



**Questions and Answers Documentation for:**

- **CBT Conveyor System Fabrication and Installation – RFP**
- **CBT Conveyor Belting Purchase and Installation - RFP**
- **Professional Services for CBT Conveyor System Concrete Work - RFQ**
- **Professional Services for CBT Conveyor System Electrical Work – RFQ**

Q&A numbers 1-4, 7-16, and 32-33 were received by email at [rbancroft@oki.org](mailto:rbancroft@oki.org) by the January 14, 2022 12:00 p.m. EST deadline.

Q&A numbers 5-6 were received during the January 5, 2022 City of Cincinnati Virtual Meet and Confer Public Meeting held via Zoom and transcribed immediately following the event.

Q&A numbers 17-31 were received during the January 11, 2022 Public Q&A Site Visit at CBT and transcribed immediately following the event.

Q&A number 18 was revised on 02/03/22.

1. Q: PLA or Union only labor?  
A. Neither are a project requirement.
2. Q: Prevailing Wage requirements?  
A. Page 18 of the RFQs (Belting RFP, page 5 and Conveyor Fabrication, page 6) stipulates the need to “comply with Davis-Bacon and related acts provisions as set forth in 49 U.S.C. § 22905(c)(2)(A).”
3. Q: Contract with OKI directly or with Cincinnati Bulk Terminals?  
A. CBT staff will review all submittals and negotiate directly with their selected firm to enter into contract. CBT is following OKI’s public procurement process due to the fact that the project has been awarded federal funding. OKI’s involvement is only to ensure the public process is followed and all federal grant requirements are met. OKI will have no contract with any selected firms.
4. Q: Overall Project Engineers estimate for this project (ball park)?  
A. OKI’s public RFQ process does not permit this information to be disclosed at this time. Please note that all submissions by interested firms shall be evaluated according to the criteria described in Section VI of the RFQ. Bids for the cost of the proposed project shall not be a factor in the evaluation of firms until negotiations are begun in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 153.691. **Cost proposals must not be part of the RFQ submittal. Submittals containing any costs, cost proposals, or any other cost related figures will be rejected.**

5. Q: Are bids to be hand delivered to 720 E. Pete Rose Way, Suite 420 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202?
- A. Bids can be hand delivered to 720 E. Pete Rose Way, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 and left with the building's security guard located at the first-floor reception desk or they can be mailed to the address as listed.
6. Q: Do mailed bids have to be postmarked or physically received by the deadline?
- A. Whether hand delivered or mailed, submittals must be received at the address listed by 12:00 p.m. EST on Friday, January 28, 2022. This requirement ensures that all submittals are opened the same day at 2:00 p.m. EST during the public opening via Zoom. OKI and CBT are not responsible for late mail deliveries. It is suggested that firms mail submittals early or hand deliver to ensure the deadline is met.
7. Q: Who has the responsibility to supply the feeder feeding the new belt conveyor?
- A. The firm fabricating the conveyor system will supply the feeder. If the firm does not build both conveyors and feeders, a feeder to fit the system they are building should be selected and included in their bid proposal. The same would apply to the drive motors and gear reducers.
8. Q: Would you please verify that our firm's foreign made conveyor belt can quoted as an alternative to the Buy America Provision specification?
- A. The rubber conveyor belt should comply with Buy America's – 100% domestic content requirement. Therefore, your firm's foreign manufactured belt will not meet the Buy America provision. If OKI and CBT find that the requested conveyor belts do not exist domestically, we will work with the Federal Rail Administration and revisit the Buy America provision for this element of the conveyor system project.
9. Q: What should the feeder be rated to TPH, etc.?
- A. 500 Tons Per Hour
10. Q: Any surges that the feeder will be needed to handle?
- A. CBT has very minimal surging of maybe 1-2 tons at a time.
11. Q: How large should the hooper be both by dimension as well as cubic feet of material you would like it to hold?
- A. Hopper should be 6 foot by 6 foot by 4 feet deep. CBT transports too many different products to give cubic feet of material, but the size will work for all.
12. Q: Do you have a size you want the feeder to be length and width
- A. CBT does not have a required length/width for the feeder, as long as it can keep up with the 500 TPH. An approximate size of about 36 by 72 can be assumed, but CBT is not set on that measurement.

13. Q: [In our firm’s opinion,] the feeder as it is in the drawing looks like it will need to be more closely coupled to the belt so the material isn’t dropping so far onto the belt. Or is as shown fine?
- A. The engineered drawings leave the feeder type as “to be determined,” but the goal would be an 8 inch drop to the belt.
14. Q: What would be the preferred materials of Construction for the feeder? Milled steel, stainless steel, abrasion resistance steel?
- A. CBT typically uses stainless for these products.
15. Q: How thick would you like the pan to be for the feeder?
- A. A pan thickness of one half (½) inch.
16. Q: Do you want a liner in the pan (that would be additional steel) that could be replaced as the pan wears?
- A. Yes
17. Q: Clarification was requested on how submittals of qualifications for the electrical would be evaluated separate from the conveyor fabrication?
- A. CBT chose to break the conveyor project out into four separate work elements. Request for qualifications is being requested separately for the concrete work and the electrical work. The evaluation criteria for the concrete work are found on page 24 of the RFQ document. The evaluation criteria for the electrical work are found on page 22 of the RFQ document. Selection Committee members will evaluate each submittal of qualifications (SOQ) separately. Your SOQ is your “plan of attack” for the project and your qualifications for why your firm is the best for the job. No cost proposals are included in these SOQs. the Committee will meet and discuss their evaluations. After the Committee has thoroughly discussed their evaluations and the merits of each submittal, the firm receiving the highest evaluation score will be selected for contract negotiations with CBT.
- A very different process is used for the RFPs for the conveyor system fabrication and installation and the belting purchase and installation. Firms are asked to submit your bid proposals based on the minimum specifications stated in each RFP. The CBT Selection Committee will review all bid proposals received to confirm all specifications have been met and award the lowest bid proposal.
18. Q: On Attachment #1 Cover Sheet in both RFQs, the question is asked whether the firm is registered in the federal System for Award management (SAM). Is this a requirement?
- A. No, firms do not have to be registered in SAMs. However, if your firm is registered in SAMs, please complete the form accordingly. For those not registered in SAMs, OKI will reference <https://usfcr.com/> to confirm that your company is not included on the “excluded parties list.” Firms found on “excluded parties list” will be considered ineligible and removed from further consideration.

19. Q: What if our firm has performed calculations and think an element of the project requires something different than that stated in the engineered drawings?
- A. Bid proposals submitted for the RFPs should quote your firm's costs as presented in the engineered drawings. If your firm recommends something different, you can list your recommendation also, but it should be in addition to the minimum specs.
20. Q: What is the timing for the concrete work?
- A. CBT wants to the start the project "yesterday," so "Availability" is listed as the most important evaluation criteria in the RFQ on page 24. That said, the concrete piers are the first step in the conveyor's installation.
21. Q: Who is responsible for the shimmying and grouting needed between the concrete footer and conveyor system?
- A. The firm awarded the RFP for the Conveyor System Fabrication and Installation will be responsible for this element of the project.
22. Q: What demolition needs to be done?
- A. The term "demolition" is a little misleading. It refers to the concrete excavation that will be done for the concrete piers.
23. Q: What about the power lines?
- A. CBT will handle working with Duke Energy to relocate a pole and place the electrical wires underground. This work will be completed before installation of the conveyor.
24. Q: Who is handling shutting down traffic on Mehring Way?
- A. CBT will be responsible for contacting the City of Cincinnati for any road closures.
25. Q: What is the anticipated Start and End Dates?
- A. As stated in the RFQs, the target start date is February/March 2022 and targeted end date is November 2022. It is noted that both dates are subject to change.
26. Q: Was any extra length worked into the conveyor belting specifications?
- A. Yes. An extra 20 to 25 feet of belting was included for both.
27. Q: How much do the enclosed tubes weigh that have already purchased by CBT?
- A. The specific weight of the tubes and any other detailed information will be provided to selected firms, as needed, to develop final scopes of work during contract negotiations with CBT. For Bid Proposals related to the RFP for Conveyor Fabrication and Installation, we suggest that pricing on a few different cranes be provided to cover a range of potential weight levels which may be needed during installation.
28. Q: Any work restrictions due to CBT operations during installation?
- A. No. CBT can work around on-site installation. Access will not be an issue.

29. Q: Will there be lay-down area adjacent/close to the conveyor's location for use during installation?
- A. Yes.
30. Q: Will firms need to obtain insurance or any documentation from the railroad?
- A. No. CBT has already obtained Right of Entry and insurance necessary to meet all railroad requirements that includes all work to be conducted.
31. Q: Who will be responsible for addressing the engineer's need to compact soil?
- A. This will be done as part of excavation for the concrete piers. The rest of CBT's yard will remain as it is today. Yard next to rail spur is poured-out concrete that ranges from 6 inches to 3 feet in depth.
32. Q: Is the catwalk and the cross members inside the tunnel going to be removed prior to the arrival of the contractor to install the conveyor? Our conveyor company will be supplying all cross members and supports inside the tunnel, so the existing ones will need to be taken out.
- A. Yes. Everything has already been removed from inside the conveyor tubes or, as you refer to it, tunnel.
33. Q: Is there a plan holders list available for the [CBT Conveyor System] project?
- A. OKI does not have a plan holder's list. OKI's procurement policy provides for a public opening of the submittals on January 28<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 2:00 p.m. EST.
- Please see RFQ Section 2.1.5  
**SOQ Virtual Public Opening:** Sealed SOQs will be accepted in accordance with the instructions detailed in Section 2.1.4. The SOQ opening will be held on Friday, January 28, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. EST via Zoom. See OKI website ([www.oki.org](http://www.oki.org)) for more details. The SOQ opening is open to the public. Attendance at the public opening is not a requirement.
  - Please see RFP Process Item #2:  
**Virtual Public Bid Opening:** A public opening will be held on January 28, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. EST via Zoom. See OKI website ([www.oki.org](http://www.oki.org)) for more details. The public opening is open to the public. Attendance at the public opening is not a requirement.