

Request for Proposals

Iowa Geographic Information Council

Business Planning Services for a State Spatial Data Infrastructure in Iowa

1.0 Purpose of this RFP

The Iowa Geographic Information Council (IGIC) is seeking proposals from qualified firms, organizations or individuals to provide services relating to the development of a business plan to build a statewide spatial data infrastructure, or SSDI. With guidance from the Federal Geographic Data Committee's (FGDC) Fifty States Initiative, the business plan will outline the case for the Iowa Geospatial Infrastructure, which is Iowa's contribution to the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). Respondent's proposals must outline their approach to help IGIC complete the business plan. The contract period for services will be for approximately 9 months, beginning on or near July 1, 2007 through March 15, 2008. **The deliverable product will be a completed business plan for a statewide spatial data infrastructure in Iowa.**

2.0 What is IGIC?

IGIC is the statewide association of interested parties related to geospatial activities in Iowa. The organization was identified in gubernatorial Executive Order 65 (1998) as the coordinating body for geospatial activities in Iowa. IGIC is a non-profit organization with a statewide membership base representing municipal, county, regional, state and federal government, K-12 / community college, universities and private industry. These eight primary segments of focus serve on the IGIC Board representing functional areas of GIS users in the state. More information about IGIC can be found at <http://www.iowagic.org>

3.0 What is IGIC's vision for a state spatial data infrastructure?

Summary: The Iowa Geographic Information Council and sector partners envision that the Iowa Geospatial Infrastructure (IGI) will support the development and use of geographic information technologies, data and partnerships to extend the utility and societal benefits of geographic information technologies for economic development, education, public health, public safety, environmental management and government efficiency.

Currently in Iowa, there are many problems with availability of and access to geospatial databases held by various government and non-government organizations. While some organizations in Iowa freely share their data for the common good, others try to recover their substantial development costs through meager sales of data, which in turn, limits access during emergencies, or for large scale regional or statewide planning projects. Even when data is available and accessible, there are problems in finding out about its currency, accuracy and history, and problems with information from one jurisdiction matching the same type of information in an adjacent jurisdiction (different county land ownership boundaries for example). At another level, many local governments in Iowa, both cities and counties, have not developed their own geographic information systems (GIS) due to the high cost of data creation, maintenance, a lack of knowledgeable staff or other barriers. Because of all these limitations, many citizens in Iowa are not reaping all the economic, environmental, public health and safety benefits afforded by an easily accessible pool of detailed, highly accurate geospatial information covering the entire state. Case studies in other areas have shown that when organizations cooperate in the creation, sharing and maintenance of GIS data, the tangible benefits of reduced costs, improved efficiency and new services accrue on the order of 2

to 10 times the actual cost of building and maintaining the data.

The Iowa Geographic Information Council (IGIC) is working on a business plan that will facilitate the coordination and cooperation needed to realize these benefits. IGIC is building a state spatial data infrastructure (SSDI), which is a physical, organizational, and conceptual network designed to enable the development and sharing of a state's digital geographic information resources. This system is called the Iowa Geospatial Infrastructure or IGI. The IGI's physical, technological component will be an Internet based, information sharing architecture that uses modern web service standards in a distributed, peer to peer environment. In this environment, IGI partners will connect their GIS data servers to an interconnected system that allows real-time access to their data layers. An application development framework built into the system enables the creation and maintenance of complex applications that are not possible without the underlying information sharing environment afforded by IGI. The IGI uses nationally standardized data practices and models for commonly used, framework data layers. This will greatly reduce the problems associated with displaying the same types of data from multiple jurisdictions, as well as enabling regional and statewide analysis and planning. The IGI will also have functions and standards to help find and describe data holdings so that users and the public will spend less time searching for data that may or may not exist. Data management workflows will help local and state IGI partners to update their GIS layers, while suitable generalized data layers are created for federal government needs (census, transportation, homeland security requirements for example).

The organizational component of IGI provides benefits and incentives to partners in the form of mutually supporting services in exchange for data sharing and access. These beneficial services include coordinated imagery acquisition, financing for data development, data maintenance services, data and web application hosting, bulk printing and training services. IGI partners include city, county and regional governments in Iowa, state and federal agencies, community colleges and universities, businesses and non-profit organizations. Of particular interest to local governments who currently do not have GIS capabilities or data, is development of a mechanism using the state's revolving loan fund to help finance the high cost of creation of frequently needed data layers, such as parcels, roads, buildings, sewers, land cover, water bodies, etc. This mechanism will provide low or no-interest data development loans with manageable payments spread over many years. Benefits will be realized in a matter of years rather than waiting many years for the break even point in a traditional GIS investment.

The purpose and goal of the IGI is to maximize the benefits of geospatial data sharing and cooperation for the entire state over the next 10 years. Some benefits, like improved operational efficiency and new services will be rapidly realized in a few years by participating local governments, while other, longer-term benefits such as statewide emergency planning will take longer to achieve, depending on local and state agency participation rates and funding levels. Driving development of the IGI is the creation of cross-cutting applications for economic development, education, public health, public safety, environmental management and government efficiency. The Iowa Geographic Information Council will coordinate development of the IGI in partnership with other organizations in the state, in a cooperative, inclusive and mutually supportive atmosphere. It is important that this business plan clearly explain how IGIC and others can convince decisions makers that IGI is an essential service needed to power economic and social development throughout the state.

4.0 Services to be provided under this RFP

Respondents must provide a proposal for **business planning services** to address development of the Iowa Geospatial Infrastructure.

4.1 The successful respondent for business planning services must be able to provide the following to IGIC:

4.1.1 A completed business plan that addresses the following:

- 4.1.1.1 Geographic information technology needs in Iowa – what we have, what is missing, requirements to achieve complete statewide coverage of all framework data layers
- 4.1.1.2 IGI vision, purpose and definition
- 4.1.1.3 Financial analysis – describe timelines of near and long-term activities and

related cash flows to build and maintain the IGI. Identify tangible benefits, costs, schedules of cash flow, considerations for inflation, and calculation of financial metrics.

4.1.1.4 Strategic analysis – address relationship of IGI to mission and goals of participating organizations. Identify costs and benefits that can not be quantified and are omitted from the financial analysis.

4.1.1.5 Business case – work with IGIC to develop strategies to work with stakeholders and decision makers to get IGI launched in the next year

4.1.2 A preliminary draft of business plan must be prepared by October 1, 2007. A final draft is due at the end of the project period, March 15, 2008.

5.0 Contents of a Response to this RFP

For a response to be considered by the Iowa Geographic Information Council, the following elements must be included:

5.1 Statement of Qualifications to provide the necessary services (max 5 pages) noted in this RFP, including:

5.1.1 A listing and experience of key personnel to provide proposed services.

5.1.2 Previous experience in statewide strategic and business planning for geospatial technologies, or related experience.

5.2 Narrative description of how the IGI business plan will be delivered by the respondent (max 5 pages).

5.3 Budget and budget narrative of costs associated with providing the services outlined in this RFP (max 3 pages).

5.4 At least three references, including contact name, phone number and email (one page).

6.0 Submission of Responses

Responses to this RFP (one paper copy and one electronic copy) must be received no later than 3:30 p.m., June 11, 2007. Electronic copy must be in Adobe PDF or MS Word (doc) format and may be emailed to: james.giglierano@dnr.iowa.gov or included on compact disc and mailed with paper copy. Email verification of successful submittal will follow within 24 hours. The list of respondents will be posted at www.iowagic.org. Send paper copies of proposals to the address below:

Mr. James Giglierano
Iowa Geological Survey/DNR
109 Trowbridge Hall
Iowa City, IA 52242-1319

Questions about this RFP should be addressed to:

Jim Giglierano, 319-335-1594 james.giglierano@dnr.iowa.gov

All respondents will be notified in writing regarding the results of the selection process. IGIC reserves the right to reject any and all proposals or to waive any irregularities in any proposal.

Copies and any clarifications of this RFP are available at <http://www.iowagic.org>