

Vendor Day Questions

	Question	Answer
1	There have been references of two documents in the RFI, when will they be released?	During the contract solicitation process.
2	What are the specs for the printer? Does it exist? What is the difference between the BAM and BMD?	Yes, the specs do exist. It is largely thermal printer to avoid ink. It is a mechanism that supports the ballots. We have specs for the BMD ballot and paper path. The BAM printer is attached to an Epollbook.
3	Will there be pre-printing for the VBM? Are there specs for the paper?	Yes, VBM ballots will need to be pre-printed. Ballot specs will be released during the solicitation process.
4	When is the pilot? When can we anticipate the final RFI?	The goal is to pilot the system in 2018, likely November. Per Election Code, we need to obtain approval for the pilot program from the Secretary of State. We anticipate the solicitation will be released within the next 6 months.
5	With QR code, will the voter be able to confirm if vote is cast?	The mechanism is not designed for that but there is some agility to do that.
6	Is the paper handling in the BAM printer going to be the same as in the BMD? Is the BAM and the BMD printer part of the RFI?	Yes, they will be part of the RFI. BAM printer is a lot simpler as it does not have to fit in the dimension or required paper path of a BMD.
7	What is the BMD ballot size? How many contest does it fit?	There are two ballot sizes. 8 x 11 and 8 x 13 1/4. As much as possible, we want to limit the number of ballots needed by one voter to one page, one side. The capacity is 75 selections for the 8x13 1/4. This number is double the max we have actually needed in the past 20 years. This gives us ability to accomodate additional contests, including the consolidation of additional cities/districts.
8	RFI stated something about offshore developments? Any Constraints?	County treats it as a case to case basis. County may make decision to keep it in the United States. We are not sure yet. There are challenges technically and a business development.
9	Do you anticipate any bonding requirements?	Nothing specific yet.
10	What will be the role on the printer side? When will we work with a printer manufacturer?	It will be up to you. You can define that in your proposal. Possibly during production of the ballot stock standard contract.
11	Is there paper for testing? Are the sensors from a different CPU?	Yes, we can make a small sample (5-10 pages) available to vendors for testing.
12	Are the printer sensors running on a different CPU than the rest of the BMD?	There are separate CPUs for the touchscreen and for the printer and sensors.
13	Are there any plans for when to implement SB 450?	Our Intent is to implement provisions during the 2020 election cycle.
14	Is there a list of qualified paper printers?	No, but there are ballot specifications available.
15	What are the number of precincts, districts and languages?	Currently we have 75 Districts, approximately 5,000 precincts and 13 languages.
16	What does "Open Source" mean in terms of VSAP?	Transparency and intent to be available. Open sourced but still managed.
17	In the RFI process, how much of a hammer will be put on us?	The RFP will be written after we get responses of the RFI. We want input in the process but there are elements that we are not moveable on. We are not looking to redesign the design elements. There isn't flexibility in that area. Not a lot of room for redesign or the use of something that's already developed.
18	What happens if they try to run a ballot that has already been processed? Is there physical and digital auto tracking?	The ballots will be encoded with a ballot ID and will be out stacked if they have already been processed. There will be both physical and digital tracking. We're envisioning a human readable ballot ID.
19	What is the resolution?	200 AP1
20	Will the images always be in a JPEG format?	There is flexibility on the format.
21	How many contests on a page?	The ballot allows for up to 75 contests. This target capacity is based on past studies of past election.
22	Are write-ins embedded?	Write-ins will be coded and out stacked by tally system scanners.
23	What is the vote cycle? What is the average voting time for the voter?	It's hard to say. It depends on the number of candidates on the ballot.
24	What is the scope of the pilot and target number of units?	We don't have number of BMDs. Election code limits the number of devices used in a pilot to 50% of the total number that would be required for full deployment.
25	The ballot, is it going to just show the selection of voters?	Yes, only the voters selection.
26	Will offshore development be allowed for any of the components?	It's not explicitly prohibited; we will be looking at it case by case.
27	Is there paper we can test out?	Yes, we can provide paper for testing. We can mail you a small sample at your request.
28	I want to get some clarity on open source? What does it mean?	We are looking for a publicly owned system. We will own the IP and the software. The intent is for it to be available for review and validation. It will have to be secure and will have to be certified by the Secretary of State. There is a balance of that the solution is a public asset, but creating a stewardship model to allow private sector use to create different business models.

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29	What is the capacity of the box (ballot holder)? And how often does it change?	250 ballots per device. We anticipate that capacity is high enough to not reach capacity in one day.
30	How many of devices at each vote center?	That will vary per location. We currently anticipate that ranging anywhere between 5-20 per location.
31	Can a voter start the process of accessibility without assistance?	Yes, a voter can approach the device and initiate any of the accessibility features without the need for pollworker assistance.
32	If the voter walks away from the BMD, does the screen prompt anything?	The screen prompts voters on what to do.
33	If there are a lot of contests, does the text get smaller?	The text size does not get smaller. The number of columns on a ballot change depending on the number of contests.
34	Can you download the poll pass and use it?	Yes. The pollpass can be printed or downloaded on a mobile device.
35	Are the VBM ballot paper specs published yet?	VBM ballot specs are not yet defined, only the layout.
36	Does the thermal ballot already exist? What are the specs?	Yes, we have specifications available in the RFI Resource library. A small supply of ballots has been produced by a
37	Is the ballot blank until it is taken to the pollbook, or water marked? Even on the thermal side?	The ballot is preprinted with Election name and water mark.
38	Did you check the density of the QR code to ensure readers can handle it?	Yes, the QR code has been tested with various scanners in the BMD, tally advanced proof of concent and on smart phones using QR reader apps.
39	What is the concept for the additional step of spitting out the ballot at the final review stage?	It allows the voter to physically look at and review the paper ballot before it is casting since it is the official ballot of record.
40	If a voter takes the ballot, can they take it to another voting booth?	Yes, the voter can cast a marked ballot at any BMD. It does not have to be the one they used to mark the ballot.
41	What is the reason for the corner cut on the paper ballot? Why not just use a barcode? Corner cut may be issue with the approval process with the EAC.	It is a sensor to make sure it is going in the right way. If it is put in the wrong way, it won't be accepted. Corner cut also allows visually impaired to know they are putting the ballot in the right direction.
42	The scrolling will be going down only on the screen, not side to side?	Just down.
43	What are the settings for?	To adjust font size, screen contrast, and language.
44	What is the purpose of the usb slot and all other slots?	We do not anticipate the USB slot to be on the device when we first launch. We designed a space for the USB port in case USB technology develops to a state where we feel it is secure to include. The purpose is for assistive technology devices to be connected. Multiple audio jacks are available for voters using audio ballot who want someone who is assisting them to also be able to listen with a second set of headphones.
45	What is the size of the screen?	15.6'
46	Is this a custom layout for the keyboard?	This was designed with a lot of user testing and feedback from the advisory committees.
47	What drove design decisions?	There is a design rational and decisions to meet all design requirements.
48	Are you looking to get EAC approval, too?	We are currently focused on state certification as the state of California only requires state certification, not federal. We may decide to seek EAC approval if that makes sense in the future.
49	Why is the RFI silent about County staff and the Integrator relationship?	Vendors for different components might have different interactions with the County.