



April 14, 2008

Dear Vendor:

The attached two Requests for Information (RFIs) – one for a *federated search engine* (and related services), and one for a *statewide library (union) catalog* (“reQuest”), each using the SaaS (Software as a Service) model – are being widely disseminated to vendors so that we can gain an accurate picture of what is available in the marketplace prior to issuing a formal RFP in the Fall of 2008.

We would appreciate it if you would take the time to respond to either or both RFIs, as applicable to your products. We would like to know which requirements you can meet and which requirements you cannot meet. In addition, we would be very interested to know how you would address the RFI “vision” statements.

iCONN.org – which encompasses both the federated search engine and the statewide library catalog (“reQuest”) – provides online access to a core level of information resources including secured access to licensed databases to all students, faculty and residents in Connecticut. It is administered by the Connecticut State Library in conjunction with the Department of Higher Education. Some milestones of iCONN are:

- The statewide library catalog (“reQuest”) has been operational since 1990; the licensed, full-text databases portion of iCONN has been operational since 2001; and the federated search engine – providing access to both “reQuest” and the licensed databases – has been operational since 2005.
- iCONN.org was the first service in the country to employ a geo-location service to provide IP-based authenticated access to licensed databases from any location in Connecticut. As a result, residents who do not have a library card can conveniently access iCONN.
- iCONN has probably gone further than any other statewide network in developing and applying professional market research and marketing services to increase public awareness and use of iCONN on a statewide basis.

We hope that you will take the opportunity to respond to one or both RFIs, as appropriate. For your convenience, both documents are available in Word and PDF formats at <http://www.iconn.org/staff/RFPsBids.aspx>. Based on your response, we may request a demo.

We would appreciate your response by **May 14, 2008**. We look forward to receiving your response!

Sincerely,

William Sullivan, Administrator