Insurance Procurement: RFP vs. RFQ vs. Bids

American Association of Port Authorities Port Administration and Legal Issues Seminar

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Speakers

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Understanding Insurance

- A financial product
- A vital tool to prevent business extinction
- Not a commodity
- An insurance policy is not an insurance policy is not an insurance policy...
- Specific coverages and forms
- Financial stability varies
- Non-Insurance Transfer

Definitions

- Request for Qualifications (RFQ) A systematic approach to find a broker/agent to represent your entity in the insurance marketplace.
- Request for Proposals (RFP) A process of assigning markets to agents/brokers in order to procure insurance coverages
- Bids A process of advertising the need for insurance on an open market basis.



RFQ's – Pros and Cons

- Pro
 - ID's Industry Specific Experts
 - Comfort in Account Team and Staff
 - Expertise in Program Design
 - Knowledge of Markets
 - Relationship with carriers
 - Many More...

- Con
 - Perhaps a little more time consuming initially

RFP's – Pros and Cons

- Pro
 - May appear to be a more level playing field
 - May satisfy purchasing requirements

Con

- Not really a level playing field
- May get right broker/agent with wrong market
- There might not be enough markets to go around
- May be judged as unfair

Bids – Pros and Cons

- Pro
 - May appear to be a more level playing field
 - May satisfy purchasing requirements

- Con
 - Not really a level playing field
 - May get right broker/agent with wrong market
 - There might not be enough markets to go around
 - May be judged as unfair
 - It is not just the cost of insurance

Speakers' Preferred Method

- Conduct an RFQ to find Agent/Broker
 - If necessary, use a consultant to level the playing field and remove perception of biases.
 - Consider a fee based (or capped commissions) contract with broker/agent?
- Have chosen Broker conduct marketing efforts
 - Broker supplies policy comparisons
 - Broker makes policy recommendations



- Transparency in the Transaction
- Industry Expertise
- Availability of Capacity
 - Especially in a Hard Market
 - Property may (will) need multiple insurers
- Access to Global Markets
- Pick your team

Other Discussion

- Lowest Price Buyers
- Market Leverage
- Longevity with Carriers
- Budget Consistencies
- Politics
- Developing Clear and Concise Specifications

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