

**RFP 325-05-10-016 Medicaid Systems Project  
DSS - Decision Support System  
Final Questions and Answers**

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**Section: 1**

Topic: General

Question #: 192

Question: Did you have a third party partner assist or provide input regarding the content of this RFP as it relates to DSS/DW? If so, will you please provide the name(s) of the partner(s)?

Answer: We did have a consultant with experience in developing RFPs for Medicaid-related service assist us in developing our DDI RFP. That consultant's participation is a matter of public record. The consulting company was Fox Systems.

Topic: General - Project Methodology

Question #: 193

Question: We have our own Project Plan Methodology that we can use for customer engagements. As well, we can integrate our methodology with the customers. Do you have existing methodology for risk management, etc? If so, would you like us to follow your methodology or would you like us to integrate our methodology into your organization? Please elaborate.

Answer: The State has used different approaches to risk management, project planning, etc. in the past, and we are putting together a Program-specific (we are addressing the Medicaid Systems as a Program, composed of many projects) "project plan" that will address a "methodology" for this Program. However, we are always interested in hearing from our vendors from their experiences as to what works, and we will listen to those suggestions. The suggestions we find in the best interest of the State and the long-term success of this Program will most likely be incorporated into the Program, at the State's sole discretion.

Please note, however, that since this Program will involve multiple vendors, including our own IT Department, the State's Program Management will determine the overall methodology, approach, processes, et al. for use within the Program. Since we are adapting proven, industry best practices into the Plan, such as requirements management, incident management, configuration management, earned value, et al., we do not feel that anything we define for a "methodology" will be significantly difficult for any vendor to accommodate.

Topic: DSS/DW - general question

Question #: 196

Question: Will you please provide the data definition language from the existing DSS/DW – so that we can research compliance with the need to interface with the existing system, as well as so we can plan the requirements for our proposed system.

Answer: Our current vendor will provide the DDL in either SASS or CSV format along with a data dictionary. There will not be a need to interface with the existing DSS/DW as the new DSS/DW will completely replace the existing DSS/DW. The data in the existing DSS/DW system will be transferred to the new DSS/DW.

Topic: DSS/DW - general question

Question #: 202

Question: You have specifically identified fourteen reports in your bidders library. How many additional reports are you expecting for delivery on the "go live" date? Please provide details on the reports expected for this "go live" date (i.e. total number of reports for each output area, type of output: reports, electronic feeds, data dumps, etc...), degree of complexity.

Answer: The number and the details of reports will be determined during design phase. We would expect the DSS solution to provide standard medicaid related reports (utilization review, program management, financial management). We also expect the ability to create ad hoc reports and queries through a user friendly interface.

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Topic: DSS/DW - general question

Question #: 203

Question: For the DSS/DW implementation, would you prefer that we collaborate with the other development efforts on a Project Management system? Does North Dakota already utilize one? If so, what system do you currently use?

Answer: It is our intention to have a single project management system. During the start up phase of the project the State will review the vendors' recommendations for a PM system and will select a solution that best meets the needs of the State.

**Section: 1.2**

Topic: DSS/DW Hardware

Question #: 225

Question: Section 1.2 states that "The State's preference is that the DSS/DW Contractor will run the DSS/DW on state hardware, but the State will consider alternatives in its evaluation." Are bidders required to provide the State with specifications or estimated costs for state-owned DSS/DW hardware, and if so in which section of the RFP? Also, please confirm whether the costs of state-owned hardware need to be reflected in any way in the Pricing Schedules. For example, Pricing Schedule C for DSS/DW Operations Phase has a line (#2) for "Computer, Software, and Equipment Resources (i.e., items not provided by the State)." Under the scenario in which the State owns the DSS/DW hardware, we are assuming that the costs of this hardware do not need to be reflected here, is this correct?

Answer: For the DSS/DW solution, bidders are to include in their proposal recommendations on the hardware specifications. Bidders do not need to provide estimated costs for hardware where the hardware would be state-owned or include hardware costs in the Pricing Schedules. Based on the recommended hardware specifications, the State will undertake pricing of the hardware.

**Section: 10.2.9.2**

Topic: Draft Project Work Plan(s) for Contract Phases

Question #: 183

Question: The RFP states that a separate Draft Project Work Plan must also be prepared for the Operations Phase. Please confirm that a draft project work plan must be provided for DDI of the Replacement DSS/DW, however, no project plan for the Operations Phase is required. If a draft project plan is required for the DSS/DW Operations Phase, please clarify what specifically should be included in this plan and the anticipated dates involved.

Answer: Section 10.2.9.2 is clear in the requirement for an Operations Phase Work Plan (or schedule). Part of the purpose for this requirement is to help the vendor show previous experience with operations of a DSS/DW service.

It is assumed by the State that any Operations Phase work plan or schedule is for planning purposes only, and will be modified and detailed as the deployment date approaches. Although we do not expect substantive activities to be added or removed, we do anticipate that the details of the operations schedule will be added to, deleted, moved, and otherwise revised before the DSS/DW component is completed.

**Section: 11.4**

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Topic: Scoring of Technical Proposals

Question #: 222

Question: As described, it does not appear that the bidder with the highest Technical Proposal score will receive the maximum technical points, against which other bidders are prorated, in the same way that the lowest cost bidder receives the maximum score for each component in the Cost Proposal. This has the effect of weighing cost even more heavily than Table 21 (page 345) would indicate, which may be contrary to the State's interest in procuring high-quality, state-of-the-art systems. In other recent DSS/DW procurements, states that have assigned the maximum cost score to the lowest cost proposal have also assigned the maximum technical score to the highest scoring technical proposal. Would the State consider this approach?

Answer: Although the process for technical vs. cost proposals is slightly different (sliding scale vs. max points), the overriding factor is the technical proposal will be weighted 3:1 over the cost proposal. Using this methodology, the top cost proposal would have to be significantly lower (by a huge margin in fact) to compensate for only representing 25% of the total point awards. Although slightly different from other states' procurement scoring methodology, we are confident that the approach we have outlined will result in a fair and equitable selection.

And, yes, the State's interest is in procuring a high-quality, state-of-the-art Medicaid solution.

**Section: 11.7**

Topic: Oral Presentations

Question #: 221

Question: Please clarify whether Oral Presentations will be held after both technical and cost proposals have been evaluated, or after only the technical proposal has been evaluated?

Answer: Yes, oral presentations will occur after both technical and cost proposals have been reviewed and scored.

**Section: 12.6**

Topic: Attachment F -- DDI Deliverables

Question #: 226

Question: The State appears to have taken some care to distinguish between those deliverables required for the MMIS and POS, for which the State will assume operational responsibility, versus those required for the DSS/DW, for which the Contractor will have operational responsibility. However, based on the descriptions of the deliverables in Section 8, there are several deliverables listed for the DSS/DW (in particular, the Operational Procedure Manual/Documents) that require detailed procedural information of the kind that would seem necessary only if the State were expecting to maintain and operate the system.

In the event that the Contractor proposes to maintain operation of the DSS/DW, can we assume that the following deliverables will not be required: Draft Operational Procedure Manual (Section 8.4.3), Draft and Final Operating Procedures (Section 8.4.4), and Updated Operational Procedures Document (8.4.6 and 8.4.7)?

Answer: The Draft(section 8.4.3) and Updated (section 8.4.6 and 8.4.7) Operational Procedure Manual is required. The Draft and Final Operating Procedures would not be required from DSS/DW vendors.

**Section: 3**

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Topic: Write/Update question

Question #: 191

Question: 4. You state: The system must have its own security functionality that controls various types of data access. Security is user-specific and controls the following:

- Access to data marts
- Level of detail of data in the data mart
- Limits for the records within the data mart (e.g., only show those records for current recipients)
- Read/View versus Write/Update access

Please describe what type of "write/update" privileges you will need in the DSS/DW system.

Answer: We would expect read/view access only.

**Section: 3.12.1.2.2**

Topic: DSS/DW Operations Start Date

Question #: 224

Question: Section 3.12.1.2.2 indicates that the DSS/DW Contractor may be liable for additional costs incurred by the State if DHS has not approved the start of operations as of April 24, 2008. However, the DSS/DW Contractor is dependent in part on the MMIS and POS Contractors and other data sources for timely and accurate data. Is the State agreeable to adding language such as the following: "The DSS/DW Contractor will not be held liable for these additional costs in the event that the source of delay was outside its control."

Answer: If the delay is not caused by the DSS/DW vendor, the DSS/DW vendor will not be held liable for additional current DSS/DW operational costs. However, if the deployment is delayed due to the DSS/DW vendor then the DSS/DW vendor is liable per section 3.12.1.2.2 for the State's additional costs to operate the current DSS/DW system.

**Section: 3.12.2**

Topic: Liquidated Damages

Question #: 223

Question: According to Table 3, liquidated damages for accuracy and timeliness of report production apply to the DSS/DW contract. However, the DSS/DW Contractor is dependent on the MMIS and POS Contractors and other data sources for timely and accurate data. Is the State agreeable to adding language such as the following: "These damages will not apply to the DSS/DW Contractor in the event that the source of delay or inaccuracy is outside the control of the DSS/DW Contractor."

Answer: The State will amend the RFP to read as follows: These damages will not apply to the DSS/DW Contractor if the delay or inaccuracy is caused solely by the MMIS and / or Point of Sale.

**Section: 4.4.9**

Topic: Decision Support System

Question #: 171

Question: Will the new DSS receive Healthy Steps claims data from Noridian, and data from the Department of Health? What data is received from the Department of Health?

Answer: Yes, the DSS/DW will continue to receive information from both Noridian and the North Dakota Department of Health. The information from the North Dakota Department of Health will be claims data from other payers.

**Section: 5.2.1.6**

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Topic: MSIS Requirements

Question #: 210

Question: Section 5.2.1.6 indicates that "DHS will continue to design and develop standard reports...including MSIS 2082 requirements. Please confirm whether the DSS/DW contractor will be expected to develop and produce those data extracts.

Answer: We anticipate that the MSIS 2082 report will be generated from MMIS. An amendment to the RFP will be issued to clarify this requirement.

**Section: 5.2.3**

Topic: DSS Replacement

Question #: 172

Question: Is it the States expectation that the vendor will adopt existing query and analysis tools, or can the vendor bid an alternate tool(s)?

Answer: A vendor can propose alternate tools. If a vendor proposes alternate tools they must be compatible with technical architecture requirements in 7.1 of the RFP.

Topic: DSS/DW Users

Question #: 206

Question: Please clarify the number of users that the Data Warehouse and Decision Support System must each support, by type of user (executive, program manager, analyst) if possible.

Answer: The system should have the capability to add as many users as necessary at any level of security. DHS plans to have a certain number of power users (not expected to exceed 10 people) but they have not been identified at this time. We expect to define the actual number of users, once Business Processes have been defined through design and development. It is anticipated that staff in Medical Services, Fiscal Administration, Research and various other Agency Divisions will need desktop access to query tools. We do not expect the number of staff needing this desktop access to exceed 100.

Topic: DSS Replacement: query and analysis tools

Question #: 208

Question: Section 5.2.3 states that DHS and ITD will provide their existing set of query and analysis tools, reporting writing tools, and other tools (e.g., Crystal Reports, Business Objects, Microsoft Access, etc.) for data access, modeling, and manipulation of the data in the Data Warehouse. Is it correct to assume then that bidders do not need to include license costs for any of the referenced tools in their proposals?

Answer: Bidders should not include licensing costs for third party software. Bidders should include specifications for products and number of licenses required for those products. The State will acquire licenses on its own to the vendor's proposed COTS products.

Topic: CMS Reporting

Question #: 209

Question: Section 5.2.3 indicates that "The Medicaid segment of the Data Warehouse must have the flexibility to meet both current requirements and proposed changes in the format and data requirements of Federal statistical reporting...." The DSS/DW section of the RFP specifically references the CMS 64, CMS 21 and 21a, and CMS 37. Are there any other CMS/federal reports that the DSS/DW contractor must routinely produce, and if so what are these?

Answer: In addition to the reports listed in the question, the DSS must produce the CMS 416 EPSDT Annual Report. The system must also have the flexibility to add new reports as needed, for example, with the roll-out of Medicare Part D and Medicaid Reform there may be standard federal reports developed which we will be required to submit.

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**Section: 6.1.3**

Topic: Corporate letters of references

Question #: 211

Question: Are the three corporate letters of references to be signed letters from customers, or a statement/description from the bidder with the background and contact information requested? If signed letters are required, are there any specific requirements for how these must be formatted or submitted (e.g., on letterhead, in sealed envelopes, etc?)?

Answer: The RFP is clear that these are to be letters from customers. The letters must be on letterhead from the customer. In the event that policy prevents the customer from providing a written reference, then a statement containing the information described in the RFP may be substituted along with documentation of the customer's policy against written reference letters, e.g. a letter from the customer on their letterhead indicating the policy.

**Section: 6.2.1**

Topic: Key Personnel

Question #: 213

Question: This section indicates that the Implementation Manager starts eight months prior to Operations, with a focus on the conversion effort. Because there is no turnover for the DSS/DW, the job responsibilities for this position appear to overlap with those that bidders might ordinarily assign to either the Systems Development Manager or the Project Manager. How do these roles differ? Given the smaller scale of the DW/DSS, relative to the MMIS and POS, these multiple overlapping management roles will add unnecessary costs. Would the State consider relaxing the requirement for both a Systems Development Manager and an Implementation Manager, and allow the Bidders to describe the optimum staffing configuration?

Answer: An amendment to the RFP will be issued to allow the POS and DSS/DW project managers to serve in other positions within the project. The MMIS vendor's project manager will not be allowed to serve in any other positions within the project.

**Section: 6.3.1.1**

Topic: Location of Work

Question #: 214

Question: Section 6.3.1.1 stipulates that the majority of DDI work be performed on-site in Bismarck. It is extremely rare in DSS/DW procurements that vendors are required to conduct the majority of activities on-site. While we agree that a number of activities, such as JAD sessions and training, are by definition on-site, there are many activities that can be effectively and more efficiently performed off-site. By requiring the majority of work be performed on-site, the State will very significantly (and unnecessarily) increase its costs for the DSS/DW implementation. Would the State consider allowing DSS/DW bidders the flexibility to recommend those activities to be conducted on-site, and eliminating the hard-and-fast requirements in Section 6.3.1.1 for the DSS/DW component?

Answer: The vendor should present the most effective and cost-efficient solution in their proposal. The State expects that there will be a mix of on-site and off-site efforts by each of the vendors. The specific schedule and mix of on-site/off-site work will be determined during the initial planning effort at the start of the DDI phase. The State will work with all vendors to manage project costs. However, the State does reserve the right to request specific work be conducted on-site.

**Section: 6.3.2**

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Topic: Network configuration

Question #: 197

Question: Please provide a diagram of your existing network.

Answer: The state's Wide Area Network (WAN) utilizes a SONET ring backbone with ATM T1 connectivity to end points. A single site may have multiple ATM T1's. So, for example, the majority of the DHS Regional Human Service centers are connected via ATM T1s. All of the county social services offices are connected via ATM T1s. Exceptions are in Bismarck and Fargo where the Metro Area Networks are gigabit Ethernet and so the Regional Human Service Centers in those locations are connected to the Metro Area Networks via gigabit Ethernet. An RFP to provide gigabit Ethernet to Grand Forks has been released.

Local Area Network (LAN) connectivity varies. For LANs operated by the State (Regional Human Service Centers, DHS Central office) the LANs are 100 Mbit Ethernet to the desktop. For the county Social Service offices LANs vary: these LANs are operated by the individual counties, and not State Government.

MMIS servers will be located in the ITD Datacenter, the LAN is 100 Megabit Ethernet; Gigabit connectivity is available for selected servers.

Finally, the State is in the process of implementing a second datacenter in Mandan. The connectivity between the Bismarck and Mandan datacenters will be a 2.5 Gigabit Resilient Packet Ring, with 750 Mbit available for traditional IP data.

**Section: 7.4.1.1**

Topic: Process of interfacing with Payment

Question #: 194

Question: The system must capture other medical payments made through the North Dakota financial accounting system. Such payments may include:

- Health Insurance Premium Payments or Co-payments on behalf of Recipients
- Medicare Buy-In Premiums
- Supplemental DSH Payments
- Other Gross Level Payments or Adjustments
- Premium payments made by recipients such as through the Workers with Disability Program
- MCO Capitation Payments
- SCHIP Premium Payments

Please thoroughly describe this process so that we can incorporate this information into our proposal. What type of feed is provided by each system? How often? What is the format of data? Etc...

Answer: All data transfers will be electronic. The specific issues referenced will be resolved during joint design sessions with all vendors and the State's IT and business teams. When and how the DSS/DW is updated will depend on several processes yet to be determined. The format of the data will be based on the vendors technology, which needs to follow the requirements in the RFP.

Topic: Describe "new data" field.

Question #: 195

Question: Number 16, page 267: please describe what a "new data" field is. Also please describe what "access" means in terms of the DSS/DW.

Answer: On page 257, #16 : The "new data" field in this requirement is referencing the ability of the DSS/DW to accommodate any historical data which will not be a required field in the new POS / MMIS requirements, but will be required for reporting purposes. An example would be our current Medicaid Provider Identifiers.

In this reference, "access" means the same as it does throughout the RFP. The DSS/DW must be able to retrieve, store, and manipulate these new data fields.

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Topic: Source Data

Question #: 227

Question: Please identify the data sources that will be fed into the MMIS, and the current format of the data files.

Answer: Section 7.4.1.1 et al describe the data sources and interfaces required. The future MMIS architecture will drive the specific data sources and will be determined during the design phase. The Bidder's Library on our website contains current data formats.

**Section: 7.4.1.2**

Topic: DSS/DW - question

Question #: 198

Question: what does subsets, norms, and benchmarks mean as it relates to North Dakota?

Answer: We will be defining these functions as part of an ad-hoc on-going process. The DSS must be capable of performing these filtering functions. An example of a subset would be all expenditures for all the Chiropractic providers in ND. An example of a norm would be 95% of Medicaid recipients have 3 chiropractic visits in a calendar year. An example of a benchmark would be a list of all practioners who billed more than \$100,000 per month.

**Section: 7.4.1.2.45**

Topic: DSS/DW Standard Statistical Packages

Question #: 220

Question: Section 7.4.1.2.45 states that the DSS/DW must include standard statistical packages. Does the State use one of the standard packages (e.g., SAS, SPSS) today, or have a preference for a standard package with the systems replacement? Does the State have an existing license for one of these statistical packages and if so will that license be continuing in the future?

Answer: The State currently has existing licenses for SAS and SPSS. The State does not have a preference for statistical packages for this solution. This requirement is stipulating that the DSS provides the financial analysis and reporting as indicated in the requirements in this section.

**Section: 7.4.2**

Topic: Interface Systems

Question #: 199

Question: For Section 7.4.2 – does “interface” correlate to system? Please provide more detail on the environment of these interfaces.

Answer: Yes in this case, MMIS, POS, VISION and TECS are systems. See below  
\*TECS is an application written using CICS, ADABAS, Natural and COBOL  
\*MMIS is an application written in COBOL using Virtual Storage Access Method (VSAM)  
\*VISION is an application written in COBOL, C++, AllFusion Gen, Lotus Notes, and uses the DB2 Relational Database Management System  
\*POS is written in COBOL, CICS.

Various data is received from CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services). This data includes some of the items listed in 7.4.3 of the RFP.

**Section: 7.4.3**



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Topic: DSS/DW - Input

Question #: 200

Question: For section 7.4.3, please describe what you mean by "input". Please provide detailed information on all inputs to the warehouse. This is required in order to estimate the time it will take to complete this estimates for data movement into the warehouse system.

Answer: This list of inputs defines the preliminary set of data we expect to be included in the data warehouse. We cannot provide detailed input information until we have selected a MMIS and POS vendor(s). The specific data and transport mechanism will be determined during the design phase of the project.

Topic: DSS/DW Inputs

Question #: 215

Question: The State plans for a broad array of data sources to be incorporated in the DSS/DW (Section 7.4.3). In many other DSS/DW implementations, a phased approach to loading data sources has been quite effective. The phased approach ensures early value and minimizes risk. Is the State open to phasing in some of these data sources over time, or is it the State's intent for all of the DSS/DW data sources to be installed by the completion of DDI?

Answer: The expectation is that all DSS/DW loading will be completed by the end of the DDI phase. Due to the incremental approach planned for this project, phased development and loading is certainly possible and we agree, desirable. The detailed schedule will be determined by all vendors and the State during the start-up phase.

**Section: 7.4.3.28**

Topic: DSS/DW Inputs

Question #: 216

Question: Several of the DW/DSS data inputs are not precisely specified, in particular, 7.4.3.28, data from other databases, such as Department of Health, GIS Hub, and Workforce Safety and Insurance. Could the State please provide additional description of these three data sources?

Answer: Our current MMIS receives some data from the Department of Health and Workforce Safety and Insurance. The Department of Health data would include claims data, birth and death data, immunization data, etc. The Workforce Safety and Insurance data would include eligibility data and claims data. The GIS Hub would include any data necessary to perform geographic queries and analysis.

**Section: 7.4.5**

Topic: DSS/DW - Claim adjudication

Question #: 201

Question: How often is the claims adjudication cycle? How often do you receive data from non-MMIS sources?

Answer: Currently, claims are adjudicated weekly. With the new system, claims submitted through the web-portal will be adjudicated on-line (real-time). Claims submitted via other methods will be adjudicated no less than nightly. The data feed cycle into the data warehouse will be determined during design. Currently, we receive data on a monthly basis from non-MMIS sources. The frequency of non-MMIS data received may change with a new system.

**Section: 7.4.5.1**

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Topic: DSS/DW Performance Standards

Question #: 217

Question: Section 7.4.5 requires refreshes to the Data Warehouse claims tables within 24 hours of the completion of the claims adjudication cycle. Could the State please clarify the frequency of the adjudication cycles?

Answer: Currently, the adjudication cycles are weekly but adjudication will be on-line with the new system. The payment cycle will likely continue to be weekly, but may be more frequent in the future. It is the intention of DHS to refresh the DW only after each payment cycle, rather than each adjudication cycle.

Topic: DSS/DW Performance Standards

Question #: 218

Question: Section 7.4.5 requires refreshes to the Data Warehouse claims tables within 24 hours of the completion of the claims adjudication cycle. What is the desired schedule for updates to the DSS data mart? Will monthly DSS updates meet DHS' needs?

Answer: The desired schedule for updates to the DSS is concurrent with the updates to the data warehouse. (Please see agency response to Question 217.) It is expected that Monthly updates will not meet DHS' needs. This will be determined during the design phase of the project.

**Section: 8.2.1.2.4**

Topic: Configuration Management Tool

Question #: 229

Question: Does the State have an application in use that meets the requirements of the Configuration Management Tool specified in Section 8.2.1.2.4?

Answer: The State of North Dakota has a number of tools used in version control, some of which are environment specific, e.g. LIBRARIAN on the mainframe.

Due to the technology involved, the MITA model, and the fact that there will be multiple vendors in this Program (including the State's IT Department), it is our intention is implement a rigorous configuration management process, environment and tool. Of the installed tools within the State, our intention is to make use of IBM's Rational ClearCase, which is generally acknowledged to be the most capable of our installed products, and which will most closely meet our requirements.

If any bidder has a recommendation for an alternative product that supports all technology planned for the Medicaid Systems Program, the vendor is welcome to recommend the use of that product. Further, integration of a vendor-preferred product may be possible with a State-preferred product. The State reserves the right to make the final determination as to the CM process and product(s) to be used.

**Section: 8.3.1.2.7**

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Topic: Electronic Project Library

Question #: 231

Question: Does the State have an application in use that meets the requirements of the Electronic Project Library specified in Section 8.3.1.2.7?

Answer: Currently the State is using a combination of the Medicaid Systems Project website and secured network storage as its Electronic Project Library (EPL).

It is the State's intention to have and use a single, robust EPL used by the State and all vendors during the DDI Phase of this Project. It is further our intention that designated critical project information will be under rigorous version control within our configuration management process.

This requirement is requesting recommendations for the single robust EPL by the vendor(s). A COTS package is preferred but alternatives will be reviewed by the State.

**Section: 8.4.6.2.1**

Topic: System Test Tracking Tool

Question #: 232

Question: Does the State have an application in use that meets the requirements of the System Test Tracking Tool specified in Section 8.4.6.2.1?

Answer: The State's Information Technology Department (ITD) currently licenses Segue Software's TestManager and IssueManger.

This RFP requirement is asking the vendor to ensure that when they have completed System Testing, and prior to (and as a condition for) promotion of the build to IV&V, the DDI vendor can provide through a tracking tool(s) the information required for the State to evaluate the System Test scope and results. In fact, the State expects much of the information required in this Section to be provided in summary form in the weekly progress/status reports to the Program Manager, e.g. number of test cases/scripts identified and developed, percent run, percent successful, numbers of test cases/scripts needing to be run, defects identified by severity, etc.

If the vendor has an existing regression test bed in (for example) Mercury Interactive's Astra Site Test or IBM's Rational SQA/Robot and SQA/Manager, and wishes to use that test bed in this project, the vendor should then propose the use of that alternative tool. The states preference however is for Seque's products.

Please note that, as with answers to other process- and management-related questions on this RFP, the State will be implementing umbrella processes, procedures and tools to ensure efficient and effective inter-team (and vendor) communication. It is expected that all vendors will use these State-provided processes, procedures and tools for any deliverable that either leaves or originates outside the development area, e.g. requirements issues, defects identified in IV&V, etc.

**Section: 9.1.2**

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Topic: DSS/DW - Ad Hoc report

Question #: 204

Question: On page 336 you state: The Contractor provides ad hoc reports, as requested. How many ad hoc reports are required to satisfy this requirement?

Answer: Ad hoc reports are, by definition, not defined. The demand for ad hoc reports may also be stronger during Legislative sessions than in non-session periods.

Thus we cannot provide a specific number of ad hoc reports at this time. However, given the requirements for user-driven reporting, queries, etc., the demand on the vendor ("Contractor") for reports is expected to be low. If this remains a concern and/or issue, we can address specifics during contract negotiations.

**Section: 9.1.2.7**

Topic: DW ad hoc reports

Question #: 219

Question: Section 9.1.2.7 indicates that the DSS/DW contractor will provide ad hoc reports, as requested. Could you please provide some indication of the volume or frequency of these reports? That is, to assure a level playing field among DSS/DW bidders in developing cost proposals, could the State please provide an estimate of the desired ad hoc analytic support level, in days, hours, or FTEs?

Answer: Please review the response to question #204. The current contract for Decision Support Services affords the Department 8-10 Consulting Days per month for ad-hoc reports, user support and analytical assistance. We anticipate the future DSS contract to have a similar requirement for vendor support.