

Request for Information (RFI)
Rail Car Carpet
CMNT 2018

Dear Contractors:

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 replacement carpet for railcars. The number of units is yet to be determined. WMATA is sending out an 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 carpet shall meet the following criteria:

- Choice of material shall be the Contractor's responsibility subject to the limitation that all other requirements are met or exceeded as will be outlined in the SOW.
- It shall have the highest degree of fire resistance, lowest smoke emission & toxicity and shall comply with ASTM E-119, ASTM E-162, ASTM E-648, ASTM E-662, BSS-7239 and NFPA-130.
- Carpet shall be level loop pile with height of .205 inch and face weight of at least 56 1/4 ounces per square yard, not including bonding and padding. The backing, where required, shall be a least 1/8 inch thick foam padding and shall have a weight of at least 38 ounces per square yard.
- Carpet edges shall be latex sealed to prevent raveling. Other methods may be proposed subject to the Authority's approval.
- Constructed to produce less than 3.5 kilovolts of static electricity when tested in accordance with AATCC test 134.
- Carpet shall be certified to conform to ASTM-D1335-1367 for tuft lock requirement of 3.8lbs minimum and shrinkage of 1% maximum.
- The pile yarn shall be permanently moth proofed. It shall be processed to prevent mildew and other fungi.
- The carpet shall function in an environment of high traffic and must provide maximum durability through the various conditions listed below:
 - Temperature range: 0°F to 140°F
 - Maximum relative humidity of 100%

- Possible exposure to heavy rain, ice and snow
- Extended exposure to de-icing materials (such as rock salt, calcium carbonate, sodium nitrate, etc.).
- Color and pattern shall match design shown in Figure 1.
- Dimensions of delivered carpet shall be nominally 10' wide by 75' random length roll.
- To ensure compliance with standards, it is a requirement that the Contractor shall comply with quality assurance criteria as will be outlined in SOW at no cost to the Authority.
- Carpet shall be cleanable by standard commercial methods using cleaning agents that are suitable for the specific material construction, surface effect and color of the fabric identified by the specification.

Interested vendors/manufacturers shall provide information regarding products and services related to delivering and maintaining the carpet. In addition, interested vendors/manufacturers shall provide a capability statement of their experience in successfully developing and delivering carpets for other transit agencies, airplanes or railroads. 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 synopsisized/advertised on the Authorities web-site at: <https://www.wmata.com/Business/procurement/solicitations/active-procurement-opportunities.cfm>

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 carpet used in Rail Cars.

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:

1. Gather information on industry's capabilities and insights to contractual terms and obligations that would enhance participation in a future solicitation from industry leaders.
2. Receive feedback from industry on: the technical specifications for carpet; and recommendations for alternative solutions.
3. 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.

Responding to this RFI:

Firms responding to this RFI must be:

RFI responses must include:

- Name of Firm
- Primary business and corporate mission
- Email address
- Phone
- Identification of other key individuals who collaborated on the RFI response
- A brief summary description of previous relevant experience with suggested products, current contracts in the transit industry, maintainability and durability of carpet.
- Will firm commit to a free demonstration of product, if so, provide details and parameters of the demonstration, time period, etc.....

Company Profile –provide your firm’s name, contact name, street address, mailing address if different, email address, and telephone numbers along with a description of your firm, and any potential sub-contractors or other partners.

Describe past successes you have had in delivering similar solutions. Provide contact information for at least three organizations/agencies that you have previously provided with similar solutions.

RFI Questions:

Response Submission Deadline/Action Dates: February 23, 2018

Point of Contact for Inquiries and Submissions: Chris Stewart, cstewart@wmata.com (procurement office) and Anthony Johnson, ajohnson@wmata.com (technical office).

Rights and Options Reserved:

In addition to the rights reserved elsewhere in this RFI, WMATA reserves and may, in its sole discretion, exercise any one or more of the following rights and options with respect to this RFI if determined that doing so is in the best interest of the Authority:

1. to decline to consider any response to this RFI (Response); to cancel the RFI at any time; to elect to proceed or not to proceed with discussions or presentations regarding its subject matter with any Respondent and with firms that do not respond to the RFI; or to reissue the RFI or to issue a new RFI (with the same, similar or different terms);
2. to waive, for any Response, any defect, deficiency or failure to comply with the RFI if, in the Authority’s sole judgment, such defect is not material to the Response;
3. to extend the Submission Date/Time and/or to supplement, amend, substitute or otherwise modify the RFI at any time prior to the Submission Date/Time, by posting notice thereof on the Authority’s web page(s) where the RFI is posted;

4. to require, permit or reject amendments (including, without limitation, submitting information omitted), modifications, clarifying information, and/or corrections to Responses by some or all Respondents at any time before or after the Submission Date/Time;
5. to require, request or permit, in discussions with any Respondent, any information relating to the subject matter of this RFI that the Authority deems appropriate, whether or not it was described in the Response or this RFI;
6. at any time determined by the Authority, to discontinue discussions with any Respondent or all Respondents regarding the subject matter of this RFI, and/or initiate discussions with any other Respondent or with vendors that did not respond to the RFI;
7. to do any of the foregoing without notice to Respondents or others, except such notice as the Authority, in its sole discretion, may elect to post on the WMATA web page(s) where this RFI is posted.
8. To the best of the Authority's knowledge, the information provided herein is accurate. Respondents should undertake appropriate investigation in preparation of responses.
- 9. This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes and does not constitute a solicitation or commitment to contract. Responses to this notice are not an offer and cannot be accepted by the Authority to form a binding contract.**

The Authority is not obligated to conduct subsequent discussions with any Respondent to this RFI, and reserves the right to conduct discussions regarding its subject matter with firms that do not respond to this RFI. This RFI and the process it describes are proprietary to the Authority and are for the exclusive benefit of the Authority. No other party, including any Respondent, is intended to be granted any rights hereunder. Upon submission, Responses to this RFI shall become the property of the Authority, which shall have unrestricted use thereof. Responses may be subject to public disclosure under applicable law. By submitting its Response, the Respondent agrees to the terms and conditions of this RFI.

DISCLAIMER

WMATA will not publicly disclose proprietary information obtained as a result of this RFI. To the full extent that it is protected by law and regulations, information identified by a respondent as Proprietary or Confidential will be kept confidential. **Submitters/Respondents are cautioned to clearly label as proprietary and confidential any specific information or other material that is considered to be confidential.**

This RFI may also be found electronically at www.wmata.com

Figure 1. Carpet Color and Design Pattern

