Proposal 14303 – ADA Accessible Heavy Duty Buses

Questions and Responses Set 2

Q1) Please provide tax exempt certificates to all perspective bidders.
R1) As the DOT itself will not be purchasing any of these vehicles; the vendor should request these documents from each transit agency at the time the order is submitted.

Q2) In section 3.1, we request the deletion of the five hour possession requirement.
R2) A repair response should begin within in five hours and we will allow the contract holder to have the vehicle picked up for service request within 24 hours of the customer contacting the contract holder of the service request need.

Q3) In section 3.4.3 please approve warranty responsibility for the Cummins engine, Allison transmission and Thermo King HVAC system by the in-state Cummins, Allison and Thermo King factory authorized dealers.
R3) See Set 1, response 20.

Q4) In section 3.5 please approve Contractor pricing adjustments to the contract for Federal regulations that are enacted and required during the term of this contract.
R4) All prices shall be held firm throughout the initial contract period. If a Federal regulation is mandated and an increase in cost can be shown, we will allow for a negotiated increase in cost. This additional cost needs to be shown on the invoice as a separate line item and not an increase to the base cost or an option cost of the bus being purchased.

Q5) In section 3.8.1 please approve twelve (12) years or 500,000 miles of service life for all vehicle lengths offered on this contract. All of our heavy duty, rear engine buses are FTA – Altoona tested for a 12 year/500,000 mile life cycle. 10 year/350,000 mile life cycle is considered a medium-duty designation.
R5) This is not approved. The FTA useful life for heavy duty buses less than 40ft is 10 years/350,000 miles. The useful life of medium duty buses (all lengths) is 7yr/200,000 miles. Altoona testing does not impatct FTA useful life standards.

Q6) In section 5.7, please approve the Contractor to supply all required software only. Subscription activation and all annual fees are to be borne by the procuring agency. This is the industry standard.
R6) See Set 1, Response 30.

Q7) It is understood that a performance bond is not required. Is a bid bond required?

R7) Please see page 3 of this RFB, the Bid Response page. Performance Bond and Proposal Guarantee (Bid Bond) are both N/A and not required in this bid opportunity.

Q8) **Section 3 Technical Specifications TS 6.3 (Diesel-Electric Hybrid)** - Maximum overall height shall be 130in, please approve a maximum overall height of 136". This is a critical design element, which cannot be modified on our diesel-electric hybrid model buses.

R8) This is approved.

Q9) **Section 3 Technical Specifications - #TS 6.3 (CNG)** - Maximum overall height shall be 133 in, please approve a maximum overall height of 136". This is a critical design element, which cannot be modified on our CNG fueled bus.

R9) This is approved.

Q10) **Section 3 Technical Specifications TS 6.6 (Table 2a)** – Approach 9 deg (min) and departure 9 deg (min). Please approve 8.7 deg minimum approach and depature angles.

R10) This is approved.

Q11) **Section 3 Technical Specifications TS 7.3.1 (Table 3)** – Accelerations times to 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 mph. Please approve the following acceleration times: 10 mph(ok), 20 mph – 10.6 seconds, 30 mph – 21.5 seconds, 40 mph – 32 seconds, 50 mph (ok). These acceleration times accommodate all of the powertrain options offered.

R11) This is approved.

Q12) **Section 3 Technical Specifications TS 7.4.1** – The operating range…350 miles or 20 hours with full fuel capacity. Please approve an operating range of 315 miles on the 30' bus. The available fuel tank capacity on the 30' bus is the limiting factor.

R12) This is approved.

Q13) **Section 3 Technical Specifications TS 7.4.3 (CNG)** – The operating range…350 miles or 20 hours with an initial gas-settled pressure of 3600 psi at 70 degrees. Please approve an operating range of 220 miles on the 30' bus. The available CNG fuel storage capacity on the 30' bus is the limiting factor.

R13) This is approved.

Q14) **Section 3 Technical Specifications TS 9.2.6** – Cummins ISL 2013 diesel, 280 HP with 900lb FT Torque. Please approve the Cummins ISB 2013 diesel engine, 280 hp with 660lb FT torque on the 30' bus only. This is the proper sized engine for this length and GVWR bus.

R14) This is approved.

Q15) **Section 3 Technical Specifications TS 13.1** – Engine oil and radiator filler caps shall be hinged to the filler neck. Please approve the radiator filler cap to be a Cummins approved twist off cap. A hinged radiator filler cap is not available on the 2013 emission Cummins Engine.

R15) This is approved.

Q16) **Section 3 Technical Specifications TS 17.2.1** – The fuel(s) shall be made of high density cross linked polyethylene plastic material. Please approve either corrosion protection treated carbon steel or stainless steel fabricated fuel tank(s)

R16) Stainless Steel is approved.

Q17) **Section 3 Technical Specifications TS 27.1** – The vehicle floor in the area of the entrance and exit doors shall have a lateral slope not exceeding 2 deg to allow for drainage. Please approve entrance and exit door area which have a lateral slope not exceeding 4 deg. This design offers superior moisture drainage and still meets all applicable ADA requirements. The balance of the slope requirements will be met as specified. This is a critical vehicle design element which cannot be modified.

R17) This is approved.

Q18) **Section 3 Technical Specifications TS 28.1** – Stainless Steel trim material. Please approve the use of either stainless steel or anodized aluminum material.

R18) This is not approved. Stainless Steel shall be the minimum. If you have another less expensive option, add it to the options list and show the cost decrease. This will allow the individual system to choose to spend less if it is an option.

Q19) **Section 3 Technical Specifications TS 29.2** – Design and construction of the front wheel housings shall allow for the installation of a radio or electronic equipment storage or its use as a luggage rack. Please approve the installation of passenger seats on the curbside front wheel housing. This design will maximize passenger seat capacity on the 30' bus model.

R19) Additional seats need to be an option that the transit system can decide on at time of purchase.

Q20) **Section 3 Technical Specification TS 31.2** – Sufficient space shall be provided to allow the Agency to carry a spare tire, if required. Please approve the deletion of the spare tire carrying capacity requirements in its entirety. Low floor transit buses are not designed to accommodate the carrying of spare tires.

R20) This is approved.

Q21) **Section 3 Technical Specifications TS 41.1.1** – All wiring to I/O devices…that allows unique identification at a spacing not exceeding 4 inches. Please approve the unique identification spacing not exceeding 6 inches.

R21) This is approved.

Q22) **Section 3 Technical Requirements TS 44.5 (Table 6)** – Transit Bus Instruments and Alarms. Please confirm that Table 6 instruments and alarms are a generic summary of all possible components that could be ordered. For instance, if the technical specifications do not require a hill holder, bike rack or methane gas detection system, those Table 6 line items would not be required. Several components are listed on Table 6 and nowhere else in the technical specifications.

R22) Yes, it is a generic summary as each purchasing system may require different components. This will be addressed by the purchasing transit system at the time of order.

Q23) **Section 3 Technical Specifications TS 46.2** – The windshield washer system shall have a minimum of 5 gallon reservoir. Please approve the use of a 2.5 gallon windshield washer fluid reservoir.

R23) This is approved.

Q24) **Section 3 Technical Specifications TS 50** – The driver side window glazing material…1/4" nominal thickness laminated safety glass. Please approve the use of either laminated safety glass or tempered safety glass. Both products have a nominal thickness of ¼" and are approved for transit but use.

R24) This is not approved. Please list the tempered safety glass as an option as the laminated glass is the minimum spec.

Q25) **Section 3 Technical Specifications TS 50** – Hidden Frame (Flush "Euro-Look") Driver's Side Window. Please approve the use of a traditional framed driver's side window to match the balance of the passenger windows.

R25) This is approved.

Q26) **Section 3 Technical Specifications TS 50** – Standard Passenger Side Window Configurations. Please approve the offering of traditional frame passenger windows as the base. Hidden frame (Flush Euro Look) passenger windows should be offered as an option item.

R26) This is not approved. Please bid the bus with hidden frame windows as the base and provide the traditional frame as a price decrease option for those systems that want to choose a less expensive option.

Q27) **Section 3 Technical Specifications TS 53.1** – No Auxiliary heater. We request that the specifications are modified to require an auxiliary heater in the base bus. The "colder Ambient Conditions" requirement as set forth on the previous page cannot be met without the use of an auxiliary heater.

R27) This is not approved. Please provide the auxiliary heater as an option. Depending on the location of the transit system, colder ambient conditions are subjective and the vendor can discuss this with the transit system at the time of purchase.

Q28) **Section 3 Technical Specifications TS 59.1** – No requirements for floor level heating. We request the specifications be modified to require convective baseboard heating in the base bus. The "Colder Ambient Conditions" requirement as set forth in section 52 cannot be met without the use of convective baseboard heating.

R28) This is not approved. Please provide the auxiliary heater as an option. Depending on the location of the transit system, colder ambient conditions are subjective and the vendor can discuss this with the transit system at the time of purchase.

Q29) **Section 3 Technical Specifications TS 69.1** – Paint shall be Dupont Imron Elite or approved equal. Please approve the use of Sikkens high solids polyurethane single state exterior paint. This low VOC paint is our standard exterior bus paint and is designed for use in California.

R29) This is approved.

Q30) **Section 3 Technical Specifications TS 70** – The Agency should supply a list of interior and exterior decals including size and location. Section TS 69.1 requires a basic white bus with no customer specific exterior decals. Section TS 70 references interior and exterior decals. Please confirm that no exterior decals other than fleet number and safety decals are required.

R30) These are base to get the lowest possible price. Some systems may want the basic white with only numbers as they have their own design and signage vendors. Transit systems should be able to add other designs and schemes as an added option.

Q31) **Section 3 Technical Specifications TS 71.4** – Headlamps shall be LED/Halogen, sealed beam. Please confirm which Iowa DOT requires, LED or Halogen? Be advised if both are acceptable, halogen will be supplied due to the lower cost versus LED headlamps.

R31) Either is approved as the base. Please provide the lowest priced options in the base bid and list the other as a higher priced option in the option list.

Q32) **Section 3 Technical Specifications TS 81.2** – Exterior Displays. Please confirm which locations are required for exterior advertising display.

R32) This will be addressed on an individual basis determined by the purchasing transit agency. Manufacturer should discuss this with the purchasing agency at the time of order. Each system may have a different location in mind so we cannot provide exact location for every bus.

Q33) **Section 3 Technical Specifications TS 83.1** – Camera Surveillance System Options. Please confirm how we are able to populate (or ignore) Table 83.1a and Table 83.1b? Are we able to provide option pricing for one surveillance system brand or several?

R33) No system is base option so please provide option pricing for every option available. If you cannot meet one of the fields on the table, then it won't be an option you can provide. Since no surveillance system is the base, not meeting an upgrade option does not exclude you from the bid.

Q34) **Section 3 Technical Specifications TS 83.2.1** - 1 exterior loudspeaker over top of front door. Please approve one exterior loudspeaker mounted under the vehicle, protected from damage by the body structure.

R34) This is approved.

Q35) **Section 3 Technical Specifications TS 83.5a** – Radio Handset and Control System. Please confirm how we are to populate (or ignore) Table 83.5a? We prefer to provide two way radio quotations per specific agency requirements, versus supplying it in the base bid.

R35) No radio is the base so please provide any field you can meet as an upgrade option.

Q36) **Section 3 Technical Specifications TS 83.5.2** – Contractor will install a handset for driver use. Please delete this requirement. The handset is provided with the two-way radio quotation.

R36) This should be part of the radio option.

Q37) **Section 3 Technical Specifications TS 83.5.3** – Contractor shall install a driver display unit as close to the driver's instrument panel as possible. Please delete this requirement. The drivers display unit is provided with the two way radio quotation.

R37) We agree that this is part of the option, but the requirement of it being as close to the driver's instrument panel as possible still applies.

Q38) **Section 3 Technical Specifications – TS 85a** – Automatic Vehicle Annunciation/Automatic Vehicle Location. Please confirm how we are to populate (or ignore) Table 85a. We prefer to provide Automatic Vehicle Annunciation/Automatic Vehicle Location quotations specific to Agency requirements, versus supplying it in the base bid.

R38) As no AVL is the base, please provide options pricing for as many fields that you have available options for.

Q39) **Section 3 Technical Specifications TS 1 through 86** – Optional equipment offerings? Please confirm how bidders are to supply optional equipment pricing and descriptions over the above baseline equipment offered in this bid? Most member agencies will require components specific to their needs, which are not listed in the baseline specifications supplied.

R39) Please provide your options how you see fit, but we typically see options in a printable spreadsheet format with every possible options you have available. The format is up to you as long as it simply shows what options are available and has a check box for the transit system to show what they may want as optional equipment.