

## **AWARDED VENDOR REPORT**

**TITLE:** Mississippi Academic Assessment Program, Science (MAAP-SCI) Grade 5 and Grade 8 and Mississippi Academic Assessment Program, End of Course (MAAP-EOC) Biology and U.S. History

**RFP Number:** RFX3120001410

**EVALUATION DATE(S):** 04/09/2018 – 04/10/2018, 04/13/2018

The names of the members of the evaluation committee shall not be publicly disclosed until their evaluation report as required under Section 3-203.16 is published. (48 hours prior to the award) The members' names and job titles shall be made available to the public. Where evaluation committee members are not public employees, those members' names, educational and professional qualifications, and practical experience, that were the basis for the appointment, shall be made available to the public.

### **EVALUATOR NAME(S) AND PROFESSIONAL TITLE(S)**

Kwinsi Bridges, Middle School Science Teacher

Nimba Burgess, Inter Baccalaureate U.S. History Teacher

Anna Furniss, Director of Data Analytics

Shannon McCarrens, High School Biology I Teacher

Greg Paczak, Director of Research and Development/District Test Coordinator

Jennifer Williams, Gifted Coordinator/MAAP-A Coordinator/Psychometrist

The submission of this report is a requirement set forth by the Public Procurement Review Board in Section 3-204.04 of the **Office of Personal Service Contract Review Rules and Regulations**. On April 9, 2018, April 10, 2018, and April 13, 2018, proposals were evaluated for the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program, Science (MAAP-SCI) Grade 5 and Grade 8 and Mississippi Academic Assessment Program, End of Course (MAAP-EOC) Biology and U.S. History RFX3120001410. The following proposals were evaluated:

- Data Recognition Corporation
- Questar Assessment, Inc.

The evaluations of three (3) proposals of potential offerors were discontinued and not considered for an award due to the disclosure of information that identified or distinguished the offeror.

- Measurement Incorporated – Vendor information first noticed on the Table of Contents
- Measured Progress, Inc. – Vendor information first noticed on page 213
- Scantron Corporation – Vendor information first noticed on pages 189 and 190

The award recommendation decision was based on information provided in each proposal. The information below supports the decision for this recommendation. Comments on the strengths and weaknesses were expounded upon in the individual rubrics. After thorough evaluations and great consideration, it is a recommendation to award **Data Recognition Corporation** the contract for the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program, Science (MAAP-SCI) Grade 5 and Grade 8 and Mississippi Academic Assessment Program, End of Course (MAAP-EOC) Biology and U.S. History RFX3120001410.

## **AWARDED VENDOR**

**Vendor Name: Data Recognition Corporation      Total Score: 92.5**

- **Overall**
  - Very detailed and informative
  - Covered aspects required by the RFP
  - Well organized
  - Provided more details and was more organized than the other offeror
  - Detailed examples made information easier to understand
  - Currently offer refreshable Braille featured required by the RFP

Below are additional strengths, provided by rubric areas, that Data Recognition Corporation was chosen.

- **Item and Test Development**
  - Clear sections addressing all aspects of the item development process
  - Very detailed and what MDE is looking for
  - Password protected websites
  - Uses Linux
  - Good graphics

- **Support Materials and Manuals**
  - Provides online tutorial plan (pg. 130)
  - Plan for test application assurance (pg. 134)
  - Clearly marked and addressed all aspects
- **Test Administration**
  - Provides dual mode testing
  - Detailed ability to monitor and manage high-stakes assessments
  - Listed many safe guards
- **Distribution and Collection**
  - Very detailed
- **Psychometric Analysis**
  - Clearly and concisely explained with vertical scaling as the method of choice
  - Used process and related it back to testing, validity, and bias
- **Score Reports and Results**
  - Covered in detail each aspect of the score report and provided examples of the report

**Vendor Name: Questar Assessment, Inc.**

**Total Score/Rank: 81.23/2**

- **Overall**
  - Not well organized
  - Table of Contents was very general
  - References to different sections were confusing and illogical
  - Did not give a distinct view of the process
  - Main facts at the end of the proposal
  - Scaling and equating format did not clarify the direction to be taken to verify scoring
  - Mentioned many other companies to help in the process; not enough "in-house" processing

The following reason was also given as one of the overall reasons Questar was not chosen. This offeror has a proprietary statistics program to run some of their equating. If it is proprietary, they are probably not going to tell the MDE and they are not being forthright. The MDE needs to know exactly what is being done with the programs and equating and scoring. Everyone is using the same method, but this offeror mentioned that they have the proprietary program that they are using. The MDE should want them to be a little more open with an attitude and practice of transparency.

Below are additional weaknesses, provided by rubric areas, that Questar was not chosen.

- **Item and Test Development**
  - Did not adhere to RFP requests in terms of educators used for item development
  - Use of non-teacher, contract writers in Years 1 and 2
  - Specified 40 operational items for 5-8 Science, but RFP requires 50 operational items
  - Only 1/3 of teacher-created items for Year 1
- **Support Materials and Manuals**
  - No discussion or specifics on how many forms they would provide for large-print or Braille even though RFP was specific
- **Test Administration**
  - Did not mention Linux which MDE had as a minimum tech. standard
  - Refreshable Braille files not available but committed to having them ready by Spring 2019
  - Workplan not clearly defined
- **Distribution and Collection**
  - Quality control procedures lacked specifics
- **Score Reports and Results**
  - Vague
  - Does not seem to have a plan in place for the quick turn- around time for graded assessments/student scores
- **Project Management**
  - Doesn't look like many workers are allocated to this project for Year 1. "As Needed" was seen a lot
  - Vague
  - Stated that transition plan was in Appendix C, but the plan was not there.

**OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**

**May 17, 2018**

**OFFICE OF STUDENT ASSESSMENT**

02.B.

Contract with Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) for Fiscal Year 2019 to administer the 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science assessment, and End-of-Course assessments in Biology I and U. S. History [Goals 1 and 2 – MBE Strategic Plan]

Awarded Vendor: DRC

Maple Grove, Minnesota 55311

Scope of Project: This contractor will provide programmatic, technical, and psychometric assessment activities for services in Fiscal Year 2019. The contractor will provide services and the products related to developing, administering, scoring, and reporting for 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science assessments, and End-of-Course assessments in Biology I and U.S. History for the 2018-2019 school year.

Contract renewal for years two through five will be determined annually and shall be contingent upon the successful completion of the preceding year's contract and the availability of funds. Personnel associated with this contract are not former Department employees or related to any Department employee.

Scope of Contract:

- Term of Contract: July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019
- Total Amount to be Awarded: \$3,292,826
- Method of Award: Request for Proposals

Funding Source: State/Other funds

This item references Goals 1 and 2 of the *Mississippi Board of Education 2016-2020 Strategic Plan*.

### Summary of Selection Process:

A competitive selection process through a blind bid was utilized to award this contract. On April 9, 2018, April 10, 2018, and April 13, 2018, Request for Proposals (RFP) evaluation committee reviewed proposals for the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program, Science (MAAP-SCI) 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science assessments, Mississippi Academic Assessment Program, and End-of-Course (MAAP-EOC) Biology I and U.S. History (RFP number: RFx3120001410).

The following potential offerors submitted blind bid proposals for evaluation:

- ☐ Data Recognition Corporation
- ☐ Measurement Incorporated
- ☐ Measured Progress, Inc.
- ☐ Questar Assessment, Inc.
- ☐ Scantron Corporation

The evaluations of three (3) proposals of potential offerors were rejected and not considered for an award due to the disclosure of information that identified or distinguished the offeror.

- ☐ Measurement Incorporated – Vendor information first noticed on the Table of Contents
- ☐ Measured Progress, Inc. – Vendor information first noticed on page 213
- ☐ Scantron Corporation – Vendor information first noticed on pages 189 and 190

The award recommendation decision was based on information provided in each of the two (2) proposals evaluated. During the evaluation process, strengths and weaknesses were notated and expounded upon in the individual rubrics by each evaluator. After careful and great consideration, MDE recommends that Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) be awarded the contract for the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program, Science (MAAP-SCI) 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science assessments, Mississippi Academic Assessment Program, and End-of-Course (MAAP-EOC) Biology I and U.S. History.

### Scoring Criteria:

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Plan          | 35 Total Points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Project Management Plan | 20 Points       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Costs                   | 45 Points       |