

Proposed Response to attached email.

Thank you for your questions and patience. The Governor and members of the task force share your concerns regarding your company's survival, logistics, and the impact relating to RFP 3162. As the Governor's staff liaison to the task force, I will attempt to address each of your concerns.

The Governor's Task Force for Classroom Technology is a time-limited commission with the sole purpose of accomplishing the Governor's goal of placing an Internet-accessible computer in every public elementary and secondary classroom in Mississippi by the end of 2002. By placing a computer in every classroom, the Governor and the task force hope to enrich the learning experiences of children across Mississippi and prepare them for tomorrow's jobs.

Although RFP 3162 provides for the purchase of 6,000 computers during the next year, there are more than 499,000 students in more than 30,000 Mississippi public classrooms. Governor Musgrove envisions seeing a computer on every desk in every public classroom, so I am not sure that the demand for computers in public schools will diminish as a result of this procurement.

RFP 3162 does not prevent any school district from purchasing computers from any vendor, nor does it prevent you and your company from partnering with an ISO certified manufacturer or any other manufacturer that can satisfy ITS's enterprise rating criteria.

Governor Musgrove's top priority is improving and enhancing our educational system. The task force is co-chaired by the State Superintendent of Education; its membership includes school superintendents, principals, and teachers. The Mississippi Department of Education has developed and is updating its Internet enhancements for school curriculum. Please refer to Clarifications #4, 8, and 22 (<ftp://www.its.state.ms.us/pub/issinfo/rfps/3162.htm>).

I encourage you provide a response to RFP 3162 by Thursday, June 15, 2000, at 3:00 PM. Should you have additional concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Michael Boyd