

QUESTIONS & RESPONSES #04
PROCUREMENT NUMBER: 072026-1047
RFP/RFQ TITLE: DATA CONSOLIDATION AND REPORTING SERVICES
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QUESTIONS DUE DATE: Friday, September 18, 2026, @ 2:00 PM (PDT)
Q&A ISSUE DATE: Tuesday, September 15, 2026

#	Question	Answer	Question #
001	Given that Attachment E (technical requirements) carries 25 of ~100 initial evaluation points, please provide the point allocation for the remaining ~75 points across price, past performance, staffing, and management approach so we can calibrate proposal emphasis.	RFP Section D Initial Evaluation Phase items (pages 6 and 7) indicates how the points are allocated for each evaluation category.	Email
002	Is award of the future implementation Task Order (the ~\$900K phase) contingent solely on satisfactory performance of the Assessment Task Order, or will it be independently competed/re-solicited among qualified vendors regardless of who performs the Assessment?	We intend to issue a single MSA to the firm/consultant selected in this procurement for the Assessment phase project and future phases/projects (Initial Implementation, Service/Support, Enhancement/Expansion) for the Data Consolidation and Reporting solution unless findings during the Assessment or subsequent phases do not support moving forward with the selected consultant.	Email
003	What Task Order contract type will govern the Assessment phase (firm-fixed-price, T&M, or cost-reimbursable), and is the same type anticipated for the implementation phase?	We prefer fixed-priced, milestone-based pricing for the Assessment and Initial Implementation phase projects. Future Task Orders may be T&M or fixed priced depending on the type of work: support or small enhancement work is more likely to be T&M where larger enhancement/expansion projects would likely be fixed price milestone-based or deliverables-based.	Email
004	Please identify the specific terminal operating systems (TOS) and EDI message standards (e.g., ANSI X12, UN/EDIFACT, specific transaction sets) currently in use across the Alliance's terminals that the solution must ingest.	Terminal Operating Systems (TOSs) currently used by terminal operators at NWSA terminals include Kaleris/Navis-N4, Tideworks-Mainsail, Cyberlogitec-Opus, as well as in-house TOSs that also utilize common EDI message standards. The transaction sets required would be those needed to meet the reporting requirements in Attachment E, Cell B11 and we would rely on the expertise of the selected consultant to determine what message types would be required.	Email
005	How many distinct terminal operating systems and data sources are in scope for the initial Assessment, and is that count expected to grow during the implementation phase or option years?	The NWSA currently has 5 international marine terminals. We do not anticipate the number of terminals to increase to more than 6 during the Initial Implementation.	Email
006	Please clarify the practical definition of 'near real-time' for cargo and vessel scheduling updates (e.g., target latency in minutes/seconds) so we can size the ingestion architecture appropriately.	Hourly update frequency is sufficient for the initial implementation.	Email
007	Is there an incumbent vendor currently providing data consolidation, reporting, or EDI translation services to the Port of Tacoma / NWSA, and if so, will that vendor be eligible to bid on this solicitation?	There is no incumbent for this solution/service. Since 2024, we have completed two limited scope proof-of-concept projects with two different vendors (CargoSprint/Advent eModal and Wabtec) to help us understand more about how to approach this solution. Both of those vendors are eligible to bid on this solicitation.	Email

008	The RFP states performance will be offsite, yet a TWIC credentialing clause is referenced — please clarify which project activities, if any, require physical access to secured terminal facilities, and who bears the cost/timeline burden of obtaining TWIC credentials for assigned personnel.	We anticipate that the majority of the services for this RFP can be delivered remotely. There may be occasions when in-person discussions would be beneficial. However, we do not anticipate that unescorted TWIC access will be required for the services being rendered for this procurement. Section 27c of the Terms and Conditions shall be removed.	Email
009	For the 15-page proposal limit, please confirm whether resumes, staffing charts, past performance references, and appendices are excluded from the page count, or must fit within the 15 pages alongside the technical narrative.	Attachments that we ask you to include with your proposal (Attachment D-Cost Breakdown Offer Template and Attachment E-Data Consolidation and Reporting Requirements) do not count toward the 15-page limit. Your project team resumes (up to 1 page per person) may also be Attachments to your proposal and will not count toward the 15-page limit.	Email
010	Is attendance at the September 4, 2026 Bidders Conference mandatory for proposal eligibility, and if so, is remote/virtual attendance an acceptable substitute for in-person presence?	The Bidder's Conference will be held virtually by Teams meeting, not in person. Attendance is not mandatory. Questions and answers discussed during the Bidder's Conference will be documented and posted to the Procurement page on the Port's website.	Email
011	Please specify the minimum cyber liability and professional liability insurance coverage amounts required, and confirm whether proof of coverage is required at proposal submission or only upon contract award.	In Terms & Conditions to the Master Service Agreement. 23.b.vi. vi. Cybersecurity Liability Insurance of not less than \$5,000,000 per claim and in the aggregate. Coverage shall include cyber-related risks, including theft, loss or misuse of data, release of private information as a result of a network breach, penetration, compromise, or loss of IT systems control, and shall include costs associated with incident response, forensic investigation, breach notification, and recovery, where applicable. Coverage shall remain in effect for the term of this Agreement plus three years. 23.b.ii. iii. Professional Liability of not less than \$4,000,000 per claim and in the aggregate. Coverage shall remain in effect for the term of this Agreement plus three years. Certificates of Insurance citing the contract and project number shall be provided to the Port Entities on an annual basis for each of the three years. Proof of coverage is required at contract execution prior to work.	Email
012	Given the strict prohibition on modifying the Port's Terms & Conditions, is there a formal mechanism during the Q&A period to request clarification or flag concerns about specific clauses without being deemed non-responsive?	Page 4-The Port Entities Standard Terms and Conditions are included in Attachment B to this RFP. By submitting a proposal, the Consultant represents that it has carefully read and agrees to be bound by the Port Entities Standard Terms and Conditions. Identify during the question submittal and response period, any sections you consider onerous, clarify why you consider these sections onerous, propose alternative language and describe why it is in the Port Entities' best interests to adopt the alternative language. If you have suggested revisions please submit a question requesting the change with why you consider the current wording onerous, propose alternative language, and describe why it is in the Port Entities' best interest.	Email
013	Will subcontractors or teaming partners providing specialized maritime/EDI domain expertise need to be identified by name and role in the initial proposal, or may they be added/substituted after Assessment award pending Alliance approval?	Subconsultants can be added by Consultant later but must be approved by the Port/NWSA prior to the Subconsultant performing services. See Attachment B-Section 2 of the Terms and Conditions (Subconsultant and Supplier Relations) for more details.	Email

014	Please clarify data and work-product ownership: will the Alliance retain full IP rights to custom-developed integration code and dashboards, or will the awarded vendor retain any rights to reusable components/frameworks?	See Attachment B-Section 6 of the Terms and Conditions (Custom Code and/or Custom Reports): Any custom code or custom reports requested by the Port Entities and written or otherwise created by the Consultant shall be owned by the Port Entities, but the Consultant shall retain the right to use and sell the custom code or custom reports in whole or in part. Note: The data ingested and aggregated as part of this solution cannot be re-used, sold, or monetized by the Consultant without written consent from the owner(s) of the data.	Email
015	What are the decision criteria and notice period the Alliance will use to exercise each of the five 1-year contract extension options, and is vendor performance re-evaluated at each option year or only at the initial 5-year mark?	The Port/NWSA may choose to extend the MSA beyond the initial 5 year term (up to 10 years total) if it is in the Port/NWSA's best interest. There is no pre-defined decision criteria but vendor performance will be a key factor.	Email
016	Can the experience requirements related to container terminal and maritime operations be satisfied through the experience and qualifications of a subcontractor or teaming partner?	Yes. Proposers may partner with subcontractors to augment their team and satisfy the experience requirements. Any subcontractors must be approved by the Port before performing work.	Bidder's Conference #1
017	Can the experience requirements related to container terminal and maritime operations be satisfied through the experience and qualifications of the proposed key personnel or consultants assigned to the project?	Yes. Experience of proposed key personnel, consultants, or subconsultants may be used. The Port's agreement will be with the prime consultant.	Bidder's Conference #2
018	Is it allowed to suggest offshore/nearshore resources for the services related to data ingestion and reporting.	Yes. The services are expected to be primarily capable of being performed remotely, although some in-person meetings may be helpful. Port data must be stored in U.S.-based data centers and may not be stored outside the United States.	Bidder's Conference #3
019	About Port entities - what type of operation they conduct and what are their current systems they run.	The project involves five international container terminals located in Tacoma and Seattle. Operations include loading and unloading container vessels and transferring containers to and from rail and trucks. The five terminals currently operate four different terminal operating systems. Although the systems differ, they generally use industry-standard EDI messaging.	Bidder's Conference #4
020	Are you expecting a commercial port community system that is "off the shelf"? Or are you looking to leverage your existing investments with companies like Microsoft + some custom development to finetune exactly to your needs without purchasing additional software?	The Port is primarily seeking a Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) solution rather than a solution developed and hosted internally. An existing commercial solution may be proposed. The focus of this procurement is specifically on data consolidation and reporting and not implementation of a full Port Community System.	Bidder's Conference #5
021	Will the Assessment Task Order be awarded to a single vendor, or more than one vendor?	The Port anticipates awarding one Master Services Agreement to a single vendor. The selected vendor is expected to perform the Assessment and, assuming successful completion of that phase, continue with the Initial Implementation and future enhancement and expansion work. The Port does not anticipate conducting a separate procurement for each phase.	Bidder's Conference #6
022	Since there are multiple TOS are you looking/expecting aggregation of such data based only at EDI alone or thinking about more comprehensive connections with the databases.	For the Initial Implementation, the primary focus is EDI and event-based data. The Port is looking to track events such as vessel discharge, gate-in, gate-out, rail-in, and rail-out. Additional message types or data sources may be considered as future requirements.	Bidder's Conference #7
023	Can you confirm if the Port has any existing or preferred technology platforms for the data consolidation solution, or is the vendor expected to recommend the technology stack as part of the Assessment.	The Port is not prescribing a specific technology stack. The proposed SaaS solution should provide appropriate access to summarized transactional data through APIs, such as REST or Graph-based APIs. Proposers should define their proposed API and technology approach.	Bidder's Conference #8
024	How soon after the MSA is awarded would the assessment start? this calendar year or after new year?	The Port would like the Assessment to begin as soon as possible following MSA award. If possible, the Assessment would begin during the current calendar year, with the goal of completing it early next year and beginning implementation thereafter.	Bidder's Conference #9

025	Can we use our team's (proposed staff) past experience from their previous projects to meet the required container terminal and maritime experience?	Yes. Relevant past maritime experience of the proposed staff may be considered and would be beneficial.	Bidder's Conference #10
026	Is there a baseline of data that the Port already aggregates today that terminal operators, rail, customs and the trucking community contribute for analytics and environmental assessment?	Yes. The Port currently receives operational metrics directly from the terminals through a largely manual process. Rail, customs, and trucking data are also received from various sources and may be incorporated into future phases. Terminal data has been collected for many years but is not currently received through an automated electronic process.	Bidder's Conference #11
027	Has any prior assessment or discovery work been done on this, and is there an incumbent doing any of it today?	Yes. The Port has conducted proof-of-concept efforts beginning in approximately 2023–2024 to better understand the data and reporting requirements and determine the appropriate technical approach. Those efforts helped demonstrate that EDI is a viable approach. There is currently no production solution and no incumbent vendor.	Bidder's Conference #12
028	"Attachment E lists EDI types 301, 309, 310, 315, 322, 350, 404, 417, and 418 as examples for the initial implementation. Will the Assessment phase be expected to produce a definitive, prioritized list of required EDI message types per terminal, or should proposers assume all listed types must be supported at go-live for all five terminals?"	The Port has not finalized the specific EDI message types required to produce the reporting identified in the requirements. The selected consultant will be expected to use its expertise during the Assessment to determine and finalize the EDI message types required for the Initial Implementation. The Port does not currently anticipate that every EDI type listed will necessarily be required at go-live.	Bidder's Conference #13
029	A follow up to my previous question about off the shelf software to add clarity, are you seeking a commercially available SaaS product that already contains the majority of the required functionality out-of-the-box? or are you open to a configurable SaaS data and analytics platform that would be tailored to your operational requirements? Follow up, would the Port consider a solution built on Microsoft-managed SaaS services for data integration, storage, governance, reporting, and analytics?	The Port is open to either approach. Proposers may offer an existing solution that already provides the required functionality or a configurable SaaS solution tailored to the Port's requirements. Microsoft-based solutions are acceptable. However, the Port is specifically seeking an externally hosted SaaS solution and does not intend to host the solution within its own Azure environment or internal technology infrastructure.	Bidder's Conference #14
030	"Requirement row 47 states all data must remain in US datacenters. Does this apply equally to raw/transactional EDI data received from terminal operators and to aggregated reporting data, or does the Port anticipate the third-party vendor handling the raw EDI data outside of Port-owned infrastructure with only the aggregated outputs subject to this requirement?"	All Port data must be stored in data centers located within the United States. Some incoming raw data may belong to terminal operators rather than the Port, so there may be flexibility regarding where certain raw data is processed. At a minimum, aggregated data and reporting provided to the Port must reside in U.S.-based data centers. Additional details may need to be evaluated during the Assessment project.	Bidder's Conference #15
031	You mentioned that hourly updates are sufficient for the initial implementation. Are there any specific use cases or operational requirements that would require real-time or near-real-time data?	Hourly updates are considered sufficient for the Initial Implementation. Future functionality, such as a shipper portal or customer track-and-trace capability, may benefit from or require real-time or near-real-time updates.	Bidder's Conference #16
032	"The RFP references the NWSA Port Community System (PCS), which already includes truck tracking, turn times, and queue times for the trucking community. Is it a requirement or expectation that the new Data Consolidation and Reporting solution integrate with or extend the existing PCS infrastructure, or should proposals treat this as a fully standalone platform?"	The proposed solution should be treated as a standalone platform. There is no current expectation that it integrate with the Port's existing in-house Port Community System. However, the solution should be flexible enough to ingest additional data sources, including data currently used within the PCS, as part of future phases.	Bidder's Conference #17
033	Please clarify whether prior maritime logistics or port experience is considered a mandatory qualification, or whether comparable experience delivering complex multi-stakeholder data integration and reporting solutions within transportation, logistics, supply chain, or other public-sector environments will also be considered relevant.	Maritime experience is desired and would be beneficial because it may help the consultant understand the Port's operational and reporting requirements, but it is not mandatory. Strong comparable experience in other relevant areas may also be considered.	Bidder's Conference #18
034	Attachment D states that the Initial Implementation estimate may increase by up to 20% following completion of the Assessment. Please confirm how newly identified requirements, additional interfaces/data sources, third-party licensing, or other conditions not reasonably identifiable at proposal submission will be handled if they result in an increase greater than 20%.	Proposers should provide the best estimate possible based on the high-level requirements currently available. If the Assessment identifies requirements or conditions that could not reasonably have been known at the time of proposal, the Port may address them through a change request, scope adjustment, or other mutually agreed approach. The Port's anticipated budget for the Initial Implementation is approximately \$900,000, and the project will need to remain within available funding.	Bidder's Conference #19

035	Please confirm whether the Port Entities will coordinate with the Marine Terminal Operators to provide timely access to technical SMEs, interface documentation, data samples, connectivity information, and required authorizations for the Assessment and Initial Implementation, or whether the selected Consultant will be responsible for independently obtaining these from each MTO.	The Port Entities will be responsible for initiating and coordinating the relationships with the Marine Terminal Operators. The selected Consultant will not be expected to independently obtain agreements or authorizations from each MTO or be solely responsible for the terminals' response timelines. Coordination will require partnership among the Port Entities, Consultant, and terminal operators.	Bidder's Conference #20
036	Assuming you have the dashboard and reporting tool delivered, are you looking to customize your own reporting formats and views over time? Is this understanding, correct?	Yes. Following establishment of baseline reporting, the Port expects some level of configurability and customization, including the ability for users to create their own views. Some of this functionality may be associated with future-state requirements.	Bidder's Conference #21
037	The Port/NWSA Notes for this requirement include "maps/geospatial visualizations" among the listed visualization examples. Could the Port Entities clarify the expected scope of geospatial capability for the Initial Implementation? Specifically: a. Is a map-based visualization expected as part of the initial set of reports/dashboards, or is it listed as an illustrative example of the visualization library the platform should support? b. If maps are in scope, what location data are anticipated as inputs (e.g., terminal/berth locations, inland rail ramps, vessel positions, gate or yard geometry), and would the Port Entities provide that spatial reference data, or is the Consultant expected to source it? c. Do the Port Entities maintain existing GIS data or an enterprise GIS platform that the solution would be expected to consume from or publish to, either in the Initial Implementation or as a future enhancement?	a. Geospatial visualizations are not a requirement for the initial implementation. b. Not in scope for initial implementation. But are something we would want to consider for a future enhancement or expansion. c. We do have an existing GIS platform (Esri)	Bidder's Conference #22
038	Based on your previous statement that the Port previously completed a proof of concept with Advent and Wabtec. Could you share the key findings, lessons learned, and any gaps that were identified during those efforts that should be considered by respondents?	The initial proof of concept evaluated whether existing terminal appointment-system data could provide the information needed for Port reporting. That approach did not provide the required data or data quality. A subsequent proof of concept evaluated EDI data from a terminal operating system using a limited number of EDI feeds and reports. That effort demonstrated that EDI feeds could provide the data required for the reports evaluated. The Port also learned that EDI feeds may vary by terminal and stakeholder, and not every feed will necessarily contain all required information. Coordination with terminal operators will therefore be important to determine what data is currently available and what changes or enhancements may be required.	Bidder's Conference #23
039	What specific capabilities or business outcomes remain unresolved today that the previous PoC efforts did not adequately address?	The most recent proof of concept was intentionally limited in scope. It included two EDI feeds, one terminal, and a small number of reports. The new solution will require a substantially broader implementation involving additional EDI message types, additional reporting requirements, and participation from all five international terminals.	Bidder's Conference #24

040	NWSA and the Port have stated estimated dollar amount budgeted for this effort - there is no "lowest bidder wins" concept but who scores highest on the evaluation.	The procurement will be evaluated on best value rather than lowest price. Approximately 80 points are allocated to capabilities and 20 points to cost. A team of business and IT representatives will evaluate capabilities, while Procurement will separately evaluate compensation. The Port may shortlist vendors for interviews unless there is a clear leading proposal based on the written submissions. The anticipated Assessment cost is approximately \$50,000 to \$100,000. The anticipated budget for the Initial Implementation is up to approximately \$900,000. Cost is a factor in the evaluation, but the lowest-priced proposal will not necessarily be selected.	Bidder's Conference #25
041	Looking to scalability - what are the total volumes you expect aggregating by the solution (throughput)?	In 2025, the five international terminals handled approximately 1.5 million container vessel lifts/moves. Each container movement may generate multiple associated events or EDI transactions, including movements into, out of, and within the terminal. Therefore, the total number of events or messages processed will be multiple times the annual number of container moves.	Bidder's Conference #26
042	When the shortlist comes out will the presentations be in person or virtual?	Virtual.	Bidder's Conference #27
043	Did either of the previous POCs result in technology, integrations, data models, interfaces, reports, or other components that the selected Consultant will be expected to reuse, integrate with, replace, or consider during the Assessment and Initial Implementation?	No. The Port is not retaining deliverables from the previous proof-of-concept efforts, and the selected Consultant will not be expected to reuse or integrate any components from those efforts.	Bidder's Conference #28
044	Page 4 of the RFP states that "Subscription Agreements (SaaS) shall be reviewed and approved in writing by Port Entities' Contracts, Risk Management, and General Counsel prior to execution." Could you please clarify whether the referenced SaaS Agreement is separate form?	No, the SaaS agreement will be the Vendor's form just reviewed and negotiated with Port Entities' prior to execution. (Page 4, Subscription Agreements (SaaS) shall be reviewed and approved in writing by Port Entities' Contracts, Risk Management, and General Counsel prior to execution)	Q-004093
045	Attachment B - Master Services Agreement (MSA) Template and Terms & Conditions, or if it is intended to be incorporated within the MSA framework?	The MSA Terms & Conditions are to be incorporated in the MSA. The time to ask for changes is during the question period of the procurement.	Q-004093
046	Additionally, should proposers anticipate any other agreements, terms, or contractual documents governing the assessment phase, implementation projects, or ongoing SaaS services beyond the SaaS Agreement and Attachment B MSA?	No, documents to be released from this Procurement are: 1) MSA w/Terms & Conditions in Attach B (Page 4, Submitted proposals must incorporate all agreed upon terms and conditions without any exceptions or changes. Response submittal is agreement to the Contract without any exceptions). 2) SaaS Agreement as needed (Page 4, Subscription Agreements (SaaS) shall be reviewed and approved in writing by Port Entities' Contracts, Risk Management, and General Counsel prior to execution). 3) Task Orders from MSA for each project (First TO is included in Proposal, and each additional TO will require a proposal from Vendor) 4) Purchase Agreement (Each TO will be released on a PO for invoicing purposes only)	Q-004093
047	Clarification on the complete set of contractual documents associated with this procurement would be greatly appreciated.	1) Cover Letter (Page 5) 2) Proposal with evaluation criteria (Page 6-7) 3) Cost Breakdown with evaluation criteria (Page 7) (Attach C-template) 4) Data Consolidation & Reporting Requirements (Attach E) 5) Cybersecurity Self-Assessment (online form - only those Shortlisted) 6) References (only if selected)	Q-004093

048	We have an existing contract with the Port of Tacoma. We wanted to confirm whether we can use the existing agreement as far as contract terminology or whether we would need to provide a new list of exceptions for the effort.	You would need to submit a new list of exceptions for this MSA Terms & Conditions.	Email
049	At this time, there are no attachments that require signatures. However, if any signature-required documents are released in the future, could you please confirm whether electronic signatures would be acceptable?	Yes	Q-004111
050	In section D. PROPOSAL ELEMENTS & EVALUATION CRITERIA, the following is requested: "detailed descriptions of the proposing Consultant (to include the prime, key team members and major subconsultants)" Could the Port Entities please clarify if firms are required to provide information regarding the implementation team in their proposals? If so, where would this be located?	You may attach resumes of your proposed key team members as attachments to your proposal, up to one page per person. Or, you can summarize the experience of your key team members without attaching resumes. If you do attach resumes, they will not count toward the 15-page limit and you may remove identifying information from the resumes if desired.	Q-004111
051	In the event firms are required to provide information regarding their team members, could the Port Entities kindly clarify if this information would count towards the 15-page limit?	Attached resumes, up to 1 page per person, do not count toward the 15-page limit.	Q-004111
052	Could the Port Entities kindly consider extending the page limit, considering the depth of information being requested?	No. However please keep in mind that requested attachments and resumes do not count toward the 15-page limit.	Q-004111
053	Could the Port Entities please clarify if section "Initial Task Order" which requests a Statement of Work, is included inside the 15-page limit?	You may include the Initial Task Order (Assessment Project) Statement of Work as an attachment and that will not count toward the 15-page limit.	Q-004111
054	In the event firms advance to the Final Evaluation Phase, could the Port Entities kindly clarify if firms will be allowed to provide reference from commercial organizations?	Yes	Q-004111
055	In the event that firms are subcontracting, could the Port Entities please confirm if the subcontractor can bid as a prime vendor or with other prime vendors, too?	Yes	Q-004111
056	Can firms add subcontractors at a Task Order level?	Yes	Q-004111
057	Does the Port Entities have a preference for a configurable COTS/SaaS platform, or custom-developed solution?	See Question 29	Q-004110
058	Who is the incumbent vendor currently providing similar services?	See Question 7	Q-004110
059	Is the incumbent vendor allowed to participate in this RFP?	See Question 7	Q-004110
060	What are the current limitations and challenges that you are facing?	Currently, a majority of our gateway performance metrics are collected in a multitude of different manual formats (excel sheets, emails, PDFs, etc) in either weekly or monthly cadences. We are looking to build the infrastructure to collect the same data we use today directly from source systems on a more consistent basis.	Q-004110
061	Could the Port Entities clarify whether the Consultant selected for the Assessment will have an opportunity to perform the subsequent implementation, or whether the implementation will be separately competed?	See Question 2	Q-004110
062	Could the Port Entities provide an overview of the current data consolidation and reporting environment, including the existing technology stack, databases/data repositories, integration tools, reporting platforms, and hosting environment?	See question 60 for context. Currently, our reporting environment primarily lives in Power BI dashboards published internally and embedded on our website. A majority of the data we collect is a mix of sharepoint lists, an internal reporting database, and a collection of APIs from third party data sources that are all housed in Azure database by the Port of Tacoma IT team.	Q-004110
063	Could the Port Entities provide an inventory of the current data sources expected to be evaluated during the Assessment, including source system/platform, data owner, interface method, data format, and approximate data volume?	See Questions 19, 28. Additionally, see Attachment E (Requirements) Data Ingestion section. Consultant will need to coordinate with MTO technical staff regarding interface methods (likely SFTP and/or API) as it could vary.	Q-004110

064	The requirements indicate that the initial implementation is anticipated to ingest data from five International Container Terminal Operators, while another requirement references up to six external MTOs. Could the Port Entities confirm the number of MTOs that should be assumed for the initial implementation and pricing?	See Question 5. Assume no more than 6 MTOs for pricing.	Q-004110
065	What Terminal Operating Systems (TOS) are currently used by each of the MTOs expected to participate in the initial implementation?	See Question 4	Q-004110
066	Will the Port Entities coordinate and facilitate access to MTO technical teams, or will the selected Consultant be responsible for establishing those relationships and obtaining the required technical/data access?	NWSA staff will facilitate introductions between Consultant and MTO technical teams. The selected Consultant will not be responsible for establishing those relationships. Once introductions are made then the selected Consultant will be responsible for coordinating directly with MTO technical staff to establish, monitor, and maintain integrations.	Q-004110
067	Are APIs currently available from the MTO/TOS environments, or should the Consultant assume that API development and/or coordination with third-party TOS vendors may be required?	The solution must be capable of ingesting data using multiple methods as this could vary depending on the source. See Attachment E (Requirements) Data Ingestion section.	Q-004110
068	Is historical data expected to be migrated into the new solution during initial implementation? If yes, approximately how many years of historical transactional and aggregated data should vendors assume?	Historical data is not expected to be migrated during initial implementation but could be considered for future improvement after initial implementation.	Q-004110
069	Where is historical terminal and operational data currently stored, and in what formats?	See question 62 for context. The raw data comes from weekly manual inputs of aggregated terminal metrics collected by terminal operators and input into shared excel docs and transposed into our internal IT reporting structure (sharepoint list > Azure).	Q-004110
070	Does the Port Entities have an existing or preferred centralized data repository, data warehouse, data lake/lakehouse, or cloud data platform that the proposed solution is expected to utilize, or should the Consultant recommend and establish the centralized data repository as part of the solution?	The proposed solution is not expected to utilize any existing cloud data platform that is provided by the Port Entities. See Question 23.	Q-004110
071	Approximately how many dashboards, reports, KPIs, and operational metrics should vendors assume for the initial implementation cost estimate?	See Attachment E (Requirements) Row 11 for the types of reporting required for Initial Implementation.	Q-004110
072	Does the Port have a preferred BI/reporting platform, such as Microsoft Power BI, Tableau, etc.,?	We currently use Microsoft Power BI for the majority of our existing reports and dashboards.	Q-004110
073	What are the anticipated numbers of internal Port/NWSA users, MTO users, administrators, and future external/public users?	For the initial implementation, we anticipate up to 50 internal Port/NWSA viewing users, and up to 5 administrators. Portals for MTOs, Shippers, and the Public are not required for initial implementation but will be considered for future expansion/enhancements and the number of users for those has not yet been determined.	Q-004110
074	Does the Port Entities have a preferred cloud provider or technology ecosystem for the solution, or may vendors propose AWS, Microsoft Azure, another U.S.-hosted SaaS environment, or a vendor-managed platform?	As this is a vendor-managed SaaS solution, the Port Entities do not have a prescribed cloud platform/ecosystem as long as other requirements are satisfied.	Q-004110
075	Is there a target go-live date or desired implementation duration for the subsequent Initial Solution Implementation project anticipated for 2027?	We anticipate requesting project authorization for the Initial Implementation project shortly after completion of the Assessment project, likely in Q1 or Q2 2027. We assume there will be a phased go-live with MTO data on-boarding throughout 2027, and possibly into early 2028.	Q-004110

076	The RFP requires the Consultant to address data quality, validation, governance, and security. Could the Port Entities clarify whether an existing enterprise data governance framework is currently in place that the Consultant must align with, or whether the Consultant is expected to develop the governance model from the ground up?	Since the Consultant will be the data consolidator (3rd party aggregator), the Port Entities would like to understand how the Consultant proposes to handle data quality, validation, governance, and security. For this response, please share your firm's best practices, existing governance models, and how you would handle these as part of this engagement.	Q-004110
077	Could the Port Entities clarify whether remote and/or offshore resources may be utilized as part of a blended delivery model, and whether there are any U.S.-based staffing, data residency, data access, or security restrictions applicable to personnel supporting the solution?	Remote/offshore resources may be utilized. However, meetings will need to be held and support will need to be provided during US Pacific Timezone hours. Also see Question 30.	Q-004110
078	Attachment B, Section 19.c — Indemnity for cyber-related risk. As written, the Consultant indemnifies the Port Entities for any liability "resulting from or out of any cyber-related risk" with no causation or fault standard, and Section 19.d makes the obligation survive termination without limit. Because the Port Entities have indicated a preference for an externally hosted SaaS solution, this provision would make any Consultant the uncapped indemnitor for events outside its control, including the hosting environment's own security incidents and the terminal operators' transmission security. Proposed alternative language: "Consultant shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Port Entities from liability, expense, fines, penalties, cost, demand, or other obligation resulting from any cyber-related risk to the extent caused by the negligent acts, errors, or omissions of the Consultant, its subconsultants, or agents. Consultant's total liability under this Section 19.c shall not exceed the greater of the Cybersecurity Liability Insurance limit required under Section 23.b.vi or the total compensation paid under this Agreement." This is in the Port Entities' best interest because it aligns the indemnity with insurable and controllable risk, keeps the Port Entities' recovery fully backed by the required \$5,000,000 cyber policy, and avoids every proposer pricing an uninsurable exposure into its compensation.	See Addendum 02	Q-004114
079	The RFP, Attachment A, Submittal Process, limits submittals to 20 MB in total size. The Procurement (Vendor) Submission Portal Process document limits submittals to 9 MB. Please confirm which limit governs this procurement.	It is 20 MB.	Q-004114
080	Section D and Attachment A of the RFP state that Final Evaluation Phase points "shall replace" Initial Evaluation Phase points and that "final selection shall be based on the Oral Presentation score." The Procurement Submission Portal Process document states that "final selection will be based on the accumulative score." For shortlisted proposers, please confirm whether the written proposal score carries into final selection or is replaced by the oral presentation and best-and-final scores.	For shortlisted proposers, the written proposal score does NOT carry into final selection (oral presentation scores only) or best-and-final scores.	Q-004114
081	Please provide the current and planned source-system inventory for the initial implementation, including each terminal operating system vendor/version, available APIs or transfer methods, applicable EDI message sets, estimated daily transaction volumes, required refresh latency, historical backfill period, and whether the Port Entities already possess the necessary data-access rights from each MTO.	See answers to previous questions (Specifically Question 4, 19, 41). Port Entities have or will have data access agreements with each participating MTO.	Q-004113

082	Please provide the cybersecurity self-assessment or identify its minimum control framework and passing criteria, together with any mandatory hosting region, data-residency, SSO, encryption, audit logging, SIEM integration, vulnerability-testing, RTO, RPO, or security-certification requirements that proposers should incorporate into solution design and pricing.	The Port's Vendor Cybersecurity Self-Assessment Questionnaire will be provided at the appropriate stage of the procurement process. At this time, the Port is not prescribing specific requirements for hosting region, data residency, security certifications, or other technical security controls other than what is stated in Attachment E (Requirements). Proposers should be aware that the Port's cybersecurity program is aligned with the NIST Cybersecurity Framework (CSF) 2.0 and operates within the regulatory requirements applicable to federally regulated maritime facilities, including cybersecurity requirements under 33 CFR Part 101 Subpart F. RTO expectation is 48 hours and RPO expectation is 24 hours.	Q-004113
083	Please confirm whether the Initial Solution Implementation Task Order is expected to be negotiated exclusively with the consultant receiving this MSA, and whether the implementation pricing submitted with this proposal is a planning estimate that may be revised based on approved Assessment findings or a binding ceiling for the future Task Order.	See Question 2	Q-004113
084	Please confirm that Section 6 ownership of "custom code or custom reports" excludes the consultant's pre-existing platform, reusable components, generic connectors, data models, development tools, and platform improvements, with the Port Entities receiving the licenses and usage rights necessary to operate the delivered solution.	The Port Entities can agree to this comment provided the agreement expressly grants the Port Entities the perpetual right to use all consultant-owned components that are embedded in, required by, or necessary to operate the delivered solution. Without those license rights, the Port's use of the deliverables could be limited or impacted.	Q-004113
085	Would the Port Entities accept satisfaction of the \$4 million professional liability and \$5 million cyber liability limits through a combination of primary and excess or umbrella policies, and would lower limits be considered during the Assessment Task Order before production implementation begins?	Addendum 02	Q-004113
086	What was the annual spend under the previous contract for these services?	No previous contract for these services.	Q-004112
087	If this is a new contract, what is the estimated annual budget?	See RFP Section C (Scope of Services) for anticipated costs for Assessment and subsequent Initial Implementation projects. Budget for subsequent years has not been determined.	Q-004112
088	Is the agency open to a hybrid delivery model utilizing a combination of onshore and offshore resources?	See Question 77	Q-004112
089	Will the work be performed onsite, remotely, or through a hybrid arrangement?	See Question 18	Q-004112
090	Would it be possible to consider a 1–2 week extension to the proposal submission deadline?	See Addendum 01 for updated solicitation timeline.	Q-004112
091	Is this contract intended for a single vendor or for multiple vendors?	See RFP Section A (Purpose): Port Entities anticipate awarding one (1) non-exclusive Master Services Agreement (MSA) to the selected Consultant.	Q-004112
092	Who is the current or previous incumbent vendor for these services?	See Question 7	Q-004112
093	Are there any challenges, gaps, or pain points with the current solution or contractor that the agency is looking to address through this procurement?	See Question 60.	Q-004112
094	Is there a projected contract award date and anticipated start date?	See Question 24	Q-004112
095	Are there any mandatory subcontracting goals associated with this contract? We intend to clarify if it is mandatory for vendors to subcontract any part of work with any small or minority businesses in order to meet the diversity goals?	No mandatory subcontracting goals	Q-004112
096	Is there a projected award and start date?	See Question 24	Q-004112
097	Do all 5 terminals produce the same EDI transaction sets, or does coverage vary by terminal?	See Questions 19, 28, and 38.	Q-004115

098	What did the 2024 CargoSprint/Advent eModal and Wabtec proof-of-concept engagements build, and what was learned about data availability/quality/MTO cooperation? Is documentation shareable?	See Question 38	Q-004115
099	Do MTOs expose APIs today, or does API access need to be negotiated per-terminal as part of this engagement?	See Question 81	Q-004115
100	Approximate daily/monthly transaction volume per terminal (container moves, gate transactions, EDI messages/day)?	See Question 41	Q-004115
101	Expected concurrent user count for dashboards/portal (Port staff, NWSA, terminal operators, future shippers/carriers)?	See Question 73	Q-004115
102	Does the Port have a hosting preference or constraint (Azure, AWS, GCP, no preference)?	See Question 74	Q-004115
103	Is vendor-hosted SaaS acceptable, or must data reside in Port-controlled infrastructure given public-records retention obligations?	See Questions 29 and 74	Q-004115
104	Is there an existing Port data warehouse, BI platform (Power BI, Tableau, etc.), or Port Communication Systems (PCS) backend this solution must integrate with rather than replace?	No	Q-004115
105	What is the current/preferred network path from MTOs to the solution (existing VPN/private circuit, or new setup required per source)?	This could vary by source. There are no existing connections. Encrypted connections via HTTPS or SFTP over public network are acceptable.	Q-004115
106	Who owns data governance decisions across 5 independent MTOs - does the Port have authority to mandate data standards, or is this a per-tenant negotiation?	See Question 81	Q-004115
107	Does the Port have in-house technical staff who will co-own the solution post-implementation, or is a turnkey managed service expected?	This will be a managed service and Consultant will own the post-implementation support.	Q-004115
108	For the future Marine Terminal Portal, Shipper Portal, and public dashboard - is there a target timeline, or are these purely aspirational/future-phase?	These are aspirational future expansions/enhancements that will be considered after the initial implementation is completed.	Q-004115
109	Does the Port already have data-sharing agreements compelling each MTO to provide feeds, or does the consultant need to help negotiate access terminal-by-terminal?	See Question 81	Q-004115
110	Does the Port already hold Power BI/Power Platform, Azure, or other relevant licenses that could reduce build effort?	The proposed solution should be offered as a subscription-based SaaS/managed service. As such, responsibility for the hosting environment, platform components, infrastructure licensing, and ongoing operational support resides with the Consultant. Existing investments that the Port Entities have in Microsoft technologies such as Azure, Power BI, and Power Platform may enable optional integration opportunities and user productivity enhancements, but the solution being proposed should not require those licenses for deployment, operation, maintenance, or support. Consequently, any existing licensing has minimal impact on solution costs.	Q-004115
111	Will the Port assign a technical counterpart/PM who actively participates, reducing vendor coordination burden, or is this a fully hands-off, vendor-owns-everything engagement?	There will be a project team made up of business and IT staff from Port Entities that will be actively working with the Consultant during all phases (Assessment, Initial Implementation, future enhancements, operational support). Port Entities will coordinate Consultant introductions and access to MTO staff. However, Consultant will own development, implementation, enhancement, and support of the solution and will need to interface directly with MTO technical staff after introductions are facilitated by NWSA.	Q-004115
112	Does 'externally hosted SaaS' preclude any specific certifications (e.g., FedRAMP/StateRAMP) for public-sector data handling, or is standard commercial multi-tenant SaaS hosting acceptable?	Standard commercial multi-tenant SaaS hosting environments are acceptable as long as requirements are met. FedRAMP/StateRAMP certifications are not required.	Q-004115