HCS

Horry County Schools

OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
335 FOUR MILE ROAD
CONWAY, SC 29526-6005

AMENDMENT/ADDENDUM No.

Posting Date: Monday, March 11, 2024

Solicitation Number: 2324-34MJ
Description: Data Warehouse

ADDENDA: Addenda shall be issued prior to the bid opening date and time for the purposes of modifying or interpreting the Contract Documents through additions, deletions, clarifications or corrections. No addendum shall be issued later than four (4) days prior to the bid opening date except to a) withdraw the Invitation for Bids, or b) to postpone the bid opening date and time. When an addendum is issued for the purposes of postponing the bid opening date and time, the addendum shall establish the new bid opening date and time no earlier than five (5) days after the addendum issue date. Addenda shall be posted on the on-line bidding source(s) stated in the Invitation for Bids. A Bidder shall acknowledge receipt of all addenda issued by identifying the addendum number and the date of issuance with the Bidder's initials in the spaces provided on the Official Bid Form or the bid shall be found non-responsive in accordance with the District's Procurement Code. If this solicitation is amended, then all terms and conditions which are not modified remain unchanged.

INTERPRETATIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS: Requests for additional information or responses regarding error, omission or clarification of any portion of the Bid Documents or the Contract Documents or any addendum, shall be submitted in writing to the District Bid Contact Person stated in the Invitation for Bids by e-mail or facsimile no later than five (5) days prior to the bid opening date and time unless an earlier date is stated on the Invitation for Bids or as may be amended. Any interpretations, corrections, or changes to the Bid Documents or the Contract Documents made in any other manner than by a written addendum shall not be binding, and Bidders shall not rely upon them. Any information given a prospective Bidder concerning a solicitation will be furnished promptly to all other prospective bidders as an addendum to the solicitation, if that information is necessary for submitting offers of if the lack of it would be prejudicial to other prospective bidders. See clause entitled "Bidder Representations." We will not identify you in our answer to your response. The District seeks to permit maximum practicable competition. Bidders are urged to advise the Procurement Specialist – as soon as possible – regarding any aspect of this procurement, including any aspect of the solicitation that unnecessarily or inappropriately limits full and open competition.

Section III. Scope of Work/Specifications, Specifications/Requirements, Data Integration Requirements has been revised to ~~stricken~~ verbiage " ~~SIF Compliant~~"

RESPONSES

Response Number	Response	Answer
1.	What is the desired timeline for implementation? By when does the school district want stakeholders to be logging into the dashboards?	Estimated target date is August 2024 but can be extended to October 2024.
2.	Can the district provide more details on the SIF Compliance requirement? How does the district use SIF?	SIF Requirements are not required now for HCS. Section has been revised.
3.	Is the district open to an Ed-Fi ODS as the ODS?	No change, No
4.	Does the district have a legacy data warehouse that it needs to migrate from or are the five years of historical data coming from PowerSchool and Schoology?	HCS does not have a legacy data warehouse but needs ydata migrated from Enrich, Powerschool, Performance Matters and Schoology.
5.	In addition to PowerSchool and Schoology, can the district provide a list of all other source systems that it wished to integrate data from?	Examples include but are not limited to: Data Integration from NWEA, iReady, Amplify, DRC, Progress Learning, EdPlan SC, Enrich, Performance Matters, Peoplesoft, Renaissance, CogAt-Iowa, Ellevation, College Board, ACT, WIN, Johns Hopkins, Review 360 typically a CSV files or through an API.
6.	How are the users from each of the schools in the district expected to adopt and interact with the proposed solution?	Through data dashboards that allow for disaggregation of data from district level down to student level data.

7.	Are you willing to accept an electronic signature in lieu of a wet ink signature on all forms?	Yes a certified electronic signature
8.	Can HCS please provide the decision timeline for this RFP?	No timeline is available at this time.
9.	Approximately what are the data volumes stored in your source systems?	1-2 Terabytes (TB).
10.	As a private company, we require an NDA before we can provide a copy of our audited financial statements, thus would a D&B Report suffice for this requirement to assist HCS in assessing our firm's financial health? If not, is HCS willing to sign an NDA prior to the RFP submission deadline so that we may provide our audited financial statements in a protected manner?	The most recent D&B report will suffice in lieu of the audited financial statement.
11.	Could you please provide more details about the specific data sources and formats that will need to be integrated with the proposed Data Warehouse solution?	Refer to response 5.
12.	Can you elaborate on the scope of transactional and business analysis tools that are required for this project?	Front facing user friendly dashboards and including visualizations.
13.	How frequently would you like routine backups and migrations to be performed, and are there any specific disaster recovery procedures we should adhere to?	Minimum daily for data migrations. Disaster recovery should be available.
14.	Can you provide more information on the process for inventorying and prioritizing data for migration and dashboard display?	No.
15.	Regarding the data dictionary requirements, could you clarify the expected update frequencies for the warehouse?	As needed.
16.	Could you please specify any additional customization needs for the dashboards across different data domains?	Customization available through any system purchased and ability to customize dashboards to accommodate needs of stakeholders.
17.	Can you provide examples of the actionable insights that stakeholders expect from the reporting solution?	Some examples include but not limited to: Demographic Filtering, School Filtering, At Risk Student Identification, CATE requirements, Accountability and Assessment filtering, College and Career Readiness.
18.	Are there any specific functionalities beyond disaggregation and comparison that stakeholders require at different levels?	Yes, Different levels require different information because elementary, middle and high school levels are unique in their own ways.
19.	What level of training is expected for different stakeholders, and do you have any preferences regarding the delivery methods?	In depth – on demand training. All training models available.
20.	Regarding deployment requirements, can you specify the access and connectivity setup needed for network access and SIS replication workflows?	Technology does not have the information available.
21.	Do we need to integrate with any existing systems beyond PowerSchool SIS and Schoology Learning?	Refer to response 5.
22.	What is the expected timeline for project completion, and are there any key milestones we should be aware of?	Refer to response 1.
23.	Regarding the project tasks, could you please clarify if they are allowed to be performed remotely, or is there a requirement for certain tasks to be completed onsite at the county's facilities?	Some tasks may require to be performed on site.
24.	Is there a designated budget allocated for this solicitation, and if so, could you provide information on the not-to-exceed budget value for the project?	There is no budget information available.
25.	What data does HCS wish to include from Schoology Learning?	Student data, learning models, completions, grades, teacher gradebook.

26.	What data would be included from the LMS, SIS, and analytics platforms? "Ability to provide data congruence across LMS, SIS, and analytics platforms while providing consistent terminology and access to all cross-domain data for correlation and unified user experience."	All Data.
27.	What analytics platforms are the district currently using?	Enrich and Performance Matters.
28.	What kind of business analysis tools is the district interested in using?	Through data dashboards that allow for disaggregation of data from district level down to student level data.
29.	Can the district provide more information about "Ability to provide routine data transfer for operational data.	Data should be retrieved from systems daily
30.	Can the district provide more information about what the Student Seals of Distinction data is?	Refer to SC Department of Education website. https://ed.sc.gov/newsroom/school-district-memoranda-archive/delivery-of-seals-of-distinction-to-students-and-district-contact/delivery-of-seals-of-distinction-to-students-and-district-contact-memo/
31.	Can "original signatures" be digital or must they be in ink?	Refer to response 7.
32.	Which vendor/solution is currently providing the services outlined in this bid for the district?	Currently use Ad-hoc reporting.
33.	Please address any South Carolina privacy law constraints with respect to transferring assessment data from one school to another when a student moves. Is there a defined process in place for how to affect such an assessment data transfer securely?	This law does not affect in district transfers. Yes we have defined laws and procedures.
34.	Is it only financial documents that must be retained for six years?	No change, No
35.	The RFP states, "Contractor is deemed to be the owner of District information, as defined herein, and Contractor agrees that the District is not a licensee." In contracts with other districts and in our website statements about privacy and security practices we state that the District is the owner of student-related information. Would you please explain how data ownership works for the district?	No change, refer to section VIII. Terms and Conditions – b. Special: Ownership of Data & Materials
36.	TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: Given our organization's several sister businesses, are we allowed to submit multiple proposals, or are we limited to only one submission?	Refer to section II. Instructions to Offerors – A. General Instructions, RESPONSIVENESS/IMPROPER OFFERS (JUN 2015) (b) Multiple Offers
37.	FORMAT OF OFFEROR (RFP): If we generate multiple technical solutions for a proposal, should we present these alternatives as options within a single proposal, or should each solution be submitted as a separate proposal?	Provide as options within the proposal clearly differentiated between each option and you submit a separate cost proposal for each option.
38.	What is the approximate count of reports and dashboards expected to be considered within the scope?	Unlimited.
39.	How is HCSD currently conducting analytics and reporting? Is there an existing data warehouse and reporting system in place? If so, what is the current architecture/state, and are there any pain points associated with the current system?	Refer to response 32.
40.	Can you specify the expected data ingestion rates peak load times too and design the data pipeline for optimal performance?	Data ingestions will include evenings, overnight and weekends.
41.	How sensitive is the data? Beyond FERPA compliance, are there specific security requirements such as column masking or row-level security access?	Highly Sensitive. Information is delivered based on specific permission based on SIS security roles.
42.	Are there specific audit logging and monitoring requirements to track data access and changes within the data warehouse for security and compliance purposes?	Yes. Change log should also be included.
43.	Is all source data structured, or do we have unstructured data that needs to be ingested, processed, and reported?	Most will be structured, we cannot guarantee there will be no unstructured, but at this time there is none.

44.	Can HCS provide an estimate of the number of external data sources that need to be connected to? Do these systems transfer data through SFTP, or is any other connectivity method required?	Refer to response 5.
45.	Do all schools in HCSD use PowerSchool SIS and Schoology? Are there any other applications/LMS/SIS currently in use in the school district?	Yes. Additional LMS are Google and Seesaw.
46.	What is the approximate size of the historical data?	Information not available.
47.	How many different user groups (e.g., students, teachers, principals, board members) require access to dashboard/reporting solutions? Please specify who needs interactivity and who requires canned reports.	At least 50 plus groups. All groups require canned reports, only top reporting groups 10 (principal, AP, district admin, IC) require interactivity
48.	Are there any scheduled report deliveries required? If so, please specify the approximate number of schedules and preferred time intervals.	Yes as needed.
49.	How many reports need to be near real-time (operational), and how many reports are to be summarized/processed with schedules (transactional/historical)?	All reports should be near real time. Would like the ability to run historical reports if possible.
50.	Ideal implementation practice of any data warehouse and Analytical project would be having DEV, QA, and PROD environments. Do you need an additional PREPROD environment?	No change. Yes, need additional PREPROD environment.
51.	Do you require support for advanced analytics or machine learning models within the data warehouse, and if so, what are the specific use cases?	Yes and cases are in development.
52.	Is there an infrastructure team at HCS to manage the cloud infrastructure for this solution, or will this be within the scope of the offer?	Within the scope of the offer.
53.	What level of support coverage is needed? Will it be 9x5, 16x5, 24x7, and what is the preferred support window? Is each school's data stored in an individual database, or is the entire school district's data stored in a single database application-wise?	9x5 and each school's data is stored in a single database.
54.	Can you provide more details on "out-of-the-box dashboards and data visualizations?" Does this mean the tool should have pre-built reports and dashboards or the ability to connect different domain data sources and create reports and dashboards?	Tool should have pre-built reports and ability to create customized reports.
55.	Can you provide more details on "Ability to provide ML (English for speakers of other languages) progress monitoring" requirements? Is this just an assessment report in English, or should the report content be produced in a different language?	Dashboard should be made to provide reports on English Language Proficiency Assessments. Reports do not need to be produced in different languages.
56.	Ability to develop a pathway for migration of historical data from pre-existing district programs/databases. Can you please provide more details on the expectation/vision?	At least 5 years of historical data through SFP and APIs.
57.	Is there an interface needed to manage data? What data needs to be updated/managed by power users/admins? Will the data be managed directly in the data warehouse or controlled upstream?	Yes an interface is needed. Data will not be updated in the warehouse. It may be appended or extended (for reports), but if data need to be updated, source data would be updated. The data will be controlled upstream.
58.	How critical is it to have a South Carolina minority business certification in the decision-making process for awarding the RFP?	Minority Business Certification is for reporting purposes only.
59.	Could the District please kindly grant an extension for the due date submission?	Refer to published Addendum #1.
60.	Could the District please kindly confirm if the firm can fulfill the K-12 experience with a subcontractor?	No

61.	Could the District please clarify if the utilization of offshore resources is prohibited to work on this project?	No change , refer to section VII. TERMS AND CONDITIONS – B. SPECIAL: OFFSHORE CONTRACTING PROHIBITED**:**
62.	Could the District kindly clarify if there is mandatory minority participation?	Refer to response 58.
63.	Could the District please clarify if the Firm is a Minority in California, will this fulfill the Minority Participation?	Refer to section Minority Participation, The Department of Small and Minority Business contracting and Certification section.
64.	Is the utilization of subcontractors permitted by HCSD for this project?	No change, refer to section V. Qualifications: Subcontractor-Identification (FEB 2015)
65.	Is it allowed to use a subcontractor for 100% of the completion of this project?	No, Refer to response 6
66.	Could HCSD please clarify if it is allowed to use digital signatures?	Refer to response 7
67.	Does HCSD require wet ink signatures?	Refer to response 7
68.	Could HCSD please clarify if there is a mandatory set-aside goal?	There is not a mandatory set aside goal.
69.	Could HCSD please disclose the allocated budget for this contract?	Refer to response 24.
70.	Could HCSD please clarify how many vendors will be awarded?	No change, VI. AWARD CRITERIA: AWARD TO ONE OFFEROR (JAN 2006): Award will be made to one Offeror. [06-6040-1]
71.	Is it required to provide the Good Standing Certificate alongside the proposal response?	Any information in regards to good standing should be included with the technical response.
72.	Is there any incumbent associated with this project? If so, please disclose the name.	No, there is not an incumbent.
73.	Is it required to provide the Certificate of Insurance (COI) alongside the proposal response?	COI is required once a decision is made on the award and prior to any work being done.
74.	If we are using a subcontractor, is it required for the subcontractor to provide the COI?	No, our contract would be with the awarded vendor.
75.	If the resources we provide at the time of proposal submission are not available at the time of a potential contract award could we replace them with equally qualified resources?	Depends on what you call resources includes. Anu services provided in the RFP will contractually be required.
76.	Does HCSD have a mabe required participation goal for DVBE/SBE/MBE/LBE/MWBE?	Refer to response 58.
77.	If we are using a subcontractor, can the subcontractor meet the DVBE/SBE/MBE/LBE/MWBE participation?	Refer to response 58.
78.	Will HCSD have preferences for a vendor that is certified as DVBE/SBE/MBE/LBE/MWBE?	Refer to response 58.
79.	Can HCSD please clarify if only onshore resources are allowed for this opportunity?	Refer to response 61.
80.	Does the HCSD prefer on-site resources to execute the project?	Refer to response 61.
81.	Does HCSD accept remote resources to work on the project?	Refer to response 61.
82.	Can HCSD please clarify if offshore resources are not allowed for this opportunity?	Refer to response 61.
83.	Could HCSD kindly clarify whether this clause prohibits data from being located outside of the United States or restricts firms from utilizing offshore resources for the project's development?	Refer to response 61.

84.	Is there a page limit for the proposal response?	No change, No. Refer to section II. Instructions to Offerors – B. Special Instructions, Contents of Offer (RFP)
85.	Can HCSD please clarify if the forms, table of contents, cover pages, resumes, etc., would count toward the page limit?	Refer to response 84.
86.	Is it allowed to use subcontractor references?	No change, No.
87.	Could HCSD please clarify, if Firms can provide references of ongoing contracts?	Yes.
88.	Are there any format margins that we need to consider when writing our proposal?	No.
89.	Could the HCSD please clarify if there is a page limit for the resumes?	Refer to response 81.
90.	Can HCSD please clarify how many references must be provided for each proposed key staff?	Minimum of three (3)
91.	In case firms are submitting confidential information in the response, is it required to provide a redacted version?	Refer to section IV. Information for Offerors to Submit, B. Business Proposal, Submitting Redacted Offers.
92.	Could HCSD kindly confirm whether it's seeking a COTS solution or a custom solution?	HCS seeks an off the shelf solution with the ability to be customized.
93.	Can HCSD please clarify if this form must be the first pages of the proposal response? Or firms can choose where to add it in the proposal response?	Pages 1 and 2 should be the first forms in the technical proposal and Business Proposal for identification purposes.
94.	Can HCSD please clarify if this form can be signed electronically?	Refer to response 7.
95.	Can HCSD kindly clarify if since there are no preferences, is it required to add any information in those spaces of the form or must be left blank?	**No change , PREFERENCES - A NOTICE TO VENDORS (SEP. 2009**): **PREFERENCES DO NOT APPLY** PER SC CONSOLIDATED PROCUREMENT CODE [11-35-1524(E)(5)]
96.	Regarding the redacted copy, can the HCSD kindly provide further clarification regarding the requirement stated in the RFP for submissions to be on magnetic media? What kind of document must be provided?	Magnetic Media would only be required if the submission was not sent in an electronic format through vendor registry.
97.	Is it mandatory to provide a redacted copy or is optional?	Refer to response 91.
98.	Could the HCSD please confirm that section IV, Point A Technical Response and Point B Business Proposal are the only points from the RFP that vendors have to follow to create the technical responses?	Following requirements as stated in proposal format and provide technical and business responses separately.
99.	How many years of data does the HCSD have in the various data systems?	15 years.
100.	What are the different data sources and types of data in each source system?	Refer to response 5.
101.	How would the HCSD rate the quality of data for each of the data source systems?	The data will be as expected. The majority of data is clean but there will be anomalies.
102.	Does the HCSD have an ER diagram explaining current Data models/systems?	No.

103.	From a governance perspective, how many years of Data HCSD is looking to store in the new DWH platform?	At least 5 years.
104.	What is the expected source-wise data growth rate in terms of % on a yearly basis?	20% annually.
105.	Does the HCSD have a presence in cloud technologies? If so, is it hosted on a Commercial Cloud or a Government Cloud?	No.
106.	Do any of the existing data systems reside in a cloud environment (Azure, AWS, GCP, etc.), or are they all on-premises?	No.
107.	Does HCSD have any preference for a cloud platform (Azure/AWS/GCP)?	Azure
108.	Is there a preferred database platform that aligns with the internal skill sets for long term supportability of the solution (Oracle/SQL Server/PostgreSQL/Snowflake)?	Oracle/SQL Server preferred.
109.	Is there any preferred reporting/dashboard solution the HCSD is looking for (Tableau/Power BI)?	Tableau preferred.
110.	How many reports/dashboards does the HCSD currently have? What tool is utilized for existing reports (Maybe Excel reports/Crystal Reports…)?	Thousands.
111.	How many new reports/dashboards the HCSD is looking for?	As many as needed.
112.	At present, does the HCSD use any ETL tool to process data that feeds internal or external reports?	No.
113.	Does the HCSD possess the necessary documentation outlining the current systems and business processes?	No.
114.	What is the current skillset of the incumbent team? Are there data scientists, analysts, and developers?	Submit your offeror based on the specifications and scope of work published in this solicitation.
115.	Does the HCSD expect the vendor to deploy any on-site resources to complete any tasks in the project or it is possible to go for completely remote resources?	Yes- onsite will be required in some situations.
116.	Can firms utilize a hybrid resource model (on-site, remote, offshore) to accomplish the project?	Yes for onsite and remote, however see response 76.
117.	What is the duration of the entire project?	Refer to section SCOPE OF SOLICIATION MAXIMUM CONTRACT PERIOD – (ESTIMATED): Start date: 5/2/2024 End date: 5/1/2029.
118.	Does the HCSD have any specific budget for the renewal years of the project?	Refer to response 24.
119.	How many environments does the HCSD have in the present technology stack?	The technology stack HCS has is irrelevant to this project.

120.	Does the HCSD use any Project Management, Version controlling tool such as Azure DevOps, JIRA, etc.?	No
121.	Is there any preference for a development framework such as Agile/Scrum?	No.
122.	Under Pont 2, Table of Exceptions, could the HCSD please confirm that if vendors do not have exceptions, they only have to provide a statement indicating that there are no exceptions?	Yes, that will suffice the requirement
123.	Could the HCSD please confirm that vendors only have to provide an agreement statement to suffice the point of Change of Ownership?	Yes, if the agreement statement includes what is requested on number 4 Corporate Overview b. Change of Ownership.
124.	Will the HCSD prefer a local vendor for this contract?	Refer to response 95.
125.	Could the HCSD elaborate on the SLA requirements?	This should be corrected to Service Level Agreement and not Subscriber Line Agreement. A service-level agreement (SLA) defines the level of service expected by a customer from a supplier, laying out the metrics by which that service is measured, and the remedies or penalties, if any, should the agreed-on service levels not be achieved.
126.	What information does the HCSD expect vendor to provide to suffice the SLA requirement?	Refer to response 125.
127.	Could the HCSD elaborate on what information vendors have to provide to suffice the Support Plan Requirement?	Your plan for support of the services/products you are providing
128.	If a firm doesn't have K-12 references, will be disqualified?	Yes
129.	Could the HCSD please clarify what information they expect vendors to provide for the Support Plan requirement?	Refer to response 127.
130.	Could HCSD please clarify how many projects vendors have to provide to suffice this requirement?	At least three (3) most recent and comparable to scope of work as provided in the solicitation.
131.	Could HCSD please clarify if vendors can provide commercial/non government project to suffice this requirement?	The District has requested that the vendor provide references for K-12 based projects.
132.	Could HCSD please clarify if vendors can provide ongoing projects to suffice this requirement?	Yes
133.	Could HCSD please clarify how many references vendors have to provide for each key staff?	Not determined.
134.	Could HCSD please clarify if, by key staff, they mean all the staff involved or proposed in this project from the vendor side?	Key Staff means experienced, professional and/or technical personnel who will have major responsibilities under the contract and/or provide unusual or unique expertise essential for successful completion of the work performed.
135.	Could HCSD please clarify if these projects can be the same as the references we have to provide in Appendix C?	Yes
136.	Could HCSD please clarify if vendors have to address section V. Qualifications in the Technical Response? if yes, could HCSD please clarify under which section vendors have to address it?	Yes, provide in the technical proposal.

137.	Could HCSD please clarify if section V. Qualifications is just informative and vendors do not have to address it?	Refer to response 136.
138.	If we use a subcontractor, under which section of the Technical Response vendors have to provide the subcontractor information ?	Refer to response 136.
139.	Could HCSD confirm what are the Mandatory Appendix attachments, the firm's need to provide in the response?	Mandatory meaning all.
140.	Could HCSD please clarify if vendors just have to provide an statement acknowledging this section within the Technical Response?	Yes.
141.	Could HCSD kindly provide clarification if the Appendix attachments need to be provided in a separate file or in the same response?	With the technical response.
142.	Could HCSD please clarify if vendors have to address this section? if yes, could HCSD please clarify under which section of the technical response, vendors have to provide this information?	Yes provide all information requested in the technical response other than price.
143.	Could HCSD kindly provide clarification where the Firm's need to attach the Appendixes in the response?	Attach with the technical response
144.	Request details on the following: data sources; DBs (Oracle? SQL Server, etc) and applications, estimated data warehouse size, and number of users?	Number of Users: 5,0000 Data Warehouse Size: undetermined Data Sources: Oracle/SQL Server Examples include but are not limited to: Data Integration from NWEA, iReady, Amplify, DRC, Progress Learning, EdPlan SC, Enrich, Performance Matters, Peoplesoft, Renaissance, CogAt-Iowa, Ellevation, College Board, ACT, WIN, Johns Hopkins, Review 360 typically a CSV files or through an API.