

Office of the Illinois State Treasurer
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Request for Proposals Data Transparency &
Accountability Services Portal
370-400-20-025

Addendum 2
June 4, 2020

Below are the questions received by the Office of the Illinois State Treasurer (“Treasurer”) and the Treasurer’s responses. The questions listed herein are intended to be accurate representations of the questions received; as such, any errors in usage or spelling have not been corrected. Any capitalized terms that are not defined herein have the meaning set forth in the Request for Proposals Data Transparency and Accountability Services Portal (370-400-20-025) (“RFP”) published by the Treasurer on May 13, 2020.

1. As a part of the new DT&A Portal Services initiative, are you looking to replace the existing public facing portal, CMS, backend SaaS platform or augment/enhance it?

Both options are available. The selected route will depend on the Contractor’s capabilities and the benefits and drawbacks presented by each option.

2. Can you provide more details about your pain points/issues that you are facing with the existing systems/processes?

There are no immediate issues. See the “Scope of Services” section in the RFP for more information on desired services and capabilities.

3. Can you provide more details about the data sources (existing TIS & TOMS) like volume of data, number of tables, data models/data structure etc.?

The TIS database is approximately 75GB in total size and has approximately 380 tables. The TOMS database is approximately 4GB in total size and has approximately 220 tables.

4. Are the data sources for the new DT&A Portal system limited to TIS and TOMS or are there other internal/external data sources we need to consider?

There are other sources as well, such as stand-alone Excel spreadsheets.

5. What level of data validation/data quality checks currently exists, and would this be a desired part of the new system?

Under the current system, data validation is executed via (1) manual review by Treasurer staff compiling and uploading data, and (2) the existing system, which has upload parameters designed to ensure consistency.

6. What is the scope data visualization (reports/dashboards) in the new system? Are they limited to the existing ones available in the current "The Vault" portal or new ones need to be built?

The solution resulting from this RFP may include other existing and potentially new reports or dashboards based on newly implemented programs, changes to existing programs, or newly desired visualizations on any areas deemed relevant by the Treasurer.

7. What is the estimated volume of the current data (and future expanded datasets), including backups?

The Treasurer currently maintains over 40 individual datasets, and this may increase in the coming months and years.

8. What is the estimated current number of users and data volume downloaded per day?

The Treasurer has approximately 30 active users that submit and review data. In terms of external visitors, The Vault typically attracts approximately 5-30 unique visitors per day. Data volume downloaded per day is not readily available.

9. Does the new system need to support multi-languages?

This is a desired capability.

10. You have made reference to the new system Beta launch by Dec 1, 2020 and go live by Jan 1, 2021. Are these timelines already fixed or flexible?

Flexible, but strongly preferred.

11. You mention the Period of Performance for this work to be 3 years. Are you expecting a 6-month implementation and then 2.5 years of support from an approach and pricing perspective?

For the purposes of calculating your annual lump sum proposal, such an approach may be acceptable. However, as required by the RFP, please provide costs in an annual lump sum format.

12. Do we need to include the software licensing cost in our pricing proposal, or can we leverage the existing licenses you have (if we are using the same tools)?

Cost proposals should be an annual lump sum which includes all relevant costs; however, for information purposes, Respondents should list those licenses included within the cost proposal.

13. Can you provide us the list of software/tools that you are currently using?

Please see the following list of software/tools that the Treasurer is currently using:

- ASP.net blazor
- Visual Basic .net
- Azure DevOps (formerly team foundation server)
- Microsoft office 365 G3
- Microsoft Azure for government pay as you go EA for PaaS, IaaS, SaaS
- Fortinet
- Cisco
- HPE
- Mimecast email filter
- Crowdstrike
- Adobe
- Microsoft SQL 2012-2019
- Azure SQL
- Microsoft Hyper-V
- Veeam
- Namecheap
- Sendgrid
- Microsoft server 2012-2019

14. As for as new system is considered, is there a preference for hosting on the cloud vs on-prem?

No.

15. Are you open to having offshore team members along with our US team members?

Yes. Subject to the preferences and contractual and legal requirements set forth in the RFP, the Treasurer would welcome offshore team members.

16. Are you open to extending the submission date beyond June 12?

An additional addendum will be posted extending the due date for proposals to 2:00 p.m. (CT) on June 23, 2020.

17. Are you open to email submission of RFP responses (given the current COVID19 situation)?

No.

18. Is there an upper level budget for this project, if so, what is it?

It is unclear what specific information is sought by this question. Please note, all procurements by the Treasurer must be accomplished in a manner that is both economical and commercially reasonable.

19. Is there an issue if the solution involves integration of commercial applications such as MicroStrategy or a report generator, with independent licenses?

Any third-party tools would need to be evaluated and reviewed by the Treasurer's information technology security staff.

20. Any issue with some work being done offshore, in our offices in Vietnam for example?

Subject to the preferences and contractual and legal requirements set forth in the RFP, the Treasurer would allow some work being performed in an offshore office.

21. Are there any known issues with existing CMS and Vault that we need to be aware of?

No. See the "Scope of Services" section in the RFP for more information on desired services and capabilities.

22. Re integration, what other data sources besides TIS, TOMS, the Vault and select databases are required – how many of these are there?

The Treasurer currently maintains over 40 individual datasets, which are all housed in Microsoft Excel spreadsheets. This may increase in the coming months and years.

23. The RFP mentions possible replacement systems, what is the timeline for each of these to be in place?

The Treasurer currently has a pending Request for Proposals Integrated, Electronic Enterprise Treasury Management Solution ("TMS") 370-600-20-004; Addendum 20 to that RFP lists an August 31, 2020 target for project kickoff.

24. Do you have a complete set of reports that need to be catered for?

Yes, the datasets that are currently on The Vault must be accounted for initially. Respondents can view those at <https://www.iltreasurervault.com/pages/portal>.

25. What are the SQL Server versions?

SQL versions range from 2012-2019.

26. Is SSIS also used in the environment for ETL, data movement, and flat file creation?

SSIS can be used for ETL, although any ETL would need to be discussed and approved by the Treasurer, and exact technical framework and methods used may vary depending on the data source and type.

27. Any other data sources (file directories, flat files, other DB's, blob, etc.)?

There may be file directories and flat files.

28. What type of API's are available (SOAP, REST, JSON, XML, Web Services, etc.)?

TIS and TOMS do not have API capability at this time.

29. Are available API's public or partner? Same question for Web Services?

Please see the answer to number 28, above.

30. Public vs. private circuit availability for data source access?

The Treasurer can set up a public or private circuit for data source access and can leverage Microsoft Azure to securely expose data sources to appropriate resources.

31. Current PII and PAN encryption methods?

The Treasurer may be willing to discuss this with the selected Contractor, but will not provide these details at this time.

32. What encryption level/type (i.e.: AES256)?

AES256 is the minimum standard acceptable to the Treasurer.

33. How many expected users?

The Treasurer has approximately 30 active users that submit and review data. In terms of external visitors, The Vault typically attracts approximately 5-30 unique visitors per day.

34. Internal employees?

The Treasurer has approximately 30 active users that submit and review data.

35. External public access?

The Vault typically attracts approximately 5-30 unique visitors per day.

36. Current and expected security policies for logins (i.e.: password length, expiration, self-service reset, etc.)?

The Treasurer would prefer single sign on capabilities, and users would expect to use their existing network login for access. The Treasurer has Azure Active Directory (“AD”) and would prefer to work out a logon solution that utilizes its Azure AD.

37. What are the requested support hours?

Please refer to Section III.C.1 of the RFP. While there are no specific hours that must be available, support and solutions must be available in the timeframes listed in that Section.

38. Voice/Call support hours?

Please refer to Section III.C.1 of the RFP. While there are no specific hours that must be available, support and solutions must be available in the timeframes listed in that Section.

39. Email support?

Please refer to Section III.C.1 of the RFP. While there are no specific hours that must be available, support and solutions must be available in the timeframes listed in that Section.

40. Chat support?

Please refer to Section III.C.1 of the RFP. While there are no specific hours that must be available, support and solutions must be available in the timeframes listed in that Section.

41. Data retention requirements for reports?

Please refer to Section VII.L of the RFP.

42. Ability to save reports?

Yes.

43. Ability to email and/or share link to customized report?

Yes.

44. Is there a technology preference for implementation?

No.

45. Does IL TO have dev and stage environments, as well as production?

Yes.

46. How much UX Design do you anticipate for this effort?

The Treasurer cannot provide this detail at this time.

47. Is this enhancing or replacing the Vault: <https://www.iltreasurervault.com/>?

The solution could enhance or replace The Vault. The selected route will depend on the Contractor's capabilities and the benefits and drawbacks presented by each option.

48. Aside from the home page, what are the 3 most visited pages on www.iltreasurervault.com?

This information is not readily available.

49. The RFP describes the goal to eliminate duplicative work required to publish data. How much staff time do these tasks currently take on a monthly basis?

The Treasurer experiences a high degree of variability, which can depend on the relevant dataset and availability of staff.

50. Does the Treasurer's Office plan on adding new data releases in the next 3 years, or will updates be constrained to currently available datasets?

The Treasurer anticipates adding new data releases in the next three (3) years.

51. What spoken languages does the Treasurer's Office support on www.iltreasurervault.com and other websites?

The Vault is compatible and can be translated into numerous languages using the language tools available from individual browsers (e.g. Google Chrome).

52. Has a current state assessment been completed? If yes, please share the results.

No.

53. Please share information concerning the current environment:

For information beyond that provided in the RFP, please review the answers provided in this Addendum.

54. Will the state supply the data platform infrastructure?

The Treasurer will supply the data either via Excel spreadsheets, internally housed databases, or other data means.

55. Describe technologies used for: Data warehouse, to send / receive data, data flows (i.e. Informatica), data storage, transformation (ETL), provide data architecture diagrams, provide data flow diagrams?

The Treasurer can leverage its existing Azure for government data warehouse infrastructure.

56. Where is the data stored and what's it stored in?

All data in the current system is stored in Microsoft Excel and then uploaded to The Vault.

57. Will a data repository need to be built to collect, manage, & secure data for multiple data sources or does one exist already? If so, please describe.

Whether a data repository will need to be built for these purposes depends on the Contractor's capabilities and the benefits and drawbacks associated with this task.

58. Have data security requirements already been defined and documented or will this need to be defined as part of the project?

This will be defined as part of the project.

59. Will end users have access to all data or will there be limited access to some data?

There will be limited access to certain data housed in the internal development or production stage.

60. Will end users be required to provide a secured user login?

No.

61. Is developing additional functions/features for the portals within scope?

Yes.

62. What are the SLA's for response time on escalated issues? (24 hours listed in RFP)

There could be varying desired response times depending on the issue.

63. Does the communication method need to be WCAG compliant and if so, what version (e.g. WCAG 2.0, 2.1)?

The Treasurer has not yet reached a determination on WCAG compliance.

64. What languages will the end product need to support?

The Treasurer seeks an end product that is compatible with the language tools available from individual internet browsers, such as Google Chrome, which provides a tool with access to dozens of languages.

65. With regard to sharing of reports and visualizations; what are all the social media platforms that must be supported (specific list)?

The Treasurer would desire, at a minimum, Facebook and Twitter to be supported.

66. What are the details of the search capabilities need; Does it have to include text, documents, various file types over numerous data sources?

The Treasurer requires text-based searches for keywords.

67. Will the mobile visual experience be identical to the desktop experience or will it be scaled down to meet the sizing requirements of the mobile device?

This depends on the Contractor's capabilities; however, mobile compatibility and full functionality is sought.

68. How many different mobile devices & generations of each device must be supported?

The Treasurer has not yet reached a determination on this point.

69. How do the Search results need to be populated? (In a visualization, in ranked order, in a word cloud?)

This will depend on the Contractor's capabilities.

70. Considering the initial agreement of three (3) years and a release date of January 1, 2021, (section III.B.6) please provide details of expectations in addition to technical support during the remaining contract timeline.

As noted in the RFP, the Treasurer requires ongoing professional consulting services, services to support the data transparency & accountability product or service, and support.

71. Please confirm contractor is to provide technical support to the internal resources of the Treasurer offices and not to external end-users (to confirm scope of support).

Confirmed that internal technical support is required; however, the Treasurer would welcome end-user support.

72. Could you please elaborate on what is meant by “Recipient Funds” in question #29 on page 12 of the RFP?

Please note, it seems “Recipient Funds” actually appears in Question 32 rather than Question 29. Please disregard and do not respond to Question 32.

73. Are you expecting the supplier to extract information from your existing systems or will you be providing the extractions? If you are supplying them what are the file definitions and your plan to make the deadlines?

The Treasurer desires capability for extraction from internal databases. The Treasurer will provide existing datasets, largely based in Microsoft Excel.

74. If a solution is based on Microsoft Azure products, do you need the licensing costs included in the proposal or will you use your negotiated rates?

Yes. However, the Treasurer may ultimately use its own rates and infrastructure.

75. Given the short implementation time frame, how will you be staffing the project with subject matter experts to make decisions and validate results? Have you ever successfully supported a project with a similar scope in a similar time frame?

The Treasurer will assign a lead staffer as a liaison to the Contractor. The lead staffer will be able to marshal additional Treasurer resources to assist with the project. Yes, the Treasurer has successfully supported projects with a similar scope in a similar time frame.

76. After the go live at the end of the year, what are your expectations for the proposal in for the remainder? Are you expecting an ongoing staff to be available for fixes and enhancements or is this simply the licensing?

As noted in the RFP, the Treasurer requires ongoing professional consulting services, services to support the data transparency & accountability product or service, and support.

77. How many extracts are you expecting?

This is undetermined at this time.

78. How many dashboards and how much drill down are you expecting?

This depends on the Contractor's capabilities.

79. Who are the end users and what may they do? On the call, it sounded like constituents and internal people could access the data and internal people could make modifications of some sort.

There are a limitless variety of end users, including constituents of Illinois, fellow government agencies, media outlets, etc. To the second question, yes, internal Treasurer staff will seek the ability to make modifications to data presented online.

80. What is incomplete or insufficient with your current dashboards that you are specifically wanting to address?

There are no immediate issues.

81. How do you plan to test for ADA compliance?

To the extent this question relates to Certification 6.0 of Exhibit A of the RFP, each Respondent must certify its own compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) and the regulations thereunder (28 CFR 35.130).

82. Are you replacing CMS (Built by the Weinstein organization) with this RFP? or the Vault?

The Vault is the relevant area for this RFP. On the question of replacement, the selected route will depend on the selected Contractor's capabilities and the benefits and drawbacks presented by each potential route.

83. Do you have an architectural diagram of current data components and data flow between the TIS, TOMS, CMS website, The Vault that can be shared?

No.

84. Under the evaluation criteria section VI B. You don't list a weighting for the Product. Is it included in the weighting under Services?

Yes.

85. Question 3.B.3: Indicates the Treasurer shall identify the datasets for first integration and the second integration datasets would follow. Do you have a list of current datasets chosen by the Treasurer for this application that you can provide? If not a list than please provide a number of datasets (or range).

The existing datasets are available at the following link:
<https://www.iltreasurervault.com/>.

86. Question 3.B.5: Indicates minimum 30 users for creating content. What is the maximum range of users who would be creating content?

This is undetermined at this time, though the Treasurer would generally expect no more than 50.

87. Question 3.B.5: The system should be available as a 24x7 (zero downtime) solution. Assuming functional testing, enhancements and changes there would be at a minimum two environments (including production & non-production)?

Correct, the Treasurer will require at least two environments. If the Treasurer ultimately hosts part of the solution it would design high availability during the project.

88. How much data will be stored for external viewing in Gigabytes?

This is undetermined at this time. Currently, the source data posted on the Vault cannot exceed 5 GB.

89. How many citizens do you anticipate using the solution at any one time?

At present, The Vault typically attracts approximately 5-30 unique visitors per day, though the Treasurer seeks to increase utilization by citizens.

90. Are those citizens using the system in a read-only fashion?

Please visit <https://www.iltreasurervault.com/> to demonstrate the current uses.

91. Are the citizens expected to be able to dynamically interact with the system (e.g. changing dashboard filters) or look at static content?

The Treasurer requires dynamic interaction.

92. Question 3.B.2.F: Please explain further what is required in "Provide for robust analytical interpretation" if this is a citizen facing website.

This depends on the Contractor's capabilities, but could include, without limitation, the ability to change inputs and variables, change timeframes, and export data.

93. Do you plan to continue to use OpenGov for planning and comparisons?

This is undetermined at this time.

94. Question 3.B: What will be used to replace TIS? Will the data continue to be stored in SQL server? If not, what?

The Treasurer currently has a pending Request for Proposals Integrated, Electronic Enterprise Treasury Management Solution ("TMS") 370-600-20-004. The Treasurer seeks a TIS replacement through the TMS RFP, and accordingly that replacement system has not been identified at this point.

95. Question 3.B.2.d: Can you provide the Treasurer's current design theme and branding guidelines?

Certain design themes can be found throughout the Treasurer's website, and specific information may, in the Treasurer's discretion, ultimately be shared with the Contractor. However, the Treasurer does not intend to make this information publicly available for the purposes of this RFP.

96. Are there specifications for the end solution? i.e. reports, dashboards, etc.?

This depends on the Contractor's capabilities and the desires of the Treasurer.

97. Who will be involved from the Treasurer to assist with development and testing? What is their availability?

The Treasurer will assign a liaison between the office and the Contractor to provide assistance with development and testing. Availability of the Treasurer will be daily in most instances.

98. What other program areas might this solution be expanded to? How would these areas differ from the Treasurer's focus? Any timeline?

This is undetermined at this time.

99. How many reports/visualizations are expected to be costed/delivered for this RFP?

The Treasurer currently maintains over 40 individual datasets, and this may increase in the coming months and years.

100. Can developers that reside outside the US be used to either develop or support the solution?

Yes, subject to the preferences and contractual and legal requirements set forth in the RFP.

101. How many sources of data do you anticipate connecting to in the first year? How many additional sources in year 2-5?

The Treasurer currently maintains over 40 individual datasets, which may increase in the coming months and years.

102. What is the volume of data expected in the extracted files?

This is undetermined at this time. Currently, the source data posted on the Vault cannot exceed 5 GB.

103. What complexities do you anticipate in merging together data from the different data sources?

The Treasurer has not identified specific complexities at this point.

104. Does Contractor have any responsibility to provide on-going end-user functional support, i.e. “how-to” support for tasks such as adding or modifying content, reorganizing layouts, chart formatting and visualizations, filtering, and performing compare functions?

Yes.

105. Please confirm Contractor requirements for hours of support

Please refer to Section III.C.1 of the RFP. While there are no specific hours that must be available, support and solutions must be available in the timeframes listed in that Section.

106. What are requirements for communication channels (e.g. voice, email, chat, web form)?

Please refer to Section III.C.1 of the RFP. While there are no specific hours that must be available, support and solutions must be available in the timeframes listed in that Section.

107. Does Contractor support extend to the general public?

Not necessarily, as the immediate need is for support for Treasurer staff; however, the Treasurer would welcome end-user support.

108. Service level commitments beyond 1-business day response for an error or defined issue?

Yes, where deemed appropriate by the Treasurer.