



End Point Installation Services for the ConnectH2O Program
Solicitation Number: B-19-030-JP

ADDENDUM 2
December 12, 2019

To Respondent of Record:

This addendum, applicable to project referenced above, is an amendment to the RFCSP. Acknowledge receipt of this addendum by entering the Addendum number and issue date on the space provided in submitted copies of the Respondent Questionnaire.

CLARIFICATIONS

Vendor is reminded to submit the Disclaimer form needed for SAWS to authorize the release of Appendix 7 – Meter & Location Information by **4:00 PM (CT) on December 18, 2019**.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Question: Will SAWS be providing replacement lids and boxes for damaged lids or pits?

Reply: Yes, SAWS will provide both replacement lids and/or boxes for damaged lids/pits, only. Please refer to Appendix 8 – SAWS Meter Lid Information, for additional lid related information.

2. Question: Will SAWS be supplying hardware for replacing curb stops, customer side repairs, and relocating boxes?

Reply: Materials to be provided by SAWS are described in Exhibit B, Functional and Technical Specifications, Requirements 2.7.1 through 2.7.3. Vendor is required to supply all other materials as described in Requirement 2.4.14.

3. Question: Is GPS location capture required? If so, at what resolution?

Reply: Yes, GPS LAT/LON capture is required. Resolution to no less than 3 to 5 meters is required.

4. Question: What is the meter pit location?

Reply: Meter location information can be found in Appendix 7, Meter and Location Information (tab METERS_11062019) which requires a Disclaimer form to be submitted in order to receive access to download. The Disclaimer form is found on the SAWS solicitation website for this project.

5. Question: Who is responsible for customer communication?

Reply: SAWS will provide a letter to the customer as described in Exhibit B, Requirement 2.6.1. The Vendor is required to provide other customer contact via its call center as described in Exhibit B, Section 2.6. Vendor will leave door hangers as specified in Requirement 2.6.7; SAWS will provide these. Furthermore, SAWS will

implement a comprehensive Customer Communications Plan and expects input and participation from selected vendor.

- 6. Question:** Please provide a listing of all the endpoints to be installed (meter type, address, lat-long/GPS coordinates). Additionally, please indicate if the meter is installed indoors or outdoors.

Reply: This information is provided in Appendix 7, Meter and Location Information which requires a Disclaimer form to be submitted in order to receive access to download. The Disclaimer form is found on the SAWS solicitation website for this project.

- 7. Question:** Are there locks on the current meter lids?

Reply: There are no locks on meter lids.

- 8. Question:** Please provide the disposition of the meter lids at each address; specify if the lids are plastic, concrete, or metal.

Reply: The precise lid type that exists at each meter location is unknown. Please refer to Appendix 8 – SAWS Meter Box Lid Information, for details about SAWS Lids.

- 9. Question:** Does SAWS have an inventory of the conditions of each meter location (in a database/spreadsheet) similar to what was provided in Appendix 10 Photos of Field Meter Conditions (11202019)?

Reply: The requested level of information is not currently available. Requirements for what actions the vendor is required to perform, when it encounters these field conditions, are contained in Exhibit B, Functional and Technical Requirements, Tab 2.0. Pricing for these conditions has been requested as part of the EPI Pricing Workbook., under Tab 3, Other Equipment Install.

- 10. Question:** Please confirm that legacy equipment does not need to be held for any length of time and can be disposed of immediately.

Reply: There are specific requirements for how the logging of these items is to be performed as part of the scrapping process (included in Exhibit B, Functional & Technical Specifications, requirement 2.4.12). There is not a “holding period” for the vendor to hang onto meters, yokes or curb stop valves prior to placing these items into the respective scrapping bins. SAWS may, however, elect to have the vendor retain some small quantities of meters for testing by SAWS.

- 11. Question:** Please specify the specific labor category for AMI module installer and meter installer, if they are different.

Reply: The EPI vendor is to use the “Laborer-Utility” classification, for AMI module and meter installer, found in the Heavy and Highway wage decision included in the RFCSP document. Please refer to the Davis-Bacon Act (Code of Federal Regulations 29 CFR Labor) and Chapter 2258 of the Texas Government Code, for more details and information regarding the requirements and compliance with this Act/Code.

- 12. Question:** For Item 19 on page IR-7 of EPI RFCSP Front End Documents Final and Posted.pdf: Will SAWS support field visits? If so, please provide a point of contact for scheduling.

Reply: No field visits are planned by SAWS. See Appendix 10 – Photos of Field Meter Conditions, for a sample of some of the site conditions that the vendor may encounter.

13. Question: Will any of the 3 different solicitations for the Connect H2O Program be asking for photography services?

Reply: The EPI vendors are required to take photographs of their work at various stages in their work flow. These photos are typically taken using an integrated camera in the handheld devices used for managing the installation work. These photos will be transferred as appropriate to SAWS to document the work as completed using the vendor's Work Order Management System. Beyond this, there are no current requirements for any additional photography services in the RFCSP's.

14. Question: In regards to the possible change out of 3" and larger meters, will the exchange be like for like or would there be instances of Turbine meters for Compound or vice versa?

Reply: 3" to 8" Turbine meters will be like for like. Compound meters will be replaced with turbine meters.

15. Question: Will there be any meter exchanges/retrofits that require Confine Space Entry?

Reply: No, at this time we do not have any meter exchanges / retrofits that require confined space entry.

16. Question: What are the classifications of workers required for prevailing wage rate?

Reply: The most current wage decisions applicable to this project are included in the RFCSP document for this solicitation. Please refer to the Davis-Bacon Act (Code of Federal Regulations 29 CFR Labor) and Chapter 2258 of the Texas Government Code, for more details and information regarding the requirements and compliance with this Act/Code. Also, see Reply to Question #11 above.

17. Question: Is EPI vendor to coordinate curb stop shutoffs with City directly or other vendors?

Reply: The EPI vendor is required to coordinate curb stop replacement work with SAWS directly. The EPI vendor is approved to operate curb-stop valves as required to support its meter installation activities.

18. Question: Please verify EPI vendor to provide data management center for collection and transfer of installation information collected

Reply: There are numerous requirements for transacting information for the work from EPI to SAWS, and those are expected to be defined as part of the planning and integration meetings for the EPI Work Order Management System (WOMS) and SAWS source and target system(s).

19. Question: Is City supplying curb stops and Yokes?

Reply: No. SAWS, not City, is supplying curb stops and yokes.

20. Question: How much EPI warehouse/office space is required for SAWS personnel during full deployment?

Reply: The requirements indicate that up to 10 handhelds are required to support SAWS installers. The EPI vendor should size its facilities to accommodate daily pickup & return of work by SAWS installers as it would for its own installers. Otherwise, the SAWS personnel will typically work out of its own facilities.

21. Question: Does SAWS require a 24 month warranty on all products and services to include installation?

Reply: This question will be answered in a future addendum.

22. Question: At what point does the warranty period start and end?

Reply: This question will be answered in a future addendum.

23. Question: Does the performance bond need to stay in place for 1 year after the work is completed or 1 year after the warranty period expires?

Reply: This question will be answered in a future addendum.

24. Question: SAWS requires the selected vendor to have their WOMS available for SAWS to use for their Pilot Program. (Beginning July 2020). Who will provide the handhelds?

Reply: The EPI vendor is required to provide handhelds (Exh. B, Requirement 2.5.4).

25. Question: If handhelds are provided to SAWS for the Pilot, how many handhelds would SAWS require to be provided and supported?

Reply: Exh. B, Requirement 2.8.17 indicates that 10 handhelds are to be provided to SAWS.

26. Question: Will Call Center Services to be provided for SAWS personnel during the Pilot Program require appointment setting?

Reply: Yes, these Call Center services are required for the Pilot phase.

27. Question: How many SAWS installers will the Call Center and WOMS need to support?

Reply: SAWS has requested an option for the EPI to perform installation services for the Pilot. If SAWS provides, then up to ten installers would need support.

28. Question: Is this program Federally Funded?

Reply: Yes, with pass-through funds from the EPA from the Texas Water Development Board. However, SAWS is prepared to fund this project 100% with its own funds, if necessary.

29. Question: At what point will SAWS make the decision on Options 1, 2, 3 or 4?

Reply: Offeror is to complete the pricing workbook. SAWS will use the information from this workbook to understand Offeror's costs for each of the four options (as part of its evaluation process).

30. Question: Are we to quote all 4 options? If so, will SAWS require a separate RFP response for each option or just pricing?

Reply: Offeror is to complete the pricing workbook. SAWS will use the information from this workbook to understand Offeror's costs for each of the four options. Offeror need only to submit a single RFP response with a single pricing response.

31. Question: What percentage of the Pilot meters will be residential and C&I?

Reply: Parameters for the pilot have not been finalized. However, assume that the meter population in the Pilot will mirror that of the service territory as provided in Appendices 6 & 7.

32. Question: Will any recycled water or wholesale connections be included in the Pilot?

Reply: Recycled water and wholesale connections will not be included in the Pilot.

33. Question: What size meters are your recycled water and wholesale customers on?

Reply: Meter size information is provided in Appendix 7, Meter and Location Information which requires a Disclaimer form to be submitted in order to receive access to download. The Disclaimer form is found on the SAWS solicitation website for this project.

34. Question: Confirming that the installation project staff will require Davis-Bacon labor requirements.

Reply: Yes, because of this is a TWDB project; the Davis-Bacon Act labor requirements are required for this project. See Reply to Question #11, #16, & #28, above.

35. Question: Is this work considered union/non-union labor?

Reply: Please refer to the Davis-Bacon Act (Code of Federal Regulations 29 CFR Labor) and Chapter 2258 of the Texas Government Code, for more details and information regarding the requirements and compliance with this Act/Code.

36. Question: Does this requirement also include warehouse staff?

Reply: Yes, the Davis-Bacon Act requirements applies to all laborers employed by contractor and subcontractors performing work at the work site. Please refer to the Davis-Bacon Act (Code of Federal Regulations 29 CFR Labor) and Chapter 2258 of the Texas Government Code, for more details and information regarding the requirements and compliance with this Act/Code.

37. Question: What is the classification of labor required to perform the installation work?

Reply: See Reply to Question #11 above.

38. Question: Can adjustments be made to the contract price should the Davis-Bacon prevailing wage change during the contract and installation period?

Reply: No changes nor adjustments will be made to the contract after the contract has been executed to account for any changes or updates to the Davis-Bacon prevailing wage rates during the contract and the installation period. Contractor will need to comply with the latest wage decisions established in the RFCSP. If changes to prevailing wage rates change during the solicitation time and prior to the deadline to submit the proposal; an addendum will be issued to reflect the new/latest prevailing wage rates.

39. Question: Is it a requirement of SAWS on this contract for the contractor to have a weekly payroll for the installation employees?

Reply: Yes, weekly certified payrolls will be required to be submitted, for all hourly workers, electronically in the LCPtracker system as stated in the General Conditions 2.10 included in the RFCSP. Also, please refer to the Davis-Bacon Act (Code of Federal Regulations 29 CFR Labor) and Chapter 2258 of the Texas Government Code, for more details and information regarding the requirements and compliance with this Act/Code.

40. Question: Can installers be classified as "Apprentice"? If so, what percentage of the workforce?

Reply: Apprentices are to be approved by the Department of Labor prior to starting the work. Please refer to the Davis-Bacon Act (Code of Federal Regulations 29 CFR Labor) and Chapter 2258 of the Texas Government Code, for more details and information regarding the requirements and compliance with this Act/Code.

41. Question: Will SAWS allow for a fuel sur-charge should gas prices escalate during the deployment period?

Reply: It is the vendor's decision to determine what costs it intends to include in its proposal.

42. Question: What type of Installation support is SAWS considering?

Reply: The RFCSP documents specify the installation support requirements to be provided by the EPI for all activities in the RFCSP. Generally speaking, the EPI vendor is providing the systems, services, logistics and support for all installation activities.

43. Question: Would SAWS consider performing all work on meters 3" and above during the full deployment?

Reply: SAWS has asked the vendors to provide pricing to perform this work. SAWS resources may not be able to accommodate this workload. Please refer to the Pricing Workbook, Tabs 2A, 2B & 2C.

44. Question: During the Pilot Phase SAWS states that 2 vendors will be selected to participate in the Pilot. Is this a 50/50 Split? 2,500 meters each? If so, will SAWS select just one WOMS and Call Center for support or will that be divided as well?

Reply: The pilot areas will be split 50/50 between the two selected AMI vendors. A single Endpoint Installation vendor will be selected.

45. Question: What percentage of installs will require additional repair work for the following:

- a. Curb stop valves
- b. Yoke installation
- c. Meter box repairs
- d. Customer service line repairs?

Reply: The vendor has been asked to bid on quantities of repairs for curb stop valves, yokes and meter box repairs to accommodate repairs as needed. Please refer to the Pricing Workbook, Tab 3.0 for those details. The percentage of customer service line repairs is not known at this time.

46. Question: If customer service line repair is required, how far would we be required to repair a customer's service line?

Reply: The EPI vendor is required to perform repair work that is attributable to its meter installation services. The customer's service line must be back in service when the EPI vendor completes its work.

47. Question: If excavating is required to perform the additional repair work, who would perform the excavation?

Reply: Excavation is the responsibility of the EPI vendor.

48. Question: Is a Texas contractor license required to perform excavation portion of work?

Reply: The EPI Vendor is responsible to ensure all required licenses, permits and requirements are adhered to when performing work for this project.

49. Question: Would permits be required to perform any of the additional repair work?

Reply: The work associated with the following field repair activities do not require permits to be pulled: Curb stop valve replacement; yoke installation or replacement; meter box repair, re-leveling or replacement; and customer service line repairs associated with routine meter replacement work.

50. Question: Will meter boxes require clean-outs? If so, is this invoiced as a separate installation charge? If so, what percent of meter boxes will require pit cleanout

Reply: Meter box cleanout will likely be required on some meter boxes. Details about the requirement for cleanout are specified in Exhibit B, Requirements 2.9.2.4 and 2.10.3.4. Clean out is part of the installation unit rates requested, and is not currently broken out as a separate line item. The actual percentage of meter boxes requiring cleanout is unknown.

51. Question: Is pollution insurance required to perform this work?

Reply: Pollution insurance would not be required

52. Question: Will SAWS be responsible for the meter salvage and hazardous material disposal of during the Pilot phase?

Reply: Yes, SAWS will provide bins for the EPI vendor to place meters that need to be salvaged and hazardous materials that need to be disposed of. SAWS will then dispose of these items.

53. Question: What percentage of meters are indoors for Residential? For C&I?

Reply: Meter location information can be found in Appendix 7, Meter and Location Information which requires a Disclaimer form to be submitted in order to receive access to download. The Disclaimer form is found on the SAWS solicitation website for this project. Additional breakdowns of residential vs. commercial are clarified in Appendix 6, Tabs 2 & 3.

54. Question: What percentage of meters would be considered hard to access?

Reply: Meter location information can be found in Appendix 7, Meter and Location Information which requires a Disclaimer form to be submitted in order to receive access to download. The Disclaimer form is found on the SAWS solicitation website for this project. Offeror should utilize this information to assess hard to access conditions.

55. Question: Will this project require any type of NDT inspections? Includes: Non-Destructive Testing Services: X-ray, Gamma ray (on-site developing), Magnetic Particle, Liquid Penetrant, Eddy Current and Ultrasonic inspections services.

Reply: NDT services will not be required for AMI, MDMS nor EPI Services.

56. Question: SAWS shows to have 395,000 cast iron lids...can you provide the specifications on all sizes that comprise that 395K lids?

Reply: Appendix 14 - Spec 833 Meter and Meter Box Installation provides information on lids.

57. Question: Can we get a breakdown per meter size the quantities SAWS is looking for I.E. 395,000 – 5/8 X 3/4 XXX – 3/4" XXX – 1" meters?

Reply: Meter size information can be found in Appendix 7, Meter and Location Information which requires a Disclaimer form to be submitted in order to receive access to download. The Disclaimer form is found on the SAWS solicitation website for this project.

58. Question: Is SAWS planning on switching residential meters only?

Reply: No. Refer to Appendix 7, Meter and Location Information which requires a Disclaimer form to be submitted in order to receive access to download. The Disclaimer form is found on the SAWS solicitation website for this project.

END OF ADDENDUM 2

This Addendum is **eight (8)** pages in its entirety. There are no attachments.