SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT

Question and Answers #1
Request for Proposal No. 2437016
SCADA Upgrades

Date: July 4, 2024

Item No. 1

Question: Will the District consider proposals that include assessment only? Having design and construction included in the proposal before the assessment is complete may result in a high-risk construction estimate.

Answer: Yes, assessment proposals will be considered, however budgets for next phases would be appreciated.

Item No. 2

Question: Does the District intend to stay with iFix for the SCADA software? Will the District consider alternatives?

Answer: Yes, the Regional District would consider other comparable industrial SCADA software alternatives that can provide the same functionality of alarming, historians, trending etc.

Item No. 3

Question: The RFP mentioned that the District wants to meet modern standards. Does the District have any particular standards in mind for operations (i.e. International Society of Automation (ISA) standards)?

Answer: The Regional District does not have particular standards in mind; however, we need our system to be fully up to date with industry standards in order to use newer technologies such as IIoT.

Item No. 4

Question: How deep does the District want to assess the cybersecurity of the SCADA system? A thorough cybersecurity audit can significantly increase the proposal scope.

Answer: The Regional District is working to engage a cyber security expert as a third-party contractor through our IT department. Therefore, the scope for security could be limited to immediate red flags and ensuring that recommended hardware is suitable for future security needs.

Item No. 5

Question: Do the wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) and water treatment plant (WTP) share a common control system with the District remote water and sewer stations? That is, are they all connected to one iFix server or do they operate independently?

Answer: The Regional District runs three independent servers, running three separate iFix systems. Which all operate independently. The remote stations and reservoirs go to one. And the other two are the Chapman WTP and South Pender WTP.

Item No. 6

Question: How many control systems in the District are considered regulatory? Clearly, the WWTPs and WTP, are but are there other systems like boiler control?

Answer: At this time, the Regional District is only looking at water and wastewater controls. Building Systems were not intended to be included.

Item No. 7

Question: After award, is remote access to the District SCADA system possible to assess the server configurations and station programming?

Answer: Yes, through VPN devices and working with the Regional District's IT department, remote access to all servers and PLC's can be made available.

Item No. 8

Question: Do the District remote stations (pumping stations, lift stations, reservoirs, etc) have consistent designs or are they considered unique for each station?

Answer: They are almost all unique, depending on water supply to the station, where its going to and location etc. However, they all have standard components which the Regional District wants as standards. Rockwell PLC's, Red Lion HMI's, Netgate VPN devices, a high-quality industrial cell modem and an industrial UPS.

Item No. 9

Question: Does the district currently have system alarms being sent to operators though text, email, or voice?

Answer: Yes. The Regional District currently uses SCADADroids for SMS messaging to an external company who calls the operators and emails to a SCRD alarm group. We also use Barnett Pro talk dialers using voice via phone lines. The Regional District is open to exploring different options for alarms, we would especially like to move away from SCADADroid and the use of an external resource for our alarms.

Item No. 10

Question: Do the WWTPs and WTP utilize distributed control systems (DCS) or are they controlled through programmable logic controllers (PLC)?

Answer: All control systems are done through PLC's. The Regional District is specifying keeping a Rockwell platform for PLC's.

Item No. 11

Question: Does the District have a standard equipment list? For example, some municipalities would say only manufacturers XYZ and ABC for pressure instruments.

Answer: The Regional District is currently formulating this list, but we do have equipment we are standardizing as well. This list can be sent out. For example, Siemens flow meters, Rockwell PLC's, Rotork Actuators, Red Lion HMI's.

Item No. 12

Question: Does the District keep up to date process and instrument diagrams (P&ID) and electrical schematics for all water and wastewater assets?

Answer: The Regional District has some electrical and P&ID documents; however, they are mostly for newer equipment. We do not have complete documentation for all sites.

Item No. 13

Question: When was the SCADA system last updated?

Answer: Each of the three SCADA systems runs a different version of iFix and none have been updated since being installed. iFix versions can be provided if needed.

Item No. 14

Question: How involved is the District IT department with the SCADA system? Will they be available for questions during the assessment?

Answer: Yes, either directly or through the Regional District's SCADA Coordinator.

Item No. 15

Question: Are motor control improvements in scope? For example, changing variable frequency drive (VFD) settings to optimize energy use.

Answer: VFD's and motors are not part of the scope.

Item No. 16

Question: Is there any flexibility on extending the September 30, 2024 deadline for project completion? Creating a detailed assessment for the District's extensive water and wastewater infrastructure may take months, especially if a detailed cybersecurity assessment is required.

Answer: The Regional District has the flexibility to extend the September 30, 2024. However, we are looking for assistance with budgeting for short-term and long-term upgrades to the SCADA system.