

STATE OF ALASKA INVITATION TO BID (ITB)



STATEWIDE SCANNING & DIGITIZATION

2024-0200-0079

AUGUST 7, 2023

THIS INVITATION TO BID (ITB) IS INTENDED TO RESULT IN A NON-MANDATORY, MULTIPLE AWARD TERM CONTRACT TO PROVIDE DOCUMENT SCANNING AND DIGITIZATION SERVICES WITH INDEXING CAPABILITIES AS SPECIFIED IN THIS SOLICITATION DOCUMENT.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: If you received this solicitation from the State of Alaska's "Online Public Notice" web site, you must register with the contracting officer listed below in order to receive notification of subsequent amendments to the solicitation. Failure to register with the contracting officer may result in the rejection of your offer.

BIDDER'S NOTICE: By signature on this form, the bidder certifies that they comply with the following:

- (1) the bidder has a valid Alaska business license or will obtain one prior to award of any contract resulting from this ITB. If the bidder possesses a valid Alaska business license, the license number must be written below or one the following forms of evidence submitted with the bid:
 - a canceled check for the business license fee;
 - a copy of the business license application with a receipt date stamp from the State's business license office;
 - a receipt from the State's business license office for the license fee;
 - a copy of the bidder's valid business license;
 - a sworn notarized affidavit that the bidder has applied and paid for a business license;
- (2) the price(s) submitted was arrived at independently and without collusion, under penalty of perjury, and that the bidder is complying with:
 - 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 state and federal government;
 - the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the regulations issued thereunder by the state and federal government;
 - the bid will remain open and valid for at least 90 days;
 - all terms and conditions set out in this Invitation to Bid (ITB).

If a bidder does not hold an Alaska Business License (1) at the time designated in the ITB for opening the state will disallow the Alaska Bidder Preference. Bids must also be submitted under the name as appearing on the bidder's current Alaska business license in order to receive the Alaska Bidder Preference. If a bidder fails to comply with (2) of this paragraph, the state may reject the bid, terminate the contract, or consider the contractor in default.

Office of Procurement & Property Management Contracting Officer: Joshua Hartman Phone: (907) 465-5758 Email: Joshua.Hartman@Alaska.gov	_____ COMPANY SUBMITTING BID	*DOES YOUR BUSINESS QUALIFY FOR THE ALASKA BIDDER'S PREFERENCE? [] YES [] NO
_____ AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE	_____ PRINTED NAME	*DOES YOUR BUSINESS QUALIFY FOR THE ALASKA VETERAN PREFERENCE? [] YES [] NO
_____ ALASKA BUSINESS LICENSE NUMBER	_____ DATE	*SEE ITB FOR EXPLANATION OF CRITERIA TO QUALIFY _____ TELEPHONE NUMBER
_____ FEDERAL TAX ID NUMBER	_____ E-MAIL ADDRESS	

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SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION & INSTRUCTIONS

SEC. 1.01 PURPOSE OF THE ITB

The Department of Administration, Office of Procurement and Property Management (OPPM), is soliciting bids for a non-mandatory, multiple award term contract to provide document scanning and digitization services with indexing capabilities as specified in this solicitation document. This solicitation can potentially award up to three separate scanning and digitization contracts, one for the Anchorage area, one for the Juneau area, and one for the Fairbanks area. Please refer to Section 2.01 “Scope of Work” for additional details.

This contract may be used by all state agencies, political subdivisions, federally recognized tribes, and other entities authorized to use statewide contracts in the State of Alaska. Issues of interpretation and eligibility for participation are solely within the authority of the State Chief Procurement Official.

SEC. 1.02 DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF BIDS

Bids must be received no later than **10:00am** Alaska Time on **August 30, 2023**, at which time a virtual public bid opening will be held. Late bids or amendments will be disqualified and not opened or accepted for evaluation. The virtual public bid opening will be accessible via phone or computer by following the information below:

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 230 578 433 881

Passcode: 97CGWz

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Join with a video conferencing device

260748889@t.plcm.vc

Video Conference ID: 111 390 630 7

[Alternate VTC instructions](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 907-202-7104](tel:+19072027104), [776549545#](tel:+190776549545) United States, Anchorage

Phone Conference ID: 776 549 545#

SEC. 1.03 PRIOR EXPERIENCE AND MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

In order for a bid to be considered responsive the bidder must meet these minimum prior experience requirements:

- **Bidder must have been in business for at least three years doing similar services as identified in the scope of work.**
- **Bidder must fill out entire bid schedule for location they wish to be awarded.**
- **In order to claim preferences Bidder must sign Bid Schedule/Submission Coversheet and indicate the preferences they are claiming.**
- **Bidders must be HIPAA Compliant**
- **Bidders must meet ANSI/AIIM Standards.**
- **Bidders must be able to handle a variety of projects, some that are smaller and others projects that are larger (100,000+ images) without delay.**
- **Security Requirements: All employees handling and/or scanning inmate files must be, and remain during the period of this contract, Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) compliant. All files must be stored in a secure manner. All employees who handle and/or scan inmate files must pass a formal background check and cannot have been convicted of any felony. Misdemeanor convictions can be waived upon written approval from the Department of Corrections.**

A bidder's failure to meet these minimum prior experience requirements will cause their bid to be considered non-responsive and rejected.

SEC. 1.04 INVITATION TO BID (ITB) REVIEW

Bidders shall carefully review this ITB for defects and questionable or objectionable material. Comments concerning defects and questionable or objectionable material in the ITB should be made in writing and received by the contracting officer at least ten days before the bid opening date. This will allow time for an amendment to be issued if one is required. It will also help prevent the opening of a defective bid, upon which award cannot be made, and the resultant exposure of bidders' prices.

SEC. 1.05 QUESTIONS PRIOR TO DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF BIDS

All questions must be in writing and directed to the contracting officer as identified on the front page of this ITB. 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 ITB. These questions may be answered over the telephone. Other questions may be more complex and may require a written amendment to the ITB. The contracting officer will make that decision.

Questions requiring written response must be received in writing no later than August 20, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., in the form of an email to joshua.hartman@alaska.gov. These questions will be answered in a written amendment that will be posted on the Online Public Notices

SEC. 1.06 SITE INSPECTION

N/A

SEC. 1.07 SUBMITTING BIDS

Bidders must submit their bid via email, the bid shall be emailed to Joshua.Hartman@alaska.gov and must contain the ITB number in the subject line of the email. 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 bid exceeds this size, the bid 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. The state recommends sending it ahead of time to ensure the email is delivered by the deadline for receipt of bid.

It is the bidder's responsibility to contact the issuing agency at **907-465-5758** to confirm that the bid has been received. The state is not responsible for unreadable, corrupt, or missing attachments.

SEC. 1.08 BID FORMS

Bidders shall use the front page of this ITB and any other forms identified in this ITB for submitting bids. All bids must be signed by an individual authorized to bind the bidder to the provisions of the ITB.

BIDDER'S CERTIFICATION

By signature on the bid, the bidder certifies 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 state and federal government;
- D. the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the regulations issued thereunder by the state and federal government;
- E. all terms and conditions set out in this ITB;
- F. the price(s) submitted was arrived at independently arrived and without collusion, under penalty of perjury; and
- G. that the bid will remain open and valid for at least 90 days.

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Each bid shall include a statement indicating whether or not the company 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 contracting officer reserves the right to **consider a bid 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 contract to be performed by the bidder.

SEC. 1.09 PRICES

The bidder shall state prices in the units of issue on this ITB. Prices quoted in bids must be exclusive of federal, state, and local taxes. If the bidder believes that certain taxes are payable by the state, the bidder may list such taxes separately, directly below the bid price for the affected item.

SEC. 1.10 PRE-BID CONFERENCE

A virtual pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00AM, Alaska Daylight Savings Time (AKDT), on Wednesday, August 16, 2023. The purpose of the conference is to discuss the work to be performed with prospective bidders and allow them to ask questions concerning the ITB. Bidders should read the ITB in full and come to the meeting prepared to discuss any questions or concerns.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 235 642 383 115

Passcode: MKiU8L

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Join with a video conferencing device

260748889@t.plcm.vc

Video Conference ID: 117 579 943 1

[Alternate VTC instructions](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 907-202-7104,,244448914#](#) United States, Anchorage

Phone Conference ID: 244 448 914#

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

SEC. 1.11 ASSISTANCE TO BIDDERS WITH A DISABILITY

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

SEC. 1.12 AMENDMENTS TO BIDS

Amendments to or withdrawals of bids will only be allowed if acceptable requests are received prior to the deadline that is set for receipt of bids, in accordance with 2 AAC 12.140. No amendments or withdrawals will be

accepted after the deadline unless the delay is due to an error of the contracting agency, in accordance with 2 AAC 12.160.

SEC. 1.13 AMENDMENTS TO THE ITB

If an amendment is issued, it will be provided to all who were notified of the ITB and to those who have registered with the contracting officer after receiving the ITB from the State of Alaska Online Public Notice website.

SEC. 1.14 ITB SCHEDULE

The ITB 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 bids, is delayed, the rest of the schedule may be shifted accordingly. All times are Alaska Time.

ACTIVITY	TIME	DATE
Issue Date / ITB Released		August 7, 2023
Pre-Bid Conference	10:00 a.m. AKDT	August 16, 2023
Deadline for Receipt of Bids / Bid Due Date	10:00 a.m. AKDT	August 30, 2023
Bid Evaluations Complete		August 31, 2023
Notice of Intent to Award		September 1, 2023
Contract Issued		September 12, 2023

This ITB 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 Administration, 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. 1.15 ALTERNATE BIDS

Bidders may only submit one bid for evaluation. In accordance with 2 AAC 12.830 alternate bids (bids that offer something different than what is asked for) will be rejected.

SEC. 1.16 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Bidders shall submit all required technical, specification, and other supporting information with their bid, so that a detailed analysis and determination can be made by the contracting officer that the product offered meets the ITB specifications and that other requirements of the ITB have been met. However, provided a bid meets the requirements for a definite, firm, unqualified, and unconditional offer, the state reserves the right to request supplemental information from the bidder, after the bids have been opened, to ensure that the products or services offered completely meet the ITB requirements. The requirement for such supplemental information will be at the reasonable discretion of the state and may include the requirement that a bidder will provide a sample product(s) so that the state can make a first-hand examination and determination.

A bidder's failure to provide this supplemental information or the product sample(s), within the time set by the state, will cause the state to consider the offer non-responsive and reject the bid.

SEC. 1.17 FIRM, UNQUALIFIED, AND UNCONDITIONAL OFFER

Bidders must provide enough information with their bid to constitute a definite, firm, unqualified and unconditional offer. To be responsive a bid must constitute a definite, firm, unqualified and unconditional offer to meet all the material terms of the ITB. Material terms are those that could affect the price, quantity, quality, or

delivery. Also included as material terms are those which are clearly identified in the ITB and which, for reasons of policy, must be complied with at risk of bid rejection for non-responsiveness.

SECTION 2. CONTRACT INFORMATION

SEC. 2.01 SCOPE OF WORK AND SPECIFICATIONS

**This solicitation is for scanning and digitization of paper documents only. Documents may be confidential and/or non-confidential.*

Using Agency Requirements:

1. AGENCY PREPARATION

- Using agencies must insure that all boxes are taped shut before sending them to the contractor to be scanned.
- All boxes must have a box list with identification names and numbers listed per box.
- Using agencies are responsible for prepping documents for scanning.
 - Remove all paperclips, staples, binders, etc.
 - Any document smaller than 5.5"x8.5" must be taped to a must be taped to a larger piece of paper, or photocopied to an 8.5 x 11" paper and inserted.

NOTE: Documents not prepared correctly may result in preparation charges by the contractor at the price submitted on bid schedule.

2. AGENCY DOCUMENT SHIPPING/ DROP OFF

- **Agency Drop-off**
 - Agencies can have their boxes picked up by the contractor at the price specified on bid schedule. Agencies will have the option to drop boxes off to awarded contractor to have documents scanned.
 - Once the job is complete agencies may request documents to be mailed back to them or will be able to pick up the documents if they desire.
- **Shipping and Delivery**
 - An agency may ship documents to the contractor if desired. Agencies are responsible for shipping costs to the contractor.
 - Once documents are digitized the contractor will ship them back to the agency via the shipping method requested by the agency. Shipping costs must be billed to the agency as a pass-through charge and identified as a separate line item on the invoice.
 - If the agency wants the documents delivered by the contractor, it will be at the price specified on the bid schedule. If the agency is located out of the delivery area of the contractor, the contractor shall ship the documents as specified above.

Contractor Requirements:

3. SCANNING REQUIREMENTS:

- All services provided under this contract by the contractor shall be performed in the State of Alaska, within 75 miles of the respective cities identified in the ITB (Anchorage bidders would not be able to perform services for Juneau, and vice versa for example).
- There will be no agency on-site scanning.
- All pages will be scanned in the same order as presented.
- Scanned images shall be placed on a DVD, CD, thumb drive, external hard drive, or other appropriate approved media for delivery to the agency.
- The contractor must follow naming conventions that the state identifies on their box or indexing list. This will be established before documents are scanned, the naming convention will be specified by the using agency.
- The scanning services must include the capability to scan single-sided and double-sided documents. Paper sizes including but not limited to, 5.5"x8.5" 8.5"x11" 8.5"x14" 5"x8" 11"x17".
- Documents may contain handwritten and/or printed text and/or graphics. Graphics may include, but not be limited to, drawings, plans, photographs, icons, graphs, charts and signatures. Each scanned image should reflect the color properties of the original document. Contractor must offer color, grayscale, and bitonal scanning.

- Upon request the contractor shall perform Document Preparation as necessary to scan all files at the price submitted on the bid schedule. This includes but is not limited to removing all staples, paperclips, repair all torn documents, straighten all folded plans and mount any irregular size memorandum on standard 5.5"x8.5" 8.5"x11" 8.5"x14" 5"x8" 11"x17" paper.
- Documents are stored in multiple formats, including loose pages, sewn-in bindings, stapled and 3-ring binders. Document preparation may require separation of documents from their binding prior to scanning.
- The condition of most documents are reasonably good; however, some older documents shall require special handling.

4. DOCUMENT SECURITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Contractor will handle confidential information according to State of Alaska laws and regulations. I.E. documents and digitized information will be kept in a locked area, and documents will be held out of public view.
- No unauthorized personnel will have access to the state files while under contractor jurisdiction.
- Contractor will notify the state when the scanned electronic files are completed and will be returned to the state with an estimated time of arrival.
- Contractor will need to confirm the state has received the scanned electronic files and the state must confirm, in writing (email), the hard copy files can be destroyed or shipped back to the agency.
- Contractor's employees handling state documents must pass a criminal background check and follow the FBI Security Policy for CJIS organizations.
- Must handle HIPAA/personnel files in secure and HIPAA compliant manner.

5. INDEXING REQUIREMENTS:

- Optical Character Recognition (OCR) must be available for all document types.
- Intelligent Character Recognition (ICR) must be available for all document types.
- The contractor must be able to perform:
 - Accurate indexing or attribution of metadata to each file and record scanned;
 - Ability to correct OCR/ICR read errors.
 - Manual Keying.
 - Double-Blind Keying.
 - Edit checks to ensure that index field formats, values, etc. are correct.
 - Barcode Recognition.
 - Auto-Indexing Capabilities.

6. QUALITY REQUIREMENTS:

- A quality control process shall be in place to ensure that scanned images are complete and accurate. The contractor will perform a 100% frame by frame inspection and rescan any documents where:
 - There is substantial loss of detail when compared to the original.
 - The tonal values are uneven.
 - The contrast is too low or too high.
 - There are skewed or misaligned images.
- All data must be preserved in a form identical to, or functionally equal to, the original record.
- Upon request documents shall rotate to provide maximum readability (e.g., letters shall be in proper orientation when document is displayed without rotation.).
- Scanned documents must be viewable in PDF or TIF format at a minimum of 400-600 dpi, including greyscale or color scanning. Other format types may be requested. *Standard formats for permanent records (best practice for non-permanent) are PDF, PDF/A, TIFF, JPEG2000, PNG. 400 dpi minimum if OCR is required, 600 dpi minimum for photos, maps, plats.*

7. DOCUMENT SHIPPING AND DROP-OFF/PICK-UP

- **Contractor Pick-up/drop-off**
 - Contractor will pick-up boxes containing documents to be scanned at the price listed per box on the bid schedule.

- In the event an agencies documents are on a retention schedule, the contractor may need to drop off the scanned documents along with the media files back to the agency, at the price listed on the bid schedule.
- **Shipping**
 - Media files and documents can be dropped off or mailed back to using agency as a passthrough cost.

8. DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION

- After the documents are scanned and digitized the contractor will destroy the documents within 30 days of the agency's request and supply written notification of such by email (to be provided by the agency) when this occurs.
- Contractors will be held to the cost of destruction submitted on bid schedule.
- If the agency would like to have their documents sent back to them, the contractor will do so. Please note shipping charges will be the responsibility of the agency (to be billed as a pass through if not arranged directly by the agency).
- When documents are requested to be destroyed, all documents containing personal and confidential information must be shredded, burned, pulverized, or otherwise rendered unreadable in such a manner that the information is not recoverable.

9. PROCESS:

1. Authorizing Staff: Each Participating agency will appoint a member of their staff to be the point of contact and will be responsible for notifying the contractors of any concerns, re-scheduling pickups, document retrieval needs, etc.
2. Preparation: Agencies must keep their documents in standard archive boxes, sized 15 x 12 x 10, 24 x 12 x 10, or 24 x 15 x 10 and must be taped shut. These boxes will either be mailed or dropped off to the contractor. Agencies must create document lists, showing what documents are in each box, these lists will be provided to the contractor to insure boxes remain in same order they arrived in.
3. Quote: Once an agency has an order ready, they will notify the contractor via email or telephone of the number of boxes and documents to be scanned. The contractor will then give the agency a quote based directly on the contract rates. If the agency's document count is not accurate or the agency does not provide the actual number of documents, the quote will be an estimate only. Once scanning is complete, the contractor shall send the agency a final quote based on the actual number of documents scanned at contract rates.
4. Shipping: If contractor is located in a different city, the ordering agency will be responsible for arranging and paying for shipping costs to and from the contractor.
5. Scanning: Once the contractor has received the documents, they will scan them into the desired form and will then notify the agency once the job is complete.
6. Destruction: Once all scanning is complete the contractor will destroy the documents if destruction is approved by the agency. File destruction must meet conditions for confidential destruction as commonly defined in AS 45.48.500 Disposal of Records.
7. Documents needing to be returned for storage: Once all documents are scanned and electronic files are ready, the contractor will send them back to the using agency or will call using agency for them to be picked up. Shipments to the ordering agency will be arranged by the contractor using the shipping method requested by the agency and shall be billed to the agency as a passthrough cost. Such costs must be identified on invoices as a separate line item.

Additional general requirements:

- **SECURITY AND BACKGROUND CHECK REQUIREMENTS**

Employees that have access to documents, or document images must pass a nationwide seven-year criminal history background check. The vendor shall not utilize any staff, including sub-contractors, to fulfill the obligations of the contract who have been convicted of any crime of dishonesty, including but not limited to criminal fraud, or otherwise convicted of any felony or misdemeanor offense for which incarceration for up to one year is an authorized penalty. The vendor shall promote and maintain an

awareness of the importance of securing the state's information among the vendor's employees and agents.

The vendor will be responsible for any costs associated with obtaining criminal history reports. Copies shall be made available to the state within 30 days upon request.

- **CONVERSION OF PAPER FORMATS TO DIGITIZED IMAGES WITH ASSOCIATED METADATA AND INCLUDING DELIVERY OF THE IMAGED RECORDS.**

1. Accurate Electronic Records: The primary objective in the image conversion service process is to capture the most accurate and complete facsimile of the source documents as possible and accurately and completely capture, either automatically or manually, the required index or metadata. Vendor will be required to have on file, documented policies, assigned responsibilities, and formal procedures of the management for their processing of electronic records.

2. Image Scanning: The objective of image scanning is to capture the most accurate and complete digitized facsimile of the document as possible. Vendor will meet the following requirements:

Periodic testing of the scanner's proper functioning which includes a standard scan target page for checking the image quality of bi-tonal scanners;

- Cursory operator review of individual images as they are being scanned;
- Single and duplex scanning;
- Elimination of blank pages;

3. Document Preparation: Vendor will supply agencies with bar-coded batch separator sheets and document separator sheets. Agencies will use them with preparing their documents for imaging. State staff will be responsible for preparation of all documents sent for imaging.

Indexing: Vendor must be able to perform the following:

- Accurate indexing or attribution of metadata to each file and document scanned;
- Ability to correct OCR/ICR read errors;
- Manual Keying;
- Double-Blind Keying;
- Edit checks to ensure that index field formats, values, etc. are correct;
- Barcode Recognition;
- Auto-Indexing Capabilities;

4. Records Destruction: Pursuant to the personal information protection act (PIPA, HB 65) all electronic media devices containing personal information must be shredded, burned, pulverized, or otherwise rendered unreadable in such a manner that the media is not recoverable.

- **SECURITY AND BACKGROUND CHECK REQUIREMENTS**

Employees that have access to documents, or document images must pass a nationwide seven-year criminal history background check. The vendor shall not utilize any staff, including sub-contractors, to fulfill the obligations of the contract who have been convicted of any crime of dishonesty, including but not limited to criminal fraud, or otherwise convicted of any felony or misdemeanor offense for which incarceration for up to one year is an authorized penalty. The vendor shall promote and maintain an awareness of the importance of securing the state's information among the vendor's employees and agents.

The vendor will be responsible for any costs associated with obtaining criminal history reports. Copies shall be made available to the state within 30 days upon request.

- **Nondisclosure and Confidentiality:** Bidder 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 Bidder 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 Bidder with all applicable federal and state law, including the Social Security Act and HIPAA. The Bidder 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, is defined as 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 (i) provided by the state to the Bidder or a Bidder agent or otherwise made available to the Bidder or a Bidder agent in connection with this contract, or (ii) acquired, obtained or learned by the Bidder or a Bidder 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.).
- **Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS) Compliance:** Bidder must follow CJIS security policy. Located at <https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/cjis-security-policy-resource-center>. If you require a hardcopy contact the Procurement Officer of record.
- **Business Associate Agreement:**
 - A. Covered Entity (CE) wishes to disclose certain information to Business Associate (BA), some of which may constitute Protected Health Information ("PHI");
 - B. It is the goal of CE and BA to protect the privacy and provide for the security of PHI owned by CE that is disclosed to BA or accessed, received, stored, maintained, modified or retained by BA in compliance with HIPAA (42 U.S.C. 1320d – 3120d-8) and its implementing regulations at 45 C.F.R. 160 and 45 C.F.R. 164 (the "Privacy and Security Rule"), the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-5) (the "HITECH Act"), and with other applicable laws;
 - C. The purpose and goal of the HIPAA Business Associate Agreement ("BAA") is to satisfy certain standards and requirements of HIPAA, HITECH Act, and the Privacy and Security Rule, including but not limited to 45 C.F.R. 164.502(e) and 45 C.F.R. 164.504(e), as may be amended from time to time;
 - D. CE may operate a drug and alcohol treatment program that must comply with the Federal Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patient Records law and regulations, 42 U.S.C. 290dd-2 and 42 C.F.R. Part 2 (collectively "Part 2"); and
 - E. BA may be a Qualified Service Organization ("QSO") under Part 2 and therefore must agree to certain mandatory provisions regarding the use and disclosure of substance abuse treatment information.

Therefore, in consideration of mutual promises below and the exchange of information pursuant to the BAA, CE and BA agree as follows:

1. Definitions.
 - a. General: As used in this BAA, the terms "Protected Health Information," "Health Care Operations," and other capitalized terms have the same meaning given to those terms by HIPAA, the HITECH Act and the Privacy and Security Rule. In the event of any conflict between the mandatory provisions of HIPAA, the HITECH Act or the Privacy and Security Rule, and the provisions of this BAA, HIPAA, the HITECH Act or the Privacy and Security Rule shall control. Where the provisions of this BAA differ from those mandated by HIPAA, the HITECH Act or the Privacy and Security Rule but are nonetheless permitted by HIPAA, the HITECH Act or the Privacy and Security Rule, the provisions of the BAA shall control.

b. Specific:

- 1) Business Associate: "Business Associate" or "BA" shall generally have the same meaning as the term "business associate" at 45 C.F.R. 160.103.
- 2) Covered Entity: "Covered Entity" or "CE" shall have the same meaning as the term "covered entity" at 45 C.F.R. 160.103.
- 3) Privacy and Security Rule: "Privacy and Security Rule" shall mean the Privacy, Security, Breach Notification, and Enforcement Rules at 45 C.F.R. Part 160 and Part 164.

2. Permitted Uses and Disclosures by Business Associate.

- a. BA may only use or disclose PHI for the following purposes:
- b. BA may use or disclose PHI as required by law.
- c. BA agrees to make uses and disclosures and requests for PHI consistent with CE's minimum necessary policies and procedures.
- d. BA may not use or disclose PHI in a manner that would violate Subpart E of 45 C.F.R. Part 164 if done by CE, except for the specific uses and disclosures set out below.
- e. BA may disclose PHI for the proper management and administration of BA or to carry out the legal responsibilities of BA, provided the disclosures are required by law, or BA obtains reasonable assurances from the person to whom the information is disclosed that the information will remain confidential and used or further disclosed only as required by law or for the purposes for which it was disclosed to the person, and the person notified BA of any instances of which it is aware in which the confidentiality of the information has been breached.
- f. BA may provide data aggregation services related to the health care operations of CE.

3. Obligations of Business Associate.

- a. Permitted uses and disclosures: BA may only use and disclose PHI owned by the CE that it creates, receives, maintains, or transmits if the use or disclosure is in compliance with each applicable requirement of 45 C.F.R. 164.504(e) of the Privacy Rule or this BAA. The additional requirements of Subtitle D of the HITECH Act contained in Public Law 111-5 that relate to privacy and that are made applicable with respect to Covered Entities shall also be applicable to BA and are incorporated into this BAA.

To the extent that BA discloses CE's PHI to a subcontractor, BA must obtain, prior to making any such disclosure: (1) reasonable assurances from the subcontractor that it will agree to the same restrictions, conditions, and requirements that apply to the BA with respect to such information; and (2) an agreement from the subcontractor to notify BA of any Breach of confidentiality, or security incident, within two business days of when it becomes aware of such Breach or incident.

- b. Safeguards: 45 C.F.R. 164.308 (administrative safeguards), 164.310 (physical safeguards), 164.312 (technical safeguards), and 164.316 (policies, procedures and documentation requirements) shall apply to BA in the same manner that such sections apply to CE, and shall be implemented in accordance with HIPAA, the HITECH Act, and the Privacy and Security Rule. The additional requirements of Title XIII of the HITECH Act contained in Public Law 111-5 that relate to security and that are made applicable to Covered Entities shall also apply to BA and are incorporated into this BAA.

Unless CE agrees in writing that this requirement is infeasible with respect to certain data, BA shall secure all paper and electronic PHI by encryption or destruction such that the PHI is rendered unusable, unreadable or indecipherable to unauthorized individuals; or secure paper, film and electronic PHI in a manner that is consistent with guidance issued by the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services specifying the technologies and methodologies that render PHI unusable, unreadable or indecipherable to unauthorized individuals, including the use of standards developed under

Section 3002(b)(2)(B)(vi) of the Public Health Service Act, as added by Section 13101 of the HITECH Act contained in Public Law 111-5.

BA shall not use personally owned devices to create, receive, maintain or transmit PHI. Devices the BA uses to create, receive, maintain or transmit CE's electronic PHI shall be owned and managed by BA or CE.

BA shall patch its operating system and all applications within two weeks of the release of any patch. BA shall keep its antivirus and antimalware installed and active. BA shall limit its use of administrative accounts for IT operations only.

- c. Reporting Unauthorized Disclosures and Breaches: During the term of this BAA, BA shall notify CE within 24 hours of discovering a Breach of security; intrusion; or unauthorized acquisition, access, use or disclosure of CE's PHI in violation of any applicable federal or state law, including security incidents. BA shall identify for the CE the individuals whose unsecured PHI has been, or is reasonably believed to have been, breached so that CE can comply with any notification requirements if necessary. BA shall also indicate whether the PHI subject to the Breach; intrusion; or unauthorized acquisition, access, use or disclosure was encrypted or destroyed at the time. BA shall take prompt corrective action to cure any deficiencies that result in Breaches of security; intrusion; or unauthorized acquisition, access, use, and disclosure. BA shall fulfill all breach notice requirements unless CE notifies BA that CE will take over the notice requirements. BA shall reimburse CE for all costs incurred by CE that are associated with any mitigation, investigation and notice of Breach CE undertakes or provides under HIPAA, HITECH Act, and the Privacy and Security Rule as a result of a Breach of CE's PHI caused by BA or BA's subcontractor or agent.

If the unauthorized acquisition, access, use or disclosure of CE's PHI involves only Secured PHI, BA shall notify CE within 10 days of discovering the Breach but is not required to notify CE of the names of the individuals affected.

- d. BA is not an agent of CE.
- e. BA's Agents: If BA uses a subcontractor or agent to provide services under this BAA, and the subcontractor or agent creates, receives, maintains, or transmits CE's PHI, the subcontractor or agent shall sign an agreement with BA containing substantially the same provisions as this BAA and further identifying CE as a third-party beneficiary with rights of enforcement and indemnification from the subcontractor or agent in the event of any violation of the subcontractor or agent agreement. BA shall mitigate the effects of any violation of that agreement.
- f. Availability of Information to CE: Within 15 days after the date of a written request by CE, BA shall provide any information necessary to fulfill CE's obligations to provide access to PHI under HIPAA, the HITECH Act, or the Privacy and Security Rule.
- g. Accountability of Disclosures: If BA is required by HIPAA, the HITECH Act, or the Privacy or Security Rule to document a disclosure of PHI, BA shall make that documentation. If CE is required to document a disclosure of PHI made by BA, BA shall assist CE in documenting disclosures of PHI made by BA so that CE may respond to a request for an accounting in accordance with HIPAA, the HITECH Act, and the Privacy and Security Rule. Accounting records shall include the date of the disclosure, the name and if known, the address of the recipient of the PHI, the name of the individual who is subject of the PHI, a brief description of the PHI disclosed and the purpose of the disclosure. Within 15 days of a written request by CE, BA shall make the accounting record available to CE.
- h. Amendment of PHI: Within 30 days of a written request by CE or an individual, BA shall amend PHI maintained, transmitted, created or received by BA on behalf of CE as directed by CE or the individual when required by HIPAA, the HITECH Act or the Privacy and Security Rule, or take other measures as necessary to satisfy CE's obligations under 45 C.F.R. 164.526.

- i. Internal Practices: BA shall make its internal practices, books and records relating to the use and disclosure of CE's PHI available to CE and all appropriate federal agencies to determine CE's and BA's compliance with HIPAA, the HITECH Act and the Privacy and Security Rule.
- j. Risk Assessment: BA shall biennially conduct a thorough assessment of the potential risks to and vulnerabilities of the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of CE's PHI that BA receives, stores, transmits, or has access to. BA shall provide CE, upon request, with a written report detailing the results of the risk assessment within 5 days.
- k. To the extent BA is to carry out one or more of CE's obligations under Subpart E of 45 C.F.R. Part 164, BA must comply with the requirements of that Subpart that apply to CE in the performance of such obligations.
- l. Audits, Inspection and Enforcement: CE may, after providing reasonable notice to the BA, conduct an inspection of the facilities, systems, books, logs and records of BA that relate to BA's use of CE's PHI, including inspecting logs showing the creation, modification, viewing, and deleting of PHI at BA's level. Failure by CE to inspect does not waive any rights of the CE or relieve BA of its responsibility to comply with this BAA. CE's failure to detect or failure to require remediation does not constitute acceptance of any practice or waive any rights of CE to enforce this BAA.

Notwithstanding BA's obligation to report under paragraph 3.c of this BAA, BA shall provide a monthly report to CE detailing the unauthorized, or reasonable belief of unauthorized, acquisition, access, use, or disclosure of CE's PHI, including any unauthorized creation, modification, or destruction of PHI and unauthorized login attempts. BA shall include privileged and nonprivileged accounts in its audit and report, indicating the unique individual using the privileged account. BA shall also indicate whether CE's PHI subject to unauthorized activity was encrypted or destroyed at the time of the unauthorized activity.

BA shall provide a yearly report to CE that lists the names of all individuals with technical or physical access to CE's PHI and the scope of that access.

- m. Restrictions and Confidential Communications: Within 10 business days of notice by CE of a restriction upon use or disclosure or request for confidential communications pursuant to 45 C.F.R.164.522, BA shall restrict the use or disclosure of an individual's PHI. BA may not respond directly to an individual's request to restrict the use or disclosure of PHI or to send all communication of PHI to an alternate address. BA shall refer such requests to the CE so that the CE can coordinate and prepare a timely response to the requesting individual and provide direction to the BA.
 - n. Indemnification: BA shall indemnify and hold harmless CE for any civil or criminal monetary penalty or fine imposed on CE for acts or omissions in violation of HIPAA, the HITECH Act, or the Privacy or Security Rule that are committed by BA, a member of its workforce, its agent, or its subcontractor.
4. Obligations of CE. CE will be responsible for using legally appropriate safeguards to maintain and ensure the confidentiality, privacy and security of PHI transmitted to BA under the BAA until the PHI is received by BA. CE will not request BA to use or disclose PHI in any manner that would not be permissible under HIPAA, the HITECH Act or the Privacy and Security Rule if done by CE.
5. Termination.
- a. Breach: A breach of a material term of the BAA by BA that is not cured within a reasonable period of time will provide grounds for the immediate termination of the contract.
 - b. Reasonable Steps to Cure: In accordance with 45 C.F.R. 164.504(e)(1)(ii), CE and BA agree that, if it knows of a pattern of activity or practice of the other party that constitutes a material breach or violation of the other party's obligation under the BAA, the nonbreaching party will take reasonable steps to get the breaching party to cure the breach or end the violation and, if the steps taken are unsuccessful, terminate the BAA if feasible, and if not feasible, report the problem to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

- c. **Effect of Termination:** Upon termination of the contract, BA will, at the direction of the CE, either return or destroy all PHI received from CE or created, maintained, or transmitted on CE's behalf by BA in any form. Unless otherwise directed, BA is prohibited from retaining any copies of PHI received from CE or created, maintained, or transmitted by BA on behalf of CE. If destruction or return of PHI is not feasible, BA must continue to extend the protections of this BAA to PHI and limit the further use and disclosure of the PHI. The obligations in this BAA shall continue until all of the PHI provided by CE to BA is either destroyed or returned to CE.
6. **Amendment.** The parties acknowledge that state and federal laws relating to electronic data security and privacy are evolving, and that the parties may be required to further amend this BAA to ensure compliance with applicable changes in law. Upon receipt of a notification from CE that an applicable change in law affecting this BAA has occurred, BA will promptly agree to enter into negotiations with CE to amend this BAA to ensure compliance with changes in law.
7. **Ownership of PHI.** For purposes of this BAA, CE owns the data that contains the PHI it transmits to BA or that BA receives, creates, maintains or transmits on behalf of CE.
8. **Litigation Assistance.** Except when it would constitute a direct conflict of interest for BA, BA will make itself available to assist CE in any administrative or judicial proceeding by testifying as witness as to an alleged violation of HIPAA, the HITECH Act, the Privacy or Security Rule, or other law relating to security or privacy.
9. **Regulatory References.** Any reference in this BAA to federal or state law means the section that is in effect or as amended.
10. **Interpretation.** This BAA shall be interpreted as broadly as necessary to implement and comply with HIPAA, the HITECH Act, the Privacy and Security Rule and applicable state and federal laws. The parties agree that any ambiguity in BAA will be resolved in favor of a meaning that permits the CE to comply with and be consistent with HIPAA, the HITECH Act, and the Privacy and Security Rule. The parties further agree that where this BAA conflicts with a contemporaneously executed confidentiality agreement between the parties, this BAA controls.
11. **No Private Right of Action Created.** This BAA does not create any right of action or benefits for individuals whose PHI is disclosed in violation of HIPAA, the HITECH Act, the Privacy and Security Rule or other law relating to security or privacy.
12. **Privacy and Security Point of Contact.** All communications occurring because of this BAA shall be sent to HSS-Security@alaska.gov in addition to the CE.

In witness thereof, the parties hereto have duly executed this BAA as of the effective date of the executed contract.

SEC. 2.02 CONTRACT TERM

CONTRACT PERIOD: The initial term for the resulting contract will be from date of contract award, (approximately September 12, 2023) through September 30, 2025, with the option to renew for two additional, two-year terms at the state's sole discretion, through September 30, 2029. Terms and conditions of the resulting contract will continue to apply after contract expiration date for all orders issued prior to the contract expiration date but work is not yet completed at the time of expiration.

SEC. 2.03 CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

The administration of this contract is the responsibility of the contracting officer or person appointed by the Department of Administration, OPPM.

SEC. 2.04 CONTRACT FUNDING

The Department of Administration, OPPM, estimates historical usage of approximately \$1,000,000 of tracked spend on the contract that is expiring, with additional unreported spend through other entities that use the contract unknown. Future use is uncertain, as there are factors that could result in more or less contract usage in the upcoming contract term.

Unless otherwise provided in this ITB, the state and the successful bidder/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 contracting officer will provide written notice to the contractor of the intent to cancel the month-to-month extension at least thirty (30) days before the date of cancellation. A month-to-month extension may only be executed by the contracting officer via a written contract amendment.

SEC. 2.05 CONTRACT EXTENSION

Unless otherwise provided in this ITB, the state and the successful bidder/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 contracting officer will provide written notice to the contractor of the intent to cancel the month-to-month extension at least thirty (30) days before the date of cancellation. A month-to-month extension may only be executed by the contracting officer via a written contract amendment.

SEC. 2.06 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 state 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 contracting officer has secured required state approvals necessary for the amendment and issued a written contract amendment.

SEC. 2.07 SUBCONTRACTORS

Subcontractors will not be allowed.

SEC. 2.08 JOINT VENTURES

Joint ventures will not be allowed.

SEC. 2.09 CONTRACT PERFORMANCE LOCATION

The location(s) the work is to be performed, completed and managed are Anchorage, Juneau, and Fairbanks.

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

By signature on their bid, the bidder certifies that all services provided under this contract by the contractor shall be performed in the United States.

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

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 bid as non-responsive, or cancel the contract.

SEC. 2.10 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. 2.11 SHIPPING AND HANDLING OF PAPER DOCUMENTS

The cost of shipping and delivery for orders will be handled as follows. Agency will ship boxes to the vendor for processing at the agency's own expense. The contractor will prepay any return shipping and delivery charges on any micrographics to any agency destination named by the state in its order. The contractor will charge-back those shipping and delivery charges to the state as a separate line item on the state's invoice. The shipping and delivery charges will be billed as an exact cost, pass-through charge. Please reference Sec. 2.01 Scope of Work for additional details.

SEC. 2.12 SHIPPING DAMAGE

The state will not accept or pay for damaged goods. The contractor must file all claims against the carrier(s) for damages incurred to items in transit from the point of origin to the ultimate destination. The state will provide the contractor with written notice when damaged goods are received. The state will deduct the cost of the damaged goods from the invoice prior to payment. The contractor must file all claims against the carrier(s) for reimbursement of the loss. Please reference Sec. 2.01 Scope of Work

SEC. 2.13 DELIVERY TIME

Indicate, in the space provided on the Bid Schedule, the time required to make delivery after the receipt of an order. Failure to make an entry in the space provided will be construed as an offer to deliver within **15** calendar days after the receipt of an order. Bids that specify deliveries in excess of **60** calendar days after the receipt of an order will be considered non-responsive and the bids will be rejected.

SEC. 2.14 INSPECTION & MODIFICATION - REIMBURSEMENT FOR UNACCEPTABLE DELIVERABLES

The contractor is responsible for providing all products or the completion of all work set out in the contract. All products or work is subject to inspection, evaluation, and approval by the state. The state may employ all reasonable means to ensure that the work is progressing and being performed in compliance with the contract. The state 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 products or work received) and may seek associated damages.

SEC. 2.15 CONTINUING OBLIGATION OF CONTRACTOR

Notwithstanding the expiration date of a contract resulting from this ITB, the contractor is obligated to fulfill its responsibilities until warranty, guarantee, maintenance, and parts availability requirements have completely expired.

SEC. 2.16 ESTIMATED QUANTITIES

The quantities referenced in this ITB are the state's estimated requirements and may vary more or less from the quantities actually purchased. The state does not guarantee any minimum or maximum purchase. Orders will be issued throughout the contract period on an as-needed basis.

SEC. 2.17 CONTRACT PRICE ADJUSTMENTS

A contract resulting from this ITB will include the following price adjustment clause:

Consumer Price Index (CPI): Contract prices will remain firm through October 1, 2024.

The Contractor or State may request price adjustments, no sooner than 12 months from the Contract execution date, and no more than once per contract year. Contractors must submit a request to the State at least thirty (30) days prior to the end of the current term. All Requests must be in writing and must be received 30 days prior to the Contract renewal date.

- a. If the Contractor or State fail to request a CPI price adjustment 30 days prior to the Contract renewal date, the adjustment will be effective 30 days after the State or Contractor receives their written request.
- b. Price adjustments will be made in accordance with the percentage change in the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor and Statistics, Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) for All Urban Consumers, All Items, Urban Alaska.
- c. The price adjustment rate will be determined by comparing the percentage difference between the CPI in effect for the base year reported HALF1 (January through June 2023); and each HALF1 thereafter. The percentage difference between those two CPI issues will be the price adjustment rate. No retroactive contract price adjustments will be allowed. All price adjustments must be approved by the Contracting Officer prior to the implementation of the adjusted pricing. Approval shall be in the form of a Contract Amendment issued by the Contracting Officer.
- d. Approval for all price increases is dependent upon full compliance with the terms of the Contract including reporting requirements.

SEC. 2.18 INFORMAL DEBRIEFING

When the contract is completed, an informal debriefing may be performed at the discretion of the contracting officer. If performed, the scope of the debriefing will be limited to the products provided or work performed by the contractor.

SEC. 2.19 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. 2.20 INSURANCE

Without limiting the contractor's indemnification, it is agreed that the 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 contracting officer prior to contract approval 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.

Proof of insurance is required for the following:

- 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 occurrence.
- 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 occurrence.

NOTE: Copies of Certificates of Insurance may be supplied with the bid and must be provided to the Contracting Officer prior to the award of a contract. Failure to supply satisfactory proof of insurance within the time required will cause the state to declare the bidder non-responsible and to reject the bid.

INSURANCE UPDATES: It is the responsibility of the bidder to maintain updated insurance documents with the Statewide Contracting Office contract administrator. During the contract, failure to provide proof of all insurance within 30 days of an insurance expiration or insurance update is a material breach of contract and may be grounds for suspension or termination of the contract.

Bidders should list the State of Alaska as a Certificate Holder:

State of Alaska
Department of Administration
Office of Procurement and Property Management

PO Box 110214
Juneau, AK 99811-0214

SEC. 2.21 MANDATORY REPORTING

The contractor must submit quarterly reports to doa.oppm.vendorreport@alaska.gov and "Cc" the Contracting Officer assigned by the State to manage this contract. The contractor shall provide the State of Alaska with an electronic usage report (Excel) which will list the following information at the minimum: purchasing entity, description of items purchased, date of purchase, contract price, retail price, and the extended price for each transaction. These reports are due 30 days after the end of the quarter.

- First Quarter: July 1 through September 30
- Second Quarter: October 1 through December 31
- Third Quarter: January 1 through March 31
- Fourth Quarter: April 1 through June 30

Administrative Fee:

Effective upon final signature, the Contractor shall submit a check, payable to the State of Alaska, remitted to the Department of Administration, Office of Procurement and Property Management, for the calculated amount equal to **1.5%** of the net sales for the quarterly period.

- a) Contractor must include the PA Number on the check. Those checks submitted to the State without the PA Number will be returned to Contractor for additional identifying information.
- b) Administrative fee checks shall be submitted to:
 - ATTN: Purchasing Section
 - State of Alaska
 - Department of Administration
 - Office of Procurement and Property Management
 - PO Box 110214
 - Juneau, AK 99811-0214
- c) The administrative fee shall not be included as an adjustment to Contractor's Master Agreement pricing and shall not be invoiced or charged to the ordering agency.
- d) Payment of the administrative fee is due irrespective of payment status on any orders from a Purchasing Entity.
- e) Administrative fee checks are due for each quarter as follows:

<u>Reporting Period</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
State Fiscal Quarter 1 (Jul 1 - Sept 30):	Oct 31
State Fiscal Quarter 2 (Oct 1 - Dec 31):	Jan 31
State Fiscal Quarter 3 (Jan 1 - Mar 31):	Apr 30
State Fiscal Quarter 4 (Apr 1 - Jun 30):	Jul 31

- f) Any quarter with zero sales must be reported as zero sales. This may be done electronically via email to the State of Alaska contact listed in this PA.

SECTION 3. CONTRACT INVOICING AND PAYMENTS

SEC. 3.01 BILLING INSTRUCTIONS

Itemized invoices must be sent to the ordering agency's address shown on the individual Purchase Order, Contract Award or Delivery Order. Questions concerning payment must be addressed to the ordering agency. All invoices produced by the contractor must contain the following information at a minimum:

1. **Ordering agency, and address**
2. **Name, email, and phone number of agency point of contact for the order**
3. **Project number**
4. **Project date**
5. **Brief description of Project**
6. **Quantity, contract cost, and final amount due**
7. **Copy of original written quote (upon request).**
8. **Shipping method**
9. **Pass through cost for shipping**

INVOICE DISCREPANCIES: Invoice verification will be routinely performed on contract pricing to assure contract compliance. Overcharges shall be credited to individual agency accounts by the Contractor within 30 days of notification. In the case of frequent discrepancies, or at the reasonable request of the state, the Contractor will be required to perform an item-by-item audit to correct all pricing errors. Repeated cases of invoice errors may cause the contract to be terminated.

SEC. 3.02 PAYMENT FOR STATE PURCHASES

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

SEC. 3.03 PROMPT PAYMENT FOR STATE PURCHASES

N/A

SEC. 3.04 THIRD-PARTY FINANCING AGREEMENTS NOT ALLOWED

Because of the additional administrative and accounting time required of the state when third party financing agreements are permitted, they will not be allowed under this contract.

SECTION 4. EVALUATION AND CONTRACTOR SELECTION

SEC. 4.01 EVALUATION OF BIDS

After bid opening, the contracting officer will evaluate the bids for responsiveness. Bids deemed non-responsive will be eliminated from further consideration. An evaluation may not be based on discrimination due the race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, disability, or political affiliation of the bidder.

SEC. 4.02 APPLICATION OF PREFERENCES

Certain preferences apply to all state contracts, regardless of their dollar value. The Alaska Bidder and Alaska Veteran preferences are the most common preferences involved in the ITB 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:

<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)

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. Bidders must attach a copy of their certification letter to the proposal. **A bidder's failure to provide this certification letter with their proposal will cause the state to disallow the preference.**

SEC. 4.03 ALASKA BIDDER PREFERENCE

An Alaska Bidder Preference of 5% will be applied to the total bid price. The preference will be given to a bidder who:

- 1) holds a current Alaska business license prior to the deadline for receipt of bids;
- 2) submits a bid for goods or services under the name appearing on the bidder's current Alaska business license;
- 3) has maintained a place of business within the state staffed by the bidder, or an employee of the bidder, for a period of six months immediately preceding the date of the bid;
- 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

- 5) if a joint venture, is composed entirely of ventures that qualify under (1)-(4) of this subsection.

Alaska Bidder Preference Certification Form

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

SEC. 4.04 ALASKA VETERAN PREFERENCE

An Alaska Veteran Preference of 5%, not to exceed \$5,000, will be applied to the total bid price. The preference will be given to a bidder 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 bid must include the Alaska Bidder Preference Certification Form attached to this ITB. A bidder's failure to provide this completed form with their bid will cause the state to disallow the preference.

SEC. 4.05 USE OF LOCAL FOREST PRODUCTS

In a project financed by state money in which the use of timber, lumber and manufactured lumber is required, only timber, lumber and manufactured lumber products originating in this state from Alaska forests shall be used unless the use of those products has been determined to be impractical, in accordance with AS 36.15.010 and AS 36.30.322.

SEC. 4.06 LOCAL AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES PRODUCT PREFERENCE

When agricultural, dairy, timber, lumber, or fisheries products are purchased using state money, a seven percent (7%) preference shall be applied to the price of the products harvested in Alaska, or in the case of fisheries products, the products harvested or processed within the jurisdiction of Alaska, in accordance with AS 36.15.050.

SEC. 4.07 ALASKA PRODUCT PREFERENCE

A bidder that designates the use of an Alaska Product which meets the requirements of the ITB specifications and is designated as a Class I, Class II or Class III Alaska Product by the Department of Community & Economic Development (DCCED) may receive a preference in the bid evaluation in accordance with AS 36.30.332 and 3 AAC 92.010.

To qualify for the preference, the product must have received certification from DCCED, be listed in the current published edition of the Alaska Products Preference List, and the bidder must provide the qualified product on a 100% basis. There are no provisions under Alaska Statutes or Regulations that allow for a product

exchanges/substitutions or permit the product to be co-mingled with other products. Rather, AS 36.30.330 provides for a penalty for failing to use the designated Alaska products.

Products are classified in one of three categories:

- Class I products receive a 3% preference.
- Class II products receive a 5% preference.
- Class III products receive a 7% preference.

When the bids are evaluated, the preference percentage will be deducted from the product price. If a bidder fails to specify the brand being offered, no preference will be given. For more information on the Alaska Product Preference and to see the list of products currently on the Alaska Product Preference List, use the following web link:

<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/dcra/AlaskaProductPreferenceProgram.aspx>

Brand Offered

If offering a product that qualifies for the Alaska Product Preference, the bidder must indicate the brand of product they intent to provide. If a bidder is not offering a product that qualifies for the Alaska Product Preference, the bidder does not need to indicate a product brand.

Brand of Product Changes

During the course of the contract including all renewal options, a contractor that offered a product that qualified for the Alaska Product Preference wishes to change the product brand, the contractor must first provide a written request, along with evidence that the replacement brand also qualifies for the Alaska Product Preference, for approval by the contracting officer. A contract amendment must be issued by the contracting officer to authorize the change.

If a bidder offers a product brand in the original bid that does not qualify for the Alaska Product Preference, a change in the product brand may be made at any time during the course of the contract, including all renewals, as long as the product band continues to meet the required specifications. A contract amendment is not required if the product brand originally offered did not qualify for the Alaska Product Preference.

SEC. 4.08 EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM PREFERENCE

If a bidder qualifies for the Alaska Bidder Preference and is offering goods or services through an employment program as defined under AS 36.30.990(12), an Employment Program Preference of 15% will be applied to the total bid price.

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.

SEC. 4.09 ALASKANS WITH DISABILITIES PREFERENCE

If a bidder qualifies for the Alaska Bidder Preference and is a qualifying entity as defined in AS 36.30.321(d), an Alaskans with Disabilities Preference of 10% will be applied to the total bid price.

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.

SEC. 4.10 PREFERENCE QUALIFICATION LETTER

Regarding the Employment Program Preference and the Alaskans with Disabilities Preference, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in the Department of Labor and Workforce Development maintains lists companies who qualify for those preferences. As evidence of a company's right to the preferences, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation will issue a certification letter. To take advantage of the preferences, a bidder must be on the appropriate Division of Vocational Rehabilitation list at the time the bid is opened and must attach a copy of their certification letter to their bid. The bidder's failure to provide this certification letter with their bid will cause the state to disallow the preference.

SEC. 4.11 EXTENSION OF PRICES

In case of error in the extension of prices in the bid, the unit prices will govern; in a lot bid, the lot prices will govern.

SEC. 4.12 METHOD OF AWARD

Award will be made to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for each area (Anchorage, Juneau and Fairbanks). In order to be considered responsive, bidders must bid on all items.

SEC. 4.13 CONTRACTOR SELECTION PROCESS

Once the contracts are established this selection process will be used. When the state needs security services the lowest priced contractor for that location will be contacted first. If, for any reason, the lowest contractor is not available to perform the needed service, the state will contact the next lowest priced contractor for that location. This process will continue until a contractor who can perform the service is located. The location of the contractor initially contacted will be determined by the starting location of the call-out. For instance, if a there was a need to transport a person from Anchorage to Fairbanks and then guard the person for two days in Fairbanks, the agency would contact Anchorage contractors, even though a substantial portion of the actual service would be performed in Fairbanks.

SEC. 4.14 NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD

After the responses to this ITB have been opened and evaluated, a tabulation of the bids will be prepared. This tabulation, called a Notice of Intent to Award, serves two purposes. It lists the name of each company or person that offered a bid and the price they bid. It also provides notice of the state's intent to award a contract(s) to the bidder(s) indicated. A copy of the Notice of Intent will be mailed to each company or person who responded to the ITB. Bidders identified as the apparent low responsive bidders are instructed not to proceed until a Purchase Order, Contract Award, Lease, or some other form of written notice is given by the contracting officer. A company or person who proceeds prior to receiving a Purchase Order, Contract Award, Lease, or some other form of written notice from the contracting officer does so without a contract and at their own risk.

SECTION 5. GENERAL PROCESS AND LEGAL INFORMATION

SEC. 5.01 ALASKA BUSINESS LICENSE AND OTHER REQUIRED LICENSES

Prior to the award of a contract, a bidder 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 Alaskans with Disabilities Preference, a bidder must hold a valid Alaska business license prior to the deadline for receipt of bids. Bidders 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 bidder possesses a valid Alaska business license may consist of any one of the following:

- copy of an Alaska business license;
- certification on the bid that the bidder has a valid Alaska business license and has included the license number in the bid;
- 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 bidder has applied and paid for the Alaska business license.

You are not required to hold a valid Alaska business license at the time bids 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 bids, all bidders must hold any other necessary applicable professional licenses required by Alaska Statute.

SEC. 5.02 AUTHORITY

This ITB is written in accordance with AS 36.30 and 2 AAC 12.

SEC. 5.03 COMPLIANCE

In the performance of a contract that results from this ITB, the contractor must comply with all applicable federal, state, and borough regulations, codes, and laws; be liable for all required insurance, licenses, permits and bonds; and pay all applicable federal, state, and borough taxes.

SEC. 5.04 SUITABLE MATERIALS, ETC.

Unless otherwise specified in this ITB, all materials, supplies or equipment offered by a bidder shall be new, unused, and of the latest edition, version, model or crop and of recent manufacture.

SEC. 5.05 SPECIFICATIONS

Unless otherwise specified in this ITB, product brand names or model numbers specified in this ITB are examples of the type and quality of product required, and are not statements of preference. If the specifications describing an item conflict with a brand name or model number describing the item, the specifications govern. Reference to brand name or number does not preclude an offer of a comparable or better product, if full specifications and descriptive literature are provided for the product. Failure to provide such specifications and descriptive literature may be cause for rejection of the offer.

SEC. 5.06 CONTRACTOR SITE INSPECTION

The state may conduct on-site visits to evaluate the bidder's capacity to perform the contract. A bidder must agree, at risk of being found non-responsive and having its bid rejected, to provide the state reasonable access to relevant portions of its work sites. Individuals designated by the contracting officer at the state's expense will make site inspection.

SEC. 5.07 ORDER DOCUMENTS

Except as specifically allowed under this ITB, an ordering agency will not sign any vendor contract. The state is not bound by a vendor contract signed by a person who is not specifically authorized to sign for the state under this ITB. Unless otherwise specified in this ITB, the State of Alaska Purchase Order, Contract Award and Delivery Order are the only order documents that may be used to place orders against the contract(s) resulting from this ITB.

SEC. 5.08 HUMAN TRAFFICKING

By signature on their bid, the bidder certifies that the bidder 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 bid as non-responsive, or cancel the contract.

SEC. 5.09 RIGHT OF REJECTION

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

Bidders may not qualify the bid nor restrict the rights of the state. If a bidder does so, the contracting officer may determine the bid to be a non-responsive counter-offer and the bid 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 ITB;
- 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 contracting officer.

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

A bid from a debarred or suspended bidder shall be rejected.

SEC. 5.10 STATE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARATION COSTS

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

SEC. 5.11 DISCLOSURE OF BID CONTENTS

All bid prices become public information at the bid opening. After the deadline for receipt of bids, all other bid 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 other bid information will be held in confidence during the evaluation process and prior to the time a Notice of Intent to Award is issued. Thereafter, bids 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. 5.12 ASSIGNMENTS

Per 2 AAC 12.480, the contractor may not transfer or assign any portion of the contract without prior written approval from the contracting officer. Bids that are conditioned upon the state's approval of an assignment will be rejected as non-responsive.

SEC. 5.13 FORCE MAJEURE (IMPOSSIBILITY TO PERFORM)

The parties to a contract resulting from this ITB are not liable for the consequences of any failure to perform, or default in performing, any of its obligations under the contract, if that failure or default is caused by any unforeseeable Force Majeure, beyond the control of, and without the fault or negligence of, the respective party.

For the purposes of this ITB, Force Majeure will mean war (whether declared or not); revolution; invasion; insurrection; riot; civil commotion; sabotage; military or usurped power; lightning; explosion; fire; storm; drought; flood; earthquake; epidemic; quarantine; strikes; acts or restraints of governmental authorities affecting the project or directly or indirectly prohibiting or restricting the furnishing or use of materials or labor required; inability to secure materials, machinery, equipment or labor because of priority, allocation or other regulations of any governmental authorities.

SEC. 5.14 DEFAULT

In case of default by the contractor, for any reason whatsoever, the state may procurement the goods or services from another source and hold the contractor responsible for any resulting excess cost and may seek other remedies under law or equity.

SEC. 5.15 DISPUTES

If the contractor has a claim arising in connection with the contract 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.

SEC. 5.16 SEVERABILITY

If any provision of the contract or agreement is found to be invalid or 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. 5.17 CONTRACT CANCELLATION

The state reserves the right to cancel the contract at its convenience upon **30** calendar days written notice to the contractor. The state is only liable for payment in accordance with the payment provisions of this contract for supplies or services provide before the effective date termination.

SEC. 5.18 GOVERNING LAW; FORUM SELECTION

A contract resulting from this ITB is governed by the laws of the State of Alaska. To the extent not otherwise governed by Section 5.15 of this ITB, any claim concerning the contract shall be brought only in the Superior Court of the State of Alaska and not elsewhere.

SEC. 5.19 SOLICITATION ADVERTISING

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

SEC. 5.20 QUALIFIED BIDDERS

Per 2 AAC 12.875, unless provided for otherwise in the ITB, to qualify as a bidder for award of a contract issued under AS 36.30, the bidder 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 ITB.

If the bidder leases services or supplies or acts as a broker or agency in providing the services or supplies in order to meet these requirements, the contracting officer may not accept the bidder as a qualified bidder under AS 36.30.

SEC. 5.21 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 contracting 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 contracting 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 contracting 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. 5.22 PROTEST

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

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 contracting officer at least ten days prior to the deadline for receipt of bids.

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

A protester must have submitted a bid 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 contracting officer will issue a written response to the protest. The response will set out the contracting 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 bidders will be notified of any protest. The review of protests, decisions of the contracting officer, appeals, and hearings, will be conducted in accordance with the State Procurement Code (AS 36.30), Article 8 "Legal and Contractual Remedies."

SECTION 6. ATTACHMENTS

SEC. 6.01 ATTACHMENTS

Attachments:

- 1) Bid Schedule (*Mandatory Return along with signed cover of the ITB)
- 2) Sample Usage Report Spreadsheet (Separate Attachment, Informational only)