

Questions and Answers for 36C26322R0144 (Project number 656-18-844) Upgrade Public Address System

All questions due from contractors: *Monday 8/22/2022 by 10:00 am(CT)*

Solicitation closes: *Wednesday, 9/7/2022 at 10:00am (CT)*

Question: 1 Bid date is listed as 9/6/22. With this being directly after the Labor Day holiday weekend, our bidders have expressed getting a quote intime during this typical vacation time would be more difficult. Is there any possibility to push the bid date back later into the same week to allow more time for bidders returning from the holiday?

ANSWER: Yes, bid date will be extended one day to September 7, 2022.

Question: 2 Most of the existing speaker cabling will be too short. Can we splice this cable?

ANSWER: If the existing PA speaker cabling is not long enough to be extended from the existing junction box to the new amplifier, then the cabling should be spliced (in the junction box) and extended to the new amplifier. Provide ¾" minimum blue EMT to route the extended cables from the junction box to the new amplifier. All abandoned speaker cabling associated with the old PA speakers is to be demolished.

Question: 3 Can we use existing cable tray, available in some areas, to be used as support for new cable?

ANSWER: New cabling must be installed in either ¾" minimum blue EMT or in existing cable trays where available.

Question: 4 Will the conduit raceway need to be "blue" color?

ANSWER: Yes, factory painted.

Question: 5 Will the new equipment require a CAT 6A cabled "ethernet" connection?

ANSWER: Fiber optic cabling will be required between the engineering fiber optic termination cabinets and the network switches. Copper cabling will be required between the network switches, amplifiers and other PA equipment. Provide communications and signal wiring conforming to the recommendations of the public address system manufacturer.

Question: 6 1-1" "orange" conduit containing the engineered fiber is present. Do we extend from this infrastructure to the new equipment?

ANSWER: Yes, at each location where a PA amplifier is to be installed, there is an existing termination cabinet containing the engineering fiber optic cabling. Fiber must be extended from this termination cabinet to the new PA network switch. This new fiber must be installed in ¾" minimum factory-painted orange EMT.

Question: 7 What are the power requirements at each location? Should this be normal or emergency life safety panel circuiting?

ANSWER: The enlarged communication room plans indicate whether each equipment location is to receive normal or critical power. This system is not being powered off of life safety circuits. At each location, a new quad receptacle is to be installed and fed from the existing circuit shown within the room. If more than 1 existing circuit is shown and/or available, consult the COR to determine which one is preferred. After installing the new receptacles, update the existing panel schedules to reflect the PA system being fed by the associated circuit.

Question: 8 Is there working hours specific for each building?

ANSWER: Areas of required off-shift work are listed in the general requirements, specification 01 00 00 part 1.6H. Work hours in all other areas are M-F 8a-4:30p, excluding federal holidays.

Question: 9 ED02-00 has wrong drawing per the drawings title. Can the VA update the drawing?

ANSWER: Drawing has been updated. A new set of drawings is included with this amendment.

Question: 10 ED04-02 has wrong drawing per the drawings title. Can the VA update the drawing?

ANSWER: Drawing has been updated. A new set of drawings is included with this amendment.

Question: 11 ED11-00 is missing 2nd floor drawing based on the drawing title. Can the VA provide drawing or confirm there is no second-floor drawing?

ANSWER: Building 11 does have a second floor but the drawing was omitted. For bidding purposes, assume that there are 2 existing PA speakers on the second floor which will require demolition.

Question: 12 ED48-02 the drawing does not match the drawing title. Can the VA update?

ANSWER: Drawing has been updated. A new set of drawings is included with this amendment.

Question: 13 It was stated in the job walk that there was an update to the drawings can the VA provide.

ANSWER: The most updated drawings are attached to this amendment. Also see Attachment E Final SOW and Amendment in the solicitation.

Question: 14 What type of ICRA will be required to perform this work?

ANSWER: See specification 01 35 26 part 1.12.

Question: 15 Will we need to fill out ILSM for each location?

ANSWER: Only if the contractor's work will be blocking an emergency egress. Not anticipated. During cutover of each building to the new system, the COR will fill out an ILSM if needed for any PA outage. The VA has paging capability through the fire alarm system as a back-up.

Question: 16 What kind of notice to we need to give to work in current areas?

ANSWER: The specifications require a 15 business day notification is given to the COR before starting work in each building. Work may be permitted to start sooner if time allows to send out notification to the building occupants and ensure the ICRA permit is valid for all areas of work.

Question: 17 Will there be an area that we can stage material inside the hospital?

ANSWER: No staging of tools/materials is allowed within the facility. The contractor is allowed 1 semi trailer for storage in the contractor staging lot, as well as 2 covered, locked dumpsters per the general conditions notes on the drawing cover sheet.

Question: 18 Will the cabling need to be run in conduit?

ANSWER: See answer to Question #3.

Question: 19 Will we be able to work in different buildings at the same time?

ANSWER: Yes.

Question: 20 Will any of these areas need to be done after hours

ANSWER: See answer to Question #8.

Question: 21 Can we test the system during the day?

ANSWER: The following buildings must be tested after-hours to avoid disruption to patient care – 01, 03, 04, 29, 48, 95, 116.