

AMENDMENT OF SOLICITATION MODIFICATION OF CONTRACT

1a.	1b. Effective Date	3. Issued By	
2a.	2b. Dated		
4.		For Information, Contact:	
		4b. Name:	4c. Phone:
		4d. Email:	
5.			
6.			
7a. Name and Title of Authorized Signer <i>(type or print)</i>		8a. Name and Title of Contracting Officer <i>(type or print)</i>	
7b.	7c. Date Signed	8b. U.S. House of Representatives	8c. Date Signed
<hr/> <i>(Authorized Signature)</i>		<hr/> <i>(Signature of Contracting Officer)</i>	

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SECTION C -- DESCRIPTIONS AND SPECIFICATIONS

C.2 Scope of Work

The following subsections describe the requirements of this solicitation. **Offerors must include responses to the stated requirements in their technical submission.** This statement of work is organized as follows:

- Data Center/Facilities Requirements
- Security Requirements
- Network Connectivity Requirements
- Service Level Requirements
- On-Site Technical Support Requirements

C.2.1 Contract Occupancy

The House anticipates the potential need for build-out of planned facilities and the potential need to update and or modify existing facilities to accommodate House requirements. As such, the effective date for the base period of performance for this contract will commence upon occupancy in lieu of the traditional contract award.

C.2.2 Data Center / Facilities Requirements

The facility must adhere to the technical and business requirements contained herein.

The facility (either built or planned) must:

C.2.2.1 – Be designed, built and concurrently maintainable per UpTime Tier III (3) or Tier IV (4) specifications.

C.2.2.2 – Provide non-raised floor environment per tenant requirements. The House will be the tenant of record and any other legislative branch or supporting agencies will participate through the House contract. In addition any other specialized requirements that emerge over the course of the contract will be addressed by the House and the building owner and agreed to in writing.

C.2.2.3 – Must provide “hot aisle” containment

C.2.2.4 – Must provide in rack power of 5kW – 20kW per the configuration described in Section B

C.2.2.5 – Must provide 24/7 environmental monitoring of data center and critical infrastructure

C.2.2.6 – Must not reside within a known flood plain

C.2.2.7 – support an adaptive power environment without impacting customer operations

C.2.2.8 – Provide overhead distribution of power and communication cabling

C.2.2.9 – Provide diverse carrier neutral facilities

C.2.2.10 – Provide conduit and cable management to carrier facilities

C.2.2.11 – Support variable sized cabinets for communications, server and storage equipment

C.2.2.12 – Provide location of facility to include street address, city and state

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C.2.2.13 – Provide 24/7 environmental monitoring of data center

C.2.2.14 – The facility must meet the following requirements

Location	Requirements	Miles
Capitol Hill to proposed facility	300-350 Miles (point to point)	
Nearest Railroad	10 miles or less	
Nearest Interstate Highway	50 miles or less	
Nearest Fire / Rescue Station	5 miles or less	
Nearest Police Station	10 miles or less	
Nearest Military Installation	100 miles or less	
Coast Line	100 miles or greater	

C.2.2.15 Facility must be located in an area that has limited impact from weather emergencies and other natural disasters.

C.2.2.16 – Must support the installation of multiple satellite antennas (5 meter dish) and protective domes.

C.2.2.17 – Must provide temporary meeting and/or work space for technical staff for approximately 20 concurrent visitors (either conference space or bullpen like office accommodations)

C.2.2.18 –Must be able to support the placement of long term staff due to disaster recovery actions or events through government provided on premise office trailers (800 square foot trailer), potential one per agency simultaneously.

SECTION E -- INSPECTION AND ACCEPTANCE

E.1 HC.5.003 INSPECTION OF SERVICES JUNE 2002

E.1.1 Services as used in this clause, also includes workmanship, and material furnished or utilized in the performance of services.

E.1.2 The contractor shall provide and maintain a quality assurance system acceptable to the House covering the services under this contract. Complete records of all quality assurance work performed by the contractor **called for by this contract** shall be maintained and made available to the Contracting Officer (CO) and the Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) or their designated representative, during contract performance and for one year after the expiration of the contract's period of performance.

E.1.3 The COR has the right to inspect and test all services called for by the contract at all times and places during the term of the contract. The COR shall perform quality assurance reviews and tests in a manner that shall not unduly delay or impede the contractor's work.

E.2 HC.5.005 INSPECTION AND ACCEPTANCE AUGUST 2002

E.2.1 Inspection and acceptance of services to be furnished hereunder shall be performed at place of performance or destination, by the COR, in accordance with provisions specified in this contract and applicable task orders. The COR reserves the right to conduct any quality assurance reviews and tests it deems necessary **for work performed**

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called for by this contract to assure that the services provided conform in all respects to the contract specifications. Services which upon quality assurance reviews are found not to be in conformance with contractual specifications shall be promptly rejected and notice of such rejection, together with appropriate instructions, including resolution time, shall be provided to the contractor by the COR. Deficiencies thus reported shall be corrected by the contractor in a timely period as specified by such quality assurance reviews or, with written request for an extension, mutually agreed to by the parties.

- E.2.2 Written notification of negative quality assurance review results shall be furnished within thirty days after completion of quality assurance reviews.
- E.2.3 All subcontracts awarded by the contractor shall be subject to the CO's prior written approval and the provisions specified above, as noted at the time of approval.
- E.2.4 All facilities utilized by the contractor in performance of work under this contract shall be subject to inspection by officials of the House.
- E.2.5 The contractor shall respond to all quality assurance reports within the time frame specified in each quality assurance review, annotating what actions have been taken.

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SECTION L -- INSTRUCTIONS, CONDITIONS AND NOTICES TO BIDDERS

L.1 HC.12.003 SUBMISSIONS

MARCH 2004

Offeror shall e-mail its proposal to Christine Stewart at Christine.stewart@mail.house.gov ensuring that it is received no later than 2:00 pm local time on **Tuesday, December 23, 2014**. The subject of the email should include the name of the Offeror and the solicitation number OAM14080S. This is the only authorized submission method; the House shall not accept proposals submitted by fax or hardcopy. The e-mail shall not exceed 10 MB in size. In the event that the proposal exceeds 10MB, Offeror may submit more than one e-mail, provided that all e-mails associated with an Offeror's proposal are received no later than the time and date specified above.

All questions about this solicitation must be submitted in writing by Monday, **November 10, 2014** 2:00 p.m. EST. Questions and answers will be published in an amendment to the solicitation.

OAM14080S – Data Center Operations – Vendor Questions

1. In section C of the technical volume, there is a distance from Capitol Hill, is this to be interpreted as a maximum or minimum?

Answer: [The 300 – 350 is the minimum and maximum distance.](#)

2. When referring to Uptime Institute Tier ratings, will Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA-942) certifications be acceptable (same or better)?

Answer: [Yes.](#)

3. Is Government expecting a certification of the facilities rating or will it make its own evaluation of compliance with concurrently maintainable?

Answer: [No certification is required; however, we will conduct a review of the facility and supporting critical infrastructure.](#)

4. Are there any formal FISMA/FedRAMP requirements for the facility?

Answer: [No.](#)

5. What impact/criticality level of NIST SP-800 is being targeted for this requirement?

Answer: [MA Maintenance Operational
PE Physical and Environmental Protection Operational
PS Personnel Security Operational](#)

6. Page 6, Paragraph 2.2.7: The location requirement is stated as “Capitol Hill to proposed facility 300-350 Miles (point to point).” Please clarify if the facility must be at least 300 miles outside of Capital Hill but not more than 350 miles away or if the data center may be within 300 – 350 miles of Capitol Hill.

Answer: [No less than 300, no more than 350.](#)

7. Page 28, Factor 2 Experience/Past Performance, Paragraph A, 1-3: Regarding past performance, please clarify if the experience/past performance of key personnel and leadership may be provided in lieu of corporate experience. Also, if an offeror has no corporate past performance, please advise if that offeror would be rated neutral in accordance with FAR 15.305 (a) (2) (iv).

Answer: [The House will not deviate from its requirement on corporate experience. Offerors experience/past performance will be rated as stated in Section M.1 Evaluation of Proposals. The Legislative Branch is not subject to the FAR.](#)

8. Please provide the estimated total foot print that is required in terms of square footage.

Answer: Estimate is 30,000 – this should only be viewed as an estimate.

9. Please advise what the “ready for use” date will be.

Answer: Officially undetermined at this time, estimated time frame is approximately 12 months.

10. Can you confirm that you are only considering sites that are specifically within 300-350 miles from Capitol Hill?

Answer: Correct.

11. Award to commence upon occupancy, please explain as some cost to be incurred in cage, wiring etc. preparations.

Answer: Per section C.2.1 – The effective date for the base period of performance for this contract will commence upon occupancy in lieu of traditional contract award.

The contract and actual period of performance will not match – estimated contract award date of January 2015 and move in date of January 2016 (time lapse allows for build out of the facility services).

12. Equipment currently owned by “the House” to be moved by the government to the facility of the contractor upon selection/award?

Answer: All equipment will be owned, installed, operated and maintained by the House.

13. Coast Line means ocean, bay, river, port etc. please explain.

Answer: Ocean or major lake (Atlantic Ocean, Great Lakes).

14. Need for computers etc. for 20 concurrent visitors.

Answer: There is no request for computers – Section C.2.2.8 request work space.

15. Power etc. for 800 sq. ft. trailer and how many agencies may need simultaneously.

Answer: Up to five units simultaneously.

16. Dimensions of the cage and how many agencies may need co-location space.

Answer: Up to five agencies, size of unit has not been determined.

17. Section C.1.1- what does "notice to proceed" mean for contract period vs. C.2.1 for occupancy period?

Answer: A notice to proceed will be provided to the contractor once the facility is ready for use. The effective date for the base period of performance for this contract will commence upon occupancy in lieu of traditional contract

award. The contract award date, which typically starts the period of performance, will be months before the facility is ready for use.

18. C.1.2 - CAO will assemble all requirements for legislative agencies? What period of time is needed for this (can impact delivery times of space and/or services)?

Answer: To be determined as agencies define requirements.

19. C.2.5.3 - Where is MRC defined for the tenant?

Answer: Matrix for MRC is provided in Section B.

20. C.2.5.2 - Where is the MTTR defined for the tenant?

Answer: Defined in same section (table). Further details would be applied during the development of Service Level Agreement (SLA) prior to lease / contract award.

21. G.4 - How many key personnel?

Answer: The number of staff on site from day-to-day will vary depending upon the needs of the organizations. C.2.6 describes the onsite technical support requirements.

22. I-9 - Is the lease/contract considered to put the House/legislative agencies' equipment under the contractor's possession or control for liability and insurance purposes (particularly given the cage space provisions)?

Answer: The equipment will remain under the control of the government for liability and insurance purposes.

23. What is the forecast of rack and enclosure unit count at inception and throughout the lease period? What is the Day 1 Program (Qty of Racks and Load Density) Per Data Hall or are we building the entire plant Day 1? What is the Day 2 Program (Qty of Racks and Load Density) Per Data Hall?

Answer: The House estimates approximately 80 racks. We are unable to estimate the number of racks for the other agencies. The pricing should be based on the primary, secondary power and the rack - regardless of number of racks.

24. What is the expected mix of standard rack widths (600mm/23.6", 750 mm/29.5", 800 mm/31.5") and enclosure depths/widths (24x48 and 30x48)?

Answer: The actual mix of racks (number of racks) has not been determined – the two configurations provided in the question should represent the typical deployed racks.

25. What is the expected count or percentage w/ power load distribution single phase 208-240V/30A, three phase @ 208-240V/30A, 208-240V/50A, 208-240V/60A (i.e., 30% at 30A, 30% at 50A, 20% at 60A, 20% at 30A single phase)?

Answer: The majority of power deployed will be 208 – 30AMP 3/Phase. There will be limited need for 208 – 60AMP 3/Phase for high density blade racks (3 or more blade chassis).

26. What is the current server vendor (or expected operating server) inlet temperature range?

Answer: There is no one specific vendor used – providing one range vice another would be impractical and against best practices.

27. C.2.3.6 – Provide co-location cage assemblies for each agency and also be able to provide sub-allocation of space as needed by agency. Each has additional costs, therefore how many sub enclosures should be added...effects range from energy performance to floor space normally attributed to revenue producing racks now lost to spacing for cages, etc.?

Answer: To be determined. There is no way to determine the requirements for each agency at this time.

28. Does the UPS Design have to be 2N or does the A&B IT Plug In Bus only have to have UPS back up (Dual UPS Circuits Feeding the IT Load, But Not 2N Topology?)

Answer: A&B IT to dual UPS circuits is adequate (N+1 configuration on each leg).

29. How many Utility Transformer 1 or 2, is being on engine considered an acceptable method of maintenance when performing PM's on the Transformer 5?

Answer: The preference would be to have two transformers supporting the facility, but not a general requirement as the generators will provide data center power in the event of utility maintenance.

30. Are there any Arc Flash Requirements/Categories required?

Answer: The agencies proposed to participate in this environment should not have access to equipment that could potentially induce an Arc Flash. Facility staff maintaining and modifying the electrical environments should follow proper safety requirement per NFPA.

31. Are there any blast hardening requirements? What is the standoff distance from the build of the Physical Security (Berms, Bollards, Fencing, etc.)?

Answer: 150 foot setback – other physical security measures will be considered.

32. Is a pre-action sprinkler system is acceptable for the computer room and supporting UPS rooms or is a gaseous fire smoke detection and suppression system required (IE-FM-200)?

Answer: [Pre-action sprinkler system is acceptable.](#)

33. How many 24x48, 30x48 racks that need to be provided to start with?

Answer: [The estimate is 80 for the House to start.](#)

34. Will the racks need to be procured from the contractor or will they be provided?

Answer: [Racks will be provided.](#)

35. Are Communication racks considered to be the same as enclosure racks? Please specify differences.

Answer: [All racks \(communications / data\) within the cage area will be enclosed.](#)

36. How many contained (caged/secured) areas will need to be initially provided? Estimated square footage?

Answer: [To be determined. We do not know how many caged/secured areas will be needed.](#)

37. In what time frame would the facilities need to be ready for use after contract award?

Answer: [We do not know the timeframe the facilities need to be ready for use after contract award. We estimate within one year from award.](#)

38. What is the House's ideal timeframe for data center occupancy? Also, how many months after the award date would the House expect to start the period of performance?

Answer: [Current timeframe estimate is about 12 months from now. The House estimates the period of performance to start approximately one year from award.](#)

39. Under section C.2.1 the House states "The House anticipates the potential need for build-out of planned facilities and the potential need to update and or modify existing facilities to accommodate House requirements." Does the House have a maximum time limit for the awardee to complete any required build-out?

Answer: [Estimate one year from award.](#)

40. Could the House provide a guaranteed minimum amount of data center space and power that will be procured with this contract?

Answer: [No.](#)

41. What is the total projected usage of space and power for Legislative Branch agencies that could potentially use this contract?

Answer: [See the answer to Question #8.](#)

42. Are the Miles requirements measured as the "crow flies" or by road/highway mileage?

Answer: [Point to point per the requirements.](#)

43. Would the House consider adjusting the mileage requirement to broaden the range from between 300-350 to any facility greater than 300 miles from Capitol Hill? If the House is unable to consider facilities greater than 350 then would the House consider facilities 300 miles or less from Capitol Hill?

Answer: [The current requirements are 300 to 350 miles.](#)

44. Could the House provide the minimum / maximum number of (5 meter dish) satellite antennas space that would be required? Do the satellite antennas have to be roof mounted or could they be ground mounted?

Answer: [The total number of units should not exceed three \(currently\). The preferred installation is ground mounted.](#)

45. Does the House have an intent to use this facility for on-going live production applications and systems or shall this facility be reserved for COOP or disaster recovery situations?

Answer: [How the operation is used is not germane to the requirements of this RFP.](#)

46. Does the House require a dedicated facility for Legislative Branch agencies or will the House accept a shared facility utilized by other agencies and/or commercial tenants?

Answer: [Either will be considered.](#)

47. How many racks are estimated for the initial need upon contract award and what is the size breakout?

Answer: [The House estimates 80 racks, other agency requirements have not been determined.](#)

48. Are any racks needed in reserve?

Answer: [To be determined.](#)

49. What is the current amperage being used in the racks (single phase and 3 phase)? (i.e. images, databases, text, voice recordings, etc.)?

Answer: [Combination of 30 AMP single phase, 30 AMP three phase, 50 AMP three phase and 60 AMP three phase.](#)

50. Are there any racks you currently occupy that exceed 5 kW per rack and if so what is the breakout of the kW draw group in 5 kW increments? (i.e. 10 racks at 5 kW, 5 at 10 kW, etc.)

Answer: [There are racks that operate above the 5kW – exact numbers of racks and configuration are still to be determined.](#)

51. Will there be equipment that would not fit into a standard rack? If so how many pieces of equipment, what is the footprint required, and what is the required power for each piece of equipment?

Answer: [There is potential for OEM hardware that uses non-standard racks. Exact specifications are currently not known.](#)

52. What, if any, additional square footage would you require within your space? How much square footage would need to be reserved for future growth for the House and other legislative agencies?

Answer: [To be determined. We do not know the total space and power required for the infrastructure environment. The data center provider should have no issue providing space and changes in space.](#)

53. C.2.3: Is there a requirement for the racks to have electronic locks for security and auditability?

Answer: [No – the cage area will be controlled and audited.](#)

54. C2.3.7: What is the minimum required retention period for security video footage?

Answer: [Minimum period of retention is two years.](#)

55. C.2.3.9: Would you accept the data center's auditing firm for NIST-800? Do the House provide and pay for these auditors?

Answer: [Auditing will be conducted by the House Inspector General \(OIG\) and other outside auditing firms.](#)

56. C2.4.1: Will the House require that carriers have two diverse paths entering from two different points in the data center to provide redundancy?

Answer: [Yes](#).

57. Will the House obtain or maintain contracts with ISP providers?

Answer: [Yes](#).

58. How many cross connects will the House require?

Answer: [Undetermined at this time. Estimate a minimum of two. Total requirements will be fluid depending upon our network needs.](#)

59. What type of physical media is required to connect to the ISP provider (Cat 5, Cat 6, Fiber, etc.)?

Answer: [Multi-mode fiber – termination to be determined.](#)

60. Who is the incumbent and where is the current facility located?

Answer: [Government owned and operated facilities; location is not germane to the RFP.](#)

61. E.1 HC.5.003 INSPECTION OF SERVICES: Will the House modify Section E.1.2 by replacing “acceptable to the House” with “in accordance with industry standards”?

Answer: [No](#).

62. E.1 HC.5.003 INSPECTION OF SERVICES **and** E.2 HC.5.005 INSPECTION AND ACCEPTANCE: Will the House modify its requirements under these sections such that any inspection, testing, or review of the contractor’s records, facilities or services are subject to the contractor’s safety and security policies, and allow the contractor to limit the scope of such reviews to protect data of its other customers or of contractor’s proprietary information?

Answer: [Both Clauses, E.1 Inspection of Services, and E.2 Inspection and Acceptance are revised to include language referring only to work performed by the contractor for this contract.](#)

63. E.2.3 **and** G.9 SUBCONTRACTING: Will the House modify Sections E.2.3 and G.9 by allowing the contractor to delegate certain obligations to its affiliates, and to certain third-party vendors (such as a third-party telecommunications provider) without receiving the CO’s prior written approval?

Answer: [No](#).

64. F.5 HC.6.009 PAYMENT FOR NON-PERFORMANCE: Will the House delete this section that provides for liquidated damages?

Answer: [No](#).

65. H.1.1.3: Will the House delete this section, or in the alternative, allow the contractor to negotiate such additional requested insurance coverage if the contractor believes the requested coverage to be onerous?

Answer: [No](#).

66. H.2 HC.8.004 INFORMATION SECURITY: Contractor will not provide software or hardware that interacts with House offices; nor will its personnel have access to Confidential Business Information or Confidential House Information. Does the House agree that this section is inapplicable to the services and agree to strike this section?

Answer: [The House will not remove this clause. The terms and conditions of the clause apply where applicable.](#)

67. H.6 HC.8.007 AFFIRMATION OF NON-DISCLOSURE: If all contractor personnel sign a non-disclosure agreement as a prerequisite of employment, will the House agree to remove the requirement that all personnel sign the House’s “Affirmation of Non-Disclosure”?

Answer: [No](#).

68. I.5 HC.9.009 COMPLIANCE WITH ALL LAWS **and** House Standard Terms and Conditions Section 15(a) Laws and Regulations: Indemnification for non-compliance with laws conflicts with Contractor’s standard limitation of liability. Contractor does not inspect the equipment or data used by the House in our data center and therefore, cannot evaluate the risk of storing such equipment/data and cannot take on open-ended liability for breach of law in connection with the services. Will the House delete the final sentence of both RFP section I.5 and Standard Terms and Conditions Section 15(a)?

Answer: [House Standard Terms and Conditions are not applicable to this requirement. Clauses attached to this RFP are applicable.](#)

69. I.9 HC.9.011 LIABILITY OF CONTRACTOR **and** House Standard Terms and Conditions Section 15(c) Risk of Loss or Damage: These sections do not reflect the reality of data center services. As the House will have access to its equipment and space, it will have responsibility for its own property stored with Contractor. Will the House modify these sections to state that the House is responsible for insuring its

property stored with contractor, and that contractor will only be liable for loss or damage to House property if negligent, and such liability is limited to the cost of replacing the physical property only?

Answer: [See answer to Question #68.](#)

70. I.10 HC.9.012 TERMINATION **and** House Standard Terms and Conditions Section 16 Termination: Contractor's rates are based on term commitments, and we may incur significant upfront costs in building out the House's space. We cannot agree to termination for convenience provisions. Will the House strike these sections and insert a termination for material breach provision, subject to a reasonable cure period?

Answer: [See answer to Question #68.](#)

71. I.13 HC.9.014 ASSIGNMENT **and** House Standard Terms and Conditions Section 18 Assignment: Contractor may assign and delegate certain rights/obligations to its internal affiliates as part of our recent reorganization to a Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT), and may delegate certain obligations to third-party vendors, such as telecommunication providers. Will the House strike the first sentence of both of these sections?

Answer: [See answer to Question #68.](#)

72. Will the House accept a contractor's standard commercial terms as part of this contract, including without limitation, liability, indemnity, SLA, and warranty provisions?

Answer: [No.](#)

73. Under C.2.2.7 – Best practice for mileage outside the “blast radius” for Washington, DC is generally accepted at 60 miles, and best practice for a remote data center is 500 miles. In Section C.2.2.7, the US House of Representatives states the facility requirements the successful offeror must meet. Contractor has a compliant facility 280 miles away from Capitol Hill, just shy of the 300 mile requirement. Will the US House of Representatives modify the mileage requirements in the solicitation to address locations closer than 300 miles if the storage facility meets all other requirements and is located underground?

Answer: [The requirements will remain unchanged. The mileage requirement may not be deviated.](#)

74. C.2.2.7 – Will the customer provide any information with regards to volume in order to assist in competitive pricing? – Number of Racks, Total Power or Square Feet would all be helpful metrics to determine the size of the proposed data center.

Answer: [The total volume is still to be determined. The House expects to use 80 racks.](#)

75. Please clarify or confirm that the data center location must be within 10 miles or outside 10 miles from a railroad.

Answer: [Yes.](#)

76. Section G.8 – Contractor invoicing system utilizes term “order” instead of “ticket” on reports. Is this acceptable?

Answer: [Yes.](#)

77. Requirement C.2.2.2 – Is non-raised floor environment a hard requirement? If so, what is the underlying technical or physical requirement driving the need for non-raised floor vs. raised floor? Note: Many data centers utilize raised floor tiles capable of supporting 1,250 lbs – 2,500 lbs weight per tile.

Answer: [Yes. Non-raised floor is based on using "Hot Aisle Containment".](#)

78. Requirement C.2.2.6 – Is overhead distribution of power and communications cabling a hard requirement? What is the underlying technical or physical driver for this requirement? (e.g., the same technical or physical requirements driving the need for non-raised floor would likely drive the need for overhead distribution of power).

Answer: [No raised floor environment with hot aisle containment requires power and communications to be delivered overhead.](#)

79. Requirement L.2.1.C (Table on page 27) – Please explain why the data center must reside within minimum of 300 miles and a maximum of 350 miles from the US Capital. This appears to be a very specific requirement which eliminates many vendors with facilities in most major metros throughout MD and VA. What is the underlying technical, environmental, or physical requirement driving this specific distance? Would a highly secure FISMA-Moderate or FISMA-High Data Center located outside the 90 mile blast zone from Capitol Hill meet the underlying technical, environmental, or physical requirement? (e.g., Capitol Hill/Washington DC to Richmond, VA)?

Answer: [No – the requirement is 300 to 350 miles point to point.](#)

80. Would a highly secure FISMA-Moderate or FISMA-High Data Center located outside the 300-350 miles from Capitol Hill meet the underlying technical, environmental, or physical requirement (e.g., Capitol Hill/Washington DC to Atlanta, VA)?

Answer: No – the requirement is 300 to 350 miles point to point.

81. Requirement L.2.1.b.2 – What is meant by “Adaptive Power Requirement”?

Answer: Modifiable power feeds (adaptable) to meet new/ future requirement and manufacture requirements.

82. Requirement H.2 HC.8.004 Information Security – [we] would like to request a copy of the House Information Security Policies (HISPOLs) and House Information Security Publications (HISPUBs) relevant to this solicitation?

Answer: Documents can be provided upon signing of an Affirmation of Nondisclosure Form. Please contact the Contracts Specialist with your request.

83. What is the requirement in terms of # of cabinets or square footage (I did not see this in the solicitation)

Answer: To be determined. We do not know the total space required for the infrastructure environment, nor specific quantities of cabinets at this time.

84. Is there a requirement for an actual Tier III or Tier IV certification from the Uptime Institute, or does the facility simply need to be constructed to these standards?

Answer: Constructed to these standards (construction will be verified).

85. Why are there specific requirements for proximity to railroad tracks, military installations, and coastline?

Answer: The requirements were derived by analysis conducted by the House.

86. In addition to perimeter fencing, is there a requirement for a physical setback (e.g. 200 ft, 500 ft)?

Answer: 150 ft. setback.

87. What is the total space and power required for the infrastructure environment? Is there a specific quantity of racks and/or power circuits required?

Answer: To be determined. We do not know the total space and power required for the infrastructure environment, nor specific quantities of racks and/or circuits.

88. Will you require any Internet Bandwidth or will you bring in your own network transit?

Answer: [Provided by government – however carriers must be present within the facility.](#)

89. Will the environment be audited against any particular security standard? I.e. FISMA – Low, Medium, High, etc.?

Answer: [NIST – Medium.](#)

90. Will you require any remote hands services for physical infrastructure support (I.e. Server reboot, racking, stacking, cabling)? If so, how many hours per month do you think you will require?

Answer: [To be determined. There will be intermittent usage of remote/smart hands.](#)

91. Are there any specific cooling requirements for the HW destined for this new DC space? For example, some mainframe infrastructures require direct rack based cooling systems. Any specific requirements along these lines?

Answer: [No.](#)

92. In the specificity of your security requirements, they appear to be centered around a specific location. Is there a premier geography that you are looking for or are these requirements negotiable?

Answer: [No.](#)

93. The distance from Capitol Hill is very specific. Is there a geographic location that the HoR prefers?

Answer: [No.](#)

94. In the paragraphs regarding the Service Credits and Failure to Perform, there are a number of modifiers and penalties. Being an industry leader in Cloud and Hosting solutions, we follow industry best practices and have SLA's that meet these guidelines. Are we able to propose our own provisions?

Answer: [Alternative provisions can be offered, however it should be noted that the House is not interested in a Cloud solution or service derived from a cloud solution.](#)

95. I.9 (HC.9.011) – this asks us to assume all risk of loss or damage to any property of the House entrusted to our company. In concept, this seems reasonable... however, the House is looking to contract colocation services, in which we do not have visibility, nor will be managing any of the House's equipment that it stores in the

collocated area. Any of the House's designated reps can come into their collocation space, as long as they are authorized by the House, and bring in or take out equipment, and we would have no idea, nor is our business model to track their inventory. Please clarify how the House will determine risk and loss between their employees and our company.

Answer: Any determination of loss would be made after a thorough investigation of the situation and a determination as to responsibility.

96. Is the required data center facility location to be **within** 300 – 350 miles or 300 – 350 miles **from** the Capitol?

Answer: The 300 to 350 miles from the Capitol.

97. Is non-raised floor collocation space an absolute requirement or will raised-floor collocation solutions be considered?

Answer: Raised floor will not be considered.

98. Must all of the predominate carriers listed have a physical presence in the building?

Answer: Not immediately, however there must be the capability to bring in new providers to support network and telecommunications needs.

99. Please further clarify the satellite and protective dome requirements.

Answer: Vendor should have a suitable location for the installation of:

- a slab capable of supporting a 5 meter dish w/radome (if we choose to install) with a South – south west look angle

- Typical slab –

Soil Bearing Capacity 2000 lb/ft² (907 kg/m²)

Reinforcing Steel 621 lb (372 kg)

Concrete Compressive Strength 3000 lb/in² (1360 kg/cm²)

Foundation Length 12 ft (3.65 m)

Foundation Width 12 ft (3.65 m)

Foundation Depth 1.5 ft (0.5 m)

Foundation Concrete Volume 8 yd³ (2.43 m³)

Foundation Specification Drawing 237636

Typical Slab Foundation Drawing 240287

- Conduit to provide IFL, RF, fiber, and copper connectivity to data center equipment. 3" typical with a maximum of four 90° bends
- Electrical power for electronics and drive controller (typically 4 -20a ckts, motors - antenna motors are typically 30a 3-phase, and A/C – 40A 208VAC – 3 phase, exact requirements shall be determined and communicated to the selected vendor are based on location, environmental conditions, and distance away from the data center equipment

- Customer shall provide the satellite dish and radome

100. What connectivity would be required for on-site trailers in a potential emergency situation?

Answer: The ability to extend network services from cage area to trailer.

101. Is the required data center facility location to be **within** 300 – 350 miles or 300 – 350 miles **from** the Capitol?

Answer: See answer to Question #96.

102. Paragraph C.2.2.7: The term “military installation” is defined in Title 10 Section 2801 of the US Code as - The term “military installation” means a base, camp, post, station, yard, center, or other activity under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of a military department or, in the case of an activity in a foreign country, under the operational control of the Secretary of a military department or the Secretary of Defense, without regard to the duration of operational control. Is this definition sufficient for the purpose of determining whether a proposed site meets the relevant RFP requirement?

Answer: Yes

[*Note: Some of the following questions refer to the AOC (Architect of the Capitol). This is not an AOC procurement action. Inference of the House is for all answers addressed hereafter.]

103. Paragraph C.2.2.7: The term “police station” is not defined in the US Code. A jointly operated law enforcement facility that serves multiple local and state police agencies, provides routine work space for patrol officers, houses prisoners and serves both the geographic area and primary law enforcement agencies supporting the proposed AOC data center appears to meet the relevant requirement?

Answer: Yes. And, correction -- this is not an AOC facility.

104. L.2.1: Volume II Technical, Factor I Technical, Paragraph D. 4) Weather and Environmental: If a stand-alone data center building is proposed for the AoC in a cavernous multi-acre protected underground complex, is the requirement to provide external environmental data (temperature, humidity, dew-point etc.) around the stand-alone AOC building in the underground complex, the above ground outdoor site, or both?

Answer: Yes.

105. Paragraph C.1.1: Does the AOC have an estimate of their space or rack requirements?

Answer: [To be determined. We do not know the total space required for the infrastructure environment, nor specific quantities of racks at this time.](#)

106. Does the AOC have a minimum and maximum space/rack requirement estimate over the length of the contract?

Answer: [No.](#)

107. Does the AOC have a min/max space/ rack requirement per additional User Groups identified in RFP Para C.1.1?

Answer: [No.](#)

108. Period of Performance in Para C.1.1 ("six year performance period") appears to be at variance with Para F.1, HC.6.001 (POP "will be for four (4) years)

Answer: [Section C.1.1 states that the solicitation will result in the contract of data center co-location space with a six year performance period. Section F.1 provides the base period of performance of four years. Section F.2 provides for one Option period of two years, for a total performance period of six years if the option is exercised.](#)

109. Paragraph C.2.1: Does the AOC intend that both needs identified in Para C.2.1 will be supported by this contract: "need for build-out of planned facilities" and "the potential need to update and or modify existing facilities"?

Answer: [Yes.](#)

110. Paragraph C.2.2.1: Does the AOC have Tier topologies for their existing Tier III - Tier IV operations? If so, can these be provided to potential bidders?

Answer: [No.](#)

111. Paragraph C.2.2.8(14): Please provide any AOC distance requirements for antenna requirements?

Answer: [Cannot answer. The question is too vague \(i.e. distance from what?\).](#)

112. Paragraph C.2.2. 8(15): Please provide space/ equipment/ power requirements for temporary technical staff and concurrent visitors?

Answer: [Standard office / cubicle power \(110-VAC\). No equipment is needed.](#)

113. Paragraph C.2.3.7: Please provide AOC requirement for security system collecting/ storage durations

Answer: [Two years of video storage.](#)

114. Paragraph G.4: Please identify Key Personnel under this RFP and resume requirements for proposal response, if any.

Answer: [Section C.2.6. provides the onsite technical support requirements which includes an onsite project manager for phase-in/phase-out processes and onsite technical support for completing and troubleshooting network connectivity issues and general facilities related questions and concerns. The full names, titles, place in the organization and brief descriptions of the Offeror's principals and key staff relevant to this solicitation, including years of experience, prior affiliations, and relevant credentials in the areas of services being solicited are to be included.](#)

115. General: Please provide AOC's "Go live" date requirements.

Answer: [To be determined. See answers to Questions #9 and #11.](#)

116. General: Please advise if the AOC intends to have a pre-proposal conference.

Answer: [Not currently planning a pre-proposal conference.](#)

117. Distance is listed as 300-350 miles from Capitol Hill. This is a very restrictive range of distance. In order to have a more competitive procurement will the House consider a data center at a minimum of 200 mile distance from Capitol Hill. If not, please provide the rationale and supporting studies/documents for this specific distance requirement.

Answer: [Currently there is no plan to reduce the requirement.](#)

118. In order to have a more competitive procurement, will the House consider under raised-floor cabling? If not, please provide the rationale and supporting studies/documents for this specific requirement for overhead power cabling.

Answer: [Currently the House is not considering a raised floor environment.](#)

119. The first sentence in instruction C states "Complete pricing as stipulated in Section B.1 and insert here." Is there additional information that should replace the "insert here"? Or does this mean to insert the pricing information in Section C of Volume I?

Answer: [Section L.2.1.C states, "Complete pricing as stipulated in Section B.1 and insert here." This means that you are to complete the tables set forth in Section B.1](#)

with your pricing and submit with your pricing proposal, which should be included in Volume 1, Pricing, Reqs and Certs.

120. C.2.1 state that the base period of performance will commence on occupancy, and F.1 states that the base period of performance will commence upon notice to proceed. Please clarify which is correct.

Answer: [Occupancy will coincide with the notice to proceed for the commencement of the base period of performance.](#)

121. Can the House provide additional detail concerning SLA measurements and timeframes as this significantly impacts pricing?

Answer: [Cannot be provided at this time.](#)

122. Is a computer system that tracks badge cards at the facility level acceptable to the House if biometric identification is available at the cage level?

Answer: [Yes, the House will consider this option.](#)

123. In what time frame does the client expect SSAE-16 to be achieved?

Answer: [The facility will be audited within six months of occupancy and yearly thereafter.](#)

124. In Section C.2.2 the item numbers C.2.2.5, C.2.2.6, C.2.2.7, C.2.2.8 are repeated, and item number C.2.2.12 is missing. Please clarify the item numbers so vendors may respond correctly to each requirement.

Answer: [Section C.2.2 has been adjusted to reflect the correct numbering.](#)

125. Are Volume I and Volume II to be included in one file, or should the Pricing and Technical volumes be separated into two files?

Answer: [Volumes I and II should be separated into two files.](#)

126. B.1.2 Does “The House “want the electric consumption and cooling cost included in the monthly costs: “All-In Model””? (“All-In” pricing model: Price includes power utility cost, cooling factor cost and monthly base rent for the power whip. The Colocation Space included.)?”

Answer: [Yes.](#)

127. Or Does the House prefer a “metered” model? (Metered pricing is provided on a “modified gross basis”). There are three elements to metered power pricing: Monthly Base Rent + Utility power cost + Monthly cooling cost.

Answer: No.

128. How much power in KW does the House want?

Answer: To be determined. If the facility is designed as a co-location based data center, the information requested has little merit. For example, the need for 500,000 Watts of power could be today; in 12 months this could change to 750,000 or down to 250,000. The pricing should not be based on actual need. Rather, the pricing should be based on the primary, secondary power and the rack – regardless of number of racks.

129. Can you provide a minimum power requirement level and a maximum level?

Answer: This information cannot be provided at this time. See answer to Question #128.

130. Understanding it depends on the number of organizations that participate in the opportunity to utilize the new data center environment: Can the House please provide a range of power, space and cooling requirement?

Answer: This information cannot be provided at this time. See answer to Question #128.

131. Can the House please provide the minimum initial build out requirement? And Can the House please provide an ideal ramp-in period?

Answer: This information cannot be provided at this time. See answer to Question #128.

132. What is the planned kWh utilization level?

- a. Can this be provided in either average usage or power level in the minimum environment? or
- b. The average utilization expected at the maximum utilization level based on percentage or in kW hours?

Answer: This information cannot be provided at this time. See answer to Question #128.

133. Why does the House require non-raised floor?

Answer: Raised floor environments normally cannot provide the proper cooling for high density racks.

134. If the House requires non-raised floor for the colocation environment: Does it plan to utilize self-cooling cabinets?

Answer: [No.](#)

135. Is the House reviewing the design to potentially include “raised-floor” solutions?

Answer: [No.](#)

136. Is the requirement for non-raised floor based on a specific cooling technology or design?

Answer: [Non-raised floor is based on using “Hot Aisle Containment”.](#)

137. Does the House require the data center to be within 10 miles of a railroad? Or is this no closer than 10 miles from a railroad?

Answer: [Nearest railroad 10 miles.](#)

138. Please have the House define military installation?

a. Does this include all branches of the military?

Answer: [See answer to Question #102.](#)

139. Please define Weather emergencies and natural disasters?

Answer: [Tornado, Hurricane, flooding, mud slides, etc.](#)

140. Snow of what depth, earthquakes of what magnitude, tornado frequencies?

Answer: [Provide general information about yearly snow, rain and other weather conditions, and general information on earthquakes – frequency, magnitude.](#)

141. If the entire data center site is not fenced, is construction of solid walls, without windows and a highly secure entrance acceptable?

Answer: [No – there should be a standoff of 150 feet or more.](#)

a. Would street bollards between the road and the building satisfy this requirement?

Answer: [No.](#)

142. The area where any portable office trailer would be placed is fenced: Does the House require power to those mobile units or are they self-contained?

Answer: [Yes, power and connectivity would be required.](#)

143. Will the House require electrical access to the building from the trailer parking lot? If so, how much on average when utilizing an 80-foot temporary office space trailer?

Answer: [Yes](#)

144. Does the house require a specific dimension of the Man Trap?
a. Is a secure revolving door satisfactory?
b. What functions in the mantrap are required?

Answer: [The House will review specifications provided by respondents, but currently does not have specific designs or specifications for the mantrap.](#)

145. The pricing note (*) at the bottom of the page is unclear. The term "Everything else" is unclear on specifics to be priced. Please amend the solicitation to clearly identify those additional services that should be included in the rack system price.

Answer: [Pricing should include the cost for maintaining and operating the facility – Security, Maintenance, racks, etc.](#)

146. Will the government please amend the solicitation to provide the estimated power and space requirements per year?

Answer: [Currently not available.](#)

147. What is the purpose for the requirement to deliver overhead distribution of power? If a secure raised floor can be provided, may power be provided below the floor instead of above? If so, please amend the solicitation to permit such a solution.

Answer: [A raised floor environment does not meet the current requirements.](#)

148. The government requires a facility to be 300-350 miles from Capitol Hill. May offerors present facilities that are greater than or less than the identified mileage to meet the government's needs? Please clarify if this is acceptable in an amendment to the solicitation.

Answer: [The current requirement is 300 – 350 miles from the Capitol – this requirement will not be modified.](#)

149. Please define the length of time that 'temporary' meeting rooms and/or work space would be required - will the workers require network access, phones, desks? Please clarify this requirement in an amendment to the solicitation.

Answer: [No phones or equipment need to be provided. Temporary can be several days and/or up to one week.](#)

150. After Section C.2.2.13, there are two (2) listings of C.2.2.8 that appear to be "typos" and should be changed to C.2.2.14 and C.2.2.15. Additionally, Section C.2.2.9 Trailer, should be renumbered to C.2.2.16. If correct, please revise these sections in an amendment to the solicitation.

Answer: [See response to Question #124.](#)

151. Can the government please define the length of time that 'long term' staff would be present? Should the trailer be connected to the facility? Inside the perimeter fencing? Is the office trailer permanent? Is the Office trailer reserved solely for government personnel? Will offerors be required to patrol that structure, or will the government secure it? Please clarify this requirement in an amendment to the solicitation.

Answer: [The House cannot provide a definitive answer at this time. In the case of activation, it would be no less than 30 days and no more than six months.](#)

152. Please clarify that the meaning of "Tenant of Record"?

Answer: [The House is the overall procurement / project lead for this initiative.](#)

153. Please amend the solicitation to clarify the specifications for the satellite dishes with protective domes, .e.g. roof mounted, ground based, weight, and quantity.

Answer: [See answer to Question #99.](#)

154. Section C.2 states "Offerors must follow the provided format, topic area and section labeling provided herein." However, Section L.2 Factor 1 - Technical, states that the Offerors "technical proposal should include, but is not limited to, the following:", and the proposal requirements that follow are not in the same format and topic areas as required in Section C.2 of the RFP. Please clarify if the Offeror should follow the format listed in Section L.2.1 Factor 1 - Technical, and not the different format listed in Section C.2.

Answer: [Section L proposal submission refers back to requirements in Section C.2. Section L states, "The response should include a detailed description of how the Offeror's proposal will meet the technical requirements listed in the Statement of Work. This section of the technical proposal should include, but is not limited to, the following...." You should include any item not specifically referenced in Section L that is part of your proposed technical response. Section C.2 language has been revised as follows: "Offerors must include responses to the stated requirements in their technical submission."](#)

155. Due to the number of requirements requiring clarification, Offeror requests a two (2)-week extension beyond the date answers are provided to questions to assimilate government responses, and to formulate a cost effective and competitive response to the government's solicitation.

Answer: [The due date was extended to December 10, 2014 by Amendment 0001. By this Amendment, the due date is extended to December 23, 2014.](#)

156. In Section B.1.1 Installation / Setup, the RFP requests pricing for non-reoccurring costs in the first table for Primary and Backup Power Costs for four power configurations. However, there is no unit of measure for computing these costs. Are the cost of the power requirements specified in section B.1.1 Installation/Setup representative of a per circuit charge?

Answer: [Yes – circuit “A” for a given rack and circuit “B” for the same rack.](#)

157. Also in regards to B.1.1, we would ask the House provide parameters that indicate the volume for installation (e.g., sample configuration and volume). The non-reoccurring costs for installation/setup are dependent on installation volume as the required infrastructure is highly dependent on load, power density and other factors.

Answer: [This information is not currently available.](#)

158. In Section B.1.2 Monthly Reoccurring Charges, the RFP requests pricing for reoccurring costs in the table for Primary and Backup Power Costs for four power configurations. However, there is no unit of measure for computing these costs. Are the cost of the power requirements specified in section B.1.2 Monthly Reoccurring Charges representative of a per circuit charge?

Answer: [See answers to Questions #156 and #145.](#)

159. Also similar to question 2 above, it is difficult to estimate monthly reoccurring costs under B.1.2 without more clarity on the volume for operation. These reoccurring costs are dependent on load, power density and other factors. We would ask the House to consider providing a sample configuration and volume which would provide parameters that can be used to base the estimation of monthly reoccurring charges?

Answer: [This information is not available at this time.](#)

160. Is the House intending to buy power from a supplier directly and these cost estimates are only for providing service connections?

Answer: [No.](#)

161. Can the House please clarify the statement "Pricing includes everything else, such as facility use, security, support, monitoring, etc." as it pertains to a "rack system" (IE. is it known what will be contained in the rack).

Answer: [See answers to Questions #156 and #145.](#)

162. Section C.1.1 indicates that the House is seeking colocation space and intends to provide all installation and ongoing services in that space. Should the vendor assume that once a system is moved into the space that the House or other agency who owns the system will provide the ongoing support?

Answer: [Yes.](#)

163. Once the facility is ready for infrastructure deployment, is it the government or other agency to pay for the reserved space? Is there a target date for providing the space for co-location?

Answer: [Government.](#)

164. In order for suppliers to respond, we request that the House provide a minimum and maximum square footage requirements for the facility with power density specifications (i.e., Watts per square foot)

Answer: [This information is not currently available.](#)

165. Please confirm the Tasks in C.2.6 focused on physical facilities and not on the infrastructure/systems being deployed?

Answer: [Primary support for the facility and, if needed, smart hands support for systems.](#)

166. We interpret the project management in Section C.2.6.3 as a facilities manager point of contact to support house transition activities. Please confirm. Are the costs for the onsite project manager separately billed from the monthly costs, and if so how are they billed?

Answer: [Confirmed \(Yes\). The cost should be part of the monthly cost.](#)

167. Are transition services supposed to be provided as part of this contact? If so, will these services be requested through follow on task orders or would they be procured through a separate procurement (i.e., RFP). If the House intends to use this contract to request transition services, we would request that the House consider including a table for vendors to price transition services (e.g., rate card or schedule of transition services).

Answer: [No.](#)

168. In Section L.2.1 Proposal Submission Volume II Technical Part C, the RFP asks for the "Nearest Military Installation". Is a Coast Guard Installation considered to be a military installation?

Answer: [Although not technically considered to be part of the military, the facility would be acceptable.](#)

169. In Section L.2.1 Proposal Submission Volume II Technical Part C, the RFP asks for the distance from the Coast Line. Is the Coast Line defined as the Atlantic Coast Line only?

Answer: [Yes.](#)

170. In Section L.2.1 Proposal Submission Volume II Technical Part C, the RFP asks for the distance from the Capitol Hill, requiring that distance to be between 300 and 350 miles. This places any potential facility within the East Coast power grid. This locations is vulnerable to a grid-based disaster situation in the same grid as the House's existing facilities. Would the House consider a facility outside of this radius that provides the advantage of being in another grid?

Answer: [No.](#)

171. F.5 Payment for Non-Performance- We request that this clause be deleted. Liquidated Damages are not a standard commercial industry practice. Additionally, deleting this clause would allow vendors to deliver the lowest price as possible.

Answer: [The clause will not be deleted.](#)

172. G.4 Key Personnel - This clause states that "Except as provided herein, the contractor shall make no substitutions of key personnel unless the substitution is necessitated by illness, death, or termination of employment or requested by the CO." On occasion, circumstances may arise where we may need to rotate personnel. Can the RFP be amended to include the ability to substitute personnel with staff who deliver equal or better capabilities, pending CO approval?

Answer: [You can provide these details with your proposal for consideration.](#)

173. C2.2.7: What is the reason for the Capitol Hill to proposed facility requirement of 300-350 Miles? Is this to be read as no less than 300 miles and no more than 350 miles from Capitol Hill? Please explain the reason for a mileage requirement that is this specific.

Answer: [Between the two distances – 300 to 350 miles.](#)