



Request for Information No. V

RFP No. 15/16-0003IT, Business Intelligence and Analytics Solution

February 29, 2016

Response to Vendors' Questions

- 5.1 Question: Should vendor assume the development of a data warehouse is in scope? Or is IUSD only asking to install and configure a new ETL/Data integration tool?

Answer: The required scope only includes installation and configuration of the system. If the vendor wishes to provide quotes for the development of the data warehouse, they should provide them under the Optional Services and Costs section of the response. See also answer 4.1 in RFI No. IV

- 5.2 Question: Is Irvine seeking a new ETL tool as part of the project, or are they asking for the vendor to utilize the current ETL tool? Is that tool Microsoft Integration Services for the ETL?

Answer: If the vendor has a preferred ETL tool or their system is not compatible with IUSD's existing SQL Server Integration Services infrastructure, they should propose their preferred tool. If their system is comparable with existing infrastructure, the provider should indicate that in the response.

- 5.3 Question: What is meant by transparent single sign on with SharePoint? Does this mean transparent single sign on from SharePoint to the vendor proposed solution via Active Directory without reentering credentials or is some other flow being requested? If it is "some other flow", please provide additional information regarding the requested functionality.

Answer: Transparent single sign on means that users who have logged in to Active Directory do not have to log in again to view pages that have content. The above method ("single sign on from SharePoint to the vendor proposed solution via Active Directory without reentering credentials") is one way of achieving this.

- 5.4 Question: In item 4.27 in the latest Q&A, the district mentions that it implemented a "proof of concept" data warehouse. What vendor(s) did the district work with on the proof of concept? What technologies (ETL, DBMS, Data Model) were used? Is the district interested in extending that proof of concept? If not, why not?

Answer: The district's proof of concept data warehouse was developed in-house to evaluate the concept of an enterprise data warehouse and the level of developmental effort involved using the tools listed in Section 1.2 of the RFP. The OLAP platform tested was Microsoft SQL Server Analysis Services. The data model developed for this proof of concept will form the core of any new data warehouse, but the district has already identified additional tables and reports that it would like to include in the data model as well as areas where the level of granularity in the proof of concept was not sufficient.



- 5.5 Question: You have said that you will be scoring the district / enterprise analytics tool separately from the classroom / school analytics tool. Since in some cases the features and functions of the two tools will overlap and in other cases they will be different, how do you want us to present this information so that you can easily conduct the two evaluations?

Answer: Vendors should use the prescribed format for their response as described in section 4 of the RFP. For each RFP requirement listed, Vendors should provide sufficient detail for the district to understand the available features and functionality thoroughly. Where appropriate, vendors should describe an example application of the feature to meet district leadership and/or school/classroom-level needs. District staff will use the Vendor's responses to assess whether the system serves the needs for each category of evaluation.

- 5.6 Question: The RFP and answers to questions indicate that consulting services to help develop the solution components would be considered under Optional Services and Costs. Will IUSD consider an approach in which the vendor performs up-front business analysis to refine end-user requirements, key performance indicators, analytical models for machine learning, data model for the enterprise data warehouse, development processes, and etc. to then provide design documentation and implementation support to meet IUSD's specific needs and for maintainability by IUSD staff for ongoing functional enhancements?

Answer: If a vendor would like to propose such services, they will be considered. They should be listed under Optional Services and Costs.

- 5.7 Question: Has IUSD deployed SharePoint district-wide such that it acts as an enterprise "intranet"? If so, what version of SharePoint is in use?

Answer: IUSD has a production SharePoint 2013 farm that supports various intranet like functions; however, it is not the primary Intranet for IUSD at this time.

- 5.8 Question: Regarding SharePoint use at IUSD, is claims-based authorization used for access to SharePoint?

Answer: Not currently, but it can be implemented.

- 5.9 Question: **Requirements Management:** Does IUSD have their own framework for validation process of the BI Architecture in every layer (Data Source, Integration and Visualization) or would be desirable for the Vendor to provide that?

Answer: IUSD does not have a formalized Business Intelligence framework, but can adapt to any framework proposed by a provider.

- 5.10 Question: **Solution Boundaries:** Will IUSD only consider Data Sources from internal transactional systems for Descriptive and Predictive Analytics? Is there any concern of the data coexisting on-prem and in the Cloud for modeling/predictive purposes?

Answer: All data can be considered internal transactional data, but data sources may be from various sources both internal and external (cloud service providers) to IUSD. Cloud based



providers must comply with the security and privacy requirements specified in the RFP, but beyond standard concurrency concerns there are no special data coexistence concerns.

- 5.11 Question: **Identity Management:** Will the access to the dashboards be established using Role-Based Access Control mechanisms with Active Directory integration or does IUSD have other authentication/authorization mechanisms in mind?

Answer: That is one possible approach. The District is also open to others as proposed by a provider.

- 5.12 Question: **Mobile Functionality:** One of the requested services is Mobility Functionality-dashboard should be usable from mobile devices; Some kinds of slicers might not work as expected on Excel Services reports for instance displayed on touch devices that do not use external keyboards. In particular, when people use touch devices, people can apply single-item slicers, but not slicers that include multiple selections. Does “Usable” in this case mean that all functionalities MUST be the same and presented in every device?

Answer: No, this does not mean that all functionalities must be present on mobile devices, but that any dashboards must be available. IUSD understands that interactivity may be limited on mobile devices.

- 5.13 Question: We currently have a Master Services Agreement in place with the District. It was put in place in 2007 and was used as a contract vehicle as recently as 2013. Would you prefer to use that MSA by having us include it with our response, or would you like us to go back through the T’s and C’s presented in the RFP and respond with comments to those?

Answer: All vendors should assume that this project will require and result in the negotiation of a new agreement. Vendors should review the district’s sample contract and data privacy addendum and identify any exceptions to or concerns with the contract in their response.