



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) VOLKSWAGEN MITIGATION TRUST FUND POTENTIAL MITIGATION PROJECTS – SCHOOL, SHUTTLE, AND TRANSIT BUSES

DEP Posting Number: 2017036C

Pursuant to Section 287.012(22), Florida Statutes (F.S.), the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Department) is requesting information from Interested Entities concerning certain commodities and services. Please note that under Section 287.012(22), F.S., responses to this request are not offers and may not be accepted by the Department to form a binding contract.

The Department is issuing this Request for Information (hereinafter as “RFI”) to assist in determining the range and types of diesel emission reduction and mitigation projects that potentially exist in the state to help inform Florida’s draft Beneficiary Mitigation Plan under the prospective Volkswagen Mitigation Trust Fund.

Interested Entities can view and download this RFI from the Vendor Bid System (VBS) website at <http://www.myflorida.com>. Once at this site, the steps listed below should be followed to access the VBS.

Click on BUSINESS

Click on “Doing Business with the State”

Under the “Everything for Vendors and Customers” heading, click on “Vendor Bid System”

Click “Search Advertisements”

Under the “Agency” search field, select the “Department of Environmental Protection” and click on “Initiate Search”

Click on the applicable RFI number

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DATES	EVENTS	METHOD
May 12, 2017	RFI Advertised	Vendor Bid System http://www.myflorida.com/apps/vbs/vbs_main_menu
May 26, 2017, Close of Business	Questions Submitted in Writing	Procurement Contact identified in Section 1.02, Procurement Officer
June 2, 2017	Answers to Questions Posted	Vendor Bid System http://www.myflorida.com/apps/vbs/vbs_main_menu
June 23, 2017 by 2:00 PM ET	Response Due	Submit to: Florida Department of Environmental Protection Fran Spivey, Procurement Officer Procurement Section, Room 215M 3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 93 Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000 Email: Fran.Spivey@dep.state.fl.us RFI NUMBER MUST BE IN EMAIL SUBJECT LINE

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Section 1.00 – INTRODUCTION

1.01. Purpose and Scope. On October 25, 2016, the United States entered into a [Partial Consent Decree](#) that partially resolves claims that Volkswagen (VW) violated the Clean Air Act by selling more than 500,000 vehicles containing 2.0-liter diesel engines equipped with “defeat devices.” These defeat devices allowed the vehicles to meet emission limits during emissions tests while not meeting these limits during normal vehicle operation.

As part of the [Partial Consent Decree](#), VW will provide \$2.7 billion to establish a Mitigation Trust Fund which is intended to fully mitigate the excess nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions from the 2.0-liter diesel vehicles. Florida’s share of these funds is currently estimated to be approximately \$152 million.

In order for Florida to receive these funds, the state must first become a Beneficiary and then submit a Beneficiary Mitigation Plan to the designated Trustee. Through this RFI, the Department is requesting information to assist in determining the range and types of diesel emission reduction and mitigation projects that potentially exist in the state to help inform Florida’s draft Beneficiary Mitigation Plan. This RFI is also intended to identify Interested Entities that may be interested in participating in potential mitigation projects in the future.

The scope of this RFI is related to School, Shuttle, and Transit Buses, as detailed under Eligible Mitigation Actions numbers 2 and 10 of [Appendix D-2](#) of the [Partial Consent Decree](#), and as defined below:

- Replacing or repowering of model years 1992-2009 Class 4 through 8 School, Shuttle, or Transit Buses with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating above 14,001 pounds.
- Replacing, repowering, or retrofitting of model years 1995-2009 Class A through D School Buses.
- Replacing, repowering, or retrofitting of model years 1995-2009 Class 5 through 8 Shuttle or Transit Buses with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating greater than 16,001 pounds.

The Department is requesting information from Interested Entities (including county and local governmental entities, non-governmental entities, and private entities) that own and operate School, Shuttle, or Transit Buses consistent with the definitions provided above.

Additional information on the VW Mitigation Trust Fund can be found on the Department’s website at http://www.dep.state.fl.us/air/about_air/volkswagen-Settlement.htm.

1.02. Procurement Officer.

Fran Spivey, Procurement Officer
Procurement Section, Carr Building, Room 215M
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 93

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000
Telephone Number: (850) 245-2372
Email: Fran.Spivey@dep.state.fl.us

1.03. Questions. Information will not be provided by telephone. The Procurement Officer shall not be bound by any verbal information or by any written information that is not contained within the RFI documents or formally noticed and issued by the Department's Procurement Section.

Any questions from an Interested Entity concerning this RFI shall be submitted in writing, identifying the submitter and RFI number, to the Procurement Officer no later than the time and date specified in the Schedule of Events. No interpretation shall be considered binding unless provided in writing by the Department in response to a request in full compliance with this provision. Email inquiries are preferred; however, a hard copy or facsimile is acceptable. All questions and answers will be posted on the VBS. It is the Interested Entity's responsibility to periodically check the VBS. The Department bears no responsibility for any delays, or resulting impacts, associated with an Interested Entity's failure to obtain the information made available through the VBS.

1.04. Addenda. If the Department finds it necessary to supplement, modify, or interpret any portion of the RFI documents, a written "Addendum" will be posted on the VBS. It is the responsibility of the Interested Entity to be aware of any Addenda that might have a bearing on their response.

1.05. Submittal of Response. Responses are due in accordance with the VBS and Schedule of Events. An Interested Entity's response must be in writing, and submitted electronically as a .xls file using the Microsoft Excel template located on the Department's website at <http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DARM/VW/RFI-2017036C-Response-Template-School-Shuttle-and-Transit-Buses.xlsm>.

While it is not necessary to answer all questions in a section to provide value, the Department requests that Interested Entities please answer as many of the questions as possible. To supplement the information provided in the Microsoft Excel document, an Interested Entity may also provide additional email attachment(s) when responding to this RFI.

Responses must be submitted via email to the Procurement Officer (Section 1.02). The naming convention for the subject line within your email is:

Subject Line: Your Company Name – DEP RFI No. 2017036C

Once received, all RFI responses and attachments shall become the exclusive property of the Department and will not be returned. The Department is not liable for any of the costs incurred by an Interested Entity in preparing and submitting a response.

In an effort to ensure a clear understanding of the products and services in relation to the Department's requirements, the Department may use this RFI as the basis for requesting demonstrations. Upon review of the responses, and at the discretion of the Department, Interested Entities may be invited to demonstrations. An Interested Entity's participation in the system demonstrations is not mandatory nor will it reflect negatively if you are invited and choose not to participate.

1.06. Public Records. Any material submitted in response to this RFI will become a public record pursuant to Chapter 119, F.S., once it is shared with the Department. Any claim of confidentiality is waived upon submission, unless addressed as set forth below.

Disclosure and Ownership of Response Contents: An Interested Entity's response to this RFI shall be a public record and subject to production, disclosure, inspection and copying consistent with the requirements of Chapter 119, F.S. All information in an Interested Entity's response (including, without limitation, technical and price information) will be a matter of public record, subject to the provisions of Florida's Public Records Act, Chapter 119, F.S., regardless of copyright status. Submission of a response to this RFI shall constitute a waiver of any copyright protection which might otherwise apply to the Department's production, disclosure, inspection and copying of such response and contract, or any part thereof, except those parts asserted to be exempt under Chapter 119, F.S. The response, upon submission, shall be the property of the Department (except those parts asserted to be exempt in the manner set forth below), and the Department, in its sole discretion, shall have the right to use, reproduce, and disseminate the response. The Department reserves the right to use any and all information contained in a response received to this RFI.

Any content submitted to the Department which is asserted to be exempt under Chapter 119, F.S., shall be set forth on a page or pages separate from the rest of the response, and clearly marked "exempt," "confidential," or "trade secret" (as applicable), with the statutory basis for such claim of exemption, confidentiality, or trade secret specifically identified in writing on each and every such page. Failure to segregate and so identify any such content shall constitute a waiver of any claimed exemption, confidentiality, or trade secret as applied to the portion of the response or other document in which the content is set forth.

Per Section 287.012(22), F.S., "Responses to these requests are not offers and may not be accepted by the agency to form a binding contract." An Interested Entity submitting information to this RFI is not prohibited from responding to any related subsequent solicitation. The Department reserves the right to use or reject any information supplied in response to this RFI.