

**State of North Dakota
Secretary of State
600 East Boulevard Avenue Department 108
Bismarck ND 58505-0500
Phone (701) 328-3660 – Fax (701) 328-2992**

Notice of Intent to Make a Noncompetitive Purchase

Solicitation #110.7-09-046

September 1, 2009

The State of North Dakota intends to purchase a product that does not have a known match. This notice is an attempt to identify possible alternatives. Any potential bidder who does not agree that this product is available only from the intended source must contact the procurement officer by the response deadline. The response must be in writing and describe the product being offered as an equivalent. Direct any questions to the procurement officer before the response deadline.

Requestor: Secretary of State, Elections

Purchase Description: The North Dakota Secretary of State intends to accept, at no cost to the state, election management system software from the State of South Dakota. This software was created for the South Dakota Secretary of State's office utilizing federal dollars allocated to the state through the Help America Vote Act of 2002. The South Dakota Secretary of State believes the citizens of the United States funded the creation of the software and therefore the State of South Dakota will not seek monetary gain from other jurisdictions desiring its use.

The election management system unifies separate election systems allowing a single point of entry for all common data, establishes standardized formats for data transfer, and provides a relational election results database for every contest in any election held within the state of North Dakota. The results database will be accessible to the public from the Secretary of State's and any North Dakota county website. The system will be hosted in the North Dakota State Data Center, it will be securely accessed for election administration by the state and the 53 counties, it will transfer all necessary data to a chosen election services vendor (selected under a separate contract executed in 2004) for ballot layout and voting machine programming, it will provide rapid transfer of election results to the public, and it will provide data exports to the media and public that have not previously been possible in North Dakota.

Intended Source: The South Dakota Secretary of State will provide the software. The necessary customizations for its use in North Dakota will be provided by BPro, Inc. 318 S Pierre St, Pierre SD 57501. This firm created the software and retains the proprietary rights for providing additional enhancements.

Price: The software will be provided at no cost by the South Dakota Secretary of State. Necessary enhancements will be purchased from BPro, Inc. based on a time and materials contract. The cost of the customization services is estimated at approximately \$100,000. The contract with BPro, Inc. may include a provision for ongoing support.

Justification: This software is available exclusively from the South Dakota Secretary of State and BPro, Inc. has the exclusive rights to enhance or customize the software for use in any other jurisdiction. The current features list for the software is attached.

Date Posted: September 1, 2009

Response Deadline: 2:00PM, CT - September 8, 2009

Procurement Officer: Jim Silrum
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Enclosure

Software Feature List

Overall

- .NET 2.0
- SQL Server 2005
- Crystal Reports XIR2
- IIS 6.0 or later
- Results website should be run 64bit for optimal performance
- Secured by SSL
- Eliminates duplicate entry

Races/Contests

- Master list of races maintained by State
- Contests can be classified for Primary Partisan, Primary Non-Partisan, General and Special elections
- Contest qualification for each election type is stored in database
- Contests can be handled by State only, County only, or both
- Districts are stored in maintenance tables and can easily be updated
- Contests and winning candidates are automatically rolled over from Primary to General
- Minimal input required by State and County election officials

Candidates

- Master candidate list with unique Candidate ID
- Candidates are stored forever
- Candidate Voice Capture (CVC) integration (see CVC heading for features)
- Candidate data is entered once throughout the entire election cycle
- Ability to assign a candidate to any active race

Candidate Voice Capture (CVC)

- Used to program AutoMARK machines for proper pronunciation of candidate names
- When a new candidate is entered into the system, a letter is available to print and then sent to the candidate. The letter includes instructions on how call in and record their name.
- Voice file stays with candidate forever
- If candidate name changes, a new letter is created and sent
- Voice file (.wav) is automatically transferred to system and candidate record is updated

Ballot Creation

- System automatically determines which contests/candidates “qualify” to be in the current election
- Contest qualification rules are stored in database
- Integrated with Central Voter File database

- Candidate ballot order entry for all contests in current election
- Sample ballots are automatically created by style or by precinct
- Sample ballots are created in PDF format
- Sample ballots can be reviewed by State or County
- Sample ballots, candidate/contest data, ballot questions, and CVC files can be exported to printing company by clicking a button

Voter Information Portal (VIP)

- Integrates with Central Voter File database
- Users are able to view:
 - Polling place location
 - Early voting options
 - Absentee ballot tracking
 - Sample PDF ballot for the upcoming election
- Contact information for local election official

Returns

- Returns data is automatically generated from ballot data
- Returns data is collected at the precinct level
- Includes ballots and votes cast
- Uploads results data from voting system's Election Reporting Manager (ERM)
- Returns can be manually entered by precinct if upload fails
- Final returns review and approval locks data entry
- State can monitor precincts reporting
- Election night statistics by precinct for the following
 - Spoiled Ballots
 - New Voters on Election Day
 - Voter Affidavits
 - Accepted Regular Absentee Ballots
 - At the Precinct
 - UOCAVA
 - Accepted Federal Absentee Ballots
 - Accepted Presidential Absentee Ballots

Results

- Results data is updated constantly on election night
- Voter turnout results by precinct
- All results are reported to the precinct level
- Interactive maps for Statewide Contests and ballot questions, senate, house, and judicial contests, and precincts reporting
- Data is cached to optimize website performance
- Associated Press data updated constantly in AP requested format
- XML data updated constantly for media

- Winners automatically “checked” when 100% precincts reported
- Possible recounts highlighted when 100% precincts reported
- View past election results
- Election Night Notices – post information on results website on election night

Canvass

- County canvass report and certificate
- State canvass report and certificate
- State recount canvass report and certificate
- No data entry required. Data is pulled from returns data.

Test Data

- Creation of random test numbers for each county for use in mock elections
- Printable sheet of numbers
- Test ERM files can be created through the system for mock elections

Recounts

- Recounts are automatically calculated and each eligible contest can be selected for a recount
- System is setup for recount returns entry by clicking a button
- Recount results are updated by clicking a button
- Results website displays recount and original votes
- Recount rules are stored in database by race

Winners

- Winners are automatically selected
- Non-winners are set to inactive
- Winners in a primary are automatically rolled over to a general and do not need to be reentered
- Unofficial winners list can be made available once 100% precincts reported

Reports

- Current Active Contests
- Statewide Candidates
- County Candidates
- City Candidates
- School Candidates
- Precinct Counts
- Current County Election Status
- Notice of Election, Notice of Primary