City of Tacoma
Department of Public Utilities - Tacoma Power

Energy Imbalance Market (EIM) and Energy Trading and Risk Management (ETRM) Software Solution Software Solution Implementation
RFP Specification No. PM19-0374F

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

All interested parties had the opportunity to submit questions in writing by email to Seth Hartz by October 09, 2019. The answers to the questions received are provided below and posted to the City's website at www.TacomaPurchasing.org: Navigate to *Current Contracting Opportunities / Services*, and then click *Questions and Answers* for this Specification. This information IS NOT considered an addendum. Respondents should consider this information when submitting their proposals.

Question 1: Does the City of Tacoma have a preference for either a Perpetual License or Software as a Service (SaaS) agreement?

Answer 1: Preference is for a Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) agreement.

Question 2: RFP Section 2.08 indicates a requirement for an index of confidential material. May vendors also include a redacted electronic version in the thumb drive included with the submission for City of Tacoma to use for distribution?

Answer 2: A redacted electronic version may also be included; however, Tacoma still requires an un-redacted electronic version with an index of confidential material.

Question 3: The Deliverable Requirements Response Form instructions state for Document Reference: "Please provide a reference to the RFP response document with enough degree of granularity to the specific section(s) where the features that satisfy the requirement is described. Avoid generic references to whole chapters." For shorter comments, may vendors simply include information in the Clarification and Comments columns, and use the Document Reference to refer only to larger documents, such as a SOC 2 report, that addresses the given question?

Answer 3: Yes, for shorter comments vendors may simply include information in the Clarifications and Comments sections provided the information submitted is sufficient to enable Tacoma staff to determine the degree to which a response meets a given requirement.

Question 4: In the Deliverable Requirements Response Form, tab 2, item 02-038 states: "The software solution shall provide the ability to capture Emissions Allowances (including financial products): The authorization to assign allocated carbon allowances into appropriate venues in order to manage Company's obligations." CO_2 emissions are specifically referenced here, are any other emissions required to be captured and managed in the system?

Answer 4: CO_2 emissions are the only emissions required to be captured and managed in the system.

Question 5: In the Deliverable Requirements Response Form, tab 2, item 02-011 states: "The software solution shall provide the ability to capture peak versus current exposure in the month by counterparty." Please provide your definition of Peak exposure, as we have seen multiple definitions used at various customers.

Answer 5:   In the context of peak exposure versus current exposure in the month by counterparty, peak exposure would refer to the maximum day of exposure within the month.

Question 6:   In the Deliverable Requirements Response Form, tab 2, item 02-013 states: "The software solution shall provide the ability to apply trading restrictions at the counterparty level - buy only, sell only, product specific restriction, tenor specific restriction, customized restrictions based on counterparty requirements." Please provide an example of non-standard restriction that would be deemed customized restrictions based on counterparty requirements.

Answer 6:   Example may include but are not limited to restrictions on market, credit limit restrictions at a product level, a combination of tenor and buy/sell only restrictions (such as, for a single counterparty: term is off, day-ahead is buy only, and real-time is on), and/or restrictions based on user-input review dates.

Question 7:   In the Deliverable Requirements Response Form, tab 2, item 02-030 states: "The software solution shall provide the ability to set and capture credit limits at the trader, broker, book, product, counterparty, parent, and portfolio levels (limits on individual trades included)." Is City of Tacoma looking to allocate a specific counterparty limit down to the specific trader?

Answer 7:   Tacoma is not looking to allocate a specific counterparty limit down to the specific trader, however we may allocate overall transaction limits to traders and/or allocate specific counterparty limits to roles (an example would be a specific credit limit for real-time trading vs a different limit for day-ahead). This should be covered in other requirements.

Question 8:   In the Deliverable Requirements Response Form, tab 2, item 02-042 states: "The software solution shall provide the ability to configure five or more user definable fields for use in capturing additional emission / REC information needed as regulations evolve." What data is currently planned to be captured by these user-defined fields?

Answer 8:   Tacoma would like to have five or more user definable fields available for capture of information not currently being tracked. Tacoma requests these fields be available in anticipation of future requirements as result of new or changing regulations, and given that this has not occurred, we do not have specific data planned for capture by these fields. Data currently planned for capture is called out in other requirements.

Question 9:   Regarding the minimum qualification "If bidding on the EIM or OMS components contained within this RFP, the bidder must also have delivered at least two successful implementation that involved EIM/B2B and/or OMS functionality for the CAISO EIM", does Tacoma Power consider the vendor meeting this requirement if they have either a) performed two or more implementation of EIM Settlements / EIM Shadow Settlements but not 2 or more bidding/scheduling deployments in the EIM market, or b) performed 2 or more implementation of bid-to-bill systems in the CAISO non-EIM market?

Answer 9:   A vendor with the experience described in this question would not automatically be removed from consideration. Tacoma Power's Selection Advisory Committee will initially review the solutions proposed by the respondents and compare those solutions with the description of qualifications and experience provided by the respondents to decide if a given proposal is competitive and should be reviewed and scored in full. The title "Desired Qualifications" for Section 2.03 was specifically chosen over titles such as "Minimum Qualifications" for this purpose.

Question 10: Several of the EIM's have allowed respondents to provide bids on a) the bidding/scheduling solution (PRSC, EESC, or both), or both) the settlements solution (PRSC/EESC), or c) both solutions. Are the respondents to the Tacoma Power RFP able to provide a bid on the EIM / B2B as well as a separate bid on just the EIM Settlements / EIM / EIM Shadow Settlements portion of the solution?

Answer 10: Respondents may provide separate proposals (bids) for both the EIM/B2B and the EIM Settlements/EIM Shadow Settlements portion of the solution (or any other solutions that are part of this RFP) without penalty. However, Tacoma's preference for cases such as this is for respondents to provide a single proposal that includes all requested information for both solutions rather than submitting two completely separate proposals. Tacoma will be evaluating each of the four solutions called out in Table 1 of Section 2.02.3 independently. (Please note that Tacoma has provided separate response tabs in the Price Proposal Form for each of the four solution included in the RFP.)

For example, if the EIM/B2B and EIM Settlements solutions were included in a single respondent proposal, the EIM/B2B solution could be removed from further consideration while the EIM Settlements portion of the proposal continues to be evaluated.

Question 11: Regarding requirement 06-017, Outage Creation: "The software solution shall allow users to enter free form notes in the switching plan related to Generation Outages." Please provide a sample of a switching plan for a generation related outage.

Answer 11: Tacoma Power has not yet established such plans and workflows for EIM operations and those plans may be shaped by the functionality of any adopted OMS solution. Tacoma's interest is in a given solution's ability to meet the general requirement and successfully interface with CAISO systems, not the ability to meet a specific current business process.

Question 12: Regarding requirement 06-027, Outage Creation: "The software solution shall provide the ability to create and configure workflows to support the TPU business process for managing the review, editing, scheduling, approval/rejection, submission, status changes, cancellation, extension and other necessary workflow tasks for TPU Generation Outages and Derates." Please provide sample TPU workflows for TPU generation outages and derates.

Answer 12: Tacoma Power has not yet established such plans and workflows for EIM operations and those plans may be shaped by the functionality of any adopted OMS solution. Tacoma's interest is in a given solution's ability to meet the general requirement and successfully interface with CAISO systems, not the ability to meet a specific current business process.

Question 13: Regarding requirement 06-075, Outage Management: "The software solution shall provide capabilities for visual alerts (e.g. pop-ups), prioritization type alerts (e.g. highlighting) and audio alerts (e.g. alarms) which can be integrated into the outage workflows or event triggered." Please provide example workflows for generation and transmission outage submission at TPU.

Answer 13: Tacoma Power has not yet established such plans and workflows for EIM operations and those plans may be shaped by the functionality of any adopted OMS solution. Tacoma's interest is in a given solution's ability to meet the general requirement and successfully interface with CAISO systems, not the ability to meet a specific current business process.

Question 14: Regarding requirement 06-110, Outage Management: "The software solution shall provide the ability to configure Transmission Outage workflows for routing of work responsibilities based on the type of Outage, the start date of the Outage, or other defined criteria. At a minimum, workflows shall include: planned transmission outage, forced transmission outage, forced equipment derate, planned equipment derate." Please provide an example of each workflow for review.

Answer 14: Tacoma Power has not yet established such plans and workflows for EIM operations and those plans may be shaped by the functionality of any adopted OMS solution. Tacoma's interest is in a given solution's ability to meet the general requirement and successfully interface with CAISO systems, not the ability to meet a specific current business process.

Question 15: Regarding requirement 06-0142, Views and Reports: "The software solution shall provide the ability to export Outage data (including non-TPU outages imported from the Reliability Coordinator's) for use in TPU's Study Tools." Please provide a list of study tools and expected export formats for TPU study tools.

Answer 15: PSLF, PSSE, PowerWorld & OSI Monarch (EOS)

Question 16: Regarding requirement 06-173, Workflow Management, "The software solution shall support the management and approval of Generation outages through defined workflows based on the type of Outage, the start date of the Outage or other defined criteria. At a minimum the following workflows shall be supported:
- Planned Generation Outage – there are likely to be two or three variations of this workflow depending on whether the outage is a wholly owned TPU facility or a JOU
- Forced Generation Outage – there are likely to be three or four variation of this workflow depending on:
    o How far in advance of outage start time it is created
    o Whether there is any flexibility in the outage start time
    o Specifics of the outage (e.g. due to BPA transmission limits)
    o Who created the outage
- Auto Created Derates – there are likely to be two variations depending on whether an outage was imported or created in OMS

Please provide example workflows for each of the high-level workflows to be supported (Planned, Forced, and Auto-generated).

Answer 16: Tacoma Power has not yet established such plans and workflows for EIM operations and those plans may be shaped by the functionality of any adopted OMS solution. Tacoma's interest is in a given solution's ability to meet the general requirement and successfully interface with CAISO systems, not the ability to meet a specific current business process.