

REQUEST FOR QUOTES #2024-03
NIST COMPLIANCE IMPLEMENTATION
RESPONSE TO CLARIFYING QUESTIONS III
March 6, 2024

Note that these are questions submitted by interested firms to this solicitation. The below answers are for clarification purposes only and in no way alter or amend the RFQ as published.

1. In the virtual pre-close walkthrough on March 4, the OMIC team described the scope of work for the engagement as:
 - a. Conducting an initial cybersecurity risk assessment based on the NIST 800-171 Framework.
 - b. Obtaining guidance for enhancing OMIC's cybersecurity posture and determining next steps for closing gaps.
 - c. Presenting assessment findings and next steps to the OMIC team and staff members.
 - d. Scheduling and leading monthly check-in meetings following the assessment (1-2 hours per meeting) to discuss NIST standards, emerging topics in cybersecurity, issues to be aware of, and guidance for working with DoD entities.

It was confirmed in the meeting that the selected vendor for this engagement would not be responsible for the implementation of recommendations and would not handle tactical work following the assessment; rather, the selected vendor's role would be to conduct the initial assessment and provide guidance and recommendations to OMIC. For example, the selected vendor would not develop policies, procedures, and controls but instead would provide guidance and recommendations to the Fractional CIO and MSP regarding the development of policies, procedures, and controls.

QUESTION: Please confirm if our understanding of the scope of this engagement, as outlined above, is correct.

ANSWER: That is correct. It is expected that the Fractional CIO and MSP will be charged with all tactical work and projects that come from gaps found in the assessment that would be necessary to meet each of the controls. Based on prior experience, if the controls require the creation of policies and the selected vendor have templates it would be expected that these be supplied to OMIC to enhance and put in place.

2. The RFQ Section "2. Scope, Items C, D, E, and F" lists additional scope items beyond those described in the virtual walkthrough as:

“C. Develop policies, procedures, and controls...

D. Provide training sessions...

E. Assist in the finding and coordination with a third-party...

F. Regularly assess and update...”

QUESTION: Should we interpret RFQ Scope items C, D, E, and F as future work tasks beyond the initial assessment scope described in the virtual walkthrough? Or should these scope items be included in our approach and fee quote for this current effort? We understood that remediation and implementation efforts would be OMIC’s responsibility, and policy development is typically a remediation effort.

ANSWER: Yes, please include these items in your approach and fee quote for this effort.

End of Clarifying Questions III