

RFP Questions and Clarifications Memorandum

To: Vendors Responding to RFP Number 4350 for the Security Risk Assessment Services

From: David C. Johnson

Date: November 14, 2023

Subject: Responses to Questions Submitted and Clarifications to Specifications

Contact Name: Solicitations Team

Contact E-mail Address: RFP@its.ms.gov

RFP Number 4350 is hereby amended as follows:

- 1. Section VIII: Cost Information Submission is being replaced with the attached Revised Cost Information Submission form.**

Vendor must include in their proposal a response to each amended requirement as listed above. Vendor must respond using the same terminology as provided in the original requirements.

The following questions were submitted to ITS and are being presented as they were submitted, except to remove any reference to a specific vendor. This information should assist you in formulating your response.

Question 1: RFP, 9.5: “Label the file names of each section and exhibit, using corresponding headings from RFP.” Does this mean that each section and exhibit should be a separate file and that our response will include multiple files on the USB drive?

Response: **Yes, one single USB flash drive that consists of individual files for each item outlined in the RFP Response Checklist with the Vendor’s complete proposal should be included in Vendor’s response to RFP Number 4350.**

Question 2: Attachment A, 11., Section I, Item17: A portion of the Item states, “Vendors must provide a response to Section VII Technical Specifications with the categories in which they wish to provide a response.” Also, a similar reference is made on pg. 2 of the RFP in the Response Checklist where it is stated in point 6, “Point-by-point response to Technical Specifications (Section VII).” Section VII of this RFP reads like a background section which includes dates, project overview, scoring and evaluation methodologies. Is there supposed to be another section we are to respond to that contains the technical requirements?

Response: RFP Section VII Technical Specifications, Items 1-4 are included for informational purposes and responding Vendors should respond to these statements. The Functional and Technical Requirements defined in which Vendors are expected to provide a point-by-point response are in Attachment A, beginning with Item 20.

Question 3: Attachment A, 11., Section I: Many items have references to “this section.” Does this refer to Section I only or a different section within Attachment A?

Response: The reference of “this section” in Section I, applies to requirements/sections throughout the Attachment A document beginning with Item 20.

Question 4: Please confirm 5 total references are needed regardless of how many categories vendors are bidding.

Response: Correct.

Question 5: Pen Testing Questions: How many publicly-facing hosts are included in the external scope?

Response: These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.

Question 6: Pen Testing Questions: How many workstations are included in the internal scope?

Response: These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.

Question 7: Pen Testing Questions: How many servers are included in the internal scope?

Response: These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.

Question 8: Pen Testing Questions: How many Active Directory tenants, or domains exist within the internal scope?

Response: These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.

Question 9: Pen Testing Questions: Is wireless network auditing included in the internal scope? If so, how many SSIDs?

Response: These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.

Question 10: Pen Testing Questions: Are social engineering exercises such as phishing included in scope?

Response: These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.

Question 11: Pen Testing Questions: Are web applications included within scope? If so;

- Are they internet-facing?
- Are they production, or test?
- How many functionally unique pages does each feature?
- How many roles will be testing (unauthenticated, authenticated, etc)?

Response: These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.

Question 12: Could you please provide the 4350rfp.pdf document in a readable format? The current version is like an image format without any chances of using searching or highlighting tools.

Response: There is a Word version of the RFP document provided on the ITS website, in addition to a PDF version.

Question 13: Can the Security Riks Assessment Services be provided with a mix of onsite and nearshore resources?

Response: These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services. Services must be performed within the USA and must be performed by US citizens.

Question 14: Can you provide additional detail on the policies and standards defined by the ITS. What are the main standards to which you align?

Response: Enterprise Security Policies are available on the ITS website. While additional requirements do exist, the State does utilize NIST 171-800 Series Publications and the Center for Internet Security Controls. Additionally, individual government entities may have requirements that are not included in Enterprise Policies.

Question 15: Will the vendor be responsible for providing the tools necessary to run the tests? is there any restriction or specification regarding the tools?

Response: **Vendor must provide all tools/services/etc. that are required to complete all services. There are no additional specifications available other than those that are included in the RFP document.**

Question 16: Do you have specific dates to execute the project?

Response: **The dates of actual services will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.**

Question 17: What is the expected duration of the project?

Response: **The dates of actual services will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.**

Question 18: Can you provide a sample of the State of Mississippi Enterprise Security Policies

Response: **Enterprise Security Policies are available on the ITS website. While additional requirements do exist, the State does utilize NIST 171-800 Series Publications and the Center for Internet Security Controls. Additionally, individual government entities may have requirements that are not included in Enterprise Policies.**

Question 19: Can you provide additional detail on the devices that must be reviewed manually? (Type of assets and volumetry)

Response: **These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.**

Question 20: In which locations should Physical Security Assessments be performed?

Response: **These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.**

Question 21: Can you provide a brief description of your security organization? , including an org chart?

Response: **These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.**

Question 22: What is your biggest security concern and is your security spend and expertise properly allocated to address that risk?

Response: RFP 4350 is seeking the services of qualified Vendors to provide comprehensive security and risk assessment services for projects as determined by public entities in the future. This solicitation is not aimed at any particular security concern.

Question 23: Do you have a clear picture of your overall security posture and of how it relates to industry best practices?

Response: RFP 4350 is seeking the services of qualified Vendors to provide comprehensive security and risk assessment services for projects as determined by public entities in the future. This solicitation is not aimed at any particular security concern.

Question 24: Where is your team located? Are they physically in the client's facilities or do they work remotely?

Response: These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.

Question 25: Can the service be provided from outside the USA with non-citizen resources? Nearshore? Offshore?

Response: Services must be performed within the USA and must be performed by US citizens.

Question 26: 4350attachement_aii_1.5.1: What is the number of locations for physical security assessments per engagement? How many should be included in the not-to-exceed cost estimates for the different size organizations?

Response: These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.

Question 27: 4350attachement_aii_1.7.1: What is the number of URLs to be tested per engagement? How many should be included in the not-to-exceed cost estimates for the different size organizations?

Response: These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.

Question 28: 4350attachement_aii_1.7.1: What is the number of enterprise apps for source review per engagement? How many should be included in the not-to-exceed cost estimates for the different size organizations?

Response: These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will

vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.

Question 29: 4350attachement_aii_1.7.1: What is the number of enterprise apps for source review per engagement? How many should be included in the not-to-exceed cost estimates for the different size organizations?

Response: **These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.**

Question 30: 4350attachement_aii_1.1: Please describe targets for social engineering. What is the number of targets per engagement? How many should be included in the not-to-exceed cost estimates for the different size organizations?

Response: **These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.**

Question 31: 4350attachement_aiii_1.5.4 and 1.5.5: Please define operating system versions for the server reviews. How many should be included in the not-to-exceed cost estimates for the different size organizations?

Response: **These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.**

Question 32: 4350attachement_aiii_1.5.7: What is the number and types of network devices per engagement? (routers, switches, VPNs, etc.) How many should be included in the not-to-exceed cost estimates for the different size organizations?

Response: **These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.**

Question 33: 4350attachement_aiii_1.5.9: What is the number of firewalls per engagement? How many should be included in the not-to-exceed cost estimates for the different size organizations?

Response: **These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.**

Question 34: 4350attachement_aiii_1.5.15: What number of database server brand types are expected, per engagement? How many should be included in the not-to-exceed cost estimates for the different size organizations?

Response: **These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.**

Question 35: 4350attachement_aiii 1.11: What is the number of controllers and locations for wireless assessment per engagement? How many should be included in the not-to-exceed cost estimates for the different size organizations?

Response: **These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.**

Question 36: 4350attachement ai Cost Submission Tab: How many cloud compliance frameworks would be assessed in the not-to-exceed cost estimates for the different size organizations? (EG. HIPAA, PCI-DSS, ISO 27001)

Response: **These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.**

Question 37: 4350attachement ai Cost Submission: The priced items are named "Cloud/Offsite Hosting Implementation" However the services described in tab 1 are for assessing the compliance of an existing cloud hosting solution, not implementing a cloud hosting solution. Is this a typo, please clarify this?

Response: **Responding Vendors must provide services to review cloud and offsite hosting providers for validation that the providers are adhering to the security requirements of the agency, not to implement a cloud hosting solution.**

Question 38: 4350rfp 29 Section VII Technical Specifications: Can the State indicate the technical differences between this solicitation and RFP 4055, released in January, 2020

Response: **No. Vendors must examine all documents, forms, specifications, standard provisions, and instructions.**

Question 39: Scoping for physical controls/penetration engagements includes size of facilities and locations. If there are multiple locations that need to be tested as part of a large organization that are geographically diverse. For scoping purposes can we plan on physical controls testing to be limited to a single location for each size organization (Extra Small, Small, Medium and Large)?

Response: **These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.**

Question 40: The Cost Submission tab for each of the focus areas lists 5 organization/agency sizes (Extra Small, Small, Medium, Large and Unlimited). Most of the services offered do not have an unlimited scope. Will the state consider allowing the winning vendor the opportunity to gather scope information for those organizations as they arise?

Response: **These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.**

Question 41: Are firm fixed price engagements preferred over time & materials?

Response: **These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services. Regardless of pricing model, cost must not exceed the total not-to-exceed amount in proposal.**

Question 42: Based upon the current agency sizes of all state agencies, can ITS please provide an approximate breakdown of the total number of state agencies and how many currently fall into each of the five size categories identified by ITS in the RFP?

Response: **No. ITS does not have this information compiled for the purposes of this RFP.**

Question 43: For State of Mississippi agency engagements under this contract, will ITS be the single billing entity on behalf of all State of Mississippi agencies that utilize this contract or will the vendor be billing each agency directly for each individual engagement conducted under this RFP?

Response: **ITS intends to fund the cost for the single award category and the other areas will be directly billed to state agencies. However, this is subject to change during the life of this contract.**

Question 44: For each of the Technical Specifications - Requirements matrix documents, is it required to provide a detailed response under the 'vendor comments' if the 'vendor response' column is noted with an 'A' indicating the vendor will comply with the requirement?

Response: **Yes. Brief comments or required explanation for each requirement should be entered in the table under "Vendor Comments".**

Question 45: Is the state able to provide a maximum scope for the organization size of an Unlimited Organization' within the Cost submissions tab of the 'Technical Specifications – Requirements Matrix' for Category IV?

Response: **No. ITS does not have this information compiled for the purposes of this RFP.**

Question 46: We have a question regarding the place of performance for this contract. Could you please confirm whether the work must be conducted onsite, or if there is flexibility for it to be performed remotely.

Response: **Vendor must be capable of performing services either onsite or remote. Vendors must propose costs for both, fully remote and onsite service. See Amendment 1 above.**

Question 47: Attachment A.G: Does the State anticipate concurrent assessments? If so, how many concurrent assessments could occur at a single time?

Response: **ITS does expect there to be concurrent assessments; however, we are unsure of how many could occur at a single time.**

Question 48: CLOUD COMPLIANCE SERVICES–ATTACHMENT A, CATEGORY I: Are there any cloud- specific compliance frameworks that the state expects entities to comply with? This would be helpful for inclusion in the checklist.

Response: **These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.**

Question 49: CLOUD COMPLIANCE SERVICES–ATTACHMENT A, CATEGORY I: Please clarify any hosting expectations of the selected vendor. Requirements indicate the vendor is to provide certificate of destruction of any hosted data. We do not anticipate the need to host data as part of cloud com

Response: **Please refer to 4350attachment_al, Cloud Compliance tab, Item 5.1.2.1.**

Question 50: PENETRATION TESTING – ATTACHMENT A, CATEGORY II: Please expand on the definition of the application size and source code review similar to the sizes and definitions provided for penetration testing for pricing purposes (i.e. small, medium, large, etc.)

Response: **These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.**

Question 51: SECURITY RISK ASSESSMENT- ATTACHMENT A, CATEGORY III: Will this Risk Assessment be used in order to meet the organization's Risk Analysis requirement under HIPAA? If so, is it expected that the vendor use a methodology such as NIST SP 800-30 and the OCR Guidance for Conducting Risk Analysis for conducting the Risk Assessment which includes steps for identifying ePHI and specific threats to ePHI?

Response: **These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work and any regulatory requirements will vary and be based on individual**

engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.

Question 52: SECURITY RISK ASSESSMENT- ATTACHMENT A, CATEGORY III: How many policies and plans are in scope for review?

Response: **These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.**

Question 53: SECURITY RISK ASSESSMENT- ATTACHMENT A, CATEGORY III: Do you anticipate all work being conducted on-site, virtually, or a combination?

Response: **Vendor must be capable of performing services either onsite or remote. The onsite/remote requirements for services will be determined by the government entity based on their preference.**

Question 54: SECURITY RISK ASSESSMENT- ATTACHMENT A, CATEGORY III: Can you provide more details on the network sniffing requirement? Do you expect that ALL network traffic will be collected over a period of time? If so, how many locations and for what duration?

Response: **These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.**

Question 55: SECURITY RISK ASSESSMENT- ATTACHMENT A, CATEGORY III: For the log review, how many different locations and types of logs are in-scope?

Response: **These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.**

Question 56: SECURITY RISK ASSESSMENT- ATTACHMENT A, CATEGORY III: For System Configuration Review, does this include all systems or do you expect sampling? How many devices of each type are in scope?

Response: **These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.**

Question 57: Are there any "conflict of interest" or "rules" that would preclude a manufacturer personal or partner from leveraging the security assessment services from the manufacturer of the hardware or software being operated by an agency?

Response: **These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will**

vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.

Question 58: In regards to penetration testing:
For the applications being requested to be priced out: Is this application a single service or collection of microservices?
How many pages, users roles and dynamic inputs per application size?

Response: **These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.**

Question 59: Could ITS please confirm that state universities may utilize this contract?

Response: **IHLs will be able to use this contract for cybersecurity assessments.**

Question 60: Will all work orders be distributed to all awarded vendors?

Response: **Please refer to Section VII: Technical Specifications, Item 2.6 in the RFP.**

Question 61: Could ITS please share more information regarding its need for the solicited services? Does ITS anticipate issuing more work in any particular category?

Response: **These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.**

Question 62: How often does ITS anticipate issuing work orders?

Response: **Please refer to Section VII: Technical Specifications, Item 2.6 in the RFP.**

Question 63: Is ITS limiting the number of awards?

Response: **ITS anticipates receiving proposals and awarding to multiple qualified Vendors to develop a pool of vendors for the following categories: (I) Cloud Compliance, (II) Penetration Testing Services, and (III) Security Risk Assessment Services. Category IV: Security Program Assessment will be awarded to one vendor. Additionally, please refer to Section VII: Technical Specifications, Item 2.6.**

Question 64: Attachments AI – AIV: For the Cost Information Submission attachments, may we add our hourly rates for individual positions (e.g., principal, senior manager, staff consultant, etc.)?

Response: **Vendors may propose additional hourly rates for individual positions; however, the minimum information requested on the Cost Information Submission form is required.**

Question 65: Attachment A Section 26.b: Regarding the language “*The Vendor must provide resumes and references for the Vendor’s proposed single Point of Contact (SPOC) and lead/primary IT security resources assigned to the project,*” what type and how many references shall we provide? Are these to be separate from the references we are asked to provide for each service category?

Response: Please see References Section IX in RFP.

Question 66: Are vendors penalized for not having a local office in Mississippi?

Response: No.

Question 67: Can you provide a budget for this work?

Response: A budget has not been established for this project. However, all State Agency budgets are considered public record and may be viewed at www.transparency.ms.gov.

Question 68: Excel Document, Pen Testing Scope, Attachment A II: For Penetration Testing – can MS ITS provide a complete list that describes the state’s infrastructure?

Response: These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.

Question 69: Is there a DBE requirement that needs to be met for this opportunity?

Response: These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. Any Federal funding requirements that may be imposed will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.

Question 70: How much on-site time vs. remote is needed for this opportunity?

Response: These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.

Question 71: Do you expect the result of this RFP to be multiple vendors being directed with task orders or one or two vendors with specific responsibilities over the course of 5 years?

Response: ITS anticipates receiving proposals and awarding to multiple qualified Vendors to develop a pool of vendors for the following categories: (I) Cloud Compliance, (II) Penetration Testing Services, and (III) Security Risk Assessment Services. Category IV: Security Program Assessment will be awarded to one vendor. Additionally, please refer to Section VII: Technical Specifications, Item 2.6.

Question 72: Attachment A, I. General, section C Overview and Background, #12: How many state agencies will be in scope to complete the security and risk assessments and the Enterprise Security Program?

Response: **These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.**

Question 73: Attachment A, I. General, section C Overview and Background, #15: Would be able to review the previous security and risk assessments? Which security framework is preferred to complete the security and risk assessments?

Response: **These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.**

Question 74: Attachment A, I. General, section C Overview and Background, #16: It is our understanding that for Cloud Compliance Services, the State is requesting a third-party compliance review of their Cloud providers. How many vendors are in-scope?

Response: **These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.**

Question 75: Attachment A, I. General, section C Overview and Background, #16: Do the Security Risk Assessment Services also include internal vulnerability scans? If so, will the State allow the contractor to use their in-house scanning tools or are we leveraging our own?

Response: **These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services. Vendor must provide all tools/services/etc. that are required to complete all services.**

Question 76: Attachment A, I. General, section E Vendor Qualification and Experience, #25: How many prior contracts/past performances are required to be listed and described?

Response: **This specific requirement does not specify a minimum number of prior contracts/past performances.**

Question 77: In Cost Submission in all categories, ITS expects an NTE price for services based the size of an organization. The last category is "Unlimited

Organization". Can ITS define what would be an example of the most extreme case of an Unlimited Organization?

Response: **No, ITS does not have this information compiled for the purposes of this RFP.**

Question 78: In section 4 of the Penetration Testing document, ITS states that the vendor must perform applicable manual penetration testing (section 4.1.1) and perform applicable automated penetration testing (section 4.1.2). Does ITS intend to allow the use of 100% automated penetration testing that does not include manual testing of any type for a given project?

Response: **These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.**

Question 79: Pending the answer to question 2, does ITS prefer that we propose a cost for both manual penetration testing services and automated penetration testing services?

Response: **Vendor is required to provide pricing for all services proposed.**

Question 80: Will ITS allow follow-up questions to the answers to all submitted questions in case further clarification is needed.

Response: **Please refer to Section VI: RFP Questionnaire, Item 8 Web Amendments.**

Question 81: Does ITS anticipate awarding a sole winner for the RFP, sole winner for each attached category, or multiple vendors to each category?

Response: **ITS anticipates receiving proposals and awarding to multiple qualified Vendors to develop a pool of vendors for the following categories: (I) Cloud Compliance, (II) Penetration Testing Services, and (III) Security Risk Assessment Services. Category IV: Security Program Assessment will be awarded to one vendor. Additionally, please refer to Section VII: Technical Specifications, Item 2.6.**

Question 82: Does ITS envision that the chosen vendor and ITS work to establish the methodology together? Is there an area where the vendor should propose pricing for that?

Respond: **These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.**

Question 83: Does ITS envision the Security Program Assessment framework be the same for all agencies, regardless of size?

Response: These services can be used by any state agency or governing authority of the State of MS throughout the life of the contract. The scope of work will vary and will be based on individual engagements between the vendor and the government entity requesting the services.

Question 84: Does ITS have a count of extra small, small, medium, and large agencies and entities?

Response: ITS does not have this information compiled for the purposes of this RFP.

Question 85: Is there or will there be a mandate or strong encouragement to undergo a Security Program Assessment as well as other services on the contract?

Response: Please refer to Section VII: Technical Specifications, Item 2.5 in the RFP.

Question 86: On Pg. 2, The "ITS RFP Response Checklist" states " 6) Point-by-point response to Technical Specifications (Section VII)" (pgs. 29-35). What specifically in Section VII of the RFP does the state seek responses to? Can you please confirm if a response is necessary for this specific section?

Response: RFP Section VII Technical Specifications, Items 1-4 are included for informational purposes and responding Vendors should respond to these statements. The Functional and Technical Requirements defined in which Vendors are expected to provide a point-by-point response are in Attachment A, beginning with Item 20.

RFP responses are due, December 21, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. (Central Time).

If you have any questions concerning the information or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Solicitations Team via email at RFP@its.ms.gov.

cc: ITS Project File Number 43562

Attachment: Revised Cost Information Submission Form