



NATIONAL PARK COLLEGE

101 College Dr.
Hot Springs National Park, AR 71913

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL BID SOLICITATION DOCUMENT

SOLICITATION INFORMATION			
Bid Number:	NP-19-0028	Solicitation Issued:	September 24, 2019
Description:	Outside Counsel Services		
Agency:	National Park College		

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR RESPONSE			
Bid Submission Deadline:	Oct. 11, 2019; 4:30 PM CT	Bid Opening Date/Time:	Oct. 14, 2019; 9:00 AM CT
<p>Proposals shall not be accepted after the designated bid opening date and time. In accordance with Arkansas Procurement Law and Rules, it is the responsibility of vendors to submit proposals at the designated location on or before the bid opening date and time. Proposals received after the designated bid opening date and time shall be considered late and shall be returned to the vendor without further review. It is not necessary to return "no bids" to the Agency.</p>			

DELIVERY OF RESPONSE DOCUMENTS	
Delivery Address:	<p>National Park College ATTN: Kurt Markish 101 College Dr., Fisher Bldg, Ste 300 Hot Springs National Park, AR 71913</p> <p>Delivery providers, USPS, UPS, and FedEx deliver mail to the Agency's street address on a schedule determined by each individual provider. These providers will deliver to the Agency based solely on the street address.</p>
Proposal's Outer Packaging:	<p>Outer packaging must be sealed and should be properly marked with the following information. If outer packaging of proposal submission is not properly marked, the package may be opened for bid identification purposes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bid number• Date and time of bid opening• Vendor's name and return address

AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION			
Agency Buyer:	Kurtis L. Markish	Buyer's Direct Phone Number:	501-760-4351
Email Address:	kmarkish@np.edu	Agency's Main Number:	501-760-4222
Agency Website:	https://np.edu		

SECTION 1 - GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

1.1 PURPOSE

National Park College ("NPC," "Agency") issues this Request for Proposal (RFP) to obtain detailed information concerning the qualifications and rates of law firms or attorneys willing to provide legal services as outside counsel to National Park College.

1.2 TYPE OF CONTRACT

- A. As a result of this RFP, NPC intends to award a contract to a single Contractor.
- B. The anticipated starting date for any resulting contract is approximately **November 18, 2019**, except that the actual contract start date may be adjusted forward unilaterally by the State for up to three calendar months.
- C. The initial term of a resulting contract will be for one (1) year. Upon mutual agreement by the Contractor and agency, the contract may be renewed by NPC for up to six (6) additional one-year terms or portions thereof, not to exceed a total aggregate contract term of seven (7) consecutive years.
- D. The execution of an agreement/contract does not guarantee that any case or matter, or any minimum number of cases or matters, will be assigned to any particular attorney or law firm.

1.3 ISSUING AGENCY

NPC, as the issuing office, is the sole point of contact throughout this solicitation.

1.4 BID OPENING LOCATION

Proposals will be opened at the following location:

National Park College
101 College Dr., Fisher Bldg, Rm 313C
Hot Springs National Park, AR 71913

1.5 ACCEPTANCE OF REQUIREMENTS

- A. A Prospective Contractor **must** unconditionally accept all requirements of this RFP to be considered a responsive Prospective Contractor.
- B. A Prospective Contractor's proposal shall be disqualified if a Prospective Contractor takes exceptions to any requirements of this RFP.

1.6 DEFINITION OF TERMS

- A. The Agency's Purchasing Official has made every effort to use industry-accepted terminology in this *Bid Solicitation* and will attempt to further clarify any point of an item in question as indicated in *Clarification of Bid Solicitation*.
- B. Unless otherwise defined herein, all terms defined in Arkansas Procurement Law and used herein have the same definitions herein as specified therein.
- C. "Prospective Contractor" means a person who submits a proposal in response to this solicitation.
- D. "Contractor" means a person who sells or contracts to sell commodities and/or services.
- E. The terms "Request for Proposal", "RFP," "Bid Solicitation," "Proposal" and "Solicitation" are used synonymously in this document.
- F. "Responsive proposal" means a proposal submitted in response to this solicitation that conforms in all material respects to this RFP.
- G. "Proposal Submission Requirement" means a task a Contractor **must** complete when submitting a proposal response. These requirements will be distinguished by using the term "shall" or "must" in the requirement.

- H. “Requirement” means a specification that a Contractor’s product and/or service **must** perform during the term of the contract. These specifications will be distinguished by using the term “**shall**” or “**must**” in the requirement.
- I. “State” means the State of Arkansas. When the term “State” is used herein to reference any obligation of the State under a contract that results from this solicitation, that obligation is limited to the State agency using such a contract.
- J. “OSP” means the Arkansas Office of State Procurement.

1.7 **RESPONSE DOCUMENTS**

A. Original Technical Proposal Packet

1. The following items are Proposal Submission Requirements and **must** be submitted in the original *Technical Proposal Packet*. **Proposals shall be submitted digitally, preferably on a flash drive. A CD will also be accepted. Do not send digital copies via email, fax, Dropbox or other transfer service.**
 - a. Original signed *Proposal Signature Page*.
 - b. One (1) original digital copy of the proposal response which includes:
 - i. Technical Proposal response to the REQUIREMENTS section. Proposal response **must** be in the English language.
 - ii. Response to the *Official Bid Price Sheet*. Pricing **must** be proposed in U.S. dollars and cents
 - The *Official Bid Price Sheet* Excel document must be clearly marked as “Official Bid Price Sheet,” “Pricing” or similarly descriptive wording.
 - The *Official Bid Price Sheet* Excel document must be saved as a digital file separate from the Technical Proposal file.
2. The following items should be submitted in the *Technical Proposal Packet*.
 - a. EO 98-04 Disclosure Form. (See *Standard Terms and Conditions*, #27. *Disclosure*.)
 - b. Copy of Prospective Contractor’s *Equal Opportunity Policy*. (See *Equal Opportunity Policy*, Sec 1.18)
3. **DO NOT** include any other documents or ancillary information, such as a cover letter or promotional/marketing information.

1.8 **ORGANIZATION OF RESPONSE DOCUMENTS**

- A. It is strongly recommended that Prospective Contractors adhere to the following format and suggestions when preparing their Technical Proposal response.
- B. The original *Technical Proposal Packet* should be arranged in the following order.
- Proposal Signature Page.
 - Technical Proposal response to the REQUIREMENTS section.
 - Signed Addenda, if applicable.
 - E.O. 98-04 – Contract Grant and Disclosure Form.
 - Equal Opportunity Policy.

1.9 **CLARIFICATION OF BID SOLICITATION**

- A. Submit any questions requesting clarification of information contained in this *Bid Solicitation* in writing via email by 4:00 p.m., Central Time on or before October 1, 2019 to the NPC buyer as shown on page one (1) of this *Bid Solicitation*.
1. For each question submitted, Prospective Contractor should reference the specific solicitation item number to which the question refers.

2. Prospective Contractors' written questions will be consolidated and responded to by NPC. NPC's consolidated written response is anticipated to be posted to the OSP website by the close of business on October 2, 2019. If Prospective Contractor questions are unclear or non-substantive in nature, NPC may request clarification of a question(s) or reserves the right not to respond to that question(s).
- B. The Prospective Contractor should notify the NPC buyer of any term, condition, etc., that precludes the Prospective Contractor from submitting a compliant, responsive proposal. Prospective Contractors should note that it is the responsibility of the Prospective Contractor to seek resolution of all such issues, including those relating to the terms and conditions of the contract, prior to the submission of a proposal.
- C. Prospective Contractors may contact the NPC buyer with non-substantive questions at any time prior to the bid opening.
- D. An oral statement by NPC will not be part of any contract resulting from this solicitation and may not reasonably be relied on by any Prospective Contractor as an aid to interpretation unless it is reduced to writing and expressly adopted by NPC.
- E. Prospective Contractors entering into a contract with NPC **shall** comply with all the terms and conditions contained herein.

1.10 **PROPOSAL SIGNATURE PAGE**

- A. An official authorized to bind the Prospective Contractor(s) to a resultant contract **must** sign the *Proposal Signature Page* included in the *Technical Proposal Packet*.
- B. Prospective Contractor's signature on this page signifies Prospective Contractor's agreement to and compliance with all Requirements of this RFP, and that any exception that conflicts with a Requirement or Proposal Submission Requirement of this *Bid Solicitation* will cause the Prospective Contractor's proposal to be disqualified.

1.11 **PRICING**

- A. Prospective Contractor(s) **shall** include all pricing on the Official Bid Price Sheet only. If any cost is not included by the successful Contractor but is subsequently incurred in order to achieve successful operation, the Contractor **shall** bear this additional cost. The *Official Bid Price Sheet* is provided as a separate excel file posted with this *Bid Solicitation*.
- B. To allow time to evaluate proposals, prices **must** be valid for 90 days following the bid opening.
- C. The *Official Bid Price Sheet*, **must** be included as a separate file from the *Technical Proposal Packet* and should be clearly marked as pricing. DO NOT submit any ancillary information not related to actual pricing on the Official Bid Price sheet or in the Technical Proposal.

1.12 **PRIME CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITY**

- A. A single Prospective Contractor **must** be identified as the prime Contractor.
- B. The prime Contractor **shall** be responsible for the contract and jointly and severally liable with any of its subcontractors, affiliates, or agents to NPC for the performance thereof.

1.13 **INDEPENDENT PRICE DETERMINATION**

- A. By submission of this proposal, the Prospective Contractor certifies, and in the case of a joint proposal, each party thereto certifies as to its own organization, that in connection with this proposal:
 - The prices in the proposal have been arrived at independently, without collusion.
 - No prior information concerning these prices has been received from, or given to, a competitive company.
- B. Evidence of collusion warrants consideration of this proposal by the Office of the Attorney General. All Prospective Contractors **shall** understand that this paragraph may be used as a basis for litigation.

1.14 **CAUTION TO PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTORS**

- A. Prior to any contract award, address all communication concerning this *Bid Solicitation* through the OSP buyer.

- B. Do not alter any language in any solicitation document provided by the State or State Agency.
- C. All official documents and correspondence related to this solicitation become part of the resultant contract.
- D. The State has the right to award or not award a contract, if it is in the best interest of the State to do so.
- E. As requested, provide clarification regarding Prospective Contractor's proposal response to OSP.
- F. Qualifications and proposed services **must** meet or exceed the required specifications as set forth in this *Bid Solicitation*.

1.15 **REQUIREMENT OF ADDENDUM**

- A. Only an addendum written and authorized by NPC will modify this *Bid Solicitation*.
- B. An addendum posted within three (3) calendar days prior to the bid opening may extend the bid opening and may or may not include changes to the Bid Solicitation.
- C. The Prospective Contractor is expected to check the OSP website, <http://www.arkansas.gov/dfa/procurement/bids/index.php>, for any and all addenda up to bid opening.

1.16 **AWARD PROCESS**

A. Successful Contractor Selection

The Grand Total Score for each Prospective Contractor, which is the sum of the Technical Score and Cost Score, will be used to determine the ranking of proposals. NPC may move forward to negotiations with those responsible Prospective Contractors determined, based on the ranking of the proposals, to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award.

B. Negotiations

- 1. If NPC so chooses, negotiations may be conducted with the highest ranking Prospective Contractors. Negotiations are conducted at the sole discretion of NPC.
- 2. If negotiations fail to result in a contract, NPC may begin the negotiation process with the next highest ranking Prospective Contractor. The negotiation process may be repeated until the anticipated successful Contractor has been determined, or until such time NPC decides not to move forward with an award.

C. Anticipation to Award

- 1. Once the anticipated successful Contractor has been determined, the anticipated award will be posted on the OSP website at http://www.arkansas.gov/dfa/procurement/pro_intent.php.
- 2. The anticipated award will be posted for a period of fourteen (14) days prior to the issuance of a contract. Prospective Contractors and agencies are cautioned that these are preliminary results only, and a contract will not be issued prior to the end of the fourteen day posting period.
- 3. NPC may waive the policy of Anticipation to Award when it is in the best interest of NPC or the State.
- 4. It is the Prospective Contractor's responsibility to check the OSP website for the posting of an anticipated award.

D. Issuance of Contract

- 1. Any resultant contract of this *Bid Solicitation* is subject to State approval processes which may include Legislative review.
- 2. A NPC Procurement Official will be responsible for the solicitation and award of any resulting contract.

1.17 MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS POLICY

- A. A minority-owned business is defined by Arkansas Code Annotated § 15-4-303 as a business owned by a lawful permanent resident of this State who is:
- African American
 - American Indian
 - Asian American
 - Hispanic American
 - Pacific Islander American
 - A Service Disabled Veteran as designated by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs
- B. A women-owned business is defined by Act 1080 of the 91st General Assembly Regular Session 2017 as a business that is at least fifty-one percent (51%) owned by one (1) or more women who are lawful permanent residents of this State.
- C. The Arkansas Economic Development Commission conducts a certification process for minority-owned and women-owned businesses. If certified, the Prospective Contractor's Certification Number should be included on the *Proposal Signature Page*.

1.18 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY

- A. In compliance with Arkansas Code Annotated § 19-11-104, NPC is required to have a copy of the anticipated Contractor's *Equal Opportunity (EO) Policy* prior to issuing a contract award.
- B. The submission of an *EO Policy* to NPC is a one-time Requirement. Contractors are responsible for providing updates or changes to their respective policies, and for supplying *EO Policies* upon request to other State agencies that must also comply with this statute.
- C. Prospective Contractors who are not required by law to have an *EO Policy* **must** submit a written statement to that effect.

1.19 PROHIBITION OF EMPLOYMENT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

- A. Pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated § 19-11-105, Contractor(s) providing services **shall** certify with OSP that they do not employ or contract with illegal immigrants.
- B. By signing and submitting a response to this *Bid Solicitation*, a Prospective Contractor agrees and certifies that they do not employ or contract with illegal immigrants. If selected, the Prospective Contractor certifies that they will not employ or contract with illegal immigrants during the aggregate term of a contract.

1.20 RESTRICTION OF BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL

- A. Pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated § 25-1-503, a public entity **shall not** enter into a contract with a company unless the contract includes a written certification that the person or company is not currently engaged in, and agrees for the duration of the contract not to engage in, a boycott of Israel.
- B. This prohibition does not apply to a company which offers to provide the goods or services for at least twenty percent (20%) less than the lowest certifying business.
- C. By checking the designated box on the Proposal Signature Page of the response packet, a Prospective Contractor agrees and certifies that they do not, and will not for the duration of the contract, boycott Israel.

1.21 PAST PERFORMANCE

In accordance with provisions of State Procurement Law, specifically OSP Rule R5:19-11-230(b)(1), a Prospective Contractor's past performance with the State may be used to determine if the Prospective Contractor is "responsible". Proposals submitted by Prospective Contractors determined to be non-responsible will be disqualified.

1.22 VISA ACCEPTANCE

- A. Awarded Contractor should have the capability of accepting the State's authorized VISA Procurement Card (p-card) as a method of payment. Having the capability of accepting p-cards is not required.
- B. Price changes or additional fee(s) **must not** be levied against the State when accepting the p-card as a form of payment.

C. VISA is not the exclusive method of payment.

1.23 PUBLICITY

- A. Do not discuss the solicitation nor your proposal response, nor issue statements or comments, nor provide interviews to any public media during the solicitation and award process.
- B. Failure to comply with this Requirement may be cause for a Prospective Contractor's proposal to be disqualified.

1.24 RESERVATION

The State and NPC will not pay or be responsible for any costs incurred by anyone in: 1) the preparation of a proposal; 2) responding to this solicitation; 3) any subsequent follow up to this solicitation or vendor proposal; or 4) in any subsequent negotiations of submitted proposal(s) or contract development. .

1.25 GRATUITIES

Vendor shall not offer any gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value to any official, employee, or advisor of NPC or the State of Arkansas for the purposes of influencing this selection. Any attempt to influence the selection process by any means, other than disclosure of qualifications and credentials through the proper channels, shall be grounds for exclusion from the selection process.

SECTION 2 – REQUIREMENTS

2.1 INTRODUCTION

National Park College ("NPC," "Agency") issues this Request for Proposal (RFP) to obtain detailed information concerning the qualifications and rates of law firms or attorneys willing to provide legal services as outside counsel to National Park College.

Selected vendor shall be used for legal services including, but not limited to: arbitration, negotiation, and litigation of existing and future contracts, as well as legal interpretations of contracts and documents. The attorney or law firm shall perform all necessary legal services, including but not limited to investigation, legal research, and preparation of legal memoranda, pleadings and briefs and making appearances before administrative tribunals, mediators, arbitrators and courts.

Such services shall be provided on an as-needed, case-by-case or matter-by-matter basis. The execution of a contract with a qualifying attorney or law firm does not guarantee that any case or matter, or any minimum number of cases or matters, will be assigned to any particular attorney or law firm.

After the award of a contract, NPC shall assign a case or matter to the selected vendor through a Letter of Engagement ("LOE") or Purchase Order. Scope of retention, confirmation of rates applicable, and other specifics of services shall be negotiated and agreed upon prior to work being completed.

2.2 VENDOR REQUIREMENTS

Vendor must be authorized to practice law and be in good standing in the State of Arkansas.

2.3 SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Prospective Contractors must submit the following documents in their technical proposal packets:

- General background information with respect to the firm and attorneys/individuals with special focus on the area of activity offered. This should indicate:
 - (a) Type of firm organization (e.g. partnership, professional corporation);
 - (b) Overall areas of practice of the firm, including alternative dispute resolution services;
 - (d) Areas of specialization;
 - (d) The size and experience of the firm;
 - (e) Experience particularly related to contracts with other higher education agencies;
 - (f) Experience in Contract Law
- A "Conflict Statement" setting forth either: (a) the nature of any representation currently adverse to NPC or its interest; or (b) a statement that there is no such legal activity adverse to NPC or its interests. Representation that may be adverse to NPC may disqualify the Prospective Contractor.

- Official Pricing Sheet (Pricing Schedule): List basic pricing schedule for different services provide.

2.4 **PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

- A. State law requires that all contracts for services include Performance Standards for measuring the overall quality of services provided that a Contractor **must** meet in order to avoid assessment of damages.
- B. NPC may be open to negotiations of Performance Standards prior to contract award, prior to the commencement of services, or at times throughout the contract duration. *Performance Standards* identifies expected deliverables, performance measures, or outcomes; and defines the acceptable standards.
- C. NPC has the right to modify, add, or delete Performance Standards throughout the term of the contract, should NPC determine it is in its best interest to do so. Any changes or additions to performance standards will be made in good faith following acceptable industry standards, and may include the input of the Contractor so as to establish standards that are reasonably achievable.
- D. All changes made to the Performance Standards will become an official part of the contract.
- E. Performance Standards will continue throughout the aggregate term of the contract.
- F. Failure to meet the minimum Performance Standards as specified will result in the assessment of damages.
- G. In the event a Performance Standard is not met, the Contractor will have the opportunity to defend or respond to the insufficiency. NPC has the right to waive damages if it determines there were extenuating factors beyond the control of the Contractor that hindered the performance of services. In these instances, the State has final determination of the performance acceptability.
- H. Should any compensation be owed to NPC due to the assessment of damages, Contractor **shall** follow the direction of NPC regarding the required compensation process.

SECTION 3 – CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

3.1 **TECHNICAL PROPOSAL SCORE**

- A. NPC will review each *Technical Proposal Packet* to verify submission Requirements have been met. *Technical Proposals Packets* that do not meet submission Requirements will be disqualified and will not be evaluated.
- B. An agency-appointed Evaluation Committee will evaluate and score qualifying Technical Proposals. Evaluation will be based on Prospective Contractor's response to the *Information for Evaluation* section included in the *Technical Proposal Packet*.
 1. Members of the Evaluation Committee will individually review and evaluate proposals and complete an Individual Score Worksheet for each proposal. Individual scoring for each Evaluation Criteria will be based on the following Scoring Description.

Quality Rating	Quality of Response	Description	Confidence in Proposed Approach
5	Excellent	When considered in relation to the RFP evaluation factor, the proposal squarely meets the requirement and exhibits outstanding knowledge, creativity, ability or other exceptional characteristics. Extremely good.	Very High
4	Good	When considered in the relation to the RFP evaluation factor, the proposal squarely meets the requirement and is better than merely acceptable.	High

3	Acceptable	When considered in relation to the RFP evaluation factor, the proposal is of acceptable quality.	Moderate
2	Marginal	When considered in relation to the RFP evaluation factor, the proposal's acceptability is doubtful.	Low
1	Poor	When considered in relation to the RFP evaluation factor, the proposal is inferior.	Very Low
0	Unacceptable	When considered in relation to the RFP evaluation factor, the proposal clearly does not meet the requirement, either because it was left blank or because the proposal is unresponsive.	No Confidence

2. After initial individual evaluations are complete, the Evaluation Committee members will meet to discuss their individual ratings. At this consensus scoring meeting, each member will be afforded an opportunity to discuss his or her rating for each evaluation criteria.
3. After committee members have had an opportunity to discuss their individual scores with the committee, the individual committee members will be given the opportunity to change their initial individual scores, if they feel that is appropriate.
4. The final individual scores of the evaluators will be recorded on the Consensus Score Sheets and averaged to determine the group or consensus score for each proposal.
5. Other agencies, consultants, and experts may also examine documents at the discretion of the Agency.

C. The *Information for Evaluation* section has been divided into sub-sections.

1. In each sub-section, items/questions have each been assigned a maximum point value of five (5) points. The total point value for each sub-section is reflected in the table below as the Maximum Raw Score Possible.
2. The agency has assigned Weighted Percentages to each sub-section according to its significance.

Information for Evaluation Sub-Sections	Max Raw Points Possible	Sub-Section's Weighted %	Max Weighted Score Possible
Type of Organization	5	5	25
Overall Areas of Practice of the Firm	5	10	50
Areas of Specialization	5	20	100
Size and Experience of the Firm	5	20	100
Experience with Other Higher Education Agencies	5	25	125
Experience in Contract Law	5	20	100
Total Technical Score		100%	500

*Sub-Section's Percentage Weight x Total Weighted Score = Maximum Weighted Score Possible for the sub-section.

D. The proposal's weighted score for each sub-section will be determined using the following formula:

$$(A/B)*C = D$$

A = Actual Raw Points received for sub-section in evaluation
 B = Maximum Raw Points possible for sub-section
 C = Maximum Weighted Score possible for sub-section
 D = Weighted Score received for sub-section

E. The proposal's weighted scores for sub-sections will be added to determine the Total Technical Score for the Proposal.

- F. Technical Proposals that do not receive a minimum weighted score/subtotal of 300 may not move forward in the solicitation process. The pricing for proposals which do not move forward will not be scored.

3.2 **COST SCORE**

- A. When pricing is opened for scoring, the maximum amount of cost points will be given to the proposal with the lowest overall total on the Official Bid Price Sheet. (See *Grand Total Score* for maximum points possible for cost score.)
- B. The amount of cost points given to the remaining proposals will be allocated by using the following formula:

$$(A/B)*(C) = D$$

A = Lowest Total Cost

B = Second (third, fourth, etc.) Lowest Total Cost

C = Maximum Points for Lowest Total Cost

D = Total Cost Points Received

3.3 **GRAND TOTAL SCORE**

The Technical Score and Cost Score will be added together to determine the Grand Total Score for the proposal. The Prospective Contractor's proposal with the highest Grand Total Score will be selected as the apparent successful Contractor. (See *Award Process*.)

	Maximum Points Possible
Technical Proposal	500
Cost	200
Maximum Possible Grand Total Score	700

3.4 **PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR ACCEPTANCE OF EVALUATION TECHNIQUE**

- A. Prospective Contractor **must** agree to all evaluation processes and procedures as defined in this solicitation.
- B. The submission of a *Technical Proposal Packet* signifies the Prospective Contractor's understanding and agreement that subjective judgments will be made during the evaluation and scoring of the Technical Proposals.

3.5 **SOLICITATION CALENDAR**

The following schedule shall be used for this RFP:

Event	Date
Release of RFP	Tuesday, September 24, 2019
Clarification of Solicitation Deadline	Tuesday, October 1, 2019
Response Submission Deadline	Friday, October 11, 2019
Bid Opening Date	Monday, October 14, 2019
Review of Submitted Responses*	Tuesday, October 23, 2019
Anticipation to Award Posted*	Wednesday, October 24, 2019
ALC Review*	Friday, November 15, 2019
Contract Award*	Monday, November 18, 2019

*Dates are approximate

SECTION 4 – GENERAL CONTRACTUAL ITEMS

4.1 PAYMENT AND INVOICE PROVISIONS

- A. Forward invoices to:
- accountspayable@np.edu
- B. Payment will be made in accordance with applicable State of Arkansas accounting procedures upon acceptance goods and services by the agency.
- C. Do not invoice the State in advance of delivery and acceptance of any goods or services.
- D. Payment will be made only after the Contractor has successfully satisfied the agency as to the reliability and effectiveness of the goods or services purchased as a whole.
- E. The Contractor should invoice the agency by an itemized list of charges. The agency's Purchase Order Number and/or the Contract Number should be referenced on each invoice.
- F. Other sections of this *Bid Solicitation* may contain additional Requirements for invoicing.
- G. Selected Contractor **must** be registered to receive payment and future *Bid Solicitation* notifications. Prospective Contractors may register on-line at <https://www.ark.org/contractor/index.html>.

4.2 GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The State will not:
1. Lease any equipment or software for a period of time which continues past the end of a fiscal year unless the contract allows for cancellation by the State Procurement Official upon a 30 day written notice to the Contractor/lessor in the event funds are not appropriated.
 2. Contract with another party to indemnify and defend that party for any liability and damages.
 3. Pay damages, legal expenses or other costs and expenses of any other party.
 4. Continue a contract once any equipment has been repossessed.
 5. Agree to any provision of a contract which violates the laws or constitution of the State of Arkansas.
 6. Enter a contract which grants to another party any remedies other than the following:
 - a. The right to possession.
 - b. The right to accrued payments.
 - c. The right to expenses of deinstallation.
 - d. The right to expenses of repair to return the equipment to normal working order, normal wear and tear excluded.
 - e. The right to recover only amounts due at the time of repossession and any unamortized nonrecurring cost as allowed by Arkansas Law.
- B. Any litigation involving the State **must** take place in Pulaski County, Arkansas.
- C. The laws of the State of Arkansas govern this contract.
- D. A contract is not effective prior to award being made by a State Procurement Official.
- E. In a contract with another party, the State will accept the risk of loss of the equipment or software and pay for any destruction, loss, or damage of the equipment or software while the State has such risk, when:

1. The extent of liability for such risk is based upon the purchase price of the equipment or software at the time of any loss, and
2. The contract has required the State to carry insurance for such risk.

4.3 CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT

- A. Observe and comply with federal and State of Arkansas laws, local laws, ordinances, orders, and regulations existing at the time of, or enacted subsequent to the execution of a resulting contract which in any manner affect the completion of the work.
- B. Indemnify and save harmless the agency and all its officers, representatives, agents, and employees against any claim or liability arising from or based upon the violation of any such law, ordinance, regulation, order or decree by an employee, representative, or subcontractor of the Contractor.

4.4 STATEMENT OF LIABILITY

- A. The State will demonstrate reasonable care but will not be liable in the event of loss, destruction or theft of Contractor-owned equipment or software and technical and business or operations literature to be delivered or to be used in the installation of deliverables and services. The Contractor will retain total liability for equipment, software and technical and business or operations literature. The State will not at any time be responsible for or accept liability for any Contractor-owned items.
- B. The Contractor's liability for damages to the State will be limited to the value of the Contract. The foregoing limitation of liability will not apply to claims for infringement of United States patent, copyright, trademarks or trade secrets; to claims for personal injury or damage to property caused by the gross negligence or willful misconduct of the Contractor; to claims covered by other specific provisions of the Contract calling for damages; or to court costs or attorney's fees awarded by a court in addition to damages after litigation based on the Contract. The Contractor and the State will not be liable to each other, regardless of the form of action, for consequential, incidental, indirect, or special damages. This limitation of liability will not apply to claims for infringement of United States patent, copyright, trademark or trade secrets; to claims for personal injury or damage to property caused by the gross negligence or willful misconduct of the Contractor; to claims covered by other specific provisions of the Contract calling for damages; or to court costs or attorney's fees awarded by a court in addition to damages after litigation based on the Contract.
- C. Language in these terms and conditions **must not** be construed or deemed as the State's waiver of its right of sovereign immunity. The Contractor agrees that any claims against the State, whether sounding in tort or in contract, will be brought before the Arkansas Claims Commission as provided by Arkansas law and governed accordingly.

4.5 RECORD RETENTION

- A. Maintain all pertinent financial and accounting records and evidence pertaining to the contract in accordance with generally accepted principles of accounting and as specified by the State of Arkansas Law. Upon request, grant access to State or Federal Government entities or any of their duly authorized representatives.
- B. Make financial and accounting records available, upon request, to the State of Arkansas's designee(s) at any time during the contract period and any extension thereof, and for five (5) years from expiration date and final payment on the contract or extension thereof.
- C. Other sections of this *Bid Solicitation* may contain additional Requirements regarding record retention.

4.6 CONFIDENTIALITY

- A. The Contractor, Contractor's subsidiaries, and Contractor's employees will be bound to all laws and to all Requirements set forth in this *Bid Solicitation* concerning the confidentiality and secure handling of information of which they may become aware of during the course of providing services under a resulting contract.
- B. Consistent and/or uncorrected breaches of confidentiality may constitute grounds for cancellation of a resulting contract, and the State has the right to cancel the contract on these grounds.
- C. Previous sections of this *Bid Solicitation* may contain additional confidentiality Requirements.

4.7 **CONTRACT INTERPRETATION**

Should the State and Contractor interpret specifications differently, either party may request clarification. However if an agreement cannot be reached, the determination of the State is final and controlling.

4.8 **CANCELLATION**

A. **For Cause.** The State may cancel any contract resulting from this solicitation for cause when the Contractor fails to perform its obligations under it by giving the Contractor written notice of such cancellation at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of proposed cancellation. In any written notice of cancellation for cause, the State will advise the Contractor in writing of the reasons why the State is considering cancelling the contract and provide the Contractor with an opportunity to avoid cancellation for cause by curing any deficiencies identified in the notice of cancellation for cause prior to the date of proposed cancellation. To the extent permitted by law and at the discretion of the parties, the parties may agree to **minor amendments to** the contract and avoid the cancellation for cause upon mutual agreement.

B. **For Convenience.** The State may cancel any contract resulting from the solicitation by giving the Contractor written notice of such cancellation sixty (60) days prior to the date of cancellation.

C. If upon cancellation the Contractor has provided commodities or services which the State of Arkansas has accepted, and there are no funds legally available to pay for the commodities or services, the Contractor may file a claim with the Arkansas Claims Commission under the laws and regulations governing the filing of such claims.

4.9 **SEVERABILITY**

If any provision of the contract, including items incorporated by reference, is declared or found to be illegal, unenforceable, or void, then both the agency and the Contractor will be relieved of all obligations arising under such provision. If the remainder of the contract is capable of performance, it will not be affected by such declaration or finding and **must** be fully performed.

SECTION 5 – STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- **Do not provide responses to items in this section.**

1. **GENERAL:** Any special terms and conditions included in this solicitation **shall** override these Standard Terms and Conditions. The Standard Terms and Conditions and any special terms and conditions **shall** become part of any contract entered into if any or all parts of the bid are accepted by the State of Arkansas.
2. **ACCEPTANCE AND REJECTION:** The State **shall** have the right to accept or reject all or any part of a bid or any and all bids, to waive minor technicalities, and to award the bid to best serve the interest of the State.
3. **BID SUBMISSION:** Original Proposal Packets **must** be submitted to the Office of State Procurement on or before the date and time specified for bid opening. The Proposal Packet **must** contain all documents, information, and attachments as specifically and expressly required in the *Bid Solicitation*. The bid **must** be typed or printed in ink. The signature **must** be in ink. Unsigned bids **shall** be disqualified. The person signing the bid should show title or authority to bind his firm in a contract. Multiple proposals **must** be placed in separate packages and should be completely and properly identified. Late bids **shall not** be considered under any circumstances.
4. **PRICES:** Bid unit price F.O.B. destination. In case of errors in extension, unit prices **shall** govern. Prices **shall** be firm and **shall not** be subject to escalation unless otherwise specified in the *Bid Solicitation*. Unless otherwise specified, the bid **must** be firm for acceptance for thirty days from the bid opening date. "Discount from list" bids are not acceptable unless requested in the *Bid Solicitation*.
5. **QUANTITIES:** Quantities stated in a *Bid Solicitation* for term contracts are estimates only, and are not guaranteed. Contractor **must** bid unit price on the estimated quantity and unit of measure specified. The State may order more or less than the estimated quantity on term contracts. Quantities stated on firm contracts are actual Requirements of the ordering agency.
6. **BRAND NAME REFERENCES:** Unless otherwise specified in the *Bid Solicitation*, any catalog brand name or manufacturer reference used in the *Bid Solicitation* is descriptive only, not restrictive, and used to indicate the type and quality desired. Bids on brands of like nature and quality will be considered. If bidding on other than referenced specifications, the bid **must** show the manufacturer, brand or trade name, and other descriptions, and should include the manufacturer's illustrations and complete descriptions of the product offered. The State **shall** have the right to determine whether a substitute offered is equivalent to and meets the standards of the item specified, and the State may require the Contractor to supply additional descriptive material. The Contractor **shall** guarantee that the product offered will meet or exceed specifications identified in this *Bid Solicitation*. Contractors not bidding an alternate to the referenced brand name or manufacturer **shall** be required to furnish the product according to brand names, numbers, etc., as specified in the solicitation.

7. **GUARANTY:** All items bid **shall** be newly manufactured, in first-class condition, latest model and design, including, where applicable, containers suitable for shipment and storage, unless otherwise indicated in the *Bid Solicitation*. The Contractor hereby guarantees that everything furnished hereunder **shall** be free from defects in design, workmanship and material, that if sold by drawing, sample or specification, it **shall** conform thereto and **shall** serve the function for which it was furnished. The Contractor **shall** further guarantee that if the items furnished hereunder are to be installed by the Contractor, such items **shall** function properly when installed. The Contractor **shall** guarantee that all applicable laws have been complied with relating to construction, packaging, labeling and registration. The Contractor's obligations under this paragraph **shall** survive for a period of one year from the date of delivery, unless otherwise specified herein.
8. **SAMPLES:** Samples or demonstrators, when requested, **must** be furnished free of expense to the State. Each sample should be marked with the Contractor's name and address, bid or contract number and item number. If requested, samples that are not destroyed during reasonable examination will be returned at Contractor's expense. After reasonable examination, all demonstrators will be returned at Contractor's expense.
9. **TESTING PROCEDURES FOR SPECIFICATIONS COMPLIANCE:** Tests may be performed on samples or demonstrators submitted with the bid or on samples taken from the regular shipment. In the event products tested fail to meet or exceed all conditions and Requirements of the specifications, the cost of the sample used and the reasonable cost of the testing **shall** be borne by the Contractor.
10. **AMENDMENTS:** Contractor's proposals cannot be altered or amended after the bid opening except as permitted by regulation.
11. **TAXES AND TRADE DISCOUNTS:** Do not include State or local sales taxes in the bid price. Trade discounts should be deducted from the unit price and the net price should be shown in the bid.
12. **AWARD:** Term Contract: A contract award will be issued to the successful Contractor. It results in a binding obligation without further action by either party. This award does not authorize shipment. Shipment is authorized by the receipt of a purchase order from the ordering agency. Firm Contract: A written State purchase order authorizing shipment will be furnished to the successful Contractor.
13. **DELIVERY ON FIRM CONTRACTS:** This solicitation shows the number of days to place a commodity in the ordering agency's designated location under normal conditions. If the Contractor cannot meet the stated delivery, alternate delivery schedules may become a factor in an award. The Office of State Procurement **shall** have the right to extend delivery if reasons appear valid. If the date is not acceptable, the agency may buy elsewhere and any additional cost **shall** be borne by the Contractor.
14. **DELIVERY REQUIREMENTS:** No substitutions or cancellations are permitted without written approval of the Office of State Procurement. Delivery **shall** be made during agency work hours only 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Time, unless prior approval for other delivery has been obtained from the agency. Packing memoranda **shall** be enclosed with each shipment.
15. **STORAGE:** The ordering agency is responsible for storage if the Contractor delivers within the time required and the agency cannot accept delivery.
16. **DEFAULT:** All commodities furnished **shall** be subject to inspection and acceptance of the ordering agency after delivery. Back orders, default in promised delivery, or failure to meet specifications **shall** authorize the Office of State Procurement to cancel this contract or any portion of it and reasonably purchase commodities elsewhere and charge full increase, if any, in cost and handling to the defaulting Contractor. The Contractor **must** give written notice to the Office of State Procurement and ordering agency of the reason and the expected delivery date. Consistent failure to meet delivery without a valid reason may cause removal from the Contractors list or suspension of eligibility for award.
17. **VARIATION IN QUANTITY:** The State assumes no liability for commodities produced, processed or shipped in excess of the amount specified on the agency's purchase order.
18. **INVOICING:** The Contractor **shall** be paid upon the completion of all of the following: (1) submission of an original and the specified number of copies of a properly itemized invoice showing the bid and purchase order numbers, where itemized in the *Bid Solicitation*, (2) delivery and acceptance of the commodities and (3) proper and legal processing of the invoice by all necessary State agencies. Invoices **must** be sent to the "Invoice To" point shown on the purchase order.
19. **STATE PROPERTY:** Any specifications, drawings, technical information, dies, cuts, negatives, positives, data or any other commodity furnished to the Contractor hereunder or in contemplation hereof or developed by the Contractor for use hereunder **shall** remain property of the State, **shall** be kept confidential, **shall** be used only as expressly authorized, and **shall** be returned at the Contractor's expense to the F.O.B. point provided by the agency or by OSP. Contractor **shall** properly identify items being returned.
20. **PATENTS OR COPYRIGHTS:** The Contractor **must** agree to indemnify and hold the State harmless from all claims, damages and costs including attorneys' fees, arising from infringement of patents or copyrights.
21. **ASSIGNMENT:** Any contract entered into pursuant to this solicitation **shall not** be assignable nor the duties thereunder delegable by either party without the written consent of the other party of the contract.
22. **CLAIMS:** Any claims the Contractor may assert under this Agreement **shall** be brought before the Arkansas State Claims Commission ("Commission"), which **shall** have exclusive jurisdiction over any and all claims that the Contractor may have arising from or in connection with this Agreement. Unless the Contractor's obligations to perform are terminated by the State, the Contractor **shall** continue to provide the Services under this Agreement even in the event that the Contractor has a claim pending before the Commission.

- 23. CANCELLATION:** In the event, the State no longer needs the commodities or services specified for any reason, (e.g., program changes; changes in laws, rules or regulations; relocation of offices; lack of appropriated funding, etc.), the State **shall** have the right to cancel the contract or purchase order by giving the Contractor written notice of such cancellation thirty (30) days prior to the date of cancellation.

Any delivered but unpaid for goods will be returned in normal condition to the Contractor by the State. If the State is unable to return the commodities in normal condition and there are no funds legally available to pay for the goods, the Contractor may file a claim with the Arkansas Claims Commission under the laws and regulations governing the filing of such claims. If upon cancellation the Contractor has provided services which the State has accepted, the Contractor may file a claim. **NOTHING IN THIS CONTRACT SHALL BE DEEMED A WAIVER OF THE STATE'S RIGHT TO SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY.**

- 24. DISCRIMINATION:** In order to comply with the provision of Act 954 of 1977, relating to unfair employment practices, the Contractor agrees that: (a) the Contractor **shall not** discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, sex, color, age, religion, handicap, or national origin; (b) in all solicitations or advertisements for employees, the Contractor **shall** state that all qualified applicants **shall** receive consideration without regard to race, color, sex, age, religion, handicap, or national origin; (c) the Contractor will furnish such relevant information and reports as requested by the Human Resources Commission for the purpose of determining compliance with the statute; (d) failure of the Contractor to comply with the statute, the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder and this nondiscrimination clause **shall** be deemed a breach of contract and it may be cancelled, terminated or suspended in whole or in part; (e) the Contractor **shall** include the provisions of above items (a) through (d) in every subcontract so that such provisions **shall** be binding upon such subcontractor or Contractor.
- 25. CONTINGENT FEE:** The Contractor guarantees that he has not retained a person to solicit or secure this contract upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies maintained by the Contractor for the purpose of securing business.
- 26. ANTITRUST ASSIGNMENT:** As part of the consideration for entering into any contract pursuant to this solicitation, the Contractor named on the *Proposal Signature Page* for this solicitation, acting herein by the authorized individual or its duly authorized agent, hereby assigns, sells and transfers to the State of Arkansas all rights, title and interest in and to all causes of action it may have under the antitrust laws of the United States or this State for price fixing, which causes of action have accrued prior to the date of this assignment and which relate solely to the particular goods or services purchased or produced by this State pursuant to this contract.
- 27. DISCLOSURE:** Failure to make any disclosure required by Governor's Executive Order 98-04, or any violation of any rule, regulation, or policy adopted pursuant to that order, **shall** be a material breach of the terms of this contract. Any Contractor, whether an individual or entity, who fails to make the required disclosure or who violates any rule, regulation, or policy **shall** be subject to all legal remedies available to the agency.



IFB SIGNATURE PAGE
NP-19-0028
Outside Counsel Services

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S INFORMATION				
Company:				
Address:				
City:		State:		Zip Code:
Business Designation:	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/> Sole Proprietorship <input type="checkbox"/> Corporation	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Service Corp <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit	
Minority and Women-Owned Designation*:	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> African American	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic American	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian American <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander American	<input type="checkbox"/> Service Disabled Veteran <input type="checkbox"/> Women-Owned
	AR Certification #: _____		* See <i>Minority and Women-Owned Business Policy</i>	
PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR CONTACT INFORMATION				
<i>Provide contact information to be used for bid solicitation related matters.</i>				
Contact Person:		Title:		
Phone:		Alternate Phone:		
Email:				
ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT CONFIRMATION				
By signing and submitting a response to this <i>Bid Solicitation</i> , a Prospective Contractor agrees and certifies that they do not employ or contract with illegal immigrants. If selected, the Prospective Contractor certifies that they will not employ or contract with illegal immigrants during the aggregate term of a contract.				
ISRAEL BOYCOTT RESTRICTION CONFIRMATION				
By signing and submitting a response to this <i>Bid Solicitation</i> , a Prospective Contractor agrees and certifies that they do not boycott Israel, and if selected, will not boycott Israel during the aggregate term of the contract.				

The signature below signifies agreement that any exception that conflicts with a Requirement of this *Bid Solicitation* **will cause the Prospective Contractor's proposal to be disqualified.**

Printed/Typed Name: _____ Date: _____