



DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

ADDENDUM #2

Request for Information # 2397

Date: November 3, 2020
Subject: Vendor Questions and Answers, Response to RFI due date change
Title: Data Visualization (BI) Software for Website Integration and Display

RFI Due Date: Original RFI Due date: November 6, 2020 @ 2:00 PM
Revised RFI Due date: November 20, 2020 @ 2:00 PM

Address RFI response to: Alicia.Flint@ogs.ny.gov
Re: RFI #2397

Please see Attachment #1 for Vendor Questions and Answers

Reminder, responses to RFI# 2397 are due November 20, 2020.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

***If submitting a response, we request that this Addendum #2 for RFI #2397 contain a signature, be dated, attached to, and made a part of your response.**

Company Name _____

Address (include City, State, Zip) _____

Bidders Name (please print) _____

Title _____

Signature _____

Date _____

RFI 2397 Addendum 2 - Attachment 1, Vendor Questions and Answers

| Question | Program Response |
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| 1 DiLytics Inc is incorporated in San Mateo, California and not in NY state. Can we respond to this RFI? | Yes |
| 2 What is the process of evaluation of RFI? | An RFI is a Request for Information only. There will be no evaluation and no resulting contract. Simply, OGS is gathering information to help develop a potential procurement. |
| 3 What kind of Demo NYS is looking for? | OGS is looking for a demo that demonstrates the system's ability to take a data set, create a custom visualization, and integrate and publish to our website. |
| 4 What would be next steps once we respond to RFI? | Refer to Question and Answer #2 |
| 5 Regarding the CMS Drupal platform mentioned in the Project Background, is that maintained in-house or through a contracted vendor? | The CMS platform in question is maintained in-house. |
| 6 If this does move forward to a formal solicitation, do you have a time range you're shooting for or will any next steps depend more upon the RFI responses? | No. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 7 Where is the database hosted - OnPrem (on location) or in the Cloud? | There is no particular set of data under scope for this inquiry. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 8 Is the data structured or unstructured? | There is no particular set of data under scope for this inquiry. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 9 What's the size of the data we are looking at? The frequency of the refresh activity? | There is no particular set of data under scope for this inquiry; however, the refresh activity could be daily. |
| 10 How many tables are in the database? | There is no particular set of data under scope for this inquiry. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 11 What's the number of dashboards that need to be developed? | Multiple and varied based on program needs that we cannot forecast at this time. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 12 Responsive to mobile devices- Do we need to build dashboards to support mobile platforms as well? | Yes, any solution should be responsive to mobile devices. |
| 13 Will Inbuilt functionality of PowerBI only be used for downloading excel files? | No specific vendor solution is identified for this RFI. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 14 How many users are we looking at for sharing the dashboards? | Number of users is not specified. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 15 Will Single Sign-On functionality and Role-based access be included as mentioned as a CMS integration point? | No sign-on solution is specified. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 16 Will the published dashboard, accessed by URL, be accessed by different permission levels within the organization? | No - we are looking for solutions to enable data visualizations to be published on our public website, accessible to all site users. |
| 17 Whether companies from Outside USA can apply for this? (like,from India or Canada) | Yes |
| 18 Whether we need to come over there for meetings? | In person attendance is not required to respond to the RFI. |

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| 19 | Can we perform the tasks (related to RFP) outside USA? (like, from India or Canada) | Yes |
| 20 | Can we submit the proposals via email? | Yes |
| 21 | Are the example data visualizations for reference as "examples only" or are those specific visualizations required? | Examples only. |
| 22 | Approximately how many different "visualizations" are currently being published to the OGS website per week and how many are "internal only" vs "externally" accessible on the open web? (this is relevant for licensing) | There are no data visualizations published to the OGS website as we do not have that functionality. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 23 | How many different stakeholders (i.e. agencies/departments) are responsible for the current visualizations? This will impact complexity/coordination effort. | There are no current visualizations. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 24 | For the first phase of this initiative, do you anticipate the number of existing visualizations to remain approximately the same once transitioned? | There are no current visualizations. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 25 | Approximately how many data sources are being used to provide data for the current set of visualizations? | There are no current visualizations. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 26 | Approximately how many website impressions/hits are the current visualizations receiving per day? | There are no current visualizations. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 27 | Does the NYS OGS have a preference for either an on-premise or a cloud based solution? | A preference is not specified. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 28 | What are the data sources that NYS OGS would like to use, and what database technologies host them? | There are currently no data sources or visualizations. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 29 | Can NYS OGS describe a couple of high priority use cases that they would like to implement? | There is no specific data set under scope for this inquiry; however, NY's Open Data website contains a range of data types that could be used as examples. |
| 30 | Can NYS OGS please clarify how "heavy traffic" is defined? NYS OGS' response to this question will allow us to propose a solution that best fits the agency needs. | Traffic can vary, therefore the solution should be scalable. Anticipate a maximum of 10000+ concurrent users. |
| 31 | Can NYS OGS please elaborate on the types of data typically worked with and the frequency of updates currently made? Any insight offered on agencies needing one-time update vs. continuous updates to data will also be helpful. | There is no specific data set under scope for this inquiry; however, NY's Open Data website contains a range of data types. Anticipate continual updates, as needed, refreshing at least daily. |
| 32 | Page 1 Section 1.2 Confirm that the data to be visualized through this tool is for external users, meaning citizen, an open website. If so, we are assuming that the data is not confidential. | Correct |
| 33 | Page 1 Section 1.3 Is there an authentication process for the users to enter the page where the visualizations are presented, or will the visualizations be located in the open site? | Visualizations will be located on the open site. |
| 34 | Page 1 Section 1.2, How many users per day or per week, on average, are expected to hit the page? | Traffic can vary, therefore the solution should be scalable. Anticipate a maximum of 10000+ concurrent users. |
| 35 | Page 2 Section 2, How long is the contract expected to be ? | There is no contract under scope. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 36 | Page 3 Section 3, Can we submit examples of data visualization applications we have in the RFI for your review? | Yes |

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| 37 | Can the services be executed remotely? | This functionality is not under consideration at this time. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. Please provide information on remote execution in the RFI response. |
| 38 | Within the RFI, there is mention of the need to upload data visualization and a need for "a tool to serve as an extension of website functionality insofar as it allows us to take any set of raw data, build a display, and publish the display on our websites". To confirm, you are looking for a tool that allows for the administrators of the site to be able to create their own custom visualizations and publish them on a regular basis? | Yes |
| 39 | The RFI notes "OGS does not intend to replace existing tools to manage agency data or intend to take over the management of program data; rather we need a tool to serve as an extension of website functionality insofar as it allows us to take any set of raw data, build a display, and publish the display on our websites." You noted that you already use Tableau. The paragraph above is a pretty concise description of Tableau. In what ways does Tableau not provide what you need? | At this time, OGS is not looking at any specific vendor. This RFI is intended to solicit responses from myriad vendors. |
| 40 | The examples given, offer a wide range of visualizations with a high level of advanced customization, designed and built using skilled information design and frontend engineering. Is the request that your site administrators will be able to create visualizations on par with these examples or that you are looking for an agency to design and build these visualizations to be embedded in your site? | The request is to provide an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom visualizations. Given that we are in the information gathering stage, we do not know if this work will be handled in-house or through an agency. We are open to learning about varied approaches. |
| 41 | Further, the examples included in the RFI are likely in the high five figures, and oftentimes well into six figures. With the assumption that every year you're looking to create several visualizations of this caliber, you may require an annual budget for this project of at least half a million dollars. Does your budget have room for this? Or, are your needs more around making it easier for your Drupal content creators to see what visualizations are available (in Tableau, or your other tools), choosing a visualization, and then easily insert it into the content? | Given that we are in the information gathering stage, this request is to provide an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom visualizations. There is no budgeting information to share. Our desire is to easily integrate data visualizations into our website. |
| 42 | The RFI notes data visualizations on your website should be accessible – compliant with Section 508. Most of the example visualizations are not accessible. Are you willing to invest a higher percentage of your budget in accessibility in order to meet Section 508 requirements? | Given that we are in the information gathering stage, this request is to provide an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom visualizations. There is no budgeting information to share. However, we would appreciate that respondents help us understand how to make data visualizations accessible. |
| 43 | The RFI mentions "Tableau, Excel, and other applications designed to store data. These methods do not enable direct publishing to the website platform. Tableau and Google Docs are both designed to embed into your website (Excel is not). Can you describe what you're envisioning? | In the RFI, we provided several examples of the types of custom data visualizations we are interested in building. |
| 44 | The RFI notes would like to publish the display on your websites. Are there multiple websites? Are they all built in Drupal and if so, which version of Drupal? Do each of these sites use the same technique for building pages (Paragraphs, Panelizer, Layout Builder, etc.)? | OGS manages multiple websites, not all in Drupal. The sites do not use the same technique for building pages. |
| 45 | The RFI reads as if you're seeking a specific tool, software, or SaaS provider that can be easily added to your existing site. Is this the case? Or, are you open to working with an agency that might be able to utilize several different tools to build a single "dashboard" of your data that can be visualized and integrated on your site? | The request is to provide an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom visualizations. Given that we are in the information gathering stage, we do not know if this work will be handled in-house or through an agency. We are open to learning about varied approaches. |
| 46 | What Drupal version is the site on? | Drupal 8 |
| 47 | Where is the site hosted? | Acquia Cloud |
| 48 | Are there any other issues, problems, complaints, or concerns that you have with the existing site? | None surrounding this RFI. |
| 49 | Do you have a preference for a subscription or custom solution (we build custom)? | A preference is not specified. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website in order to determine feasibility for a project. |
| 50 | How many feeds of data are do you have? | There are currently no data sources or visualizations. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website in order to determine feasibility for a project. |
| 51 | Do you want exporting reporting features? | We are interested in learning more on exporting reporting features. Please elaborate in the RFI response. |
| 52 | Can you show me a page on the website that you would like to convert into data visualization? | OGS does not currently have this functionality and there is no specific data set under scope for this inquiry; however, NY's Open Data website contains a range of data types that may serve as an example. Anticipate continual updates, as needed, refreshing at least daily. |
| 53 | Can you provide a CSV of the data you'd like to visualize | There are currently no data sources or visualizations. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website in order to determine feasibility for a project. |

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| 54 | What is your target budget, or budget range for this project? | This information is not available. |
| 55 | When do you hope to see the project launch by, and what is driving the launch date? | This is not a project and there is no timeline. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website in order to determine feasibility for a project. |
| 56 | Can you provide a timeline on when finalists will be selected for the RFI and if a formal RFP process would follow? Or will this round of proposals result in selecting a vendor? | Refer to Question and Answer #2 |
| 57 | Can you describe the team from OGS that will be working on this project with the selected vendor including their names, titles, and roles on the project? | OGS manages a cross-functional web development team. |
| 58 | Is there a single product owner assigned to this project from OGS that can make decisions during the project, or will decisions be made by committee on the project? | This is not a project. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. There is a committee evaluating responses to the RFI in order to determine feasibility for a project. |
| 59 | Are you looking to replace the existing data visualizations on the website using the new tool? Or will the new platform kick off a new series of visualizations moving forward? We ask as we will want to determine if we are migrating existing data visualizations from the current system into the new system. | There are no existing data visualizations and we will use the new platform for visualizations moving forward. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 60 | Can you provide sample data sets for us to analyze so that we can better understand the data that we would be working with? | Examples were provided in the RFI. |
| 61 | Can you provide examples of existing data visualizations on the website? | There are no existing visualizations. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website in order to determine feasibility for a project. Examples of data visualizations we are interested in building were provided in the RFI. |
| 62 | Tableau is a powerful tool, do you anticipate continued use of Tableau even if it means managing data in more than one place? We ask because we have built solutions where data is managed in Tableau, but automatically updates on the front end of the website when a change is made in Tableau. Alternatively, we could explore a solution where data is managed in the website, gets pushed to Tableau, and then is pushed back into the website's front-end. | At this time, OGS is not looking at any specific vendor. This RFI is intended to solicit responses from myriad vendors to gain an understanding of the technology and solutions available. |
| 63 | Does your data contain any PII or sensitive information? | No, we would not build or share data sets with PII or sensitive information for the public website. |
| 64 | Do you envision a flexible visualization dashboard where users can choose what indicator or dataset they want to see, select which visualization format (trend/graph/bar/map), and configure their own parameters (years and other facets). Or do you see this as an author/story driven use case where a specific indicator is selected and positioned within the context of a story or article. Or both? | Possibly both. We are open to learning about varied types of visualizations and features. |
| 65 | Will each visualization format (trend/graph/bar/map) be able to follow a pre-defined template which can be reused throughout the website (with some ability to configure such as color scheme), or will each visualization need to be flexible and custom designed for each usage? | Not a consideration at this time. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. We are interested in learning more on these options and the pros/cons of varied approaches. |
| 66 | How many visualization formats would you want to support in the initial release? (trend/graph/bar/map being common examples) | Not known at this time. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website in order to determine feasibility for a project. |
| 67 | What is the programming language used for the frontend of this application? | The frontend will be embedded into a website. Therefore, HTML, JavaScript, and CSS are the available programming languages. |
| 68 | What are the user interface features of this frontend? | The user interface of the visualization should be provided by the solution. |
| 69 | What kind of data does the backend return? | Data may be stored in various formats, including JSON and CSV files. The solution should provide a backend recommendation. |
| 70 | How does that data traverse from the backend to frontend? | The solution should provide recommendations for both the back and front ends, and therefore how the data is transferred between the two. NYS data may be stored in various formats, including JSON and CSV files. |
| 71 | Are there any requirements documentation that describes the functions of this application? | There are no requirements defined beyond what was outline in the RFI. The CMS platform is configurable, so recommendations and ideas are welcome. |

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| 72 | Would there be a possibility to gain read-only access to this application? | The CMS platform offers this ability if needed. The data visualization application/solution should have this ability built in. |
| 73 | Would it be possible to get a picture and description demo, or a video demo of this application? | The data visualization application/solution should be embeddable via HTML and self-contained. A demo could be arranged if helpful. |
| 74 | Where is data being stored currently? | There is no particular set of data under scope for this inquiry. |
| 75 | Is moving data to the cloud a viable option for the entire project? | A preference is not specified. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. Please elaborate on this solution in the RFI response. |
| 76 | Is GCP (Google Cloud Platform) a viable cloud provider? | A preference is not specified. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 77 | What is the governance around pushing changes (i.e. process for releasing changes)? | There is no governance or process as this functionality currently does not exist. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 78 | What is the sensitivity of the data (i.e. PII, credit card, etc)? What does the data consist of? | We would not build or share data sets with PII or sensitive information for the public website. There is no particular set of data under scope for this inquiry. |
| 79 | Is there legacy technology that needs to be migrated? If so, what language and technology stacks does it use? | Not a consideration specific to the RFI. The purpose of this RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 80 | Who is running the application post build? | Not a consideration specific to the RFI. The purpose of this RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website in order to determine feasibility for a project. |
| 81 | Will a full team be 'stood up' for continued support? Or will specific expertise be sourced in-house vs. external? | Not a consideration specific to the RFI. The purpose of this RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website in order to determine feasibility for a project. |
| 82 | Do we need to consider ongoing support post deployment? | Not a consideration specific to the RFI. The purpose of this RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website in order to determine feasibility for a project. |
| 83 | In addition to Drupal, could you please list out the current technologies being used for data visualization and data management? | There is no particular set of data under scope for this inquiry. |
| 84 | Also could you share the data volume and approximate number of users? | There is no particular set of data under scope for this inquiry nor approximate number of users. The purpose of this RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 85 | What is the format of the pictures of data visualizations that are exported by various programs? For example embedding Tableau Data Visualization. | Not specified. Please provide options and solutions in the RFI response. |
| 86 | I-Frame embed code in a WYSIWYG, pulling data from an external source. What are those external data sources? How many user interface screens are expected? | There is no particular set of data under scope for this inquiry nor approximate number of users. The purpose of this RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 87 | Uploading PDF documents or Excel spreadsheets, Are the requirements only for visualizing the data or also editing it through the web? (Display only the content from Excel workbook or edit it too) | Not sure - we are seeking recommendations/solutions to best enable building and integrating custom data visualizations on the website. |
| 88 | Links to external dashboards, Are these static links? | Yes |
| 89 | Data is currently managed by agency programs via various methods, including Tableau, Excel, and other applications designed to store data. These methods do not enable direct publishing to the website platform. What format is the data in when they say other applications from other agencies? (CSV, XML, REST API or some other formats) | Most data is or can be made available via API (JSON format). However, this is not true for all cases. Recommendations for such cases are welcome. |

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| 90 | As OGS does not intend to replace the existing tools, please confirm that that you intend to continue with the Drupal based website with embedded Tableau Data Visualizations and other pdf, pictures? | OGS does not intend to replace the Drupal-based website. The purpose of this RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website in order to determine feasibility for a project. |
| 91 | Would OGS be open for leveraging an innovative data virtualization platform that can connect, combine and provision data for interactive data visualization using tools such as Tableau or PowerBI? | A preference is not specified. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website in order to determine feasibility for a project. |
| 92 | Would you be able to share the typical user profiles? Analyst, Executives, Field staff, Public users, etc. | The end user will be whoever comes to our website to view the data. Our audiences are varied. |
| 93 | How many UI screens are expected in the project scope? | There is no particular set of data under scope for this inquiry. |
| 94 | Exportable – able to download raw data, What format is expected be exported in? | Not specified. Please provide options and solutions in the RFI response. |
| 95 | Allow the administrator to upload a set of data, convert the data into a visualization, and enable immediate publication to a website, What is the data format expected for uploading the data? | Not specified. This RFI is meant to gather that type of information. Please provide options and solutions in the RFI response. |
| 96 | Are there any specific tools that are considered? | A preference is not specified. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website in order to determine feasibility for a project. |
| 97 | Are they looking to schedule the refresh? | Not specified. If this is part of the functionality, please provide more information in the RFI. |
| 98 | Would you be able to share the estimated visits per day, per week, per month, peak and average? | Traffic can vary, therefore the solution should be scalable. Anticipate a maximum of 10000+ concurrent users. |
| 99 | What level of tracking usage are they looking for? | Not specified. Please provide options and solutions in the RFI response. |
| 100 | Please share the number of visualization widgets that you want to have on the website to start with. | We have not specified that level of information. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 101 | Has designs completed for Vizualization? How far along are you in the conceptualization of the vizualization widgets that are to be put up on the website? | We have not specified that level of information. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 102 | Is the UI/UX work completed on all these widgets? Should we include UX design work in proposal as well? | We have not specified that level of information. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 103 | What are the various data sources that will be used for these widgets ? | We have not specified that level of information. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 104 | Please provide a list of websites which will display these data visualizations. | ogs.ny.gov; bsc.ogs.ny.gov; empirestateplaza.ny.gov; |
| 105 | Can you please provide samples for each of the following in the web site <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uploading pictures of data visualizations that are exported through various programs • I-Frame embed code in a WYSIWYG, pulling data from an external source • Uploading PDF documents or Excel spreadsheets • Links to external dashboards | We are currently not connecting to any data sources; however, there are multiple PDFs and Excels on our website. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. Please explain this solution/option in the RFI response. |
| 106 | "Publish to one or more website within the agency's domain" Are you expecting this to be built as a standalone system and integrate with CMSs/sites ? | Not specified. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. Please explain this solution/option in the RFI response. |
| 107 | Can you share peak traffic for the website pages where these interactive visualization will be embedded? | Traffic can vary, therefore the solution should be scalable. Anticipate a maximum of 10000+ concurrent users. |

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| 108 | Is Tableau dashboard integration with OGS website evaluated, can you please share the reasons for not considering Tableau? | A preference or consideration is not specified. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 109 | Is OGS expecting a product that can be licensed and has capability to deliver the listed functionality for the roles of end user and administrative user ? | We have not specified that level of information. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. Please explain this solution/option in the RFI response. |
| 110 | Is OGS expecting a custom solution to be built using open source charts like D3js, echarts? | Not specified. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. Please explain this solution/option in the RFI response. |
| 111 | Is OGS expecting to build or implement the solution with its staff ? What will be roles that will be brought by the service provider? | Not specified. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. Please explain necessary roles/skills in the RFI response. |
| 112 | "recommended devops(infrastructure)" Is this question referring to the scalability of the solution? What is the maximum number of concurrent users expected to use the dashboard charts? | Traffic can vary, therefore the solution should be scalable. Anticipate a maximum of 10000+ concurrent users. |
| 113 | Are you expecting the solution to be managed by the service provider? | Not specified. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. Please explain service provider options in the RFI response. |
| 114 | Can you give examples on the kind of data being handled by OGS? | There is no particular set of data under scope for this inquiry. |
| 115 | Can you please provide an estimated budgeted that will be targeted? | This information is not available. |
| 116 | Is there an estimated start date and deliverable date for this initiative? | No. |
| 117 | Would usage of external BI be acceptable if there is an integration of content embedding selection within Drupal (i.e. a user creates a view in the BI solution and then uses Drupal to select the right view and embed it in the content. | A preference or consideration is not specified. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website.. Please explain this solution/option in the RFI response. |
| 118 | Would OGS be willing to pay monthly subscription fees for PowerBI and database solutions based in Azure cloud? | A preference or consideration is not specified. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. Please explain this solution/option in the RFI response. |
| 119 | Is it mandatory to embed the BI solution admin interface (place where views are created) within Drupal UI or is it ok that the system will be outside of Drupal, while in drupal only the prepared view would be selected and embedded within the text editor? | A preference or consideration is not specified. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. Please explain this solution/option in the RFI response. |
| 120 | Part of the examples mentioned in the document look like very custom designs and solutions such as: Interactive maps - is a high level map ok or you expect GIS grade interaction? What kind of GIS solution do you use as we can also embed ArcGIS within the solution (both cloud or server side) Drowning in plastic is a very custom job - this would need special design and development and can not be shipped out of the box | 4.1. - 4.2. - Reuters There are no current solutions in place. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. Please explain necessary technology, roles, and skills in the RFI response. |
| 121 | Would Microsoft PowerBI be acceptable for your vision as we can embed it within Drupal and we have proper know how to achieve the expectations and goals.: | A preference or consideration is not specified. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website.. Please explain this solution/option in the RFI response. |
| 122 | What is your current version of Drupal? | D8 |
| 123 | What version and/or licensing for Tableau is currently being used? | We are not currently using data visualization tools. |
| 124 | Does the data contain any PII? | We would not build or share data sets with PII or sensitive information for the public website. |
| 125 | Are you open to a POC project that will allow us to work with you step by step to customize the solution? | A preference or consideration is not specified. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. Please explain this solution/option in the RFI response. |

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| 126 | What are the other applications the agencies are using to store data other than Excel and Tableau? | Not specified. |
| 127 | Please elaborate on the statement "These methods do not enable direct publishing to the website platform" – What types of errors are you seeing? | There is currently no functionality in place to allow for this. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 128 | What types of methods have you attempted to use to embed data into the website? (iframes, Rest API calls, JavaScript embedding etc.) | iframes |
| 129 | Do you need to just display data on the Drupal website, or do you also need the ability to modify the data via the Drupal website? | We do not anticipate needing to modify data via Drupal. |
| 130 | Do you have the ability to FTP to your current Drupal website? | No |
| 131 | Do the other agencies have a way to post their data to a common storage area than can be accessed/imported into the website? | No |
| 132 | Are the end users that will see the visualization of data, public (anonymous) or private (authenticated) users? Or a mix of both? | public (anonymous) |
| 133 | What is the type of data that will be displayed in reports? | There is no particular set of data under scope for this inquiry. |
| 134 | Are you open to other reporting tools outside of Excel or Tableau? | A preference or consideration is not specified. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. Please explain your solution/option in the RFI response. |
| 135 | Is there a current extraction, transformation and loading process that combines the data and stores it in a central place or should this be a capability of the reporting tool or functionality? | No. The solution should include this functionality. It should be noted that a considerable amount of data is stored on data.ny.gov, but it does not include all the data that we would like to visualize. |
| 136 | How often does data need to be refreshed in a day? | Not fully specified; however, we anticipate at least once daily. |
| 137 | Are you looking at hiring internal staff with the skill sets to build data visualizations or looking for a vendor to help with report development and integration? | Not specified. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. Please explain necessary technology, roles, and skills in the RFI response. |
| 138 | Is there sensitive data that will be shared in data visualizations on the web site or will it all be public data? | All data shared in online data visualizations will be public data. |
| 139 | Will there be a need for row level security for users who access the website data visualizations (ie. Certain users/customers will only be able to see data specific to their data)? | No - We would not build or share data sets with PII or sensitive information for the public website. |
| 140 | How many users will need access to the reports? | End user - this will be available on the public website for all site visitors. |
| 141 | What type of data sources is NYS connecting to? On premise, cloud, both? a. What are the datasources? b. What are the datasources? c. How many datasources? | We are currently not connecting to any data sources. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 142 | Are your endusers internal employees or external? Or both? | External; although employees do also use the public websites, but as unauthenticated users. |
| 143 | Administrator requirements - What does NYS mean by exporting to social media? | Ability to share data visualizations across social media. |

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| 144 | What volume of website traffic and/or users interactions is expected in a given month? | Traffic can vary, therefore the solution should be scalable. Anticipate a maximum of 10000+ concurrent users. |
| 145 | The RFI seeks information on scalability. What is the average and peak traffic to expect for your solution? | Traffic can vary, therefore the solution should be scalable. Anticipate a maximum of 10000+ concurrent users. |
| 146 | RFI indicates the desire to integrate with social media or email. In the shared form, are you expecting the dashboards and views continue to operate interactively? | Not a consideration; however, please provide more information in the RFI response. |
| 147 | What types of Usage Tracking Metrics and Analytics are required/desired? | Anonymously track all interactions, including the initial load, of the visualization. |
| 148 | For security considerations, are we to assume the data being published is a public data source? | Yes |
| 149 | Will the same data source(s) contain non-public and/or regulated data? | No |
| 150 | The RFI indicates the need to allow data export. Can you provide clarification quantities and limits of data export capability? What formats are required for export? | We are open to recommendations. We would like to impose no limits and offer the data in formats useful to the public, including images if applicable and possible. |
| 151 | Does the OGS prefer an on-premise or cloud based solution? | A preference or consideration is not specified. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website in order to determine feasibility for a project. |
| 152 | Will the dashboard and view require predictive capabilities or be limited to historical data content ? | Not specified. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. Please explain necessary roles/skills in the RFI response. |
| 153 | Will the users of the CMS application be internal users only or will the general public have access to the CMS application as well ? | The general public does not have access to the CMS. |
| 154 | What data input sources will be used? Types of data: relational/structured, text, documents database engines are in use? (e.g. Db2, MongoDB, etc) Approximate size of the databases. Quantity and sizes of tables and/or number of documents | a. Not specified - could be any number of types. There is no particular set of data under scope for this inquiry or existing database engines. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. b. What c. |
| 155 | Regarding the end users mentioned in Section 1.3. How many end users from state agencies, authorities and entities use the Drupal portal today? Of those end users, how many are expected to interact with data visualizations in the Drupal portal? | Our end users are visitors to our website. |
| 156 | How many "administrative users" does OGS expect to use advanced features? | The number of administrative users would depend on what constitutes an advanced feature. We would expect only a small team, less than 10, would be responsible for administration, but there may be more advanced users throughout the state if the tool is intuitive enough. |
| 157 | How many administrators are from DMSC and how many expected from other agencies? | The number of administrative users would depend on what constitutes an advanced feature. We would expect only a small team, less than 10, would be responsible for administration, but there may be more advanced users throughout the state if the tool is intuitive enough. |
| 158 | Regarding the tracking of usage for public and end user traffic, we are curious if DMSC wishes to bill-back costs associated with website traffic and data query demands back to the state agencies and other authorities? | Not a consideration at this point. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 159 | Do DMSC administration teams use any visualization and reporting applications today? Tableau, PowerBI, Looker, Qlik, Microstrategies, etc | No |
| 160 | Which visualizations and reporting applications do OGS agencies use today? Tableau, PowerBI, Looker, Qlik, Microstrategies, etc | We are not currently using data visualization tools on our website. |
| 161 | What version of Drupal is being used today? | D8 |

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| 162 | How often does DMSC conduct upgrades to Drupal? | As needed. Weekly in some cases. |
| 163 | What Content Management System (CMS) does DMSC use to manage it's public facing websites, specifically publishing content and managing their operations? Does Drupal do that or possibly WordPress? | Drupal 8 |
| 164 | It was mentioned Digital & Media Services Center (DMSC) manages many websites. Can you provide a list of some of the websites that DMSC manages? This will help with understanding some of the needs and challenges agencies are experiencing with infographics and other charts. | ogs.ny.gov; bsc.ogs.ny.gov; empirestateplaza.ogs.ny.gov |
| 165 | Does OGS or DMSC align themselves to specific Cloud providers, such as AWS, GCP or Azure? | Our CMS platform is hosted on Acquia Cloud, which can only be used to host the frontend code. Should the solution for data visualization include a cloud recommendation, that would need to be evaluated by NYS ITS. |
| 166 | What are the common visualization tools used by state agencies, authorities and entities to produce infographics, graphics, or pictorials? Tableau and excel were mentioned. Are there others? | None that are identified. |
| 167 | Allowing administrators to upload data and build visualizations is a requested feature. Could you provide two examples of data that would be uploaded and the type of visualization published to a website? If it is easy to point to an existing public URL, that would be great. | We currently do not have this functionality. Examples of the types of data visualizations were provided in the RFI. |
| 168 | How many and types of resources does DMSC have currently who develop and manage the Drupal application? | This information is not available. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 169 | Regarding exporting to social media, do you have more examples of how DMSC would use social media with visualization created by this system? If social media, which platforms (Facebook, Twitter, etc) are agencies targeting? The specific platforms and examples would be great. | We currently do not have this functionality and are looking for the ability to share web pages with data content across social media channels, including Facebook and Twitter. |
| 170 | Please provide an example of a popular embedded visualization on one of DMSC domain website(s) with high traffic. Are there supporting website traffic statistics that can be shared to help understand traffic to the website? | We are not currently using data visualization tools on our website. Traffic can vary, therefore the solution should be scalable. Anticipate a maximum of 10000+ concurrent users. |
| 171 | Related to the following question in RFI 2397 Section 2. Desired Knowledge, "What security model should we consider for the protection of our data?", could you please specify your sensitivity and security requirements for the data you anticipate making available. | We would not build or share data sets with PII or sensitive information for the public website. |
| 172 | Will participation in existing OGS procurement contracts be a requirement for vendor participation in any forthcoming RFPs related to this RFI? If so, can you please specify those contracts? | No, participation in existing contracts is not required to respond to future solicitations. |
| 173 | What is the percentage breakdown of the solution grading between Ingestion and data processing/engineering versus visualization design versus building the middleware that bridges the gap between ingestion and consumption? | This information is not available. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 174 | What skills are you looking for? | The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. Please specify the types of skills necessary in your response. |
| 175 | Open to M/WBE joining as co-bidders? | Yes |
| 176 | What is the real-time, or near real-time requirement for ingestion, and consumption | Daily updates are desired, with the ability to change the frequency as needed. Real time is not currently a requirement. |
| 177 | Is there any roadmap changes for the change of CMS or a CMS specific requirement that we need to be aware of and can affect the final solution | We would like the application/solution to be embeddable and therefore not dependent on the CMS to do anything other than host the embed code. We have different Drupal code bases we hope the solution will be compatible with, but all are stable at the moment. |
| 178 | What is the average technical aptitude of the user who will be expected to embed visualizations into the CMS? Could you please elaborate on your Change Mgmt workflow so we understand who actually creates the visualization versus who embeds it | The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. Please specify the types of skills necessary in your response. |
| 179 | What "raw data" does OGS expect? Database, excel files, API, Public Cloud? | Not specified, could be any type of raw data. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |

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| 180 | Ingestion and processing of data, Where coming from? | Not specified. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. Please explain necessary roles/skills in the RFI response. |
| 181 | Do they have solution to ingest and prep data? | The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. Please provide solutions to ingest and prep data. |
| 182 | What does multi-faceted visualizations mean? Examples? Does it mean different dimensions? different visualization options for the same selected fields and metrics? On-demand option to change visualizations in the browser? | Yes, ability for the user to interact with the data to change views. Examples of the types of visualizations we are looking for are listed in the RFI. |
| 183 | Are there different people managing data and prepping vs those doing the visualizations | Not specified. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. Please explain necessary roles/skills in the RFI response. |
| 184 | How rigid is the Tableau component in the final solution stack? Is Tableau accessibility capability adequate? Is OGS open to another platform other than Tableau for embeddable, augmented analytics that may be accessibility compliant? | A vendor preference or consideration is not specified in this RFI. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 185 | Will OGS entertain solutions that are web frameworks for visualization that are more accommodating or packaged platforms like Tableau, Hitachi Pentaho etc. | Yes, the purpose of this RFI is to gather information and learn about varying types of solutions. |
| 186 | Is the need to build the bridge/plugin between a OOTB (out of the box) visualization tool and CMS? | The application/solution should be embeddable into the CMS with HTML/JavaScript. |
| 187 | If Tableau cannot be used, are you OK with a custom build? | A vendor preference or consideration is not specified in this RFI. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. Please provide more information on this type of solution in the RFI response. |
| 188 | What traffic volume and concurrency are we expecting to understand concurrency? | Traffic can vary, therefore the solution should be scalable. Anticipate a maximum of 10000+ concurrent users. |
| 189 | What are the various user types breakdown by percent for the solution? Internal vs. External to NYS i.e. public | 100% external - for display on the public website |
| 190 | Process of approvals prior to visuals showing in websites facing public | Not specified for this RFI. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 191 | Accessibility compliant, To what extent? A? AA? AAA? | WCAG 2.1 |
| 192 | which version of QCAG is NYS looking to accommodate and be compliant with? v2.1? | WCAG 2.1 |
| 193 | Are you using an existing vendor technology to test 508c compliance? | Not specified for this RFI. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 194 | Is there a digital accessibility team in place to test solutions and provide guidance or are you looking for us to create that framework and guidance? | The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. Please provide information on the necessary toolset and staffing and/or a recommended framework. |
| 195 | Are your expectations for this solution more aligned with a collection of third party services you would be responsible for managing internally that communicates directly with the website? Or are you looking for more of a custom solution — as in something built from scratch? | Not specified. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. Please provide solution recommendations in the RFI response. |
| 196 | Similarly, are you planning on adopting a toolset and hiring the necessary people to run them? | The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology, staffing and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. Please provide information on the necessary toolset and staffing. |
| 197 | What level of accessibility do these tools need to be? We know the results need to be Section 508 compliant, but are there any accessibility requirements for administering the solution? | WCAG 2.1 |

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| 198 | Are any of the resulting data visualizations displaying real-time data? If yes, where does the data come from, and can you provide sample data? | We are not currently using data visualization tools on our website. |
| 199 | How often is the data expected to be updated? | Automated daily updates are desired, with the ability to change the frequency as needed. Real time is not currently a requirement. |
| 200 | You mention data visualizations need to be exportable. In what format? What is the definition of a successfully exported data visualization? | Possibly CSV, Excel, PDF - please provide more information on export functionality in the RFI response. |
| 201 | Can you provide additional details regarding your expectations around, "out-of-the box tools for common data visualization templates"? | By out of the box, we assume common data visualizations such as charts and tables. |
| 202 | What level/type of customization are you expecting to build multi-faceted visualizations? | Examples are provided in the RFI. |
| 203 | How many websites are within the agency's domain? | ogs.ny.gov; bsc.ogs.ny.gov; empirestateplaza.ny.gov |
| 204 | Can you please provide additional information on where to obtain a, "NYS Contract Number"? Forum One is registered in the Passport system. Is this related? | If your company is doing business with NYS through an approved contract, you would have a NYS Contract Number. |
| 205 | What is the makeup of your team that will support ongoing? How would you score your teams experience with: Data, Analytics, Environments, and Governance (scale 1 to 4) | The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology, staffing and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. Please provide information on the toolset and staffing necessary to run them. |
| 206 | How many source systems will be integrated at the onset of this initiative? Is there quality documentation for each source system such as data dictionaries and ERDs? | There is no particular set of data under scope for this inquiry or existing data sources. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 207 | What percentage of the data disseminated will be ad-hoc or needs to be added manually? How often will your team look to upload a new flat file, for example? | Automated daily updates are desired, with the ability to change the frequency as needed. Real time is not currently a requirement. |
| 208 | To what degree are the requirements defined for this initiative? How many total visualizations, analytics, and reports are in scope for the final deliverable? | There is no information to share. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. Please provide solution recommendations in the RFI response. |
| 209 | Do you have a timeframe in mind for implementation following your selection of technologies and systems integrators? | No. We are currently gathering information to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 210 | Tell us about your user community, those receiving data and analytics. How many users will ultimately use the selected solution and at what frequency (daily, weekly, monthly)? | Traffic can vary, therefore the solution should be scalable. Anticipate a maximum of 10000+ concurrent users. Automated daily updates are desired, with the ability to change the frequency as needed. Real time is not currently a requirement. |
| 211 | Would your department consider a hosted / managed solution for this delivery? | A preference or consideration is not specified. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. Please provide information on hosted/managed solutions in the RFI response. |
| 212 | Do you expect extending these data and analytic services? In what ways? | No. In the RFI response, please elaborate on potential data and analytic services. |
| 213 | The RFI mentions customizable style templates, to what level detail will customization be required. Will out of the box solutions that match the color pallet and style be acceptable or will graphics need to be fully customizable. | We anticipate that graphics will need to be fully customizable. |
| 214 | How frequently will the data be updated? | Automated daily updates are desired, with the ability to change the frequency as needed. Real time is not currently a requirement. |
| 215 | RFI #2397 gives a wide range of different types of graphs. Can you be more specific, i.e., heatmaps, funnel charts, treemaps, etc.? What are the parameters for each chart? Would the administrative user select the chart type from a list based on the raw data? | There is no particular set of data under scope for this inquiry. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. Please respond with information that will help us understand the types of graphs and how to build and manage them from raw data. |

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| 216 | What are the types of data to display in the visualizations and at what detailed level? What will be the format of the data? | There is no particular set of data under scope for this inquiry. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. |
| 217 | Will all of the visualizations be available to everyone who has access to the websites? | Yes, for publishing on the public website. |
| 218 | Who will be maintaining this extended website tool? (for ex, for bug fixes, performance issues, adding new charts, etc) | Not specified. The purpose of the RFI is to gain an understanding of the technology and skills necessary to build and integrate custom data visualizations on our website. Please provide information on the toolset and staffing necessary to maintain this extended website tool. |



DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

ADDENDUM #1

Request for Information # 2397

Date: October 19, 2020
Subject: Response to RFI due date change
Title: Data Visualization (BI) Software for Website Integration and Display

RFI Due Date: Original RFI Due date: October 20, 2020 @ 2:00 PM
Estimated Revised RFI Due date: November 6, 2020 @ 2:00 PM

Address RFI response to: Alicia.Flint@ogs.ny.gov
Re: **RFI #2397**

Reminder: Responses to RFI# 2397 are due no later than November 6, 2020. This will be the earliest responses are due. The actual due date will be announced in the upcoming addendum to answer questions from vendors.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

***If submitting a bid, this Addendum #1 for RFI #2397 must contain an original signature, be dated, attached to, and made a part of your bid.**

Company Name_____

Address (include City, State, Zip)_____

Bidders Name (please print)_____

Title_____

Signature_____

Date_____



Request for Information #2397 Data Visualization (BI) Software for Website Integration and Display

1. Introduction

1.1 General Information

The Office of General Services, on behalf of Digital and Media Services, is requesting information on the range and availability of business intelligence technology solutions that enable storytelling with data. OGS seeks to seamlessly integrate and publish customized data visualizations within our websites. In using graphical and pictorial components, we want to present data insights and trends to our end users in a way that's creative, compelling, accessible, and easy to understand.

1.2 Project Background/Current Condition

The OGS website is built on a CMS Drupal platform. There is currently no way to integrate or automate interactive data visualization displays through the website. Current data visualization options include:

- Uploading pictures of data visualizations that are exported through various programs
- I-Frame embed code in a WYSIWYG, pulling data from an external source
- Uploading PDF documents or Excel spreadsheets
- Links to external dashboards

Data is currently managed by agency programs via various methods, including Tableau, Excel, and other applications designed to store data. These methods do not enable direct publishing to the website platform.

1.3 Brief Project Outline/Vision

OGS does not intend to replace existing tools to manage agency data or intend to take over the management of program data; rather we need a tool to serve as an extension of website functionality insofar as it allows us to take any set of raw data, build a display, and publish the display on our websites.

For the end user, data visualizations on our website should be:

- Simple and easy to understand
- Interactive – can be multi-layered with options to switch views or alter data selections
- Accessible – compliant with Section 508
- Responsive to mobile devices

- Current – displays the most recent set of data
- Seamless – integrated within the CMS so the user does not have to leave the website
- Available across all website browsers
- Attractive – aligned with website style guide
- Exportable – able to download raw data

For the administrative user:

- Allow the administrator to upload a set of data, convert the data into a visualization, and enable immediate publication to a website
- Feature out-of-the box tools for common data visualization templates
- Advanced customization tools to build multi-faceted visualizations
- Easy to update data sets via automatic refresh and instant publication
- Scalable – can handle heavy website traffic
- Customizable style templates to align with overall website branding and NYS style guide
- Publish to one or more website within the agency’s domain
- Create views to integrate with or export for social media and email applications
- Provide analytics for tracking usage

The following examples represent the types of data visualization OGS is hoping to achieve for the end user:

- <https://solarmeansbusiness.com/>
- <https://autofuture.org/#main-map>
- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/investigations/dea-pain-pill-database/>
- <https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2020/07/15/tracking-covid-19-excess-deaths-across-countries>
- <https://graphics.reuters.com/ENVIRONMENT-PLASTIC/0100B275155/index.html>
- <https://graphics.reuters.com/HEALTH-CORONAVIRUS/USA-TRENDS/dgkvlqkrkpb/index.html>

2. Desired Knowledge

OGS seeks to gain a comprehensive understanding of the technology, software and necessary skills to enable data visualizations, specifically:

- Exploring and understanding the tools, in general, to evaluate and recommend a solution that meets the end user goal
- Understand the range of skills and abilities necessary to hit our end-goal: Can this be accomplished with out-of-the-box features? Is the tool simple enough for a content editor to build; or do we need specialized programmers to build and customize displays? What staff should we consider hiring?

- What is the recommended title/experience/education of staff to set-up and manage this work?
- What is the recommended model that enables direct publishing to our website?
- What is the recommended dev ops (infrastructure) to handle heavy traffic hitting data sets on our website?
- Is your solution on-prem or cloud-subscription based?
- What security model should we consider for the protection of our data?

3. Content of Response

OGS requests that vendors include the following information in their written responses:

- **Company Background** – Provide general background information regarding your company, including a summary of previous experience in similar types of projects.
- **Contract Information** – Include your NYS Contract Number (PTXXXXX), if applicable. Indicate what products and services may be available under the contract as well as what products and services may not be available under the contract.
- **Potential Solutions** – Provide examples of potential strategic and/or tactical approaches that will result in an online data visualization tool for OGS websites, including the necessary skills and experience for staff to build and manage this tool.
- **Product Background** – Provide information regarding products and/or technology that you envision could be implemented for this scope, including any applicable names, manufacturers, specifications and relevant information, such as products used in similar situations.
- **Proposed Work Plan** – Provide a general approach to accomplishing data visualizations for OGS websites, including, equipment/technology expectations, milestones and a project plan and/or timeline.
- **Issues and Concerns** – Provide information regarding any potential issues or concerns that should be considered. Responses may include strength and weakness comparisons of known potential solutions from the vendor's point of view.
- Indicate if the vendor is agreeable to providing a demonstration for NYS.
- **Additional Information** – Provide any additional information and/or any other parameters that should be considered or required for bidders to respond to a formal solicitation.

Please respond to the information above and provide the name of your company, its location, a contact person, phone number, and email address when replying to this RFI. A response does not bind or obligate the vendor to any agreement of provision or procurement of services referenced.

Since this RFI is designed as a tool to collect information and shall not result in a procurement contract, it does not fall under the requirements of State Finance Law §§139-j and 139-k (the Procurement Lobbying Law) and there is no restricted period. We ask that you direct your

questions and responses in writing to the OGS point of contact listed below. Questions must be submitted by **October 6, 2020**.

Provide electronic responses by **October 20, 2020** to:

Primary Contact

Alicia Flint, Contract Management Specialist 1
Office of General Services, Financial Administration Agency Procurement Office
32nd Floor, Corning Tower, ESP, Albany, NY 12242
(518) 474-7003 alicia.flint@ogs.ny.gov

Secondary Contact

Paige Corning, Contract Management Specialist 2
Office of General Services, Financial Administration Agency Procurement Office
32nd Floor, Corning Tower, ESP, Albany, NY 12242
(518) 474-8209 paige.corning@ogs.ny.gov