on the bridging documents provided in the RFQ.

Response: STEP 2 Short listed respondents are required to submit a Technical and Cost Proposal as defined in Section 11.7.7.7.

13. Question: In relation to question 11 above, is the intent to get to a final GMP based on the bridging documents without the fully designed drawings for construction?

Response: Yes. The GMP will be based on:

- 1. The bridging documents included in the RFQ: Drawings, outline specs, Scope of Services.
- 2. Clarification provided in this Letter of Clarification.
- 3. Additional clarification during step 2. (Refer to Section 5.1 solicitation schedule).
- **Question:** In relation to question 11 above, there is a statement on page 21 line 12.4.6.2 that says pricing data and a lump sum will be requested during the negotiation with the highest rated firm. Please clarify the final delivery date and method.

Response: This project pricing structure and contract is based on a GMP. Section 12.4.6.2 (lump sum) is deleted.

Question: During the pre-submission conference, it was stated that the length of the contract would be 365 days, with 90 days allocated for design and 275 day allocated for construction. Please provide context as to how drawing reviews completed by HAS and TSU will fit within the 90-day period?

Response: The interim design review(s) along with final permit review will be expedited.

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Question: Can HAS/BSG provided insight as to how the expedited permitting will work?
Response: HAS Infrastructure will work closely with TIP/BSG to expedite delivery cycles. If needed, scheduled review DB team with permit officials to ensure streamlined communication.
Additionally, early determination meetings w/ BSG to resolve any open issues will be conducted with Permit officials to ensure timely reviews.

17. Question: Can HAS clarify what design deliverable is expected at the 90-day mark (IFC documents, footings & foundations package, etc.)

Response: The 90-day package will be an IFP submittal. If the DB proposal includes a PEMB, a deferred submittal of the metal building is expected.

Highlights of the IFP package to include all critical path items including the following: civil/electrical infrastructure utilities and required detention, structural building pad, foundation/slab, along with architectural plans, elev sections, schedules and details.

HAS Infrastructure to facilitate any issues related to this submittal.

18. Question: Who will be responsible for the EA/NEPA process and what is the timeline for these approvals to be completed?

Response: HAS is currently processing these documents.

19. Question: During the pre-submission conference, HAS stated that permitting from BSG and the City would be expedited. How much time should proposers assume for permitting?

Response: Please refer to the response provided to Question #17.

20. Question: Has HAS started the 7460 process, or will this wait until after award?

Response: Yes, the process has started.

21. Question: Are construction administration services for the design team to be included in the design cost or the construction cost?

Response: This may be decided by the General Contractor.

Question: Item 11.7.7.7 states "City intends to accept a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) based on the bridging documents enclosed. Describe Respondent's process for ensuring that the design documents provide the information necessary to arrive at a complete GMP, including all City requirements with reasonable contingencies.", however section 12.4.6.2 states, "Pricing data and Firm Fixed Price (Lump Sum) will be requested during the negotiation with the highest ranked firm." Please clarify if the City intends to utilize a GMP or a Firm Fixed Price approached.

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Response: Section 11.7.7.7 is correct. Refer to response to question 12. However, section 12.4.6.2 verbiage 'Firm Fixed Price (Lump Sum) to be omitted.

Question: Section 3.1.3 of the RFQ states that night work and other off hours work should be anticipated. Please clarify which work for this scope will require night or off hours work.

Response: Please refer to the response provided to Question #5.

Question: What is the expectation for the design-builder to engage TSU during the design and construction process?

Response: TSU will participate in milestone reviews. The Design Build GC communications requiring TSU decision making and involvement will be through HAS Infrastructure.

Question: Section 6.2.1.1 states, "The culmination of this phase (Phase 1) of service will include negotiation of a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP)." however, 12.4.6.2 states, "Pricing data and Firm Fixed Price (Lump Sum) will be requested during the negotiation with the highest ranked firm." What is HAS's timeline for reaching a GMP or a firm fixed price? Is it during the contract negotiation phase or after the design phase?

Response: This project pricing structure and contract is based on a GMP. The final deadline for GMP negotiations is estimated to be 11/10/2023.

26. **Question:** Section 9.1.1 states, "All submissions under this RFQ must be valid for a period of one-hundred and eighty (180) consecutive calendar days from the date of receipt by the City." Given the timeline expressed at the pre-submission conference and the schedule outlined in section 5.1, will the 180 days be revised to match the schedule outlined in section 5.1?

Response: Correct. Section 9.1.1 should match the schedule duration shown in Section 5.1.

27. Question: Have any geotechnical investigations on the site been completed? If so, can that information be made available?

Response: This geotechnical information will be shared once known.

Question: 5.5.B of the Scope of Services states, "HAS is also providing an option to utilize an existing Pre-engineered Metal Building (PEMB) steel structure by Red DOT Buildings. This PEMB structure was originally purposed for the Hobby Airport Consolidated Maintenance Facility project. The Design Builder will have to evaluate and weigh the schedule, cost, and risks associated with either the use of the existing steel structure or the procurement of a new structure. The selected option will become part of the Design Builder's proposal." Can HAS please provide the specifics of the existing building.

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Response: This section has been deleted from the Design-Build Scope of Services.

29. **Question:** Please confirm if the design-builder is required to carry a third-party testing agency for this project, or if the testing agency will be provided by HAS?

Response: HAS will provide QA City Acceptance testing while QC testing will be performed by the successful respondent.

30. **Question:** Please provide the General Conditions identified as Exhibit C to the sample Design-Build Agreement?

Response: The bond documents will be requested from the shortlisted firms.

31. **Question:** Please provide copies of the forms of bonds being requested by the City for the Project.

Response: Please refer to the response provided to Question #7.

32. **Question:** Please identify the City's anticipated insurance requirements for the Project.

Response: The insurance documents will be requested from the shortlisted firms.

33. Question: Given the delivery method selected, need to complete the preconstruction phase, and lack of contract amount to bond until the GMP Amendment is executed, we interpret the provision in the RFP requesting payment and performance bonds within 10 days after the Design-Build Agreement is executed as 10 days after the GMP Amendment is executed. Please confirm.

Response: The bond documents will be requested from the shortlisted firms.

34. **Question:** To the extent the City is intending to provide an OCP or builder's risk insurance for the Project, please provide copies of all associated insurance policies.

Response: All associated insurance policies shall be provided by the awarded firm.

35. **Question:** Please identify the City's current budget for the Project.

Response: The Total Development Cost Allocation can be found in the Capital Improvement Plan.

36. Question: Please confirm that the City has allocated funds for the Project equal to or in excess of its budget.

Response: The HAS Infrastructure Division confirms this statement.

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37. **Question:** To the extent such allocation has already occurred, please identify the City's allocation of funds as set forth in Section 10.7.2 of the sample Design-Build Agreement.

Response: The HAS Infrastructure Division confirms this statement.

38. **Question:** Please confirm that the term Agreed Cost of the Work is intended to mean the City's budget for the Project.

Response: Yes. The agreed costs of the Work should not be more than the City Budget for the Project.

39. Question: Please identify the City's anticipated liquidated damage amounts as referenced in Section 8.1 of the draft Design-Build Agreement.

Response: This information will be provided only to the firms shortlisted.

Question: Due to the tight timeline of design and construction, is HAS willing to waive the provisions of 2.1.C of the Scope of Services? Will this change depending on if the project is a firm fixed price or a GMP?

Response: Project contract will be structured as a GMP.

41. Question: Scope of Services - 4.3.C states that all airport construction contractor employees are required to complete the HACEC training. Is this at the prime level only, or is this a requirement of subcontractors as well?

Response: The HACEC training confirmation will be provided to the shortlisted firms.

42. Question: Is the cost of the HACEC training the responsibility of HAS or the prime contractor?

Response: A Cash Allowance will be established to go toward training costs.

43. Question: Is there a narrative to accompany the drawings included in the Basis of Design documents?

Response: A short narrative is included in RFQ Section 2.0 Background. Additionally, 1.01 Introduction in Attachment A - Scope of Services.

44. Question: If HAS desires a firm fixed price approach, please confirm that all provisions of 6.6 of the Scope of Work will be removed.

Response: Yes. This section to be deleted.

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45. Question: Given the nature of the facility, LEED Silver may not be possible. Would the City consider other levels of LEED certification?

Response: This project will not be seeking LEED certification, however the LEED Silver certification rating system for new building design and construction should be utilized as a guide.

- **Question:** Will design file backgrounds, i.e. CAD, Revit, etc. of Bridging Document _03 August 2023 be provided as a means of starting design files for the TSU Flight Academy project? **Response:** Yes.
- **Question:** In relation to design, does Houston Airport Systems require specific MEP, Civil, Structural Engineers to design the building systems for this project, or is it subject to the design firm selection based on M/WBE and other goals stated in the RFQ?

Response: HAS does not require specific Design/Engineering firms to design the building systems for this project. HAS allows for the Design Consultant to make these selections while taking into consideration compliance/alignment with HAS Protocols.

48. Question: In relation to design, if a firm proposes 5 days for HAS and City of Houston approval and turnaround of the design phases in the 90-day design schedule and they are exceeded by HAS and City of Houston/Council, will the schedule be adjusted and accept the additional days as an approved delay not at the fault of the design firm?

Response: Yes.

Question: In relation to design, please clarify, once a firm submits final drawings for permit (including all MEP, Structural and Civil), the drawings are handed off to HAS for processing for permit and the design work is considered completed, until construction administration starts during the construction process?

Response: All members of the DB GC team must remain available during all Design & Construction Phases.

Question: In relation to design, please confirm that a firm will be required to handle all ADA filing, inspections as part of the contract.

Response: Yes, HAS will cover this as a reimbursable expense.

Question: In relation to design, during the permitting process, will the selected firm responsible to handle any questions and resubmission required documents?

Response: Yes.

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Question: Invoicing for design is to be after each design phase is complete and signed off as approval to move to the next phase?

Response: Yes.

53. **Question:** In relation to construction Subtractors are to the discretion of the General Contractor's selection based on the specific criteria outlined in Section 11.7.4 and there are no mandatory subcontractors to be used based on the site location and/or facility requirements?

Response: Yes.

Question: In relation to construction, are the General Contractor required to cover the City of Houston's utilities fees, i.e. Temporary Power?

Response: A Cash Allowance will be established to cover utilities.

Solution: Is the selected firm required to include all permitting and inspection fees and after hours required?

Response: Yes. A Cash Allowance will be established to cover permitting fees and other miscellaneous incidentals.

Guestion: Is the selected firm permitted to have a temporary facility on site for management, along with all required signage and check-in processes?

Response: Yes.

Question: The above ground fuel station, if deemed necessary, is the selected firm responsible for providing equipment, and inspections and certifications?

Response: Yes.

58. **Question:** Under 7.5 A. 3.h. (page 31 of 45) "Requirements for tests and inspections by independent testing and inspecting agencies" is the design builder required to have a team member to do such a task (independent of their construction firm)?

Response: No.

59. **Question:** Will there be a need to provide local / on site detention for this facility.

Response: Yes.

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When issued, a Letter of Clarification (LOC) shall automatically become part of the solicitation documents and shall supersede any previous specification(s) and/or provision(s) in conflict with the LOC. The LOC will be incorporated into the Agreement as applicable. It is the responsibility of the respondents(s) to ensure that it has obtained all such LOC(s). By submitting a response on this project, respondents shall be deemed to have received all LOC(s) and to have incorporated them into their submittal.

If further clarification is needed regarding this solicitation, please contact Amanda Joseph, Sr. Procurement Specialist, via email at Amanda.Joseph@houstontx.gov.

DocuSigned by:

Cathy Vander Plaats

Cathy Vander Plaats
Aviation Procurement Officer
Houston Airport System

cc: Alfredo Oracion Dallas Evans Solicitation File

attachment: revised RFQ evaluation criteria weights

DESIGN-BUILD SERVICES FOR THE TSU FLIGHT ACADEMY AT ELLINGTON AIRPORT (EFD) SOLICITATION NO.: H93-EFDTFA-2024-003 PROJECT NO.: 1030 (REVISED 9/14/2023)

- 11.5.8 The City reserves the right to cancel this RFQ, accept or reject, in whole or in part any all or SOQs received in the best interest of the City.
- 11.5.9 Fees or pricing shall not be submitted in Response to Step One of this RFQ, as defined by Texas Government Code 2269 for a Two-Step Design-Build selection process. If fees, prices, or cost are included in Step One of this RFQ, the Response will be deemed non-responsive.
- 11.6 Step One Statement of Qualifications Evaluation
- 11.6.1 **Selection Process:**
- 11.6.1.1 Based on the number and quality of submittals to this RFQ, the evaluation committee may form a short list of firms, whose submittals provide the most desirable methods for providing the services. In developing the short-list, the committee will consider, among other things, the criteria described in Section 11.7. Respondents will be evaluated with the scoring criteria established below:

Step 1: RFQ Evaluation Criteria	Weights
Similar Project Experience	25 points
Project Approach	15 points
Firm(s) Qualifications	15 points
Project Team Qualifications	10 points
Design Services of Aircraft Hangar, Educational Facility, Parking and Landscaping	10 points
Management and Staffing Plan	15 points
Project Controls	10 points
TOTAL SCORE	100 Points
Financial Capabilities	Pass/Fail
Safety Record (Experience Modification Ratio)	Pass/Fail
OSHA Citations	Pass/Fail
M/WBE Plan (Design Services)	Pass/Fail

- 11.6.1.2 The shortlisted firms will be notified in writing that they made it to the 2nd step of the selection process where they will be asked for additional information and invited for an interview and oral presentation.
- 11.7 <u>Statement of Qualifications Response Scoring Criteria</u>
- 11.7.1 Similar Project Experience 25 Points
- 11.7.1.1 Must have experience as Prime or JV Partner providing similar type projects under a Design-Build Contract, or other delivery method, that is in progress or completed in the last five (5) years. Provide references from the owner. Provide no more than five (5) example projects.

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- 11.7.1.2 For the representative project, provide the following information:
 - a) Project Name.
 - b) General description of the project and the delivery method.
 - c) Firm's primary role in the project.
 - d) Construction start and completion dates. (As originally scheduled and as-built).
 - e) Location.
 - f) Square footage size.
 - g) Construction method/type.
 - h) Contract value or value of work performed.
 - i) Provide at least one exterior and one interior photo as part of the write up of the project.
 - j) Provide an owner letter of reference for the project with contact information for reference.

11.7.2 **Project Approach – 15 Points**

- 11.7.2.1 Outline your management tools, strategies, and methodologies that will enable delivery of the Project.
- 11.7.2.2 Provide your methodology for the procurement of any long-lead items.
- 11.7.2.3 Describe your team relationships or JV for the design and construction elements.
- 11.7.2.4 Describe your experience in providing sustainable and energy efficient solutions to projects.
- 11.7.2.5 Describe your approach to project communication.
- 11.7.2.6 Describe your approach to implement a Health and Safety and Environment (HSE) or similar, culture among the workforce. As an attachment, provide a copy of the table of contents only from the prime firms HSE, plan or policy, or similar, manual.
- 11.7.2.7 Describe Respondent's quality assurance program. Explain methods used to ensure quality control during the design and construction phases of the Project. As an attachment, provide a copy of the table of contents only from the prime firms QA/QC plan or policy, or similar, manual.
- 11.7.2.8 Describe how Respondent's quality control team will measure the quality of construction performed by subcontractors and how non-conforming work will be addressed during construction.
- 11.7.2.9 Describe your approach to conflict and dispute resolution and the management of contractual conflicts.

11.7.3 Firm(s) Qualifications – 15 Points

- 11.7.3.1 Explain your organization's structure and why it has the necessary expertise and resources to execute a project of this scope:
 - a) Detail years in business, past awards, and other pertinent information about your firm, JV, or significant key sub consultants/contractors.

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- b) If a JV, further explain why your firms decided to partner and the value the partnership will bring to the City.
- 11.7.3.2 For any Key JV partner or significant sub-contractor, provide your previous relationship history of working together.
- 11.7.3.3 What is the strength each sub-consultant and contractor brings to this relationship?
- 11.7.4 **Project Team Qualifications 10 Points**

Each Respondent shall submit:

- 11.7.4.1 The names and qualifications of the Key Personnel on the proposed team who will work on this Project. Key Personnel shall include at the minimum: Project Lead, Project Design Lead, Project Controls Lead, Superintendent, and Safety Lead.
- 11.7.4.2 A description of each Key Personnel position during Design and Construction Phases of the Project.
- 11.7.4.3 Provide a written assurance that the Key Personnel listed will be performing the work and will not be substituted with other personnel or reassigned to another project without the City's prior written approval.
- 11.7.4.4 Provide a brief resume or curriculum vitae for each Key Personnel demonstrating his or her qualifications and experience. Resumes shall include the following:
 - 1. Name, Role
 - 2. Firm
 - 3. No. of years with current firm
 - 4. Total years' experience
 - 5. Education, professional licensing
 - 6. Experience in their respective areas of expertise
 - 7. Relevant work experience for previous ten (10) years.
- 11.7.5 Design of Aircraft Hangar, Educational Facility, Parking and Landscaping 10 Points
- 11.7.5.1 Describe Respondent's concepts for working in a team relationship as a Design-Build Contractor and how this works for the benefit of the Project.
- 11.7.5.2 Describe how the Respondent's involvement in design phase will complete the design to 100% with regard to safety, cost, schedule, quality, constructability within the GMP price and meeting the design intent of the Bridging documents.
- 11.7.5.3 Provide a high-level schedule for this Project.
- 11.7.5.4 Describe Respondent's perception of critical design and construction issues for this Project and strategy for mitigating risks.
- 11.7.5.5 Describe Respondent's ability and plan to self-perform work on this Project.
- 11.7.5.6 Describe the Respondent's commissioning experience. Include your approach to system testing, activation/training, and commissioning.
- 11.7.5.7 Describe your approach to Project Closeout. Include process for completing the record drawings and specifications, operations and maintenance documents, and the turnover of all documentation in a Design-Build Project environment.