

**NOAA'S R&D HPCS ACQUISITION
SOLICITATION NUMBER DG1330-05-RP-1038
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
AMENDMENT 0010**

Question 431. What is the disposition (availability for continued use) of the two current LSC systems (Xeon and EM64T) at FSL at the beginning of the contract and 10/1/06?

Answer: At the beginning of the contract the Xeon system will be maintained on a limited basis, the EM64T system will be fully maintained (subject to final negotiations with the incumbent). As of 9/10/06, there are no concrete plans regarding maintenance, however the Government does not plan to offer any additional GFE.

Question 432. If the delivery of the HSMS at FSL is deferred until the second year of the contract, as suggested in question 394, is the data generated in the first year considered to be legacy data? If so, how much of that data will be retained as legacy? This affects the amount of data retained in later years.

Answer: Yes, the data generated in the first year is considered to be legacy data. Reference C.5.2.7, Data Retention Profile for data retention requirements.

Question 434. What is the multi-factor authentication is being used for remote access at Princeton and Boulder?

Answer: GFDL currently has a 1000 seat license for CryptoCARD Corp's Crypto-Server version 6.3. Approximately 350 tokens are currently deployed.

Boulder/FSL currently has a 250 seat license for Secure Computing's SafeWord Premier Access Server version 3.2.

Question 435. What are the existing help desks at NCEP, FSL, and GFDL? Can offerers make use of them?

Answer: There is obvious concern that having a help desk at each HPC site offered for HPC and a separate one for everything else may create confusion.

Princeton: Users typically either call Operations or submit requests via the helpdesk. The helpdesk routes requests to the appropriate support technicians and is proactively monitored. GFDL currently utilizes Web Wonderland's WonderDesk SQL for request tracking. This helpdesk packages allows for email and web submission.

NCEP's high performance helpdesk functions are performed by its Operational HPC contractor and will not be offered as part of the R&D HPCS.

FSL currently uses WREQ for its helpdesk functionality. FSL is considering a transition to OTRS to consolidate both the HPCS helpdesk and the general helpdesk. Both of these

packages allow for email and web submission. The resulting notifications are distributed via email to a team of contractor-provided and Government-provided personnel. In the event responsibility is not obvious, coordination is done by the Government lead and the contractor's on-site lead.

The implementations at FSL and GFDL are available for use by an offeror.

Question 436. 1) Is there data replication between Gaithersburg and Fairmont, and within Gaithersburg? How much unique legacy data will be at Gaithersburg? How much unique legacy data will be at Fairmont? How much total unique data is there between the two sites?

2) Could the government insure that there is no data at Fairmont that is not also at Gaithersburg?

Answer: NCEP makes two copies of all its Operational Run Histories and two copies of most (but not all) of its R&D data.

Current NCEP plans call for at least one copy of all data to reside within the HSMS in Gaithersburg. No unique data will reside at Fairmont.

As stated in Q&A # 43 there are about 1.25 PB of unique data in Gaithersburg. Recent changes at NCEP have effectively eliminated the archival function at Fairmont. NCEP anticipates R&D HPCS data migration to handle 1.25 to 1.5 PB of data, not the 2.5 PB estimated in Q&A # 43.

Question 437. PROPRIETARY

Question 438. (1.) If an Offeror's requirements for raised floor space at GRBLT are less than that offered, can the Government reduce its outlay and pass these savings onto the Offeror?

(2.) If an Offeror requires additional modifications to the computer room, where will that money come from?

Answer: (1.) The Government is responsible for floor modifications and Offerors are not entitled to any compensation.

(2.) NOAA will be responsible for Phase 1 facility modification costs associated with R&D HPCS installation at GRBLT so long as requirements meet the floor space, power and cooling limitations set forth for GRBLT. This includes power supply up to 900 kVa. Facility modifications do not include plug and whip installation, additional CRAC units and other items that are specific to individual system requirements. Installation-specific items are the responsibility of the Contractor.

The Government plans to work with the R&D HPCS Contractor to finalize build out plans at the earliest possible opportunity.

Question 439. Is the DMF system at GFDL broken into multiple filesystems? If so, how many filesystems and what is the maximum number of files managed by any one filesystem?

Answer: Yes, there are currently 2 filesystems, each about 8 terabytes, for a total of 16 terabytes of file staging space. Currently one filesystem has 8.8 million files, and the other has 11.7 million files. Each /archive/user directory is really a symbolic link to /arch1/user or /arch2/user.

Question 440. Please clarify the Government's intent regarding new power panel installation at the Greenbelt facility.

Answer: The information provided in a recent Question and Answer (# 438) is incorrect. The Government will not provide a second power distribution panel as part of Phase 1 plans. The Government will provide 520 kVa to the room as described in Site Q&A #336.

Please refer to the specification offered in the RFP C.11.3.1 GRBLT which says, in part, "Power to the proposed room will consist of one new 800 Amp main distribution panel rated at 480V, 3 phase 3 wire originating from the 480V substation. The Contractor shall be responsible for the installation of a second 800-Amp feeder line from the basement transformer vault and a second 800-Amp distribution panel if additional power is required. The Contractor shall install a meter to measure the electrical usage of the HPC equipment and report the number of KWHs consumed to NOAA on a monthly basis."