

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE Information Technology Division	INVITATION FOR BIDS NO. 45-PR11954008
	Offers will be publicly opened: March 22, 2021
	Issue Date: February 23, 2021
Refer <u>ALL</u> inquiries regarding this IFB to: Nicole Hunter Associate Director, Procurement & Contracts DORProcurement@ncdor.gov 919-814-1037	Commodity Number: 432322 - Content Management Software
	Description: Requirements Management Software
	Using Agency: Revenue
See page 2 for mailing instructions.	Requisition No.: PR11954008

OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE

The State seeks offers for the Software, Services and/or goods described in this solicitation. The State's acceptance of any offer must be demonstrated by execution of the acceptance found below and any subsequent Request for Best and Final Offer, if issued. Acceptance shall create a contract having an order of precedence as follows: In cases of conflict between documents comprising the contract, the order of precedence shall be (1) Best and Final Offers, if any, (2) special terms and conditions specific to this Invitation for Bids (IFB), (3) specifications, (4) Department of Information Technology Terms and Conditions of this IFB, and (5) the agreed portions of the awarded Vendor's offer. **No contract shall be binding on the State until an encumbrance of funds has been made for payment of the sums due under the contract.**

EXECUTION

In compliance with this Invitation for Bids, and subject to all the conditions herein, the undersigned offers and agrees to furnish any or all Services or goods upon which prices are offered, at the price(s) offered herein, within the time specified herein. By executing this offer, I certify that this offer is submitted competitively and without collusion.

Failure to execute/sign offer prior to submittal shall render offer invalid. Late offers are not acceptable.

OFFEROR:		
STREET ADDRESS:	P.O. BOX:	ZIP:
CITY, STATE & ZIP:	TELEPHONE NUMBER:	TOLL FREE TEL. NO
PRINT NAME & TITLE OF PERSON SIGNING:	FAX NUMBER:	
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:	DATE:	E-MAIL:

Offer valid for sixty (60) days from date of offer opening unless otherwise stated here: ____ days

ACCEPTANCE OF OFFER

If any or all parts of this IFB are accepted, an authorized representative of Department of Revenue shall affix their signature hereto. A copy of this acceptance will be forwarded to the successful vendor(s).

<u>FOR STATE USE ONLY</u> Offer accepted and contract awarded this ____ day of _____, 2021, as indicated on attached certification, by _____ (Authorized representative of Department of Revenue).

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1.0 INTENT, USE, DURATION AND SCOPE

The North Carolina Department of Revenue (NCDOR) administers tax laws enacted by the North Carolina General Assembly. NCDOR operates Service Centers across the State and employs staff in seventeen (17) states to provide customer service to taxpayers on a variety of tax issues. NCDOR administers twenty-five (25) types of taxes (e.g. motor fuels, privilege, sales and use, etc.) and handles over three million taxpayer interactions each year.

NCDOR's IT Service Design reports to the Tax Information Processing Division. The IT Service Design group gathers and documents requirements. In the context of IT Service Design, requirements are defined capabilities to which the results of certain work or software development should meet. The IT Service Design Team documents NCDOR's requirements in support of changes to business applications systems that are currently in use, or planned for use, by NCDOR. Documents developed by the organizational unit are detailed and approved by the various business and technical leads and managers. The IT Service Design group currently relies on email for document sharing and approval. Approved requirements documents are currently stored in project folders on NCDOR's network servers and there is no dashboard to track project progress while in Design.

The IT Service Design group seeks requirements management software to improve communication and collaboration between the design team and business stakeholders, improve requirements definition, requirements approval process, and reuse already defined and approved requirements.

The purpose of this Invitation for Bids (IFB) is to procure and implement a requirements management software application for NCDOR. Additionally, NCDOR seeks professional services for implementation of the software and system support and end user training.

Products and Services will be provided in accordance with the terms and conditions of this IFB.

2.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1. VENDOR QUESTIONS

Written questions concerning this IFB will be received until **March 4, 2021 at 2:00 pm Eastern Standard Time**. They must be sent via e-mail to: DORProcurement@ncdor.gov. Please insert "**Questions IFB 45-PR11954008 – Requirements Management Software**" as the subject for the email. The questions should be submitted in the following format:

Citation	Vendor Question	The State's Response
Offer Section, Page Number		

The State will prepare responses to all written questions submitted, and post an addendum to the Interactive Purchasing System (IPS) <https://www.ips.state.nc.us/ips/>. Oral answers are not binding on the State.

Vendor contact regarding this IFB with anyone other than Nicole Hunter may be grounds for rejection of said Vendor's offer.

2.2. ADDENDUM TO IFB

The State may issue addenda if Vendor questions are permitted as described below, or if additional terms, specifications or other changes are necessary for this procurement. All addenda will be posted to the Interactive Purchasing System (IPS), <https://www.ips.state.nc.us/ips/>, and shall become an Addendum to this IFB.

2.3. OFFER SUBMITTAL

Due Date: **March 22, 2021**
Time: 2:00 PM Eastern Time

Instructions:

Submit one (1) executed offer response electronically via the North Carolina Business Invitation Delivery System (NCBIDS). Bid responses must be uploaded to NCBIDS in .pdf format with the pages numbered sequentially. If response submittal requires multiple document uploads, each document file name must include the name of the vendor and the sequential page numbers the file encompasses (e.g. Company ABC Bid Response pp 8-15). For additional information about NCBIDS, please review the NCBIDS for Vendors page located at (<https://ncadmin.nc.gov/about-doa/divisions/purchase-and-contract/nc-bids/nc-bids-vendors>) for online training videos and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

Vendor must return all pages of this solicitation with its offer. The file(s) must not be password-protected and must be capable of being copied to other media. Offers submitted via facsimile (FAX) machine, telephone, or email in response to this solicitation will not be accepted.

Offer must be submitted on the forms provided herein. If additional sheets are required (for example, Vendors who are offering alternate proposals), the Vendor must submit a separate bid document. Any alternate proposals must be clearly marked as such with the phrase "alternate offer for 'name of Vendor'" and numbered sequentially with the first offer. This legend must be in bold type of not less than 14-point type on the face of the offer, and on the text of the alternative proposal.

Prices and any other entry made hereon by the Vendor shall be considered firm and not subject to change.

It is the responsibility of the Vendor to deliver the offer in this office by the specified time and date of opening.

2.4. BASIS FOR REJECTION

Pursuant to 9 NCAC 06B.0401, the State reserves the right to reject any and all offers, in whole or in part; by deeming the offer unsatisfactory as to quality or quantity, delivery, price or service offered; non-compliance with the specifications or intent of this solicitation; lack of competitiveness; error(s) in specifications or indications that revision would be advantageous to the State; cancellation or other changes in the intended project, or other determination that the proposed requirement is no longer needed; limitation or lack of available funds; circumstances that prevent determination of the best offer; or any other determination that rejection would be in the best interest of the State. Vendor contact regarding this IFB with anyone other than Nicole Hunter may be grounds for rejection of said Vendor's offer.

2.5. LATE OFFERS

Regardless of cause, late offers will not be accepted and will automatically be disqualified from further consideration. It shall be the Vendor's sole risk to ensure delivery at the designated office by the designated time. Late offers will not be opened and may be returned to the Vendor at the expense of the Vendor or destroyed if requested.

2.6. NON-RESPONSIVE OFFERS

Vendor offers will be deemed non-responsive by the State and will be rejected without further consideration or evaluation if statements such as the following are included:

- "This offer does not constitute a binding offer",
- "This offer will be valid only if this offer is selected as a finalist or in the competitive range",
- "Vendor does not commit or bind itself to any terms and conditions by this submission",

- “This document and all associated documents are non-binding and shall be used for discussion purposes only”,
- “This offer will not be binding on either party until incorporated in a definitive agreement signed by authorized representatives of both parties”, or
- A statement of similar intent.

2.7. NOTICE TO VENDORS

The State objects to and will not be required to evaluate or consider any additional terms and conditions not previously agreed to by the State and submitted with an Offeror’s response. This applies to any language appearing in or attached to the document as part of the Offeror’s response. By execution and delivery of this Invitation for Bids and response(s), the Offeror agrees that any additional terms and conditions, whether submitted purposely or inadvertently, shall have no force or effect.

2.8. E-PROCUREMENT SOLICITATION

This is an E-Procurement solicitation however only services are subject to Paragraph #31 a) and b). See Paragraph #31 of the attached Department of Information Technology Terms and Conditions.

- a) General information on the E-Procurement service can be found at <http://eprocurement.nc.gov/>
- b) Within two days after notification of award of a contract, vendor must register in NC E-Procurement @ Your Service at the following web site: <https://vendor.ncgov.com/vendor/login>
- c) As of the IFB submittal date, the Vendor must be current on all E-Procurement fees. If the Vendor is not current on all E-Procurement fees, the State may disqualify the Vendor from participation in this IFB.

2.9. DISTRIBUTORS AND RESELLERS

“Resellers” as used herein, refers to businesses that routinely sell or distribute Vendor’s Products, and may include “Distributors”, “Value Added Resellers” (VARs), “Original Equipment Manufacturers” (OEMs), Channel Partners, or such other designations. These businesses must be approved by the State prior to placement of any orders. Any contract established will be subject to this solicitation and any resulting Agreement(s), and to the terms and conditions of the State’s competitive bidding process.

If Vendor is not the original manufacturer of the product(s) offered in this IFB, is Vendor authorized to sell such products? ☐ YES ☐ NO

The Agency acknowledges that the Reseller has merely purchased the Third Party Items for resale or license to the Agency, and that the proprietary and intellectual property rights to the Third Party Items are owned by parties other than the Reseller (“Third Parties”). The Agency further acknowledges that except for the payment to the Reseller for the Third Party Items, all of its rights and obligations with respect thereto flow from and to the Third Parties. The Reseller shall provide the Agency with copies of all documentation and warranties for the Third Party Items which are provided to the Reseller. The Reseller shall assign all applicable Third party warranties for Deliverables to the Agency.

2.10. POSSESSION AND REVIEW

During the evaluation period and prior to award, possession of the bids and accompanying information is limited to personnel of the issuing agency, and to the committee responsible for participating in the evaluation. Vendors who attempt to gain this privileged information, or to influence the evaluation process (i.e. assist in evaluation) will be in violation of purchasing rules and their offer will not be further evaluated or considered.

After award of contract the complete bid file will be available to any interested persons with the exception of trade secrets, test information or similar proprietary information as provided by statute and rule. Any proprietary or confidential information, which conforms to exclusions from public records as provided by N.C.G.S. §132-1.2 **must be clearly marked as such in the offer when submitted.**

2.11. IFB AWARD

It is the general intent to award this contract to one Vendor. As provided by statute, award will be based on Best Value Analysis, Lowest Price Technically Acceptable Source Selection Method in accordance with 09 NCAC 06B. 0302 Information Technology Procurement.

A link to the Interactive Purchasing System (IPS) allows the public to retrieve contract award information electronically from the Internet web site: <https://www.ips.state.nc.us/ips/> Results may be found by searching by IFB number or agency name. This information may not be available for several weeks dependent upon the complexity of the acquisition and the length of time to complete the evaluation process.

2.12. POINTS OF CONTACT

Contact with the persons shown below for contractual and technical matters related to this IFB is only permitted if expressly agreed to by the purchasing lead named on page 1, or upon award of contract:

Vendor Contract Manager Point of Contact	Vendor Technical Lead Point of Contact
Name of Vendor:	Name of Vendor:
Street:	Street:
City, State, Zip:	City, State, Zip:
Assigned Contract Manager:	Assigned Technical Lead:
Email Address:	Email Address:
Telephone Number:	Telephone Number:

3.0 SPECIFICATIONS

3.1. VENDOR STANDARD AGREEMENT(S)

The terms and conditions of Vendor's standard license, maintenance or other agreement(s) applicable to Software and other Products acquired under this Agreement may apply to the extent such terms and conditions do not materially change the terms and conditions of this Agreement. In the event of any conflict between the terms and conditions of this Agreement and the Vendor's standard agreement(s), the terms and conditions of this Agreement relating to audit and records, jurisdiction, choice of law, the State's electronic procurement application of law or administrative rules, the remedy for intellectual property infringement and the exclusive remedies and limitation of liability in the Terms and Conditions herein shall apply in all cases and supersede any provisions contained in Vendor's relevant standard agreement or any other agreement. The State shall not be obligated under any standard license and/or maintenance or other Vendor agreement(s) to indemnify or hold harmless the Vendor, its licensors, successors or assigns; nor arbitrate any dispute, nor pay late fees, legal fees or other similar costs.

3.2. VENDOR UTILIZATION OF WORKERS OUTSIDE U.S.

Due to North Carolina Department of Revenue security requirements, Vendor may not utilize resources or workers located outside of the United States. By checking below, Vendor acknowledges and agrees that it

will not utilize resources or workers located outside of the United State to perform services under this Contract. ☐ YES ☐ NO

3.3. E-VERIFY

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143B-1350(k), the State shall not enter into a contract unless the awarded Vendor and each of its subcontractors comply with the E-Verify requirements of N.C.G.S. Chapter 64, Article 2. Vendors are directed to review the foregoing laws. Any awarded Vendor must submit a certification of compliance with E-Verify to the awarding agency, and on a periodic basis thereafter as may be required by the State.

3.4. RESTRICTIONS ON CONTRACTS WITH THE STATE: Reserved

3.5. IDENTITY MANAGEMENT:

The proposed solution must externalize identity management and will be required to utilize the NCDOR identity management and authentication-related functions. The function chosen for use by NCDOR will be dependent on the architecture and business requirements of the proposed service.

3.6. CLOUD SERVICE PROVIDERS (CSPs)

Reserved.

3.7. BRAND SPECIFIC PRODUCT

Reserved.

3.8. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS: A Vendor's offer should describe how its proposed solution substantially conforms to each of the following specifications:

3.1.1.Specifications for the Software Application or Tool:

- 3.1.1.1. Be deployed as an "on premise" solution
- 3.1.1.2. Provide a means to define requirements using natural language and in an organized, logical manner
- 3.1.1.3. Provide modelling of relationships between requirements
- 3.1.1.4. Create and model use cases
- 3.1.1.5. Reuse selected requirements for other projects, services, etc.
- 3.1.1.6. Associate a single or set of requirements applications, services, projects, and programs
- 3.1.1.7. Search and view requirements based on selection criteria
- 3.1.1.8. Provide version control, status, history, and baseline of requirements
- 3.1.1.9. Export data to and import data from MS Excel, Word, or other formats
- 3.1.1.10. Provide visualization for graphic models
- 3.1.1.11. Provide reporting and dashboard capability
- 3.1.1.12. Provide workflow configurations with review and approval processes
- 3.1.1.13. Trace requirements from creation to test cases
- 3.1.1.14. Support multiple users in different roles
- 3.1.1.15. Provide role-based access to application features
- 3.1.1.16. Integrate with other tools (MicroFocus ALM, JIRA, other development tools)
- 3.1.1.17. Meet NCDOR hardware and software standards and security policies located at <https://www.ncdor.gov/documents/it-information-bidders>. Vendor staff who perform services under any contract awarded under this solicitation will be subject to the security requirements in ATTACHMENT A—Security Requirements for Vendor Staff and Contractors.

- 3.1.1.18. Provide for unlimited licensing for reviewers to review and approve requirements from business users and technical staff
- 3.1.1.19. Provide for audit and/or log user access to / from the tool.
- 3.1.1.20. Be supported and maintained by the vendor
- 3.1.1.21. Integrate with Light Directory Access Protocol (LDAP)

3.1.2. Specifications for Training. In addition to implementation, vendor must provide the following training.

- 3.1.2.1. Systems support training
- 3.1.2.2. End User Training

3.9. CONTRACT TERM:

A contract awarded pursuant to this IFB shall have an effective date as provided in the Notice of Award. The term shall be one (1) year, and will expire upon the anniversary date of the effective date unless otherwise stated in the Notice of Award, or unless terminated earlier. The State retains the option to extend this contract for two (2) additional one (1) year periods at its sole discretion.

3.10. DELIVERY:

Successful Vendor will complete delivery within thirty (30) consecutive calendar days after receipt of purchase order to the following location(s): 501 North Wilmington Street, Raleigh, North Carolina 27604.

For purchases requiring downloads or subscription access, the applicable download or access credentials should be provided to SoftwareRegistration@ncdor.gov.

For completion by Vendor: Delivery will be made from _____ (city, state) within _____ consecutive days after receipt of order.

Delivery shall not be considered to have occurred until installation has been completed. If circumstances beyond the control of the contractor result in a late delivery or installation, it is the responsibility and obligation of the contractor to notify the Purchasing Agent listed on the purchase order, in writing, immediately upon determining delay of shipment. The written notification should indicate the anticipated delivery dated.

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4.0 FURNISH AND DELIVER

ITEM #	QTY	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	UNIT COST	EXTENDED COST
1	1	EACH	Requirement Management Software Term: One (1) year from the date listed on the Notice of Award		
2	1	EACH	Non-warranty maintenance and support for the software acquired under item 1 above.		
3	1	JOB	Installation of the software acquired under item 1		
4	1	JOB	System support and end user training		

Total Offer Cost _____

4.1 OPTIONAL COSTS— May or may not be purchased by the State

ITEM #	QTY	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	UNIT COST	EXTENDED COST
1	1	EACH	Optional Year 2 Requirement Management Software Maintenance		
2	1	EACH	Optional Year 3 Requirement Management Software Maintenance		

5.0 HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESSES

“Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs) consist of minority, women and disabled business firms that are at least fifty-one percent owned and operated by an individual(s) of the aforementioned categories. Also included in this category are disabled business enterprises and non-profit work centers for the blind and severely disabled.”

<http://ncadmin.nc.gov/businesses/hub>

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. §§143B-1361(a), 143-48 and 143-128.4, the State invites and encourages participation in this procurement process by businesses owned by minorities, women, disabled, disabled business enterprises and non-profit work centers for the blind and severely disabled. This includes utilizing subcontractors to perform the required functions in this IFB.

Is Vendor a Historically Underutilized Business? ☐ YES ☐ NO If “YES”, specify classification.

If Vendor is HUB but is not North Carolina certified, the State encourages seeking certification. For additional information regarding obtain a North Carolina HUB certification, please visit <https://ncadmin.nc.gov/businesses/hub/hub-certification>.

6.0 DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDORS

- 1) **READ, REVIEW AND COMPLY:** It shall be the Vendor’s responsibility to read this entire document, review all enclosures and attachments, and comply with all requirements specified herein.
- 2) **DEFINITIONS:**
 - **NCDIT:** The North Carolina Department of Information Technology, formerly Office of Information Technology Services
 - **NCDOR:** The North Carolina Department of Revenue
 - **TERM CONTRACT:** A contract in which a source of supply is established for a specified period of time for specified Services or supplies; usually characterized by an estimated or definite minimum quantity, with the possibility of additional requirements beyond the minimum, all at a predetermined unit price
 - **THE STATE:** Is the state of North Carolina and its agencies.
 - **VENDOR:** Company, firm, corporation, partnership, individual, etc., submitting a response to a solicitation.
- 3) **PROMPT PAYMENT DISCOUNTS:** Vendors are urged to compute all discounts into the price offered. If a prompt payment discount is offered, it will not be considered in the award of the contract except as a factor to aid in resolving cases of identical prices.
- 4) **CLARIFICATIONS/INTERPRETATIONS:** Any and all questions regarding this document must be addressed to the purchaser named on the cover sheet of this document. Do not contact the user directly. Any and all revisions to this document shall be made only by written addendum from NCDOR. The Vendor is cautioned that the requirements of this IFB can be altered only by written addendum and that verbal communications from whatever source are of no effect.
- 5) **ACCEPTANCE AND REJECTION:** The State reserves the right to reject any and all offers, to waive any informality in offers and, unless otherwise specified by the Vendor, to accept any item in the offer. If either a unit price or an extended price is obviously in error and the other is obviously correct, the incorrect price will be disregarded.
- 6) **AWARD OF CONTRACT:** Responsive offers will be evaluated and acceptance may be made in accordance with Best Value procurement practices as defined by N.C.G.S. §143-135.9. Unless otherwise specified by the State or the Vendor, the State reserves the right to accept any item or group of items on a multi-item offer. In addition, on agency specific or term contracts, NCDOR reserves the right to make partial, progressive or

multiple awards: where it is advantageous to award separately by items; or where more than one supplier is needed to provide the contemplated requirements as to quantity, quality, delivery, service, geographical areas; other factors deemed by NCDOR to be pertinent or peculiar to the purchase in question.

- 7) **MISCELLANEOUS:** Masculine pronouns shall be read to include feminine pronouns and the singular of any word or phrase shall be read to include the plural and vice versa.
- 8) **PROTEST PROCEDURES:** When an offeror wants to protest a contract awarded pursuant to this solicitation that is over \$25,000 they must submit a written request to the issuing agency at the address given in this document. This request must be received in this office within fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of the contract award, and must contain specific sound reasons and any supporting documentation for the protest.
Note: Contract award notices are sent **only** to those actually awarded contracts, and not to every person or firm responding to this solicitation. IFB status and Award notices are posted on the Internet at <https://www.ips.state.nc.us>. **All protests will be governed by NCAC Title 9, Department of Information Technology (formerly Office of Information Technology Services), Subchapter 06B Sections .1101 - .1121.**
- 9) **VENDOR REGISTRATION AND SOLICITATION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM:** Vendor Link NC allows Vendors to electronically register with the State to receive electronic notification of current procurement opportunities for goods and services available on the Interactive Purchasing System at the following web site: <https://www.ips.state.nc.us/ips>
- 10) **DIGITAL IMAGING:** The State will digitize the Vendor's response if not received electronically, and any awarded contract together with associated contract documents. This electronic copy shall be a preservation record, and serve as the official record of this solicitation with the same force and effect as the original written documents comprising such record. Any printout or other output readable by sight shown to reflect such record accurately is an "original."

7.0 DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1) DEFINITIONS: Supplementing the Definitions appearing in the body of this solicitation, above:

- a) "Agency" means the Agency purchasing the goods or Services.
- b) "Computer" means a data processing device capable of accepting data, performing prescribed operations on the data, and supplying the results of these operations; for example, a device that operates on discrete data by performing arithmetic and logic processes on the data, or a device that operates on analog data by performing physical processes on the Data.
- c) "Computer Data Base" means a collection of data in a form capable of being processed and operated on a Computer.
- d) "Computer Program" means a series of instructions or statements in a form acceptable to a Computer, processor or controller that is designed to cause the Computer, processor or controller to execute an operation or operations. Computer programs include operating systems, assemblers, compilers, interpreters, data management systems, utility programs, sort-merge programs and maintenance/diagnostics programs, as well as applications programs such as payroll, inventory control and engineering analysis programs. Computer Programs may be either machine dependent or machine-independent, and may be general purpose in nature or be designed to satisfy the requirements of a particular user.
- e) "Computer Software" or "Software" means Computer Programs and Data Bases. Also, see, "Software" below.
- f) "Computer Software Documentation" means technical data and information comprising Computer listings and printouts, in human readable form that:
 - i) Documents the design or details the Computer Software
 - ii) Explains the capabilities of the Software, or
 - iii) Provides operating instructions for using the Software to obtain desired results from a Computer.
- g) "Contract Administrator" means an individual who administers the contract on behalf of its respective agency or company.
- h) "Custom or Modified Software" means Software that may be modified by the State, or by Vendor at the State's request or direction to perform in accordance with specifications.
- i) "Data" means recorded information, regardless of form or method of recording.
- j) "Deliverable"/"Product Warranties" shall mean and include the warranties provided for products or deliverables licensed to the State in Paragraph 2, and as included in Paragraph 7 c), of these Terms and Conditions unless superseded by a Vendor's Warranties pursuant to Vendor's License or Support Agreements.
- k) "Hardware" includes Computers, printers, attached equipment or peripherals or other equipment utilized for the State's intended purposes as expressed in the solicitation documents.
- l) "Products" includes Software, Hardware, equipment, options, documentation, accessories, supplies, spare parts.
- m) "Services" means the obligations and duties undertaken by the Vendor to comply with the specifications and requirements in this solicitation.
- n) "Services" means the professional services contracted for under this solicitation.
- o) "Software" is "Packaged Copyrighted Software Products" (unless otherwise identified) as used in 09 NCAC 06A.0102(13) and means Computer Software that is used regularly for other than governmental purposes and is sold, licensed, or leased in significant quantities to the general public at established market or catalog prices, that is considered "shrink-wrap" or "clickwrap", that is or may be generally licensed by "shrink-wrap" or "clickwrap" licenses, or Computer Software that does not constitute Custom or Modified Software and is regularly sold, licensed or leased by the Vendor to governmental entities to meet governmental requirements.
- p) "State" shall mean the State of North Carolina, NCDIT as an Agency, or an NCDOR in its capacity as the Award Authority.
- q) "Support" includes Hardware maintenance and repair (outside any required by any applicable warranty), Software updates maintenance and support Services, consulting, training and other agreed support Services provided by or through Vendor.
- r) "Use", in the context of Computer Software execution and operation in Section 2 and 3 hereinbelow, means storing, loading, installing, executing or displaying Software on a Computer, processor or controller, or making a copy of Software for archival or backup purposes only.

2) SOFTWARE LICENSE

- a) Vendor grants the State a personal non-transferable and non-exclusive right to use, in object code form only, all Software and related documentation furnished to the Agency under this Agreement. This license grant shall be limited to use with the Hardware (if any) or Products (if any) for which the Software was obtained, or on a temporary

basis, on back-up equipment when the original Hardware or Product is inoperable. Use of Software on multiple processors is prohibited unless otherwise agreed in writing. If the License Grant and License Fees are based upon the number of Users, the number of Users may be increased at any time, subject to the restrictions on the maximum number of Users specified in the Vendor's standard agreement.

- b) Software provided pursuant to this Solicitation may, in some circumstances, be accompanied by a clickwrap agreement. The term clickwrap agreement refers to an agreement that requires the end user to manifest his or her assent to terms and conditions by clicking an "ok" or "agree" button on a dialog box or pop-up window as part of the installation process for the Software. The sole purpose of any clickwrap agreement shall be to operate as the mechanism for the installation of the Software. All terms and conditions of any clickwrap agreement provided with any Software solicited herein shall have no force and effect and shall be non-binding on the State, its employees, agents, and other authorized users of the Software.
- c) The State agrees to use its best efforts to see that its employees and users of all Software licensed hereunder comply with the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement, and any Exhibits or Amendments hereto. The State also agrees to refrain from taking any steps, such as reverse engineering, reverse assembly or reverse compilation to derive a source code equivalent to the Software; or portion thereof.
- d) The State shall have the right to copy the Software, in whole or in part, for use in conducting benchmark or acceptance tests, for business recovery and disaster recovery testing or operations, and consistent with the security, records retainage or other policy of the Agency for archival or emergency purposes, or to replace a worn copy; but not for use in preparing derivative works unless expressly allowed by the Agreement or subsequent Statements of Work. Any copy of the Software or documentation must contain the same copyright notice and proprietary markings that are on the original Software.
- e) Use of Software on any Products other than that for which it was obtained, removal of Software from the United States or any other material breach shall automatically terminate this license.
- f) The State's license includes the right to upgrades, updates, maintenance releases or other enhancements or modifications made generally available to Vendor's licensees without a separate maintenance or support agreement. Vendor's right to a new license for new version releases of the Software shall not be abridged by the foregoing.
- g) Software bundled with any other Product may be used only with the Product and with the configuration in which the Product is sold by Vendor or subsequently upgraded by Vendor.
- h) The State's license neither transfers, vests nor infers any title or other ownership right in any intellectual property right of Vendor, or any third party. The State's license neither transfers, vests nor infers any title or other ownership right in any source code associated with the Software unless otherwise agreed by the parties, and will not be construed as a sale of any ownership rights in the Software, unless Custom or Modified Software is being developed as a Work For Hire in response to the State's solicitation documents.
- i) The State may use the Software with the Computer for which or with which it was acquired, including use at any government installation to which the Computer may be transferred by the State. The State may use the Software with the backup Computer if the Computer for which or with which it was acquired is inoperative.

3) USE OF SOFTWARE AND INFORMATION

- a) The State agrees that any Software or technical and business information owned by Vendor ("Information") or its suppliers or licensors and furnished to the State under this Agreement shall be and remain the property of the Vendor, or other party, respectively.
- b) All Software and information furnished to the State under this Agreement
 - i) Shall be used by the State only to install, operate or maintain the Product for which they were originally furnished;
 - ii) Shall not be reproduced or copied, in whole or in part, except as necessary for use as authorized under this agreement; and
 - iii) Shall, together with any copies except copies for the Agency's and State's archival purposes containing the State's business records, be returned or destroyed when no longer needed or permitted for use with the Product for which they were initially furnished; and
- c) All Software and information designated as "confidential" or "proprietary" shall be kept in confidence except as may be required by the North Carolina Public Records Act: N.C.G.S. §132-1, *et seq.*
- d) Transfer of Software or program license:
 - i) Software may be transferred within the United States to any location for the State's normal operations upon written notice to the Vendor without additional cost(s). Transfers for temporary uses arising as a result of a

disaster or disaster recovery test may be effected without notice to the Vendor; provided, however, that the State will employ its best efforts to advise the Vendor of any disaster related transfer requiring more than ten (10) business days. All other transfers may be permitted only with Vendor's prior written consent, and such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. Transfers requiring Vendor's consent may be subject to an additional license fee.

- ii) The rights granted herein are restricted for use solely by the State. The State may not authorize or allow the use or marketing of the Software/Products by or to a third party, and may not assign or transfer the Software or Products to a third party without the prior written consent of Vendor. Any assignee or transferee must execute a separate agreement with Vendor. Any such assignment or transfer shall terminate the obligations of the State under this Agreement
- e) Custom or Modified Software, if solicited by the State, is being developed or modified exclusively for the State, and such Custom or Modified Software, all related data, all copyrights in the Custom or Modified Software and derivative works belong exclusively to the State and shall be transferred to the State upon creation.

4) WARRANTY

- a) Minimum warranties for Products shall include:
 - i) On the delivery date the Products and the associated Computer operating system Software will be in good working order (operating in conformance with Vendor's standard specifications and functions). Unless otherwise specified in the solicitation, the warranty for other suppliers' Software is included in the suppliers' Software package and is provided directly from the supplier.
 - ii) The warranty shall be as provided or specified in the state's solicitation documents and shall begin on the day of successful installation. If no warranty period is specified, the warranty period shall be Vendor's standard warranty period for the Products, commencing the day of successful installation.
 - iii) The state shall notify Vendor if any Product is not in good working order during the warranty period. Vendor shall, at its option, either repair or replace any Product reported as not in good working order during the warranty period without charge to the State. The repair or replacement Products must be new or equivalent to new in performance and fully warranted the same as new. All returned Products will become property of Vendor at the time the Product is either placed in shipment to Vendor, or picked up by Vendor.
 - iv) The service provided during the warranty period is dependent upon the acceptable warranty option selected by the State and indicated in the State's solicitation document. If no warranty option is indicated, Vendor will provide their standard warranty service for the Product, unless otherwise agreed by the parties.
 - v) If the State requires warranty service other than under this Agreement, it shall be agreed to in writing by the parties at rates and terms set forth in such writing.
- b) Software warranties shall include the following:
 - i) Vendor warrants the media (comprising diskettes, tapes or other media) to be free of defects in materials or workmanship under normal use for ninety (90) days from the date of acceptance unless otherwise agreed. Vendor shall replace any media reported as not in good working order during the warranty period without charge to the State. If Vendor is unable to replace the Software, Vendor shall refund the full amount of the Software purchase paid by the State.
 - ii) In addition to the warranty exclusions stated in Paragraph 5, Vendor does not warrant that the operation of the Software will be uninterrupted or error free, or that the Software functions will meet the State's requirements unless developed as Customized or Modified Software. The State assumes the risk of any damage or loss from its misuse or inability to use the Software.
 - iii) For any Customized or Modified Software provided pursuant to this Agreement, Vendor warrants that for a period of one (1) year after the State accepts said Software, it will operate and perform in accordance with the functions and specifications set forth in the solicitation and error free as the solution for the Agency. This express warranty applies only if the State specifically identifies the Hardware environment in which the Customized or Modified Software will be installed or operated, or if it is used in connection with Hardware acquired under this Agreement.
- c) Unless otherwise required by the State: Vendor warrants that its support and customer service and assistance will be performed in accordance with generally accepted industry standards. This warranty shall be valid for ninety (90) days from the date support is provided or performance of the service. For a period of ninety (90) days after delivery or ninety (90) days after successful installation, Vendor or its suppliers shall provide telephone assistance to the State during the State's normal business hours.
- d) Vendor warrants to the best of its knowledge that:

- i) The licensed Software and associated materials do not infringe any intellectual property rights of any third party;
- ii) There are no actual or threatened actions arising from, or alleged under, any intellectual property rights of any third party;
- iii) The licensed Software and associated materials do not contain any surreptitious programming codes, viruses, Trojan Horses, "backdoors" or other means to facilitate or allow unauthorized access to the State's information systems.
- iv) The Software does not contain any timer, counter, lock or similar device (other than security features specifically approved by Customer in the Specifications) that inhibits or in any way limits the State's ability to use the Software for the term of this Agreement.

5) WARRANTY EXCLUSIONS

- a) Except as stated in Paragraph 4 (Warranty), Vendor and its parent, subsidiaries and affiliates, subcontractors and suppliers make no warranties, express or implied, and specifically disclaim warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose as provided by N.C.G.S. §§25-2-316, 25-2-313 and 25-2-315; and as may be amended.
- b) The warranty provided in Paragraph 4) (Warranty) does not cover repair for damages, malfunctions or service failures caused by:
 - i) Actions of non-Vendor personnel;
 - ii) Failure to follow Vendor's installation, operation or maintenance instructions and/or Services provided to the State;
 - iii) Attachment to the Products of non-Vendor products or failure of Products not maintained by Vendor unless such installation or use is approved in writing by the Vendor; or
 - iv) Force Majeure conditions set forth hereinbelow.

6) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INDEMNITY

- a) The Vendor, at its own expense, shall defend any action brought against the State to the extent that such action is based upon a claim that the Software or Products supplied by the Vendor, their use or operation infringes on a patent, copyright, trademark or violates a trade secret in the United States. The Vendor shall pay those costs and damages finally awarded or agreed in settlement against the State in any such action; damages shall be limited as provided in N.C.G.S. 143B-1350(h1). Such defense and payment shall be conditioned on the following:
 - i) That the Vendor shall be notified within a reasonable time in writing by the State of any such claim; and,
 - ii) That the Vendor shall have the sole control of the defense of any action on such claim and all negotiations for its settlement or compromise provided, however, that the State shall have the option to participate in such action at its own expense.
- b) If any modifications to the Software applied by Vendor become the subject of a claim of infringement of a patent, copyright, Trademark or a trade secret in the United States, the Vendor, shall at its option and expense, either procure for the State the right to continue using the Software, or to replace or modify the same to become noninfringing. If neither of these options can reasonably be taken in Vendor's judgment, or if further use shall be prevented by injunction, the Vendor agrees to take back any affected Software modifications, and refund any sums the State has paid Vendor for Services and the State shall then have the option of terminating the Agreement, or applicable portions thereof, without penalty or termination charge.
- c) Vendor will not be required to defend or indemnify the State if any claim by a third party against the State for infringement or misappropriation results from the State's alteration of any Vendor-branded Software, or from the continued use of the good(s) or Services after receiving notice they infringe on an intellectual property right of a third party.

7) EXCLUSIVE REMEDIES AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

- a) For purposes of the exclusive remedies and limitations of liability set forth in this Paragraph, Vendor shall be deemed to include the Vendor and its employees, agents, representatives, subcontractors, and suppliers and damages shall be deemed to refer collectively to all injuries, damages, losses, liabilities, expenses or costs incurred.
- b) The Vendor's liability for damages to the State arising under the contract shall be limited to two times the value of the Contract.
- c) The foregoing limitation of liability shall not apply to claims covered by other specific provisions including but not limited to Service Level Agreement or Deliverable/Product Warranty compliance, or to claims for injury to persons or damage to tangible personal property caused by Vendor's gross negligence or willful or wanton conduct. This limitation of liability does not apply to contributions among joint tortfeasors under N.C.G.S. 1B-1 *et seq.*, the receipt of court costs or attorney's fees that might be awarded by a court in addition to damages after litigation based on this Contract. For avoidance of doubt, the Parties agree that the Service Level Agreement and Deliverable/Product

Warranty Terms in the Contract are intended to provide the sole and exclusive remedies available to the State under the Contract for the Vendor's failure to comply with the requirements stated therein.

- d) For delays in the delivery or successful Product or Software installation, whichever is applicable, Vendor shall have no liability unless the delivery or successful installation date is delayed by more than thirty (30) days by causes not attributable either to the State or to Force Majeure conditions, in which case the State shall have the right, as its remedies:
 - i) To recover direct costs including replacement Products, if any, attributable to Vendor's delay, and
 - ii) To cancel the order without incurring cancellation charges.
 - iii) Vendor shall have no liability unless the default in delivery of Services is occasioned by causes not attributable either to the State or to Force Majeure conditions

8) SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE

- a) Except as specifically provided herein or in an approved attachment hereto, and unless otherwise consistently provided by Vendor's standard agreement for support, and except for the provisions in the Vendor License Agreements paragraph above, an order for support will constitute the State's acceptance of the terms of the Vendor's standard agreement for Support in effect on the date of the order, subject to the order of precedence and the limitations in the Vendor's Standard Agreement(s) paragraph (above) as set forth in the Solicitation. Unless otherwise indicated herein, Support and Maintenance acquired herein will begin at the end of any applicable warranty period.
- b) To be eligible for support, Products or Software must be in good operating condition and at then current specified revision levels, having all enhancements, modifications, updates, or upgrades supplied by Vendor. Vendor may charge its standard rates in effect on the date support service is provided in addition to any other charges if the Product(s) or Software do not conform to the specified revision levels.

9) SOFTWARE RETIREMENT

- a) Unless otherwise provided in the Vendor's standard agreement, Vendor retains the right to retire a version of the Software and stop providing Maintenance, Updates or Services, upon providing one-hundred and eighty (180) days written notice to the State of its intent to do so. The decision to stop maintaining a version of the Software is the sole business discretion of Vendor and shall not be deemed a breach of contract. If Vendor retires the version of the Software provided to the State and if the State has paid all applicable annual Maintenance Fees subsequent to executing this Agreement, the State shall be entitled to receive, at no additional charge, a newer version of the Software that supports substantially the same functionality as the licensed version of the Software. Newer versions of the Software containing substantially increased functionality will be made available to the State for an additional fee.
- b) Vendor may, at no additional charge, modify Software to improve operation and reliability or to meet legal requirements.
- c) Relocation of Software is the State's responsibility and may result in additional support charges and modified service response times. Software moved to another State facility or Agency may continue to be serviced subject to availability of a Vendor authorized support provider.
- d) Vendor is not required to provide support for non-qualified Software, nor Software not supplied under this Agreement. "Non-Qualified Software" is Software not supplied or approved by Vendor, and Software for which the State does not allow Vendor to incorporate modifications. The State is responsible for removing non-qualified Software to allow Vendor to perform Support Services.
- e) Support does not cover any damage or failure cause by:
 - i) Media and supplies or use of items not designed or designated for use with Software; or
 - ii) Site conditions that do not conform to Vendor's previously established site specifications; or
 - iii) Neglect, improper use, fire or water damage, electrical disturbance, transportation by the State, work or modification by persons other than Vendor personnel, or other authorized parties.

The State is responsible for the security of its proprietary or confidential information, for its data, and for maintaining a procedure and process to reconstruct lost or altered files, data or programs.

10) TRANSPORTATION: Transportation charges for software shall be FOB Destination unless delivered by internet or file-transfer as agreed by the State, or otherwise specified in the solicitation document or purchase order.

11) TRAVEL EXPENSES: All travel expenses should be included in the Vendor's proposed costs. Separately stated travel expenses will not be reimbursed. In the event that the Vendor may be eligible to be reimbursed for travel expenses arising under the performance of this Contract, reimbursement will be at the out-of-state rates set forth in N.C.G.S. §138-6; as amended from time to time. Vendor agrees to use the lowest available airfare not requiring a weekend stay and to

use the lowest available rate for rental vehicles. All Vendor incurred travel expenses shall be billed on a monthly basis, shall be supported by receipt and shall be paid by the State within thirty (30) days after invoice approval. Travel expenses exceeding the foregoing rates shall not be paid by the State. The State will reimburse travel allowances only for days on which the Vendor is required to be in North Carolina performing Services under this Agreement.

- 12) PROHIBITION AGAINST CONTINGENT FEES AND GRATUITIES:** Vendor warrants that it has not paid, and agrees not to pay, any bonus, commission, fee, or gratuity to any employee or official of the State for the purpose of obtaining any contract or award issued by the State. Subsequent discovery by the State of non-compliance with these provisions shall constitute sufficient cause for immediate termination of all outstanding Agreements. Violations of this provision may result in debarment of the vendor(s) or Vendor(s) as permitted by 09 NCAC 06B.1207, or other provision of law.
- 13) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS:** Any and all payments by the State are expressly contingent upon and subject to the appropriation, allocation and availability of funds to the Agency for the purposes set forth in this Agreement. If this Agreement or any Purchase Order issued hereunder is funded in whole or in part by federal funds, the Agency's performance and payment shall be subject to and contingent upon the continuing availability of said federal funds for the purposes of the Agreement or Purchase Order. If the term of this Agreement extends into fiscal years subsequent to that in which it is approved such continuation of the Agreement *is expressly contingent upon* the appropriation, allocation, and availability of funds by the N.C. Legislature for the purposes set forth in the Agreement. If funds to effect payment are not available, the Agency will provide written notification to Vendor. If the Agreement is terminated under this paragraph, Vendor agrees to take back any affected Products and software not yet delivered under this Agreement, terminate any Services supplied to the Agency under this Agreement, and relieve the Agency of any further obligation thereof. The State shall remit payment for Products and Services accepted prior to the date of the aforesaid notice in conformance with the payment terms.
- 14) PAYMENT TERMS (LICENSE FEES):** The total License Fee and the Support Service or Maintenance Fee (if applicable and provided the State subscribes or purchases such Services) for the first year shall be invoiced upon delivery of the Software. The Support Service or Maintenance Fee for subsequent contract years, if any, will be invoiced annually sixty (60) days prior to the anniversary date beginning each subsequent year. Increases in pricing for Support Services or Maintenance shall not exceed five percent (5%) per year following the first Contract year. Payment terms for software are Net 30 days after receipt of correct invoice or acceptance of software, whichever is later. Payment terms for Services are due and payable the month following the month for which charges accrue, or in accordance with the contract payment schedule. No additional charges to the Agency will be permitted based upon, or arising from, the Agency's use of a Business Procurement Card.
- 15) ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA:** Acceptance testing is required for all Vendor supplied software unless provided otherwise in the solicitation documents or a Statement of Work. The State may define such processes and procedures as may be necessary or proper, in its opinion and discretion, to ensure compliance with the State's specifications and Vendor's technical representations. Acceptance of software or Services may be controlled by a amendment hereto, or additional terms as agreed by the parties. In the event acceptance of Software or Services is not described in a additional contract documents, the State shall have the obligation to notify Vendor, in writing and within ten (10) days following installation of any software deliverable described in the contract if it is not acceptable. The notice shall specify in reasonable detail the reason(s) a deliverable is unacceptable. Acceptance by the State shall not be unreasonably withheld; but may be conditioned or delayed as required for installation and/or testing of software.
- 16) CONFIDENTIALITY:** Reserve Reserved.
- 17) ACCESS TO PERSONS AND RECORDS:** Pursuant to N.C.G.S. §147-64.7, the Agency, the State Auditor, appropriate federal officials, and their respective authorized employees or agents are authorized to examine all books, records, and accounts of the Vendor insofar as they relate to transactions with any department, board, officer, commission, institution, or other agency of the State of North Carolina pursuant to the performance of this Agreement or to costs charged to this Agreement. The Vendor shall retain any such books, records, and accounts for a minimum of three (3) years after the completion of this Agreement. Additional audit or reporting requirements may be required by any Agency, if in the Agency's opinion, such requirement is imposed by federal or state law or regulation.
- 18) ASSIGNMENT:** Vendor may not assign this Agreement or its obligations hereunder except as permitted by 09 NCAC 06B.1003 and this Paragraph. Vendor shall provide reasonable notice of not less than thirty (30) days prior to any consolidation, acquisition, or merger. Any assignee shall affirm this Agreement attorning to the terms and conditions agreed, and that Vendor shall affirm that the assignee is fully capable of performing all obligations of Vendor under this Agreement. An assignment may be made, if at all, in writing by the Vendor, Assignee and the State setting forth the foregoing obligation of Vendor and Assignee.

- 19) NOTICES:** Any notices required under this Agreement should be delivered to the Contract Administrator for each party. Unless otherwise specified in the Solicitation Documents, any notices shall be delivered in writing by U.S. Mail, Commercial Courier, facsimile, electronic mail, or by hand.
- 20) TITLES AND HEADINGS:** Titles and Headings in this Agreement are used for convenience only and do not define, limit or proscribe the language of terms identified by such Titles and Headings.
- 21) AMENDMENT:** This Agreement may not be amended orally or by performance. Any amendment must be made in written form and signed by duly authorized representatives of the State and Vendor.
- 22) TAXES:** The State of North Carolina is exempt from Federal excise taxes and no payment will be made for any personal property taxes levied on the Vendor or for any taxes levied on employee wages. Agencies of the State may have additional exemptions or exclusions for federal or state taxes. Evidence of such additional exemptions or exclusions may be provided to Vendor by Agencies, as applicable, during the term of this Agreement. Applicable State or local sales taxes shall be invoiced as a separate item.
- 23) GOVERNING LAWS, JURISDICTION, AND VENUE**
- a) This Agreement is made under and shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina. The place of this Agreement or purchase order, its situs and forum, shall be Wake County, North Carolina, where all matters, whether sounding in contract or in tort, relating to its validity, construction, interpretation and enforcement shall be determined. Vendor agrees and submits, solely for matters relating to this Agreement, to the jurisdiction of the courts of the State of North Carolina, and stipulates that Wake County shall be the proper venue for all matters.
 - b) Except to the extent the provisions of the Agreement are clearly inconsistent therewith, the applicable provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code as modified and adopted in North Carolina shall govern this Agreement. To the extent the Agreement entails both the supply of "goods" and "Services," such shall be deemed "goods" within the meaning of the Uniform Commercial Code, except when deeming such Services as "goods" would result in a clearly unreasonable interpretation.
- 24) DEFAULT:** In the event Services or other Deliverable furnished or performed by the Vendor during performance of any Contract term fail to conform to any material requirement(s) of the Contract specifications, notice of the failure is provided by the State and if the failure is not cured within ten (10) days, the State may cancel the contract. Default may be cause for debarment as provided in 09 NCAC 06B.1206. The rights and remedies of the State provided above shall not be exclusive and are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or under the Contract.
- a) If Vendor fails to deliver or provide correct Services or other Deliverables within the time required by this Contract, the State shall provide written notice of said failure to Vendor, and by such notice require performance assurance measures pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143B-1340(f). Vendor is responsible for the delays resulting from its failure to deliver or provide services or other Deliverables.
 - b) Should the State fail to perform any of its obligations upon which Vendor's performance is conditioned, Vendor shall not be in default for any delay, cost increase or other consequences due to the State's failure. Vendor will use reasonable efforts to mitigate delays, costs or expenses arising from assumptions in the Vendor's offer documents that prove erroneous or are otherwise invalid. Any deadline that is affected by any such failure in assumptions or performance by the State shall be extended by an amount of time reasonably necessary to compensate for the effect of such failure.
- 25) FORCE MAJEURE:** Neither party shall be deemed to be in default of its obligations hereunder if and so long as it is prevented from performing such obligations as a result of events beyond its reasonable control, including without limitation, fire, power failures, any act of war, hostile foreign action, nuclear explosion, riot, strikes or failures or refusals to perform under subcontracts, civil insurrection, earthquake, hurricane, tornado, or other catastrophic natural event or act of God.
- 26) COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS:** The Vendor shall comply with all laws, ordinances, codes, rules, regulations, and licensing requirements that are applicable to the conduct of its business, including those of federal, state, and local agencies having jurisdiction and/or authority.
- 27) TERMINATION:** Any notice for termination made under this Contract shall be transmitted via electronic mail or US Mail, Certified Return Receipt Requested. The period of notice for termination shall begin on the day the electronic mail is received or the return receipt is signed and dated.
- a) The parties may mutually terminate this Contract by written agreement at any time.
 - b) The State may terminate this Contract, in whole or in part, pursuant to Paragraph 24), (Default) or pursuant to the Special Terms and Conditions in the Solicitation Documents, if any, or for any of the following

- i) **Termination for Cause:** In the event any goods, software, or service furnished by the Vendor during performance fails to conform to any material specification or requirement of the Contract, and the failure is not cured within the specified time after providing written notice thereof to Vendor, the State may cancel and procure the articles or Services from other sources; holding Vendor liable for any excess costs occasioned thereby, subject only to the limitations provided in Paragraph 7) (Limitation of Liability). The rights and remedies of the State provided above shall not be exclusive and are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or under the Contract. Vendor shall not be relieved of liability to the State for damages sustained by the State arising from Vendor's breach of this Contract; and the State may, in its discretion, withhold any payment due as a setoff until such time as the damages are finally determined or as agreed by the parties. Voluntary or involuntary Bankruptcy or receivership by Vendor shall be cause for termination.
 - ii) **Termination for Convenience without Cause:** The State may terminate service and indefinite quantity contracts, in whole or in part by giving thirty (30) days prior notice in writing to the Vendor. Vendor shall be entitled to sums due as compensation for Deliverables provided and Services performed in conformance with the Contract. In the event the Contract is terminated for the convenience of the State the Agency will pay for all work performed and products delivered in conformance with the Contract up to the date of termination.
- 28) DISPUTE RESOLUTION:** The parties agree that it is in their mutual interest to resolve disputes informally. A claim by the State shall be submitted in writing to the Vendor's Contract Administrator for decision. The Parties shall negotiate in good faith and use all reasonable efforts to resolve such dispute(s). During the time the Parties are attempting to resolve any dispute, each shall proceed diligently to perform their respective duties and responsibilities under this Contract. If a dispute cannot be resolved between the Parties within thirty (30) days after delivery of notice, either Party may elect to exercise any other remedies available under this Contract, or at law. This term shall not constitute an agreement by either party to mediate or arbitrate any dispute.
- 29) SEVERABILITY:** In the event that a court of competent jurisdiction holds that a provision or requirement of this Agreement violates any applicable law, each such provision or requirement shall be enforced only to the extent it is not in violation of law or is not otherwise unenforceable and all other provisions and requirements of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect. All promises, requirement, terms, conditions, provisions, representations, guarantees and warranties contained herein shall survive the expiration or termination date unless specifically provided otherwise herein, or unless superseded by a applicable federal or State statute, including statutes of repose or limitation.
- 30) FEDERAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY BANKRUPTCY PROTECTION ACT:** The Parties agree that the Agency shall be entitled to all rights and benefits of the Federal Intellectual Property Bankruptcy Protection Act, Public Law 100-506, codified at 11 U.S.C. 365(n), and any amendments thereto.
- 31) ELECTRONIC PROCUREMENT: (Applies to all contracts that include E-Procurement and are identified as such in the body of the solicitation document):** Purchasing shall be conducted through the Statewide E-Procurement Service. The State's third party agent shall serve as the Supplier Manager for this E-Procurement Service. The Vendor shall register for the Statewide E-Procurement Service within two (2) business days of notification of award in order to receive an electronic purchase order resulting from award of this contract.
- a) **The successful vendor(s) shall pay a transaction fee of 1.75% (.0175) on the total dollar amount (excluding sales taxes) of each purchase order issued through the Statewide E-Procurement Service.** This applies to all purchase orders, regardless of the quantity or dollar amount of the purchase order. The transaction fee shall neither be charged to nor paid by the State, or by any State approved users of the contract. The transaction fee shall not be stated or included as a separate item in the proposed contract or invoice. There are no additional fees or charges to the Vendor for the Services rendered by the Supplier Manager under this contract. Vendor will receive a credit for transaction fees they paid for the purchase of any item(s) if an item(s) is returned through no fault of the Vendor. Transaction fees are non-refundable when an item is rejected and returned, or declined, due to the Vendor's failure to perform or comply with specifications or requirements of the contract.
 - b) Vendor, or its authorized Reseller, as applicable, will be invoiced monthly for the State's transaction fee by the Supplier Manager. The transaction fee shall be based on purchase orders issued for the prior month. Unless Supplier Manager receives written notice from the Vendor identifying with specificity any errors in an invoice within thirty (30) days of the receipt of invoice, such invoice shall be deemed to be correct and Vendor shall have waived its right to later dispute the accuracy and completeness of the invoice. Payment of the transaction fee by the Vendor is due to the account designated by the State within thirty (30) days after receipt of the correct invoice for the transaction fee, which includes payment of all portions of an invoice not in dispute. Within thirty (30) days of the receipt of invoice, Vendor may request in writing an extension of the invoice payment due date for that portion of the transaction fee invoice for which payment of the related goods by the governmental purchasing entity has not been

received by the Vendor. If payment of the transaction fee invoice is not received by the State within this payment period, it shall be considered a material breach of contract. The Supplier Manager shall provide, whenever reasonably requested by the Vendor in writing (including electronic documents), supporting documentation from the E-Procurement Service that accounts for the amount of the invoice.

- c) The Supplier Manager will capture the order from the State approved user, including the shipping and payment information, and submit the order in accordance with the E-Procurement Service. Subsequently, the Supplier Manager will send those orders to the appropriate Vendor on State Contract. The State or State approved user, not the Supplier Manager, shall be responsible for the solicitation, offers received, evaluation of offers received, award of contract, and the payment for goods delivered.
- d) Vendor agrees at all times to maintain the confidentiality of its user name and password for the Statewide E-Procurement Services. If a Vendor is a corporation, partnership or other legal entity, then the Vendor may authorize its employees to use its password. Vendor shall be responsible for all activity and all charges for such employees. Vendor agrees not to permit a third party to use the Statewide E-Procurement Services through its account. If there is a breach of security through the Vendor's account, Vendor shall immediately change its password and notify the Supplier Manager of the security breach by e-mail. Vendor shall cooperate with the state and the Supplier Manager to mitigate and correct any security breach.

8.0 SUPPLEMENTAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

1) PERSONNEL

Vendor shall not substitute key personnel assigned to the performance of this Contract without prior written approval by the Purchasing Agency Contract Administrator. Any desired substitution shall be noticed to the Purchasing Agency's Contract Administrator accompanied by the names and references of the Vendor substitute personnel. The Purchasing Agency will approve or disapprove the requested substitution in a timely manner. The Purchasing Agency may, in its sole discretion, terminate the services of any person providing Services under this Contract. Upon such termination, the Purchasing Agency may request acceptable substitution personnel or terminate the contracted Services provided by such personnel.

- a) Vendor personnel shall perform their duties on the premises of the State, during the State's regular work days and normal work hours, except as may be specifically agreed otherwise, established in the specifications, or statement of Work.
- b) This Contract shall not present Vendor or any of its personnel supplied under this Contract from performing similar Services elsewhere or restrict Vendor from using the personnel provided to the State provided that:
 - i) Such use does not conflict with the terms, specifications, or any other amendments to this Contract, or
 - ii) Such use does not conflict with any procurement law, regulation, or policy, or
 - iii) Such use does not conflict with any non-disclosure agreement, or term thereof, by and between the State and Vendor or Vendor's personnel.

2) SUBCONTRACTING

The Vendor may subcontract the performance of required Services with other vendors or third parties, or change subcontractors, only with the prior written consent of the Purchasing Agency's Contract Administrator. Vendor shall provide the State with complete copies of any agreements made by and between Vendor and all subcontractors. The selected Vendor remains solely responsible for the performance of its subcontractors. Subcontractors, if any, shall adhere to the same standards required of the selected Vendor. Any contracts made by the Vendor with a subcontractor shall include an affirmative statement that the State is an intended third party beneficiary of the contract; that the subcontractor has no agreement with the State; and that the State shall be indemnified by the Vendor for any claim presented by the subcontractor. Notwithstanding any other term herein, Vendor shall timely exercise its contractual remedies agency any non-performing subcontractor and, when appropriate, substitute another subcontractor.

3) VENDORS REPRESENTATION

Vendor warrants that qualified personnel will provide Services in a professional manner. "Professional manner" means that the personnel performing the Services will possess the skill and competence consistent with the prevailing business standards in the information technology industry. Vendor agrees that it will not enter any agreement with a third party that might abridge any rights of the State under this Contract. Vendor will serve as the prime Vendor under this Contract. Should the State approve any subcontractor(s), the Vendor shall be legally responsible for the performance and payment of the subcontractor(s). Names of any third party Vendor(s) or subcontractor(s) of Vendor may appear for purposes of convenience in Contract documents; and shall not limit Vendor's obligations hereunder. Third party subcontractors, if approved, may serve as subcontractors to Vendor. Vendor will retain executive representation for functional and technical expertise as needed in order to incorporate any work by third party subcontractor(s).

- a) **Intellectual Property.** Vendor has the right to provide Services and Deliverables without violating or infringing any law, rule, regulation, copyright, patent, trade secret, or other proprietary right of any third party. Vendor represents that its Services and Deliverables are not the subject of any actual or threatened actions arising from, or alleged under, any intellectual property rights of any third party.
- b) **Inherent Services.** If any Services, Deliverables, functions or responsibilities not specifically described in this Contract are required for Vendor's proper performance, provision, and delivery of the Services and Deliverables pursuant to this Contract, or are an inherent part of or necessary subtask included within the Services, they will be deemed to be implied by and included within the scope of the Contract to the same extent and in the same manner as if specifically described in the Contract. Unless otherwise expressly provided in the Contract, Vendor will furnish all of its own necessary management, supervision, labor, facilities, furniture, computer and telecommunications equipment, software, supplies and materials necessary for the Vendor to provide and deliver the Services and Deliverables.
- c) Vendor warrants that it has the financial capacity to perform and continue to perform its obligations under the Contract; that Vendor has no constructive or actual knowledge of an actual or potential legal proceeding being

brought against Vendor that could materially or adversely affect performance of this Contract; and that entering into this Contract is not prohibited by any contract or order by any court of competent jurisdiction.

4) EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Vendors shall comply with Federal and State requirements concerning fair employment and employment of the disabled, and concerning the treatment of all employees without regard to discrimination by reason of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or physical disability.

5) ADVERTISING/PRESS RELEASE

The vendor shall absolutely not publicly disseminate any information concerning that Contract without prior written approval from the Purchasing Agency Contract Administrator.

6) CONFIDENTIALITY

In accordance with N.C.G.S. §§143B-1350(e), 143B-1375 and 09 NCAC 06B.0103 and 06B.1001 and to promote maximum competition in the State competitive bidding process, the State may maintain the confidentiality of certain types of information described in N.C.G.S. §132-1 et seq. Such information may include trade secrets defined by N.C.G.S. §66-152 and other information exempted from the Public Records Act pursuant to N.C.G.S. §132-1.2. Vendor may designate appropriate portions of its response as confidential, consistent with and to the extent permitted under the Statutes and Rules set forth above, by marking the top and bottom of pages containing confidential information with a legend in boldface type "CONFIDENTIAL". By so marking any page, the Vendor warrants that it has formed a good faith opinion, having received such necessary or proper review by counsel and other knowledgeable advisors that the portions marked confidential meet the requirements of the Rules and Statutes set forth above. However, under no circumstances shall price information be designated as confidential. The State may serve as custodian of Vendor's confidential information and not as an arbiter of claims against Vendor's assertion of confidentiality. If an action is brought pursuant to N.C.G.S. §132-9 to compel the State to disclose information marked confidential, the Vendor agrees that it will intervene in the action through its counsel and participate in defending the State, including any public official(s) or public employee(s). The Vendor agrees that it shall hold the State and any official(s) and individual(s) harmless from any and all damages, costs, and attorneys' fees awarded against the State in the action. The State agrees to promptly notify the Vendor in writing of any action seeking to compel the disclosure of Vendor's confidential information. The State shall have the right, at its option and expense, to participate in the defense of the action through its counsel. The State shall have no liability to Vendor with respect to the disclosure of Vendor's confidential information ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction pursuant to N.C.G.S. §132-9 or other applicable law.

- a) **Care of Information:** Vendor agrees to use commercial best efforts to safeguard and protect any data, documents, files, and other materials received from the State or the Agency during performance of any contractual obligation from loss, destruction or erasure.
- b) Vendor warrants that all its employees and any approved third party Vendors or subcontractors are subject to a non-disclosure and confidentiality agreement enforceable in North Carolina. Vendor will, upon request of the State, verify and produce true copies of any such agreements. Production of such agreements by Vendor may be made subject to applicable confidentiality, non-disclosure or privacy laws; provided that Vendor produces satisfactory evidence supporting exclusion of such agreements from disclosure under the N.C. Public Records laws in N.C.G.S. §132-1 et seq. The State may, in its sole discretion, provide a non-disclosure and confidentiality agreement satisfactory to the State for Vendor's execution. The State may exercise its rights under this subparagraph as necessary or proper, in its discretion, to comply with applicable security regulations or statutes including, but not limited to 26 USC 6103 and IRS Publication 1075, (Tax Information Security Guidelines for Federal, State, and Local Agencies), HIPAA, 42 USC 1320(d) (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act), any implementing regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations, and any future regulations imposed upon the Department of Information Technology or the N.C. Department of Revenue pursuant to future statutory or regulatory requirements.
- c) **Nondisclosure:** Vendor agrees and specifically warrants that it, its officers, directors, principals and employees, and any subcontractors, shall hold all information received during performance of this Contract in the strictest confidence and shall not disclose the same to any third party without the express written approval of the State.

7) INSURANCE COVERAGE: During the term of the Contract, the Vendor at its sole cost and expense shall provide commercial insurance of such type and with such terms and limits as may be reasonably associated with the Contract. As a minimum, the Vendor shall provide and maintain the following coverage and limits:

- a) **Worker's Compensation** - The Vendor shall provide and maintain Worker's Compensation Insurance, as required by the laws of North Carolina, as well as employer's liability coverage with minimum limits of \$100,000.00, covering all of Vendor's employees who are engaged in any work under the Contract. If any work is sublet, the Vendor shall require the subcontractor to provide the same coverage for any of his employees engaged in any work under the Contract; and
- b) **Commercial General Liability** - General Liability Coverage on a Comprehensive Broad Form on an occurrence basis in the minimum amount of \$2,000,000.00 Combined Single Limit (Defense cost shall be in excess of the limit of liability); and
- c) **Automobile** - Automobile Liability Insurance, to include liability coverage, covering all owned, hired and non-owned vehicles, used in connection with the Contract. The minimum combined single limit shall be \$500,000.00 bodily injury and property damage; \$500,000.00 uninsured/under insured motorist; and \$5,000.00 medical payment; and
- d) Providing and maintaining adequate insurance coverage described herein is a material obligation of the Vendor and is of the essence of this Contract. All such insurance shall meet all laws of the State of North Carolina. Such insurance coverage shall be obtained from companies that are authorized to provide such coverage and that are authorized by the Commissioner of Insurance to do business in North Carolina. The Vendor shall at all times comply with the terms of such insurance policies, and all requirements of the insurer under any such insurance policies, except as they may conflict with existing North Carolina laws or this Contract. The limits of coverage under each insurance policy maintained by the Vendor shall not be interpreted as limiting the Vendor's liability and obligations under this Contract.

8) VENDOR'S LIABILITY FOR INJURY TO PERSONS OR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

- a) The Vendor shall be liable for damages arising out of personal injuries and/or damage to real or personal property of the State, employees of the State, persons designated by the State for training, or person(s) other than agents or employees of the Vendor, designated by the State for any purpose, prior to, during, or subsequent to delivery, installation, acceptance, and use of the Deliverables either at the Vendor's site or at the State's place of business, provided that the injury or damage was caused by the fault or negligence of the Vendor.
- b) The Vendor agrees to indemnify, defend and hold the Agency and the State and its Officers, employees, agents and assigns harmless from any liability relating to personal injury or injury to real or personal property of any kind, accruing or resulting to any other person, firm or corporation furnishing or supplying work, Services, materials or supplies in connection with the performance of this contract, whether tangible or intangible, arising out of the ordinary negligence, willful or wanton negligence, or intentional acts of the Vendor, its officers, employees, agents, assigns or subcontractors, in the performance of this Contract.
- c) Vendor shall not be liable for damages arising out of or caused by an alteration or an attachment not made or installed by the Vendor.

9) STOP WORK ORDER: The State may issue a written Stop Work Order to Vendor for cause at any time requiring Vendor to suspend or stop all, or any part, of the performance due under this Contract for a period up to ninety (90) days after the Stop Work Order is delivered to the Vendor. The ninety (90) day period may be extended for any further period for which the parties may agree.

- a) The Stop Work Order shall be specifically identified as such and shall indicate that it is issued under this term. Upon receipt of the Stop Work Order, the Vendor shall immediately comply with its terms and take all reasonable steps to minimize incurring costs allocable to the work covered by the Stop Work Order during the period of work suspension or stoppage. Within a period of ninety (90) days after a Stop Work Order is delivered to Vendor, or within any extension of that period to which the parties agree, the State shall either:
 - i) Cancel the Stop Work Order, or
 - ii) Terminate the Work covered by the Stop Work Order as provided for in the termination for default or the termination for convenience clause of this Contract.
- b) If a Stop Work Order issued under this clause is canceled or the period of the Stop Work Order or any extension thereof expires, the Vendor shall resume work. The State shall make an equitable adjustment in the delivery schedule, the Contract price, or both, and the Contract shall be modified, in writing, accordingly if:
 - i) The Stop Work Order results in an increase in the time required for, or in the Vendor's cost properly allocable to the performance of any part of this Contract; and
 - ii) The Vendor asserts its rights to an equitable adjustment within thirty (30) days after the end of the period of work stoppage; provided that if the State decides the facts justify the action, the State may receive and act upon an offer submitted at any time before the final payment under this Contract.

- c) If a Stop Work Order is not canceled and the work covered by the Stop Work Order is terminated in accordance with the provision entitled Termination for Convenience of the State, the State shall allow reasonable direct costs resulting from the Stop Work Order in arriving at the termination of settlement.
 - d) The State shall not be liable to the Vendor for loss of profits because of a Stop Work Order issued under this term.
- 10) WAIVER OF DEFAULT:** Waiver by either party of any default or breach by the other Party shall not be deemed a waiver of any subsequent default or breach and shall not be construed to be a modification or novation of the terms of this Contract, unless so stated in writing and signed by authorized representatives of the Agency and the Vendor, and made as an amendment to this Contract pursuant to Paragraph 11) herein below.
- 11) CHANGES:** This Contract and subsequent purchase order(s) is awarded subject to shipment of quantities, qualities, and prices indicated by the order or Contract, and all conditions and instructions of the Contract or offer on which it is based. Any changes made to this Contract or purchase order proposed by the Vendor are hereby rejected unless accepted in writing by the Agency or State Award Authority. The State shall not be responsible for Deliverables or Services delivered without a purchase order from the Agency or State Award Authority.
- 12) PAYMENT TERMS (SERVICES):** Payment terms are Net 30 days after receipt of correct invoice or acceptance of the Deliverables, whichever is later; unless a period of more than thirty (30) days is required by the Agency. The Purchasing State Agency is responsible for all payments under the Contract. No additional charges to the Agency will be permitted based upon, or arising from, the Agency's use of a Business Procurement Card. The State may exercise any and all rights of Set Off as permitted in Chapter 105A-1 et. seq. of the N.C. General Statutes and applicable Administrative Rules. Upon Vendor's written request of not less than thirty (30) days and approval by the State or Agency may:
- a) Forward the Vendor's payment check(s) directly to any person or entity designated by the Vendor, or
 - b) Include any person or entity designated in writing by Vendor as a joint payee on the Vendor's payment check(s), however
 - c) In no event shall such approval and action obligate the State to anyone other than the Vendor and the Vendor shall remain responsible for fulfillment of all Contract obligations.

ATTACHMENT A: SECURITY REQUIREMENTS FOR VENDOR STAFF AND CONTRACTORS



Security Requirements for Vendor Staff and Contractors

All Vendor provided and Contract Staff (e.g. seasonal temps) must fulfill required security checks prior to beginning work at NCDOR. Required security checks vary based on system and information access level, and generally follow the principle of least privilege. Attachment A.1 – Vendor and Contractor Security Requirements Matrix provides a guide for the most common levels of access and the corresponding security requirements for each level. NCDOR IT Security will advise and approve access levels not represented on Attachment A.1.

Required documentation must be submitted prior to beginning work at NCDOR. The documentation should be submitted as determined by the NCDOR Contract Manager.

Guidelines include the following:

- Attachment A.1 – Vendor and Contractor Security Requirements Matrix
- IT Security review and approval if special access is required
- As defined in the Requirements Definitions below

Requirements Definitions:

1. **Nondisclosure Agreement:** Any staff performing any work under this contract must sign a NCDOR non-disclosure agreement (NDA) agreeing to maintain the confidentiality of any NCDOR data to which the Vendor Staff and/or Contractor may have access.
2. **Criminal Background Checks:** Applicable staff must submit to and successfully pass a criminal background check to be conducted by NCDOR for anyone who will be receiving or who will have access to NCDOR Data. These checks will be repeated every 5 years. It does not matter if the access is to paper or electronic NCDOR Data. NCDOR determines the conditions for passing background checks.
3. **Fingerprinting:** Completion of Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) fingerprinting, which is conducted to identify possible suitability issues, is required. These checks will be repeated every 5 years. Suitability issues are determined by NCDOR.
4. **Security Awareness Training:** NCDOR Security Awareness Training (DORSAT) is required annually. In order to receive NCDOR training, a valid business email is required for each person who is in scope and who is performing work for this contract on behalf of the Vendor and/or Contractor.
5. **I.T. Role-Based Security Training:** The Vendor and/or Contractor, for all applicable staff, provides annual I.T. role-based security training. Compliance with this requirement will be audited by NCDOR at random for compliance. I.T. role-based security training details and role scope can be found in the NCDOR Security Policy Manual - Control AT-3.
6. **A copy of NCDOR's Security Policy Manual can be found at the following link:**

<https://www.ncdor.gov/documents/dor-security-policy-manual>

ATTACHMENT A.1 – VENDOR AND CONTRACTOR SECURITY REQUIREMENTS MATRIX**NOTE: Read all indicated footnotes carefully as these contain important information**

Level of Access	NDA	NCDOR Policy Manual Provided	*Background Check	Security Awareness Training	**Role-Based Training
¹ Escorted access – Must Be Escorted at All Times	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
Physical Access – Non-Escorted (Badge Access)	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
² Logical Access to NCDOR Data/Systems/Information (Has an Account)	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
³ Logical Access to NCDOR Data/Systems/Information (Does Not Have an Account)	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
⁴ Offsite Contractor Staff with Physical Access to NCDOR Data/Systems/Information	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Access to Unencrypted Paper or Electronic NCDOR Data	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
⁵ Logical Access to Encrypted Data	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO

* Background check requirements include FBI fingerprinting and criminal background checks. For a full list of requirements, please refer to the NCDOR Security Policy Manual

** Role-Based Training (RBT) is provided by Vendors and/or Contractors. Role scope is defined in the NCDOR Security Policy Manual > AT-3 Role-Based Training > Scope

1. Individuals may utilize NCDOR equipment as long as they will be supervised with the equipment at all times. Unsupervised access to equipment requires a unique account that ties back to the individual and all account requirements listed in this matrix are required.

2. Accounts must be unique and must tie back to the individual.

3. Applies to individuals that will potentially view NCDOR data on screens as part of logical maintenance of systems, but who do not have an account. Data cannot be sent outside of the Agency without NCDOR management approval of the data sent and NCDOR IT Security approval of the method used to send the data. Maintenance activities (including remote maintenance) must be supervised by badged NCDOR staff or by a badged NCDOR management-approved designee. Any systems used to facilitate remote supervision must be secure and approved by NCDOR IT Security.

4. Access to data is defined for these purposes as individuals that have access through the first barrier of the two-barrier rule. See IRS Publication 1075 – Minimum Protections Standards for more information.

5. Encryption methods must be FIPS 140-2 compliant.