



City of Tacoma

Questions and Answers

Distribution Transformers RFP Specification No. **PT25-0004F**

All interested parties had the opportunity to submit questions in writing by email to Aaron Bratton, Buyer by date questions were due. The answers to the questions received are provided below and posted to the City's website at www.TacomaPurchasing.org. Navigate to [Current Contracting Opportunities / Supplies Solicitations](#), and then click *Questions and Answers* for this Specification. This information IS NOT considered an addendum. Respondents should consider this information when submitting their proposals.

1. **Question:** Would it be possible to revise the ten-year U.S. Based requirement and reduce the experience threshold from ten years to five (5) years instead?

Answer: No – the requirement is 10 years.

2. **Question:** We ran into an issue with units needing radiators for Tacoma Power. The spec requests a serial # decal to be placed on both sides of the tank under the lift lugs. The radiator gets in the way of the decal on that side. Should we disregard the decal on that side? Should we change the location of the decal?

Answer: There should not be radiators on the single-phase overhead units. If a larger unit does have a radiator, the decal should not be disregarded. Please submit the potential location change of the decal with the submittal documents detailing which units this would affect.

3. **Question:** In Section 1.02.2 – Pricing escalation/de-escalation, it is stated that the supplier must present the weighted average structure and reference indices for raw materials (steel, copper, aluminum, oil, etc.), subject to review and approval by Tacoma Public Utilities. May we propose the indices currently used by MAGNETRON USA (e.g., LME, CRU, Platts, Argus, or other equivalent sources), provided that they are recognized and auditable, or does the City require the adoption of specific predefined indices?

Answer: Whichever indices are proposed must be easy to understand for TPU to substantiate/review any price increase requests. Whichever indices are utilized, the documentation must be made available for TPU to review upon request. It would be prudent for companies to expect to submit this information with each price increase request. Documents submitted can be marked confidential if a proprietary index.

4. **Question:** Please confirm whether the Signature Page requires notarization or only a simple signature.

Answer: The signature page does not contain any mention of the necessity of a notary. Please read the document for the instructions.



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5. **Question:** Please confirm if manufacturing outside the United States is acceptable.

Answer: Manufacturing outside the United States is acceptable as long as materials conform to the technical specifications. Please note that preference will be given to companies which utilize North American products.

6. **Question:** Please confirm the standard delivery lead times expected

Answer: There are none stated in the specification. The vendor is expected to supply these in their response on the Proposal Pricing Summary Sheets. Failure to include this information will render the submittal as non-responsive.

7. **Question:** Is there Award cancellation without compensation.

Answer: Please refer to the standard terms and conditions.

8. **Question:** Please confirm that proposals submitted by outside the US, even if manufacturing is performed at an outside the US facility, will be evaluated as compliant provided that all contractual obligations are assumed by our America counterpart

Answer: If the items meet the technical specifications, they will be evaluated. However, it is stated that units which utilize North American materials will be given preference as the metal alloys have a longer life in the weather conditions of the Pacific Northwest.

9. **Question:** Please confirm whether, in the case of inspection failures, the supplier will have the opportunity to repair or replace units prior to outright rejection and return at the supplier's expense.

Answer: If a unit fails inspection testing, the vendor will need to pick up the unit and have it repaired off-site at a facility of their choosing at their expense. The unit will also need to be returned at the expense of the vendor.

10. **Question:** Please clarify whether warranty repairs can be performed locally within the U.S. through authorized partners, in addition to returning equipment to the original manufacturing facility outside the US.

Answer: Warranty repairs can be performed in the US at a facility chosen by the vendor with all costs borne by the vendor including transportation to and from.

11. **Question:** Please indicate whether amorphous core transformers are accepted

Answer: At this time, amorphous transformers will not be our sole purchases but welcome information a company has if they already have these available. If the company would be able to supply these readily, please submit a separate proposal of just amorphous items for consideration. Amorphous transformers need to conform to all technical specifications.



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12. **Question:** Please confirm whether a LOW VOLTAGE GROUNDING STRAP is required for transformers with a secondary voltage of 240/480V. If it is not required, please confirm whether this connection will be made by the customer once the transformers are in the field.

Answer: This is only required on the 120/240 single-phase overhead transformers. Please review the Pricing Proposal pages to double check section 2.05.5.

13. **Question:** Please confirm whether you accept impedance in accordance with the "Department of Energy 10 CFR Ch. II Subpart K (DOE 2016)" standard for pole mounted transformers.

Answer: Only those units which meet or exceed efficiency standards of DOE 10 CFR Part 431. Please reread sections 2.01.1 & 2.02 of the technical provisions.

14. **Question:** Considering that tinned brass is the standard material used for low-current applications in distribution transformers, please confirm that this material is acceptable for 4H spade terminals in 100 and 167KVA transformers.

Answer: Tinned brass is acceptable. Please call out this difference in the proposal documents for our engineers to review.

15. **Question:** Please confirm whether RAL 7038 gray paint is acceptable.

Answer: This paint color is acceptable. However, the City reserves the right to discuss/finalize this or alternate paint colors during contract negotiations.

16. **Question:** Please confirm whether the transformers require tap changers. If so, indicate the required regulation

Answer: The single-phase overhead units do not require tap changers.