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1. Certificate of Offeror

A SIGNED COPY IS SEPARATELY UPLOADED



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
For
Artificial Intelligence (AI) Consultancy Services
RFF # 2025-023

Sealed proposals will be accepted until 2:00 PM CT, **December 18, 2024,** and then publicly opened and read aloud thereafter.

Centroid Systems LLC Legal Name of Proposing Firm				
Nirmal Mishra Contact Person for This Proposal	Sr Account Executive			
314 422 2583 nirmal.mishra@centroid.com Contact Person Telephone Number Contact Person E-Mail Address				
1050 Wilshire Drive ST	E 170 TROY	48084		
Street Address of Principal Place of Business	City/State	Zip		
1050 Wilshire Drive STI	E 170 TROY	48084		
Mailing Address of Principal Place of Business	City/State	Zip		
Nirmal Mishra	Sr Account E	Executive		
Point of Contact for Contract Negotiations 314 422 2583	nirmal.mishra@cen			
Point of Contact for Contract Negotiations 314 422 2583 Point of Contact Telephone Number Acknowledgment of Addenda (initial): #1	Title nirmal.mishra@cen Point of Contact Person E-Mail Address #2#3#4#5	troid.com		
Point of Contact for Contract Negotiations 314 422 2583 Point of Contact Telephone Number	Title nirmal.mishra@cen Point of Contact Person E-Mail Address #2#3#4#5 atton must be clearly labeled as "confi	troid.com		
Point of Contact for Contract Negotiations 314 422 2583 Point of Contact Telephone Number Acknowledgment of Addenda (initial): #1 NOTE: Any confidential/proprietary information	Title nirmal.mishra@cen Point of Contact Person E-Mail Address #2 #3 #4 #5 attion must be clearly labeled as "confination Act."	troid.com		









Statement of Understanding

TXShare is seeking to pre-qualify AI consultancy firms to provide expertise in identifying, developing, and implementing AI strategies and solutions to align with NCTCOG's members' growing business needs

What you are looking for

An established partner that has the depth of expertise and breadth of experience helping customer setup AI strategies and solution

A partner that can efficiently respond to the various requirements of TXShare members to leverage Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance operational efficiency, improve decision-making, elevate service delivery, and foster innovation across its organizations

Centroid + Guardrail + Digital Citizen Academy provides

a partnership that combines the depth of Centroid's technology consulting, delivery and managed services expertise with Guardrail's expertise on AI/ML and Generative AI and DCA's exclusive focus on K-12 schools throughout US to help improve lives of our children

We have a proven track record of providing value for nonprofits and for-profit organizations as well as state and local bodies.

Al Needs To Be Implemented Responsibly



We believe that people are critical to identifying and managing risks associated with AI and other advanced technologies

1. PEOPLE



Streamlined and efficient processes are the key to enabling people to get the information they need when they need it and to make more effective decisions

2. PROCESS



Technology plays a specific and targeted role in enabling people and process – we don't use technology for technology's sake – only where it makes sense



4. GUARDRAILS

By leveraging people, process, and technology, we can help put in place guardrails to mitigate the risks of AI and enable you to achieve your objectives

IF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TRUSTS US TO PROVIDE AI TOOLS AND SERVICES, THE GREAT STATE OF TEXAS CAN TOO.





1. WHO WE ARE...



Our Presence and Scale

~450

EMPLOYEES

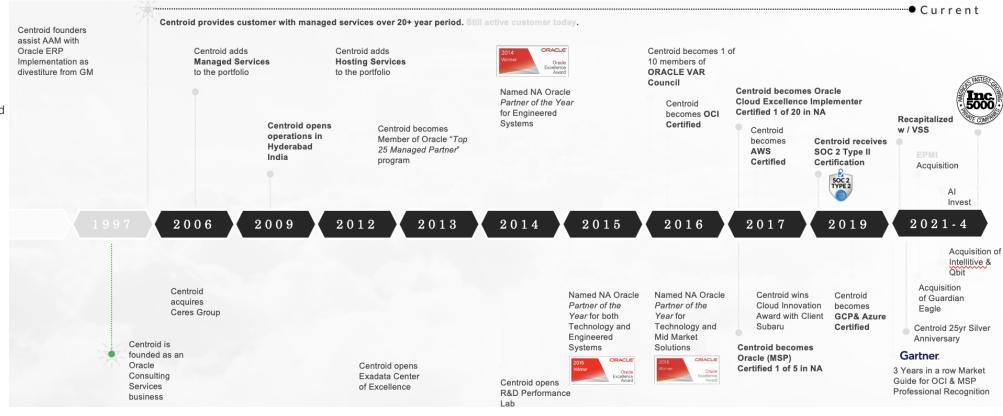
255+

Professional Cloud Certifications

<10%

ATTRITION RATE

- 24x7 Operation
- Deep Expertise and Global Support
- Cost Optimized Engagement Models
- Full-time experts where necessary
- Leveraged capacity to reduce cost





HEADQUARTERS:

Detroit

OFFICES:

Dallas Hyderabad, India South America







Our Clients

Span across industries and government

0-5 YEARS



































5-10 YEARS



































10+ YEARS

























Guardrail Suite for Generative AI™

Generative Al Lifecycle



Guardrail Fact Checker™

DISCOVER SOURCES

Assesses the output of an Al against a relevant authoritative data source to identify supporting sources, evaluate credibility, and guard against hallucinations



Guardrail Gateway™

Your employee's entry point to Al which enables risk, Legal, and Compliance the ability to place guardrails around the use of generative AI and provides a detailed dashboard, reports and logs of its use no matter what Al your employees choose.

Evaluates prompts for inappropriate content, confidential or sensitive information or violates company policy



Prompt

Guardrail Prompt Protect[™] & **Guardrail Prompt Optimizer™**



Guardrail **Counterpoint**[™]

EXAMINE CONTRADICTORY INFO

Provides counterpoints to the sources used by the AI for its response



Guardrail **Summarization** Analyzer™

IMPROVE GEN AI SUMMARIZATIONS

Provides alternate summary generation methods with metrics to enable assessment and evaluation



Guardrail Data Masker™

Prevent sensitive info. from getting into AI training data in the first place by masking or aliasing



Guardrail Al Supply Chain™



Provides a mechanism to evaluate who created the content you may use. In other words, do you trust the supply chain of your content?



Guardrail Code Analvzer[™]

CHECK COMPUTER CODE FOR ORIGINS

Evaluates generated source code for known risks, supply chain attacks, and locates potential training data

Across all Modules: Workflow, Review, Collaboration, Documentation, Reporting, Privacy, and Security





Output



Train

Department of Defense (DOD) Grants Guardrail Technologies Awardable Status







Guardrail Technologies is already recognized as an *Awardable* company by the US DOD Tradewinds, very similar to this vetting by the NCTCOG.

The Tradewinds Solutions Marketplace is a digital repository of post-competition, readily awardable pitch videos that address the Department of Defense's (DoD) most significant challenges in the Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML), data, and analytics space. All awardable solutions have been assessed through complex scoring rubrics and competitive procedures and are available to Government customers with a Marketplace account. Government customers can create an account at www.tradewindai.com. Tradewinds is housed in the DoD's Chief Digital Artificial Intelligence Office.





PARTNERSHIP: Centroid, Guardrail, Digital Citizen Academy

Creating an exclusive partnership that allows our customers to get the best Generative AI & ML credentials across Local & State Governmental Entities and Commercial customers coupled with proven delivery management capabilities for over 27 years

CENTROID

- 27+ years of deep technology delivery expertise
- Dedicated teams for Cloud, AI/ML
- Global reach with about 500 resources
- Serving 200+ customers
- https://www.centroid.com/



- Focused on responsible implementation of AI through
- Keeping Humans at the center of Al
- Propriety suite of applications that serve each phase of the Al lifecycle.
- https://guardrail.tech/



- Educating children about safe use of technology
- Specific programs for students, parents & educators
- Focused on K-12
- https://digitalcitizenacade my.org/







2. Key Personnel...



Our Assigned Team of Al Experts

Combine over 100 years of combined multidisciplinary experience

Our AI leadership team is composed of industry pioneers, academic thought leaders, and technology innovators, bringing together decades of combined experience in artificial intelligence, data science, and legal technology. With a shared commitment to driving digital transformation and a proven track record of success, we deliver innovative AI strategies that align with our clients' goals and elevate their capabilities

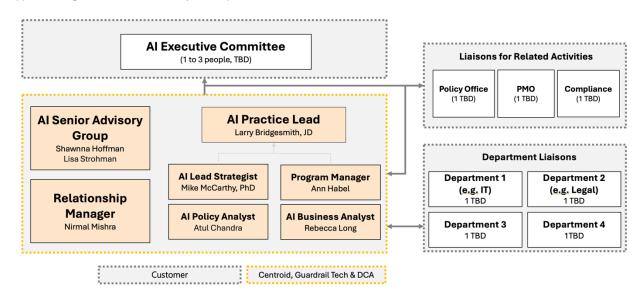
Our team includes

- Distinguished educators and legal innovators, recognized with awards such as the Janice Holder Award for Legal Innovation from the Tennessee Supreme Court Chief Justice, the Legal Innovation Award from the Tennessee Bar Association, and the law.com Leading Innovator of the Year for 2023.
- Professor and **founder of a Data Science program** at Utica University, with a distinguished academic background and prior service as a U.S. Army officer and pilot, extensive health care analysis for the Veterans Administration
- Former Senior Research Scientist at Amazon, working on optimizing AI and ML models to optimize global forecasting and operational efficiency.
- Former Chief Technology Leader of Legal Strategy and Operations at Dell Technologies
- Global Leader for IBM Watson AI Legal Practice
- Al Operations Leader for ServiceNow's Federal Government practice

Together, this powerhouse team combines extensive hands-on experience in AI strategy, implementation, and operational leadership to guide our clients through successful AI transformations and deliver long-term value

Typical Team & Governance Structure

For each individual opportunities with NCTCOGs' partners, Centroid will setup a tailored team & governance structure to support the highest level of AI maturity and capabilities and achieve the desired ROIs.











Shawnna Hoffman



Harvard University











Al Senior Advisor

- Subject Matter Expertise in Al and Blockchain
- Former Chief Technology Leader of Legal Strategy and Operations **Dell Technologies**
- Former Global Leader for the IBM Watson AI Legal Practice
- Former Leader of IBM Watson Health Blockchain Strategy
- Former ServiceNow Al Operations Leader for Federal Government
- Former Chair of U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission's Distributed Ledger Technology and Market Infrastructure Subcommittee - 2018-2021



Lisa Strohman JD, PhD



Digital Citizen Academy







Founder of Digital Citizen Academy

- Founder of Digital Citizen Academy
- FBI Visiting Scholar for the Profiling Unit, Child abduction serial killer unit (CASKU), Columbine School tragedy.
- Congressional Legislative Assistant, Worked as assistant to California Congressman Herger, 105th Congress.
- Clinical Psychologist, focusing on parents and teens related to bullying, self-harming, pornography addiction, suicide threats and attempts, depression, and anxiety.
- Attorney in Health law and Merger and Acquisition groups.
- Book Author: Unplug: Raising Kids in a Technology Addicted World, Digital Distress, Growing up Online, Phone Alone (children's book), Powered by Sprinkles, imagining Mental Health (in development)



Jacob Beasley



Bachelor of Science in **Business Administration**















Vanderbilt Law School

Larry Bridgesmith, J.D.

Associate Professor





Tech Arch and Dir of DevOps Team

- Technologist with 20+ years of experience in architecting and building solutions with technology that meet the needs of businesses and nonprofits.
- Deep experience working in large-scale, compliant environments at Fortune-500 companies such as Target Corporate, US Bank, Ascend, and Trimble.
- Founder of OpenSource Kubernetes Security project m9sweeper as well as several startups with successful exits including Intelletive Consulting, which was purchased by Centroid in 2024.
- Broad background in architecting and building projects using many technologies: Java, C#, Python, Typescript/Javascript, Ruby, Go, Mobile (various), Embedded, VB, R, Matlab, Swift, and deployed on-prem and in the cloud with Amazon Web Services, Google Cloud, Azure, and Oracle Cloud, CISSP.

Associate Professor Vanderbilt Law School

- Distinguished educator Vanderbilt University School of Law, Belmont University Massey Graduate School of Business, and Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law -Teacher of the Year recognition in 2022
- Highly valued figure within the Global Advisory Group and serves as a co-founder of the International Institute of Legal Project Management (IILPM).
- Honored with the Legal Innovation award by the President of the Tennessee Bar Association, prestigious Janice Holder award for legal innovation from the Tennessee Supreme Court Chief Justice
- Finalist 2021 British Legal Technology Awards.
- Acknowledged as the law.com leading Innovator of the Year for 2023 -Southeastern United States









Atul Chandra

Northwestern Kellogg







Al Policy Analyst

- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Engineering | Masters in Industrial Engineering | MBA from Kellogg school of business
- 13+ years of experience leading largescale program and technology transformation projects Significant experience in consulting, tech assessments, litigation and financial services consulting
- Prior to consulting, Atul was an executive at Bank of America, where he led a data science and analytics team to deliver analytics support for enterprise complaints, including complaints from customers, regulators, and internal ethics and hotline escalations.
- Atul has led large scale technology transformation programs including adoption of AI, Acceptable Use Policy and Roadmap development.



Michael McCarthy, Ph.D.



Founding Director & Associate **Professor of Data Science**







Lead Al Strategist

- Tenured Associate Professor at Utica University and founder of its Data Science program
- Former senior research scientist at Amazon using AI/ML to develop global forecasts
- Healthcare analyst conducting quantitative and qualitative analysis for the Veterans Administration
- Bachelor of Science from the United States Military Academy at West Point; Master's and PhD from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- Prior to graduate school, Michael served in the U.S. Army as an officer and pilot with one deployment to Iraq



Rebecca Long



Bachelors in Fine Arts





Al Business Analyst

- Experts in developing evidence and analytic-based solutions to transform workflows and enable organizational efficiency.
- 24-year background working as a Senior Designer and Creative Director for a publicly traded media company
- Developed an analytics-based approach in designing and implementing online strategy of Salem's owned and operated websites helping the company achieve the acquisition of 124M social followers, 2.4M web sessions per month and over 3M email subscribers.



Ann Habel



University of Wisconsin - Madison



Director Strategic Accounts

- Analytical leader with strong business-tobusiness sales and operations management experience. Proven leadership in defining, implementing, and executing program strategies.
- Director strategic accounts at Centroid Systems with additional experience in Technical Consulting and Account Management.



Nirmal Mishra



Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech.)



accenture

Sales Director

- 25+ years of Technology Consulting, Delivery Management, Sales & **Business Operations** Experience
- Director of Sales at Centroid Managing 20+ active accounts
- Prior to joining Centroid, spent 17+ years with Accenture across India & US performing various management roles
- Managed annual P&L of about \$40+ million







3 References

Entity Name *	Contact Name *	Phone Number *
Utica University	Stephanie Nesbitt, JD Dean, School of Business and Justice Studies provost@utica.edu	(315) 792-3112
HIG Global	Paramjit Singh Director IT PSingh@hidglobal.com	(512) 965-4702
Irvine Ranch Water District, CA	Mohit Saini Director of Applications saini@irwd.com	(949) 241 7551
Cave Creek Unified School District	BIII Dolezal Superintendent	(480) 575 2000





4. Project-Related Experience & Qualification...



We Delivered For Tekumo

Designed and implemented dispatching software to automate deployment of thousands of technicians across the U. S. with sophisticated rules engine and workflow management.

Al: Implemented rules engine to automatically assign vendors and technicians according to rules configured in the software

Designed and implemented dispatching software to automate deployment of thousands of technicians across the U. S. with sophisticated rules engine and workflow management.

Automation: Implemented Customer Portal for customers to load in orders in a structured format instead of email. Designed and implemented dispatching software to automate deployment of thousands of technicians across the U.S. with sophisticated rules engine and workflow management.

Automation: Integrated with downstream vendors, synchronizing logistics data in near-real-time.

Key details such as scheduled date, assigned technician, costs, timesheets, equipment, and arrival time flow back into information systems to reduce time spent *slip-seating* between different vendor's web portals.

Designed and implemented dispatching software to automate deployment of thousands of technicians across the U. S. with sophisticated rules engine and workflow management.

Automation: Generate invoices automatically and load into billing software, making invoicing timelier and improving cash flow on accounts receivables.







We Delivered For

Safe School Guardian

Leveraged Machine Learning to train and tune Al Models to identify and categorize gunshots

Implemented algorithm to detect gunshots and notify law enforcement and administrators

Prepared tens of thousands of audio samples, leveraging Fourier transformations and rewriting Matlab code in Python and R

Used artificial intelligence and machine learning to segregate between loud noises and different calibers of firearms

Reimplemented algorithms in highly efficient C code that was cross-compiled for embedded devices as well as Android and iOS

Fintech Customer

Used Generative AI to replace manual summarization and validation of invoice line items. Also built a system for training prompts based upon past data to improve accuracy over time (it is self-learning).

Before:



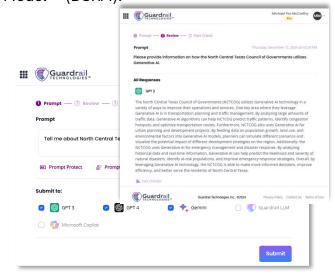
After:



Utica University

Students used Guardrail Technologies' suite of Generative AI applications to:

- Utilize multiple Large Language Models (LLMs), including GPT 3, GPT 4, and Gemini, to make robust reports that have an integrated fact checker and reference system.
- Build auditable machine learning models using the proprietary Data Science Reference Model[™] (DSRM).







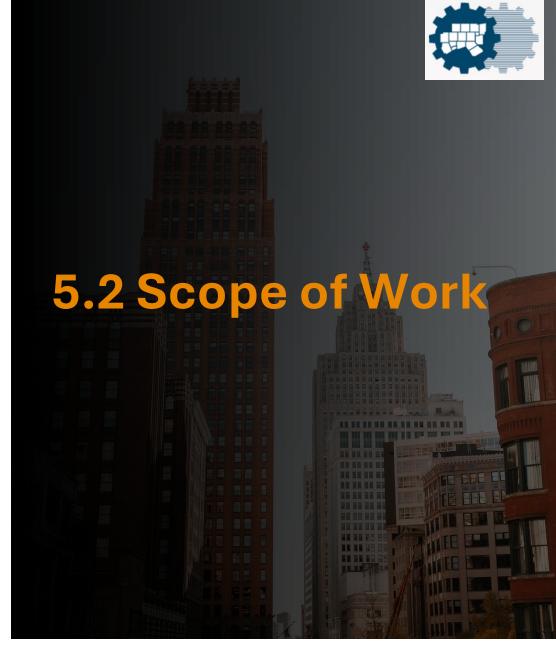


5. Technical Proposal...



5.2 Tech Proposal - Scope of Work

- **5.2.1** Al Strategy Development
- **5.2.2** Feasibility Study and Use Case Identification
- 5.2.3 Al Solution Design & Roadmap
- **5.2.4** Pilot Testing and Implementation Support
- 5.2.5 Training, Adoption, and Capacity Building







5.2.1 Al Strategy Development: Overview

Define and refine AI processes and documentation plus create an implementation plan

A full understanding of the Governmental Entity's ability to provide governance, access to data, AI skillsets, processes, and technology infrastructure as it pertains to developing and supporting AI initiatives will be assessed by a team. Close collaboration with full access to its data, systems, and personnel are needed.

The AI Strategy Development will take place in three phases:

Phase 1: Collaboration,
Phase 2: Assessment, and
Phase 3: Development

• Cross-Functional • Crossdepartmental • Al Use Cases

Goals
Challenges
Processes
Strategic
Priorities

• Business
Cases
• Risk-Reward
• Data Strategy
• Al Vision

Phase 1 Phase 2 Phase 3

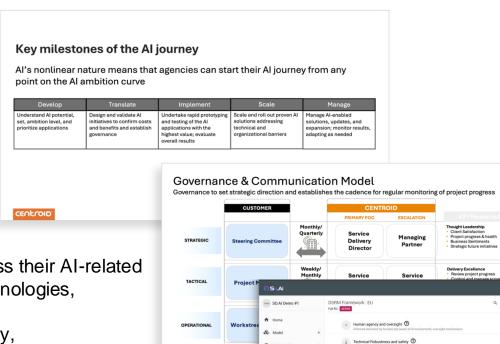




5.2.1 Al Strategy Development

Based on the organizational needs, the AI Strategy may include:

- Governance frameworks used by the Governmental Entity,
- Data access policies used by the Governmental Entity,
- Compliance regulations related to Al initiatives,
- Surveys and interviews with a sample of state employees to assess their AI-related skillsets, knowledge of AI policies, and proficiency in relevant technologies,
- Review of current internal training,
- Map existing processes and workflows across Governmental Entity,
- Inventory of current technology infrastructure, including hardware, software, cloud capabilities, and data storage solutions,
- · Gap analysis,
- Roadmap to advance the Governmental Entity's AI capabilities across governance, data access, skillsets, processes, and technology,
- Identification of areas of ongoing revisions to strategic planning protocols (i.e., Al Strategy Development, Al Maturity Plan, Al Support Model, and Al Roadmap).









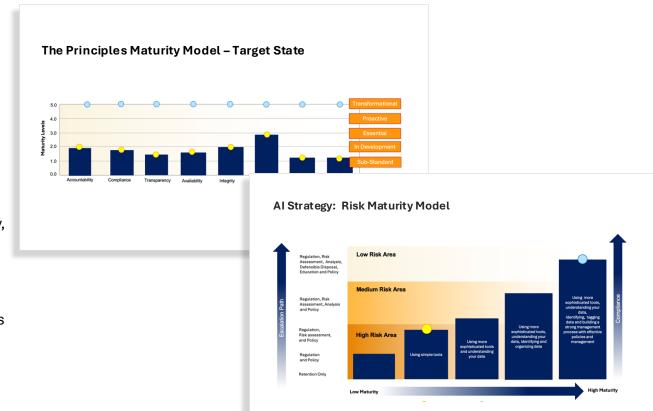
5.2.1 AI Strategy Development

Phase 1 of the AI Strategy Development utilizes close collaboration with all partners: Centroid, Guardrail Technologies, Digital Citizen Academy, internal governmental stakeholders, elected officials, and citizens.

- A full survey of all governance and data access policies will be conducted; a summary report with gaps and action items will be the main deliverable.
- Employees' and contractors' technological skill sets and knowledge of policies will be assessed.
- The main deliverable is a full evaluation of processes and the Governmental Entity's technological infrastructure.

Phase 2 is the formal assessment of the current state assessment:

- Governance frameworks used,
- Data access policies used,
- Compliance regulations related to Al initiatives,
- Surveys and interviews with a sample of employees to assess their Alrelated skillsets, knowledge of Al policies, and proficiency in relevant technologies,
- Review of current internal training,
- Human-in-the-loop (HITL) assessment,
- Map existing processes and workflows across the Governmental Entity,
- Inventory of current technology infrastructure, including hardware, software, cloud capabilities, and data storage solutions,
- Gap analysis of current state compared to the maturity of best practices,
- A roadmap to advance the Governmental Entity's AI capabilities across governance, data access, skillsets, processes, and technology,
- Identification of areas of ongoing revisions to strategic planning protocols (i.e., AI Strategy Development, AI Maturity Plan, AI Support Model, and AI Roadmap).





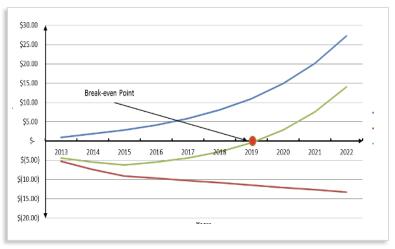




5.2.1 Al Strategy Development: Develop Roadmap

Phase 3 is the AI Roadmap Development and includes the following sections:

- Core technology assessment and selection criteria outlining the evaluation and selection of core technologies. Technology implementation plan for deploying core technologies and integrating them with existing systems.
- Data management framework comprehensive documentation detailing data governance, security, and compliance strategies. Centralized data repository implementation plan for establishing a central data repository, including data integration and access guidelines.
- Support model and role definition documentation detailing the description of the support model, including key roles, responsibilities, and collaboration structures. Recommendations for hiring, training, and upskilling staff to fill key data roles within the Governmental Entity.
- Al use case prioritization ranking Al use cases based on impact, feasibility, and risk.
- Al scaling plan to support the organization's strategic plan to scale Al initiatives, including deployment timelines and resource requirements.
- Responsible Al policy outlining ethical and responsible Al practices, and Al System audit reports evaluating compliance with responsible Al practices.
- Al research, development (R&D), and innovation plan outlining initiatives to promote Al research and innovation. The semi-annual roadmap will support the annual Al strategy review to assess the current Al strategy and recommend adjustments based on current and emerging trends and insights.







5.2.2 Feasibility Study and Use Case Identification

A. Leveraging the Al Maturity Plan to build out a **Self-Service Al Maturity Level Assessment**

To build feasible and useful AI tools, we integrate with key governmental stakeholders to fully understand the organizational and citizens' needs.

The feasibility study will include the following sections:

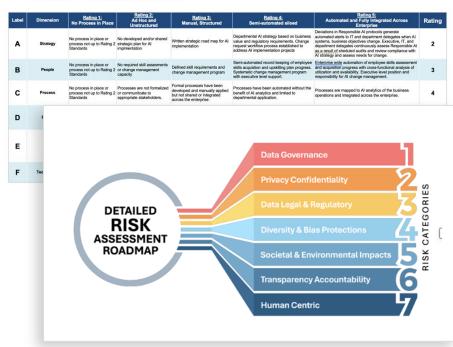
- Reviewing, categorizing, and prioritizing existing AI use cases (also assessed in Phase 2 of the AI Strategy Development, section 5.2.1),
- Leveraging risk/priority models with internal and external compliance requirements,
- Recommending additional foundational capabilities for long-term success,
- Outlining data management activities,
- Addressing ethical requirements,
- Developing metrics for measuring progress,
- Defining necessary tools and technologies,
- Defining testing strategies,
- Providing recommendations for increasing internal efficiency and integrating AI into daily workflows.

B. Leveraging the Al Strategy to build an organizational Al Maturity Plan

Based on the AI strategy developed in the multiphase process outlined in section 5.2.1, we will support the Government Entity to identify AI use cases that provide the best return on investment for the organization and the citizens it serves. Initially, it is not unusual for an organization to be at differing levels of IT and AI maturity. Effective AI governance requires a continuous focus. In this assessment, we will:

- Identify the gaps between the organization's current practices and the desirable level of maturity for each principle.
- Assess the risk(s) to the organization, based on the biggest gaps.
- Determine whether additional information and analysis is necessary.
- Develop priorities and assigned accountability for further development of the program.

Process Measurement









5.2.3 Al Solution Design

- We offer the *Data Science Reference Model*[™] to **research and document** compliance requirements related to any AI solution.
- We offer a complete suite of AI models and tools that address multiple AI use cases (see next slide).
- For each project, we will provide a detailed roadmap including governance, timelines, milestones, resources, and KPIs.
- Each NCTCOG member organization will receive a cost analysis that covers development, cloud, and licensing.
- As responsible technology is at the core or our mission, each solution will be aligned with ethical and regulatory standards.

DSRM: Building Custom Frameworks from Framework Library



Governance team leverages the Guardrail Framework Library to create customized frameworks for their model categories.

Guardrail is pre-configured with various regulatory frameworks containing detailed guidelines as it pertains to AI development.

Guardrail's proprietary framework – the **Data Science**Reference Model™ (DSRM) – is designed to enable organizations to use out of the box or can be customized based on the organization's needs. This ensures AI development is in line with regulatory and / or organizational guidelines.

Responsible AI Readiness deployment measured against seven categories

Your readiness for Responsible AI deployment will be measured against seven categories:

Data Governance – who owns the data?

The Principles Maturity Model - Target State

- Privacy & Confidentiality who has access to the data?
- Legal & Regulatory what compliance responsibilities must be satisfied
- Societal & Environmental are the energy demands and social impact acceptable?
- Transparency & Accountability is the AI implementation responsible for its actions
- Technology is the current state and interoperability of relevant technology prepared

Al Strategy: Risk Maturity Model









5.2.3 Al Solution Design and Roadmap

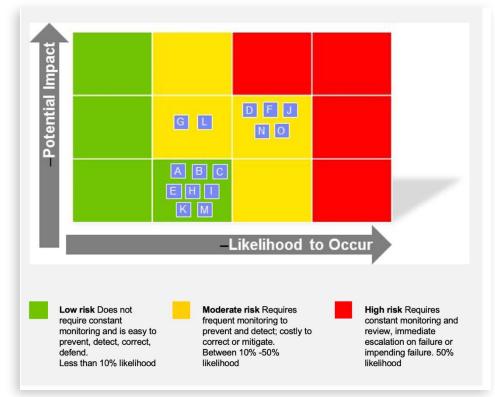
To ensure compliance with all compliance requirements, Guardrail Technologies propriety Data Science Reference Model (DSRM; outlined in Section 5.2.2) and Al Reference Model (AIRM) provide a comprehensive end-to-end method to assess all active internal models (build), vendor models (buy), and proposed user models. The DSRM and AIRM can be updated for Texas-specific compliance requirements (ex: FOIA).

The trifecta of **people**, **process**, and **technology** will review each AI model in accordance with the AI strategy identified in Section 5.2.1. Our gap analysis includes analysis of Humans in the loop (HITL) and is an important part of this process

The Guardrail Technologies propriety Data Science Reference Model (DSRM) and AI Reference Model (AIRM) provide a comprehensive end-to-end method to assess all active internal models (build), vendor models (buy), and proposed user models.

The **DSRM** and **AIRM** will provide the process, and well-trained employees will provide the people; the technology to scale the reviews will likely require an additional expansion of this RFP to include technology acquisition to manage the complexity of any use cases and AI projects.

The AI Strategy developed (section 5.2.1) combined with the proprietary DSRM and AIRM will centralize AI use case review by the governmental entity. The review will vet each use case, assess it, and make a recommendation. The internal reviewers will perform initial triaging of the use case against risks such as privacy, weighing the benefits against costs.







5.2.4 Pilot Testing & Implementation Support

Building capacity with AI requires a thoughtful process of pilots (i.e., proof of concepts) to enable organizations to build capacity.

- We help organizations identify appropriate pilots that have a high return on investment.
- We integrate the pilot into the current system and hone the.
- After the pilot, we support the organization by scaling the pilot to production and expanding the utilization to multiple departments (ex: Al-enabled scheduling for Human Resources could be applied to the Public Works Department)

Typical Testing Cycles Breakdown

	Functional Unit Testing	System Integration Testing	User Acceptance Testing
Scope	 Custom Technical Objects which have been retrofitted as part of the AI Use Case Implementation Functional testing of standard functionality 	 Testing of Customer AI Use Case solution via unit and scenario-based testing Includes "end-to-end" scenarios 	 Includes all integration Testing of Customer AI Use Case solution via unit and scenario-based testing Includes "end-to-end" scenarios Includes all objects that are required to execute defined test scenarios
Performed By	Customer AI Business Analysts	Customer Al Business Analysts	Customer Super Users
Timing	Following Technical Unit Testing	Following Build Phase	Following System Integration Testing
Environment	• Development	System Integration Test	• UAT
How Documented	• Test scripts	Testing ScenariosTest scripts	Testing ScenariosTest scripts







5.2.5 Training, Adoption & Capacity Building

Effective change management to set expectations, create change advocates and manage the change journey is essential to the success of this initiative and to create the momentum for scaling.

The Bidders to this RFP commit to:

- Provide training on the effective use of AI tools and best practices.
- Facilitate workshops to build internal Al capabilities within the organization.
- Develop a **knowledge transfer plan** to ensure long-term sustainability and management.

Training and Support

Create and deliver training activities that are short, consistent, frequent and engaging



Incorporate various **learning methods** with imbedded feedback loop



White-glove approach to provide on-demand support

Communication and Engagement

Focuses on delivering the right content to the right audience at the right time



Leverage **existing communication channels**



Tailored communication based on role & level of impact

Change Network

Successful change programs activate a group of sponsors, ambassadors and business counterparts that foster support and ownership of changes



Define Change Network to ensure impacted parties are aware and highly impacted users feel supported and ready for change



Positioning Customer resources for **long-term sustainability plan**

Our team consists of multiple university professors and educators. We have the curriculum, tools, and experience to accomplish expansive training for NCTCOG orgs.





3	Tech Proposal - Specifications & Requirements
5.3.1	Consultant Expertise & Qualifications
5.3.2	Data Security and Privacy Compliance
5.3.3	Project Management and Reporting
5.3.4	Budget and Cost Estimates
5.3.5	Data Strategy and Management
5.3.6	Ethical AI Requirements







5.3.1 Consultant Expertise& Qualifications

To assess the robust experience and education of our team, please refer to Section 2 of this response "Key Personnel"

Our combined team of Centroid, Guardrail & DCA has a very deep set of skill/experience to make the TXShare member achieve their business objectives **AI Consultancy Experience**: We have a proven track record in providing AI services to government or public sector organizations.

- Al Technologies Proficiency: Skilled in machine learning, natural language processing, computer vision, and other Al technologies.
- Al Ethics, Privacy, and Security: Expertise in Al ethics, data privacy, and security.
- Strategy and Roadmap Development: Successful in crafting AI strategies and roadmaps, with a history of project implementation.
- Collaboration and Communication: Ability to work effectively with internal teams and simplify technical concepts for non-technical stakeholders.
- Public Sector Compliance: Deep understanding of public sector compliance and ethical standards.

5.3.2 Data Security & Privacy Compliance

A. The consultant must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local data privacy laws.

Regulations around consumer, health, and child privacy such as GDPR, PCI, HIPAA, GLBA, COPPA, FCRA, and FERPA will all be considered to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations. See 5.3.2.b for more information.

B. Provide documentation that AI solutions will adhere to data protection regulations such as GDPR (if applicable) or equivalent local laws.

While there are many overlapping privacy regulations, we can comply with all of them by adhering to several principles:

Ensure Proper Access Controls and Audit Logs: Ensuring that all information is only accessible on a need-to-know basis with audit logs that record each time a record is accessed by a user as well as each time an underlying IT system is accessed by an administrator.

- Encryption Everywhere: All data is encrypted when it is stored and transmitted in accordance with industry acceptance best practices.
- Personal Identifiable Information Anonymized: all data is anonymized when used to train an AI Model or while in use by an AI System one's Guardrail Technologies' proprietary **Data Guard** product, ensuring that user's personal information is not embedded into the AI Models or accidentally exposed when monitoring records of an AI Model's usage.
- o **Providing a means to be download one's own records:** Some newer privacy regulations, such as GDPR, now require users to be able to request a copy of their own records or even request their records be deleted. This is considered while implementing information systems, though other overlapping regulations around retention of government and financial records must also be considered.
- C. Implement security measures to ensure the protection of sensitive and personal information during data processing.

As described in 5.3.2.b, we leverage **Data Guard** to ensure no regulated information, such as personal details or healthcare data, is used in the training of Artificial Intelligence nor during runtime while using Artificial Intelligence.







5.3.3 Project Management & Reporting

In 2024, the Rand Research Institute reported that 80% of AI implementation projects fail to achieve the organization's business goals. These objectives often are not met due to limitations on the readiness for AI project implementation on the part of the synergy between people, process, and technology.

APPROACH

- Interviews our team of AI, data science, organizational development, and compliance specialists will conduct interviews with the company's corresponding personnel based on the AI guiding principles and risk categories.
- Document sharing our team will review requested documentation related to the organization's technology, documentation, and compliance practices.
- Data analysis our team will conduct analysis of the company's relevant data sources to identify trends, patterns, and projections for the organization's business objectives attainment.

METHODOLOGY

The relative degree of maturity for each category is assessed based on the level of attainment in each of the following levels of readiness in a hypothetical assessment.

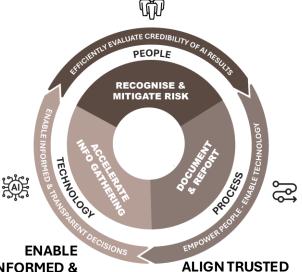
We will then use this information to assess the current preparation in the areas of Strategy, People, Ethics, Data, Processes, and Technology.

Accordingly, we recommend that we conduct a comprehensive AI Impact Assessment across the enterprise to reveal the specific steps to be taken to deploy the anticipated AI project more appropriately. This assessment will identify:

- **Strategy** Does the proposed AI implementation enjoy the support and endorsement of the company's Board, C-Suite, and Business Unit Leads due to the engagement and contributions appropriate to their roles?
- People Are those responsible for design, engineering, implementation, training, and monitoring of the success of the deployment trained in its features and functionality consistent with the Company's business goals?
- Processes Are the workflows to be automated by the project providing superior outputs without the need to be redesigned, tested and audited for performance?
- Ethics Has the AI implementation been audited to provide assurance that applicable legal constraints and regulations as well as ethical human expectations are satisfied?
- Technology Has the impacted technology stack been audited to assure operational functionality, integration, and interoperability sufficient to achieve the company's business goals?
- **Data** Have the training and operational data sets been audited for bias, human centricity, and technological adequacy for the prospective AI project?

PUT PEOPLE BACK IN THE LOOP OF AI DECISION MAKING

Enabling automation alerting people at the right time to the info they need so they can make better decisions



INFORMED & TRANSPARENT DECISIONS

Performing additional analysis & procedures generate relevant data & metrics

PROCESSES

Systematically documenting process - reporting to appropriate stakeholders





5.3.3 Project Management & Reporting

Typical Project Lifecycle Approach

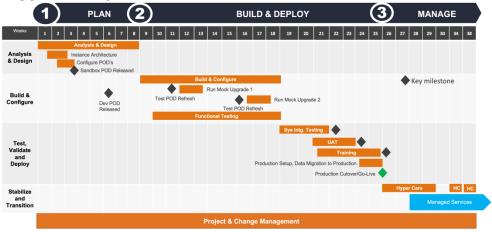
Centroid's proven approach for deploying AI Services combines the best elements of agile and waterfall methods. Our approach covers the full lifecycle from the initial evaluation to on-going support and improvement.



Typical Project Status Report

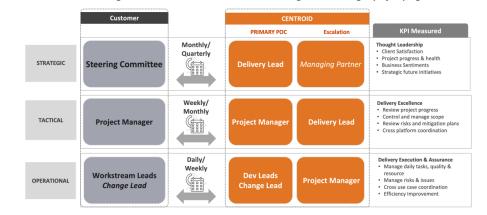


Typical Project Plan



Typical Governance & Communication Model

Governance to set strategic direction and establishes the cadence for regular monitoring of project progress









5.3.5 Data Strategy & Management

The **Data Strategy supports the Al Strategy** developed in Section 5.2.1. The goal is to build the organization's Al skillset and processes with training and workshops so that the Data Strategy is robust and properly evaluated to ensure the internal team can update it as the data morph, models drift, and compliance requirements evolve.

- Quality Controls must be made to assess model drift or shifts in the data. Routine assessments of each model's accuracy for the organization and its citizens will be conducted.
- **Data Governance Frameworks** will be part of the AI Strategy and integrated directly into the development of each model via the DSRM and AIRM (see sections 5.2.2 & 5.2.3).
- **Data Privacy Assurance** requires constant vigilance. Guardrail Technologies has proprietary tools that enable models to be trained while holding all personally identifiable information (PII) or personal health information (PHI) from the model (see DoD-approved Data Masker as part of Guardrail Suite for Generative AI[™] in Section 1)
- Data Security Protocols need to be robust and monitored. The software and hardware need to have
- In order to best support citizens, the Data Strategy needs **evaluation** and updating. This is very similar to the requirements of the AI Strategy (Section 5.2.1).





5.3.6 Ethical AI Requirements

Guardrail Technologies has responsible and ethical AI as part of its Mission Statement.

- Ethical Framework: The DSRM and AIRM (sections 5.2.2 & 5.2.3) enable a high level of ethical assessment and can be customized to allow any NCTCOG governmental entity to expand the ethical guidelines.
- Bias Detection: Bias can be inserted into AI models at many different parts of the development process. The data used to train the model could be biased. Seemingly benign decisions made by the data scientists could insert bias into the model (ex: selection bias). The model could be biased or, over time, could start revealing biased results (ex: model drift). The DSRM and AIRM are specifically made for evaluating models in development but can also be used to provide a retroactive review of models already in production and third-party models (ex: resume review AI models or chatbots).
- Transparency: The proprietary DSRM and AIRM tools allow organizations to develop responsible tools that provide transparency to the developers and employees as well as the citizens who use the model. The DSRM & AIRM provide a methodical process and framework to build, audit, and assess each model, both internal and third-party models. Additionally, utilizing the DSRM and AIRM enables employees to build AI knowledge to further expand the technical capacity within the governmental entity deploying the tools to its citizenry.
- Accountability: The DSRM & AIRM has a logging functionality that allows it to track actions, decisions, and model changes at each step of the development. The AI and Data Strategies will outline the appropriate audit cadence, but on-demand audits are possible too.
- Impact Assessments: The ethical impact assessments will be scheduled in accordance with the AI and Data Strategies and should coincide with the regular audits. The initial DSRM or AIRM act as the benchmarks for the tools and subsequent impact assessments using the DSRM or AIRM will be compared against the benchmark. If significant differences are found between the benchmark and the assessment, corrective actions will be taken, like building new models with updated data or providing guardrails.

Item 59 from Addendum

Are there any state government-wide initiatives for AI adoption or compliance requirements with regards to Texas that we must consider? (Page 12 Section 5.2.3) Answer: Yes, Texas has initiated several government-wide efforts to adopt and regulate artificial intelligence (AI):

- 1. Artificial Intelligence Advisory Council
- 2. Texas Responsible Al Governance Act (TRAIGA)
- 3. Texas Artificial Intelligence Center of Excellence (AI-CoE)
- 4. Al User Group (AI-UG) Keep in mind this solicitation is not specific to Texas entities only and is available to entities Nationwide. Contracts can be utilized outside of Texas. These initiatives reflect Texas's commitment to integrating AI into government operations







Collaboration

Assessment

AI Strategy Development

Al Support Model **AI Maturity Plan**

Al Roadmap

- Initial kick off meeting to align the scope, timelines. and activities
- plan, timelines, progress reports, meeting cadences, and other PM activities
- Identify key stakeholders

- Conduct current state assessment of risks. governance, data access. and compliance Finalize project regulations
 - Survey and interview stakeholders on AI skillsets and policy knowledge
 - Review and map NCTCOG processes, workflows, and internal training programs
 - Perform gap analysis on governance, data, skills, processes, and technology
 - Develop roadmap for advancing AI capabilities and strategic planning protocols

- Develop AI strategic plan with vision and mission statements
- Conduct environmental scan and business driver analysis
- Collaborate for current state review
- Analyze and develop Al guiding principles and policy framework
- Identify and prioritize Al use cases based on ROI & goals
- Create build/buy decision framework for AI solutions
- Develop risk management and ethical review protocols

- Develop AI Maturity Plan using assessment framework tool
- Assess Al use cases for risks, benefits, infrastructure, and data privacy
- Categorize and prioritize Al use cases based on risk assessment
- Evaluate and provide roadmap for each AI use case
- Develop AI ethics, metrics, and testing frameworks
- Assess AI technology/tools and recommend platform investments

- Assess Al models using DSRM[™] and AIRM
- Establish AI use case recommendation office
- Vet and triage Al use cases for privacy, risk, and cost-benefit analysis
- Collect and validate responses and artifacts
- Execute Al assessment framework consistently across all use cases
- Present assessment results to stakeholders

- Draft and review
- Conduct scans & update
- Assess core tech and selection criteria
- Document frameworks, governance, and security
- Define support models, roles, and collaboration structures
- Prioritize Al use cases based on impact, feasibility, and risk
- Develop AI scaling plans, responsible AI policies, and audit reports
- Promote AI R&D initiatives

- Tailored project plan and timeline reflecting specific needs.
- Acceptance of deliverables expected for each phase of the engagement
- Updated, customized project milestones and detailed task list.

- Governance and data access policy assessment with gaps and action items
- State employee AI skillsets and process knowledge report
- Assessment of backlog Al use cases with heatmaps
- Roadmap to enhance Al governance, data access, processes, and technology capabilities

- Al vision and mission statements
- Al business driver analysis summaries
- Al guiding principles document
- Build/buv decision framework
- Identify the best responsible Al framework
- Risk management and mitigation plan
- Al monitoring protocols

- Al Maturity Plan with customized assessment framework
- Prioritized AI use case list with risk categorization with heatmap dashboard for risks
- Al ethics framework and guidelines & AI testing strategy
- Al metrics framework with KPIs and dashboard design

- Centralized Al use case recommendation office
- Al assessment framework execution plan
- Validated and triaged AI use case backlog
- Comprehensive report for senior stakeholders
- Technology acquisition plan for scaling Al model reviews

- Al use case prioritization and scaling plan
- Responsible Al policy and system audit reports
- AI R&D and innovation plan
- Al Risk Assessment Framework with riskranking engine, heatmaps, and recommendations engine
- Dynamic output report including cost-benefit analysis







5.5 Other Requirements

Section	Requirements	Centroid's Response
5.5.1	Objectives	Centroid will be nimble and flexible in putting together a contract structure that either utilizes the Master Agreement or creates individual SOWs with each TXShare customer
5.5.2	Service Area	Centroid believes we can serve any and/or all the TXShare customers located in the state of TX. Exhibit 1 has been submitted along with this response
5.5.3	Service Category Offer	Centroid firmly believes that we can provide services to the entire scope of this RFP
5.6	Contract Type	Centroid recommends that the scope of the RFP is best served through a Time & Material contract. The scope/complexity/schedule drives the budget. Since the purpose of the RFP is to pre-qualify the prospective vendors and there is no tangible scope provided, Centroid will be providing a T&M rate card (Refer Section 6 of the response)
5.7	Contract Term	This is acceptable
5.8	Warranty/Guarantee	Products: Centroid does not anticipate any product to be re-sold as part of this engagement. If there are any such requirement the standard warranty provided by the product vendor shall be applicable Services: Centroid will provide 60-90 days of post go-live support
5.9	Quality	We have knowledge of all applicable industry standards, laws, and regulations and possess an ability to market and distribute the goods or services to members of the cooperative • Al Defined in Public Act 264 (2023) • Acceptable Use Of Information Technology Standard (Revised 2024) • NCTCOG Procurement RFP for Al Consulting Services (September 2024)
5.10	New Goods & Services	This is acceptable







6 Pricing

Because this RFP is focused on providing Professional Consulting Services, as such the pricing model will be a combination of Fixed Fee (for fixed scope) and/or Time & Material with the proposed rate card. The rate card & proposed discount is provided as part of this response. The same shall be utilized to put together a pricing based on the estimated effort for the specific scope of work required for each opportunity.

We employ estimation and pricing models that is designed to offer flexibility and transparency for our clients.

Pricing Model Details:

- **Fixed Fee Pricing:** For programs with a well-defined scope, we may provide a fixed fee that encompasses all associated costs. This ensures that clients know the total cost upfront, eliminating any uncertainty regarding pricing.
- Time & Material Pricing: For consulting contracts where the scope may evolve or
 is less defined, we utilize a Time & Material model. This approach allows for billing
 based on actual hours worked and materials used, providing clients with flexibility
 as project needs change.
- **Discounted Rate Card:** Our rate card includes discounted hourly rates for different levels of consulting services. These rates are specifically tailored for TXShare participating entities, ensuring competitive pricing while maintaining high-quality service.

Professional Services Rate Card: (Skill/ Location/ Discounted Rate/Hr) - PLEASE REFER TO THE PRICING EXCEL SHEET UPLOADED SEPARATELY

Digital Citizen Academy Pricing – specifically for K-12 and Higher Education - PLEASE REFER TO THE PRICING EXCEL SHEET UPLOADED SEPARATELY

	Proposed Pricing			
	RFP No. 2025-023			
Pricing				
Respondent Name:				
	This pricing sheet is an EXAMPLE of how pricing shoul Please provide a detailed hourly rate card for all staff in Services, as required, throughout the duration of the Cor applicable conditions or additional costs. Use as many lines as necessary.	emb	ers who would be	e involved in delivering Al Consultancy
	4. Detail any additional information.			
	5. Proposers are encouraged to offer optional features ar	d sup	plemental fundi	tions or services to be offered as a
Notes:	catalog option. Please provide any options with 'list less' or 'cost plus' percentages for pricing.			
	Artificial Intelligence (AI) Consul	ancy	Services	
Item	Description		Price (\$/hr)	Conditions
1	Program manager/Engagement Partner - Onshore	\$	265.00	Standard Rate
2	Project Manager / Onshore	\$	250.00	Standard Rate
3	Project Manager / Offshore	\$	90.00	Standard Rate
4	Al Practice Lead / Onshore	\$	265.00	Standard Rate
5	Al Strategy Lead / On shore	\$	265.00	Standard Rate
6	Al Business Analysts / Onshore	\$	225.00	Standard Rate
7	Al Business Analysts / Offshore	\$	90.00	Standard Rate
Contractors shall prov	ride additional related servcies at catalog price less:		20%	

	Digital Citizen Academy Pricing – specifically for F	(-12	and Higher Edu	ucation
Product:	Training program to teach kids about Al			
DCA Sample Pricing Dat	a:			
Fixed Fee Services:				
	* Digital Citizen Academy Program Implementation per site:	\$	6,500.00	SKU DCA-001
	* Student License	\$	6.50	per student per month SKU DCA-002
Time & Material Rates (Dis	counted for TXShare):			
8	DCA Senior Consultant	\$	250.00	standard rate. SKU DCA-003 is \$300/hr
9	DCA Consultant;	\$	125.00	standard rate. SKU DCA-004 is \$175/hr
10	DCA Support Staff	\$	75.00	standard rate. SKU DCA-005 is \$90/hr

Note: The pricing sheet is also uploaded as Excel.







Dependencies

As part of our comprehensive generative AI assessment proposal, it is important to outline the key dependencies that may impact the successful execution of this critical endeavor. These dependencies are crucial considerations in ensuring the thoroughness and effectiveness of our risk assessment process.

- **Data & Documentation Availability:** Our scoping exercise relies on the availability of relevant data, documentation, and stakeholders. We will work closely with your team to ensure that the necessary data sources are accessible and well-prepared for analysis.
- Access to Al Models: To assess the risks associated with specific generative Al models, access to those models is essential. We will work with your organization to secure the necessary access permissions or agreements from relevant parties.
- **Legal and Ethical Compliance:** Compliance with legal and ethical guidelines, including data privacy regulations and antibias measures, is paramount. Our assessment process will work to adapt and align with any changing regulations to enable full compliance.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Effective collaboration and communication with your organization's stakeholders are vital for defining the assessment scope and gathering relevant information.
- **Timelines:** Dependencies on other projects or deadlines can impact the scheduling and prioritization of the risk assessment. We will work with your team to enable timely access to required information.
- Quality Assurance and Validation Data: Ensuring the accuracy and reliability of the risk assessment may require access to validation data or benchmark datasets. We will assist in securing access to such data sources if needed.
- **Reporting and Communication:** Our reporting mechanisms and communication channels will be established to enable transparent and effective sharing of assessment findings with your organization's stakeholders.



APPENDIX







Financial Strength and Stability

Centroid is a Michigan Corporation, in good standing, that has elected to be taxed as an "LLC" Corporation. The Company's gross revenue and sales for the year ended December 31, 2023 was \$ 108M. We do not have any financial conditions that would impede our ability to complete the project.

If requested, we can provide a summary of our latest financial status and condition through our independent Certified Public Accountant responsible for preparing an annual audit of our financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

Centroid took on an outside investor in 2021, VSS Capital Partners, a New York based private equity firm with \$4bn in committed capital to support its portfolio companies.

Additionally, Centroid also has significant revolving credit facility that is currently unused to support operations and growth.

Guardrail Technologies Inc is a corporation, in good standing, established in the state of Utah. Guardrail is owned by its founders and by Filter Fund. Filter Fund, is a venture capital firm focusing on Artificial Intelligence by targeting the issues that are transforming society and the world. Guardrail has multiple collaborations; the most significant is with the Department of Defense (DoD), which had its Tradewinds Solution Marketplace grant the "Awardable" status, meaning any DoD entity or DoD contractor can contract with Guardrail Technologies without RFP. In addition to the national security connections, Guardrail has a robust connection to higher education like Vanderbilt University and Utica University, among others. The ongoing research collaborations allow the Universities access to cutting-edge software.

Digital Citizen Academy Foundation is an LLC in good standing established in the state of Arizona. DCA has established several multi-year contracts with several school districts in the United States, underscoring our dedication to enhancing digital literacy in the educational sector. Our collaborations with corporate and government leaders have not only enriched our curriculum but have also provided critical resources and insights that drive our mission forward. This includes the evidence-based results secured through one of these collaborations indicating proof of training.

Additionally, DCA has successfully secured various grants aimed at supporting our initiatives, allowing us to expand our reach and impact. These strategic partnerships and funding opportunities reinforce our commitment to fostering responsible digital citizenship among learners of all ages.





Thank you

Putting People Back in Control of Technology by Bringing Human Intelligence into the Loop



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