Madera County Superintendent of Schools (MCSOS)
Request for Proposals (RFP)
2022 Firewall Replacement

RFP Number: #220010251 MCSOS Firewall

Inquiries regarding this RFP should be directed to:

Dennis Lingo
Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO)
Madera County Superintendent of Schools
1105 South Madera Avenue
Madera, CA 93637
(559) 662-6201
Dlingo@MCSOS.org

Proposals and bids must be delivered no later than 3:30 PM on January 28, 2022

Submission: (1) signed original plus one (1) copy of the bid must be received at the address listed above, in a sealed envelope no later than 3:30 p.m. local time by January 28, 2022. Envelope should be marked “RFP #220010251 MCSOS Firewall”. A copy can also be emailed to bplauson@mcsos.org with “RFP #220010251 MCSOS Firewall” in the subject line.

Bidders are strongly encouraged to submit bids in advance of the due date to avoid the possibility of missing the deadline due to unforeseen circumstances. Bidders assume the risk of the methods of dispatch chosen. MCSOS assumes no responsibility for delays caused by any package or mail delivery service. A postmark on or before the due date WILL NOT substitute for receipt of bid. Bids must be dated and time stamped by the MCSOS to be considered. Bids received after the due date and time will not be considered. Additional time will not be granted to any single bidder, however, additional time may be granted to all vendors when MCSOS determines that circumstances require it. FAXED bids will not be accepted.

Late proposals will be returned unopened and shall be considered void and unacceptable. After the January 28th deadline qualified proposals will be evaluated for this RFP. Not all proposal information is considered public, and only the final contract and costs of award will be available to the public. No proposal information will be shared until after the award.

MCSOS RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND TO AWARD IN PART OR IN TOTAL WHICHEVER IS DEEMED TO BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF MCSOS.
RFP Goals:

Purpose: MCSOS is seeking bids to purchase a firewall security solution to be used at the MCSOS internet node connecting to the K12 High Speed Network. Traffic from four (4) school districts and six (6) individual schools connect to the internet at the MCSOS node located at 1105 S. Madera Avenue location.

Scope: the selected Bidder will supply the proposed firewall security solution and all necessary components to MCSOS as outlined in the Request for Proposal.

Proposal Detail:

Award will be made to the low Bidder(s) whose products or solutions conform best to the RFP and MCSOS requirements, provided that all other requirements are satisfactorily met. Consideration will also be given to the Bidder’s qualifications, references and capabilities to provide the specified equipment and service. During the evaluation process, MCSOS reserves the right where it may serve MCSOS’ best interest to request additional information or clarification from bidders, or to allow corrections of errors or omissions. It is the responsibility of the Bidder to inquire about any requirement of the RFP that is not understood. Responses to inquiries, if they change or clarify the RFP in a substantial manner, will be forwarded by addenda to all parties that have received a copy of the RFP. MCSOS will not be bound by oral responses to inquiries or written responses other than addenda.

MCSOS reserves the right to conduct any tests it may deem advisable and to make all evaluations. MCSOS reserves the right to waive minor irregularities. A bid may be rejected if it is in any way incomplete or irregular. Bidder assumes all costs of preparation of the bid and any presentations necessary to the bidding process. Unless specified otherwise, all bids shall be valid for one (1) year from the due date of the bid.

Scope of Work:

The current firewall security system consists of one Smoothwall Linewize S-14 firewall appliance. This current solution provides perimeter security, defined internal zones, and next generation firewall services, anti-malware and anti-spam protection, URL and application filtering, intrusion detection and prevention.

Scope: MCSOS is looking to replace the current perimeter security solution at the MCSOS network node with a new solution that is capable of providing perimeter security and also securing additionally defined internal zones with traffic crossing between a variety of internal networks, existing and planned. The solution should allow for additional security zones (or similar functionality) to be added at a later time. It is expected that the solution will provide common next generation firewall security features such as application awareness, advanced malware protection, URL filtering, security intelligence, intrusion detection, and intrusion prevention. The solution must be capable of configuring high availability and fault tolerance to be added later. MCSOS prefers a single firewall vendor security solution. MCSOS wishes to receive bids that provide the following elements:

1. Hardware, software and services which meets the stated requirements to replace the current firewall appliance and logging/reporting hardware.
2. Professional services required to manage the project, complete the basic installation and
configuration of the solution as well as provide basic training for MCSOS IT staff and access to OEM vendor training materials.

Solution Requirements:

1. Bidder’s solution for the firewall appliance will provide at least six (6) 1G ethernet interfaces and at least two (2) 10G SFP+ interfaces with two (2) 10G SR optical transceivers provided.
2. Bidder’s solution shall offer minimum 5G bi-directional throughput with all security features enabled.
3. Security features such as SSL decryption, application awareness, application visibility, advance malware protection, URL filtering, security intelligence, intrusion detection, intrusion prevention, quality of service, data loss prevention, address translation, and centralized administration will be fully implemented.
4. The solution shall allow for additional security zones and or instance capability.
5. The solution shall support multiple active directory domains as well as RADIUS and user aware authentication.
6. The solution shall be compatible with other security solutions or security monitoring solutions using common / industry standard protocols.
7. The solution shall have capability to store at least 90 days of logs, either natively or via remote logging. Ideal solutions will integrate well with a SIEM infrastructure.
8. Preference will be provided to physical appliance-based solutions. Any virtual server-based software solutions must be compatible with the Microsoft Hyper-V hypervisor.

Product Requirements:

1. Meet or exceed product specifications of the Smoothwall S-14 firewall/filter solution.
2. All products shall be new products and shall be general release products.
3. All required performance specifications shall be from published public sources from production environments with all required features and applications simultaneously active.
4. In addition to being an edge security device, product must function as a next generation firewall by providing the following services and capabilities: Intrusion Prevention / Detection, URL filtering, Anti-Spam, and Anti-malware.
5. Product shall support Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA) protocols and support certificate-based authentication as well as integrate with Microsoft Active Directory/ Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (AD/LDAP).

Additional Specifications:

1. This firewall will be installed in an existing rack, replacing the current firewall.
2. The new firewall must meet or exceed current Smoothwall S-14 firewall specifications with minimum specifications of (2) 10G SFP Fiber Ports and (6) 1G Ethernet Ports.
3. Provide service and support equivalent to the Smoothwall Linewize Service Essentials Band C, 3 years.
Proposal Preparation

Where signatures are required, the signatory must be authorized to act on behalf of the vendor, including, without limitation, authority to sign contracts on the vendor’s behalf.

Questions and Vendor Forum Meeting

MCSOS will help clarify any issues or questions regarding this RFP. It is the vendor’s responsibility to seek this clarification. Please direct all questions via email to Dlingo@MCSOS.org, Erojas@MCSOS.org, and Bplauson@MCSOS.org. All questions and answers will be discussed at the Vendor Forum on 1/10/2022 at 3:00 PM. The meeting will take place at the Madera County Superintendent of Schools located at 1105 South Madera Avenue, Madera CA 93637. Vendors are limited to only 2 representatives to attend the meeting.

Proposal Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated and scored by MCSOS. Vendors are urged to make their most attractive offer, since each vendor’s ability to satisfy MCSOS requirements as described in the RFP will be evaluated and scored based on the proposal submitted.

Bid Validity

Any proposal submitted by vendor(s) during this process is considered legally binding and valid for the terms set forth in this document. Proposals will be considered an offer to do business with Madera County Superintendent of Schools, and shall be binding for a period of 90 days from the proposal due date.

Pricing

Vendors shall submit complete itemized pricing encompassing all products and services in the proposal. The vendor MUST provide the E-rate eligibility percentage for each item proposed.

Notification

MCSOS will evaluate all the proposals and quickly select the winning proposal for approval by the MCSOS appointed committee. Bidders will be notified of the selected Bidder by email within business 10 days of the proposal deadline.

Company Experience and/or References

MCSOS reserves the right to fully investigate the qualifications of any bidder(s) based on references supplied and publicly available information.

Timeframe and Key Dates

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<tr>
<td>RFP Issued</td>
<td>12/29/2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vendor Q&amp;A Forum</td>
<td>1/10/2022 at 3:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vendor RFP Responses Due</td>
<td>1/28/2022 3:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Award Notification(s)</td>
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