The purpose of this amendment is to provide answers to questions. Accordingly:

See continuation pages.
1. For the system to gather prescription data from the pharmacies dynamically, should we assume that only pharmacies that have an established mechanism to expose their business data are within the realm of data source? What is expected of pharmacies that are in remote areas with little or no internet connections or even an established API?

Answer: Yes, we would expect that pharmacies that have an established mechanism to expose their business data to be incorporated with the provided data. We recognize that not all pharmacies are in a position to be captured at this time but expect the data provider to keep up with new pharmacy data as it becomes available going forward.

2. What is the expected total number of pharmacies expected to participate in this solution?

Answer: We have a listing of distinct pharmacies that actively provide data to DEA, based on the regulatory requirements to do so. We can provide a list of every pharmacy in the nation that reports to ARCOS, as required by law, and we would expect to get data from at least 85% of the pharmacies on that report.

3. Does the presentation layer have to be compatible with mobile devices? In other words, do the users need to access any of the data over laptops or other smart mobile devices?

Answer: It does not have to be compatible with cell phones but it does need to be compatible with laptops and it needs to be accessible offsite. This is imperative due to on-going teleworking needs.

4. C-1 Background/Objective Task 1: Provide and maintain data on a minimum of 85 percent of all prescriptions for Schedule/Class II through V prescription drugs… How is the referenced 85% calculated?

Answer: We intend to calculate this data completeness using pharmacy months over the past five years, using the pharmacy’s earliest data submission to ARCOS as our starting point. Using a distinct list of pharmacies that actively provide data to DEA via ARCOS as the exhaustive listing of pharmacies, we intend to use the prescription data available for each for these pharmacies and calculate completeness based on monthly data availability over the past 5 years (assuming the pharmacy’s first submission was prior to the five year window). Over a total of 60 months, we would expect to see 51 months of prescription data during that timeframe to meet the 85% criteria. In the scenario where a pharmacy does not have 5 years of data because it was recently opened, we will use the same start month as their first ARCOS submission and calculate completeness accordingly with the same 85% threshold expectation.

5. C-1 Background/Objective Task 3: Streamline subpoena process. Must be able to receive and process official subpoenas and provide response in three (3) business days. Please provide frequency and quantity of historical subpoena volume; both Administrative and Full court ordered? Could you expand upon the subpoena process regarding contractor obligation in securing, maintaining, and processing the subpoena?
Answer: The subpoena process would be that we would generate a DEA Administrative Subpoena and send it to you for the unmasking of specified patients. The data provider would then need to respond to us providing the unmasked patient information that was requested within three business days.

6. C-1 Background/Objective Task 4: Search, query, reporting, exporting, and importing capabilities. Does the DEA have a specific query language in mind (ie SQL, PowerBI, etc)?

Answer: We use SQL for search, query, and other data enhancements. PowerBI is preferred for data visualizations and dash-boarding.

7. C-1 Background/Objective Task 4: Search, query, reporting, exporting, and importing capabilities. What additional data is DEA referring to when discussing the importing of data?

Answer: We would not need to import any data into your system. However, we may need to export your data into a compatible format for ingesting your provided data into a DEA environment to compliment it with other data sources already available to DEA in other systems.

8. C-1 Background/Objective Task 5: Maintenance. a) Technical support for approximately 1,100 domestic users. Do these users all have the same level of access to the system, and are the concurrent users capped at 1,100?

Answer: There would likely be a limited number of administrative users (50) with the bulk of the users being on the same level and just querying the system. We would start with 1,100 users and would renegotiate if more were needed. It is unlikely that 1,100 users will all access the system concurrently but is hypothetically possible in the future.

9. C-1 Background/Objective Task 5: Maintenance. f) The Contractor shall schedule all required on-site visits within 72 hours of the initial telephone call placed by the COR. What would be the reason for the on-site visit? Does this involve technical support, and if so, what are the hours expected?

Answer: Yes, the on-site visit would be for technical support that could not be fixed over the phone. It should be a rare occurrence, if ever, as most issues would be fixed over the phone. The hours vary as we would have users across the country but at a minimum we would expect from 9-5 (EST).

10. C-1 Background/Objective Task 5f: The Contractor shall schedule all required on-site visits within 72 hours of the initial telephone call placed by the COR. If a cloud based solution is proposed, is it acceptable to respond via web meeting such as webex instead of on-site?
Answer: Yes

11. C-1 Background/Objective  Task 6: Must make requested data downloadable into other databases such as Power BI for off line use and analytics. For section 14 of 62, would the identified “requested data” be the data contained in the responses to the queries/reports or is this a blanket request for the entirety of the database to be downloaded into a BI tool?

Answer: The responses to the queries/reports run would need to be exportable to other databases.

12. C-1 Background/Objective  Task 7: Must already possess approvals from data suppliers to sale requested pharmaceutical data to Drug Enforcement Administration. If the DEA has legal authority to access this data within a service offering, which offers the required reports, does the DEA still need to purchase the entire data set, as described in this question?

Answer: Yes, the provider of the information would need to have approvals to provide the information to DEA and provide it without further approvals needed from the original data provider.

13. C-1 Background/Objective  Task 7: Must already possess approvals from data suppliers to sale requested pharmaceutical data to Drug Enforcement Administration. Given continuous access to real-time data by query 24/7, what would be the need of selling or buying data? Or to analyze it outside of the secure host environment?

Answer: The provider of the information would need to have approvals to provide the information to DEA and provide it without additional costs or approvals from the original data provider. We would need it to be able to be analyzed outside of the host environment so that we could take the results of the query and create our own reports and dashboards and provide it to the necessary individuals in the field who could use the data for investigative purposes.