Q&A PLANNING & ANALYTICS RESOURCE EVALUATION PLATFORM RFP

02/05/2021

<u>Respondent 1</u>

1. For Market Intelligence requirements, would SCP consider an off-the-shelf report to meet the bullet items listed rather than proposing a software? Particularly if this option is more cost effective and requires less effort to SCP?
   SCP would prefer this be integrated into the tool but will consider this option if it can be easily integrated into the software and responds to various scenarios.

2. We are evaluating whether to bid only certain portions of the RFP such as resource planning to achieve Resource/Load Modeling and Portfolio Evaluation objectives. Would this be a problem to SCP or create any disadvantages for us during your evaluation?
   SCP would prefer a tool that encompasses the entire project scope and proposals will be evaluated accordingly. If the proposed tool does not encompass the entire project scope, a solution to capture outside sources into the tool will be expected to cover the project scope.

3. Can you please clarify further on the trial period? Will it be paid, will it be at SCP's environment, what are the criteria or objectives to evaluate the period, etc.? After the trial period, what would the vendor expect?
   The 90-day trial period is meant to determine whether the tool fits SCP's needs and performs on all the items indicated in the Proposal. SCP will negotiate an agreement for the agreed full contract term with provision for termination if the trial period is not successful. If the trial period is successful, the contract will continue as per the negotiated agreement. The pricing of the trial period is up to the Proposer and should be indicated in your Proposal as per the Pricing Structure section 5(a) of the RFP Proposal Requirements. The Pricing should include all necessary costs associated with preparing the tool for use by SCP, including setup, training, and support.

4. Would you be open to a multi-year engagement?
   Yes. If there is a discount or preference for certain contract term lengths, please indicate this in your proposal as per the Pricing Structure section 5(e) of the RFP Proposal Requirements.

5. How many users are expected to use the system? Will some be allocated to perform only certain tasks such as one team for portfolio evaluation, another team for market analysis, etc.?
   Initially, we would require 3 users, however cost per user and cost for any additional licenses should be indicted in your proposal as per the Pricing Structure section 5(b) of the RFP Proposal Requirements.

Respondent 2

6. What data model and regions are of interest to SCP (CAISO, WECC, or portfolio only)? Although SCP's primary objective is to evaluate its own portfolio, the representation of resource availability and the market in CAISO and WECC at large will be needed to compare alternatives, estimate emissions impacts, and aid optimization.

7. Is SCP interested on CAISO nodal or zonal modeling?
SCP desires modeling at nodal granularity. This will be required to properly represent existing resources. Additionally, SCP anticipates using this tool to evaluate specific opportunities in the future that are associated with a specific node.

8. In the first question under "Market Intelligence", there is a reference to current and future market conditions. Is there a specific set of scenarios SCP is looking to model? SCP would be interested in the opinion of the bidder on sensitivities to explicitly vary in creating long-term scenarios. Possible variables could include low/high gas price, carbon price, EV penetration, and storage penetration.

9. Can SCP list, if any, the upstream and/or downstream applications that would integrated with PLEXOS? There are no specific commercial products SCP anticipates integrating with the proposed solution. SCP's current analytical platform is based on MySQL tables, Power BI visualizations, scripts in R and Python, and Excel sheets. Depending on the proposed solution, there may or may not be interaction with SCP's internal platform.

10. Under the section "Resource/Load Modeling", SCP mentions: Load Forecasting and Renewable Forecasting that are weather-normalized. Is SCP providing those forecasts from an external source, i.e. ms-excel file, or third party application? SCP can provide weather-normalized forecasts for load in a CSV. It is preferred that the proposed solution provides forecasting for renewable resources. SCP also will consider solutions that integrate load forecasting versus relying on an external input.

11. Are there any specific reports types or format that SCP would like to have the optimization output to be presented on? SCP would like any optimization output to include both important summary characteristics (e.g. NPV, LCOE, etc.) as well as high granularity (e.g. hourly resource-level forecasts). The output from the solution will be used for planning and procurement decisions, regulatory filings, other analyses, and visualization that might not reside in the tool.

12. How many portfolio resources, assets, contracts (including PPAs), loads, etc., is SCP expecting to model using PLEXOS? SCP does not have a pre-determined quantity of discrete components we expect to model. SCP anticipates modelling short-term and long-term capacity, energy, and storage resources from existing contracts and potential resources needed to fill open position under various load forecast scenarios. The proposed solution should allow for modeling a flexible quantity of components. Please indicate in your proposal the capabilities of your tool and any pricing differentials there may be for modelling component quantities.

13. How often is SCP anticipating running the CAISO 2045 model with hourly results? SCP would like to refresh long-term forecasts once per quarter.

14. Are there requirements for sub-hourly modeling? SCP would like the proposed solution to accurately reflect the real-time revenues from different resources and products—particularly storage (including ancillary services). If the model is not run at the sub-hourly level, then the proposed solution should have a calibrated proxy for the value a resource accrues at the sub-hourly level.

15. Is SCP looking to replace an existing deployed solution? No, this will be SCP's first externally developed solution for evaluating long-term resource procurement.

16. SCP's listed requirements are for IRP type modeling, is there a need or interest in expanding the use of the modeling tool to include short term dispatch and/or medium term planning? Yes. Although IRP type modeling is driving this procurement, solutions that can also be used to optimize dispatch of existing resources or for evaluation of potential contracts SCP might evaluate in the next few years would be extremely valuable.

17. How many software users does SCP anticipate having using PLEXOS? Please see question 5.

18. Does SCP have a strong preference for Cloud or On-Premise deployment? SCP would prefer cloud deployment, particularly for modeling. SCP will consider solutions that are deployed on-premise, but details must be provided on the suitable hardware to support the tool.

19. Can SCP provide the weightage of each of the evaluation criteria? SCP is not assigning a particular weight to each evaluation criteria. SCP will holistically evaluate what solutions will most cost effectively meet stated objectives.

20. Will selected vendor(s) be compensated for their efforts supporting the 90-day trial project? See question 3.

Respondent 3

21. Does SCP currently have any software to assist in its efforts to perform any of the elements described in the RFP (page 2, project scope)? For example, does SCP have a load forecasting model; does SCP have a capacity expansion model; does SCP have a portfolio evaluation tool? SCP does not have an external software solution for any of the elements described in the RFP. SCP has an internal hourly forecasting model built in R and Excel-built portfolio evaluation tools. SCP anticipates retiring most of its current modelling infrastructure after deploying the proposed tool.

22. Would SCP consider staff augmentation and training for specific analysis and approaches as an independent scope, versus acquiring new software under a single platform? No, SCP is specifically looking for a software platform. The proposals should include training resources for SCP staff to develop proficiency in using the tool.

23. Is SCP seeking long-term platform maintenance for either data or code from the vendor, or is SCP interested in maintaining these platform elements internally? Yes, the proposals should include any maintenance required to ensure the reliability of the tool. This should also include updating market information periodically.

24. Will SCP accept bids for only select components identified in the RFP (page 2, project scope), or does SCP require that responses capture the full set of needs identified? Please see question 2.

25. Would SCP consider the provision of consulting services to evaluate the SCP forward looking resource requirements and provide recommendations on such based on SCP's feedback, rather than a software platform? No, SCP desires a solution that enables staff to take a direct role in evaluating the portfolio.

26. As many of the requirements for the scope described (page 2, project scope) require different software tools to provide a robust forward view (for example, a load forecasting DER penetration model is typically not integrated with a price forecasting tool), would SCP consider a proposal that offers SCP a customized portfolio evaluation tool to incorporate the inputs from other tools that would be licensed separately? Yes, SCP would consider a proposal that requires separate licensing for specific components. However, these components should be detailed with an estimated cost in the proposals.

27. Can SCP provide an indication of the budget available for the platform? SCP has not determined a specific budget for this platform.

28. Can SCP provide their desired timeline to have a platform in-house and operational? SCP would like to start using the platform in Q2 of 2021.