



**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND
REGULATION**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR
SECURITY STUDY SERVICES**

#452-2026-0002

**RESPONSES TO PROPOSERS'
QUESTIONS**

December 19, 2025

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Note to All Prospective Proposers:

The following responses include questions raised and answers provided during the pre-proposal conference held on December 2, 2025, and questions submitted in writing by the RFP deadline.

In its answers to the following questions, the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) has attempted to provide both accurate and thorough responses. Some answers may clarify or modify the RFP, and every Prospective Proposer is on notice of each answer's content. Answers that modify the RFP are so noted. Answers apply only to the facts as presented in each specific question.

TDLR reviewed all questions submitted by the deadline but declines to respond to some questions when TDLR believes providing the information would impair competition or otherwise harm the interests of TDLR.

Proposers shall review all sections of the RFP along with this document to ensure a complete understanding of the requirements. Any exceptions to the RFP shall be noted in the proposal, as required under Section 2.7 of the RFP.

Please note: Any questions regarding the HUB Subcontracting Plan (HSP) are in a separate document that will be updated throughout the procurement process.

**PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES –
DECEMBER 2, 2025**

1. You mentioned that certain vendors must provide a SOC 1 audit. Which vendors would be subjected to provide this audit? And if we are subjected to provide this audit, then are there any other certifications you would take in lieu?

RESPONSE: Refer to Section 6.2.8. of the RFP.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 12, 2025 @ 4 P.M.

2. Are offensive security services such as penetration testing, red teaming, or vulnerability exploitation permitted as part of the engagement?

RESPONSE: Refer to Section 6.2.7. of the RFP. By contract all lottery games are subject but not limited to: Sec. 2054.5195. Information security assessment and penetration test required.

3. Are phishing, social engineering, or other user-targeted testing methods allowed or prohibited under the scope of this RFP?

RESPONSE: Refer to Section 6.2.7.

4. Will the awarded vendor be authorized to test production systems, or will only non-production (e.g., staging or test) environments be made available?

RESPONSE: It is TDLR's expectation that the Successful Proposer shall review the entire scope of the RFP and make its own recommendations.

5. What access levels (e.g., internal network, administrative credentials, external-only) will be provided for testing?

RESPONSE: The least privileged model.

6. Will a rule of engagement (ROE) or safe harbor agreement be provided for any active or exploitative testing methods?

RESPONSE: Refer to Sec. 2054.5195. Information security assessment and penetration test required.

7. Are there any specific limitations or constraints we should be aware of regarding testing third-party systems (e.g., vendor-operated platforms)?

RESPONSE: TDLR confirms the question is outside the scope of the RFP and will address with the Successful Proposer.

8. Can remote access devices (e.g. Jump-box) be used to assess non-public assets?

RESPONSE: TDLR confirms the question is outside the scope of the RFP and will address with the Successful Proposer.

9. Is there an expected duration or deadline for completion of the full security study?

RESPONSE: Refer to Section 6.8.3. of the RFP.

10. Will proposers be allowed to deliver the assessment in phases (e.g., by system or domain)?

RESPONSE: No.

11. Are there any preferred reporting standards or frameworks (e.g., NIST, CIS, MITRE ATT&CK) that should be used for the final deliverables?

RESPONSE: Yes.

12. Should remediation recommendations be prioritized or contain estimated costs within the final report?

RESPONSE: TDLR confirms the question is outside the scope of the RFP and will address with the Successful Proposer.

13. Are there preferred formats, templates, or required sections for the final Security Study Report, interim deliverables, or presentations?

RESPONSE: Refer to Section 6.8. of the RFP.

14. What degree of access (physical, data, personnel interviews) should the proposer assume for conducting the study?

RESPONSE: Refer to Section 6.7. of the RFP.

15. Can it be confirmed the number of physical locations, systems, or departments expected to be included in the study?

RESPONSE: TDLR is looking to the Successful Proposer to determine the number of physical locations, systems, or departments to be inspected and audited to complete the security study based on its risk assessment.

16. What is the anticipated contract start date following award?

RESPONSE: February 9, 2026, is the target contract start date.

17. What duration should proposers assume for the Security Study engagement (e.g., 90 days, 6 months, 12 months)?

RESPONSE: Refer to Section 6.8.3. of the RFP.

18. Is there a standard set of review/acceptance timeframes for deliverables?

RESPONSE: Refer to Section 6.8.3. of the RFP.

19. What is the typical turnaround time for subcontractor approval to avoid delays in staffing or project kickoff?

RESPONSE: Proposers should ensure that subcontractors identified in their submitted HUB Subcontracting Plan are capable of providing the required goods and/or services to the Lottery Program immediately upon contract award.

20. Will the Texas Lottery provide the data classification level for all data to be accessed or analyzed?

RESPONSE: TDLR confirms the question is outside the scope of the RFP and will address with the Successful Proposer.

21. What record retention schedule should the Successful Proposer follow?

RESPONSE: Refer to Section 6.11. of the RFP.

22. Do you intend audits to include only contract-related materials, or any systems/processes indirectly supporting the service?

RESPONSE: Yes.

23. Do you allow reasonable limitations on indemnification to align with standard risk allocation practices?

RESPONSE: Refer to Section 3.28.2. of the RFP.

24. Will you consider compensating for partially completed work or documented costs incurred at the time of termination?

RESPONSE: TDLR will pay for all authorized services received or requested through the contract termination date in accordance with Section 3.8.

25. Is there a standard warranty survival period for similar contracts?

RESPONSE: Refer to Section 3.65. of the RFP.

26. Can you clarify the intent behind requiring eligibility for a sales agent license under Tex. Gov't Code §466.155, and what specific criteria proposers should be prepared to meet?

RESPONSE: Under Texas Government Code § 466.103, the Executive Director of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation may not award a contract for the purchase or lease of facilities, goods or services related to lottery operations to a person who would be denied a license as a sales agent under Texas Government Code § 466.155. This is a statutory requirement for Successful Proposers. Refer to Section 4.8.2. and Attachment D of the RFP.

27. What is the maximum allowable email attachment size for proposal submissions?

RESPONSE: Refer to Section 2.5.1. for Proposal submission requirements. The maximum file size recommended is 36 megabytes for attachments. Proposals that are larger than 36 MB may be submitted in multiple emails. If a proposal is

submitted in multiple emails, all emails must be received in accordance with the deadline in the Schedule of Events.

28. Will TDLR/Texas Lottery conduct blind evaluations requiring removal of company identifiers anywhere beyond standard headers/footers?

RESPONSE: No.

29. What forms of financial stability evidence are acceptable (e.g., CPA letters, tax returns, audited statements)?

RESPONSE: Refer to Section 4.7. of the RFP.

30. Given that our capabilities align specifically with the cybersecurity requirements of this RFP, is there a publicly available list of primes or vendors who have expressed interest in submitting a proposal, so that we may explore subcontracting opportunities?

RESPONSE: No, there isn't a list of Prime vendors who have expressed interest in submitting a proposal, however you may download the pre-proposal conference sign-in sheet from the Texas Lottery or Electronic State Business Daily (ESBD) websites to see who attended.

31. Is it anticipated that this risk assessment would include vulnerability or penetration testing of computer systems, data communications, database management systems, networks, access controls, and systems security?

RESPONSE: Yes. Refer to Section 6.2.7. of the RFP. By contract all lottery games are subject but not limited to: Sec. 2054.5195. Information security assessment and penetration test required.

32. Is it anticipated that this risk assessment would include social engineering testing to determine human vulnerabilities?

RESPONSE: Yes. Refer to Section 6.2.7.

33. Please explain the organization structure of the TDLR's cybersecurity and IT functions. How many full-time employees and contractors are involved with cybersecurity functions? Does each system or application have a dedicated or assigned security analyst, manager, or coordinator?

RESPONSE: TDLR confirms the question is outside the scope of the RFP and will address with the Successful Proposer.

34. Will the government consider separating any portions of the scope of work to allow vendors to submit proposals on specific sections?

RESPONSE: No

35. Is there an established budget for this project? If so, could the government please disclose?

RESPONSE: TDLR confirms the question is outside the scope of the RFP and will address with the Successful Proposer.

36. Is there an incumbent for this project? If so, who?

RESPONSE: Berry Dunn McNeil & Parker, LLC