

**County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
Solid Waste Conversion Technology Program**

**Request for Expression of Interest (RFEI):
Conversion Technology Providers
Summary of Questions and Answers**

July 27, 2011

A summary of questions and answers pertaining to the RFEI for conversion technology providers was issued on July 18, 2011. This second summary of questions and answers is a supplement to that first document, and provides answers to questions received after July 18, 2011. In particular, respondents should note question and answer #3, which provides an extension to the RFEI due date to August 11, 2011.

- 1. Is there a list available of the firms interested in the technology RFEI? Please provide if possible.**

The County has not formally compiled a list of firms that are interested in the RFEI; the document has been widely distributed and readily available on the web and via other sources without registration. The responses will be the best indicator of technology interest in the RFEI. After responses are received and reviewed, the County will compile and publish a database of technologies that will be publicly available.

- 2. In reference to Section 3.0 of the RFEI, which states that the RFEI is not seeking information on conventional (or advanced) waste-to-energy combustion technology, or technologies that alter only the physical characteristics of the waste feedstock, e.g., to produce a refuse derived fuel - We have a non-combustion technology for the direct conversion of hydrocarbon waste such as plastic, shingles and tires into high quality diesel fuel. While this technology does not involve combustion, it could be said to alter the physical characteristics of waste to produce a refuse derived fuel. This seems to contradict interest expressed in other parts of the RFEI. Can you please clarify?**

We anticipate that all conversion technologies would alter the physical characteristics of the waste, and many of them also produce a fuel. What we are specifically avoiding are technologies that only alter the physical properties of the waste, i.e., screening, shredding or grinding the waste. We encourage a response from technologies that produce a marketable product, such as diesel fuel, from the waste stream.

- 3. Is it possible to extend the deadline for submittal of the RFEI response?**

The deadline for submittal of RFEI responses is extended to August 11, 2011. Companies that have already submitted a response, and that wish to supplement or amend it in any way, are welcome to do so.

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- 1. If a respondent offers different technologies for different types of waste, can they be combined in one response?**

It is acceptable to combine different technologies for different types of waste in one response, particularly if that helps to streamline the submittal and reduce duplication of common elements. Submittals should be organized to identify an optimum project(s) for each technology and to provide the corresponding information that has been requested in the RFEI for each optimum project(s).

- 2. If a respondent would be willing to finance its own projects if awarded a contract, can that be expressed in the response to the RFEI for Conversion Technology Providers, or is it necessary to also respond to the RFEI for Financial Services?**

The RFEI for Financial Services is targeted at financial advisors and bankers and other lenders who would finance projects for other parties. A technology provider willing to finance its own facilities from internal funding sources or from an existing banking relationship does not need to respond to the RFEI for Financial Services; such information is more appropriately expressed as part of the RFEI for Conversion Technology Providers. We suggest that respondents specifically note as part of the technology response whether it is willing to finance and own facilities, and state if it has previously done so. As applicable, such respondents should cite examples of where it has financed and owned facilities with a brief description of how such projects were financed.

- 3. Is there any deadline for the submission of clarification questions?**

There is no specific deadline for the submission of clarification questions. We welcome respondents to submit questions, as necessary, throughout the response period. If possible, we encourage respondents to submit questions on or before July 21, 2011, to ensure a response can be prepared in advance of the RFEI submission deadline of July 28, 2011. Questions received after July 21, 2011 will be answered as time permits.

- 4. In addition to providing an overall mass balance with the RFEI response, are you also looking for a complete energy balance?**

For those companies that have energy balance information available or who choose to prepare and provide it, please submit it with the RFEI response; it will be useful information regarding the configuration of the optimum project(s) and the expected performance of the technology. For those companies that do not have such information available at this time, it is not required as part of the submittal since the response time is

short and the intent of the RFEI is not to perform a detailed analysis of the technology, but to create a data base of those technologies that meet the minimum criteria.

- 5. Please clarify how this RFEI is different from the County's Phase I work and subsequent pilot projects. Is the County looking to essentially update the list of viable providers originally developed, and is the County considering new options that are not necessarily those of the pilot projects? How do the pilot facilities fit in to the overall scheme if they are not moving forward to a commercial application?**

This RFEI was issued by the County to not only add new companies to, update and expand information that resulted from Phase I work, but also to make said information readily available to interested parties for development of commercial conversion technology projects in the County. The information in response to the RFEI will be placed on a publicly available County data base for use by the County, cities, private companies, or other parties wishing to develop commercial conversion technology facilities in the County. The "pilot projects" referred to in the question are part of Phase III. These projects are underway, with technologies and developers already selected. This current RFEI process represents a new phase of work for the County, i.e., facilitating development of commercial conversion technology projects in the County.

- 6. Please define "optimum project".**

Optimum project(s) means the project configuration each respondent considers to be best suited for its individual technology for future commercial application within Los Angeles County, considering technical, economic, environmental and other factors specific to such individual technology. For example, it may be that one particular technology is best suited for a small scale green waste project, while another may be better suited for a large scale project processing mixed municipal solid waste. Other elements of a particular respondent's optimum project could include the nature and extent of pre-processing, and the type of products generated (e.g., electricity, fuels, etc.). Since the objective of the RFEI is not a procurement for a particular, pre-defined project, but an effort to develop a technology data base for use by the County, cities, and other parties to support a wide range of potential project development activities, each respondent is asked to identify its own optimum project configuration(s) specific to its technology. A respondent may submit more than one optimum project for which its technology is best suited. For example, the technology might be suited to more than one size project or type of feedstock.

- 7. As a follow-up to the question above regarding the definition of optimum project, does this mean the respondent must have previously done at least one project in Los Angeles County, or does this mean that the respondent must provide a solution to at least one optimum project for commercial application?**

It is not a requirement of the RFEI that a respondent has previously completed a project in Los Angeles County. It is anticipated that a respondent's self-defined, optimum project(s) would present a general solution for commercial application of the respondent's technology within Los Angeles County.

8. Please clarify if a response to the RFEI can be based on an optimum project that would process biosolids.

The RFEI is intended to primarily compile information on conversion technologies for management of MSW, food waste and green waste; however, responses related to other waste feedstock such as biosolids will be welcome. Such respondents should also address the suitability of the technology to process MSW, food waste and/or green waste, as applicable.

9. In addition to highlighting operational reference facilities, can we include projects that are under construction with the reference facilities?

Yes, we would be interested in seeing information on newest reference facilities that are under construction. Please be sure to clearly indicate the current status of such facilities. Also, in accordance with the RFEI minimum criteria, please include at least one other existing reference facility (demonstration or commercial) that can be visited to observe the technology in operation and provide the information requested in the RFEI for such reference facility.

10. Is it possible to get addresses of the sites listed in the Preliminary Siting Assessment?

We are not able to provide that information at this time. Each of the site owners are at different levels of advancement regarding site identification and evaluation for potential future projects, and the County has not obtained approval from such site owners to release additional information. The information that is currently available for public release by the County is presented in the Preliminary Siting Assessment and the six-month update to the Board of Supervisors. As we obtain additional information and approval to release that information we will make it available, as appropriate. Please note that the County is not seeking site-specific response to the RFEI; the objective is for respondents to define one or more generic, optimum project(s) for potential commercial application within Los Angeles County.