RPS RFP Q & A

Q1. Quoting the deliverables: "2. The specifications shall rely solely upon IETF and other open standards for all communications and interactions." In order to scope interviews with vendors, we would like to understand whether this means that remote participants will be able to select their own software or whether a solution that required remote participants to use particular software/websites would be acceptable provided that open standards were used for communications in that software. We believe that the answer to this question affects the focus of vendor interviews and thus their cost.

A1: A solution that permits remote participants to use alternative software that implements open protocols and that is not supplied by the vendor is preferred. A solution that requires remote participants to use particular software will be considered, in the absence of open, competitive alternatives. Similarly, it is desired to separate choice of server operator from choice of server software vendor, permitting competitive choice of operator; again, single-source solutions for the server-side of the service will be considered.

Q2. Section 11 of the [proposal submission format] table of contents is "IPR (if any)." What sort of information is the IAOC looking for in that section?

A2. Whether the bidder holds the IPR or has any relationship with supplier of a proposed solution.

Note also:

H. Intellectual Property Rights

All work performed, all software and other materials developed by the Vendor under the Agreement, shall be "works-for-hire" and shall be owned exclusively by the IETF Trust, and the Vendor shall not obtain or retain any rights or licenses from any work.

Q3. Would alternate timelines be considered?

A3. We would be willing to consider alternative timelines/suggestions for achieving the same result.

Q4. Is the IETF seeking a solution provider or to build tools internally that will be maintained by volunteers?

A4. The IETF is seeking someone to develop consensus on a set of requirements for IETF Remote Participation Services (RPS). Thereafter the IETF will review the requirements and determine how best to meet the requirements.

Q5. Is this RFP to get an individual or company to review what is wanted to be provided or built?

A5. The successful vendor could be an individual or company, but a company would be expected to offer a team leader as key personnel.

Q6. Does the contractor need to attend the IETF meetings past IETF 82 (in my case IETF 84 and after)?

A6. Attendance is not required.

Q7. Is it a goal to have the I-D submitted as RFC and, if yes, should the contractor include in its proposal the work needed to achieve this (i.e. working with the IESG and the RFC editor)?

A7. Yes, the goal is to publish an RFC. We want a firm-fixed price bid. We are willing to have payments associate with milestones.