

University of Maine System
UMaine Website Template Services - RFP # 08-15
ADDENDUM #3 – ANSWERS TO VENDOR QUESTIONS

Questions:

1. Will an internal development team be taking over management of the code base after completion of the project. If not will maintenance be needed?

Answer: Our internal Web Office will take over management of the code base upon completion of the project. It is expected that we will have some transition period for this where post-launch support from the vendor is budgeted as part of this project.

2. Are you open to releasing the theme to open source?

Answer: Preference is that the theme be a private theme, available for use by University of Maine System (UMS) campuses but primarily designed for University of Maine (UMaine).

3. Would they accept another option for events management?

Answer: This can be a point of discussion during the discovery process. We do not have systems dependent on the current event calendar outside of the WordPress hosted websites.

4. We'd like to clarify that you're looking for one theme that can be customized based for all sites verses a few themes that share some common codebase

Answer: This can be determined during discovery. One goal is to reduce our overall number of themes, but there may be unique use cases that would be better served by separate themes using some common codebase.

5. Are you looking for emergency communication solution that operates on a network wide level or individual site level... or both?

Answer: To clarify, the emergency communication solution exists external to WordPress, the requirement is that the theme be able to display the emergency notifications when necessary. Emergency communications would display on a network wide level, but individual sites may be flagged to not display the messages.

6. Is there a target start timeframe for this project? (Is it the same as the contract start date of 2/9/15?)

Answer: Target start date would be the same as the contract start date, or as soon as feasible

7. Is there a target completion timeframe for this project? Any specific deadlines the University is looking to hit?

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Answer: Target completion date will be agreed upon as part of discovery process. Ideally, we would be able to start publishing sites in the new responsive design during the summer, and have all sites using the current templates into the new design by end of year 2015 (sites using older/one-off themes are expected to take longer to roll into new design)

Specific deadline for university home page and high profile pages (undergraduate admissions, office of the president, student financial aid) is to be live no later than end of August 2015.

8. Is it the University's intention to wait to kick off development until the scheduled WordPress core upgrades have been performed in February 2015?

Answer: We are upgrading WordPress to 4.0.1 very soon, and expect to be up to date with 4.1.x by February 2015. We typically wait to upgrade until a new version has been in use for a few weeks to months. I may be misunderstanding this question.

9. Are any themes dependent on custom plugins? or can the plugins be safely disabled while still having sites function normally?

Answer: Older themes are dependent on custom plugins, disabling them would cause loss of functionality on the site.

Newer themes are not as dependent, but we have not attempted disabling plugins to gauge dependencies.

10. We understand you cannot disclose a list of plugins for security reasons, but would it be possible to answer the following?

- a. How many plugins are commercial (i.e. paid licenses)?

Answer: Roughly 18 plugins are commercial/licensed, multiple plugins are part of single licenses (such as WPMUDEV plugins and Gravity Forms with add-ons)

- b. How many plugins are contributed (e.g. from wordpress.org and unmodified)?

Answer: About 52 plugins.

- c. How many plugins were custom-developed?

Answer: 37 custom-developed plugins.

- d. Given this is a multisite, how many of the previous plugins are network-activated (enabled across the entire network)?

Answer: 13 network activated plugins, 8 must-use plugins

- e. How old are the oldest custom-developed plugins (month + year)?

Answer: My estimate is 2010, but it is hard to pin down an exact month & year.

*** All of the above apply ONLY to ACTIVATED plugins on the network.