**STATE OF MAINE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**RFP SUBMITTED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SUMMARY**

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| **RFP NUMBER AND TITLE:** | RFP# 202312248 – Evaluating the Establishment of a Distribution System Operator in Maine |
| **RFP ISSUED BY:** | Governor’s Energy Office |
| **SUBMITTED QUESTIONS DUE DATE:** | January 8, 2024 |
| **QUESTION & ANSWER SUMMARY ISSUED:** | January 22, 2024 |
| **PROPOSAL DUE DATE:** | February 2, 2024 |
| **PROPOSALS DUE TO:** | Proposals@maine.gov |

**Provided below are submitted written questions received and the Department’s answer.**

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| **1** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| C – Contract Term, page 7 | The term of the anticipated contract for the initial period of performance indicates it will end on March 31, 2025. Our assumption here is that this is the maximum time and that there is no problem with a slightly earlier completion. Is this okay? |
| **Answer** |
| Bidders are free to propose achievable timelines that meet the deadline requirements established in the RFP. |

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| **2** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section A (pg. 8) | Is GEO limiting the development of assumptions to preclude consideration of public DSO ownership models? Or, would ownership assumptions be determined during Part 1 of the study without such limitations? |
| **Answer** |
| No, the GEO is not limiting ownership models in the scope of Part 1. |

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| **3** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section A (pg. 8) | Provided public ownership of the DSO is not precluded, will GEO be able to obtain information regarding the State, and applicable agencies’, ability to secure financing for the operation of such a program to support the subsequent feasibility assessment? |
| **Answer** |
| The GEO will work with the selected bidder to engage other State agencies as needed and appropriate to obtain information necessary to complete the scope of work. |

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| **4** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| N/A | Pursuant to the Resolve, is Federal funding secured, or anticipated, to support the completion of this study? |
| **Answer** |
| While the GEO took steps to seek federal funding, a federal grant has not been secured to fund the study at this time.  |

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| **5** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section B (pg. 8) | Will the development of criteria for assessment (and subsequent assessment itself) be required for each alternative, in addition to primary assumptions? Or will a subset of alternatives require further assessment? |
| **Answer** |
| The selected bidder should develop criteria, in coordination with the GEO, for assessing whether a DSO could meet each of the three objectives identified in the RFP (i.e. Part II, Section B, c)i – iii)). Further assessment may be undertaken in DSO Study Part II if the GEO determines, based on DSO Study Part I, that a DSO could achieve those three objectives. If the selected bidder has developed multiple alternative DSO designs, each should be evaluated with respect to the same three objectives identified in Part II, Section B, c)i – iii). |

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| **6** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Appendix C (pg.23) | Does each additional project example, beyond the three is it required, require access by public link? |
| **Answer** |
| If the Bidder wishes to submit more than three examples, the Bidder may include a brief description of the Bidder’s role in the project. Public links are not required. Note Part IV (p. 13) states “Additional materials not requested will not be considered part of the proposal and will not be evaluated.” |

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| **7** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| N/A | Will data collected or generated as a result of the State's ongoing Decarbonization Pathways study be accessible to the successful bidder? |
| **Answer** |
| Yes, the GEO will work with the selected bidder to obtain information necessary from the Maine Energy Plan: Pathway to 2040 study to complete the scope of work. |

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| **8** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section B (pg. 8) | Does GEO have an expectation for any of the stakeholder engagement activities being conducted in-person? Does GEO have a preference for in-person or virtual meetings (i.e., interviews, or other project related meetings)? |
| **Answer** |
| Bidders are free to propose stakeholder engagement activities and methods, in-person and/or virtually, that meet the requirements established in the RFP. |

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| **9** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| N/A | Should the proposal price include travel expenses, if required? |
| **Answer** |
| As indicated in Part IV section IV, the cost proposal must include the costs necessary for the Bidder to fully comply with the contract terms, conditions, and RFP requirements. All anticipated expenses should be included. Any travel expenses should adhere to the State’s travel policies, available at: <https://www.maine.gov/osc/travel>  |

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| **10** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part IV, Section II | Clarify the amount of general liability insurance required. |
| **Answer** |
| General liability insurance of no less than $1,000,000 per occurrence is required. |