Procurement and Contracting Services

ADDENDUM #1

Request for Proposals for Flandreau Science Center Planetarium Upgrade

Please mark all RFP submission envelopes with the following information:

Sealed RFP# L131411
Due on January 31, 2014 no later than 2:00PM MST
Q: Based upon statements in the RFP and from dialog during the Jan. 15 pre-bid meeting it is our understanding that for at least a year or two after the fulldome installation, the current Flandrau Minolta will remain in place and will continue to be used. Also, long-term, you plan for a possible optical-mechanical replacement of the Minolta. For this reason, will you consider an alternate projection position on either side of the current star projector?

A: We (Flandrau) are hoping to renovate the area where the Minolta star projector currently resides. This renovation would involve removing the star projector and surrounding walls and alcoves, filling in the open space as new flooring in the center of the room, and installing new seating with access isles. Our goal is to have 165 fixed seats total with extra space for removable seats. With this in mind we hope to have the funding necessary to achieve this upgrade within the next year. We are open to entertaining the possibility of having a center-of-the-room mounted projection system as long as it allows us to meet our desire to have the seating layout mentioned. However, we do not wish to go to any great lengths to modify the existing center projection area for a "temporary" projection solution for our current project knowing that we would have to reconstruct the center area at a future date.

Q: This projection geometry has many advantages:
   We can install along the theater axis

A: This is an accepted advantage but our tests with demonstrator systems convinced us that it is not a necessity.

Q: The Minolta star projector can be used at the same time in its upright correct geometric position without interfering with the fulldome system

A: This is an accepted advantage but our future plans do not require it.

Q: As long as the Minolta is fixed (not moving) we can do accurate preset constellation overlays and other overlays over the Minolta projected starfield including Sun, Moon, and Planets. We can also overlay the sky/Milky Way in different wavelengths of light and we can dissolve between the fulldome digital sky and the Minolta sky.

A: This would be a useful advantage but our future plans do not require an opto-mechanical projector.

Q: There are no seats between the console and the proposed rear SMG II projector so the lenses will be invisible for much of the audience. However, If one projects from the cove, the low springline means that the audience will be very aware of the front projector. The bottom of the dome is just 1765mm off of the floor. The front of the lens will have to be no higher than 1500 mm off of floor. A seated person has an average eye height of 1220mm.  This means that in bright scenes, the audience will be very aware and distracted by the front projector, We eliminate this issue by moving that projector on the rear half of the theater.
A: Our tests with demonstrator systems showed this to not be a problem.

Q: If you choose to replace the Minolta in the future, then this projection geometry will work best with any future optical-mechanical hybrid combination.

A: Currently we have no plans to replace the existing opto-mechanical projector with a new one.

Q: Should you remove the Minolta Star Projector, the fulldome system can be easily moved and re-aligned to center, greatly reducing the footprint of the fulldome system.

A: This would be an advantage as long as it does not interfere with our seating upgrade plans.

Q: Using the same projector/lens technologies, Images projected from near center are sharper, brighter and produce less dome cross-bounce (greater contrast) than fulldome systems which project from the dome perimeter, We would be happy to prove this statement.

A: This is an accepted advantage and will be considered in our evaluation if vendors suggest a center mounted alternative.

Q: The projectors in center will not impede circulation. seating sightline, or cause loss of seating, because they will fit within the current barrier footprint.

A: We will be changing the barrier footprint if we choose to go with a center mounted system. The new footprint would be a consideration in our evaluation.

Q: Is sufficient power available in the equipment room and video projector locations?

A: Yes, we have more than adequate power in each location.

Q: The equipment room has a 6,000 Watt (20,000BTU/hr) potential. If additional power is required, will this be the responsibility of the University?

A: Yes, it will be the UA’s responsibility, but we anticipate plenty of existing power.

Q: What environmental controls and sound insulation will be provided for the equipment room to isolate it from the audience seating area?

A: The equipment/control room has existing environmental controls that will be overseen by technical staff. This will provide adequate cooling for equipment. It is isolated by doors, walls and windows that will need extra sound insulation. We will provide the extra sound insulation working with the vendor for specs and plans.
Q: Will the existing rack locations have sufficient cooling for the additional equipment?

A: Yes.

Q: What is the current dome gain?

A: Dome gain is estimated at 0.5 (neutral grey), but no precise measurement has been made.

Q: Is there a required/desired luminance level for the white work lights?

A: This will follow architectural standards for classroom spaces as determined by the University of Arizona. We will meet with appropriate UA Facilities departments to determine the specifications. (Forthcoming)

Q: Will they be used for classroom or live presentations in addition to general work/maintenance?

A: Yes.

Q: How many of the 165 requested optional seats will require removable armrests?

A: We estimate 10, but the number must be confirmed by UA Disabilities Related Resources department. (Forthcoming)

Q: How many removable seats are estimated to be required and are these part of, or in addition to, the 165 seat count?

A: We estimate 30, depending on cost, in addition to the 165 seat count.

Q: In the section regarding the optional console, only specifications and design for a new console are indicated. Are bidders to also supply the console or will this be built by a local carpenter/contractor?

A: We plan to use our existing console in the beginning, but ask the vendor to include a quote for a new console for the future. If cost is prohibitive then UA will rely on local contractors.

Q: The transition from page 25 to page 26 of the RFP seems like it might be missing some introductory text to the bullet points provided at the top of page 26. Is there additional information needed in this portion of the document?

A: During editing, the section with the bulleted points was moved to provide greater clarity. This made for a less obvious transition but all necessary information is included and accurate.

All else remains the same.