WSUL and DALNET

RFP Response Evaluation Criteria

System: GEAC

1. Overall suitability to WSU and DALNET:

The Geac software is one of the strongest bid. It meets most of our circulation and acquisitions requirements now, and will meet the online catalog requirements by late 1984. Serials control is partially available too.

A major concern is Geac's inability to maintain a union database, but rather operate using a database split four ways.

Another major concern about the system proposed is the limitation of the Geac 8000 configuration.

2. Compliance with specifications (Sections 3-9) of the RFP:

Geac is a major library automation vendor and, as expected, meets our circulation and acquisitions subsystem requirements very well. Their serials and online catalog subsystems need enhancement, including authority control, MESH subjects, and display of circulation status. Unfortunately, having multi-agency borrowers cards is complicated and the Geac system cannot maintain a union database for DALNET.

Geac has proposed a system that splits the database among 7 Geac 8000 processors, using 39 disk drives over 5 years.

	Section	Yes	Yes/d	Yes/f	No	Cust	Clar
3.	OPAC	145	40	95	485	0	1
4.	CIRC	410	83	17	120	0	0
5.	ACQ	457	31	22	129	0	0
6.	SERIALS	192	40	14	91	0	0
7.	Hardware	108	9	0	11	0	0
8.	Software	49	8	3	7	0	1
9.	Training	36	1	3	0	0	6
	Total	1397	212	154	406	0	8

3. Total cost over 5 years:

The Geac 8000 configuration costs could be reduced with the availability of the new Geac 9000 processor. This processor is currently handling banking software and enables larger disk drives and more crt's to be used. Geac would offer us an upgrade to the 9000 at no additional cost.

The computer room required for this configuration would be large. However, staffing requirements would be comparable to other "turnkey" systems bid.

4. Vendor's reliability:

The vendor is very well established, very large, and has a good reputation for library installations. Their experience with networking seems limited, however, they have several large installations with multiple processors.

5. Delivery and installation schedule:

One major problem revealed in the proposal is the lack of a "high speed buss" to link all the GEAC processors together. It should be available in a year, which would likely meet our installation requirements. Also, the Geac 9000 may not be available until 1986.

6. Software development required:

Geac's system is one of two that require the least software development to meet our needs.

The most development is required in the online catalog and serials control components. The target dates would meet our requirement.

7. System's reliability and performance:

Geac's equipment is manufactured by Geac, so we would be dependent on them for both software and hardware. There are service centers in the Detroit area for Geac equipment, which is also heavily used in banking.

Since no other Geac installation is this large and the "high speed buss" is not yet available, there is some concern about its performance.

8. Expandability:

Expandability of split databases may be complicated. The options to expand include adding more processors and adding libraries to the small configurations, like U of D.

9. Flexibility:

The Geac software did not seem to meet the flexibility requirements of a network very well, especially the borrower's file and split database.

10. Ability to link to local computing networks:

Geac equipment does not link to IBM, however, IBM 3270 terminals will be able to access the Geac system with software contracted for development by September 1985. Many types of pc's can dial in to the Geac system.

LB/ff
10/1/84