22 November 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: GENERAL MANAGER (CORPORATE SERVICES)

FROM: INTERIM INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT) MANAGER

RE: QUOTE CONSIDERATION PLAN: COHGA (WEAVE) SPATIAL SOFTWARE AGREEMENT

The renewal of the maintenance agreement for Cohga (Weave) Spatial Software presents a procurement situation where it is not feasible to obtain three (3) independent written quotes or to call for quotes or tenders for the renewal, as required under the Ipswich City Council Procurement Framework.

For such situations, the Local Government Regulation 2012 Section 230 allows a local government to enter into medium and large contractual agreements, without first inviting written quotes or tenders, through the preparation and adoption of a Quote or Tender Consideration Plan.

This Quote Consideration Plan provides the information required to comply with the regulation and to justify the use of the plan as an effective and appropriate alternative to seeking quotes or to calling for open tenders, in particular for circumstances where the incumbent supplier and service is required to be renewed.

COHGA (WEAVE) SOFTWARE SUITE

Council's Information and Communications Technology (ICT) goals currently promote that Council leverage, extend and maintain in-place systems and tools to maximise ICT investment into current technologies, as well as to provide fit for purpose applications and platforms to enable the business to efficiently and effectively provide services to the Ipswich (and wider) community.

The ICT Branch are committed to effectively managing and improving the quality and efficiency of ICT systems and services provided to its customers through better delivery of service and value.

The Cohga (Weave) Suite (the Suite) is a core solution that allows ICT to maintain a mechanism to distribute and display information in a spatially efficient manner as a service to Council staff and the Community. This may take multiple forms through different platforms.

Key functions and considerations of the Suite of software include:

- Provides a comprehensive data management and delivery solution. This includes the ability to reuse geospatial and business data into a web browser, and with the flexibility to have a variety of delivery options.
- As technology evolves, ICT have to consistently deliver geospatial and business data faster and with less hardware.
    - This suite provides the mechanism to present location based information in a number of simple to use, flexible solutions usable through a standard web browser.
    - The Suite supports common industry standards for information deployment, including imagery and information from external service providers.
    - The Suite allows simultaneous upkeep and presentation of information to internal facing and external customer facing solutions.
- For consistency and future proofing ICT solutions, it is important to embrace web services as a primary, native implementation for accessing data.
    - This ensures the greatest interoperability and flexibility between solutions.
    - Provides the greatest flexibility for geospatial and business data delivery, enabling dissemination into any client, on any device.
- The requirement for a highly flexible solution which easily integrates with other Geographic Information System (GIS) environments. The Suite leverages existing business systems, such as Oracle®, Microsoft® SQL Server and PostgreSQL databases, Imagery services through Hexagon - Apollo.
- The Suite meets proven industry IT standards such as Java EE and REST integration to integrate into existing business environments, also meeting the organization's security requirements.

There is an ongoing and genuine requirement for the continued provision of the Suite to enable delivery of core spatial system functionality to Council and its Customers.

Cohga (WEAVE) SPATIAL SOFTWARE AGREEMENT

Licensing, maintenance and support agreements for ICT assets and solutions, particularly software, often present the following:

- Software solutions are often commissioned for a number of years following initial investment and implementation. The lifecycle of a core business solution is often excess of five (5) or even ten (10) years. To ensure investment is maximised, ongoing maintenance and support are generally required to ensure the functionality, security and stability of the software is maintained throughout the lifecycle.
- Software solutions enable Council staff to provide services to the community and, as such, solutions are embedded into daily operations. To replace a core business solution, there is a high level of organisational change involved, in addition to technical changes. An ICT sourcing and implementation project can often incur significantly more cost than that of a suitable maintenance arrangement.
- Software solutions that underpin many other solutions can easily become redundant and unsupported if not part of a strategic partnership with the relevant industry.
- It is often difficult to provide a realistic alternative or comparative provider and therefore clear choice against multiple solutions.
- Generally partnering with a long standing and well established industry specialist vendor, the risks to having a redundant solution is decreased.

- Often the proposition is not driven by price but rather by the identifiable quality of the solution and vendor, its fit within the organisation and industry with known support characteristics and a well-defined product road map.

Where an existing solution is considered fit for purpose, Council should continue to leverage, extend, renew and maintain the in-place to maximise the ICT investment. This presents a decreased risk posture and ensures the longevity of a service without compromising the ability to meet future demands and requirements through the provision of the Hexagon Suite of software.

This Quote Consideration Plan presents the procurement objectives and recommendations to provide continued maintenance and support for the Suite, and seeks approval to enter into a continuing annual agreement with an existing industry specialist partner, with an expected value of $95,000 ex GST per annum.

1. The objectives of the plan

Scope

This plan has been prepared to assist Council officers to conduct the effective procurement to establish an agreement for the maintenance and support of Intergraph software, in order to continue to leverage existing Suite of software.

Plan objective

This quote consideration plan is intended to fulfil the following objectives:

1. Support the Council's objectives to continue to deliver spatial services to support operations and customer needs and support decision making/ planning

2. Document Council's decision not to seek quotes or tender for the provision of software maintenance to this core spatial solution

3. Establish an agreed support arrangement and identified cost for ongoing use of an already established product suite

    a. Commitment to an ongoing annual reviewed relationship

    b. Ensures that ICT can maintain long term support for a core product

While this plan provides an exemption for Council Officers sourcing competitive quotes for the maintenance of Cohga (Weave) software, all other areas of the process will proceed in accordance with the Ipswich City Council Procurement Framework.

2. How the objectives will be achieved

Council's objective is to continue to deliver core business ICT services and systems for its operations and to demonstrate that best value for money has been achieved in providing the solution. This objective will be achieved through annually establishing a suitable agreement for maintenance and support of the Cohga (Weave) software.

3. How the objectives will be measured

Indicators for measuring the delivery of outcomes and success of use of this quote or tender consideration plan include:

- The provision of ongoing maintenance and support to core spatial software, ensuring reduced risk of security exposure and interruption to daily business operations.

4. Any alternative ways of achieving the objectives and why the alternative ways were not adopted

In the current circumstance there are no known efficient or effective methods of achieving the objectives, outside of this contracting plan. The following options were investigated:

1. Alternative methods of engagement via Local or State Government Agreements under Section 234 or 230(f) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 were not selected as there were no suitable arrangements available for leverage for this solution.

2. Request for Quote was not selected as seeking quotes would limit the Australian market to the existing industry partner, Cohga (the current providers).

    a. There are no alternative products on the market that currently meet the requirements of the existing solution.

    b. The time required to seek quotations, let a contract, implement a new solution and managing an ICT project throughout transition represents a high risk to Council's current operations and service delivery.

5. The proposed terms of the contract for the goods or services

The terms of contract for the agreement is 3 years, with maintenance and support remitted on an annual basis. Total expected contract value is $95,000 ex GST per annum ($285,000 contract value).

6. A risk analysis of the market from which the goods or services are to be obtained

The following general risks and mitigation strategies have been identified in relation to continuation of the annual maintenance agreement of the Cohga (Weave) Suite.

Financial Risk		Risk Level
Likelihood	Possible	Low
Consequence	Minimal	

A financial risk exists in the event that the Vendor cease product support.

Mitigation:

This product is industry best practice and is used by a large user base in many areas of government locally and internationally. The likelihood that this will happen is very low. Cohga has a world-wide reputation and is well respected in the industry.

Legal/ Governance Risk		Risk Level
Likelihood	N/A	N/A
Consequence	N/A	

There is no perceived Legal/ Governance risk.

Political/ Reputation Risk		Risk Level
Likelihood	N/A	N/A
Consequence	N/A	

There is no perceived Political / Reputation Risk

Environmental/ Public Health Risk		Risk Level
Likelihood	N/A	N/A
Consequence	N/A	

There is no perceived Environmental or Public Health Risk

Workplace Health & Safety Risk		Risk Level
Likelihood	N/A	NA
Consequence	N/A	

There is no WH&S Risk.

Service Delivery/ Business Continuity Risk		Risk Level
Likelihood	Unlikely	Low
Consequence	Minimal	

There is a very low perceived delivery/ business continuity risk in relation to this suite, this has now been in use for three (3) years without significant concerns.

Mitigation: Not required.

Cyber Security, security & Confidentiality Risk		Risk Level
Likelihood	Unlikely	Low
Consequence	Minimal	

There is no specific perceived Cyber Security, Security or Confidentiality Risk.

Mitigation:

ICT practices and Firewalls etc. provide sufficient mitigation for this application through our network security which is constantly upgraded to provide sufficient mitigation.