



M-B COMPANIES, INC.

Pavement Marking Equipment Division
1615 Wisconsin Ave.
New Holstein, WI 53061

**Required Documentation for
State of North Carolina
BID # DPC-692031223-SP**

Construction Equipment

**Opening Date: August 17th, 2023
Opening Time: 2:00 PM ET**

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DIVISION OF PURCHASE AND CONTRACT
United States

August 17, 2023

Bid #: DPC-692031223-SP Construction Equipment

Dear Ms. Parker:

Thank you for the opportunity to bid on the State wide contract for Construction Equipment. M-B Companies is providing a price catalog and corresponding literature for Category #20, Pavement Marking Equipment.

The enclosed price catalog includes pavement marking equipment and services for various applications (paint, thermoplastic, and epoxy). While the price catalog is extensive, each unit is customized to the specific requirements of the end user. The specifications included with the documentation are 'base unit only' and options/accessories must be selected to "custom build" each complete unit.

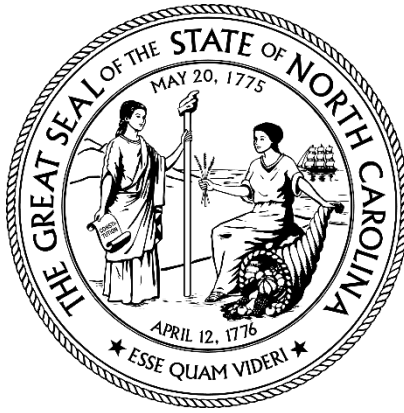
Additionally, a few options are listed for chassis, but other sizes, GVWR and wheelbase combinations, are available, and should be quoted separately based on the options chosen from the price catalog.

The lead time for custom built pavement marking equipment is 90-120 days after receipt of chassis. Depending on chassis selection (make and model), lead times may vary from 10-18 months from time of order.

If there are any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Liz Fry
Assistant Secretary



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

Division of Purchase and Contract

Invitation for Bid #: DPC-692031223-SP

Construction Equipment

Date Issued: June 20, 2023

Bid Opening Date: July 28, 2023

At 2:00 PM ET

Direct all inquiries concerning this IFB to:

Shayla C. Parker

State Procurement Manager

Email: shayla.parker@doa.nc.gov

Phone: 984-236-0233

Questions related to the content of the solicitation, or the procurement process should be directed to the person on the title page of this document via the Sourcing Tool's message board by the date and time specified in the IFB SCHEDULE Section of this IFB. Vendors will enter "IFB # DPC-692031223 – Questions" as the subject of the message. Question submittals should include a reference to the applicable IFB section. This is the only manner in which questions will be received.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
Division of Purchase and Contract

Refer <u>ALL</u> Inquiries regarding this IFB to: The procurement lead through the Message Board in the Sourcing Tool. See section 2.6 for details:	Invitation for Bids # DPC-692031223-SP
	Bids will be publicly opened: Friday, July 28, 20203 @ 2:00 pm EST Meeting ID: 269 994 850 57 Passcode: 4Zk2cm Download Teams Join on the web Join with a video conferencing device ncgov@m.webex.com Video Conference ID: 113 437 812 0 Alternate VTC instructions
Using Agency: ***PURCHASE AND CONTRACT***	Commodity No. and Description: 2210 Heavy construction machinery and equipment

EXECUTION

In compliance with this Invitation for Bids (IFB), and subject to all the conditions herein, the undersigned Vendor offers and agrees to furnish and deliver any or all items upon which prices are bid, at the prices set opposite each item within the time specified herein.

By executing this bid, the undersigned Vendor understands that false certification is a Class I felony and certifies that:

- this bid is submitted competitively and without collusion (G.S. 143-54),
- that none of its officers, directors, or owners of an unincorporated business entity has been convicted of any violations of Chapter 78A of the General Statutes, the Securities Act of 1933, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (G.S. 143-59.2), and
- it is not an ineligible Vendor as set forth in G.S. 143-59.1.

Furthermore, by executing this bid, the undersigned certifies to the best of Vendor's knowledge and belief, that:

- it and its principals are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal or State department or agency.

As required by G.S. 143-48.5, the undersigned Vendor certifies that it, and each of its sub-Contractors for any Contract awarded as a result of this IFB, complies with the requirements of Article 2 of Chapter 64 of the NC General Statutes, including the requirement for each employer with more than 25 employees in North Carolina to verify the work authorization of its employees through the federal E-Verify system.

As required by Executive Order 24 (2017), the undersigned vendor certifies will comply with all Federal and State requirements concerning fair employment and that it does not and will not discriminate, harass, or retaliate against any employee in connection with performance of any Contract arising from this solicitation.

G.S. 133-32 and Executive Order 24 (2009) prohibit the offer to, or acceptance by, any State Employee associated with the preparing plans, specifications, estimates for public Contract; or awarding or administering public Contracts; or inspecting or supervising delivery of the public Contract of any gift from anyone with a Contract with the State, or from any person seeking to do business with the State. By execution of this bid response to the IFB, the undersigned certifies, for Vendor's entire organization and its employees or agents, that Vendor are not aware that any such gift has been offered, accepted, or promised by any employees or agents of Vendor's organization.

By executing this bid, Vendor certifies that it has read and agreed to the **INSTRUCTION TO VENDORS** and the **NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS incorporated below**. These documents can be accessed from the Ariba Sourcing Tool.

Failure to execute/sign bid prior to submittal may render bid invalid and it MAY BE REJECTED. Late bids cannot be accepted.

COMPLETE/FORMAL NAME OF VENDOR: M-B Companies, Inc.		
STREET ADDRESS: 1615 Wisconsin Ave	P.O. BOX: 200	ZIP: 53061
CITY & STATE & ZIP: New Holstein, WI 53061	TELEPHONE NUMBER: 570-547-1621	TOLL FREE TEL. NO: 888-323-2900
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE (SEE INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDORS ITEM #21): 95 Blessing Drive, Muncy, PA 17756		

Bid Number: DPC-692031223

Vendor: M-B Companies, Inc.

PRINT NAME & TITLE OF PERSON SIGNING ON BEHALF OF VENDOR:		FAX NUMBER:
Liz Fry, Assistant Secretary. Ben Thomke, VP Pavement		NA
VENDOR'S AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:	DATE:	E-MAIL:
 		elizabeth.fry@aebi-schmidt.com

Bid Number: DPC-692031223

Vendor: M-B Companies, Inc.

VALIDITY PERIOD

Offer shall be valid for at least one-hundred and twenty (120) days from date of bid opening, unless otherwise stated here: 120 days, or if extended by mutual agreement in writing of the parties. Any withdrawal of this offer shall be made in writing, effective upon receipt by the agency issuing this IFB.

BID ACCEPTANCE

If your bid is accepted, all provisions of this IFB, along with the written results of any negotiations, shall constitute the written agreement between the parties ("Contract"). The NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS are incorporated herein and shall apply. Depending upon the Goods or Services being offered, other terms and conditions may apply, as mutually agreed.

FOR STATE USE ONLY: Offer accepted and Contract awarded this 20 day of October, 2023, as indicated

on the attached certification, by Shayla Parker

DocuSigned by:

4BE4BF7

(Authorized Representative of Division of Purchase and Contract)

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1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The Department of Administration (DOA) serves as the business manager for North Carolina state government and provides leadership to state government for the effective, efficient, economical, and equitable delivery of services to the public. The department also aids and services several advocacy programs that serve diverse segments of the state's population that have traditionally been underserved. The Division of Purchase and Contract (P&C) is the strategic force to provide the State's entities with a catalog of Statewide Term Contracts (STC) that provide for an encompassing organized and efficient manner to pool resources to provide goods and services.

The NC General Assembly under G.S. 143-52.3 (House Bill 713-Ratified-2011 SL 360) has directed the Department of Administration to use multiple award schedule contracts for the purchase of all ground maintenance, construction, communications, and forestry equipment. This contract specifically covers Construction Equipment.

The State, through the DOA P&C is seeking Vendors for a STC to supply the State's requirements for new, unused and in current production Construction Equipment, broken into thirty-one (31) categories throughout the State of North Carolina. The intent of this Invitation for Bid (hereinafter, "IFB") is to receive pricing from Vendors who will offer savings to the State and who confirm, through Vendors' submission of bids, an ability to meet the State's needs.

Repair parts are not covered by this contract. Vendors shall offer their maximum discount for a product, groups of products, and/or category. Discounts from the equipment, options, features, and accessories may be different.

The contract resulting from this IFB is mandatory for State departments and most State Agencies, as well as State higher education institutions (except under the conditions specified in G.S. 115D-58.14(a) and G.S. 116-13). The Contract may also be utilized, without further competition, by non-mandatory State Agencies and Other Eligible Entities.

The intent of this solicitation is to award a Statewide Term Contract.

1.1 CONTRACT TERM

The Contract shall have an initial term of four (4) years, beginning on the date of final Contract execution (the "Effective Date") or October 5, 2023, whichever is later.

At the end of the Contract's initial term, the State shall have the option, in its sole discretion, to renew the Contract on the same terms and conditions for up to one (1) additional one-year terms. The State will give the Vendor written notice of its intent to exercise each option no later than thirty (30) days before the end of the Contract's then-current term. In addition, the State reserves the right to extend a contract term after the last active term.

Bids shall be submitted in accordance with the terms and conditions of this IFB and any addenda issued hereto.

1.2 HISTORICAL SPEND (CATEGORIES 1-18)

Based on the historical usage of STC 760H by eligible entities, the approximate spend through the previous contract was approximately \$8 million annually. This amount is not guaranteed and could be more or less than the estimated spend during the contract period.

1.3 ESTIMATED SPEND (CATEGORIES 19-30)

The estimated annual spend through the contract for the newly added categories is approximately \$5 million. This amount is not guaranteed and could be more or less than the estimated spend during the contract period.

2.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1 INVITATION FOR BID DOCUMENT

The IFB is comprised of the base IFB document, any attachments, and any addenda released before Contract award, which are incorporated herein by reference.

2.2 E-PROCUREMENT FEE

ATTENTION: This is an NC eProcurement solicitation facilitated by the Ariba Network. The E-Procurement fee may apply to this solicitation. See paragraph entitled ELECTRONIC PROCUREMENT of the North Carolina General Terms and Conditions.

General information on the E-Procurement Services can be found at: <http://eprocurement.nc.gov/>.

What is the Ariba Network?

The Ariba Network is a web-based platform that serves as a connection point for buyers and vendors. Vendors can log in to the Ariba Network to view purchase orders, respond to electronic requests for quotes, participate in Sourcing Events, and collaborate with buyers on contract documents.

For training on how to use the Sourcing Tool to view solicitations, submit questions, develop responses, upload documents, and submit offers to the State, Vendors should go to the following site:

<http://eprocurement.nc.gov/training/vendor-training>.

2.3 SYSTEM TRANSITION

Please note that the State will be transitioning to a new electronic Vendor Portal (eVP). The functions of the current electronic Vendor Portal (eVP), Interactive Purchasing System (IPS) and North Carolina business Invitation Delivery System (NC BIDS) will be migrated to the new system on Monday, July 10, 2023. To support this transition, the State has put the parameters below in place. Addenda to solicitations will post in either IPS or the new eVP system, depending on when the solicitation was issued.

- Any solicitations posted prior to June 30, 2023, will remain in IPS along with any posted addenda.
- No new solicitations will be posted between July 1, 2023 - July 9, 2023.
- No bid openings will occur between July 8, 2023 - July 16, 2023.
- Solicitations that are scheduled for bid opening on or before July 7, 2023, will remain in the IPS system, to include any posted addenda.
- Solicitations that are posted in IPS prior to July 1, 2023, with a scheduled bid opening after July 17, 2023, will be migrated to the new eVP and opened in the new eVP.
- New solicitations will be posted in the new eVP starting July 10, 2023, with bid opening dates will occur on or after July 17, 2023.

2.4 NOTICE TO VENDORS REGARDING IFB TERMS AND CONDITIONS

It shall be the Vendor's responsibility to read the Instructions to Vendors, the North Carolina General Terms and Conditions, all relevant exhibits and attachments, and any other components made a part of this IFB and comply with all requirements and specifications herein. Vendors also are responsible for obtaining and complying with all Addenda and other changes that may be issued in connection with this IFB.

If Vendors have questions, or issues regarding any component within this IFB, those must be submitted as questions in accordance with the instructions in the BID QUESTIONS Section. If the State determines that any changes will be made as a result of the questions asked, then such decisions will be communicated in the form of an IFB addendum. The State may also elect to leave open the possibility for later negotiation and amendment of specific provisions of the Contract that have been addressed during the question-and-answer period.

Other than through the process of negotiations under 01 NCAC 05B.0503, the State rejects and will not be required to evaluate or consider any additional or modified terms and conditions submitted with Vendor's bid. This applies to any language appearing in or attached to the document as part of the Vendor's bid that purports to vary any terms and conditions or Vendors' instructions herein or to render the bid non-binding or subject to further negotiation. Vendor's bid shall constitute a firm offer that shall be held open for the period required herein ("Validity Period" above).

The State may exercise its discretion to consider Vendor proposed modifications. By execution and delivery of this IFB Response, the Vendor agrees that any additional or modified terms and conditions, whether submitted purposely or inadvertently, shall have no force or effect, and will be disregarded unless expressly agreed to during negotiations and incorporated by way of a

Best and Final Offer (BAFO). Noncompliance with, or any attempt to alter or delete, this paragraph shall constitute sufficient grounds to reject Vendor's bid as nonresponsive.

2.5 IFB SCHEDULE

The table below shows the *intended* schedule for this IFB. The State will make every effort to adhere to this schedule.

Event	Responsibility	Date and Time
Issue IFB	State	6/20/2023
Hold Pre-Bid Conference	State	6/29/2023
Submit Written Questions	Vendor	7/7/2023
Provide Responses to Questions	State	7/18/2023
Submit Bids	Vendor	7/28/2023
Contract Award	State	TBD

2.6 PRE-BID CONFERENCE

Urged and Cautioned Pre-Bid Conference

Date: 06/29/2023
 Time: 2:00 PM Eastern Time
 Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting
 Contact #: Shayla Parker
shayla.parker@doa.nc.gov
 984-236-0233

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 231 326 496 814

Passcode: 7o7DYE

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

Join with a video conferencing device

ncgov@m.webex.com

Video Conference ID: 115 551 730 1

[Alternate VTC instructions](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 984-204-1487,838894534#](#) United States, Raleigh

Phone Conference ID: 838 894 534#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

Instructions: Vendor representatives are URGED and CAUTIONED to attend the pre-bid conference and apprise themselves of the conditions and requirements which will affect the performance of the work called for by this IFB. A non-mandatory pre-bid conference is scheduled for this IFB. Submission of a bid shall constitute sufficient evidence of Vendor's compliance and no allowance will be made for unreported conditions which a prudent Vendor would recognize as affecting the performance of the work called for in this IFB.

Vendor is cautioned that any information released to attendees during the pre-bid conference, other than that involving the physical aspects of the facility referenced above, and which conflicts with, supersedes, or adds to requirements in this IFB, must be confirmed by written addendum before it can be considered as a part of this IFB and any resulting contract.

2.7 BID QUESTIONS

Upon review of the IFB documents, Vendors may have questions to clarify or interpret the IFB in order to submit the best bid possible. To accommodate the Bid Questions process, Vendors shall submit any such questions by the "Submit Written Questions" date and time provided in the IFB SCHEDULE Section above, unless modified by Addendum.

Questions related to the content of the solicitation, or the procurement process should be directed to the person on the title page of this document via the Sourcing Tool's message board by the date and time specified in the IFB SCHEDULE Section of this IFB. Vendors will enter "IFB # DPC-692031223-SP – Questions" as the subject of the message. Question submittals should include a reference to the applicable IFB section. This is the only manner in which questions will be received.

Questions or issues related to using the Sourcing Tool itself can be directed to the North Carolina eProcurement Help Desk at 888-211-7440, Option 2. Help Desk representatives are available Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM ET to 5:00 PM ET.

Questions received prior to the submission deadline date, the State's response, and any additional terms deemed necessary by the State will be posted in the Sourcing Tool in the form of an addendum and shall become an Addendum to this IFB. No information, instruction or advice provided orally or informally by any State personnel, whether made in response to a question or otherwise in connection with this IFB, shall be considered authoritative or binding. Vendors shall rely *only* on written material contained in an Addendum to this IFB.

2.8 BID SUBMITTAL

IMPORTANT NOTE: This is an absolute requirement. Late bids, regardless of cause, will not be opened or considered, and will be automatically disqualified from further consideration. Vendor shall bear the sole risk of late submission due to unintended or unanticipated delay. It is the Vendor's sole responsibility to ensure its bid has been received as described in this IFB by the specified time and date of opening. Failure to submit a bid in strict accordance with instructions provided shall constitute sufficient cause to reject a Vendor's bid(s). Solicitation responses are subject to Sealed Bidding requirements.

Vendor's bids for this procurement must be submitted through the Sourcing Tool. For training on how to use the Sourcing Tool to view solicitations, submit questions, develop responses, upload documents, and submit offers to the State, Vendors should go to the following site: <https://eprocurement.nc.gov/training/vendor-training>

Questions or issues related to using the Sourcing Tool itself can be directed to the North Carolina eProcurement Help Desk at 888-211-7440, Option 2. Help Desk representatives are available Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM EST to 5:00 PM EST.

Tips for Using the Sourcing Tool

1. Vendors should review available training and confirm that they are able to access the Sourcing Event, enter responses, and upload files well in advance of the date and time response are due to allow sufficient time to seek assistance from the North Carolina eProcurement Help Desk.
2. Vendors may submit their responses early to make sure there are no issues, and then submit a revised response any time prior to the response due date and time. The State will only review the most recent response.
3. Vendors should respond to all relevant sections of the Sourcing Event. Certain questions or items are required in order to submit a response and are denoted with an asterisk. The Sourcing Tool will not allow a response to be submitted unless all required items are completed. The Sourcing Tool will provide error messages to help identify any required information that is missing when response is submitted.
4. Simply saving your response in the Sourcing Tool is not the same as submitting your response to the State. Vendors should make sure they complete the submission process and receive a message that their response was successfully submitted.

2.9 BID CONTENTS

Vendors shall provide responses to all questions and complete all attachments for this IFB that require the Vendor to provide information and upload them to the Sourcing Event in the Sourcing Tool. Vendor may not be able to submit its response in the Sourcing Tool unless all required items are addressed. Vendors shall provide authorized signatures where requested. Failure to

provide all required items, or Vendor's submission of incomplete items, may result in the State rejecting Vendor's bid, in the State's sole discretion.

Vendors shall upload the following items and attachments in the Sourcing Tool:

- a) Title Page: Include the company name, address, phone number and authorized representative along with the Bid Number.
- b) Completed and signed version of EXECUTION PAGES, along with the body of the IFB.
- c) Signed receipt pages of any addenda released in conjunction with this IFB, if required to be returned.
- d) Vendor Response (Sections 4.9 and 4.13)
- e) Completed version of ATTACHMENT A: PRICING
- f) Completed and signed version of ATTACHMENT D: HUB SUPPLEMENTAL VENDOR INFORMATION
- g) Completed and signed version of ATTACHMENT E: CUSTOMER REFERENCE FORM
- h) Completed and signed version of ATTACHMENT F: LOCATION OF WORKERS UTILIZED BY VENDOR
- i) Completed and signed version of ATTACHMENT G: CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL CONDITION
- j) Completed and signed version of CERTIFICATION FOR CONTRACTS, GRANTS, LOANS, AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS and OMB STANDARD FORM LLL

2.10 ALTERNATE BIDS

Unless provided otherwise in this IFB, Vendor may submit alternate bids for comparable Goods, various methods or levels of Service(s), or that propose different options. Alternate bids must specifically identify the IFB requirements and advantage(s) addressed by the alternate bid. Each bid must be for a specific set of Goods and Services and must include specific pricing. Each bid must be complete and independent of other bids offered. If a Vendor chooses to respond with various offerings, Vendor shall follow the specific instructions for uploading Alternate Bids in the Sourcing Tool

2.11 DEFINITIONS, ACRONYMS, AND ABBREVIATIONS

Relevant definitions for this IFB are provided in 01 NCAC 05A .0112 and in the Instructions to Vendors found Sourcing Tool, which are incorporated herein by this reference.

The following definitions, acronyms, and abbreviations are also relevant to this IFB:

- Contract Administrator – A representative of the Agency who is responsible for the contract functions that are performed after all parties have signed a contract, including any modifications of the contract.
- Contract Manager – A representative of the agency or awarded vendor who ensures compliance with the contract terms and conditions while giving attention to the performance of the stated output and outcome of the contract.
- MSRP – Manufacturer Standard Retail Pricing
- OEM – Original Equipment Manufacturer
- STC – Statewide Term Contract

3.0 METHOD OF AWARD AND BID EVALUATION PROCESS

3.1 METHOD OF AWARD

North Carolina G.S. 143-52 provides a general list of criteria the State shall use to award contracts, as supplemented by the additional criteria herein. The Goods or Services being procured shall dictate the application and order of criteria; however, all award decisions shall be in the State's best interest.

All responsive bids will be reviewed, and award or awards will be based on the responsive bids(s) to provide the estimated requirements as to breadth of items in each category offered, highest percentage discount offered off the most recently published Manufacturer Standard Retail Price (MSRP) List, quantity, quality, delivery, service, and/or geographical coverage.

It is the State's intent to have multiple manufacturers represented in each category. In the event that two (2), or more Vendors offer the same manufacturer's product(s), it is the intent of the state to make an award to the Vendor with the most complete offering per category, and highest percentage discount offered off MSRP List for a particular manufacturer's product(s).

Products offered must currently be available on the manufacturer's most recently published MSRP. **Submission of price schedules developed specifically for this Bid WILL result in disqualification from award consideration.**

State reserves the right to reject any bid based on functionality, compatibility with specified requirements as well as cost, make separate awards to different Vendors for one (1) or more categories, to not award one (1) or more categories or to cancel this IFB in its entirety without awarding a Contract if it is considered to be most advantageous to the State to do so.

The State reserves the right to waive any minor informality or technicality in bids received.

2.12 3.2 CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROHIBITED COMMUNICATIONS DURING EVALUATION

While this IFB is under evaluation, the responding Vendor, including any subcontractors and suppliers, is prohibited from engaging in conversations intended to influence the outcome of the evaluation. See the Paragraph of the Instructions To Vendors entitled COMMUNICATIONS BY VENDORS.

Each Vendor submitting a bid to this IFB, including its employees, agents, subcontractors, suppliers, subsidiaries and affiliates, is prohibited from having any communications with any person inside or outside the using agency; issuing agency; other government agency office or body (including the purchaser named above, any department secretary, agency head, members of the General Assembly and Governor's office); or private entity, if the communication refers to the content of Vendor's proposal or qualifications, the content of another Vendor's proposal, another Vendor's qualifications or ability to perform a resulting contract, and/or the transmittal of any other communication of information that could be reasonably considered to have the effect of directly or indirectly influencing the evaluation of proposals, the award of a contract, or both.

Any Vendor not in compliance with this provision shall be disqualified from evaluation and award. A Vendor's proposal may be disqualified if its subcontractor and/or supplier engage in any of the foregoing communications during the time that the procurement is active (*i.e.*, the issuance date of the procurement until the date of contract award or cancellation of the procurement). Only those discussions, communications or transmittals of information authorized or initiated by the issuing agency for this IFB or inquiries directed to the purchaser named in this IFB regarding requirements of the IFB (prior to proposal submission) or the status of the award (after submission) are excepted from this provision.

3.3 BID EVALUATION PROCESS

Only responsive submissions will be evaluated.

The State will conduct an evaluation of responsive Bids, as follows:

Bids will be received according to the method stated in the Bid Submittal section above.

All bids must be received by the issuing agency not later than the date and time specified in the IFB SCHEDULE Section above, unless modified by Addendum. Vendors are cautioned that this is a request for offers, not an offer or request to contract, and the State reserves the unqualified right to reject any and all offers at any time if such rejection is deemed to be in the best interest of the State.

At the date and time provided in the IFB SCHEDULE Section above, unless modified by Addendum, the bids from each responding Vendor will be opened publicly and all offers (except those that have been previously withdrawn, or voided bids) will be

tabulated. The tabulation shall be made public at the time it is created. When negotiations after receipt of bids is authorized pursuant to G.S. 143-49 and 01 NCAC 05B.0503, only the names of offerors and the Goods and Services offered shall be tabulated at the time of opening. Cost and price shall become available for public inspection at the time of the award... Interested parties are cautioned that these costs and their components are subject to further evaluation for completeness and correctness and therefore may not be an exact indicator of a Vendor's pricing position.

At their option, the evaluators may request oral presentations or discussions with any or all Vendors for clarification or to amplify the materials presented in any part of the bid. Vendors are cautioned, however, that the evaluators are not required to request presentations or other clarification—and often do not. Therefore, all bids should be complete and reflect the most favorable terms available from the Vendor. Prices bid cannot be altered or modified as part of a clarification.

Bids will generally be evaluated, based on completeness, content, cost, and responsibility of the Vendor to supply the requested Goods and Services. Specific evaluation criteria are listed in Section 3.1 METHOD OF AWARD.

Upon completion of the evaluation process, the State will make Award(s) based on the evaluation and post the award(s) to the new eVP website under the IFB number for this solicitation. Award of a Contract to one Vendor does not mean that the other bids lacked merit, but that, all factors considered, the selected bid was deemed most advantageous and represented the best value to the State.

The State reserves the right to negotiate with one or more Vendors, or to reject all original offers and negotiate with one or more sources of supply that may be capable of satisfying the requirement, and in either case to require Vendor to submit a Best and Final Offer (BAFO) based on discussions and negotiations with the State.

3.4 PERFORMANCE OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

Vendor shall complete ATTACHMENT F: LOCATION OF WORKERS UTILIZED BY VENDOR. In addition to any other evaluation criteria identified in this IFB, the State may also consider, for purposes of evaluating proposed or actual contract performance outside of the United States, how that performance may affect the following factors to ensure that any award will be in the best interest of the State:

- a) Total cost to the State
- b) Level of quality provided by the Vendor
- c) Process and performance capability across multiple jurisdictions
- d) Protection of the State's information and intellectual property
- e) Availability of pertinent skills
- f) Ability to understand the State's business requirements and internal operational culture
- g) Particular risk factors such as the security of the State's information technology
- h) Relations with citizens and employees
- i) Contract enforcement jurisdictional issues

3.5 INTERPRETATION OF TERMS AND PHRASES

This IFB serves two functions: (1) to advise potential Vendors of the parameters of the solution being sought by the State; and (2) to provide (together with other specified documents) the terms of the Contract resulting from this procurement. The use of phrases such as "shall," "must," and "requirements" are intended to create enforceable contract conditions. In determining whether bids should be evaluated or rejected, the State will take into consideration the degree to which Vendors have proposed or failed to propose solutions that will satisfy the State's needs as described in the IFB. Except as specifically stated in the IFB, no one requirement shall automatically disqualify a Vendor from consideration. However, failure to comply with any single requirement may result in the State exercising its discretion to reject a bid in its entirety.

4.0 REQUIREMENTS

This Section lists the requirements related to this IFB. By submitting a bid, the Vendor agrees to meet all stated requirements in this Section, as well as any other specifications, requirements, and terms and conditions stated in this IFB. If a Vendor is unclear about a requirement or specification or believes a change in a requirement would allow for the State to receive a better bid, the

Vendor is encouraged to submit these items in the form of a question during the question and answer period in accordance with the Bid Questions Section above.

4.1 PRICING

Bid price shall constitute the total cost to the State for delivery fully assembled and ready for use, including all applicable charges for shipping, delivery, handling, administrative and other similar fees. Complete ATTACHMENT A: PRICING FORM and upload in the Sourcing Tool. The pricing provided in ATTACHMENT A, or resulting from any negotiations, is incorporated herein and shall become part of any resulting Contract.

No taxes shall be included in any bid prices.

4.2 VOLUME DISCOUNTS

This component of the Pricing Response is optional, but the State encourages Vendors to provide additional percentage saving discounts for each category based on volume purchases.

4.3 PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

SUITABILITY FOR INTENDED USE

Vendors are requested to offer only items directly complying with the specifications herein or comparable items which will provide the equivalent capabilities, features and diversity called for herein. The State reserves the right to evaluate all bids for suitability for the required use and to award the one best meeting requirements and considered to be in the State's best interest.

4.4 TRANSPORTATION AND IDENTIFICATION

The Vendor shall deliver Free-On-Board (FOB) Destination to any requested location within the State of North Carolina with all transportation costs and fees included in the total bid price.

When an order is placed using a purchase order, the purchase order number shall be shown on all packages and shipping manifests to ensure proper identification and payment of invoices. If an order is placed without using a purchase order, such as via phone, the Buyer's name shall be shown on all packages. A complete packing list shall accompany each shipment. Vendors shall not ship any products until they have received an order.

4.5 DELIVERY

The Vendor shall deliver Free-On-Board (FOB) Destination Statewide.

Vendor should complete delivery within forty-five (45) consecutive calendar days after receipt of purchase order.

For completion by Vendor:

If delivery offered is the same for all categories being bid, complete the below sentence.

Delivery will be made within _____ consecutive calendar days after receipt of purchase order.

If delivery offered varies per category, complete the below table. (See Section 5.1 for category descriptions)

Category #	Delivery Period	Category #	Delivery Period	Category #	Delivery Period
1	_____ Days	2	_____ Days	3	_____ Days
4	_____ Days	5	_____ Days	6	_____ Days
7	_____ Days	8	_____ Days	9	_____ Days
10	_____ Days	11	_____ Days	12	_____ Days

13	_____ Days	14	_____ Days	15	_____ Days
16	_____ Days	17	_____ Days	18	_____ Days
19	_____ Days	20	90-120 Days After receipt of chassis	21	_____ Days
22	_____ Days	23	_____ Days	24	_____ Days
25	_____ Days	26	_____ Days	27	_____ Days
28	_____ Days	29	_____ Days	30	_____ Days
31	_____ Days				

Vendors are cautioned that excessively long delivery schedules, as determined by this Division, may be cause for non-award. The State expects that the delivery schedule offered herein to be firm and fully expects compliance with the stated delivery schedule. Failure of the Vendor to meet contracted delivery schedules shall constitute cause for removal from the contract.

The Vendor shall contact the agency purchaser as noted on the purchase order at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to delivery.

4.6 SERVICE LOCATIONS

It is preferred that the potential Vendor have a **minimum of three (3) full-service locations in each region** of North Carolina (Mountains, Piedmont, Coastal Plain) to provide service and other requirements under this contract. The brand being offered is requested to have a minimum of three (3) factory authorized service dealers in each region.

Can your company comply with the requested number of dealers in each region? Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, indicate and explain in detail how your company plans to provide Statewide/Regional service/coverage:

M-B Companies, Inc. has technicians that travel to customer locations to work on machines.

4.7 QUALITY ACCEPTANCE INSPECTION

It is the responsibility of the receiving agency to inspect all materials, supplies and equipment upon delivery to ensure compliance with the contract requirements and specifications.

INVOICES MAY NOT BE PAID BY THE USING AGENCY UNTIL AN INSPECTION HAS OCCURRED AND THE GOODS ACCEPTED.

4.8 AUTHORIZED DEALERS

An awarded Vendor may utilize approved, Authorized Dealers, to participate as alternate distribution sources for Vendor. Authorized Dealers may be added at any time during the contract term at the discretion of the Vendor, provided that they agree to comply with all terms and conditions of the awarded contract, with no set minimum or maximum number of Authorized Dealers that may be approved. Such participation is subject to the following conditions:

Designation of Authorized Dealer(s)

Vendor shall specify whether orders must be placed directly with Vendor or may be placed directly with Authorized Dealer(s). If Authorized Dealer(s) are designated to fulfill orders under this Contract, issue invoices and receive payment, Vendor must provide P&C, a list of those designated authorized dealers submitted with its Bid. P&C will require a vendor registration process for all Vendors recommended for Contract Award and their authorized dealers through the E-Procurement System. Authorized dealers must register as an e-Procurement vendor with the State of North Carolina upon contract award and must comply with all terms and conditions of this IFB. Awarded Vendors remain responsible for contract compliance by its Authorized Dealers, and neither an order placed with, or items delivered by, a Vendor's Authorized Dealer shall relieve the Vendor from any obligation under this contract.

Modifications in Authorized Dealer List

If a Vendor allows Authorized Dealers to participate in the Contract, post-award requests to add or delete Authorized Dealers or to modify Authorized Dealer information must be submitted to P&C's Contract Manager for prior approval.

4.9 AUTHORIZED RESELLER

The Vendor shall be authorized by the manufacturer to distribute or resell the products and/or maintenance offered in this IFB. The Vendor shall provide a signed statement from the manufacturer confirming authorization with its bid response. Failure to provide this statement shall constitute sufficient grounds for rejection of Vendor's offer, at the discretion of the State.

If the Vendor is the sole authorized distributor/dealer in North Carolina (or a territory of North Carolina) for these product(s), then the Vendor must submit with its bid a written statement from the manufacturer and on the manufacturer's letterhead that your company is the sole authorized distributor/dealer in North Carolina for this(these) product(s) for the State of North Carolina's users and that no other dealer/distributor are allowed to quote this(these) product(s) to the State of North Carolina's government users.

Vendor is the: ☒ Manufacturer ☐ Dealer ☐ Reseller ☐ Distributor

Authorized: ☐ Yes ☒ No Attached Manufacturer's Authority: ☐ Yes ☒ No

4.10 WARRANTY

Vendor warrants that all equipment furnished under this IFB will be newly manufactured, of good material and workmanship. The warranty will apply from date equipment is put into operation for a minimum period of twelve (12) months or the length of the manufacturer's warranty, whichever is longer. Such warranty shall cover the cost of all defective parts replacement, labor, freight, and technicians' travel at no additional cost to the State, or as specified by the Procurement Agency herein. To the extent not superseded by the terms of this paragraph, manufacturer's warranty terms shall apply. Vendor's warranty shall be at least the level of coverage provided for its comparable customers.

The report of a problem does not presuppose that every call must result in an "on-site" visit for service/repair. The Vendor and/or service sub-contractor shall utilize best efforts to resolve problems in a timely fashion by using acceptable servicing methods to include, but not limited to, verbal problem analysis and remote diagnosis. The warranty requirement does not impose any additional duty on the State to make other than normal and good faith problem resolution efforts or expenditures of time. Vendor shall be responsible for compliance with warranty terms by any third-party service provider. Vendor shall provide contact information for warranty service provider, below.

Vendor is authorized by manufacturer to repair equipment offered during the warranty period? ☒ YES ☐ NO

Will the Vendor provide warranty service? ☒ YES ☐ NO, a manufacturer-authorized third party will perform warranty service.

Contact information for warranty service provider:

Company Name: M-B Companies, Inc.

Company Address: 95 Blessing Drive
Muncy, PA 17756

Contact Person (name): Charlie Hess

We are the manufacturer. If individual component repairs are needed, we coordinate with them, while our warranty is valid.

Bid Number: DPC-692031223

Vendor: M-B Companies, Inc.

Contact Person (phone number): 570-599-2619

Contact Person (email): charlie.hess@aebi-schmidt.com

Warranty Service/Repair work shall be provided at the end-user/using agency's location for each Category, for equipment that is self-propelled, within 48 hours of notification from the end-user/using agency.

4.11 MAINTENANCE OPTION

Following expiration of the above warranty, Vendor, or its third-party service provider, shall maintain the system specifications and performance level in accordance with the manufacturer's published specifications and those of this IFB. Maintenance shall include all parts, remedial maintenance labor, travel and living expenses incurred. Except as specifically provided for elsewhere herein, coverage shall be at least for 8:00 am ET to 5:00 pm ET, Monday through Friday, except State recognized holidays and shall include a minimum of two (2) preventive and safety maintenance inspections per year. The State shall have the option to accept the maintenance coverage in this paragraph at the discount rate offered in ATTACHMENT A: PRICING of this IFB, if applicable.

4.12 DESCRIPTIVE LITERATURE

Each bid should be accompanied by complete descriptive literature, specifications, certifications, and all other pertinent data necessary for thorough evaluation of the item(s) offered and sufficient to determine compliance of the item(s) with the specifications. Failure to include such information shall be a sufficient basis for rejection of the bid, at the discretion of the State.

After contract award, the awarded Vendor(s) shall supply the above-mentioned descriptive literature and price lists upon request of the ordering agency. However, if available, in lieu of providing hard copy descriptive literature, this information may be provided electronically by listing the specific web address(es) (URL) at which the literature may be found.

Included with bid upload.

4.13 VENDOR'S PUBLISHED CATALOG & LISTS

As a result of this Contract, Vendors shall provide its entire catalog of products. By definition, a Vendor's catalog as a result of this effort, is a Vendor's full line of products within the awarded scope that is consistent with what is offered on its line-item catalog site. The State deems the right to determine the completeness of the coverage of a Vendor's catalog. The Vendor's catalog must be submitted with its bid by uploading in section 6.9 of the Ariba Network Sourcing Tool.

Altered, or unpublished, price lists/literature shall be sufficient cause to reject a bid. The Vendor is advised that literature, questionnaires, and other data submitted in response to a previous IFB, or other inquiry will not suffice for the above requirement. Failure to include such information shall be a sufficient basis for rejection of the Vendor's bid. The Vendor shall, where applicable, provide the following information, at a minimum, on the proposed products:

- a. Detailed Manufacturer's Item Description
- b. Manufacturer
- c. Manufacturer Product #
- d. Manufacturer List Price
- e. UOM
- f. Number of Items per UOM
- g. Internet link to the product if available

4.14 MINIMUM ORDER QUANTITY

The minimum order, qualifying for prepaid transportation, is one (1) unit for any single order.

4.15 HUB PARTICIPATION

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute G.S. 143-48, it is State policy to encourage and promote the use of small, minority, physically handicapped, and women contractors in purchasing Goods and Services. As such, this IFB will serve to identify those Vendors that are minority owned or have a strategic plan to support the State's Historically Underutilized Business program by meeting or exceeding the goal of 10% utilization of diverse firms as 1st or 2nd tier subcontractors. Vendor shall complete ATTACHMENT D: HUB SUPPLEMENTAL VENDOR INFORMATION.

4.16 REFERENCES

Vendors shall upload to the Sourcing Tool at least three (3) references, using ATTACHMENT E: CUSTOMER REFERENCE FORM, for which your company has supplied the exact model of equipment offered. The State may contact these users to determine quality level of the offered equipment; as well as, but not limited to user satisfaction with Vendor performance. Information obtained may be considered in the evaluation of the bid.

4.17 VENDOR'S REPRESENTATIONS

If Vendor's bid results in an award, Vendor agrees that it will not enter any agreement with a third party that may abridge any rights of the State under the Contract. If any Services, deliverables, functions, or responsibilities not specifically described in this solicitation are required for Vendor's proper performance, provision and delivery of the Service and deliverables under a resulting Contract, or are an inherent part of or necessary sub-task included within such service, 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 herein, 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/or other Deliverables.

4.18 HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE AND/OR OIL SPILLS

Vendors hired by the end user shall be responsible for any costs (direct or indirect) associated with damage and/or cleanup of a hazardous substance and/or oil spill caused by the Vendor or their agent. This responsibility shall extend to freight carriers who were hired by the Vendor to deliver the commodity or service to the end user. While on end user premises, the Vendor shall comply with all local, State and Federal requirement for the proper handling of hazardous substances and/or oil.

For the purpose of this section, hazardous substances shall be defined as any substance, other than oil, which when discharged in any quantity may present an imminent and substantial danger to the public health, welfare AND/OR environment. Oil shall be defined as any oil of any kind and in any form, including but specifically not limited to petroleum, crude oil, diesel oil, fuel oil, gasoline, lubrication oil, oil refuse, oil mixed with other waste, oil sludge, petroleum related products or by-products, and all other liquid hydrocarbons, regardless of specific gravity, whether singly or in combination with other substances. In addition, the Vendor agrees to indemnify and hold the end user harmless against all claims, liabilities and costs, including attorney's fees, incurred in the defense of any claim brought against the end user resulting from such as spill.

4.19 FINANCIAL STABILITY

As a condition of contract award, the Vendor must certify that it has the financial capacity to perform and to 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 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

Each Vendor shall certify it is financially stable by completing the ATTACHMENT G: CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL CONDITION. The State is requiring this certification to minimize potential performance issues from Contracting with a Vendor that is financially unstable. This Certification shall be deemed continuing, and from the date of the Certification to the expiration of the Contract, the Vendor shall notify the State within thirty (30) days of any occurrence or condition that materially alters the truth of any statement made in this Certification.

4.20 INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Default Insurance Coverage from the General Terms and Conditions applicable to this Solicitation:

- ☐ Small Purchases
- ☐ Contract value in excess of the Small Purchase threshold, but up to \$1,000,000.00
- ☒ Contract value in excess of \$1,000,000.00

4.21 LOBBYING ACTIVITY CERTIFICATION FOR FEDERAL GRANTS

Federal law prohibits recipients of federal funds, whether through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements, from using those funds to influence or attempt to influence (lobby) a federal official in connection with obtaining, extending, or modifying any federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement. Further, federal law requires that applicants for federal funds certify:

- that they abide by the above restriction;
- that they disclose any permissible (non-federal) paid lobbying on the Federal Awards being applied for; and
- that such certification requirements will also be included in any subawards meeting the applicable thresholds.

Vendors must complete and submit the CERTIFICATION FOR CONTRACTS, GRANTS, LOANS, AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS and the OMB STANDARD FORM LLL when responding to this solicitation.

5.0 PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS**5.1 CATEGORIES, INCLUDING ATTACHMENTS & ACCESSORIES**

Category #	Description	Category #	Description	Category #	Description
1	Excavators	2	Wheel Excavators	3	Track Loaders
4	Wheel Loaders	5	Skid Steer Loaders	6	Backhoe Loaders
7	Crawler Loaders	8	Crawler Dozers	9	Wheel Dozers
10	Motor Graders	11	Utility Cranes	12	Compactors
13	Light Towers	14	Rollers (Full and Compact)	15	Forklifts (Small and All-Terrain)
16	Man Lifts (including Scissor Lifts)	17	Boom Lifts	18	Telehandlers
19	Asphalt Paving Equipment (Asphalt Patch Machine, Aggregate Spreader, etc.)	20	Pavement Marking Equipment	21	Highway Maintenance Equipment (Sweeper, Hydro-Seeder, Auger Core Drill with Carrier, Snowplow Cutting Edges etc.)
22	Standby Generators and related equipment	23	Cranes (Large)	24	Construction Tools (Auger, Pile Driver Hammer, etc.)

Category #	Description	Category #	Description	Category #	Description
25	Bridge Inspection Equipment (Aerial Device)	26	Trailers (Medium to Heavy)	27	Power Units (Portable Welder AMPs)
28	Air Compressors (Trailer mounted, skid mounted, all sizes)	29	Water Pumps (all sizes)	30	Power Buggies
31	Other*	* This category includes any other construction equipment, in a Vendor's catalog, that does not fall into categories 1-30.			

5.2 GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS

The specific items and any specifications that the Procurement Agency is seeking are listed below. Items offered by the Vendor must meet or exceed the listed Specifications.

5.2.1 STANDARD PRODUCTION MODEL

Equipment listed herein shall be a standard production model of latest design. The machine offered shall be new, and the latest production model as represented in the manufacturer's current published literature. Such literature must represent the specific configuration offered. All equipment and accessories listed as standard items in the manufacturer's current literature, but not listed in these specifications or IFB, shall be included with the equipment.

5.2.2 CONDITION UPON DELIVERY

Units shall be complete, serviced and ready for operation when delivered.

5.2.3 APPLICABLE SPECIFICATIONS, STANDARDS & PUBLICATIONS

The following documents of issue in effect on date of IFB form a part of this specification to the extent specified:

- a. SOCIETY OF AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERS (SAE), INC. STANDARDS
- b. J1349 - Engine Test Code - Non-Turbocharged Spark Ignition & Diesel
- c. J872 - Reserve Tractive Ability Test Code
- d. J395 - ROPS (Roll Over Protective Structure)
- e. J1040-Operator Protection for Forestry Machines
- f. J1084-Operator Protective Structure Performance Criteria for Forestry Equipment
- g. J1212-Fire Prevention on Forestry Equipment
- h. OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH ACT

5.2.4 BACKUP ALARM

Any self-propelled equipment ordered by the State of North Carolina shall have a backup alarm and may be manufacturer or dealer installed. Backup alarm shall be in accordance with SAE J994, electronic type (not ding dong), shall become activated immediately upon backing of equipment (not activated by motion detection), must be audible above the surrounding noise level of the equipment, must be a sealed type unit to protect internal components from moisture, dust and contaminants, resists effects of vibration, single or dual tone is acceptable, and minimum one-year warranty shall apply.

5.2.5 FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Rechargeable fire extinguishers of adequate size shall be mounted on each unit that is self-propelled in accordance with the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) or Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) requirements.

5.2.6 STROBE LIGHT

Strobe/Beacon light, single bulb, specifically designed for outdoor use in 12-volt vehicular installations. Light is to be installed in a location visible from any azimuthal location by a driver seated in an automobile and shall specifically not be blocked by driver of the utility vehicle, its other occupant(s), or its cargo. Pole or equivalent mounting means shall be provided if such is necessary for unblocked visibility of the strobe/beacon light as required above. Light shall be switchable by user, on/off, switch to be conveniently located for access by the seated operator. The color of light shall be selected by the user. The flash rate shall be adjustable or otherwise set at a value typical of best industry practice.

5.2.7 OPERATOR'S MANUAL

Unit shall come with two (2) operator's and service manuals upon delivery at no additional charge to the end-user. One (1) shall be affixed to the unit and the other will be issued to the end-user.

5.2.8 TRAINING

The Vendor shall provide a qualified representative to instruct the owners' operators in the proper operation, routine maintenance, safety and service upon delivery for a minimum of four (4) hours, if requested by the end-user.

5.3 NC DOT REQUIREMENTS (MAY BE USED BY OTHER AGENCIES)

The NC DOT requires that the following requirement be met. Vendor must meet these additional requirements in order to be considered for contract award. Other agencies may choose to waive these requirements or utilize them as they deem necessary.

5.3.1 DEMONSTRATION AND PILOT MODEL

DEMONSTRATION

Prior to order and upon written request, the NC DOT reserves the right to request a demonstration of the exact model offered herein. The demonstration would be for the purpose of observing the equipment in operation, which may answer concerns not otherwise addressed in the bid document or literature provided by the vendor. If requested, the bidder should be prepared to demonstrate the equipment within 30 days after receiving written notification from the NC DOT. The demonstration would be free of any charge to the NC DOT at a site selected by NC DOT. Such demonstration does not constitute full and final approval of the equipment. All units will be inspected for compliance with the specification upon receipt at the destination required.

PILOT MODEL

The NC DOT reserves the right to require that a pilot model be made available inspected and approved before any units are shipped. Inspection for compliance with specifications shall be at vendor's plant or another site acceptable to the NC DOT.

5.3.2 PRE-CONSTRUCTION MEETING

The NC DOT reserves the right to require a pre-construction meeting to be held in Raleigh, NC prior to fabrication of the equipment. A representative of the successful Vendor, who has technical expertise and the authority to make decisions regarding mechanical aspects of the machine, shall be present at the meeting. The meeting is to be scheduled by agreement between the Vendor and DOT.

5.3.3 SERVICE UPON DELIVERY

Units shall be complete, serviced and ready for operation when delivered. All self-propelled equipment shall have at least 10 gallons of fuel in the tank. A North Carolina Safety Inspection or a Federal Safety Inspection is required to be completed and documentation furnished for all applicable equipment.

5.3.4 CATALOGS & MANUALS

The successful Vendor shall furnish as part of the contract the following to the NCDOT Production Control Manager of the Equipment & Inventory Control Unit, on or before delivery of the equipment ordered:

- A. One (1) operator's manual for the specific make & model of equipment shall be in each piece of equipment when delivered. Failure to furnish will delay payment.**

B. Two (2) unencrypted electronic format copies of descriptive parts catalogs, operator's manual and shop/service manuals containing OEM Part Nos. covering all systems, components and accessories for the specific make & model of equipment purchased. These are to be delivered to the NCDOT Production Control Manager at 4809 Beryl Road within ten (10) days after receipt of purchase order.

NC DOT reserves the right to refuse delivery of any equipment until the electronic or paper manuals have been received, approved and accepted. Payment will not be rendered by NC DOT until manuals are received and determined to be suitable for use in NC DOT's electronic infrastructure.

DELIVERY AUTHORIZATION MUST BE RECEIVED FROM THE PRODUCTION CONTROL MANAGER BEFORE ANY EQUIPMENT IS DELIVERED.

C. Two (2) unencrypted electronic format copies of updates to the parts catalog and shop manuals for the specific make and model of equipment delivered shall be furnished to the NC DOT at the same time such updates are furnished to a dealer. Expenses incurred by the NC DOT as a result of the vendor failing to provide updates under section C will be passed to the vendor.

Electronic Format: The successful Vendor shall be responsible for providing the electronic media as described above in Adobe Portable Document Format or an electronic format pre-approved by NC DOT.

D. In lieu of electronic format, the NC DOT will accept one (1) original paper version of items listed above for each piece of equipment purchased and one (1) additional. Paper version is to be presented in 8.5" by 11" portrait presentation.

NOTE: Parts catalogs, service manuals, operator's manuals, or other material needed to satisfy these requirements are not to be bid as separate items. All materials shall be furnished as specified and applicable to the equipment bid, at no additional cost. The vendor specifically agrees that such material supplied under this section may be copied or reproduced in any manner for use by NCDOT.

5.3.5 ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Training is required and the successful Vendor shall furnish a qualified representative to instruct the owner's operators in proper operation, maintenance and service of the equipment for a minimum period of eight (8) hours in 1 location(s), statewide. The NC DOT reserves the right to require training for any additional units purchased during the contract period. The number of training locations may increase or decrease with each purchase order based on the quantity of items purchased. After a period of six (6) months a trouble shooting and repair training session shall be held by a repair technician instructing owner's mechanic in the repair techniques at a location appropriate for DOT needs, each for up to 8 hours as deemed appropriate. All training sessions shall be coordinated with and at the convenience of DOT through the office of the Equipment Plant and Maintenance Manager, (919) 733-2220.

5.3.6 DIAGNOSTIC SOFTWARE

When diagnostic ports are available on the equipment or any component of the equipment the Vendor is requested to furnish a price for supplying all components needed from the equipment data port(s) to a laptop or desktop computer. This should include but is not limited to such items as cables and software that the NC DOT will need to download diagnostic data or trouble shooting codes. The NC DOT will furnish laptop or desktop computers but will need compatibility requirements. The NC DOT reserves the right not to purchase the diagnostic equipment at the same time as the equipment is purchased. Please complete the following, using additional sheets as necessary.

What components can be checked through diagnostic ports? Chassis only

List what will be furnished: Any Peterbilt dealership can diagnose.

Cost per Kit: \$ NA (Informational purposes ONLY)

5.3.7 SAMPLE MAINTENANCE ITEMS

One complete set of any filters, including but not limited to oil, fuel, hydraulic or water, used on the offered unit to perform preventative maintenance, shall be delivered with the first unit. Failure to comply with this requirement shall result in delay of payment.

5.3.8 EQUIPMENT PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE QUESTIONNAIRE (EPMQ)

A completed Equipment Preventative Maintenance Questionnaire (EPMQ) form with supporting documentation shall be submitted by the successful Vendor *within ten (10) days after receipt of Purchase Order*. A blank EPMQ form is included in this solicitation as ATTACHMENT H.

The EPMQ form consists of blanks in which servicing information is to be listed for the equipment furnished. This is a generic form and blanks that are not applicable are to be completed with N/A. The information supplied on the EPMQ form is entered in a NC DOT Division of Highways equipment database that is accessible by all of our shops.

NC DOT reserves the right to refuse delivery of any equipment until the EPMQ form has been received, approved and accepted. Payment will not be rendered by NC DOT until the EPMQ form is received and determined to be suitable for use by NCDOT. DELIVERY AUTHORIZATION MUST BE RECEIVED FROM THE PRODUCTION CONTROL MANAGER BEFORE ANY EQUIPMENT IS DELIVERED.

Special Note:

Supporting documentation is required with submission of every form.

This supporting documentation can consist of a manual or any part of a manual that supports the service information provided on the EPMQ form. We will accept an owner's manual, operator's manual, parts manual, service manual, technical manual, bill of material, engineering technical document or copies of pages from any of these manuals that contain the required service information. DOT must be able to verify any copies of manuals or pages furnished came from the manufacturer's manual for the make and model of equipment being provided.

5.3.9 REPAIR PARTS

Vendor shall maintain access to a complete inventory of repair parts for the offered equipment, located within the United States, for ten (10) years after the date of acceptance of the equipment. Critical repair parts from this inventory shall be received by the designated repair depot within five (5) working days after request. "Critical Repair Parts" are defined as those parts, which are essential for the safe and proper operation of the machine.

The parties agree that calculation of actual damages resulting from failure to deliver Critical Repair Parts within five working days is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to calculate accurately, and the parties also agree that the compensation identified for each such failures are a reasonable estimate of damages resulting from a failure to timely deliver such parts. Therefore, the parties agree that the Vendor shall be subject to amounts due as liquidated damages but not as a penalty, for each such failure, as follows: the amount of \$20.80 shall be deducted from parts invoice(s) for each working day that completed delivery of such parts is in excess of the five (5) day limit. This Liquidated Damages will only apply in cases where the parts order has been placed with the Vendor. Liquidated damages shall be assessed for a period of three (3) years from date of acceptance of each piece of equipment purchased under the contract resulting from this IFB.

The NC DOT may waive the above repair parts Liquidated Damages in any instance where such non-performance, in the sole determination of the NC DOT, is due to factors other than those under control of the bidder and/or manufacturer.

After the three-year period, Vendor performance with respect to promptness of repair parts delivery will continue to be monitored by the NC DOT. Failure of Vendor, to perform acceptably at any time after the three-year period, may result in termination of this contract for cause.

Notwithstanding any other provision herein, liquidated damages shall not be subject to a limitation on damages or limit of liability for damages that otherwise may be applicable to recoverable damages.

5.4 CERTIFICATION AND SAFETY LABELS

All manufactured items and/or fabricated assemblies subject to operation under pressure, operation by connection to an electric source, or operation involving a connection to a manufactured, natural, or LP gas source shall be constructed and approved in a manner acceptable to the appropriate state inspector which customarily requires the label or re-examination listing or identification marking of the appropriate safety standard organization; such as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers for pressure vessels; the Underwriters Laboratories and /or National Electrical Manufacturers' Association for electrically operated assemblies; or the American Gas Association for gas operated assemblies, where such approvals of listings have been established for the type of device offered and furnished. Further, all items furnished shall meet all requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), and state and federal requirements relating to clean air and water pollution.

5.5 DEVIATIONS

The nature of all deviations from the Specifications listed herein shall be clearly described by the Vendor. Otherwise, it will be considered that items offered by the Vendor are in strict compliance with the Specifications provided herein, and the successful Vendor shall be required to supply conforming goods. Deviations shall be explained in detail below or on an attached sheet. However, no implication is made or intended by the State that any deviation will be acceptable. Do not list objections to the North Carolina General Terms and Conditions in this section.

NA

6.0 CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

All Contract Administration requirements are conditioned on an award resulting from this solicitation. This information is provided for the Vendor's planning purposes.

State Contract Administrator: Shayla Parker

State Contract Manager: Kayla Glenn

Note: In the event the State's Contract Administrator or Manager changes, notification will be sent to the Vendor's Contract Manager and the Contract Synopsis on the DOA P&C website will be updated.

6.1 CONTRACT MANAGER AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

The Vendor shall be required to designate and make available to the State a contract manager. The contract manager shall be the State's point of contact for Contract related issues and issues concerning performance, progress review, scheduling, and service.

Contract Manager Point of Contact	
Name:	Elizabeth Fry
Office Phone #:	570-599-1217
Mobile Phone #:	NA
Email:	elizabeth.fry@aebi-schmidt.com

The Vendor shall be required to designate and make available to the State for customer service. The customer service point of contact shall be the State's point of contact for customer service-related issues (define roles and responsibilities).

Customer Service Point of Contact

Name:	Fred Wheeler
Office Phone #:	
Mobile Phone #:	570-335-1611
Email:	fred.wheeler@aebi-schmidt.com

6.2 POST AWARD PROJECT REVIEW MEETINGS

The Vendor, at the request of the State, shall be required to meet periodically with the State for Project Review meetings. The purpose of these meetings will be to review project progress reports, discuss Vendor and State performance, address outstanding issues, review problem resolution, provide direction, evaluate continuous improvement and cost saving ideas, and discuss any other pertinent topics.

6.3 CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The State encourages the Vendor to identify opportunities to reduce the total cost the State. A continuous improvement effort consisting of various ideas to enhance business efficiencies as performance progresses.

6.4 BUSINESS REVIEW MEETINGS

The Vendor, at the request of the State, shall be required to meet periodically with the State for contract performance review meetings. The purpose of these meetings will be to review project progress reports, discuss Vendor and State performance, address outstanding issues, review problem resolution, provide direction, evaluate continuous improvement and cost saving ideas, and discuss any other pertinent topics.

Business Review meetings shall be scheduled annually, Business review meetings shall be presented by the Vendor and be inclusive of the following:

1. Spend overview (State Agency Spend) FY Comparison
 - a. Volume Discount
2. Product Cost Savings from MSRP
 - a. Identified Savings Potentials
3. Product Accuracy Rate – Percent of equipment invoiced and shipped without post order correction
4. On Time Delivery Rate – Percent of orders delivered within contract delivery term
5. Challenges, Concerns, Solutions
6. Improvement Ideas
7. Requested Contract Changes

6.5 ELECTRONIC PRODUCT LINE-ITEM CATALOG

If selected for contract award, the awarded Vendor hereby agrees to cooperate with the State and E-Procurement Services to develop a line-item catalog. At a minimum, the Vendor shall agree to the following:

- a) Vendor shall deliver a line-item catalog **within ten (10) calendar days of notice**. By providing a line-item catalog, the Vendor shall provide a list of its products and installation services and pricing within a specific template format to E-Procurement Services by sending the populated template to the Contract Lead via email at eprourementdata@its.nc.gov.

The State will confirm the accuracy of the electronic catalog before loading it into the E-Procurement system. In addition, the State may determine when the electronic catalog and any subsequent revisions “go live”.

- b) The Vendor shall submit an updated electronic catalog from time to time or as requested by the State to maintain the most up-to-date version of its product/service offering under the statewide contract.
- c) The Vendor shall meet the following requirements:

1. Include in the catalog the most current pricing, including all applicable administrative fees and or discounts, as well as the most up-to-date product/service offering the Vendor is authorized to provide in accordance with the statewide contract; and
 2. Maintain the accuracy of the catalog throughout the duration of the statewide contract; and
 3. Include in the catalog detailed product line-item descriptions; and
 4. Include in the catalog any additional content required by the State; and
 5. Limit the line-item catalog content to the Vendor's statewide contract offering
- d) The State shall control which statewide contracts appear in the E-Procurement System and may elect at any time to remove Vendor's offering from the E-Procurement System.

6.6 QUARTERLY REPORTING

The awarded Vendor(s) shall provide Quarterly Management Reports to the designated Contract Administrator. This report shall include, at a minimum, information on: Items purchased, manufacturer product description, purchased quantities, List Price, price paid, manufacturer name, unit of measure, ordering entity, delivery location, order date, and shipment date.

These reports should be well organized and easy to read. The Vendor shall submit these reports electronically using Microsoft Excel and as needed, either Microsoft PowerPoint or Microsoft Word to PCReports@doa.nc.gov and to the STC identified Contract Administrator's e-mail. The Vendor shall submit the Quarterly report by the 15th of the month following the end of the quarter. The Quarterly Management Report is based on the fiscal year July through June. The delivery schedule is included below:

- a) **By October 15th:** Q1 Quarterly Management Report for July – September
- b) **By January 15th:** Q2 Quarterly Management Report for October – December
- c) **By April 15th:** Q3 Quarterly Management Report for January – March
- d) **By July 15th:** Q4 Quarterly Management Report for April – June

If the Contract start date does not align with the start of a quarter the first Quarterly Management Report will be for the period from the Contract start date to the end of the initial quarter.

6.7 INVOICES

Vendor shall invoice the Procurement Agency. The standard format for invoicing shall be Single Invoices meaning that the Vendor shall provide the Procurement Agency with an invoice for each order. Invoices shall include detailed line item information to allow Procurement Agency to verify pricing at point of receipt matches the correct price from the original date of order. At a minimum, the following fields shall be included on all invoices:

Vendor's Billing Address, Customer Account Number, NC Contract Number, Order Date, Buyer's Order Number, Manufacturer Part Numbers, Vendor Part Numbers, Item Descriptions, Price, Quantity, and Unit of Measure.

INVOICES MAY NOT BE PAID UNTIL AN INSPECTION HAS OCCURRED AND THE GOODS ACCEPTED.

6.8 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

During the performance of the Contract, the Parties agree that it is in their mutual interest to resolve disputes informally. Any claims by the Vendor shall be submitted in writing to the State's Contract Manager for resolution. Any claims by the State shall be submitted in writing to the Vendor's Project Manager for resolution. The Parties shall agree to 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. The Parties will agree on a reasonable amount of time to resolve a dispute. If a dispute cannot be resolved between the Parties within the agreed upon period, either Party may elect to exercise any other remedies available under the Contract, or at law. This provision, when agreed in the Contract, shall not constitute an agreement by either party to mediate or arbitrate any dispute.

6.9 PRODUCT RECALL

Vendor expressly assumes full responsibility for prompt notification to the Contract Manager and Buyer of any product recall in accordance with the applicable state or federal regulations. The Vendor shall support the State, as necessary, to promptly replace any such products, at no cost to the State.

6.10 PRICE ADJUSTMENTS

Percentage discounts proposed by the Vendor shall be firm against any decrease for two (2) years from the effective date of the Contract.

Percentage discount change requests shall be submitted in writing to the Contract Administrator, which shall include the reason(s) for the request and contain supporting documentation for the need. Percentage discount decreases will be negotiated and agreed to by both the State and Vendor in advance of any changes going into effect. The State is not obligated to accept pricing adjustments or increases and reserves the right to accept or reject them in part or in whole.

It is understood and agreed that orders will be shipped at the established Contract prices in effect on the date an order is placed. Invoicing that deviates from this provision may result in Contract to cancellation.

6.11 CONTRACT CHANGES

Contract changes, if any, over the life of the Contract shall be implemented by contract amendments agreed to in writing by the State and Vendor.

6.12 ATTACHMENTS

All attachments to this RFP are the copies found within the Ariba Sourcing Tool, and are incorporated herein, and shall be submitted by responding in the Sourcing Tool.

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SOLCITATION ADDENDUM

Issuing Agency:	Division of Purchase and Contract
Solicitation Number:	DPC-692031223-SP
Solicitation Description:	Construction Equipment
Solicitation Opening Date and Time:	August 17, 2023 @2:00 pm ET
Addendum Number:	3
Addendum Date:	7/27/2023
Purchasing Agent:	Shayla Parker

1. The following are questions received about the Solicitation and the State's response to those questions:

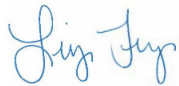
Question #	Document Section	Vendor Question	State's Response
1	Section 4.5 Delivery	Can more than 1 response be given to "within ____ consecutive delivery days" when bidding multiple machine models in a single category that have different lead times?	No. If there are multiple delivery days for multiple machine models within a specific single category, please use the maximum number of days for all models, in that category.
2		We will be bidding equipment with truck chassis. Will exceptions be allowed for supply chain issues that may occur outside of the bidder's control?	Yes, but this will depend on the exception, which will be determined upon review. We understand supply chain issues but expect the research to be done to project pricing.
3		Will camera trailers be beneficial to this specific project? I want to verify before placing a bid.	No STC4616A has camera trailer awarded.

SOLICITATION NUMBER: Error! Reference source not found.

ADDENDUM NUMBER: Error! Reference source not found.

Question #	Document Section	Vendor Question	State's Response
4	Section 6.10 Price Adjustments	The percentage Discounts is very specific, and I understand the 2 year lock in. However, will you expand on and verify that the MSRP from my Manufactures are not locked in and can change at their needs. I did not see any language regarding the MSRP Cost adjustments or any lock in the bid Document. (They also want to make sure they are not locked in for a period of time)	Please see Section 6.10 Price Adjustments. MSRP pricing is not locked in. Vendors are able to provide updated published MSRP pricing, as pricing is updated, for the purpose of maintaining "published Current MSRP". Percentage Discounts off of published current MSRP is locked in for a period of two (2) years.

Received by:





SOLCITATION ADDENDUM

Issuing Agency:	Division of Purchase & Contract
Solicitation Number:	DPC-692031223
Solicitation Description:	Construction Equipment STC
Solicitation Opening Date and Time:	August 17, 2023 @ 2:00 pm EST
Addendum Number:	2
Addendum Date:	July 11, 2023
Purchasing Agent:	Shayla C. Parker

1. The Solicitation is hereby modified as follows:

The table below shows the intended schedule for this IFB. The State will make every effort to adhere to this modified schedule.

Event	Responsibility	Date and Time
Issue IFB	State	6/20/2023
Hold Pre-Bid Conference	State	6/29/2023
Submit Written Questions	Vendor	7/20/2023
Provide Responses to Questions	State	7/27/2023
Submit Bids	Vendor	8/17/2023 at 2:00 pm EST Join on your computer, mobile app or room device Click here to join the meeting Meeting ID: 269 994 850 57 Passcode: 4Zk2cm Download Teams Join on the web
Contract Award	State	TBD

Received by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shayla C. Parker".

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "BTW".



SOLCITATION ADDENDUM

Issuing Agency:	Division of Purchase & Contract
Solicitation Number:	DPC-692031223
Solicitation Description:	Construction Equipment STC
Solicitation Opening Date and Time:	July 28, 2023
Addendum Number:	1
Addendum Date:	July 6, 2023
Purchasing Agent:	Shayla C. Parker

1. The Solicitation is hereby modified as follows:

Event	Responsibility	Date and Time
Issue IFB	State	6/20/2023
Hold Pre-Bid Conference	State	6/29/2023
Submit Written Questions	Vendor	7/11/2023
Provide Responses to Questions	State	7/18/2023
Submit Bids	Vendor	7/28/2023
Contract Award	State	TBD

ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS REMAIN THE SAME

Received by:

Shayla C. Parker

BTCL



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. PERFORMANCE:

- a) It is anticipated that the tasks and duties undertaken by the Vendor under the contract which results from the State solicitation in this matter (Contract) shall include Services, and/or the manufacturing, furnishing, or development of goods and other tangible features or components, as deliverables.
- b) Except as provided herein, and unless otherwise mutually agreed in writing prior to award, any deliverables not subject to an agreed Vendor license and provided by Vendor in performance of this Contract shall be and remain property of the State. During performance, Vendor may provide proprietary components as part of the deliverables that are identified in this Contract. Vendor grants the State a personal, permanent, non-transferable license to use such proprietary components of the deliverables and other functionalities, as provided under this Contract. Any technical and business information owned by Vendor or its suppliers or licensors made accessible or furnished to the State shall be and remain the property of the Vendor or such other party, respectively. Vendor agrees to perform under the Contract in at least the same or similar manner provided to comparable users and customers. The State shall notify the Vendor of any defects or deficiencies in performance or failure of deliverables to conform to the standards and specifications provided in this Contract. Vendor agrees to timely remedy defective performance or any nonconforming deliverables on its own or upon such notice provided by the State.
- c) Vendor has a limited, non-exclusive license to access and use State Data provided to Vendor, but solely for performing its obligations under and during this Agreement and in confidence as further provided for herein or by law.
- d) Vendor or its suppliers, as specified and agreed in the Contract, shall provide support assistance to the State related to all Services performed or other deliverables procured hereunder during the State's normal business hours. Vendor warrants that its support, customer service, and assistance will be performed at a minimum in accordance with generally accepted and applicable industry standards.
- e) The State may document and take into account in awarding or renewing future procurement contracts the general reputation, performance and performance capabilities of the Vendor under this Contract as provided by G.S. 143-52 and 143-135.9 (a) and (b) (Best Value).

2. DEFAULT AND TERMINATION:

- a) In the event of default by the Vendor, the State may, as provided by NC law, procure goods and services necessary to complete performance hereunder from other sources and hold the Vendor responsible for any excess cost occasioned thereby. See, G.S. 25-2-712. In addition, and in the event of default by the Vendor under the Contract, or upon the Vendor filing a petition for bankruptcy or the entering of a judgment of bankruptcy by or against the Vendor, the State may immediately cease doing business with the Vendor, terminate the Contract for cause, and take action to recover relevant damages, and if permitted by applicable law, debar the Vendor from doing future business with the State. 01 NCAC 05B.1520.
- b) If, through any cause, Vendor shall fail to fulfill in a timely and proper manner the obligations under the Contract, including, without limitation, in these North Carolina General Terms and Conditions, the State shall have the right to terminate the Contract by giving thirty days written notice to the Vendor and specifying the effective date thereof. In that event, any or all finished or unfinished deliverables that are prepared by the Vendor under the Contract shall, at the option of the State, become the property of the State (and under any applicable Vendor license

to the extent necessary for the State to use such property), and the Vendor shall be entitled to receive just and equitable compensation for any acceptable deliverable completed (or partially completed at the State's option) as to which such option is exercised. Notwithstanding, Vendor shall not be relieved of liability to the State for damages sustained by the State by virtue of any breach of the Contract, and the State may withhold any payment due the Vendor for the purpose of setoff until such time as the exact amount of damages due the State from such breach can be determined. The State, if insecure as to receiving proper performance or provision of goods deliverables, or if documented Vendor Services performance issues exist, under this Contract, may require at any time a performance bond or other alternative performance guarantees from a Vendor without expense to the State as provided by applicable law. G.S. 143-52(a); 01 NCAC 05B.1521; G.S. 25-2-609.

- c) If this Contract contemplates deliveries or performance over a period of time, the State may terminate this Contract for convenience at any time by providing 60 days' notice in writing from the State to the Vendor. In that event, any or all finished or unfinished deliverables prepared by the Vendor under this Contract shall, at the option of the State, become its property, and under any applicable Vendor license to the extent necessary for the State to use such property. If the Contract is terminated by the State for convenience, the State shall pay for those items or Services for which such option is exercised, less any payment or compensation previously made.

3. INTERPRETATION, CONFLICT OF TERMS:

- a) The definitions in the Instructions to Vendors in the relevant solicitation for this Contract, and in 01 NCAC 05A.0112 are specifically incorporated herein.
- b) If federal funds are involved in the transactions under this Contract, the Vendor shall comply with all applicable state and federal requirements and laws, except where State requirements are more restrictive. See the additional federal requirements included in the "Federal Funds Provisions" section below.
- c) "Purchasing Agency" herein is as defined in 01 NCAC 05A.0112, except that if this Contract has been entered into by the NC Department of Administration, Division of Purchase and Contract (P&C) as indicated in the Contract (e.g., a State Term Contract), then P&C will then be a Purchasing Agency for the purposes herein and in the Federal Funds Provisions, below.
- d) Contracts made in contravention of General Statutes, Chapter 143, Article 3 and the Rules in 05 NCAC Chapter 5, are void. G.S. 143-58.
- e) In cases of conflict between specific provisions in this Contract and any other referenced documents, the Order of Precedence shall be (high to low) (1) any special terms and conditions specific to this Contract, including any negotiated terms; (2) requirements, specifications and administrative terms; (3) these NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS, including the Federal Funds Provisions; (4) Definitions and other provisions in INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDORS in this solicitation, which is specifically incorporated in this Contract; (5) PRICING, and (6) Vendor's Bid, to the extent specifically and mutually incorporated into this Contract.
- f) In the event of conflict of terms between applicable provisions of the Federal Funds Provisions and the other provisions of these North Carolina General Contract Terms and Conditions, the more restrictive provision will govern.

- 4. **GOVERNMENTAL RESTRICTIONS:** In the event any Governmental restrictions are imposed which necessitate alteration of the goods, material, quality, workmanship, or performance of the Services offered, prior to acceptance, it shall be the responsibility of the Vendor to notify the State Contract Lead or Administrator indicated in the Contract at once, in writing, indicating the specific regulation which requires such alterations. The State reserves the right to accept any such alterations, including any price adjustments occasioned thereby, or to cancel the Contract.

- 5. **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS:** Any and all payments to the Vendor shall be dependent upon and subject to the availability of funds appropriated or allocated to the agency for the purpose set forth in the Contract.

6. TAXES: Any applicable taxes shall be invoiced as a separate item.

- a) G.S. 143-59.1 bars the Secretary of Administration from entering into Contracts with Vendors if the Vendor or its affiliates meet one of the conditions of G.S. 105-164.8(b) and refuses to collect use tax on sales of tangible personal property to purchasers in North Carolina. Conditions under G.S. 105-164.8(b) include: (1) Maintenance of a retail establishment or office, (2) Presence of representatives in the State that solicit sales or transact business on behalf of the Vendor and (3) Systematic exploitation of the market by media-assisted, media-facilitated, or media-solicited means. By execution of the proposal document the Vendor certifies that it and all of its affiliates, (if it has affiliates), collect(s) the appropriate taxes.
- b) The agency(ies) participating in the Contract are exempt from Federal Taxes, such as excise and transportation. Exemption forms submitted by the Vendor will be executed and returned by the using agency.
- c) Prices offered are not to include any personal property taxes, nor any sales or use tax (or fees) unless required by the North Carolina Department of Revenue.

7. SITUS AND GOVERNING LAWS:

- a) This Contract is made under and shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina, including, without limitation, the relevant provisions of G.S. Chapter 143, Article 3, and the Rules in 01 NCAC Chapter 05, and any applicable successor provisions, without regard to its conflict of laws rules, and within which State all matters, whether sounding in Contract, tort or otherwise, relating to its validity, construction, interpretation and enforcement shall be determined. G.S. 22B-3.
- b) Vendor shall comply with all laws, ordinances, codes, rules, regulations, and licensing requirements that are applicable to the conduct of its business and its performance in accordance with the Contract, including those of federal, state, and local agencies having jurisdiction and/or authority, and including, without limitation, the applicable requirements in the Federal Funds Provisions, below.
- c) Non-resident Vendor corporations not formed under NC law must be domesticated in the Office of the NC Secretary of State in order to contract with the State of North Carolina. G.S. 55A-15-01.

8. NON-DISCRIMINATION COMPLIANCE:

Wholly State Funded Contracts.

- a) The Vendor will take affirmative action in complying with all State requirements and laws concerning fair employment and employment of people with disabilities, and concerning the treatment of all employees without regard to discrimination by reason of race, color, religion, sex, national origin or disability or rights, such as preserved by Governor Roy Cooper Order E.O. 24 or 25, and will take necessary action to ensure that its internal employee policies and procedures are consistent with Executive Order #82 (Roy Cooper, December 6, 2018), which extends workplace protections and accommodations to pregnant employees.
- b) Federal Law, such as the following, applies as provided for therein: Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (PL 88-352), and the regulations issued pursuant thereto (prohibiting discrimination on the basis race, color, national origin and ensuring that individuals are employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or age); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (codified as amended at 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.) (prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex); Titles I, II, III, IV, and V of the Americans with Disability Act of 1990 (prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability); Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (codified as amended at 29 U.S.C. § 794) (prohibiting discrimination on the basis of handicap); the Age

Discrimination Act of 1975 (codified as amended at 42 U.S.C. § 6101 et seq.) (prohibiting age discrimination); Executive Order 11063 as amended by Executive Order 2259; and Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended.

Contracts Partially or Wholly Federally Funded.

To the extent federal funding is involved in this procurement, in whole or in part, compliance with the following is required:

- c) The Vendor shall comply with all Federal Funds Provisions requirements (below) and not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. The Vendor will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. Such action shall include, but not be limited to the following:

Employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The Vendor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.

- d) The Vendor shall, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the Vendor, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin:
- e) The Vendor will not discharge or in any other manner discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because such employee or applicant has inquired about, discussed, or disclosed the compensation of the employee or applicant or another employee or applicant. This provision shall not apply to instances in which an employee who has access to the compensation information of other employees or applicants as a part of such employee's essential job functions discloses the compensation of such other employees or applicants to individuals who do not otherwise have access to such information, unless such disclosure is in response to a formal complaint or charge, in furtherance of an investigation, proceeding, hearing, or action, including an investigation conducted by the employer, or is consistent with the Vendor's legal duty to furnish information.
- f) The Vendor will send to each labor union or representative of workers with which it has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice to be provided advising the said labor union or workers' representatives of the Vendor's commitments under this section, and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.
- g) The Vendor shall comply with all provisions of Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, and of the rules, regulations, and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor.
- h) The Vendor shall furnish all information and reports required by Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, and by rules, regulations, and orders of the Secretary of Labor, or pursuant thereto, and shall permit access to his books, records, and accounts by the administering agency and the Secretary of Labor for purposes of investigation to ascertain compliance with such rules, regulations, and orders.
- i) In the event of the Vendor's noncompliance with the nondiscrimination clauses of this Contract or with any of the said rules, regulations, or orders, this Contract may be canceled, terminated, or suspended in whole or in part and the Vendor may be declared ineligible for further Government contracts or federally assisted construction Contracts in accordance with procedures authorized in Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, and such other sanctions may be imposed and remedies invoked as provided in Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, or by rule, regulation, or order of the Secretary of Labor, or as otherwise provided by law.

- j) The Vendor shall include the portion of the sentence immediately preceding paragraph (a) and the provisions of paragraphs (a) through (g) in every subcontract or purchase order unless exempted by rules, regulations, or orders of the Secretary of Labor issued pursuant to section 204 of Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, so that such provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor. The Vendor will take such action with respect to any subcontract or purchase order as the administering agency may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions, including sanctions for noncompliance: Provided, however, that in the event a Vendor (or herein "applicant," as applicable in context within these Federal Funds Provisions) becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or vendor as a result of such direction by the administering agency, the Vendor may request the United States to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the United States.
 - k) The Vendor further agrees that it shall be bound by the above equal opportunity clause with respect to its own employment practices when it participates in federally assisted construction work: Provided, that if the Vendor so participating is a State or local government, the above equal opportunity clause is not applicable to any agency, instrumentality or subdivision of such government which does not participate in work on or under the Contract.
 - l) The Vendor agrees that it shall assist and cooperate actively with the administering agency and the Secretary of Labor in obtaining the compliance of Vendors and subcontractors with the equal opportunity clause and the rules, regulations, and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor, that it shall furnish the administering agency and the Secretary of Labor such information as they may require for the supervision of such compliance, and that it shall otherwise assist the administering agency in the discharge of the agency's primary responsibility for securing compliance.
 - m) The Vendor further agrees that it shall refrain from entering into any contract or contract modification subject to Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, with a Vendor debarred from, or who has not demonstrated eligibility for, Government Contracts and federally assisted construction contracts pursuant to the Executive Order and will carry out such sanctions and penalties for violation of the equal opportunity clause as may be imposed upon Vendors and subcontractors by the administering agency or the Secretary of Labor pursuant to Part II, Subpart D of the Executive Order. In addition, the Vendor agrees that if it fails or refuses to comply with these undertakings, the administering agency may take any or all of the following actions: Cancel, terminate, or suspend in whole or in part any relevant grant (contract, loan, insurance, guarantee); refrain from extending any further assistance to the Vendor under the program with respect to which the failure or refund occurred until satisfactory assurance of future compliance has been received from such Vendor; and refer the case to the Department of Justice for appropriate legal proceedings.
9. **PAYMENT TERMS:** Payment terms are net not later than 30 days after receipt of a correct invoice or acceptance of goods, whichever is later. The Procuring Agency is responsible for all payments to the Vendor under the Contract. Payment by some agencies may be made by procurement card. If the Vendor accepts Visa, MasterCard, etc., from other customers, it shall accept procurement card payment by the State under the terms provided for the procurement card. 01 NCAC 05B.1523. If payment is made by procurement card, then payment for amounts then due may be processed immediately by the Vendor.

The State does not agree in advance, in contract, pursuant to Constitutional limitations, to pay costs such as interest, late fees, penalties or attorney's fees. This Contract will not be construed as an agreement by the State to pay such costs and will be paid only as ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction.

10. **CONDITION AND PACKAGING:** Unless otherwise expressly provided by special terms and conditions or specifications in the Contract or by express, specific federal law or rule, it is understood and agreed that any item offered or shipped has not been sold or used for any purpose, is newly manufactured,

and shall be in first class condition. All containers/packaging shall be suitable for handling, storage or shipment.

11. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY WARRANTY AND INDEMNITY: Vendor shall hold and save the State, its officers, agents and employees, harmless from liability of any kind, including costs and expenses, resulting from infringement of the rights of any third party in any Services or copyrighted material, patented or patent-pending invention, article, device or appliance delivered in connection with the Contract.

- a) Vendor warrants to the best of its knowledge that:
 - 1. Performance under the Contract does not infringe upon any intellectual property rights of any third party; and
 - 2. There are no actual or threatened actions arising from, or alleged under, any intellectual property rights of any third party.
- b) Should any deliverables supplied 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 deliverables, or replace or modify the same to become non-infringing. 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 cease provision of any affected deliverables and refund any sums the State has paid Vendor for such deliverables and make every reasonable effort to assist the State in procuring substitute deliverables. If, in the sole opinion of the State, the cessation of use by the State of any such deliverables due to infringement issues makes the retention of other items acquired from the Vendor under this Agreement impractical, the State shall then have the option of terminating the Agreement, or applicable portions thereof, without penalty or termination charge; and Vendor agrees to refund any sums the State paid for unused Services or other deliverables.
- c) 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 deliverables supplied by the Vendor, their use or operation, infringe on a patent, copyright, trademark or violate a trade secret in the United States. The Vendor shall pay those costs and damages finally awarded or agreed in a settlement against the State in any such action. Such defense and payment shall be conditioned on the following:
 - 1. That the Vendor shall be notified within a reasonable time in writing by the State of any such claim; and
 - 2. 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.
- d) Vendor will not be required to defend or indemnify the State to the extent any claim by a third party against the State for infringement or misappropriation results solely from the State's material alteration of any Vendor-branded deliverables or Services, or from the continued use of the Services or other deliverables after receiving written notice from the Vendor of the claimed infringement.

12. ADVERTISING: Vendor agrees not to use the existence of the Contract or the name of the State of North Carolina as part of any commercial advertising or marketing of products or Services except as provided in 01 NCAC 05B.1516. A Vendor may inquire whether the State is willing to be included on a listing of its existing customers.

13. ACCESS TO PERSONS AND RECORDS: During, and after the term hereof during the relevant period required for retention of records by State law (G.S. 121-5, 132-1 *et seq.*, typically five years), the State Auditor and any Purchasing Agency's internal auditors shall have access to persons and records related to the Contract to verify accounts and data affecting fees or performance under the Contract, as provided in G.S. 143-49(9). However, if any audit, litigation or other action arising out of or related

in any way to this project is commenced before the end of the such retention of records period, the records shall be retained for one (1) year after all issues arising out of the action are finally resolved or until the end of the record retentions period, whichever is later.

14. ASSIGNMENT OR DELEGATION OF DUTIES:

- a) As a convenience to the Vendor, the State may include any person or entity designated by the Vendor in writing as a joint payee on the Vendor's payment check. In no event shall such approval and action obligate the State to anyone other than the Vendor.
- b) If Vendor requests any assignment, or delegation of duties, the Vendor shall remain responsible for fulfillment of all Contract obligations. Upon written request, the State may, in its unfettered discretion, approve an assignment or delegation to another responsible entity acceptable to the State, such as the surviving entity of a merger, acquisition or a corporate reorganization if made as part of the transfer of all or substantially all of the Vendor's assets. 01 NCAC 05B.1507. Any purported assignment or delegation made in violation of this provision shall be void and a material breach of the Contract. G.S. 143-58.

15. INSURANCE: This section provides minimum insurance coverage rates that are applicable to most moderate risk solicitations. Agency Risk Analysis will determine if higher insurance coverage amounts are needed based on the likelihood and severity of exposure to the State. The analysis is documented in writing in the official file and considers the following non-exclusive factors:

1. Potential for damage to State property or property of a third party,
2. Potential for bodily injury to State employees or third parties,
3. Whether Vendor will transport State property, clients, or employees,
4. Use of a vehicle to accomplish the work or to travel to or from State locations,
5. Anticipated physical contacts of the Vendor with the State,
6. Anticipated number and activity of Vendor personnel within the State, and
7. Any other unique considerations that could result in harm, bodily injury, or property damage.

The Purchasing Agency has specified elsewhere in this Contract any increase in the minimum insurance coverage requirements below if the risk from the above factors is high.

a) REQUIREMENTS - Providing and maintaining adequate insurance coverage is a material obligation of the Vendor and is of the essence of the 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 NC 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 the 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 or the indemnification requirements under the Contract. As provided above, a State agency is authorized, upon written evaluation and substantiation in the official file of the significant risk of bodily injury and/or property or other damage in the contract, to require and enforce higher coverage limits to mitigate the potential risk of liability to the State.

b) 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. At a minimum, the Vendor shall provide and maintain the following coverage and limits, subject to higher requirements by an agency after the risk analysis indicated above:

1. **For Small Purchases** as defined under North Carolina Administrative Code 01 NCAC 05A.0112 (35) and 05B.0301 (1), the minimum applicable insurance requirements for Worker's Compensation and Automobile Liability will apply as required by North Carolina law. The Purchasing Agency may require Commercial General Liability coverage consistent with the assessed risks involved in the procurement.
2. **For Contracts valued in excess of the Small Purchase threshold, but up to \$1,000,000.00 the following limits shall apply:**

- i. **Worker's Compensation** - The Vendor shall provide and maintain Worker's Compensation Insurance, as may be required by the laws of North Carolina, as well as employer's liability coverage, with minimum limits of \$250,000.00, covering all of Vendor's employees who are engaged in any work under the Contract in North Carolina. If any work is sub-Contracted, the Vendor shall require the sub-contractor to provide the same coverage for any of its employees engaged in any work under the Contract within the State.
- ii. **Commercial General Liability** - General Liability Coverage on a Comprehensive Broad Form on an occurrence basis in the minimum amount of \$500,000.00 Combined Single Limit. Defense costs shall be in excess of the limit of liability.
- iii. **Automobile** - Automobile Liability Insurance, to include liability coverage covering all owned, hired and non-owned vehicles, used within North Carolina in connection with the Contract. The minimum combined single limit shall be \$250,000.00 bodily injury and property damage; \$250,000.00 uninsured/under insured motorist; and \$2,500.00 medical payment.

3. For Contracts valued in excess of \$1,000,000.00 the following limits shall apply:

- i. **Worker's Compensation** - The Vendor shall provide and maintain Worker's Compensation Insurance, as may be required by the laws of North Carolina, as well as employer's liability coverage, with minimum limits of \$500,000.00, covering all of Vendor's employees who are engaged in any work under the Contract in North Carolina. If any work is sub-Contracted, the Vendor shall require the sub-contractor to provide the same coverage for any of its employees engaged in any work under the Contract within the State.
- ii. **Commercial General Liability** - General Liability Coverage on a Comprehensive Broad Form on an occurrence basis in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000.00 Combined Single Limit. Defense costs shall be in excess of the limit of liability.
- iii. **Automobile** - Automobile Liability Insurance, to include liability coverage covering all owned, hired and non-owned vehicles, used within North Carolina 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.

16. GENERAL INDEMNITY:

- a) The Vendor shall indemnify, defend and hold and save the State, its officers, agents, and employees, harmless from liability of any kind, including all claims and losses accruing or resulting to any other person, firm, or corporation furnishing or supplying work, Services, materials, or supplies in connection with the performance of the Contract, and also from any and all claims and losses accruing or resulting to any person, firm, or corporation that may be injured or damaged by the Vendor in the performance of the Contract that are attributable to the negligence or intentionally tortious acts of the Vendor, provided that the Vendor is notified in writing within 30 days from the date that the State has knowledge of such claims.
- b) The Vendor, at its own expense shall defend any action brought against the State, under this section. 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.
- c) The Vendor represents and warrants that it shall make no claim of any kind or nature against the State's agents who are involved in the delivery or processing of Vendor deliverables or Services as part of this Contract with the State.

- d) As part of this provision for General indemnity, if federal funds are involved in this procurement, the Vendor warrants that it will comply with all relevant and applicable federal requirements and laws, and will indemnify, defend and hold and save the State harmless from any claims or losses resulting to the State from the Vendor's noncompliance with such federal requirements or law in the performance of this Contract. The representations and warranties in the preceding two sentences shall survive the termination or expiration of the Contract.
- e) The State does not participate in indemnification due to Constitutional restrictions, or arbitration, which effectively and unacceptably waives jury trial. See, G.S. 22B-3, -10.

17. ELECTRONIC PROCUREMENT: (G.S. 143-48.3)

GENERALLY APPLICABLE TO GOODS AND SERVICES PURCHASES:

- a) 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.
- b) The Supplier Manager will capture an order from a State approved user, including the shipping and payment information, and submit the order in accordance with E-Procurement Service procedures. 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, bids received, evaluation of bids received, award of Contract, and the payment for goods delivered.
- c) Vendor shall at all times maintain the confidentiality of its username and password for the Statewide E-Procurement Services. Vendor shall be responsible for all activity and all charges by its agents or employees. Vendor agrees not to permit a third party to use its E-Procurement Services 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 email. Vendor shall cooperate with the State and the Supplier Manager to mitigate and correct any security breach.

E-PROCUREMENT FEES – APPLICABLE ONLY TO GOODS PURCHASES

- d) **THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER(S) SHALL PAY A TRANSACTION FEE, CURRENTLY 1.75% (.0175), ON THE TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT (EXCLUDING SALES TAXES) FOR THE AMOUNT OF ANY GOODS INCLUDED ON EACH PURCHASE ORDER ISSUED THROUGH THE STATEWIDE E-PROCUREMENT SERVICE (OR ANY OFFICIAL REPLACEMENT SERVICE). G.S. 66-58.12; See, *NC E-Procurement Terms of Use*.** This applies to all purchase orders, regardless of the quantity or dollar amount of the purchase order. The transaction fee shall not be stated or included as a separate item on the invoice. 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.
- e) Vendor or its Authorized Reseller, as applicable, will be invoiced monthly for the State's transaction fee by the E-Procurement Supplier Manager (Supplier Manager), based on a) purchase activity for the prior month, or b) purchases for which the supplier invoice has been paid. Unless the Supplier Manager receives written notice from the Vendor identifying with specificity any errors in an invoice for the transaction fee 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 invoice for the transaction fee, or it shall be considered a material breach of Contract.

Pursuant to G.S. 147-86.23, the service will charge 1) interest on past due balances at the rate set by the Secretary of Revenue pursuant to G.S. 105-241.21 as of the date the balances are past due, and, 2) late payment penalties, currently ten percent (10%) of the account receivable. No interest shall be charged on disputed and overdue amounts to the extent the State agrees to reduce or adjust the amount in dispute. 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.

- 18. SUBCONTRACTING:** Performance under the Contract by the Vendor shall not be subcontracted without prior written approval of the State's assigned Contract Lead. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, acceptance of a Vendor's proposal shall include approval to use the subcontractor(s) that have been specified therein.
- 19. CONFIDENTIALITY:** Vendor information that cannot be shown to be, e.g., a trade secret, may be subject to public disclosure under the terms of the State Public Records Act (SPRA), beginning at G.S. 132.1. Blanket assertions of confidentiality are not favored, but confidentiality of specific material meeting one or more exceptions in the SPRA will be honored. Vendors are notified that if the confidentiality of material is challenged by other parties, the Vendor has the responsibility of defending the assertion of confidentiality. G.S. 143-52(a).
- 20. CARE OF STATE DATA AND PROPERTY:** Any State property, information, data, instruments, documents, studies or reports given to or prepared or assembled by or provided to the Vendor under the Contract shall be kept as confidential, used only for the purpose(s) required to perform the Contract and not divulged or made available to any individual or organization without the prior written approval of the State.

The State's data and property in the hands of the Vendor shall be protected from unauthorized disclosure, loss, damage, destruction by a natural event or another eventuality. The Vendor agrees to reimburse the State for loss or damage of State property while in Vendor's custody. Such State Data shall be returned to the State in a form acceptable to the State upon the termination or expiration of this Agreement.

The Vendor shall notify the State of any security breaches within 24 hours as required by G.S. 143B-1379. For further information, see, G.S. 75-60 *et seq.* **Notice** is given to the Vendor that the NC Department of Information Technology (DIT) has requirements relating to the security of the State network, and rules relating to the use of the State network, IT software and equipment, that the Vendor must comply with, as applicable. See, e.g., G.S. 143B-1376.

- 21. OUTSOURCING:** Any Vendor or subcontractor providing call or contact center services to the State of North Carolina or any of its agencies shall disclose to inbound callers the location from which the call or contact center services are being provided.

If, after award of a Contract, and consistent with any applicable NC DIT security provisions, the Contractor wishes to relocate or outsource any portion of performance to a location outside the United States, or to contract with a subcontractor for any such performance, which subcontractor and nature of the work has not previously been disclosed to the State in writing, prior written approval must be obtained from the State Purchasing Agency. Vendor shall give notice to the Purchasing Agency of any relocation of the Vendor, employees of the Vendor, subcontractors of the Vendor, or other persons providing performance under a State Contract to a location outside of the United States. See, G.S. 143-59.4.

- 22. ENTIRE AGREEMENT:** The Contract (including any documents mutually incorporated specifically therein) resulting from a relevant solicitation represents the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes all prior oral or written statements or agreements. All promises, requirements, terms, conditions, provisions, representations, guarantees, and warranties contained herein shall survive the Contract expiration or termination date unless specifically provided otherwise herein, or unless superseded by applicable Federal or State statutes of limitation.

- 23. ELECTRONIC RECORDS:** The State will digitize all Vendor responses to the relevant solicitation, if not received electronically, as well as any awarded Contract together with associated procurement-related documents. These electronic copies shall constitute a preservation record and shall serve as the official record of this procurement with the same force and effect as the original written documents

comprising such record. Any official electronic copy, printout or other output readable by sight shown to reflect such record accurately shall constitute an "original."

24. AMENDMENTS: This Contract may be amended only by a written amendment duly executed by the State and the Vendor.

25. NO WAIVER: Notwithstanding any other language or provision in the Contract or in any Vendor-supplied material, nothing herein is intended nor shall be interpreted as a waiver of any right or remedy otherwise available to the State under applicable law. The waiver by the State of any right or remedy on any one occasion or instance shall not constitute or be interpreted as a waiver of that or any other right or remedy on any other occasion or instance.

26. 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, other catastrophic epidemic or pandemic, natural event or Act of God.

27. SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY: Notwithstanding any other term or provision in the Contract, nothing herein is intended nor shall be interpreted as waiving any claim or defense based on the principle of sovereign immunity or other State or federal constitutional provision or principle that otherwise would be available to the State under applicable law.

28. FEDERAL FUNDS PROVISIONS:

Where federal funds are utilized in connection with this procurement, and to the extent applicable and absent stricter or controlling State provisions, the following federal provisions (in addition to the North Carolina General Terms and Conditions above) may apply consistent with Uniform Guidance in 2 C.F.R. § 200.326 and 2 C.F.R. Part 200, and its Appendix II. Relevant federal authorities may require additional provisions depending on the scope and context of the Contract. Failure or unwillingness of the Vendor to continually meet any of these requirements, as applicable, may result in Contract termination.

Any links to websites not maintained by the State are provided as a courtesy. The State does not warrant or guarantee the accuracy of the hyperlink or the information contained therein.

- a) **No governmental non-competes.** Vendor shall not impose or enforce any non-competition agreement upon the employees included in Vendor's bid that would prevent those employees from accepting any offer of employment from the State of North Carolina outside of the first Term of the Contract. By executing this Contract, the Vendor affirms this condition. This affirmation is a material condition for the State's award of any work under this Contract.
- b) **Program Monitoring.** Vendor agrees to assist and cooperate with the Federal grantor or funding agency and the relevant Purchasing Agency or their duly designated representatives in the monitoring of the project or projects to which this Contract relates, and to provide in form and manner approved by the Purchasing Agency such monitoring reports, progress reports, and the like as may be required and to provide such reports at the times specified.
- c) **Remedies and Termination.** For purposes of this section the State Remedies and Termination provisions above apply as written.
- d) **Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. 3701-3708).**

Compliance with the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act.

- 1. **Overtime requirements.** No Vendor or subcontractor contracting for any part of the Contract work which may require or involve the employment of laborers or mechanics shall require or permit any such laborer or mechanic in any workweek in which he or she is employed on such work to work in excess of forty hours in such workweek unless such laborer or mechanic receives compensation at a rate not less than one and one-

half times the basic rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty hours in such workweek.

2. *Violation; liability for unpaid wages; liquidated damages.* In the event of any violation of the clause set forth in 29 C.F.R. §5.5(b)(1) the Vendor and any subcontractor responsible therefor shall be liable for the unpaid wages. In addition, such Vendor and subcontractor shall be liable to the United States (in the case of work done under contract for the District of Columbia or a territory, to such District or to such territory), for liquidated damages. Such liquidated damages shall be computed with respect to each individual laborer or mechanic, including watchmen and guards, employed in violation of the clause set forth in 29 C.F.R. §5.5(b)(1), in the sum of \$26 for each calendar day on which such individual was required or permitted to work in excess of the standard workweek of forty hours without payment of the overtime wages required by the clause set forth in 29 C.F.R. §5.5(b)(1).
3. *Withholding for unpaid wages and liquidated damages.* The Purchasing Agency shall upon its own action or upon written request of an authorized representative of the Department of Labor withhold or cause to be withheld, from any moneys payable on account of work performed by the Vendor or subcontractor under any such contract or any other Federal contract with the same prime Vendor, or any other federally-assisted contract subject to the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, which is held by the same prime Vendor, such sums as may be determined to be necessary to satisfy any liabilities of such Vendor or subcontractor for unpaid wages and liquidated damages as provided in the clause set forth in 29 C.F.R. §5.5(b)(2).
4. *SubContracts.* The Vendor or subcontractor shall insert in any subcontracts the clauses set forth in paragraph (b)(1) through (4) of 29 C.F.R. §5.5 and also a clause requiring the subcontractors to include these clauses in any lower tier subcontracts. The prime Vendor shall be responsible for compliance by any subcontractor or lower tier subcontractor with the clauses set forth in 29 C.F.R. §5.5(b)(2) through (4).

e) CLEAN AIR ACT AND THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT.

Clean Air Act

1. The Vendor agrees to comply with all applicable standards, orders or regulations issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 7401 et seq.
2. The Vendor agrees to report each violation to the Purchasing Agency and understands and agrees that the Purchasing Agency will, in turn, report each violation as required to assure notification to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the appropriate Environmental Protection Agency Regional Office.
3. The Vendor agrees to include these requirements in each subcontract exceeding \$150,000 financed in whole or in part with Federal assistance.

Federal Water Pollution Control Act

1. The Vendor agrees to comply with all applicable standards, orders, or regulations issued pursuant to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.
2. The Vendor agrees to report each violation to the Purchasing Agency and understands and agrees that the Purchasing Agency will, in turn, report each violation as required to assure notification to the federal agency providing funds hereunder, and the appropriate Environmental Protection Agency Regional Office.
3. The Vendor agrees that these requirements will be included in each subcontract exceeding \$150,000 financed in whole or in part with Federal assistance.

f) Debarment and Suspension.

1. This Contract, if federal funding is used, is a covered transaction for purposes of 2 C.F.R. pt. 180 and 2 C.F.R. pt. 3000. As such, the Vendor is required to verify that none of the Vendor's principals (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.995) or its affiliates (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.905) are excluded (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.940) or disqualified (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.935).
2. The Vendor must comply with 2 C.F.R. pt. 180, subpart C and 2 C.F.R. pt. 3000, subpart C, and must include a requirement to comply with these regulations in any lower tier covered transaction it enters into.
3. This certification is a material representation of fact relied upon by a federal agency providing federal funds herein and the Purchasing Agency. If it is later determined that the Vendor did not comply with 2 C.F.R. pt. 180, subpart C and 2 C.F.R. pt. 3000, subpart C, in addition to remedies available to federal agency providing federal funds herein and the Purchasing Agency, the Federal Government may pursue available remedies, including but not limited to suspension and/or debarment.
4. The Vendor agrees to comply with the requirements of 2 C.F.R. pt. 180, subpart C and 2 C.F.R. pt. 3000, subpart C while this offer is valid and throughout the period of the Contract resulting from a relevant solicitation herein. The Vendor further agrees to include a provision requiring such compliance in its lower tier covered transactions.

g) Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment (31 U.S.C. 1352) (as Amended).

To the extent applicable, Vendors that apply or bid for an award of \$100,000 or more shall file the required certification. Each tier certifies to the tier above that it will not and has not used Federal appropriated funds to pay any person or organization for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with obtaining any Federal Contract, grant, or any other award covered by 31 U.S.C. § 1352. Each tier shall also disclose any lobbying with non-Federal funds that takes place in connection with obtaining any Federal award. Such disclosures are forwarded from tier to tier up to the recipient who in turn will forward the certification(s) to the awarding agency.

Required Certification. If applicable, Vendors must sign and submit to the Purchasing Agency the certification. See the latest version of "Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements" found at <https://ncadmin.nc.gov/documents/vendor-forms>.

h) Procurement of Recovered Materials.

1. Unless specified otherwise in the Contract, in the performance of this Contract, the Vendor shall make maximum use of products containing recovered materials that are EPA-designated items unless the product cannot be acquired:
 - Competitively within a timeframe providing for compliance with the Contract performance schedule;
 - Meeting Contract performance requirements; or
 - At a reasonable price.
2. Information about this requirement, along with the list of EPA designated items, is available at EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines web site:
<https://www.epa.gov/smm/comprehensive-procurement-guideline-cpg-program>
3. The Vendor also agrees to comply with all other applicable requirements of Section 6002 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act."

- i) **Access to Records.** In addition to the North Carolina General Contract Terms & Conditions section entitled “**ACCESS TO PERSONS AND RECORDS**” included in this Contract, the following access to records requirements apply to this Contract:
1. The Vendor agrees to provide the Purchasing Agency, the Administrator of the federal agency providing funds hereunder, the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their authorized representatives access to any books, documents, papers, and records of the Vendor which are directly pertinent to this Contract for the purposes of making audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcriptions.
 2. The Vendor agrees to permit any of the foregoing parties to reproduce by any means whatsoever or to copy excerpts and transcriptions as reasonably needed.
 3. The Vendor agrees to provide the Administrator of the federal agency providing funds hereunder or his authorized representative access to construction or other work sites pertaining to the work being completed under the Contract.
 4. In compliance with the Disaster Recovery Act of 2018, the Purchasing Agency and the Vendor acknowledge and agree that no language in this Contract is intended to prohibit audits or internal reviews by the Administrator of the federal agency providing funds hereunder or the Comptroller General of the United States.
- j) **Modifications to Contract.** Modifications to the Contract are governed by the North Carolina General Contract Terms & Conditions section above entitled “**AMENDMENTS**,” except as approval and signature by any federal official may also be required.
- k) **Records Retention.** All records required to be kept on the project shall be maintained for at least five (5) years after final payments and until all other pending matters under the grant for this project have been closed. However, if any audit, litigation or other action arising out of or related in any way to this project is commenced before the end of the five (5) year period, the records shall be retained for one (1) year after all issues arising out of the action are finally resolved or until the end of the five (5) year period, whichever is later.
- l) **Energy Efficiency.** All participants in the projects funded hereby shall recognize mandatory standards and policies relating to energy efficiency, which are contained in the state energy conservation plan issued in compliance with the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (PL 94-163).
- m) **Program Fraud and False or Fraudulent Statements or Related Acts.** Vendor acknowledges that 31 U.S.C. Chapter 38 (Administrative Remedies for False Claims and Statements) applies to its actions pertaining to the Contract.
- n) **No Obligation by Federal Government.** The Federal Government is not a party to this Contract and is not subject to any obligations or liabilities to the non-Federal entity, Vendor, or any other party pertaining to any matter resulting from the Contract.
- o) **Compliance with Federal Law, Regulations, and Executive Orders.** This is an acknowledgement that federal financial assistance will be used to fund all or a portion of the Contract. The Vendor will comply with all applicable Federal law, regulations, executive orders, the policies of the federal agency(ies) providing funding, procedures, and directives.
- p) **Federal Seals, Logos, and Flags.** In addition to the prohibitions of the North Carolina General Contract Terms & Conditions section above entitled “**ADVERTISING**,” the Vendor shall not use the seal(s), logos, crests, or reproductions of flags of a federal agency providing funding herein, or likenesses of federal agency officials without specific pre-approval of the relevant federal agency.
- q) **System for Awards Management.** Vendor shall be responsible to ensure that it has checked the federal System for Awards Management (SAM) <https://www.sam.gov/SAM/> and the State Debarred Vendors Listing, <https://ncadmin.nc.gov/documents/nc-debarred-vendors> to verify that Contractors

or sub-Recipients have not been suspended or debarred from doing business with federal or State government.



NORTH CAROLINA INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDORS

I. READ, REVIEW AND COMPLY

It shall be the Vendor's responsibility to read this entire document; review all enclosures, attachments, and any Addenda; and comply with all requirements specified, whether appearing in these Instructions to Vendors or elsewhere in the Solicitation document.

Any gender-specific pronouns used herein, whether masculine or feminine, shall be read and construed as gender neutral, and the singular of any word or phrase shall be read to include the plural and vice versa.

II. REQUEST FOR OFFERS

Vendors are cautioned that this is a request for Offers, not an offer or request to contract, and the State reserves the unqualified right to reject any and all bids at any time if such rejection is deemed to be in the best interest of the State.

By submitting Your Bid or Proposal, You are offering to enter into a contract with the State.

The Contract is a separate document that represents the Vendor's and the State's entire agreement. If Your bid is accepted and results in a Contract, You will be expected to accept the North Carolina General Terms And Conditions included in the Solicitation document as part of the Contract. Depending upon the good or service being offered, other terms and conditions may apply.

III. DUTY TO INQUIRE

Offeror, by submitting an Offer, represents that it has read and understands the Solicitation and that its Offer is made in compliance with the Solicitation. Offerors are expected to examine the Solicitation thoroughly and should request an explanation for any ambiguities, discrepancies, errors, omissions, or conflicting statements in the Solicitation. Failure to do so will be at the Offeror's risk. All ambiguities, discrepancies, errors, omissions, or conflicting statements in the Solicitation shall be interpreted to require the better quality or greater quantity of work and/or materials, unless otherwise directed by Addendum. Offeror assumes responsibility for any patent ambiguity in the Solicitation that Offeror does not bring to the State's attention.

IV. DEFINITIONS, ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

The following definitions, acronyms, and abbreviations may be used within the Solicitation document.

1. **AGENCY SPECIFIC TERM CONTRACT:** A contract generally intended to cover all normal requirements for a commodity for a specified period of time based on estimated quantities for a single entity.
2. **ADDENDUM:** a document issued to supplement or modify the original Solicitation document. Addenda may be issued following a pre-bid/pre-proposal conference or as a result of a specification or work scope changes to the Solicitation.
3. **BAFO:** Best and Final Offer, submitted by a Vendor to alter its initial bid, made in response to a request by the issuing agency.
4. **BUYER:** The employee of the State or Other Eligible Entity that places an order with the Vendor.
5. **COMMUNITY COLLEGE:** Any of the fifty-eight (58) public North Carolina Community Colleges.
6. **CONTRACT:** A contract resulting from or arising out of Vendor responses to this Solicitation.
7. **CONTRACT ADMINISTRATOR:** A representative of the Agency who is responsible for the functions that are performed after all parties have signed a contract, including any modifications to the contract.
8. **CONTRACT MANAGER:** A representative of the agency or awarded vendor who ensures compliance with the contract terms and conditions while giving attention to the achievement of the stated output and outcome of the contract.

9. **E-PROCUREMENT SERVICES:** The program, system, and associated services through which the State conducts electronic procurement.

FOB-DESTINATION: Title changes hand from Vendor to purchaser at the destination point of the shipment; Vendor owns the commodity in transit and files any claims. Vendor pays all freight and any related transportation charges. A Solicitation may request that a Vendor separately identify freight charges in its bid, but no amount or charge not included as part of the total bid price will be paid.

10. **HUB:** Historically Underutilized Business <https://ncadmin.nc.gov/businesses/hub>

11. **IFB:** Invitation for Bids (a type of Solicitation document)

12. **IPS:** Interactive Purchasing Service

13. **LOT:** A grouping of similar products within this Solicitation document.

14. **OFFER:** the bid or proposal submitted in response this Solicitation. The terms Bid and Proposal are used interchangeably with the term Offer.

15. **OFFEROR:** the single legal entity submitting the Offer. The term Bidder is used interchangeably with the term Offeror. See bidding provisions entitled Signing Your Offer and Bid/Proposal As Offer To Contract.

16. **ON-TIME DELIVERY:** The delivery of all items within a single order to the receiving point designated by the ordering entity within the delivery time required.

17. **PROCUREMENT LEAD:** Representative of the agency identified on the first page of the Solicitation document who will correspond with potential Vendors concerning Solicitation issues, will contract with the Vendor providing the best offer to the State, and is the individual who will administer the Contract for the State.

18. **QUALIFIED BID/PROPOSAL:** A responsive bid submitted by a responsible Vendor.

19. **RESPONSIBLE:** Refers to a Vendor who demonstrates in its Offer that it has the capability to perform the requirements of the Solicitation.

20. **RESPONSIVE:** Refers to an Offer that conforms to the Requirements of the Solicitation in all respects to be considered by the State for award.

21. **RFI:** Request for Information (an information gathering tool that does not result in a contract)

22. **RFP:** Request for Proposals (a type of Solicitation document)

23. **RFPQ:** Request for Pre-Qualifications (a type of Solicitation document)

24. **RFQ:** Request for Quotes (a type of Solicitation document)

25. **STATE:** The State of North Carolina, including any of its sub-units recognized under North Carolina law.

26. **STATE AGENCY:** Any of the more than 400 sub-units within the executive branch of the State, including its departments, institutions, boards, commissions, universities, and units of the State.

27. **STATE DEPARTMENTS:** Department of Administration, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Department of Commerce, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Information Technology, Department of Insurance, Department of Justice, Department of Labor, Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, Department of Public Instruction, Department of Public Safety, Department of Revenue, Department of State Treasurer, Office of the Secretary of the State, Department of Transportation, Wildlife Resources Commission, Office of Budget and Management, Office of the Governor, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Office of The State Auditor, Office of the State Controller.

28. **VENDOR:** The supplier, bidder, proposer, company, firm, corporation, partnership, individual or other entity submitting a response to a Solicitation document. Following award of a contract, the term refers to an entity receiving such an award.

29. **WORK:** All labor, materials, equipment, services, or property of any type, provided or to be provided by the Contractor to fulfill the Contractor's obligations under the Contract.

30. **YOU and YOUR:** Offeror.

V. INTERPRETATION OF TERMS AND PHRASES

The Solicitation document serves to advise potential Vendors of the parameters of the solution being sought by the State. The use of phrases such as “shall,” “must,” and “requirements” are intended to create enforceable contract conditions. In determining whether bids should be evaluated or rejected, the State will take into consideration the degree to which Vendors have proposed or failed to propose solutions that will satisfy the State’s needs as described in the Solicitation. Except as specifically stated in the Solicitation, no one requirement shall automatically disqualify a Vendor from consideration. However, failure to comply with any single requirement, if determined to be essential under the circumstances then existing, may result in the State exercising its discretion to reject a bid in its entirety.

VI. BID SUBMISSION

1. **VENDOR’S REPRESENTATIVE:** Each Vendor shall submit with its bid the name, address, and telephone number of the person(s) with authority to bind the Vendor and answer questions or provide clarification concerning the Vendor’s bid.
2. **SIGNING YOUR OFFER:** Every Offer must be signed by an individual with actual authority to bind the Offeror.
 - a) If the Offeror is an individual, the Offer must be signed by that individual. If the Offeror is an individual doing business as a firm, the Offer must be submitted in the firm name, signed by the individual, and state that the individual is doing business as a firm.
 - b) If the Offeror is a partnership, the Offer must be submitted in the partnership name, followed by the words by its Partner, and signed by a general partner.
 - c) If the Offeror is a corporation, the Offer must be submitted in the corporate name, followed by the signature and title of the person authorized to sign.
 - d) An Offer may be submitted by a joint venture involving any combination of individuals, partnerships, or corporations. If the Offeror is a joint venture, the Offer must be submitted in the name of the Joint Venture and signed by every participant in the joint venture in the manner prescribed in paragraphs (a) through (c) above for each type of participant.
 - e) If an Offer is signed by an agent, other than as stated in subparagraphs (a) through (d) above, the Offer must state that it has been signed by an Agent. Upon request, Offeror must provide proof of the agent’s authorization to bind the principal.
3. **EXECUTION:** Failure to sign the Execution Page (numbered page 1 of the Solicitation document) in the indicated space may render an Offer nonresponsive, and it may be rejected.
4. **STATE OFFICE CLOSINGS:** If an emergency or unanticipated event interrupts normal government processes so that Offers cannot be received at the State office designated for receipt of bids by the exact time specified in the Solicitation, the time specified for receipt of Offers will be deemed to be extended to the same time of day specified in the Solicitation on the first work day on which normal government processes resume. In lieu of an automatic extension, an Addendum may be issued to reschedule the bid opening. If State offices are closed at the time a pre-bid or pre-proposal conference is scheduled, an Addendum will be issued to reschedule the conference.
5. **BID IN ENGLISH and DOLLARS:** Offers submitted in response to this Solicitation shall be in the English language and in US dollars, unless otherwise permitted by the Solicitation.
6. **LATE BIDS:** Late bids, regardless of cause, will not be opened or considered, and will automatically be disqualified from further consideration. It shall be the Vendor’s sole responsibility to ensure delivery at the designated office by the designated time.
 - a) Vendor shall bear the risk for late submission due to unintended or unanticipated delay— whether submitted electronically, delivered by hand, U.S. Postal Service, courier or other delivery service. It is the Vendor’s sole responsibility to ensure that its bid has been received by this Office by the specified time and date of opening. The date and time of submission will be marked on each bid when received, and any bid received after the bid submission deadline will be rejected.
 - b) For proposals submitted via U.S. mail, please note that the U.S. Postal Service generally does not deliver mail to a specified street address but to the State’s Mail Service Center. Vendors are cautioned that proposals sent via U.S. Mail, including Express Mail, may not be delivered by the Mail Service Center to the agency’s purchasing office on the due date in time to meet the proposal deadline. All Vendors are urged to take the possibility of delay into account when submitting a proposal by U.S. Postal Service,

courier, or other delivery service.

7. **DETERMINATION OF RESPONSIVENESS:** Any Offer which fails to conform to the material requirements of the Solicitation may be rejected as nonresponsive. Offers which impose conditions that modify material requirements of the Solicitation may be rejected. If a fixed price is required, an Offer will be rejected if the total possible cost to the State cannot be determined. Offerors will not be given an opportunity to correct any material nonconformity. Any deficiency resulting from a minor informality may be cured or waived at the sole discretion of the Procurement Officer.
8. **CONTENTS OF OFFER:**
 - a) Offers should be complete and carefully worded and should convey all of the information requested.
 - b) Offers should be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of the Offeror's capabilities to satisfy the requirements of the Solicitation. Emphasis should be on completeness and clarity of content.
 - c) If Your Offer includes any comment over and above the specific information requested in the Solicitation, You are to include this information as a separate appendix to Your Offer. Offers which include either modifications to any of the Solicitation's contractual requirements or an Offeror's standard terms and conditions may be deemed non-responsive and not considered for award at the State's discretion.
9. **MULTIPLE OFFERS.** If specifically stated in the Solicitation document, Offerors may submit more than one Offer, provided that each Offer has significant differences other than price. Each separate Offer must satisfy all Solicitation requirements.
10. **CLARIFICATION:** The State may elect to communicate with You after bid opening for the purpose of clarifying either Your Offer or the requirements of the Solicitation. Such communications may be conducted only with Offerors who have submitted an Offer which obviously conforms in all material aspects to the Solicitation. Clarification of an Offer must be documented in writing and included with the Offer. Clarifications may not be used to revise an Offer or the Solicitation.
11. **ACCEPTANCE AND REJECTION:** The State reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informality in bids and, unless otherwise specified by the Vendor, to accept any item in the bid. 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. Regardless of error or omission, a Vendor shall not be permitted to increase its pricing after the deadline for submitting bids.
12. **BASIS FOR REJECTION:** Pursuant to 01 NCAC 05B .0501, 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 requirements 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 any 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.
13. **INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTIVE LITERATURE:** Vendor shall furnish all information requested in the Solicitation document. Further, if required elsewhere in this bid, each Vendor shall submit with its bid any sketches, descriptive literature, and/or complete specifications covering the goods and services offered. Reference to literature submitted with a previous bid or available elsewhere will not satisfy this provision. **Do not submit bid samples or descriptive literature unless expressly requested.** Unsolicited bid samples or descriptive literature will not be examined or tested, will not be used to determine responsiveness, and will not be deemed to vary any of the provisions of the Solicitation. Failure to comply with these requirements shall constitute sufficient cause to reject a bid without further consideration.
14. **WITHDRAWAL OF BID OR PROPOSAL:** Proposals submitted electronically may be withdrawn at any time prior to the date for bid opening identified on the cover page of this Solicitation document (or such later date included in an Addendum). Proposals that have been delivered by hand, U.S. Postal Service, courier, or other delivery service may be withdrawn **only** in writing and if receipt is acknowledged by the office issuing the Solicitation document prior to the time for opening identified on the cover page of the Solicitation document (or such later date included in an Addendum). Written withdrawal requests shall be submitted on the Vendor's letterhead and signed by an official of the Vendor authorized to make such request. Any withdrawal request made after bid opening shall be allowed only for good cause shown and in the sole discretion of the Division of Purchase and

Contract.

15. **COST FOR BID OR PROPOSAL PREPARATION:** Any costs incurred by Vendor in preparing or submitting Offers are the Vendor's sole responsibility.
16. **INSPECTION AT VENDOR'S SITE:** The State reserves the right to inspect, at a reasonable time, the equipment, item, plant, or other facilities of a prospective Vendor prior to Contract award, and during the Contract term as necessary for the State's determination that such equipment, item, plant, or other facilities conform with the specifications/requirements and are adequate and suitable for the proper and effective performance of the Contract.
17. **RECYCLING AND SOURCE REDUCTION:** It is the policy of the State to encourage and promote the purchase of products with recycled content to the extent economically practicable, and to purchase items which are reusable, refillable, repairable, more durable, and less toxic to the extent that the purchase or use is practicable and cost-effective. We also encourage and promote using minimal packaging and the use of recycled/recyclable products in the packaging of commodities purchased. However, no sacrifice in quality of packaging will be acceptable. The company remains responsible for providing packaging that will adequately protect the commodity and contain it for its intended use. Companies are strongly urged to bring to the attention of purchasers those products or packaging they offer which have recycled content and that are recyclable.
18. **CERTIFICATE TO TRANSACT BUSINESS IN NORTH CAROLINA:** As a condition of Contract award, each out-of-State Vendor that is a corporation, limited-liability company, or limited-liability partnership shall have received, and shall maintain throughout the term of The Contract, a Certificate of Authority to Transact Business in North Carolina from the North Carolina Secretary of State, as required by North Carolina law. A State contract requiring only an isolated transaction completed within a period of six months, and not in the course of a number of repeated transactions of like nature, shall not be considered transacting business in North Carolina and shall not require a Certificate of Authority to Transact Business.
19. **SUSTAINABILITY:** To support the sustainability efforts of the State of North Carolina we solicit Your cooperation in this effort. Pursuant to Executive Order 156 (1999), it is desirable that all responses meet the following:
 - a) If paper copies are requested, all copies of the bid are printed double sided. All submittals and copies are printed on recycled paper with a minimum post-consumer content of 30%.
 - b) Unless absolutely necessary, all bids and copies should minimize or eliminate use of non- recyclable or non-reusable materials such as plastic report covers, plastic dividers, vinyl sleeves, and GBC binding. Three-ringed binders, glued materials, paper clips, and staples are acceptable.
 - c) Materials should be submitted in a format which allows for easy removal, filing and/or recycling of paper and binder materials. Use of oversized paper is strongly discouraged unless necessary for clarity or legibility.
20. **HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESSES (HUB):** The State is committed to retaining Vendors from diverse backgrounds, and it invites and encourages participation in the procurement process by businesses owned by minorities, women, disabled, disabled business enterprises and non-profit work centers for the blind and severely disabled. In particular, the State encourages participation by Vendors certified by the State Office of Historically Underutilized Businesses, as well as the use of HUB-certified vendors as subcontractors on State contracts.
21. **RECIPROCAL PREFERENCE:** G.S. 143-59 establishes a reciprocal preference requirement to discourage other states from favoring their own resident Vendors by applying a percentage increase to the price of any bid from a North Carolina resident Vendor. To the extent another state does so, North Carolina applies the same percentage increase to the bid of a Vendor resident in that state. Residency is determined by a Vendor's "Principal Place of Business," defined as that principal place from which the overall trade or business of the Vendor is directed or managed.
22. **INELIGIBLE VENDORS:** As provided in G.S. 147-86.59 and G.S. 147-86.82, the following companies are ineligible to contract with the State of North Carolina or any political subdivision of the State:
 - a) any company identified as engaging in investment activities in Iran, as determined by appearing on the Final Divestment List created by the State Treasurer pursuant to G.S. 147-86.58, and
 - b) any company identified as engaged in a boycott of Israel as determined by appearing on the List of restricted companies created by the State Treasurer pursuant to G.S. 147-86.81.

A contract with the State or any of its political subdivisions by any company identified in a) or b) above shall be void *ab initio*.

23. **VALID TAXPAYER INFORMATION:** All persons or entities desiring to do business with the State must provide correct taxpayer information on North Carolina specified forms. The Substitute W-9 and Instructions are here: https://files.nc.gov/ncosc/documents/NCAS_forms/State_of_North_Carolina_Sub_W-9_01292019.pdf
24. **VENDOR REGISTRATION AND SOLICITATION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM:** The North Carolina electronic Vendor Portal (eVP) allows Vendors to electronically register free with the State to receive electronic notification of current procurement opportunities available on the Interactive Purchasing System (IPS), as well as notifications of status changes to those Solicitations. Online registration and other purchasing information is available at the following website: <http://ncadmin.nc.gov/about-doa/divisions/purchase-contract>.
25. The status of a Vendor's E-Procurement Services account(s) shall be considered a relevant factor in determining whether to approve the award of a Contract resulting from this Solicitation document. Any Vendor with an E-Procurement Services account that is in arrears by 91 days or more at the time of bid opening may be suspended or deactivated, at the State's discretion, and may be disqualified from further evaluation or consideration.
26. **TABULATIONS:** Bid tabulations can be electronically retrieved at the Interactive Purchasing System (IPS), <https://www.ips.state.nc.us/ips/BidNumberSearch.aspx>. Click on the IPS BIDS icon, click on Search for Bid, enter the bid number, and then search. Tabulations will normally be available at this web site not later than one working day after the bid opening. If negotiation is anticipated under 01 NCAC 05B.0503, pricing may not be public until award. Lengthy or complex tabulations may be summarized, with other details not made available on IPS. Requests for additional details or information concerning such tabulations cannot be honored.
27. **NC BIDS:** NC BIDS is an electronic bidding application that allows an agency to receive Vendor responses electronically for specified Solicitations, saving time and money by eliminating the need to print and ship paper proposal packages. Each individual Solicitation document will indicate whether responses must be submitted electronically through NC BIDS or whether paper responses are required. Submissions that do not comply with the stated submission method will be deemed non-responsive. For more information and online training on NC Bids, visit <https://ncadmin.nc.gov/about-doa/divisions/purchase-and-contract/nc-bids/nc-bids-vendors>
28. **CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION:** To the extent permitted by applicable statutes and rules, the State will maintain as confidential trade secrets in bids that the Vendor does not wish disclosed. As a condition to confidential treatment, each page containing trade secret information shall be identified in boldface at the top and bottom as "CONFIDENTIAL" by the Vendor, with specific trade secret information enclosed in boxes, marked in a distinctive color or by similar indication. Cost information shall not be deemed confidential under any circumstances. Regardless of what a Vendor may label as a trade secret, the determination whether it is or is not entitled to protection will be determined in accordance with G.S. 132-1.2. Any material labeled confidential constitutes a representation by the Vendor that it has made a reasonable effort in good faith to determine that such material is, in fact, a trade secret under G.S. 132-1.2. Vendors are urged to limit the marking of information as a trade secret or as confidential so far as is possible. If a legal action is brought to require the disclosure of any material so marked confidential, the State will notify Vendor of such action and allow Vendor to defend the confidential status of its information.
29. **COMMUNICATIONS BY VENDORS:** In submitting its bid, the Vendor agrees not to discuss or otherwise reveal the contents of its bid to any source, government or private, outside of the using or issuing agency until after the award of the Contract or cancellation of this Solicitation. All Vendors are forbidden from having any communications with the using or issuing agency, or any other representative of the State concerning the Solicitation, during the evaluation of the bids (i.e., after the public opening of the bids and before the award of the Contract), unless the State directly contacts the Vendor(s) for purposes of seeking clarification or another reason permitted by the Solicitation. A Vendor shall not: (a) transmit to the issuing and/or using agency any information commenting on the ability or qualifications of any other Vendor to provide the advertised good, equipment, commodity; (b) identify defects, errors and/or omissions in any other Vendor's bid and/or prices at any time during the procurement process; and/or (c) engage in or attempt any other communication or conduct that could influence the evaluation or award of a Contract related to this Solicitation. Failure to comply with this requirement shall constitute sufficient justification to disqualify a Vendor from a Contract award. Only those communications with the using agency or issuing agency authorized by this Solicitation are permitted.
30. **INFORMAL COMMENTS:** The State shall not be bound by informal explanations, instructions or information given at any time by anyone on behalf of the State during the competitive process or after award. The State is

bound only by information provided in writing in this Solicitation document and in formal Addenda.

31. **PROTEST PROCEDURES:** When a Vendor wishes to protest a contract awarded by the Division of Purchase and Contract or awarded by an agency when the award amount exceeds the agency's general delegation and the contract is not subject to a special delegation or exemption, a Vendor shall submit a written request addressed to the State Purchasing Officer at: Division of Purchase and Contract, 1305 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1305.

When a Vendor wishes to protest a contract awarded by an agency when the award amount is less than an agency's general delegation or when the contract is subject to a special delegation or exemption the Vendor shall submit a written request to protest to the purchasing officer of the agency that issued the award.

The protest request must be received in the proper office within thirty (30) consecutive calendar days from the date of the Contract award. Protest letters **shall** contain specific grounds and reasons for the protest, how the protesting party was harmed by the award made and any documentation providing support for the protesting party's claims.

Note: Contract award notices are sent only to the Vendor actually awarded the contract, and not to every person or firm responding to a Solicitation. Award notices are posted on IPS at <https://www.ips.state.nc.us/ips/>. All protests will be handled pursuant to the North Carolina Administrative Code, 01 NCAC 05B .1519.

32. **ORDER OF PRECEDENCE:** In cases of conflict between specific provisions in this Solicitation or those in any resulting Contract documents, the order of precedence shall be (high to low) (1) any special terms and conditions specific to this Solicitation document, including any negotiated terms, (2) requirements and specifications and administration, (3) North Carolina General Terms and Conditions in North Carolina General Terms And Conditions, (4) Instructions To Vendors, (5) Pricing, and (6) Vendor's Bid.
33. **ADDENDA:** Critical updated information may be included in Addenda to the Solicitation. It is important that all Vendors bidding on the Solicitation periodically check for any Addenda that may be issued prior to the bid opening date. All Vendors shall be deemed to have read and understood all information in the Solicitation document and all Addenda thereto. Vendors are also responsible for obtaining and complying with all Addenda and other changes that may be issued concerning the Solicitation.
34. **ORAL EXPLANATIONS NON-BINDING:** Oral explanations or instructions will not be binding. Any information given a prospective Offeror concerning a Solicitation will be furnished promptly to all other prospective Offerors as an Addendum to the Solicitation, if that information is necessary for submitting offers or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to other prospective Offerors. See clause herein entitled "Duty to Inquire." The State will not identify You in its answer to Your question.
35. **MAXIMUM COMPETITION:** The State seeks to permit the maximum practicable competition. Offerors are urged to advise the State, as soon as possible, regarding any aspect of this procurement, including any aspect of the Solicitation that unnecessarily or inappropriately limits full and open competition. If the State determines that any changes will be made resulting from the questions asked, then such decisions will be communicated in the form of an Addendum.
36. **FIRM OFFER:** Vendor's bid shall constitute a firm offer. By execution and delivery of a bid in response to a Solicitation, the Vendor agrees that any additional or modified terms and conditions, whether submitted purposefully or inadvertently, shall have no force or effect, and will be disregarded. Any bid that contains language that indicates the bid is non-binding or subject to further negotiation before a contractual document may be signed shall be rejected.