Procurement and Contracting Services

Request for Proposals
For
High Performance Computing 2020 Refresh

ADDENDUM # 3
RFP L201904

Please mark all proposal submission Envelopes with the following information
Sealed RFP # L201904
Due on May 2, 2019 no later than 2:00pm MST
RFP #L201904, High Performance Computing 2020 Refresh
Recap of question and answer session at the April 4, 2019 Pre-Proposal Meeting
University of Arizona Responses in Red

Q1. Will all additional storage purchased after initial award need to meet the minimum acceptable and tiering requirements?
   Our goal is to make sure we can extend from 2-10 PB in capacity. We expect that adding capacity to the system will also come with a commensurate scaling of front-end performance.

Q2. Will the University of Arizona (UA) scale each year?
   In terms of storage, yes, we do expect user buy-in over the life of the system. When the users want to buy, they can buy in increments, we will see to aggregating their incremental purchase amounts as necessary. In terms of compute, we will purchase more nodes of various types as user demand requires and funds permit.

Q3. Do you have an estimated hot data working set size for storage systems?
   We do not know where the data will go after installation. We do not have any predictions of data for any number of users. All the data is essentially hot and needs to be accessible.

Q4. Is the 24x7 phone and online support a hard requirement?
   Yes, we want to be able to submit a ticket whenever the problem happens, but the response should be commensurate with the required support level.

Q5. Is data at rest encryption a hard requirement?
   No. There is no data encryption requirement at rest or otherwise. However, that kind of functionality may be interesting for us to consider in the future and please do let us know about these kinds of features in your product.

Q6. What is the useful life of the system?
   For contract purposes, it is the term of the contract (a total of five (5) years). The system may run for years after the agreement term but is not expected to be supported by the vendor longer than term unless an extension is purchased.

Q7. Will solutions that exceed the amounts in 3.9.8 still be considered?
   Yes and no. Our total budget is $3.3M. If a vendor were to submit a $3M storage solution, we would have to weigh this against the cost for compute. The numbers provided were to assist respondents with their submissions and provide appropriate, generalized scale for responses. UA has a strict budget that we will adhere to and want to complete our purchase based on the total budget.

Q8. Can any enhancements to proposal beyond what meets the requirements be submitted?
   Yes, these can be included in the space provided in the RFP. Any proposed enhanced features or capabilities should still comply with all RFP requirements, including environmental constraints. Additional features and/or capabilities that add value to the proposal will be considered as part of our evaluation criteria as specified in Section 3.9.8.
Q9. Is there any preference around optics, cables acceptable or do we need to provide a specific set of cabling?
We don’t have cabling in the RFP because we don’t know what solutions will ultimately receive final award. Our expectation is to receive cabling from the vendor that receives the award for Network. Options are great to propose in the network submission, final cable/optic counts and types will be finalized during the best and final offer process.

Q10. Regarding network cabling requirements, isn’t all the equipment in the same room?
Yes it is all in the same room, but we don’t know how long the cables will need to be as a result of the size and final selection of compute and storage.

Q11. Can bidders submit more than one option for storage and compute as long as it meets minimum requirements?
Yes, you may submit multiple solutions. A version of the response spreadsheet should be completed for all configurations respondents wish to be considered.

Q12. Will existing job schedule licenses be leveraged for HPC or do you want vendors to own this?
Job scheduler software is not part of this RFP process. UA will pursue this separately.

Q13. Any thoughts on percentage breakdown of nodes?
Proposals should include only CPU nodes in the system configuration as-bid. Proposals should additionally include a bill of materials and pricing for a node configuration providing a minimum of 3TB of RAM as well as a bill of materials and pricing for a node configuration capable of hosting a single NVIDIA GPU with individual prices for V100, T4 and T8 model GPUs, as available.

Q14. If we do have multiple bids, should we submit the complete bid or the one-off change?
Preference would be to provide a response for the complete bid and notate any one-off changes in pricing, but if there is an advantage to submitting a full quote then you may do so. A version of the response spreadsheet should be completed for all configurations respondents wish to be considered.

Q15. For existing equipment, do you have inventory or diagram?
New URL is available with current configuration. We are not replacing the compute equipment listed here, the compute for this RFP will be run in addition to this existing equipment. We do not have a room layout diagram at this time.
https://docs.hpc.arizona.edu/display/UAHPC/Compute+Resources

Q16. After being selected, if a portion of the solution receives a $500 per day penalty, do all vendors receive that penalty?
Vendors are only responsible for their own products and will not be held responsible for other vendor products.
Q17.  3.7.10 are vendor RFP responses confined to the spreadsheet?
   It is an RFP requirement to include a completed copy of the Excel spreadsheet with all
   responses. Vendors may elect to submit any other materials as well.

Q18.  So, vendor will be limited to hardware only. Job scheduler or any other software is not
   expected from vendor?
   Correct.

Q19.  Are there any restrictions on size, height, and power?
   All requirements for power, height and other specs are in the Environmental Considerations
   Section 5.9. Also see Addendum #2 Q71 for further clarification.

Q20.  Will you use whoever wins network as the primary means of connecting the equipment for
   testing or will you have other means of connection?
   This depends upon the timeline. We have not established the award order for the three
   sections at this point. We can leverage the Network vendor if they are on the floor first,
   however, we have in-house capabilities to test and benchmark equipment as necessary.

Q21.  Your existing job submission nodes will be leveraged for HPC 2020 and vendors do not need to
   put any hardware or any utility nodes.
   That is correct. If for the purposes of your benchmarking or acceptance testing, you need to
   provide a utility node so that you can provision your own servers to run those benchmarks
   initially, that’s absolutely fine. However, we are not requiring that for our use.

Q22.  Any testing on hardware expected with respect to HPC, from vendor?
   Assuming your question is referencing compute, we don't do any specific hardware testing,
   e.g. component pulls. Just looking to see that it stays up.

Q23.  Who is coordinating the installation, if multiple vendors are chosen?
   Who ensures the compute works with the network, and storage, etc.?
   That is the responsibility of UA. We performed this on the last installation and will do so for
   this acquisition as well.

Rekap of new dates:

3.3 Schedule of Events. The following is the tentative schedule that will apply to this RFP, but may
change in accordance with the University’s needs.

   03-18-19   Issuance of RFP
   04-01-19   Pre-Proposal Conference Questions/Inquiries due no later than 4:00 PM/MST
   04-04-19   Pre-Proposal Conference 9:00 AM MST
   TBD       Pre-Proposal Site Visit (upon request, see Section 3.5)
   04-09-19   Final Questions/Inquires due no later than 3:00 PM/MST
   05-02-19   RFP is Due May 2, 2019, no later than 2:00 PM, MST
   July 2019  Complete Evaluations
   July 2019  Award Notification
TBD  Receipt of Bonds and Insurance
Nov 2019  Delivery of Equipment
Dec 2019  Successful Completion of 28 Day Acceptance Period

*Please utilize the Excel spreadsheet (L201904 HPC Vendor Response) to submit your response as the Evaluation Committee will utilize the document format to organize criteria for review.*

**END OF ADDENDUM**