

*Data Center Modernization and Establishment of a Disaster Recovery Center.*

Letter of Clarification #1

**TO:** All Prospective Vendors  
**FROM:** Joycie Sheba, Buyer II  
**CC:** Nina Cook, Purchasing Manager  
**DATE:** August 8, 2011  
**SUBJECT:** Final Response for Vendor Questions regarding-Request for Proposal-  
*Data Center Modernization and Establishment of a Disaster Recovery Center.*

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For the benefit of all prospective vendors and to avoid possible confusion in submitting information for **Data Center Modernization and Establishment of a Disaster Recovery Center**, the following questions were asked via email and the answers are as follows:

**Question(s): 1.** Pg 27, Attachment B, Deviation Form states: ‘All deviations to this Solicitation (Proposal and Sample Contract) must be noted on this sheet. In the absence of any entry on this Deviation Form, the prospective contractor assures MHMRA of their full agreement and compliance with the Specifications, Terms and Conditions including all provisions of the Sample Contract.

a. There is no sample contract included with the bid. Would MHMRA please provide this for review?

**Answer(s): Due to the nature of this RFP, a sample contract is not provided by MHMRA, however, Vendors must include all listed hardware, installation costs, and warranty, maintenance/support agreement.**

**Question(s): 2.** Smartbuy part numbers are listed for the HP servers – can we respond to the RFP with Configure to Order part numbers?

This will allow us to custom build the servers for the project and eliminate potential excess/unneeded parts such as installed memory in the Smartbuy server

**Answer(s): Yes**

**Question(s): 3.** What level of support is needed for both the production and DR environments?

**Answer(s): 40 hours of support is requested in the RFP, however, vendors are expected to be flexible if the need arises.**

**Question(s): 4.** Brocade SAN switches are called out for the production data center, but none are called out for the DR site – are switches needed for this site, or will existing hardware be repurposed for this data center?

**Answer(s): We currently have 2 Brocade switches in our main datacenter that will need to be repurposed to the DR Site.**

**Question(s): 5.** We can source VMWare licenses from HP along with the servers. This will allow us to provide greater discounting across both the hardware and the software. Is this acceptable to MHMRA?

**Answer(s): Yes**

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**Question(s): 6.** Is SRM a requirement for this project? If so, will you need licenses to be quoted as part of the VMware software package?

**Answer(s): No.**

**Question(s): 7.** Do you have vCenter at the primary site? There's no licensing requirement for vCenter at the primary site listed.

**Answer(s): Yes**

**Question(s): 8.** How many existing virtual machines are in the environment?

**Answer(s): 9**

**Question(s): 9.** Will there be a need to perform any additional physical to virtual server migrations into the new environment?

**Answer(s): Possibly 2**

**Question(s): 10.** Have you considered moving to the Enterprise edition of vSphere to be entitled for Storage vMotion to perform live migrations of VMs from local disks to the Compellent?

**Answer(s):** It was considered, however, after careful evaluations, MHMRA decided to go with Compellent Snapshot Replication.

**Question(s): 11.** If we decide to bid this, it will only be the services portion. Must we bid both parts and services to bid?

**Answer(s):** Please reference Section III – General Instructions, which states as follows:

**“G. Proposal Guarantee/Award Procedure**

Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority of Harris County in its sole and absolute discretion shall have the right to award Proposal(s) for any or all items/services listed in each Proposal, shall have the right to reject any and all Proposal(s) as it deems to be in its best interest, to waive formalities and reasonable irregularities in submitted documents, shall not be bound to accept the lowest Proposal and **shall be allowed to accept partial or total Proposal(s) of any one vendor.**”

This clarification letter is hereby incorporated in the Request for proposal document and shall supersede any previous specifications or provisions in conflict with the letter of clarification. All prospective vendors are directed to respond accordingly. By submitting a proposal on this project, vendors shall be deemed to have received this Letter of Clarification and to have incorporated it into its proposal.

Please contact MHMRA of Harris County, Texas, Purchasing Department at (713) 970-7300.