

John Webber



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Xentec, Inc
300-2908 S. Sheridan Way
Oakville, Ontario L6J 7J8
Canada

Attention: Xerxes Wania

Subject: Questions and answers for RFP 99-ALMA-1

Dear sir,

The following questions, with answers, are those received during the question and answer period as outlined in the subject RFP. No further questions will be answered during the proposal period.

1. The project will be funded by NSF and does being a company not incorporated in the USA matter? Are we still eligible?

Ans. It does not matter where you are incorporated thus you are eligible.

2. Is there a minimal US content that needs to be addressed?

Ans. No

3. There is no mention of SCAN insertion for testing. Would there be SCAN on this chip?

Ans. No SCAN will be on the chip.

4. Did you need JTAG (Boundary SCAN) ?

Ans. For the purpose of the bid, no JTAG will be on the chip.

5. Is it possible that 100% of the circuit will be running at the same time? If not, approximately what percentage of the circuit is toggling at the same time. Is it possible to shut off parts of the circuit at a given time to reduce power consumption.?

Ans. 100% of the circuit will be running at the same time. No part of the circuit will be shut off.

Note that the upper accumulators will have slower toggle rate.

For the purpose of calculating power dissipation:

- 1) Assume oversample mode is turned off. This disables some flip-flops.
- 2) Ignore the power in the secondary storage registers, since they change at a low rate.
- 3) Assume all input data streams are excited by 31.25 MHz square waves and the clock system is 125 MHz.

6. The AUI/NRAO General Terms and Conditions refer to Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR), specifically FAR Part 52.249-8 and 52.249-1. Therefore, we would like to review these regulations. Can you provide these to us?

Ans. The Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) are available at any Federal Repository such as major university or public libraries. AUI/NRA recommends that you obtain them from one of those sources.

7. With what item do the General Terms and Conditions end? Is it 24?

Ans. Yes, 24

8. The bid letter requires that the proposals states "The procedure for detailed design and testing of the ASIC, including the respective responsibilities of the AUI/NRAO and the proposer." Can you elaborate on what type of detail about the design you are looking for? Do you want us to describe our design methodology, or testing procedure, or just which party is responsible for various stages of the design? With respect to testing procedure, are you referring to testing the design with software before it goes to silicon, or testing after the chip is packaged?

Ans. All of the above. Describe design methodology, testing procedures, and which party is responsible for various stages of the design. All stages of testing need to be accounted for.

9. I would like to clarify part 3 of the Required Proposal Format in the bid letter. If an additional 300 prototype chips are ordered, I assume they will be ordered at the SAME time as the original 100 units (e.g., not some period of time after the original 100). Is this assumption correct?

Ans. Correct, assume the higher quantity would be ordered at the same time as the original 100.

10. In Addendum No.1, dated October 12, you add the evaluation criteria "The proposers capability to perform the work in a timely fashion." Can you explain how this criteria differs from criteria #3, "Delivery Schedule" ?

Ans. They are similar. It has to do with our believing the vendor is capable of meeting the delivery schedule. Please compare the project timing with similar projects you have completed, to show that the time schedule is reasonable.

11. In addition, can you elaborate on the importance of completing the work ahead of the schedule present in the bid? In other words, is there value to AUI/NRAO in having the work completed BEFORE the August 2000 date (e.g., in June 2000)? If so, why,? Will the other system components be ready in case of early delivery of the Correlator chip?

Ans. AUI/NRAO is not overly interested in the work being completed ahead of schedule.

12. In Addendum No. 1, you request “ The key personnel to be involved in the project and their experience.” We have several design managers, and many more designers, that we would draw from to assign to this project based on the amount of effort, and other projects we are doing at the time. Is it acceptable to list the design managers we would assign, then the pool of 3 or 4 senior designers we might choose 2 or 3 from? Also, do you actually need their names or will their profiles listing experience (without names) suffice?

Ans. AUI/NRAO would prefer that you list the design manager, by name and experience as well as the pool of designers with the same information.

AUI/NRAO wants to thank all proposers for their questions and hope that we have answered the questions to your satisfaction.

Sincerely yours,

John F. Dowling
Associate Business Manager