

VENDOR QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS

District: West Ada (Meridian) School District

RFP/470 Number(s): NCCE.ID.17.001; 170050857

NCCE.ID.17.002; 170050842

Initial Posting: November 21, 2016

Update History: November 22, 2016

November 23, 2016

November 28, 2016

December 9, 2016

December 14, 2016

January 9, 2017

Last Day for Questions: **January 4, 2017; 12PM MST**

QUESTIONS

Q1. "I noticed the school district is evaluating new network switches. Potential changes in hardware will change the electrical power profile and an reevaluation of uninterruptable power supplies may be required to address increased load and runtime objectives. Does Meridian Joint School District have a UPS solution? Are they planning on replacing, upgrading or deploying new UPS to support the new network switches?"

R1. The District is only interested in bids for the services and equipment posted on the RFPs referenced above.

Q2. "IEEE 802.3bz (2.5/5 G/s BASE-T, → This "standard" only manufactured by Cisco today. How would any other manufacture be equivalent?"

R2. The IEEE 802.3bz is an open standard; we disagree that this is "only manufactured by Cisco". Regardless, it is up to each vendor to include bids that match or are equivalent to the standards described in the RFP.

Q3. "What is the district using the 802.3bz ports for? It would appear the requested Access point, in a separate rfp uses standard 10/100/1000 ports."

R3. We don't understand the question; please resubmit.

Q4. "Integrated wireless controller capacity → What functionality is the district using with the integrated wireless capacity? I was under the impression the district has stand alone controllers, and is not using WLAN controllers integrated in the Switching platform?"

R4. We don't understand the question; one purpose of this RFP is to expand the capabilities of the District's existing infrastructure, not maintain a the system as is.

Q5. Must be compatible with existing district-owned Cisco stackable network equipment → This compatibility would only be served by 1 manufacture. How is this a standard or other manufactures supposed to be able to compete in this RFP? Would it be acceptable to propose instead of mixing manufactures in the same school, allow the district to consolidate manufactures so they can “stack” existing switches in other locations, so this may be evaluated fairly and separately?

R5. You are welcome to propose any solution that you feel meets the needs as outlined in this request. Please know that the District is looking at a complete and functional solution. Thus, if you are proposing a solution that requires moving or reconfiguring existing District-owned equipment you must include the specifications and costs in your proposal.

Q6. “Must include all appropriate software and licenses, → would the district please clarify what software and or licenses are appropriate for functionality?”

R6. Software and licensing requirements depend on the actual solution proposed. The District is interested in proposals for complete and functional solutions. Thus, if you are proposing a solution that requires licenses and/or software to make your solution function you must include the specifications and costs in your proposal.

Q7. “My name is //// from //. I was hoping to talk to you about your recently filed 470 form for Access Points. I see that you are looking for only around 931 Access Points. I am contacting you to see if you have already made a decision on what brand of access points you decided to go with. If you haven’t made a decision, here are some reasons to choose //// Access Points...”

R7. Per the referenced Form 470 the eligible contract date for this is 12/16/16. However, bidding will remain open until 1/13/17 per the RFP. The District will make a decision after bidding has closed.

Q8. I won’t be able to give you a bid because our access points can hold up to 8 radios meaning more band width so I would need more information from you in order to give you an accurate bid.

R8. We are happy to respond to any specific questions you have regarding this project so that you can provide the most accurate bid possible.

Q9. I’d really like to set up a cloud demo with you and one of my specialists so we can show you how our access points work and how we separate ourselves from other access point manufacturers. The cloud demo will take only about 15 mins and it’s good information for you to make an informed decision. Does sometime today or tomorrow work for you?

R9. The District declines offers for demonstrations at this time.

Q10. While the district already has existing controllers, and is asking for new access points with support for 5 years costs broken down by year, is the district going to evaluate the ongoing smart net costs of the cisco 8500 series controllers? There would be ongoing support for both the access point and the controller, but the district isn't evaluating the total costs of their solution, only the costs on access points. It would seem if you are asking for 5 years of support on the access points, then you would want 5 years of support on the controllers.

R10. The District does not have reoccurring costs associated with their controllers.

Q11. What kind of client devices are communicating on the wireless network? It seems as a standard most client devices are only 2x2 radio. If the district is only using 2x2 client devices, and is asking for a 4x4 access point, will a 3x3 access point that serves the students in all technical capabilities of this RFP except for the 4x4x3 be found non-compliant and rejected?

R.11 All proposals that include all the requested information outlined in their respective RFPs will be reviewed and scored. Scoring is based on the criteria listed in the RFP. Please note that the walkthrough for the wireless system is mandatory. Proposals from vendors not in attendance at the walkthrough will not be reviewed.

Q12. What part number cisco switch has the district been buying as a standard prior to this RFP?

R12. We think the answer to this question is irrelevant; one purpose of this RFP is to expand the capabilities of the District's existing infrastructure, not maintain the system as is.

Q13. The RFP states: "The proposer must include all appropriate software and licenses". Please clarify if this means we assume there are no owned Cisco licenses by the district and for each requested Cisco AP proposed there must be a correlating Cisco AP license.

R13. If hardware requires a license and/or software, the bid must include this as a line item.

Q14. The RFP requests a bid for cabling costs on all estimated new APs (265) plus replacement of 20% of existing cables (134). Shall all proposers' bids be based on the number of 399 new and/or replacement cable pulls?

R14. Bids must include cabling for all new WAPs and for 20% of existing WAPs.

Q15. Does the District anticipate the total number of pulls to change based on the design like is noted for the quantity of APs? Will the increased or decreased cost of the cabling be passed through to the District upon final design completion? (Example: Fewer APs are needed but AP placements are changed which requires additional cabling costs).

R15. The District assumes that there will be minor variation between the proposals and the actual implementation. The 20% additional cable pulls are designed to cover those minor variations between design and implementation.

Q16. In schools where there are existing cables indoors that are exposed, does the District require the bidder to place those existing runs in conduit if runs will be re-used? Do new runs need to be in conduit even if all existing is exposed? (Example: Eagle Elementary School cafeteria)

R16. When exposed cable trays are currently in use, you may use these for any new runs if all applicable cable installation standards are met.

Q17. In Section 3.1.2.1 the RFP states the AP must support up to 5.2 bps, is that intended to say 5.2 Gbps?

R17. Yes.

Q18. what model cisco switch is West Ada requesting? What is manufacture part number? example WS-C3850-12X48U

R18. Specifications for the switches are listed in the RFP.

Q19. Does the district require optics? How many optics are required on each switch or closet? If optics are required, can you specify cisco part number that is appropriate?

R19. The specifications for the switches are listed in the RFP.

Q20. Looks like I'm missing the Hillsdale Elementary WAP map. You also had the Meridian Middle School in that WAP.zip file but we shouldn't need that one correct?

R21. We send you a copy of Hillsdale Elementary School. That's correct, you do not need the Meridian Middle School floor plan.

Q22. Note 1 on the Vendor Questions with Answers document states "N1. In areas where cable needs to be run to outbuildings assume there is not sufficient conduits for new runs." We would like clarification on this topic. Would the district be open to placing a new IDF in the outbuildings rather than running new conduit/pathway for additional CAT6A cabling? Additionally, if the district would like bidders to include costs for running new pathways to each outbuilding, is it possible to schedule an additional walkthrough with all contractors to take measurements and review necessary tools required at each outbuilding (For Example: equipment to trench new conduit under existing asphalt, and then replace asphalt)? Placing a bid for new conduit/pathways without physically walking the sites would result in very inaccurate bids.

R22. The District would consider a bid that included new IDFs in the outbuildings, however, it would be up to the proposer to show that this was a cost-effective solution. Remember, that many of the outbuildings need just one to two WAPs.

Unfortunately, we cannot schedule another walkthrough at this time.

Q23. The required Sex Offender Form references Bid #NCCIE ID 2015-0001 – Enterprise WI-FI for 10 Middle Schools. Will an updated form be uploaded for the NCCE.ID.17.002 and NCCE.ID.17.001.

R23. Yes. It is updated now. Sorry for the confusion.

Q24. Also, on the Drug Free work place form; should the State & County lines be filled in related to where the schools are or where the company submitting the bid is headquartered?

R24. Please use the state and county where the affidavit is signed

Q25. We have some questions about the 802.11ad requirement in your RFP. Do you have devices in your technology plan for your future that would require this type of connection? To help us better prepare our response, could you provide narrative as to the need for this technology?

We are concerned that you may be requesting a technology that you may never utilize and thus, spend unnecessary funds. It is well documented that 802.11ad is not a successor to 802.11g/n/ac. The WiFi Alliance refers to 802.11ad as a "short range communication standard" and number limitations such as 10 meters or 32.8 feet. In other words, 802.11ad is a line-of-sight wireless standard. It has no ability to penetrate walls. It's intended to replace wires where the devices are physically close and need lots of bandwidth, for example, the video cords on monitors or televisions. Because of its limitations, 802.11ad isn't going to show up in mobile, personal computing devices. While you may have a necessary need for this requirement, we would certainly hate for your district to waste unnecessary funds for this technology for the wrong reasons.

R25. Please submit bids based on the specifications listed in the RFP.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

N1. In areas where cable needs to be run to outbuildings assume there is **not** sufficient conduits for new runs.

N2. The District has standardized on green cable for WiFi, including patch cords.

N3. While the District believes, as a rule, that all cables supporting the WiFi network is CAT6, there may be some CAT 5 currently in use. Replacement of this cable will be at the discretion of the District if it falls outside the buffer required in the bids. Also, note that in some cases CAT6 may not terminate at CAT6 patch panels. Please include replacement patch panels in your bid.