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DATE: June 27, 2024

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR FOREIGN TRADE ZONE
CONSULTANT SERVICES**

Pursuant to the Foreign Trade Zone Consultant Services Request for Proposals (RFP), all proposers were to submit any questions regarding this RFP by no later than Tuesday, June 25, 2024. Questions were to be submitted in writing, and all questions and responses were to be posted on [the Department's website](#) and www.rampla.org.

Below is a list of questions received from proposers, and the Department's response:

1. Q: Would you consider an artificial intelligence enabled automation solution for your solicitation?

A: No

2. Q: What are the current processes in place for managing and tracking goods within the FTZ?

A: This is handled by each individual FTZ site, in cooperation with the local CBP office. We as a Grantee are agnostic about which administrative system the individual FTZ is using and we do not keep track of daily FTZ-inventory. (The Grantee only requires financial data once a year during the annual report the FTZs need to submit in OFIS.)

3. Q: Can you describe the existing data flow and documentation process for imports and exports?

A: No. As a Grantee we are not requiring our individual FTZ sites to report this or are involved with the daily operations of FTZs.

4. Q: What challenges do you face with the current systems and processes?

A: We are the Grantee for Zone 202 and responsible for approving and activating FTZs within the Zone. We as a Grantee do not handle the daily FTZ operations.

5. Q: What specific compliance challenges do you encounter with FTZ operations?

A: We as a Grantee of FTZ 202 do not interact with US Customs or compliance processes; our individual FTZ sites do.

6. Q: Are there any existing automation tools or systems in place? Do you expect them to be integrated or replaced?

A: As a Grantee we do not operate any FTZ site. We provide the administrative site application and activation and we are the liaison with the FTZ Board in Washington DC and the local US Customs office.

7. Q: What limitations or gaps exist in your current technology setup?

A: As a Grantee we do not operate any FTZ sites. We are the administrative Grantee for the FTZ Board in the Zone 202 (Los Angeles-basin). We do not deal with administrative or software systems to monitor FTZ inventory.

8. Q: Are there specific areas where you anticipate automation could bring the most benefit?

A: As a Grantee we do not operate any FTZ sites. We are the administrative Grantee for the FTZ Board in the Zone 202 (Los Angeles-basin). We do not deal with administrative or software systems to monitor FTZ inventory.

9. Q: Who are the key stakeholders involved in the FTZ operations, and what are their roles?

A: The key stakeholders are the applicant, the Grantee, FTZ Board, Local US Customs office and FTZ-consultants.

The applicant will approach the FTZ Grantee to approve a new FTZ site in the zone. The Grantee will work with the FTZ Board and local US Customs office to add a new site to the zone. After site approval the applicant can activate the site with US Customs and Grantee. US Customs will require security, administrative process of inventory and inspections of the site. We as a Grantee will have an Operating Agreement with the applicant to conform FTZ responsibilities, insurance and reporting requirements.

10. Q: What types of analytics are you looking to gain from an enhanced data system?

A: As a Grantee we do not operate any FTZ-sites. We are the administrative Grantee for the FTZ Board in the Zone 202 (Los Angeles-basin). We do not deal with administrative or software systems to monitor FTZ inventory.

The Grantee only requires financial data once a year during the annual report the FTZs need to submit in OFIS.