

Alabama Message Switch Modernization RFP

Proposer Questions and Responses

5/16/2024

This document contains both responses to vendor questions regarding the ALEA Message Switch Modernization RFP and amendment to the RFP document. Following are the key Amendments to the RFP:

Proposals Due: The due date for the Vendor Proposals to this RFP is **extended** from Tuesday, May 21, 2024, to Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at 4:00 pm CST.

The following requirements have been deleted from the RFP and hence vendor response-

- Vendor Strength and Stability Form
- MAP-7
- MAP-9
- MAP-58
- MMA-5
- MPU-5
- MIT-32

Immediately following the question and response table below, vendors will find an explanation for preparing/providing the Confirmation of Offer form mentioned in the Proposal Instructions under 5.4.1.2 Administrative, 1).

The following table lists the responses to Vendor questions as well as other corrections and clarifications.

Please Note: there are six questions below that require further research and will be responded to as a follow-up as soon as possible.

Ref	Document/ Page	Section/Item	RFP Language	Question	ALEA Response
1				What components constitute the MSS Modernization project? Please list all systems/components/applications for which the State is seeking replacement.	Complete state message switch solution including the message switch, hot files and interfaces to name a few key components (including, but not limited to FPPD).

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2				Should the response include separate thumb drives for the bid response and the cost proposal?	Yes, separate thumb drives, 1 for bid response and 1 for cost response.
3				Due to the compressed time frame with a project of this magnitude, this Vendor respectfully requests extensions to the Vendors final questions as well as the close date-RFP Responses due dates.	The due date for the Vendor Proposals to this RFP is extended from Tuesday, May 21, 2024, to Tuesday, May 28, 2024.
4				Is there an opportunity for an in-person demonstration if preferred by the vendor?	No, to maintain equality of presentation, all vendor demonstrations will be conducted virtually via a Teams meeting.
5				Why redo the vendor conference?	An error was discovered with the notification process in the Alabama Buys system. The State Purchasing officer instructed ALEA that the acquisition process had to reset, starting with the Vendor Conference.
6				Given that the questions come back a week before the due date, is it possible to extend the due date and opening date?	The due date for the Vendor Proposals to this RFP is extended from Tuesday, May 21, 2024,

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					to Tuesday, May 28, 2024.
7	Section I	MMS-3	The vendor must provide a fully integrated and managed solution. The proposed solution must utilize a commercial government cloud (preferably Azure) model that is CJIS compliant and approved by the State of Alabama. The vendor will be responsible for managing all aspects of the service proposed.	<p>What commercial cloud models are currently approved by the State?</p> <p>Is vendor required to be in privity of contract with Microsoft through a Microsoft Cloud Reseller Agreement or will ALEA be the entity contracting directly with Microsoft?</p>	<p>The State does not have a preferred or approved commercial government cloud model, ALEA is interested in vendor's proposed cloud solution.</p> <p>ALEA does not have a preference or requirement regarding the vendor contracting arrangements for cloud services.</p>
8	Section I	MMS-3	The vendor must provide a fully integrated and managed solution. The proposed solution must utilize a commercial government cloud (preferably Azure) model that is CJIS compliant and approved by the State of Alabama. The vendor will be responsible for managing all aspects of the service proposed.	Would a private and secure facility compliant with CJIS security and independently audited for SOC compliance suffice?	ALEA will review and consider all proposed vendor/provider hosted solutions.
9	Section I	MMS-3	The vendor must provide a fully integrated and managed solution. The proposed solution must utilize a commercial government cloud (preferably Azure) model that is	<p>Please further define this statement, "The vendor will be responsible for managing all aspects of the service proposed." Is that referring to the vendor's</p>	The vendor will be responsible for managing all aspects and components of the service proposed only up

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			CJIS compliant and approved by the State of Alabama. The vendor will be responsible for managing all aspects of the service proposed.	components only up until the "handshake" to the ALEA networking, or is ALEA expecting the vendor to manage the ALEA network as well?	to the "handshake" to the ALEA network.
10	Section I	Introduction	The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency ("ALEA") announces this Request for Proposals ("RFP") to all eligible and interested parties for the opportunity to submit a proposal, in accordance with the requirements herein, to solicit proposals from qualified vendors for an agreement ("Agreement") with an organization ("Vendor") that can provide a commercial off-the-shelf ("COTS") based, provider hosted, Message Switch System ("MSS") for the State of Alabama.	Please define "provider hosted."	ALEA will review and consider all proposed vendor/provider hosted solutions. "Provider hosted" refers to a complete solution that is operated and maintained (hosted) by the provider/vendor in a commercial government cloud environment of the provider's choosing for which the State will pay said vendor a hosted service fee for use of this solution during the life of the contract.
11	Section II	2.3	f) to award one or more contracts that ALEA determines to be in the best interest of the state and ALEA.	Is "best interest of the state and ALEA" according to the scoring criteria presented in this RFP?	This is standard State of Alabama RFP template language specifically for ALEA procurements. The scoring criteria is one of the factors of this determination.

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12	Section II	2.7	ALEA will consider the person who signs Vendor's proposal the contact person for all matters pertaining to the proposal unless Vendor expressly designates another person in writing.	Does this extend past the RFP and proposal period?	This is standard State of Alabama RFP template language. No, not past the RFP/proposal.
13	Section II	2.8	From the date of publication of this RFP until such time as a binding contractual agreement exists with a Selected Vendor or until such time as ALEA rejects all proposals, Informal Communication shall cease and only Formal communication will be allowed between any Vendor and ALEA. Failure to comply with this provision could result in disqualification of Vendor from continuing in this process. Informal Communication shall include, but not be limited to, any communications from any Vendor to any facility, division, employee, agent, or representative of ALEA, with the sole exception being communications by vendors for information, comments, or speculation directed to ALEA's RFP Coordinator.	Are communications with ALEA under current existing contracts excluded?	This is standard State of Alabama RFP template language. Yes, communications related to current existing contracts is excluded.

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14	Section II	2.10	All work performed and any ongoing services by Vendor procured through this RFP will comply with FBI Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Security Policy, Alabama Justice Information Commission Policy, ALEA policies and procedures, and industry standard best practices.	Can ALEA provide the following prior to RFP submission: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alabama Justice Information Commission Policy ALEA policies and procedures Industry standard best practices. 	This is standard State of Alabama RFP template language specifically for ALEA procurements. No, not prior to proposal submission. The Vendor must assure ALEA that it will comply with federal and state CJIS-related policies. Further, vendor must explain its compliance with industry standards and best practices.
15	Section II	2.10	ALEA further reserves the right to use for its benefit the ideas contained in proposals received.	Please explain this statement.	This is standard State of Alabama RFP template language. ALEA reserves the right to use ideas (i.e., functionality) from the proposals received, not including proprietary information.
16	Section II	2.11	Vendor certifies that it has disclosed and agrees it is obligated to continue to disclose financial and other interests (public or private, direct or indirect) that may pose a	During the bid process, or for a determined period of time?	This is standard State of Alabama RFP template language. During the bid process, and if awarded the



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			potential conflict of interest or which may conflict, in any manner, with Vendor's obligations and performance of an awarded contract.		contract, through the life of the contract.
17	Section II	2.14	This RFP does not, by itself, obligate ALEA; such obligation shall commence only upon the execution of any properly approved contract. However, part or all of this RFP may be incorporated into any executed contract, along with Vendor's proposal. ALEA hereby reserves the right to add terms and conditions during contract negotiations, within the scope of this RFP.	<p>Does this mean that exceptions should be included in the RFP response?</p> <p>Assume the negotiations clause is also true for the vendor?</p> <p>Are obligations under this RFP award binding upon the bidder, or are terms negotiable after award?</p>	<p>This is standard State of Alabama RFP template language.</p> <p>Per Section V, Subsection 5.4.1.2 Administrative, 6): "Provide (with Vendor's proposal) a list of exceptions, as applicable. Any exceptions must be stated on a separate page labeled "Exceptions," with references to the corresponding terms or provisions of this solicitation. All exceptions must be noted in the proposal in order for them to be subject to negotiation."</p>

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					<p>Vendors may request or suggest added terms and conditions during contract negotiations.</p> <p>Vendor obligations and terms are negotiable up until final contract signing.</p>
18	Section II	2.16	<p>A standard contract will be required. Upon acceptance of Vendor's proposal by ALEA, the parties will execute a formal contract, in writing, duly signed by the proper parties there to (including CPO signature), which shall be subject to review by the Legislative Contract Review Oversight Committee of the State of Alabama and to approval and signature of the Governor of the State of Alabama. The executed contract will not be effective until it has received all requisite state government approvals. Vendor will assume responsibility for providing services under the executed contract on the effective date of the contract, which will be the date of approval and signature of the</p>	<p>How does this apply to vendors already contracted to do work for ALEA?</p> <p>Do those projects/services and maintenance items need to be resolved and paid prior to RFP submittal?</p>	<p>This is standard State of Alabama RFP template language.</p> <p>This process applies to all new contracts, regardless of other vendor contracts with the State, and regardless of the work being performed by vendors under any other contracts.</p>

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			Governor of Alabama or her designee. Vendor shall NOT begin performing services thereunder until notified by ALEA. Vendor will not be entitled to compensation for work or services performed prior to the effective date of the contract.		
19	Section II	2.16	b) The anticipated initial contract term for this RFP is a two (2) year period. ALEA reserves the right, however, to include up to three (3), one-year renewal options, at its discretion, in any initially awarded contract.	Does the initial term include the 18-month development time, or does the initial term start after warranty begins?	Yes, the initial term includes the 18-month development time.
20	Section II	2.16	d) A contract shall not be assignable by Vendor.	Rather than forbidding assignability, can assignability be subject to the consent of the other party, without unreasonably withholding or delaying the consent?	This is standard State of Alabama RFP template language. Per Section V, Subsection 5.4.1.2 Administrative, 6): "Provide (with Vendor's proposal) a list of exceptions, as applicable. Any exceptions must be stated on a separate page labeled "Exceptions," with references to the corresponding terms or

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					provisions of this solicitation. All exceptions must be noted in the proposal in order for them to be subject to negotiation.”
21	Section II	2.16	g) ALEA reserves the right to recommend to the CPO to cancel and terminate any resulting contract, in part or in whole, without penalty, upon ninety (90) days written notice to Selected Vendor.	Is the State required to provide reasoning and/or metrics for the decision?	This is standard State of Alabama RFP template language.
22	Section II	2.16	i) ALEA reserves the right to provide additional terms within the scope of original RFP in the negotiation stage.	Assume same is true for the vendor?	This is standard State of Alabama RFP template language. Vendors may request or suggest added terms and conditions during contract negotiations.
23	Section II	2.17	a) Vendor shall provide an invoice pursuant to a services contract.	Please explain this statement and its relevance to the RFP bid process.	This is standard State of Alabama RFP template language. Addresses the method of billing for services performed.

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24	Section II	2.17	b) Vendor will not bill for any taxes unless a statement is attached to the bill identifying the tax and showing why it is legally chargeable to ALEA. If it is determined that taxes are legally chargeable to ALEA, ALEA will pay the tax as required.	Who makes the determination of tax legality?	This is standard State of Alabama RFP template language related to billing.
25	Section II	2.17	d) Payments delayed by ALEA at the beginning of the fiscal year because of the appropriation process will not be considered a breach.	Are there historical payment delays for appropriation process purchases? If so, please detail. Will ALEA be obligated to notify vendor within a certain timeframe of when ALEA becomes aware that funds will be delayed?	This is standard State of Alabama RFP template language related to payments.
26	Section II	2.18	Confidentiality of Use and Work Product	Would ALEA be amenable to a nonexclusive, royalty-free license to use any customer-specific modules created for ALEA?	This is standard State of Alabama RFP template language. Vendors may request or suggest added terms and conditions during contract negotiations.
27	Section III	Second paragraph	The final Scope of Work may change at the time of selection and any changes will be incorporated into the final contract.	What is the process for managing changes to the executed contract?	State of Alabama contract amendment process.

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28	Section IV	4.1	The time of receipt shall be determined by the time received in the ALEA Accounting Division and shall be date and time stamped accordingly.	Will vendors be notified of their bid receipt? In what format?	No, proposers are encouraged to utilize package delivery tracking with signature.
29	Section IV	4.5	If the Vendor considers any portion of the documents, data, or records submitted in response to this solicitation to be confidential, trade secret, or otherwise not subject to public disclosure, Vendor must also provide ALEA with a separate, redacted copy of its proposal in portable document format (PDF), on a USB marked clearly as a "REDACTED COPY," and briefly describe in a separate writing, as to each redacted item, the grounds for claiming exemption under Code of Alabama 1975, § 36-12-40.	Is this only for work associated with the RFP, or in perpetuity in dealings with ALEA?	As stated: "any portion of the documents, data, or records submitted in response to this solicitation"
30	Section IV	4.10	Notwithstanding the foregoing, ALEA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids if it is determined to be in the best interest of the State.	Is "best interest of the State" according to the scoring criteria presented in this RFP?	This is standard State of Alabama RFP template language specifically for ALEA procurements. The scoring criteria is one of the factors of this determination.

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31	Section V	5.3.1	<p>Volume 1 – Business Response Instructions Vendors shall follow the outline below for the Business Response section of the overall proposal. A more detailed explanation of the information sought by the State in each subsection is also provided.</p> <p>8) Vendor Strength and Stability</p>	<p>During the mandatory vendor call held on April 25, 2024, it was asked of and confirmed by ALEA that this requirement was removed; however, not all vendors had been informed of this change, nor was it part of the corrections presented during the call.</p> <p>Is the vendor strength and stability no longer important to ALEA and its decision-making for this bid opportunity?</p>	<p>The corrected list under Section V, subsection 5.3.1, Volume 1- Business Response Instructions should show that <i>Item 8) Vendor Strength and Stability</i> has been deleted.</p>
32	Section V	5.3.4	<p>Volume 4 - Cost Response Instructions The State is interested in understanding the Vendor's proposed cost associated with the delivery of the MSS system solution under each of the following three options.</p>	<p>There are no options listed. Please revise this section to include applicable information.</p>	<p>The corrected text under the Volume 4 - Cost Response Instructions should read:</p> <p>The State is interested in understanding the Vendor's proposed cost associated with the delivery of the MSS system solution. The Vendor shall provide the cost response using the cost form provided in Attachment F of the RFP.</p>

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33	Attachment A	1.1 Overview	This will be a Contractor managed Solution, which shall include all hardware and software including maintenance releases.	<p>Is ALEA expecting the vendor to maintain hardware releases for a cloud-provided solution?</p> <p>Please define expectations and responsibilities for State networking (firewalls, cabling, etc) in this section.</p>	<p>ALEA will review and consider all proposed vendor/provider hosted solutions.</p> <p>“Provider hosted” refers to a complete solution (software and hardware as appropriate) that is operated and maintained (hosted) by the provider/vendor in a commercial government cloud environment of the provider’s choosing for which the State will pay said vendor a hosted service fee for use of this solution during the life of the contract.</p> <p>Vendor has no networking responsibilities beyond those needed to bring the hosted service (with COOP) to the “handoff or handshake” point with the State network.</p>

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34	Attachment A	1.1 Overview	The scope of work to be provided by the Contractor under the Agreement consists of two phases: System Implementation and System Operation, each detailed in its own SOW. It is the State's desire that this solution be implemented and accepted in a timeframe not greater than 24 months from contract signing.	Is this contrary to the 18-month implementation timeline mentioned earlier in Section I Introduction and Attachment A preamble?	The corrected implementation (to acceptance) timeline is 18 months from contract signing.
35	Attachment A	1.1 Overview	Contractor shall be responsible for furnishing all personnel, facilities, equipment, material, supplies, and support and management services and shall perform all functions necessary to satisfy the requirements of this SOW and the MSS Requirements set forth in Attachment A (MSS Specifications) of the RFP.	If this is a cloud-based solution, this should be stricken. If ALEA disagrees, please provide an explanation.	The State does not have a preferred or approved commercial government cloud model, ALEA is interested in vendor's proposed cloud solution. ALEA will review and consider all proposed vendor/provider hosted solutions. Depending on the awarded vendor's proposed solution, this may not apply.
36	Attachment A	1.2.1	Provide MSS and web service standards based on open architecture that: ▪ Enables implementation of state-	Is this the inclusive list of MSS interfaces? Does the current MSS store this	No, this list of MSS interfaces is illustrative of, but not limited to, those named here.



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			<p>of-the-art MSS applications and workflows including integration with the current Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enables the incremental enhancement/addition/replacement of applications and workflows for any added functionality made available by the FBI, NCIC and III. ▪ Stores integrated subject arrest, charge and disposition data that enable online inquiries and reporting based on integrated subject criminal history data. 	<p>criminal history data?</p> <p>Would the third bullet not be a function of the CCH system?</p>	<p>The current legacy MSS includes criminal history data, whereas there will not be criminal history data in the new proposed MSS solution.</p> <p>Yes, and not needed; therefore the corrected list under Attachment A, subsection 1.2.1 Scope of Work, 1st Bullet should show that the last 4th sub-bullet: <i>Stores integrated subject arrest, charge and disposition data that enable online inquiries and reporting based on integrated subject criminal history data</i> has been deleted.</p>
37	Attachment A	Section 2: Task 1	The provisions of this	This is an incomplete sentence. Please strike or provide the completed verbiage.	<p>There was an accidental “carriage return <cr>” added after the word “this” so the corrected text under the Attachment A, Section 2: Task 1 should read:</p> <p><i>The provisions of this Task 1 – Project</i></p>

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					<i>Administration describe the requirements for the project management functions to be performed by Contractor during the System Implementation phase of the Agreement. Contractor shall document management organization, roles and responsibilities, resources, processes, and other pertinent management information in project plans (“Project Plan(s)”), including a Project Management Plan [DEL-01] and Integrated Master Schedule (IMS) [DEL-03] and shall maintain such plans current as necessary throughout the System Implementation phase.</i>
38	Attachment A	Section 2: Subtask 3	Contractor shall provide all equipment and software necessary to satisfy the System Requirements at the proposed State operational Primary Site and the proposed	How will vendors know the current functionality of the existing equipment and the specifications and terms of the current maintenance agreement? Is ALEA	ALEA is interested in and will review and consider all proposed vendor/provider hosted

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			Continuity of Operations Disaster Recovery site ("COOP Site"). Contractor shall provide all necessary software licensing (including all software that can be operated on authorized devices outside or remote to the headquarters building to access the MSS system) to provide an equal level of service and functionality as replacement of all Existing Equipment under the Current Maintenance Agreement, including, as applicable, servers, communications gear, workstations, printers and other equipment identified in the System Requirements.	<p>providing this information to each vendor?</p> <p>Should this requirement be rewritten to reflect only the COOP site since cloud-based solutions do not provide availability for vendors to validate hardware?.</p> <p>Additionally, should this requirement be rewritten to explain that the NCIC and Nlets routers will remain onsite at the ALEA facility?</p>	solutions for a modern and comprehensive state message switch and hot file solution.
39	Attachment A	Section 2: Subtask 4.1	The results of FAT shall be documented in a FAT Report(s) [DEL-06]. Contractor shall conduct a Pre-Ship Review [PSR] to demonstrate the FAT success, to determine the readiness of the system(s) for delivery first to State's Primary Site and then secondly to the COOP Site and to secure State authorization to ship the System components and configurations.	<p>If this solution is cloud-based, then is a Pre-Ship Review needed?</p> <p>What would be reviewed for the primary site?</p>	Vendors should address this item(s)/issue(s) in their response to the IMP SOW in their proposal.

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40	Attachment A	Section 2: Subtask 4.2	To verify that the integrated sum is at least as functional as the sum of the individual parts and to verify that end-to-end workflows execute as anticipated – the actual verification of the correctness of the end-to-end workflows, to include all the processing at each step, is normally deferred to UAT.	How can this be quantified? What is the intent with this sentence?	With successful testing and verification of accurate workflow functioning in the solution.
41	Attachment A	Section 2: Subtask 4.2	The SAT is also script-based, with scripts built up from those used at FAT, ensuring that all additional requirements are allocated to specific test scenarios and that the scripts still ensure repeatability.	Is SAT required to be script-based?	Yes, Vendor will provide a detailed outline of the elements and components to be tested in what order.
42	Attachment A	Section 2: Subtask 4.2	The SAT will include COOP activities. The minimum COOP activities that must be demonstrated include backing up and restoring data as well as using the COOP Site for primary processing, then restoring the entire system, ensuring that the repositories and matchers are current and identical across the two sites. Verification of the COOP related procedures will be a critical part of the SAT.	How long must the COOP site run as the primary system to complete and approve SAT?	Not predetermined, the vendors should include in their proposal response.

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43	Attachment A	Section 2: Subtask 5.1	Contractor shall conduct site surveys and analyses to determine the facilities requirements (e.g., heating, air-conditioning, lighting, electrical power, structural loading and physical access) for the facilities housing the replacement equipment at the Primary & COOP Sites.	If this solution is cloud-based, then what would be installed for the primary site?	Vendors should specifically and clearly address this item(s)/issue(s) and their approach to this in the response to this requirement in their proposal.
44	Attachment A	Section 2: Subtask 5.1	Contractor shall prepare an Installation Plan [DEL-16] to document the necessary installation tasks, responsibilities, schedule, resource requirements, equipment layout, cabling and testing to verify correct installation of equipment and software at the Primary Site and COOP Site.	If this solution is cloud-based, then what would be installed for the primary site?	Vendors should specifically and clearly address this item(s)/issue(s) and their approach to this in the response to this requirement in their proposal.
45	Attachment A	Section 2: Subtask 5.1	Contractor shall (subject to State approval) deliver and install the equipment and software deliveries at the Primary Site and COOP Site.	If this solution is cloud-based, then what would be delivered and installed for the primary site?	Vendors should specifically and clearly address this item(s)/issue(s) and their approach to this in the response to this requirement in their proposal.

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46	Attachment A	Section 2: Deliverable 5.1	<p>Contractor shall provide in accordance with Subtask 5.1 – Install Sites the following Deliverable(s) for this component of the SOW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEL-16: Installation Plan • DEL-18: Installation Drawings • DEL-26: Version Description Document • DEL-27: Installation Survey Report 	These would not be needed, or able to be created, for the Primary Site in a cloud solution.	<p>Vendors should address this item(s)/issue(s) in their response to the IMP SOW in their proposal.</p> <p>For some of the DELs described, logical system diagrams would suffice.</p>
47	Attachment A	5.1	<p>Contractor shall conduct site surveys and analyses to determine the facilities requirements (e.g., heating, air-conditioning, lighting, electrical power, structural loading and physical access) for the facilities housing the replacement equipment at the Primary & COOP Sites.</p>	Please advise how the vendor can accomplish these items in a cloud-based solution.	Vendors should address this item(s)/issue(s) in their response to the IMP SOW in their proposal.
48	Attachment A	7.2	<p>The COOP capabilities provided by Contractor under this Agreement shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintained as an active-active site; 	Please define expectations and any time metrics required to consider the solution to be "active-active."	An active-active configuration is defined generally as the deployment of a second identical live solution infrastructure which continually replicates with the first site.

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					Vendor should describe their ability to provide continuous, un-interrupted service. If there is a delay in service, Vendors shall explain how it will be handled and expectation of service.
49	Attachment A	7.2	<p>Include procedures for employee advisories, alerts, and COOP Plan activation, with instructions for relocation to predesignated facilities, with and without warning, during duty and non-duty hours. This includes providing for personnel accountability throughout the duration of the emergency and providing for continuous operational status in an active-active environment.</p>	<p>Please explain "with instructions for relocation to predesignated facilities."</p> <p>Please explain "personnel accountability."</p> <p>Please define "active-active."</p>	<p>Vendors should address these item(s)/issue(s) in their response to the COOP Plan as part of the IMP SOW in their proposal.</p> <p>Instructions for relocation to predesignated facilities=in the event agency staff need to be moved due to damage to normal facility.</p> <p>Personnel accountability=accounting for personnel during activation of COOP plan.</p> <p>An active-active configuration is defined generally as the</p>

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					deployment of a second identical live solution infrastructure which continually replicates with the first site.
50	Attachment A	7.2	Establish a roster of fully equipped and trained emergency provider and State personnel with the authority to perform essential functions and activities.	In consultation with and approval from the State?	Yes, and vendors should address this item(s)/issue(s) in their response to the COOP Plan of the IMP SOW in their proposal.
51	Attachment B	Section 1.5	During the System Operation Phase of the Agreement, as part of System Maintenance, Contractor shall correct the Deficiencies in the System, as further provided in this 1.5 – Correction of Deficiencies below.	Please define "Deficiencies"	Deficiency = a defect, flaw, anomaly, failure, omission, interruption of service, or other problem of any nature whatsoever with respect to the operation of the system solution, including, without limitation, any failure of a system solution to conform to or meet an applicable specification.
52	Attachment B	Section 1.5.3	Problems requiring an immediate response (Priority Level 1) are system or component failures preventing records from being	Please explain. Not the same language as the chart provided in Table 1.	Deficiency priority levels are clearly defined in the first column of Table 1.

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			entered or updated, searched or responses from being delivered. This includes all equipment supplied by Contractor associated with the System.		
53	Attachment C	MBP-4	The proposed solution shall process batch transactions from user agencies (e.g., processing a group of inquiries on a batch of data items or processing groups of record entries or modifications).	What do/would these batch transactions look like? Does this requirement refer to NCIC batch transactions?	An example of a batch upload includes a batch license plate inquiries for processing. Vendor shall describe their batch processing capability.
54	Attachment C	MBP-11	The proposed solution shall, when appropriate, automatically route National Crime Information Center (NCIC) response transactions to ALEA MSS for update (e.g., \$ msgs).	This requirement should be rewritten. If the solution is the MSS, then it would receive messages directly from NCIC and not need to "automatically route National Crime Information Center (NCIC) response transactions to ALEA MSS for update."	The corrected text in Attachment C – MBP-11 should read: <i>The proposed solution shall automatically process National Crime Information Center (NCIC) response transactions to...</i>
55	Attachment C	MBP-21	The proposed solution shall be capable of providing automated processing for Alabama Board of Pardons and Parole.	What differentiates the Board of Pardons and Parole from other interfaces that the switch automatically processes?	It is a distinct and separate interface to the Board of Pardons and Parole.
56	Attachment C	MBP-23	The proposed solution shall be capable of providing automated	What parts of the sync process are to be automatic?	This is an enabling requirement, the specifics of which to be determined

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			processing the quarterly III Sync (criminal history files).		during Requirements review and system design.
57	Attachment C	MAN-14	The proposed solution shall be capable of supporting a reporting function that can, at a minimum, provide data by reporting jurisdiction.	Please define "reporting jurisdiction."	An ORI agency that inquires or enters information into the MSS.
58	Attachment C	MAD-1	The proposed solution shall assist in enforcement of the "10 minute rule". Upon receipt of an urgent request for hit confirmation, the entering agency shall provide a substantive answer within 10 minutes.	This line should be stricken because without automating a response, it is reflective of user behavior. The MSS system can aid in the user understanding the "10 minute rule" and provide the user with tools to complete the "10 minute rule;" however, providing a "substantive answer" is entirely up to the user.	No, this specification's focus is on the enforcement of the rule and not the nature of the answer.
59	Attachment C	MAD-1	If no confirmation is received, the system prompts the sending agency to send a second request to the agency and to the designated state control point. If no response is received within 10 minutes of the second request, a third request is sent to the agency, NCIC, and ALEA. If the request is to another state, the control point for that state	This applied only to urgent requests?	Applies to any cases/circumstances involving the 10-minute rule.

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			and NCIC quality control also receive the request.		
60	Attachment C	MWF-1	The proposed solution shall ensure that administrative messages can be sent or routed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All users, specific users and groups of users. 	Please clarify that "all" means limited to users credentialed in the ALEA MSS.	Confirmed.
61	Attachment C	MWF-1	The proposed solution shall ensure that administrative messages can be sent or routed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer interfaces. 	Please define "Computer interfaces" in this context.	Agencies connected to MSS via 3 rd party interface (i.e., interface agency) rather than those with direct connected access points or terminals.
62	Attachment C	MWF-3	The proposed solution shall enable configurable routing based on message or transaction type and content. For example, a hit on a wanted person destined for a mobile device is automatically "copied" to a dispatch center device.	Is the given example specifically required? Why is "copied" in quotation marks?	Yes, among others not specifically mentioned. To give emphases to the concurrent sending of the that devices same response to another designated device.
63	Attachment C	MWF-6	The proposed solution shall provide queuing that allows messages and transactions to accumulate for subsequent delivery (guaranteed delivery) in the event of connectivity	Please define "duration" and "message type".	Duration = length of time of retention. Message Type = Type of transaction being queued.

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			or system downtime; such queues are to be configurable by ALEA by both duration and message type.		
64	Attachment C	MWF-7	The proposed solution shall allow group queues with the option to delete messages on first read or require that messages be deleted manually.	<p>What is the expected use case for this?</p> <p>Is this intended to support scenarios where a message may be routed to another station if its intended destination isn't available?</p>	To be further defined and refined during system requirements review and system design phases of implementation.
65	Attachment C	MWF-12	The proposed solution shall provide for confidential transaction-processing capability; for example, allow an authorized ALEA administrator to designate an inquiry as "confidential" such that subsequent viewing of messages relating to the inquiry/response can be restricted, including writing audit trail information to a confidential or restricted audit log.	<p>What/who are the confidential messages restricted to?</p> <p>What does "subsequent viewing" mean?</p> <p>Is confidentiality determined per e.g. MKE or based on more specific conditions?</p> <p>What is recorded in the confidential/restricted audit log?</p>	<p>The authorized user conducting the inquiry.</p> <p>Viewing again after inquiry.</p> <p>Should be configurable, can be either.</p> <p>Transactions/responses marked as confidential.</p>
66	Attachment C	HF-7	The hot file solution shall include tools that support Alabama reporting and state and federal audit support requirements.	Please provide examples of state and federal reporting requirements prior to RFP submission.	Vendor shall describe their reporting capabilities available in their solution.

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67	Attachment C	MIN-1	The proposed solution shall minimally provide the operational capacity of the current MSS environment, including the transmission of photos, other images or other file types.	Will ALEA provide the current MSS operational capacity for the transmission of images and other file types?	Vendors should calculate based on base information in Attachment D as well as their awareness of modern messaging payloads. Vendors should clearly state the basis of their calculations in their proposals.
68	Attachment C	MIN-2	The proposed solution shall utilize a system architecture that is open, nonproprietary, and portable.	Please define "portable."	Portable = software systems or applications that can be easily adapted or moved to different environments, platforms, or operating systems without significant modifications.
69	Attachment C	MIN-3	The proposed solution shall be adaptive and use extensible architecture for future expansion and scalability without the need for major architectural modifications.	If this is a cloud solution, then this requirement should be rewritten. None of the cloud providers will share their architecture, so it is not possible for the vendor to guarantee the solution can be implemented "without the need for major architectural modifications."	Vendors should specifically and clearly address this item(s)/issue(s) and their approach to this in the response to this requirement in their proposal.

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70	Attachment C	MIN-4	The proposed solution shall provide system diagnostics and regular, automated reporting, including, but not limited to, error correction and detection.	If the solution is cloud-based, then the cloud provider would be responsible for Infrastructure error correction and detection. The vendor would have no insight into this.	Vendors should specifically and clearly address this item(s)/issue(s) and their approach to this in the response to this requirement in their proposal.
71	Attachment C	MIN-5	The proposed solution shall provide production, test, training, and development environments. The user's access level shall allow him/her to select the system desired.	Can Test and Training be the same environment? Does Development need a separate environment, or is this referring to the vendor's internal development environment?	ALEA does not have a preferred or pre-conceived view on design, ALEA is interested in vendor's innovative proposals for achieving the spirit of this requirement.
72	Attachment C	MIN-7	The hardware shall provide the capability for remote maintenance and troubleshooting.	There is no ability to troubleshoot hardware from a cloud provider.	Vendors should specifically and clearly address this item(s)/issue(s) and their approach to this in the response to this requirement in their proposal.
73	Attachment C	MIN-9	The proposed solution shall be a cloud-based or other similarly hosted solution.	This is contrary to MMS-3 on page 7. Please define "similarly hosted solution."	This requirement parallels, and for ALEA, is superseded by MMS-3.

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					An MSS solution hosted in a commercial government cloud environment.
74	Attachment C	MIN-10	The proposed solution shall allow the addition of third-party hardware and software components (e.g., certification application, storage area network [SAN], and network attached storage [NAS]) through open architecture.	If this is a cloud solution, then this requirement should be rewritten. None of the cloud providers will share their hardware architecture, so it is not possible for the vendor guarantee any applications outside of its own will be allowed by the cloud provider. Additionally, the vendor has little to no control over whether an "open architecture" is made available by the cloud provider.	Vendors should specifically and clearly address this item(s)/issue(s) and their approach to this in the response to this requirement in their proposal.
75	Attachment C	MIN-13	The storage medium used for backup/recovery data shall be reusable. The disaster recovery process shall utilize the reusable storage medium.	Please explain the validity and intent of this requirement in a cloud solution.	Vendors should specifically and clearly address this item(s)/issue(s) and their approach to this in the response to this requirement in their proposal.
76	Attachment C	MIN-17	The proposed solution shall provide Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) and the Web-based tool set for centralized	Please explain this requirement further. Additionally, the vendor has little to no control over the	Vendors should specifically and clearly address this item(s)/issue(s) and their



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			control of the system using an enterprise management platform.	protocols and tool sets are made available by the cloud provider.	approach to this in the response to this requirement in their proposal.
77	Attachment C	MIN-18	The proposed solution shall be compatible with current wired networking standards for ALEA.	Please explain the validity and intent of this requirement in a cloud solution.	Vendors should specifically and clearly address this item(s)/issue(s) and their approach to this in the response to this requirement in their proposal.
78	Attachment C	MIN-19	The proposed solution shall provide TCP/IP addressability for all components throughout the network.	Please clarify that "all components" means those MSS components provided by and managed by the vendor.	Confirmed, those MSS components provided by and managed by the vendor
79	Attachment C	MIN-21	The proposed solution shall support the main MSS operations at the primary location and a disaster recovery hot site located at an alternate location.	Please define "hot site."	An active-active COOP configuration.
80	Attachment C	MIN-22	The proposed solution shall include a disaster recovery hot site that provides load-balancing.	Please define "hot site." Please define and provide expectations for "load balancing."	Vendors should address their view and proposal for balancing the workload between active-active sites in their proposal.

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81	Attachment C	MIN-23	The primary site and the disaster recovery hot site shall each be capable of providing 100% operating capability, in the event that one site goes down and is inoperable.	Please define "hot site."	An active-active COOP configuration.
82	Attachment C	MAP-7	The proposed solution shall utilize application server technology that allows tasks to be off-loaded onto other computers or processors to prevent a loss in performance as system usage grows.	If this is a cloud solution, then this requirement should be rewritten. The vendor does not have access to how cloud providers will accomplish this.	Vendors shall disregard MAP-7 as deleted.
83	Attachment C	MAP-9	The MSS application shall their programming language.	Please rewrite this requirement. It does not read as a complete sentence and there is nothing actionable in it.	Vendors shall disregard MAP-9 as deleted.
84	Attachment C	MAP-14	The proposed solution shall interface with and utilize ALEA's identity management solution.	Please define and provide parameters for the identity management system.	ALEA's current identity management solution is an inhouse developed product called ADAPT that leverages MS Azure AD and MFA.
85	Attachment C	MAP-15	The proposed solution shall allow ALEA to define how long a password will remain valid within the following secure password	Please provide the missing details. There is nothing following this statement in the requirement.	ALEA can configurable the password lifespan within the outer boundaries established by CJISSECPOL.

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			attributes established by the current FBI CJIS Security Policy.		
86	Attachment C	MAP-16	The proposed solution shall provide automatic user account deactivation, based on certification date or cancellation by an authorized manager-level command.	Please confirm that the desire is for user deactivation to be either manual by a manager, or based on certification date.	Confirmed.
87	Attachment C	MAP-20	The proposed solution shall provide a means for users to recall or reset their password using techniques including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forgot My Password techniques used extensively on Internet sites. • Challenge questions and answers established during user setup. • A temporary complex password if the user successfully answers the challenge question and a required new user password upon successful session sign-on. • Ability for the terminal agency coordinator to reset a password if necessary. 	Does ALEA intend to continue authenticating to ADAPT? Please define "recall."	Vendors shall disregard MAP-20 as deleted. Yes, MSS will continue to authenticate to ADAPT.
88	Attachment C	MAP-17	The proposed solution shall utilize user-driven (e.g., user ID, ORI, or combination) security profiles to determine system access to the	Please define "training mode."	Users in training whose work may/should have secondary validation.

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			following: • “Read” authority • “Add” authority • “Modify” authority • “Delete” access • Each function key for which authority is granted. • Each command for which authority is granted. • User classification or role. • Production (live) or training mode.		Vendors can specifically and clearly address this item(s)/issue(s) and their approach to this in response to this requirement in their proposal.
89	Attachment C	MAP-25	The proposed solution shall allow ALEA to define how long a password will remain valid within the following secure password attributes established by the current FBI CJIS Security Policy.	Duplicate of MAP-15?	Noted and acknowledged. Vendors can either note this in their response to this requirement or duplicate their response to the previous requirement here.
90	Attachment C	MAP-26	The proposed solution shall provide automatic user account deactivation, based on certification date or cancellation by an authorized manager-level command.	Duplicate of MAP-16?	Noted and acknowledged. Vendors can either note this in their response to this requirement or duplicate their response to the previous requirement here.

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91	Attachment C	MAP-27	<p>The proposed solution shall utilize user-driven (e.g., user ID, ORI, or combination) security profiles to determine system access to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Read” authority • “Add” authority • “Modify” authority • “Delete” access • Each function key for which authority is granted. • Each command for which authority is granted. • User classification or role. • Production (live) or training mode. 	Duplicate of MAP-17?	Noted and acknowledged. Vendors can either note this in their response to this requirement or duplicate their response to the previous requirement here.
92	Attachment C	MAP-28	<p>The proposed solution shall require users to log on to the system before receiving access to any function. The solution shall generally provide one user sign-on, system-wide with agency associations. The product must allow for different ORIs to be associated with a given action (e.g. dispatch for multiple agencies). This sign-on shall include, at a minimum:</p>	Duplicate of MAP-18?	Noted and acknowledged. Vendors can either note this in their response to this requirement or duplicate their response to the previous requirement here.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency ORI. • A unique user ID and password. 		
93	Attachment C	MAP-29	The proposed solution shall allow for the ability to change password at setup, at sign-on, and during the course of a logged-in session.	Duplicate of MAP-19?	Noted and acknowledged. Vendors can either note this in their response to this requirement or duplicate their response to the previous requirement here.
94	Attachment C	MAP-30	<p>The proposed solution shall provide a means for users to recall or reset their password using techniques including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forgot My Password techniques used extensively on Internet sites. • Challenge questions and answers established during user setup. • A temporary complex password if the user successfully answers the challenge question and a required new user password upon successful session sign-on. • Ability for the terminal agency coordinator to reset a password if necessary. 	Duplicate of MAP-20?	Noted and acknowledged. Vendors can either note this in their response to this requirement or duplicate their response to the previous requirement here.
95	Attachment C	MAP-35	The proposed solution's client application, if browser based, shall	Please define "modern."	Vendor shall explain in detail its web-designed

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			utilize modern form design and usability elements.		interface and what current technologies are leveraged.
96	Attachment C	MAP-39	The proposed solution shall provide value-added features normally associated with a mail system, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saving draft messages for finalizing and sending at a later time. These shall be available to other supervisors/users as authorized in the user profile. • Recovering and resending messages at all levels of the system. 	Please define "all levels of the system."	Wherever the ability to message exists, include these features/functionality.
97	Attachment C	MAP-42	The proposed solution shall allow tasks to be entered by keystroke and/or mouse action. However, the system shall allow all commands to be initiated by keystroke if desired.	Please define "all commands." Is the intent for all actions that can be done within the application via mouse be accomplished via command?	Yes, commands by keystroke and/or mouse action to the greatest extent possible, and please describe how.
98	Attachment C	MAP-45	The proposed solution shall allow for automated updates to the UI application.	Please define "automated updates."	Vendor shall describe the process for updating its user interface.
99	Attachment C	MAP-46	The proposed solution shall utilize prefill fields in appropriate preformatted screens, eliminating	Please define "appropriate preformatted screens."	Configurable, prefill of any data elements (editable) previously entered, into those same

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			redundant data entry without impacting the usability.		fields in any subsequent screens/forms.
100	Attachment C	MAP-49	The proposed solution shall allow users to move forward and backward to complete data fields.	Please explain "move forward and backward." Does this mean being able to tab back and forth, or click prior and subsequent fields with a mouse?	Both or vendors can specifically and clearly address this item(s)/issue(s) and their approach to this in the response to this requirement in their proposal.
101	Attachment C	MAP-51	The proposed solution shall provide users with standard form navigation and allow easy movement from one work area to another via mouse or keyboard.	Please define "standard form navigation."	Logical data entry order navigation.
102	Attachment C	MAP-54	The solution shall provide default, configurable values for fields based on previous input, referential lookup, or other mechanisms. It shall incorporate currently used defaults.	Will ALEA provide these "currently used defaults?"	Yes, during system requirements review and system design phases of implementation.
103	Attachment C	MAP-58	The solution shall provide stackable transactions functionality, such as semi- batch processing.	Please define "stackable transactions." Please define "semi-batch" and provide an example of this process.	Vendors shall disregard MAP-58 as deleted.

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104	Attachment C	MAP-60	The proposed solution shall utilize relational database solutions.	Please explain the relevance of this requirement in a cloud-based solution.	Is not relevant to commercial government cloud solution-vendor to propose solution.
105	Attachment C	MAP-62	The solution shall provide tools for monitoring and enhancing database organization and performance.	Please explain the relevance of this requirement in a cloud-based solution.	Is not relevant to commercial government cloud solution-vendor to propose solution.
106	Attachment C	MAP-63	The solution shall provide tools for database design and development, including documentation, diagramming, normalization, database generation, screen design and generation, report design and generation, and procedure maintenance tools.	Please explain the relevance of this requirement in a cloud-based solution.	Vendor shall describe in detail the ability for ALEA to self-create and generate custom reports.
107	Attachment C	MAP-64	The solution shall provide for the development and maintenance of relational database structures for the support of MSS.	Please explain the relevance of this requirement in a cloud-based solution.	Is not relevant to commercial government cloud solution-vendor to propose solution.
108	Attachment C	MPU-1	The proposed solution shall have a report batch monitor that controls the number of reports that may be run at a given time for each server.	Can ALEA provide metrics on how many reports are typically run concurrently per minute/hour/day/week/month/year?	Vendor shall describe its flexibility in running reports on the system by ALEA.

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109	Attachment C	MPU-3	The proposed solution shall provide reports, both of real-time and snapshot data, which are publishable.	What data is wanted for the real time and the snapshot reports?	Potentially any data in the MSS in configurable reports.
110	Attachment C	MPU-5	The proposed solution shall provide a user-friendly type of reporting (preferably something other than SSRS).	Does SSRS refer to SQL Server Reporting Services? What about it is not preferred?	Vendors shall disregard MPU-5 as deleted.
111	Attachment C	MPU-6	The proposed solution shall provide a full range of reporting include basic, ad-hoc, and customizable reports (i.e., new data sources, non-standard reports, specific filters, etc.)	Please define "basic." Please define the parameters for a customizable report.	Commonly expected baseline reports of summary activity of solution, etc. Substitute "configurable" for "customizable."
112	Attachment C	MPU-7	The proposed solution shall be demonstrably dynamic in terms of making change things in the reports.	Please restate this requirement. It is unclear as written.	MPU-7: The proposed solution shall be able to make (and demonstrate) dynamic changes to reports, both on-line and printed.
113	Attachment C	MIT-1	The proposed solution shall minimally provide the interface and protocol capabilities of the current MSS environment.	Will ALEA provide the interface and protocol capabilities of the current MSS prior to RFP submission?	Not before proposal submission. Will provided during system requirements review and system design phases of implementation.

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114	Attachment C	MIT-4	The proposed solution shall interface with the ALEA Computerized Criminal History (CCH) system	Will ALEA provide the interface protocol and details prior to RFP submission?	The new ALEA CCH will be provided by Diverse Computing, Inc. and interface specifications will be provided during system requirements review and system design phases of implementation.
115	Attachment C	MIT-6	The proposed solution shall seamlessly enable all current regional system interfaces to send properly formatted NCIC messages and transactions. This capability shall be in place on the first day of implementation.	Please define "seamlessly enable all current regional system interfaces"	Region or other authorized system interfaces will be able to pass NCIC transactions that are already properly formatted through to NCIC including responses.
116	Attachment C	MIT-7	The proposed solution shall interface with the Alabama DMV Vehicle Title and Registration and Driver License (including photos) systems.	Will ALEA provide the interface protocol and details prior to RFP submission?	The Alabama DMV Vehicle Title and Registration and Driver License is provided by FAST Enterprises and interface specifications will be provided during system requirements review and system design phases of implementation.

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117	Attachment C	MIT-8	The proposed solution shall interface with the ALACOP systems.	Will ALEA provide the interface protocol and details prior to RFP submission?	Will be discussed and provided during system requirements review and system design phases of implementation.
118	Attachment C	MIT-12	The solution shall provide authentication of an electronic report/interface data source.	Please provide more details, this is vague.	Solution needs to be able to authenticate any electronic interface attempting to connect to the solution for exchange of data.
119	Attachment C	MIT-16	The proposed solution shall interface with the new ALEA Computerized Criminal History (CCH) system which will be/is a cloud enabled solution with both a primary system and secondary system that are both "hot" and constantly operational.	Please strike everything after "system" as it does not provide relevance to the MSS bid.	Vendors should address this item(s)/issue(s) in their response to the IMP SOW in their proposal.
120	Attachment C	MIT-17	The proposing vendor shall be responsible for providing the complete interface (both directions) with ALEA's CCH, as well as all of the costs involved in completing this interface to CCH.	Provide the costs for both the MSS and CCH provider, or only the MSS?	Both the MSS and the CCH.

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121	Attachment C	MIT-18	The proposed solution shall ensure information related to the dissemination of CJI and CHRI such as date, time, requester, purpose code, reason, etc. is saved and logged in applicable audit logs and ensure a record of dissemination of criminal history records is maintained.	Is this a function of the current MSS to store criminal history data and logs?	Functionality of current MSS is not relevant in this context, ALEA seeks innovative proposals for a modernized MSS solution environment.
122	Attachment C	MIT-22	The proposed solution shall support the interface to ABIS, Vehicle Registration System (currently called ALVIN), FPPD, and NSOR systems.	Will ALEA provide the interface protocol and details prior to RFP submission?	Not before proposal submission. Will provided during system requirements review and system design phases of implementation.
123	Attachment C	MIT-23	The proposed solution shall provide an interface with the legacy CCH, if necessary, and all other legacy interfaces	Will ALEA provide the interface protocol and details prior to RFP submission?	Will be discussed and provided during system requirements review and system design phases of implementation.
124	Attachment C	MIT-24	The proposing vendor shall be responsible for providing and assuming responsibility for MSS to CCH interface.	Please explain the difference between this requirement and MIT-16 and MIT-17.	All three are related and seek to address different aspects of the MSS-CCH interface implementation and operation.

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125	Attachment C	MIT-29	The proposed solution shall retrieve, and route images stored in various sources.	<p>Please provide details on the data sources.</p> <p>Are existing interfaces built between the current MSS and these image repositories?</p> <p>If so, will ALEA provide the interface protocols and details prior to RFP submission?</p>	<p>This is an enabling requirement, the specifics of which to be determined during Requirements review and system design.</p> <p>Data sources will include, but may be others, ALEA system or repository of images such as DL, Dept of Corrections, Sex offender and ABIS.</p>
126	Attachment C	MIT-31	The proposed solution shall interface with the Alabama Sex Offender Registry (SOR) database.	Will ALEA provide the interface protocol and details prior to RFP submission?	The AL Sex Offender registration system is provided by Watch Systems and interface specifications will be provided during system requirements review and system design phases of implementation.
127	Attachment C	MIT-32	The proposed solution shall interface with the Mobile Architecture for Communications Handling (MACH) Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) system.	Will ALEA provide the interface protocol and details prior to RFP submission?	Vendors shall disregard MIT-32 as deleted.

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128	Attachment C	MMA-1	The proposed solution shall continually perform interface connectivity monitoring, hardware self-diagnosis, and self-checking, and report errors to the operator console for remedial action.	Hardware self-diagnosis may not be possible in a commercial cloud. Please strike this requirement if a commercial cloud is a hard requirement.	Vendors should address monitoring capabilities in their proposal.
129	Attachment C	MMA-2	The proposed solution shall provide for software upgrades/maintenance that do not affect the production system (no downtime) in a load-balanced environment.	Please explain the rationale for this requirement.	Vendors shall describe how this is performed and if there is an effect on production, how will it be handled?
130	Attachment C	MMA-3	The proposed solution shall provide a logging feature that logs entries, changes, and/or deletions to any configuration data (data transaction recovery log).	Please define and provide examples of "data transaction recovery log."	The ability log and recover data transactions back to the database as needed.
131	Attachment C	MMA-5	The proposed solution shall be able to set date, time, and time zone using a government-approved time server.	Contradicts requirement MWF-10.	Noted and acknowledged. Vendors shall disregard MMA-5 as deleted
132	Attachment C	MMA-7	To maintain configuration integrity, the proposed solution shall provide control for all configurable elements, including auditing, rollback, roll-forward, and configuration change transactions,	Does "auditing" refer to auditing changes to configuration in particular, or something else?	Yes, auditing changes to configuration.

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			with the ability to both import and export configurations.		
133	Attachment C	MMA-10	The proposing vendor shall provide continuous management of all IT components, emphasizing regular, iterative updates and upgrades, ensuring that software and hardware are always up to date. This is the concept known as "evergreen IT".	Hardware should be excluded for a cloud-based solution. Or the Requirement should be rewritten to focus on the COOP site only.	Vendors should specifically and clearly address this item(s)/issue(s) and their approach to this in the response to this requirement in their proposal.
134	Attachment C	MMA-11	The proposed solution shall allow capturing NCIC lists (e.g., vehicle codes) at the switch, for other systems to download and use.	What are the "other systems?"	Other systems potentially interfaced to the MSS.
135	Attachment C	MMA- 18	The proposed solution shall provide access to online MSS manual files that describe fields, forms, and data requirements, as well as procedures and automatic updates of the manual by ALEA administrators.	What kind of updates does ALEA expect to do/automate?	Updates to the online resources, manuals, etc.
136	Attachment C	MMA- 23	The MSS test system shall include scripting tools.	Please explain the intent and nature of this requirement.	This would be an enabling requirement seeking to allow users to automate repetitive tasks via prepared scripts or

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					move data to an interface.
137	Attachment C	MMA- 24	The MSS solution shall contain load-testing software for measuring system performance.	What metrics are wanted?	Any metrics that are indicative of system health and performance on an ad hoc basis or on-going in a dashboard.
138		Section: 1.2.2 Customer Support	In section 1.2.2, ALEA requires that the successful offeror shall provide 24/7/365 technical support.	Please confirm that it is ALEA's intention that end-user support would be provided through the State's technical support versus having end-users (local, county, and other) call the successful vendor's help desk directly.	Confirmed, but also that the State's technical support team then also have access to the awarded vendor help desk directly 24/7/365.
139		Section: Technical Requirement MIN-1	The requirement states, "The proposed solution shall minimally provide the operational capacity of the current MSS environment, including the transmission of photos, other images, or other file types."	At what level, in terms of transactions per second or other terms that are meaningful to ALEA, is the current MSS environment operating? (Note: This question also applies to Section 1 - MSS Operations SOW Response Instructions, System Performance.)	ALEA is interested in reviewing and considering all vendor's proposals for a system solution that is designed and provides for optimal performance.
140		Section: MSS Operations SOW Response Instructions.	Within the paragraph System Performance, it states that "The Offeror shall describe its approach to providing the performance services required in the MSS OPS	Question: What are ALEA's expectations regarding the MSS capacities and response times?	ALEA is interested in reviewing and considering all vendor's proposals for a system solution that is designed

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			SOW, including the capacities and response time to be supported (average and peak hour), throughput of services and any assumptions, risks, or constraints.”		and provides for optimal performance.
141		MIN-17		Could you please provide more details on the specific functionalities and features expected from the SNMP integration and the web-based tool set for centralized control? Additionally, are there any preferred enterprise management platforms that should be supported or any specific requirements regarding scalability and security?	While less applicable to cloud-based environment, ALEA is interested in reviewing and considering all vendor’s proposals for a system solution, including vendors approach and applicability of this requirement for a hosted solution.
142		MIN-10		Could you please elaborate on the desired level of flexibility for integrating third-party hardware and software components? Specifically, what types of components are expected to be integrated (e.g., certification application, SAN, NAS)? Additionally, are there any specific compatibility or interoperability requirements to consider? Finally, could you provide more details on the desired characteristics of the	ALEA is interested in reviewing and considering all vendor’s proposals and approach are for a system solution that provides for the ability to integrate third party HW/SW (in consultation with awarded vendor) for components listed as examples: User testing and certification SW,

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				'open architecture' that will facilitate this integration?	ability to add SAN or NAS if desired, etc.
143		Section 1.7 Attachment B MSS Operations SOW		The RFP says "Contractor shall be required to make a declaration of a Disaster and invoke the Disaster Recovery Plan within four (4) hours from the disruption of the normal Operational Environment or precipitating event." Does this mean that we have 4 hours to fail over the solution to the secondary site after a disaster? (RTO)	Vendor has 4 hours from the point of disruption to declare a disaster and invoke the DR plan, else it will be deemed Unscheduled Downtime. This does not give vendor 4 hours to fail over the solution to secondary site.
144		Section 1.7 Attachment B MSS Operations SOW		The RFP says "Contractor shall ensure the System Data to a point no greater than Thirty (30) minutes prior to the declaration of the Disaster by State or Contractor." Does this mean that not more than 30 minutes of data can be lost? (RPO)	Yes, correct.
145		5.3.1		In section 5.3.1, "Vendor Strength and Stability" is listed as part of the Business Response Instructions, however, it is not listed in the detailed explanation that follows starting with 5.3.1.1. Is "Vendor Strength and Stability" required for submission and if so, can ALEA	The corrected list under Section V, subsection 5.3.1, Volume 1-Business Response Instructions should show that Item 8) Vendor Strength and Stability has been deleted.

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				provide the requirements for response.	
146		1.1		<p>In Section 1.1 "Purpose of RFP" the document states: "this hosted solution service be implemented and accepted in a timeframe not greater than 18 months from contract signing."</p> <p>However, in Section 2 - MSS Implementation Statement of Work subsection 1.1 Overview it states: "It is the State's desire that this solution be implemented and accepted in a timeframe not greater than 24 months from contract signing."</p> <p>Can ALEA confirm the desired timeframe for implementation</p>	<p>The correct implementation (to acceptance) timeline is 18 months from contract signing.</p>
147		Attachment A		<p>In Attachment A, Deliverable 1.1 – Project Plans, Table 1, can ALEA define what is meant by "Project Management Reviews" as well as the frequency of the reviews?</p> <p>Furthermore, is it expected that all Project Management Reviews are to be conducted onsite at ALEA</p>	<p>Periodic (determined by vendor PM and ALEA PM project management status reviews.</p> <p>Not all onsite, but routinely via virtual meetings.</p>

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148		General Question		Will there be a transition plan put in place between ALEA and the current Switch Vendor if the current Switch vendor is not awarded the new MSS Modernization in order to ease the transition to a new Vendor?	Yes, a transition plan is planned and will be developed at start of implementation phase.
149		Functional Requirement MBP-1		"The proposed solution shall minimally provide all of the functionality of the current MSS environment and further detailed in the Detailed Design Document." Was there an additional Detailed Design Document that was to be included?	No, not missing, the Detailed Design Document is a deliverable that will be developed by the vendor and ALEA documenting functionality among other aspects of the solution.
150		Functional Requirement HF-3		"The hot file solution shall support standard NCIC data exchanges (e.g., NIEM XML)." If this requirement is met through functionality on the message switch, is this acceptable?	Yes, with confirmation.
151		Functional Requirement HF-3		"The hot file solution shall provide validation of hot file records." Would it be possible for ALEA to define what is meant by "validation of hot file records" in more detail?	Ensuring the NCIC hot files validation process.

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152		Technical Requirement MAP-9		"The MSS application shall their programming language." Is there a word missing from this requirement?	Vendors shall disregard MAP-9 as deleted.
153		Technical Requirement MAP-32		The requirements jump from MAP-31 to MAP-33, we want to ensure that we did not miss a requirement.	Yes, there is no MAP-32 requirement.
154		Section 2 – MSS Implementation Statement of Work		In Section 2 – MSS Implementation Statement of Work, subsection 1.2.1 SCOPE OF WORK, The RFP lists one of the MSS solution goals as: "Stores integrated subject arrest, charge and disposition data that enable online inquiries and reporting based on integrated subject criminal history data." Is this accurate?	No, the corrected bullet list under Attachment A, subsection 1.2.1 Scope of Work, 1st Bullet should show that the last 4th sub-bullet: Stores integrated subject arrest, charge and disposition data that enable online inquiries and reporting based on integrated subject criminal history data has been deleted .
155		Functional Requirement HF-1 through HF-7		Related to Attachment C "Hot Files" requirements, the RFP states "The table below describes requirements related to collecting, maintaining, and disseminating hot file information. In addition, the table designates each requirement	Alabama sends all hot files to NCIC and does not maintain a copy of any hot files locally in the State.

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				<p>as pertaining to NCIC hot files, Alabama hot files, or both."</p> <p>Would it be possible for ALEA to elaborate on the classification of which Hot Files requirements are NCIC hot files, Alabama hot files or both?</p>	<p>This statement is corrected to read: The table below describes requirements related to collecting, maintaining, and disseminating hot file information. In addition, these requirement only pertain to NCIC hot files.</p>
156		<p>Technical Requirement MAP-14</p>		<p>Can ALEA tell us what their identity management solution is that is referenced in MAP-14?</p>	<p>ALEA's identity management solution is ADAPT (Active Directory Authentication and Processing Tool) which relies on MS AD with MFA. ADAPT provides security and authentication within and to AlaCOP system resources (LETS, DMV, Veh Regis, etc). All users must be authenticated by ADAPT to determine their privileges and the access that they may have to the various AlaCOP functions.</p>

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157		Technical Requirement MAP-55		Can ALEA define what types of documents they are looking to upload as part of MAP-55?	Enabling requirement to upload documents, images, etc. related to a hot file in the system (ex: person, vehicle, etc)
158		Functional Requirement MAD-2		"The proposed solution shall provide a record validation process ..." is this requirement related to an in-state Alabama hot files validation process or is this facilitating the NCIC hot files validation process?	Facilitating the NCIC hot files validation process.
159		MIT-5	"The proposed solution shall interface with the proposed hot files solution, in the event that the proposed hot files solution is not already integrated with the proposed message switch solution."	Please provide the technical specification for this hot file system. Please clarify what is meant by the proposed hot files solution.	ALEA is seeking a solution that includes both the message switching as well as the hot file systems together. This requirement highlights this desire-not a separate, disparate hot file solution.
160		MIT-6	"The proposed solution shall seamlessly enable all current regional system interfaces to send properly formatted NCIC messages and transactions. This capability	Due to components such as potential network changes to migrate from the primary location to the COOP location, a completely automated failover from site to site cannot be accomplished, what is	ALEA will review and consider all proposed vendor/provider hosted solutions. Vendors should specifically and clearly

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			shall be in place on the first day of implementation.”	the Recovery Time Objective (RTO) to become operational and active at the COOP site?	address this item(s)/issue(s) and their approach to this in the response to this requirement in their proposal.
161		MIT-7	"The proposed solution shall interface with the Alabama DMV Vehicle Title and Registration and Driver License (including photos) systems."	Please provide the technical specification for this interface.	The Alabama DMV Vehicle Title and Registration and Driver License is provided by FAST Enterprises and interface specifications will be provided during system requirements review and system design phases of implementation.
162		MIT-12	The solution shall provide authentication of an electronic report/interface data source.	Please provide examples and scope of this requirement, what is the existing MSS authentication process in place for report/interface data sources?	Solution needs to be able to authenticate any electronic interface attempting to connect to the solution for exchange of data.
163		MIT-16	"The proposed solution shall interface with the new ALEA Computerized Criminal History (CCH) system which will be/is a cloud enabled solution with both a	Please provide the technical specification for this interface. Does it need to operate in parallel with the existing CCH interface?	The new ALEA CCH will be provided by Diverse Computing, Inc. and interface specifications will be provided during

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			primary system and secondary system that are both “hot” and constantly operational.”		system requirements review and system design phases of implementation.
164		MIT-22	“The proposed solution shall support the interface to ABIS, Vehicle Registration System (currently called ALVIN), FPPD, and NSOR systems.”	Please provide the technical specifications for these interfaces.	<p>The Alabama DMV Vehicle Title and Registration and Driver License is provided by FAST Enterprises and interface specifications will be provided during system requirements review and system design phases of implementation.</p> <p>The ALEA ABIS is provided by NEC and interface specifications will be provided during system requirements review and system design phases of implementation.</p>
165		MIT-23	"The proposed solution shall provide an interface with the legacy CCH, if necessary, and all other legacy interfaces."	Please provide a list of all Data source interfaces (other than NCIC and Nlets) that must be supported. Examples are ALVIN, FPPD, etc. For each interface provide the communications strategy used	Will be discussed and provided during system requirements review and system design phases of implementation.

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				(e.g. Web Service, ODBC, TCP/IP connection, etc.).	
166		MIT-30	“The proposed solution shall retrieve, and route other documents or images stored in a specified repository.”	Please provide a use case regarding the retrieval, routing of other documents and images stored in a specified repository.	This is an enabling requirement to allow for the access and retrieval of images or documents related to an inquiry or transaction.
167		MIT-32	“The proposed solution shall interface with the Mobile Architecture for Communications Handling (MACH) Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) system.”	What is the current interface protocol used to communicate with the MACH and AVL system? Who is the existing MACH and AVL system vendor?	Vendors shall disregard MIT-32 as deleted
168				Please provide a description of the current network connectivity for end user agencies. Is connectivity via a State provided network or other strategies, such as the Internet?	ALEA provides its own network connectivity through dedicated routers and switches as well as internet connections via VPN.
169				Do the computer-to-computer systems (METRO/Regional configuration, such as CAD and RMS systems) use XML or legacy text string formats?	The solution must comply with FBI and Nlets XML requirements. The Vendor shall also explain its capabilities for supporting legacy formats.

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170				Do the images, such as driver license photos, use the binary DSEO format or are they in Base64 XML format?	Will determine during discovery.
171				Is connectivity via a State provided network or other strategies, such as the Internet?	Same as 168 above.
172		MAP-9	“The MSS application shall their programming language.”	It seems there may be something missing from this requirement description. Please confirm.	Vendors shall disregard MAP-9 as deleted.
173		MAP-12 and Related to MIN-5	“The development environment shall include version control and provide source code change tracking. It will also track changes to message switch configurations and program modifications.”		ALEA seeks a solution supporting the four environments. Development is vendor’s internal dev system, and then separate production, test and training environments that authorized agency users can access as necessary and appropriate.
174		MIN-5	“The proposed solution shall provide production, test, training, and development environments. The user’s access level shall allow him/her to select the system desired.”	Requirement MIN-5 references the development environment, and MAP-12 refers to the Development Environment. The requirement in MAP-12 appears to be related to the vendor’s internal development	ALEA seeks a solution supporting the four environments. Development is vendor’s internal dev system, and then separate production,

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				systems rather than the development system provided as part of the solution. Can this requirement be clarified?	test and training environments that authorized agency users can access as necessary and appropriate.
175		MAP-14	“The proposed solution shall interface with and utilize ALEA’s identity management solution.”	Can the state expand on how the Identity Management System interacts with the MSS? What users are authenticated via the Identity Management System? Please provide details as to what ALEA is using for identity management.	ALEA’s identity management solution is ADAPT (Active Directory Authentication and Processing Tool). ADAPT provides security and authentication within and to AlaCOP system resources (LETS, DMV, Veh Regis, etc). All users must be authenticated by ADAPT to determine their privileges and the access that they may have to the various AlaCOP functions.
176				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attachment C, MAP-25 appears to be a duplicate of MAP-15. Attachment C, MAP-26 appears to be a duplicate of MAP-16. 	Noted and acknowledged for all listed. Vendors can either note this in their response to this requirement or duplicate their response to the previous requirement here.

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attachment C, MAP-27 appears to be a duplicate of MAP-17. Attachment C, MAP-28 appears to be a duplicate of MAP-18. Attachment C, MAP-29 appears to be a duplicate of MAP-19. Attachment C, MAP-30 appears to be a duplicate of MAP-20 	
177		MAP-58	“The solution shall provide stackable transactions functionality, such as semi-batch processing.”	Will the state clarify the intent of stackable transactions and semi-batch processing? Does the current system have specific interfaces to support this requirement? Please provide details and examples.	Vendors shall disregard MAP-58 as deleted.
178		Section 1.1 – Purpose of RFP	“It is the State’s desire that this solution be implemented and accepted in a timeframe not greater than 18 months from contract signing.”		The correct implementation (to acceptance) timeline is 18 months from contract signing.

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179		Attachment A, Section 1.1 – Overview	“It is the State’s desire that this solution be implemented and accepted in a timeframe not greater than 24 months from contract signing.”	Please confirm the timeframe for implementation and acceptance from contract signing.	The correct implementation (to acceptance) timeline is 18 months from contract signing.
180		Page 7 of the RFP	RFP has a footnote stating, “1 ALEA currently maintains a substantial Azure government cloud tenant housing most of ALEA’s agency IT tools and resources.”	It would greatly benefit ALEA to utilize the existing Azure government cloud tenant. Can ALEA provide information or access to the catalogue for this Azure tenant to be used for this RFP?	Not before proposal submission, however, ALEA does not have a preferred or pre-conceived view on design, ALEA is interested in vendor’s innovative proposals for operation of the hosted solution.
181				Does ALAE have a standard contract that the vendor would need to agree to? If so, can that be provided for review?	There is no Standard State Contract. There are standard documents that require the vendor to complete and are listed with RFP.
182		MMS-3, Footnote	Footnote related to this requirement indicates that “ALEA currently maintains a substantial Azure government cloud tenant housing most of ALEA’s agency IT tools and resources”.	Is it the intention of the state for the MSS to reside within the same tenant? Additionally does the ALEA Azure solution include disparate COOP location that is available for the MSS solution?	The State does not have a preferred or approved commercial government cloud model, ALEA is interested in vendor’s proposed commercial

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					government cloud solution.
183		MMS-3	“The vendor must provide a fully integrated and managed solution. The proposed solution must utilize a commercial government cloud (preferably Azure1) model that is CJIS compliant and approved by the State of Alabama. The vendor will be responsible for managing all aspects of the service proposed.”	Will the state also accept CJIS compliant and audited vendor cloud offerings?	If verifiable, yes. ALEA will review and consider all proposed vendor/provider hosted solutions.
184		Attachment A, Subtask 5.2, 5.2.1 – Converting Existing Data	“Contractor shall ingest and process all existing electronic records and load them to the appropriate internal database format. All offerors shall affirmatively state their understanding of this note.”	Can the state provide further detail regarding the expectation of data to be converted? Subtask 5.2 Convert and Load Data, states “Production of the operational Database will involve: (1) the conversion of the legacy database ...” please provide detail of the data contained in the “Legacy Database”.	Not before proposal submission. Will be provided during system requirements review and system design phases of implementation. Basic information about the current legacy system is found in Attachment D.
185		MIN-11	“The proposed solution shall be designed to allow for the addition of capacity to accommodate increases in MSS throughput and workload over a 5-year period.”	What are the anticipated increases in MSS throughput and workload over the five-year period? Please include the current throughput and workload.	Vendors should factor in a 5%/year increase (from the basic figures in Attachment D) in throughput and storage over a 5-year period

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186		MIN-24	“The proposed solution shall provide automated failover, in the event that one site goes down and is inoperable.”	Due to components such as potential network changes to migrate from the primary location to the COOP location, a completely automated failover from site to site cannot be accomplished, what is required time to become operational and active at the COOP site?	ALEA will review and consider all proposed vendor/provider hosted solutions. Vendors should specifically and clearly address this item(s)/issue(s) and their approach to this in the response to this requirement in their proposal.
187		MAD-3	“The proposed solution shall provide subscription and notification capabilities (e.g., receiving notification that the status of a previous record inquiry has changed).”	Will the state provide a use case related to the “status of a previous record inquiry has changed”?	This is an enabling requirement to allow user or system to flag a record for notification in the event that it’s status changes.
188		Attachment D, MSS Current Environment Overview – Current MSS Licensing	“The CPI workstation software is called Messenger. Currently, there are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 1,500 licenses (and additional separate tokens) are issued to agencies. 	Can the state clarify these connections? Are these 30,000 independent connections to the existing MSS or are these clients that connect to MSS via Metro/Regional connections? If the latter, how many Metro/Regional Connections exist on the system?	Vendors should disregard the second bullet in RFP language. There are potentially up to 18,000 law enforcement officer that have authority to access MSS information. More details will be provided during system requirements review and

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 30,000 third-party connections to the message switch system.” 		system design phases of implementation
189		Attachment D, MSS Current Environment Overview		What are the peak msgs/sec rate and the average msg/sec rate for the existing MSS system?	Not before proposal submission. Will provided during system requirements review and system design phases of implementation.
190		Section 4.6 – Submission Requirements	“The Vendor shall also provide one (1) PDF version of the complete proposal.”	Does “complete proposal” refer to separate Business and Cost proposals, or a PDF containing Volumes 1-4?	“Complete proposal” = separate Business and Cost proposals.
191		Section 4.6 – Submission Requirements	“Graphics containing text shall be in a searchable format.”	Graphics are typically submitted as JPEGs or PNGs, which are not searchable. Can the label for screenshots, diagrams, etc. suffice for searchable graphics? Tables provided will be searchable.	Yes, the label for screenshots, diagrams, etc. suffice for searchable graphics. Images can also be submitted as readable PDFs.
192		Section 4.6 – Submission Requirements	“USBs shall be labeled to indicate the Provider name, solicitation number, date of submission, and proposal volume number.”	USBs are typically very small and cannot be labeled with the information requested. Would labeling the envelope containing the USBs meet the requirement?	Yes, labeling the envelope containing the USBs will meet the requirement, but vendors should also minimally and directly label each USB with vendor name and

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					which proposal volumes are included.
193				Would ALEA consider granting an extension to the proposal due date?	The due date for the Vendor Proposals to this RFP is extended from Tuesday, May 21, 2024, to Tuesday, May 28, 2024.

Preparing Confirmation of Offer form:

This is not actually a “form”. Vendors should create a separate response “form” of their own form and manner, labelled “Administrative”, that responds to and answers each of the numbered items below in order. This “Administrative form” can then be inserted as 2) *Administrative* under 5.3.1 Volume 1 – *Business Response Instructions* right after 1) *Required Forms*”.

5.4.1.2 Administrative

1) Submit the RFP Confirmation of Offer form, signed in ink by the Vendor or an Officer of the Vendor who is legally authorized to bind the Vendor to the proposal.

--(refer to the signed 2) Vendor Authorization to Submit form of Required Forms section)--

2) Identify the point-of-contact for any questions or concerns relative to this response. Provide name, title, address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address.

3) Identify the name, title, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address of the single point-of-contact for all matters pertaining to the contract.

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- 4) Provide a statement indicating whether proprietary information has been included in the proposal and ensure that each identified occurrence has been clearly marked at the top or bottom of each applicable page.
- 5) Provide the following certification statement:

“I/we agree to furnish the services as set forth in this proposal and guarantee that the services to be provided will meet or exceed all specifications, terms, conditions, and requirements herein. The undersigned offers and agrees to comply with all terms, conditions, and certifications as stated in this RFP and furnish the services at the prices provided with this signed proposal, or as mutually agreed upon after subsequent negotiation.”
- 6) Provide a list of exceptions, as applicable. Any exceptions must be stated on a separate page labeled “Exceptions,” with references to the corresponding terms or provisions of this solicitation. All exceptions must be noted in the proposal in order for them to be subject to negotiation.
- 7) Provide a statement certifying that the proposal shall remain valid for a minimum period of 120 days after the Proposal Submission Deadline. See Section 2.1 – Key Dates and Contact Information.
- 8) After the contract process is complete, how soon could you have staff assigned and available to work on the project?
- 9) The identification of any and all questions, comments, or concerns with regard to the contract terms and conditions. Absent any such attachment, the State will assume Vendor’s full acceptance of the contract terms and conditions must be included in the Vendor’s response. Exceptions requested, or alternative language suggested, will be treated as a “Counter-offer”. The willingness and/or ability of the State to accept or negotiate such suggested changes will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If your company normally seeks legal review of contract terms, this process should occur prior to submission of your offer and your offer must identify any term or condition you are questioning and how you would suggest it be resolved.
- 10) The identification of your processes for resolving any vendor/client disagreements for all matters, with the exception of technical issues, relative to and for the life of any contract engagement must be explained in your response.
- 11) The successful Vendor may be required to provide an audited financial statement for the three most recently completed fiscal years, and quarterly financial statements for the current fiscal year. In lieu of an audited statement, a financial statement that has preferably been compiled and reviewed by an independent accounting firm may be substituted for a privately held business.