

GPO Future Digital System (FDsys) Opportunity RFI

Contracting Office Address:

U.S. Government Printing Office, Acquisitions Services Division, 732 North Capitol Street, NW
Room A332, Washington, DC, 20401

Description:

This Request for Information (RFI) is issued for informational and planning purposes only!

The United States Government Printing Office (GPO) is currently establishing a digital content system (FDsys) to allow government content to be created, managed, authenticated, versioned and subsequently preserved in perpetuity.

The proposed FDsys will ingest, preserve, and provide access to the information produced by all three branches of the U.S. Government. The proposed system is envisioned as a comprehensive, systematic, and dynamic means for preserving any type of digital content, independent of specific hardware and/or software. The system will enable GPO customers to obtain hard copy publications and to electronically access the content they want, and it will enable GPO to deliver that content in the formats its customers desire. The system should automate many of the content lifecycle processes and make it easier to deliver the content in formats suited to the needs of GPO customers. The proposed system is required to support not only GPO's current operational policies but also any changes that may emerge.

GPO is requesting industry assessment of our documentation as well as information to determine the capabilities of vendors to provide some or all of the services required for the FDsys, including master integration and individual solution sets. This information will be used to revise, if necessary, our Requirements and Concept documentation, Implementation plan and Acquisition strategy in order to deliver a world-class information lifecycle management system beginning in mid 2006.

Background:

The GPO is the Federal government's primary centralized resource for gathering, cataloging, producing, providing, and preserving published U.S. Government information in all its forms. Since its inception, under the authority of Title 44 of the U.S. Code, GPO has offered Congress, the courts, and government agencies a set of centralized services that enables them too easily and cost effectively produce printed documents. GPO has offered these publications for sale to the public and made them widely available for no fee public access through the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). The FDLP has also served the purpose of providing permanent public access to government publications.

Content in the FDsys will include all known Federal Government documents, but is specifically targeted to those within the scope of GPO's Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP), whether printed or born digital. This content will be entered into the system and then authenticated and catalogued according to GPO metadata and document creation standards. Content may include text and associated graphics, video and sound and other forms of content that emerge. Content will be available for Web searching and Internet viewing, downloading and printing, and as document masters for conventional and on-demand printing, or other dissemination methods. We are planning for initial system operational capability, release 1A, in July 2006.

The FDsys will count among its user classes over 5,000 content creation users working in all branches of the government and congress, over 500 Government service specialists, over 25,000 private sector service providers, 1300 depository libraries, 50 end user information providers, and the citizenry of the United States and the world as the ultimate end users.

Opportunity:

GPO is engaging in a two (2) phase process for development of the FDsys. Phase one (1) is to contract for a Master Integrator (MI). This phase will also include the identification and concept selection of the necessary solution sets required to deliver the FDsys. NOTE: The MI may be responsible for obtaining or purchasing on behalf of GPO the solutions sets. However, GPO will have ultimate authority for accepting and defining the methodology for selecting the technology components. Phase two (2) is the actual integration of the solution sets into a release based system by the MI.

It is anticipated that the MI contract will be based on GPO's release schedule with initial award for a potential three year period which would culminate in the successful completion of FDsys release 1 (which includes 1A, 1B, and 1C). The MI will work collaboratively with the FDsys Program Management Office and GPO's Office of the Chief Technical Officer to perform concept selection and reliability and robustness testing of the solution sets and clusters as identified by GPO. These selections will be based on the implementation plan and release schedule also identified by GPO. Once the selection of technology is accomplished, the MI will be responsible for integrating those solution sets into the subsequent working releases of FDsys. The ultimate objective for the MI will be to integrate and deliver a fully functional system to meet the requirements as defined in the FDsys documentation.

Informational Meeting (Industry Day):

On 6 October 2005 from 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM (prior to the release of any formal request for proposal), GPO will be conducting an informational meeting (Industry Day) at its headquarters in Washington, DC. The meeting is open to any interested vendor who has products or services that are in direct support of the requirements identified for the FDsys. Space for the event is limited to 300 people and pre-registration is required. Vendors are allowed no more than two (2) representatives total for an entire company and GPO reserves the right to reduce that number to one (1) in order to mitigate overcrowding. Individual divisions or groups of a single company are considered a single parent company. It is strongly recommended that at least one (1) of the participants be from one of the vendor's technical division(s).

All wishing to participate in Industry Day must pre-register by providing the names of attendees and indication of interest via email to int@gpo.gov (subject heading "*FDsys Industry Day Pre-registration*") no later than 12:00 (noon) eastern time on 29 September 2005. The session will be open to only those vendors who have pre-registered. NOTE: Accessibility for persons with a disability is provided, but must be noted in the pre-registration email. Please include the type of accommodation required in the email. Industry day will include individual break out sessions. Due to logistics and space concerns, each attendee must select and identify in the registration email, no more than two (2) breakout sessions they would like to attend from the following list:

Breakout Sessions List:

1) Content Access: The Content Access cluster will be the primary interface between End Users and the FDsys.

Content Access includes five functional areas:

- Search – Performing queries on content and metadata so that content may be retrieved from storage and delivered to users.
- Cataloging and Reference Tools – Adding metadata to content in the form of standard bibliographic records and lists and resources that assist users in locating and accessing content. Request – Requesting delivery of content and metadata.
- Interface – Creating user and system interfaces for all functional areas, as needed.
- User Support – Supporting access to content and services.

2) Content Delivery: The Content Delivery cluster includes mechanisms for delivering content that fits the requirements of the Content Originator or End User. The delivery methods identified are hard copy, electronic presentation, and digital media. Content Delivery requirements reflect the expansion of electronic presentation as the primary dissemination method for authentic and/or official content of the Government.

3) *Content Management*: The Content Management cluster includes five functions: Unique Identifiers, Persistent Name, Authentication, Version Control, and Data Mining

- Unique Identifiers are character strings that uniquely identify all content within FDsys throughout the content lifecycle. The Unique ID will be assigned once, and will be indefinitely linked to the corresponding content.
- Persistent Name provides for the identification of each digital object independent of its location. It will provide permanence of identification, resolution of location, and globally registered, validated, and unique.
- Authentication will assure customers that the information made available by GPO through the Future Digital System is authentic and/or official. There is a need for information that is reliable because it is from a trusted source, and a need to ensure the protection of data against unauthorized modification or substitution of information.
- Version Control will evaluate and establish the version of a piece of content and subsequently track it through its entire life cycle, based on best practices. Version control will be called upon to analyze Content Packages and assign the appropriate version, consistent with requirements for version triggers and chain of responsibility. The chain of responsibility will be reflected in the metadata.
- Data Mining is associated with finding, aggregating, and associating business process information through the analysis of collections of data.

4) *Content Preservation*: FDsys Content Preservation enables comprehensive, timely, permanent public access to the final published, official version(s) of U.S. Government publications in digital formats, by the retention of faithful, fully functional master files of content, and the performance of processes which assure ongoing usability of those files. This cluster includes activities associated with maintaining publications for use, either in their original form or in some verifiable, usable form. Preservation may also include creation of a surrogate for the original by a conversion process, wherein the intellectual content and other essential attributes of the original are retained. For digital materials, preservation includes the management of formats of information (including possible migration to newer versions), the storage environment, and the archival arrangement of information to facilitate preservation.

5) *Content Submission*: The Content Submission cluster includes the processes to bring digital content into the FDsys and to enable Content Originators to order GPO services through FDsys.

The three types of content are:

- Deposited content, which is content intentionally submitted to GPO by Content Originators.
- Harvested content is content within the scope of dissemination programs that is gathered from Federal agency Web sites.
- Converted content is digital content created from a tangible product.

Content Originator (CO) Ordering provides a system interface for Content Originators. Content Originators may submit content, order and re-order content, and specify Content Delivery and other service options through CO Ordering.

6) *Infrastructure*: The Infrastructure Cluster includes the system elements of Workflow, Security, Storage, Enterprise Service Bus (ESB) and Content Management Suites (CMS).

- Workflow is the automation of a business process, in whole or part, during which documents, information or tasks are passed from one participant to another for action, according to a set of procedural rules.
- Security includes the protection of systems (applications) against unauthorized access to or modification of information, whether in storage, processing or transit, and against the denial of service to authorized users or the provision of service to unauthorized users, including those measures necessary to detect, document, and counter threats.
- Storage includes the functions associated with saving digital publications on physical media, including magnetic, optical, or other alternative technologies.
- ESB is an integration approach that can provide the underpinnings for a loosely-coupled, highly-distributed integration network that can scale beyond the limits of a hub-and-spoke enterprise application integration broker. ESB is a standards-based integration platform that combines messaging, web services, data transformation, and

intelligent routing to reliably connect and coordinate the interaction of significant number of diverse applications across extended enterprises with transactional integrity.

- Content Management Suites manage information throughout its life cycle, from creation to archiving. CM suites support regulatory compliance, risk management, customer self-service, CRM applications, and vertical processes, as well as document services, records management, forms, authoring, imaging, transformation, import/export, indexing, storage management, file systems, workflow, library services, search, collaboration, development kits, publishing, source storage, integration, etc.

7) *Master Integrator*: In GPO's FDsys acquisition strategy, the Master Integrator (MI) is a prime contractor to implement the FDsys and integrate system components.

MI responsibilities include:

- Acquisition of additional IT and network products with sufficient capacity to meet the FDsys' load, performance, security, legacy conversion/migration. configuration management and reliability specifications
- Development of all integration software to implement FDsys in conformance with GPO system development methodologies.
- Assist GPO in testing the system
- Required conversion of legacy system, of their loading of content and other initial populating of FDsys' content.
- Train the user community
- Operate through beta and assist in the system testing if required - on 24x7 basis
- Participate in future release planning
- Provide all necessary plans and participate in GPO reviews

Background Material

Additional background material is available through the FDsys program office website (<http://www.gpo.gov/projects/fdsys.htm>). It is strongly encouraged that all attendees be familiar with the following documents:

- [FDsys Concept of Operations - V 2.0](#) (PDF) - The document which provides a high-level conceptual vision of the FDsys.
- [FDsys Requirements Document - V 1.0](#) (PDF) - The document which identifies the preliminary requirements for the FDsys.

The material listed below will be available at the meeting:

- FDsys Implementation Plan - The document which identifies the proposed implementation plan and release schedule.
- FDsys Preliminary System Specifications - The documents which will identify system performance characteristics and behaviors which bound the FDsys. It is anticipated that the key specifications required for release 1A will be available by Industry Day and will include the overall system sizing characteristics.
- Technical Reference Model – This document will outline GPO's technical framework under which the system will operate.

Requested Information:

Keeping GPO's goals in mind please outline how your organization would perform the services of a MI or how your organizations products and/or technology map to a solution set. Solution Sets may be individual functional

elements (e.g., Style Tools, Deposited Content, Converted Content, and Harvested Content) or clusters of solutions (e.g., Content Submission).

Vendors are hereby requested to submit a capability statement (10 pages or less and no marketing material) that addresses their ability to perform all services of the Master Integrator. Vendors who are interested in specific solution sets must submit a capability statement (10 pages or less and no marketing material) that address specific solution sets or clusters. Vendors may submit statements for both MI and solution clusters or sets. Please also list company points of contact and GSA Schedule number (if applicable). In addition, vendors are hereby encouraged to submit white papers or other documentation (no more than 50 pages) that address any gaps or concerns with the proposed acquisition, implementation plan and/or the FDsys documentation. Feedback should include specific comments and suggestions for refining the documents to reflect clear guidance to industry and industry best practices.

Capability statements and or other white papers and documentation related to Industry Day must be submitted by noon on 20 October 2005, to int@gpo.gov. Faxed copies are not acceptable.

Questions regarding capability statements, white papers and other documentation must be submitted in writing to the address listed below. Questions must be submitted by 13 October 2005.

NOTICE: This announcement is a request for information only and does not obligate the GPO in any way. This is not a request for proposal and the GPO will not pay for any information submitted or for any expenses associated with providing information. Any information submitted by respondents to this RFI is strictly voluntary. Material submitted will be deemed proprietary to the extent permitted by applicable laws and regulations if so marked by the respondent.

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