

New Jersey Schools Insurance Group 6000 Midlantic Drive, Suite 300 North Mount Laurel, New Jersey 08054 www.njsig.org

Request for qualifications:

I-2020-0003

Questions regarding the RFP and Answers

October 9, 2020

Question 1: What type of data is being stored? Is this document storage?

Answer:

- 1) Veeam snapshots and full replication of New Jersey Schools Insurance Groups production environment. 5 delta replication snapshots per day, 6 days per week or more.
- 2) Daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly and yearly backups.

Question 2: RFP page number 5, Section 1.5 Scope of Work -- Does "full access" include physical access (this would preclude public cloud)?

Answer:

No we are not looking for physical access to a brick and mortar location. We are looking for "full access" to VCenter to manage our VM's and our network environment in the unfortunate event that we would need to failover to the cloud. This cloud solution would then become our

production environment, having staff connect to our servers through a secure SSL VPN connection.

Question 3: RFP page number 6, Section 1.5 Scope of Work -- For this requirement: "The proposer must provide a recovery storage device that can hold NJSIG's replicated data and be shipped to NJSIG for recovery. This storage device must be available within 24 hours of notice"

Answer: See answer to question 4

Question 4: Please provide more clarity around what must be accomplished / delivered within 24 hours of notice. The device is initialized and the data copy process begins, the device is delivered to NJSIG (presumably in the Mt. Laurel location) with all data loaded onto it, or something inbetween?

Answer: This hardware device is for failback. If we were to failover our production environment to the cloud and start to write data to the cloud environment, we would need those delta changes to be copied back to our physical environment in order to fail back. For small delta changes we could get away with copying over the WAN but, if we have a complete disaster and our server room is not recoverable we would then need the hardware device to restore our production server environment once it is rebuilt.

Question 5: To clarify, what amount of data must this device be capable of holding: the entire 60 to 70 terabytes as defined in previous requirements, or a lesser amount?

Answer: The device needs to hold our entire production server environment. We are asking for 60-70 terabytes of cloud storage but some of that storage is for backups. We would need the device to hold our last full server replication and any incremental or differential backups (replication). Depending on what replication strategy is decided upon.

Question 6: RFP page number 7, Section 1.5 Scope of Work -- The RFP states: "The Proposer shall have the capability of providing only new current production items where equipment is provided as part of a connectivity or managed service". Use of a public cloud (AWS, Azure) would mean that new equipment is likely "used," i.e., NJSIG would not be the first tenant to use the hardware. Would this be acceptable for NJSIG?

Answer:

We are asking for hardware and software that is not out of support or close to end of life. We understand that cloud storage uses shared resources. We would like the recovery hardware "storage device" that the proposer would provide to NJSIG to fail back to our physical production environment to be the newest technology available, providing NJSIG with the most stable and fastest data restore.

Question 7:

RFP page number 16, Section 2.5.4 Qualifications and Experience -- Would a New York City based consultancy with consultants based in New Jersey be eligible to submit a response to this RFP? Is the proposer's geographic location to Mount Laurel a main concern?

Answer:

Yes, as long as the New York based company can meet all the requirements set forth in the RFP to do business with a public entity in New Jersey.