The following questions with respect to RFQ Number: ESS-2021-1 were timely received by the published deadline of 5:00 PM Central Time on April 21, 2021. The questions and answers are presented in no order of importance or priority. Some questions which may address a similar subject may be grouped together to facilitate communication and understanding. Appreciation is expressed for the questions submitted.

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Q1a. Is the Iowa Land Records going to continue to be hosted on-premise, or is there consideration to use a public cloud?

Q.1b Efficiencies on a cloud platform over the next 5 years?

A1. ESS updated equipment and operating systems in calendar year 2020. Therefore, it is expected that this equipment and associated systems will be maintained through the end of their collective life cycles. As end-of-life approaches, ESS will evaluate alternatives for equipment replacement and a possible migration to a cloud-based platform. Several factors will be evaluated including cost, options for support and maintenance, and compatibility with ESS applications

Q2a. Section 4.3 - Application Development - indicates that the existing platform is Java based. Thinking long term, do you anticipate Java remaining the primary technical stack for the existing application?

Q2a. In the context of new development, will Java be the preferred stack, or will ILR be open to other qualified and vetted frameworks?

A.2. Yes, Java, or JVM compatible languages will remain the preferred stack.

Broadly defined, in the long-term other software platforms may be considered. As with any application, the evaluation of options will consider the time and cost of refactoring applications to a new software platform, the expected support and maintenance systems for Java in future years, and the costs of benefits of emergent platforms.

It is suggested that respondents provide information about their skills and capabilities with the Java platform. Information about skills and capabilities with other software platforms may be included for reference. However, respondents should not expect ESS to consider a near-term pivot to alternative platforms even when refactoring existing applications.

Q3. Section 3.1 states that the Cost Proposal shall be submitted via a separate email, however Section 3.2.5 states that the Cost Proposal shall be submitted in a separately sealed envelope. Can you please clarify which is correct?

A3. Thank you for the question and we apologize for any confusion created with the conflicting instructions in Sections 3.1.1 and 3.2.5. Technical and Cost proposals should be emailed separately as specified in Section 3.1.1. It is not necessary to submit a Cost Proposal in printed form or in a separately sealed envelope.

Q4. For the signed Attachments that are required, can these be electronically signed or do they need to be physically signed?

A4. Digital or electronic signatures will be accepted in various forms. For example, an Attachment may be signed physically, but scanned and emailed as a part of the proposal. The presentation of a signed electronic document will be accepted.

Q5. Is there a defined budget for the initial duration of this contract for the Application Development Services section and Technical Support and System Maintenance Services section?

A5. No. The RFQ is seeking information about the qualifications of companies and the personnel they are presenting including information about the expected hourly rates associated with the work of each individual presented. The evaluation will be based on the information presented. It is expected that selected firms will then be eligible for work under a master agreement, and the scope of work, cost and time frame will be defined in separate work authorizations. Qualified firms will be invited to engage in project activities, and any engagement will be based on the alignment of a company's skills, capabilities and costs associated with the project specifications.

There is a substantial body of work anticipated both in the near term and intermediate term. Reserve funds and other resources have been identified. Budgets will be determined on a project-by-project basis. It is hoped that a series of projects over the life of the agreement will be undertaken.

Q6. Section 4.3 paragraph 2 suggests that the ESSCC has determined a "number of areas" where software development services will be needed. In the mindset of the ESSCC, how many personnel are anticipated to be needed at any given time from one or more vendors?

A6. The number of personnel needed will vary from project to project based on the scope, schedule and budget mutually agreed to by ESS and the participating company(ies).

Q7. Is the team chosen for Application Development responsible for managing the email servers?

A7. No, management of email servers or systems is expected to be performed by internal ESS personnel. However, it is possible the email management may be assigned to an organization selected under the category of Technical Support and System Maintenance Services as described in Sections 1.3 and 4.3. It is also possible that a responding organization may submit a proposal which addresses both Application Development *and* Technical Support and System Maintenance Services

Q8. A listed skill Application Development respondents are asked to identify is mobile device functionality and adapting software for both Android and iOS devices. Are there plans to make the Iowa Land Record system a native mobile application? Is there a desire for the application to be a Progressive Web Application or just a focus on mobile-first web design?

A8. The form of any mobile application has not yet been determined, and therefore an application could either be a native application or a Progressive Web Application. It is anticipated that any selected respondent would be involved in this planning. Respondents should present their current skills and capabilities in one or more forms of mobile application development. One of the potential areas of mobile application development is the function of searching and displaying recorded land records.

Q9. The Iowa Land Records system has been around for over a decade. Is this going to be a complete rewrite of the system or refactoring where applicable and new feature development leverages modern technology?

A9. It is anticipated that many if not most aspects of the ESS applications will be refactored to be compatible with current technology platforms, security standards and best practices.

Q10. Are there needs for a User Experience/User Interface expert to help modernize the customer experience?

A10. The RFQ does not specifically call out a requirement for a UE/UI expert. It is the goal of ESS to enable very positive user experiences, and respondents may present individuals with applicable skills and experiences which would be of benefit to ESS applications. However, respondents should expect that ESS will determine how best to improve the user interface based on input from and experiences with current users.

Q11. Who is responsible for setting priorities for feature development and setting work direction?

A11. ESS has various committees and work groups who are engaged in application planning, requirements development, and sometimes functional testing. When appropriate, customer focus groups are also providing important input and feedback. Administratively, the ESS project Manager (the RFQ issuing officer) will set priorities, establish a development road map, and determine the acceptance of software developed under a work authorization issued under this RFQ and a master agreement. Development activities will be managed by the ESS Technical Leader.

Q12. Public information regarding the last winning bid to help us understand alignment?

A12. There is no recent "winning bid" information available. This RFQ is a new initiative, and therefore information about a current vendor or a current contract does not exist. In recent history, Application

Development and Technical Support and System Maintenance Services have been performed only by internal ESS personnel.

Q13. Are we still able to submit a proposal if we aren't able to provide all services and/or requirements mentioned in the document?

A13. Respondents are not required to provide all services or demonstrate skills and capabilities in each area referenced in Sections 1.3 and 4.3. However, respondents should clearly demonstrate the base requirements for Technical Support and System Maintenance Services and/or Application Development as described in Section 4.3.

Q14. Is there a minimum number of resources that need to be submitted?

A.14. No. The RFQ requests information about the skills and capabilities of the organization and personnel who may provide the services described in the RFQ.

Q15. When listing out the resources on the pricing sheet, do we need to provide specific persons with names or just the resource titles and functions?

A15. Information about specific personnel who may be presented for services is required.