

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
No. 927-10-00001

ELECTRONIC TOLLING TRANSPONDERS, READER SUBSYSTEMS AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Questions & Answers

#	Vendor Question	SRTA Response	Posting Date
1	Is it possible to bid only for the interior mount transponders or is it required from the bidder to also deliver the reader subsystems and support services?	No, it is not possible for the bidder to only provide the transponders. The bidder must also provide for the reader subsystems and support services.	08-11-09
2	In the Bid Letter, located on Page 2 of the ITB, the second paragraph directs the potential bidder, "to strictly abide by all the terms and conditions in the ITB as well as the Procurement and Protest Policies of the State Road and Tollway Authority that may be found at http://www.georgiatolls.com/ ". In reviewing that Website, there is a link to the Protest Policy and Procedure. There is no link to any Procurement Policy on that Website. Is this ITB for a contract that is considered a "construction" contract under O.C.G.A. §32-2-70 (see footnote 1), thus requiring potential bidders to adhere to the procurement procedures of the Georgia Department of Transportation, ("GDOT")?	No, the contract for this ITB is not considered a "construction" contract under O.C.G.A. §32-2-70. The procurement procedures of the Georgia Department of Transportation do not apply to this procurement.	08-14-09
3	If the answer to the previous question is "yes", then, §32-2-66 authorizes Prequalification of Prospective Bidders in Chapter 672-5-.04 of the Georgia Administrative Code (see footnote 2). Has the work in this ITB been designated "specialty items of work" under Georgia Administrative Code ("GAC") Chapter 672-5-.05 (see footnote 3), therefore exempting potential bidders from the requirements of GAC 672-5 of the Rules and Regulations Governing the Prequalification of Prospective Bidders?	No, the contract for this ITB is not considered a "construction" contract under O.C.G.A. §32-2-70. Therefore, the question is moot.	08-14-09

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4	If the answer to the previous question is "yes", does the SRTA have its own Procurement Policy? If so, could a copy please be provided as soon as possible.	SRTA does have its own procurement policy. SRTA has just recently updated its Procurement Policy, however the version that was in effect at the time of the posting of this ITB is dated February 11, 2004. Both the February 11, 2004 version that applies to this ITB and the revised version are now posted and available for download on SRTA's website at: http://www.georgiatolls.com/procurement.aspx .	08-14-09
5	The "if Bidder is a reseller, their supplier must have 3 years of experience or producing Transponders and Reader Subsystems..." [in Section 23.13.1] does not contain the requirement for producing Transponders and Reader Subsystems for tolling applications. Does the 3 years of tolling application experience requirement apply to all Transponders and Reader Subsystems regardless of whether the Bidder is a manufacturer or reseller?	Yes, if the Bidder is a reseller, then their supplier must have 3 years of experience of producing Transponders and Reader Subsystems for tolling applications in volumes of 1,000,000 Transponders per year or more. See Addendum 01 to the ITB, which has fixed this inadvertent omission in the requirement.	08-14-09
6	Does the Authority require the Internal Mount Transponder, "sticker type", to be Break-On-Removal (BOR)?	It is desired that sticker type tags (if such is proposed by the Bidder) are designed as Break-on-Removal, but not a requirement. Note: SRTA has modified its answer to questions 6 since its initial response -- Break-On-Removal is not a requirement of this ITB. SRTA's intent is to procure technology that meets the requirements set forth in the ITB.	08-14-09 08-19-09
7	Can we receive the "Bid Letter and Certification Form", "Vendor Data Sheet", and "Appendix B Technical Compliance Form" in Microsoft WORD format?	Yes, SRTA will email the ITB document in Microsoft WORD 2007 format upon email request. Please submit email requests to bchappel@georgiatolls.com .	08-14-09

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8a.	<p>The SRTA states a desire to obtain product compliant with open standards, but limits its list of acceptable open standards to two specific protocols that are not used currently in the U.S. and are not compatible with any installed systems in the U.S. for tolling or proven in any large scale toll operations. In contrast several other open standards are available representing over 10 million tags deployed for toll collection in the US with the vast majority of these currently in Georgia, Florida and Texas. Title 21, ISO 10374 and ISO 18000 6b are all open protocols with well recognized standards and large deployed populations of tags and readers. Title 21 is widely deployed in CA and CO with millions of tags and hundreds of readers supplied by at least two manufacturers. ISO 18000 6b is widely deployed in the US in toll, parking, private security applications and US Government Border applications with over 10 millions tag shipped from at least two manufacturers, this is the protocol of the currently deployed tags within Georgia. ISO 18000 6b is subject the exact same intellectual property vetting process as ISO 18000 6c, and there are several manufacturers of ISO 18000 6b tags and readers. ISO 18000 6b is identical to ISO 18000 6c in "openness". Millions of tags within Georgia and used in Florida are already compliant with ISO 18000 6b thus saving the state from the scenario of a forced tag swap out of existing tags and delivering the benefits of interstate interoperability if allowed. Given the above facts will SRTA accept ISO 18000 6b compliant product as meeting the requirements of the ITB?</p>	No.	08-19-09
8b.	<p>Is it the SRTA's intent to adopt an open protocol standard or to have options available for interoperability by adopting a multi-source technology?</p>	SRTA's intent is to procure technology that meets the requirements set forth in the ITB.	08-19-09

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8c.	Would the SRTA consider a multi-protocol approach to ETC technology standards thus enabling the ability to read open standard and other established protocols?	SRTA will consider technology that meets the requirements set forth in the ITB.	08-19-09
9a.	Is there any weight given to interoperability with adopted standards by other Georgia government and private entities and neighboring states? How will the SRTA evaluate the technical merits of the potential need to replace the existing infrastructure on GA 400? How will SRTA factor in the cost of the eventual need to swap out 250,000 transponders in the state including the cost of customer interaction, fulfillment and hardware?	This procurement is an Invitation To Bid. Under this procurement method weights are not assigned to individual items as contemplated in your firm's questions. The award under this procurement will be made to the responsive and responsible bidder who submits the lowest price calculated as set forth in the ITB. Speculation on a "potential" conversion is not a consideration in this procurement.	08-19-09
9b.	Is it the intent of the SRTA to gain interoperability with the new open protocol standard contemplated in the ITB and if so, with what states? Or is the intent to establish the potential for future interoperability should neighboring states adopt the same open protocol at a later date?	SRTA's intent is to procure technology that meets the requirements set forth in the ITB.	08-19-09
10a.	Is it the SRTA's desire to obtain transponders that permit patrons to self declare the occupancy of their vehicle? If so, how would self declaration, or switchable, transponders be valued by the SRTA within the assessment of submitted bids.	Self declaration via transponder mode is not a requirement of this ITB.	08-19-09
10b.	Can the SRTA provide additional information as to how transponders are to interact within the Gantry Controlled Access enforcement subsystem described in the ITB?	Transponders are not expected to directly interact with the enforcement subsystems.	08-19-09
10c.	Please confirm that a removable tag or a wind shield sticker tag with a tag disabling device is required to meet the requirements of HOT functionality as to be used in Georgia.	A "removable tag or a wind shield sticker tag with a tag disabling device" is not a requirement of this ITB.	08-19-09

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10d.	How does SRTA propose to ensure unique ID numbers given ISO 18000 6C tags do not have any established mechanism among suppliers to ensure uniqueness?	SRTA will work with the awarded Bidder to assign unique ID numbers regardless of whether the winning Bid provides 6C or 5.9Ghz technology.	08-19-09
10e.	Will SRTA require anti-counterfeit features in the tag such that counterfeit tags can be detected automatically?	The requirements for this procurement are as set forth in the ITB. SRTA will work with the awarded Bidder and the security features of the selected technology standard to address the security needs of SRTA's projects.	08-19-09
11a.	What is the value of the current infrastructure in terms of functional scalability?	To the extent the question refers to the current GA400 toll infrastructure, SRTA has not assigned a particular value, nor is such relevant to the ITB.	08-19-09
11b.	Can the SRTA provide guidance regarding the number of future sites for which FCC licensing may be required?	Please see section 21 of the ITB in reference to SRTA and the HOT Lane Project. No additional future sites are under immediate consideration	08-19-09
12	With regard to §23.8.1 of the Additional Instructions, located on Page 11 of the Invitation to Bid No: 927-10-00001, ("ITB"), please clarify what is required for a "desktop" reader/programmer, as this request conflicts with the §14 (last bullet point) item requesting seven (7) "portable" reader/programmers. Does SRTA wish to have "portable" readers in addition to "desktop" reader/programmers? (This interchange of terms is also found in Appendix C, Bid Price Sheet, on the first page of the Subsystem Component Prices).	All references to reader/programmers, reader/testers (portable or otherwise) throughout the ITB are meant to refer to Desktop Reader/Programmers. See Addendum 02 for edits to the ITB document consistent with this response. If Bidder also offers a "portable" unit in addition to the desktop reader/programmer, Bidder may include such in the spare parts list on Table 5.1 of Appendix C.	08-19-09
13	Will SRTA please clarify if there are shoulders proposed between the HOT lanes and the median? If so, what is the width of the proposed shoulder?	The proposed HOT lanes will maintain the existing HOV lane left shoulder widths, which range from 2 ft to 14 ft throughout the project corridor.	08-19-09

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14	With regard to §21 of the Additional Instructions, found on Page 8 of the ITB, "SRTA anticipates using the same RFID technology on all future tolling projects within the state for the foreseeable future without further competitive procurement; however, SRTA reserves the right to solicit separate procurements for each future project if it so desires." If SRTA decides to use proposed technology without further competitive procurement, will the same prices as proposed in this bid also apply to subsequent projects?	<p>SRTA anticipates using the technology procured under this ITB for subsequent tolling projects that begin during the term of the awarded contract; but, SRTA reserves the right to solicit separate procurements if SRTA chooses.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, if a future tolling project occurs during one of the fiscal years covered by the awarded contract (FY10-13), SRTA would likely buy off the awarded contract. In this scenario, SRTA would pay the unit prices proposed by the awarded Bidder for that fiscal year. As stated in the ITB, the State of Georgia's fiscal year runs from July 1st to Jun 30th of the following calendar year. Prices for any renewal option beyond the initial term would be mutually agreed upon between SRTA and the Vendor. See Addendum 02.</p>	08-19-09
15	Is there a planned reduction of the payment and performance bonds, if any, over the contract period, e.g. after the completion of project stages?	There are no bid, payment or performance bonds required under this ITB or the contract that is expected to be awarded pursuant to this ITB.	08-19-09
16	Please instruct the Vendor how to ascertain the amounts for the bid bond and for the performance and payment bond, if any, since the quantities for the transponders are included only for evaluation purposes?	There are no bid, payment or performance bonds required under this ITB or the contract that is expected to be awarded pursuant to this ITB.	08-19-09

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17	SRTA reserves the right to purchase any of the transponders offered. Can the Vendor split the Interior Mount Transponders on the Bid Price Sheet into a non-feedback category and an audio feedback category?	Yes, the Bidder may split their proposed Interior Mount Transponders into a non-feedback category and an audio feedback category, especially since SRTA desires pricing for both (if both are available in Bidder's proposed solution). However, in accordance with Section 14 of the ITB, "although pricing is desired for both Non-Feedback as well as Audio Feedback Interior Mount Transponders (if available), in order to allow for an "apples to apples" bid evaluation of price, only the lowest priced Interior Mount Transponders offered in response to this ITB will be used for Interior Mount Transponder evaluation purposes." In other words, for evaluation purposes, SRTA will apply the price of the lowest priced Interior Mount Transponder for all of the Interior Mount Transponder volume listed. Similarly, SRTA will plug in the price of the lowest priced Interior Mount Transponder for the Exterior Mount Transponder volume if vendor's proposed solution does not require an Exterior Mount Transponder to read certain vehicle types.	08-19-09
18	If the maintenance for the proposed equipment will be provided by the System Integrator, as detailed in the ITB, should Note 1, of Schedule 5.1, which reads, "The diagnostic tools required for maintenance must be included in the spare parts," be removed?	A price for all diagnostic tools required for maintenance should be included so that such tools are available to either SRTA or SRTA's System Integrator through the contract awarded pursuant to this ITB. Including such prices will allow SRTA the ability to purchase such tools if and when needed.	08-19-09
19	Considering the fact that the ITB and the SRTA Website are silent on the procurement policy, and that [Vendor] is waiting for SRTA's response to questions relating to the policy, will SRTA please extend the time for follow-up questions until 48 hours following the SRTA's posting of the answers to the procurement policy questions that were asked by [Vendor] on August 13, 2009?	No.	08-19-09

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20	Considering the same facts as above question, will SRTA please extend the time for the Bid Due Date and Opening from September 8, 2009 until September 14, 2009?	No.	08-19-09

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