UMEC | RFQ #2027-028 — Questions & Answers

No.	RFQ Question (Verbatim)	Response
1	Is the prior design available for review and if so, how may we obtain a copy?	The prior design information will be made available to the firms selected to participate in Phase 2 of the RFQ process
2	Apart from construction cost, did the previous design satisfy the current expectations?	Yes, other than the construction cost, the 2024 design substantially met the University's four goals.
3	Can you disclose how much the 2024 cost estimate came in for?	No
4	a.) Have prior studies been undertaken on the replacement of the existing boiler plant (and campus thermal distribution) that examined the potential viability of alternate systems such as geothermal borehole fields or steam disconnection with stand alone building solutions. b.) And, if so, are they available to potential respondents?	a.) The University has reviewed and is not pursuing these options. b.) No
5	Does the expected design scope of work include any of the campus steam distribution system and/or building connections outside of the energy center?	No
6	Is the $75m budget inclusive of any work on the campus steam distribution system and/or building connections outside of the energy center	No
7	The University has undertaken a separate campus electrical infrastructure upgrade project, which includes capacity to power an electrically driven UMEC project. a.) Does this mean the idea of electrically driven steam production (e.g. electric boilers, steam-generating heat pumps) are being considered as a possibility or must the boilers have the ability to operate on natural gas or No. 2 fuel (as well as renewable fuel)?	a.) No, the University expects the primary boilers to initially operate on Natural Gas or No. 2 fuel, while having the ability to operate with a variety of renewable fuels.
8	One of the four principal project objectives is to achieve 'Reliability and resiliency of campus steam service'. a.) Does this mean that options for alternate campus thermal systems (e.g. hydronic) or even gradual phase-down of the central plant in favor of standalone building systems will not be considered?	a.) The University has reviewed and is not pursuing these options at the present time.
9	Only paper submissions for the RFQ will be accepted (apart from the accompanying PDF on thumb drive), is that correct?	Yes, those are the required standard forms for submissions that will be accepted.
10	Will any of the prior system design documents be available at the Phase 1 (the RFQ) selection stage?	No
11	Please provide the design narrative, cost estimates and any other available documentation prepared during previous efforts related to this project, including but not necessarily limited to the 2024 undertaking.	A prior design information package will be made available to firms selected to participate in Phase 2 of the RFQ process
12	Would biodiesel be considered a liquid renewable fuel?	Yes

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13	Would renewable natural gas (RNG) be considered as gaseous renewable fuel?	Yes
14	Would biomass (wood pellet fuel) be considered as an option in conjunction with natural gas or #2 fuel oil to provide long-term energy-cost stability?	Yes
15	Does the existing central plant operate during the summer months at reduced capacity?	Yes. The plant operates continuously 365 days per year / 24 hours per day.
16	Will UMaine provide an air/emissions consultant or does an air/emissions consultant need to be a subconsultant on the team?	UMaine will provide our current air emissions consultant for the project.
17	a.) Does UMaine have any geotechnical investigation work completed for the project? b.) If not, does UMaine plan to hire a geotechnical engineer to conduct a geotechnical investigation and prepare geotechnical recommendations or a report for the UMEC project, if needed, or should this scope be carried by a subconsultant to the team?	The University will contract directly with a Geotechnical Engineer for this project.
18	Will the UMEC be a utility plant only (no other academic or office programming except control room/breakroom/bathroom support rooms)?	The primary function of UMEC is a utility plant with a control room, restrooms, break room, supervisor office space, conference room.
19	What is the capacity and location of the recent 4160V electrical infrastructure project?	The University expects the new electrical capacity to be sufficient for the new UMEC.
20	Is there a preferred location for the UMEC? If so, please describe.	Empty lots adjacent to the south side of the existing Steam Plant building on University property.
21	What are the 2040 carbon/sustainability goals for the University and what progress has been made to date?	UMaine is a charter signatory to the Second Nature Carbon Commitment and has committed to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040. UMaine has reduced Scope 1 & 2 GHG emissions ~46% below 2005 levels.
22	Does UMaine envision possible renovations to the existing steam plant that would require extensive structural evaluation including the need for record/as-built drawings.	It would be the responsibility of the design firm to determine how the existing plant building will be utilized based on the proposed project scope.