



Alabama Port Authority

Request for Information Response –(RFI)

Project Name RFP - IDIQ - McDuffie Conveyor Belts Procurement

Project No. **Task No. N/A** **RFI: No. 01**

To: Prospective Bidders / Offerors

Date: 8/19/2026

The following RFI's / APA Responses are presented for your information regarding this RFP. The solicitation is not amended in any way or form. All terms and conditions of this RFP remain unchanged.

Item	RFI / APA Response
1.	RFI-1: Will APA choose and announce Base Year, Year 1, Year 2, etc. winners when the bidding is complete in September 2026? APA-Response #1: Yes, upon completion of the RFP's defined proposal evaluation and multiple awards selection, and final contract award process, the Alabama Port Authority (APA), will announce all selected contract awardees.
2.	RFI-2: Can the winners be different companies or will you choose the same company for Base Year and every year they quoted beyond? APA-Response #2: Dependent upon the evaluated competitiveness amongst the Lowest Priced -Technically Acceptable - offers received; both possible scenarios exist. The APA reserves the right to make a single award from this RFP, or different companies could receive an APA contract award, which is why the RFP includes a Multiple Award provision. When the final overall analysis is completed, the APA will determine how many awards, (one or multiple), is most advantageous and in the best interest of the APA. Please review Page(s) 5, and 28, of the posted RFP, which establishes the APA's evaluation process, and contract award selection process. Also, to be clear regarding this RFI's partial statement, "Base Year and every year they quoted beyond?" Please note, Page 5 - Paragraph (b) Options., states in part; "The APA will evaluate offers for award purposes <u>by adding the total price for all options to the total price for the basic requirement.</u>" Also, page 27 – Paragraph 8 PRICING SCHEDULE, states in part; "<u>Offerors shall submit their pricing; either for All Line Item(s) within the entire Schedule,</u>" (or All Line Items for a stated width / size). <u>Therefore, any submitted offer that fails to comply with the requirement to propose fair and reasonable pricing for All contract term period line items, for the width size they choose, shall be considered non-responsive, and eliminated from any award consideration.</u>
3.	RFI-3: We can provide higher discounts, the longer the length of belt. Right now, you are asking us to quote 1010 ft-1100 ft. Can we quote 2020 ft, 3030 ft, etc. to whatever max potential length you would want? Each length up to a certain length will have a different price/unit. Once a certain length is reached (i.e., 3030 or 4040 ft) , the unit price is constant. If we are allowed to quote multiple lengths for a given year, how do we present this information in the bid package? If a supplier wins the bid for Year 1, 2, 3 AND they are guaranteed that APA will purchase the belt assuming they meet the performance and delivery requirements listed on page 2, then a supplier could have the belt produced all at once with the base year belt and stock at the distributor branch.

The price will be much lower compared to having to guess what the annual inflation rate will be and apply to each subsequent year. Will APA guarantee that they will purchase the belt in Year 1, 2, 3 etc. from the winning bidder if the existing belt is performing? If yes, will you provide the lengths for each year so we can produce accordingly?

APA-Response #3: This RFP offers **no guaranteed** quantity of orders. Page 2 states: "The Line Item(s) and Quantities of supplies specified within the Pricing Schedule are estimates only and are not purchased by this contract." However, daily successful operations at the APA - McDuffie Coal Terminal, are heavily dependent upon the consistent availability of high-quality conveyor belts, as specified with this Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity Contract.

As a matter of information, when APA orders 72" belts, typical order are 4 rolls at a time. When ordering 96" belts, typical order are 1 or 2 rolls at a time.

Pursuant to the RFP, All individual rolls must measure within the 1,010 - 1,100 ft requirement as stated.

The reasoning behind the {"1,010–1,100"} ft specification, is tied directly to APA's crane capacity for handling those belt rolls. A 96" belt roll is significantly heavier, but those runs are located close enough to the crane so that the additional weight is not an issue.

However, the 72" belt runs are much farther away, and due to that distance, APA must keep those rolls within the 1,010 – 1,100 ft range to ensure APA cranes can safely lift and maneuver them. Because of this operational constraint, we cannot increase roll lengths beyond what the crane can reliably support in that area.