



City of Tacoma, WA

**TACOMA FIRE DEPARTMENT  
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION  
STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTER HELMETS (RE-BID)  
SPECIFICATION NO. FD21-0046F**



**City of Tacoma**

**Tacoma Fire Department**

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FD21-0046F**

**Fire Department Helmet Product Information and Testing (Re-bid)**

**Submittal Deadline:** 11:00 a.m., Pacific Time, Tuesday, February 23, 2021

**Submittal Delivery:** Sealed submittals will be received as follows:

**By Email:**

[bids@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:bids@cityoftacoma.org)

Maximum file size: 35 MB. Multiple emails may be sent for each submittal.

Submittals in response to a RFI will be recorded as received. As soon as possible, after 1:00 PM, on the day of submittal deadline, preliminary results will be posted to [www.TacomaPurchasing.org](http://www.TacomaPurchasing.org).

**Solicitation Documents:** An electronic copy of the complete solicitation documents may be viewed and obtained by accessing the City of Tacoma Purchasing website at [www.TacomaPurchasing.org](http://www.TacomaPurchasing.org).

- [Register for the Bid Holders List](#) to receive notices of addenda, questions and answers and related updates.
- Click here to see a [list of vendors registered for this solicitation](#).

**Pre-Proposal Meeting:** A pre-proposal meeting will not be held.

**Project Scope:** The City of Tacoma Fire Department (TFD or CITY) is issuing this Request for Information (RFI) to gather data that may be used to develop future solicitations. TFD will be testing helmets from each of the following three categories of helmets: Traditional, Contemporary, and Jet. TFD is seeking a complete response from vendors who can demonstrate that they possess the organizational, functional, and technical capabilities to provide the equipment and services, as well as meet or exceed the requirements specified herein.

**Estimate:** N/A

**Paid Leave and Minimum Wage:** Effective February 1, 2016, the City of Tacoma requires all employers to provide paid leave and minimum wages, as set forth in Title 18 of the Tacoma Municipal Code. For more information visit [www.cityoftacoma.org/employmentstandards](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/employmentstandards).

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA Information:** The City of Tacoma, in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), commits to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability, in all of its programs and activities. Specification materials can be made available in an alternate format by emailing Gail Himes at [ghimes@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:ghimes@cityoftacoma.org), or by calling her collect at 253-591-5785.

**Federal Title VI Information:**

"The City of Tacoma" in accordance with provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, (78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. sections 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin in consideration of award.

**Additional Information:** Requests for information regarding the specifications may be obtained by contacting Ryan Foster, Senior Buyer by email to [rFoster1@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:rFoster1@cityoftacoma.org)

**Protest Policy:** City of Tacoma [protest policy](#), located at [www.tacomapurchasing.org](http://www.tacomapurchasing.org), specifies procedures for protests submitted prior to and after submittal deadline.




Meeting sites are accessible to persons with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities can be arranged with 48 hours advance notice by calling 253-502-8468.

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## SUBMITTAL CHECK LIST

This checklist identifies items to be included with your submittal. Any submittal received without these required items may be deemed non-responsive and not be considered for award. Submittals must be received by the City of Tacoma Purchasing Division by the date and time specified in the Request for Information page.

<b>The following items make up your submittal package:</b>	
Letter of Interest	
Literature to include technical specifications, safety data information, warranty, brochures, and/or standard price lists.	
Technical specification sheets	
<i>Any other additional information relevant to this RFI</i>	

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The City of Tacoma (City) / Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU) is soliciting information for structural firefighter helmets. The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to gather information and samples for formulating the CITY's requirements as well as identify qualified firms who may be able to meet our requirements.

## 2. PURPOSE

The City of Tacoma (City) / Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU) is issuing this Request for Information (RFI) to gather data that may be used to develop future solicitations. TFD will be testing helmets from each of the following three categories of helmets: Traditional, Contemporary, and Jet. TFD is seeking a complete response from vendors who can demonstrate that they possess the organizational, functional, and technical capabilities to provide the equipment and services, as well as meet or exceed the requirements specified herein. Respondents must have a solid customer base of departments utilizing the proposed solution(s), including departments similar in size and service delivery to TFD.

TFD seeks continual improvement for the safety of our department personal protective equipment (PPE), and as such are looking to find advancements in the area of structural firefighting helmets over what is currently worn. **Vendors are encouraged to provide documentation on as many helmets as their organization has that meet the requirements listed in this RFI.**

**It is the intention of TFD to take the recommendations after the testing for this RFI is complete and create a RFB to award a contract.**

## 3. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

This is a tentative schedule only and may be altered at the sole discretion of the City.

The anticipated schedule of events concerning this RFI is as follows:

Publish and Issue RFP:	<b>February 5, 2021</b>
Question Submittal Deadline:	<b>February 12, 2021</b>
Questions and Answers Posted:	<b>February 18, 2021</b>
Submittal Due Date:	<b>February 23, 2021</b>
Sample Helmets Due:	<b>March 2, 2021</b>
Demonstration via Zoom:	<b>March 8, 2021</b>
10 Helmets Due for Testing:	<b>March 31, 2021</b>
Phase 1 & 2 Testing:	<b>April – September 2021</b>
Approval by the Fire Chief:	<b>October 2021</b>
Public and Issue RFB:	<b>November – December 2021</b>
Contracting:	<b>December 2021</b>

## 4. INQUIRIES

Please use the Ariba **Event Messages** tab to submit questions concerning this solicitation.

- 4.1 Questions marked confidential will not be answered or included.
- 4.2 The City reserves the discretion to group similar questions to provide a single answer or not to respond when the requested information is confidential.
- 4.3 The answers are not typically considered an addendum.
- 4.4 The City will not be responsible for unsuccessful submittal of questions.
- 4.5 Written answers to questions will be posted in the event approximately one week after the question deadline.

## 5. DISCLAIMER

Please note that this Request for Information is not a Request for Bids (RFB) or a Request for Proposals (RFP), and there is no guarantee that either a RFB or RFP will be issued. A Respondent's decision to respond, or not to respond, to this RFI will NOT be a factor in evaluating any later RFB or RFP.

While the intent of this RFI is to help identify vendors who meet various requirements for a competitive solicitation, there is no guarantee that any specific information presented by any Respondent will ultimately be included in any future solicitation issued by the City.

Each Respondent shall bear all expenses incurred by the preparation and presentation of its RFI response. The City will therefore reject any claim made against them in this matter, regardless of the results of the subsequent processes, if any.

## 6. QUALIFYING REQUIREMENTS

TFD is interested in the following subjects and minimum expectations for Structural Firefighter Helmets.

- 6.1 **Department Required Features:** Responsive helmet must meet the following criteria to be reviewed. Vendors are not restricted on the number of helmets they submit. To the extent there is a conflict amongst the requirements, the most stringent requirements will be the most controlling.
  - 6.1.1 Only helmets that are compliant with the most recent edition of NFPA 1971 performance standards for Structural Firefighting
    - 6.1.2 No helmets marketed as "Euro/European Style," except Jet-Style
    - 6.1.3 No leather helmets
    - 6.1.4 Maximum weight is 65 oz.

6.1.5 Head size range must include 6 ½" to 7 ¾"

6.1.6 Maximum profile; 16" long, 13" wide, 7" high/deep, excluding Jet Style which do not have to follow these maximum profile dimensions.

6.1.7 Ability for easy decontamination with no specialized cleaning requirements or products.

## **6.2 NFPA Required Performance Standards:**

### **Top Impact Resistance Test**

- a. Top Impact Resistance Test (room temperature) - The helmet shall be tested in accordance with NFPA 1971, 2018 edition, Section 8.15 and (8.1.3.2 at 70°F +/- 5°F.) Conclusion: The helmet shall transmit a force < 2200 N.
- b. Top Impact Resistance Test (-25°F) - The helmet shall be tested in accordance with NFPA 1971, 2018 edition, Section 8.15 and (8.1.4 at -25°F +/- 2°F) for 4 hours. Conclusion: The helmet shall transmit a force < 2200 N.
- c. Top Impact Resistance Test (285°F) - The helmet shall be tested in accordance with NFPA 1971, 2018 edition, Section 8.15 and (8.1.5.(2) at 285°F) for 10 minutes. Conclusion: The helmet shall transmit a force < 2200 N.
- d. Top Impact Resistance Test (Radiant/Convective) - The helmet shall be tested in accordance with NFPA 1971, 2018 edition, Section 8.15 and 8.1.6 . Conclusion: The helmet shall transmit a force < 2200 N.
- e. Top Impact Resistance Test (Wet) - The helmet shall be tested in accordance with NFPA 1971, 2018 edition, Section 8.15 and 8.1.7 Water immersion for 4 hours. Conclusion: The helmet shall transmit a force < 2200 N.

### **Acceleration Impact Resistance Test**

- a. Acceleration Impact Resistance Test (Room Temperature) -The helmet shall be tested in accordance with NFPA 1971, 2018 edition, Section 8.15 and (8.1.3.2 at 70°F +/- 5°F.) If helmet utilizes an internal face shield then helmet shall be tested with the internal face shield in place. Conclusion: Helmets shall maintain sufficient structural integrity to withstand impacts in all five locations.
- b. Acceleration Impact Resistance Test (285°F) - The helmet shall be tested in accordance with NFPA 1971,2018 edition, Section 8.15 and (8.1.5.(2) at 285°F) for 10 minutes. If helmet utilizes an internal face shield then helmet shall be tested with the internal face shield in place. Conclusion: Helmets shall maintain sufficient structural integrity to withstand impacts in all five locations.



- c. Acceleration Impact Resistance Test (Radiant/Convective) - The helmet shall be tested in accordance with NFPA 1971, 2018 edition, Section 8.16 and 8.1.6. If helmet utilizes an internal face shield then helmet shall be tested with the internal face shield in place. Conclusion: Helmets shall maintain sufficient structural integrity to withstand impacts in all five locations.

#### **Physical Penetration Resistance Test**

The helmet shall be tested in accordance with NFPA 1971, 2018 edition, Section 8.19. Conclusion: The penetration striker shall not penetrate the helmet.

#### **Electrical Insulation Test**

- a. The helmet shall be tested in accordance with NFPA 1971, 2018 edition, Section 8.30. Immerse in tap water. Conclusion: The helmet shall not leak more than 3.0 mA.
- b. 234.2 Electrical Insulation Test (Saturated) – The helmet shall be tested in accordance with NFPA 1971, 2013 edition, Section 8.30B. Submerge helmet in water for 15 minutes. Conclusion: The helmet shall not leak more than 3.0 mA.

#### **Retention System Test**

The helmet shall be tested in accordance with NFPA 1971, 2018 edition, Section 8.34. Conclusion: The helmet chinstrap shall not break, nor stretch more than .8125”

#### **Suspension System Test**

The helmet shall be tested in accordance with NFPA 1971, 2018 edition, Section 8.35. Conclusion: The helmet shell shall not separate from helmet suspension with 45 N (10.116lbs) applied.

#### **Weight of helmet**

The weight of the helmet including accessories shall be measured. Conclusion: The helmet shall not weigh more than 4.5 lbs.

### **6.3 Optional Innovative Features:**

The following features are not required but the inclusion of them will help TPF in reviewing different option and selecting the top 5 for testing.

- a. Integrated eye protection
- b. Integrated helmet light

## **7. CONTENT TO BE SUBMITTED**

### **7.1 Products and Services Provided**

#### **B. Company Information**

- a. Company name
- b. Main office address
- c. Primary contact name / telephone number / email address
- d. Additional contacts for further technical inquiries (name / telephone number / email address), if different
- e. Website

- C. Products Provided (**Please provide a separate Products section for each helmet you submit**)
- Describe the products and services provided by your firm with respect to the subject areas listed in Section 1.02 (above). Please reference the corresponding section number, as appropriate.
  - Include test data that shows you meet NFPA compliance in all above mentioned areas.
  - If reference is made to supporting literature or documentation included with your submittal, direct the reader using specific reference to the document that address the topic, including document name, section and page number.
  - References for similar size fire departments that are currently wearing this helmet.
- D. If reference is made to supporting literature or documentation included with your submittal, direct the reader using specific reference to the document that address the topic, including document name, section and page number.

## 7.2 Pricing Information

Please provide as much general information as possible about your firm's pricing and fee structure.

Note: Information provided in response to this RFI will be considered "General Industry Estimates" and **WILL NOT** be used for the selection of vendors or to limit participation in any potential future Request for Bids or Request for Proposals. Pricing information is requested only to assist in the evaluation process and to develop general budgetary guidelines.

## 8. IMPORTANT INFORMATION

8.1 Please note, TFD requires only the documentation, as identified in Section 7, for each helmet by the submittal deadline.

**8.2 Demonstration helmets will be due a week after the bid closes (03/02/2021) and should be sent to the Tacoma Fire Garage, Attn: Desiree Hochstein, 3401B South Orchard St., Tacoma WA 98466-6826.** TFD will reach out to each vendor after the submittal is closed to schedule their Zoom based demonstration schedule time. After all demonstrations have been completed, TFD will then select the top 5 helmets, and will require 10 of each of the selected helmets for 9 months of testing. Please do NOT send the 10 helmets for testing with your response to this RFI, only the 1 required for the demonstrations.

8.3 TFD strongly encourages vendors to submit responses to this RFI electronically.

8.4 Helmet Selection Process Plan (this is a tentative plan and may be altered at the sole discretion of the City):

8.4.1 Phase 1 Testing: Each wear tester will be required to wear each test helmet for a minimum of six shifts during the testing period and will submit an evaluation at the end of each shift. The first phase will include ratings on overall comfort, ease of don/doff, balance, adjustment/fit, fatigue after wearing, how well the helmet interfaces with the SCBA, the ease of use with all other accessories, the ability to decontaminate, and hearing while wearing the helmet.

8.4.2. Phase 2 Testing: There will be two days of Phase 2 testing, to include one day of drills and one day of live fire testing. The drills will include: Entanglement, Ladders, Crawling, Roll hose, Reduced profile, and a Water Runoff test.

## **9. INSURANCE**

During the course and performance of the testing and demo phase, Supplier will provide proof and maintain the insurance coverage in the amounts and in the manner specified in the City of Tacoma Insurance Requirements document applicable to the services, products, and deliverables provided under the RFI. The City of Tacoma Insurance Requirements document, if issued, is fully incorporated into the RFI by reference.

## **10. ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PROCUREMENT**

In accordance with the City of Tacoma's [Sustainable Procurement Policy](#), it is the policy of the City of Tacoma to encourage the use of products or services that help to minimize the environmental and human health impacts of City Operations. Respondents are encouraged to incorporate environmentally preferable products or services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose. This comparison may consider raw materials acquisition, products, manufacturing, packaging, distribution reuse, operation, maintenance or disposal of the product or service.

The City of Tacoma encourages the use of sustainability practices and desires any awarded contractor(s) to assist in efforts to address such factors when feasible for:

- Reduction of pollutant releases
- Toxicity of materials used
- Waste generation
- Greenhouse gas emissions, including transportation of materials and services
- Recycle content
- Comprehensive energy conservation measures
- Waste manage reduction plans
- Potential impact on human health and the environment

## **11. EQUITY IN CONTRACTING**

The City of Tacoma is committed to encouraging firms certified through the [Washington State Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprise](#) to participate in City contracting opportunities. See the **TMC 1.07 Equity in Contracting Policy** at the City's [Equity in Contracting Program website](#).

## **12. PROPRIETARY OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

The Washington State Public Disclosure Act ([RCW 42.56 et seq.](#)) requires public agencies in Washington make public records available for inspection and copying unless they fall within the specified exemptions contained in the Act, or are otherwise privileged. Documents submitted under this RFI shall be considered public records and, with limited exceptions, will be made available for inspection and copying by the public.

Information that is confidential or proprietary must be clearly marked. Further, an index must be provided indicating the affected page number(s) and location(s) of all such identified material. Information not included in said index will not be reviewed for confidentiality or as proprietary before release.

## **13. ADDENDUMS**

In the event it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFI, an addendum will be issued through the event in Ariba.