

New York Department of Health
IFB for Web-based Beach Monitoring & Notification System
(FAU #1010180225 – Task #7153)
Questions & Answers

- Q1. Please confirm the State employs thirty (30) full-time equivalents (FTE) field inspection staff in the Beach Monitoring Program. FTE is defined as an inspector that spends more than 50% of his/her time in the field.
- A1. An FTE is equivalent to one staff person working 220 days per year. We feel this question is not relevant for a bid submittal.
- Q2. Our proposed solution contains 2 components: a MS .NET smart client database backend, and a browser-based public-facing utility. We understand that the public-facing component is a requirement for this effort. Will the State accept a native Windows application for maximum State end-user functionality?
- A2. Yes. The intent is to establish a hosted system that meets the program needs not to create an application code to run within the DOH Commerce structure.
- Q3. IFB page 6 of 11: Regarding the M/WBE Utilization Plan, please confirm all bidders are required to research, find and utilize M/WBEs for efforts that equate to 10% of the bidder's total contract amount.
- A3. Yes. 10% is a goal of the Department of Health and we ask that everyone put forward their best effort to find and utilize M/WBEs.
- Q4. IFB page 9 of 11: The State notes a requirement for a Web-based system that must not require software other than typical PC with Windows XP, Vista or Windows 7. If the back-end application requires a one-time "smart client" installation which includes Crystal DLLs, Microsoft Data Access Components 2.8, Windows Installer 3.1, .NET Framework 3.5 SP1, and Crystal Reports for .NET Framework 2.0 prerequisites, is this acceptable?
- A4. The intent is for all public functions and most, if not all, of the beach monitoring and notification activities to be browser/web-based. System management and administration tasks may benefit from additional functionality provided by more robust client components.
- Q5. IFB page 9 of 11: Please provide a specific example that underscores the desired security model.
- A5. Assigned user ID's and passwords should limit user access to manipulate information only associated with beaches within each user's jurisdiction.

Q6. IFB page 9 of 11: Please define “simultaneous entry”. Is the State indicating a desire to apply a single action against multiple beaches with one data entry step?

A6. Yes. The bidder must design the system to allow users to apply actions against multiple beaches within their jurisdiction. For example, designate that beaches within a defined geographic group are under advisory.

Q7. IFB page 9 of 11: Please describe how the “rolling” 30-day geometric mean is calculated.

A7. Formula from Wikipedia

The geometric mean of a data set $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$ is given by:

$$\left(\prod_{i=1}^n a_i\right)^{1/n} = \sqrt[n]{a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n}.$$

The mean of the logarithms of the results of the total number of samples collected in a 30 day period. The values of the dataset are based on the monitoring results from the previous 30 days of the calculation and should include at least 5 samples.

Q8. IFB page 9 of 11: Regarding the mechanism to import from other beach data systems, please provide details on prescribed format if one exists.

A8. As noted in the IFB, an example is an excel spreadsheet of data fields in a certain order via ftp or other software or application. The prescribed format will be developed by the awardee in consultation with NYSDOH and local beach program managers, the data components are defined by EPA requirements.

Q9. IFB page 10 of 11: Regarding the secure read-only map of locations and pollution sources, what is the nature of that map? Is it a GIS layer or is it a graphics file?

A9. A locational dataset or GIS layer will be provided by DOH.

Q10. IFB page 10 of 11: Regarding the Public Web Site, please define/describe the “select users” that will update the website.

A10. Assigned user ID’s and passwords should limit user access to manipulate information only associated with beaches within each user’s jurisdiction. Additional rights to review and publish beach notifications and/or monitoring data to the public site should be based on the user right management requirement.

"User right management is required. NYSDOH statewide program managers must be able to grant subsequent user rights to designate access and management rights to

enter or manage data for groups of beaches as defined by the geographic location of beaches, other specified beach groupings or the hierarchical statewide program management structure.”

The “select users” may be designated local beach program managers or other special designees whose user rights must allow review and “publishing” the information to the public site.

Q11. IFB page 11 of 11: Regarding Report Management, please define/describe the “user ID group”.

A11. A “user ID group” is a number of ID’s/user rights that are associated with a particular group of beaches based on local jurisdiction over the beach.

Assigned user ID’s and passwords should limit user access to manipulate information and create/generate reports for beach information associated with beaches within each user’s jurisdiction. Public, local users, local managers, central/statewide user, central (statewide) managers would address the user types for security groups to control what they can do. A county or jurisdictional filter would then have to be applied to limit what locations they could see and/or manage.

Q12. IFB page 11 of 11: Regarding System Support, please define the “other users” that will require training/mentoring.

A12. The other users will be local beach program management staff. For example, local health departments or New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation beach program staff.