**Office of Finance**
**Division of Procurement**
**MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**
**45 W. Gude Drive, Suite 3100**
**Rockville, Maryland 20850**

**February 27, 2023**

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

**The following are questions and responses regarding**
**RFP No. 4959.2, Plagiarism Detection Software Solution**

**Question 1:** **Whether companies from Outside USA can apply for this? (like, from UK or Canada)**

    **Answer:** Yes, you can apply to this solicitation if your company is outside of the USA, as long as you also have a business location/office inside of the United States.

**Question 2:** **Whether you have any sort of bottom line in terms of requirements and maximum pricing where the deal would be possible without the RFP?**

    **Answer:** This type of contract can only be procured outside of an RFP when the amount is under $25,000.

**Question 3:** **In Section E, Item 2 within Appendix A, MCPS states: "The Contractor will confirm to MCPS that the third-party vendor agrees to the non-disclosure agreement terms described in Article 18.C.6". The third-party vendor we utilize is the major industry-leading service for secure cloud hosting worldwide and have stated they are unable to accept these terms as outlined in Article 18.C.6; this provider has offered reasoning to support their statement. As such, is MCPS willing to negotiate with the contracting vendor and review agreement language that provides equivalent and applicable protections for MCPS data?**

    **Answer**:  Please reference Section 20.0 of the RFP, titled CONTRACT, for more information. Any variances from or objections to the specifications in this RFP and the terms and conditions of the MCPS General Contract Articles will be carefully reviewed.

**Question 4:** **Did you have a budget in mind? because running an independent crawler all the time can be a bit expensive ~$5 - $40k.**

    **Answer:** Yes, we have funds allocated for this contract.

**Question 5:** **Will you be using the plagiarism detection on written essays or on written programming code?**

    **Answer:** We will be using it for student writing (essays and similar). That said, if it's possible to use the product for programming code, we would be interested in that capability.

**Question 6:**  **Is there a list of research journals you'd want to ensure are crawled?**

**Answer:** We do not subscribe to individual journals like universities, but we do use the databases listed [here](#).

**Question 7:**    **How critical is SOC2 certification?**

**Answer:** SOC2 ensures our partners are handling our data in a secure way, particularly with a focus on confidentiality, data handling, and privacy.

**Question 8:**    **Would you be able to explain this in more details:**

**Section 3.1 – "(iii) and the ability to configure a nightly (or more frequent) transfer of student data from online activity to MCPS' data management system (Unify) or any updated, upgraded, or alternative systems that MCPS adopts in its sole discretion. In the event that content is currently incompatible with current systems, proposals should include a specific timeline to bring content into alignment."**

**Answer:** Vendor system should be able to set up automated data transfers from their system using Secure File Protocol (SFTP) method with the minimum frequency of nightly.

**Question 9:**    **What data would you want us to transfer? Our system doesn't receive any additional data, other than the data provided by the LMS.**

**Answer:** MCPS team would like to know what data points are collected/captured by the vendor system using their software integration with LMS to respond to the question. Generally, MCPS would like to receive any data captured from the vendor system back to our data system.

**Follow-up Information (Per the pre-proposal conference held on February 27, 2023):**
- There will be approx. 93,000 users of this software
- Approximately 1,000 teachers will need to be trained on this software

Caleb L. Young, Buyer II
Division of Procurement

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Please indicate your receipt of this notice by signing below and returning with your proposal or under a separate cover.

Accepted By: _____
(Name & Title)

Name of Company: _____