



The BetterBuy Project and the ClearPath Acquisition Request for Information (RFI)

What is ClearPath?

The General Services Administration's (GSA) Federal Acquisition Service (FAS) has made considerable investment in its ClearPath platforms. GSA has an existing GSA Schedule task order in place for the Unisys ClearPath software, hardware, maintenance, and hosting services. GSA currently owns and provides the hardware and system software and currently outsources the hosting of the ClearPath systems using Unisys and the SRDF/A synchronization system.

ClearPath and the BetterBuy Project

The objective of the RFI is to invite vendors, stakeholders, and citizens to participate in the market research for services going forward. Interested parties can help draft the solicitation, submit questions, and discuss potential alternative technical approaches. GSA seeks to know if the current approach is the most efficient, from both a system operations standpoint and an economical standpoint. The RFI is requesting vendor input on how GSA can evolve from its current computing environment to a more efficient environment while still meeting all current security and performance requirements.

By conducting this RFI through a Wiki platform and other collaborative new media tools, GSA is asking vendors for ideas on how to address proposed improvements or alternatives to the ClearPath system.

One of the primary guidelines for vendors to consider when providing comments and responses is that this is an operational, mission critical system. GSA has a significant investment in assets and existing processes. A significant change to the technical approach should also discuss the approach to transition.

GSA is asking vendors to address the following requirements in their proposed solutions:

- Minimize operating costs;
- Migrate over time to a cloud computing environment (if possible); and
- Assure a "risk free" transition with minimum disruption to IT or business activities

Unlike the Data.gov acquisition, ClearPath is highly ingrained in established systems for the Federal Government. As a result, objectives for the RFI were more stringent with a greater focus on innovation within the standard guidelines and established programs.

ClearPath Application Summary

The support provided through ClearPath's outsourced efforts includes the following functions:

- Operations
- Off-Site Storage
- Network Connectivity
- Business Recovery
- Systems Administration
- Network Administration
- Help Desk
- Fault Management
- Configuration Management / Administration
- Planning and Analysis
- Business Recovery
- Infosec Team Support