

STATE OF ALASKA REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



.NET SYSTEMS SUPPORT RFP 2019-0700-4017

ISSUED SEPTEMBER 7, 2018

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (DOLWD) IS SEEKING TO ESTABLISH A MULTIPLE VENDOR CONTRACT TO PROVIDE .NET SYSTEMS SUPPORT FOR MULTIPLE SYSTEMS OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

ISSUED BY:

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

PRIMARY CONTACT:

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(907) 465-4024

OFFERORS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO RETURN THIS FORM.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: IF YOU RECEIVED THIS SOLICITATION FROM THE STATE OF ALASKA'S "ONLINE PUBLIC NOTICE" WEB SITE, YOU MUST REGISTER WITH THE PROCUREMENT OFFICER LISTED IN THIS DOCUMENT TO RECEIVE SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS. FAILURE TO CONTACT THE PROCUREMENT OFFICER MAY RESULT IN THE REJECTION OF YOUR OFFER.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1.	INTRODUCTION & INSTRUCTIONS	4
SEC. 1.01	PURPOSE OF THE RFP	4
SEC. 1.02	BUDGET	4
SEC. 1.03	DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS	4
SEC. 1.04	PRIOR EXPERIENCE	4
SEC. 1.05	REQUIRED REVIEW	5
SEC. 1.06	QUESTIONS PRIOR TO DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS.....	5
SEC. 1.07	RETURN INSTRUCTIONS	5
SEC. 1.08	PROPOSAL CONTENTS	6
SEC. 1.09	ASSISTANCE TO OFFERORS WITH A DISABILITY	7
SEC. 1.10	AMENDMENTS TO PROPOSALS.....	7
SEC. 1.11	AMENDMENTS TO THE RFP.....	8
SEC. 1.12	RFP SCHEDULE	8
SEC. 1.13	PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE	8
SEC. 1.14	ALTERNATE PROPOSALS.....	8
SEC. 1.15	NEWS RELEASES.....	8
SECTION 2.	BACKGROUND INFORMATION	9
SEC. 2.01	BACKGROUND INFORMATION	9
SECTION 3.	SCOPE OF WORK & CONTRACT INFORMATION	10
SEC. 3.01	SCOPE OF WORK.....	10
SEC. 3.02	CONTRACT TERM AND WORK SCHEDULE.....	10
SEC. 3.03	DELIVERABLES.....	10
SEC. 3.04	CONTRACT TYPE.....	10
SEC. 3.05	PROPOSED PAYMENT PROCEDURES.....	10
SEC. 3.06	CONTRACT PAYMENT.....	10
SEC. 3.07	LOCATION OF WORK.....	11
SEC. 3.08	THIRD-PARTY SERVICE PROVIDERS	11
SEC. 3.09	SUBCONTRACTORS.....	11
SEC. 3.10	JOINT VENTURES	12
SEC. 3.11	F.O.B. POINT	12
SEC. 3.12	CONTRACT PERSONNEL	12
SEC. 3.13	INSPECTION & MODIFICATION - REIMBURSEMENT FOR UNACCEPTABLE DELIVERABLES	12
SEC. 3.14	LIQUIDATED DAMAGES.....	12
SEC. 3.15	CONTRACT CHANGES - UNANTICIPATED AMENDMENTS	12
SEC. 3.16	NONDISCLOSURE AND CONFIDENTIALITY	12
SEC. 3.17	INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS	13
SEC. 3.18	TERMINATION FOR DEFAULT	14
SECTION 4.	PROPOSAL FORMAT AND CONTENT	15
SEC. 4.01	PROPOSAL FORMAT AND CONTENT	15
SEC. 4.02	INTRODUCTION	15
SEC. 4.03	UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROJECT	15
SEC. 4.04	METHODOLOGY USED FOR THE PROJECT	15
SEC. 4.05	MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE PROJECT	15
SEC. 4.06	EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS	15
SEC. 4.07	COST PROPOSAL.....	16

SEC. 4.08	EVALUATION CRITERIA	16
SECTION 5.	EVALUATION CRITERIA AND CONTRACTOR SELECTION	17
SEC. 5.01	UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROJECT (10%)	17
SEC. 5.02	METHODOLOGY USED FOR THE PROJECT (5%)	17
SEC. 5.03	MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE PROJECT (5%)	17
SEC. 5.04	EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS (40%)	18
SEC. 5.05	CONTRACT COST (40%)	18
SECTION 6.	GENERAL PROCESS INFORMATION	19
SEC. 6.01	INFORMAL DEBRIEFING	19
SEC. 6.02	ALASKA BUSINESS LICENSE AND OTHER REQUIRED LICENSES	19
SEC. 6.03	SITE INSPECTION	19
SEC. 6.04	CLARIFICATION OF OFFERS	20
SEC. 6.05	DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFERORS	20
SEC. 6.06	EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS	20
SEC. 6.07	CONTRACT NEGOTIATION	20
SEC. 6.08	FAILURE TO NEGOTIATE	21
SEC. 6.09	OFFEROR NOTIFICATION OF SELECTION	21
SEC. 6.10	PROTEST	21
SEC. 6.11	APPLICATION OF PREFERENCES	22
SEC. 6.12	FORMULA USED TO CONVERT COST TO POINTS	23
SEC. 6.13	EXAMPLES: CONVERTING COST TO POINTS & APPLYING PREFERENCES	23
SECTION 7.	GENERAL LEGAL INFORMATION	24
SEC. 7.01	STANDARD CONTRACT PROVISIONS	24
SEC. 7.02	PROPOSAL AS A PART OF THE CONTRACT	24
SEC. 7.03	ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS	24
SEC. 7.04	HUMAN TRAFFICKING	24
SEC. 7.05	RIGHT OF REJECTION	24
SEC. 7.06	STATE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARATION COSTS	25
SEC. 7.07	DISCLOSURE OF PROPOSAL CONTENTS	25
SEC. 7.08	ASSIGNMENT	25
SEC. 7.09	DISPUTES	25
SEC. 7.10	SEVERABILITY	25
SEC. 7.11	SUPPLEMENTAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS	26
SEC. 7.12	CONTRACT INVALIDATION	26
SEC. 7.13	SOLICITATION ADVERTISING	26
SECTION 8.	ATTACHMENTS	27
SEC. 8.01	ATTACHMENTS	27
ATTACHMENT 1:	PROPOSAL EVALUATION FORM	28

SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION & INSTRUCTIONS

SEC. 1.01 PURPOSE OF THE RFP

The Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD), Division of Administrative Services, is soliciting proposals for .NET Systems Support to provide expert level Information Technology (IT) development support for multiple systems maintained by the department. DOLWD will be selecting up to three (3) vendors through this Request for Proposals to be awarded master contracts using the evaluation criteria described in Section 5.

The period of this contract will be up to 5 years and consist of the first initial year of the contract with four optional one year renewals. During the period of this contact, successful vendors will be provided project descriptions as the need arises. Selection of the successful vendor for each project will be based on price, experience, project approach and risk assessment, based on the information provided by each vendor on the Project Evaluation Summary form as supplied. Evaluation of Project Evaluation Summary forms will be based on the criteria and percentages shown on that form.

SEC. 1.02 BUDGET

Department of labor and Workforce Development, Division of Administrative Services, estimates a budget Not to Exceed \$2,500,000.00 dollars for completion of this project, including all renewal options. Proposals priced at more than \$2,500,000.00 will be considered non-responsive.

Approval or continuation of a contract resulting from this is contingent upon legislative appropriation.

SEC. 1.03 DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS

Proposals must be received no later than 2:00 PM prevailing Alaska Time on August 17, 2018. Faxed or emailed proposals are acceptable but not encouraged. Oral proposals are not acceptable.

SEC. 1.04 PRIOR EXPERIENCE

In order for offers to be considered responsive, offerors must meet these minimum prior experience requirements:

- Prospective vendors must have a minimum of five (5) years' experience in .NET/SQL Server Support which includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - Experience in Systems Design and Architecture.
 - Experience in Relational Database Design, Architecture, and Tuning.
 - Experience in Application Development, Maintenance, and Support.
 - Experience in Developing, Coding and Maintaining Systems written in VB.NET and/or C#.NET.
 - Experience in Microsoft tools, such as SQL and SSIS.
 - Experience in System Performance tuning
 - Experience in designing and implementing IT Systems Security.
 - Experience in Website Design, Development, and Maintenance.
- Prospective vendors must have a minimum of five (5) years' experience in Project Management of Information Technology (IT) projects. This experience should include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - Experience as the Project Manager of complex, long term, successful IT projects.

- Experience in development of project artifacts, including but not limited to Business Requirements, Scope of Work, PERT, Matrixes, Risk Management Plan, and Communications Documents, among others.
- Experience with Iterative Development methodologies, such as Agile and Kanban.
- Experience in successful Resource Management and in Team Facilitation.
- Experience in Coordinating with, Working with, and Training of non-technical project stakeholders.
- Experienced in successfully soliciting and compiling IT system requirements using varied techniques including staff interviews, job shadowing, and review of existing test plans and documentation.
- Experience in Writing User Manuals and Technical Documentation.
- In addition prospective vendors must have minimum three (3) years' experience in IT project support including but not limited to the following:
 - Project Testing and Test Plans
 - Business Analyst
 - Technical Publication

An offeror's failure to meet these minimum prior experience requirements may cause their proposal to be considered non-responsive and their proposal may be rejected.

SEC. 1.05 REQUIRED REVIEW

Offerors should carefully review this solicitation for defects and questionable or objectionable material. Comments concerning defects and objectionable material must be made in writing and received by the procurement officer at least ten days before the deadline for receipt of proposals. This will allow time for the issuance of any necessary amendments. It will also help prevent the opening of a defective solicitation and exposure of offeror's proposals upon which award could not be made. Protests based on any omission or error, or on the content of the solicitation, will be disallowed if these faults have not been brought to the attention of the procurement officer, in writing, at least ten days before the deadline for receipt of proposals.

SEC. 1.06 QUESTIONS PRIOR TO DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS

All questions must be in writing and directed to the procurement officer no later than ten (10) days prior to the scheduled proposal due date. The interested party must confirm telephone conversations in writing.

Two types of questions generally arise. One may be answered by directing the questioner to a specific section of the RFP. These questions may be answered over the telephone. Other questions may be more complex and may require a written amendment to the RFP. The procurement officer will make that decision.

PROCUREMENT OFFICER: Brad Waldron – PHONE 907-465-4024 - FAX 907-465-2107

SEC. 1.07 RETURN INSTRUCTIONS

Offerors must submit one hard copy of their proposal, in writing, to the procurement officer in a sealed package. The cost proposal included with the package must be sealed separately from the rest of the proposal and must be clearly identified. The sealed proposal package(s) must be addressed as follows:

Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Division of Administrative Services
Attention: Brad Waldron
Request for Proposal (RFP) Number: 2019-0700-4017
RFP Title: .NET Systems Support
P.O. Box 111149
Juneau, AK 99811-1149

If using a delivery service, please use the following address:

1111 West 8th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

If submitting a faxed proposal, it is the offeror’s responsibility to contact the issuing agency at (907) 465-4024 to make arrangements prior to faxing the proposal and to confirm that the proposal has been received.

If submitting a proposal via email, the technical proposal and cost proposal must be saved as separate PDF documents and emailed to brad.waldron@alaska.gov as separate, clearly labeled attachments, such as “Vendor A – Technical Proposal.pdf” and “Vendor A – Cost Proposal.pdf” (Vendor A is the name of the offeror). The email must contain the RFP number in the subject line.

The **maximum** size of a single email (including all text and attachments) that can be received by the state is **20mb (megabytes)**. If the email containing the proposal exceeds this size, the proposal must be sent in multiple emails that are each less than 20 megabytes and each email must comply with the requirements described above. It is the offeror’s responsibility to contact the issuing agency at (907) 465-4024 to confirm that the proposal has been received. The state is not responsible for unreadable, corrupt, or missing attachments.

An offeror’s failure to submit its proposal prior to the deadline will cause the proposal to be disqualified. Late proposals or amendments will not be opened or accepted for evaluation.

SEC. 1.08 PROPOSAL CONTENTS

The following information must be included in all proposals.

(a) AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

All proposals must be signed by an individual authorized to bind the offeror to the provisions of the RFP. Proposals must remain open and valid for at least 90-days from the date set as the deadline for receipt of proposals.

(b) OFFEROR'S CERTIFICATION

By signature on the proposal, offerors certify that they comply with the following:

- A. the laws of the State of Alaska;
- B. the applicable portion of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964;

- C. the Equal Employment Opportunity Act and the regulations issued thereunder by the federal government;
- D. the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the regulations issued thereunder by the federal government;
- E. all terms and conditions set out in this RFP;
- F. a condition that the proposal submitted was independently arrived at, without collusion, under penalty of perjury;
- G. that the offers will remain open and valid for at least 90 days; and
- H. that programs, services, and activities provided to the general public under the resulting contract conform with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the regulations issued thereunder by the federal government.

If any offeror fails to comply with [a] through [h] of this paragraph, the state reserves the right to disregard the proposal, terminate the contract, or consider the contractor in default.

(c) VENDOR TAX ID

A valid Vendor Tax ID must be submitted to the issuing office with the proposal or within five days of the state's request.

(d) CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Each proposal shall include a statement indicating whether or not the firm or any individuals working on the contract has a possible conflict of interest (e.g., currently employed by the State of Alaska or formerly employed by the State of Alaska within the past two years) and, if so, the nature of that conflict. The Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development reserves the right to **consider a proposal non-responsive and reject it or** cancel the award if any interest disclosed from any source could either give the appearance of a conflict or cause speculation as to the objectivity of the program to be developed by the offeror. The Commissioner's determination regarding any questions of conflict of interest shall be final.

(e) FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

The offeror must identify all known federal requirements that apply to the proposal, the evaluation, or the contract.

SEC. 1.09 ASSISTANCE TO OFFERORS WITH A DISABILITY

Offerors with a disability may receive accommodation regarding the means of communicating this RFP or participating in the procurement process. For more information, contact the procurement officer no later than ten days prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals.

SEC. 1.10 AMENDMENTS TO PROPOSALS

Amendments to or withdrawals of proposals will only be allowed if acceptable requests are received at least ten (10) days prior to the deadline that is set for receipt of proposals. No amendments or withdrawals will be accepted after the deadline unless they are in response to the state's request in accordance with 2 AAC 12.290.

SEC. 1.11 AMENDMENTS TO THE RFP

If an amendment is issued, it will be provided to all who were mailed a copy of the RFP and to those who have registered with the procurement officer after receiving the RFP from the State of Alaska Online Public Notice web site.

SEC. 1.12 RFP SCHEDULE

The RFP schedule set out herein represents the State of Alaska's best estimate of the schedule that will be followed. If a component of this schedule, such as the deadline for receipt of proposals, is delayed, the rest of the schedule may be shifted by the same number of days.

- Issue RFP September 7, 2018
- Pre-proposal conference on September 17, 2018,
- Deadline for Receipt of Proposals September 28, 2018,
- Proposal Evaluation Committee complete evaluation by October 5, 2018,
- State of Alaska issues Notice of Intent to Award a Contract October 5, 2018,
- State of Alaska issues contract(s) October 15, 2018,
- Contract(s) start October 19, 2018.

This RFP does not, by itself, obligate the state. The state's obligation will commence when the contract is approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, or the Commissioner's designee. Upon written notice to the contractor, the state may set a different starting date for the contract. The state will not be responsible for any work done by the contractor, even work done in good faith, if it occurs prior to the contract start date set by the state.

SEC. 1.13 PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE

A pre-proposal conference will be held at 1:30 pm, Alaska Time, on September 17, 2018 in the Room 303 conference room of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development building located at 1111 West 8th Street in Juneau, Alaska. The purpose of the conference is to discuss the work to be performed with the prospective offerors and allow them to ask questions concerning the RFP. Questions and answers will be transcribed and sent to prospective offerors as soon as possible after the meeting.

Offerors with a disability needing accommodation should contact the procurement officer prior to the date set for the pre-proposal conference so that reasonable accommodation can be made.

SEC. 1.14 ALTERNATE PROPOSALS

Offerors may only submit one proposal for evaluation.

In accordance with 2 AAC 12.830 alternate proposals (proposals that offer something different than what is asked for) will be rejected.

SEC. 1.15 NEWS RELEASES

News releases related to this RFP will not be made without prior approval of the project director.

SECTION 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

SEC. 2.01 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD) is implementing projects and supporting IT systems designed to improve how the Department fulfills its objectives of promoting the welfare of the job seekers, wage earners, and retirees of the United States through improved opportunities for employment, improved working conditions, and providing accurate and timely labor statistics. Economies of scale and ensuring consistency and interoperability of DOLWD systems are an important focus of DOLWD. In order to fulfill its federally mandated responsibilities and better serve the State through improved, more economical processes, the Department is seeking vendors for a multi-year, multi-award contract.

Successful vendors shall fill staffing gaps and backfill as needed by providing highly qualified and skilled analyst programmers, project managers and support staff to participate in the development, support, and maintenance of the Department's systems. The contract will be for one (1) base year with renewal options for four (4) additional years for a total of up to five (5) years. Up to three (3) vendors will be awarded.

The Department maintains several Microsoft .NET systems and a SharePoint application which use SQL server. These systems include but are not limited to the internet-facing Unemployment Insurance Benefits (BIF) and Tax (TaxWeb) applications, the Treasury Offset Program (TOP), the State Information Data Exchange System (SIDES), the Interstate Connection Network (ICON), Time Distribution, the Fishermen's Fund, the Alaska Labor Exchange (ALEXsys), the Injury Claims Expense Reporting System (ICERS), Secure Access Manager (SAM), Certificate of Fitness, and the Certified Payroll systems, among others..

SECTION 3. SCOPE OF WORK & CONTRACT INFORMATION

SEC. 3.01 SCOPE OF WORK

The Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD), Division of Administrative Services, is soliciting proposals for .NET Systems Support. Work will be performed primarily at the offices of DOLWD located in Juneau, Alaska under the direction of DOLWD staff

The services provided by the successful vendor(s) include, but are not limited to:

- .NET Development
- .NET Routine System Maintenance and Support
- User Training and Support
- Project Management – requirements gathering in particular

SEC. 3.02 CONTRACT TERM AND WORK SCHEDULE

The length of the base term of this contract will be from the date of award, approximately October 19, 2018, until June 30, 2019. In addition, there will be four (4) one-year renewal options available at the States discretion.

Unless otherwise provided in this RFP, the State and the successful offeror/contractor agree: (1) that any holding over of the contract excluding any exercised renewal options, will be considered as a month-to-month extension, and all other terms and conditions shall remain in full force and effect and (2) to provide written notice to the other party of the intent to cancel such month-to-month extension at least 30-days before the desired date of cancellation.

SEC. 3.03 DELIVERABLES

The contractor will be required to provide the following deliverables:

Staff capable of doing work specified in Juneau, AK. Hours to be negotiated on a project or task basis.

SEC. 3.04 CONTRACT TYPE

This contract is a Time and Materials contract, with payment based on direct hours worked on the project.

SEC. 3.05 PROPOSED PAYMENT PROCEDURES

The state will make periodic payments based on submitted and approved billings. Each billing must consist of an invoice and progress report. No payment will be made until the progress report and invoice has been approved by the project director.

SEC. 3.06 CONTRACT PAYMENT

No payment will be made until the contract is approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development or the Commissioner's designee. Under no conditions will the state be liable for the payment of any interest charges associated with the cost of the contract.

The state is not responsible for and will not pay local, state, or federal taxes. All costs associated with the contract must be stated in U.S. currency.

SEC. 3.07 LOCATION OF WORK

The location(s) the work is to be performed, completed and managed are the offices of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development in Juneau, Alaska.

The state WILL provide workspace for the contractor. The contractor must provide its own workspace.

By signature on their proposal, the offeror certifies that all services provided under this contract by the contractor and all subcontractors shall be performed in the United States.

If the offeror cannot certify that all work will be performed in the United States, the offeror must contact the procurement officer in writing to request a waiver at least 10 days prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals.

The request must include a detailed description of the portion of work that will be performed outside the United States, where, by whom, and the reason the waiver is necessary.

Failure to comply with these requirements may cause the state to reject the proposal as non-responsive, or cancel the contract.

SEC. 3.08 THIRD-PARTY SERVICE PROVIDERS

The contractor must provide certification that all staff are USA citizens and USA based.

SEC. 3.09 SUBCONTRACTORS

Subcontractors may be used to perform work under this contract. If an offeror intends to use subcontractors, the offeror must identify in the proposal the names of the subcontractors and the portions of the work the subcontractors will perform.

Subcontractor experience shall be considered in determining whether the offeror meets the requirements set forth in SEC. 1.04 PRIOR EXPERIENCE.

If a proposal with subcontractors is selected, the offeror must provide the following information concerning each prospective subcontractor within five working days from the date of the state's request:

- complete name of the subcontractor;
- complete address of the subcontractor;
- type of work the subcontractor will be performing;
- percentage of work the subcontractor will be providing;
- evidence that the subcontractor holds a valid Alaska business license; and
- a written statement, signed by each proposed subcontractor that clearly verifies that the subcontractor is committed to render the services required by the contract.

An offeror's failure to provide this information, within the time set, may cause the state to consider their proposal non-responsive and reject it. The substitution of one subcontractor for another may be made only at the discretion and prior written approval of the project director.

SEC. 3.10 JOINT VENTURES

Joint ventures will not be allowed.

SEC. 3.11 F.O.B. POINT

All goods purchased through this contract will be F.O.B. final destination. Unless specifically stated otherwise, all prices offered must include the delivery costs to any location within the State of Alaska.

SEC. 3.12 CONTRACT PERSONNEL

Any change of the project team members or subcontractors named in the proposal must be approved, in advance and in writing, by the project director. Personnel changes that are not approved by the state may be grounds for the state to terminate the contract.

SEC. 3.13 INSPECTION & MODIFICATION - REIMBURSEMENT FOR UNACCEPTABLE DELIVERABLES

The contractor is responsible for the completion of all work set out in the contract. All work is subject to inspection, evaluation, and approval by the project director. The state may employ all reasonable means to ensure that the work is progressing and being performed in compliance with the contract. The project director may instruct the contractor to make corrections or modifications if needed in order to accomplish the contract's intent. The contractor will not unreasonably withhold such changes.

Substantial failure of the contractor to perform the contract may cause the state to terminate the contract. In this event, the state may require the contractor to reimburse monies paid (based on the identified portion of unacceptable work received) and may seek associated damages.

SEC. 3.14 LIQUIDATED DAMAGES

The state will assess liquidated damages equal to the cost of the breach, should a contract employee violate the agencies security policies resulting in a breach requiring payment.

SEC. 3.15 CONTRACT CHANGES - UNANTICIPATED AMENDMENTS

During the course of this contract, the contractor may be required to perform additional work. That work will be within the general scope of the initial contract. When additional work is required, the project director will provide the contractor a written description of the additional work and request the contractor to submit a firm time schedule for accomplishing the additional work and a firm price for the additional work. Cost and pricing data must be provided to justify the cost of such amendments per AS 36.30.400.

The contractor will not commence additional work until the project director has secured any required state approvals necessary for the amendment and issued a written contract amendment, approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development or the Commissioner's designee.

SEC. 3.16 NONDISCLOSURE AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Contractor agrees that all confidential information shall be used only for purposes of providing the deliverables and performing the services specified herein and shall not disseminate or allow dissemination of confidential information except as provided for in this section. The contractor shall hold as confidential and will use

reasonable care (including both facility physical security and electronic security) to prevent unauthorized access by, storage, disclosure, publication, dissemination to and/or use by third parties of, the confidential information. “Reasonable care” means compliance by the contractor with all applicable federal and state law, including the Social Security Act and HIPAA. The contractor must promptly notify the state in writing if it becomes aware of any storage, disclosure, loss, unauthorized access to or use of the confidential information.

Confidential information, as used herein, means any data, files, software, information or materials (whether prepared by the state or its agents or advisors) in oral, electronic, tangible or intangible form and however stored, compiled or memorialized that is classified confidential as defined by State of Alaska classification and categorization guidelines provided by the state to the contractor or a contractor agent or otherwise made available to the contractor or a contractor agent in connection with this contract, or acquired, obtained or learned by the contractor or a contractor agent in the performance of this contract. Examples of confidential information include, but are not limited to: technology infrastructure, architecture, financial data, trade secrets, equipment specifications, user lists, passwords, research data, and technology data (infrastructure, architecture, operating systems, security tools, IP addresses, etc).

If confidential information is requested to be disclosed by the contractor pursuant to a request received by a third party and such disclosure of the confidential information is required under applicable state or federal law, regulation, governmental or regulatory authority, the contractor may disclose the confidential information after providing the state with written notice of the requested disclosure (to the extent such notice to the state is permitted by applicable law) and giving the state opportunity to review the request. If the contractor receives no objection from the state, it may release the confidential information within 30 days. Notice of the requested disclosure of confidential information by the contractor must be provided to the state within a reasonable time after the contractor’s receipt of notice of the requested disclosure and, upon request of the state, shall seek to obtain legal protection from the release of the confidential information.

The following information shall not be considered confidential information: information previously known to be public information when received from the other party; information freely available to the general public; information which now is or hereafter becomes publicly known by other than a breach of confidentiality hereof; or information which is disclosed by a party pursuant to subpoena or other legal process and which as a result becomes lawfully obtainable by the general public.

SEC. 3.17 INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

The successful offeror must provide proof of workers' compensation insurance prior to contract approval.

The successful offeror must secure the insurance coverage required by the state. The coverage must be satisfactory to the Department of Administration Division of Risk Management. An offeror's failure to provide evidence of such insurance coverage is a material breach and grounds for withdrawal of the award or termination of the contract.

Offerors must review form APPENDIX B1, attached, for details on required coverage. No alteration of these requirements will be permitted without prior written approval from the Department of Administration, Division of Risk Management. Objections to any of the requirements in APPENDIX B1 must be set out in the offeror’s proposal.

SEC. 3.18 TERMINATION FOR DEFAULT

If the project director determines that the contractor has refused to perform the work or has failed to perform the work with such diligence as to ensure its timely and accurate completion, the state may, by providing written notice to the contractor, terminate the contractor's right to proceed with part or all of the remaining work.

This clause does not restrict the state's termination rights under the contract provisions of Appendix A, attached in SECTION 8. Attachments.

SECTION 4. PROPOSAL FORMAT AND CONTENT

SEC. 4.01 PROPOSAL FORMAT AND CONTENT

The state discourages overly lengthy and costly proposals, however, in order for the state to evaluate proposals fairly and completely, offerors must follow the format set out in this RFP and provide all information requested.

SEC. 4.02 INTRODUCTION

Proposals must include the complete name and address of offeror's firm and the name, mailing address, and telephone number of the person the state should contact regarding the proposal.

Proposals must confirm that the offeror will comply with all provisions in this RFP; and, if applicable, provide notice that the firm qualifies as an Alaskan bidder. Proposals must be signed by a company officer empowered to bind the company. An offeror's failure to include these items in the proposals may cause the proposal to be determined to be non-responsive and the proposal may be rejected.

SEC. 4.03 UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROJECT

Offerors must provide comprehensive narrative statements that illustrate their understanding of the requirements of the project and the project schedule.

SEC. 4.04 METHODOLOGY USED FOR THE PROJECT

Offerors must provide comprehensive narrative statements that set out the methodology they intend to employ and illustrate how the methodology will serve to accomplish the work and meet the state's project schedule.

SEC. 4.05 MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE PROJECT

Offerors must provide comprehensive narrative statements that set out the management plan they intend to follow and illustrate how the plan will serve to accomplish the work and meet the state's project schedule.

SEC. 4.06 EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

Offerors must provide an organizational chart specific to the personnel assigned to accomplish the work called for in this RFP; illustrate the lines of authority; designate the individual responsible and accountable for the completion of each component and deliverable of the RFP.

Offerors must provide a narrative description of the organization of the project team and a personnel roster that identifies each person who will actually work on the contract and provide the following information about each person listed:

- title,
- resume,
- location(s) where work will be performed,
- itemize the total cost and the number of estimated hours for each individual named above.

Offerors must provide reference names and phone numbers for similar projects the offeror's firm has completed.

SEC. 4.07 COST PROPOSAL

Prices submitted in the Cost proposals must include all direct and indirect costs associated with the performance of the contract.

SEC. 4.08 EVALUATION CRITERIA

All proposals will be reviewed to determine if they are responsive. Proposals determined to be responsive will be evaluated using the criterion that is set out in Section 5. EVALUATION CRITERIA AND CONTRACTOR SELECTION.

An evaluation may not be based on discrimination due to the race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, disability, or political affiliation of the offeror.

SECTION 5. EVALUATION CRITERIA AND CONTRACTOR SELECTION

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF POINTS USED TO SCORE THIS PROPOSAL IS 100

SEC. 5.01 UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROJECT (10%)

Proposals will be evaluated against the questions set out below:

- 1) How well has the offeror demonstrated a thorough understanding of the purpose and scope of the project?
- 2) How well has the offeror identified pertinent issues and potential problems related to the project?
- 3) To what degree has the offeror demonstrated an understanding of the deliverables the state expects it to provide?
- 4) Has the offeror demonstrated an understanding of the state's time schedule and can meet it?

SEC. 5.02 METHODOLOGY USED FOR THE PROJECT (5%)

Proposals will be evaluated against the questions set out below:

- 1) How comprehensive is the methodology and does it depict a logical approach to fulfilling the requirements of the RFP?
- 2) How well does the methodology match and achieve the objectives set out in the RFP?
- 3) Does the methodology interface with the time schedule in the RFP?

SEC. 5.03 MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE PROJECT (5%)

Proposals will be evaluated against the questions set out below:

- 1) How well does the management plan support all of the project requirements and logically lead to the deliverables required in the RFP?
- 2) How well is accountability completely and clearly defined?
- 3) Is the organization of the project team clear?
- 4) How well does the management plan illustrate the lines of authority and communication?
- 5) To what extent does the offeror already have the hardware, software, equipment, and licenses necessary to perform the contract?
- 6) Does it appear that the offeror can meet the schedule set out in the RFP?
- 7) Has the offeror gone beyond the minimum tasks necessary to meet the objectives of the RFP?
- 8) To what degree is the proposal practical and feasible?
- 9) To what extent has the offeror identified potential problems?

SEC. 5.04 EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS (40%)

Proposals will be evaluated against the questions set out below:

1) Questions regarding the personnel:

- a) Do the individuals assigned to the project have experience on similar projects?
- b) Are resumes complete and do they demonstrate backgrounds that would be desirable for individuals engaged in the work the project requires?
- c) How extensive is the applicable education and experience of the personnel designated to work on the project?

2) Questions regarding the firm and subcontractor (if used):

- a) How well has the firm demonstrated experience in completing similar projects on time and within budget?
- b) How successful is the general history of the firm regarding timely and successful completion of projects?
- c) Has the firm provided letters of reference from previous clients?
- d) If a subcontractor will perform work on the contract, how well do they measure up to the evaluation used for the offeror?

SEC. 5.05 CONTRACT COST (40%)

Overall, a minimum of 40% of the total evaluation points will be assigned to cost. The cost amount used for evaluation may be affected by one or more of the preferences referenced under Section 6.12.

Converting Cost to Points

The lowest cost proposal will receive the maximum number of points allocated to cost. The point allocations for cost on the other proposals will be determined through the method set out in Section 3.15.

SECTION 6. GENERAL PROCESS INFORMATION

SEC. 6.01 INFORMAL DEBRIEFING

When the contract is completed, an informal debriefing may be performed at the discretion of the project director. If performed, the scope of the debriefing will be limited to the work performed by the contractor.

SEC. 6.02 ALASKA BUSINESS LICENSE AND OTHER REQUIRED LICENSES

Prior to the award of a contract, an offeror must hold a valid Alaska business license. However, in order to receive the Alaska Bidder Preference and other related preferences, such as the Alaska Veteran and Alaska Offeror Preference, an offeror must hold a valid Alaska business license prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals. Offerors should contact the **Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing, PO Box 110806, Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806**, for information on these licenses. Acceptable evidence that the offeror possesses a valid Alaska business license may consist of any one of the following:

- copy of an Alaska business license;
- certification on the proposal that the offeror has a valid Alaska business license and has included the license number in the proposal;
- a canceled check for the Alaska business license fee;
- a copy of the Alaska business license application with a receipt stamp from the state's occupational licensing office; or
- a sworn and notarized statement that the offeror has applied and paid for the Alaska business license.

You are not required to hold a valid Alaska business license at the time proposals are opened if you possess one of the following licenses and are offering services or supplies under that specific line of business:

- fisheries business licenses issued by Alaska Department of Revenue or Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
- liquor licenses issued by Alaska Department of Revenue for alcohol sales only,
- insurance licenses issued by Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Division of Insurance, or
- Mining licenses issued by Alaska Department of Revenue.

Prior the deadline for receipt of proposals, all offerors must hold any other necessary applicable professional licenses required by Alaska Statute.

SEC. 6.03 SITE INSPECTION

The state may conduct on-site visits to evaluate the offeror's capacity to perform the contract. An offeror must agree, at risk of being found non-responsive and having its proposal rejected, to provide the state reasonable

access to relevant portions of its work sites. Individuals designated by the procurement officer at the state's expense will make site inspection.

SEC. 6.04 CLARIFICATION OF OFFERS

In order to determine if a proposal is reasonably susceptible for award, communications by the procurement officer or the proposal evaluation committee (PEC) are permitted with an offeror to clarify uncertainties or eliminate confusion concerning the contents of a proposal. Clarifications may not result in a material or substantive change to the proposal. The evaluation by the procurement officer or the PEC may be adjusted as a result of a clarification under this section.

SEC. 6.05 DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFERORS

The state may conduct discussions with offerors in accordance with AS 36.30.240 and 2 AAC 12.290. The purpose of these discussions will be to ensure full understanding of the requirements of the RFP and proposal. Discussions will be limited to specific sections of the RFP or proposal identified by the procurement officer. Discussions will only be held with offerors who have submitted a proposal deemed reasonably susceptible for award by the procurement officer. Discussions, if held, will be after initial evaluation of proposals by the procurement officer or the PEC. If modifications are made as a result of these discussions they will be put in writing. Following discussions, the procurement officer may set a time for best and final proposal submissions from those offerors with whom discussions were held. Proposals may be reevaluated after receipt of best and final proposal submissions.

If an offeror does not submit a best and final proposal or a notice of withdrawal, the offeror's immediate previous proposal is considered the offeror's best and final proposal.

Offerors with a disability needing accommodation should contact the procurement officer prior to the date set for discussions so that reasonable accommodation can be made. Any oral modification of a proposal must be reduced to writing by the offeror.

SEC. 6.06 EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

The procurement officer, or an evaluation committee made up of at least three state employees or public officials, will evaluate proposals. The evaluation will be based solely on the evaluation factors set out in SECTION 5. EVALUATION CRITERIA AND CONTRACTOR SELECTION.

After receipt of proposals, if there is a need for any substantial clarification or material change in the RFP, an amendment will be issued. The amendment will incorporate the clarification or change, and a new date and time established for new or amended proposals. Evaluations may be adjusted as a result of receiving new or amended proposals.

SEC. 6.07 CONTRACT NEGOTIATION

After final evaluation, the procurement officer may negotiate with the offeror of the highest-ranked proposal. Negotiations, if held, shall be within the scope of the request for proposals and limited to those items which would not have an effect on the ranking of proposals. If the highest-ranked offeror fails to provide necessary information for negotiations in a timely manner, or fails to negotiate in good faith, the state may terminate negotiations and negotiate with the offeror of the next highest-ranked proposal. If contract negotiations are

commenced, they may be held in the Department of Labor and Workforce Building located at 1111 West 8th Street in Juneau, Alaska.

If the contract negotiations take place in Juneau, Alaska, the offeror will be responsible for their travel and per diem expenses.

SEC. 6.08 FAILURE TO NEGOTIATE

If the selected offeror

- fails to provide the information required to begin negotiations in a timely manner; or
- fails to negotiate in good faith; or
- indicates they cannot perform the contract within the budgeted funds available for the project; or
- if the offeror and the state, after a good faith effort, simply cannot come to terms,

the state may terminate negotiations with the offeror initially selected and commence negotiations with the next highest ranked offeror.

SEC. 6.09 OFFEROR NOTIFICATION OF SELECTION

After the completion of contract negotiation the procurement officer will issue a written Notice of Intent to Award (NIA) and send copies to all offerors. The NIA will set out the names of all offerors and identify the proposal selected for award.

SEC. 6.10 PROTEST

AS 36.30.560 provides that an interested party may protest the content of the RFP.

An interested party is defined in 2 AAC 12.990(a) (7) as "an actual or prospective bidder or offeror whose economic interest might be affected substantially and directly by the issuance of a contract solicitation, the award of a contract, or the failure to award a contract."

If an interested party wishes to protest the content of a solicitation, the protest must be received, in writing, by the procurement officer at least ten days prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals.

AS 36.30.560 also provides that an interested party may protest the award of a contract or the proposed award of a contract.

If an offeror wishes to protest the award of a contract or the proposed award of a contract, the protest must be received, in writing, by the procurement officer within ten days after the date the Notice of Intent to Award the contract is issued.

A protester must have submitted a proposal in order to have sufficient standing to protest the proposed award of a contract. Protests must include the following information:

- the name, address, and telephone number of the protester;
- the signature of the protester or the protester's representative;

- identification of the contracting agency and the solicitation or contract at issue;
- a detailed statement of the legal and factual grounds of the protest including copies of relevant documents; and the form of relief requested.

Protests filed by telex or telegram are not acceptable because they do not contain a signature. Fax copies containing a signature are acceptable.

The procurement officer will issue a written response to the protest. The response will set out the procurement officer's decision and contain the basis of the decision within the statutory time limit in AS 36.30.580. A copy of the decision will be furnished to the protester by certified mail, fax or another method that provides evidence of receipt.

All offerors will be notified of any protest. The review of protests, decisions of the procurement officer, appeals, and hearings, will be conducted in accordance with the State Procurement Code (AS 36.30), Article 8 "Legal and Contractual Remedies."

SEC. 6.11 APPLICATION OF PREFERENCES

Certain preferences apply to all contracts for professional services, regardless of their dollar value. The Alaska Bidder, Alaska Veteran, and Alaska Offeror preferences are the most common preferences involved in the RFP process. Additional preferences that may apply to this procurement are listed below. Guides that contain excerpts from the relevant statutes and codes, explain when the preferences apply and provide examples of how to calculate the preferences are available at the **Department of Administration, Division of General Service's** web site:

<http://doa.alaska.gov/dgs/pdf/pref1.pdf>

- Alaska Products Preference - AS 36.30.332
- Recycled Products Preference - AS 36.30.337
- Local Agriculture and Fisheries Products Preference - AS 36.15.050
- Employment Program Preference - AS 36.30.321(b)
- Alaskans with Disabilities Preference - AS 36.30.321(d)
- Alaska Veteran's Preference - AS 36.30.321(f)

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in the Department of Labor and Workforce Development keeps a list of qualified employment programs and individuals who qualify as persons with a disability. As evidence of a business' or an individual's right to the Employment Program or Alaskans with Disabilities preferences, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation will issue a certification letter. To take advantage of these preferences, a business or individual must be on the appropriate Division of Vocational Rehabilitation list prior to the time designated for receipt of proposals. Offerors must attach a copy of their certification letter to the proposal. **An offeror's failure to provide this certification letter with their proposal will cause the state to disallow the preference.**

SEC. 6.12 FORMULA USED TO CONVERT COST TO POINTS

The distribution of points based on cost will be determined as set out in 2 AAC 12.260(c). The lowest cost proposal will receive the maximum number of points allocated to cost. The point allocations for cost on the other proposals will be determined using the formula:

$$[(\text{Price of Lowest Cost Proposal}) \times (\text{Maximum Points for Cost})] \div (\text{Cost of Each Higher Priced Proposal})$$

SEC. 6.13 EXAMPLES: CONVERTING COST TO POINTS & APPLYING PREFERENCES**(a) FORMULA USED TO CONVERT COST TO POINTS****STEP 1**

List all proposal prices, adjusted where appropriate by the application of applicable preferences claimed by the offeror.

Offeror #1	\$40,000
Offeror #2	\$42,750
Offeror #3	\$47,500

STEP 2

In this example, the RFP allotted 40% of the available 100 points to cost. This means that the lowest cost will receive the maximum number of points.

Offeror #1 receives 40 points.

The reason they receive that amount is because the lowest cost proposal, in this case \$40,000, receives the maximum number of points allocated to cost, 40 points.

Offeror #2 receives 37.4 points.

$$\$40,000 \text{ lowest cost} \times 40 \text{ maximum points for cost} = 1,600,000 \div \$42,750 \text{ cost of Offeror \#2's proposal} = 37.4$$

Offeror #3 receives 33.7 points.

$$\$40,000 \text{ lowest cost} \times 40 \text{ maximum points for cost} = 1,600,000 \div \$47,500 \text{ cost of Offeror \#3's proposal} = 33.7$$

SECTION 7. GENERAL LEGAL INFORMATION

SEC. 7.01 STANDARD CONTRACT PROVISIONS

The contractor will be required to sign and submit the State's Standard Agreement Form for Professional Services Contracts (form 02-093/Appendix A). This form is attached in SECTION 8 ATTACHMENTS for your review. The contractor must comply with the contract provisions set out in this attachment. No alteration of these provisions will be permitted without prior written approval from the Department of Law. Objections to any of the provisions in Appendix A must be set out in the offeror's proposal.

SEC. 7.02 PROPOSAL AS A PART OF THE CONTRACT

Part or all of this RFP and the successful proposal may be incorporated into the contract.

SEC. 7.03 ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The state reserves the right to add terms and conditions during contract negotiations. These terms and conditions will be within the scope of the RFP and will not affect the proposal evaluations.

SEC. 7.04 HUMAN TRAFFICKING

By signature on their proposal, the offeror certifies that the offeror is not established and headquartered or incorporated and headquartered in a country recognized as Tier 3 in the most recent United States Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report.

The most recent United States Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report can be found at the following website: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/>

Failure to comply with this requirement will cause the state to reject the proposal as non-responsive, or cancel the contract.

SEC. 7.05 RIGHT OF REJECTION

Offerors must comply with all of the terms of the RFP, the State Procurement Code (AS 36.30), and all applicable local, state, and federal laws, codes, and regulations. The procurement officer may reject any proposal that does not comply with all of the material and substantial terms, conditions, and performance requirements of the RFP.

Offerors may not qualify the proposal nor restrict the rights of the state. If an offeror does so, the procurement officer may determine the proposal to be a non-responsive counter-offer and the proposal may be rejected.

Minor informalities that:

- do not affect responsiveness;
- are merely a matter of form or format;
- do not change the relative standing or otherwise prejudice other offers;
- do not change the meaning or scope of the RFP;
- are trivial, negligible, or immaterial in nature;

- do not reflect a material change in the work; or
- do not constitute a substantial reservation against a requirement or provision;

may be waived by the procurement officer.

The state reserves the right to refrain from making an award if it determines that to be in its best interest.

A proposal from a debarred or suspended offeror shall be rejected.

SEC. 7.06 STATE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARATION COSTS

The state will not pay any cost associated with the preparation, submittal, presentation, or evaluation of any proposal.

SEC. 7.07 DISCLOSURE OF PROPOSAL CONTENTS

All proposals and other material submitted become the property of the State of Alaska and may be returned only at the state's option. AS 40.25.110 requires public records to be open to reasonable inspection. All proposal information, including detailed price and cost information, will be held in confidence during the evaluation process and prior to the time a Notice of Intent to Award is issued. Thereafter, proposals will become public information.

Trade secrets and other proprietary data contained in proposals may be held confidential if the offeror requests, in writing, that the procurement officer does so, and if the procurement officer agrees, in writing, to do so. The offeror's request must be included with the proposal, must clearly identify the information they wish to be held confidential, and include a statement that sets out the reasons for confidentiality. Unless the procurement officer agrees in writing to hold the requested information confidential, that information will also become public after the Notice of Intent to Award is issued.

SEC. 7.08 ASSIGNMENT

Per 2 AAC 12.480, the contractor may not transfer or assign any portion of the contract without prior written approval from the procurement officer.

SEC. 7.09 DISPUTES

A contract resulting from this RFP is governed by the laws of the State of Alaska. If the contractor has a claim arising in connection with the agreement that it cannot resolve with the state by mutual agreement, it shall pursue the claim, if at all, in accordance with the provisions of AS 36.30.620 – AS 36.30.632. To the extent not otherwise governed by the preceding, the claim shall be brought only in the Superior Court of the State of Alaska and not elsewhere.

SEC. 7.10 SEVERABILITY

If any provision of the contract or agreement is declared by a court to be illegal or in conflict with any law, the validity of the remaining terms and provisions will not be affected; and, the rights and obligations of the parties will be construed and enforced as if the contract did not contain the particular provision held to be invalid.

SEC. 7.11 SUPPLEMENTAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Proposals must comply with SEC. 7.05 Right of Rejection. However, if the state fails to identify or detect supplemental terms or conditions that conflict with those contained in this RFP or that diminish the state's rights under any contract resulting from the RFP, the term(s) or condition(s) will be considered null and void. After award of contract:

if conflict arises between a supplemental term or condition included in the proposal and a term or condition of the RFP, the term or condition of the RFP will prevail; and

if the state's rights would be diminished as a result of application of a supplemental term or condition included in the proposal, the supplemental term or condition will be considered null and void.

SEC. 7.12 CONTRACT INVALIDATION

If any provision of this contract is found to be invalid, such invalidation will not be construed to invalidate the entire contract.

SEC. 7.13 SOLICITATION ADVERTISING

Public notice has been provided in accordance with 2 AAC 12.220.

SECTION 8. ATTACHMENTS

SEC. 8.01 ATTACHMENTS

Attachments:

- 1) Proposal Evaluation Form
- 2) Project Evaluation Summary
- 3) Standard Agreement Form - Appendix A
- 4) Appendix B1

ATTACHMENT 1: PROPOSAL EVALUATION FORM

All proposals will be reviewed for responsiveness and then evaluated using the criteria set out herein.

Offeror Name: _____
 Evaluator Name: _____
 Date of Review: _____
 RFP Number: 2019-0700-4017

EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SCORING

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF POINTS USED TO SCORE THIS PROPOSAL IS 100

5.01 Understanding of the Project—10 Percent

Maximum Point Value for this Section - 10 Points

100 Points x 10 Percent = 10 Points

Proposals will be evaluated against the questions set out below.

- 1) How well has the offeror demonstrated a thorough understanding of the purpose and scope of the project?

NOTES

- 2) How well has the offeror identified pertinent issues and potential problems related to the project?

NOTES:

- 3) To what degree has the offeror demonstrated an understanding of the deliverables the state expects it to provide?

NOTES:

- 4) Has the offeror demonstrated an understanding of the state's time schedule and can meet it?

NOTES:

EVALUATOR'S POINT TOTAL FOR 5.01: _____

5.02 Methodology Used for the Project—5 Percent

Maximum Point Value for this Section - 5 Points

100 Points x 5 Percent = 5 Points

Proposals will be evaluated against the questions set out below.

- 1) How comprehensive is the methodology and does it depict a logical approach to fulfilling the requirements of the RFP?

NOTES:

- 2) How well does the methodology match and achieve the objectives set out in the RFP?

NOTES:

- 3) How well does the methodology interface with the time schedule in the proposal?

NOTES:

EVALUATOR'S POINT TOTAL FOR 5.02: _____

5.03 Management Plan for the Project—5 Percent

Maximum Point Value for this Section - 5 Points

100 Points x 5 Percent = 5 Points

Proposals will be evaluated against the questions set out below.

- 1) How well does the management plan support all of the project requirements and logically lead to the deliverables required in the RFP?

NOTES:

- 2) How well is accountability completely and clearly defined?

NOTES:

- 3) Is the organization of the project team clear?

NOTES:

- 4) How well does the management plan illustrate the lines of authority and communication?

NOTES:

- 5) To what extent does the offeror already have the hardware, software, equipment, and licenses necessary to perform the contract?

NOTES:

6) Does it appear that offeror can meet the schedule set out in the RFP?

NOTES:

7) Has the contractor gone beyond the minimum tasks necessary to meet the objectives of the RFP?

NOTES:

8) To what degree is the proposal practical and feasible?

NOTES:

9) To what extent has the offeror identified potential problems?

NOTES:

EVALUATOR'S POINT TOTAL FOR 5.03: _____

5.04 Experience and Qualifications—40 Percent

Maximum Point Value for this Section - 40 Points

100 Points x 40 Percent = 40 Points

Proposals will be evaluated against the questions set out below.

1) Questions regarding the personnel.

- a) Do the individuals assigned to the project have experience on similar projects?

NOTES:

- b) Are resumes complete and do they demonstrate backgrounds that would be desirable for individuals engaged in the work the RFP requires?

NOTES:

- c) How extensive is the applicable education and experience of the personnel designated to work on the project?

NOTES:

2) Questions regarding the firm.

- a) Has the firm demonstrated experience in completing similar projects on time and within budget?

NOTES:

- b) How successful is the general history of the firm regarding timely and successful completion of projects?

NOTES:

- c) Has the firm provided letters of reference from previous clients?

NOTES:

- d) If a subcontractor will perform work on the project, how well do they measure up to the evaluation used for the offeror?

NOTES:

EVALUATOR'S POINT TOTAL FOR 5.04: _____

EVALUATOR'S COMBINED POINT TOTAL FOR ALL EVALUATED SECTIONS: _____

5.05 Contract Cost — 40 Percent**Maximum Point Value for this Section — 40 Points****100 Points x 40 Percent = 40 Points**

Overall, a minimum of 40 percent of the total evaluation points will be assigned to cost. The cost amount used for evaluation may be affected by one or more of the preferences referenced under SECTION 6.11.

Converting Cost to Points

The lowest cost proposal will receive the maximum number of points allocated to cost. The point allocations for cost on the other proposals will be determined through the method set out in SECTION 6.15.

Project Evaluation Summary

Project Title _____
Project Description _____

Vendor Name _____
Vendor Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Vendor Phone Number _____ Vendor Email _____

Vendor Authorized Signature _____ Name _____
Title _____ Date _____

Cost Proposal – 40%

Proposed Personnel	Personnel Type	Proposed Hours	Hourly Rate	Total
Cost Proposal Total				

Project Approach – 15%

Experience – 30%

Risk Assessment – 15%