

University of Massachusetts, Amherst
RFB – AA09-RH-2822
32 Servers for a Computer Cluster
Addendum # 1 – Dated 6/26/08

Below is a listing of vendor questions that were submitted prior to the deadline on RFB # AA09-RH-2822 – 32 Servers for a Computer Cluster.

The bid opening date will remain as: Thursday, July 3, 2008 @ 1:00 pm

Question: 1. Is a Rack Cabinet or Cabinets for the servers required?

Reply 1: - No Racks or Cabinets required.

Question: 2. Is a gigabit switch required?

Reply 2: - No gigabit switch required.

Question: 3. Do you want an InfiniBand Switch in the quote?

Reply 3:- No Infiniband switch required.

Question: 4. If an IB switch is desired, are you looking for the ability to expand later on or just enough to accommodate these systems?

Reply 4:- Not Applicable (see previous question).

Question: 5. Are you wanting any remote management capabilities other than the IPMI?

Reply 5:- No other management needed.

Question: 6. Do you want a separate network switch for the IPMI?

Reply 6:- No separated network required. IPMI cards will use Out-Of-Band management via the shared LAN connector.

Question: 7. What is the maximum amount of time you will accept for delivery?

Reply 7:- Requested date is 1st of August 2008. We will consider other dates, but this may affect the awarding of the contract as detailed in section 2.9 of the Bid document.

Question: 8. What type of power do you plan to use?

Reply 8:- Machines need to be capable of running at 110V @ 60Hz as well as 208V @ 60Hz. The power supplies listed in the specifications of the bid are capable of these voltages.

Question: 9. Will you accept larger drives that use less power?

Reply 9:- We require 2 drives in each machine. Larger drives may be accepted, manufacturer, make and model must be given.

Question: 10. What OS will you be using so we can test all systems with the exact same configuration?

Reply 10: - Linux Debian Etch 4.0 X86_64 (64 bit) will be used. We already have machines with the same chassis running this configuration. A custom built 2.6.24 kernel is used to operate the servers and we have OFED 1.3 installed for the Infiniband network.

Question: 11. Do you plan to place all 32 servers in a single rack? The reason I ask is because the servers will generate a significant amount of heat. The heat generated by all 32 servers, if placed in a single rack, would far exceed the ability of most data centers cooling systems. The heat is condensed to the one rack and would require a very high amount of CFM of air conditioning to keep it cool. Have you verified that the location you have chosen can handle the dense heat load?

Reply 11: - The 32 servers, along with another 16 machines, will initially be placed in 4 racks with fans installed in the rear doors. These 4 racks will be located in a large, well cooled server room. Later these machines will be relocated to a high density cooling facility. The locations have been designed to handle the heat loads.

Question: 12. Are you open to a 2U option that offers similar options to the SuperMicro systems?

Reply 12: - The 1U chassis is preferred due to the smaller footprint. A 2U chassis may be quoted, but this may affect the awarding of the contract as detailed in section 2.9 of the Bid document. Specifications will need to be supplied for any alternatives.

Question: 13. Are you looking for a turn-key solution or just servers?

- Only looking for the servers.

Question: 14. On section # 2 do you want each item quoted or will a total per each server be ok?

Reply 14: - A total price per server is expected. Two quotes may be given, one for each type of processor.

Question: 15. Do you have the racks?

Reply 15: - No racks are required, we already have some available.

Question: 16. And do you have an infiniband switch?

Reply 16: - No Infiniband switch required. We already have one.