

## RFQ QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR US 90 BRIDGES

### QUESTIONS RECEIVED SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

1. Will a formal presentation of Responders be required prior to the Commission's selection of its short-listers? If so, when will it occur?

*No; there will be no presentations prior to the shortlist stage.*

2. Will the Commission respond by October 13, 10:00 AM to all written questions submitted to the Commission by the October 11, 2005 deadline?

*It is the Commission's intent to respond to all written questions submitted by the October 11<sup>th</sup> deadline.*

3. When will As-Built plans for both bridges be provided?

*This information will be available at the RFP stage.*

4. What are the ROW limits or construction corridor relative to centerline of existing bridges (when the RFQ says it will be constructed parallel to the existing bridges, is there sufficient ROW or corridor to construct the new bridge)?

*This information will be available at the RFP stage.*

5. It is our understanding the licensed land surveyor is required only for establishing the right-of-way and baseline control. All other surveying for construction can be accomplished by qualified, but not necessarily licensed, personnel. Please confirm.

*Construction staking work shall be performed under the supervision of, or directed by, a Registered Professional Engineer or Registered Land Surveyor who is duly licensed and entitled to practice as a Professional Engineer or Professional Land Surveyor in the State of Mississippi. The duties performed by said Registrant shall conform to the definitions under the "practice of engineering" and practice of "land surveying" in Mississippi Law.*

*Setting Right-of Way markers and all other Right-of-Way related surveying shall be performed by, or under the supervision of, or directed by, a Licensed Professional Surveyor who is duly licensed and entitled to practice as a Professional Land Surveyor in the State of Mississippi and shall have responsible chare for these duties. The duties performed by said Professional shall conform to definitions under the practice of "land surveying" in Mississippi Law.*

6. For the St. Louis Bay RFQ, what are the elements of the Categorical Exclusions secured by the Commission?

*This information will be available at the RFP stage.*

7. What resource agencies were contacted and have concurred with the Categorical Exclusions?

*This information will be available at the RFP stage.*

8. For the St. Louis Bay RFQ, are there any Environmental Assessments available?

***This information will be available at the RFP stage.***

9. Relative to the St. Louis Bay RFQ, please clarify the statement that environmental assessments will not be required by the Proposer.

***MDOT has completed the environmental requirements necessary to comply with the NEPA process. In addition to complying with the environmental commitments stated in the RFP, any and all permits required for construction as proposed by the selected Proposer shall be the responsibility of the Proposer.***

10. For the Biloxi to Ocean Springs Bridge RFQ, when will the Environmental Assessment be available?

***This information will be available at the RFP stage.***

#### QUESTIONS RECEIVED OCTOBER 4, 2005

11. If a firm submits qualifications in response to both RFQ's, is it possible to be short-listed for both projects?

***Yes.***

12. If a firm submits qualifications in response to both RFQ's and is short-listed for both projects, will it be possible for the firm to be awarded both projects?

***Yes.***

13. If a firm submits qualifications in response to both RFQ's and is short-listed for both projects, is there any way the firm can declare that the firm wins the selection, the firm only wants the award of one project or the other, but not both?

***This information will be available at the RFP stage. It is the intent of the COMMISSION to give short-listed PROPOSERS an opportunity to indicate a preference in the RFP stage, provided that the selection processes for both projects remain roughly simultaneous.***

14. Item 1, under, I. MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE AND APPROACH, seems to use the terms "lead organization" and "entity with whom the COMMISSION will be contracting with" and PROPOSER interchangeably. Are they the same?

***Yes. The terms are used interchangeably in Section I, item 1.***

For example a legal entity such as ABC Contracting, (a partnership, a corporation or a joint venture) could offer its qualifications in response to the RFQ. ABC Contracting would be the entity with whom the COMMISSION would be contracting. Would ABC Contracting also be the "lead organization" performing at least 40% of the work or is the COMMISSION looking for subdivisions of ABC Contracting thereby identify the lead organization?

***In the example cited here, ABC Contracting, being the entity with whom the Commission will be contracting, would be considered to be the lead organization performing at least 40% of the work.***

15. Does the 40% threshold apply only to the “entity with whom the COMMISSION will be contracting with”?

***Yes.***

16. Item 3.a. and 3.d., under, I. MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE AND APPROACH, address the respective roles of the Project Director and the Construction Manager. Since, the Construction Manager has responsibility for the overall coordination of the Project including design and construction; can that individual also be the designee of the Project Director to be on site fulltime as the work is performed, with full authority to make final decisions on behalf of the Responder/Proposer and having responsibility for communicating these decisions directly to MDOT

***The Project Director shall be present on the site full time as work is performed. With approval from MDOT, the Construction manager may be the Project Director’s designee acting in the absence of the project Director for short periods of time.***

17. Item 6.a. under, II. EXPERIENCE OF KEY INDIVIDUALS, the RFQ requires that, “The Project Director and Construction Manager shall have a minimum of ten (10) years experience in the management of projects of similar scope and magnitude.” Do the projects of similar scope and magnitude have to be design Build?

***The minimum 10 year experience as required in Section II, items 5 and 6(a) is not design build specific. The minimum experience may have been obtained from non-design build projects.***

18. The two RFQ’s offered by MDOT are requesting separate, distinct, stand alone responses or SOQ’s. How can a single RESPONDER/PROPOSER present to the COMMISSION the economic advantages inherent in the COMMISSION utilizing a single RESPONDER/PROPOSER for both projects?

***Each of the two projects is a stand alone project. Combination or joint submittals will not be considered.***

19. Is the information requested in Item 4, under III PAST PERFORMANCE required of each team member listed in the organization structure when some of those firms are exclusive subcontractors?

***Yes. As stated in Section III, item 1, the information is required for each firm that is included in the Responder’s team.***

20. Item 4.e. under III PAST PERFORMANCE, the RFQ required RESPONDER to identify active projects that are behind schedule (if any). The second part of Item 4.e. asks “why are/were”, should the question be “are” only?

***Yes. The question should read: “If so, why are the projects behind schedule?”***

21. Item 3. under III PAST PERFORMANCE, the RFQ asks RESPONDER to include SF 254/255 for all engineering firms and similar profiles for construction firms. Is SF 254/255 or the new Form 330 being required?

***Both the SF 254 and 255 are required for all architectural or engineering firms. This information may be provided in the appendices and will not be counted against the 25-page maximum requirement.***

Is the COMMISSION also asking that the required form be furnished by the construction firms who are a part of the PROPOSERS team, or simply a profile which is similar?

***Either SF 254 or 255 may be used by construction firms or a similar profile is allowed. This information may be provided in the appendices and will not be counted against the 25-page maximum requirement.***

22. Experience has shown that the cost of preparing a responsive proposal to design/build projects of this magnitude far exceed the offered stipend for these projects. Will the COMMISSION consider increasing the stipend for the unsuccessful proposers to \$500,000.00 to better represent the anticipated cost of responding to the RFP?

***The stipend will be \$ 100,000 as stated in the RFQ.***

If once the RFP process is started and the COMMISSION cancels the RFP, will the COMMISSION still pay the stipend to the PROPOSERS?

***If the COMMISSION decides to discontinue the selection process prior to the delivery of a responsive proposal, then no stipend will be allowed. Otherwise, if the COMMISSION decides to discontinue the selection process, a stipend will be allowed for only the responsive proposal(s) delivered to the COMMISSION prior to its decision.***

23. In Subdivision V, SAFETY, the RFQ asks for the OSHA Recordable Incident Rate for each team member. For what time period is the COMMISSION seeking this rate?

***The Commission requires the OSHA Recordable Incident Rate for the last five (5) years.***

Is the rate required for each team member listed in the organization structure or only for the firms in the contracting entity?

***The rate is required for each team member.***

24. Please clarify what the COMMISSION is seeking in Subdivision II, Item 2. The Subdivision is asking for information that key individuals possess the required minimum qualifications yet Item 2 seems to be instructive rather than requesting information.

***Section II, item 2 of the RFQ is instructive as to future requirements. No response is necessary at this time.***

25. What will be the contract type, Fixed Price, Cost plus Incentive, etc.?

***The Commission intends for the contract type to be Fixed price with provisions for incentive/disincentive. Further information will be available at the RFP stage.***

26. The RFQ requires that the produced document be 25 double-spaced pages maximum. Is there a minimum font size requirement?

***The minimum font size shall be 10 point size.***

Would the COMMISSION consider changing the double-spaced requirement to single-space or at least one and one half-space?

***No.***

27. Can a DBE firm that currently is not on the Department's approved DBE list be utilized to meet the DBE goal on this contract if they submit their application prior to awarding of the contract?

***No. A DBE Firm can only be utilized to meet the DBE goal on this contract if they have submitted their application and been approved prior to the awarding or signing of the contract.***

28. If it is the intention of a RESPONDER to submit qualifications for both US 90 bridge replacement projects (US 90 across Saint Louis Bay and US 90 Biloxi to Ocean Springs), please advise how the RESPONDER should address the dual project management approach that MDOT will want to evaluate while also presenting the qualified resources for each project?

***Each project is a stand alone project. RESPONDERS who submit the same key individuals for both projects will be considered by the COMMISSION for only one project.***

29. Also, if same RESPONDER is subsequently short-listed for one and not both projects, will MDOT allow the RESPONDER to select resources from both qualification submittals for inclusion into the RFP proposal?

***No. Each project is a stand alone project. Once the team has been short listed, the members may not be changed in the RFP proposal, without MDOT approval. MDOT will not consider changes in team members unless there is a change in the status of the team members.***

30. Are we correct in our understanding that financial information is being required from the entity, including its primary member, with whom the COMMISSION will be contracting with?

***Yes.***

31. Regarding the 25-page maximum limit; does the cover letter and executive summary count in the 25-page limit?

*A single page cover letter will not be counted as part of the 25-page maximum. Cover letters in excess of one page and any other information submitted beyond that noted in the RFQ will be counted as part of the 25-page maximum.*

32. Under Section II, EXPERIENCE OF KEY INDIVIDUALS, in Item 1 the RFQ requires that “all team members hold or obtain licenses.....”; is this referring to the firm members or the individual members since it is listed under this section?

*The intent is that, whether a firm or an individual, the team members must comply with all applicable licensure requirements. Section II, item 1 of the RFQ is instructive as to future requirements. No response is necessary at this time.*

#### QUESTIONS RECEIVED OCTOBER 7, 2005

33. Please confirm that our intentions with the following are acceptable. Referring to Section III, items 1-4: Based on our team’s past performance with MDOT and similar programs, it is our intent to address the information to be provided on Forms SF254 and SF255 per the following:

- **SF254 Information:** Prime Designer and design subconsultant only provides this form.

*This is not acceptable. See response to question 21.*

- **SF255 Information:** Prime Construction Contractor (joint venture) only provides this form

*This is not acceptable. See response to question 21.*

- Due to the length of responses to all questions in **Section III** Past Performance including respective information for the SF254/255 (30 to 40 pages) it is our intent to include all information for Section III Past Performance in the Appendix section of our qualifications package.

*This is not acceptable. RESPONDERS shall provide responses to Section III, item 4, within the 25-page limit. Responses to Section III, items 1,2 and 3 may be included in the appendices.*

34. Most information requested within the SF255 duplicates questions requested of the information requested in the RFQ 25-page limit. Please confirm that the MDOT is requesting the duplicate information required of Federal Government Form SF255.

*See responses to questions 21 and 33.*

35. If the SF 255 is required, we request clarification to the following:

**Reference:**

SF255 Block 7: Resumes  
SF 255 Block 8: Project Pages ( no more than 10 total)  
SF 255 Block 9: All work by firms or joint ventures members currently performed for FEDERAL AGENCIES

It is our intent to provide all the information requested in Blocks 7 thru 9 in a “portrait page” format in lieu of a “landscape page” format as required of a “Federal Government” pursuit. All information would address each category required in Blocks 7 thru 9 however in a format that may be more descriptive and easier for the MDOT to evaluate. Please confirm that our intentions are acceptable.

*See response to question 21. Where SF 255 is required, the form should be completed per the form’s instructions.*

**Reference SF255 Block 8 Work by Firms or Joint Venture**

Block 8 request no more than 10 current projects. It is our intent to address Section III-1 and III-2 in an Appendix Chapter that reflect our team’s current and previous experience over the past five years. May we refer the evaluator looking at SF255 Block 8 to this Appendix Chapter?

*See response to question 21. Where SF 255 is required, the form should be completed per the form’s instructions.*

**36. Reference RFQ Section VI Financial Condition**

We consider our team’s financial information to be confidential. May we submit only one “original” of financial data vs. providing a copy in all 10 sets to be provided?

*Ten (10) copies of the financial information are required.*

Can the financial data be submitted in separate sealed document that is not available to the public under the “freedom of information act”?

*This is covered in the General Information Section of the RFQ. As stated in the RFQ, all submittals are subject to the Mississippi Public Records Act.*

37. Will the Commission stagger the proposal submission dates by delaying the St. Louis Bay project submission dates by one month? It is very likely the same contractor teams will be submitting proposals on both of these projects. As a contractor, our risk will be significantly lessened by knowing whether we are successful on obtaining the first project before submitting a proposal on the second. Reducing contractor risks will likely benefit the Commission by reducing contingency costs included in contractor proposals.

*It is not the intent of the Commission to stagger the submission dates at this time.*

38. RFQ Section III, Item No. 3, requests that we include an SF 254/255 form for all engineering firms. Are both SF 254 and SF 255 required or just SF 254? The information contained in the SF 255 form is requested in other portions of the RFQ.

*See response to question 21.*

39. Will there be a pile redundancy requirement whereas one pile needs to be assumed missing in the design of the bents?

*This information will be available at the RFP stage.*

40. Will the roadway alignment be specified or will the proposing team be given flexibility as long as the proposed alignment ties within the right of way?

*This information will be available at the RFP stage.*

41. Will steel girders be allowed?

*This information will be available at the RFP stage.*

42. Will steel diaphragms be allowed?

*This information will be available at the RFP stage.*

43. Will twin bridges be required throughout the length of the proposed alignment? If so, are separate superstructures allowed on a common substructure?

*This information will be available at the RFP stage.*

44. For the St. Louis Bay Bridge, is it required to maintain the roadway elevated at its east end until it reaches the Henderson Point Bridge?

*This information will be available at the RFP stage.*



45. Page 2, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph of the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) states that documentation of the responder's experience is to include a list of design-build projects in the past ten (10) years. However, page 7, paragraph 1, of Section III, past Performance, states that a list of projects experience in the past five (5) years is to be provided. Do we include past projects within the past five (5) or ten (10) years?

***The requirement of a list of Design-Build projects in the past ten (10) years described in the "Purpose of Request" Section is specifically for the entity with whom the COMMISSION would be contracting. Section III, item 1 refers to a list of project experience in the last five (5) years, including but not limited to Design-Build projects, for the RESPONDER's entire team.***

46. On Page 5 of 11 on both RFQ's, the term Construction Manager is defined as "...responsible for the overall coordination of the Project including design and construction." Is it the intent that this is a person reporting to the Project Director and being on-site or this is an individual that the Project Director reports to and is responsible for all aspects of the project in an "off-site" role?

***The Construction Manager reports directly to the Project Director. Also see response to question 16.***

47. Within the Legal Notices for both RFP's the last paragraph indicates that responses must be received by "...Wednesday, October 17, 2005". Was this to mean Monday, October 17, 2005 or Wednesday, October 19, 2005?

***This date should be Monday, October 17, 2005.***

48. Are there any DBE goals established for these projects?

***As stated in the RFQ, Section I, item 2, the Responder is required to "Identify all team members that are Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firms. DBE firms shall comprise 5 percent of the project value."***

49. What are the right-of-way limits in the bay? (What limits are allowed for the footprint of the new bridges?)

***This information will be available at the RFP stage.***

50. Is dredging allowed and if so is it the Proposer's responsibility to obtain the permit.

***This information will be available at the RFP stage.***

51. What time frame in the proposed schedule is allowed for MDOT to obtain the required permits?

***This information will be available at the RFP stage.***

52. Is the projected completion date the actual completion date or just a goal for the Proposer to submit his proposed schedule? Will the Proposer's submitted schedule be the actual project schedule?

*This information will be available at the RFP stage.*

53. Are there any minimum span lengths?

*This information will be available at the RFP stage.*

54. Please clarify that the SF 254/255's and similar construction profiles are excluded from the page count.

*This information may be provided in the appendices and will not be counted against the 25-page maximum requirement. Also see response to question 21.*

55. Does MDOT really want an SF 255 which duplicates the qualifications already included? Will SF 254 for each firm suffice?

*See response to question 21.*

56. If MDOT does want an SF 255, should the Proposer include additional qualification information in the Block 10 at his discretion?

*See responses to questions 21 and 35.*

57. Page 2 (Par. 1, line 18) of the RFQ indicates that responders experience should include a list of design-build projects performed in the last 10 years; Page 7 (Section III, Par. 1, line 3) indicates that experience should have been performed in the last 5 years. What is correct?

*See response to question 45.*

58. What type bridges are currently in place?

*This information will be available at the RFP stage. Due to security restrictions, RESPONDERS who wish to visit the bridge sites at their own risk, should get a letter of permission to enter the protected areas by contacting:*

*Mr. Richard A. Lee – District Six Engineer*

*Physical Address:*

*Mississippi Department of Transportation*

*200 East Drive*

*Hattiesburg, MS 39401*

*Telephone: (601) 544-6511*

59. What type of approach structures are currently in place?

*This information will be available at the RFP stage.*

60. What type(s) of replacements are being considered and which are preferable?

*This information will be available at the RFP stage.*

61. If rehabilitation would be considered rather than replacement, would you provide Maintenance contact information for specific details?

***Both projects will require bridge replacement. Rehabilitation is not an option.***

62. RFQ Section VI, Financial Condition, requests audited financial statements for those entities identified in response to Section I(1). Please confirm that these financial statements are only required for the firm with whom the Commission will be contracting or, in the case of a joint venture, the individual member firms comprising the joint venture. Alternatively, please clarify that these financial statements are also required for key subcontractors that are identified as primary members of the team.

***The audited financial statements are required only from the entity with whom the COMMISSION would be contracting.***

63. RFQ Section III(3), requests an SF 254/255 for all engineering firms and similar profiles for construction firms. Can these forms be included in the appendices?

***Yes. Also see response to question 21.***

64. The Commission is currently performing or planning on performing soil borings on the existing bridge alignments. What is the planned location and number of borings being performed? We request this information to plan for our supplemental borings to support our design concepts for the RFP response.

***This information will be available at the RFP stage.***

65. Are BT78 prestress concrete girders going to be allowed for the superstructure of the replacement bridges?

***This information will be available at the RFP stage.***

66. Will the Commission accept 0.6-inch diameter prestress strand for precast girders and 8500 psi concrete in lieu of the current 0.5-inch diameter special strand and 600 psi concrete?

***This information will be available at the RFP stage.***

67. If we respond to each RFQ with the same management/engineer organization and we score well in the SOQ scoring will we be qualified to propose on either or both of the RFPs?

***See responses to questions 11, 12, 13, 18, 28 and 29.***

68. If we are qualified to propose on both RFPs under the scenario above and we propose using that same management/engineer organization will we be deemed non-responsive on one or both projects?

*See response to question 28.*

69. Will the Commission grade a Proposer more favorably if the Proposer owns or controls the equipment necessary to construct the projects instead of relying on third party rentals?

*The criteria for evaluating the proposal will be available at the RFP stage.*

70. Will the Commission be performing bathymetric surveys of the existing and proposed bridge alignments prior to issuing the RFPs?

*No.*

71. Will the Commission allow concrete stay-in-place concrete deck slabs to support the roadway deck?

*This information will be available at the RFP stage.*

72. Why will the Commission not stagger the SOQ and RFP proposal dates for the two projects by thirty days to allow the Proposers to maximize the usage of its resources to provide the best value proposals to the Commission?

*See response to question 37.*