

Q&As

1. Is this a new requirement? If not, could you please provide the following information regarding the contractor who currently or previously fulfilled the same or similar services: contractor name; contract number; and award date.

This is a new requirement.

2. What are the Department of Commerce's plans to integrate the existing Budget Execution application that currently is running under IBM Cognos Enterprise Planning? Will there be a migration to the new technology proposed for the new Budget System?

The USPTO is unaware of the Department of Commerce's plans; however, the current execution system will be migrated to the new technology in the future.

3. After any new software product is chosen, how do you plan to implement the selected product from a services perspective?

The USPTO has a current contract in place for implementation support.

4. Are joint ventures acceptable?

Joint venture and teaming agreements are acceptable and/or encouraged.

5. Is there a particular contract vehicle that USPTO is considering for this procurement?

The purpose of this RFI is to gain information about future direction. Any information that will add value to the USPTO including contract vehicles is greatly appreciated.

6. Will this be a small business set-aside?

This cannot be determined at this time. A decision will be made after the results of the RFI have been reviewed and analyzed.

7. Will cover letter and TOC count towards the 12 page limit?

No.

8. Referring to the statement, "Description of the client base (include all Federal customers)", do you want a list of our relevant budget clients?

Yes, they can be included, however, they projects must be similar in size, scope, and complexity.

9. Is there a timeline that the USPTO OCFO envisions having an automated budgeting and planning solution in place (i.e. in time to support the FY15 budget cycle)?

No timeline has been determined.

10. What documentation exists today describing the OCFO's business processes related to the budget formulation, execution, revenue forecasting, and performance management (i.e. a Business Operations Manual)?

The documentation that exists today is historical and is not a roadmap.

11. The RFI references a variety of products already in use at the USPTO (i.e. Cognos Enterprise Planning, Momentum, Business Objects, Oracle Hyperion). Has a fit/gap analysis already been performed on these products to assess their ability to meet the OCFO's budget and planning requirements? If yes, can those findings be shared publicly?

No.

12. How many users within USPTO would require access to the centralized budget and planning system?

The centralized (centralized meaning meeting the OCFO's needs) budget and planning system will have less than 50 users.

13. There is a requirement for providing a process for importing previous existing data. From a data conversion standpoint, how much historical data is required to be imported (i.e. how many years of data)? In what file format does the historical data exist?

Less than 5 years of data. Microsoft Office products.

14. Does the OCFO have a requirement for publishing the budget document? If yes, would this functionality be limited to only privileged users? If so, is USPTO open to using a desktop-based COTS solution that connect to the centralized, web-based budget and planning system for publishing the budget document?

Yes, the USPTO has a requirement for publishing a budget document. However, this requirement may not be included within the scope of this initiative.

Yes, the functionality would be limited to privileged users.

15. Would the USPTO consider a solution that leverages COTS-based products as the foundation, but requires a full-scale configuration to meet the OCFO's budget and planning requirements?

Yes.

16. Is the government tied to a COTS solution? Would the government consider other options that are cost effective?

No.

The USPTO is interested in reviewing all proposed solutions.

17. Would USPTO consider an open-source, customized solution to meet the OCFO's budget and planning requirements?

The USPTO is interested in reviewing all proposed solutions.

18. Does the USPTO envision a "turn-key" solution to meet the OCFO's budget and planning requirements? Or is it within the OCFO's expectations that an implementation project be established to allow for formal requirements and gap analysis, and COTS configuration, has any formal requirements and gap analysis been performed?

We envision that once this solution is implemented, it will be a turn-key solution.

19. Are funds presently available for a potential procurement? If not, does the government know when funds may become available?

Yes funds are presently available for this procurement.