



**Addendum No. 2 – November 20, 2023**  
**RFP23125: Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)**  
**Solution**

**QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES TO PROPOSER RFP INQUIRIES**

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1. **Are the 5/8" meters 5/8" x 1/2" or 5/8" x 3/4" meters (size of the connection)?**  
5/8" x 1/2"
2. **Are the 3/4" meters 7-1/2" lay length or 9" lay length?**  
9"
3. **Are the 1-1/2" & 2" meters threaded or 2-bolt elliptical flange?**  
-Could be both
4. **What is the lay length for the commercial meter sizes?**
  - a. **2" meters (10", 15-1/4" or 17")?**  
No 10", could be 15" or 17"
  - b. **3" meters (12" or 17" or other)?**  
17"
  - c. **4" meters (14" or 20" or other)?**  
20"
  - d. **6" meters**  
24"
  - e. **8" meters**  
Vary. Depending on brands
  - f. **10" meters**  
Vary. Depending on brands
  - g. **12" meters**  
Unsure. Only have one in our system.

These are to the best of our knowledge. Please plan accordingly within your proposal to accommodate various lay length dimensions.

5. **Are there any meters that are installed in pits?**
  - a. **If so, how many and what sizes?**  
Numerous lawn meters. 4"-12" meters in deep pits
  - b. **Do the pits fill up with water, so the meter needs to be IP68-rated for submersible under water?**  
Some. Do not have an exact number

**6. Are there any meters installed in mobile homes?**

- a. If so, how many?**
- b. Who is responsible for heat tape (homeowner or city)?**
- c. Are meter jackets required?**

No. Mobile homes are all private meters. There is one main meter for each mobile home park.

**7. Existing Neptune Meters:**

- a. What type of register is on the existing Neptune meters?**  
Procoder, Proread, Mach 10 r900i
- b. What type of output does the existing Neptune meters have (bare wire, nicor or Itron In-line connector)?**  
Bare wire

**8. What would be an estimated number of meters with remote shutoff valves that the city would be interested in implementing?**

City of Fargo plans for between 2,500 and 3,000

**9. Is AIS (American Iron & Steel) required on this project?**

The City is planning to utilize a Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan for this project. Because the City does not establish the CWSRF project requirements, the City asks that Proposers direct all questions to the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Municipal Facilities to ensure their proposals align with the funding requirements.

**10. Are there any bid bonds, performance bonds or payment bonds required on this project?**

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**11. What is the utility billing software?**

Continental Utility Solutions Inc. (CUSI)

- a. If the utility billing company charges the city for setup and integration of a file format of the importing/exporting, will the city be responsible for any charges?**  
City will be responsible for integration
- b. If the utility billing company charges the city to import the new meter information (meter swaps), will the city be responsible for any charges?**  
City responsibility
- c. Does the city have a contact person at the utility billing company?**  
Jonathon Witt

**12. Will the City of Fargo consider an extension on the December 8<sup>th</sup> RFP deadline?**

Not at this time

**13. What are the start and end dates of the Project**

**a. Total length of project**

Per the RFP, the City is requesting Proposers to include a realistic schedule for when a Proposer feels they can complete the Project. Schedules should be included for each bid package a Proposer includes within their proposal.

**b. Pricing firm for the length of project**

Yes. Change orders and amendments to the Contract may occur, but proposed price will be utilized.

**c. Price escalations allowed**

No. The total contract price will be identified prior to executing an agreement with the selected Proposer. Although change orders and/or amendments to the Contract may occur, general price escalations will not be means for increasing the contract price.

**14. Estimated Award date of project**

Expected to be awarded in early 2024. However, this is contingent on successful negotiations with the selected Proposer.

**15. What is the Current CIS/Utility Billing Solution?**

See question 11

**16. What is the current payment processor?**

CUSI has a proprietary payment processor solution

**17. How do you want the propagation study submitted? Email or Hard Copy?**

Either way is sufficient.

**18. What is the timeframe for installation of the meters? Install all meters within 1-year, 2-years, 3-years, etc.?**

Per the RFP, the City is requesting Proposers to include a realistic schedule for when a Proposer feels they can complete the Project. Schedules should be included for each bid package a Proposer includes within their proposal. It's anticipated that a schedule will be included within the final agreement between the successful proposer and the City.

**19. Is a license plumber required to perform the replacement of the meters?**

Yes

**20. Are all meters a "remove and replace" of a "like-for-like" meter?**

**a. If meter is going to be downsized, will it be a change order for the reducing adapters?**

No meters are going to be downsized on this project. If a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " meter is removed, a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " meter shall be installed. However, the water meter end connection dimensions are not known for every meter. Proposers shall appropriately plan for discrepancies.

**b. If a shutoff valve is bad, who is responsible for the cost of replacement (homeowner, city or built into RFP pricing)?**

If a shutoff valve is bad and in need of replacement, the City desires for the successful Proposer to replace the shutoff valve. Prior to executing the final agreement between the successful Proposer and the City, the City intends to negotiate a unit price for replacement of a single shutoff valve. Proposer will be paid in accordance with the agreed upon unit price.

**21. Are there any new meter “cut-ins” during the installation process?**

The City does not anticipate new meter “cut-ins” during the installation process

**22. If a shutoff valve is bad, will the city come and turn off the water at the curb stop?**

Yes

**23. How are meters installed in the residential homes, using meter couplings or meter setters?**

To the City’s knowledge, meter couplings are installed.

**24. If no meter setters, has the city generally installed a grounding wiring around the meters in case the home is grounded to the water pipe?**

Best practice has included a grounding wire.

**25. Are grounding wires required or would this be a change order (add-on)?**

The City desires a solution that meets applicable codes, regulations, and standards. Proposers shall include equipment and appurtenances within their proposal that meet applicable codes, including the National Electrical Code (NEC). The City desires an all-inclusive cost to this project. Please include the inclusion and exclusion of your proposal price.

**26. Are all meters installed horizontally? If a meter is installed vertically, is it ok to level installed vertically with the solid-state meters (mechanical should be horizontal)?**

The City does not have this information readily available, but it’s estimated that the majority of meters are installed horizontally. However, some vertical installations may exist in the system. Please plan accordingly within your proposal to accommodate various installation orientations.

**27. Who is responsible for disposal (recycling) the old meters?**

City will collect old meters at a specific location

**28. Are pictures available of the larger commercial meters?**

The City does not have any pictures of larger meters

**29. Are there a specific number of customer notifications that the contractor is responsible for (example: 3 notifications) before the account is turned back over to the city?**

Proposers shall clearly document their approach to customer outreach within their proposal, and compile a price that is aligned with said approach. Proposers shall indicate the number of attempts prior to recommendation of an account being turned back over to the City.

**30. If the customer does not respond after the defined number of customer notifications, will the city be sending a “shut-off” letter to get the customer to respond?**

The City will proceed with outreach efforts if a proposer’s outreach method is unsuccessful. These City outreach efforts are not yet determined.

**During the pre-bid meeting, it was discussed that if the manufacturer does not meet a requirement of the bid specifications, that they should still bid and just explain how they product works compared to bid specifications. Please confirm?**

The City does not aim to discourage a Proposer from submitting a proposal. The City recognizes that a comprehensive list of specifications was provided in the RFP. The City asks that Proposer’s clearly state within their proposal where a specification cannot be met.

If these specifications would eliminate our bid response, we would prefer to know now. Here are some bid specifications that not all manufacturers might not be able to meet:

- **3.1-l: The manufacturer shall warranty the main case for a period of 25 years from the date of shipment.**
  - **Most manufacturers have a 20-year warranty as the battery has an end of life of approximately 20-years.**

This will not be cause for rejecting your proposal. Please clearly state your warranty.

- **3.2.3-c: All endpoints shall be separate from the meter/register housing.**
  - **Our manufacturer has an integrated AMI radio built into the meter (all-in-one meter and radio). There are many advantages to this design that we will share in the RFP response.**

This will not be cause for rejecting your proposal. Please clearly state whether or not your endpoints are separate or integrated.

- **3.2.2-n: Reading intervals shall include 5 minutes for 7 days, 15 minutes for 14 days, and 30 minutes for 14 days.**
  - **We will list our reading intervals in the RFP response.**

This will not be cause for rejecting your proposal. Please clearly state your reading intervals.

**31. Can the City please confirm that based on the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Projects Memorandum dated October 2023 that we will only be required to comply with the DWSRF and CWSRF Treatment Works requirements including but not limited to American Iron and Steel requirement and nothing listed for equivalency projects such as the Build America, Buy America Act requirement?**

The City is planning to utilize a Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan for this project. Because the City does not establish the CWSRF project requirements, the City asks that Proposers direct all questions to the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Municipal Facilities to ensure there proposals align with the funding requirements.

**32. Please note the AIS requirement, Davis Bacon requirement, and bonding requirements (including a bid bond). Is a bid bond required?**

The City is planning to utilize a Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan for this project. Because the City does not establish the CWSRF project requirements, the City asks that Proposers direct all questions to the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Municipal Facilities to ensure there proposals align with the funding requirements.

**33. How many flash drives does the City desire? Per bid package?**

Proposers shall submit one proposal, which shall include their bid packages. Proposers shall not submit a separate proposal for each bid package. As stated in the RFP, six (6) flash drives with each containing an identical copy of the Technical Proposal and one (1) original Cost Proposal.

**34.(Section 3.1) (D) No connections between Meter and Terminal Connector. Are Factory Potted Nicor Plug Connectors Allowed?**

This will not be cause for rejecting your proposal. Please clearly state your deviation.

**35. Are we allowed to propose two different AMI Solutions? (Private AMI) & (Network as a Service AMI)?**

The City is not familiar with the phrase 'private AMI'. The City desires a fixed network system.

**36. Will the City of Fargo provide Office Space for our Installation Team and Storage for Meters and Radio Equipment for our Installation Team?**

The City does have a limited amount of office space and storage space. Details can be negotiated within the contract.

**37. City-Will warehousing be provided?**

The City does have a variety of warehousing spaces.

**38. Does the city have customer contact phone numbers and emails to help with the scheduling of installation appointments?**

If the customer has provided we have that information in our files.

**39. How many scheduling attempts are required before the account is turned to the city?**

Proposers shall clearly document their approach to customer outreach within their proposal, and compile a price that is aligned with said approach. Proposers shall indicate the number of attempts prior to recommendation of an account being turned back over to the City.

**40. How will the account be structured for mailing letters?**

This will be a collaboration between vendor and City. The City will handle the mailings and postage. City will evaluate vendor outreach program proposed.