



QUESTIONS & RESPONSES #01

RFP / TITLE	0071117 Commencement Bay Monitoring
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Q&A ISSUE DATE	May 13, 2019

RE: Request for Proposal 071117

We are requesting additional information to clarify the vessel considerations, staffing considerations, early warning alert considerations and financial considerations. We respectfully submit our questions below.

Vessel Considerations:

We need additional information to clarify the type and size of vessel expected to perform the duties.

Please review the following characteristics and provide clarification:

- Will the vessel chartered by the Port be a small passenger vessel inspected at regular intervals by the Coast Guard?
 - Passenger configuration 1 licensed operator, 1 deck hand and not to exceed 6 passengers (a 6-pack license)? **Not the Port's intention, Port is providing minimum requirements for the vendor to determine how to meet these requirements.**
- The range of the vessel and response time:
 - A vessel needed to cover the Narrows and further south requires a vessel with greater speed than one in Commencement Bay.
 - The configuration of a vessel operating in the Narrows may be different from that operating in the protected waters of Commencement Bay
 - How important is it to cover an area outside of Commencement Bay? **It is not. Future agreement will cover Commencement Bay only.**
- All weather Conditions:
 - Please clarify as there are conditions which occur in

Commencement Bay which limit or preclude operations of even our big ships.

- During extremist conditions, might the Port be better served by MRC and/or the Fire Boat?
- Is all weather a practical requirement? *The Port will pick a top windspeed, for example 25 knots that the vessel would not operate in due to crew safety considerations, but it MUST be able to operate during significant rain events.*
- The operating conditions expected define the type of vessel needed
 - Current replacement value of the existing vessel that is used is about \$174,000.00 and we do not believe it meets or is operated to the standards listed above in the vessel considerations. Please clarify your requirements. *The vendor has multiple ways to achieve the requirement for a vessel the exhibit is only one way. NOTE: The Port does not intend on buying any vessels as a result of this RFP.*
 - *Sample purchase agreement attached to this document as Exhibit A gives current baseline pricing for reference.*

Staffing Considerations:

We need additional information to clarify qualifications and number of staff members our submittal would need to include based on expectations.

- Summary of staffing requirements as listed in RFP.
 - Available during week days
 - Available nights
 - Available weekends
 - Available Holidays
 - Underway for 50 monitoring cruises per year
 - Available for emergency response within 2-hour notice
 - Maintain site control until appropriate agencies respond to hazards to navigation and or environment. (this may exceed regulatory authority) *That may be, **Site Support** is a better word. We don't want recreational boaters heading into a hazardous situation.*
 - Maintain direct reporting to National and State regulatory response organizations listed in the RFP
 - Provide Port tours as agreed to
 - Provide tours for student/citizen groups
 - Provide annual monitoring cruise for Port Staff
 - Briefings to the Environmental and Planning Department Staff
 - Provide boater education and distribute spill avoidance materials
 - Provide visual monitoring of restoration and habitat areas, so as to report potential impact of pollution and marine debris

Clarification of these requirements is critical to establishing position requirements, such as license requirements, education, staffing levels and best use of personnel. For example, Arrow Launch routinely transports personnel on call to the ships anchored in the harbor. Each trip costs \$500.00. Arrow Launch deploys a more robust level of professional services than is anticipated in this RFP.

Early Warning Alert Considerations:

Provide an early warning alert to the Port, Project Manager and any customer(s) directed by the Port to identify source of pollution.

- We are concerned that the infrequency of trips, 50 per year, impairs the ability to provide early warning, leaving discovery to random chance. Is this a realistic expectation? That is what the callout section is for, we have many citizens with their eyes on the Bay reporting issues. The vendor needs to be able to respond to potentially hazardous conditions observed in the Bay. It is not expected that vendor will find all potential pollutants.

Financial Considerations:

We appreciate your help clarifying the vessel and staffing requirements.

Vessel:

- The type, range, serviceability and operating requirements of the vessel define the capital needs.
 - The contract is for two years. Banks will not finance a capital investment which is based on a two-year contract. Is there flexibility in the length of contract or other options?
 - Purchase of the vessel will require cash unless the term of the contract is longer. The Port will not dictate what equipment is provided, only what it is capable of doing.

Staffing:

- Expectations require staffing. The current requirements may exceed expectations. We are an educational organization dedicated to youth development, and do not always have the flexibility to have youth engaged in activities limited to adults, which would include oil spill clean-up and some forms of monitoring. Initial review of the requirements may require:
 - A licensed Captain
 - A full or part time deck hand
 - An on-call captain or relief crew

We need clarification of the vessel requirements and staffing requirements above. Organizations without the internal resources to fulfill the RFP scope are highly encouraged to partner with other organizations to assemble the necessary resources.

Building a relationship with the Port of Tacoma and Commencement Bay is possible but would likely require revisions and further clarification about the mission of this program and scope of work. With that in mind, would the *[our organization]* be able to partner with the Port to complete portions of this RFP or work with the Port and its partners to develop an approach acceptable to all involved? **Not the intent of this RFP.**

