



SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
DIVISION OF FINANCE
Purchasing Department
Iris Baker, Purchasing Director

604 N. Main, Suite F ~ Wichita, KS 67203
Phone: 316 383-7494 Fax: 316 383-7055
www.SedgwickCounty.org/purchasing

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
#03-0054
VACUUM SYSTEM FOR DATA CENTER

October 16, 2003

1.0 Objectives

The purpose of this Request For Information (RFI) is to obtain information on the availability, capability, and functionality of vacuum systems currently offered for sale that may be suitable for use in the County's Data Center. This project has not been formally budgeted, but based on potential savings from contracting the work out, may still be pursued in the near future.

Information received as a result of this RFI will be used to assist in the determination of the method(s) to adopt and whether to proceed. The information may be used in the preparation of a comprehensive Request For Proposal (RFP) or Request For Quotation (RFQ). Any information submitted in response to this RFI will be considered during the determination of direction. Any response to this RFI does not guarantee that the information offered will be integrated into the RFP/RFQ, nor shall it prohibit any vendor from receiving or responding to an RFP/RFQ when and if it is issued. The lack of a response to the RFI will not preclude a vendor from participating in any RFP/RFQ process.

Specific objectives the County intends to accomplish through this RFI are as follows:

- Identify current technologies that are functional, appropriate, and accomplishes the desired goals;
- Identify vendors who offer workable solutions for vacuum systems;
- Identify the level of effort that will be required for installation, training, and maintenance; and
- Identify the level of funding that will be necessary for this project.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Sedgwick County Division of Information & Operations (DIO) has a 24x7 Data Center that has been in virtually continuous operation since 1978. At present, the Data Center houses not only computer operations, but also Printing Services and a centralized Mail Room. As with most data centers, normal operations take place on raised floor that is composed of 2' x 2' removable panels mounted on 18" pedestals. Underneath the raised floor is a supply air plenum, fire suppression wiring and piping, and wiring for power and computer signals. As a part of normal operations in the Data Center, the sub-floor

tends to accumulate trash comprised of: scraps of paper, dust balls, flakes of rust from old air conditioning equipment, dirt sifting from above-floor traffic, etc. Over the last 25 years, contracts have been provided to various vendors to supply labor and services to vacuum the sub-floor. Over the years these costs have increased substantially suggesting that with appropriate equipment, Data Center staff could handle the task on a more frequent, but less cost-intensive basis.

In the contracted services of the past there have been two approaches:

- Place the vacuuming equipment outside the Data Center so any dust generated is away from the dust-sensitive electronic equipment; or
- Use equipment with highly efficient filters (HEPA) to minimize any dust/particles exhausted.

DIO is interested in pursuing the best, yet most cost-effective way to approach this problem. A rough schematic of the Data Center is attached.

3.0 STATEMENT OF NEEDS

3.1 Installation: Briefly describe any installation procedures that might conflict with normal work in the Data Center (which must continue).

3.2 Operation: Briefly describe the sequence of activities to clean a segment of, or the entire sub-floor of the Data Center.

3.3 Power requirements: Various voltages (115, 208, 230, 480) and phases are available (single and three-phase). Specify which is desired.

3.4 Dirt removal: The primary purpose of the desired system is to promote workplace cleanliness by permitting staff to easily clean sections of the Data Center sub-floor. It would also serve some above floor cleaning tasks. The environment is critical – any system must remove dirt efficiently, produce no (or very minimal dust), not present any fire hazard or smoke, be quiet in operation, be easy to use, be easy to operate and maintain.

4.0 TECHNOLOGY

4.1 Vacuum methods: No assumptions have necessarily been made. Equipment may be free-standing/roll-around or stationary. (Depending on size, weight and power requirements, it may be possible to locate equipment in the equipment room at the north end of the building and exhaust air outside the building.)

5.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

5.1 Selection Criteria: Provide suggested selection criteria that have enabled agencies to select a system that best meets their needs. What should we consider in selecting a system to meet our requirements?

5.3 Delivery Time: Provide an estimate regarding time required after a purchase order (PO) is issued until system is fully operational.

5.4 Installation: Describe how the system would be installed: contracted to a third party, customer installed, company installed, factory representative, not required, etc. If a third party would be involved, provide the name of the third-party vendor.

5.5 Maintenance: Describe the routine or any special maintenance required.

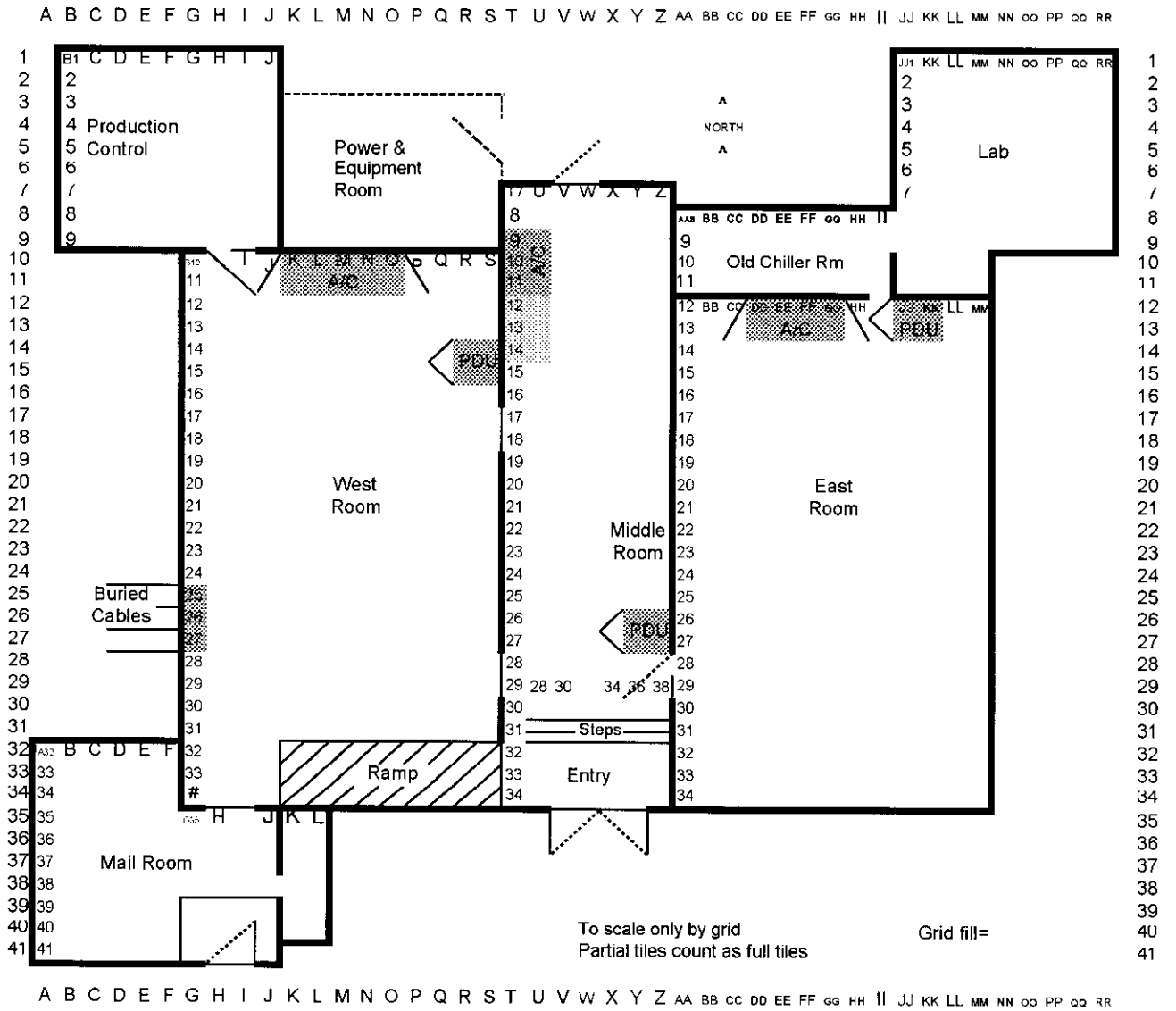
- 5.6 **Filtration:** What is the size of largest particle that may be ejected from the vacuum's exhaust? Has the product been certified for use in data center environments?
- 5.6 **Cost:** Provide a total budgetary cost estimate for equipment, shipping, installation, parts, filters, other supplies, and maintenance for one year.
- 5.7 **Warranty/Guarantee:** Describe the warranty/guarantee. Is it rated for commercial use similar to our environment?
- 5.8 **Operational Noise:** Provide noise level data measured while equipment is operating.
- 5.9 **Sizing/weight:** Provide dimensions and weight of the equipment.
- 5.8 **Company Background:** Provide information regarding your company. This should include time in business, similar installations, and gross sales.
- 5.9 **Equipment Experience:** Provide information regarding where the product offered has been installed (successfully and unsuccessfully). How long has the product been offered for sale? How long will the current product be offered for sale?
- 5.10 **Partners:** Does one vendor offer the entire system or are partners providing portions of the system? If partners are used, please provide background and experience information for them also.

6.0 RESPONSES

- 6.1 **Inquiries:** Inquiries of a technical nature may be directed in writing to:

Ken Keen, Technical Support Services Manager
(316) 660-9858
E-mail: kkeen@sedgwick.gov
- 6.2 **Submission:** Provide two (2) copies of the requested information, along with any supplementary materials.
- 6.3 **Responses** to this document must be received no later than **1:45 PM, CST, November 4, 2003**. Responses should be sent to Iris Baker, Sedgwick County Purchasing Department, 604 N. Main, Suite F, Wichita, KS 67203.
- 6.4 **Format:** Information should be organized in the format and information sequence found in this document.

DATA CENTER DIAGRAM



DIO Data Center
Historic Courthouse -- 2nd Floor, North End