

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS #2020-030
Data Analysis Services
RESPONSE ADDENDUM # 1
January 27, 2020

CLARIFICATION

QUESTIONS

Q1: Page 14; Section 3.2.1 to 3.2.2; Is there an Appendix C to be included?

A1: There is no Appendix C for this RFQ.

Q2: Page 19; Appendix D, Item 7: Conflict of Interest; My spouse (Jared Talbot) is a UMaine employee (Assistant Professor in the School of Biology and Ecology). Does his conflict of interest impact this RFQ, my response, or potential award if he is not involved in the process? I'm particularly concerned about the second sentence in the item: "No employee of the University shall have any interest, direct or indirect, in this contract or proceeds thereof."

A2: If there is a resulting contract with Iris Data Solutions, your husband will not be able to hire Iris or have any input in the University engaging Iris Data Solutions for services, approving invoices, etc. Your husband also would not be able to be an employee of Iris Data Solutions.

Q3: Page 19; Appendix D, Item 11: Administration; I notice that it lists Sue Ishaq as the sole authorized representative. Is the scope of this RFQ limited to work with Sue Ishaq's lab? If not, how would other principal investigators within the University of Maine System engage my services, and could they be the Administration representative for their particular work?

A3: If there is a contract with Iris Data Solutions resulting from this RFQ, anyone in the University of Maine System would be able to engage you for services and reference the contract.

Q4: Page 26; Rider A-1; Please confirm that, per the instructions on the page, you do not wish for an explanation or quotation of fees in the RFQ response.

A4: The RFQ process is just to access qualifications. Cost and fees are not a consideration for this process.

Q5: Page 36; Appendix F: Organization Reference Form; Can any of the references be UMaine employees who have previously worked with my company?

A5: Yes

Q6: What kind of solution do you have in mind (IaaS, PaaS, SaaS)?

A6: A combination of PaaS and IaaS. Primarily, computing services may be used through the University of Maine system, or through third-party service platforms as determined by the vendor and the UMaine investigator. Software for data analysis is largely publically-available through third-party developers, but in some cases the contractor may be required to host data/results on a private repository (ex. GitHub) or develop workflows to tie various aspects of data analysis together. Where possible, it is preferred that the vendor be given access to University of Maine computing resources, and to use agreed-upon third party data transfer, storage, and analysis software and platforms.

Q7: What are the primary project objectives / business use cases?

A7: The primary objectives are to answer research questions particular to a dataset, via computational and analysis workflows curated by the vendor by the UMaine investigator.

Q8: Where do your data environments currently reside?

A8: Project specific. Generally, on the University of Maine computer cluster, investigator's personal data files, or through sequencing facility provider websites. Generally, databases for reference use are publically-available online (ex. NCBI).

Q9: What is the current infrastructure configuration (on-prem, cloud, hybrid)?

A9: Project specific. Generally, on the University of Maine computer cluster (cloud).

Q10: Is your environment currently virtualized?

A10: This has no bearing on the request. We are seeking qualified vendors to curate pipelines to datasets and the research questions specific to the project, and create data visualizations according to the specifications of researchers. Please refer to section 1.1.4 of the RFQ.

Q11: Who is your cloud provider(s)?

A11: Not applicable to request

Q12: Do you have documentation on environment(s) (eg. Schema mapping, data dictionary, etc)?

A12: Not applicable to request

Q13: How many source systems are there?

A13: Not applicable to request

Q14: Are there any missing source systems that need integrated?

A14: Not applicable to request

Q15: What is the total data volume (in GB)?

A15: Project specific, generally 50 – 250 GB for raw data.

Q16: Do you have any preferred ETL tool(s)?

A16: Project specific.

Q17: What are the ETL schedule requirements (streaming to daily refresh)?

A17: Project specific.

Q18: Do you have/use any third-party scheduling tools?

A18: We use google calendar

Q19: What are the on-going support expectations once the project is complete?

A19: The expectation is that the vendor will be reachable by contact information from project completion to publication, in case clarification or further information is required.

Q20: What is the current licensing (Infrastructure, DB, Reporting)?

A20: Not applicable to request

Q21: What is the expected delivery date?

A21: Project specific.

Q22: Are there any current data quality issues?

A22: Project specific. Generally, low-quality sequencing data and sequence contamination, or missing information about sample metadata.

Q23: Are there any expected changes in environments?

A23: No.

Q24: Are there any expected changes in source systems?

A24: No.

Q25: What are your analytics use cases (descriptive, prescriptive, or predictive?)

A25: Project specific.

Q26: Do you have a preferred analytics and reporting tool (PowerBI, Tableau, QuickSight, Qlick, etc)?

A26: No.

Q27: What are the Hours of business operation including time zones?

A27: Generally, 9 am to 5 pm EST is preferred for project management communications, but work may be completed at any time of the day.

Q28: Do you require Load testing?

A28: No.

Q29: Do you have Dev, QA Test Environments?

A29: No.

Q30: What are your change management policies?

A30: Not applicable to request

Q31: Do you have a standardized version control process (eg. git, devops)?

A31: Project specific, generally, git.

Q32: Who are the Primary Point of Contact, Executive Sponsor, Other stakeholders and their roles?

A32: Project specific, generally, the UMaine investigator leading the project.

Q33: What are the data redundancy requirements?

A33: Project specific.

Q34: What are the data retention policy?

A34: Project specific, but if data are being deposited into a repository (ex. NCBI), 30 days once data upload has been processed. If data are being supplied directly to UMaine investigators, 90 days past project completion or less if the investigator has confirmed in writing that data have been secured in a new location.

Q35: What security requirements do you have?

A35: Refer to the University of Maine security guide: <http://www.maine.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/POLICYSTANDARD.pdf> . Rider C on pages 28-30 of the RFQ describe our standards for safeguarding information.

Q36: Privacy & Compliance considerations (HIPPA, GDPR, SOX, PCI, etc...)?

A36: Project specific, but may include HIPPA and FERPA. Aforementioned Rider C also describes these considerations.

Q37: What is your estimated project budget (capex)?

A37: Project specific.

Q38: What is your estimated TCO in the cloud (monthly or annual)?

A38: Not applicable to request