WSUL and DALNET

RFP Response Evaluation Criteria

System: CL Systems, Inc. (CLSI)

1. Overall suitability to WSU and DALNET:

CLSI is a well-established vendor with a record of successful installations, some of which are mutli-processor configurations. They have now available one of the strongest circulation systems in the market today, and are quickly developing the online catalog component. Acquisitions is also basically in place. Their proposal indicates that their system would meet the networking requirements of DALNET.

Concern about the CLSI proposal centers around the hardware configuration. We are uncertain about the multiple PDP 11 cpu's being able to handle the large database and transaction load of DALNET. CLSI's offer to upgrade to VAX technology, free of charge, when available implies that the PDP configuration cannot do the job.

2. Compliance with specifications (Sections 3-9) of the RFP:

CLSI's proposal did quite well in meeting the specifications required. They propose a system on multiple DEC PDP processors, which they have functioning in other fairly large installations around the country. They offer us an upgrade to DEC VAX technology free of charge at a time to be negotiated during contracting.

CLSI's online catalog with authority control is anticipated in January 1985 and so meets our required delivery schedule. Their circulation component is, of course, one of the strongest currently available. Their functioning acquisitions subsystem would require enhancement for us. They are bidding a link, available in mid-1985 to Blackwell's Perline for serials control, rather than inventing a serials component of their own.

	Section	Yes	Yes/d	Yes/f	No	Cust	Clar
3.	OPAC	180	14	115	18	0	0
4.	CIRC	426	59	92	51	1	0
5.	ACQ	357	40	105	132	0	0
6.	SERIALS	4	13	311	19	0	0
7.	Hardware	113	8	2	5	0	0
8.	Software	52	4	2	1	0	0
9.	Training	43	2	0	1	0	0
	Total	1175	140	627	227	1	0

3. Total cost over 5 years:

The CLSI hardware costs more over the years than other systems because it cannot be purchased "off-the-shelf" from DEC.

A fairly large computer room would be needed to house the PDP multiprocessor configuration, though not as large as for a VAX configuration.

While CLSI offers to "upgrade" our installation to VAX, technology free, there would be "costs" to us, including parallel operation, downtime, re-loading, and re-training.

4. Vendor's reliability:

CLSI is the largest library automation vendor in the country and has an excellent record of installing systems in libraries large and small. They have a large staff dedicated to helping their customers install and operate CLSI systems. An installation our size would likely be able to get the attention needed, even from a large vendor.

5. Delivery and installation schedule:

Delivery of the authority control and of enhanced searching upgrades to CLSI's online catalog is expected prior to our installation. The link to Perline for serials control should also be available in plenty of time.

Since CLSI has so much experience installing systems, their performance is expected to be excellent.

6. Software development required:

Development is needed in the online catalog -- authority control and enhanced searching -- as well as in acquisitions. The serials control links to Perline also needs to be developed. It was confusing in the proposal exactly when the new version of the online catalog was to be available.

7. System's reliability and performance:

There is some concern that the system's hardware might be undersized for this very large installation, however, the use of intelligent front end processors to relieve the load on the database processors should be an efficient configuration. It is certainly a proven design though not in such a large installation.

8. Expandability:

The system has an upper limit of 2000 terminaals using 32 database processors. This should be sufficient for our needs.

9. Flexibility:

Responses to the specifications indicate that CLSI's system would meet the networking needs of DALNET.

10. Ability to link to local computing networks:

DEC hardware can link to IBM systems, and, of course, to DEC systems.

LB/ff
10/1/84