

MEMORANDUM

TO: David Litchliter

DATE: August 9, 2000

SUBJECT: Project Number 32162 for the evaluation and recommendation of proposals received in response to RFP No. 3162 to allow the **OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR** to acquire 6,000 to 12,000 personal computers and related services to support Governor Musgrove's initiative of placing an Internet-accessible computer in every public elementary and secondary classroom in Mississippi by the end of 2002.

1. BACKGROUND AND APPLICATION

In March of 2000, Governor Ronnie Musgrove established the Governor's Task Force for Classroom Technology. This task force 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. The task force was charged with three goals:

- Support legislative initiatives to fund the project;
- Raise private sector awareness and financial support; and ,
- Execute the initiative.

As the impact of this task force would reach every community in Mississippi, it was the Governor's intention that this task force be gender, racially, and geographically balanced. Governor Musgrove created the task force through an executive order with an appropriations bill for per diems and travel expenses.

The task force is co-chaired by Governor Musgrove and Dr. Richard Thompson, State Superintendent of Education. Other members of the task force as appointed by the Governor (unless otherwise noted), include at least 16 representatives, or their designees, from the following groups:

- Education Technology Council (Dr. Helen Soule);
- State Department of Education (Nathan Slater);
- Information Technology Services (David Litchliter);
- **Representatives of private foundations and companies (Carolyn C. Shanks, Entergy Mississippi; Robin Costa, Maddox Foundation; Tom Pittman, Pittman Family Foundation; and, John Lovorn, The PACE Group)**
- Mississippi Public Education Forum (**Johnny Franklin**);
- Mississippi Authority for Educational Television (Larry Miller);
- Mississippi Association of School Superintendents (Dr. Jayne Sargent);

- Mississippi Parent-Teacher Association (Yvonne Steadman);
- Mississippi Economic Council (Blake Wilson);
- 3 teachers (Deloise **Jones**, Kathy Brookshire, Vanessa Barnes);
- **School Administrators (Henry Arledge, Kenneth Reid)**
- Office of the Governor;
- House of Representatives – appointed by the Speaker (Rep. Cecil Brown);
- Senate – appointed by the Speaker (Sen. Mike Chaney)

The task force's work was subdivided into three phases: planning, funding, and implementing. The task force's will dissolve on December 31, 2002, upon completion of the objective.

One challenge before the task force has been to determine the most cost-effective method for providing Internet accessible connections to every classroom. Ideas were discussed such as promoting web televisions, computer workstations (terminals), or computers as classroom connections.

As the task force began to locate financial resources for the project, an inventory the classroom computers was conducted. The approximate number of Mississippi classrooms needing Internet accessible computers is 12,500 (approximately one-half of all classrooms).

Technical requirements for the acquisition of the personal computers were determined by the task force using, as a basis, the Mississippi Department of Education's standards for personal computers. Utilizing the technical requirements decisions made by the task force, Information Technology Services, the Office of the Governor, and the Mississippi Department of Education created RFP 3162 for the acquisition of 6,000 to 12,000 personal computers and related services to support Governor Musgrove's initiative of placing an Internet-accessible computer in every public elementary and secondary classroom in Mississippi by the end of 2002.

2. PROPOSAL RESULTS

RFP 3162 was released May 24, 2000 with proposals due by 3:00 PM June 15, 2000 for RFP 3162. The minimum Technical Requirements as listed in RFP 3162 are as follows:

- Intel Pentium III with 100 MHz Front side bus
- 512k L2 cache or 256k Advanced Transfer Cache
- Speed: 500 MHz
- Base RAM: 64MB 100 MHz SDRAM. System must be capable of expanding to 128MB without replacing existing RAM. Total RAM expandability must be 256 MB minimum. 133 MHz SDRAM acceptable
- Base Video RAM: 4MB dedicated with minimum 8MB total (dynamic/shared OR AGP dedicated)

- Hard Drive Size & Controller: 6 GB (formatted) ATA 33
- OS: Windows 98. System must be NT compatible with school responsible for any upgrade cost.
- CRT Monitor: 17" color monitor with .28 mm dot pitch supporting resolutions up to 1024 x 768 in noninterlaced mode. This resolution should be the manufacturer recommended/optimal (flicker-free) resolution, not necessarily the maximum.
- Network Card (NIC): 10/100 fast Ethernet
- Internal CD-ROM 32x ATAPI
- Internal 1.44 MB 3.5" diskette drive
- One parallel port, one serial port, and two USB ports.
- Motherboard must have a minimum of 2 ISA/PCI vacant expansion slots after full base configuration.
- 104-key heavy-duty keyboard
- 2 button high resolution mouse
- SoundBlaster compatible 16 bit sound card, speakers and applicable software. Speakers with AC power supply and applicable software must be capable of sufficient power output to broadcast sound throughout a normal size classroom without degradation or damage to the units at optimal volume levels.
- Components must be FCC Class B certified.
- System or its family must be Novell certified. This requirement is waived for systems classified as an ITS Enterprise System.

The evaluation of the proposals was to be conducted in four stages:

Stage I	Selection of Responsive Proposals
Stage II	Evaluation of Proposals
Stage III	Evaluation of Cost Proposals
Stage IV	Selection of Successful Vendor(s)

The Scoring Methodology showing the weight of the evaluation criteria was posted on the ITS Web site on June 15, 2000. Proposals were received from fourteen responding vendors. The evaluation team consisted of representatives from ITS, the Office of the Governor, and Mississippi Department of Education. A solvency review of each vendor was performed by the Department of Finance and Administration.

Arsys Innotech Corporation and DOTCOM did not provide the required \$20,000.00 Proposal Bond therefore proposals from these vendors were deemed non-responsive upon opening.

Custom Fit, Incorporated did not provide information in the manner required for proposing a Non-ITS Enterprise System and was deemed non-responsive during Stage I of the evaluation process. A total of eighteen different models were proposed by the eleven remaining vendors. Configuration #1 proposed by Compaq Computer Corporation did not meet the Technical Requirements, therefore was eliminated from further evaluation in Stage I. Seventeen models, proposed by eleven vendors, were eligible to be evaluated in Stage II of the evaluation process.

The Stage II evaluation included a review and scoring of the Qualifications of the Vendor, the Hardware Requirements, the Tentative Installation Plan, Exceeding Technical Requirements, Exceeding Warranty Requirements and Value-Adds. Vendor resources, solvency, and references were scored for a total of 10 points categorized as "Qualifications of Vendor." Hardware requirements totaled 10 points allocated dependent on the manufacturer of the model proposed and whether that manufacturer was Gartner Enterprise Tier, Gartner Middle Tier, Gartner Problem Watch, or Non-ITS Enterprise. Each vendor was required to include a Tentative Installation Plan which was scored according to the completeness of the plan with regards to schedule dates, tasks, and assignments totaling 5 points. 10 points were allocated for Exceeding Technical Requirements if a vendor exceeded the minimum requirements in the following areas: processor speed, bus, cache, RAM, RAM type, video RAM, Hard drive, monitor, or expansion slots. 5 points were allocated for Exceeding Warranty Requirements by providing more warranty than the required: 3-year warranty with 1-year on-site parts and labor and 2-year parts and labor. Points ranging from 0 to 10 were awarded for Value-Adds to be added on top of all other scoring. A Value-Add was defined as a "NO COST service or product not required by the RFP."

All models were evaluated in Stage III, Evaluation of Cost Proposals. The total available points to be allocated for Cost was 60 points. The standard ITS Cost Matrix Formula was used to derive the total points to be awarded each vendor for cost. The vendor proposing the lowest cost receives the maximum points allocated for cost, 60 points, and all other cost points are derived using the lowest cost as a derivative.

The evaluation results are attached as well as a matrix showing the manufacturer proposed for each model/vendor. As shown on the matrix GCS, Inc. ranks first by receiving 99.1% of the possible 110 total points.

The evaluation results must be presented to the Governor's Task Force on Classroom Technology for approval and the creation of a recommendation of award. Provision for a multiple award was included in RFP 3162.

A recommendation of the Governor's Task Force on Classroom Technology and ITS will be forthcoming at the Board Meeting.

3. SOURCE OF FUNDS

Funding for this project consists of \$2,000,000.00 from the State General Fund for Fiscal Year 2001 and other private funds.

Cheryl C. Yelverton, Technology Consultant