Responses to Questions
RFP# 12787 Radio Frequency Computer Interface to Activate the Outdoor Warning Sirens

RFP Section	Requirement	Question	Response
General		Can you provide a list of the make and model of the existing sirens?	Federal Signal's Thunderbeam, 2001 & Thunderbolts; ASC's P-15; B&N BN-44; ASC's P-50, RM-135 & T-128 & an old W. S. Darley
General		What communication infrastructure you are currently using for the siren system?	VHF 150mhz band repeater (single) and direct base transmitter as needed plus vehicular computers and mobile radio interface all on the same band
General		Are there an existing radios to use at the two activation points? If so, how will the CSC-960 Encoder interface with the radios?	I will obtain radio model information. It will be up to the vendor is responsible for providing interface.
General		Is there a repeater in place that is narrow banded? If not, when will this be implemented to achieve the narrowband requirements.	Yes - The repeater will be replaced through another RFP already previously advertised by the City. Narrow-Banding shall not inhibit installation/operation of this system.
General		Are any new controllers/RTUs on the sirens included in this project? If so, where?	RFU's are being installed in concurrent projects on all of the City's sirens.
General		How far away from the Encoder will be the Server and printer be located?	The City will provide printer (see 2.4 below). The maximum distance between all items is 30 feet.
General		We understand the conversion to FSK two-way is not included in this phase of the project. Therefore, none of the two-way enhancements will be operational until the system has been completely retrofitted. Is this correct and understood?	Yes
General		There is a requirement for small, minority and women-owned businesses in the purchasing process. A large portion of this work can only be installed by the manufacturer. Can you provide more detail on this requirement and what would constitute as participation?	Areas of opportunity for MWBE vendor(s) should be identified by the bidding Vendor. Bidding Vendors are asked to reach out to the City's certified vendors (a list was included in the RFP) to see if one or more can successfully complete portions of this project with your company.
General		What is the timeline Memphis has in mind for implementation of this project?	The estimated date for completion of all equipment installation and activation for the narrow-banding project is June 1, 2013
General		Can we get a extension on this bid?	No
General		Is there an opportunity to do a site visit?	Yes - A site visit has been scheduled 11/14/12. See addendum for details.
2		Are there any sirens to date that are currently out-of-service and/or need repairs? If so, please let us know which ones and the extent of the issue(s)?	Yes - There are spares to put in service in the future
2		Should the City of Memphis respond back “Yes” to any of the questions requiring additional equipment at the remote siren sites, would the City of Memphis grant our request to hold a Pre-Bid Conference on your grounds and grant a proposal submission extension for the above referenced RFP?	No pre-bid meeting was scheduled for this RFP, nor will an extension be granted for the RFP

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2.1.2	System must control a minimum of 150 sirens at a fixed location, plus one (1) secondary location and two (2) vehicles.	What are the installation requirements for the control equipment at the two main activation points and two vehicles? A site visit is necessary.	Equipment must be installed per manufacturer's specifications at specific points at each site. A site visit has been scheduled on 11/14/12. See Addendum #2 for details
		At the fixed locations, how far are the runs for the coax to reach the outside of the building for antenna installation? Is the control room in the basement?	Controlling equipment will be connected to existing RF infrastructure in building and vehicles; primary control's in the basement of 2668 Avery Ave.
		Many activation centers do not have adequate space for additional computers and equipment. How much room is available?	Adequate space is available.
		Please specify the intent of installing equipment into 2 vehicles? Are there existing radios installed?	Back-up activation in case primary sites are evacuated and/or networking is down; Radios exist at all locations/vehicles
2.1.3	System must interface with other various manufacturers' supplied signaling through existing siren controllers. Possible manufacturers include, but are not limited to, American Signal; Federal Signal and Whelen Engineering.	If any of the other vendors currently uses a proprietary signaling format will you require that the successful bidder reprogram other Manufacturer's receivers to a standard format or replace the existing RTU with one compatible with the proposed Siren Controlling System?	We are currently in the process of having RTUs installed on sirens and will not replace them
1.1.4 ***(2.1.4)***	System software/hardware must allow operation/control of sirens through other computers by remote activation either by connection through the server tower (network connection by internal/external cable, Wi-Fi or cellular interface) and through stand-alone operation by means of two-way radio signal interface through a vehicular mounted laptop and two-way radio.	Is it the intent of this section to supply other activation paths to remote sites through an IP or Wi-Fi connection or just have the capability to access the Controlling System via other remote methods?	Computer access, will be allowed via network connections and cellular signal
2.1.4	System software/hardware must allow operation/control of sirens through other computers by remote activation either by connection through the server tower (network connection by internal/external cable, Wi-Fi or cellular interface) and through stand-alone operation by means of two-way radio signal interface through a vehicular mounted laptop and two-way radio.	What is the available infrastructure at the control locations? Are the systems connected through a network? If so provide details.	The solutions must provide connectivity via either connection through the server tower (network connection by internal/external cable, Wi-Fi or cellular interface) or through stand-alone operation by means of two-way radio signal interface through a vehicular mounted laptop and two-way radio
2.1.6 (Bullets 2 & 3)	System must activate Outdoor Warning Sirens by user's choice to include, but not limited to: · activation of sirens through geometric patterns applied to geographic information system (GIS) mapping via supplied patterns by the National Weather Service (NWS); or · through NWS geometric patterns applied by the user. Vendor shall perform the means necessary to apply outside data received. Subscriber charges to enable this service are not allowed.	Is this NOAA GIS GEO activation required to activate all sirens using this capability upon installation? If the above is accurate, do you want the bidder to provide the cost of making changes to all remote sites to receive the activation commands as part of this RFP Response? If the above is expected, we will need a list by Manufacturer and model number of all remote siren equipment presently operating in the City's Siren System.	We are currently in the process of having RTUs installed on sirens which are already geographically mapped
2.1.7 (Bullet 4)	Software/Hardware provided by the Vendor shall perform, but not be limited to, the following parameters: · activation of a number of sirens within geographic groups for "Chemical" warnings through a different pattern of sound by each siren. This will also fall into a rotation of 3 minutes on and 7 minutes off each 10 minutes, with the siren emitting a different sound.	Do all of the existing sirens have the same patterns of sounds to achieve this function?	Some of the existing sirens have dual sound capability and the remaining are currently being upgraded with RTUs that will allow dual sound capability. All sirens should have same patterns or sounds
2.1.7 (Bullet 7)	· Manual polling of all/single sirens for information such as: A/C power available at their location; condition of each battery at a siren not limited to voltage and amperage.	Are the bidders expected to install remote equipment at each siren site to assure that each siren can report back to the base controller? If the answer is yes, please furnish us with a complete list of all remote siren equipment by Manufacturer, including the model of the radio receiver and controller at each remote site.	No

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2.1.7 (Bullet 8)	· Automatic scheduled polling of all/single sirens on a set parameter agreed by the City for: A/C voltage, each battery's voltage and amperage; rotation of sirens as in silent testing.	Do you want the bidders to also quote the cost to update each remote site to operate on two-way activation and report back as part of this RFP Response? Can you afford us a list of all siren models by Manufacturer to determine if they are presently Two-way capable or will need updating?	No - This is being done presently
2.1.7 (Bullet 9)	· Automatic notification from any siren site for the following: loss of A/C power; under-performance of battery; cabinet intrusion; loss of a leg of A/C power at site.	Do you want the bidders to also quote the cost to update each remote site to operate on two-way activation and report back as part of this RFP Response? Can you afford us a list of all siren models by Manufacturer to determine if they are presently Two-way capable or will need updating? Is this required of all remote sites when the new Controller is installed or will this happen as a phase in?	No - This is being done presently
2.1.7 (Bullet 10)	· Automatic listing of the following for any siren activated or tested: A/C power available, rotation of equipment; electrical flow to each motor; under-performance of battery; loss of a leg of A/C power at site.	Do you want the bidders to also quote the cost to update each remote site to operate on two-way activation and report back as part of this RFP Response? Can you afford us a list of all siren models by Manufacturer to determine if they are presently Two-way capable or will need updating? Is this required of all remote sites when the new Controller is installed or will this happen as a phase in?	No - This is being done presently
2.1.7 (Bullet 11)	· Display a GIS map of Outdoor Warning Sirens by means of icon and changes to icon if there's an activation or problem with a siren. This will be displayed constantly in duplicate on 2 separate monitors each at the static locations.	Do you want the bidders to also quote the cost to update each remote site to operate on two-way activation and report back as part of this RFP Response? Can you afford us a list of all siren models by Manufacturer to determine if they are presently Two-way capable or will need updating? Is this required of all remote sites when the new Controller is installed or will this happen as a phase in?	No - This is being done presently
2.2.1	Vendor shall remove all existing controlling equipment not supplied/retrofitted by the Vendor and install new equipment.	Does the removal of existing controlling equipment only apply to equipment located at the activation points and not the remote siren locations?	Yes
2.2.2	Vendor shall be responsible for interfacing/installing all hardware with provided equipment at static location(s) and vehicular devices. Installation of all equipment must be performed within Shelby County, TN unless means to provide are not available. All expenses for installation outside of Shelby County, TN will be at no additional cost to the City.	Please explain the requirement of section 2.2.2 on page 6 of the RFP.	Anything that is installed in a vehicle for example must be done by a vendor inside of Shelby County regardless of the vendor's location
2.2.3	Vendor shall use data supplied by the City through recent installation of controllers at Outdoor Warning Sirens to integrate into their system.	What Data does the City have available? Can we get a copy of this data?	The geographic lat/lon will be provided to successful bidder
2.2.4	Vendor is required to systematically swap the current operation of Outdoor Warning Sirens from a two-tone signal over a wide-band frequency to a FSK signal over a narrow-banded frequency through means of radio re-program/channel change and software update through computer interface.	Are all remote sirens capable of being programmed on FSK? If not, must the bidder supply the cost to update all equipment to FSK? Please supply us with a list by site of the model radio to be programmed from Wide-Band to Narrow Band. If the existing radio cannot be programmed to narrow-band are we required to replace the existing radio?	We are currently in the process of having RTUs installed on sirens which will have FSK signaling
2.2.4	Vendor is required to systematically swap the current operation of Outdoor Warning Sirens from a two-tone signal over a wide-band frequency to a FSK signal over a narrow-banded frequency through means of radio re-program/channel change and software update through computer interface.	Is this proposal to include upgrading sirens with RTU to allow them to communicate FSK?	No, all sirens are currently in the process of an RTU upgrade with American Signal products using their FSK
2.2.6	Vendor shall optimize all equipment provided at no additional cost to the City.	Please clarify this requirement? Does this mean, change-over the new RTU's to both two-tone sequential and FSK and/or DTMF and FSK which were installed during RFP 3420?	Optimization of equipment established and added to operate this system only

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2.2.7	Vendor shall interface their operating system with the City of Memphis' GIS/ESRI office for mapping at no cost to the City.	Please clarify the requirements of the City's GIS/ESRI mapping?	Solution must be compatible with ESRI ARC GIS 10
2.2.8	Vendor shall interface their operating system to receive signaling from the NWS at static and vehicular locations by means not limited to internet signal, satellite signal or cellular signal provided "as is" by the City. Additional connectivity not provided readily by the City at time of installation will be considered and the Vendor shall provide the means of installation for future use in the form of hardware/software/training on installation.	Please clarify the City's requirements for the system interfacing?	Since this system is operated when the NOAA indicates a tornado or when a weather spotter sights a tornado, it is in the best interest of the City to connect any means capable of NOAA's signal to make best use
2.4	Vendor shall supply a new latest edition printer that prints in black only; preferably a LaserJet style that will accept a 500 page ream packet of paper minimum in its tray or if necessary, a Dot Matrix style to print out information automatically obtained by their system. If a Dot Matrix style is necessary, then the vendor shall provide a covered style stand for the printer to reduce noise. The covered stand shall allow personnel to operate/maintain the printer from a fixed height level between 36" - 48" above the floor. The stand for a Dot Matrix printer shall also allow paper to be supplied from its container holding a minimum of 3,000 pages of continuous sheet-fed paper. The stand shall ventilate air to meet the printer manufacturer's operating temperature by passive means or forced ventilation in the form of quiet fan(s), a mercury style stick thermometer shall be installed inside the cover where it's viewable from the cover opening when closed. • Vendor shall supply two (2) additional new laser-jet toner cartridges or ribbons as necessary along with the printer's initial cartridge/ribbon. • Vendor shall be responsible for providing all cabling (computer interface and power) in lengths necessary to operate. • Vendor shall supply a UPS/Surge protection device that will protect the printer and forced ventilation if required. • All equipment supplied shall meet or exceed the City IS standards.	Please provide the City's IS standard for LaserJet print and UPS/ surge protection?	This requirement is being removed from the RFP. The City will provide printer and supporting equipment.
4.3.4		Page 12 of RFP# 12787 makes reference to a project prebid meeting. We do not see the date for the meeting listed in your schedule in section 4.3.4 nor in RFQ#12787. Would you please inform us of the date for the prebid meeting? Is it mandatory to attend the prebid meeting to respond with an appropriate solution for the city?	No pre-bid meeting was scheduled for this RFP. This is a standard form used for the Good Faith Effort to meet the MWBE goal
BUS 103	System must interface with other various manufacturers' supplied signaling through existing siren controllers. Possible manufacturers include, but are not limited to, American Signal; Federal Signal and Whelen Engineering.	Are you planning on using other control station beside the one that we will be providing? Our solution will provide control units at each siren and we will use FSK communication. Our control station will can be configured to receive FSK, DTMF and TTS	We're converting from our usual primarily two-tone and DTMF signals to primary FSK and old signal combination
BUS 104	System software/hardware must allow operation/control of sirens through other computers by remote activation either by connection through the server tower (network connection by internal/external cable, Wi-Fi or cellular interface) and through stand-alone operation by means of two-way radio signal interface through a vehicular mounted laptop and two-way radio.	How many computers will be used to activate the sirens?	A minimum of 5; additional as needed
BUS 114	Vendor shall remove of all existing controlling equipment not supplied/retrofitted by the Vendor and install new equipment.	What does the city intended to do with the removed equipment.	Surplus for sale at a later date

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BUS 115	Vendor shall be responsible for interfacing/installing all hardware with provided equipment at static location(s) and vehicular devices. Installation of all equipment must be performed within Shelby County, TN unless means to provide are not available. All expenses for installation outside of Shelby County, TN will be at no additional cost to the City.	What part of the system is expected to be installed outside Shelby County?	See response to 2.2.2.
BUS 117	Vendor is required to systematically swap the current operation of Outdoor Warning Sirens from a two-tone signal over a wide-band frequency to a FSK signal over a narrow-banded frequency through means of radio re-program/channel change and software update through computer interface.	Requirement is to systematically swap the current operation of Outdoor Warning sirens from a wide-band to narrowband. Is the narrowband in place? Does this requirement require a visit to each siren? If so is there adequate equipment in each siren for the narrowband swap?	Yes - RTUs in current installation will simply require a radio channel change from wide to narrow band which can be done by in-house personnel