SECTION VII
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

I.   GENERAL

The State of Mississippi seeks 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.

Mississippi has laid a strong foundation for education and desires to continue to take sound and innovative measures to strengthen the schools within our state. Technology and the world wide web offer exceptional educational resources for Mississippi's school children and teachers. The public and private sectors, working together, have the capability to make technology and the world wide web resources available to Mississippi's school children and teachers by placing an Internet-accessible computer <u>in every public elementary and secondary classroom in Mississippi</u> ~~in every classroom in every school in every district in every county of the State of Mississippi~~.

II.   MANAGEMENT OF THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS

A. Procurement Schedule

The schedule for this project follows. All references to time are Central Standard Time.

Release of the RFP	05/23/2000
Vendor Questions <u>received</u> ~~due~~ <u>by 12:00 Noon on</u>	05/31/2000
Formal Answers <u>to Vendor Questions</u> Released by 5:00 ~~(close-of-business)~~	06/06/2000
Proposals ~~Due~~ by 3:00 PM	06/15/2000
ITS Board Presentation	07/21/2000
ITS Award Announcement	07/21/2000
Contract Signed	07/28/2000
Project Initiation	08/01/2000

B. Cost Proposal and Payment Terms

1. The Vendor must include and complete all parts of the cost proposal forms in a clear and

accurate manner. **~~Significant errors~~ Inadequate details in the required ~~detail~~ levels of the Vendor's cost proposal may be grounds for rejection of the Vendor's proposal.**

2. The Vendor must submit a complete dollar cost for all Hardware and Services requested in this RFP. The Vendor must also submit costs <u>for each category</u> in the categories provided in Exhibit A, providing a total cost per the categories of Hardware, Software, Professional Services, and Other Costs. *(We need to see Exhibit A to clarify some concerns…)*

3. The Vendor must quote the change order rates for additional installation services performed after initial product installation. All cost factors, ~~such as~~ <u>including, but not limited to,</u> rate, travel, <u>and</u> per diem~~, etc~~. must be included in the change order rates. Rates must be provided as indicated in Exhibit A. *(Again, we need to see Exhibit A to clarify some concerns…)*

III.   REQUIREMENTS

1. Statement of Understanding

   1. The State is most interested in quantity discounts <u>to make</u> ~~making~~ optimal use of available funds. ~~Therefore~~ A single award may occur<u>, but</u> ~~However,~~ the State reserves the right to make multiple awards if it is in the best interest of the overall project.

   2. The State guarantees, with this acquisition, the purchase of a minimum of 6,000 Internet-accessible personal computers. In the event of multiple awards, awards will be made in no less than 1,000 unit increments.

   3. The State <u>may</u> acquire, during ~~Calendar~~ <u>State Fiscal</u> Year 2001, up to ~~an additional~~ 3,000 <u>additional</u> Internet-accessible personal computers.

   4. The State will acquire up to 12,000 Internet-accessible personal computers by ~~June 30~~ <u>December 31</u>, 2002.

   5. The State reserves the <u>absolute</u> right to re-negotiate with any or all awarded vendor<u>s</u> or produce additional RFPs for this acquisition at the end of each ~~calendar~~ <u>state fiscal</u> year.

   6. ~~The State requires delivery of this purchase to be on a quarterly basis. Need to explain this in greater detail.~~ The awarded vendor(s) will deliver and install computers on a quarterly basis.

   7. The State will remit payment <u>within 30 days following a 30-day evaluation process</u> for any ~~task~~ <u>installation</u> described <u>in the RFP and contract</u> ~~herein~~ when ~~that task is~~ completed to the <u>school principal's, or authorized agent's,</u> ~~State's~~ satisfaction ~~and a 30 day Acceptance Period has expired~~. Invoices ~~for "Accepted" tasks~~ may be submitted to the State by the Vendor on a monthly basis<u>, or as negotiated in the contract</u>. *(Our thought is perhaps a vendor may want payment following and instillation milestone—i.e., 500 computers).* [This statement may be

deleted, must verify how it is worded in our Boilerplate.]

8. This acquisition does not include patch cables. Each school will be responsible for providing such cables.

2. Vendor Requirements

1. To be considered responsive to the RFP, ~~the~~ a vendor must substantiate to the satisfaction of the State that its company has sufficient resources to complete the project successfully. The vendor must supply staff <u>with</u> ~~of~~ sufficient types and numbers, as necessary, to accomplish the successful completion of the project.

2. Vendor must be an authorized dealer in good standing of the products/services included in the proposal. <u>Vendor must p</u>rovide certification documentation in RFP response.

3. Vendor must be able to deliver all items proposed in the time frame specified in Vendor's response to this RFP.

4. Vendor must substantiate ~~their~~ <u>its</u> financial ability to provide the hardware, warranty, sales support and services demanded in this RFP.

5. Vendor must submit a certified copy of the vendor's financial statement for each of the last three (3) years. A copy of the annual report is also required and must include, at a minimum, a balance sheet and an income statement. Vendor must clearly indicate Vendor's legal tax status (~~i.e.~~ <u>e.g.,</u> individual, partnership, corporation, <u>sole proprietorship</u> ~~etc.~~).

6. Vendor must submit information related to its corporation <u>or business</u> background. The vendor's background section must include the vendor and <u>any</u> ~~each~~ subcontractor ~~(if any)~~, background details regarding the corporation <u>or business</u>, and details of corporate <u>or business</u> experience relevant to the proposed contract.

   The background details of the Vendor's firm, size and resources must include:
   1. Date established;
   2. <u>Company structure and o</u>wnership (<u>e.g.,</u> public company, partnership, subsidiary, <u>sole proprietorship</u> ~~etc.~~), including the officers<u>, board members, or primary shareholders</u> ~~or partners of the corporation~~, and the name and address of its registered agent;
   3. Number of employees;
   4. Number of contract workers<u>; and,</u>
   5. <u>Standard & Poor credit rating</u>

C. Hardware Requirements

1. ***ITS* ENTERPRISE DESIGNATIONS**

a. It is highly preferable that proposed systems be rated as a "***ITS*** Enterprise Systems" as defined by the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services. ***ITS*** Enterprise Systems are systems from manufacturers or dealers of manufacturers with a [1]Gartner Group "Enterprise-" or "Middle-Tier" rating (branded commercial offerings only). A vendor proposing other manufacturers must substantiate the quality of ~~their~~ the manufacturer's system using Gartner standards and describing the specific components and manufacturing processes used.

2. ***ITS*** Enterprise List - Desktop Manufacturers (non-portables)

   The Gartner Enterprise-Tier and Middle-Tier lists for desktop manufacturers for **North America** consist of the following:
   a. Acer
   b. Compaq
   c. Dell
   d. Gateway
   e. Hewlett-Packard
   f. IBM
   g. Micron
   h. NEC (Packard Bell-NEC) * *Gartner Problem Watch*
   i. Samsung/AST * *Gartner Problem Watch*

   The Gartner "Enterprise-Tier" and "Middle-Tier" rated Non-Portable Enterprise offerings must be branded as commercial. Examples of non-commercial offerings include A-Open, Compaq Presario and Prosignia, Dell Dimension, Gateway 2000 G Series, and IBM Aptiva.

3. **Non-*ITS* *Enterprise List* systems**

   ~~Vendors proposing a system other than from the Gartner Enterprise-Tier and Middle-Tier list for desktop manufacturers~~ **must** ~~substantiate the quality of the proposed system in comparison with the Gartner standards.~~ A vendor proposing other manufacturers must substantiate the quality of the manufacturer's system using Gartner standards and describing the specific components and manufacturing processes used.

4. Technical Specifications

   Specifications listed below are minimum and may be exceeded

   a. Intel Pentium III with 100 MHz front side bus *(AMD or Celeron chips are unacceptable)*

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[1]Gartner Group is an independent provider of research and analysis on the information technology industry. (203) 316-1244

Do we need to add AMD or Celeron boxes? — check internally

 b. 512k L2 cache or 256k Advanced Transfer Cache
 c. Speed: 500MHz
 d. Base RAM: 64MB 100MHz SDRAM System must be capable of expanding to 128MB without replacing existing RAM. Total RAM expandability must be 256MB minimum. 133MHz SDRAM acceptable
 e. Base Video RAM: 4MB dedicated with minimum 8MB total (dynamic/shared OR AGP dedicated)
 f. Hard Drive Size & Controller: 6GB (formatted) ATA 33
 g. OS: Windows 98. System must be NT compatible with school responsible for any upgrade cost
 h. 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.
 i. Network Card (NIC): 10/100 fast Ethernet
 j. Internal CD- ROM 32x ATAPI
 k. Internal 1.44MB 3.5" diskette drive
 l. One parallel port, one serial port, and two USB ports
 m. Motherboard must have a minimum of 2 ISA/PCI vacant expansion slots after full base configuration.
 n. 104-key heavy-duty keyboard
 o. 2 button high resolution mouse
 p. SoundBlaster compatible 16-bit sound card, speakers and applicable software. Speakers with AC power supply and applicable software must <u>be</u> capable of sufficient power output to broadcast sound throughout a normal size classroom without degradation or damage to the units at optimal volume levels.
 q. Components must be FCC Class B certified
 r. System or its family must be Novell certified. **This requirement is waived for systems classified as a ITS Enterprise System**. *(WHY???)*
 s. Vendors must propose systems which are configured with all components provided by the base manufacturer, with the possible exception of monitors, speakers, NICs, which may be supplied by 3rd party when not available by base manufacturers. The only acceptable 3rd party NICs are 3COM, Allied Telesyn, Intel or SMC.
  This statement will probably be rolled into Item ~~C.4~~ <u>C.9</u> above.

5. Warranty Requirements
 a. 3 year warranty provided by proposing vendor.
 b. 1st year warranty on-site <u>for</u> ~~with~~ parts and labor.
 c. 2nd and 3rd year warranty <u>for</u> ~~to include~~ parts and labor.
 d. Warranty must include system, monitor, and all peripherals, regardless of manufacturer's warranty.
 [I will gather terminology we use in other Letters of Configuration and plug for tomorrow.]
 (What the possibility or preference for longer warranties—5 years?)

6. Installation Requirements

   a) Installation must include uncrating and setting up the base system, including software value-adds.
   b) Vendor must ensure that the proposed equipment is fully operational, according to the specifications, and performs properly to the satisfaction of the school principal, or authorized agent.
   c) Installation does not include network configuration. This is the responsibility of the school.
   d) Vendor must agree to delivered free-on-board (FOB) destination to school.
   e) The requested base system with selected options must be fully configured prior to shipment.
   f) Operating system media and all support driver media and manuals must be provided.
   g) ~~Vendor must complete installation within~~ ~~days from~~
      <u>Vendor must present an acceptable instillation plan using quarterly performance measures</u>.

7. Software Value-Adds

   1. Anti-virus software.
   2. Multi-function office package such as Microsoft Office or Corel Office Suite.

1. Acceptance Criteria
   To be created before draft #2.

2. Purchasing Criteria

   Information regarding how this will be purchased and the contacts should be determined and provided.

3. Evaluation Criteria

   The evaluation process will be described, am working on the wording currently. Will provide in Draft #2. *(I assume that this is where the vendor will be told that these are the minimum specifications and that preference will be given for add-on and periphials....)*