

XML4IP Full and Open RFI – Questions

| No. | Question | Response |
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| 1 | Is the envisioned solution planned to be a part of the PE2E initiative, or an independent effort? Is it going to be an IDIQ? | The USPTO currently envisions this to be part of the PE2E initiative. An acquisition strategy has not been determined at this time and is contingent upon the results of market research. |
| 2 | Could you tell us the Period of Performance for PE2E? | PE2E is an ongoing effort that will continue until USPTO is satisfied with the results of the program. |
| 3 | Are the users of the envisioned solution going to be USPTO employees, or vendors providing Operations and Maintenance (O&M) services? Or both? How many users will there be? | <p>The USPTO currently envisions the solution going to a combination of USPTO employees and vendors providing Operations & Maintenance.</p> <p>The USPTO currently envisions that the solution will be directly used by a small number of users who process data.</p> <p>Currently, the USPTO envisions that the users of the solution’s output (XML4IP) will include the patent corps and supporting patent staff.</p> |
| 4 | The RFI refers to 800 document types, however, sample images and XML is provided only for 6 document types (CLM, SPEC, etc.). Is there a reason for selecting these? Are they most frequently encountered? | The USPTO has developed schemas for the most significant document types that have elaborate logical structures. The USPTO is in the process of developing additional schemas to cover more documents types, including forms. However, the USPTO anticipates that many (perhaps most) document types can be handled with two very general schemas (one for incoming documents and one for outgoing documents) due to the simplicity of the logical structure of those documents. The USPTO currently maps all document types without specific schemas to one of these two general schemas. These two schemas are included in the RFI. |

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| 5 | <p>Please clarify what is meant by "Initial processing with ad hoc collections to convert about 500 documents, while ramping up conversion capabilities to produce a 3-day turnaround time and validate the feasibility of item #2, which follows."</p> <p>Does this mean 500 documents in a day? With how many users? Or, is it that the USPTO is planning to conduct a pilot trial with 500 documents with 3 days turnaround? Are these 500 documents selected from the 6 document types provided? Please elaborate this further.</p> | <p>The USPTO currently plans to conduct a pilot trial that will use 500 documents staggered over multiple trial periods that will last 2 to 3 weeks each. The ultimate goal is to develop accurate metrics for processing capability with a three-day turnaround. The USPTO hopes that this processing capability far exceeds 500 documents per day.</p> <p>Usage of the two very general schemas (incoming document and outgoing document) allows for all documents to be covered by the provided schemas.</p> |
| 6 | <p>Please clarify what is meant by "A path towards an automated or semi-automated system for converting all document types that are in image format to fully structured textual format." Is the USPTO looking for this "path" to be realized within 1 year timeframe, 5 year timeframe, or longer?</p> | <p>The USPTO is currently looking for this path to be realized within a 1 year timeframe.</p> |
| 7 | <p>There are some requirements in this RFI which are easier, and others for which implementing solutions will be time consuming (for example, Separating multiple document types concatenated into one file). Can the USPTO further refine the requirements into Low, Medium, and High priorities so as to develop a practical timeline and solution? Or, will the USPTO consider a Low/Medium/High classification provided by a vendor?</p> | <p>The vendor should outline dependencies and resource contingencies in their response, since these factors will contribute to the USPTO's prioritization of requirements.</p> |
| 8 | <p>What is the timeline on this acquisition? What is the next step?</p> | <p>USPTO is conducting market research and will use this RFI as part of the acquisition strategy development.</p> |
| 9 | <p>Will the USPTO conduct an onsite demo of capabilities of vendors? At what point in the acquisition process?</p> | <p>Dependent upon the results of the RFI, onsite demo's may be requested at some point. At this time, USPTO is only conducting market research.</p> |
| 10 | <p>Section <u>1.0 RFI Objective</u> includes the following language: "... to produce a 3-day turnaround time ...". Is the 3-day turnaround time requirement an average or a maximum, regardless of document size?</p> | <p>The USPTO currently considers the three-day turnaround time to be a maximum turnaround time. The USTPO is willing to consider more flexible turnaround schedules, provided that (a) they provide for a three-day turnaround option, and (b) they charge less for longer turnaround times.</p> |