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| **BUREAU OF FISCAL SERVICES**  **Procurement Unit** |  |  |

**Request for Information (RFI) 22-600**

**IP Geolocation and Proxy Data**

The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance (the “Department”) is requesting qualified vendors to supply information which may be used when considering its need for accurate (90%+ accuracy) IP Geolocation database (the “Database”) that can be used as part of its tax administration efforts.

This RFI is for determining what products are available in the marketplace that provide up-to-date IP geolocation data with IP version 4 (IP v4), IP version 6 (IP v6), as well certain critical IP fraud related data. Due to our current system design as well as secrecy provisions, we require a solution that allows for regular downloads of current IP data to be stored and maintained on our servers.

Responses to this RFI should **not** include cloud-based service solutions without the ability to download the intended data or other services not expressly listed in the RFI request. At this time, the Department is **strictly** interested in the secure downloading of the Database to its own platform from the vendor portal, for use in processing on its own computer resources.

This is a request for information only. This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes – it does not constitute a Request for Proposals (RFP)/Invitation for Bids (IFB or a promise to issue an RFP/IFB in the future. Responders are advised that the Department will not pay for any information or administrative costs incurred in response to this RFI. All costs associated with responding to this RFI will be solely at the responders’ expense. Not responding to this RFI does not preclude participation in any future RFP, if issued.

**Timeline**

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| **Event** | **Date** |
| Issuance of RFI | April 26, 2022 |
| Deadline for Submission of Vendor Questions | May 03, 2022 |
| Department’s Response to Vendor Questions | May 09, 2022 |
| Vendor Response Due | May 13, 2022 |

**RFI Questions and Responses**

The vendor community will have one opportunity to submit written questions regarding this RFI. All questions regarding this RFI should be submitted via e-mail (preferred), fax or mail and should be received by the date specified in the above timeline. Questions received after this date may not be responded to.

The Department will provide a written response to all questions received by the date specified in the timeline. Responses to vendor questions will be posted on the Department’s procurement website at: <http://www.tax.ny.gov/about/procure/>. The Department reserves the right to not provide any detail which would compromise its data processing or fraud detection procedures.

As noted above, questions seeking to fundamentally change the manner that the Department requests to have the service provided, such as questions suggesting switching to a cloud based batch look-up service or providing the data as a component of other, more extensive service packages, may not be responded to.

**New York State Department of Taxation and Finance**

The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance collects tax revenue and provides associated services in support of New York State government operations. In fulfilling its responsibilities, the Department collects and accounts for about $81 billion in State taxes and about $44 billion in local taxes; administers over 40 tax types; and processes over 26 million returns. In executing these responsibilities, the Department is obligated to efficiently collect tax revenues in support of state services and programs while acting with integrity and fairness in the administration of the tax laws of New York State.

**Objective**

Accurate Geolocation data will be useful to the Department’s efforts to develop a better understanding of the taxpayers it serves as part of its efforts to maintain a fair and inclusive tax system. For example, it can be used to target assistance to the communities that most need it.

The Department also has its own multitiered fraud detection system. The geolocation data (including precise latitude and longitude) as well as indicators of potentially fraudulent IPs is data that must be as reliable as possible. The IP address information could be used in Geolocation comparisons, such as calculating a distance using the IP information as a component in a distance calculation or used in certain business rules or reports.

It is the objective of this solicitation to obtain additional information concerning Database solutions which could be used for these efforts. It is not a request for third-party, value added, fraud detection services that incorporate this data. It is expressly limited to the provision of database libraries and access to a vendor portal or other resources to copy such databases.

**For the purposes of this RFI, it will be assumed that for any database requested is available in all IP version 4 (IP v4) and IP version 6 (IP v6) formats. Any database that is not fully available in either format must be specified.**

Please provide additional information as to how you determine and define each field provided in each database requested.

Responses may be used to assist the Department in a development of any future bid document.

**RFI Response**

Please respond to this RFI by May 13, 2022. Be sure to provide the name, address, contact person, phone number and e-mail address for your company. Your response to this RFI should be submitted via e-mail (preferred), fax or mail:

E-mail: bfs.contracts@tax.ny.gov

Fax: (518) 435-8413

Written Correspondence:

New York State Department of Taxation and Finance

Attn: John Blanch / RFI 22-600

Procurement Services Unit

WA Harriman State Campus

Albany, NY 12227

A response does not bind or obligate the responder or the Department to any agreement of provision or procurement of any products referenced.

The Department may seek additional information or clarification during its review of RFI responses. This may be done through e-mail, phone discussions, meetings, demonstrations, and/or correspondence, and may be with an individual respondent or a group of respondents.

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| **Section I. Requirements**  **Describe how your product, capacity, and process can meet the DTF requirements. Make comments and attach additional information as needed.** | | | | | | | | | |
| **Requirements** | | **Solution meets this requirement in its existing form.**  **(Yes/No)** | **Solution requires modification to meet this requirement.**  **(Yes/No)** | | | **Estimated timeframe and cost for any modification** | | | **Other Concerns** |
| 1. The solution allows for each of the various Databases to be downloaded and fully hosted on Department computer hardware and deployed by Department ITS staff to Geocode IP information on its own systems. | | Yes  No | Yes  No | | |  | | |  |
| **Describe, comment, attach additional information as needed:** | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. What is the claimed accuracy rate data at City level? **Anticipated accuracy for City would exceed 90% within ½ mile of city limits.** | | Yes  No | Yes  No | | |  | | |  |
| **Describe, comment, attach additional information as needed:** | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. While accuracy claims are useful, the Department will require an evaluation period to establish actual relative accuracy to current data.   Would you allow for free trial period for the Department to evaluate your data?  If so, what would be the maximum period you would allow for such a trial examination? | | Yes  No | Yes  No | | |  | | |  |
| **Section II. Data Required**  **Please respond to the following questions in relation to each feature Provided.** | | | | | | | | | |
| **Features** | **Availability, Data Source, Limitations** | | | | | | | | |
| 1. **Geolocation Data** that will accurately provide IP location including country, subdivision, region (e.g. state, province, etc.), city, phone area code and postal code associated with an IP. | Available:  Yes  No | | | Data Source: | | | Known Limitations or other comments: | | |
| 1. **Metro code** or designation. | Available:  Yes  No | | | Data Source: | | | Known Limitations or other comments: | | |
| 1. The **Network** or **Network IP range** associated with the IP. Generally, this is the largest network where all of the fields besides the IP would tend to have the same IP registration Information. | Available:  Yes  No | | | | Data Source: | | | Known Limitations or other comments: | |
| 1. The **Latitude and Longitude** for an IP address. | Available:  Yes  No | | | | Data Source: | | | Known Limitations or other comments: | |
| 1. **Confidence metric** identifying your confidence in the data for location features. | Available:  Yes  No | | | | Data Source: | | | Known Limitations or other comments: | |
| 1. The **ISP** and registering **Organization Name** for an IP address. | Available:  Yes  No | | | | Data Source: | | | Known Limitations or other comments: | |
| 1. **Domain Name** for each IP. | Available:  Yes  No | | | | Data Source: | | | Known Limitations or other comments: | |
| 1. **Company Name** Company that owns the IP address. | Available:  Yes  No | | | | Data Source: | | | Known Limitations or other comments: | |
| 1. **Proxy and VPN** IPs, this includes, but is not limited to, **Hosting Facilities**, Anonymous Proxies, TOR Network IPs, Etc. | Available:  Yes  No | | | | Data Source: | | | Known Limitations or other comments: | |
| 1. Other known **Malicious IPs**. IPs being used to repeatedly attack other IPs or known high risk or malicious activity IPs.   As well as detail on how this dataset was created and maintained. | Available:  Yes  No | | | | Data Source: | | | Known Limitations or other comments: | |
| 1. Indicator when there is use of a **Private Network** IP. | Available:  Yes  No | | | | Data Source: | | | Known Limitations or other comments: | |
| 1. **Connection Type** for each IP. | Available:  Yes  No | | | | Data Source: | | | Known Limitations or other comments: | |
| 1. **Mobile carrier** if used. | Available:  Yes  No | | | | Data Source: | | | Known Limitations or other comments: | |
| 1. Please identify any other fields, not listed above, that your service provides. | Available:  Yes  No | | | | Data Source: | | | Known Limitations or other comments: | |

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| **Section III. ITS Requirements**  **Please respond to the following questions in relation to the solution.** | |
| **Questions** | **Answers** |
| 1. What deployment methods are available for your solution? How would secure downloads occur? | Answer: |
| 1. What bandwidth is available for transfer? | Answer: |
| 1. How are upgrades of the Database managed and supported? | Answer: |
| 1. What frequency is **each** Database updated? (Daily, weekly) | Answer: |
| 1. Current estimate on the size of each Database. In terms of rows and Gigabytes or Megabytes. | Answer: |
| 1. IP data will be provided in ranges with low and high IP addresses representing each range. Each low and high IP address should also be represented with a surrogate value – either text or numeric -- to facilitate comparisons using SQL greater than (>) and less than (<) operands.   In other words, the translation key necessary for use of the range should be included with the underlying IP data.  The algorithm for generating the surrogate values should also be provided. | Example: A range of IP addresses is identified by its low value 9.1.1.1 and high value 10.255.255.255. We want to confirm that customer IP address 10.4.88.16 fits in that range using a SQL query of the form:  SELECT \*  FROM IP\_ADR\_TABLE  WHERE LOW\_IP\_ADR <= ‘10.4.88.16’  AND HIGH\_IP\_ADR >= ‘10.4.88.16’  This results in two issues:  1) the low value for the range evaluates higher than the high value in a string comparison because 9 is greater than 1.  2) Although the customer IP address is contained within the range, the SQL comparison will fail because a 10.4 is greater than 10.2 |

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| **Section IV. Cost**  **Please provide information in relation to the costs of the solution.** | |
| **Cost Items/Questions** | **Cost Amounts/Answers/Comments** |
| 1. How is access to the Database sold? Is this a right to use licensing structure or a perpetual licensing structure? | Answer: |
| 1. Are customer support services included in the contract or an additional charge? This includes any assistance in getting the access and transfer of the DB, translating values, operating the DB internally, as well as any questions with the accuracy of any information provided for an IP. | Answer: |
| 1. If provided, what hours is customer support available? | Answer: |
| 1. If customer support is not included, what are the job titles and hourly rates that are used to provide such assistance if required. List job titles and hourly rates. Provide a description of the qualification of each job title: | Answer: |
| 1. Are there any other charges or fees for your services, and required software products? Please list each charge, with a note of any cost reduction for including more than one Database. | Please list software titles and the cost for each:  Database item 1 (title), $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Database item 2 (title), $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  (expand the list as needed)  Comments: |
| 1. Are there any other costs? If so, please provide. | List other costs:  Comments: |

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| **Section V. Experience and References** | |
| 1. Please describe your firm and your experience in relation to the solution. Please attach additional information if needed. | Describe: |
| 1. Please provide your firm’s contact information for DTF to discuss the solution. | Contact name: Phone:  Title: Email: |
| 1. Does the Database solution have a proven track record (i.e., multiple year contracts for existing clients)? If so, please provide client name, contract term, client contact information, and a description of the project scope. Government clients, in particular, would be useful. | Information of contract(s):  Client contact(s): |
| 1. Has your solution been proven to be substantially compliant with the provisions of the New York State Tax Law? If so, where is it currently employed? Please provide client contact information. | Answer: |
| 1. Has your solution been proven to be substantially compliant with the secrecy and confidentiality requirements of the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, New York State Law, and the IRS? If so, where is it currently employed? Please provide client contact information. | Answer: |
| 1. Would you be willing to go through the process of discussing required changes to any form contract used for your Database solution? **Please note that these changes required by (4) and (5) above may require vendor modifications to form contracts that will require review by your professional legal staff.**   Is the vendor capable of evaluating such contract changes? | Answer: |