



STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
FOR THE
CONTINUALLY OPERATED REFERENCE STATION NETWORK (CORS)**
RFI # 40100-21620
April 22, 2020

1. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

The State of Tennessee, TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TDOT), issues this Request for Information ("RFI") for the purpose of replacing TDOT's **Continually Operated Reference Station (CORS) network**. We appreciate your input and participation in this process.

2. BACKGROUND:

TDOT owns and operates its CORS network since its inception in 2008. The existing system is comprised of 43 individual stations each consisting of a GPS antenna mounted outside a state agency facility. The GPS antenna is connected to the GPS receiver inside the facility with either R-400 or R-600 Coaxial Cable. The receiver is connected to the TDOT network at the facility with a network cable. The power for the receiver is provided by the facility. The data collected by the receiver is sent over the network connection back to TDOT and stored on TDOT servers. The data is also available real-time to end users through the server. The station ID is broadcasted to the end users from the server running server-based GPS software. The end users access this server through its IP address from survey equipment. The data is also shared with United States Geological Survey and posted on the National Geodetic Survey website for download. The end users mentioned above are TDOT surveyors and users who are under contracts with TDOT across the state.

TDOT's CORS network hardware is aging. TDOT is requesting information related to the options for replacing all 43 stations, adding approximately 5 stations across the state, and future maintenance of each station. We also want industry information detailing options that would allow vendors to maintain the server for the CORS network either owned by TDOT or a vendor owned cloud-based server that is accessible to TDOT. TDOT would like to hear about options to replace the network connection described above with a cellular option. TDOT would like respondents to this RFI to be mindful that TDOT must always have the ability to provide data, received through the current or any future CORS network, to external users contracting with the TDOT to receive this data. Therefore, any submitted industry feedback and/or recommendations should align with that ability.

Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) is looking for information related to common business models and/or practices, to assist in the development of a solicitation for a new CORS

network which consists of our 43 existing GPS stations. We are open to considering various approaches for new hardware and software. We would like respondents to present TDOT with different scenarios for consideration. Some known potential scenarios are below. This may not reflect all possibilities and TDOT is willing to entertain others.

Existing model is number 2.1

- 2.1. TDOT owns the hardware and server software. TDOT owns the data and provides a subscription service to access the data. TDOT maintains all hardware and software.
- 2.2. TDOT owns the hardware and the data is sent to a cloud server maintained by the vendor where TDOT can provide subscription access to data. TDOT maintains the hardware.
- 2.3. Vendor owns hardware and software. Vendor provides TDOT access to the data to provide subscription to the data. Vendor maintains hardware and software.
- 2.4. Vendor owns hardware and software. Vendor provides TDOT access to the data to provide subscription to the data, but the Vendor can resell the data outside of TN. Vendor maintains hardware and software.
- 2.5. Vendor owns hardware and software. Vendor owns data and sells it back to TDOT. Vendor maintains hardware and software.

3. COMMUNICATIONS:

- 3.1. Please submit your response to this RFI to:

Jennifer Garrison, Sourcing Account Specialist
Central Procurement Office
William Snodgrass Tennessee Tower – 3rd Floor
312 Rosa L Parks Ave.
Nashville, TN 37243

- 3.2. Please feel free to contact the RFI Coordinator with any questions regarding this RFI. The main point of contact will be:

Jennifer Garrison, Sourcing Account Specialist
Central Procurement Office
William Snodgrass Tennessee Tower – 3rd Floor
312 Rosa L Parks Ave.
Nashville, TN 37243
Phone: 615-532-2440
Email: Jennifer.B.Garrison@TN.Gov

3.3. Please reference RFI # 40100-21620 with all communications to this RFI.

4. RFI SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

EVENT		TIME (Central Time Zone)	DATE (all dates are State business days)
1.	RFI Issued		April 22, 2020
2.	Questions and Comments Deadline		May 1, 2020
3.	State's Response to Written Questions and Comments		May 13, 2020 Updated
4.	RFI Response Deadline		May 22, 2020

5. GENERAL INFORMATION:

5.1. Please note that responding to this RFI is not a prerequisite for responding to any future solicitations related to this project and a response to this RFI will not create any contract rights. Responses to this RFI will become property of the State.

5.2. The information gathered during this RFI is part of an ongoing procurement. In order to prevent an unfair advantage among potential respondents, the RFI responses will not be available until after the completion of evaluation of any responses, proposals, or bids resulting from a Request for Qualifications, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Bid or other procurement method. In the event that the state chooses not to go further in the procurement process and responses are never evaluated, the responses to the procurement including the responses to the RFI, will be considered confidential by the State.

5.3. The State will not pay for any costs associated with responding to this RFI.

6. INFORMATIONAL FORMS:

The State is requesting the following information from all interested parties. Please fill out the following forms:

RFI #NUMBER
TECHNICAL INFORMATIONAL FORM
1. RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME:
2. RESPONDENT CONTACT PERSON: Name, Title: Address:

Phone Number: Email:
3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EXPERIENCE PROVIDING SIMILAR SCOPE OF SERVICES/PRODUCTS:
4. Please provide examples of business models that may exist for this type of service and/or equipment.

COST INFORMATIONAL FORM
1. Describe what pricing units you typically utilize for similar services or goods (e.g., per hour, each, etc.):
2. Describe the typical price range for similar services or goods based on the various potential scenarios proposed.
3. Are there any unique cost methodologies that TDOT should consider providing greater value based on the description of the service?

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS
1. Please provide input on alternative approaches or additional things to consider that might benefit the State: