

Questions and Answers on Auction Services RFP

Q1. What is the difference between a Current versus Advance Auction?

A1. The Current Auction is the auction of allowances with the current and previous vintage years (e.g., 2015 or earlier). The Advance Auction is the auction of allowances with a vintage three years in the future (e.g., 2018). The Current Auction and Advance Auction occur simultaneously.

Q2. In Appendix A under Task 6, Section B, System Security Reference Material, how rigid are the requirements? Can we get access to these Manuals or an overview of their requirements?

A2. The sources listed under System Security Reference Material include regulatory and administrative requirements, and sources that are provided as suggested reference material. The reference materials aid in the creation of a System Security Plan by describing key requirements and objectives of a System Security Plan that is expected to be consistent with Participating Jurisdictions' regulatory and administrative requirements and standard industry practice. As sources from several jurisdictions are listed, it should be understood that there is likely overlap in the requirements outlined in the materials listed. The reference materials will be made available to the successful Offeror, who will be expected to incorporate all relevant material into the System Security Plan. For those reference materials in the RFP for which hyperlinks were not provided, they are provided here:

- Government of British Columbia Office of the Chief Information Office (OCIO) Information Management/Information Technology ([IM/IT Standards Manual](#))
- Government of British Columbia [Document Disposal Act](#)
- United States Uniform [Electronic Transactions Act](#)
- United States [Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#)
- Government of British Columbia [Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#)
- Government of British Columbia [Personal Information Protection Act](#)
- Information Management Practice Manual. A Practice Manual for Managing Government Information as a Corporate Asset in the Ontario Public Sector. [Not currently available.]
- Government of Ontario Management and Use of Information & Information

- Technology ([I&IT Directive Management](#)). Management Board of Cabinet. July 25, 2011 (as it applies to management of I&T assets).
- [Corporate Policy on Protection of Personal Information](#). Ontario Minister of Government Services. July 25, 2011.
 - National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST): <http://www.nist.gov/information-technology-portal.cfm> and Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS): <http://www.nist.gov/itl/fips.cfm>
 - North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Standards: <http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Pages/CIPStandards.aspx>
 - International Organization for Standardization Technical Report (ISO TR) 13569:2005 financial services industry information security program standards: <https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#iso:std:iso:tr:13569:ed-3:v1:en>
 - Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) Memo Financial Institution Letter (FIL) FIL-131-97 Security Risks Associated with the Internet: <https://www.fdic.gov/news/news/financial/1997/fil97131.html>

Q3. Page 74: Validations required for submissions of bid guarantees such as Letter of Credit, Letter of Guarantee, Cash, bonds – are they required in the contractor's solution? If yes, what kind of? If not, is the assumption correct, that they are validated in CITSS? Does it mean that the Auction system just receive the information about submitted guarantees from CITSS (?) and can rely on its correctness without any further validation? If yes, what kind of CITSS interface, format is in place for this: is it XML file?

A3. The successful Offeror, as Auction Services Administrator, will not be required to validate the bid guarantees themselves. However, the Auction Administrator will manage the auction and reserve sale application process, including accepting and managing data regarding the bid guarantee type(s) an applicant anticipates submitting. Auction applicants will provide to the Auction Administrator the following data: the bid guarantee currency; the form(s) of bid guarantee anticipated to be submitted; and bid guarantee return instructions. The data submitted is specific to the jurisdiction in which an entity is registered as the currency options and acceptable forms of bid guarantee vary by jurisdiction. Once these application data are submitted, the Auction Administrator shall securely transmit the data to the Financial Services Administrator (FSA) through the FSA Applicant Report. The FSA will then establish or verify a Financial Services Account for the applicant and the actual bid guarantee is submitted directly to the FSA. The FSA will make available Financial Services data to the Auction Administrator, including: the Financial Services Account Number; the total bid guarantee amount; and the bid

guarantee form(s) received. The Auction Administrator will upload these data into the Auction Services internet-based tool.

Q4. Regarding Exhibit 3. Labor Category Descriptions and Qualifications, can equivalent years of professional experience be substituted for a Master's degree? This is a typical practice (e.g., 4 years for a Bachelor's Degree, 2 additional years for a Master's Degree, 4 additional for a Ph.D.) and allows for recruitment of the best candidates.

A4. Yes, equivalent years of professional experience can be substituted for education at the indicated rates ((e.g., 4 years for a Bachelor's Degree, 2 additional years for a Master's Degree, 4 additional for a Ph.D.).

Q5. On page 30, the RFP states, "If the Offeror plans to use one or more subcontractors, the cost estimates for the Offeror and the individual subcontractors must be presented separately using Tables A-1 to A-10 in Appendix D and also summarized across all team members." Please confirm that subcontractors can have separate rates from the prime for each category.

A5. WCI, Inc. intends to enter into a contract with the prime contractor using the single set of labor category rates proposed by the prime contractor. For all work, including work performed by subcontractors, the prime contractor will be reimbursed at the single set of agreed-upon labor category rates proposed by the prime contractor. Tables A-1 to A-10 in Appendix D should be completed using a single set of labor rates for the prime contractor and any subcontractors. The prime contractor is free to establish separate rates with any subcontractors; however, the prime contractor will only be reimbursed at the labor category rates proposed by the prime contractor.

Q6. Will the current incumbent be allowed to rebid?

A6. As stated in the cover letter to the RFP, bidding is open to any organization that believes Auction Services are within its area of expertise. That includes the incumbent.

Q7. How many proposals will WCI expect to receive?

A7. WCI, Inc. does not know how many proposals it will receive.

Q8. Will WCI agree to a case study?

A8. Article 28 of the standard WCI, Inc. contract addresses this issue: "28. PUBLICITY. Neither Contractor nor any of its subcontractors shall issue or permit to be issued any press release, advertisement, or literature of any kind that refers to WCI, Inc. or the Participating Jurisdictions or any funding entities or the Work performed in connection with the Agreement without first obtaining the written

approval of WCI, Inc. Such approval may be withheld for any reason. “ WCI, Inc. generally expects to approve such requests, although the merits of each individual request need to be considered at the time the request is made.

Q9. What was the cost of the original auction platform built in 2011?

A9. It is not possible to provide the exact cost for the development of the auction platform. The original auction platform was not built specifically for auctions and reserve sales conducted under the California and Québec cap-and-trade programs; it was customized from applications previously built. However, the original development work to provide services for California auctions and reserve sales was funded by the CA Air Resources Board at a cost of \$400,000, which included both development work, conducting California auctions and reserve sales, and administrative costs. This amount was augmented by \$95,000 to reflect additional development required by changes in the California Cap-and-Trade regulation. WCI, Inc. took over responsibility for additional development work and conducting auctions and reserve sales and has funded this additional work for \$1,356,506. Offerors are encouraged to visit the Documents section of the WCI, Inc. website at <http://www.wci-inc.org/documents.php> and review the information provided under “Contracts and RFPs” and “Budget Documents.”

Q10. Page 56 of the RFP requires "single sign-on" for users across all systems and interfaces apparently including CITSS. If this is really expected, what about reconciliation between reference data in these separate systems? How about consistency requirement? Manual, process oriented verification? Automatic synchronization? Which system should be master?

A10. There is no requirement in the RFP for single sign-on across all systems. WCI, Inc. is considering designing and implementing a single sign-on authentication with CITSS to streamline the user log-in process. WCI, Inc. asks that the offeror discuss how this may impact their proposal including level of effort and costs, as well as including any experience they have in implementing single sign-on processes on other projects. As CITSS is the registry into which all program participants must register, CITSS will always be the “master” system to control access and assign permission for account representatives to access tools and take actions on behalf of an entity.

Q11. Should the cost of implementing CITSS be part of the proposal, given that we won't discuss it in detail until after the project is awarded, and the technical specifications of CITSS are unknown? Specifically the technical requirements outlined on Section 8, Subsection B don't discuss the mechanisms by which the XML document is pushed to the auction software, and the complexity of the XML document is unknown.

A11. CITSS is currently maintained by another contractor and there is no plan to change that process. Cost to implement CITSS is not relevant to this RFP. To

perform Auction Services, the Contractor will need to have at a minimum two (2) users with access to CITSS for each jurisdiction. These users will access data extracts required to manage auctions and reserve sales, primarily applicant information. Applicant information is received from CITSS through an XML file downloaded by an Auction Administrator user. Although subject to change, based on the present XML file, the specific data included in the XML file are included in Appendix B.