

# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



## **RETURN THIS PROPOSAL TO:**

### **DIVISION OF LEGISLATIVE AUDIT**

**Issuing Office Mailing Address:** State Capitol, 120 4th Street, Room 3, Juneau, AK 99801-1182

**Issuing Office Hand Delivery Address:** Terry Miller Legislative Office Building, 129 6th Street, Room 222, Juneau, Alaska

## **RFP NO. 26-33-03**

### **CYBER SECURITY ASSESSMENTS OF SELECT STATE IT SYSTEMS**

**SEALED PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS OR MUST BE EMAILED TO [LAA.PROCUREMENT@AKLEG.GOV](mailto:LAA.PROCUREMENT@AKLEG.GOV) BY 2:00 P.M. ALASKA TIME ON MARCH 31, 2026.**

Offerors Are Not Required To Return This Form

Under AS 36.30.020, the Alaska Legislative Council adopted procurement procedures that were based on competitive principles consistent with AS 36.30 and adapted to the special needs of the Legislative Branch. Therefore, the Legislative Branch follows its own procurement procedures and is not subject to the procurement procedures of the Executive Branch. Copies of the Alaska Legislative Procurement Procedures are available upon request or at <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/Attachment.aspx?id=137335>.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** You must register with the Procurement Manager listed in this document to receive subsequent amendments to this Request for Proposals (RFP), whether you received this RFP from the State of Alaska's "Online Public Notice" (OPN) website or another source. Failure to register with the Procurement Manager may result in the rejection of your proposal.

**JC Kestel**, Procurement Manager

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## SECTION ONE

### Introduction and Instructions

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#### 1.01 Purpose of the RFP

The Alaska Division of Legislative Audit (“DLA”) is seeking sealed proposals from information technology (IT) security/audit firms to perform cybersecurity reviews of select State of Alaska IT systems using the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework (CSF) and Center for Internet Security (CIS) controls.

#### 1.02 Proposal Submission, Delivery, and Acceptance

An Offeror must submit and deliver its proposal in one sealed package to the issuing office identified on page 1 of this RFP, or may email its proposal to the Procurement Manager at the email address shown on page 1 of this RFP, no later than the date and time listed on page 1 of this RFP as the deadline for receipt of proposals. If mailed or hand delivered, the package must be marked on the outside to identify the RFP and the Offeror. If emailed, the email must contain the RFP number in the subject line of the email.

An Offeror must prepare and submit the Offeror’s COST PROPOSAL separately from the Offeror’s TECHNICAL PROPOSAL.

Only one (1) copy of the Offeror’s COST PROPOSAL should be submitted—in a separate sealed envelope or PDF document marked COST PROPOSAL—with the RFP number on the outside of the envelope or with the RFP number in the subject line of the email that the PDF Proposal is sent in.

Only one (1) copy of the TECHNICAL PROPOSAL with the remainder of the offer shall be submitted in a sealed envelope or container with the RFP number on the outside of the sealed envelope or container, or the TECHNICAL PROPOSAL with the remainder of the offer can be emailed in the form of a PDF document labeled TECHNICAL PROPOSAL with the RFP number in the subject line of the email that the PDF forms are sent in.

Emailed proposals must be submitted as an attachment in PDF format. The PDF document should be named in a format such as “Offeror A – Cost Proposal for RFP 26-33-03.pdf” (“Offeror A” is the name of the Offeror).

Please note that the maximum size of a single email (including all text and attachments) that can be received is **50 MB (megabytes)**. If the email containing the proposal exceeds this size, the proposal must be sent in multiple emails that are each less than 50 megabytes and each email must comply with the requirements described above. Please note that email transmission is not instantaneous; the Procurement Manager recommends sending proposals with enough time to ensure delivery by the deadline for receipt of proposals.

DLA is not responsible for unreadable, corrupt, or missing attachments. It is the Offeror’s responsibility to contact the issuing office at (907) 465-6705 – Voice, (907) 465-4980 – TDD to confirm that the emailed proposal has been received. Failure to follow the above instructions may result in the proposal being found non-responsive and rejected.

Proposals must be received no later than the date and time listed on page 1 of this RFP as the deadline for receipt of proposals. Faxed or oral proposals will not be accepted.

It is the responsibility of the Offeror to ensure that its proposal and any issued RFP amendments (signed by the Offeror) are in the issuing office prior to the scheduled proposal closing time. A proposal will be rejected if the proposal or any signed amendments are not received prior to the closing date and time.

### **1.03 Photocopies**

Photocopied proposals are allowed.

### **1.04 Contract Term and Work Schedule**

The contract term and work schedule set out herein represents DLA's best estimate of the schedule that will be followed. If a component of this schedule is delayed, the rest of the schedule may be shifted by the same number of days, at the discretion of DLA. The project schedule may be adjusted by the DLA Project Director with written notice to the Contractor.

The length of the contract will be from the date the contract is signed by the Legislative Auditor until project completion, approximately September 30, 2026.

The estimated RFP schedule is as follows:

March 6, 2026	Issue RFP
March 13, 2026	Pre-Proposal Teleconference
March 20, 2025	Deadline for Written Questions
March 31, 2026	Deadline for Receipt of Proposals
April 21, 2026	DLA issues Notice of Intent to Award a Contract
May 4, 2026	Contract signed by DLA

After the contract has been awarded, the following key contract dates apply:

<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Anticipated Dates of Action</u></b>
<b>Project Starts</b>	June 1, 2026
<b>Draft Copies of Reports Delivered to DLA</b>	September 14, 2026
<b>Final Copies of Reports Delivered to DLA</b>	September 30, 2026

Note: All dates are approximate and subject to change.

### **1.05 Location of Work**

The work is to be performed at the Contractor's location and in Juneau, Alaska, and Anchorage, Alaska. Work will be planned for hybrid execution—onsite sessions for collaborative activities such as stakeholder interviews, workshops and control validation, with other tasks performed remotely and —coordinated in advance with the stakeholders. Approximately 30% of the scope of work is expected to be performed onsite. “Onsite” means physically present at State-designated facilities to conduct interactive sessions, review systems, validate controls, and perform hands-on testing. The expectation is that the audit will be carried out through a combination of in-person and remote work. Approximately 15% of the Work is expected to be performed on-site at state agency offices in Juneau, Alaska, and approximately 15% of the Work on-site in Anchorage, Alaska.

DLA will not provide permanent workspace for the Contractor; however, it will provide office space in Juneau and Anchorage for field visits while performing audit work. DLA can accommodate up to four auditors at a time; however, office space will need to be coordinated with other audit projects. Additionally, workspace should be available at the auditee.

The percent of hours anticipated to be worked onsite in Alaska should be identified in an Offeror's proposal. The Contractor must include in their lump sum price proposal: all incidentals and travel costs including transportation, lodging, and per diem costs sufficient to pay for travel to and within Alaska. Note: hotel space is limited during the summer tourist season and reservations should be made well in advance of travel.

### **1.06 Human Trafficking**

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

In addition, if the Offeror conducts business in but is not headquartered in a country recognized as Tier 3 in the most recent United States Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report, a certified copy of the Offeror's policy against human trafficking must be submitted to DLA prior to contract award.

The most recent United States Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report can be found at the following website: <https://www.state.gov/reports-office-to-monitor-and-combat-trafficking-in-persons>

If an Offeror fails to comply with this paragraph, DLA may reject, without liability, the Offeror's proposal as non-responsive, cancel the intent to award to the Offeror, or cancel the resulting Contract to the Offeror.

### **1.07 Americans with Disabilities Act**

The Alaska State Legislature complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, or special modifications to submit a proposal should contact the Procurement Manager no later than ten (10) days prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals to make any necessary arrangements. If a request for special

arrangements is received less than ten (10) days prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals, DLA will attempt to accommodate the request.

### **1.08 Review of RFP**

Offerors should carefully review this RFP, without delay, for defects and questionable or objectionable material. Comments concerning defects and objectionable material must be made in writing and received by the Procurement Manager at least ten (10) days prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals. This will help prevent opening a defective RFP and exposure of an Offeror's proposal upon which award could not be made. Protests by an Offeror based on any omission or error, or on the content of the RFP, may be disallowed if the Offeror has not brought these faults to the attention of the Procurement Manager, in writing, ten (10) days prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals.

Offerors or their agents may not contact any member of the evaluation committee or their staff or any member of the Legislature or their staff regarding this RFP. All questions concerning this RFP must be directed to the Procurement Manager listed on the first page of this RFP.

### **1.09 Questions Received Prior to Deadline for Receipt of Proposals**

All questions must be directed to the Procurement Manager listed on the first page of this RFP. Offerors or their agents may not contact any member of the Proposal Evaluation Committee (PEC) or their staff or any member of the Legislature or their staff regarding this RFP.

Two types of questions generally arise. One may be answered by directing the questioner to a specific section of the RFP. These questions may be answered over the telephone. The second type is a question requiring the Procurement Manager to clarify or interpret part of the RFP or its intent must be submitted in writing. Responses to this type of question will be given in writing via amendment to the RFP.

These questions should be received by the Procurement Manager at least ten (10) days prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals.

### **1.10 Amendments**

If an amendment to this RFP is issued, it will be posted to the State of Alaska's Online Public Notice (OPN) website and a courtesy notice may be provided to all who have registered with the Procurement Manager. However, it remains the Offeror's responsibility to check the OPN for any updates or amendments.

### **1.11 Number of Proposals; Alternate Proposals**

Only one (1) proposal per Offeror will be evaluated. If an Offeror submits more than one (1) proposal for evaluation, all prior proposals received by the Offeror will be rejected. See paragraph 2.04 (Amendments to Proposals) for instructions to amend a proposal submitted prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals.

Proposals that are not responsive to the type of work described in this RFP will be rejected.

### **1.12 Right of Rejection**

Offerors must comply with all of the terms of this RFP, Alaska Legislative Procurement Procedures, and all applicable local, state, and federal laws, codes, and regulations. The Procurement Manager may reject any proposal that does not comply with all of the material terms, conditions, or performance requirements of this RFP.

Offerors may not qualify or restrict the rights of DLA. If an Offeror does so, the Procurement Manager may declare the proposal to be non-responsive and the proposal may be rejected.

A proposal may be rejected if the proposal contains a material alteration or erasure that is not initialed by the signer of the proposal.

The Procurement Manager may waive minor informalities that:

- a) do not affect responsiveness;
- b) are merely a matter of form or format;
- c) do not change the relative standing or otherwise prejudice other offers;
- d) do not change the meaning or scope of the RFP;
- e) are trivial, negligible, or immaterial in nature;
- f) do not reflect a material change in the work, services, or products requested; or
- g) do not constitute a substantial reservation against a requirement or provision.

Furthermore, a proposal may be rejected in whole or in part when rejection is in the best interest of DLA, as provided in sec. 130 of the Alaska Legislative Procurement Procedures.

### **1.13 Non-Award of Contract**

This RFP does not obligate DLA to award a contract. The division is not liable for any costs incurred in the preparation of a proposal.

### **1.14 Disclosure of Proposal Contents**

All proposals and other material submitted become the property of DLA and may be returned only at DLA's option. All proposal information, including detailed price and cost information, will be confidential during the evaluation process and prior to the time a Notice of Intent to Award a Contract (NIA) is issued. Thereafter, proposals will become public information.

Trade secrets and other proprietary information contained in proposals may be held confidential if (1) the Offeror requests, in writing, that the information be held confidential; and (2) the Procurement Manager agrees, in writing, to hold the information confidential. A request to hold information confidential under this paragraph must be included with the Offeror's proposal, must clearly identify the information the Offeror wishes to be held confidential, and must include a statement that sets out the reasons for confidentiality. Unless the Procurement Manager agrees in

writing to hold the requested information confidential, that information will also become public after the NIA is issued.

### **1.15 Subcontractors**

Subcontractors may be used to perform work under the contract. If an Offeror intends to use subcontractors, the Offeror must identify in the proposal the names of the subcontractors and the portions of the work the subcontractors will perform. Qualifications of subcontractor staff assigned to the engagement should be described in the same manner as Contractor staff.

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

- a) complete name of the subcontractor;
- b) complete address of the subcontractor;
- c) type of work the subcontractor will be performing;
- d) percentage of work the subcontractor will be providing;
- e) evidence that the subcontractor holds a valid Alaska business license; and
- f) a written statement, signed by each proposed subcontractor that clearly verifies that the subcontractor has agreed to render the services required by the contract and is free from conflicts of interest and is independent in fact and appearance.

An Offeror's failure to provide this information, within the time set, may cause DLA to consider the Offeror's proposal non-responsive and reject it. The substitution of one subcontractor for another may be made only at the discretion and with the prior written approval of the DLA Project Director.

All subcontractors that perform work under the contract resulting from this RFP are subject to the requirements of this RFP, including, but not limited to, the requirements of paragraphs 3.05 (Applicable Law) and 3.06 (Insurance Requirements) of this RFP.

### **1.16 Joint Ventures**

Joint ventures are acceptable. If submitting a proposal as a joint venture, the Offeror must submit a copy of the joint venture agreement which identifies the principals involved and their rights and responsibilities regarding performance and payment.

### **1.17 Offeror's Certification**

By signature on the proposal, an Offeror certifies that:

- a) the Offeror will comply with the laws of the State of Alaska;
- b) the Offeror will comply with the applicable portion of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964;

- c) the Offeror will comply with the Equal Employment Opportunity Act and the regulations issued thereunder by the federal government;
- d) the Offeror will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the regulations issued thereunder by the federal government;
- e) the Offeror will comply with all terms and conditions set out in this RFP;
- f) the proposal submitted was independently arrived at, without collusion;
- g) the Offer shall be good and held firm for a period of at least 90 days from the date of deadline for receipt of proposals to the RFP; and
- h) programs, services, and activities provided to the general public under the resulting Contract will conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the regulations issued thereunder by the federal government.

If any Offeror fails to comply with a requirement of this paragraph, DLA reserves the right to disregard the proposal, terminate the Contract, or consider the Contractor in default under the Contract.

### **1.18 Conflict of Interest**

Each proposal shall include a statement indicating whether or not the Offeror or any individuals working on the Contract has a possible conflict of interest, and if so, the nature of that conflict. Examples of conflicts of interest include, but are not limited to, the Offeror currently being employed by the State of Alaska, formerly employed by the State of Alaska within the past five years, or currently providing services or proposing to provide services to the State, a political subdivision of the State, or a public corporation of the State.

Conflicts, or perceived or potential conflicts, will be evaluated by DLA for the degree of conflict. The Offeror must provide information regarding its independence with respect to the reporting entity and its quality control procedures. Each of the following items must be disclosed or provided, as applicable:

1. A statement that the Offeror and any individuals working on the Contract do not have a conflict of interest with the State of Alaska;
2. All prior, current, or planned work, including non-audit services, with the State of Alaska. In addition, the Offeror shall briefly describe all services the Offeror is planning to perform or has proposed to perform for the State of Alaska;
3. Any lawsuits against or involving the State of Alaska;
4. Any relationships with the State of Alaska that could impair independence.

The Contractor shall keep itself free from any potential conflict of interest and maintain its independence, both in fact and appearance. The Offeror must certify that it will not, at any time during the duration of the awarded contract, have an accounting, auditing, IT security, or any other relationship with any entity covered under the contract that may impair the independence of the

contractor. Failure to disclose a conflict of interest during the period of performance will be treated as a breach of contract under sec 3.13 (Breach of Contract).

DLA reserves the right to consider a proposal non-responsive and reject it or cancel the award if any interest disclosed from any source could either give the appearance of a conflict or cause speculation as to the objectivity of the Offeror. DLA's determination regarding any questions of conflict of interest is final.

### **1.19 Project Director**

The administration of the Contract is the responsibility of the Project Director. The Project Director shall be named in the Contract but may be changed at any time at DLA's discretion. DLA shall provide written notice to the Contractor of any change to the Project Director. References to the "Project Director" in this RFP refer to the individual named in the Contract, as described in this paragraph.

### **1.20 Assignment/Transfer**

Assignment or transfer of the Contract is subject to sec. 160 of the Alaska Legislative Procurement Procedures.

### **1.21 Binding on Successors**

Subject to paragraph 1.20 (Assignment/Transfer) and paragraph 1.24 (Severability) of this RFP, the Contract and all the covenants, provisions, and conditions contained in the Contract shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the successors and assignees of the Contractor and DLA.

### **1.22 Dispute**

The Contract is governed by the laws of the State of Alaska and the Alaska Legislative Procurement Procedures. If the Contractor has a claim arising in connection with the Contract that cannot be resolved by mutual agreement, the claim will be resolved under sec. 350 of the Alaska Legislative Procurement Procedures.

### **1.23 Venue and Applicable Law**

In the event that the parties to the Contract find it necessary to litigate the terms of the Contract, the venue shall be the State of Alaska, First Judicial District in Juneau, and the Contract shall be interpreted according to the laws of the State of Alaska.

### **1.24 Severability**

If any provision of the Contract is declared by a court to be illegal or in conflict with any law, DLA and the Contractor shall be bound by the remainder of the Contract without the provision.

### **1.25 Procurement Procedures**

This RFP is subject to the Alaska Legislative Procurement Procedures. A copy of the Alaska Legislative Procurement Procedures can be obtained from the website link located on page one (1) of this RFP or a copy may be requested by emailing the Procurement Manager listed on page one (1) of this RFP.

### **1.26 Records; Audit**

The requirements in this paragraph are in addition to any other records required by this RFP. The Contractor shall accurately maintain detailed time records that state the date and detail of the work done and identify the individual(s) that did the work for any labor hours invoiced under the Contract. The Contractor shall also keep any other records that are required by the Contract or the Project Director. The records required by this paragraph are subject to inspection by DLA at all reasonable times.

### **1.27 Materials and Processes Covered by Patents, Trademarks, or Copyrights**

If the Offeror employs any design, device, material, or process covered by a patent, trademark, or copyright not held by the Offeror, it is the Offeror's responsibility to obtain permission to use the design, device, material, or process from its owner. The Offeror shall indemnify, hold harmless, and defend the Legislature, the State of Alaska, DLA, the officers, agents, and employees of the Legislature and DLA, and any affected third party from any and all claims for infringement by reason of the use of patented design, device, material or process, or any trademark or copyright, and for any costs, expenses, and damages due to infringement at any time during the work or after the completion of the work.

### **1.28 Ownership and Reuse of Documents**

All data, documents, reports, material, and other items generated as a consequence of work done under the Contract are the property of DLA. To the extent the Offeror has any interest in the copyright for these items under the copyright laws of the United States, the Offeror transfers any and all interest the Offeror has in the copyright for these items to DLA, and DLA will be the owner of the copyright for these items. Upon completion of the work or termination of the Contract, all items shall be delivered to the Project Director. Offeror acknowledges that all the items are the property of DLA.

### **1.29 Coverage Under the Ethics Law**

Certain provisions of AS 24.60 (the Legislative Ethics Act) apply to legislative contractors. It is the responsibility of the Contractor to review AS 24.60 and remain compliant with all applicable provisions of AS 24.60 throughout the term of the Contract.

### **1.30 Cancellation of Solicitation**

This RFP may be canceled as provided in sec. 120 of the Alaska Legislative Procurement Procedures.

## SECTION TWO

### Standard Proposal Information

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#### **2.01 Authorized Signature**

All proposals must be signed by an individual authorized to bind the Offeror to the provisions of the RFP. Proposals made in accordance with the RFP shall constitute a continuing offer that will remain open for ninety (90) days after the deadline for receipt of proposals in response to this RFP even if, during the ninety (90) days, the NIA to another Offeror is issued or a Contract is entered into with another Offeror.

#### **2.02 U.S. Funds**

Prices quoted shall be in U.S. funds.

#### **2.03 Taxes**

The Contractor is responsible for all local, state, or federal taxes. All proposals shall be submitted exclusive of federal, state, and local taxes.

#### **2.04 Amendments to Proposals**

Except as specifically allowed in this paragraph, amendments to or withdrawals of proposals will only be allowed if requests are received before the deadline for receipt of proposals. Amendment or withdrawal will not be accepted after the deadline unless the amendment or withdrawal is in response to a request made by DLA.

#### **2.05 Supplemental Terms and Conditions**

Proposals must comply with paragraph 1.12 (Right of Rejection) of this RFP. If DLA fails to identify or detect a term or condition in a proposal that conflicts with this RFP or that diminishes DLA's rights under the Contract resulting from the RFP, the conflicting term or condition will be severed from the contract and unenforceable.

After award of Contract, unless otherwise specified in the Contract:

- a) if there is a conflict between a term or condition included in the proposal and a term or condition of the RFP, the term or condition of the RFP will prevail;
- b) if there is a conflict between (1) the RFP or the proposal, and (2) the Contract, the Contract will govern; and
- c) if DLA's rights would be diminished as a result of a term or condition included in the proposal, the term or condition will be considered unenforceable.

#### **2.06 Clarification of Offers**

In order to determine if a proposal is susceptible for award, communications by the Procurement Manager on behalf of the Proposal Evaluation Committee (PEC) are permitted with an Offeror to clarify uncertainties or eliminate confusion concerning the contents of a proposal. Clarifications may not result in a material or substantive change to the RFP or the proposal. The evaluation by the PEC may be adjusted as a result of clarification under this paragraph 2.06.

### **2.07 Prior Experience**

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

1. Supervisory personnel and technical leads that are proposed to be assigned to the Scope of Work must hold advanced IT security certifications that demonstrate qualifications and competence to perform the Scope of Work. Supervisory personnel and technical leads must have at least seven years of experience performing cybersecurity assessments of governmental organizations similar to the Scope of Work described in this RFP. Minimum qualifications of the project team are described in sec 5.07 (Contractor Team Qualifications).
2. The Offeror must not have been suspended or debarred by the federal government, and shall affirm that they are not on the federal excluded parties list; and
3. The Offeror shall comply with the obligations under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), as amended, and its accompanying requirements.

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

### **2.08 Evaluation of Proposals**

An evaluation committee made up of at least three state employees or public officials will evaluate proposals. The evaluation will be based solely on the evaluation factors set out in section Seven (Evaluation Criteria) of this RFP.

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

### **2.09 Federal Tax ID**

An Offeror must submit a valid Federal Tax ID to DLA within five (5) working days after the date of DLA's request.

### **2.10 Alaska Business License, Legal Entity and Other Required Licenses**

Prior to the award of a contract, an Offeror must hold a valid Alaska business license. However, in order to receive the Alaska Bidder Preference and other related preferences, an Offeror must hold a valid Alaska business license prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals. If claiming the Alaska Bidder Preference, a copy of the business license must be included with the proposal. Offerors should contact the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing or visit their website: <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/>; phone: (907) 465-2550; email: [businesslicense@alaska.gov](mailto:businesslicense@alaska.gov); mailing: P.O. Box 110806, Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806 for information on the license. Acceptable evidence that the Offeror possesses a valid Alaska business license may consist of any one of the following:

- a) copy of an Alaska business license;
- b) certification on the proposal that the Offeror has a valid Alaska business license, and inclusion of the license number in the proposal;
- c) a canceled check or other proof of payment of the Alaska business license fee;
- d) a copy of the Alaska business license application with a receipt stamp from the state's occupational licensing office; or
- e) a sworn and notarized affidavit that the Offeror has applied and paid for the Alaska business license.

Prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals, all Offerors must hold any other necessary applicable professional licenses required by Alaska statutes or regulations.

### **2.11 Alaska Bidder Preference**

If an Offeror qualifies for the Alaska Bidder Preference, the Offeror will receive a preference of five percent (5%) applied to the Offeror's total cost proposal before points are calculated in accordance with paragraph 2.12 (Formula Used to Convert Cost to Points) of this RFP. The Alaska Bidder Preference will be given to an Offeror who:

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

In order to receive the Alaska Bidder Preference, the proposal must include a statement that the Offeror is eligible to receive the Alaska Bidder Preference.

If the Offeror is an LLC or partnership as identified in (4) of this paragraph, the statement must also identify each member or partner and include a statement certifying that all members or partners are residents of the State.

If the Offeror is a joint venture that includes an LLC or partnership as identified in (4) of this paragraph, the statement must also identify each member or partner of each LLC or partnership

that is included in the joint venture and include a statement certifying that all of those members or partners are residents of the state.

**2.12 Formula Used to Convert Cost to Points**

The distribution of points based on cost will be determined by the Procurement Manager. Cost Proposals will have the Alaska Bidder’s Preference applied to the proposed total cost prior to converting cost to points. The lowest cost proposal will receive the maximum number of points allocated to cost. The points allocated to cost on the other proposals will be determined through the method set out below. In the generic example below, cost is weighted as 25 percent (25%) of the overall total score. See Section Seven (Evaluation Criteria) to determine the value, or weight of cost for this RFP.

**EXAMPLE**

**Formula Used to Convert Cost to Points**

**[STEP 1]**

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

Offeror #1 - Non-Alaskan Offeror	\$40,000
Offeror #2 - Alaskan Offeror	\$42,750 – (\$45,000 proposal with 5% AK Bidder Preference applied)
Offeror #3 - Alaskan Offeror	\$47,500 – (\$50,000 proposal with 5% AK Bidder Preference applied)

**[STEP 2]**

Convert cost to points using this formula.

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

The RFP allotted 25 percent (25%) or 25 points of the total of 100 points for cost.

**Offeror #1 receives 25 points.**

Offeror #1 received 25 points because the lowest cost proposal, in this case \$40,000, receives the maximum number of points allocated to cost, 25 points.

**Offeror #2 receives 23.4 points.**

$$\begin{array}{r} \$40,000 \\ \text{Lowest} \\ \text{Cost} \end{array} \times \begin{array}{r} 25 \\ \text{Max} \\ \text{Points} \end{array} = 1,000,000 \div \begin{array}{r} \$42,750 \\ \text{Offeror \#2} \\ \text{Adjusted By} \\ \text{The Application Of} \\ \text{All Applicable} \\ \text{Preferences} \end{array} = \begin{array}{r} 23.4 \\ \text{Points} \end{array}$$

**Offeror #3 receives 21.1 points.**

$$\begin{array}{r} \$40,000 \\ \text{Lowest} \\ \text{Cost} \end{array} \times \begin{array}{r} 25 \\ \text{Max} \\ \text{Points} \end{array} = 1,000,000 \div \begin{array}{r} \$47,500 \\ \text{Offeror \#3} \end{array} = \begin{array}{r} 21.1 \\ \text{Points} \end{array}$$

Cost	Points	Adjusted By The Application Of All Applicable Preferences
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### **2.13 Contract Negotiation**

After issuing the Notice of Intent to Award, the Legislative Auditor may elect to initiate contract negotiations with the Offeror selected for the award. The option of whether or not to initiate contract negotiations rests solely with the Legislative Auditor.

The Legislative Auditor may terminate negotiations with a successful Offeror who has been selected for award on the Notice of Intent to Award, and may commence negotiations with another Offeror, if the successful Offeror:

- a) fails to provide the information required to begin negotiations in a timely manner;
- b) fails to negotiate in good faith;
- c) indicates they cannot perform a contract within the budgeted funds available for the project; or
- d) cannot come to terms after a good faith effort to negotiate with DLA.

### **2.14 Notice of Intent to Award – Offeror Notification of Selection**

Upon selection of an apparent successful Offeror, the Procurement Manager will issue a written Notice of Intent to Award (NIA) and send copies to all Offerors. The NIA will set out the names of all Offerors and identify the proposal selected for award.

### **2.15 Protest**

If an Offeror wishes to protest a solicitation, the award of a contract, or the proposed award of a contract, the protest must be filed as required by sec. 230 and sec. 240 of the Alaska Legislative Procurement Procedures.

### **2.16 Pre-Proposal Teleconference**

All prospective Offerors are encouraged to call in to the pre-proposal teleconference. This pre-proposal teleconference will be held on Friday, March 13, 2026 at 1:00 pm, Alaska Time. To attend, Offerors must call one of the following teleconference lines: 907-586-9085 (Juneau), 907-563-9085 (Anchorage), or 1-844-586-9085 (toll free outside of Juneau and Anchorage).

The purpose of the teleconference is to discuss details of the RFP with prospective Offerors and allow them to ask questions concerning the RFP. Call-in attendance at the pre-proposal teleconference is not mandatory. The Procurement Manager will not provide any detail on information given during the teleconference to potential Offerors who do not attend the teleconference. Prior to the meeting participants should read the RFP and come prepared to discuss any concerns and ask questions.

Questions asked during the teleconference will be answered in accordance with paragraph 1.09 (Questions Received Prior to Deadline for Receipt of Proposals). The Procurement Manager may request potential Offerors to submit questions in writing for further clarification.

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

## SECTION THREE

### Standard Contract Information

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#### **3.01 Format of Contract**

The Contract will be in the format desired by DLA.

#### **3.02 Contract Approval**

The Contract to be entered into as a result of this RFP and any amendments entered into after the signing of the Contract will be subject to approval by Legislative Budget and Audit Committee (LBAC). DLA will not be responsible for any work done by the Contractor, even work done in good faith, if it occurs prior to the signing of the Contract.

#### **3.03 Proposal as a Part of the Contract**

Part or all of this RFP and the successful proposal will be incorporated into the Contract.

#### **3.04 Additional Terms and Conditions**

DLA reserves the right to include additional terms and conditions in the Contract.

#### **3.05 Applicable Law**

The Contractor must comply with all applicable federal and state labor, wage, hour, safety, and any other laws which have a bearing on the Contract and must have all licenses and permits required by applicable federal, state, or municipal law for performance of the Contract.

#### **3.06 Insurance Requirements**

Without limiting indemnification responsibilities under paragraph 3.14 (Indemnification) and paragraph 1.27 (Materials and Processes Covered by Patents, Trademarks, or Copyrights), the Contractor shall purchase at its own expense and maintain in force at all times during the performance of services under this agreement, the policies of insurance listed below. Where specific limits are shown, it is understood that they shall be the minimum acceptable limits. If the Contractor's policy contains higher limits, DLA is entitled to coverage to the extent of such higher limits. Certificates of insurance must be furnished to the Project Director prior to beginning work and must provide for notice of cancellation, nonrenewal, or material change of conditions. Failure of the Contractor to furnish DLA with satisfactory evidence of insurance, or to notify DLA of the lapse of, or material change in, the policy, is a material breach of the Contract and shall be grounds for termination of the Contractor's services. All insurance policies shall comply with and be issued by insurers authorized in Alaska or another state to transact the business of insurance.

**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 as required by any other applicable statute. The policy must waive subrogation against the state.

A Successful Offeror who is an entity without employees may satisfy the workers' compensation requirements of this paragraph by submitting a signed letter stating that the Successful Offeror is an entity without employees and that if at any time during the term of the Contract, one or more employees are hired, the Successful Offeror will purchase, at its own

expense, and maintain in force at all times workers' compensation insurance for the employee or employees and submit proof of the workers' compensation insurance to the Project Director.

**Commercial General Liability Insurance:** Covering all business premises of, and operations by or on behalf of, the Contractor in the performance of the Contract, including, but not limited to, blanket contractual coverage, products coverage, premises and operations coverage, independent Contractor's coverage, broad form property damage endorsement, and personal injury endorsement; the policy must have minimum coverage limits of \$1,000,000 combined single limit per occurrence and annual aggregates where generally applicable. Unless waived by DLA, the insurance policy shall name DLA as an additional insured.

**Commercial Automobile Liability Insurance:** Covering all vehicles used by the Contractor in the performance of work under this Contract with minimum coverage limits of \$500,000 combined single limit per occurrence.

All insurance shall be considered to be primary and non-contributory to any other insurance carried by DLA through self-insurance or otherwise.

The Contractor shall provide evidence of continuous coverage by submitting, without reminder, annual renewal certificates for the required insurance to the Project Director for the life of the Contract.

### **3.07 Contract Funding and Budget**

Funds are contingent upon the approval of LBAC to award a Contract. Upon LBAC approval, funds will be available in an appropriation to pay for DLA's monetary obligations under the Contract through June 30, 2026. The availability of funds to pay for DLA's monetary obligations under the Contract after June 30, 2026, is contingent upon appropriation by the Legislature of funds to pay for work conducted from July 1, 2026, through the end of the Contract. In addition to any other right of DLA under the Contract to terminate the Contract, if, in the judgment of DLA, sufficient funds are not appropriated, the Contract will be terminated by DLA, or amended, without liability of DLA for the termination or amendment. To terminate under this paragraph 3.07, the Project Director shall provide written notice of the termination to the Contractor and the Contract will be terminated under paragraph 3.12 (Termination of Contract) of this RFP.

### **3.08 Contract Payment**

No payment will be made until the billing is approved by the Project Director. If a payment is not made within 90 days after DLA has received properly approved billing, DLA shall pay interest on the unpaid balance of the billing at the rate of 1.5 percent (1.5%) per month from, and including, the 91st day through the date payment is made. A payment is considered made on the date it is mailed or personally delivered to the Contractor.

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

### **3.09 Informal Debriefing**

When the contract is completed, an informal debriefing may be performed at the discretion of the DLA Project Director. If performed, the scope of the debriefing will be limited to the work performed by the Contractor.

### **3.10 Contract Personnel**

During the Contract, any work performed and billed by the Contractor must be performed by the Contractor personnel named in the proposal. Any changes to the Contractor personnel named in the proposal must be approved, in advance and in writing, by the Project Director prior to the commencement of work. Personnel changes that are not approved by the Project Director may be grounds for DLA to terminate the Contract or reject invoices based on work by non-approved personnel.

### **3.11 Inspection & Modification – Reimbursement for Unacceptable Deliverables**

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

In addition to any other right of DLA under the Contract to terminate the Contract, DLA may terminate the Contract for substantial failure of the Contractor to perform the Contract. In this event, DLA may require the Contractor to reimburse monies paid (based on the identified portion of unacceptable work received) and may seek damages.

### **3.12 Termination of Contract**

Upon delivery of written notice to the Contractor, the Contract may be terminated by the Legislative Auditor with or without cause. To terminate, the Project Director shall provide notice by email or delivery of a hard copy to the Contractor; the method selected for notice is at the sole discretion of the Legislative Auditor. If the Contract is terminated and the termination is not based on a breach by the Contractor, DLA shall compensate the Contractor for services provided under the terms of the Contract up to the date the termination notice is delivered, provided the Contractor provides DLA with a written statement containing a description, including, but not limited to, the detailed records required by paragraph 1.26 (Records; Audit) of the services provided prior to contract termination and any other records requested by the Project Director.

### **3.13 Breach of Contract**

In case of a breach of the Contract by the Contractor, for whatever reason, DLA may procure the services from other sources and hold the Contractor responsible for damages resulting from the breach.

### **3.14 Indemnification**

The Contractor shall indemnify, hold harmless, and defend DLA, the Alaska State Legislature, officers, agents, and employees of DLA and the Alaska State Legislature from liability of any nature or kind, including, but not limited to, costs, attorney fees, and expenses, for or on account

of any and all legal actions or claims of any character whatsoever resulting from injuries or damages sustained by any person or persons or property as a result of any error, omission, or negligence of the Contractor that occurs on or about DLA's or State of Alaska premises or that relates to the Contractor's performance of its contractual obligations.

### **3.15 Contract Amendments**

In addition to any other amendments the parties may be allowed to make under the Contract, the terms of the Contract entered into as a result of this RFP may be amended by mutual written agreement of the parties.

### **3.16 Contract Changes – Unanticipated Amendments**

During the course of the Contract, DLA may request the Contractor to perform additional work. That work will be within the general scope of the Contract and may not amount to a material amendment of the Contract. When additional work is requested and the Contractor agrees to perform the additional work, the Project Director will provide the Contractor with 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.

The Contractor may not commence the additional work until the Project Director has secured all required approvals necessary for the amendment and DLA and the Contractor have signed a written contract amendment, approved by LBAC.

### **3.17 Nondisclosure and Confidentiality**

The Contractor agrees that all confidential information shall be used only for purposes of providing the deliverables and performing the services specified in this RFP or the resulting Contract and shall not disseminate or allow dissemination of confidential information except as provided for in this paragraph. The Contractor shall hold as confidential and will use reasonable care (including both facility physical security and electronic security) to prevent unauthorized access by, storage, disclosure, publication, dissemination to, or use by third parties of, the confidential information. "Reasonable care" includes compliance by the Contractor with all applicable federal and state laws, including the Social Security Act and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). The Contractor must promptly notify DLA in writing if it becomes aware of any improper storage, disclosure, loss, unauthorized access to, or use of any confidential information.

Confidential information, as used in this RFP, means any data, files, software, information, or materials (whether prepared by the State, DLA, or their agents, advisors, or contractors) in oral, electronic, tangible, or intangible form and however stored, compiled, or memorialized, that is classified confidential as defined by the State of Alaska. Examples of confidential information include, but are not limited to, Personally Identifiable Information (PII), Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) data, financial data, trade secrets, equipment specifications, user lists, passwords, research data, and technology data (infrastructure, architecture, operating systems, security tools, IP addresses, etc.).

Additionally, all data, documents, reports, material, and other items generated as a consequence of

work done under the Contract and all related working papers shall be held by the Contractor as confidential.

## SECTION FOUR

### Background Information

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#### 4.01 Select State IT Systems

The following IT systems are subject to the scope of work as described in section Five of this RFP.

**MyAlaska** — Secure single sign-on and electronic signature system for citizen access to State services.

- MyAlaska is a secure single sign-on and electronic signature platform that enables Alaska residents to access and interact with multiple State of Alaska services. MyAlaska uses name, addresses, and other potentially sensitive information of citizens of Alaska, and data elements from additional Alaska applications.
- Hosted on Azure's Windows Server and uses Microsoft Azure B2C services (Azure SaaS).
- Uses SQL Server.
- Hosted and operated by the Office of Information Technology under the Department of Administration.

**MyRnB, Employer Services, and eReporting** — Public-facing systems for managing retirement information for State of Alaska employees and retirees, and contributions for employers that participate in the Alaska Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) and Alaska Teachers' Retirement System (TRS).

- MyRnB (My Retirement and Benefits) is a secure online portal for employees and retirees to manage their retirement and benefits information. Contains electronic protected health information (ePHI) and/or PII.
- Employer Services (Employer Services) is a web-based application that allows employers to report information for both Defined Benefit and Defined Contribution pensions. Contains PII.
- eReporting is a legacy, employer-facing reporting application that allows employers to submit employee and payroll-related data into DRB systems. eReporting exists as a self-service intake and validation tool, upstream of core systems, and other accounting and reporting processes. Contains PII data.
- Employer services was designed to replace eReporting but this transition has not occurred.
- Uses State of Alaska Tenant based Oracle Cloud Infrastructure to include application hosting and database back end.

**New Dividend Application Information System (New DAIS)** -- The New Dividend Application Information System (New DAIS) is a modernized replacement for the State of Alaska's legacy Dividend Application Information System. The system is being implemented to improve scalability, maintainability, security, and operational efficiency for the Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) program.

- New DAIS is a distributed system composed of multiple applications and services that collectively support the end-to-end Permanent Fund Dividend business process. The distributed architecture includes, but is not limited to, MyPFD (online application),

MyPFDInfo (status and secure communications), and RPII (electronic garnishments) which are web facing components of New DAIS. The New DAIS review should include these systems at a minimum.

- The New DAIS core is a cloud-native application hosted in Microsoft Azure.
- The system is scheduled for initial production deployment on July 1, 2026.
- New DAIS collectively supports end-to-end PFD application intake, eligibility determination, case management, appeals processing, payments, collections, reporting, and administrative functions. Contains PII.
- The system incorporates automation and decision-support features.
- Integrated digital forms, document ingestion, and imaging capabilities are used to streamline workflows.
- New DAIS interfaces with multiple internal State systems and approved external partners to support identity verification, data validation, payment processing, and program administration.

## SECTION FIVE

### Scope of Work

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#### 5.01 Scope of Work – Objectives

DLA is seeking sealed proposals for a comprehensive security assessment of the IT systems listed in Section Four and supporting infrastructure. The assessment will evaluate whether security controls are effective and compliant with applicable requirements; identify vulnerabilities and risks; and deliver clear, prioritized recommendations along with an implementation timeline to strengthen the State’s security posture and safeguarding of data. Additionally, the assessment should include an analysis of the statewide IT security training policies aimed at reducing the effectiveness of phishing schemes. The final reporting and deliverables will be structured to provide compliance mapping, supporting evidence, and documentation aligned with applicable standards. Deliverables may be incorporated into a final written report issued by the Legislative Auditor.

The successful Contractor will provide professional consulting services, including the necessary expertise, resources, and standard business equipment to complete the work described in this Scope of Work. The assessment will be conducted according to and aligned with NIST Cybersecurity Framework (CSF) version 2.0 and Center for Information Security (CIS) Critical Security Controls version 8.1.

The successful Contractor will develop a collaborative and detailed work plan to accomplish the Scope of Work defining responsibilities, milestones, decision points, and a standing cadence of status meetings; conduct a pre-work meeting to confirm scope details. Further, the Contractor will maintain complete working papers (e.g. plans, inventories, evidence, screenshots, configurations, logs, test results). Documentation will be delivered to DLA as required by sec 1.28 (Ownership and Reuse of Documents)

#### 5.02 Scope of Work General Requirements

The security assessment covers the IT systems and subsystems described in Section Four and their supporting infrastructure, databases, interfaces, and data flows. The security assessment will address: infrastructure that supports the key systems; the nature and extent of data hosted, processed, and reported within those systems; and supporting database structures. The analysis of IT security training policies aimed at reducing the effectiveness of phishing schemes covers statewide policies and is not limited to the IT systems and subsystems described in Section Four.

The successful Contractor shall perform a comprehensive security assessment including but not limited to the following contract-specific activities:

- Authorization and Operational Safety: obtain written authorization from DLA and the applicable State departments before scans, exploitation, or any tests that may impact availability; schedule activities to avoid disruption; honor approved change windows.
- Coordination and Access: hold a kickoff meeting with DLA and entrance and exit conferences with the state agencies, and weekly status meetings with both DLA and state agencies; invite DLA and State agency representatives to meetings where reportable matters are discussed; provide DLA complete access to reports, working papers, and electronic data relevant to the engagement.

- Data protection: use State-approved secure tools; maintain U.S. data residency; handle PII/ePHI in accordance with AS 45.48 and State IT security policy; report suspected incidents immediately and support investigation.
- Deliverable Quality: provide a concise, decision-ready report with an executive summary and clear visuals (tables/graphs).

### **5.03 Scope of Work – Specific Requirements**

The specific requirements of the cybersecurity assessment are described in this section of the RFP.

#### **A. Project Initiation and Confirmation of Scope**

The Contractor shall, at a minimum:

- i. Schedule and conduct formal kickoff meetings with the DLA, designated stakeholders, and representatives from the departments managing the IT systems in Section Four.
- ii. Develop and document a detailed project work plan, including milestones, deliverable timelines, and resource assignments, in collaboration with DLA representatives and the departments managing the in-scope applications. The work plan should include dates for onsite work.
- iii. Define and document communication protocols, escalation paths, and project management tools to be used throughout the project.
- iv. Identify and document key risk factors, including infrastructure, vendor interfaces, data flows, database structures, and monitoring processes (intrusion detection system/intrusion prevention system (IDS/IPS), incident response), in consultation with IT and business stakeholders from the relevant departments.
- v. Ensure all assessment activities are aligned with the requirements of NIST CSF and CIS Controls.
- vi. Obtain written approval of the finalized work plan and communication protocols from DLA prior to commencing substantive assessment activities.

#### **B. Asset Identification and Classification**

In order to build a comprehensive, classification-based inventory of all relevant assets and data flows for the IT systems in Section Four, including all supporting infrastructure managed by the responsible departments, the Contractor will, at a minimum:

- i. Conduct interviews and workshops with system owners and IT staff from the responsible departments to identify all in-scope assets (hardware, software, databases, interfaces, data flows).
- ii. Perform onsite and remote reviews of system inventories, network diagrams, and asset management records specific to these applications and their supporting environments.
- iii. Classify each asset based on sensitivity, business impact, and regulatory requirements, referencing the NIST CSF and CIS Controls.
- iv. Document asset ownership, criticality, and classification in a structured asset register for each application and its department.
- v. Develop and submit data flow diagrams for all critical applications and supporting infrastructure.
- vi. Identify and document any gaps in asset inventory or classification.

C. Risk Assessment Methodology

The Contractor will apply a risk methodology aligned with NIST CSF and CIS controls to identify, rate, and prioritize risks and/or vulnerabilities to confidentiality, integrity, and availability of systems and data for the IT systems in Section Four, and their managing departments. To accomplish this, the Contractor will, at a minimum:

- i. Document a risk-based assessment methodology aligned with NIST CSF and CIS controls, tailored to the three in-scope applications and their departments.
- ii. Define and document risk criteria, ranking, and prioritization methods to be used throughout the engagement.
- iii. Conduct risk identification workshops with stakeholders from the departments responsible departments to capture potential threats and vulnerabilities.
- iv. Rate and prioritize risks, documenting rationale and supporting evidence for each risk rating.
- v. Obtain written approval from DLA for all risk assessment tools and methodologies prior to commencing assessment activities.

D. Threat and Vulnerability Assessment

The Contractor will identify, validate, and prioritize relevant threats and vulnerabilities across the IT systems in Section Four and their supporting infrastructure and departments. To accomplish this, the Contractor will, at a minimum:

- i. Identify potential internal and external threats through interviews, threat intelligence review, and analysis of prior incidents, in collaboration with the departments managing the in-scope applications.
- ii. Develop and document a “Rules of Engagement” for penetration testing, including scope, timing, and notification protocols, specific to MyAlaska
- iii. Perform external and internal penetration tests on MyAlaska and supporting infrastructure using both automated and manual techniques, with prior written authorization from DLA. Tests should have minimal impact on production systems, unless otherwise agreed to by DLA
- iv. Conduct comprehensive vulnerability scans of all relevant systems, databases, and network components using industry-standard tools and methodologies aligned with NIST CSF and CIS controls.
- v. Validate identified vulnerabilities through manual testing and exploitation (where authorized).
- vi. Document detailed findings, including risk ratings, supporting evidence, and recommendations.
- vii. Develop a prioritized remediation plan and timeline for all findings.

E. Network Architecture and Security Assessment

The Contractor will evaluate network design, segmentation, perimeter/edge controls, cloud connectivity, and protective monitoring for the IT systems in Section Four, and their managing departments. To accomplish this, the Contractor will, at a minimum:

- i. Review and document current network architecture, including segmentation, demilitarized zones (DMZs), and cloud components, as they relate to the in-scope applications and their departments.

- ii. Evaluate network design, segmentation, and access controls for the in-scope applications and their supporting environments.
- iii. Evaluate and review system configurations, firewalls, IDS/IPS, DMZs, and cloud infrastructure security, in addition to access controls through configuration reviews and sample testing.
- iv. Assess cloud infrastructure security measures and remote access mechanisms (VPN, SSO, MFA) used by the departments managing the applications.
- v. Test for compliance with State security architecture standards, NIST CSF, and CIS controls.
- vi. Document findings and provide recommendations.

#### F. Application Security Assessment

The Contractor will evaluate application-level security controls for the IT systems in Section Four to identify vulnerabilities and ensure secure coding practices within the managing departments, referencing NIST CSF and CIS controls. To accomplish this, the Contractor will, at a minimum:

- i. Review authentication, authorization, and session management mechanisms for each application.
- ii. Test for common vulnerabilities (e.g., OWASP Top 10: SQL Injection, XSS, CSRF) using automated and manual methods.
- iii. Assess secure coding practices and configuration settings.
- iv. Validate input validation and error handling controls.
- v. Document findings and provide recommendations.

#### G. Database Security Review

The Contractor will assess database configurations and controls to protect sensitive data for the IT systems in Section Four and their managing departments, in accordance with NIST CSF and CIS Controls. To accomplish this, the Contractor will, at a minimum:

- i. Review database access controls, encryption, and audit logging for databases supporting the three in-scope applications.
- ii. Validate backup and recovery procedures for critical datasets.
- iii. Assess compliance with NIST CSF and CIS controls.
- iv. Document findings and provide recommendations.

#### H. Identity and Access Management (IAM) Review

The Contractor will review authentication and authorization mechanisms, privileged access management, and user provisioning/de-provisioning processes for the IT systems in Section Four and their managing departments, in accordance with NIST CSF and CIS controls. To accomplish this, the Contractor will, at a minimum:

- i. Interview IAM owners and relevant IT staff from the departments managing the in-scope applications.
- ii. Review user provisioning, de-provisioning processes, including periodic access recertifications.
- iii. Assess privileged access management controls and related workflows.
- iv. Evaluate authentication mechanisms such as MFA and SSO.
- v. Document findings and provide recommendations.

I. Data Protection and Privacy

The Contractor will verify appropriate protection for PII/ePHI and sensitive data at rest, in transit, and in use for the IT systems in Section Four and their managing departments, in accordance with NIST CSF and CIS controls. To accomplish this, the Contractor will, at a minimum:

- i. Review encryption practices, including algorithms and key management, for data associated with the three in-scope applications.
- ii. Validate data classification, lifecycle management (retention, archival, destruction), and privacy controls.
- iii. Review data destruction processes and compliance with State policy and referenced standards.
- iv. Document findings and provide recommendations.

J. Cloud Security Assessment

The Contractor will evaluate security of cloud-hosted components (e.g., MyAlaska on Azure) for compliance and risk mitigation, including the departments managing these environments, in accordance with NIST CSF and CIS controls. To accomplish this, the Contractor will, at a minimum:

- i. Review identity and access management configurations (MFA, conditional access) for cloud environments supporting the in-scope applications.
- ii. Assess network segmentation and firewall rules in cloud environments.
- iii. Validate encryption and data residency controls.
- iv. Document findings and provide recommendations.

K. Security Policies and Procedures

The Contractor will determine whether State Security Policies and departmental policies and procedures are current, comprehensive, enforced, and aligned with NIST CSF and CIS Controls for the departments managing the IT systems in section Four. To accomplish this, the Contractor will, at a minimum:

- i. Review State Security Policies suite (security, change, patch, vendor, incident response, DR/BCP) and any other relevant departmental policies and procedures against NIST CSF and CIS controls as implemented by the departments managing the in-scope applications.
- ii. Document findings and provide recommendations.

L. Physical Security Controls

The Contractor will evaluate physical protections for facilities that host in-scope assets for the IT systems in section Four and their managing departments, referencing NIST CSF and CIS Controls. To accomplish this, the Contractor will, at a minimum:

- i. Review access controls (badging, visitor management, mantraps) and surveillance/retention for facilities supporting the three in-scope applications.
- ii. Assess environmental controls (fire suppression, HVAC, power, flood) and monitoring/alarm response.
- iii. Coordinate site visits.

- iv. Document findings and provide recommendations.

M. Security Awareness and Training

The Contractor will determine whether training and awareness programs effectively address risk and support compliant behavior for staff in the departments managing the IT systems in section Four in accordance with NIST CSF and CIS controls. To accomplish this, the Contractor will, at a minimum:

- i. Review program content, cadence, role-based training, and completion metrics for the relevant departments.
- ii. Evaluate results of phishing/social engineering exercises (if available) and link outcomes to program improvement.
- iii. Review training related to phishing and other common attack vectors.
- iv. Document findings and provide recommendations.

N. Monitoring and Logging

The Contractor will assess logging, security information and event management system (SIEM), and alerting capabilities to detect, investigate, and respond to security events for the IT systems in section Four and their managing departments, in accordance with NIST CSF and CIS controls. To accomplish this, the Contractor will, at a minimum:

- i. Review log sources/coverage, retention, time synchronization, and integrity protections for the three in-scope applications and their supporting environments.
- ii. Evaluate SIEM rules/use cases, tuning, and incident triage/playbooks.
- iii. Document findings and provide recommendations.

O. Third-Party Risk Management and Vendor Oversight

The Contractor will evaluate governance and controls over vendors and third parties with access to the IT systems in section Four, and their managing departments, referencing NIST CSF and CIS controls. To accomplish this, the Contractor will, at a minimum:

- i. Inventory vendors; classify by inherent risk; review due diligence (security questionnaires, SOC reports, cybersecurity clauses) for vendors supporting the three in-scope applications and their departments.
- ii. Examine access controls, data handling, and monitoring for third-party connectivity.
- iii. Determine the level of reporting from third-parties related to internal controls, contractual compliance, etc. Assess State procedures for the monitoring, review, and/or escalation related to vendor reporting, performance, and compliance.
- iv. Document findings and provide recommendations.

P. Business Continuity Planning and Disaster Recovery (BCP/DR)

The Contractor will evaluate governance and controls over BCP/DR to evaluate system preparedness, referencing NIST CSF and CIS controls as appropriate. To accomplish this, the Contractor will, at a minimum:

- i. Evaluate backup and recovery procedures for critical datasets and systems.
- ii. Evaluate Recovery Time Objectives, Recovery Point Objectives, and cloud service-level agreements.

- iii. Assess incident response readiness; conduct a tabletop review or incident response plan review or evaluate recently completed after action reports, validating roles and escalation.
- iv. Determine if back-up sites are adequate to recover operations, and if the site is geographically distant to ensure continuity of operations in a major natural disaster.
- v. Review reciprocal agreements, if applicable, and identify any significant risks.
- vi. Summarize the results of the last recovery test and its outcome based on existing documentation.
- vii. Document findings and provide recommendations.

#### **5.04 Activities Excluded from Scope of Work**

The following activities are excluded from the Scope of Work without prior approval from DLA: physical red-team exercises, Contractor-initiated social engineering campaigns, stress testing, destructive testing, and any activity not expressly authorized in writing by DLA. The work performed should have minimal impacts on production environments unless agreed to by DLA. The work should not require modifications of any system.

#### **5.05 Deliverables**

The Contractor will obtain written responses to the report findings from the respective State departments. Only the findings related to a specific department will be shared with the department. The Contractor will prepare a comprehensive final assessment report that includes: an executive summary; detailed findings with risk ratings and evidence references; recommendations and roadmap; and suggested improvements to policies, procedures, and controls. The report will include a prioritized program of work with cost/risk/effort that the State and the departments managing the IT systems in section Four can execute, in alignment with NIST CSF and CIS Controls. The report will include the following:

- A prioritized set of security improvement recommendations for the three in-scope applications and their departments.
- A strategic roadmap for remediation and enhancement, including near-term, medium-term, and long-term actions.
- High-level budget and resource estimates to support roadmap execution.

A draft of the report along with the departments' written responses to the findings will be provided to DLA by the date identified in the Offeror's proposal. Within 7 days of receiving the draft report, DLA will provide the Contractor comments regarding the draft report. If necessary, the Contractor will provide a revised draft report to DLA to incorporate the comments within one week after receiving the comments. Upon acceptance of the draft report, the Contractor will provide a final report to DLA.

At least one senior member of the project team will present the final report to the LBAC and up to two additional legislative committees while onsite in Juneau or Anchorage. The presentations will include a slide deck with the key findings.

#### **5.06 Contractor Team Qualifications**

The Contractor shall warrant that all persons assigned by it to the performance the Scope of Work shall be employees of the Contractor or specified subcontractor and shall be fully qualified to

perform the work required. If the Contractor team members are in a time zone outside of Alaska, they will be available to meet and conduct business with state staff, as needed, during the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm Alaska Time on State of Alaska workdays.

Failure of the Contractor to provide qualified staffing at the level required by the RFP may result in termination of the resulting contract or damages. Substitutions for the individuals listed in the bid proposal shall be allowed only upon the written approval of DLA Project Director, as defined in the resulting contract. The person substituted shall have substantially the same qualifications as or better qualifications than the person replaced. The Contractor shall, provide a resume of any member of its staff or subcontractor's staff assigned to or proposed to be assigned to any aspect of the performance of this contract.

During the course of the resulting contract, DLA reserves the right to approve or disapprove the Contractor's staff assigned to this contract. Upon the written request of the DLA Project Director, any employee of the contractor or subcontractor who, in the opinion of the Project Director, is unacceptable shall be removed from work under this contract. In the event that any employee of the Contractor or subcontractor is removed pursuant to a written request from DLA, the Contractor shall fill the vacancy with a replacement reasonably acceptable to the DLA Project Director in a manner which does not adversely impact the timely performance of the Scope of Work.

The project team must include a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) and a Certified Cloud Security Professional (CCSP). In total, three quarters (75 percent) of the Contractor's project team members must hold at least one or more of the following active certifications:

- Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA)
- Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP)
- Certified Information Security Manager (CISM)
- Certified Cloud Security Professional (CCSP)
- Certified in Risk and Information Systems Control (CRISC)
- Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH)
- Other system security certifications as agreed to by DLA

The Contractor's team manager and technical leads must hold advanced IT security certifications that demonstrate qualifications and competence to perform the Scope of Work. The team manager and technical leads must have at least seven years of experience performing the cybersecurity assessments similar to the Scope of Work described in this RFP.

The Contractor should include a summary of any specialists they would use for the tasks included in this request. Contractors should also include information on any other work for the tasks included in this request that it might use a subcontractor to perform. If a subcontractor is to be used, qualification of staff, as described above, must be provided for all subcontractor staff working on the Scope of Work.

## SECTION SIX

### Proposal Format and Content

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#### 6.01 Proposal Format and Content

DLA discourages overly lengthy and costly proposals. In order for DLA to evaluate proposals fairly and completely, Offerors must follow the format set out in this RFP and provide all information requested. Offerors must submit:

- (a) one (1) original hard copy and a USB flash drive containing a print-ready electronic PDF version of their technical proposal and one original hard copy of their Cost Proposal to the Issuing Office by mailing or hand delivery to the address listed on page 1 of this RFP; or
- (b) one PDF version via email per the instructions in section 1.02 (Proposal Submission, Delivery, and Acceptance).

The proposal must be split into two parts: 1) a technical proposal and 2) a cost proposal.

#### 6.02 Technical Proposal Format

In order to be a responsive bidder, the Offeror will provide sufficient information related to the following six areas. All qualified proposals will be evaluated and scored as described in section Seven (Evaluation Criteria) of this RFP, with the final selection made by DLA. Offerors are encouraged to organize their submissions in such a way as to follow the general evaluation criteria listed below. Information included may be used to evaluate the Offeror as part of any criteria regardless of where that information is found within these sections. Information obtained from the proposal and from any other relevant source may be used in the evaluation and selection process.

All proposals should include the following items in the order as shown below. Please be as concise and clear as possible. Each section should be titled with the corresponding section, with all relevant information included. Each page should be numbered consecutively.

The proposals received by the stated deadline will be ranked according to the following criteria:

1. **Cover Letter**

Provide a cover letter on the Offeror's letterhead signed by a person with the authority, including fiscal authority, in the organization to bind the Offeror, certifying the accuracy of all information in the proposal, that the proposal will remain valid for at least 90 days from the deadline for receipt of proposals, that the Offeror meets all minimum requirements of the RFP, and that the Offeror will comply with all provisions in this RFP. The cover letter should include the certifications, statements, and information as required by section 1.17 (Offeror's Certification) and section 1.18 (Conflict of Interest) of this RFP. The cover letter should have the Offeror's complete legal name, type of entity, address, telephone number, Alaska business license number or other forms of evidence of the license, and should state whether, and how, the Offeror qualifies as an Alaska Bidder. The cover letter must also include the name, mailing address, and telephone number of the person DLA should contact regarding the proposal.

**2. Project Understanding and Approach**

- a) Describe your understanding of the project.
- b) Describe the percent of hours anticipated to be worked in Alaska.
- c) Describe the proposed project schedule in terms of weeks/months in general and planned start and end dates.
- d) Identify and discuss any potential problems you foresee during the design and implementation phase.
- e) Identify and discuss methods you would recommend to mitigate those problems.
- f) Describe and discuss your firm's areas of strength, as they would apply to this project.
- g) Describe your firm's limitations, as they would apply to this project.

**3. Approach to Project Management**

- a) Describe your firm's project management approach and team organization during all phases for similar projects. How would these areas apply to this project?
- b) Describe the physical location of team members, including any project associates that will be involved in the project, and how project management will be impacted by team members or associates not physically located in Alaska.
- c) Describe how non-responsiveness by State of Alaska staff will be planned for and addressed.
- d) Describe systems used for planning, scheduling, estimating, and managing project oversight and accountability services.
- e) Describe the firm's experience on quality assurance and dispute resolution.
- f) Describe the firm's Quality Assurance/Quality Control as it relates to data and other information gathering for this project. Include a statement about how that would be implemented in this project.
- g) Describe how the firm will coordinate with DLA to meet deadlines.

**4. Relevant Firm Experience**

- a) A statement detailing the Offeror's overall reputation, service capabilities, and quality as it relates to this project. The statement should address service capabilities in conducting cybersecurity assessments similar to the Scope of Work within this RFP.
- b) A statement detailing whether the applicant is Alaska owned and based, and if so, for how long. Where applicable, provide previous addresses if the applicant business has moved, if within the last ten years.
- c) List and briefly describe three comparable projects completed by your firm or currently in progress over the last five years; include IT security frameworks used to perform the IT security assessments. For each project, include: the number of contract amendments; project owner; project location; contact name, title, address, current/accurate telephone number, and email address (if available); and specify whether the project was completed within expected or anticipated timelines.
- d) A minimum of two referrals and references from other agencies and owners. If possible, references should be from the projects listed above and should be limited to projects completed in the last five (5) years.
- e) List all projects in the last five (5) years with the State of Alaska, or a statement that that your firm had no projects in the last five (5) years with the State of Alaska.

- f) A statement of applicant capacity and intent to proceed without delay if selected for this work.
- g) Photocopies (attached as a clearly marked Appendix to the response) of all relevant licenses, certifications, and permits, etc.
- h) A photocopy (attached as a clearly marked Appendix to the response) of the firm's most recent peer review report, matters for further consideration, and a statement indicating the review(s) included government compliance engagements.

#### 5. **Team Experience & Qualifications**

Firms will be evaluated on their ability to provide experienced, qualified, and trained staff.

- a) Describe each team member's position within the firm (i.e. manager, technical lead, staff), years employed by the firm, prior experience conducting cybersecurity assessments of IT systems that are similar to the three listed in section Four of this RFP. Provide resumes of each proposed team member. List education completed and professional certifications.
- b) Briefly describe each team member's role on this project. *Please note, once listed in your RFP submission, listed members may not be reassigned without the approval of the DLA Project Director; any reassignments are expected to have equivalent qualifications. Please choose individuals with this in mind.*
- c) Provide a tentative schedule of all staff that would be assigned to the project team that must include the information listed below:
  - 1. Name and indicated responsibilities for the project;
  - 2. Labor Category (for instance – partner, manager, staff, etc.);
  - 3. Expertise (for instance – specific federal program, IT specialist, etc.);
  - 4. Professional Certifications (CISA, CISSP, CISM, etc.) and advanced degrees;
  - 5. Total years of IT system security assessment experience aligned with NIST CSF and CIS controls;
  - 6. Total years of government IT system security assessment experience;
  - 7. Total years employed by the Contractor; and
  - 8. Brief description of experience in the last five years in the areas considered essential to this RFP.
- d) Provide team member experience working together on similar projects.
- e) Identify proposed subcontractors and provide the same information (5(a) through 5(c) above) for subcontractor employees proposed to be members of the project team.
- d) Individually list any current firm employees or subcontractor employees who have previously been employed by the State of Alaska within the last five years. Include the government entity and dates of such employment.
- e) Identify specialists to be used as well as the qualifications of the specialists. Include a statement that the specialists comply with independence requirements.

#### 6. **Other Factors & Required Information**

- a) Provide current workload capacity and ability to comply with the timeline detailed in sec. 1.04 (Contract Term and Work Schedule) of this RFP.
- b) Provide relevant factors that may impact the quality and value of work.

- c) List any special contract terms and conditions the firm/team would like to be considered for inclusion in any contract it might execute with DLA under this RFP. Inclusion of these contract terms are subject to the discretion of DLA.
- d) Provide the proposer's Federal Employer Identification Number.
- e) Provide a Schedule of Professional Hours and Fees and a Total Cost Statement (to be submitted in a separate envelope marked ("Cost Proposal").

**6.03 Offeror's Schedule of Professional Hours and Fees**

(To be submitted in a separate envelope marked "Cost Proposal")

Cost proposals must include an itemized list by system of all direct and indirect costs associated with the performance of the contract, including, but not limited to, total number of hours at various hourly rates. The hourly billing rate should be an "all-inclusive hourly rate" and as such should include all additional incidental costs associated with the performance of the contract resulting from this RFP such as travel, lodging, technology, etc.

**6.04 Offeror's Total Cost Statement**

(To be submitted in a separate envelope and file marked "Cost Proposal")

On firm letterhead, submit a statement in this format, signed by a member authorized to bind the firm:

Date

Kris Curtis  
Legislative Auditor  
PO Box 113300  
Juneau, AK 99811-3300

Dear Ms. Curtis:

We hereby propose to perform the IT security review as described in RFP 26-33-03. We propose a maximum of \_\_\_\_\_ professional hours and a maximum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in professional fees to complete this engagement.

FIRM  
BY  
TITLE  
PHONE  
EMAIL

**6.05 Evaluation of Proposals**

All proposals will be reviewed to determine if they are responsive. They will then be evaluated using the criteria set out in section Seven (Evaluation Criteria).

## SECTION SEVEN

### Evaluation Criteria

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It is DLA's intent to conduct a comprehensive, fair, and impartial evaluation of all proposals. All proposals will be reviewed to determine if they are responsive. They will then be evaluated using the criteria set out below. The total number of points used to score the responses is 100.

#### **7.01 Understanding of the Project and Methodology (35 Percent)**

Proposals will be evaluated against the questions set out below:

- a) How well has the Offeror demonstrated a thorough understanding of the purpose and scope of the project, including addressing information systems that may be significant to the audit objectives?
- b) How well has the Offeror identified pertinent issues and potential problems related to the project?
- c) To what degree has the Offeror demonstrated an understanding of the deliverables the state expects it to provide?
- d) Has the Offeror demonstrated an understanding of the state's time schedule and an ability to meet it?
- e) How comprehensive is the methodology and does it depict a logical approach to fulfilling the requirements of the RFP?
- f) How well does the methodology, including location of work and information systems procedures, match and achieve the objectives set out in the RFP?
- g) Does the methodology interface with the time schedule in the RFP?

#### **7.02 Management Plan for the Project (25 Percent)**

Proposals will be evaluated against the questions set out below:

- a) How well does the management plan support all of the project requirements, including systems auditing, and logically lead to the deliverables required in the RFP?
- b) How well is accountability completely and clearly defined?
- c) Is the organization of the project team and other associates clear and were the team members and associates' physical locations provided?
- d) How well does the percentage of in-person versus remote work contribute to the successful completion of the project?
- e) Did the Offeror describe how non-responsiveness by auditee staff will be planned for and

addressed?

- f) How well does the management plan illustrate the lines of authority and communication?
- g) To what extent does the Offeror already have the hardware, software, equipment, and licenses necessary to perform the contract?
- h) Does it appear that the Offeror can meet the schedule set out in the RFP?
- i) To what degree is the proposal practical and feasible?
- j) To what extent has the Offeror identified potential problems?

### **7.03 Firm Experience and Staff Experience and Qualifications (15 Percent)**

Proposals will be evaluated against the questions set out below:

#### Questions regarding the personnel:

- a) Do the individuals assigned to the project have experience on similar projects including experience auditing information systems relevant to systems subject to this RFP?
- b) Do the individuals assigned to the project have experience working together on similar projects?
- c) Are staff work experience narratives complete and do they demonstrate backgrounds that would be sufficient for individuals engaged in the work the project requires including whether the staff have adequate experience and relevant credentials identified in the scope of work?
- d) Do individuals assigned to the project have applicable education including subcontractor employees and specialists?

#### Questions regarding the firm:

- e) How well has the firm demonstrated experience in completing similar projects on time and within budget?
- f) How successful is the general history of the firm regarding timely and successful completion of projects?
- g) If a subcontractor will perform work on the contract, how well do they measure up to the evaluation used for the Offeror?

#### **7.04 Contract Cost (25 Percent)**

Overall, 25% of the total evaluation points will be assigned to cost. The cost amount used for evaluation may be affected by one or more of the preferences referenced under section 2.11 (Alaska Bidder Preference).

##### Converting Cost to Points

The lowest cost proposal will receive the maximum number of points allocated to cost. The point allocations for cost on the other proposals will be determined through the method set out in section 2.12 (Formula Used to Convert Cost to Points). All Offerors that qualify as an Alaska Bidder will receive a five (5) percent bidder's preference. This preference will be given before converting the cost to points. The Procurement Manager will calculate this section of the evaluation criteria.