

NZDPU BETA PILOT RFP FAQ

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GENERAL

Are you prioritizing climate expertise of the proposed team in your selection criteria?

Domain experience within climate technology specifically is not a requirement for selection.

Are there particular time zones when the primary applicant would have to be available during the build phase of the Utility?

Given the global nature of this initiative, we welcome bids generated by businesses across geographies and business time zones. Bidders will be evaluated fairly based on their capabilities and time zone overlap will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. The NZDPU team will operate on Eastern Standard Time (UTC-5) business hours daily.

What are restrictions/conditions (if any) around utilizing subcontractors and bidding with other partners?

All subcontractors will need to be approved by NZDPU and have the same requirements as the bidding team. All consortia style bids require a lead bidder. Any subcontractors that are included in the bid will be the responsibility of the lead bidding organization.

Will there be any limitations on the successful applicants in using the data for analytics?

The Utility will provide open data which means it will be freely available and can be used for commercial or non-commercial use cases. The successful applicant will be permitted to use the output of the Utility on the same terms as the general public. The successful applicant may not otherwise make commercial use of data not publicly available, including using or accessing the data outside of the NZDPU pilot until it has been released to the public. The firm should not build in a specific manner that directly benefits them through design or choice of technologies.

Will the successful applicant(s) be able to include reference to this work on their website and portfolio?

Yes, the successful applicants will be able to link to the site as a completed project from their portfolio. We reserve the right to co-author and review published works referencing the product.

What is the budget range for this project?

We are looking for bidding organizations to provide us with their expected budgets given the RFP requirements and time horizon.

Do you have specific contractual requirements?

NZDPU anticipates receiving interest from a wide variety of bidders representing multiple industries and service offerings. While we do not anticipate mandating a specific contractual form and would consider any bids that included a proposed contract for service, we expect any final agreement to include standard, customer terms and conditions in the data service development space. NZDPU anticipates that the contract will be governed by New York law.

What are the important milestone dates? How much flexibility is there?

- March 1, 2023 – Close of RFP submission
- April 21, 2023 (est.) – Winning firm notified
- May 8, 2023 (est.) – Winning team begins development (Sooner the better)
- May to November 2023 – Development, UAT, iterations, and alpha releases
- Oct 27, 2023 – Completion of functional requirements
- October 2023 – Early Adopter onboarding
- November 30, 2023 – Release of Pilot

Given the tight timeline of this release, we do not anticipate any flexibility on the above dates. We hope to have the winning bidder actively working on the product as quickly as possible after they have been notified so that we can comfortably meet our deliverable timelines.

DATA MODEL & ACCESS

Is there an expected frequency for how often the data model will require changes or expansions?

There is no pre-determined frequency for data model enhancements, but rather a general expectation that as standard setting bodies and jurisdictions update their climate disclosure requirements, the data model will be expanded in response. Within the scope of the Beta Pilot and the first year of NZDPU, there would be monthly updates of the model as more emissions coverage is included from standards across the world.

At what frequency does the NZDPU perform site-wide data update? Are upload time and frequency subject to uploader?

Data should be ingested and made available for access within a reasonable time. Update for user interface access can be measured in single digit minutes. Update for single company data lookup should be immediate across endpoints globally for equitable access. Upload times and frequency are subject to the uploader.

What types of limitations are there for uploading and downloading data?

Data publisher upload limits should currently be around 10MB as the assumption is they are uploading only their emissions data. Download limits are based on the type of access, approximately 10MB when

downloading a single company or screen results. Bulk download of data could be measured in GBs as it would potentially cover the entire dataset.

Is the bidder responsible for defining the data model?

No, the data model will be created by the NZDPU data team. The implementation of the storage, access, and interaction with the data model will be up to the bidder to implement as part of their deliverables.

USER INTERFACE

What types of data formats are acceptable for the data upload portal in the MVP?

Manual entry via a web form or machine-readable formats (XBRL, CSV). These formats are also the same permissible formats for upload via API.

What accessibility requirements are expected in the delivered solution across the external user interface and internal tools?

For externally facing sites, WCAG 2.1 AA should be used as this is the current guidelines for accessibility according to the UN. When WCAG 2.2 AA guidelines are finalized and adopted by the UN, the externally facing tools would need to be updated, but we do not see that as applicable for this effort. Any web facing internal tools should follow the same guidelines.

What types of access should be available to mobile (phones, tablets) users?

This beta is focused on a web interface that is optimized for desktop use due to the potentially wide tables of data to view during exploration and upload. The expectation is that a user is also able to access the website via their mobile devices with the same functionality but a potentially limited view of the site. There is no plan to have a dedicated mobile app.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Do security features of major dev tools need to be detailed in the bid?

Security should be considered in the design and can be detailed in the bid submission.

What elements of security testing are expected?

Testing should encompass the testing of the security of the entire system. This includes pen testing, library security validation, infrastructure security, and DevOps/SecOps best practices.

Is every single demo a UAT test? How will an agile workflow be maintained and who is the user before beta launch?

A demo after every sprint completion will help track the progress and is not part of UAT testing. During UAT testing, the NZDPU team will test the build functionalities and provide feedback that should be addressed within the defined timelines. Beta testing will be performed when the majority of the functionality has been designed and built with the latest code deployed in UAT.

Who will be conducting/managing testing?

The selected bidder should be deploying their QA tested build in UAT and the NZDPU team should be testing the developed functionality to validate if it has been built according to the defined requirements and provide feedback.

Will there be API rate limiting, and what are the different rules for this rate limit based on the type of user?

Rate limiting of the API will be necessary for stability of the system. The exact limits will be determined at a later time with the current view that a single user is unlikely to have more than ten requests per minute of screening and single entity lookup.

Are there any data or systems that are in use currently that will require integration within the new build?

We will be exploring the potential integration of third-party data which will require pipeline development, API integration, and remediation workflows.

Is there a preferred list of technologies, tools, programming languages, or cloud platforms expected to be used for the infrastructure of the Utility?

We do not have a preferred list. We do have expectations that everything used for NZDPU is commonly used, maintained, and supported in a way that aligns with the long-term viability of the specific choice. For example, we expect that programming languages have a large community behind them, that cloud platforms are a globally available provider with multiple regions and zones, and that all tools, versions, or technologies are not slated for deprecation within the year.

Where and how should data be stored? Are there any currently known restrictions?

The current view of NZDPU is that for a responsive and good user experience, data will need to be stored globally and within systems that are designed specifically for NZDPU use. This means that data published within a specific country will be distributed out to other globally located instances so that equitable access can be provided across jurisdictions. It is assumed that some copies of data will need to be stored instead of calling external systems, however those external systems should be considered the most accurate source of information.

MAINTENANCE

Can we apply if we are only interested in the initial build up to August 2023 but not future maintenance/enhancements?

Organizations are welcome to submit bids regardless of their interest in future maintenance/enhancements. Interest in future maintenance/enhancement work is not a factor in the selection criteria.

As stated in the RFP, there will be a Finalization and Documentation phase where the selected bidder will be responsible for documentation, cleaning the system, and fixing any outstanding bugs prior to offboarding.

Will the applicant be responsible for responding to any questions that are received through the support email?

Once the pilot NZDPU is live for open access, the team that is responsible for maintenance will need to triage and respond to support emails.

How long would the team be expected to maintain and enhance the Utility?

After the initial release of the product, discussions will be held around the continued support and enhancements of the Utility.

How often do you expect enhancements to be made to the Utility vs. business-as-usual maintenance?

For the NZDPU beta pilot build, there will not be major enhancements outside of the current scope.