Request for Information

Joint Initiative
Intra-Hour Transaction Accelerator Platform
(I-TAP)

April 30, 2009

Proposals Due: May 29, 2009 8:00 a.m. PPT

Joint Initiative
Request for Information
Inter-Hour Transaction Accelerator Platform
I-TAP

1.0 Introduction

In mid-2008, representatives from ColumbiaGrid, Northern Tier Transmission Group, and WestConnect decided to join forces to pursue a number of projects that would benefit from broader reach of expertise and geography. These three groups are comprised of approximately 26 utility companies providing transmission and customers throughout the western United States. Each group had begun work in areas that captured the interest of the others and a mutual Joint Initiative program was conceived and begun.

As part of this open Joint Initiative effort, members of these organizations are interested in understanding the technical feasibility, cost and timing considerations associated with implementation of a tool that would facilitate bilateral energy transactions (Intra-Hour Transaction Accelerator Platform or I-TAP). The group is in the data-gathering stage and is seeking proposals from Responders qualified to develop and provide the software, related infrastructure, and initial system implementation. In addition, the group is also gathering information as to whether any Responders would also be interested in administering the I-TAP system on an on-going basis. Responders who are interested in administering the I-TAP system should indicate if they are aware of any regulatory requirements for implementation. Information gathered in the process of responding to this Request for Information ("RFI") and in reviewing the responses will be used in the development of a business case that is being prepared to provide potential participants with sufficient information to determine whether to move forward with implementation.

2.0 Information Being Requested

The primary objective of issuing this RFI is to validate the technical feasibility of the concept and understand cost and implementation timing requirements. This information will be incorporated into a business case so that interested parties may have enough information to determine if proceeding with an agreement and issuing a Request for Proposal is warranted. The I-TAP Systems Requirement documentation included with this Request for Information identifies the specifications and requirements associated with the design of this market facilitation tool. Innovative approaches or enhancements to the provided I-TAP System Requirements should be noted by the Responder. Features that may be optional are identified in the document and should be priced separately.

In addition, Responders should indicate whether they are interested in (i) developing or (ii) developing and administering the on-going operation of the I-TAP, and provide related pricing information. If the Responder is interested in administering I-TAP operation, it should provide information about how it would handle on-going funding, for example, licensed use (per user or per customer fees, volume fees, etc.). Further, such Responders should address whether they can envision a pricing structure that modularizes I-TAP features and charges users only for the features they use.

3.0 Instructions for Responding to this RFI

All responses should address every functional requirement contained in the I-TAP Systems Requirement Document. If the System Requirements Document specifies a particular method of achieving a functional requirement, the Responder may substitute an alternative, functionally equivalent method. Copies of all documentation submitted in response to this RFI will be available to interested members for review purposes. This information will not be shared with other RFI respondents, but may be summarized and included in the business case.

3.1 Supporting Documentation/Information

Any supporting documentation that describes the hardware, software, or other aspects of the proposed solution should be included with the response.

3.2 Technical Specifications

The proposed functional requirements and technical specifications are contained in the attached I-TAP Requirements Document.

3.3 DSS Proposal Format and Organization

Each complete proposal shall contain the following:

1. Cover letter;
2. Technical proposal;
3. Implementation timeline proposal;
4. Financial proposal, including development and ongoing maintenance costs as appropriate; and
5. One compact disc containing an electronic version of all RFI materials submitted by the Respondent in Microsoft Word, Adobe pdf, or PowerPoint formats.

3.4 Response Contact

Companies responding to this RFI should designate a single contact within that company for receipt of all subsequent information regarding this RFI should be included in the cover letter.

3.5 Reimbursement

Responders will not be reimbursed for any cost incurred in conjunction with developing a response to this RFI.

3.6 RFI Response Deadline

The I-TAP RFI Coordinator must receive the Responder's RFI response, in its entirety, at the address identified herein. RFI responses must be received on or before the May 29, 2009, by 8:00 am PPT. Responders should send one electronic copy in machine-readable format to kristiwallis@sprintmail.com. Acceptable formats are PowerPoint, Adobe pdf, or MS Word.doc files. One confirming paper copy of all documents should also be sent to the RFI Coordinator identified below.

3.7 RFI Coordinator

Please direct all communications, including any commercial/technical questions electronically or in writing to:

Kristi Wallis – Joint Initiative Facilitator
716 – 39th Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98122
(206) 726-1699
kristiwallis@sprintmail.com

4.0 Response Review Process and Schedule

The parties issuing this RFI are doing so with the intent to survey the industry to obtain information that provides guidance, which will be used in the preparation of a business case that will be the basis for regional participants to determine if they desire to proceed with implementation and an RFP.

To fully comprehend the information contained within a response to this RFI, the participants may seek further clarification on that response. This clarification may be requested in the form of brief verbal communication by telephone; written communication; electronic communications; or a presentation of the response to a meeting of the participants.

4.1 Responder Questions to the I-TAP

Responders may ask questions regarding the RFI. These questions must be submitted in writing to the RFI Coordinator (either by U.S. mail or electronically) according to the schedule below. The questions and responses will be shared with all interested Responders via a posting on the I-

TAP web site at ColumbiaGrid.org, without disclosing the identity of the Responder asking the question.

4.2 Important Dates (All times below are 8:00 a.m. PPT)

Date	Event
April 30, 2009	RFI issued
May 12, 2009	Deadline for questions
May 29, 2009	RFI responses due

5.0 No Contractual Obligation

The participants reserve the right to accept, reject, or use without obligation or compensation any information submitted in response to this RFI. RFI materials will not be returned to Respondents. This RFI is for planning and information purposes only and is NOT to be construed as a commitment by implication or otherwise to enter into a contractual agreement, nor compensate Respondents for any information provided.