**Request for Information (RFI)**

**Ultrasonic Testing equipment and services**

**Introduction:**

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority (WMATA) is gathering information that may facilitate a formal procurement process and invites your firm to provide input associated with this Request for Information (RFI). Any suggestions received through this inquiry may be incorporated into a final scope of work that will provide the basis for a future procurement solicitation.

**Background:**

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) is contemplating the purchase of Ultrasonic Testing vehicle and testing services that will allow for accurate testing of the rails on the WMATA rail system. Potential vendors who may only be able to provide a testing vehicle or testing services are encouraged to respond to this RFI. WMATA is sending out this RFI to perform a market survey to determine qualified vendors who can meet the requirements as outlined below. WMATA is also interested in learning about alternative products in the market which meet or exceed the stated minimum requirements.

As a minimum, the Ultrasonic testing vehicle shall meet the following criteria:

* Testing vehicle must be either rail bound or easily mounted on and off the rail system (such as a Hi-Rail vehicle).
* Shall be able to ultrasonic test 115 RE, 136 RE rails, rail welds, and manganese steel frogs that meet or exceed industry standards. If not possible to test all requested components, an explanation as to why a system is not capable of performing a particular test.
* Shall be able to test at speeds of up to 20 mph while on the rail system.
* Shall be able to test in both forward and reverse direction. If not possible, an explanation as to why a system is not capable of performing tests in either direction.
* Testing vehicle shall be diesel powered.
* Testing vehicle shall fit within the WMATA dynamic envelope.
* Ultrasonic Testing equipment shall be leading edge and will be supported for a minimum of 7 years.
* Shall provide information on the most recent technology and techniques for ultrasonic testing

As a minimum, the Ultrasonic testing services shall meet the following criteria:

* Shall be on-site for a minimum of 48 weeks per year.
* Shall provide WMATA with a certified testing program which includes training and written procedures by a person that is Level III certified UT.
* Shall be able to certify WMATA employees to Level II UT.
* Shall provide a recommendation and explanation on testing frequency of the WMATA rail system.
* Shall be able to conduct hand testing on rail, rail welds, and manganese steel frogs.
* Shall be able to provide parts and service for Ultrasonic Testing equipment.
* Shall be knowledgeable of different rail defects and be able to accurately size and identify specific defects common on rail transit systems.
* Shall be able to report the diagnosis of rail condition within 24 hours but preferably within 12 hours to the client.

Interested vendors/manufacturers shall provide information regarding products and services related to delivering, training and operating of the ultrasonic testing equipment and vehicle along with ultrasonic testing services as outlined above. In addition, interested vendors/manufacturers shall provide a capability statement of their experience in successfully developing and delivering ultrasonic testing vehicle and services. The capability statement shall include the name and address of the transit agency or railroad, a brief description of the project, and a contact person’s name and telephone number from the agency.

WMATA will not be responsible for any cost incurred in furnishing this information.

If a solicitation is released, it will be advertised on the Authorities web-site at: <https://www.wmata.com/Business/procurement/solicitations/active-procurement-opportunities.cfm> and the Federal website [www.fbo.gov](http://www.fbo.gov).

**Objectives of the RFI**

This RFI provides the opportunity for contractors, suppliers, distributors, service-providers, private firms and corporations, etc. to assist WMATA with gathering technical information relative to the procurement and technical specifications for Ultrasonic Testing vehicle and services used in ultrasonic testing rails on the WMATA rail system.

Responses to this RFI will not be used to qualify proposers/bidders for future solicitations, nor are they a pre-condition to responding to future RFP’s or IFB’s.

The objectives of this RFI are to:

* Gather information on industry’s capabilities and insights to contractual terms and obligations that would enhance participation in a future solicitation from industry leaders.
* Receive feedback from industry on: the technical specifications for Ultrasonic Testing vehicles and services; and recommendations for alternative solutions.
* Obtain responses to specific technical inquiries from industry for consideration. Identify opportunities for innovative approaches to improve desired product, obtain industry updates regarding type, certification criterion, availability, maintainability, and local sources.

Please submit technical responses to Alexander Seredich at aseredich@wmata.com no later than June 12, 2018. If you have any questions regarding this RFI, please also forward them to Alexander Seredich at the above email address. He can also be reached at 703-667-2757.