



INVITATION TO BID (Request for Proposal)

9/11/2024

PROJECT

Automated Materials Handling System Project

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library is a 21st-century, landmark library; most recently named the Library Journal's 2016 Library of the Year. The Library features the Alice C. Sabatini Gallery, the Millennium Café, Chandler Booktique (used bookstore), free meeting rooms, computer training and internet access. Located in the heart of Shawnee County, the Library has a collection of about 425,000 items and serves nearly 111,000 cardholders. About 1,500 people walk through the doors daily. Bookmobiles make about 25 stops six days a week traveling across the county and the Library provides services to 40 senior living facilities and 130 homebound individuals. The Digital Branch Library, www.tscpl.org, serves customers' needs 24/7.

The Library is purchasing a new Automated Materials Handling system (AMH). This will include related installation, training, and support. This project requires a site visit and meeting.

The Library currently has an older pneumatic Tech Logic AMH system. Data from the Library's AMH software shows between April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024:

- **895,811 total items were sorted by the AMH**
- **The AMH system sorted 175,565 holds by their designated pickup location branches (accounts for about 20% of all materials sent through the AMH system).**
- **Approximately 55,000 items were rejected and sent to the rejection bin (based on a small sample size with a reject rate of 6%).**
- **The remaining items sent through the AMH (about 665,000) were sorted by assigned ILS collection code and Dewey number.**

BID RECEIVING

Date: 11/1/24

Time: 3:00 PM CT

Place: Menninger Room (2nd floor), Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, 1515 S.W. 10th Avenue, Topeka, KS.

Attendance at the bid receiving is not required. Those who do not attend shall ensure the bid is received by the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library prior to 3:00 PM CT.

TIMELINE OF BID PROCESS

RFP Issued:	9/11/24
Submission of Bidder Questions*	10/25/24
Mandatory On-Site Visit:	September-October 18, Coordinated with the Project Coordinator
Bid Receiving:	11/1/24, 3:00 PM CT; bids must be received prior to this time.
Board Consideration of Award:	Thursday, 11/21/24 at 4:00 pm CT; bidders do not need to be present at the Board meeting
Notification of Decision to Bidders:	Friday, 11/25/24 (via email)
Project Completion Date:	TBD

*Bidder questions must be submitted to the Project Coordinator in writing, preferably by email, and bidders should check the Library’s website for the question and answer document after the submission deadline has passed.

OWNER

Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library
1515 S.W. 10th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66604-1374

INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

Date: 9/11/24

PROJECT: Automated Materials Handling System Project

DEFINITIONS:

Bidding documents include Invitation to Bid, Instructions to Bidders, and Bid Form including any Addenda issued prior to bid receiving.

ADDENDA:

Addenda are written or graphic instruments issued prior to bid receiving which modify or interpret the bidding documents, including specifications, additions, deletions, clarifications, or corrections.

Prior to bid receiving, Addenda will be posted on the Owner’s website and each Bidder recorded by the Owner as having received the bidding documents will be notified.

Bidders shall acknowledge receipt of Addenda on the Bid Form.

Any questions or requests for information by interested bidders must be submitted in writing to the Project Coordinator, preferably by email, and will be posted on the Library’s webpage as a public document for anyone’s review.

EXAMINATION OF BIDDING DOCUMENTS:

Each Bidder shall examine the bidding documents carefully. Any interpretation or correction will be issued as an Addendum by the Owner. ONLY A WRITTEN INTERPRETATION OR CORRECTION BY ADDENDUM SHALL BE BINDING.

ON-SITE VISIT & DEMO (Mandatory):

Each Bidder shall have the opportunity to visit the site and to provide an on-site demo of equipment and software. The site visit will be coordinated with the Project Coordinator and will be held at the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library. Acknowledge site visit on the BID FORM.

BID PREPARATION

A single bid will be received for the purchase of a new Automated Materials Handling System.

The Owner is a political subdivision of the State of Kansas, eligible for government contract prices, and is exempt for the Kansas Retailers' Sales Tax Act and Kansas Compensating Tax Act under the provisions of Kansas Statutes Annotated (K.S.A.) Supplement 79-3606(b).

Bids shall be made upon the BID FORM included with these specifications. Fill in all blanks on the BID FORM clearly with typewriter or ink. Erasures or other changes in a bid must be explained or noted over the signature of the Bidder. Signature shall be in longhand by a principal duly authorized to sign contracts. Bids shall contain no alterations or recapitulation of the work.

The Owner reserves the right to: (1) waive any informalities or minor defects in the bids or bidding procedures; (2) reject any or all bids; (3) rebid the project at a later date if bids are rejected; and (4) accept the bid that, in the judgment of the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, will be in the best interest of the Library, whether or not said bid is the lowest bid.

Bidders may not use omissions or errors in the Specifications or other contract documents to their advantage. The Owner reserves the right to issue new instructions correcting any such errors or omissions, which new instructions shall be treated as if originally included.

The Owner may make any investigation it deems necessary to determine the ability of the Bidder to perform the work. Bidders shall furnish information for this purpose to the Owner upon request. The Owner reserves the right to reject any bid if the evidence submitted by, or other investigation of, the Bidder fails to satisfy the Owner that the Bidder has the proper qualifications, experience, equipment, manpower, or financial and managerial capability to carry out the obligations of the contract agreement or to perform the work as specified.

The Bidder shall be paid in accordance with contract agreement upon award.

Bids shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with these INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS.

Mail, deliver or email the BID FORM to: Kim Strube
Chief Financial Officer
Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library
1515 S.W. 10th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66604-1374
kstrube@tscpl.org

If submitting a paper BID FORM, enclose the BID FORM in a sealed opaque envelope bearing the legend:

BID FORM
Project: Automated Materials Handling System Project
Bidder: (your company name)
Address: (your company address)

Please note email submission of BID FORMS is not secure, unless initiated in that manner by the Bidder. All documents in an emailed bid must be in read-only pdf format. Please contact Kim Strube if you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your bid form.

COORDINATOR: The Coordinator shall assume general coordination and direction of the project. The Coordinator is:

David King
Digital Services Director
Voice: 785-580-4601
Fax: 785-580-4496
Email: dking@tscpl.org

BIDDER'S REPRESENTATION:

The Bidder, by responding to this bid, represents that:

1. The Bidder read and understood the INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS.
2. The Bidder carefully examined all bidding documents pertaining to the project.
3. The Bidder acknowledges receipt of Addenda, if any.
4. The Bidder acknowledges the mandatory site visit and demo.

BID RECEIVING:

The Owner will receive and publicly open and read bid proposal forms at the time and place indicated in the INVITATION TO BID.

The bid proposal shall include all costs for a new Automated Materials Handling System.

No oral or telephone bids will be considered. Modifications by telephone will be considered only on BID FORMS delivered to Owner prior to time set for bid receiving.

BID WITHDRAWAL:

A Bidder may withdraw a BID FORM in writing, including via email, to Owner prior to time fixed

for bid receiving.

Unless otherwise provided in any supplement to these INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS, no Bidder shall modify, withdraw, or cancel the bid, or any part thereof, for thirty (30) calendar days after the date for receiving bids.

AWARD OF CONTRACT:

The approved bidder must be prepared to provide a service/purchase contract upon notification of bid approval. A contract will be awarded as soon as possible to the responsible Bidder submitting the lowest acceptable bid, provided:

1. Evidence of the experience, qualifications and fiscal responsibility of the Bidder and the time of completion are all acceptable to the Owner.
2. The total of acceptable bids is within the Owner's financial budget for the project.
3. The contract is legally acceptable.

REJECTION OF BIDS:

The Bidder acknowledges the Owner's right to reject any and all bids and to waive any formality or irregularity in any bid received. The Bidder recognizes the Owner's right to reject any bid, which fails to submit the data required by the bidding documents or is in any way incomplete or irregular. An award to the lowest Bidder is not required.

PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK:

The Library is purchasing a new Automated Materials Handling system (AMH). This will include related installation, training, and support. This project requires a site visit and meeting.

The Library currently has an older pneumatic Tech Logic AMH system. Data from the Library's AMH software shows between April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024:

- 895,811 total items were sorted by the AMH
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General and Technical Specifications:

The following sections list key components and features necessary for efficiently achieving the functionality required. Responding vendors should indicate the following and/or provide details where requested:

- Yes: System meets this specification.
 - No: System does not meet this specification. If there is an alternate functionality, explain.
 - In development/planned: State when the product will be available.
1. AMH design must fit within the current architectural design.
 2. Vendor must dismantle and remove old AMH system.
 3. The system should be able to operate twenty-four (24) hours per day.
 4. The AMH should include eighteen (18) primary sorts.
 - a. Provide a unit price for different types of bins/totes the system can sort into.
 - i. System must not require use of proprietary bins/totes.
 - b. Provide the general capacity (number of items and weight) of different bins and totes offered by vendor.
 5. The AMH should include three (3) induction points.
 - a. One vehicle drive up, external patron induction point
 - b. One internal patron induction point
 - c. One staff induction point directly onto the AMH
 - i. Including a staff induction station with Polaris compliant PC, RFID and barcode reading capability.
 6. Describe fire suppression system available on AMH and provide an itemized cost.
 7. The proposed AMH system must have a design element that automatically separates multi-item stacks into single items.
 8. The AMH system must process items at an equivalent rate or faster than current system.
 9. The system must allow for backdating of checked-in items.
 10. Check-in process must be compatible with RFID tags.
 11. In the check-in/sort process, system must reactivate security bits on RFID-tagged items.

12. System can check-in multimedia items.
 - a. Can system detect missing media? Explain what happens when a part is missing (i.e., what does the AMH system do when one DVD is missing from a three-DVD item?).
13. Must be compatible with Innovative Interface's Polaris ILS system via SIP2, encrypted SIP2, API connection, or other modern connectivity.
14. Vendor must be willing to work with the integrated library system vendor to resolve any ILS functionality problems.
15. The proposed solutions must be able to connect through the library's local area network via an Ethernet connection and/or secured wireless network.
16. The system must be easily programmable by library staff and have multiple sort schemes to accommodate the library's needs (i.e. time of day, branch sorts, Dewey number sorts, and collection code sorts).
17. Operating system and other applications included in the Vendor's solution are kept up to date.
18. Software patches and new releases must be supplied at no additional charge during the warranty or service maintenance agreement period. All software upgrades that impact system performance shall be performed, with advanced notice and when the library is not open to the public in order to minimize service interruptions to customers and staff.
19. Supports secure remote log in for support and administration.
20. Sorter must be accessible by staff and vendor from a remote location using remote control software.
21. Authorized staff must be able to access, monitor and configure system.
 - a. The system must alert staff when there is a problem (i.e. offline, jammed, down, etc.).
22. Authorized staff must be able to generate reports.
23. AMH system electrical requirements comply with current building design.
24. Vendor must provide FCC and UL information for all relevant equipment proposed.
25. Related services may include but are not limited to design, manufacture, shipment, installation, configuration, remote training, on-site training, project management, and ongoing maintenance and support.

Project Plan

Detail the Vendor's anticipated project plan, including design, manufacture, delivery, installation, testing, and training.

Timeline

Please provide a complete description of the proposed system and illustrate the products and systems comparing the Vendor's proposed AMH solution to the requirements. Include a timeline with key milestones for product delivery, installation, and staff training.

Training

Describe library staff training offered by Vendor – both initial on-site training and ongoing training. Initial training should include IT, Circulation, and Maintenance departments.

Maintenance and Support

Describe ongoing maintenance and support offered by the Vendor. Include availability of telephone or web-based support and support response times. Detail any preventive maintenance plans for the proposed solution that the Vendor recommends.

References

Provide names and contact information for at least two references that use the Polaris ILS system and RFID tags.

BID FORM – Single Contract

Owner: Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library, 1515 S.W. 10th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66604-1374

Bidder Name: _____

In compliance with the invitation and instructions to Bidders, the undersigned proposes to provide a new Automated Materials Handling System.

Item	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total
A. Hardware			
B. Software			
C. Installation			
D. Training			
Total Base Bid:			

ADDENDA

Receipt is acknowledged of Addenda numbers _____.

MANDATORY SITE VISIT AND DEMO: A representative visited. YES _____ NO _____.

TIME OF COMPLETION

The undersigned agrees to deliver the specified equipment within _____ calendar days from the date of the award of Contract. It is the Owner's desire that the project be completed rapidly. Time of Completion will be given strong consideration during the evaluation of bids.

DECLARATION

The undersigned hereby declares the bid specifications have been carefully examined and this proposal is submitted in compliance therewith. The undersigned understands that competence and responsibility, time of completion, as well as any other factors of interest to the Owner may be a consideration in making the award. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to accept or reject alternate proposals and unit prices, and waive technicalities concerning the bid proposals received as it may be in the Owner's best interest to do so.

Authorized Representative's Signature

Date

Title

Phone

Company

Fax

Street Address

Email

City/State/Zip