

California High-Speed Rail Authority



Request for Qualifications for Early Train Operator

RFQ16-13

Offeror Inquiries Round 2

Early Train Operator RFQ Offeror Inquiries – Round 2

No	Question	Authority Response
1	<p>According to Volume 3 Section B1, <i>“Offeror shall provide a narrative with sufficient information to enable the Authority to understand and evaluate the experience of the Offeror Team on contracts of similar scope and complexity”</i>. Is the Offeror expected to demonstrate its experience only through “contracts of similar scope” or is it also allowed to provide concrete examples of high performances in the operation & maintenance activities related to <u>its own services done in the open market</u> ?</p>	<p>The Offeror is expected to demonstrate experiences of similar scope to high-speed or intercity rail. These experiences do not have to be from contracts procured through the open market.</p>
2	<p>According to Volume 3 Section B2, <i>“Offeror shall provide a narrative of each individual proposed for a Key Personnel position highlighting the individual’s relevant licensing, certification, education and experience on similar contracts”</i>. Is the Offeror expected to demonstrate the experience of key personnel only through their “experience on similar contracts”, or is it also allowed to provide concrete examples of high performances in <u>direct and indirect management</u> of the operation & maintenance activities related to its <u>own services done for the market</u>?</p>	<p>The experiences of the key personnel must be from a similar scope to high-speed or intercity rail, but do not have to be drawn from contracts procured in the open market.</p>
3	<p>Even if the Equity Members meet all the criteria identified in the Part B, Volume 2, Section A of the RFQ (Financial Statements and Credit Ratings), is it mandatory the identification of a Guarantor to ensure a larger reliability of the Offeror Team? If yes Can a company act as both Offeror and Guarantor?</p>	<p>The provision of a Guarantor is at the discretion of the Offeror subject to Volume 2, Section C. The intention is that the Guarantor is a different entity to the Offeror (if it is required).</p>
4	<p>Volume 2, Section C: If the Offeror intend apply for through a joint venture, could a Guarantor only guarantee for some Equity Members and not for the whole JV?</p>	<p>As per Volume 2, Section C, a Guarantor may provide a guarantee for one or more affected member(s).</p>
5	<p>Volume 2: Section A: Are the financial capability requirements only related to the financial metrics (including but not limited to size, cash flow, profitability, and liquidity) of the Equity Members proved by Financial Statements and Credit Ratings?</p>	<p>Financial statements must be provided for the Offeror, each Equity Member of the Offeror, the Lead Operator and each Guarantor as applicable. Please see Section A of Part B, Volume 2 of the RFQ.</p>

No	Question	Authority Response
6	Regarding Form A, page 1, please clarify if “civil judgement or criminal conviction in the past five (5) years” should be referred only to contract terminations for default and limited to final judgements?	The “civil judgment or criminal conviction in the past five (5) years” is not limited to contract terminations. Offerors should list all relevant judgments and indicate which judgments are not final.
7	Regarding Form E, point 3 (page 2 of 7) please clarify: - if in the definition of “affiliate”, the word “subsidiaries” (note 1) includes also companies indirectly controlled by the Offeror; - if “officer” is referred to any manager or only to the Managing Directors or to the Board of Directors.	If the Offeror has more than a 15% financial interest in the subsidiary or meets the other criteria listed in note 1 on Form E, then that subsidiary is included in the definition of affiliate. Officer refers to an individual who is authorized to act in an official capacity on behalf of their firm, company or organization.
8	Volume 2, Section A: Financial Statement must be provided in US\$, in case the Offeror has the financial Statement in Euro, can KPMG SpA (Italy) certify the “summaries of the Income Statements and Balance Sheets for the applicable time-periods converted to US \$” We are mentioning KPMG because they are the independent Financial Auditor for the Offeror	Summaries of the Income Statements and Balance Sheets for the applicable time-periods may be converted to U.S. dollars by a Certified Public Accountant in California or the entity’s jurisdiction as per Requirement 2, Section A of Part B, Volume 2 of the RFQ.
9	Volume 2, Section A: for the conversion in US\$ of the Financial Statement which exchange rate it is suggested to be utilized between the two alternatives? a)-Yearly Average exchange rate for the Income Statement and exchange rate at December 31th for the Balance Sheet, or ; b)-Exchange rate at December 31th for each year for both Income Statement and Balance Sheet.	Any conversion to U.S. dollars must be undertaken using the exchange rate as of the date of the relevant financial statement.

No	Question	Authority Response
10	<p>Volume 2 Section A: U.S Dollar conversion of financial statements</p> <p>We need to convert our financial statements from GBP sterling to US Dollars. Please confirm what exchange rate you would like us to use for the purpose of the US dollar conversion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The rate at the date of conversion, · The rate at the date of the end of the period included within the financial statements or · Any other rate? 	<p>Any conversion to U.S. dollars must be undertaken using the exchange rate as of the date of the relevant financial statement.</p>
11	<p>Volume 2 Section A: U.S Dollar conversion of financial statements</p> <p>We need to convert our financial statements from GBP sterling to US Dollars. The RFQ states that the conversion must be undertaken by a certified public accountant. It was our intention to ask our accountants, EY (one of the “big 4 “international accountancy firms) to undertake this exercise. Please can you clarify whether it is acceptable for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · A UK based EY office to undertake this piece of work, or · Whether this needs to be undertaken by a US office of EY, and · If so whether the individual undertaking the work must be a California certified public accountant? 	<p>Summaries of the Income Statements and Balance Sheets for the applicable time-periods may be converted to U.S. dollars by a Certified Public Accountant either in the United States or in the entity’s jurisdiction as per Requirement 2, Section A of Part B, Volume 2 of the RFQ.</p>

No	Question	Authority Response
12	<p>Volume 1 and Volume 2 Financial and other information</p> <p>We are an integrated travel group with a headquarters in the UK and operations both in the UK and the US. It is our current intention that our proposed operator will be a US subsidiary which will be 100% owned by our US holding company and ultimately the UK parent company. This may be an existing company with no trading history or it may be incorporated for this project.</p> <p>Volume 2, section A of the RFQ states: <i>“Financial statements for the Offeror, each Equity Member of Offero , the Lead Operator and each Guarantor for the three most recent fiscal years must be provided to demonstrate the financial capability of the Offeror.”</i></p> <p>Volume 2 section A paragraph 5 states: <i>if the Offeror is a newly formed entity and does not have independent financial statements, financial statements for the Equity Members shall be provided...”</i></p> <p>It is not likely that the proposed operator will have financial statements as it will have no trading history (though it may not be newly formed). It will be part of the UK parent’s group and owned through a chain of intermediate companies. We need to determine which of these companies will be treated as Equity Members for the purposes of Volume 2, section A.</p> <p>We note that Equity Member is defined as <i>“a member of the Offeror Team that is:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>If the Offeror is a joint venture or partnership, any joint venture member or general partner thereof;</i> 2. <i>If the Offeror is or will be a newly formed limited liability entity an equity owner of the Offeror, or</i> 3. <i>If the Offeror is a corporation or other entity that is not newly formed, the Offeror.</i> <p>We propose to provide financial statements for the US Subsidiary that will hold 100% of the equity in the proposed operator.</p> <p>We are also proposing to provide financial statements for the UK based company that will be the ultimate parent and shareholder and for which consolidated accounts are produced and filed.</p> <p>We are not proposing to provide financial and other information for other intermediate holding companies between the US subsidiary and the UK based parent as this is what we are accustomed to providing for similar procurements and we do not read the RFQ as requiring this information.</p> <p>However, it is possible to interpret the provisions we have referred to above in different ways and we would be grateful if you could confirm that what we are proposing to provide is acceptable and meets the Authority’s requirements.</p>	<p>Yes, financial statements may be provided for the ultimate parent company or an entity that holds 100% of the equity in the Offeror. Intermediate holding company statements are not required.</p>

No	Question	Authority Response
13	<p>Transmittal Letter:</p> <p>"It is our current intention that our proposed operator will be a US subsidiary (registered to do business in California) which will be 100% owned by our US holding company (also registered to do business in California) and ultimately the UK parent company (i.e. the Offeror). Whilst the Offeror is not, itself, individually registered to do business in California it notes the representation regarding registration in the Transmittal Letter.</p> <p>Please confirm that this satisfies the Authority's requirements in this regard and that it is acceptable for the Offeror to make the statement in the Transmittal Letter on this basis."</p>	<p>This arrangement is acceptable.</p>
14	<p>With reference to the "Early Train Operator (E.T.O.)" services and the future "Systems and Track Design & Build Contract", we would like to receive a clarification regarding the possible conflict of interest for the specific case of a company that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wishes to participate to the tender "Systems and Track Design & Build Contract" and • belongs (because controlled and/or under common control) to the same Group of Companies that participate to the "Early Train Operator E.T.O." and gets the assignment as a result of the tender process <p>In particular, we would like to know if in the above mentioned situation the company might be precluded for any sort of participation in the Systems and Track Design & Build Contract" or if there could be specific authorization to be required or other mitigating measures to be applied.</p>	<p>Per Section 4.10.1 of the RFQ, the Early Train Operator will be precluded from participating in any of the Authority's future procurements on which the Operator will be providing procurement services. Please refer to the Authority's Organizational Conflict of Interest Policy (link is located in Section 4.10 of the RFQ) for the definition of Affiliate. Under the Policy an Affiliate would also be precluded. Offerors do have the option to submit a request for analysis directly to the Office of the Chief Counsel under Section V(1) of the Policy with a proposed mitigation plan.</p>

No	Question	Authority Response
15	<p>If an Insurance Company rated “A” by AM best, but not authorized nor qualified to issue bonds in California could be accepted as issuer of the surety letter (naturally, later bonds would be issued by an authorized and qualified Insurance Company).</p> <p>If as a bonding capability (exclusively referred to the tender) would be acceptable to specify an amount or would be ok not specify any amount and just guarantee the commitment to issue a bond after the RfP.</p>	<p>It is not necessary that the issuer of the surety letter be qualified to issue bonds in the state of California.</p> <p>Please see Section B of Part B, Volume 1 of the RFQ for bonding requirements.</p>
16	<p>Introduction</p> <p>According to this section, the operator will be responsible for preparing for and operating the initial system pursuant to a Franchise Agreement to be negotiated and executed during Phase 1. For the development of the Franchise Agreement, we foresee that it will be necessary to engage the services of a consultancy company providing support on fiscal, labor and accounting issues.</p> <p>Could you please clarify if these expenses are expected to be borne by the Operator or by the Authority?</p>	<p>The Authority will develop the draft Franchise Agreement bearing its own costs; if the Operator is required to input as part of that process it will be tasked and remunerated under the Phase 1 contract accordingly. However, the Operator must bear its own costs in the negotiation of the Franchise Agreement with the Authority and in the development of the Second Phase Financial Plan. More detail will be provided in the RFP.</p>
17	<p>Liability, Insurance, and Security</p> <p>Apart from the bid bond required for entering into the Franchise Agreement, as requested in the RFQ, will it be necessary to provide any kind of insurance for Phase 1 in case of being shortlisted (performance, advance, or any other kind of bond, prior to the required for the Franchise Agreement)?</p>	<p>Contractor insurance requirements for Phase 1 will be set out in the the RFP.</p> <p>Please note Addendum 2 (Part B, Volume 1, Section B) in respect of the bid bond for Phase 1.</p>
18	<p>Small Business Participation</p> <p>According to the reply issued by CHSRA to question No 4 (Round 1), <i>“The successful Offeror will have a 30 percent SB utilization goal, inclusive of a 10 percent DBE goal and a 3 percent DVBE goal, based on the total contract value over the entire term of the contract. However, the successful Offeror will be required to report its progress towards this goal on a monthly basis.”</i></p> <p>Therefore, we understand that it will only be necessary to identify the firms that will be considered to fulfil those requirements at RFP phase and that therefore it is NOT necessary to include their details on Forms C (subcontractors) or D, and that at RFQ stage, we are only due to sign Form G Overall Project Small Business Goal Commitment Affidavit. Please confirm if our understanding is correct.</p>	<p>Offerors shall identify all known team members in their SOQs. Offerors are not required to indicate small business status of team members at this stage. However, if any team members required to submit Form D are small businesses, this information should be indicated in the appropriate space on Form D.</p>

No	Question	Authority Response
19	<p>General requirements</p> <p>SOQs are required to be submitted using cost terms in United States of America dollar denominations. In order to fill the information related to reference projects, could you please clarify the exchange rates to be used between contracts in other currencies and US \$?</p>	<p>Conversions to U.S. dollars should be made at the date of the financial statement in the period for which the relevant contract was completed.</p>
20	<p>Format</p> <p>The Offerors are instructed to number pages in such a manner that shows both the page numbers and the total number of pages at the bottom of each page. For example, the Volume 1 of the SOQ in its Section A contains several Forms and we would greatly appreciate a clarification concerning the numbering of pages in different Forms. Should the pages of each form be numbered separately? Alternatively, should the whole Volume have continuous page numbering?</p> <p>Our concern comes from the fact that in the Exhibit D all forms have separate page numbers (e.g., Form A: Transmittal Letter, Page 1 of 2, Form B: Offeror's RFQ/Proposal Manager Page 1 of 1, etc.).</p> <p>We understand that the clarification you provide shall refer to all Volumes.</p>	<p>The instruction regarding numbering of page in Part A, Section 5.5 refers to Volume 3 of the SOQ, which has a page limit.</p>
21	<p>Format</p> <p>In the first paragraph of section 5.5, it is specified that documents should be prepared in single-spaced type and 12 point font but there is not any reference to the type of font to be used. Are there any special requirements to take into account?</p>	<p>Choice of font should be based on readability on paper, on a computer screen, and in pdf format. There are no particular font requirements for SOQs.</p>
22	<p>Responsiveness. Project experience provided in the SOQ.</p> <p>Is it possible to include as project experience for the SOQ references from a subconsultant?</p>	<p>If the Lead Operator is a Subcontractor, then their project experience should be included. Otherwise, project experience should only be provided for the team members identified in Part A, Section 6.1.</p>
23	<p>Financial Capability</p> <p>We are a Sister Company part of a state-owned group of companies. Is it acceptable for us to propose as guarantors (both for project experience and financial capability), our Parent Company and another Sister Company?</p>	<p>A parent company or affiliate company may act as Guarantor according to Requirement 6, Section A, Part B of Volume 2 of the RFQ.</p>

No	Question	Authority Response
24	<p>Key Personnel Regarding the key personnel to be proposed for the delivery of the services, will any requirements apply in terms of the staff belonging to the lead operator, or they can be working for the different entities incorporated into the parent business group? In case particular requirements apply, from which date will it be necessary to showcase their membership into the required company? Please, specify.</p>	<p>The key personnel must be fully available to the selected operator.</p> <p>Further, the key personnel need to be available as and when necessary to fulfill the contract obligations of the Early Train Operator.</p>
25	<p>Key Personnel For the allocation of the key personnel of the successful operator, could you please provide further information regarding the regulation that shall apply in relation with labor conditions (bank holidays, illness leaves implying replacements of staff and how these leaves are expected to be covered or compensated)</p>	<p>The key personnel offered may follow the personnel practices of the Offeror, but the Authority will require that sufficient staff are always in place to meet contract requirements.</p>
26	<p>Financial Statements If a subconsultant is incorporated to the offeror team and provides project references to the SOQ, will it be necessary to include the financial statements of the subconsultant as part of volume 2 of our proposal?</p>	<p>If the Lead Operator is a sub-consultant or sub-contractor then it should submit financial statements as per 6.2 and Part B, Volume 2.</p>
27	<p>Financial Statements and Credit Ratings Due to our nature of state-owned company, our accounts are audited by the National Auditing Office, which is also a public entity. Since they have not been audited by private companies, we cannot convert the financial accounts into US \$. Is it acceptable for you if we submit the original Financial Accounts in EUROS and a summary of the Financial Accounts in US \$?</p>	<p>Yes. Please see Volume 2, Section A, Requirement 2, U.S. Dollars of the RFQ regarding foreign exchange conversion.</p>
28	<p>Transmittal Letter In the event of a corporation divided into several subsidiaries submitting a SOQ, would it be necessary to submit a Form A for each of the entities holding an equity interest in the Offeror, even if the SOQ is signed by the main entity as a joint group? Please, clarify.</p>	<p>One copy of Form A should be executed by the Offeror and all Equity Members. Offerors should include as many signature blocks as necessary on the same copy of Form A.</p>

No	Question	Authority Response
29	<p>Surety Letter</p> <p>According to this section, the Authority shall delineate the specific bonding requirements, which will be consistent with applicable law, in the RFP. Notwithstanding, we would appreciate if you could anticipate any particular requirements regarding phase 2, that you expect to have reflected in the Surety Letter to be issued by financing institutions or banks. (Apart from the bid bond in the amount of \$ 1,000,000 for entering into the Pre-Development Agreement)</p>	<p>The surety letter is required pursuant to Phase 1 requirements only. Phase 2 requirements will be set out in the Franchise Agreement.</p>
30	<p>Form D: Information about Offeror, Equity Members, Lead Offeror and Guarantors</p> <p>One of the fields of the form corresponds to “Standard Industry Classification Code”. Could you please clarify if for foreign companies it is necessary to hold any particular registration to get this classification code?</p>	<p>Offerors should use North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes in the space labeled “Standard Industry Classification Code” on Form D, if applicable.</p>
31	<p>Phase 2 Scope of Work</p> <p>During the pre-operations period, according to the RFQ, it will be necessary to establish a Train Operating Company. Our understanding is that once the operating company has been created, it will be the unique operator and that other companies will NOT be able to operate the same line. Could you please confirm if our understanding is correct?</p>	<p>The high-speed rail delivery model for Silicon Valley to Central Valley was set out in the 2016 Business Plan and states that there will be a common operator across the system. The Authority expects the Early Train Operator to form a Train Operating Company to enter into Franchise Agreement to provide the associated services.</p>
32	<p>Phase 2 Scope of Work. Operations period</p> <p>In relation to the operation of the line on phase 2, will the Offeror be the one operating the line or will it be possible to operate through another company of the group? Please, confirm.</p>	<p>The RFP will provide more detail. The Authority expects the Early Train Operator to form a Train Operating Company to enter into the Franchise Agreement and provide the associated services.</p>
33	<p>Past Experience</p> <p>As we are a state-owned entity with a clearly defined company purpose, our project references do not always have a specific contract with a particular client. We understand that in these cases, it will be acceptable for CHSRA that we submit a certificate issued and signed by our company’s authorized representative. Please, kindly confirm.</p>	<p>For state or publicly owned Offerors, project references should be from an external party with sufficient knowledge to provide a reference and is familiar with the Offeror’s services, such as a parent company or ministry of transport.</p> <p>If there is no defined contract term to include in Forms H and I, the Offeror should provide their dates of service.</p>

No	Question	Authority Response
34	<p>Exhibit B: Phase 2 Scope of works states ‘...There will be two periods associated with the second phase of the contract, the pre-operations period and the initial operations period, as outlined below...’</p> <p>Whilst the pre-operations period is well defined we believe that there is some ambiguity regarding the initial operations period which is not clearly defined in the RFQ</p> <p>In the 2016 Business Plan the phases of operation are described at ‘Pre-Operations’, ‘Ramp-up’ and ‘Mature Operations’.</p> <p>It is our understanding that the ‘pre-operations’ period described in the 2016 Business Plan aligns with the ‘Pre-Operations’ period described in the RfQ and that the ‘Ramp-up period’ described in the 2016 Business Plan is the same as the ‘initial operations period’ described in the RfQ.</p> <p>We also understand that it is the Authority’s intention to run a separate completion for the ‘Mature Operations’ phase and that ‘Mature Operations’ is not within the scope of the Phase 2 Scope of works.</p> <p>Please can you confirm our understanding.</p>	<p>Your understanding is broadly correct with the exact terms of each phase to be negotiated as part of the Franchise Agreement.</p>
35	<p>Performance bond for phase I: what amount is expectable? Should it cover total length of the contract? Could it be for 1 year and renewable? Should the latest not be acceptable, insurance/surety companies may have an issue with the length.</p>	<p>Please see Section B of Part B, Volume 1 of the RFQ for the anticipated value of bonding requirements.</p>
36	<p>Will Franchise Agreement require a bid bond?</p>	<p>The bonding requirements for Phase 2 will be discussed in more detail in the Request for Proposals.</p>

No	Question	Authority Response
37	Phase 2 Performance bond, when will this bond be issued?	Any performance bond for Phase 2 is likely to be required as a condition precedent to execution of the Franchise Agreement.
38	<p>Financial Statements and Credit Ratings</p> <p>Regarding the documentation that must be provided from a certified public accountant to be included in Volume 2, Section A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Areas of Financial Statements that would be affected by a conversion to USGAAP or IFRS, and - The conversion to USD of Income Statements and Balance Sheets in other currencies <p>Would it be acceptable to carry out the conversion by a local auditor of a big four firm (KPMG, Deloitte, EY, PwC), included in the audit public registration in our country, or is it required to make it through a certified public accountant registered in the USA?</p> <p>Please, clarify.</p>	Requested documentation may be provided by a Certified Public Accountant in California or the entity's jurisdiction as per requirement 2, Section A of Part B, Volume 2 of the RFQ.
39	<p>If the financial institution is not rated by A.M. Best, then an equivalent credit rating from Standard & Poors, Moody's or Fitch would be acceptable.</p> <p>Just for clarity, by the answer provided we assume that a financial institution with an equivalent credit rating from Standard & Poors, Moody's or Fitch can be a bank. And that a bidder providing a surety letter issued by a bank meeting this criteria would satisfy the requirements of the authority as stipulated in chapter 6.3.2?</p>	Yes, and provided that the financial institution is not rated by AM Best.
40	'Form I' has been amended in Addendum 2 on the right column to reflect the addendum number with no other changes. Will the Authority accept the original form with our submission, as this was distributed to our client references following the original issuance of the RFQ?	Yes, forms that were not edited by Addendum may be submitted using the initial release form. The Offeror is responsible for ensuring that the forms submitted are substantively complete and accurate.

No	Question	Authority Response
41	If an entity submits a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ), can the entity (i) withdraw its SOQ prior to the Authority's selection of the shortlisted qualified bidders, or (ii) after notice of being shortlisted as a qualified Offeror, notify the Authority that they are no longer interested in being an Offeror and will not be submitting a proposal in response to the RFP, and (iii) will taking the action described in (i) or (ii) relieve the entity of all obligations, requirements and restrictions on communications provided in the RFQ?	<p>An Offeror may withdraw its SOQ prior or subsequent to the notice of shortlisting by giving written notice to the Authority pursuant to the instructions in Part A, Section 5.3.</p> <p>A shortlisted Offeror would be required to submit a formal written request to withdraw from the procurement prior to the Authority granting release from the rules of ex parte communication.</p>
42	In reviewing the CHRSA Small and DBE Program guidelines, it appears that the definition of Small Business used in the RFQ should only be used for procurements that are 100% state funded. For contracts that are partially federally funded, like this one, should the definition set forth by the U.S. Small Business Administration be used instead?	The definition for Small Business used in Part A, Section 2.1 of this RFQ is correct for this procurement.
43	Will the Authority publicly post the shortlist of Offerors; and, if so, when?	Yes, the Authority anticipates posting the shortlist on Monday, April 3, 2017.
44	What is the expected length of time between the notice of shortlist on April 3, 2017 and release of the RFP?	The Authority anticipates releasing the RFP in late April.
45	What, if any, submittals must be provided by a subcontractor in response to the SOQ, in addition to Form F? For what reasons might the Authority not approve an Offeror adding a subcontractor/subconsultant? What is the process for Offerors who seek to replace or add subcontractors identified in their SOQ after the SOQ deadline? What will Offerors be required to submit with their written request for approval of the subcontractor to the Authority?	Offerors should follow the instructions at the top of all forms in determining which team members are required to submit forms with the SOQ package. Offerors seeking to substitute team members after the SOQ submittal should refer to the process included in Part A, Section 4.7 of the RFQ.
46	Are there any restrictions on communications by a shortlisted Offeror if it elects not to submit a proposal in response to the RFP?	A shortlisted Offeror would be required to submit a formal written request to withdraw from the procurement prior to the Authority granting release from the rules of ex parte communication.
47	If an entity is not an Offeror and does not submit an SOQ, can the entity communicate with any Offeror without restriction unless and until such entity becomes a subcontractor/subconsultant to an Offeror?	See Section 4.8 of the RFQ for the specific rules of contact between team members.

No	Question	Authority Response
48	What are the Authority's expectations with respect to the protocols required for a subcontractor/subconsultant who is to be shared among two or more Offeror Teams? Will the Authority provide more detailed information on its requirements for the protocols?	Subcontractors/Subconsultants that are shared between two or more Offeror Teams shall establish protocols to ensure that the Subcontractor/Subconsultant does not act as a conduit of information between the teams. Prior to any substantive communications with such Sucontractors/Subconsultants, Offerors shall submit their protocols to the Authority for review and approval, as required by Part A, Section 4.8.
49	We understand that the RFQ provides that "Blanket, all-inclusive identifications by designation of whole pages or sections as containing proprietary information, trade secrets, or confidential commercial or financial information shall not be permitted and shall be deemed invalid." If an Offeror deems information submitted in response to the required Forms to be confidential or proprietary (i.e., disclosure of key personnel and resumes, disclosure of client references to complete Form H, disclosures required to be made regarding Organizational Conflicts of Interest, fines for violating environmental regulations, litigation, etc.), may such pages or Forms be so marked as confidential or proprietary?	Please refer to Section 4.9 of the RFQ for the rules regarding submittal of confidential or proprietary information.
50	In the change the Authority made in Addendum 2 to the Form A transmittal letter, did the Authority intend to say "in the Authority's opinion" or "in the Offeror's opinion"?	Yes, that statement should read "in the Offeror's opinion".
51	Would the Authority agree to limit relevant litigation responses required by Forms D and E, in a manner similar to the change the Authority made in Addendum 2 to the Form A transmittal letter, to those which would not reasonably be expected to hinder or prevent the prompt and full performance of the contract, if awarded?	No. The questions on Form D and E are specific to the types of litigation on which information is being requested.
52	In Section 6.4.3, the third bullet point refers to operation of stations. Would this include operation of stations to provide ancillary revenue?	Offerors may indicate how they would propose to provide ancillary revenue-related services at stations as part of their response to Part A, Section 6.4.3.