Department of Veterans Affairs

Lighthouse Request for Information (RFI)

This is a Request for Information (RFI) only. Do not submit a proposal. This RFI is for planning purposes only and shall not be considered an Invitation for Bid, Request for Task Execution Plan, Request for Quotation or a Request for Proposal. Additionally, there is no obligation on the part of the Government to acquire any products or services described in this RFI. Your response to this RFI will be treated only as information for the Government to consider.

Please note the business size for North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Code and indicate if you are a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) or a Veteran-Owned Small Business (VOSB). You will not be entitled to payment for direct or indirect costs that you incur in responding to this RFI. This request does not constitute a solicitation for proposals or the authority to enter into negotiations to award a contract. No funds have been authorized, appropriated or received for this effort. The information provided may be used by the VA in developing its acquisition strategy. Interested parties are responsible for adequately marking proprietary, restricted or competition sensitive information contained in their response. The Government does not intend to pay for the information submitted in response to this RFI.

1. Introduction

VA previously issued an RFI pertaining to Lighthouse, which is an API Management Platform that will establish the Next Generation Open Digital Platform for Veterans and accelerate the transformation in core domains of VA, such as Health, Benefits, Burial and Memorials. This previous RFI is archived on FBO (See RFI 36C10B18Q2600). The RFI responses received have driven the vision forward and helped to solidify VA’s path forward. This current RFI continues the interaction with industry and provides more definite scope and seeks further feedback from industry.

2. Current Scope

While the acquisition strategy for Lighthouse has not yet been formalized, VA envisions that the program will consist of multiple contracts. For example, a contract for recommending policy and standards to form governance would likely be separate from an API build team. The key high level activities below are anticipated to be included within these contracts, and VA is requesting feedback from industry on how these activities should be aligned between multiple contracts. The list below is not inclusive of all tasks required to support this program. Additionally, VA intends to provide the IAM solution and the provisioning of necessary cloud resources to host the proposed technology stack. VA’s current enterprise cloud providers are Microsoft Azure and Amazon Web Services.

* Recommend Governance (Standards, Policy, Process)
* API Roadmap Development (Backlog, Future)
* Outreach (Internal & External Parties)
* Management of API Request Process (Internal (VA)/External (Non-VA))
* Propose, Implement and Manage the PaaS (technology stack)
* DevOps Continuous Integration and Continuous Delivery (CI/CD) of APIs
* Environment Operations & Maintenance (O&M)
* Release Management
* API Analytics
* ATO Support for Environments
* Build APIs including system level APIs that connect into backend VA systems
* API key management or managing third party access (authorization, throttling, etc.)
* Management of API lifecycle in cloud, hybrid, and/or on premise environments

3. Use Case

To better provide insight into aligning activities to contracts, VA has provided the use case below. Please walk through this use case discussing each activity and the contract it would be executed under.

1. Veteran Verification Sample Use Case: VA has a need for a Veteran Verification API to verify a Veteran status from a number of VA backend systems to be shared internally and externally as an authoritative data source. These backend systems potentially have conflicting data, various system owners, and varying degrees of system uptime.

4. Response

In addition to providing the requested content above, VA asks for vendors to respond to the following questions:

1. Describe how you would align the aforementioned activities between contracts, and the recommended price structure for contracts?
2. The Government envisions a managed service (ie: vendor responsible for all aspects including licenses, scaling, provisioning users, etc.) model for the entire technology stack. How could this be priced to allow for scaling as more APIs are used? For example, would it be priced by users, API calls, etc.?
3. Is there a method of paying or incentivizing the contractor based on API usage?
4. Based on the information provided, please discuss your possible technology stack and detail your experience supporting these technologies.
5. Based upon your recommended contract groupings, what contract would your company have interest in supporting as prime contractor? Subcontractor?
6. In addition to the providing the information requested above, please submit the following:
   1. Company Name
   2. Company Point of Contact Information
   3. Is your interest in a resulting effort as a prime contractor, subcontractor, or other interest?

Please clearly mark all portions of your submission that are proprietary and should be handled and protected accordingly.

The Government may, at its discretion, contact specific respondents directly if further information or discussion is required.

Instructions for Submitting Questions and the RFI Response:

The VA Technology Acquisition Center points of contact for this RFI are Contract Specialist, David Melton and Contracting Officer, Mark Junda. Submit any questions to this RFI directly to David Melton at david.melton@va.gov and to Mark Junda at Mark.Junda@va.gov.

RFI responses are to be submitted directly to David Melton and Mark Junda by 3:00PM Eastern Standard Time, February 28, 2018. If possible, please limit responses to 20 pages or less. Submissions shall be less than 5MB.