



Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) Request for Proposals (RFP) for a “Big Data” Platform/System

Addendum #2 January 8, 2016

This addendum is published in response to questions received on the Big Data RFP posted on December 9, 2015.

1. We may be interested in participating in the competitive bidding process for this procurement. Can I ask you to send us a copy of the bid documents for review?

A: The RFP and related documents can be found at: <http://noaca.org/index.aspx?page=3429>

2. Can you clarify the final date for submitting questions.

A: January 6th, 2016

3. Can you comment on the willingness to consider technologies other than the Flex viewer for the Portal solution.

A: We do not specify or require any specific type of technologies in the RFP. So yes, all would be considered.

4. In review of the MPO work plan, a budget item is mentioned to fund this effort. Is this effort being funded solely by the NOACA, or are there other participating (funding) partners?

A. Currently we do not have any other funding partners. However, the RFP asks for flexibility as it is possible for this to become a multi MPO project.

5. What are the anticipated number of users you expect to utilize the system at any one time?

A. Likely less than 50 people at only one time. System should be able to handle more traffic if necessary.

6. Are you willing to consider a new system that you don't currently utilize?

A. Yes

7. Would you be willing to share your standard contractual agreement that will apply to this job? If not, how will proprietary information be treated concerning ownership? Who will own source codes, etc that is developed out of the work performed under the contract?

A. NOACA shall own unlimited use of the system, including any NOACA-customized tool and/or scripts developed for NOACA.

8. We are wondering if there will be or was a pre-submittal conference for the "Big Data" Platform/System" RFP?

A. No, a pre-submittal conference was not held as the number of inquiries we received before the date to finalize the conference decision were minimal.

9. We are reviewing your RFP and have a question on the current GIS web map viewer. The web map is a Flex viewer, which is an older technology and there are replacements that are easier to customize. For this project are you open to an alternative web map viewer or is Flex the requirement?

A. The big data platform shall combine the data and *functionality* of the existing GIS portal with the big data system. No single or single web map viewer is required for the new platform. In other words, Flex viewer is not a required product.

10. Is NOACA primarily looking for public data sets? What is NOACA's viewpoints on having to purchase certain datasets such as Utility data which does not lend itself to the public domain?

A. Yes, the data for the system should be data that is publicly accessible whether online or otherwise. The vendor is not precluded from purchasing datasets as needed to perform this contract.

11. How often would NOACA like to see data made available in the Big Data Platform? Monthly, quarterly, twice a year?

A. Ideally, the system should automatically update data as far as is possible, such as automatically integrating regularly-released Census data. After the platform/system is developed and the initial data is incorporated into the platform/system, NOACA will update the system for those data sets not available automatically. However, it is the intent that the system be as automatic as possible.

12. Is all the data (existing map layers) in the Appendix referenced in the RFP needing to be updated? If so, how often?

A. Only the relevant data should be included and be as up to date as possible. For example, data for areas outside the five counties of NOACA do not need to be updated or included. Data already available on the NOACA GIS Portal may be used by the vendor. Note that most of the data required for the platform other than what is currently on the GIS Portal will have to be obtained by the vendor, with the exception of any usable data that is referenced in the Appendix.

13. Is there a need for a combination of data layers or hybrid layers for further analysis? For example, is there a need for combining layers on the Big Data Platform application to create a 'custom' layer or export data to Excel format?

A. If hybrid/custom layers means having the ability to export a layer created from an analysis tool, then yes. Giving users the ability to export data as GIS shapefiles and tabular data in Excel format is a requirement for the Big Data platform.

14. Is all the data spatial? Or will there be CADD or tabular data that needs to be converted to a spatial format?

A. The data to be collected by the vendor may or may not be in GIS format; any data that is required by the RFP that is not in GIS format must be converted to such format by the vendor.

15. Is this a new initiative or is it a continuation of a previous initiative or RFP?

A. This is a continuation of our previous GIS portal initiative.

16. The RFP mentions easy access to public data by citizens, and non GIS professionals. Is the data aggregation solution proposed to feed one or more public websites or is it for internal use by the counties only? If it is for public use, which website(s) will it feed into?

A. It is for public use. And the system shall be a NOACA platform, fully incorporating the existing GIS Platform. Counties and other entities will access this site for information.

17. What is the approximate volume of usage expected for this system? Please specify how many users would be using it across the 5 counties?

A. Likely less than 50 people at only one time. System should be able to handle more traffic if necessary.

18. The proposal evaluation criteria mentions prior experience with NOACA under exhibit 1, note 1. Is this essential?

A. Note 2 under Exhibit 1 says, "The rankings and scores will be based on each firm's experience on similar projects and past performance for NOACA and other appropriate agencies." Experience considered is for performance with NOACA OR other appropriate agencies, and thus a vendor is not required to have worked with NOACA in the past.

19. Is there an incumbent who has already worked with or is working with NOACA on this or similar projects ? If so will they be permitted to bid on this project?

A. There is no incumbent on the Big Data platform as this is a new initiative.

20. If there is an incumbent, what would you like to see changed about that relationship?

A. There is no incumbent on the Big Data platform as this is a new initiative.

21. List 3 other competitive/peer agencies to the NOACA ? Please list their websites?

A. Other "peer" agencies may or may not have a "Big Data" platform, thus identifying "peers" may not be appropriate in this context. More information about NOACA and our strategic focus may be found in our Regional Strategic Plan at <http://noaca.org/index.aspx?page=3389>.

22. Do these agencies use a similar big data analytics solution? If so please list the sites where these are available (if these are public)

A. Please see above.

23. Has the NOACA seen any comparable solutions that you like? If so what features do you like about them? Please list URLs, vendor name or other information about these solutions.

A. Not one that incorporates all that is requested in one platform.

24. What are the current, and future sources for, data integration? We counted 10 sources as provided in table 1. Are there any others?

A. The vendor is responsible for obtaining the data from appropriate sources. Data currently available in the GIS Portal will be available to the vendor as well as data listed in the Appendix.

25. How disparate are NOACA's data sources, and are these ALL of the data sources? Are there any outside (external) sources besides the internal sources listed above?

A. Other than data in the existing NOACA GIS Platform, data are from numerous, disparate sources.

26. What underlying technology are these data sources currently using (e.g. SQL server, .NET or other) ?
Are all these data sources web enabled?

A. The NOACA GIS Portal data resides in multiple geodatabases. Some data, such as pavement data, reside in a SQL server database, including .NET. Tabular data currently exists as Excel files. Data required for the Big Data platform that must be obtained from external sources may be in a variety of underlying technologies, depending on the source.

27. What is the platform of choice for the proposed solution (.NET or other)

A. No preference.

28. Are you looking for an off the shelf solution or a custom development?

A. We are seeking a system to perform the functions outlined in the RFP.

29. Are the limitations and capabilities for the internal, local government and public use defined across all these data sources?

A. Any required data sharing agreements between NOACA and external parties deemed necessary will need to be developed and implemented.

30. Are the integration with the GIS Portal and the data collected under the NEOSCC effort defined and categorized appropriately?

A. No. Some of the data is ready for use on the Big Data platform. Other data would need to be customized/edited/defined to create a version that is suitable for public viewing and consumption.

31. Is there a history to be maintained to aggregate data and based on user queries, analyze and output data?

A. We would like a record of what users are viewing and exporting, and other user data/log statistics.

32. If so what is the 'length / period' of historic data to be used? seasonal or across years? Is this maintained at the data source, or within the Big data platform?

A. The platform shall allow the NOACA administrator to make such queries as he/she sees fit for to include at least one year of user data.

33. Are the KPIs for transportation and air and water quality defined and related to the data available? Will these be shared for tuning the results?

A. Some air and water quality data can be provided and is publicly available.

34. On all these, including exposing patterns and exposing inefficiencies within transportation- is there a security perspective to be considered?

A. We are not clear on what is meant by this question. No perspectives should be ignored in developing the system.

35. Public query - on the big data platform - are these geo-limited?

A. The platform should be usable by anyone in any location.

36. Is data downloadable by researchers? Is this a 'controlled' interface?

A. Data should be downloadable by anyone, particularly one wishing to make useful apps with the data.

37. Are each sections for the below - a separate entity - comprehensive and current view on land uses, socio-economic data, employment data, demographic data, transportation infrastructure and operations, air and water quality-related data, and other systems that support a local and regional economy;

A. Many of the datasets come from various entities/organizations/sources.

38. Are they integrated at the backend, or is an integrated view available publicly as well?

A. The NOACA GIS portal data is accessible. Regarding data from external sources, many of the datasets come from various entities/organizations/sources.

39. We assume from the write up that upload (fewer) and download partners are different? Will we have access to these partners during the design phase?

A. Vendors shall be responsible for making the necessary contacts. Note that the universe of download partners is not known.

40. Will the following counties be involved in the development of this system? Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina, Trumbull, Mahoning, Ashtabula, Summit, Portage, Stark, and Wayne.

A. Data from the five NOACA counties (as well as from other entities, such as municipalities) are required for the platform. The counties will not be active partners in the platform's development.

41. Will data accuracy / correctness be the provider's responsibility? Or NOACA's?

A. Most of the data for the system will not be originated by NOACA. Non-NOACA data must be accurate.

42. What are the expectations of the auditing / management tools?

A. Vendor shall propose meaningful system auditing/management tools within the platform.

43. Is this solution to offer a real-time data aggregation from the various sources or a differed / batch mode aggregation?

A. Real time when possible, though likely most data will be batched. See also answer to Question 11.

44. What KPIs will be used to measure the success of this project? E.g. response time, accuracy etc.

A. Meets the goals and functions outlined in Section 3 of the RFP.

45. Is there a technical platform that is favored by the NOACA for this proposed solution?

A. No.

46. What is the timeline - and service follow-up timeline?

A. The RFP calls for development of the platform and placement of the data. The vendor shall state in its offer, the Length and terms of warranty of the platform and the Level of technical support to be provided/included.

47. The RFP mentions that the respondent must have developed a similar solution for another organization. Are you requiring data aggregation and analytics for in the transportation area ?

A. No, however transportation experience is ideal.

48. Are the in-person demonstrations mandatory or optional to the vendor selection process ?

A. In-person demonstrations are preferred.

49. Is there a budget range foreseen for this project?

A. Yes.

50. Are the budgets for this project approved and already in place ?

A. Yes, the budget for this project is already approved and funds encumbered. However, NOACA will maintain flexibility in allocating additional funding if determined that it is necessary to the project or additional phases to the project.

51. Are there any points that will be given to minority, women owned or DBE certified vendors?

A. No additional points will be given to minority, women owned or DBE certified vendors. Please refer to section 10, item A and B in the RFP.