



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE
Office of Budget & Management Analysis
Bureau of Fiscal Services
Building 9, Room 234
W.A. Harriman Campus
Albany, NY 12227

Patricia Mitchell, Chief Financial Officer
Eric Mostert, Assistant Director, Budget & Accounting Services
Janice Piccone, Assistant Director, Procurement Services

September 3, 2007

Dear Prospective Bidder:

The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance is soliciting information from qualified vendors interested in supplying the Department with an AGFA Avalon or Heidelberg Supra Setter E 105 or equivalent Computer to Plate Image System and a compatible Epson 9800 or equivalent Proofing System with Color Management.

The Request for Information (RFI) for these products is posted on the Department's website at <http://www.nystax.gov/procurement>. If you are unable to obtain a copy of the RFI from our website, please e-mail bfs_contracts@tax.state.ny.us or call (518) 457-0954 to request a copy.

All questions should be submitted to the designated contacts in the RFI.

All proposals must be received no later than September 28, 2007.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janice Piccone". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Janice Piccone
Assistant Director, Procurement Services



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**Request for Information (RFI)
Computer to Plate Image and Proofing Systems**

September 3, 2007

The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance (the "Department") is requesting information from qualified vendors interested in supplying the Department with an AGFA Avalon, Heidelberg Supra Setter E 105 or equivalent Computer to Plate Image System with a compatible Epson 9800 or equivalent Proofing System with Color Management.

History of Need for Procurement

The Department is seeking to replace our existing AGFA plate processing system located and maintained at the Department's print facility in Green Island, NY.

The AGFA system is used to transfer print ready files, both electronic and hard copy, to film (negatives) which are subsequently burned into metal plates. The plates are then affixed to printing presses to aid in the offset printing reproduction process.

The new system is required to bypass the need to create film prior to making aluminum press plates and must work directly from the computer at a minimum processing rate of ten plates per hour.

Objective

It is the objective of this solicitation to canvas suppliers of Computer to Plate Image and Proofing Systems to assist the Department in the development of specifications which meet functional requirements to increase productivity and to address the space required for these systems.

Areas of Concern

1. Space Constraints

The Department has limited space available for the Computer to Plate Image and Proofing systems. Initially, we had allocated 120" x 240" for the systems; however, as a result of an Invitation for Bid, we discovered the systems meeting our functional requirements will require a larger footprint.

The Department is looking for explicit space requirements. Attached (Attachment A) is a blueprint of the area where our current system resides (the Plate Room) in our Green Island facility. This is the only available room with the plumbing required for this type of system and, to keep costs down, the Department would like to place the new system in the same area. The Plate Room has additional equipment which the Department would prefer not to move; however, in recognition

that the footprint we had allocated for the new system is not sufficient, we are seeking suggestions for layouts which minimize space requirements and movement of existing equipment.

It is strongly recommended that vendors take advantage of the opportunity for a site visit. Vendors will be allowed access to the Plate Room on Tuesday, September 18, 2007 at 1pm at Green Island to review the area and take any necessary measurements required to provide the Department with proposed layouts. Vendors must register to attend the site visit by email to bfs_contracts@tax.state.ny.us, fax (518)435-8413 or by phone (518)457-0954 no later than September 17, 2007.

Please provide a layout which is specific as to where the systems can be placed in the Plate Room and the exact dimensions of the systems, including necessary access space.

2. Plate Loading

The Department is seeking to automate the production of plates, to the extent possible, within budget constraints. We require a minimum of one cassette loader to load plates and prefer automatic removal of slip sheets from between the plates as a plate passes through the image setter. We also require the option to bypass the cassette loader in order to load a plate manually.

Does your system have this functionality? If not, a) please describe what functions are available and, b) if applicable, provide recommendations for alternatives which may provide similar functionality and allow for improved production. Please be sure to indicate what processes are manual, semi or fully automatic.

3. Plates/Thermal Plates

The Department produces millions of tax documents annually and would like to improve production timeframes. We would prefer the ability to use plates produced by several vendors. We are looking for the ability to produce non-baked thermal plates with the maximum number of impressions we can obtain using ultra-violet ink.

In response to this RFI:

- provide a list of various plate materials and manufacturers compatible with your machine;
- identify the steps required to process each type of plate; and
- provide the maximum number of impressions per thermal plate, using ultra-violet ink, we can expect to obtain. Please identify the manufacturer(s) of the thermal plate(s) which meet this criteria.

4. Specifications in General

Attached (Attachment B) is a list of specifications (including some discussed above) the Department is looking for in the new Computer to Plate and Proofing Systems. Please identify any unnecessary restrictions these specifications present and recommend alternatives. The recommendation must clearly outline why you believe the specification may be overly restrictive and how the alternative will allow for improved productivity.

Procurement Lobbying

Pursuant to State Finance Law §§139-j and 139-k, this procurement includes and imposes certain restrictions on communications between the Department and an Offerer during the procurement process. An Offerer is restricted from making contacts from the earliest notice of intent to solicit offers through final award and approval of the Procurement Contract by the Department and, if applicable, the Office of the

State Comptroller (“restricted period”) to other than designated staff unless it is a contact that is included among certain statutory exceptions set forth in State Finance Law §139-j (3) (a).

Department employees are also required to obtain certain information when contacted during the restricted period and make a determination of the responsibility of the Offerer pursuant to these two statutes. Certain findings of non-responsibility can result in rejection for contract award and in the event of two findings within a four-year period; the Offerer is debarred from obtaining governmental Procurement Contracts. Information related to the Procurement Lobbying Law and Department guidelines can be found on the Department’s Procurement website at: <http://www.nystax.gov/procurement>.

Affirmation of Understanding of, and compliance with, Procurement Lobbying Legislation

New York State Finance Law 139-j(6)(b) requires the Department to seek written affirmation from all Offerers as to the Offerers’ understanding of and agreement to comply with the Department procedures relating to permissible contacts during a Government Procurements pursuant to subdivision three of this section. Accordingly, Attachment C is incorporated by reference.

RFI Questions

All questions concerning this RFI should be submitted to the following designated contacts (e-mail preferred):

Janice Piccone	Assistant Director of Procurement
Catherine Golden	Procurement Administrator
Karen Brino	Contract Administrator

e-mail – bfs_contracts@tax.state.ny.us phone – (518) 457-0954 or fax (518)435-8413

Contacting individuals other than the designated contacts listed above may result in the finding of non-responsibility under State Finance Law.

RFI Response

Please respond to the areas of concern listed above by September 28, 2007. Be sure to provide the name, location, contact person, phone number and e-mail address for your company.

Your response related to this RFI may be e-mailed (preferred), faxed or mailed to:

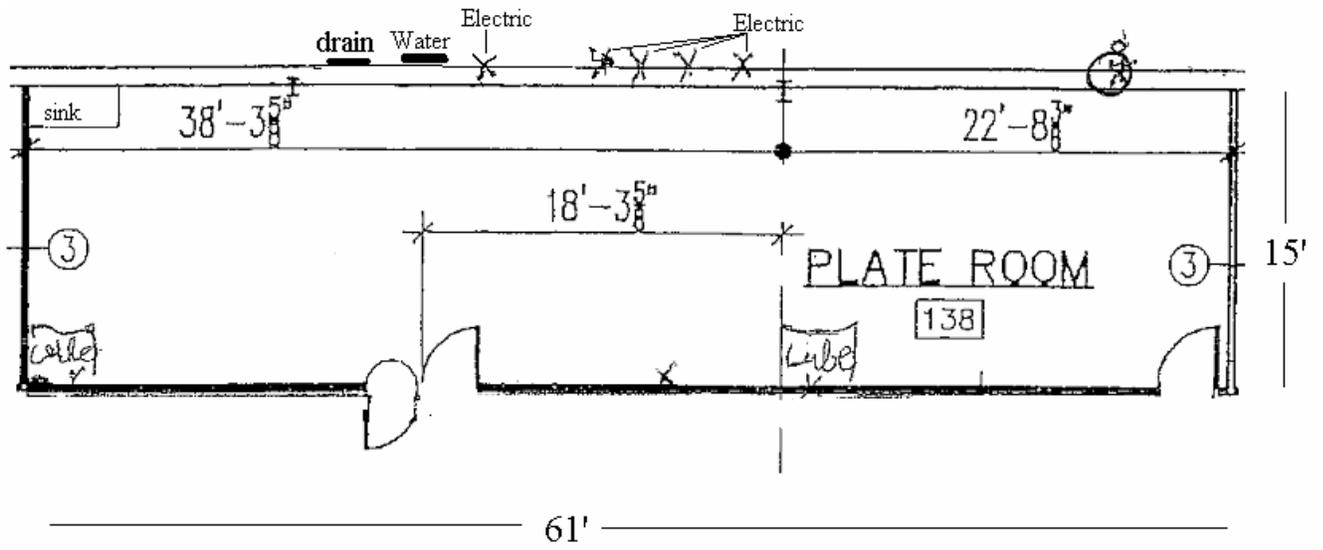
e-mail address: bfs_contracts@tax.state.ny.us

FAX number: (518)435-8413 FAX

Mail Address:
New York State Department of Taxation and Finance
Office of Budget and Management Analysis
ATTN: Janice Piccone, Assistant Director
Building 9, Room 234
W.A. Harriman State Office Building Campus
Albany, NY 12227
(518)457-0954

A response does not bind or obligate the responder or the Department to any agreement of provision or procurement of products referenced.

Attachment A



ATTACHMENT B

Computer to Plate Image System Specifications

The vendor should provide recommendations and/or specifications for an AGFA Avalon, Heidelberg Supra Setter E-105, or equivalent Computer to Plate Image System. Alternative equipment that can provide equivalent performance and functionality will be considered. The Department reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to make the final determination of whether or not the proposed equipment is equivalent.

The following initial specifications outline the features and capabilities minimally required by the Department:

- ◆ The system must be a top quality thermal imaging plate setter capable of processing a minimum of 10 full size plates per hour throughput speed @ 2400 dpi with an intuitive user interface.
- ◆ The System must integrate seamlessly with our current equipment (PC server workstation--Kodak/Creo Preps Imposition system running version 5.2 series on the Department's Windows XP) and the software must be fully automated.
- ◆ Vendor will provide all connectivity between the Department's current Kodak/Creo Preps Imposition system running version 5.2 series on the Department's Windows XP device to their RIP device.
- ◆ Vendor must provide a backup/archival/retrieval copy of all software required to restore operations.
- ◆ Requires 8-page plate setter with external drum.
- ◆ The CTP device must be semi-automatic with an online plate processor and plate stacker and must have the ability to run a plate through a single cassette loader as well as be manually loaded.
- ◆ Plate processor must have the capability of being turned off nightly without degrading the chemical performance.
- ◆ Must include single cassette with automatic slip-sheet removal.
- ◆ Plate format requirements: A maximum of at least 24 5/8" x 36" and minimum of at least 13" x 18".
- ◆ Plate thickness: 6 – 12 ml.
- ◆ Must incorporate temperature compensation for exact plate remakes.
- ◆ Must operate in an environment where temperature typically ranges from 62.6° to 86° F.
- ◆ Must be able to run various plate material generally used with thermal plate setters.
- ◆ Must be able to produce non-baked thermal plates with a minimum run life of 250,000 impressions using ultra-violet ink.
- ◆ The vendor must submit MSDS for all chemicals used by the proposed system.

Initial Proofing System and Color Management Specifications

The vendor must provide recommendations and/or specifications for an Epson 9800 or equivalent Proofing System. Alternative equipment that can provide equivalent performance and functionality will be considered. The Department reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to make the final determination of whether or not the proposed equipment is equivalent.

The following initial specifications outline the features and capabilities minimally required by the Department:

- ◆ **Must be compatible with the above proposed Computer to Plate Image System.**
- ◆ Must allow for production of proofing directly from RIP device.
- ◆ Must be driven directly from the system postscript and PDF workflow.
- ◆ Must support PDF 1.3, postscript 3, TIFF 6.0, JPEG, CALS/G4, HP RTL, and HPIGL/2, and be capable of printing media up to a maximum width of 40" to 46", and the ability to support a minimum of 6 ink colors.
- ◆ Must provide up to 1200 x 600 dpi printing on glossy media.
- ◆ Must include software for generating ICC (International Color Consortium) output profiles for print and proof.
- ◆ Must include characterization for RGB (Red, Green, and Blue) and CMYK (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow and Black) output devices.

Attachment C

**New York State Department of Taxation and Finance
Offerer Affirmation of Understanding of, and Compliance with, Procurement Lobbying Guidelines**

New York State Finance Law 139-j(6)(b) requires the DTF seek written affirmation from all Offerers as to the Offerer's understanding of and agreement to comply with the DTF procedures relating to permissible contacts during a Government Procurement pursuant to subdivision three of this section.

Procurement Description, Contract or Bid Number:

Offerer Name: _____

Offerer Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

e-Mail Address: _____

Offerer affirms it has read, understands and agrees to comply with the Guidelines of the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance relative to permissible contacts as required by the State Finance Law 139-j(3) and 139-j(6)(b).

By (*signature*): _____

Name (*please print*): _____

Title (*please print*): _____

Date: _____