



Issue Date: March 11, 2024

SUBJECT: MODIFIED/REVISED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE (AMI) – WATER AND ELECTRIC METERS FOR THE CITY OF GASTONIA AND TWO RIVERS UTILITIES SERVICE AREA

The City of Gastonia (City) invites qualified proposals for: **Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) – Water and Electric Meters for the City of Gastonia and Two Rivers Utilities Service Area**

Closing: Proposals shall be submitted by mailing via courier or delivering a sealed proposal package, to include a USB drive and (2) printed copies of the proposal, to be received by 4:00PM EST, Tuesday April 2, 2024. Please mail via courier or deliver the sealed proposal package to City of Gastonia Municipal Operations Center at 1300 N. Broad Street Gastonia, NC 28054 with attention to Kyle Butler, PE.

The invitation to submit proposals may be viewed online at <https://gastonianc.gov/doing-business/bids-rfps.html> Interested vendors should email to register and signify the intent to propose with the City’s Utilities Engineer, Kyle Butler, PE, at kyleb@tworiversutilities.com, in order to receive the RFP package and all related documents. All communications related to this RFP shall be submitted to the City’s Utilities Engineer only.

The City has decided to reissue the Request for Proposals (RFP) for AMI in order to achieve the best overall solution for water and electric metering. The reissued RFP incorporates certain revisions to better align responses to the solicitation with the operational objectives of the City’s water and electric utilities. All changes across all documents are highlighted to more easily identify revisions and additions.

Key Updates in the Reissued RFP:

1. Removed MDM software and customer portal from specifications as the City will be utilizing Cayenta’s SmartWorks and SilverBlaze as part of the Harris software suite
2. Updated the specifications associated with the lead/copper inventory
3. Updated the specifications for water meters related to maximum dimensions
4. Revised the Evaluation Criteria to include scoring specifically for direct references of previous work

The City remains committed to fostering a transparent and competitive procurement process. We encourage all interested parties to review the revised RFP documents carefully and submit their proposals in accordance with the updated guidelines.

The revised RFP documents can be accessed by contacting the City's Utilities Engineer, Kyle Butler, PE, at kyleb@tworiversutilities.com on or after the reissuance date of March 11, 2024. The deadline for proposal submission is 04/02/24, and the City will allow for vendor questions to submitted up through 5:00 pm on 03/20/24. The City will work to provide timely responses to all received questions with a target date of providing all responses by 03/22/24.

The City of Gastonia reserves the right to reject any proposal for failure to comply with all requirements of this notice or of any of the contract documents; however, it may waive any minor defects or informalities at its discretion. The City further reserves the right to reject all proposals or award a contract which, in its judgment, is in the best interest of the City. Issuance of this RFP and/or receipt of proposals does not commit the City to award a contract.

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SECTION I. INVITATION

The City of Gastonia (City) invites proposals from qualified companies (Responders) for revised issuance of: **Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) – Water and Electric Meters for the City of Gastonia and Two Rivers Utilities Service Area**

Interested vendors should contact the City’s Utilities Engineer, Kyle Butler, PE, at kyleb@tworiversutilities.com, to receive the RFP package and all related documents. Upon receipt of the updated RFP package, it is the responsibility of the responder to read the documentation in its entirety and to follow all instructions precisely. Submitted proposals must be signed by an authorized agent of the company submitting a proposal in order to be considered responsive. The City is using ARPA funding and the awarded Vendor will be subject to program requirements, details of which are included in the RFP and Appendix J ARPA Funding.

Background: The City of Gastonia and Two Rivers Utilities provides water and electric service to a population of approximately 80,000 residents. There are approximately 40,000 water and 33,000 electric services. The City has experienced steady growth over the last decade, mainly driven by development of unincorporated land to the south and west of downtown. This growth is expected to continue; thus expandability of a potential AMI solution is essential. The City’s service areas for water and electric service vary slightly, so there are current and future service areas that will have water service only and have/will have an alternate electric utility provider.

The City’s existing water meters include approximately 40,000 residential and commercial meters ranging from ¾-inch to 10-inch. For 2-inch and smaller, the City’s current meter is manufactured by Mueller. For 3-inch and larger, the City has a mix of Badger, Master Meter (ultrasonic), and Hersey meters. Most of the existing meters are one of these models, equipped with Itron ERTs for drive-by Automatic Meter Reading (AMR). A summary of meter sizes and types are provided in Appendix F Cost Summary Workbook. The City is interested in understanding the capability to retrofit a subset of the existing water meters, especially some of the larger water meters; however, the preference is to fully replace all of the current meters in the system.

Residential electric meters will be replaced as part of this project. Residential meters include approximately 33,000 meters of various forms, most of which are electro-mechanical. The City has been installing Itron electric meters since 2008 but has some meters that are more than 40 years old still operational and in service. The City will be utilizing Harris SilverBlaze customer engagement portal to allow customers to view their usage, receive notification, pay their bill, and interact with the utility.

The following is a list of the City’s relevant software:

- Customer Information System/Utility Billing - Cayenta version 9.1.0.22
- Online Bill Payment - Paymentus
- Asset Management/Work Order System – Hansen/Cityworks (The City is in the process of replacing Hansen with Cityworks tentatively to be completed in the summer of 2024; the version of Cityworks will be 17.136.11)
- Outage Alerting - DataVoice OMS (version 2.4.8), Code Red
- Mapping & GIS Analytics - ESRI/ArcGIS (versions 10.6.1 and 10.8.1), ArcMap, ArcMap Pro, ESI Survey 123, Schneider ArcFM
- SCADA - Electric: ACS (Automated Control Systems); Water/Sewer: Rockwell Factory Talk
- Harris SmartWorks MDM (pending implementation)
- Harris SilverBlaze Customer Portal (pending implementation)

In general, the City’s goals of implementing an AMI system are:

- Improve customer service and customer experience
- Increase billing process efficiency
- Reduce bad debt costs
- Reduce operational expenditures over time
- Improve planning capabilities
- Improve system monitoring
- Improve asset performance
- Accurately quantify and reduce system losses
- Constantly monitor water quality in the water distribution system
- Ensure future and backwards compatibility and minimize risk of obsolescence

Tentative RFP Schedule

(Subject to change at City’s discretion)

1. Issue RFP.....03/11/2024
2. Written Questions from Responder Due.....5:00pm EST, 03/20/2024
3. Responses from City Due.....03/22/2024
4. Proposals Due4:00pm EST, 04/02/2024
5. Evaluations, Due Diligence.....May 2024
6. Council Approval.....June 18, 2024
7. Notice to Proceed.....July 2024