PROJECT: INTERNAL FIREWALL

QUERIES/CLARIFICATIONS RAISED DURING THE PRE-BID CONFERENCE:

Query/Clarifications	TWG/BAC Reply
Where does the transceiver be put in use? Is that to be put in the firewall or on the devices?	This will be connected to the CISCO core switch.

WRITTEN QUERIES:

	Query/Clarifications	TWG/BAC Reply
UNISON Computer Systems Inc		
1	If possible, to consider that "Only Bidders who are allowed to join are bidders that don't have any history of blacklisting with Philgeps within 6 months" for Procurement of Goods Internet Firewall. This refers to the discussion from the Prebid Conference dated March 27, 2025 @ 2:30pm	We maintain our requirement.
SWPKS IT Solutions Inc.		
2	On page 33; Item #16: Must support Full configuration of DNS, DHCP and NTP. Using the Internal Firewall as a DHCP Server will cause so much toll on the Firewall performance. This is not best practice because it is prone to error and downtime. Is this the current configuration of SSS for its Internal Firewall? If this is not the case, then we would like to request to remove "DHCP" as part of this statement.	We maintain our requirement.
3	On page 33; Item #18: The system must support flow and proxy-based antivirus options for choice between protection and performance. This statement is very specific to flow/proxy based AV which may be proprietary to a certain brand, can we propose an equivalent functionality such as a network antivirus for this particular requirement?	We maintain our requirement.
4	On page 33; Item #20: Shall provide ability allow or block specific grayware groups such as adwares, BHO and keyloggers. Since malware protection should be automatic and updated rather than defining it manually, can you please clarify/define the meaning of this statement?	The ability to allow or block specific grayware groups such as adware, BHOs, and keyloggers gives administrators granular control over network security.
5	On page 36; Item #10: The system must be capable of managing a maximum of 1800 logical systems on a single virtual or physical appliance. We believe that this requirement is very large and may not be logical at this point. Kindly consider lowering this down to maybe 500 or 800 logical systems since SSS may not be able to consume this much at this point.	We maintain our requirement.
6	On page 36; Item #16: The system must be capable of having a maximum of 55 days Analytics. Can you share more information about this statement because on Item #13 (The system	The 55 days analytics shall be performed within six (6) months log retention.

	must support six (6) months log retention.) there was a mention of six (6) months log retention? This is somewhat confusing since the log retention requirements is six (6) months and now the analytics is being defined as 55 days maximum. Does it mean the log retention is on log file only and without any analytics on it? Or should the 55 days be within the six (6) months log retention? To avoid any ambiguity, perhaps SSS may consider removing Item #16 and retain Item #13 only.	
7	On page 36; Item #18: The system must have a Collector sustained log rate of at least 25,000 logs/sec. Is there a business case that requires the 25,000 log/sec? Will SSS consider to lowering this to 20,000 log/sec?	We maintain our requirement.
8	On page 38; Item #4.4: Bidder must have one installed Firewall similar to SSS set up. Bidder must provide a copy of the project acceptance and/or, contact person, contact number and email address. Kindly clarify or define the meaning of "one installed Firewall similar to SSS set up "since there was no mention in the Bid Documents about the current Internal Firewall setup of SSS. There were no drawings or designs included in the Bid Documents, too. While we do understand the logic behind this, the phrase "one installed Firewall similar to SSS set up "may be subjective and may cause disqualification of any bidder since the word "similar" may pose different meaning or interpretation to every individual. This is most especially true to those bidders who do not have experience to be a contractor of SSS. What will happen if a bidder submits something which he thinks is "similar" but at the end of the day SSS will say "No. It's not similar."? We know SSS BAC will be the final arbiter being the Procuring Entity; however, can we say that this is fair? Honestly, this requirement is very much favorable/advantageous to the incumbent contractor of SSS because they know every detail of the current setup. Is SSS willing to share the Internal Firewall configuration/setup to all prospective bidders to satisfy this requirement of the bid? Or maybe SSS should define which are the internal firewall setup that can be considered as "similar" to be more defined and be fair to all bidders.	Bidder must have one installed Firewall setup or any firewall implementation (any brand). Bidder must provide a copy of the project acceptance and or, contact person, contact number and email address.
9	On page 38; Item #4.5: We find the requirement for One (1) Cisco Certified Internetwork Expert and One (1) Cisco Certified Network Professional to be restrictive rather than descriptive since the primary item that SSS will procure in this bid is an Internal Firewall not Cisco Switches. And based on Technical Specifications, SSS needs 16 x 40GE QSFP+ Cisco Transceiver and 4 x 10GE Cisco Transceiver which are	This amends Page 38: Item 4.5 Bidder must have at least one (1) Cisco Certified engineer (Cisco Certified Network Professional) that will be involved on the project.

INTERNAL FIREWALL

	not really critical part of the Internal Firewall. Do these Cisco products require Cisco Certified Engineers to be installed/connected? These items may be installed/connected by Network Engineers who do not necessarily have Cisco Certifications. Besides, we do believe that SSS has a live maintenance contract with your Network Maintenance Provider in case we need further assistance during the implementation of the Internal Firewall. This is beside the usual network engineers that the bidders employ. May we request that these requirements be removed since, as mentioned, those are restrictive rather than descriptive?	
AMTI		
10	From: Bidder must have at least 2 Cisco Certified engineers that will be involved on the project One (1) Cisco Certified Internetwork Expert One (1) Cisco Certified Network Professional To: One (1) Cisco Certified Network Professional	Refer to Item No. 9.
11	From: Opening of Bids April 10, 2025 To: April 23, 2025, for us to have ample time to prepare the bid	Submission and Opening of Bids shall be on 24 April 2025, 2:00 p.m.
Universal Access and Systems Solutions Phils. Inc		
12	Page 35, Item No. 18. Must be at least 1RU Rackmount. May we clarify if we can propose an appliance that is 2RU in height which is higher than 1RU?	Yes. You can propose higher than 1RU.
13	Page 36, Item No.11 The system must have 2x 2.5GbE RJ45 ports. Does the items in the TOR indicate minimum requirements? Can we propose solution with higher specs? (ex. 2x10G SFP ports instead of 2x2.5GbE)	Yes. Higher specification is acceptable.
14	Page 37, Item No.06 and 7 Hardware Specification Requirement – Internal Firewall" -16x40GE QSF+ Cisco Transceiver -4x10GE Cisco Transceiver What is the specification of the required Cisco Transceivers? Single-mode or Multimode? What are the exact models of the Core switches where we will provide the transceivers?" What is the use of the transceivers this for firewall? What is the specific cisco transceiver?	Transceiver Specification: -16x40GE QSF+ Cisco Transceiver -4x10GE Cisco Transceiver Multimode Transceivers will be used to connect FW to the Cisco Core Switch.
	2.1 What are the model/s of the Cisco Switch/es where the Cisco Transceivers will be used?	2.1 Model: Cisco Nexus 7700 Series Switches
	2.2 What is the specifications of the transceivers required? Single mode or Multimode?	2.2 Refer to #. 06 and 07. Multimode
	2.3 Does the quantity indicated in the TOR for the existing Cisco Core switch alone or does this cover also the transceivers for the firewalls?	2.3 For Cisco Core Switch only. Separate Transceivers for Firewall
	2.4 If the cisco transceiver count indicated also cover the accessories for the firewall, can we propose the transceivers on the	2.4 Yes. Propose transceivers on the firewall must be the same brand with your proposed firewall

INTERNAL FIREWALL

	firewall to be the same brand with our proposed firewall?	
15	Page 38, Item No.4.1 Certificate from Manufacturer of Firewall devices stating that the bidder is at least a Certified Expert Partner or equivalent (state the level of partnership). Considering that each vendor/manufacturer has a different partner policy, may we provide their standard partner policy certificates?	Yes. Certificate of Manufacturer Partnership is acceptable.
16	Page 39, Item No.2.5 -Annual Performance Review/Assessment Sessions attended by fifteen (15) SSS technical personnel must be conducted by the winning bidder per year for Three (3) years, at no cost to SSS. May we know if there is specific venue for this Annual Performance Review of Assessment Sessions?	No specific venue for the annual performance review. This will be discussed during project implementation.
17	Do you have an existing WAN switch to split the ISP connection to the primary and secondary firewall?	Yes. WAN Switch is available.
18	May we kindly request to extend the bidding submission to April 16, 2025?	Please refer to Item 11.
INNOVE Communications Inc		
19	May we know if the three (3) years warranty covers both parts and labor? Additionally, does it include on-site support, replacement, or preventive maintenance service?	Yes. This includes the three (3) years warranty covers both parts and labor. It includes on-site support, replacement, or preventive maintenance service
20	May we clarify if the 24x7 on-call support includes both remote and onsite support assistance? Additionally, what is the expected response and resolution time for critical and non-critical issues?	Yes. The 24x7 on-call support includes both remote and onsite support assistance. For the resolution time, please refer to Bid Docs Section V. Special Conditions of Contract item 5.1
21	May we clarify the duration of the firewall license subscription? Is it for 1 year or 3 years?	The duration of Firewall license is three (3) Years.
22	May we confirm whether the Annual Performance Review/Assessment Sessions must be conducted in a physical, virtual or hybrid format? Additionally, are there any specific requirements regarding the duration, agenda or evaluation criteria for these sessions?	The annual performance review shall be conducted face to face. The duration will be one or two days. The agenda or evaluation criteria will be discussed during project implementation and based on your performance.
TRENDS AND TECHNOLOGIES INC.		
	On page 16, 5.3 For this purpose, contracts similar to the Project shall be: a. Supply, Delivery, Installation and Configuration into Operational State of Firewall b. Completed within five (5) years prior to the deadline for the submission and receipt of bids. Question 1.1 As option to above definition of similar contract, kindly consider Procurement of Next Generation Intrusion Prevention System NGIPS completed within five (5) years prior to the deadline for the submission and receipt of bids.	For this purpose, contracts similar to the Project shall be: a. Supply, Delivery, Installation and Configuration into Operational State of Firewall or Next Generation Intrusion Prevention System (NGIPS) This amends Section 3. Clause 5.3 of page 16.
	On page 26, Item n The Service Provider must provide support to Move, Add Changes, Integrate and Delete Configuration Services while under warranty at no cost to SSS. Question 2.1 Can you consider 3 requests for Move, Add Changes, Integrate and Delete Configuration per year?	2.1 We maintain our requirement. 2.2 This applies both to HO and DR relocation.

	Question 2.2 For the "Move" requirement, Is this within HO and DR relocation only?	
	On page 47, Price Schedule breakdown. The description of item 2 below price schedule/ bid breakdown is different from the description in Section VI Schedule of requirement item 2 page 31. Question 3.1 Which is correct?	Section VI. Schedule of Requirements is correct. This amends Bid Breakdown Item 2. 2. Internal Firewall Hardware for Disaster Recovery Site