

STATE OF ALASKA REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



Independent Audit of the Alaska Clean Water Fund and Alaska Drinking Water Fund

RFP 18-523-23

Issued May 15, 2023

The State of Alaska, Office of Procurement and Property Management, on behalf of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Division of Water's Facilities Program, is soliciting proposals for Audit Review Services. Under the State Revolving Fund Program, the Department seeks a company to perform independent analysis and reporting for the Alaska Clean Water Fund (ACWF) and the Alaska Drinking Water Fund (ADWF).

ISSUED BY:

DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION

DIVISION OF WATER

PRIMARY CONTACT:

GUILLERMO CASTILLO

PROCUREMENT OFFICER

DECDA\$PROCUREMENT@ALASKA.GOV

OFFERORS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO RETURN THIS FORM.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION & INSTRUCTIONS.....	3
SEC. 1.01 PURPOSE OF THE RFP.....	3
SEC. 1.02 BUDGET	3
SEC. 1.03 DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS	4
SEC. 1.04 PRIOR EXPERIENCE	4
SEC. 1.05 REQUIRED REVIEW	4
SEC. 1.06 QUESTIONS PRIOR TO DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS	4
SEC. 1.07 RETURN INSTRUCTIONS.....	5
SEC. 1.08 ASSISTANCE TO OFFERORS WITH A DISABILITY	5
SEC. 1.09 AMENDMENTS TO PROPOSALS.....	5
SEC. 1.10 AMENDMENTS TO THE RFP	5
SEC. 1.11 RFP SCHEDULE	6
SEC. 1.12 PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE/TELECONFERENCE.....	6
SEC. 1.13 ALTERNATE PROPOSALS.....	6
SEC. 1.14 NEWS RELEASES	6
SECTION 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION.....	7
SEC. 2.01 BACKGROUND INFORMATION	7
SECTION 3. SCOPE OF WORK & CONTRACT INFORMATION.....	8
SEC. 3.01 SCOPE OF WORK.....	8
SEC. 3.02 CONTRACT TERM AND WORK SCHEDULE.....	9
SEC. 3.03 DELIVERABLES.....	10
SEC. 3.04 CONTRACT TYPE.....	10
SEC. 3.05 PROPOSED PAYMENT PROCEDURES	10
SEC. 3.06 PROMPT PAYMENT FOR STATE PURCHASES.....	10
SEC. 3.07 CONTRACT PAYMENT	11
SEC. 3.08 CONTRACT PRICE ADJUSTMENTS	11
SEC. 3.09 THE LOCATION OF WORK	11
SEC. 3.10 THIRD-PARTY SERVICE PROVIDERS	11
SEC. 3.11 SUBCONTRACTORS	11
SEC. 3.12 JOINT VENTURES.....	11
SEC. 3.13 RIGHT TO INSPECT PLACE OF BUSINESS	11
SEC. 3.14 F.O.B. POINT.....	12
SEC. 3.15 CONTRACT PERSONNEL	12
SEC. 3.16 INSPECTION & MODIFICATION - REIMBURSEMENT FOR UNACCEPTABLE DELIVERABLES.....	12
SEC. 3.17 CONTRACT CHANGES - UNANTICIPATED AMENDMENTS.....	12
SEC. 3.18 NONDISCLOSURE AND CONFIDENTIALITY	12
SEC. 3.19 INDEMNIFICATION	13
SEC. 3.20 INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS.....	13
SEC. 3.21 TERMINATION FOR DEFAULT	14
SECTION 4. PROPOSAL FORMAT AND CONTENT.....	15
SEC. 4.01 RFP SUBMITTAL FORMS.....	15
SEC. 4.02 SPECIAL FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS.....	15
SEC. 4.03 OFFEROR INFORMATION AND CERTIFICATIONS (SUBMITTAL FORM A)	15
SEC. 4.04 EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS (SUBMITTAL FORM B)	16
SEC. 4.05 UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROJECT (SUBMITTAL FORM C)	16
SEC. 4.06 METHODOLOGY USED FOR THE PROJECT (SUBMITTAL FORM D)	16
SEC. 4.07 MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE PROJECT (SUBMITTAL FORM E).....	17
SEC. 4.08 COST PROPOSAL (SUBMITTAL FORM F)	17
SEC. 4.09 BID BOND – PERFORMANCE BOND – SURETY DEPOSIT	17
SECTION 5. EVALUATION CRITERIA AND CONTRACTOR SELECTION.....	18
SEC. 5.01 SUMMARY OF EVALUATION PROCESS	18

SEC. 5.02	EVALUATION CRITERIA	18
SEC. 5.03	SCORING METHOD AND CALCULATION	19
SEC. 5.04	EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS	20
SEC. 5.05	UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROJECT	20
SEC. 5.06	METHODOLOGY USED FOR THE PROJECT	20
SEC. 5.07	MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE PROJECT	20
SEC. 5.08	CONTRACT COST (COST PROPOSAL)	21
SEC. 5.09	APPLICATION OF PREFERENCES	21
SEC. 5.10	ALASKA BIDDER PREFERENCE	22
SEC. 5.11	ALASKA VETERAN PREFERENCE	22
SEC. 5.12	ALASKA OFFEROR PREFERENCE	23
SEC. 5.13	OFFEROR NOTIFICATION OF SELECTION	23
SECTION 6.	GENERAL PROCESS AND LEGAL INFORMATION.....	24
SEC. 6.01	INFORMAL DEBRIEFING	24
SEC. 6.02	ALASKA BUSINESS LICENSE AND OTHER REQUIRED LICENSES	24
SEC. 6.03	STANDARD CONTRACT PROVISIONS	24
SEC. 6.04	QUALIFIED OFFERORS	25
SEC. 6.05	PROPOSAL AS PART OF THE CONTRACT	25
SEC. 6.06	ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS	25
SEC. 6.07	HUMAN TRAFFICKING	25
SEC. 6.08	RIGHT OF REJECTION	25
SEC. 6.09	STATE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARATION COSTS	26
SEC. 6.10	DISCLOSURE OF PROPOSAL CONTENTS	26
SEC. 6.11	ASSIGNMENT	26
SEC. 6.12	DISPUTES	26
SEC. 6.13	SEVERABILITY	26
SEC. 6.14	SUPPLEMENTAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS	27
SEC. 6.15	SOLICITATION ADVERTISING	27
SEC. 6.16	SITE INSPECTION	27
SEC. 6.17	CLARIFICATION OF OFFERS	27
SEC. 6.18	DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFERORS	27
SEC. 6.19	CONTRACT NEGOTIATION	27
SEC. 6.20	FAILURE TO NEGOTIATE	28
SEC. 6.21	FEDERALLY IMPOSED TARIFFS	28
SEC. 6.22	PROTEST	28
SECTION 7.	ATTACHMENTS	30
SEC. 7.01	ATTACHMENTS	30

SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION & INSTRUCTIONS

SEC. 1.01 PURPOSE OF THE RFP

The State of Alaska, Office of Procurement and Property Management, on behalf of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Division of Water's Facilities Program, is soliciting proposals for Audit Review Services. Under the State Revolving Fund Program, the Department seeks a company to perform independent analysis and reporting for the Alaska Clean Water Fund (ACWF) and the Alaska Drinking Water Fund (ADWF).

SEC. 1.02 BUDGET

The Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Water, estimates an annual budget of between \$50,000 and \$75,000 dollars for this project.

Approval or continuation of a contract resulting from this Request for Proposals (RFP) is contingent upon legislative appropriation.

SEC. 1.03 DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS

Proposals must be received no later than **04:00 PM** prevailing Alaska Time on **June 6th, 2023**. Late proposals or amendments will be disqualified and not opened or accepted for evaluation.

SEC. 1.04 PRIOR EXPERIENCE

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

- The offeror must have a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) as part of the project team. The CPA must have an active professional CPA license in the State of Alaska. The Program must be Public Accountancy and the License Type must be Certified Public Accountant as indicated in the State's Professional License database found here: <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/cbp/main/Search/Professional>.
- At least two (2) members of the project team listed in the proposal for this RFP must have performed the audit services required experience in order to satisfy this requirement. For each member listed, the offeror must provide:
 - a) dates the services were performed, and
 - b) client(s) names and contact information.
 - The audit firm must have experience performing audits of government programs that involve federal and state funds. The audit firm must list the qualifications of key personnel who will accomplish this audit. Those qualifications should list previous experience with audits of this type.
- Experience with financial reporting requirements as applicable to governmental accounting and payroll accounting.

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

SEC. 1.05 REQUIRED REVIEW

Offerors should carefully review this solicitation for defects and questionable or objectionable material. Comments concerning defects and questionable or objectionable material should 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 proposal and exposure of offeror's proposals upon which award could not be made.

SEC. 1.06 QUESTIONS PRIOR TO DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS

All questions must be in writing and directed to the procurement officer. 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: **GUILLERMO CASTILLO**

Email: **DECDA\$PROCUREMENT@ALASKA.GOV**

SEC. 1.07 RETURN INSTRUCTIONS

Do not hand deliver or use U.S. mail or any delivery service to return your technical and cost proposals.

Oral proposals, or faxed proposals are not acceptable. Please send proposal package(s) via email. The technical proposal and cost proposal must be saved as separate PDF documents and emailed to

DECDA\$PROCUREMENT@ALASKA.GOV as separate, clearly labeled attachments, such as “Vendor A – Technical Proposal.pdf” and “Vendor A – Cost Proposal.pdf”. 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.

Please note that email transmission is not instantaneous. Similar to sending a hard copy proposal, if you are emailing your proposal, the state recommends sending it enough ahead of time to ensure the email is delivered by the deadline for receipt of proposals.

It is the offeror’s responsibility to contact the issuing agency via email at **DECDA\$PROCUREMENT@ALASKA.GOV** to confirm that the proposal has been received. The state is not responsible for unreadable, corrupt, or missing attachments.

SEC. 1.08 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.

The Alaska Relay Service is a free service that provides full telephone accessibility to people who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, or speech-disabled persons who can hear. This service allows text-telephone (TTY) or assistive equipment users to communicate with standard (voice) telephone users through specially trained Communication Assistants.

Callers will need to provide the Alaska Relay Service the specific phone number they wish to call.

More information is available at: [Alaska Relay – Stay Connected Using Alaska Relay Services](#)

SEC. 1.09 AMENDMENTS TO PROPOSALS

Amendments to or withdrawals of proposals will only be allowed if acceptable requests are received 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. 1.10 AMENDMENTS TO THE RFP

If an amendment is issued before the deadline for receipt of proposals, it will be provided to all who were notified 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 website.

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. 1.11 RFP SCHEDULE

RFP schedule set out herein represents the state'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 accordingly. All times are Alaska Time.

ACTIVITY	TIME	DATE
Issue Date / RFP Released		May 15, 2023
Questions / Inquiries Due	04:00 PM	May 26th, 2023
Deadline for Receipt of Proposals / Proposal Due Date	04:00 PM	June 6th, 2023
Proposal Evaluations Complete		Approximate week of June 6th, 2023
Notice of Intent to Award		Approximate week of June 12, 2023
Contract Issued		Approximate week of June 26th, 2023
Contract Start		Approximate week of June 26th, 2023

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 Environmental Conservation, 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. 1.12 PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE/TELECONFERENCE

This section is not applicable as a pre-proposal conference will **NOT** be held.

SEC. 1.13 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. 1.14 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

Alaska's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Division of Water's Facilities Section, needs to procure services for the independent auditing of its Clean Water and Drinking Water revolving loan fund records. The revolving loan funds are a function of the section and are administered as the Alaska Clean Water Fund (ACWF) and Alaska Drinking Water Fund (ADWF). The section uses software for tracking the activity of loans made to and repayments made by communities and other eligible entities. ACWF loans may fund the planning, design, and construction of wastewater and non-point source pollution treatment systems. ADWF loans may fund water treatment and distribution system planning, design, and construction. Funding is from state and federal sources; consequently, information about the origin and disbursement of all funds is tracked in the program's software established to track loan fund activity and report loan fund activity to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as well as in the State of Alaska's accounting system. Reconciliation of amounts reported in the software and the State of Alaska's accounting system must be accomplished for both loan funds.

Each year, the section must conduct an audit of each loan program and report on the audit results to the EPA and the Alaska Department of Administration, Division of Finance. The Department is seeking proposals from qualified Certified Public Accounting firms experienced in program audits and interested in performing the necessary tasks. The Department aims to complete the required federal single audit (per 2 CFR Part 200, Uniform Guidance) of the ACWF and ADWF simultaneously. Therefore, the accounting firm selected must be prepared to make their audit work papers available to Legislative Audit during their performance of the single annual audit. Both audits would be conducted according to Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS) and guidelines for audits of loan funds distributed by the EPA. The Department receives annual capitalization grants from the EPA, which have additional requirements and stipulations that must be satisfied and reported on. In addition, the state provides a portion of the required match for each capitalization grant from the EPA with a bond transaction, and the EPA requires this activity to be reported on.

SECTION 3. SCOPE OF WORK & CONTRACT INFORMATION

SEC. 3.01 SCOPE OF WORK

The Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Water, is soliciting proposals for the Alaska Clean Water and Drinking Water Loan Fund Audit Services.

The Contractor shall complete the following tasks in conducting the audits:

- Evaluate the existing financial records of the Alaska Clean Water Fund and Alaska Drinking Water Fund for completeness and accuracy. Currently, there are 301 loan/project record files in the ACWF program portfolio. In addition, there are 285 loan/project record files in the ADWF program portfolio. Bidders should recognize that new loans may be executed before the release of this RFP. Each file has payment and/or disbursement records, and those loans in repayment status have a repayment schedule. Currently, 126 ACWF loans are in repayment status, and 153 ADWF loans are in repayment status.
- Verify the reported total disbursements to communities and principal and interest repayments received during the past state fiscal year (SFY23). Currently, the state uses software to compute the aggregate amounts of funds disbursed and received and the principal and interest amounts. These amounts need to be verified. In conjunction with the state's software, the loan commitments executed, subsequent disbursements made, and repayments received are also accounted for and reported in the state's standard accounting system. The software and the accounting system are reconciled monthly. A fiscal year reconciliation between the program's databases and the state's accounting system must be completed by the contractor auditors.
- Verify the total investment earnings and interest accrued within the ACWF and ADWF. The Alaska Department of Revenue invests repayments and other monies in the fund, and the earnings are reported in the state's accounting system. With the help of state personnel, the contractor will verify and report on these amounts as reported in the state's accounting system.
- Verify the total administrative and indirect costs charged to the ACWF and ADWF. With the help of state personnel, the contractor will verify and report on these amounts as reported in the state's accounting system.
- Compose financial statements that give a current status and provide an opinion of the program, a report on the internal control, and a report on compliance with Title VI of the federal Clean Water Act and general grant requirements of the capitalization grants from the Environmental Protection Agency for the ACWF.
- Financial statements must be composed that gives a current status and provide an opinion of the program, a report on the internal control, and a report on compliance with Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act amendments of 1996 and the general grant requirements of the capitalization grants from Environmental Protection Agency for the ADWF.
- Previous audits have composed several financial statements to meet various state and federal requirements. These have been exhibited as a Statement of Net Assets, a Statement of Activities, and a Statement of Cash Flows. These previous audit reports and financial statements will be available for reference.
- No significant audit findings remain open from prior year audits. No borrowers will have to be audited during this engagement. (Financial statements have been revised to reflect GASB 34 and must be clearly endorsed by the contractor. Further, additional pronouncements regarding financial statement presentation have been

incorporated, and these standards are expected to be maintained for the audit report. Financial statements that reflect only the state's accounting system information are required. The contractor will provide a schedule of adjustments that will be provided to the Department of Administration, Division of Finance, so these year-end adjustments are reflected in the state's accounting system.)

- Complete the required federal single audits of the ACWF and ADWF in conjunction with each fund's financial and compliance audits. The work papers must be available to Legislative Audit staff for review when they complete the single federal audit of the entire department.
- The contractor must complete the following tasks for the state drinking water revolving fund set-aside (part of the ADWF). The EPA allows a portion of each drinking water capitalization grant to be set-aside for non-loan activities. The Department currently takes advantage of these set-asides for administering the Drinking Water Program and work related to drinking water sources and technical assistance to public water systems. These set-asides are administered by the Technical Assistance Program within the Division of Water (Water) and the Drinking Water Program of the Division of Environmental Health (EH). The existing financial records of this set-aside fund must be evaluated for completeness and accuracy. This will include verifying the reported total allocations and expenditures during the past state fiscal year (SFY23) for the Water and EH-administered ADWF set-asides.
- Any indirect costs charged by the Division of Administrative Services, Water, or EH for administering the ADWF set-asides must be reviewed.
- Compose financial statements that give the current status and provide an opinion of the various set-asides, a report on the internal control, and a report on compliance with Section 1452(k) of the Safe Drinking Water Act amendments of 1996 and the general grant requirements of the capitalization grants from EPA. Also, brief Water and EH personnel on the ADWF set-asides administered and any findings specific to the program as summarized in the report.
- Final audit reports and financial statements are used by the State of Alaska's Department of Administration, Division of Finance, when preparing the statewide ACFR. Further, the audit reports are included with the annual reports submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency. Therefore, the final report's due dates will not be extended.

SEC. 3.02 CONTRACT TERM AND WORK SCHEDULE

The length of the contract will be from the date of award, approximately July 1, 2023, for three (3) years with two (2) 1-year renewal options. Renewal options are to be exercised at the State's sole discretion.

The approximate contract schedule is as follows:

Task	Date Due
Audit Field Work	September 15, 2023
First draft findings meeting	Between September 18, 2023, and September 22, 2023
Completed draft	September 27, 2023
Revision work	Between October 2, 2023, and October 6, 2023
Final Report with Financial Statements	October 13, 2023

Contractor field work period July 31, 2023, to September 15, 2023.

Prior to first draft being submitted, meet to discuss audit findings: September 18, 2023, and September 22, 2023.

Contractor submits final first draft: September 27, 2023.

First draft review by state September 27, 2023, to September 28, 2023.

Draft back to contractor for revision as required October 2, 2023, to October 6, 2023.

Contractor submits final report October 13, 2023.

Unless otherwise provided in this RFP, the state and the successful offeror/contractor agree: (1) that any extension 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) the procurement officer will provide notice to the contractor of the intent to cancel such month-to-month extension at least 30 days before the desired date of cancellation. a month-to-month extension may only be executed by the procurement officer via a written contract amendment.

SEC. 3.03 DELIVERABLES

The contractor will be required to provide the following deliverables:

- a) Perform all tasks outlined in the scope of work, including the preparation of a draft audit report for each loan fund (ACWF and ADWF) with financial statements by September 27, 2023.
- b) Coordinate all meetings and needed draft revisions as outlined in the scope of work and prepare a final audit report and financial statements by October 13, 2023.
- c) Provide an electronic version of each loan fund report and financial statements to the Facilities Accounting and Administration section and brief section personnel on the findings as summarized in the reports.
- d) Brief the personnel with the Drinking Water Program of the Division of Environmental Health on any findings related to the ADWF set-asides administered by that group. These briefings are critical and must be included when proposing a schedule for the fieldwork. The timing of these briefings is preferred shortly after the release of the draft audit report for each fund.

Deliverable	Date Due
Draft audit report	September 27, 2023
Final audit report with financial statements	October 13, 2023

SEC. 3.04 CONTRACT TYPE

This contract is a **Firm Fixed Price** contract.

SEC. 3.05 PROPOSED PAYMENT PROCEDURES

The state will make payments based on a negotiated payment schedule. 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 PROMPT PAYMENT FOR STATE PURCHASES

The state is eligible to receive a **5%** discount for all invoices paid within **15** business days from the date of receipt of the commodities or services and/or a correct invoice, whichever is later. The discount shall be taken on the full invoice amount. The state shall consider payment being made as either the date a printed warrant is issued or the date an electronic funds transfer (EFT) is initiated.

SEC. 3.07 CONTRACT PAYMENT

No payment will be made until the contract is approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation 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.

Payment for agreements under \$500,000 for the undisputed purchase of goods or services provided to a state agency, will be made within 30 days of the receipt of a proper billing or the delivery of the goods or services to the location(s) specified in the agreement, whichever is later. A late payment is subject to 1.5% interest per month on the unpaid balance. Interest will not be paid if there is a dispute or if there is an agreement that establishes a lower interest rate or precludes the charging of interest.

Any single contract payment of \$1 million or higher must be accepted by the contractor via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT).

SEC. 3.08 CONTRACT PRICE ADJUSTMENTS

Contract prices will remain firm through the life of the contract.

SEC. 3.09 THE LOCATION OF WORK

The location(s) the work is to be performed, completed, and managed is at the contractor's office.

The state WILL NOT provide workspace for the contractor. The contractor must provide its own workspace.

Travel to other locations will not be required.

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. 3.10 THIRD-PARTY SERVICE PROVIDERS

This section is not applicable.

SEC. 3.11 SUBCONTRACTORS

Subcontractors will not be allowed.

SEC. 3.12 JOINT VENTURES

Joint ventures will not be allowed.

SEC. 3.13 RIGHT TO INSPECT PLACE OF BUSINESS

At reasonable times, the state may inspect those areas of the contractor's place of business that are related to the performance of a contract. If the state makes such an inspection, the contractor must provide reasonable assistance.

SEC. 3.14 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. 3.15 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 or procurement officer. Changes that are not approved by the state may be grounds for the state to terminate the contract.

SEC. 3.16 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 or procurement officer 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. 3.17 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 procurement officer has secured any required state approvals necessary for the amendment and issued a written contract amendment, approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation or the Commissioner's designee.

SEC. 3.18 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. 3.19 INDEMNIFICATION

The contractor shall indemnify, hold harmless, and defend the contracting agency from and against any claim of, or liability for error, omission or negligent act of the contractor under this agreement. The contractor shall not be required to indemnify the contracting agency for a claim of, or liability for, the independent negligence of the contracting agency. If there is a claim of, or liability for, the joint negligent error or omission of the contractor and the independent negligence of the contracting agency, the indemnification and hold harmless obligation shall be apportioned on a comparative fault basis. "Contractor" and "contracting agency", as used within this and the following article, include the employees, agents and other contractors who are directly responsible, respectively, to each. The term "independent negligence" is negligence other than in the contracting agency's selection, administration, monitoring, or controlling of the contractor and in approving or accepting the contractor's work.

SEC. 3.20 INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Without limiting contractor's indemnification, it is agreed that contractor shall purchase at its own expense and maintain in force at all times during the performance of services under this agreement the following policies of insurance. Where specific limits are shown, it is understood that they shall be the minimum acceptable limits. If the contractor's policy contains higher limits, the state shall be entitled to coverage to the extent of such higher limits.

Certificates of Insurance must be furnished to the procurement officer prior to beginning work and must provide for a notice of cancellation, non-renewal, or material change of conditions in accordance with policy provisions. Failure to furnish satisfactory evidence of insurance or lapse of the policy is a material breach of this contract and shall be grounds for termination of the contractor's services. All insurance policies shall comply with and be issued by insurers licensed to transact the business of insurance under AS 21.

Workers' Compensation Insurance: The contractor shall provide and maintain, for all employees engaged in work under this contract, coverage as required by AS 23.30.045, and; where applicable, any other statutory obligations including but not limited to Federal U.S.L. & H. and Jones Act requirements. The policy must waive subrogation against the State.

Commercial General Liability Insurance: covering all business premises and operations used by the Contractor in the performance of services under this agreement with minimum coverage limits of \$300,000 combined single limit per claim.

Commercial Automobile Liability Insurance: covering all vehicles used by the contractor in the performance of services under this agreement with minimum coverage limits of \$300,000 combined single limit per claim.

Professional Liability Insurance: covering all errors, omissions or negligent acts in the performance of professional services under this agreement with minimum coverage limits of \$300,000 per claim /annual aggregate.

SEC. 3.21 TERMINATION FOR DEFAULT

If the project director or procurement officer 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 7. ATTACHMENTS**.

SECTION 4. PROPOSAL FORMAT AND CONTENT

SEC. 4.01 RFP SUBMITTAL FORMS

This RFP contains Submittal Forms, which must be completed by the offeror and submitted as their proposal. An electronic copy of the forms is posted along with this RFP.

Unless otherwise specified in this RFP, the Submittal Forms shall be the offeror's entire proposal. Do not include any marketing information in the proposal.

Any proposal that does not follow these requirements may be deemed non-responsive and rejected.

SEC. 4.02 SPECIAL FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS

The offeror must ensure that their proposal meets all special formatting requirements identified in this section.

Documents and Text: All attachment documents must be written in the English language, be single sided, and be single spaced with a minimum font size of 10. Pictures or graphics may be used if the offeror feels it is necessary to communicate their information, however, be aware of the below requirements for page limits.

Page Limits: Some Submittal Forms listed below have maximum page limit requirements. Offerors must not exceed the maximum page limits. Note, the page limit applies to the front side of a page only (for example, '1 Page' implies that the offeror can only provide a response on one side of a piece of paper). Any pages exceeding the maximum page limit will be discarded and will not be included in the evaluations (for example, the maximum page limit is 3 pages, but the Offeror submits 5 pages for that submittal form. Only pages 1-3 will be evaluated. Pages 4 and 5 would be discarded by the Procurement Officer before sending to the proposal evaluation committee for evaluation.).

Submittal Form	Maximum Page Limits
Submittal Form A – Offeror Information and Certifications	
Submittal Form B – Experience and Qualifications	7
Submittal Form C – Understanding of the Project	5
Submittal Form D – Methodology Used for the Project	6
Submittal Form E – Management Plan for the Project	5
Submittal Form F – Cost Proposal	

Any Submittal Form that is being evaluated and does not follow these instructions may receive a '1' score for the evaluated Submittal Form, or the entire response may be deemed non-responsive and rejected. Failure to submit any of the Submittal Forms will result in the proposal being deemed non-responsive and rejected.

SEC. 4.03 OFFEROR INFORMATION AND CERTIFICATIONS (SUBMITTAL FORM A)

The offeror must complete and submit this Submittal Form. The form must be signed by an individual authorized to bind the offeror to the provisions of the RFP.

By signature on the form, the offeror certifies they comply with the following:

- the laws of the State of Alaska;
- the applicable portion of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964;
- the Equal Employment Opportunity Act and the regulations issued thereunder by the federal government;
- the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the regulations issued thereunder by the federal government;
- 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; and
- g) that the offers will remain open and valid for at least 90 days.

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

The Submittal Form also requests the following information:

- a) The complete name and address of offeror's firm along with the offeror's Tax ID.
- b) Information on the person the state should contact regarding the proposal.
- c) Names of critical team members/personnel.
- d) Addenda acknowledgement.
- e) Conflict of interest statement.
- f) Federal requirements.
- g) Alaska preference qualifications.

An offeror's failure to address/respond/include these items may cause the proposal to be determined to be non-responsive and the proposal may be rejected.

SEC. 4.04 EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS (SUBMITTAL FORM B)

Offerors must provide detail on 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 along with their titles and location(s) where work will be performed.

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

SPECIAL NOTE: The offeror shall not disclose their costs in this Submittal Form. This Submittal Form shall be kept anonymous and must not contain any names that can be used to identify who the offeror is and cannot exceed the page limit (as described in Section 4.02).

SEC. 4.05 UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROJECT (SUBMITTAL FORM C)

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

SPECIAL NOTE: The offeror shall not disclose their costs in this Submittal Form. This Submittal Form shall be kept anonymous and must not contain any names that can be used to identify who the offeror is and cannot exceed the page limit (as described in Section 4.02).

SEC. 4.06 METHODOLOGY USED FOR THE PROJECT (SUBMITTAL FORM D)

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.

SPECIAL NOTE: The offeror shall not disclose their costs in this Submittal Form. This Submittal Form shall be kept anonymous and must not contain any names that can be used to identify who the offeror is and cannot exceed the page limit (as described in Section 4.02).

SEC. 4.07 MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE PROJECT (SUBMITTAL FORM E)

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.

SPECIAL NOTE: The offeror shall not disclose their costs in this Submittal Form. This Submittal Form shall be kept anonymous and must not contain any names that can be used to identify who the offeror is and cannot exceed the page limit (as described in Section 4.02).

SEC. 4.08 COST PROPOSAL (SUBMITTAL FORM F)

Offerors must complete and submit this Submittal Form. . The deliverables are considered a professional service and costs associated with the deliverables should be included in the hourly billing rate. The costs identified on the cost proposal are the total amount of costs to be paid by the state. No additional charges shall be allowed. All costs shall be stated as a fully burdened rate, and costs will be paid based on actual services rendered and costs incurred for the performance and completion of the requirements herein.

SEC. 4.09 BID BOND – PERFORMANCE BOND – SURETY DEPOSIT

This section is not applicable.

SECTION 5. EVALUATION CRITERIA AND CONTRACTOR SELECTION

SEC. 5.01 SUMMARY OF EVALUATION PROCESS

The state will use the following steps to evaluate and prioritize proposals:

- 1) Proposals will be assessed for overall responsiveness. Proposals deemed non-responsive will be eliminated from further consideration.
- 2) A proposal evaluation committee (PEC), made up of at least three state employees or public officials, will evaluate specific parts of the responsive proposals.
- 3) The Submittal Forms, from each responsive proposal, will be sent to the PEC. No cost information will be shared or provided to the PEC.
- 4) The PEC will independently evaluate and score the documents based on the degree to which they meet the stated evaluation criteria.
- 5) After independent scoring, the PEC will have a meeting, chaired by the procurement officer, where the PEC may have a group discussion prior to finalizing their scores.
- 6) The evaluators will submit their final individual scores to the procurement officer, who will then compile the scores and calculate awarded points as set out in Section 5.03.
- 7) The procurement officer will calculate scores for cost proposals as set out in Section 5.08 and add those scores to the awarded points along with factoring in any Alaska preferences.
- 8) The procurement officer may ask for best and final offers from offerors susceptible for award and revise the cost scores accordingly.
- 9) The state will then conduct any necessary negotiations with the highest scoring offeror and award a contract if the negotiations are successful.

SEC. 5.02 EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated based on their overall value to state, considering both cost and non-cost factors as described below. Note: 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.

Overall Criteria		Weight
Responsiveness		Pass/Fail

Qualifications Criteria		Weight
Experience and Qualifications	(Submittal Form B)	15
Understanding of the Project	(Submittal Form C)	10
Methodology Used for the Project	(Submittal Form D)	15
Management Plan for the Project	(Submittal Form E)	10
Total		50

Cost Criteria		Weight
Cost Proposal	(Submittal Form F)	40
Total		40

Preference Criteria		Weight
Alaska Offeror Preference (if applicable)		10
	Total	10

TOTAL EVALUATION POINTS AVAILABLE: 100

SEC. 5.03 SCORING METHOD AND CALCULATION

The PEC will evaluate responses against the questions set out in Sections 5.04 through 5.07 and assign a single score for each section. Offerors' responses for each section will be rated comparatively against one another with each PEC member assigning a score of 1, 5, or 10 (with 10 representing the highest score, 5 representing the average score, and 1 representing the lowest score). Responses that are similar or lack dominant information to differentiate the offerors from each other will receive the same score. Therefore, it is the offeror's responsibility to provide dominant information and differentiate themselves from their competitors.

After the PEC has scored each section, the scores for each section will be totaled and the following formula will be used to calculate the amount of points awarded for that section:

$$\frac{\text{Offeror Total Score}}{\text{Highest Total Score Possible}} \times \text{Max Points} = \text{Points Awarded}$$

Example (Max Points for the Section = 100):

	PEC Member 1 Score	PEC Member 2 Score	PEC Member 3 Score	PEC Member 4 Score	Combined Total Score	Points Awarded
Offeror 1	10	5	5	10	30	75
Offeror 2	5	5	5	5	20	50
Offeror 3	10	10	10	10	40	100

Offeror 1 was awarded 75 points:

$$\frac{\text{Offeror Total Score (30)}}{\text{Highest Total Score Possible (40)}} \times \text{Max Points (100)} = \text{Points Awarded (75)}$$

Offeror 2 was awarded 50 points:

$$\frac{\text{Offeror Total Score (20)}}{\text{Highest Total Score Possible (40)}} \times \text{Max Points (100)} = \text{Points Awarded (50)}$$

Offeror 3 was awarded 100 points:

$$\frac{\text{Offeror Total Score (40)}}{\text{Highest Total Score Possible (40)}} \times \text{Max Points (100)} = \text{Points Awarded (100)}$$

SEC. 5.04 EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

This portion of the offeror's proposal will be evaluated against the following questions:

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:*

- a) How well has the firm demonstrated experience in completing similar projects on time and within budget?
- b) How extensive is the firm's experience working with state or federal government agencies?
- c) How successful is the general history of the firm regarding timely and successful completion of projects?
- d) Has the firm provided letters of reference from previous clients?
- e) Does the firm have experience with the State of Alaska Accounting System (IRIS), the ACWF, and the ADWF?

SEC. 5.05 UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROJECT

This portion of the offeror's proposal will be evaluated against the following questions:

- 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. 5.06 METHODOLOGY USED FOR THE PROJECT

This portion of the offeror's proposal will be evaluated against the following questions:

- 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. 5.07 MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE PROJECT

This portion of the offeror's proposal will be evaluated against the following questions:

- 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. 5.08 CONTRACT COST (COST PROPOSAL)

Overall, a minimum of **40%** of the total evaluation points will be assigned to cost. After the procurement officer applies any applicable preferences, the offeror with the lowest total cost will receive the maximum number of points allocated to cost per 2 AAC 12.260(c). The point allocations for cost on the other proposals will be determined using the following formula:

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

Example (Max Points for Contract Cost = 400):

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 1,000 points to cost. This means that the lowest cost will receive the maximum number of points.

Offeror #1 receives 400 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, 400 points.

Offeror #2 receives 374.3 points.

$$\$40,000 \text{ lowest cost} \times 400 \text{ maximum points for cost} = 16,000,000 \div \$42,750 \text{ cost of Offeror \#2's proposal} = 374.3$$

Offeror #3 receives 336.8 points.

$$\$40,000 \text{ lowest cost} \times 400 \text{ maximum points for cost} = 16,000,000 \div \$47,500 \text{ cost of Offeror \#3's proposal} = 336.8$$

SEC. 5.09 APPLICATION OF PREFERENCES

Certain preferences apply to all state contracts, 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 following website:

[Application of Preferences \(alaska.gov\)](http://alaska.gov)

- 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. 5.10 ALASKA BIDDER PREFERENCE

An Alaska Bidder Preference of 5% will be applied to the price in the proposal. The preference will be given to an offeror who:

- 1) holds a current Alaska business license prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals;
- 2) submits a proposal for goods or services under the name appearing on the offeror's current Alaska business license;
- 3) has maintained a place of business within the state staffed by the offeror, or an employee of the offeror, for a period of six months immediately preceding the date of the proposal;
- 4) is incorporated or qualified to do business under the laws of the state, is a sole proprietorship and the proprietor is a resident of the state, is a limited liability company (LLC) organized under AS 10.50 and all members are residents of the state, or is a partnership under AS 32.06 or AS 32.11 and all partners are residents of the state; and

Alaska Bidder Preference Certification Form

In order to receive the Alaska Bidder Preference, the proposal must include the Alaska Bidder Preference Certification Form attached to this RFP. An offeror does not need to complete the Alaska Veteran Preference questions on the form if not claiming the Alaska Veteran Preference. An offeror's failure to provide this completed form with their proposal will cause the state to disallow the preference.

SEC. 5.11 ALASKA VETERAN PREFERENCE

An Alaska Veteran Preference of 5%, not to exceed \$5,000, will be applied to the price in the proposal. The preference will be given to an offeror who qualifies under AS 36.30.990(2) as an Alaska bidder and is a:

- A. sole proprietorship owned by an Alaska veteran;
- B. partnership under AS 32.06 or AS 32.11 if a majority of the partners are Alaska veterans;
- C. limited liability company organized under AS 10.50 if a majority of the members are Alaska veterans; or
- D. corporation that is wholly owned by individuals, and a majority of the individuals are Alaska veterans.

In accordance with AS 36.30.321(i), the bidder must also add value by actually performing, controlling, managing, and supervising the services provided, or for supplies, the bidder must have sold supplies of the general nature solicited to other state agencies, other government, or the general public.

Alaska Veteran Preference Certification

In order to receive the Alaska Veteran Preference, the proposal must include the Alaska Bidder Preference Certification Form attached to this RFP. An offeror's failure to provide this completed form with their proposal will cause the state to disallow the preference.

SEC. 5.12 ALASKA OFFEROR PREFERENCE

Per 2 AAC 12.260, if an offeror qualifies for the Alaska Bidder Preference, the offeror will receive an Alaska Offeror Preference. The preference will be 10% of the total available points, which will be added to the offeror's overall evaluation score.

Example:

Step 1

Determine the number of points available to qualifying offerors under this preference:

1000 Total Points Available in RFP x 10% Alaska Offeror preference = 100 Points for the preference

Step 2

Determine which offerors qualify as Alaska bidders and thus, are eligible for the Alaska Offeror preference. For the purpose of this example, presume that all proposals have been completely evaluated based on the evaluation criteria in the RFP. The scores at this point are:

Offeror #1	830 points	No Preference	0 points
Offeror #2	740 points	Alaska Offeror Preference	100 points
Offeror #3	800 points	Alaska Offeror Preference	100 points

Step 3

Add the applicable Alaska Offeror preference amounts to the offerors' scores:

Offeror #1	830 points
Offeror #2	840 points (740 points + 100 points)
Offeror #3	900 points (800 points + 100 points)

Offeror #3 is the highest scoring offeror and would get the award, provided their proposal is responsive and responsible.

SEC. 5.13 OFFEROR NOTIFICATION OF SELECTION

After the completion of contract negotiation, the procurement officer will issue a written Notice of Intent to Award and send copies of that notice to all offerors who submitted proposals. The notice will list the names of all offerors and identify the offeror selected for award.

SECTION 6. GENERAL PROCESS AND LEGAL INFORMATION

SEC. 6.01 INFORMAL DEBRIEFING

When the contract is completed, an informal debriefing may be performed at the discretion of the project director or procurement officer. 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 Preference 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** 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

SEC. 6.03 STANDARD CONTRACT PROVISIONS

The contractor will be required to sign the state's Standard Agreement Form for Professional Services Contracts (form SAF.DOC/Appendix A) **OR** Standard Contract Form for Goods and Non-Professional Services (form SCF.DOC/Appendix A). This form is attached with the RFP 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, and the state reserves the right to reject a proposal that is non-compliant or takes exception with the contract terms and conditions stated in the Agreement. Any requests to change language in

this document (adjust, modify, add, delete, etc.), must be set out in the offeror's proposal in a separate document. Please include the following information with any change that you are proposing:

- 1) Identify the provision that the offeror takes exception with.
- 2) Identify why the provision is unjust, unreasonable, etc.
- 3) Identify exactly what suggested changes should be made.

SEC. 6.04 QUALIFIED OFFERORS

Per 2 AAC 12.875, unless provided for otherwise in the RFP, to qualify as an offeror for award of a contract issued under AS 36.30, the offeror must:

- 1) Add value in the contract by actually performing, controlling, managing, or supervising the services to be provided; or
- 2) Be in the business of selling and have actually sold on a regular basis the supplies that are the subject of the RFP.

If the offeror leases services or supplies or acts as a broker or agency in providing the services or supplies in order to meet these requirements, the procurement officer may not accept the offeror as a qualified offeror.

SEC. 6.05 PROPOSAL AS PART OF THE CONTRACT

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

SEC. 6.06 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. 6.07 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: <https://www.state.gov/trafficking-in-persons-report/>

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

SEC. 6.08 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. 6.09 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. 6.10 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.

The Office of Procurement and Property Management (OPPM), or their designee recognizes that some information an offeror submits might be confidential under the United States or the State of Alaska Constitution, a federal statute or regulation, or a State of Alaska statute: i.e., might be confidential business information (CBI). *See, e.g.,* article 1, section 1 of the Alaska Constitution; AS 45.50.910 – 45.50.945 (the Alaska Uniform Trade Secrets Act); *DNR v. Arctic Slope Regional Corp.*, 834 P.2d 134, 137-39 (Alaska 1991). For OPPM or their designee to treat information an offeror submits with its proposal as CBI, the offeror must do the following when submitting their proposal: (1) mark the specific information it asserts is CBI; and (2) for each discrete set of such information, identify, in writing, each authority the offeror asserts make the information CBI. If the offeror does not do these things, the information will become public after the Notice of Intent to Award is issued. If the offeror does these things, OPPM or their designee will evaluate the offeror's assertion upon receiving a request for the information. If OPPM or their designee reject the assertion, they will, to the extent permitted by federal and State of Alaska law, undertake reasonable measures to give the offeror an opportunity to object to the disclosure of the information.

SEC. 6.11 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. 6.12 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. 6.13 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. 6.14 SUPPLEMENTAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Proposals must comply with Section 6.08 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. 6.15 SOLICITATION ADVERTISING

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

SEC. 6.16 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. 6.17 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. 6.18 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. 6.19 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 via teleconference.

SEC. 6.20 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. 6.21 FEDERALLY IMPOSED TARIFFS

Changes in price (increase or decrease) resulting directly from a new or updated federal tariff, excise tax, or duty, imposed after contract award may be adjusted during the contract period or before delivery into the United States via contract amendment.

- **Notification of Changes:** The contractor must promptly notify the procurement officer in writing of any new, increased, or decreased federal excise tax or duty that may result in either an increase or decrease in the contract price and shall take appropriate action as directed by the procurement officer.
- **After-imposed or Increased Taxes and Duties:** Any federal excise tax or duty for goods or services covered by this contract that was exempted or excluded on the contract award date but later imposed on the contractor during the contract period, as the result of legislative, judicial, or administrative action may result in a price increase provided:
 - a) The tax or duty takes effect after the contract award date and isn't otherwise addressed by the contract;
 - b) The contractor warrants, in writing, that no amount of the newly imposed federal excise tax or duty or rate increase was included in the contract price, as a contingency or otherwise.
- **After-relieved or Decreased Taxes and Duties:** The contract price shall be decreased by the amount of any decrease in federal excise tax or duty for goods or services under the contract, except social security or other employment taxes, that the contractor is required to pay or bear, or does not obtain a refund of, through the contractor's fault, negligence, or failure to follow instructions of the procurement officer.
- **State's Ability to Make Changes:** The state reserves the right to request verification of federal excise tax or duty amounts on goods or services covered by this contract and increase or decrease the contract price accordingly.
- **Price Change Threshold:** No adjustment shall be made in the contract price under this clause unless the amount of the adjustment exceeds \$250.

SEC. 6.22 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."

SECTION 7. ATTACHMENTS

SEC. 7.01 ATTACHMENTS

Attachments:

- 1) Submittal Form F - Cost Proposal
- 2) Standard Agreement Form - Appendix A and B.
- 3) Submittal Forms