

CONTRACT # C001203
SENIOR JAVA ARCHITECT
OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

The official responses to questions submitted pursuant to the above-captioned procurement are listed below. Responses are in **bold blue type**.

Question #1: Regarding the Sr Java Architect position posted this morning in the NYS Contract Reporter, can you please advise if there is an incumbent in the position.

Response: Yes, there is an incumbent.

Question #2: Contract Duration: Could you please confirm the expected duration of this engagement, including any potential for extension?

Response: The expected duration of the engagement is up to four years.

Question #3: Work Location: Is this position expected to be fully onsite, hybrid, or is remote work an option? If onsite presence is required, kindly confirm the specific location and any associated schedule expectations.

Response: At the discretion of OSC and with prior OSC approval, after a minimum eight-week probationary period (during which the Consultant must work fully on-site), the Consultant may occasionally be allowed to conduct some work remotely, but no more than 50% during any work week.

Question #4: Award Timeline: When is the contract expected to be awarded or finalized?

Response: The contract is expected to begin on or before November 29, 2025. The timing of the award and finalization of the contract will occur at OSC's discretion.

Question #5: Start Date: What is the anticipated start date for the selected candidate?

Response: See response to Question #4.

Question #6: Does our company qualify for participating in this procurement opportunity?

Response: To be eligible for award, the Vendor must be a Minority- or Women-Owned Business Enterprise certified pursuant to Article 15-A of the New York State Executive Law by the Empire State Development Corporation, or a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business certified pursuant to Article 3 of the Veterans' Services Law by the New York State Office of General Services.

Question #7: As of 2025, New York State Discretionary Procurement limits which are based on State Finance Law § 163 /Article 15-A, purchases from certified businesses & specific NYS products, ranging up to \$750,000 for Certified MWBEs and SDVOBs, with a potential increase to \$1 million under a proposed bill. Why does the below AD on NYSCR, for Senior Java Architect (Due: 7/15/2025) - CR# 2123705 / C# C001203 - NYS State Comptroller - Finance Office - Albany, NY says the max spend is \$125,000? NYSCR AD says its a 4-yr opportunity.

Response: This was an error on the Contract Reporter Website (<https://www.nyscr.ny.gov/>), OSC re-posted this procurement under the correct discretionary category and amount (see CR#: 2123734).

Question #8: Today we saw the below posting from your Dept. Is today's posting just a correction or is it a 2nd Requirement from your Dept ? Could you please clarify. The AD says the same Contract # C001203. However, CR# are different 2123705 & 2123734. Please clarify so we can get to work appropriately with correct understanding. If they are 2-Separate RFxs and need to be responded to separately, please let us know that as well.

Response: It is a correction. CR #2123734 is a re-posting for this service, as the Contract Reporter website (<https://www.nyscr.ny.gov/>) identified the original ad under the incorrect discretionary category. All other details for this procurement are available in the URL for CR#: 2123734, and on the OSC Procurement Opportunities page of OSC's website.

Question #9: Could you please confirm whether this solicitation is reserved for MWBE or SDVOB participation, as noted in the advertisement type: "MWBE or SDVOB Discretionary procurement between \$50,000 to \$1,500,000"?

Response: See response to Question #6.

Question #10: We would like to formally express our interest in the Senior Java Architect with Contract Number: C001203 opportunity recently posted. We kindly request you to provide us with the relevant RFP documents at your earliest convenience.

Response: All information regarding this opportunity is available through the following NYS Contract Reporter website (CR#: 2123734): <https://www.nyscr.ny.gov/>; and the following OSC website (#C001203): <https://www.osc.ny.gov/procurement>.

Question #11: Is there a current contractor? If so, who is the incumbent?

Response: See response to Question #1. As to the incumbent, information regarding OSC contracts may be found on the Open Book New York website available at: <https://www.osc.ny.gov/open-book-new-york>.

Question #12: What is the current contract value?

Response: Information regarding OSC contracts may be found on the Open Book New York website available at: <https://www.osc.ny.gov/open-book-new-york>.

Question #13: We intend to answer this RFP, may we ask please for a copy of the Candidate Submission Sheet ("CSS") to fill info on our team's Senior Java Architect.

Response: See response to Question #10. The CSS can be downloaded via the following link: <https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/procurement/docs/c001203-candidate-submission-sheet.docx>.

Question #14: Could you please confirm if we are eligible for this opportunity? if yes. Kindly share all relevant solicitation documents and attachments and add us to the vendor distribution list for any future addenda, updates, or clarifications.

Response: See response to Questions #6 and #10.

Question #15: I would like to obtain a copy of the main RFP.

Response: See response to Question #10.

Question #16: Do we need to have our own W2 employees for this role or we are allowed to subcontract for this position?

Response: Subcontracting is allowed.

Question #17: What is the salary range or hourly rate we can target for this role per year?

Response: OSC declines to respond.

Question #18: Would relocation be acceptable, or does the candidate have to be local?

Response: Candidates do not have to be local, however, if selected they must be able to meet the work arrangement requirements stated in response to Question #3.

Question #19: Are we allowed to post this role publicly?

Response: Yes.

Question #20: Are there any visa restrictions we should be aware of for this position?

Response: The Federal Immigration Reform and Control Act, as amended, (8 USC section 1324a et al.) obligates employers, such as the Contractor and its subcontractors, if any, to verify that their United States-based staff are legally entitled to work in the United States. Note that OSC does not sponsor visas.

Question #21: We see on the NYSCR website that MWBE or SDVOB Discretionary procurement between \$50,000 to \$1,500,000". Is that mean the budget, \$50K to \$1500K is for one year or 4 years?

Response: The \$50,000 to \$1,500,000 budget is for 4-year term of the engagement.

Question #22: It was mentioned as 5 years of Architecting experience required. Well in that case you are seeking someone who are around 15 years of total experience? Can we submit an Architect level candidate who is having 10-12yrs of experience with 2-3 yrs recent experience as an architect?

Response: Interested vendors should submit a resume that demonstrates that the candidate meets the following minimum qualifications to be considered for this position. This experience may have occurred in overlapping time periods.

1. Five years' experience developing and implementing Java J2SE/EE applications in a WebSphere system.
2. Five years' experience as a software/solutions architect for a Java J2SE/EE based WebSphere system.
3. Five years' experience using Agile software development methodology.

Question #23: Could you please confirm whether this opportunity is open exclusively to MWBE or SDVOB-certified vendors, or if it is also accessible to vendors who do not hold either certification?

Response: See response to Question #6.

Question #24: Is this opportunity open to the current incumbent?

Response: Any qualified vendor may participate in this opportunity.

Question #25: Is there an incumbent currently serving in this position? If Yes, please provide the incumbent name.

Response: See response to Question #11.

Question #26: Are there any limitations on the total annual working hours for the resource?

Response: The Consultant must work approximately 40 hours per week between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, excluding State holidays. The Consultant may occasionally be required to work more than the regular 40-hour work week and/or outside regular business hours to support the completion of critical project objectives.

Question #27: What is the expected start date of this position?

Response: See response to Question #4.

Question #28: Could you please confirm the annual budget or expenditure allocated for this project?

Response: OSC declines to respond.

Question #29: Is there any not exceed price available for this position?

Response: See response to Question #21.

Question #30: We are a certified Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) in the State of New York and believe this qualifies us to participate in the RFP. Could you kindly confirm our eligibility?

Response: See response to Question #6.

Question #31: Could you kindly clarify the top three key skills or qualifications that are considered essential for this role?

Response: A candidate must meet the following minimum qualifications to be considered for this position:

1. Five years' experience developing and implementing Java J2SE/EE applications in a WebSphere system.
2. Five years' experience as a software/solutions architect for a Java J2SE/EE based WebSphere system.
3. Five years' experience using Agile software development methodology.

Question #32: To participate in this RFP, is it mandatory for the bidder to submit a Certificate of Authority to conduct business in the State of New York? Could you please confirm?

Response: While not required to submit a response to this solicitation, if awarded the contract, the Contractor must be able to demonstrate that it has authority to do business in New York State.

Question #33: Is experience in the K-12 education industry a mandatory requirement for this position? Could you please confirm?

Response: No.

Question #34: Digital Signatures are acceptable?

Response: No. OSC only accepts scans of wet-ink signatures.

Question #35: If we have any exceptions to the additional terms and conditions, where should we include our comments in the proposal? Could you please advise?

Response: A bidder may include contract comments, however, be advised that the bidder must be willing to enter into an agreement substantially in accordance with the terms of the Draft Contract posted on the OSC website. OSC is unable to change material terms of the contract.

Question #36: We assume that finalist interviews will be conducted online via platforms such as Microsoft Teams or Google Meet. Could you please confirm?

Response: Interviews of candidates, if deemed to be necessary, will be held in person in August, 2025 at 110 State Street, Albany N.Y., on a date and time to be set at the discretion of OSC.

Question #37: If the proposed candidates are unavailable for the finalist interviews, would it be acceptable to replace them with new candidates possessing the same or higher skill levels?

Response: OSC will not allow replacement candidates during the evaluation process.

Question #38: Could you please confirm the price bid validity period for this RFP?

Response: The bidder is expected to hold its bid price valid until the contract is executed, which is expected to be in November 2025. If a bidder changes its bid price after the response due date the bidder will be disqualified.

Question #39: Could you please extend the bid submission deadline by one weeks, until July 23rd, 2025, to allow us to prepare and submit a comprehensive and competitive proposal?

Response: OSC declines to extend the response due date.

Question #40: To respond to this RFP, are bidders required to submit the candidate's resume along with a signed Candidate Submission Sheet? Kindly confirm.

Response: Bidders should include a candidate's resume in addition to the completed Candidate Submission Sheet. See response to Question #13.

Question #41: Can you please confirm whether there is an incumbent currently performing the services described in this RFP (Contract #C001203)? If yes, could you provide the incumbent's name and whether they are eligible to re-bid?

Response: See response to Questions #11 and #24.

Question #42: Can you confirm if the consultant is expected to develop new applications from scratch, or primarily maintain/upgrade existing systems?

Response: The Consultant will be expected to have the skills to maintain and upgrade existing applications as well as be able to develop and code new applications.

Question #43: Are there any specific Java frameworks, tools, or libraries (in addition to those mentioned: Wicket, Spring, Hibernate, Struts, Angular) currently mandated or preferred in the OSC tech stack?

Response: All minimum and preferred qualifications are listed in the Contract Reporter Advertisement (CR #2123734 at <https://www.nyscr.ny.gov/>).

Question #44: What is the current or anticipated version of WebSphere and Java J2EE in use at OSC?

Response: OSC uses WebSphere version 8.5 and 9 and IBM Java JDK 1.8. Future upgrades and platforms are at OSC's discretion.

Question #45: Is experience with FileNet integration mandatory or preferred? Will training/support be provided if a candidate lacks FileNet but meets all other qualifications?

Response: OSC prefers that a candidate to have three or more years' experience integrating FileNet document storage and retrieval in a Java application, leveraging FileNet web services. OSC will not provide training in this area.

Question #46: Will the consultant be expected to lead technical architecture decisions or operate under an existing architecture team's direction?

Response: The Consultant will operate under an existing architecture team's direction.

Question #47: Are there specific performance KPIs or success metrics for the consultant's role?

Response: The selected candidate will be provided with performance requirements as it relates to assigned projects.

Question #48: What level of involvement is expected from the consultant in mentoring junior developers—is this formal (e.g., training plans) or ad-hoc?

Response: Mentoring and training is expected to be ad-hoc. However, some level of formal training (such as presentations) may be required.

Question #49: Will the consultant be required to provide documentation or knowledge transfer sessions to non-technical stakeholders?

Response: Yes, while knowledge transfer will primarily be directed to technical stakeholders, knowledge transfer activities may include stakeholders with varied levels of technical knowledge.

Question #50: What tools are used internally for project planning, documentation, bug tracking, and code reviews (e.g., Jira, Confluence, Bitbucket)?

Response: OSC uses Microsoft Teams for planning, defect tracking and documentation. Gitlab is used for code repository.

Question #51: What percentage of time is typically spent on development vs. architecture vs. mentoring tasks?

Response: It is estimated that about 80% of the Consultant's time will be spent working on application development and 20% will be spent working with the architecture team.

Question #52: Is the 8-week on-site period strictly enforced, or could exceptions be made for candidates with previous government experience?

Response: The 8-week on-site period is strictly enforced, without exception.

Question #53: Once remote work is approved, is a hybrid (e.g., 3 days remote, 2 days on-site) arrangement preferred or will 50% fully remote weeks be acceptable?

Response: At the discretion of OSC and with prior OSC approval, after the minimum eight-week probationary period (during which the Consultant must work fully on-site), the Consultant may occasionally be allowed to conduct some work remotely, but no more than 50% during any work week. A fully remote work week is not acceptable..

Question #54: Will OSC provide VPN access or other secure remote tools to support off-site work?

Response: Yes.

Question #55: Will the consultant be required to use OSC email and collaboration systems, or can they use their agency tools for documentation and communication?

Response: OSC will provide the selected Consultant with access to Microsoft Office application with Teams and Outlook for means of communication, planning and documentation.

Question #56: Can vendors propose a candidate with pending certifications (e.g., security clearance or state-specific certification) if they meet all experience requirements?

Response: Proposed candidates must meet all minimum qualifications as of the response due date. See responses to Questions #22 and #31.

Question #57: Will preference be given to vendors with a prior OSC contract or with experience working with New York State agencies?

Response: No.

Question #58: Will OSC accept supporting documentation, such as technical references, performance reviews, or project summaries, in addition to the resume and CSS?

Response: Yes.

Question #59: How will resumes be scored or evaluated—will there be a technical rubric or qualitative review?

Response: Resumes will be used to confirm whether a candidate meets the minimum and any preferred qualifications.

Question #60: Can you clarify whether the selected vendor must be certified under both Article 15-A and Article 3, or if suffices?

Response: To be eligible for award a vendor must be certified under at least one of the specified categories, but is not required to be certified in both categories. See response to Question #6.

Question #61: What are the onboarding timelines after selection? Is there a standard background check process or onboarding checklist vendors should prepare for?

Response: The onboarding timeline will be at OSC's discretion. The start date for the selected candidate is estimated to be in late November 2025. The Contractor must conduct a background check on the Consultant prior to the start of Services in accordance with Section XI (Background Investigations) of the Draft Contract posted to the OSC website (<https://www.osc.ny.gov/procurement>).

Question #62: Are there any limitations on subcontracting for this position (e.g., can a vendor submit a candidate who is a 1099 contractor)?

Response: See response to Question #16.

Question #63: What is the size of the team this individual will be working with?

Response: The Consultant will be working with a team of approximately seven staff members that include business systems analysts and a systems integration lead.

Question #64: What is the split of reporting between the BOC and the CIO?

Response: The Consultant will primarily report to the Bureau of Contracts (BOC) for direction and priorities; however, the Chief Information Officer will provide technology governance and the Consultant will interact with the CIO Java applications group.

Question #65: Is there, or has there been, an incumbent consultant performing this work?

Response: See response to Question #1.

Question #66: Is there a targeted start date for this position?

Response: See response to Question #4.