



Request for Information (RFI) 13412

UAS for Inspection of Bridges and Other Structures

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Purchasing Section

Information must be received no later than

December 31, 2014

1 p.m. Central Time

For information about the notice
Interested persons shall contact only:

Zach Gillen, Purchasing Agent
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa 50010
Phone: 515-239-1347
Fax: 515-239-1538
E-mail: zachary.gillen@dot.iowa.gov

Advanced Signal Control Technology System Request for Information

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Section 1.0 Definitions

Iowa DOT - The Iowa Department of Transportation
UAS – Unmanned Aircraft Systems

Section 2.0 Purpose

2.1 Purpose for the RFI

The intended purpose of the Request for Information (RFI) is to allow all interested vendors an opportunity to present information of available products and solutions that meet the specifications within this RFI. The Iowa Department of Transportation, herein “Agency”, is seeking information for the purpose of identifying unmanned aircraft systems for use in the inspection of in-service highway bridges and related highway structures.

2.2 No Obligation to Issue Request for Proposal (RFP)

The issuance of this RFI does not obligate the State in any way to issue an RFP for the goods and services described in this RFI.

No cost proposal will be required or accepted. The RFI is for informational purposes only. In the event the Agency decides to purchase a UAS, a Request for Proposal (RFP) will be issued.

2.3 Relevant Dates

Issuance of RFI – December 15, 2014

Submittal of Questions by vendor’s deadline (no later than) December 19, 2014. Iowa DOT responses to vendor questions deadline (no later than) December 24, 2014

RFI response deadline December 31, 2014

2.4 Overview

As part of ongoing efforts to improve bridge safety, bridge inspector safety and inspection efficiency, the Iowa DOT is investigating the use of UAS as part of scheduled bridge inspections performed in accordance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards.

2.5 Goal

The goal of this RFI is to identify several of the parameters and elements of available UAS and to better understand the range of potential systems that would be available for Iowa DOT procurement and implementation.

Section 3.0 RFI Responses

3.1 Response

Vendors are requested to submit a response including a description of the components and operations of their UAS.

Responses to this RFI may qualify Vendors to participate in the formal Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

3.2 Submittal Instructions

Vendors shall submit responses to the following information in order.

- 1) **All RFI's shall be submitted electronically.** A signed transmittal letter on the Vendor's letterhead shall be in the electronic document including all company and contact information.

No awarded contract shall be issued from the RFI process. Submitting an RFI is optional. Submitted RFIs shall in no way bind the Iowa DOT or any other agency to purchase any offered solution. This RFI is for information gathering purposes only. All information provided by Vendors shall be at no cost and without obligation to the Iowa DOT.

3.3 Questions and requests for clarification

Vendors interested in responding to this RFI may submit questions or requests for clarification. All questions or requests must be submitted by E-mail to zachary.gillen@dot.iowa.gov, and received as specified in Section 2.3.

The Iowa DOT may contact the Vendor for clarification of RFI content, as needed, throughout the requirements gathering process.

3.4 Review and Rejection of RFI Responses

An RFI response may be rejected outright and not reviewed for any one of the following reasons. Therefore, Vendors are asked to make every effort to meet the RFI timelines and include the requested information.

- Failure of Vendor to deliver the response by the due date and time
- Failure to include information requested in the RFI

3.5 Copyright

By submitting a response, the Vendor agrees that the Iowa DOT may copy the response for purposes of facilitating the evaluation or to respond to requests for public records. The Vendor represents that such copying will not violate any copyrights in the materials submitted.

3.6 RFI Ownership

Once received, submitted Vendor responses become the property of the State of Iowa

Section 4.0 Features, Operations and Experience

4.1 System Features and Operations

The responses from the Vendor shall include a description of the following features and operations of their systems.

System Features and Operations:

- Name of system
- Name of manufacturer
- Name of vendor
- Years of manufacturer's experience in commercial production of system
- Detailed description of aircraft
- Aircraft operating weight with payload
- Flight time with payload
- Description of camera system and capabilities
- Flight control system and features
- Failsafe systems
- FPV system abilities
- Flight characteristics
- Flight control system and documentation available pursuant to FAA regulations and for use in application for FAA Certificate of Waiver or Authorization
- Additional components needed that are not included with the system
- Work needed to assemble system components for flight
- Availability of replacement parts
- Training materials available

On-site training availability

Section 5.0 Other Information

Interested parties shall provide any other pertinent information that may assist the Iowa DOT in understanding the features, components, and operations of UAS and the experience of the vendor in deploying and supporting their system.