

RFQ-ITS 26-0063 Questions & Answers

Questions have been numbered sequentially, without modification.

#	Question	Answer
1	Estimated Budget-Could CAL FIRE please provide the anticipated budget, funding range, or estimated level of effort for this engagement to assist vendors in proposing an appropriately scoped solution?	Budget will not be released at this time. We are committed to being fiscally responsible and aim to keep costs as low as possible in order to respect and safeguard taxpayer dollars.
2	Existing Solution / Incumbent -Has CAL FIRE previously engaged a contractor to develop or configure the existing Project Portfolio Management solution? If so, will the successful bidder receive all existing solution assets, including Power Apps, Dataverse schema, Power BI reports, workflows, documentation, and related artifacts?	No, incumbent is currently providing services. CAL FIRE has not previously engaged a contractor to develop or configure a PPM solution

#	Question	Answer
3	Section 12.0 — U.S. Residency Does the requirement that “the company and all staff working on the contract must reside within the United States” mean that the Bidder must be a U.S.-established business and that all personnel performing contract services and accessing CAL FIRE systems/data must physically reside within the United States? Would an officer/owner who performs no technical services and has no access to CAL FIRE systems or data be permitted to reside outside the United States?	The owner of the company may reside outside of the US, but you must have US based staff and all work product must remain inside the US. Meaning no data may be on a server that resides outside of the US.
4	Attachment 3 — Customer References-Attachment 3 includes fields identifying a subcontractor that provided referenced services. May a Bidder satisfy some or all of the three required similar-project references through experience of a proposed subcontractor that will perform the corresponding services under this Agreement?	References provided should be from customers and not from subcontractors.

#	Question	Answer
5	Exhibit A — PPM Solution / Report Pack - Does CAL FIRE require a proprietary pre-built PPM product/report pack from the Contractor, or may the solution consist of configured Microsoft-native components such as Planner/Project, Power Apps, Dataverse, Power Automate, SharePoint and Power BI, supplemented by Contractor-developed configurations and reporting?	The contractor solution may consist of configured Microsoft-native components such as Planner/Project, Power Apps, Dataverse, Power Automate, SharePoint and Power BI, supplemented by Contractor-developed configurations and reporting
6	Section 13.0 — Cloud Service Provider Security Attestation-If the solution operates entirely within CAL FIRE's existing Microsoft 365/Power Platform tenant and the Contractor introduces no separate cloud hosting provider, does the SOC 2 Type II/FedRAMP/StateRAMP requirement apply to Microsoft as the Cloud Service Provider rather than separately to the implementation contractor?	Section 13.0 — Cloud Service Provider Security Attestation-If the solution operates entirely within CAL FIRE's existing Microsoft 365/Power Platform tenant and the Contractor introduces no separate cloud hosting provider, does the SOC 2 Type II/FedRAMP/StateRAMP requirement apply to Microsoft as the Cloud Service Provider rather than separately to the implementation contractor? - If in CAL FIRE then no SOC2 TYPE II is required as it sits in an already secure environment

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7	Section E.e says the Bidder must give three references for services "it has performed." Attachment 3 says the same thing at the top. But the form itself has a line for "Subcontractor that provided the services (if other than the bidder)," and another for "Bidder or Subcontractor's involvement." Can a reference describe work done by a subcontractor or teaming partner instead of the Bidder? If so, does it count toward the three? Additional information: The form has a place for subcontractor work. The instructions do not mention it. The references are scored pass/fail under Section H.1 and also count toward the 60 technical points under Section H.2, so the answer changes how a bid is put together.	References provided should be from customers and not from subcontractors. The reference scoring will count towards the technical score.
8	Section F.o, DVBE Participation Requirement† Section F.o says the DVBE participation requirement "may be waived" for this solicitation. Is it waived? Or does a Bidder have to show DVBE participation to be responsive?	You do not have to be a DVBE Participant to bid, but DVBE participants do receive a DVBE preference.

#	Question	Answer
9	Exhibit A, Section 13.0, Security and Confidentiality Section 13.0 says the Cloud Service Provider must give CAL FIRE a current SOC 2 Type II report, or a FedRAMP or StateRAMP authorization instead. Sections 5.0.A.5 through 5.0.A.7 say CAL FIRE provides the Microsoft licenses, the Microsoft 365 tenant, and the PowerApps environment. If the solution is built inside CAL FIRE's own Microsoft 365 tenant, is Microsoft the Cloud Service Provider here? Do Microsoft's existing FedRAMP authorizations meet this requirement? Additional information: We want to make sure the right party's attestation is submitted, and that a Bidder is not expected to provide its own SOC 2 for a tenant CAL FIRE owns.	Section 13.0 — Cloud Service Provider Security Attestation-If the solution operates entirely within CAL FIRE's existing Microsoft 365/Power Platform tenant and the Contractor introduces no separate cloud hosting provider, does the SOC 2 Type II/FedRAMP/StateRAMP requirement apply to Microsoft as the Cloud Service Provider rather than separately to the implementation contractor? - If in CAL FIRE then no SOC2 TYPE II is required as it sits in an already secure environment

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10	Section: Exhibit A, Section 13.0, Security and Confidentiality Section 13.0 also says the Contractor must give the CAL FIRE Information Security Officer copies of its Information Security Program, Risk Assessment Program, Incident Response Program, and Information Privacy Program. Each must meet or exceed CAL FIRE's own program. Are these due before work starts, rather than with the bid? And will CAL FIRE share its own programs so a Contractor can confirm its documents meet the standard? Additional information:Section 13.0 says these are required "prior to work start date." Section E lists what goes in the bid response and does not include them. Confirming the timing, and seeing the CAL FIRE programs, would let a Bidder plan for this correctly.	This information is due after the contract is awarded.

#	Question	Answer
11	Section: Exhibit C, Cost Worksheet, Item 1; Exhibit B, Budget Detail and Payment Provisions Exhibit C lists Item 1 as "Project Portfolio Management (PPM) Solution (One-time cost)," separate from Item 2, "Implementation Services (Time & Materials)." Exhibit B says software licensing and subscriptions are a fixed cost paid in advance. Some Bidders may propose a solution built only from the Microsoft components CAL FIRE already licenses, with no other software to buy. In that case, should Item 1 be \$0.00? Or should the cost to build the solution go on Item 1 instead of Item 2? Additional information: Section E.a says every line item must have a cost, and that To Be Determined costs may disqualify a bid. Clarifying Item 1 would keep bids comparable under the Section H.3 cost calculation.	If there is no subscription cost then the line item would be listed as zero for line item one.

#	Question	Answer
12	Attachment 3 - Customer References: Must all three references be for contracts held directly by the bidding entity, or may bidders also submit comparable projects delivered by proposed key personnel or named subcontractors under prior organizations, with the individual's role clearly identified and independently verifiable?	References provided should be from customers and not from subcontractors.
13	Exhibit A, Section 6.0 - PPM Solution and Report Pack: Does CAL FIRE require the contractor to provide an existing commercial PPM product and prebuilt reporting package, or will CAL FIRE accept a Microsoft-native solution configured to meet the stated requirements within its existing Power Apps, Dataverse, Power Automate, Planner and Power BI environment?	No, the solution should be configured in Microsoft.

#	Question	Answer
14	Exhibit A, Section 13.0 - SOC 2 Type II: Because CAL FIRE will provide the Microsoft tenant and required licenses, if the contractor does not host or store CAL FIRE data outside that tenant, does the SOC 2 Type II requirement apply to Microsoft as the cloud service provider, or must the implementation contractor independently maintain a SOC 2 Type II report?	Section 13.0 — Cloud Service Provider Security Attestation-If the solution operates entirely within CAL FIRE's existing Microsoft 365/Power Platform tenant and the Contractor introduces no separate cloud hosting provider, does the SOC 2 Type II/FedRAMP/StateRAMP requirement apply to Microsoft as the Cloud Service Provider rather than separately to the implementation contractor? - If in CAL FIRE then no SOC2 TYPE II is required as it sits in an already secure environment
15	Attachments 6 and 7 - SB/DVBE Documentation: For bidders not claiming an SB preference or DVBE participation, should Attachments 6 and 7 be included and marked "Not Applicable," or omitted from the response?	Please mark as Not Applicable or omit.
16	General Information / Contract Description. Is this a new requirement? If a recompetete, please share incumbent details.	This is not a recompetete and there is no incumbent.
17	General Information / Contract Description. Are out-of-state vendors eligible to bid as the prime contractor for this solicitation?	Yes.
18	Exhibit B, Budget Detail and Payment Provisions. What is the estimated budget or funding range available for this contract?	Budget will not be released at this time. We are committed to being fiscally responsible and aim to keep costs as low as possible in order to respect and safeguard taxpayer dollars.

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19	Attachment 3, Customer Reference Form. Will CAL FIRE accept past performance/customer references from Federal Government and commercial-sector customers?	Yes, as long as references from previous customers and not from subcontractors.
20	Attachment 3, Customer Reference Form. May relevant past performance performed by a proposed subcontractor be used as one of the required Customer References, or must all three be the prime contractor's own experience?	References provided should be from customers and not from subcontractors.
21	General Information - Non-SB Subcontracting Preference / DVBE Incentive. Can a prime claim both the Non-SB Subcontracting Preference (25%+ to a CA-certified SB) and the DVBE Incentive simultaneously?	Yes, you can do a combination of DVBE and SB for a total of up to 10%.
22	Contract Description / Term of the Contract. Is the total scope of this contract limited to the 12-week implementation and 100 hours of post-go-live support, or what additional work should bidders expect over the 1-year base period and option year?	The estimated implementation time of this contract is limited to 12 weeks. We expect the 100 hours post go live to be used for training, maintenance and operation can be expected over the first year.
23	Exhibit C, Cost Worksheet / Exhibit A, Contractor Tasks and Deliverable Requirements. Does CAL FIRE have an expected team composition or estimated level of effort for the required scope?	No

#	Question	Answer
24	Exhibit A, Section 13.0 - Security and Data Protection Requirements. For a solution hosted on Microsoft cloud services, please confirm whether CAL FIRE will accept Microsoft's applicable SOC 2 Type II, FedRAMP, or StateRAMP authorization as satisfying the CSP security requirement?	ONLY if it is in CAL FIRE's tenant, not just because it is on Microsoft
25	Could you please confirm if the SOC 2 Type II report is strictly mandatory for this project, or if there is any flexibility regarding the security attestation requirement?	Yes if this is not true --Section 13.0 — Cloud Service Provider Security Attestation-If the solution operates entirely within CAL FIRE's existing Microsoft 365/Power Platform tenant and the Contractor introduces no separate cloud hosting provider, does the SOC 2 Type II/FedRAMP/StateRAMP requirement apply to Microsoft as the Cloud Service Provider rather than separately to the implementation contractor? - If in CAL FIRE then no SOC2 TYPE II is required as it sits in an already secure environment.
26	Existing Data / Migration Applicable Section: Exhibit A, Section 6.0 Is there existing data that will need to be migrated into the new solution? If so, please provide details on the anticipated scope of the migration	No

#	Question	Answer
27	Expected Impact / Number of Users Applicable Section: Exhibit A, Section 6.0 Approximately how many users are expected to access and use the solution? What is the anticipated organizational scope of the solution (e.g., number of departments, programs, locations, or business processes supported)?	10 licenses at minimum.
28	Approximately how many users are expected to access and use the solution? What is the anticipated organizational scope of the solution (e.g., number of departments, programs, locations, or business processes supported)?	10 users at minimum.
29	Data Collection Applicable Section: Exhibit A, Section 6.0 Is the proposed solution expected to support new data collection or data entry? If so, what types of data and collection methods are anticipated?	Standard Project Management Data.
30	Who is the incumbent vendor currently providing similar services?	There is no incumbent vendor.
31	Is the incumbent vendor allowed to participate in this RFQ?	There is no incumbent vendor.
32	What are the current limitations and challenges that you are facing?	No current software solution.

#	Question	Answer
33	Please clarify whether this RFQ is intended to result in a direct contract award to the selected vendor/contractor, or whether CAL FIRE intends to issue a subsequent RFP, competitive solicitation, or other procurement process following this RFQ before awarding the contract.	Direct Contract Award.
34	Please clarify whether CAL FIRE is requiring the proposed PPM solution to be based on a commercially available, pre-built/COTS PPM product or framework, or whether bidders may develop the solution primarily using Microsoft Power Platform components and configure/customize pre-built functionality to meet CAL FIRE's requirements.	Solution is Microsoft based.
35	If a COTS/pre-built PPM solution is required or preferred, please confirm whether CAL FIRE has identified or approved any specific PPM product(s), or whether bidders may propose their own commercially available PPM solution/framework that meets the stated Microsoft Power Platform, GCC, reporting, workflow, security, and integration requirements.	Solution is Microsoft based.
36	Can CAL FIRE provide the current Microsoft 365 tenant architecture, including the existing Power Platform environments (Development, Test, and Production)?	Once contract has been awarded. Will not be proved beforehand for security reasons

#	Question	Answer
37	What Microsoft licensing is currently available (e.g., Power Apps Premium, Dataverse, Power BI Pro/Premium, Planner Plan 1, Project licenses)?	Yes, All of the list.
38	Is Microsoft Dataverse already configured, or should the Contractor design the complete data model?	Yes
39	Does CAL FIRE currently have any existing Power Apps, Power BI dashboards, SharePoint Lists, or Dataverse tables that need to be reused or enhanced?	Yes
40	Are there any existing project management workflows that should be replicated or improved in the new PPM solution?	No
41	Will historical project data be migrated into the new solution?	No
42	If data migration is required, what are the source systems (e.g., SharePoint Lists, Excel, Planner, Project)?	No
43	Approximately how many active and historical projects are expected to be migrated?	Zero
44	Will CAL FIRE provide detailed reporting requirements, KPIs, and dashboard mockups for executive reporting?	Yes
45	Approximately how many Power BI dashboards and reports are expected to be delivered?	Unknown

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46	Please confirm whether the Payee Data Record (STD 204) must be submitted with the initial bid response or may be provided after award.	Yes, at initial bid response.
47	Please confirm whether GSPD-05-105 is required for all bidders, including bidders that are not claiming SB/MB/DVBE status and do not propose SB/MB/DVBE subcontractors.	Yes
48	Please confirm whether the CUF Certification is required only when claiming SB/DVBE status, and whether bidders not claiming such status may mark the form as N/A.	N/A
49	Please confirm whether STD 843 is required only for bidders claiming DVBE status or proposing DVBE participation.	Yes
50	Please confirm whether the 3% DVBE participation goal is waived for this solicitation or whether bidders must still make a good-faith effort to meet the goal.	Bidders must still make a good-faith effort to meet the goal.
51	Please confirm whether the UNRUH/FHEA and California Civil Rights Laws requirement is fully satisfied by Attachment 8, or whether a separate certification is required.	It is satisfied by Attachment 8

#	Question	Answer
52	Please confirm whether bidders are required to submit any TACPA forms with the bid only when claiming the TACPA preference, and whether bidders that do not qualify for or claim TACPA preference may mark the applicable forms as N/A or omit them.	N/A or omit
53	Please clarify the existing PPM environment, including Power Apps, Dataverse, Power BI, SharePoint, Planner/Project, workflows, and integrations that the selected contractor will be expected to enhance or integrate.	No current PPM environment.
54	Please provide the estimated volume and types of data that will need to be migrated into the proposed PPM solution.	None
55	Please identify the source systems for project financial data, including budget, actual spending, amended budget, remaining balance, and forecast information.	No migration of these systems.
56	Please clarify whether integration with Microsoft Planner Pro/Project is expected to be real-time or whether scheduled synchronization is acceptable.	Real time.
57	Please confirm the Microsoft licenses currently available to CAL FIRE for Power Apps, Dataverse, Power BI, Power Automate, Planner/Project, SharePoint, and required premium connectors.	All licenses have been obtained.

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58	Please clarify whether the 20+ reports/dashboard templates referenced in the RFQ represent 20+ fully configured reports that the contractor must deliver as part of the initial implementation.	Yes
59	Please clarify whether the 20+ pre-built report and dashboard templates are required to be fully configured and operational at go-live, or whether they are intended to serve as configurable templates that the contractor will customize based on CAL FIRE's requirements.	Yes
60	Please clarify whether CAL FIRE will provide an existing PPM report pack or whether the contractor is expected to develop and configure the report pack.	The contractor is expected to develop and configure the report pack.
61	Please clarify the expected dashboard data refresh frequency and whether "real-time" requires live connectivity or near-real-time/scheduled refresh.	Real-time
62	Please provide the expected number of users by role, such as PMO administrators, project managers, project team members, executives, and read-only users, and the anticipated number of concurrent users.	10 at minimum.

#	Question	Answer
63	Please provide a list of all systems that the proposed PPM solution is expected to integrate with, including Microsoft 365, Planner/Project, Power BI, SharePoint, financial systems, HR/resource systems, or other CAL FIRE systems.	Microsoft 365, Planner/Project, Power BI, SharePoint
64	Please confirm whether all personnel performing contract-related work must be physically located within the United States and whether any offshore development, testing, support, or administrative activities are permitted.	No, they must all be in the US.
65	Please clarify whether the U.S. data-storage and access requirements apply to development, testing, staging, production, backup, disaster recovery, logging, and monitoring environments.	Yes
66	Please clarify whether the SOC 2 Type II requirement applies to the contractor, the underlying cloud service provider, or both.	Section 13.0 — Cloud Service Provider Security Attestation-If the solution operates entirely within CAL FIRE's existing Microsoft 365/Power Platform tenant and the Contractor introduces no separate cloud hosting provider, does the SOC 2 Type II/FedRAMP/StateRAMP requirement apply to Microsoft as the Cloud Service Provider rather than separately to the implementation contractor? - If in CAL FIRE then no SOC2 TYPE II is required as it sits in an already secure environment.

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67	Please clarify whether DEDs are required for each individual implementation task or whether one DED may cover the overall initial implementation.	Per milestone
68	Please clarify whether CAL FIRE will provide standard DAD and acceptance-testing templates for project deliverables.	Can be discussed at time of contract award.
69	Do you have an estimated project start date and desired go-live date? Please mention in months.	September through November 2026.
70	Do you expect the vendor to perform any tasks on-site, or can all work be performed remotely?	Remote
71	All work can be performed remotely	Yes, the work can be completed remotely
72	Do you accept offshore resources?	No
73	What is the approved budget or range allocated for this project?	Budget will not be released at this time. We are committed to being fiscally responsible and aim to keep costs as low as possible in order to respect and safeguard taxpayer dollars.
74	Exhibit A: 1.0 (page 17) The RFP indicates this is for <i>an expanded and integrated PPM solution</i> . Please describe the current implementation. Have any requirements in Exhibit A: 6.A been implemented? If so, which ones? Is this project a replacement for or is it an enhancement to an existing solution?	Nothing in place.

#	Question	Answer
75	Exhibit A: 1.0 (page 17)Based on the proposed deliverables, we anticipate that Premium Power Platform licensing may be necessary, at least for the development/service account and potentially for end users as well, depending on the solution design. Would the use of Premium Power Platform licensing present any concerns for CAL FIRE?	No concerns
76	Exhibit A: 6.B.6 (page 21) What is the volume of data to be migrated? Where does the current data reside? What type of data is to be migrated? Who will be responsible for the migration?	No data to be migrated
77	Exhibit A: 6.B.5 Will any data needed for the Power BI model used in the Contractor's report pack (or any other Power BI reports involved in this project) come from a source outside of Microsoft 365?	No
78	Exhibit A: 13.2 (page 27) Solution security is controlled by the settings in the Microsoft 365 tenant. What role will CAL FIRE IT fulfill related to tenant security? In Exhibit A:5.A.7 (page 18), the RFP indicates Admin-level roles will be assigned to the Vendor/Contractor for Power Apps and Dataverse. What other roles will be provided?	These will be determined once contract has been awarded. For security reasons these details can not be shared till contract has been awarded

#	Question	Answer
79	How many levels of organization would the PPM solution will be required to manage? Ex. LA Fire Portfolio -> Region/Precinct -> Location -> Asset.	Possibly 2-3
80	RFQ-ITS Response Content b. Response to Exhibit A- Scope of Work How many processes are managed for the PPM Solutions? Ex. Funding, Budget, Contracts/Purchase Orders, Change Orders, Payments, Risk, HSE, and Issues	No additional process above PPM will be need.
81	E.RFQ-ITS Response Content b. Response to Exhibit A- Scope of Work Will there be a need for portfolio budget planning, and will there be a need to model funding scenarios?	Yes
82		
83	RFQ-ITS Response Content b. Response to Exhibit A- Scope of Work Will the PPM Solution need to integrate with ERP systems to manage change orders?	No
84	RFQ-ITS Response Content b. Response to Exhibit A- Scope of Work Will contracts and payments be managed at a summary level, or will there be a need to track line items with quantities and rates?	No

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85	RFQ-ITS Response Content b. Response to Exhibit A- Scope of Work Will the PPM Solution be required to track contingency drawdown or cash flow for the projects or portfolio?	No
86	RFQ-ITS Response Content b. Response to Exhibit A- Scope of Work What are the levels of users who would need PPM dashboards? Executives, Portfolio Manager, Project Managers, Project Control Team, and PMO Team?	10 at minimum
87	RFQ-ITS Response Content b. Response to Exhibit A- Scope of Work Does the PPM Solution need to have a role-based or individual based security to have access to the Project Financial Tracking? Can certain users have read-only access to the information?	N/A
88	Exhibit A, §6.0.B – Implementation Services CAL FIRE identifies an estimated 12-week implementation schedule. Please confirm whether the 12-week schedule is a required completion timeframe or an estimated target that may be refined during project initiation based on validated requirements and mutually agreed Deliverable Expectation Documents (DEDs).	We would like 12 weeks or less as an implementation schedule.

#	Question	Answer
89	Exhibit A, §6.0.B.5 – Reporting & Analytics. The RFQ references installation and configuration of the “Contractor’s report pack” and modifications to “out-of-the-box PPM BI/Reporting.” Please clarify whether CAL FIRE expects bidders to propose an existing/pre-built PPM product or accelerator with a report pack, or whether a configured Microsoft Power Platform/Power BI solution that satisfies the stated requirements is acceptable	A configured Microsoft Power Platform/Power BI solution that satisfies the stated requirements is acceptable
90	Attachment 3 – Customer References Attachment 3 requires three customer references for services performed within the past three years. Please confirm whether an ongoing project that began more than three years ago, but for which substantial services have been performed within the past three years, qualifies as an acceptable reference.	References provided should be from customers and not from subcontractors.
91	Exhibit A, §6.0.C – Post-Go-Live Support Please confirm whether the required 100 hours of post-go-live support must be utilized during the initial one-year contract term and whether any unused hours expire at the end of the initial term or may carry forward into an optional renewal period.	100 hours of post-go-live support, if unused we would like extended after the one-year contract term.

#	Question	Answer
92	Exhibit A, §6.0.B – Data Migration Please clarify the anticipated scope and volume of existing project data to be migrated, including the approximate number of active and historical projects, source systems/formats, and whether historical project, financial, resource, risk/issue, and schedule data are expected to be migrated.	N/A
93	Exhibit B / Exhibit C – Budget and Cost Worksheet Please confirm whether CAL FIRE has established an estimated budget range, funding allocation, or not-to-exceed amount for the initial implementation and post-go-live support contemplated under this RFQ-ITS.	Budget will not be released at this time. We are committed to being fiscally responsible and aim to keep costs as low as possible in order to respect and safeguard taxpayer dollars.

#	Question	Answer
94	Section F.l (Small Business Preference), Section F.m (Non-SB Subcontracting Preference), and Section F.p (DVBE Incentive) Description of the question: May a single bidder receive both a preference under Section F.l or F.m and the DVBE incentive under Section F.p on the same bid, or are the two mutually exclusive? Section F.p states that the DVBE incentive "will be applied to the total possible points that can be earned by the bidder, excluding points for socioeconomic incentives or preferences," which reads as though the two are computed on separate bases and may therefore be additive. The worked example in Section H.4, however, shows each bidder receiving only one adjustment - Bidder A the DVBE incentive and Bidder B the SB preference - which reads as though a bidder receives at most one. Additional information: The distinction is material to how a bidder structures its subcontracting. A bidder that would otherwise commit the 25% of net bid price described in Section F.m may make a different commitment if that preference cannot be combined with the Section F.p incentive. Confirmation before the bid deadline would let bidders price accurately.	Yes you can do a combination of DVBE and SB for a total of up to 10%.

#	Question	Answer
95	Section H.3 (Cost) and Section E.a (RFQ-ITS Response Content) 7Description of the question: Section H.3 is titled "Cost (Exhibit E) (40 points)," while Section E.a, Section C.2 and the cost workbook itself identify the Cost Worksheet as Exhibit C; Exhibit E is Special Terms and Conditions. Please confirm that the cost document to be submitted as a separate Excel file is Exhibit C - Cost Worksheet. Additional information: Section C.2 provides that including cost in the technical response may be treated as a material deviation, so bidders would benefit from certainty as to which exhibit carries the cost submission.	Yes, Exhibit C - Cost Worksheet
96	Is this a new contract or renewal to an existing contract? If existing, please share, Name of incumbent? What was the last year contract value?	New contract no incumbent contract.
97	As mentioned in RFQ "EXHIBIT B - BUDGET DETAIL AND PAYMENT PROVISIONS", Payment will be made in arrears on completion of required services. Please confirm Payment will be made after completion of all the tasks and deliverable, or completion of each tasks and deliverable, or on monthly basis	Billed on monthly basis based on work completed.

#	Question	Answer
98	CAL FIRE will provide all required Microsoft software licenses. Is Cost Worksheet Item 1, "PPM Solution (One-time cost)," intended to capture only the Contractor's third-party PPM accelerator/report-pack product (license/IP and initial configuration), and not any Microsoft M365/Power Platform licensing?	Yes
99	The SOW states the solution is "built on the core Planner Plan 1 license" and uses "Microsoft Project Power App underlying functionality." Must the solution be built specifically on the Microsoft Project for the web / Planner data model, or will an equivalent Dataverse-based model-driven app that meets all functional requirements satisfy this requirement?	Yes, built on Microsoft
100	Environment Setup requires three environments (Development, Test, Production). Will CAL FIRE provision the three Power Platform environments—including Dataverse capacity and any Managed Environment licensing—within the existing GCC tenant, or is environment provisioning/capacity the Contractor's responsibility?	See the RFQ and its requirements.

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101	Please confirm the target tenant is Microsoft 365 GCC (not GCC High or Commercial), and confirm whether Power BI (Pro/PPU) and Power Apps premium/per-app capacity are already licensed for CAL FIRE PMO and executive users.	Yes
102	The Security requirements call for a Cloud Service Provider SOC 2 Type II report and prohibit remote access from outside the continental U.S. For a solution built on CAL FIRE's own Microsoft GCC tenant, does the SOC 2 Type II / FedRAMP-equivalent obligation apply only to any Contractor-provided third-party components, given that Microsoft's platform is already authorized and furnished by CAL FIRE?	Section 13.0 — Cloud Service Provider Security Attestation-If the solution operates entirely within CAL FIRE's existing Microsoft 365/Power Platform tenant and the Contractor introduces no separate cloud hosting provider, does the SOC 2 Type II/FedRAMP/StateRAMP requirement apply to Microsoft as the Cloud Service Provider rather than separately to the implementation contractor? - If in CAL FIRE then no SOC2 TYPE II is required as it sits in an already secure environment.
103	May Customer Reference Forms demonstrating similar Microsoft Power Platform / Power BI PPM implementations performed by a proposed subcontractor (teaming partner) be submitted and counted toward the minimum of three references?	No

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104	The Technical evaluation (60 points) is "based on references and proposed solution." Will CAL FIRE disclose the point split between the references factor and the proposed-solution factor so bidders can appropriately weight response content?	No, not at this time.
105	Cost is scored on "the total extended cost for both the contracted term and including any optional extension years." Please confirm the Option Year (Item 6) is included in the evaluated Grand Total, and clarify how Item 4 (Training) and Item 5 (Unanticipated Task, 10%) are treated in the evaluated total cost.	The optional year is not included in the total evaluated cost.
106	Because Implementation Services are Time & Materials but evaluated on an extended total, should bidders price Item 2 as estimated hours × loaded labor rates with a not-to-exceed total, and will the Deliverable Expectation Document (DED) process govern actual draw-down against that estimate?	Estimated hours × loaded labor rates with a not-to-exceed total, the DED may be the governing process.
107	For the 100 Post Go-Live Support hours: are these hours consumed within the 12-week base implementation or across the remainder of the base year, do unused hours expire or roll over, and should they be priced at a single blended support rate?	The 100 post Go-Live support hours are to be used across the remainder of the base year. We would like unused hours to roll over.

#	Question	Answer
108	For the Option Year “(additional support hours or Maintenance & Operations),” please clarify CAL FIRE’s expected content: a fixed block of M&O/support hours, a fixed annual maintenance amount, or both—and any target hour count or funding ceiling—so all bidders price a comparable option.	Up to the bidders discretion.
109	Is the “estimated schedule – 12 weeks” a firm requirement, a not-to-exceed, or an estimate? Are there anticipated blackout periods during declared fire season when CAL FIRE stakeholder/SME availability for workshops and validation will be constrained?	Our expectation is a 12 weeks firm or less requirement as an implementation schedule. There are no blackout periods and Stakeholder/SME will have availability for this project.
110	Regarding “support for data migration and end user transition”: what is the source system and data format, and approximately how many active and historical projects must be migrated? Is migration a build deliverable or advisory support to CAL FIRE staff?	No migration
111	The RFQ references both “Microsoft Planner Pro” (existing) and “Planner Plan 1” (target). Please confirm the licensing baseline CAL FIRE PMO currently holds and the license CAL FIRE intends to standardize on for end users of the delivered dashboards.	CAL FIRE PMO currently holds the licenses and intends to standardize on for end users of the delivered dashboards.

#	Question	Answer
112	The Cost Worksheet must be a separate Excel file, and cost in the technical response may be deemed a material deviation. To support the required work-plan/level-of-effort narrative, may the technical response reference labor categories and estimated hours by task (with no dollar amounts)?	Yes
113	Invoicing requires monthly timesheets, staff classification and hourly rate, and the Purchase Order number in the invoice header. Please confirm CAL FIRE will issue a Purchase Order at award with a not-to-exceed ceiling equal to the awarded Cost Worksheet total.	Yes
114	For sizing Power BI capacity and licensing, approximately how many concurrent/active projects and how many PMO and executive dashboard users must the portfolio roll-ups support at go-live, and what growth is expected by the option year?	10 user minimum.
115	The Bidder Declaration (GSPD-05-105) requires identifying all subcontractors. If specific teaming-partner personnel are finalized after award, is identifying the subcontractor firm (not named individuals) at bid time sufficient for compliance?	Yes

#	Question	Answer
116	Work Location permits fully remote performance within the continental U.S. Please confirm there is no on-site requirement at any CAL FIRE facility for any task (kickoff, validation, or training), or specify which sessions, if any, must be on-site versus conducted virtually.	Remote, no on-site requirement.
117	Unanticipated Tasks and Work Authorizations are firm-fixed-price based on Exhibit C hourly labor rates. Please confirm the hourly rates used for Work Authorizations are those detailed in the Cost Worksheet, and whether a fully-loaded rate table by labor category should be included in the Cost Worksheet for the base bid.	Yes
118	What's the budget?	Budget will not be released at this time. We are committed to being fiscally responsible and aim to keep costs as low as possible in order to respect and safeguard taxpayer dollars.
119	Do you prefer a fully custom-built solution, or a pre-built PPM template/app running on Power Platform?	It can be a combination of the two provided the solution meets the RFQ's requirements.
120		

#	Question	Answer
121	Answers to questions typically result in material changes to a procurement. Currently the bid submission date is only 8 days after the answers to questions are posted. Would CAL FIRE consider extending the due date to at least two (2) weeks after answers to questions are received by firms? Bid submissions two (2) weeks after answers to questions is typical	No
122	Will CAL FIRE accept customer references for projects performed by a proposed subcontractor, or by the Bidder's proposed key personnel while employed by another firm, as satisfying the three-reference requirement? Attachment 3 – Customer Reference Form contains a dedicated field, "Subcontractor that provided the services (if other than the bidder)," and a separate field for "Bidder or Subcontractor's involvement." Both appear to contemplate references for work performed by an entity other than the Bidder. Bidder requests written confirmation that a reference for work performed by a proposed subcontractor identified on Attachment 5 – Bidder Declaration will be evaluated as responsive under Section E.e and Section E.b.iv.	No the references must be for projects performed by the prime contractor.

#	Question	Answer
123	How many discrete data sources will the PPM solution be required to ingest, and what are they by type (SharePoint lists, Excel workbooks, Planner/Planner Pro plans, Project for the Web, financial systems, other)? Please provide approximate counts. The SOW references Dataverse, SharePoint lists, Power Automate, and Planner/Project connectors but does not reference a relational database or a system of record. Level of effort for the semantic model and ingestion layer is driven almost entirely by the number, structure, and stability of source systems. Bidders cannot price this accurately without source counts.	No data migration.
124	Is CAL FIRE project and financial data currently maintained in a structured database of record, or in decentralized SharePoint lists and Excel workbooks maintained independently by individual divisions or project teams? If decentralized, approximately how many divisions or teams maintain their own inputs? The location or data sources is integral to estimating the level of effort	No data migration

#	Question	Answer
125	Will budget, expenditure, and amended budget data be entered manually into the new solution, or must the solution integrate with an existing financial system of record? If integration is required, please identify the system, the available interface method (API, scheduled extract, flat file), and the data owner. Understanding what data currently exists and where it resides	No data migration.
126	The RFQ states, "Provide support for data migration and end user transition activities" but is listed without scope. How many active, planned, and closed projects, and how many years of historical data, are in scope for migration? In addition, will CAL FIRE perform cleansing and standardization of source data prior to migration, or is data remediation within the Contractor's scope? Data cleaning will likely be a considerable effort the most challenging aspect of this project if the data is not already in a ready state.	No data migration.

#	Question	Answer
127	Will CAL FIRE commit to standardizing and freezing the structure of source lists and workbooks (column names, data types, value sets) during and after implementation, and designate a data owner accountable for enforcing that standard? If upstream sources remain under decentralized control, does CAL FIRE expect remediation of source-schema changes to be absorbed within the 100 post go-live support hours? Undocumented changes to source list structures by decentralized owners are the single largest driver of post-implementation rework in Power Platform PPM solutions. Bidders need to know whether governance of source data is a CAL FIRE responsibility or a Contractor responsibility in order to price Section 6.0.C accurately.	No data migration

#	Question	Answer
128	Is CAL FIRE's Microsoft 365 tenant hosted in GCC, GCC High, or Commercial cloud? Please confirm which Power Platform and Power BI capabilities, premium connectors, and Dataverse features are licensed and enabled in the target environment. Section 6.0.A.6 states the solution should be "Available in GCC cloud." Connector availability, Power BI feature parity, and Dataverse capabilities differ materially between GCC and Commercial, which affects both technical approach and cost.	GCC, the Microsoft environment is already setup.
129	Is Microsoft Planner Pro (Planner Premium / Project for the Web) currently deployed and in production use by the PMO? Are there existing Power BI dashboards or reports in place today, and if so, will they be replaced, extended, or retained in parallel? Is any current-state documentation (data dictionary, list schemas, existing report inventory) available to bidders? Understanding scope	Not currently and not for PMO.

#	Question	Answer
130	What is Exhibit C, Item 1, "Project Portfolio Management (PPM) Solution (One-time cost)," intended to capture? Section 5.0.A.5 states CAL FIRE will provide all required Microsoft software licenses, while Exhibit B states "Software licensing/subscriptions shall be fixed cost paid in advance." Does Item 1 require a third-party or ISV product license to be procured by the Contractor, or the fixed-price configuration and delivery of the solution itself? Large cost that is undefined in the procurement	Any one time cost for premium features or add-ons.

#	Question	Answer
131	Exhibit C, Item 6, "First year Option to renew (additional support hours or Maintenance & Operations)," contains no stated Quantity/Hours, but the extended total ($E18 = C18 \times D18$) rolls into the Grand Total All Cost at E21. Please specify the number of hours or the level of service Bidders should assume for Item 6. Section H.3 states Bidders will be evaluated on total extended cost for the contracted term "including any optional extension years." With no specified quantity, two Bidders proposing identical hourly rates will produce materially different Grand Totals based solely on the quantity each elects to enter, and the Bidder entering the lower quantity will receive more of the 40 available cost points. A stated quantity is necessary for cost scores to be comparable across Bidders.	The optional year hours is up to the discretion of the bidders and the optional costs will not be evaluated when scoring the cost of bidders proposals.

#	Question	Answer
132	Over what period are the 100 post go-live support hours to be delivered — the remainder of the twelve-month term following go-live, or a defined support window? Are response-time or service-level commitments required? Please confirm these hours are billed on a time-and-materials basis against the same hourly rates, or can those rates be different than the primary contract hours? Understanding the post go-live duration / cost of 100 hours.	The 100 hours will be utilized as needed for the remainder of the 12-month term.
133	How many CAL FIRE personnel require training, broken out by: (a) system administrators receiving administrator knowledge transfer, (b) train-the-trainer leads, and (c) end users? Section 6.0.B.1 references "up to five CAL FIRE stakeholders" for requirements prioritization, which appears to be a different and smaller population than the staff to be trained under Section 5.0.B.4. Understanding the level of training required	10 personnel at minimum for all types.

#	Question	Answer
134	Section 13.0 requires the Contractor to submit its Information Security Program, Risk Assessment Program, Incident Response Program, and Information Privacy Program to the CAL FIRE ISO "prior to work start date." Please confirm these are post-award deliverables and are not required with the bid response. Understanding bid response requirements.	Post-award.

135	Section 6.0.A.6 describes a solution that "provides a well-structured application framework based upon core Microsoft Project Power App underlying functionality," is "built on the core Planner Plan 1 license," "includes over 20 pre-built report and dashboard templates," provides "pre-built functionality to support more advanced project management (baselines, security, resource work tracking)," and is "available in GCC cloud." These attributes read as the feature description of a specific commercial or ISV product rather than functional requirements. Please clarify: (a) whether a particular commercial or ISV PPM accelerator is required or presumed; (b) whether a solution custom-built on the Power Platform that satisfies Sections 6.0.A.1 through 6.0.A.5 will be evaluated on equal terms; and (c) if a specific product is contemplated, whether CAL FIRE will identify it so that all Bidders may price against a common baseline Section 6.0.A introduces these items as "Desirable Requirements" that the solution shall provide "some or all" of, while Section 6.0.A.1 alone is designated Mandatory. Bidders request confirmation that Section	a) Up to bidders discretion b) Yes c) Up to bidders discretion
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#	Question	Answer
	6.0.A.6 is descriptive rather than a mandatory product specification.	
136	Section H.2 states the 60 technical points will be scored "based on references and proposed solution." Please provide the point allocation between customer references and the proposed solution, and any sub-criteria or scoring rubric the evaluation team will apply. Additionally, please confirm whether key personnel resumes or staff qualifications will be evaluated; the RFQ-ITS does not require them under Section E, and Bidders wish to avoid either a material omission or an unresponsive submission of unrequested material. Providing a breakdown of how points will be allocated provides bidders with a more complete understanding of CAL FIRES's priorities	Point allocation will not be provided. Key personnel resumes or staff qualifications will not be evaluated.

#	Question	Answer
137	Section 13.0 requires "the Cloud Service Provider (CSP)" to furnish a current SOC 2 Type II report, with FedRAMP or StateRAMP authorization acceptable in lieu. Given that Section 5.0.A.6 states CAL FIRE will provide the Microsoft 365 tenant and Section 5.0.A.7 states CAL FIRE will establish the Power Apps environment, please confirm that Microsoft is the CSP for purposes of this requirement and that Microsoft's existing FedRAMP authorization satisfies it. Please also confirm whether a Contractor providing professional services only — hosting no CAL FIRE data on its own infrastructure — is required to furnish its own SOC 2 Type II report. This determination has a material cost impact on bids from small businesses that do not hold an independent SOC 2 Type II attestation	Section 13.0 — Cloud Service Provider Security Attestation-If the solution operates entirely within CAL FIRE's existing Microsoft 365/Power Platform tenant and the Contractor introduces no separate cloud hosting provider, does the SOC 2 Type II/FedRAMP/StateRAMP requirement apply to Microsoft as the Cloud Service Provider rather than separately to the implementation contractor? - If in CAL FIRE then no SOC2 TYPE II is required as it sits in an already secure environment.

#	Question	Answer
138	Section 12.0 requires that primary and secondary cloud data center storage site locations "must be in the RFQ-ITS response." Where the solution and all CAL FIRE data reside within CAL FIRE's own Microsoft 365 tenant, should the Bidder list Microsoft's data center regions for that tenant, the Bidder's own U.S. office locations for any Contractor-held work product (project documentation, design artifacts), or both? Understanding data location sites	Both
139	Please confirm if CAL FIRE has, or has had an incumbent service provider for these services within the last five (5) years. If so, please provide the name of the firm. Understanding competition	CAL FIRE does not have an Incumbent that is providing this service.

#	Question	Answer
140	The Exhibit C footnote states, "Contractor may modify the cost worksheet to detail all costs in their bid." Section E.a states all line items must have costs evaluated and that TBD costs may disqualify the bid, and Section G.1.e provides that conditional or incomplete cost information may render a bid non-responsive. Please confirm the scope of permitted modification — specifically, (a) whether Bidders may insert additional rows or an appended rate schedule, (b) whether Items 1 through 6 must remain intact, in the order issued, with their existing formulas, and (c) whether any modification beyond adding detail will be treated as a material deviation. Bidders require assurance that adding cost detail invited by the footnote will not be construed as a material deviation under Section G	a) Yes b) No c) No

#	Question	Answer
141	Exhibit B states, "Implementation services shall be based on Time and Materials." Section 8.0.3 states, "Payment for tasks performed under this contract shall be by deliverable." Section 7.0.7 states CAL FIRE will pay hourly rates in accordance with Exhibit C, but no more than the agreed number of hours shown on the approved DED. Please clarify the payment construct that will govern Implementation Services: (a) time and materials invoiced against actual hours worked at the Exhibit C rates, (b) fixed payment upon acceptance of each deliverable, or (c) hourly billing capped at DED-estimated hours and released only upon issuance of a signed Deliverable Acceptance Document. We recommend all language be consistent with Time and Materials. These three provisions describe materially different payment mechanisms and allocate schedule and effort risk differently. Bidders cannot price Item 2 accurately, or assess working capital requirements, without knowing which governs. If (c) applies, please confirm whether hours worked in excess of DED estimates on an accepted deliverable are compensable.	Hourly billing capped at DED-estimated hours and released only upon issuance of a signed Deliverable Acceptance Document.

#	Question	Answer
142	Section 5.0.A.7 states CAL FIRE "will setup the PowerApps environment," singular, and provide administrative access to the Contractor. Section 6.0.B.2 states the Contractor shall "provision and configure three technical environments for PPM solution: Development, Test, and Production." Please clarify which party provisions each of the three environments, and confirm that Dataverse capacity and Power Platform licensing for all three environments are in place or will be provided by CAL FIRE under Section 5.0.A.5. Dataverse environment capacity is separately licensed. Bidders need confirmation that CAL FIRE's commitment to provide all required Microsoft licenses under Section 5.0.A.5 extends to all three environments, and that Contractor responsibility under Section 6.0.B.2 is limited to configuration rather than procurement.	CAL FIRE will provide all necessary licenses.

#	Question	Answer
143	Please confirm whether a ten percent (10%) withhold will be withheld under this Agreement. Withholds materially affects cash flow on a time-and-materials engagement and is a factor in Bidder pricing, particularly for small businesses. If withholds applies, please confirm whether it is withheld against all Exhibit C line items or only certain items.	No

144	Exhibit C provides a single Unit Cost / Hourly Rate cell for Implementation Services (Item 2, cell D6) and contains no labor classification rate schedule. However, Section 10.0.3 requires the Contractor to invoice using staff classification and hourly rate; Section 7.0.2.d requires the DED to identify estimated hours per task by personnel member; and Section 16.0.3 states that Work Authorizations will be costed "based upon the Hourly Labor Rates stated in Exhibit C - Cost Worksheet." Please clarify whether Bidders should (a) propose a single blended hourly rate covering all implementation labor, or (b) append a labor classification rate schedule to Exhibit C identifying each proposed classification and its corresponding hourly rate. If (b), please confirm the format CAL FIRE requires and how a multi-classification rate schedule will be evaluated against a single blended rate on a comparable basis for the 40 available cost points. A single blended rate cannot support invoicing by staff classification as required by Section 10.0.3, DED pricing by personnel member as required by Section 7.0.2.d, or Work Authorization pricing by labor classification as required by Section 16.0.3, each of which presumes multiple labor rates. Absent direction, Bidders will make	Up to the bidders discretion.
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#	Question	Answer
	differing assumptions, and totals derived from a blended rate will not be directly comparable to totals derived from itemized classification rates. We respectfully requests that CAL FIRE either specify a required rate table format for all Bidders or confirm that a Bidder-supplied labor classification rate schedule appended to Exhibit C will be accepted as responsive.	
145	To help bidders align the proposed solution and implementation approach with CAL FIRE's current-state needs, can CAL FIRE provide additional information regarding the key limitations or challenges with the existing PPM processes and tools that the proposed solution is intended to address?	No current solution.
146	Can CAL FIRE confirm whether relevant references for similar PPM projects performed by a proposed subcontractor or teaming partner may be used to satisfy the required project experience?	No

#	Question	Answer
147	Can CAL FIRE confirm whether all project activities, including requirements gathering, solution design, development, testing, deployment, training, and post-go-live support, may be performed remotely from within the continental United States, with no mandatory on-site presence?	Yes
148	Can CAL FIRE provide additional details regarding the existing Power Platform environment, including the current Power Apps environment configuration, Dataverse availability, environments, and administrative responsibilities that will be provided to the Contractor?	No additional details will be provided at this time.
149	Can CAL FIRE confirm the specific Microsoft licenses currently available for the project, including Power Apps, Dataverse, Power Automate, Planner/Project, SharePoint, and Power BI, and confirm that no additional licensing costs are expected to be included in the Contractor's implementation pricing?	All necessary licenses are provided by CAL FIRE and no additional Microsoft licensing costs are expected.
150	Can CAL FIRE provide details regarding the current Microsoft Planner Pro/Planner Plan 1 environment, including the number of existing plans/projects, users, tasks, and the extent to which Planner is currently utilized for PPM activities?	Planner is not currently being utilized.

#	Question	Answer
151	Can CAL FIRE clarify whether Microsoft Project/Project Power App functionality is currently licensed and deployed within the CAL FIRE tenant, or whether the Contractor is expected to configure and integrate this functionality as part of the proposed solution?	Yes, currently licensed.
152	Can CAL FIRE provide an inventory of any existing PPM-related Power Apps, Dataverse tables, Power Automate flows, SharePoint sites/lists, Planner/Project configurations, or other components that are expected to be retained and integrated into the proposed solution?	No
153	Is the 12-week implementation schedule a mandatory completion deadline, or is it an estimated schedule that may be adjusted based on requirements finalization, CAL FIRE stakeholder availability, environment readiness, data migration activities, and other project dependencies?	12 weeks or less is desired.
154	Can CAL FIRE clarify what costs are intended to be included under the "PPM Cost" line item in Exhibit C? Specifically, should this line item represent only the applicable PPM software/product licensing or subscription cost?	Any premium features or add-ons provided by the bidder.

#	Question	Answer
155	Can CAL FIRE clarify the specific costs that should be included under the "Implementation Cost" line item in Exhibit C? Specifically, should this line item include all services associated with requirements gathering, solution design, configuration/customization, integration, data migration, testing, training, deployment, and other implementation activities?	Yes
156	Can CAL FIRE confirm whether bidders are expected to include any third-party software, Power Platform licensing, connector, subscription, or other recurring costs in the Cost Worksheet?	Anything except Microsoft licenses are up to the bidders discretion.
157	Can CAL FIRE confirm whether the existing Microsoft 365 tenant is a GCC/GCC High environment or another Microsoft cloud environment, and whether the proposed solution is required to be fully compatible with GCC from development through production?	GCC, and yes.
158	Please provide the sub-criteria or weighting CAL FIRE's evaluation team will use within the 60 available technical points (e.g., allocation across proposed solution approach, work plan/schedule, and references), to help Bidders structure their response to Exhibit A most effectively.	No

#	Question	Answer
159	Please confirm the anticipated roles/titles of the “up to five CAL FIRE stakeholders” who will participate in requirements sessions, and whether these sessions are expected to be conducted virtually for the full 12-week implementation period referenced in Section 6.0.B.	Sessions can be virtually or in-person.
160	Please confirm the timeframe within which the 100 hours of post go-live support must be used (e.g., within the base one-year contract term only, or may unused hours carry into the optional renewal year), and whether these hours are billed at the same hourly rates as Implementation Services on Exhibit C.	As needed during contract term. The rates can be different.
161	Can CAL FIRE confirm whether a single DED is expected to cover the entire 12-week implementation phase, or whether separate DEDs will be issued for individual task categories outlined in Section 6.0.B (e.g., Environment Setup, Requirements Analysis & Solution Design, Solution Build & Configuration, Reporting & Analytics, Validation & Training, and Go-Live & Transition Support)?	Separate DED's.

#	Question	Answer
162	Can CAL FIRE confirm whether the PPM dashboards and associated reporting capabilities are intended solely for internal CAL FIRE users, or whether any dashboards or reports are expected to be accessible to external or public users?	Internal only.
163	Can CAL FIRE clarify whether there is a specific Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) participation goal or minimum percentage applicable to this RFQ? If so, please specify the required percentage and whether the requirement may be satisfied through a DVBE subcontractor or teaming partner. Additionally, if a bidder is unable to meet the applicable DVBE participation goal, please clarify the required good-faith effort documentation and any applicable consequences.	DVBE is not required but encouraged.
164	Can CAL FIRE provide the anticipated number of users for the proposed PPM solution, including expected users of Power Apps/Dataverse, Power BI dashboards, Planner/Project, SharePoint, and related functionality? Please also identify the anticipated user roles (e.g., administrators, project managers, project team members, executives/viewers) and the corresponding Microsoft licenses currently available or expected to be provided by CAL FIRE.	10 at minimum. All necessary Microsoft licenses are procured already.

#	Question	Answer
165	The RFQ currently requires contractor personnel supporting the engagement to reside within the United States. Would CAL FIRE consider permitting a hybrid delivery model in which qualified resources located outside the United States may support non-sensitive project activities, provided that no CAL FIRE data is stored or processed outside the United States, all applicable security and confidentiality requirements are satisfied, and U.S.-based personnel retain responsibility for activities requiring access to sensitive information or CAL FIRE systems?	No
166	Can CAL FIRE clarify the expected number of reports and dashboards to be configured and delivered as part of the initial 12-week implementation?	Unknown, but the standard PPM reports and dashboards are expected.
167	What is the anticipated project start date and completion date?	September – Dec 2026
168	Can CAL FIRE provide the anticipated budget range or estimated funding allocation for the project?	No budget will be provided
169	The SOW states that the PPM solution shall provide “some or all” of the listed desirable capabilities, while Project Financial Tracking is specifically marked mandatory. Please identify which of the remaining capabilities are mandatory for acceptance and technical scoring versus optional/desirable.	Standard PPM capabilities

#	Question	Answer
170	Are the "Additional Features & Benefits" listed in Section 6.0.A.6 mandatory solution requirements, preferred capabilities, or examples of a desired commercial/pre-built PPM solution?	Preferred capabilities
171	Does CAL FIRE expect the Contractor to provide a pre-built PPM product/accelerator and configure it, or may the Contractor design and build the solution using native Microsoft 365/Power Platform components?	A combination of both will work, as long as it satisfies the RFQ requirements
172	Is Dataverse the preferred/required primary data store, or may SharePoint Lists be used for some or all PPM data where appropriate?	There is data store component.
173	Is a model-driven Power App required as the primary application experience, or may the Contractor propose a combination of model-driven apps, canvas apps, Planner, and SharePoint based on best fit?	At the discretion of the bidder to meet the requirements of the RFQ.
	Please confirm the exact Microsoft tenant type (Commercial, GCC, GCC High, or other) in which the solution will be deployed.	GCC
	Please confirm what is meant by "Microsoft Planner Pro" and "Planner Plan 1" in the RFQ, including the exact license SKU(s) currently owned by CAL FIRE.	Licensing information will be provided post-award, if necessary.

#	Question	Answer
174	Please provide the quantities and license types currently available for Power Apps, Dataverse, Power Automate, Power BI, Planner/Project, and any premium connectors required for this implementation.	Licenses are already acquired through CDT/CAL FIRE.
175	Approximately how many active projects, planned projects, and historical projects are expected to be managed in the PPM solution at go-live, and what annual growth should be assumed?	No data migration. Expected volume unknown
176	How many total users are expected by role (PMO administrators, project managers, project team members, executives, read-only users, and support staff)?	10 users minimum.
177	Please identify the current systems and repositories used for project intake, schedules, financials, resources, risks/issues, status reporting, and document management (e.g., Planner, Project, Excel, SharePoint, Power BI, ERP/financial systems).	No current solution in use.
178	Please provide an overview of the existing Microsoft Planner/Project configuration, including number of plans/projects, existing templates, custom fields, task volumes, and whether data must be retained or migrated.	No existing data to migrate.

#	Question	Answer
179	Does CAL FIRE require managed environments, Power Platform solutions, deployment pipelines, Azure DevOps/Git integration, or another specific ALM/release-management process for Dev/Test/Production promotion?	Already configured.
180	What integrations are required for the initial implementation beyond Microsoft Planner/Project, SharePoint, Power BI, and Power Platform? Please identify source/target systems, interfaces/APIs, and required data flows.	None.
181	Please define the expected data migration scope, including source systems/files, data entities, record counts, attachments/documents, historical depth, and whether closed projects must be migrated.	No data to be migrated.
182	Who is responsible for source-data cleansing, deduplication, mapping, and remediation of incomplete or inconsistent project data before migration?	N/A
183	Will projected budget, spend-to-date, amended budget, and remaining balance be entered manually in the PPM solution, imported periodically, or integrated with a CAL FIRE financial/ERP system?	Manually entered

#	Question	Answer
184	If financial-system integration is required, please identify the system(s), available APIs/files, interface frequency, security method, and data ownership.	N/A
185	What system should be the authoritative source for project schedules: the PPM application, Microsoft Planner/Project, or another scheduling tool?	PPM application and Planner/Project should be same application
186	Beyond phases, benchmarks, deadlines, and Gantt-like views, are task dependencies, milestones, baselines, critical path, constraints, percent complete, or variance calculations required?	Yes
187	What is the source of resource/personnel data (Entra ID, HR system, manual entry, or other), and must resource attributes be synchronized automatically?	N/A
188	Should task assignments and completion status be synchronized with Microsoft Planner/Project? If yes, should synchronization be one-way or bi-directional and at what frequency?	Yes
189	Please provide the expected project lifecycle stages/stage gates, required deliverables/actions at each stage, approval roles, entry/exit criteria, and any required SLAs.	To be determined during implementation.

#	Question	Answer
190	Please define the desired project intake process, including required fields, request types, routing/approval hierarchy, prioritization criteria, and when an intake becomes an active project.	To be determined during implementation.
191	Should overall project health (Green/Yellow/Red) and progress percentage be manually entered, system-calculated, or a combination? If calculated, please provide the desired rules and thresholds.	A combination.
192	Please provide the prioritized list of executive dashboards, operational reports, KPIs, and visualizations that must be delivered within the initial 12-week implementation.	All standard PPM dashboards and reports should be delivered during 12-week implementation.
193	The SOW references more than 20 pre-built report/dashboard templates. Is the Contractor required to provide at least 20 pre-built reports, or is this a preferred characteristic of a proposed PPM accelerator?	All standard PPM dashboards and reports should be delivered during 12-week implementation.
194	What level of customization is expected when the SOW states "tweaks" to out-of-the-box PPM BI/Reporting? Please identify any known custom reports, calculations, branding, or layouts.	To be determined during implementation.
195	What does CAL FIRE mean by "real-time data refresh"? Would scheduled refresh, DirectQuery, near-real-time refresh, or event-driven refresh meet the requirement?	Any changes to the PPM tool should be updated in real-time.

#	Question	Answer
196	Please confirm the Power BI licensing/capacity available to CAL FIRE (Pro, Premium Per User, Fabric/Premium capacity, or other) and whether all intended report consumers are licensed.	All Microsoft licenses are procured.
197	Is the 12-week implementation schedule a firm contractual deadline or an estimated target? Please provide the anticipated project start date and any required go-live date.	12-weeks or less is preferred.
198	Will CAL FIRE provide detailed acceptance criteria for each deliverable at project start, or should the Contractor develop all measurable acceptance criteria through the DED process?	The contractor can set their own deliverables/milestones.
199	Should the 12-week implementation schedule assume that work cannot begin on a task until its DED is fully approved and signed, and what approval turnaround time should be assumed?	No, the work can be ongoing.
200	Please specify the required training audiences, estimated participant counts, number and duration of sessions, delivery format, and whether sessions must be recorded.	10 users minimum. Recordings would be preferred after the trainings have been completed.
201	Exhibit C includes a separate "Training Material (If Applicable)" line. Should training material development be priced separately from the implementation services, and what specific materials are expected?	No it should be included in the implementation costs.

#	Question	Answer
202	What response/target resolution expectations or severity-based SLAs apply to post-go-live support requests?	2 business days preferred.
203	Please confirm whether all Contractor and subcontractor personnel must physically reside in the United States for the entire contract and perform work only from the continental United States.	Yes
204	What data classification levels are expected in the PPM solution, and are any data elements considered confidential, sensitive, or subject to special handling requirements?	No sensitive data
205	Exhibit B states implementation services are Time & Materials, while Exhibit C includes a one-time PPM Solution cost plus Implementation Services. Please clarify what costs should be included in Item 1 versus Item 2.	Premium features or add-ons at a one-time cost.
206	CAL FIRE states it will provide all required Microsoft software licenses, while Exhibit B references software licensing/subscriptions paid in advance. Is the Contractor expected to provide any non-Microsoft PPM accelerator/product subscription, and if so, where should it be priced?	No this is a Microsoft solution only. And all licenses are acquired.

#	Question	Answer
207	For the three required references, does "within the past three years" mean the project must have been completed within three years, or are ongoing projects with recent performance acceptable?	Ongoing projects are acceptable references, if needed.
208	What was the annual spend under the previous contract for these services?	N/A
209	If this is a new contract, what is the estimated annual budget?	New contract, no budget information provided.
210	Is the agency open to a hybrid delivery model utilizing a combination of onshore and offshore resources?	No
211	Will the work be performed onsite, remotely, or through a hybrid arrangement?	Hybrid arrangement within the US.
212	Would it be possible to consider a 1–2 week extension to the proposal submission deadline?	No
213	Is this contract intended for a single vendor or for multiple vendors?	Single vendor
214	Who is the current or previous incumbent vendor for these services?	No incumbent.
215	Are there any challenges, gaps, or pain points with the current solution or contractor that the agency is looking to address through this procurement?	No current solution.
216	Is there a projected contract award date and anticipated start date?	9/1/2026 proposed start date

#	Question	Answer
217	Would CAL FIRE consider comparable Power Platform portfolio management implementations from other state agencies as relevant reference projects?	Yes
218	Are electronic signatures acceptable for all required attachments and forms?	Yes
219	Are customer references limited to projects completed within the last three years, or will ongoing projects be accepted as references?	Ongoing projects are acceptable references, if needed.
220	Can CAL FIRE confirm whether all proposal documents must be submitted in PDF format,	Everything except the cost worksheet, which must be in Excel
221	May bidders use subcontractor references and project experience to satisfy the requirement for three similar customer references?	No
222	Will CAL FIRE provide a confirmation of receipt for proposal submissions received via email?	Yes
223	Is there a maximum email attachment size for proposal submission, and if the response exceeds the email size limit, may bidders submit multiple emails?	Yes
224	Can CAL FIRE provide a detailed scoring breakdown for the 60 technical evaluation points, including the weighting assigned to experience, solution approach, implementation methodology, staffing, and references?	No scoring breakdown will be provided.

#	Question	Answer
225	Can CAL FIRE provide details of the existing PPM solution and current-state implementation, including the current use of Microsoft Planner Pro, Power BI, SharePoint, Power Apps, Dataverse, and Power Automate? Please identify which components are already configured and which components are expected to be developed or replaced under this RFQ.	No existing solution
226	Please provide the expected data migration scope, including source systems/files, number of existing projects, historical data volume, data entities/fields to be migrated, data quality expectations, and whether CAL FIRE will perform data cleansing or provide migration-ready data.	No data migration
227	How many active, planned, and historical projects are currently expected to be managed through the PPM solution, and approximately how many users will access the solution by role (PMO administrators, project managers, executives, team members, etc.)?	No historical data migration

#	Question	Answer
228	Please identify the specific Microsoft licenses currently owned by CAL FIRE and those that will be provided for this project, including Power Apps, Power Automate, Dataverse, Power BI, Planner/Project, SharePoint Online, and any premium connectors. Will bidders be responsible for identifying or estimating any additional licensing requirements?	License details will be provided post-award. All Microsoft licenses will be acquired by CAL FIRE
229	The RFQ references Microsoft Planner Pro, Planner Plan 1, and core Microsoft Project/PPM functionality. Can CAL FIRE clarify the exact Microsoft product(s) and licensing editions that the proposed solution must use and whether the solution is expected to leverage Microsoft Project functionality, Planner functionality, or both?	Solution should utilize Microsoft Planner
230	Please clarify which of the PPM capabilities listed in Exhibit A, Section 6.0 are mandatory requirements versus desirable/optional capabilities. Specifically, should bidders be evaluated on implementing all listed capabilities, or may bidders propose a phased solution based on CAL FIRE's prioritized requirements?	Standard PPM tools required. All capabilities are mandatory.

#	Question	Answer
231	Please identify the specific security certifications, policies, background checks, training, and other security documentation that must be completed by Contractor personnel before receiving access to CAL FIRE environments.	Details provided post-award.
232	The RFQ permits services to be performed remotely within the continental United States. Does CAL FIRE require all Contractor personnel with access to CAL FIRE data to be physically located within the continental United States, including any subcontractors and offshore support personnel?	yes
233	Does the 100-hour post-go-live support allocation apply only to the initial implementation/go-live period, or is it available throughout the full one-year contract term?	Full one-year term, as needed.
234	Is the 12-week implementation schedule a firm contractual completion deadline, or an estimated planning timeline that may be adjusted based on requirements, CAL FIRE resource availability, data migration complexity, and UAT results?	12-weeks is preferred timeframe to completion.

#	Question	Answer
235	For the three required customer references, must each reference specifically involve Power Platform implementations, or may bidders provide a combination of closely related engagements involving Power BI dashboards, workflow automation, analytics, data integration, portfolio reporting, and managed services, where the overall scope aligns with the requested PPM solution?	Yes.
236	Will CAL FIRE accept multiple projects performed for the same customer as separate references, provided each project has a distinct scope, timeframe, stakeholder group, budget, and set of deliverables?	No.
237	Does CAL FIRE currently maintain project, budget, resource, schedule, risk, and issue management data sources that must be integrated during the 12-week implementation period, or should bidders assume that the initial data structures and datasets will be defined and populated as part of the implementation effort?	No existing solution or migration.

#	Question	Answer
238	The RFQ states that CAL FIRE will provide the Microsoft 365 tenant, Power Apps environment, and required Microsoft licenses. Please confirm whether all licenses required for the proposed solution, including Planner Premium, Power BI, Power Apps, Power Automate, Dataverse, premium connectors, and associated administrative access, will be provided by CAL FIRE and therefore excluded from bidder pricing.	Yes, all Microsoft licenses have been acquired.
239	The SOW requires the Contractor to provision and configure Development, Test, and Production environments. Since CAL FIRE will provide the Power Apps environment and administrative access, please clarify whether "provisioning" refers to configuring environments within CAL FIRE's existing tenant or creating new environments within that tenant.	existing
240	As the solution will be deployed entirely within CAL FIRE's Microsoft 365 tenant, should bidders reference Microsoft's cloud data center locations associated with CAL FIRE's tenant configuration, or should bidders provide separate evidence regarding their own data center locations?	Yes, to Microsoft's cloud storage locations and bidders data storage within the US.

#	Question	Answer
241	For a solution hosted exclusively within CAL FIRE's Microsoft 365 tenant, will Microsoft's SOC 2 Type II, FedRAMP, and/or StateRAMP certifications satisfy the cloud service provider attestation requirements, with the bidder separately providing its organizational security policies and procedures?	Section 13.0 — Cloud Service Provider Security Attestation-If the solution operates entirely within CAL FIRE's existing Microsoft 365/Power Platform tenant and the Contractor introduces no separate cloud hosting provider, does the SOC 2 Type II/FedRAMP/StateRAMP requirement apply to Microsoft as the Cloud Service Provider rather than separately to the implementation contractor? - If in CAL FIRE then no SOC2 TYPE II is required as it sits in an already secure environment.
242	If a bidder proposes optional AI-enabled capabilities such as document generation, analytics summarization, anomaly detection, or natural language reporting, would these features be considered Generative AI deliverables requiring formal disclosure, or only when they materially affect system functionality, risk, or contract performance?	Yes

#	Question	Answer
243	The SOW references requirements gathering sessions involving up to five CAL FIRE stakeholders. Please confirm: • The anticipated number of stakeholders participating in the project. • The stakeholder roles expected to participate. • The approximate number of projects to be migrated or initially entered into the system. • The expected number of end users for the initial implementation phase.	10 users for all. No data to be migrated.
244	The RFQ indicates that contractor travel expenses will not be reimbursed and that work is expected to be performed remotely. However, if CAL FIRE subsequently requests onsite workshops, stakeholder meetings, training sessions, project reviews, or other in-person activities requiring travel, should bidders include potential travel-related costs within their proposal pricing? If so, are there any guidelines or limitations regarding how such costs should be incorporated?	All sessions can be conducted remotely if travel costs are necessary.

#	Question	Answer
245	Can CAL FIRE provide additional information regarding the current PPM portfolio scale, including the approximate number of active, planned, and historical projects currently managed or expected to be managed by the PMO? If available, please also provide the typical number of phases, milestones, or tasks maintained per project.	No existing tool/data to migrate.
246	Approximately how many users will require access to the PPM solution, and what primary user roles or security groups should Bidders assume, such as PMO administrators, project managers, project team members, executives, and read-only users?	10 users for all
247	CAL FIRE states that it will provide the Microsoft software licenses required for solution implementation. Can CAL FIRE identify the specific Microsoft licensing SKUs and capacity currently available or planned for this implementation, including Power Apps, Power BI, Dataverse, Planner, and any premium connector or storage capacity that Bidders should assume?	Licensing information can be provided post-award, if necessary.

#	Question	Answer
248	Can CAL FIRE clarify the Microsoft project management platform currently in use by the PMO, including whether the environment uses Planner Premium, Planner Plan 1, Project for the Web, Project Online, or another Planner/Project configuration? Are there existing plans, templates, or project structures that must be retained or incorporated into the proposed PPM solution?	No current tool in use.
249	The RFQ references availability in the GCC cloud. Can CAL FIRE confirm whether the existing Microsoft 365 and Power Platform tenant used for this implementation is Commercial, GCC, GCC High , or another government cloud environment, and whether all proposed components must be supported within that environment?	GCC, and yes.
250	Is migration of existing project and portfolio data required as part of the initial implementation? If so, can CAL FIRE identify the current source systems or files, approximate number of active and historical projects, data volume, and types of information expected to be migrated?	No migration data.

#	Question	Answer
251	Does CAL FIRE currently have Power BI reports, dashboards, datasets, semantic models, or reporting standards related to PMO project and portfolio management that must be retained, enhanced, or incorporated into the new solution? If so, will those assets be made available to the selected Contractor during implementation?	No existing tool.
252	For the mandatory Project Financial Tracking capability, should Bidders assume that budget, spending, amended budget, and remaining balance information will be entered and maintained directly within the PPM solution, or is integration with an existing financial system or authoritative data source required? If integration is expected, can CAL FIRE identify the source system and preferred integration method?	Manual entry.
253	Beyond Microsoft 365, Planner/Project, Power BI, and SharePoint, are there existing or planned integrations with systems such as ServiceNow, FI\$Cal, SAP, HR/resource systems, or other CAL FIRE enterprise applications that should be included in the initial implementation or considered in the solution architecture?	No

#	Question	Answer
254	Does CAL FIRE expect the proposed PPM solution to be implemented entirely using Microsoft-native Power Platform and Microsoft 365 capabilities, or may Bidders propose a commercial or proprietary PPM accelerator or third-party product built on or integrated with the Microsoft ecosystem? If third-party licensing is proposed, should all related subscription and licensing costs be included in Exhibit C - Cost Worksheet?	Yes
255	Section 6.0(A) identifies the PPM capabilities as "Desirable Requirements" and states that the solution should provide "some or all" of the listed capabilities, while Project Financial Tracking is specifically identified as Mandatory. Can CAL FIRE clarify which of the remaining capabilities, including Schedule and Timeline Tracking, Resource Management, Project Health and Progress Indicators, Portfolio Dashboarding, and Additional Features & Benefits, are required as part of the initial implementation?	All capabilities required.

#	Question	Answer
256	The RFQ identifies an estimated implementation schedule of twelve (12) weeks. Should Bidders assume that production go-live must be completed within this twelve-week period, or may the Contractor propose an alternative implementation schedule based on the requirements and priorities confirmed during project initiation and requirements analysis?	Yes
257	Section 5.0 states that CAL FIRE will set up the Power Apps environment and provide administrative access to the Contractor, while Section 6.0 requires the Contractor to provision and configure Development, Test, and Production environments. Can CAL FIRE clarify whether the three Power Platform environments will be provisioned by CAL FIRE prior to implementation, with the Contractor responsible for configuration, or whether the Contractor is expected to create and configure those environments within CAL FIRE's Microsoft 365 tenant?	Yes

#	Question	Answer
258	For a solution implemented within CAL FIRE's existing Microsoft 365 and Power Platform tenant, can CAL FIRE clarify which security certifications, attestations, and supporting security documentation must be provided directly by the Contractor versus those applicable to Microsoft as the underlying Cloud Service Provider? In particular, please clarify the applicability of the SOC 2 Type II, FedRAMP, or StateRAMP requirements to the Contractor when no Contractor-hosted cloud service is proposed.	Section 13.0 — Cloud Service Provider Security Attestation-If the solution operates entirely within CAL FIRE's existing Microsoft 365/Power Platform tenant and the Contractor introduces no separate cloud hosting provider, does the SOC 2 Type II/FedRAMP/StateRAMP requirement apply to Microsoft as the Cloud Service Provider rather than separately to the implementation contractor? - If in CAL FIRE then no SOC2 TYPE II is required as it sits in an already secure environment.
259	The RFQ requires one hundred (100) hours of post-go-live support for application administration, workflow and report modifications, enhancements, and defect escalation. Over what period following production go-live should Bidders assume these support hours will be available, and are there any expected support hours, response times, service levels, or minimum staffing requirements that should be considered for pricing?	CAL FIRE expects to use these 100 hours over the first year, there are no current specifications for availability.
260	The RFP references Planner Plan 1 licensing. Is there anything specific we should consider regarding licensing requirements, assumptions, or implementation scope?	No

#	Question	Answer
261	The Additional Features and Benefits list in Section 6.0.A.6 (20+ pre-built templates, built on the core Planner Plan 1 license, available in GCC cloud) combined with the "Contractor's report pack" language in Section 6.0.B.5 describes a specific existing commercial Power Platform add-on rather than a from-scratch build. Please confirm whether CAL FIRE has already evaluated or intends to require use of a specific product, and identify it if so.	No specific product.
262	Section 6.0.A states the Contractor shall provide "some or all" of the listed capabilities, yet only Item 1 (Financial Tracking) is marked Mandatory. Please confirm which of Items 2 through 6 (Schedule Tracking, Resource Management, Health Indicators, Portfolio Dashboarding, Additional Features) are required for a responsive proposal versus optional for scoring purposes only.	All

#	Question	Answer
263	Sections 5.0.A.5-7 state CAL FIRE will provide Microsoft software licenses, an existing M365 tenant, and the Power Apps environment. Please confirm the exact license SKU(s) currently held (Section 1.0 references "Microsoft Planner Pro" while Section 6.0.A.6 references "Planner Plan 1"), the division of exact license SKU(s) currently held (Section 1.0 references "Microsoft Planner Pro" while Section 6.0.A.6 references "Planner Plan 1"), the division of responsibility between CAL FIRE and the Contractor for configuring the three responsibility between CAL FIRE and the Contractor for configuring the three environments required under Section 6.0.B.2, and whether CAL FIRE currently uses a CI/CD or Application Lifecycle Management tool the Contractor is expected to use for solution promotion.	No

#	Question	Answer
264	Please confirm whether Microsoft Planner/Project is intended to remain the authoritative system for project schedules and tasks, with the PPM solution solution Please confirm whether Microsoft Planner/Project is intended to remain th authoritative system for project schedules and tasks, with the PPM solutionconsuming that information, or whether bi-directional synchronization is consuming that information, or whether bi-directional synchronization is required. Please also provide the approximate volume of existing project data to be migrated, including the number of active and historical/closed projects, and on firm whether migration of historical/closed projects is required or limited to active and planned projects at go-live.	Yes. No data migration.

#	Question	Answer
265	Please identify the authoritative source system for project budget, expenditure, encumbrance, and other financial data required under Section 6.0.A.1, and confirm whether financial information is expected to be manually entered and maintained within the PPM application, integrated from an existing CAL FIRE financial system, or a combination of both.	Manually entered. No data migration.
266	The RFQ requires page numbers on the response (Sec. C.1) but states no maximum page count. Please confirm whether a page limit applies to the Scope of Work response.	No page limit

#	Question	Answer
267	Regarding Exhibit C: (a) please confirm whether the 10 percent cap on unanticipated tasks (Item 5) is calculated against the Task/Deliverable Subtotal (Items 1-3) or against the Grand Total including the optional renewal year; (b) please confirm whether the optional renewal year (Item 6) is limited to continued post go-live support or may include new development work, and how it should be priced; and (c) please clarify what should be priced under the Training Material line (Item 4) versus under Implementation Services (Item 2).	a) Task/Deliverable subtotal only b) Up to bidders discretion c) Any applicable training material costs
268	Regarding the 100 post-go-live support hours in Section 6.0.C and Exhibit C, Item 3: please confirm the period over which these hours must be available, whether time spent coordinating and escalating product defects with Microsoft counts against the allocation, and whether unused hours at the end of the base term may carry into the optional renewal period.	Up to bidders discretion

#	Question	Answer
269	Please confirm whether the Non-SB Subcontracting Preference (Sec. F.m, 5 pct) and the DVBE Incentive (Sec. F.p, up to 5 pct) are independently calculated and additive on the same bid when a non-SB prime subcontracts to both a CAcertified SB and a CA-certified DVBE. Please also confirm whether the 3 percent DVBE participation goal referenced in Section F.o, which states it “may be waived” for this solicitation, is in fact waived for RFQ-ITS 26-0063, and whether that affects eligibility for the DVBE Incentive scoring.	Yes you can do a combination of DVBE and SB for a total of up to 10%. Independently calculated and additive. DVBE requirement may be waived and whether or not it is waived does not affect scoring.
270	Sections 12.0 and 13.0 require the Cloud Service Provider to hold a current SOC 2 Type II report or FedRAMP/StateRAMP authorization. Given CAL FIRE will provide the Contractor an existing M365/Power Platform tenant (5.0.A.6-7) intended to run in GCC cloud (6.0.A.6), please confirm whether Microsoft's existing FedRAMP/GCC authorization satisfies this requirement when the solution is built entirely inside CAL FIRE's own tenant, or whether the Contractor must independently produce a SOC 2 Type II report.	Section 13.0 — Cloud Service Provider Security Attestation-If the solution operates entirely within CAL FIRE's existing Microsoft 365/Power Platform tenant and the Contractor introduces no separate cloud hosting provider, does the SOC 2 Type II/FedRAMP/StateRAMP requirement apply to Microsoft as the Cloud Service Provider rather than separately to the implementation contractor? - If in CAL FIRE then no SOC2 TYPE II is required as it sits in an already secure environment.

#	Question	Answer
271	Please confirm the required timing and format for the GenAI notification in Section F.j: at bid submission, at contract execution, or only if and when GenAI tools are actually used during performance.	At bid submission
272	Exhibit E, Item 12 is titled "Insurance (Not applicable)" but is followed by a requirement for \$1,000,000 CSL general liability coverage; Item 11 is titled "Progress Payments (Not Applicable, see Exhibit B)" but is followed by language describing a 10 percent retention withheld from each invoice; and the Employee Benefits section is titled "Not Applicable" but is followed by a certification requirement under GC Section 19134. Please confirm which, if any, of these three requirements actually apply to this solicitation given the contradictory headings.	Not applicable.

#	Question	Answer
273	Section 13.0 addresses confidentiality of CAL FIRE's data but not ownership of custom Power Platform artifacts (Dataverse schemas, flows, model-driven apps). Please confirm whether CAL FIRE owns these configurations exclusively, or whether the Contractor retains reuse rights to its own template components.	CAL FIRE owns these configurations exclusively.
274	The RFQ does not address a process for substituting key personnel after award. Please confirm whether CAL FIRE requires advance approval for personnel substitutions. Please also confirm the expected turnaround for CAL FIRE to issue DED tracking numbers and execute signatures under Section 7.0.1, given the 12 -week implementation schedule.	No advance approval. TBD
275	Please identify the current project and portfolio management tools in use, including Microsoft Planner, Planner Premium, Microsoft Project, Power BI, Power Apps, Dataverse, or other related solutions.	No current tool in use.

#	Question	Answer
276	Section 12.0 states that all IT Services Contractors and staff working on the contract must reside within the United States. Please clarify whether this requirement applies only to personnel assigned to the engagement and accessing CAL FIRE systems and data, or whether it also applies to the bidder's corporate ownership and legal entity structure.	Personnel assigned to the engagement and accessing CAL FIRE systems and data.
277	Could you please confirm whether a budget estimate, funding range, or Not-to-Exceed (NTE) amount has been established for this RFQ?	Budget will not be released at this time. We are committed to being fiscally responsible and aim to keep costs as low as possible in order to respect and safeguard taxpayer dollars.
278	Description of the question, concern, discrepancy, error, or issue: "Available in GCC cloud" – If our solution is available in a secure, industry-standard cloud (but not the GCC cloud), does that prevent us from participating in this RFP?	Yes
279	Description of the question, concern, discrepancy, error, or issue: "The Cloud Service Provider (CSP) shall provide CAL FIRE with a current System and Organization Controls (SOC) 2 Type II report" – If instead we can provide ISO 270001 certification, will that suffice?	Section 13.0 — Cloud Service Provider Security Attestation-If the solution operates entirely within CAL FIRE's existing Microsoft 365/Power Platform tenant and the Contractor introduces no separate cloud hosting provider, does the SOC 2 Type II/FedRAMP/StateRAMP requirement apply to Microsoft as the Cloud Service Provider rather than separately to the implementation contractor? - If in CAL FIRE then no SOC2 TYPE II is required as it sits in an already secure environment.

#	Question	Answer
280	Description of the question, concern, discrepancy, error, or issue: Throughout the RFP, you describe the use of Microsoft Planner Pro. There are two versions of Microsoft Planner: • Microsoft Planner – which is included in Microsoft 365 and provides a simple “to-do” list. • Microsoft Planner Premium – which provides a Gantt-like user-interface and task dependencies. It was previously called Project for the Web. We suspect you use Planner Pro synonymously with Planner Premium. Can you please confirm that?	Yes

#	Question	Answer
281	Description of the question, concern, discrepancy, error, or issue: "Built on the core Planner Plan 1 license". There are two Planner Premium Licenses, Plan 1 and Plan 3. Plan 1 has limited functionality. Plan 3 adds functionality such as the ability for multiple people to interact with (e.g., update) a plan (vs. view only in Plan 1), baselines, advanced dependencies, etc. In our experience, given the history of Microsoft Project, Microsoft Planner, and Microsoft Planner Premium, with all the different Plan license levels, sometimes customers are unclear on what they are actually using. Can you please confirm that you are actively using Plan 1 in the scope of this RFP?	Plan 3
282	What types of projects will the department be tracking in the selected system?	CAL FIRE will be tracking all IT Projects in the selected system.
283	Will system access be limited strictly to internal CAL FIRE personnel, or will external partners (e.g., consultants, third-party contractors) require access as well?	Internal CAL FIRE personnel.
284	What is the estimated total user count, broken down by internal vs. external users (if applicable)?	10 user minimum internal.
285	How does the DED form apply to the project and its deliverables?	Applies to project schedule and milestones.

#	Question	Answer
286	How does the DED relate to the project management process?	It is not related.
287	Is the DED required before individual tasks begin/end, or only at the project level to authorize work?	To be decided between CAL FIRE and awarded contractor.
288	Please clarify the intended approval process so excessive task-level overhead is avoided.	TBD
289	Can CAL FIRE provide a sample DED form?	Not at this time.
290	Section 8 states payment is by deliverable, while Exhibit B indicates Time & Materials. Which payment model governs this contract?	Monthly based on hours worked except for one-time subscription costs.
291	If this is deliverable-based/fixed-price, how should payment milestones be defined given no milestone table is included in the Cost section?	N/A
292	Is there a required timesheet format or template?	No
293	The RFQ states that the Contractor must provide all security-related certifications to the CAL FIRE ISO prior to the work start date. Please identify the specific certifications required from the implementation partner.	All certifications detailed in the RFQ.
294	As the proposed solution is hosted entirely within Microsoft's Microsoft 365 cloud environment, are there any additional security or compliance requirements that must be submitted by the systems integrator?	No not for the solution

#	Question	Answer
295	The RFQ references a SOC 2 Type II report. As a systems integrator, rather than a Cloud Service Provider (CSP), we do not maintain a SOC 2 Type II report for the Microsoft-hosted platform. Please confirm whether this requirement applies to the implementation partner or solely to the underlying cloud service provider (Microsoft).	Section 13.0 — Cloud Service Provider Security Attestation-If the solution operates entirely within CAL FIRE's existing Microsoft 365/Power Platform tenant and the Contractor introduces no separate cloud hosting provider, does the SOC 2 Type II/FedRAMP/StateRAMP requirement apply to Microsoft as the Cloud Service Provider rather than separately to the implementation contractor? - If in CAL FIRE then no SOC2 TYPE II is required as it sits in an already secure environment.
296	Item 2 requires the Contractor to submit a copy of its Information Security Program to the CAL FIRE Information Security Officer. As this document contains confidential internal security information, please clarify whether summaries, policies, attestations, or other supporting documentation may be provided in lieu of the complete program documentation.	Security Programs are not subject to Public Records Act (PRA) requests. All necessary documentation must be provided to the CAL FIRE ISO.
297	Please identify whether CAL FIRE requires any specific security assessments, questionnaires, onboarding activities, or contractor security review processes beyond the certifications and documentation explicitly identified in the RFQ.	No

#	Question	Answer
298	What systems or methodologies are currently utilized to manage financial tracking, resource assignment, schedule indicators, risk/issue identification, and executive-level reporting for CAL FIRE projects?	None
299	What is the anticipated user count for the enhanced solution, specifically regarding the number of Project Managers, core team members, and executive users?	10 user minimum
300	What existing governance processes, standards, or stage-gate requirements has CAL FIRE implemented to support project portfolio management?	None
301	In addition to the metrics identified in Exhibit A, Section 6.0.A, has CAL FIRE identified or prioritized any additional KPIs or executive-level measures for the PPM Dashboard?	No
302	Does CAL FIRE have documented business or functional requirements - draft or otherwise - beyond those identified in Exhibit A that will be provided to the selected Contractor and used as inputs to the requirements elicitation and solution design activities?	No

#	Question	Answer
303	Exhibit A identifies an estimated 12-week implementation schedule. Are there any target dates, external deadlines, business events, or other timing considerations that the Contractor should account for when developing the implementation plan and schedule?	We would like the project to start upon award with a target deadline for go-live to be 12 weeks later.