

**Department of Materials Management  
Procurement Unit  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
45 W. Gude Drive, Suite 3100  
Rockville, Maryland 20850**

**May 19, 2020**

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

**The following are questions and responses regarding**

**RFI No. 4916.1, Electrification of Bus Fleet**

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*\***

**All Specifications under this RFI are required to meet the Code of Maryland Regulations**

Question 1: Will the participants in this RFI be allowed to participate in the competitive process?

**Answer: Yes**

Question 2: The "Intent" section of RFI 4916.1 indicates that all operational infrastructure for a turnkey solution should be included in a proposed plan; we read this to mean vehicles must be included in the turnkey program. Is this assumption correct?

**Answer: Yes**

Question 3: Will a 64-passenger school bus with 11 rows of 3/3 seating be acceptable (see seating)?

**Answer: Yes**

Question 4: Air Conditioning – Will MCPS consider changing the requirement to 126,000BTU's minimum which is recommended for this size bus?

**Answer: Yes, will consider an AC unit that offers a minimum of 126K BTU's. Our bus specification document has our minimum BTU level listed incorrectly. The correct BTU's should read 120K. 120K BTU will be our minimum.**

Question 5: Body Interior Access Panel - Will MCPS accept access through the over driver compartment?

**Answer: Yes**

Question 6: Seat/Seating Arrangement – Will MCPS accept 64 seated passenger capacity with 11-rows of seating? From front to back: 3 rows for 39" integrated child seats, 7 rows of 39" seats and 1 row of 32" seats. Does MCPS want shoulder/lap belts for passenger seating? Will MCPS accept seating without a flip seat because there will be no side emergency door?

**Answer: Yes**

Question 7: Batteries – Will MCPS accept the two batteries we can provide which are 750CCA each? Since the batteries are not used for engine starting this is what is recommended.

**Answer: Yes**

Question 8: Lights – Will MCPS accept sweptback LED headlights that are not thermo heated? Will MCPS accept recessed LED front and rear marker/cluster lights that are not the pin type? Will MCPS accept LED oblong front and LED oval fender turn signals? Will MCPS accept the Service Door LED light to the left side which is typical for this type of bus? Would MPCPS prefer a non LED roof strobe light which is brighter than the LED strobe?

**Answer: Yes**

Question 9: Tires – Will MCPS accept Michelin 11R22.5 Tires which is the only size currently available? The tires specified in the RFI are typically used for flat floor buses.

**Answer: Yes**

Question 10: Please describe the MCPS approval process for the electrification program contemplated under this RFI and, as anticipated, the subsequent & related RFP.

**Answer: MCPS's goal is to find the best overall candidate for this project. The following criteria, but not limited to, will be evaluated.**

- 1. Electrification infrastructure**
- 2. Ability to scale up if awarded a multiple year contract**
- 3. Management of the overall program and infrastructure**
- 4. Vendors ability to integrate the program with MCPS operations**
- 5. Bus specifications; body side and electric powertrain**
- 6. Provide vehicle to grid technology**
- 7. Projects ability to be turnkey and budget neutral**

Question 11: Could you please provide an organizational chart of MCPS, and also show how this fits into the organizational structure of Montgomery County?

**Answer: The organizational structure is currently under a restructuring process and is not available, however the Department of Transportation currently falls under the Chief Operating Officer.**

Question 12: Please provide credit information on MCPS. If MCPS has a long-term credit rating, please provide.

**Answer: We are unable to provide this information at this time.**

Question 13: Please describe the approval process for the contract(s) that will be necessary to implement and operate this electrification program.

**Answer: The approval process will be identification of a successful proposal, if there is one, and BOE approval of the project and any needed budgetary approval.**

Question 14: Please describe the budget process that will authorize funding (annually and/or a one-time approval) for this project.

**Answer: We anticipate the awarding of a multi-year contract that will be contingent upon the annual availability of any needed funds. Also, this project is expected to be a turnkey, budget neutral, program. Budget neutral is referring to MCPS providing the successful vendor with funding that is currently budgeted for the annual purchase of diesel buses. Furthermore, final approval of the contract and funding will be presented, and approved, by the MCPS Board of Education.**



Angela McIntosh-Davis, CPPB, Team Leader  
Procurement Unit

AMD

Please indicate your receipt of this notice my signing below and returning with your proposal or under a separate cover.

Accepted By: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name & Title)

Name of Company: \_\_\_\_\_