

RFP 09-06 - RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

1. *INDUSTRIAL INSURANCE COVERAGE: Prior to performing work under this agreement, the Contractor shall provide or purchase industrial insurance coverage for the Contractor's employees, - ANSWER: Define what it meant by industrial insurance coverage for the Contractor's employees. Workman's Comp – Here is the link to enabling statute – RCW 51.04.010*
2. ... as may be required by an "employer" as defined in Title 51 RCW, and shall maintain full compliance with Title 51 RCW during the course of this contract. – **ANSWER What does this mean, what does Title 51 RCW state as respects insurance, if anything? RCW 51.08.070 defines employer.**
3. *Should the Contractor fail to secure industrial insurance or fail to pay premiums, as may be required under Title 51 RCW, the AOC may deduct the amount of premiums and any penalties owing from the amounts payable to the Division of Industrial Insurance. This provision does not waive any right under RCW 51.12.050 to collect from the Contractor amounts paid by the AOC. – ANSWER What does RCW 51.12.050 say and what rights are they referring to under RCW 51.12.050? Here is the link – RCW 51.12.050*
4. *The AOC will not be responsible for payment of industrial insurance premiums or for any other claim or benefit for this Contractor or any Subcontractor or employee of the Contractor which might arise under the industrial insurance laws during the performance of duties and services under this contract. If the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries, upon audit, determines that industrial insurance payments are due and owing as a result of work performed under this contract, those payments shall be made by the Contractor; **the Contractor shall indemnify the AOC and guarantee payment of such amounts. Industrial insurance coverage through the Department of Labor & Industries is optional for sole proprietors, partners, corporate officers and others, per RCW 51.12.020. - ANSWER This is not insurance related , but appears to be more of a required terms of business that SAG will be help responsible for, please clarify! This says if required insurance is not paid, AOC is not responsible for payment to L&I. Also, sole proprietors are not required to obtain this insurance per RCW 51.12.020.***
5. There appear to be no specific insurance coverage terms, conditions, or limit requirement contained in the excerpt of this proposed contact wording. There need to ne specific insurance coverage terms, conditions,

or limit requirement spelled out in the contract, as there is nothing contained in the above that meets the normal contractual needs! Please clarify what the insurance coverage requirements and terms/limits are for this contract. **ANSWER: Please see XI K of the RFP.**

6. *Minimum Qualifications, Item C -- Ability to complete the project in the time specified.* Please clarify this qualification and explain how it will be evaluated. Does it relate specifically to the RFP Schedule and the 'Expected End Date' of June 30? Or does it relate to agreement with the project plan submitted with vendor proposals and incorporated into any resulting contract? A project to convert code for an application the size and complexity of your application at Courts typically requires 12 to 18 months to get into full production under a comprehensive project plan incorporating the lifecycle requirements included in your RFP. The timing might be somewhat less than 12 months, but that cannot be confirmed with any degree of confidence until the code analysis assessment is completed. Additionally, what is the reason (hardship) for this minimum qualification and the near-term target date? Will you accept proposals with longer project duration provided the project plan clearly shows the reasons for the timeframe in the project lifecycle? Are you willing to reconsider this timeline as a minimum requirement? Or by nature of this RFP target completion timeline, with no RFI before it, do you already have preferred vendors you are working with? **ANSWERS to all questions: This is budget based project**
7. How important is risk mitigation in your evaluation strategy? **ANSWER: Risk Mitigation is not formally part of the evaluation criteria.**
8. *Minimum Qualifications, Item B: Lead three large scale transformation projects of approximately 2,000 Natural modules or more:* Is this requirement for three large-scale transformation projects of Natural to Cobol only? Or will large transformation projects to other targets meet the intent of the qualification? The selected vendor ultimately needs strong experience and specialization in migration methodology, solutions framework and project management as much as for the automated tools used. Would you consider removing the specifics of COBOL and the mainframe as a necessary reference target and instead be open to 3 migrations of a similar size to any language or any platform? **ANSWER We cannot change minimum qualifications at this time.**
9. *Procurement Goal D. Convert and test Natural Program code to COBOL while retaining or improving the existing level of maintainability.* Please clarify the specific meaning of this goal. What constitutes the existing level of maintainability? How will you judge whether the converted code

retains or improves the existing level of maintainability? What criteria will be used to make this determination? This is an important question because a Natural to COBOL transformation will dramatically increase the number of lines of code on an average of three to four times larger. Since the amount of code following the conversion will be significantly larger, how does Washington intend to compare maintainability?

**ANSWER: The purpose of the goal is so that the AOC can continue to make changes to the code when fixes and enhancements are needed. An example of this would be the retention of data variable names. It would be undesirable if the conversion process changed a variable name from #PAYMENT-AMOUNT to FIELD-001. AOC is currently in the process of developing the maintainability evaluation rules.**

10. What versions of Natural code are included in the application? What is the current version Natural in use at Courts? Does the application include report mode code? **ANSWER: All code has been converted to version 4.2.04. All programs in the PRDDISC library will be made available in structured mode. The AOC is currently correcting some modules that were inadvertently cataloged in report mode.**
11. What percent of the application is batch and what percent is online? **ANSWER: Approximately 70% online and 30% batch. This number is a very rough estimate since there are a number of natural routines that are executed in both batch and online modes.**
12. Will you consider a multi-phase project to be responsive to the RFP? We envision that a code analysis/assessment/planning phase followed by an implementation phase with separate pricing could be more cost-effective to Courts. **ANSWER: Please provide the project plan you feel best meets the scope of work requested.**
13. If an automated testing tool is included in the project plan, would you want the capability of keeping the tool after the project? If so, could this be included as an optional pricing element? **ANSWER: An optional pricing element would be acceptable.**

14. If the overall goal of this initiative is cost efficiencies, are you interested in alternative proposals that might provide efficiencies in other ways? For example, would a rehosting strategy to your open systems environment be considered if significant ROI can be shown? Would a different modernization strategy be considered, such as migration from Natural to a different language? **ANSWER: While we are always interested in making system improvements, we suggest that responses be limited to the scope of work in the RFP.**
15. The RFP document ends with a reference header for Section XIX, but no section content. Please either confirm that the RFP ends at Section XVIII or provide Section XIX. **ANSWER: Ends at XVIII**
16. What external security package is in use/will be used with the converted system? **ANSWER: RACF is used for user authentication. The application has custom authorization security processing.**
17. How is Natural Security currently used? **ANSWER: Natural Security is used to control library access for production users. Natural security is also used to control developer access rights.**
18. Was any of the code developed using Natural Construct? **ANSWER: NO**
19. Section XVIII (second to last bullet) says that AOC will provide a separate partition for testing. Will the partition also be available during other phases of the project (i.e., development)? Is it possible to set up a separate partition to perform this entire project? If so, will remote access be possible? **ANSWER: A separate partition will be available for the vendor development and testing.**
20. Does WAOC use a standard contract, and if so, can we have a copy of such contract. **ANSWER: General Terms and Conditions are provided as Appendix F in RFP.**
21. Is runtime software as part of the vendor solution allowed? **Answer: - No**
22. Which change management system is in use at WAOC (eg Changeman) **ANSWER:- ISPW**
23. How many environments are present Development Test UAT (User Acceptance Test) Production **ANSWER: ISPW has three environments Development, Test/Integration/UAT, Production**

24. Is an issue/error tracking in use? Which? **ANSWER: - Yes, Rational Clear Quest. AOC can provide a web interface.**
25. Is the target environment already available (COBOL-CICS-DB2)Development, Test, UAT (User Acceptance Test), Production **ANSWER: Yes**
26. Sufficient storage? **ANSWER: - Yes**
27. How many WAOC staff require training? **ANSWER: - Please provide specifics on the type of training proposed. The number might vary on the training provided, but would not exceed the number of development and maintenance staff provided in the RFP.**
28. Is an operations person available during the project for Backup;restore **ANSWER: - AOC runs standard backup of all AOC data storage. Data restore is limited to staff available during the day shift. AOC will provide access to AOC network and computing resources needed to accomplish the project.**
29. Providing access to test environments (Natural and target)  
Who will be responsible for: Installation of migrated software in Test and UAT environment? **AOC Response: - The vendor will be responsible for installation of the software in the test and UAT environments. The AOC will install the software into the production environment using the installation process documented by the vendor. The vendor will be available to assist with resolving production installation errors.**
30. Are the programs in the additional library of utility programs also written in Natural? **AOC Response: - Yes.**
31. What is the purpose of the additional library of utility programs. **AOC Response: - use the same answer previously sent out for this question.**
32. Why are these utility programs only available until after the start of the code conversion and not for analysis by the vendor? **AOC Response: - The AOC requires time to indentify the utility programs needed for conversion.**
33. Can the application be tested without these utility programs? **AOC Response: - Yes.**

34. What is the format of the existing documentation? **AOC Response: - MS Word**
35. Post installation support excludes application program development? **AOC Response: - Yes.**
36. Is a C compiler available? **AOC Response: - No.**
37. Is an Assembler compiler available? **AOC Response: - Yes.**
38. Are control characters used by Natural programs that create print files? **AOC Response: - Standard carriage control characters are produced by Natural using commands such as 'NEWPAGE'.**
39. Any special printing or creation of complex documents? **AOC Response: - Yes**
40. Are their on-line interfaces between the Natural applications and other application, e.g.using MQ **AOC Response: - No**
41. Is FTP in use to transfer batch files? **AOC Response: - Yes**
42. It is understood that the NATURAL code could be migrated on the system of the potential vendor – for the period of the project (2<sup>nd</sup> Q&A under Appendix E) Question: Can the vendor, and the migration to be performed per above, be done outside the United States? **ANSWER: YES**
43. Regarding the scope of Deliverable #2 – Phase 1 Code Conversion and Testing and Deliverable #3 – Phase 2 - Final Code Conversion and Testing: The RFP states that AOC would not be able to make available the additional library of utility programs until after the start of the code conversion (page 8, item #2). Question: Can it be said how long after the Contract Start Date the additional library can be provided? The answer to this depends on how much time is needed by the contractor to convert and test the remaining amount. If the vendor indicated, for example, that three weeks was required to convert the final portion, AOC would meet that constraint.
44. Please explain what is the nature of the Natural utility programs (at a high level); e.g., Are they standalone routines that perform system checks? **ANSWER: Standalone routines that provide specialized data exchange extracts, reports, data checks or data fixes.** Do they do any database updates? **ANSWER: Yes.**

45. Is the JIS Application (PRDDISC) a standalone application, or, are there interfaces with external systems? If so, please provide some information that will serve to plan efforts. **ANSWER: It is not a standalone system. There are interfaces with both programs and data. COBOL programs can be used for getting data or performing specialized functions such as managing CICS Transaction Queues. Some Natural programs call DB2 directly. There is also large number of data exchanges (imports and exports).**