



**36E77620R0054 Upgrade Overhead Page and Nurse Call System Design-Build – Fort Meade VAMC TECHNICAL QUESTIONS AND VA RESPONSE TRACKING SHEET**

ITEM NO.	DATE QUESTION RECEIVED	DATE QUESTION ANSWERED	QUESTION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE
1.	11-10-2020	11-12-2020	We are preparing our questions for the 13th. I am personally not sure if questions due the 13th are for all phases or just in relation to phase 1?	The PH I questions only are due on November 13 <sup>th</sup> .
2.	11-11-2020	11-12-2020	What is the availability for a job walk on the above project?	The site visit will be held in Phase II, as stated in the solicitation under 2.20 52.236-67 Site Visit (Construction).
3.	11-11-2020	11/25/2020	My company holds an IDIQ Contract VA245-17-D-0132 for AE-Services. I am seeing your request for SF330's, and we already have a contract in place that will support your needs. We have been screened and are already working with the VA on the construction assistance after our Design at the VAMC Baltimore Hospital for Switchgear. Would you be willing to consider using this vehicle to get this solicitation approved quicker for you? Otherwise I will put together an SF330 for you.	The COR and local VA were not participants of building that contract. Plan on providing SF330 for this contract.
4.	11-12-2020	11-16-2020	Could you share a status update on this Sources Sought? Is Fort Meade planning to move forward, for example, with an RFI or RFP?	Please see the associated solicitation: 36E77620R0054.
5.	11-13-2020	11/25/2020	Can an extension be provided for this solicitation, to allow ample time for Answers to the Questions below to be incorporated into a thorough and comprehensive response.	Phase I due by 4DEC2020.



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6.	11-13-2020	11/25/2020	<p>Section C. Para 7.a. Page 8 (PDF) of the SOW Attachment 1 document states:</p> <p>a. “Stand-Alone Wireless Network System must be installed to support wireless devices that incorporate with Nurse Call and Overhead Page Systems.”</p> <p>Who is responsible for the provision and installation of this WiFi network?</p>	The contractor is responsible for the provision and installation of the Stand-Alone Wireless Network System.
7.	11-13-2020	11/25/2020	<p>Section C., Para 8.h. Page 9 (PDF) of the SOW Attachment 1 document “Overhead Page Minimum Salient Characteristics” states:</p> <p>a. “High Reliability Switches”</p> <p>Is the contractor to provide the network for the Overhead Paging System?</p>	Yes, the contractor is to provide the Overhead paging system network.
8.	11-13-2020	11/25/2020	<p>Section D. Para 5.e. Page 10 (PDF) of the SOW Attachment 1 document states:</p> <p>a. “Design shall include Overhead Paging, Mass Notification, and Panic Alarms”</p> <p>There are, however, no Mass Notification requirements mentioned in the final SOW. Is the described Overhead Paging System simply to be used as part of the overall Mass Notification strategy, or are there specific, necessary Mass Notification characteristics that would require separate Mass Notification software and equipment.</p>	The overhead paging system is to be utilized as part of the overall Mass Notification strategy. Additional mass notification software and equipment is not required with this project other than equipment to support the overhead paging, nurse call, code blue, and panic alarms in the SOW.



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9.	11-13-2020	11/25/2020	Section D. Para 5.f. Page 10 (PDF) of the SOW Attachment 1 document states: a. "Design shall evaluate the fore alarm system and determine interaction with the overhead page system" Is the Overhead Paging system to shunt during fire alarm?	<b>Overhead page and Fire alarm are two separate systems and are to remain separate systems.</b>
10.	11-13-2020	11/25/2020	Can the electrical engineer's company serve in the role of the commission agent if they have healthcare commissioning experience? What are the program requirements for commissioning of each system?	<b>The electrical engineer company can serve in the role of commissioning agent for electrical system(s), but cannot be the same individual that designed the system. Also qualification of individual needs to meet commissioning agent as called out in commissioning Specs which is included. The commissioning spec was inadvertently omitted during solicitation.</b>
11.	11-13-2020	11/25/2020	Whole Building Commissioning Process Manual - <a href="https://www.cfm.va.gov/til/Cx-RCx/CxManual.PDF">https://www.cfm.va.gov/til/Cx-RCx/CxManual.PDF</a> General - Are there any provisions or considerations given in regards to COVID related restricted site access and project access/timeline/delays/expense?	<b>The current requirements due to COVID for contractors coming on-site at the VA Black Hills Health Care System is to go through a screening site (everyone coming on site goes through, but usually pretty quick), wear a multi-layer cloth mask that covers nose and mouth and a face shield when inside VA facilities. Potential that unable to access areas due to patients with Covid-19 being present. However, no provisions given in regards to timeline or expense because large area that needs to be upgraded and only limited areas with potential impacts that should be able to work around with proper planning.</b>



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12.	11-13-2020	11/25/2020	Are the mobile devices to be tied to the owner provided phone system for internal and external call routing outside of nurse call operation? If so does the phone system provider expense of integration need to be included in proposal?	The phone system provider expense of integration needs to be included in the proposal. The mobile devices are to be utilized for internal and external call routing outside of nurse call operations.
13.	11-13-2020	11/25/2020	Will we be allowed usage of existing fiber/copper connectivity or be given a designated VLAN for multi building connectivity? If we are required to provide new fiber/copper connectivity is there existing raceway between buildings to utilize?	Contractor to provide new fiber. Contractor to plan on providing new raceways between buildings. Contractor to remove abandoned lines in existing raceway. Drawings of current fiber runs included and select photo's in signal manholes.
14.	11-13-2020	11/25/2020	Are existing inpatient TV sets to be re-utilized for patient entertainment/engagement/dashboard or are new units to be provided?	TV sets are to be re-utilized or be Government provided equipment.
15.	11-13-2020	11/25/2020	What is the make/model of existing hospital beds? If Stryker IBed or similar are the additional alarm/status alerts to be integrated or just standard bed exit/siderail functionality?	New Bed acquisition currently in progress for Arjo Citadel Medical Bed. Contractor to plan for integration of alarms/status.
16.	11-13-2020	11/25/2020	Does current nurse call include integration to room level smoke alarm? If not should future system? Does room smoke alarm have contact output base?	No integration to room level smoke alarm, and plan to keep systems separate.
17.	11-13-2020	11/25/2020	Are any physical revisions required of the nurse stations beyond that required to install new equipment/wiring?	No physical revisions planned except as required to install new equipment/wiring which includes electrical and telecommunications cabinets needed for the system. Fire wall penetrations must be sealed.



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18.	11-13-2020	11/25/2020	Can the VA provide a VA design guide for nurse call, or for paging in this application beyond that outlined in the Telecommunications and Special Telecommunications Systems Design Manual?	PG 18-9, Space Planning Criteria <a href="https://www.cfm.va.gov/til/index.asp">https://www.cfm.va.gov/til/index.asp</a> , PG 18-12 Design Guide OI&T FEB2011 ( <a href="https://www.cfm.va.gov/til/dGuide.asp">https://www.cfm.va.gov/til/dGuide.asp</a> ). Infrastructure Standard for Telecommunication Spaces ( <a href="https://www.cfm.va.gov/til/dGuide.asp">https://www.cfm.va.gov/til/dGuide.asp</a> )
19.	11-13-2020	11/25/2020	Is a specific proprietary nurse call system desired?	No, upgrading entire system so doesn't need to match existing or be a specific proprietary system.
20.	11-13-2020	11/25/2020	Can the VA provide a typical commissioning functional performance testing (FPT) form or protocol for each of these systems?	Will add commissioning specs. Inadvertently omitted from solicitation.



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21.	11-13-2020	11/25/2020	<p>The systems will be replaced day-by-day, circuit-by-circuit. We anticipate that the system use/function in the area of replacement will be almost immediate. This does not seem to be a practical application for a third Commissioning Agent in their typical site verification role.</p> <p>a. Can the electrical engineer's company serve in the role of the commission agent if they have healthcare commissioning experience? What are the program requirements for commissioning of each system?</p> <p>b. Can the EC/EE team work with the VA to perform the pre-installation design / planning and then use a third party for design reviews?</p> <p>c. Can the system supplier/Installer perform the daily checkout and turnover of rooms to the owner for interim use?</p> <p>d. Can the EC/EE then team work with the VA to verify installation and functionality at the final turnover of each building</p>	<p>See Commissioning Specification 01 91 00 and Commissioning of Communications Systems 27 08 00</p>
22.	11-13-2020	11/25/2020	<p>Are we reusing the existing speakers, wiring and zoning or does the VA expect all of the speakers to be replaced with IP type?</p>	<p>VA expects all of the overhead page speakers to be replaced and added where needed to provide complete coverage. The existing speakers and existing wiring must be removed, and new speakers and new wires must be installed. See question 23 on IP and conventional type.</p>



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23.	11-13-2020	11/25/2020	Would the VA accept speaker grouping (halls, large rooms, etc.) to be a mix of conventional and IP?	VA will accept a mix of conventional and IP overhead speaks, provided contractor can demonstrate that it meets the requirements from the SOW and the COR approves the design.
24.	11/18/2020	11/19/2020	In reviewing the solicitation documents, it has come to my attention that the due date listed on the SF 1442 and the due date listed on beta.sam.gov differ. The SF 1442 states offers are due November 30, 2020 at 2:00 PM EST and beta.sam.gov states offers are due November 26, 2020 at 2:00 PM EST. Would you please provide clarification on the correct proposal due date?	Please submit offers in accordance with dates and times listed in the solicitation documents, to include any applicable amendments.
25.	11/20/2020	11/24/2020	Is there any possibility to the proposal due date being postponed to a date beyond the Monday after the Thanksgiving Holiday	PH I of this solicitation is now extended to <u>12/04/2020</u> .
26.	11/24/2020	11/24/2020	My question has to do with the 20 page limitation for the proposal submission. WE don't believe that 20 pages is adequate to provide the VA with the requisite information in order for the evaluation	The page count limitation has now been changed to not exceed TWENTY-FIVE (25) pages.
	***	***	<b>Questions Received During Phase II</b>	***
27.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	How will potential delays associated with COVID be handled? Is that contractor/designer/vendor risks?	Situation dependent. Currently known delays should be incorporated with vendor risks.
28.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Will all system cable be required to be in conduit (or surface metal raceways)? Is all existing system cable required to be removed and replaced with new cable?	Yes, in accordance with VA Spec 27 05 33, Section 3.1.A.; included. Yes, existing system cable is required to be removed and replaced with new cable.
29.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Is Panduit desired in the finished spaces as opposed to EMT?	See Surface Metal Raceways and install in accordance with VA Spec 27 05 33, included.



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30.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Are all new conduits, remaining exposed, required to be painted to match adjacent surfaces?	Yes and in accordance with VA Spec 27 05 33, included.
31.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Are all surfaces exposed by demolition to be repaired by this contact?	Yes, surfaces exposed or damaged due to demolition and construction must be repaired.
32.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Will the emergency paging / mass notification system cabling need to be supervised?	Yes, in accordance with VA Spec 27 51 16, included.
33.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	What specific features of NC does the VA want? Rounds? System Assignment and Reporting Software? Color touchscreen nurse terminals? Marquees?	Rounding, System Assignment and Reporting, Color Touch Screen where identified. Programable capable to allow for expanded functionality.
34.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Will the project/design be required to comply with the FGI Healthcare Design Guidelines?	Yes
35.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Will the owner accept system turnover on a room-by-room or area-by area basis at pre-testing for their beneficial use until the balance of the work can be completed in each building?	Yes, room-by-room turnover is expected to enable continuity of operations. Testing on an area by area and BLDG by BLDG is also expected as areas and BLDGs are completed. A final test is expected to show that the system in its entirety is functioning as required. Beneficial occupancy is expected to be issued once an entire area (i.e. CLC E ward; Inpatient Mental Health) is completed rather than on a room by room bases.
36.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Can the VA provide quantities of devices be defined for bidding purposes?	See "Device Locations and Quantities for Nurse Call" document; "DeviceLocationsAndQuantities" excel document; and previously attached drawings.





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37.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Are the bed rail 37 pin connections functionality to be maintained? Do they also control both TV and lights? Which areas of the facility are equipped as such?	Yes the 37 pin connections functionality is to be maintained. They do control TV and lights in the CLC area. Vendor will be responsible to ensure functionality is included for TV and Lights where pillow speakers are provided, but will not be responsible to add TV and Light Control if not currently set-up.
38.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Are the wireless communications system devices required to be medical grade and HIPAA compliant?	Yes
39.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Can we get the drawings defining all fire walls and fire door locations? Can we get in both PDF and AutoCad	Yes, see attachment "SOC FM_HospitalComplex 2-8-2021.pdf" and SOC AutoCAD files.
40.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	If we are replacing the existing system with the same manufacturers equipment/models, do we need to replace the equipment and the wiring anyway?	Yes, wiring and equipment needs to be updated and installed in conduit in accordance with provided Specs.
41.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Does each building have its own VOIP phone system?	One VOIP phone system throughout VA Fort Meade.
42.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Will the Superintendent be able to fill the role of Safety Officer as long as the Corporate Safety Officer makes weekly visits to the Site.	No, see Specs 01 35 26, Section 1.7 provided with the Solicitation.
43.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Confirm that Conduit is required for all cable runs. Nurse Call, PA System and Fiber.	Yes, in accordance with VA Spec 27 05 33, included.



44.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	What type of fiber is required between buildings	<p>Single Mode fiber is required between buildings, internal fiber can be OM4 or OM5</p> <p>A. Campus Area Network (CAN) connection by Single Mode (SM) OS2 Fiber 10 GbE or better for building-to-building</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Single Jacket Non-armored Loose Tube fiber cable for running in conduit</li> <li>2. Armored fiber for direct-buried or aerial runs</li> <li>3. All dielectric</li> <li>4. Outside Plant, Communications Multipurpose Cable, Riser (CMR) "riser-rated cable" Rating</li> <li>5. 96 Count (if not enough room, smaller count cables can be used)</li> <li>6. Field-Terminated</li> </ol> <p>B. All CAN fiber connections may be home run back to intermediate distribution switch/fiber distribution panel (FDP). Fiber connections at building should not be run through additional buildings unless pass-through or mesh; no "daisy chain"</p>
45.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Does the cabling for the WIFI system need to be in Conduit?	<p>Yes, as the WIFI is in support of wireless devices used with the Nurse Call System and in accordance with VA Spec 27 05 33,</p>



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				included.
46.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Is the new paging system strictly for the staff to make announcements or is it being used for mass notifications? If this system is being used for mass notifications, do we have a dual system per code or will the VA allow the standard paging system be used for both.	In accordance with Spec 27 51 16, Public Address and Mass Notification. Contractor responsible for installing the system per code. Since the Public Address is used for mass notification it must meet code requirements for Mass notification systems.
47.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Do these systems need to be on emergency power, does the VA have a spec for the UPS. Do we need UPS for back up?	Yes, the systems must be on the critical branch and have UPS for minimum of 2hrs in accordance with Spec 27 51 16, Public Address and Mass Notification, and Spec 27 52 23 Nurse Call and Code Blue Systems.
48.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Are software and software maintenance cost to be identified as a line-item price?	Software initialization and install costs are required to be included in the price, but software maintenance costs are not required with this contract.
49.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Do you require a separate line-item cost for annual software maintenance cost for 1 year, 2 years, 3 years etc.	No, option years for software maintenance are to be included in separate service contract. However, a minimum of 1yr warranty to be included and a base level of support is expected to ensure software functional during the warranty period.
50.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Please confirm that the PA system is to utilize IP based speakers (not 70v constant voltage speakers)	Speakers to be in accordance with Spec 27 51 16, Public Address and Mass Notification.



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51.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Please confirm that adapter plates will be acceptable for device locations that require a different size electrical backbox	Yes, adapter plates will be acceptable for device locations that require a different size electrical backbox. Must be approved by COR to ensure final install has a professional appearance. Locations with clean environments will require a seal to minimize potential for contaminates.
52.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Please confirm the quantity of nurse call system call devices are required for the following areas o Sleep lab o Mental health common areas	See answer to question 36.
53.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Please confirm Departments/Units which are to receive Real Time Locating sensors and badges	See answer to question 36
54.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Please confirm desired functionality of the RTLS as it relates to integration with the nurse call system	See answer to question 36
55.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Please confirm number of RTLS badges required	RTLS to be incorporated with wireless mobile communication devices. See question 57 for answer on number of devices.
56.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Please clarify the desired functionality of the staff mobile communication devices	See answer to question 36
57.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Please confirm the quantity of mobile communication devices .	230 devices total with 200 peak licensing requirement and 30 spare devices.
58.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Please confirm the desired functionality of the existing radio paging system. Is this system to be repaired and used, or is it being replaced with the staff communication system?	Replace with staff communication system. Current paging system is utilized with code blue so will need to remain functional until transitioned to new system.
59.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Please confirm that a separate WiFi system is required for the mobile communication system.	Yes, a separate WiFi system is required.
60.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Is a cellular WiFi system acceptable.	No



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61.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	What buildings/areas are required to have coverage?	See "Device Locations and Quantities for Nurse Call" word document.
62.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Are parking areas and surrounding grounds included in the coverage area?	See answer to question 61.
63.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	B.3. The System must be Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) compliant. Please require submittal packages to include certification regarding compliance.	Package to include brands and versions of products planned to be utilized. FIPS certification is required, please submit certification as part of factor 1. The FIPS certification documentation will not count towards page limitations.
64.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	C. 5. a. (12) Staff location and Duress (RTLs). Please indicate which spaces and to what level RTLs tracking is to occur? Some VA's have run into Union issues after installing RTLs to track Staff locations. Please verify that this will not be an issue.	See answer to question 36. Installing RTLs will not be an issue for contractor.
65.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	C. 5. b. (8) Include in-room touch screen station(s). Please provide definition/function of these units and which rooms are to get them.	See answer to question 36
66.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	C. 5. b. (28)(I)(ii) Controls for lighting. Please indicate whether this means on/off control. The existing rooms are not set up to be interfaced with a pillow speaker controller. Is it the goal of this project to make this functional or just have the button for future integration?	See answer to question 37. Function for lighting should include on/off and dimming on pillow speaker controller. Contractor to ensure functional in areas where space has capability and available for future integration in areas that do not have capability.



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67.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	C. 5. b. (28)(1)(iv) Contain selected options to include the nurse call button, a speaker, and controls for TV volume and channels in a molded, flame-retardant, ABS housing. The cord shall be at least 8' in length and have an integrated sheet clip. <b>Do all of the existing rooms currently have TV control by way of pillow speaker? If not are you expecting this project to make this functional or is this just for future integration? Are all existing TVs compatible with nurse call control?</b>	See answer to question 37. Some rooms already have TV control by way of pillow speaker and compatible with nurse call control. Contractor to ensure functional in areas where space has capability and available for future integration in areas that do not have capability.
68.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	C. 7.a. Stand-alone Wireless Network system must be installed to support wireless devices that incorporate with the Nurse Call and overhead page systems. <b>Please define coverage area. Does the VA IT department have specific requirements for wireless routers such as brand and model? They typically have requirements for Switches.</b>	See Answer to question 36. No specific requirement for brand and model of wireless routers as not on VA network. Switches must be Cisco 9000 series switches.
69.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	C. 7.e. Provide UV sanitizing stations for sanitizing wireless devices. <b>What are the performance requirements for this? What locations? How many?</b>	See Answer to question 36.
70.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	During the walk-thru, it was stated that all nurse call cabling and overhead paging is to be installed in conduit. Most of the existing system is not installed in conduit. The SOW does not appear to require this. Please confirm that this change will be required. NEC Code does not require nurse call cabling to be installed in conduit. NEC 517.80. There is also no code requirement regarding cabling in conduit for overhead paging or Mass Notification systems.	Yes, must be installed in conduit in accordance with VA Spec. 27 05 33, raceways and boxes.



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71.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Fire Alarm cabling is not required, by code, to be installed in conduit, but does have requirements on the cable if it is not run in conduit. That is not to say that many AHJ still can and do require conduit for fire alarm. Please address this as it is both a cost and construction time frame issue.	Yes, must be installed in conduit in accordance with VA Spec. 27 05 33, raceways and boxes.
72.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	During the walk through, it was stated that the cabling for the nurse call system is to be CAT 6A. In reviewing the SOW this requirement cannot be found. Please confirm cabling requirement for nurse call.	CAT 5E or better is the requirement for this project, but must also meet or exceed manufacture specifications. VA is updating network requirements to go to CAT6A which is why it was stated during the walk-through, but after verifying with OI&T because it is to be a stand-alone system does not require the CAT6A.
73.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	SOW states the contractor is to provide their own switches for the project. In past projects the IT department has required specific Cisco switches be used in design. Is this going to be the case for this project and if so, please provide specific requirements for switches and any other requirements that the VA IT will require.	Switches must be Cisco 9000 series switches.
74.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Is PAS to be on a closed loop network installed by the contractor and not reside on the VA network?	Correct, the PAS is to be closed loop network. An access point or bridge is required so VA Cisco VOIP phones can be utilized for PAS system.



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75.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	What is the Owners intent at the Fire Station regarding the Overhead paging system? Does the Fire Station have an Overhead paging speaker? If not is it the intent to add one? Does the existing phone system from the Fire Station interface the existing paging system?	Add an overhead page speaker to fire station. See Answer to question 36. Yes the existing phone system can interface the existing overhead paging system.
76.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Is there a specific intent for what needs to happen regarding the Nurse Call/Code Blue system at the Fire Station?	Fire Station to receive notification and location for Code Blue events.
77.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	If additional communication is needed from the Hospital to the Fire Department, is cabling required between the two buildings?	Fiber line is needed between Fire Department and BLDG 113. Plan to use exiting pathway.
78.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Is the intent to have the servers placed in building 145 main server room?	Yes, either room 137C or 139B in BLDG 145.
79.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	B.3. The System must be Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) compliant. Are the proposed systems required to use cryptographic algorithms and libraries from Microsoft which are FIPS validated?	Yes must be FIPS compliant with documentation that system and devices meet FIPS requirements.
80.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	C. 5. a. (12) Staff location and Duress (RTLS). What spaces and to what level is RTLS tracking to occur?	See answer to question 36.
81.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	C. 5. b. (8) Include in-room touch screen station(s). What are the locations? Would you like to have the ability to see status and next steps for all patients across the unit from any patient rooms?	See answer to question 36. No do not want ability to see status and next steps for all patients across the unit from any patient room (concern for patient privacy).





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82.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	C. 5. b. (28)(1)(ii) Controls for lighting. Does this mean on/off control? Is it the goal of this project to make this functional or just have the button for future integration?	See Answer to question 66.
83.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	C. 5. b. (28)(1)(iv) Contain selected options to include the nurse call button, a speaker, and controls for TV volume and channels in a molded, flame-retardant, ABS housing. The cord shall be at least 8' in length and have an integrated sheet clip. Do all of the existing rooms currently have TV control by way of pillow speaker? If not, are you expecting this project to make this functional or is this just for future integration? Are all TV's you have compatible with nurse call control?	See Answer to question 67.
84.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	C. 7.a. Stand-alone Wireless Network system must be installed to support wireless devices that incorporate with the Nurse Call and overhead page systems. What are the coverage areas? Does the VA IT department have specific requirements for wireless routers such as brand and model? What are the requirements for the switches?	See Answer to question 36 for coverage area's. See answer to question 73 for switches. No specific brand and model requirements for wireless routers as stand-alone network.
85.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	What are the performance requirements for the UV sanitizing stations? What locations? How many?	See answer to question 36.
86.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Is it preferred to have Cerner integration without the use of middleware?	Yes.



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87.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	<p>Refer to the Beacon Nurse Call Drawings. During the site walk it was discussed that we are to price all systems as one for one. There are no other drawings depicting as-built nurse call systems.</p> <p>a. Please confirm these are the only nurse call devices requiring replacement/upgrades.</p> <p>b. Please provide as-built nurse call drawings for the balance of the hospital.</p>	See answer to question 36.
88.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	<p>Refer to the "Inpatient Max Beds Plan". During the site walk it was discussed that we should price one for one devices, no devices are shown on these plans.</p> <p>a. How would you like us to use these plans?</p>	See Answer to question 36.
89.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	<p>There are two sets of as-built Technology plans included with the solicitation documents for specific remodel projects, the posted drawings do not show the complete existing systems.</p> <p>a. Please provide a complete set of drawings depicting the existing speaker and nurse call systems installed in the hospital complex requiring this upgrade.</p> <p>b. Please provide reflected ceiling plans depicting hard lids for all areas requiring upgrades.</p> <p>c. If no existing system plans are available, please provide a list of devices and quantities required for pricing.</p>	See answer to question 36.



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90.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	<p>The SOW does not define any requirement for this new DB upgrade to communicate with the existing HVAC Control System, Fire Alarm System, or Access Control System.</p> <p>a. Please confirm there are no requirements to connect/communicate with the existing HVAC Control System, Fire Alarm System, or Access Control System.</p> <p>b. Please confirm no software upgrades to these existing systems is required.</p>	<p>a. Since solicitation, learned that the Fire Alarm System is separate from the Overhead Page System. The Access Control system is completely separate system and not included in this project. No communication is required with HVAC Control System. SOW does call out to conduct evaluation of spaces for added heat load due to new system and make recommendations if additional HVAC is needed. Contractor not responsible to make corrections.</p> <p>b. No software upgrades required for HVAC control, Fire Alarm or Access Control systems.</p>
91.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Are there any cases where existing network switches can be used or do we need to establish a complete desperate life safety network?	Establish a complete desperate life safety network.
92.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	If establishing a new life safety network, what are the network switch and cabling specifications?	See answers to questions 72 and 73
93.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	If establishing a new life safety network, can any existing fiber be used for the backhaul?	No.
94.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	If we are to provide new fiber backhaul, can we use any existing conduits or is all new conduit required?	Contractor to provide new conduit.
95.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	It was stated on the walkthrough that the desire is for all systems to be installed conduit and all new conduit is required, please confirm.	Yes, new conduit is required in accordance with Spec 27 05 33 Raceways and boxes.
96.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Can existing Nurse Call in-wall backboxes and conduits be used for the new nurse call system?	Yes, provided they meet requirements in Spec 27 05 33 Raceways and boxes.



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97.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	It was stated on the walkthrough that no locations with asbestos have been identified, is it accurate to state any asbestos issues would be the responsibility of the VA?	Yes, VA would be responsible for asbestos abatement.
98.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	In consideration of more design criteria being needed, can the bid date be extended?	See provided contract documents.
99.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	What are the specifications for cabling?	See answer to question 72.
100.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	The RFP speaks to a Real Time Locating System (RTLS), to what granularity is the design intent? Building, compartment, room, within XX feet?	See answer to question 36.
101.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Can you define what specific areas are to have RTLS coverage? It was mentioned on the walkthrough that there may be some outdoor coverage being requested. Can you provide a drawing that clearly delineates the RTLS coverage requirements?	See answer to question 36. Use drawings provided and technical question attachments for RTLS coverage.
102.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	What features (workflow) must the RTLS support? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Auto-cancel Nurse Call?</li> <li>Patient elopement?</li> <li>Infant Security?</li> <li>Equipment theft protection?</li> <li>Periodic automatic equipment replenishment (equipment count in specific rooms)?</li> </ol>	See answer to question 36.
103.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Considering the provided as-built drawings are incomplete, can you please provide drawings which depict what rooms need which nurse call devices as well as any existing locations which may have been repurposed and no longer require nurse call devices?	See answer to question 36.



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104.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	What specific locations will require Nurse Master Stations?	See answer to question 36.
105.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Are the beds to be connected to the Nurse Call System?	Yes, See answer to question 36.
106.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Are TVs to be controlled to the Nurse Call System	Yes, See answer to question 67.
107.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Are room lights to be controlled by the Nurse Call System? If so, how many per bed? (E.g. room, lights, reading light, etc.	Yes, See answer to question 66.
108.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Is the Public Address system required to include speakers within elevators? If so, does the existing cabling support this and will the VA contract the elevator contractor to assist or is it up to the awarded contractor?	Yes, See answer to question 36. Prime contractor will to coordinate with elevator contractor. The Fort Meade VA utilizes Kone.
109.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	What specific locations will require Nurse Master Stations?	See answer to question 36.
110.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Are the beds to be connected to the Nurse Call System?	See answer to question 36.
111.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Are TVs to be controlled to the Nurse Call System	See answer to question 67.
112.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	The RFP speaks to integration to the existing phone system, what are the specifications of the existing phone system and what are the use cases for this integration?	The VA has transitioned the Cisco Call Manager VoIP Solution. Either CISCO 7925 IP or CISCO 8821 IP phones. Phones can access Overhead Page to send messages. Phones to communicate with wireless devices.



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113.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	For purposes of the integration can you provide the existing phone system specifications?	The VA has transitioned the Cisco Call Manager VoIP Solution. See answer to question 112.
114.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Please provide device specifications for the Mental Health area. Are there any other locations which will require alternate device types?	See answer to question 36.
115.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Proposed schedule does not speak to RTLS, what is the proposed schedule for RTLS?	RTLS to be installed concurrently with Nurse Call.
116.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	The Building 113 drawing shows 11,591 gsf as “under construction”, what if any systems are required in this area?	See answer to question 36. Area under construction is finishing up with-in next 3 months and shown in SOW Attachment 10_DrawingsMay2018SPS_Endo_RevisedFinal
117.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	The Nurse Call As-Built drawings are incomplete, please provide sheets NC-5.00, NC6.00, NC-6.01, and NC-6.02?	Requested items unavailable. See answer to question 36.
118.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	As we have seen in other recent VA specifications will these new systems be subject to the current RMF (Risk Management Framework) regulations as detailed in Handbook 6100 and 6500?	Yes
119.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Please provide detailed Paging Zone locations (per floor) for the Overhead paging system?	See answer to question 36.
120.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Please provide locations where Paging equipment can be installed (Head end, amplifiers)	See answer to question 36.



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121.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Are there existing racks available for Overhead Paging equipment or will new racks need to be installed?	New racks will need to be added. Some areas have cabinets for existing system that the space can be reutilized.
122.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Is background Music required for the Overhead Paging System?	No
123.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Are there locations where desktop or wall mount paging stations be required? If so, where?	See Answer to question 36.
124.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Is End-of-the-line monitoring required for the paging speaker zones?	Yes, in accordance with Spec 27 51 16, Public Address and Mass Notification.
125.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Please detail any areas where Ambient Noise Sensing may be required?	CLC, Med/Surg, ICU, Sleep Lab, Mental Health, ER, Respiratory Care
126.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	ICRA Requirements, during the site walk it was discussed that if we only have two ceiling tile open at a time, no Hepacart will be required. a. Please confirm.	Yes per 100sf, except for highest risk category patient areas i.e. ICU, Oncology. See SOW attachment for PCRA/ICRA risk assessment that is contractor responsibility to complete and VA to approve.
	***	***	<b>Questions Received After January 20, 2021 2:00pm ET</b>	***
127.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Can we get a count of PA speaker that need to be replaced?	See answer to question 36.
128.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Is background Music required for the Overhead Paging System?	No
129.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Are there locations where desktop or wall mount paging stations be required? If so, where?	See answer to question 36.
130.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Is End-of-the-line monitoring required for the paging speaker zones?	Yes in accordance with Spec 27 51 16, Public Address and Mass Notification.
131.	01/20/2021	02/16/2021	Please detail any areas where Ambient Noise Sensing may be required?	See answer to question 125.
132.	01/21/2021	02/17/2021	Is a current WLAN survey available?	No



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133.	01/21/2021	02/17/2021	What Units/areas of the facility need to be covered by the mobile devices? Are any outdoor areas included in coverage area?	See answer to question 36.
134.	01/21/2021	02/17/2021	PA: Other than horn speakers connected directly to a building, are any outdoor PAS speakers desired, i.e. pole mounted in parking areas?	See answer to question 36.
135.	01/21/2021	02/17/2021	Is a speaker for speaker replacement desired? Or, is the layout TBD by the design team?	See answer to question 36. Design team to provide final layout.
136.	01/21/2021	02/17/2021	Is the current speaker placement available?	Provided in areas available. See answer to question 36.
137.	01/21/2021	02/17/2021	Is nurse call layout device for device desired? Or, is the current functionality to be determined by the design team?	See answer to question 36.
138.	01/21/2021	02/17/2021	VA to point out all spaces (in general) they would like PAS coverage and spaces they specifically do not want speaker coverage. Do they need local volume control in any spaces?	See answer to question 36.
139.	01/21/2021	02/17/2021	Does Ft Meade VA currently have a Mass Notification System software?	No
140.	01/21/2021	02/17/2021	Is the PA system to be a part of the facility mass notification strategy?	Yes
141.	01/21/2021	02/17/2021	How is PAS to interface with the FA and other emergency systems? Is PAS to shunt during Fire Alarm?	See answer to question 90.





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142.	01/21/2021	02/17/2021	Are desk top PAS consoles needed? If so, would any be considered "Life Safety" consoles... meaning, if the system is to stay active during a fire alarm or mass notification event, where will the active consoles be located for emergency level announcements during those events be located?	In accordance with SOW paging stations are required. One paging station needed per paging zone. Additionally, One Life Safety paging station needed at the VA police department and at the VA fire station. See answer to question 36 for paging zones.
143.	01/21/2021	02/17/2021	Section 8.e. of the Final SOW mentions a LED indicator, describe what component of the PAS that needs to be part of and the intended use?	LED status indicator for amplifiers, ambient noise compensation devices, input devices, enhanced life safety interface devices, text to speech engines, and UPS as required for signal monitoring, issues, and operating status.
144.	01/21/2021	02/17/2021	What are the facilities firestop standards? STI, Hilti, or sleeves and caulk?	In accordance with NFPA and VA Fire Protection design manual. VA Fire Protection design manual can be found on the VA technical information library, <a href="https://www.cfm.va.gov/til/">https://www.cfm.va.gov/til/</a>
145.	01/21/2021	02/17/2021	What is the required response time for any life safety warranty or emergency service work?	In accordance with General Requirement Specs 01 00 00 included with original solicitation.
146.	01/21/2021	02/17/2021	Is the Overhead Paging system intended to be a Public Address or Life Safety system?	See answer to question 46.
147.	01/21/2021	02/17/2021	Confirm in the mental health courtyard the offeror is to add a concrete pad/pedestal/call station and two exterior speakers. Trenching will be required for this wire and conduit run so please confirm the VA will provide line locator service and drawings for the courtyard.	Yes, unless a suitable wall mounted call station can be utilized. VA to provide line locator service. VA to provide drawings as available.
148.	01/21/2021	02/17/2021	Confirm for ceiling mounted conduit in hallways and passages between buildings, that painting is required, and the VA will provide paint color codes.	Yes, painting required. VA will provide paint color/ color codes.



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149.	01/21/2021	02/17/2021	To meet schedule, the VA will need to provide the contractor with 4-5 rooms in a unit at a time and roll to the block of 4-5 rooms without delay. Please confirm if the VA can provide this availability?	Phasing of rooms as called out in SOW to be planned.
150.	01/21/2021	02/17/2021	The Period of Performance (PoP) is extremely aggressive / unrealistic for both design and installation. We recommend either adding 100 days for design and review or making the 335 day PoP only apply to installation.	Schedule is a factor to be considered for selection. 63 days added to POP and provided in amended SOW. "P01_SOW_UpgradeOverheadPage_NurseCall System20210216"
151.	01/21/2021	02/17/2021	Please confirm the mechanical engineer analysis of the HVAC system only involves possible added cooling requirements for IT closets where additional equipment is being installed and does not require added HVAC mechanical work if required.	See answer to question 90.
152.	01/21/2021	02/17/2021	Are all systems to be fully enclosed in conduit? Will non-visible wiring need to be in conduit?	In conduit in accordance with SPEC 27 05 33.
153.	01/21/2021	02/17/2021	May any existing speakers, wire or other components be re-used?	No
154.	01/21/2021	02/17/2021	On the site visit several locations without Nurse Call were noted to have capability added (padded room, public bathrooms, barber shop, Patriot store, Rm 109A, etc. Please provide drawings with Existing and New coverage indicated with two different colored highlighters.	See answer to question 36.
155.	01/28/2021	02/17/2021	Is it ok to use armored fiber or does fiber need to be run in conduit?	In conduit in accordance with SPEC 27 05 33.
156.	01/28/2021	02/17/2021	Does every new cable system require cabling to run in conduit?	See answer to question 36.



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157.	01/28/2021	02/17/2021	Has Fort Meade already purchased Vocera software and hardware for the communication system? a. Vocera has refused to provide us pricing for our system, indicating they have already sold their system direct to the FMVAMC.	No, issue has been resolved.
158.	02/11/2021	02/16/2021	What are the core working hours at the Fort Meade campus?	Between 7AM and 5PM are when the hospital is open. If contractors need to be on site before or after that time, VA police will be notified so they are aware.
159.	02/11/2021	02/16/2021	Period of Performance?	Schedule is a factor to be considered for selection. 63 days added to POP and provided in amended SOW. “P01_SOW_UpgradeOverheadPage_NurseCall System20210216”
160.	02/17/2021	02/17/2021	The device count spreadsheet includes Workflow Station counts, however it appears that the count is a one-for-one with the patient station count. Many of the rooms that have multiple patient stations are also showing multiple Workflow Stations....The Workflow Station is usually only required on a Per-Room basis....even if there are multiple Patient Stations in a room, those stations report to the same Workflow station for that particular room. Can you please verify if this is correct?	The VA has identified a one-to-one count for patients with the workflow stations and has not called them out on a room by room basis.
161.				
162.				
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