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Advertised

11/11/2022 09:30 AM EST

Business Name

Rhode Island Society of Technology Educators

Number

RISTE FY23-002: Cyber Security RFI

Description

RISTE purchasing consortium for public sector customers in Rhode Island (RI) is seeking information and answers to questions on cybersecurity posture and maturity. RISTE will use information collected to better design future Request for Proposals (RFPs)/ Request for Quotation (RFQs).

Q & A

Deadline

12/21/2022 02:30 PM EST

Remarks

Section I: RISTE Info

The Rhode Island Society of Technology Educators (“RISTE”) services roughly 152,000 students. RISTE provides instructional technology services to over 34 school districts Pre-K-12, 21 individual schools, and over 35 private institutions. This RFI will also be used as a statewide vehicle to better request RFP/RFQs for membership cybersecurity needs.

State of Rhode Island

TITLE 16 - Education CHAPTER 16-2

School Committees and Superintendents [See Title 16 Chapter 97 – The Rhode Island Board of Education Act] SECTION 16-2-9.6

****Important note for bidders**** BidExpress is a platform designed for virtual sealed bidding. RISTE has no visibility to bid responses in draft or submitted until the bidding window is closed. All issues or concerns about the BidExpress platform or with a bid which is in progress must be communicated to BidExpress directly. Bidders are encouraged to confirm that bids are 100% complete and have been submitted properly with BidExpress **before** the close of the bid window. Incomplete/draft bids at the time of bid close are erased from the platform and are unable to be recovered.

Scope/Purpose: Purchasing Authority

The Rhode Island Society of Technology Educators (RISTE) is an incorporated not-for-profit membership organization dedicated to maximizing the value of educational technology to its members by working with IT Vendors to procure the most effective and appropriate technological resources at the lowest possible price.

Educational institutions throughout Rhode Island rely on RISTE to provide the lowest cost solution for technology purchasing by aggregating the buying power of the State and providing flexible distribution options for hardware and accessories, software, online resources, technology, professional services, furniture, and books. Currently serving 34 public school districts, 21 individual schools, and over 35 private institutions. RISTE represents over 152,000 students and thousands of staff. For a list of our current members visit: <https://www.ri-iste.org/Member-Districts-Schools-Associations/>.

RISTE, as consortium agent, conducts this request for information on behalf of the educational institutions holding current and valid membership in the consortium (“Consortium Members”).

State of Rhode Island

TITLE 16 - Education CHAPTER 16-2

School Committees and Superintendents [See Title 16 Chapter 97 – The Rhode Island Board of Education Act] SECTION 16-2-9.6

- **16-2-9.6. Joint purchasing agreements for technology and IT infrastructure.**

Notwithstanding any other law or rule, any two (2) or more school committees may establish joint purchasing agreements between and among themselves or with the Rhode Island Society of Technology Educators ("RISTE"), a domestic, nonprofit corporation, for the purposes of establishing bids pursuant to chapter 55 of title 45, and jointly purchasing technology-related goods and services. The RISTE, acting on behalf of any school committee(s) that are members of a joint purchasing agreement with RISTE, may establish specifications and bid on behalf of the member school districts. The RISTE shall comply with bidding requirements of chapter 55 of title 45. The RISTE and any consortia created pursuant to a joint purchase agreement under this chapter shall be entitled to all the rights and benefits set forth in § 37-2-56. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in this section permits any non-public school or non-public school district access to the master price agreement maintained by the department of administration, division of purchases.

Scope/Purpose: Requirements

RISTE is looking for a way to provide its membership the methodology to develop a mature cyber security program (i.e. developing Data Governance, Risk Management, and Business Continuity programs).

RISTE is looking to assist its membership in:

Delineating all facets of a mature cybersecurity program with K12 education as its focus,
Providing a singular, modular, adaptive, and responsive methodology towards maturity,
Detangled, prioritized top down approach to maturity (e.g. Policy, Standards, Best Practices, Guidelines, Baselines, and Processes),
Checklist approach for indicating change towards that maturity.

An ultimate goal for a member could be getting accreditation on their organization controls while another may be sufficient with CISO's IG1 framework, CERT-RMM MIL1, or another benchmark.

RISTE asks that responses to this RFI are not sales pitches. RISTE will be issuing additional RFPs/RFQs in response to submissions provided.

There will be two areas where respondents can submit questions. The first question area (Q & A section) is public to any entity reading the RFI. RISTE will have the ability to see and answer any questions submitted before the end of Q & A submission deadline (normally one week before the RFI/RFQ/RFP closes). The second Questions/Responses section (near the end of the RFI) is for confidential questions, responses, and replies. RISTE will not be able to see any submissions in the Questions/Responses section until the close of the RFI.

As requirements for this RFI and uniformity in responses RISTE asks:

- Respondents to answer the Qualifying Questions in bulleted prioritized lists using a product/solution agnostic approach. Respondents can list what services, products, and solutions they offer, that match the answer supplied, at the end of their response as foot notes. RISTE asks that the respondents services, products, and solutions do not make up the answer but instead answer **how their organization can assist RISTE and its membership form mature cyber secure programs.**
- Respondents to submit their catalog of services, products, organizational talents (depth of knowledge/experience), any associated levels of vendor partnerships, and respondents company advantages (in the Questions/Responses and Additional Documents section).
- Respondents to spell out **how** their services and products are priced (e.g. tiering, FTE counts, organizational revenues, bundles/bundling services, price breaks, etc).
- Respondents to list their MSRP/Base pricing for the services and products. All information submitted is confidential, will not be shared with other respondents, will not be used to pick and chose services between respondents, and no future awards will hinge on the respondents submission or lack thereof. **No purchases will be made through this RFI.** RISTE plans on issuing RFPs/RFQs to come based on responses.
- Respondents to submit any published reviews, research, and/or articles about your

- company in the Additional Documents section.
- Respondents to submit Client Reference.
- Respondents to submit any additional information, questions, willingness to assist RISTE in future cyber security RFPs/RFQs creations, bid creation templates ("boilerplates"), K12 cybersecurity industry perspectives, and free and available resources that the respondent's company provides (in the Questions/Responses and/or Additional Documents section).

Section II: Vendor Profile - Corporate Overview

Please provide answers to the following questions.

1. How many years has your company been in business?*

2. How many years has your company been providing services, products, and solutions for K12 school districts?*

3. Vendors must provide a brief history and description of their company and include all personnel, with contact info, who will be supporting future engagements. Please submit an organization chart with a narrative describing how the responders organization will be supportive to RISTE.*

4. Please fill in the number of employees within your company that would be available to RISTE and its membership in each category below:

Sales*

Technical Support*

Application Support*

Training*

Research & Development*

Management*

Clerical*

5. USA Company*

6. Support Relationships*

Section III: Vendor Profile - Financial and Certifications

1. Is the company privately or publicly owned?*

2. Has the company filed for bankruptcy or reorganized due to financial hardship in the last 10 years?*

3. Has the ownership changed during the last five years?*

4. How long has the CEO/President/Owner been with the firm?*

5. Do you have any System and Organization Controls certifications (SOCs)? If so please attach your SOC 1 Type 2, SOC 2 Type 2, and SOC 3 reports in the Additional Documents section.*

6. Do you currently hold any ISO 27000 family certifications? If so please attach any documentation showing the length of held certification(s) and the current certification(s) in the Additional Documents section..*

7. Do you currently hold any ISO 14000 family certifications? If so please attach any documentation showing the length of held certification(s) and the current certification(s) in the Additional Documents section.*

8. Do you currently have any student data privacy agreements (DPA) in place? If yes, in what state(s)? Will they be listed as a client reference?*

**We reserve the right to request any additional financial data
we deem helpful in evaluating your company.**

Section IV: Manufacturer Partnership Levels (Microsoft, Google, HP, Dell, Rapid7, Splunk etc...)

Manufacturer Name	Vendor Partnership Level	Sales of manufacturer product/services in last 2 year
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Optional: Vendor is not required to complete.

Only vendors are able to add rows.

Section V: Qualifying Questions

The primary purpose for this Request For Information (RFI) is to help RISTE approach cyber security RFPs and RFQs to come.

Members all have different and varying levels of cybersecurity maturity.

We are asking for a step by step approach utilizing NIST (Identity, Protect, Detect, Respond, Recover), CERT-Resiliency Management Model (CERT-RMM), and CISecurity (IG1, IG2, IG3) frameworks to protect our members' information, technology, people, processes, and facilities.

Our members range in capabilities, capacities, budgeting, administrative buy-in, knowledge and experience. In addition, every member has different software, hardware platforms, cloud enabled services, and maturity needs.

RISTE is not advocating or requesting vendors specify off the self, commercial products, or open source solutions to responses. We are looking for how the respondent approaches cyber security to secure our information, technology, people, processes, and facilities. RISTE does ask that references to services, software, vendor processes, open source non-profit collaboratives that could aid are listed at the end of the response and does not form the response to that question. From there RISTE may issue individual and separate RFPs/RFQs for products, services, and solutions based on membership response.

We believe the process should start with Policy, Standards, Best Practices, Guidelines, Baselines, and Processes but due to the varying member abilities listed above some members may need more support to start, or on the other end, direct and pointed answers to their situations.

Please answers all the below questions. RISTE asks that all questions are answered in reference on how your company can support RISTE and its membership form a mature cyber security program. Please answer the questions in a bulleted/list format on how your company and services can build an organization from not having a cyber security program to progressing to a mature program.

There will be another section vendors can submit questions in confidence and confidentially as part of their RFI to be evaluated to better define future RFI/RFP/RFQs.

1. How should members begin their cyber security programs? Is Policy, Standards, Best Practices, Guidelines, Baselines, and Processes the correct procedural way to cybersecurity maturity? Why or why not?*

Based on the above, answer the below questions, by how our members should approach the categories holistically.

RISTE again asks that individuals list/bullet their responses from where a member starts with a beginning cybersecurity program and progresses to one of maturity. All categories have been extracted (including definitions) from:

Carnegie Mellon University. (2016, February 1). *CERT® Resilience Management Model, Version 1.2*.

Retrieved June 6, 2022, from https://resources.sei.cmu.edu/asset_files/Handbook/2016_002_001_514462.pdf

2a. Asset Management*

2b. Control Management*

2c. Environment Control*

2d. Enterprise Focus*

2e. External Dependencies Management*

2f. Identity Management*

2g. Incident Management and Control*

2h. Knowledge and Information Management*

2i. Measurement and Analysis*

2j. Monitoring*

2k. Organizational Process Definition*

2m. Organizational Process Focus*

2n. Organizational Training and Awareness*

2o. Risk Management*

2p. Resilience Requirements Development*

2q. Service Continuity*

2r. Technology Management*

2s. Vulnerability Analysis and Resolution*

Please attach any published reviews, research, and/or articles about your company in the Additional Documents section.

Section VI: Vendor Profile - Client References

Please list at least 5 and up to 10 school districts, Townships, and government organizations that have utilized your services that we may contact. List as many in Rhode Island as possible. To add additional references, click the green (+) on the right of the reference box.

Reference**School Name:***

Address:*

Contact:*

Title:*

Phone Number:*

Date Relationship**Began:***

Section VII: Specific Professional Services

Below is a list of professional services, solutions we know organizations provide but RISTE is cognizant that this list may not be complete. We are looking for respondents to speak to:

- Do you offer the service directly,
 - If you outsource, please specify
- Peer-review publications, research, success stories, articles, and client reviews of the service

Please utilize the Questions/Response and/or Additional Documents section to submit any additional services the company can provide.

Organizational Structure: Focus, Buy-in, and Longevity*

Data Governance Program (Creation): Classification, Sensitivity, Labeling, Retention, and Destruction*

Risk Management Program (Creation)*

Business Continuity (Creation)*

Business Impact Assessment*

Cyber Security Assessment: Physical, OT, IT, and Cloud*

Penetration Testing*

Cyber Security Audit: Physical, OT, IT, and Cloud*

Cyber Security Policy: Review, Creation, Revisioning, and Deprecating*

Business Continuity Testing (Table Top, Simulations, live exercises)*

Security Operations Center*

Network Operations Center*

Professional Development*

Accreditation*

Dark Web Monitoring*

vCISO Services*

**Vendor Confidential
Questions/Responses**

This section is for vendors to submit confidential questions, replies, and other responses to RISTE. RISTE will not have the ability to see any responses in this section until after the RFI closes.

If there is not enough individual fields RISTE asks vendors to submit a document with all questions, replies, and other responses in the Additional Documents section.

1. Question/Response

2. Question/Response

3. Question/Response

Additional Documents

Name**Omission Terms**

Name	Omission Terms
Optional: Vendor is not required to complete.	
Optional additional documents Optional additional documents	Not applicable
Optional additional documents Optional additional documents	Not applicable
Optional additional documents Optional additional documents	Not applicable
Optional additional documents Optional additional documents	Not applicable
4 Required Documents	

Responders Signature Page

The undersigned acknowledges their authority to submit this response on behalf of the Vendor listed below.

Name of Company Proposing:*

Contact Person:*

Email Address:*

Address of Company Proposing:*

Telephone Number:*

Federal Tax ID No:*

Signature:*

Date:*

(Must be signed by an officer or duly authorized company representative.)