



**Capital Area Transportation Authority**  
**4615 Tranter Street**  
**Lansing, MI 48910**

**AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO  
LIFECYCLE SERVER EXTENSION**

1. AMENDMENT NO: <b>1</b>	2. SOLICITATION NO: <b>RFP 2026-164</b>	3. SOLICITATION NAME: <b>LIFECYCLE SERVER EXTENSION</b>	4. AMENDMENT DATE: <b>MARCH 25, 2026</b>
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5. ISSUED BY  
Capital Area Transportation Authority  
Purchasing and Contracts Department  
4615 Tranter Street  
Lansing, MI 48910

6. DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENT:  
The following documentation has been attached to this Amendment:

1. CATA responses to vendor questions.
2. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

**PLEASE NOTE: Contractor is required to sign this document and return it with the bid/proposal/quote.**

NAME / TITLE OF OFFEROR (Type or Print)	COMPANY NAME
(Signature of person authorized to sign)	(Date Signed)



March 25, 2026

Capital Area Transportation Authority Request for Proposal 2026-164  
Lifecycle Server Extension  
CATA Responses to Vendor Questions

VENDOR QUESTIONS AND CATA'S RESPONSES:

1. **Per my engineers, They have a VxRail cluster now that runs VMware. Are you thinking of staying with the same VxRail nodes, new models of course, and VCF (VMware Cloud Foundation)? Essentially upgrades to their current environment and then add on of a similar cluster for DR.**

No. Please see RFP page 10 Project Overview paragraph 1, and page 11 heading Cluster requirements subheading General Cluster Requirements.

2. **Looking at this we noticed the 180 day pricing guarantee. Please advise if that is flexible on the bid, with the RAM and SSD shortages manufacturers aren't giving any long guarantees currently.**

The bid requirement is not flexible. The 180-day pricing guarantee is required to ensure pricing remains valid for the full procurement process, from the release of the solicitation through contract execution.

3. **CATA Lifecycle Server Extension RFP #2026-164, Pg. 9–10 - For planning and sizing, can CATA share projected growth (CPU, RAM, storage, and VM count) for the next 5 years beyond the current ~101 VMs and 3-node SQL Server HA farm, as well as any anticipated new mission-critical applications?**

RFP Pages 10-11 Cluster requirement already scoped for future anticipated growth.

4. **CATA Lifecycle Server Extension RFP #2026-164, Pg. 9–10 - Does CATA have defined RPO/RTO targets for mission-critical workloads (especially SQL Server and core transit systems) that the production and DR clusters must meet?**

No, our current DRP is reliant on restoring backups that are captured every 24 hours as we do not have a DR environment currently.

5. **CATA Lifecycle Server Extension RFP #2026-164, Pg. 9–10 (Existing Environment / Project Overview) - Can CATA confirm whether all existing workloads on the current 6-node VxRail cluster are in scope for migration to the new production cluster, or are there any workloads that will remain on legacy infrastructure or move to cloud services?**

All existing workloads are in scope for migration to the new production cluster.



6. **CATA Lifecycle Server Extension RFP #2026-164, Pg. 11 (System Architecture Requirements)** - The RFP specifies a “single, kernel-integrated hypervisor and storage architecture...without reliance on external hypervisors, external storage controllers, or third-party virtualization components.” Please clarify whether solutions based on widely adopted hypervisors (e.g., VMware vSphere) with tightly integrated HCI storage are acceptable if they otherwise meet all functional, performance, and management requirements.

No, they would not. A solution may be proposed but it must demonstrate full compliance with the architectural model defined in the RFP.

7. **CATA Lifecycle Server Extension RFP #2026-164, Pg. 11 (System Architecture Requirements)** - The RFP states that all platform features must be included as part of the base offering with no feature enablement dependent on optional, add-on, capacity-based, or tiered licensing models. Would a proposal that bundles all required platform licenses and features into a single, fixed 5-year price (with no future upsell required for the specified capabilities) satisfy this requirement, even if the OEM’s standard price list includes optional tiers for other customers?

A proposal utilizing a tiered licensing model may be considered acceptable only if the proposed configuration includes a single tier that provides all required functionality, fully licensed and enabled at time of delivery.

The proposed solution must not require:

- Tier upgrades
- Additional feature licensing
- Future purchases

To achieve or maintain compliance with the requirements defined in the RFP.

8. **CATA Lifecycle Server Extension RFP #2026-164, Pg. 11 (System Architecture Requirements)** - “Support true node-loss tolerance...without reliance on external quorum servers, witness appliances, tiebreakers, or externally hosted arbitration services.” Please confirm whether internal/quorum functionality that is part of the proposed HCI platform (even if implemented on dedicated virtual appliances) is acceptable, provided it is included, managed, and supported as part of the single platform.

Quorum or arbitration functionality is acceptable only if it is natively integrated within the hyperconverged platform itself and does not require deployment of separate, external systems or independently managed virtual appliances.

Solutions that depend on dedicated quorum or witness virtual machines, appliances, or services—whether internal or externally hosted—are considered external dependencies and do not meet this requirement.

All cluster coordination and fault-tolerance mechanisms must be inherent to the platform and operate without reliance on separately deployed quorum components.

9. **CATA Lifecycle Server Extension RFP #2026-164, Pg. 11–12 (System Architecture & Cluster Requirements)** - The RFP requires centralized management through a single browser-based management interface. Is it acceptable if some advanced configuration or troubleshooting tasks occasionally require secondary tools (e.g., OEM lifecycle



management utilities or hypervisor consoles) as long as day-to-day operations and monitoring are performed from a unified primary interface?

The use of secondary tools, utilities, or consoles is **not preferred** and must not be required for standard operations. Limited use of OEM-provided tools for **exception-based or advanced troubleshooting scenarios** may be acceptable, provided that:

- Such tools are not required for normal administrative or operational workflows
- They are fully integrated, supported, and documented as part of the proposed solution
- Their use does not introduce additional management platforms or operational dependencies

Solutions that require regular or recurring use of multiple management interfaces for standard functionality do not meet this requirement.

**10. CATA Lifecycle Server Extension RFP #2026-164, Pg. 11–12 (System Architecture Requirements) - For the requirement to “support RESTful or equivalent programmatic APIs,” does CATA have any existing automation or observability platforms (e.g., Ansible, PowerShell, ServiceNow, SolarWinds) that the new platform should integrate with, and are there specific use cases you want us to design for?**

No. This requirement is intended to ensure that the proposed platform is capable of integration with external systems, including automation, monitoring, and service management tools, as may be implemented by CATA now or in the future.

**11. CATA Lifecycle Server Extension RFP #2026-164, Pg. 11–13 (Production & DR Cluster Requirements) - For the production cluster, is the approximate 300 TB raw NVMe storage a hard minimum requirement, or is CATA open to a different raw capacity if it can be shown to meet or exceed effective capacity needs (taking into account RAID level, compression, and data reduction)?**

CATA requires that the proposed solution meet or exceed the stated production cluster storage requirements, including the approximately 300 TB aggregate raw NVMe capacity, as defined in the RFP .

Deviation from the specified raw capacity must be fully justified and demonstrated to meet or exceed CATA’s effective storage, performance, and resiliency requirements. Such justification must not rely on assumptions regarding data reduction technologies (e.g., compression or deduplication) to achieve baseline capacity.

All proposals will be evaluated based on their ability to deliver sufficient usable capacity, performance headroom, and fault tolerance consistent with the requirements outlined in the RFP.

**12. CATA Lifecycle Server Extension RFP #2026-164, Pg. 12–13 (DR Cluster Requirements) - For the DR cluster, the RFP references both a hybrid configuration (approx. 100 TB HDD + 10–15 TB NVMe/SSD per node) and an aggregate raw capacity of approximately 300 TB. Can CATA clarify the minimum required per-node and per-cluster usable capacity at the DR site, and whether all workloads or only a defined subset must be capable of running there during a disaster?**

The reference to approximately 300 TB reflects the expected aggregate raw capacity based on the defined per-node configuration. Proposers shall size the DR cluster accordingly and ensure sufficient capacity and performance to support recovery operations.



At a minimum, the DR environment must be capable of supporting replication and recovery of mission-critical workloads, including Microsoft SQL Server systems, as defined in the RFP. Proposers should assume that not all workloads are required to run concurrently in a disaster scenario; however, the solution must support prioritized recovery and operational continuity of critical systems.

Proposers are responsible for clearly documenting:

- The usable capacity of the proposed DR configuration
- The assumed recovery scope and prioritization model
- Any limitations or dependencies related to recovery operations

All proposals will be evaluated on their ability to provide sufficient capacity, performance, and resiliency to support CATA's disaster recovery objectives.

- 13. CATA Lifecycle Server Extension RFP #2026-164, Pg. 13 (Replication and Recovery) - The RFP states that the solution must provide "native, integrated replication...without reliance on third-party tools or additional licensing." Would replication features that are part of the OEM's HCI or hypervisor platform, but licensed as separate SKUs and fully included in the proposer's 5-year pricing, be considered compliant?**

No.

- 14. CATA Lifecycle Server Extension RFP #2026-164, Pg. 13 (Replication and Recovery) - Can CATA provide additional detail on desired replication behavior (synchronous vs. asynchronous, target RPOs for key workloads, and acceptable DR test frequency) to allow us to right-size network and storage design between the production and DR clusters?**

Please refer to question 4 for our response. Goal would be DR RPO of 4-6 or better.

- 15. CATA Lifecycle Server Extension RFP #2026-164, Pg. 11–13 (Cluster & Networking Requirements) - What is the anticipated topology between the production and DR sites (distance, existing WAN bandwidth, and latency), and does CATA have any constraints or preferences around leveraging existing network infrastructure versus proposing new networking hardware for replication traffic?**

The DR cluster will be located at the same physical address as the production cluster in a backup IDF approximately 450-500ft from production core. There is an existing 10Gb/s 2 interface LAG between with minimal latency.

- 16. CATA Lifecycle Server Extension RFP #2026-164, Pg. 11–13 (Compute & Memory Requirements) - The production and DR node specifications call out minimum CPU cores and RAM per node. Is CATA open to configurations that exceed these minimums (e.g., higher-core CPUs or more RAM per node) if it results in improved consolidation, performance, or licensing efficiency?**

Yes.



17. **CATA Lifecycle Server Extension RFP #2026-164, Pg. 14 & 38–39 (Build America Buy America Requirements) - For the Build America Buy America (BABA) requirements, can CATA confirm whether all hardware and software components of the HCI solution (including servers, storage media, NICs, and any required management appliances) must individually meet BABA criteria, or whether compliance is evaluated at the overall system level with possible waivers for specific components not manufactured in the U.S.?**

Please refer to the Build America Buy America requirements in the Request for Proposal (RFP).

18. **CATA Lifecycle Server Extension RFP #2026-164, Pg. 14–15 & 38–40 (Compliance & Forms) - Does CATA require separate BABA, debarment, and lobbying certifications from both the proposer and the OEM, or is a single set of executed forms from the proposer (who is contractually accountable) sufficient if the proposer’s certifications flow down to the OEM via subcontract?**

The contractor is required to complete the forms.

19. **CATA Lifecycle Server Extension RFP #2026-164, Pg. 6–7 & 21 (Primary Contractor Responsibilities & Unified Support) - The RFP requires a single, unified support model and identifies the “Primary Contractor” as the sole point of contact. Please confirm that a model in which the proposer is the single contractual counterparty and escalation owner, but leverages OEM support services under a back-to-back agreement, is acceptable as long as CATA interacts with one support and escalation process.**

Yes. All support, regardless of delivery method, must meet the requirement for one point of accountability as defined in the RFP.

20. **CATA Lifecycle Server Extension RFP #2026-164, Pg. 219–226 (Installation and Migration) - Beyond racking/cabling and network configuration, does CATA expect the proposer/OEM to perform in-scope application work (e.g., SQL Server reconfiguration, OS upgrades, or cluster redesign), or will migration services be limited to infrastructure-level VM migration and validation with CATA’s application owners?**

Migration services are expected to be primarily infrastructure focused. Proposers may include optional services for application-level support; however, such services must be clearly identified and scoped separately.

21. **CATA Lifecycle Server Extension RFP #2026-164, Pg. 228–232 (Documentation and Training) - Does CATA have preferences for the format and delivery of training (on-site vs. remote, number of sessions, admin vs. operator audiences), and are there any existing runbooks or operational procedures we should plan to align with or update?**

No preference on delivery method.

Proposers should:

- Identify the recommended training approach, including format and number of sessions
- Define the intended audience (e.g., administrators, operators)
- Describe all training materials and documentation included



CATA maintains internal operational procedures and documentation standards. Alignment to these materials will be coordinated as part of the project but is not required to be predefined within the proposal.

- 22. CATA Lifecycle Server Extension RFP #2026-164, Pg. 4 & 999–1003 (Contract Term and Extension) - The contract term is 12 months with the option to extend. Does CATA have a target go-live window or blackout periods (for example, specific seasons or events where changes are restricted due to transit demand) that we should take into account when proposing implementation and migration timelines?**

The implementation will not be a hard cut. The new environment will be running in tandem with our existing environment. We have very limited downtime and will need to work around operational necessities. There are no specific blackout periods.

- 23. CATA Lifecycle Server Extension RFP #2026-164, Pg. 500–503 & Attachment D (Pricing Requirements / Pricing Form) - Is CATA open to receiving alternative or optional configurations (for example, a base design and an enhanced DR option) as clearly separated line items on Attachment D, provided that each option includes a complete 5-year cost (hardware, software, licensing, warranty, support, training, and migration) and identifies any conditional or optional costs?**

Yes.

- 24. In the technical evaluation criteria, would CATA find it helpful for proposers to include a brief mapping table that ties each RFP requirement (architecture, HA, DR, management, support) to specific components/features in the proposed solution, to make “demonstrated compliance” easier to verify?**

Yes.

- 25. For the three required company references, will CATA give preference to references from public transit agencies or public sector entities, or is any customer with comparable HCI/DR scope acceptable provided the work was completed within the last five years?**

Please refer to Section I-K, References. *“Firm is requested to provide a list of contracts that are similar to CATA.”*

- 26. Pricing Validity (180 Days) — Critical - The RFP indicates pricing must remain valid for 180 days following submission. Can CATA confirm whether proposers are expected to hold firm pricing for the full duration, or if there is an opportunity for price revalidation prior to contract execution in the event of material market changes?**

Please refer to question 2 for our response.

- 27. Solution Flexibility vs Requirements (AIP / Availability) - The RFP outlines specific hardware and architectural requirements alongside expectations for cost efficiency and timely delivery. Can CATA clarify whether equivalent configurations that meet or exceed performance, capacity, and resiliency requirements will be considered acceptable if specific component requirements cannot be met due to availability constraints?**



CATA requires that all proposals meet the architectural, functional, and performance requirements defined in the RFP.

Configurations may be considered only if they meet or exceed all stated requirements, including performance, capacity, resiliency, and architectural criteria, as defined in the Scope of Work.

**28. Single Vendor Support Model - The RFP specifies a single, unified support model with one point of accountability. Can CATA clarify whether solutions leveraging integrated OEM and partner support models will be considered acceptable, provided the proposer maintains full accountability for support and escalation?**

Solutions that leverage a combination of proposer and OEM support services are acceptable, provided the proposer maintains full accountability to CATA for all support, coordination, escalation, and resolution activities.

CATA requires a single, unified support model in which:

- The proposer is the sole contractual point of contact
- CATA interacts with one support organization and one escalation path
- The proposer is responsible for managing all OEM engagement behind the scenes

The use of integrated OEM and partner support models must not require CATA to coordinate between multiple vendors and must fully meet the requirement for one point of accountability as defined in the RFP.

**29. Future Workload Requirements - The RFP requires support for current and future workloads, including mission-critical SQL Server environments. Can CATA provide additional guidance on expected growth assumptions or performance targets that should be used to size for future workloads?**

RFP per node and cluster specification were designed with anticipated growth in mind.

**30. Network Interface Requirements (SFP28) - The RFP specifies a minimum of four (4) SFP28 10/25 GbE ports per node. Can CATA confirm whether alternative network configurations that meet throughput and redundancy requirements will be considered acceptable?**

Yes, as long as minimums are met or exceeded.

**31. Reference Requirements - The RFP requests three (3) references demonstrating similar project experience. Can references be provided jointly between the proposer and key solution partners where appropriate?**

Please refer to question 25 for our response.

**32. Regulatory / Compliance Requirements - The RFP includes various regulatory and compliance requirements. Can CATA confirm which compliance requirements are specifically applicable to this project and must be addressed within the proposal?**

Please refer to the Build America Buy America requirements in the Request for Proposal (RFP).



- 33. Buy America / BABA Compliance - The RFP references Buy America / BABA compliance requirements. Can CATA clarify the expected documentation for compliance or waiver qualification for compute infrastructure used primarily for data processing and storage?**

Please refer to the Build America Buy America requirements in the Request for Proposal (RFP).