



OFFICE OF WILL COUNTY EXECUTIVE
LAWRENCE M. WALSH

Rita Weiss
Purchasing Director

(815) 740-4605
Fax (815) 740-4604
rweiss@willcountyillinois.com

BID # 2013-53
GPS ELECTRONIC MONITORING SYSTEMS AND SERVICES
COUNTY OF WILL, ADULT PROBATION DEPARTMENT
ADDENDUM #1
March 19, 2013

Page 1 of 11

We received the following questions regarding the bid listed above:

Question # 1: Will the County accept a proposal for either one-piece or two-piece GPS. Or, must each vendor offer **both** types of equipment in their proposal?

Answer # 1: A proposal for **either** one or two piece is acceptable. Vendor **is not required** to offer both types.

Question # 2: Pg. 21 Section 1-G. states: *Vendor shall provide personnel to immediately (outside of Will County Probation business hours/within 4 hours) respond to notices of faulty equipment and replace equipment as needed on site of offender's place of residence.*

- a. How many equipment failures occurred during this contract, which required the vendor to provide onsite assistance?
- b. Did the incumbent have local presence in order to provide this type of onsite assistance?

Answer # 2: a. 2
b. To our knowledge, the vendor does not have a local office.

Question # 3: Because answers to questions will be posted on March 19, and proposals are due on March 26, this only leaves approximately four business days to review the answers, as well as produce and ship a quality proposal. In light of this, will the County allow a one-week extension of the proposal deadline?

Answer # 3: A **one week extension** has been approved. Due date for this RFP is now **Tuesday, April 2, 2013, by 11:00 A.M. (CST)**. Below is revised Schedule of Events:

April 2, 2013	RFP due in Purchasing Department by 11:00 A.M.(CST)
April 2, 2013 – May 7, 2013	Tentative Equipment Training & Testing, Evaluation and Committee recommendation to Chief Judge and Probation Department for award

Please use the **new label** attached to this addendum and affix to outermost package of your bid.

Question #4: Section 1-A. GPS Tracking Unit...Number 20

Specification as written: The GPS tracking unit must incorporate a system that can detect motion in the absence of both GPS and cellular availability. The unit must log whether or not the unit is in motion. Bidder must describe the motion detection system incorporated.

Our Position: This specification, and even using the term "motion" eliminates fair and open competition as the patent for this technology is owned by only one vendor, thus restricting the competitive pool to only that specific vendor. This specification has become somewhat obsolete when considering the advancement of technology regarding active GPS tracking in addition to Cellular assisted location capability. There is no measurable product advantage to this specification because if you cannot locate an offender via available satellites, or through cell tower assistance, then the fact the offender is in motion is of no measureable value, if you do not know where he/she is.

Recommendation: We respectfully request this specification be omitted altogether.

Answer #4: We are not going to summarily reject a vendor who does not possess this feature.

Question #5: Section 1-A. GPS Tracking Unit...Number 21

Specification as written: The unit must have the capability to record a violation if/when the unit has simultaneously been in motion and has not received GPS signals for a predetermined amount of time. The unit must be able to notify the central host system of such violations during the next data transfer.

Our Position: Again, the term "motion" and accompanying technology requirement promotes unfair competition and limits the competitive pool of vendors that can meet this requirement to (1) one vendor.

Recommendation: Will the County consider amended language to read "The unit must have the capability to record a violation if/when the unit has not received GPS signals or Cell assisted signals for a predetermined amount of time. The unit must be able to notify the central host system of such violations during the next data transfer." NOTE: The fact is our system will notify the agency at the time of the violation instead of waiting for the next scheduled data transfer, which in turn expedites the ability of the supervising officer to respond.

Answer #5: The County will not summarily reject a vendor whose system does not incorporate this specific feature. Please address how your system can address this demand.

Question #6: Section 1-C. Two Piece System...Number 5

Specification as written: The transmitter must emit a signal at a frequency above 900 MHz at least once every 30 seconds.

Our Position: The 902 to 928 MHz band is full of devices, and high power devices to boot, which can cause interference issues between transmitter and receiver. If that is the band required, then there are potentially lots of problems. Further, we have always observed much worse multipath problems at the higher frequencies so unless you need their advantages of higher data bandwidth,

it is really not a good choice. Typically a well engineered (RF) transmitter should not need that much bandwidth. Also, emitting a signal every 30 seconds may limit battery life of a transmitter, while further limiting competition too. The fact is the testing period required will validate the strength of each selected vendor's (RF) capability anyway.

Recommendation: Will the County consider simply amending the specification to "The transmitter must emit a signal to the compatible receiver in consistent intervals between 30-60 seconds." Not specifying the frequency and opening up the window on the transmitted pulse between transmitter and receiver will increase the competition pool.

Answer #6: The County will not exclude from consideration other systems offering varying frequencies that demonstrate the ability to meet the service demand.

Question #7: Who is the current vendor?

Answer #7: Not relevant

Question #8: Commence date and options exercised by County regarding current contract in place?

Answer #8: Not relevant

Question #9: How many offenders are being monitored on Active GPS today?

Answer #9: 2

Question #10: Current price per unit for Active GPS tracking?

Answer #10: No answer

Question #11: a. Does the County plan to use Active GPS for Domestic Violence cases?
b. If so, how many such cases are being monitored today?

Answer #11: a. Yes
b. 2

Question #12: Are there multiple office locations or one central location maintained by the County?

Answer #12: 1 location

Question #13: Can you provide an average lost and damaged count on hardware over the span of the current contract in place?

Answer #13: Lost 0, damaged 1

Question #14: Will the evaluation criteria be weighted? Is so, can you explain % of weight assigned to each set of requested criteria?

Answer #14: No answer

Question #15: In accordance with the Cindy Bischof law, how often has the current vendor notified victims over the life of the contract?

Answer #15: Unknown

Question #16: 3. In accordance with the Cindy Bischof law, how often has the current vendor notified law enforcement over the life of the contract?

Answer #16: Unknown

Question #17: What percentage of the active, monitored offender population requires victim notification?

Answer #17: 100%

Question #18: The County's RFP does not describe the alert notification procedures currently provided by the current vendor. We anticipate that the population will require multiple caseload types with differing alert protocol requirements.

- a. Please describe the different alert protocols currently in use by the County.
- b. If the County uses various caseload and alert protocol types, please indicate the percentage of the population in each type.

Answer #18: The alert protocol is an element of the current contract.

Question #19: Have there been any claims, lawsuits, or settlements involving any victims, or their families, that arose from, are related to, or included allegations concerning electronic monitoring and victim notification?

If yes, please provide a brief summary for each claim, lawsuit, or settlement, including:

- a. The basis (i.e., a description of the events giving rise to the matter).
- b. The current status or final resolution (including any amounts paid or awarded).

Answer #19: Question not relevant

Question #20: Reference Section 1-A. GPS Tracking Unit (Page 14): *"The tracking unit must function reliably under normal environmental and atmospheric conditions. Provide test data."*

Please specify the type of test data required by this specification.

Answer # 20: Please provide test data from your studies conducted on system reliability under normal atmospheric conditions.

Question #21: Reference Section 3, Item B (Page 4): *"If your company offers "OFFENDER PAY MODEL", please include as an alternate bid. Please describe how your company would address indigent clients."*

Is the County currently using an offender pay model?

Answer #21: No

Question #22: Reference Section 1-C. Two Piece System (Page 17)

Is a two piece GPS system a mandatory requirement?

Answer #22: No

Question #23: The RFP provides little to no information regarding the Department(s), types of participants, goals, average lengths of enrollments, or objectives of the program. Although most of the specifications listed in the Solicitation are mandatory and many are specific to one vendor's system or methodology, it seems the County's underlying goal is to contract for advanced, secure GPS monitoring equipment and services and to receive competitive bids that accomplish this goal.

If this is correct, is County of Will interested in receiving proposals from prominent vendors in the criminal justice market that can accomplish this goal through the implementation of electronic monitoring and GPS solutions offering the desired functionality with slightly different technologies; some even newer and more advanced than those specified in the RFP?

If the answer is yes and the County of Will is willing to open up the specs to include more advanced competitive equipment and systems that meet the underlying goal, we have the following additional questions:

This question refers to the specification on page 16, #23: *The unit must record and store GPS tracking points with corresponding time/date stamps multiple times per minute, regardless of violation status.*

This specification is characteristic of older technologies and devices that do not have onboard processing. Without onboard processing, a device is unable to "know" whether or not it is compliant with prescribed rules. More advanced devices have onboard computer processing capabilities that enable the device to store all of the participant's rules (zones and schedules) onboard and to "know" instantly whether its GPS location is compliant or noncompliant with those rules. This capability facilitates faster notification of noncompliant behavior and eliminates the need for frequent connection to the server and great dependence on cellular connectivity. If the County of Will would like to receive proposals for systems that include these advanced capabilities, would you please consider removing the MANDATORY aspect of the above specification to allow for open competition?

Answer #23: If a vendors' system can substantially meet this demand with an alternate feature or system solution, we will consider.

Question #24: This question refers to the specification on page P.21, #2: *Vendor shall provide personnel to immediately (outside of Will County Probation business hours/within 4 hours) respond to notices of faulty equipment and replace equipment as needed on site of offender's place of residence.*

Certainly the County understands that local personnel services are very costly for vendors and must be considered in the overall price of services proposed. Since the incumbent vendor has this data, please specify the average monthly number of calls that require personnel to make a field visit to replace equipment?

Answer #24: Two (2) since the beginning of the implementation of our surveillance program.

Question #25: There are other methods for ensuring that the County's program does not suffer from faulty equipment problems. If the County of Will would like to receive proposals that utilize other less expensive methods for ensuring that faulty equipment at the offender's residence will not be a problem, would you please consider removing the MANDATORY aspect of the above specification to allow for open competition?

Answer #25: No

Question #26: This question pertains to page 21, #1: *The bidder shall provide additional non-active equipment, at no charge. The number of units supplied will be four (4) OR 20% OF ACTIVE INVENTORY, WHICH EVER NUMBER IS LARGER. As the inventory is depleted, additional inventory must arrive within 24 hours of a request by the department. Please describe inventory protocol.*

We have difficulty understanding the underlying need for receipt of additional inventory within 24 hours of a request when a 20% spare inventory is provided onsite at no charge to the County of Will. Please consider removing the MANDATORY aspect of the above specification to allow vendors to propose other solutions that will ensure that the County is adequately provisioned with equipment without adding additional cost to the price for 24-hour delivery.

Answer #26: Will not remove

Question #27: The following question pertains to the Prevailing Wage section - 820 ILCS 130/.01. *This is the prevailing wage for those engaged in Public Works. As described, "Public works" means all "fixed works" constructed or demolished by any public body, or paid for wholly or in part out of public funds.*

In addition to "public works" as defined above, our Legal Department has defined "fixed works" as related to real estate. Please confirm that by these definitions, 820 ILCS 130/.01 does not pertain to us?

Answer #27: The definition of "public works" in the Prevailing Wage Act does not apply to this bid.

Question #28: The following question pertains to 775 ILCS 5/2-103 (from Ch. 68, par. 2-103). As part of the RFP this is one of the statutes that vendors are to comply with and 2-103 states: Sec. 2-103. Arrest Record.

(A) *Unless otherwise authorized by law, it is a civil rights violation for any employer, employment agency or labor organization to inquire into or to use the fact of an arrest or criminal history record information ordered expunged, sealed or impounded under Section 5.2 of the Criminal Identification Act as a basis to refuse to hire, to segregate, or to act with respect to recruitment, hiring, promotion, renewal of employment, selection for training or apprenticeship, discharge, discipline, tenure or terms, privileges or conditions of employment. This Section does not prohibit a State agency, unit of local government or school district, or private organization from requesting or utilizing sealed felony conviction information obtained from the Department of State Police under the provisions of Section 3 of the Criminal Identification Act or under other State or federal laws or regulations that require criminal background checks in evaluating the qualifications and character of an employee or a prospective employee.*

(B) *The prohibition against the use of the fact of an arrest contained in this Section shall not be construed to prohibit an employer, employment agency, or labor organization from obtaining or using other information which indicates that a person actually engaged in the conduct for which he or she was arrested.*

Many state and other RFP-awarded contracts REQUIRE us to run background checks that include criminal records. In order to protect the security of our customer data and to stay compliant with agency contract requirements, 3M Electronic Monitoring cannot employ anyone who has a felony conviction. Will the County please confirm that the following statement allows us to use this as a condition of employment?

"This Section does not prohibit a State agency, unit of local government or school district, or private organization from requesting or utilizing sealed felony conviction information obtained from the Department of State Police under the provisions of Section 3 of the Criminal Identification Act or under other State or federal laws or regulations that require criminal background checks in evaluating the qualifications and character of an employee or a prospective employee.

Answer #28: How bidder is acquiring background information must be compliant with the requirements of 775 ILCS 5/2-103.

Question #29: Regarding the following specification on page 16, #22: *If the GPS tracking unit "docks" in a charging system, the GPS tracking unit must record the time/date of every insertion into the base and every removal from the base. The tracking unit's ability to detect motion shall remain active while unit is docked.*

Please confirm that this specification only refers to a two-piece device?

Answer #29: Yes, it only applies to the two piece system

Question #30: What is the annual budget for this contract?

Answer #30: Not relevant

Question #31: How many officers does the County of Will currently have supervising offenders in the GPS Electronic Monitoring Services program?

Answer #31: Not relevant

Question #32: BID SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Section 3B – “If your company offers ‘OFFENDER PAY MODEL’, please include as an alterantive bid. Clearly mark ‘ALTERNATE PROPOSAL’ as such.”

- a. How will these “alternate proposals” be evaluated? Will those bidders that submit an “alternate proposal” in conjunction with their standard proposal be awarded greater points in the evaluation process?
- b. Does the County prefer an “offender pay model?”

Answer #32: a. No
b. No Position

Question #33: GENERAL INFORMATION

Performance Bond – a Performance Bond in the amount of \$10,000 will be required from the successful bidder and shall be valid throughout the life of the Contract.

When will this Performance Bond be required to be submitted to the County?

Answer #33: Performance Bond will be required from successful bidder within 30 days of notification of award in conjunction with execution of contract.

Question #34: Criteria for Selection: Compliance with Request for Proposal [Mandatory] – this refers to adherence to all conditions and requirements of the RFP.

Does the “mandatory” term in this statement require that bidders meet every single technical (or other) specification of the RFP? If so, this will limit the number of bidders that can participate in this RFP. Will the County consider revising this statement?

Answer #34: The bidder acknowledges the right of the County of Will to reject any and all bids and to waive non-material informality or irregularity in any bid received in whole or part as may be specified in the solicitation.

Question #35: What is the weight or scoring that will be applied to each category?

Answer #35: Not relevant

Question #36: Since “price” is not listed as a criteria for selection is it not included in the evaluation process?

Answer #36: Not relevant

Question #37: SPECIFICATIONS – Section 1 – A. GPS Tracking Unit

Item 4 – The GPS tracking unit must attach to the offender as a bracelet (i.e. “one piece system”).

- a. This specification is specific to a one-piece system; yet within the RFP document, there are specific sections for both a one-piece and two-piece GPS device. Is the County considering the use of both a one-piece AND a two-piece device? What is the County’s preferred device type?
- b. Is a vendor penalized for not having both a one-piece and two-piece GPS system?

Answer #37: a. No position
b. No

Question #38: Item 10.6 - The unit must automatically identify and send key event and general information to the central host system pertaining to the activities of the offender, the unit and the transmitter as follows:

For clarification, does “missed calls from tracking unit” mean an alarm is generated when the system has not received communication from a GPS unit for a period of time or communication from an RF bracelet to a GPS unit (two-piece GPS device)?

Answer #38: Question is unclear

Question #39: Item 13 – Designated personnel should be able to speak or communicate with the offender through the GPS unit. Please note this is optional. Bids not having this option will not be penalized.

While those bidders that do not have this technology will not be penalized; will bidders that do provide this technology be given extra points or consideration above the standard evaluation criteria?

Answer #39: The County is not contemplating preference.

Question #40: Item 20 – The GPS tracking unit must incorporate a system that can detect motion in the absence of both GPS and cellular availability. The unit must log whether or not the unit is in motion.

Because this technology is only available by a few GPS manufactureres, will the County consider revising the state from “must” to “may” in order to not limit the vendors responding to this RFP?

Answer #40: We will not summarily reject any vendor whose system does not incorporate this feature.

Question #41: Item 23 – The unit must record and store GPS tracking points with corresponding time/date stamps multiple times per minute, regardless of violation status.

The industry standard for collecting a tracking point is between once per minute to every five minutes under normal operations. Is there a specific reason the County is requesting tracking information more frequently than once per minute under normal operations as it will increase the daily rate the County will have to pay for GPS services?

Answer #41: The bidder must demonstrate the feature/application within their system that will substantially meet this demand.

Question #42: SPECIFICATIONS - Section 1 – B. One Piece System

Item 5 – The transmitter must emit a signal at a frequency which is not commercially interruptible at least once every 30 seconds.

This specification is typically assigned to a two-piece GPS system that utilizes a RF transmitter which must emit a signal multiple times a minute to maintain communication with the secondary GPS unit. Will the County consider removing this specification from this Section?

Answer #42: No

Question #43: SPECIFICATIONS – Section 1-F. On-Going Support

Item 2 – Vendor support personnel must be available via toll-free telephone number to the department at all times. Support personnel must be awake, rather than on-call, and must not be subcontracted. Vendor support personnel shall have the ability to complete offender enrollments, adjust monitoring parameters, complete offender removals and assist department staff with technical problems for all monitoring systems via telephone.

- a. If the bidder is an authorized distributor for GPS manufacturer that provides GPS products, as well as a 24/7/365 Monitoring Center; will the County consider the use of the manufacturers Monitoring Center to meet these specifications to NOT be subcontracted?
- b. Is the specification for “support personnel having the ability to complete offender enrollments, adjust monitoring parameters and complete offender removals” indicating that this is an expected, standard daily activity by Monitoring Center personal or is the intent to have it be available for those rare occasions that an officer is unable to access their computer to complete the tasks?

Answer #43: a. It is expected not to be subcontracted.
b. It is expected and it is not rare.

Question #44: SPECIFICATIONS - Section 1 – G. Maintenance and Support

Item 2 – Vendor shall provide personnel to immediately (outside of Will County Probation business hours/within 4 hours) respond to notices of faulty equipment and replace equipment as needed on site of offender’s place of residence.

- a. For clarification, the County is requiring that bidders provide personnel to perform in-home faulty equipment replacement after the County’s business hours: Monday-Friday, 5:00pm – 8:00am as well as Saturday and Sunday?
- b. Due to safety concerns about bidders’ personnel entering offenders’ homes, will the County provide an escort when device replacement is necessary?

Answer #44: a. During those periods of time when Department staff are not assigned and those schedules vary from week to week.

b. No

Question #45: SPECIFICATIONS – Section 1-H. Inventory

Item 1. The bidder shall provide additional non active equipment at no charge. The number of units supplied will be four (4) or 20% of active inventory, whichever number is larger. As the inventory is depleted, additional inventory must arrive within 24 hours of a request by the department.

- a. Does the County run its inventory of GPS equipment out of one central location?
- b. Due to shipping constraints, many manufacturers require that equipment orders be placed by 1:00pm MST Monday thru Friday to ensure the order can be processed in time to make the shipping carriers pick up times for next day deliver. Will the County consider revising this specification?

Answer #45: a. Yes

b. No

Questions #46: Is the County currently utilizing a one-piece or two-piece GPS device?

Answer #46: No position

Question #47: Is the County currently utilizing Active or Passive GPS monitoring?

Answer #47: Active

LATE BIDS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED!

SEALED BID DOCUMENT

From:

BID #: 2013-53
DUE DATE: 04/02/13 (Revised)
DUE: 11:00 A.M.
DESCRIPTION: GPS ELECTRONIC
MONITORING SYSTEM
ADULT PROBATION

DATED MATERIAL-DELIVER IMMEDIATELY

**WILL COUNTY PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
302 N. CHICAGO ST., 2ND FLOOR
JOLIET, IL 60432**

PLEASE CUT OUT AND AFFIX THIS BID LABEL (ABOVE)
TO THE OUTERMOST PACKAGE OF YOUR SEALED BID
TO HELP ENSURE PROPER DELIVERY!

LATE BIDS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED!