



REQUEST for INFORMATION (RFI)

RFI #: MV-2023 USMHP Heavy Lift Crane

Description:

Ports of Indiana – Mount Vernon. Request for Information for future procurement of a new *Buy America compliant* lattice-boom crawler crane and associated lifting equipment.

Due Date: November 22, 2023

Time Due: 3 P.M. Eastern Standard Time

(NO EXCEPTIONS)

Submit Package electronically to:

Bids@PortsofIndiana.com

Questions Due: **1 p.m. EST on November 03, 2023**

Send to Email: Bids@PortsofIndiana.com and include “RFI - #MV-2023 USMHP Crane” in the Subject Line.

Site Visit: None.

The information solicited under this Request will not be opened or read publicly.

****THIS IS NOT A SOLICITATION FOR PROPOSALS**

AND NO CONTRACT WILL BE AWARDED FROM THIS ANNOUNCEMENT. **

Background

On Sept 21, 2023, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration (MARAD) awarded \$12 million in grants to eight projects across the nation under the United States Marine Highway Program (USMHP). The funding will improve the movement of goods on the country's navigable waterways and expand existing waterborne freight services in the selected locations, strengthening supply chains and cutting costs for consumers.

USMHP grants can be used to purchase low-emissions U.S.-manufactured equipment, such as container reach stackers and cranes, with the condition that all iron, steel, manufactured components, and construction materials are produced in the United States. In addition, funds can be used to purchase intermodal equipment to alleviate supply chain bottlenecks.

Introduction

MARAD's grant award to Ports of Indiana totals \$2,250,000 to assist in the purchase of a new 120-ton crane at Ports of Indiana-Mount Vernon. This grant award is the federal portion of a \$3,000,000 budget to purchase the crane. The crane more than doubles the port's lift capacity, from less than 60 tons at present to 120 tons, allowing the Port to supply heavy lift transload services between barge, rail, and truck. The procurement of a modern, safer, more reliable, and environmentally friendly crane will enable Ports of Indiana-Mount Vernon to decrease emissions through greater operating efficiency. The new crane will provide the capability to move large and overweight shipments, such as steel plate and heavy lift project cargo.

Only eight projects around the U.S. (three in the Midwest, including Ports of Indiana) received funding through the USMHP program this round.

Purpose of the RFI

The **purpose of this RFI is to facilitate a process gauging interest and availability from manufacturers** and their representatives who could proceed to bid and provide a Build America, Buy American Act-compliant lattice boom crawler crane with a minimum lift capacity of 120-tons at 100'. Manufacturers have made great strides toward Buy America compliance. POI, however, has limited familiarity with manufacturers of this product and the goal of this RFI is to build relationships with additional manufacturers who will, in turn, present bids in the Procurement process.

Scope & Specifications

The scope of this RFI is to procure information and availability for the purchase of a lattice-boom crawler crane with the lifting capacity of 120-tons at approx. 100' reach. Other styles of equivalent cranes may be submitted for consideration, as this is an information-seeking request. **The crane must meet or exceed the following specifications:**

- New condition
- 250-ton capacity or greater as needed to make safe and efficient 120-ton lifts from barge to rail at POI-Mt. Vernon cargo docks.
- Minimum 200' boom;
- Comply with Tier 3 emissions standards or better
- Air-conditioned cab
- Counterweight technology to optimize stability and lifting capacity

RFI procedure - Instructions to Respondents

All responses must be submitted electronically to bids@portsofindiana.com by the time and date specified on the Cover page. Cloud storage or file-sharing submissions will not be accepted.

1. Type or print all requested information, including prices and extensions, and accurate Contact information -- illegible documents will be deemed non-responsive.
2. Fill in all requested information completely.
3. If respondent's proposed equipment does not strictly meet the specifications, all deviations must be detailed in a side-by-side formatted comparison to the Scope Section below. As this IS informational, we encourage respondents to submit similar/like cranes that can achieve the work, meet Buy America requirements, and budget expectations.
4. The forms contained herein must be signed by an authorized company management representative. When signing the forms, you agree to all Terms and Conditions, special provisions and specifications included in this solicitation.
5. When signing the enclosed forms, it is imperative that the company's name be the same as listed with the Indiana Secretary of State's office. The name of a DBA may be used if that DBA is also listed on the respondent's Secretary of State registration.
6. If you are submitting more than one (1) response or crane type for consideration, you must complete and submit a separate bid package for each offer.
7. POI assumes no responsibility for incomplete solicitation responses.
8. Submission packets must be received by the due date and time indicated on the RFI Cover sheet.
9. Submissions received after the deadline will not be considered. POI reserves the right to not respond to telephone or other oral inquiries or requests for information.

Respondent shall provide full and complete contact information here:

RESPONDENT INFORMATION

(Type or Print Legibly)

Company Name (as shown on your income tax return)	
DBA	
Mailing Address	
City, State and Zip	
Contact Name	
Email	
Phone	
U.S. Federal Identification Number	
Website Address	
QUALIFICATION TO DO BUSINESS IN INDIANA	
Is your company registered with the Indiana Secretary of State?	Yes _____ No _____

RESPONDENT'S PAST FEDERAL GRANT PROJECT EXPERIENCE	
<p>Has your company previously been awarded and/or completed other Federal infrastructure/grant projects or procurements?</p>	<p>Yes / No _____ If Yes, please describe / list them:</p>

Unique Conditions or Terms for Future RFP

Procurement methods:

The acquisition of goods and services must follow the procurement standards described in 2 C.F.R. 200.317-327. A State must follow the same policies and procedures it uses for procurements from its non-Federal funds. All other non-Federal entities must conduct all procurement transactions for

the acquisition of property or services in a manner providing full and open competition consistent with the standards described in 2 C.F.R. 200.319-320. Noncompetitive procurements can only be awarded in accordance with 2 C.F.R. 200.320(c) and with the written approval of MARAD (Maritime Administration).

Buy America Requirements:

This project is an infrastructure project. Therefore, all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in the project for infrastructure expenditures are subject to the domestic content requirements of the Build America, Buy America Act, Pub. L. No. 117-58, div. G, tit. IX, subtitle. A, 135 Stat. 429, 1298 (2021) and 2 C.F.R. 184, as implemented in the terms and conditions and exhibits of the grant agreement.

The project must not use funds provided under this award *unless*:

- (1) all iron and steel used in the project are produced in the United States—this means all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States;
- (2) all manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States—this means the manufactured product was manufactured in the United States; and the cost of the components of the manufactured product that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States is greater than 55 percent of the total cost of all components of the manufactured product; and
- (3) all construction materials are manufactured in the United States—this means that all manufacturing processes for the construction material occurred in the United States.

Per MARAD, when necessary, the project owner may apply for, and the USDOT may grant, a waiver from the Buy America preference if the USDOT determines that:

- (i) applying the Buy America preference would be inconsistent with the public interest;
- (ii) the types of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality; or
- (iii) the inclusion of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.

Where applies: *On August 16, 2023, USDOT announced a public interest Waiver of Buy America Requirements for De Minimis Costs and Small Grants. Under this waiver, you may use a de minimis amount of non-compliant iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials in your project if the total value of the non-compliant products is no more than the lesser of \$1 million or 5 percent of total applicable costs for the project. Total applicable project costs are defined as the cost of materials (including the cost of any manufactured products but excluding labor costs) used in the project that are subject to a domestic preference requirement, including materials that are within the scope of an existing waiver.*

Form to fill in as an answer to the RFI:

RESPONSE INFORMATION

(Type or Print Legibly)

Equipment Information:		
<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Response</u>
Crane Proposed	Make/Model	
Lead time	Months	
Delivery & On-Site Training Available	Available Yes/No	
Buy America Compliant (2 CFR 184 and 2 CFR 200)	Yes/No	
Can you provide Letter / Documentation of Compliance? <i>(attach to submission if available)</i>	Yes/No	
Warranty Information	Years & Terms	
Does this generally meet or exceed the projected project value?	Meets / Exceeds	
Is a Service/Preventative Maintenance Plan Available?	Yes / No	Describe:
Will you maintain a reasonably local parts inventory to avoid major delays?	Yes / No	Describe:
What is the proximity of qualified repair technicians to Mt. Vernon, IN?		

Attach relevant product data packages to submission.

Clarification and Updates

Questions and clarification are encouraged and may be asked up until EOB on Nov. 3, 2023, addressed via email to Bids@PortsofIndiana.com. By Nov. 9, 2023, POI will issue an Addendum response to all clarifications requested. Any periodic updates to Scope prior to Nov. 9 will be sent to all potential respondents who have Registered with Bids@PortsofIndiana.com.