



Division of State Purchasing
4050 Esplanade Way, Suite 360
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0950

Ron DeSantis, Governor
Jonathan R. Satter, Secretary

The State of Florida

Department of Management Services

Invitation to Bid (ITB)

Agriculture and Lawn Equipment

ITB No: 20-25101900-ITB

Terri Chason, Procurement Officer
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Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in section 120.57(3), Florida Statutes, or failure to post the bond or other security required by law within the time allowed for filing a bond shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under Chapter 120, Florida Statutes.

Any protest concerning this agency decision or intended decision must be timely filed with the Department of Management Services' Agency Clerk. Protests may be filed by courier, hand delivery, or regular mail at: Department of Management Services, Office of the General Counsel, Attention: Agency Clerk, 4050 Esplanade Way, Suite 160, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0950. Protests may also be filed by fax at 850-922-6312, or by email at agencyclerk@dms.fl.gov. It is the filing party's responsibility to meet all filing deadlines.

The Procurement Officer should be copied on such filings.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Timeline of Events

The table below contains the Timeline of Events for this solicitation. The dates and times within the Timeline of Events are subject to change. It is the responsibility of the Bidder to check for any changes on the Vendor Bid System (VBS).

Bidders shall not rely on the MyFloridaMarketPlace (MFMP) Sourcing time clock. It is not the official submission date and time deadline. The official solicitation dates and time deadlines are reflected in the Timeline of Events.

Timeline of Events		
Event	Time (Eastern Time)	Date
Solicitation posted on VBS and in MFMP Sourcing		10/26/2020
Deadline to submit questions in MFMP Sourcing	10:00AM	11/2/2020
Department's anticipated date of posting Q&A Addendum on VBS		11/16/2020
Deadline to submit bid and all required documents in MFMP Sourcing	10:00AM	12/1/2020
Public meeting: Bid opening (non-mandatory) Members of the public to dial in: Conference call number: 888-585-9008 Conference room number: 582-904-411 Any person requiring a special accommodation due to a disability should contact the Department's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator at 850-922-7535 or ADA.Coordinator@dms.fl.gov at least five (5) business days prior to the scheduled event.	10:30AM	12/1/2020
Anticipated date to post Notice of Intent to Award on VBS		12/14/2020
Anticipated Contract start date		12/31/2020

1.2 Definitions

Definitions contained in section 287.012, Florida Statutes (F.S.); Rule 60A-1.001, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.); Attachment A, Draft Contract – Attachment 1, Special Contract Conditions; and the PUR 1001, General Instructions to Respondents (10/06), are incorporated by reference. In the event of a conflict, the definitions listed in this section supersede the incorporated definitions. All definitions apply in both their singular and plural sense.

Accessory(ies) – A part or object used for convenience, attractiveness, safety, etc., to improve Base Equipment capability which meet the requirements, specifications, terms, and conditions herein, and may be installed to, uninstalled from, or provided with or separately from the Base Equipment by the Manufacturer or Dealer, as specified, ordered, legal, customary, reasonable, and prudent in the industry.

Base Equipment – A Manufacturer's base Agriculture and Lawn Equipment without the inclusion of OEM or Non-OEM Options, Parts, Accessories, and Implements. Base Equipment may be identified by a combination of the Manufacturer's name, trade name, brand name, make name, model name, model number or catalog number.

Bid – The document(s) submitted by a Bidder in response to this ITB.

Bidder – A vendor who submits a bid to this ITB.

Business Day – Monday through Friday, inclusive, except for those holidays specified in section 110.117, F.S., from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

Commodity(ies) – As defined in section 287.012, F.S. Commodities may include Base Equipment; OEM or Non-OEM Options, Parts, Accessories, and Implements; and other products available through this Contract. Commodities may also be referred to throughout as "Agriculture and Lawn Equipment".

Commodity Code – The State's numeric code for classifying Commodities which meet specific requirements, specifications, terms, and conditions herein. Florida has adopted the United Nations Standard Products and Services Code (UNSPSC) for classifying Commodities.

Contract – The written agreement between the Department and the awarded Bidder(s) resulting from this solicitation.

Contractor – A Vendor that enters a Contract with the Department as a result of this procurement.

Customer – A state agency or eligible user.

Dealer – A Manufacturer's certified representative who has been authorized by the Manufacturer to market, sell, provide, and service the Commodities of the Manufacturer that are responsive to the Contract. Dealers may be Contractor-owned and -controlled (in whole or in part), or independently owned and controlled.

Department – The Department of Management Services, a State Agency.

Group – A series of Commodities with applicable Commodity Codes which are described in the Product Group Discount Sheet. A Group may or may not include Sub-Groups.

Implement(s) – A tool, utensil, or other piece of equipment, especially as used for a particular purpose or to improve Base Equipment capability which meet the requirements, specifications, terms, and conditions herein, and may be installed to, uninstalled from, or provided with or separately from the Base Equipment by the Manufacturer or Dealer, as specified, ordered, legal, customary, reasonable, and prudent in the industry.

Manufacturer – The producer or provider of Agriculture and Lawn Equipment which possess the minimum quality, reliability, service, and value required by the Department and Customers. May be used interchangeably with Brand Name.

Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) – The MSRP represents the Manufacturer's recommended retail selling price, list price, published price, or other usual and customary price that would be paid by the Customer for specific Commodities without the benefit of a Contract resulting from this solicitation. It must be publicly listed, available, and verifiable by the Department.

MSRP Credit – The MSRP price of OEM and Non-OEM Options, Parts, Accessory(ies) or Implements that are deducted from the Base Equipment price paid by the Customer if removed from the Base Equipment.

MSRP List – The Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price List, a collection of MSRPs and related information broken down by specific Commodities. In the priority listed below, only the following are acceptable sources of current and revised MSRPs and MSRP Lists for use under the resulting Contract:

- Manufacturer's Annual U.S. Price Book,
- Manufacturer's official website or dealer software; and
- Autodata, Inc. d/b/a Chrome Data's™ Carbook Pro Fleet Edition.

Net Price – The final price paid by the Customer after applying all MSRP discounts and MSRP Credits.

Non-OEM – Produced by a manufacturer or party other than the OEM.

Options – Options requested by the Customer specifically for the Agriculture and Lawn Base Equipment which meet the requirements, specifications, terms, and conditions herein, and may be installed to, uninstalled from, or provided with or separately from the Base Equipment by the Manufacturer or Dealer, as specified, ordered, legal, customary, reasonable, and prudent in the industry.

Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) – The original Manufacturer of a Commodity.

Part(s) – Repair or service part(s) for Base Equipment which meet the requirements, specifications, terms, and conditions herein, and may be installed to, uninstalled from, or provided with or separately from the Base Equipment by the Manufacturer or Dealer, as specified, ordered, legal, customary, reasonable, and prudent in the industry.

Sub-Group – A specific series of Commodities within a Group which are described in the Product Group Discount Sheet. A Group may or may not include Sub-Groups.

State – The State of Florida.

Vendor Bid System (VBS) – The State’s bidding system developed in accordance with section 287.042(3)(b)2., F.S. The Vendor Bid System is accessible at http://www.myflorida.com/apps/vbs/vbs_main_menu.

1.3 Objective

The Department is issuing this ITB to establish a State Term Contract for Agriculture and Lawn Equipment which will replace the current Agriculture and Lawn Equipment State Term Contract (STC), No. 21100000-15-1. The current Contract has an average annual spend of \$12.5 million. Historical spend is provided for informational purposes only and should not be construed as representing actual, guaranteed, or minimum spend under a new contract. The Department intends to award up to two (2) Contract(s) for each Manufacturer/Brand Name within each Sub-Group (or Group, for Groups that do not include Sub-Groups); however, the Department reserves the right to award to one or multiple Bidders, statewide or by region, or to make no award, as determined to be in the best interest of the State.

1.4 Scope of Work

Bidder(s) awarded a Contract under this ITB shall provide Commodities as described in the Attachment A, Draft Contract, Attachment 2, Scope of Work.

1.5 Term

The term is specified in the Draft Contract, Attachment A.

1.6 Procurement Officer

The Procurement Officer is the sole point of contact for this ITB. See the ‘Limitation on Contact with Government Personnel (Section 287.057(23), F.S.)’ section of this ITB:

Terri Chason
Purchasing Analyst Supervisor, Division of State Purchasing
Florida Department of Management Services
4050 Esplanade Way, Suite 360, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0950
Phone: 850-921-7874
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****ALL EMAILS TO THE PROCUREMENT OFFICER SHOULD CONTAIN THE SOLICITATION NUMBER IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF THE EMAIL ****

1.7 Order of Precedence for Solicitation

In the event of a conflict between the documents comprising this ITB, the conflict will be resolved in the following order of priority (highest to lowest):

- a) Addenda to ITB, if issued (in reverse order of issuance)
- b) Product Group Discount Sheet, Attachment C
- c) This ITB document
- d) Draft Contract, Attachment A (which includes all documents referenced in section 3 of the Draft Contract)
- e) Other ITB attachments

1.8 Commitment to Diversity

The State is committed to supporting its diverse business population through involving woman-, veteran-, and minority-owned business enterprises in the state’s purchasing process. The Department supports diversity in its procurements, and requests that all

subcontracting opportunities afforded by this solicitation be shared with certified woman-, veteran-, and minority-owned business enterprises. The award of subcontracts should reflect the vast array of citizens in the State. Bidders can search for certified businesses online at the Office of Supplier Diversity's Certified Vendor Directory or by contacting 850-487-0915 for information on certified businesses that may be considered for subcontracting opportunities. The Certified Vendor Directory is accessible at <https://osd.dms.myflorida.com/directories>.

The Office of Supplier Diversity's Mentor-Protégé Program connects certified businesses with private business entities for business development mentoring. The Department strongly encourages Vendors doing business with the State to consider becoming a Mentor and participating in this initiative. More information on the Mentor-Protégé Program may be obtained by contacting the Office of Supplier Diversity at 850-487-0915 or osdinfo@dms.myflorida.com.

1.9 Department's Rights to Reject Bids

The Department may reject any Bid not submitted in the manner specified by this solicitation. Bids that do not meet all requirements, specifications, terms, and conditions of the solicitation or fail to provide all required information, documents, or materials may be rejected as non-responsive. Bidders whose Bids, references, or current status do not reflect the capability, integrity, or reliability to fully and in good faith perform the requirements of the Contract may be rejected as not responsible. The Department reserves the right to determine which Bids meet the requirements of this solicitation and which Bidders are responsive and responsible.

In this solicitation, the words "should" or "may" indicate desirable attributes or conditions but are permissive in nature. Where language indicates that the attribute or condition is mandatory, the Department still reserves the right to waive any minor irregularity if the Department determines that it is in the best interest of the State to do so.

A deviation from a requirement or condition is material if, in the Department's discretion, it provides a substantial advantage to one Bidder over another or has a potentially significant effect on the quality of the Bid or on the cost to the State.

2 THE ITB PROCESS

2.1 Question Submission

The Department invites interested and registered Vendors to submit questions regarding the solicitation.

Questions must be submitted in MFMP Sourcing by the time and date reflected in the 'Timeline of Events' section.

Bidders are strongly encouraged to ask any questions regarding this ITB, including the proposed Contract terms and conditions, prior to the deadline to submit questions.

2.2 Addenda to the ITB

The Department reserves the right to modify this solicitation by addenda. Addenda may modify any aspect of this solicitation. Any addenda issued will be posted on VBS. It is the Bidder's responsibility to check VBS for any changes throughout the procurement process and prior to submitting a bid.

2.3 Public Opening

Bids will be opened on the date and at the location indicated in the 'Timeline of Events' section. Bidders are not required to attend. The Department does not announce prices or release other materials at this public meeting, in accordance with section 119.071(1)(b), F.S.

2.4 Special Accommodations

Any person requiring a special accommodation due to a disability should contact the Department's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator at 850-922-7535 or ADA.Coordinator@dms.fl.gov at least five Business Days prior to the scheduled event. If hearing or speech-impaired, please contact the ADA Coordinator by using the Florida Relay Service at 800-955-8771 (TDD).

2.5 Mandatory Responsive Requirements

The Department will not review Bids from Bidders who do not meet the mandatory responsive requirements listed in Attachment B.

Note: The Department will perform an initial responsiveness check. Bids found to be non-responsive will not be considered for award. The Department reserves the right to act upon information discovered during and after the initial responsiveness check impacting the responsibility or responsiveness of the Bidder.

2.6 Preference to Florida Businesses

Pursuant to the requirements of section 287.084(1)(a), F.S., if the lowest responsible and responsive Bid is by a Bidder whose principal place of business is located outside the State, and whose principal place of business is in a state or political subdivision thereof which grants a preference for the purchase of such personal property to a person whose principal place of business is in such state, the Department will award a preference to the lowest responsible and responsive Bidder having a principal place of business within Florida, which preference is equal to the preference granted by the state or political subdivision thereof in which the lowest responsible and responsive bidder has its principal place of business.

If the lowest bid is submitted by a Bidder whose principal place of business is located outside the State, and that state does not grant a preference in competitive solicitation to vendors having a principal place of business in that state, the preference to the lowest responsible and responsive Bidder having a principal place of business in this State will be five percent.

A Bidder whose principal place of business is outside this State must accompany its Bid with a written opinion of an attorney at law licensed to practice law in that foreign state, as to the preferences, if any, granted by the law of that state to its own business entities whose principal places of business are in that foreign state in the letting of any or all public contracts.

2.7 Equal Bids

In the event that there is no multiple award contemplated in the ITB, and the Department receives equal Bids eligible for award, the Department will comply with the following, as applicable: sections 287.057(11), 287.082, 287.087, 287.092, 295.187(4)(a), and 295.187(4)(b), F.S. In order to clarify the Bidders' status with regard to the applicable statutory preference requirements, the Department may request information from Bidders with equal eligible bids. A Bidder will not be permitted to amend or supplement its Bid in response to such request for clarification.

2.8 Basis of Award

The Department intends to award up to two (2) Contract(s) for each Manufacturer/Brand Name within each Sub-Group (or Group, for Groups that do not include Sub-Groups). The Contract(s) will be awarded to the responsible and responsive Bidder(s) that submits the lowest responsive Bid(s) by providing the highest discounts off of MSRP for the Manufacturer/Brand Name bid, as provided in Attachment C, Product Group Discount Sheet.

The Bidder's submitted discounts off of MSRP will be used by the Department to determine the Bidder's Total Calculated Discount for each Manufacturer/Brand Name bid; the Total Calculated Discount will be used for scoring purposes only. The Bidder's Total Calculated Discount will be calculated by the Department for each Manufacturer/Brand Name bid using the following formula:

(Note: discounts off of MSRP are expressed as decimals for calculation purposes (e.g. 25.05% = 0.2505)

$$(A \times 0.36) + (B \times 0.12) + (C \times 0.12) + (D \times 0.24) + (E \times 0.08) + (F \times 0.08) = X$$

Where:

A = Initial Term Base Equipment MSRP Discount

B = Initial Term OEM Options, Parts, Accessories, and Implements MSRP Discount

C = Initial Term Non-OEM Options, Parts, Accessories, and Implements MSRP Discount

D = Renewal Term Base Equipment MSRP Discount

E = Renewal Term OEM Options, Parts, Accessories, and Implements MSRP Discount

F = Renewal Term Non-OEM Options, Parts, Accessories, and Implements MSRP Discount

X = Total Calculated Discount

The Department will consider the total cost for each year of the Contract, including renewal years, as submitted by the Bidder. The Department reserves the right to award multiple Contracts or to award Contract(s) for all or part of the work contemplated by this solicitation. The Department reserves the right to reject all Bids. The Department reserves the right to award Contract(s) to the responsible and responsive Bidder(s) that submitted the next lowest responsive Bid(s) to this solicitation if the Department cannot execute a Contract with a Bidder previously awarded a Contract.

2.8 Electronic Posting of Notice of Intent to Award

The Department will electronically post a 'Notice of Intent to Award' on VBS in accordance with the Timeline of Events. The 'Notice of Intent to Award' will remain posted for a period of 72 hours, not including Saturdays and Sundays or State holidays, as specified in section 110.117, F.S.

2.9 Contract Formation

The Department may issue a 'Notice of Intent to Award' to award Contract(s) to successful Bidder(s). However, no contract shall be formed between a Bidder and the Department until both parties sign the Contract. The Department shall not be liable for any work performed before the Contract is effective.

The Department intends to enter into the Contract(s) with Bidder(s) pursuant to the 'Basis for Award' section of this solicitation. No additional documents submitted by a Bidder shall be incorporated in the Contract unless they are specifically identified, incorporated by reference, and approved by the Department. If any additional documents are submitted by the Bidder, the additional documents will not be considered for the Basis for Award.

2.10 Other Requirements Following Award

2.10.1 MSRP List

During the life of the Contract, the Contractor shall submit and maintain a current and complete MSRP List for each Base Equipment within each Sub-Group (or Group, for Groups that do not include Sub-Groups). The MSRP is subject to the Department's approval. The MSRP List shall include the following: The Manufacturer's Model Number, Manufacturer's Item Description, and the MSRP for each of the Manufacturer's and Group's applicable Base Equipment and OEM Options within the Group. Include a cover page, which shall list the applicable Group, Sub-Group, Manufacturer, MSRP List Name, and MSRP List Date. The Department shall be the final arbiter of MSRPs if a Contractor's pricing differs from the published MSRPs. The Contractor shall be responsible for removing all non-eligible and unacceptable Commodities under the Contract from the Contractor's MSRP List.

2.10.2 Price Sheet

The Contractor shall provide a completed price sheet that includes all Commodities offered under this Contract. The price sheet shall be provided in Excel format and include a separate tab for each Sub-Group (or Group, for Groups that do not include Sub-Groups). Each tab shall include, at minimum, the following information for each Commodity offered under that Sub-Group (or Group, for Groups that do not include Sub-Groups):

- Manufacturer/Brand Name (as shown on the Product Group Discount Sheet);
- Commodity Type (i.e. Base Equipment; OEM Option, Part, Accessory, or Implement; or Non-OEM Option, Part, Accessory, or Implement);
- Model number or other identifier that Customers can use to locate the Commodity on the Manufacturer or Dealer website;
- Description;
- MSRP (as shown on the current MSRP List);
- Discount (as shown on the Product Group Discount Sheet for the Commodity type); and
- Net Price to the Customer.

Prices for new products added during the contract period shall be based on the current MSRP and the Discount shown on the Product Group Discount Sheet for the applicable Sub-Group (or Group, for Groups that do not include Sub-Groups), Commodity type, and current contract term (initial or renewal period).

2.10.3 Registration with the Florida Department of State

If awarded a Contract, the Bidder shall provide a PDF file of its current and active registration with the Florida Department of State prior to execution of a Contract or, if exempt from registration, a statement to that effect noting the basis for the exemption. Bidders should note that foreign entities are required to obtain a Florida Certificate of Authorization pursuant to applicable Florida Statutes from the Florida Department of State, Division of Corporations, to transact business in the State of Florida. For additional information, please visit <https://dos.myflorida.com/sunbiz/>.

2.10.4 Florida Substitute Form W-9

It is the responsibility of the awarded Bidder to complete a Florida Substitute Form W-9 prior to execution of a Contract. The Internal Revenue Service receives and validates the information provided on the Florida Substitute Form W-9. For instructions on how to complete the Florida Substitute Form W-9, please visit <https://flvendor.myfloridacfo.com/>.

2.10.5 Preferred Pricing Affidavit

It is the responsibility of the awarded Bidder to complete a Preferred Pricing Affidavit, Contract Attachment 5 prior to execution of a Contract, and to provide an updated Preferred Pricing Affidavit on an annual basis.

3 RESPONDING TO THE ITB

3.1 Limitation on Contact with Government Personnel (Section 287.057(23), F.S.)

Respondents to this solicitation or persons acting on their behalf may not contact, between the release of the solicitation and the end of the 72-hour period following the agency posting the notice of intended award, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and state holidays, any employee or officer of the executive or legislative branch concerning any aspect of this solicitation, except in writing to the procurement officer or as provided in the solicitation documents. Violation of this provision may be grounds for rejecting a response.

Respondents may contact the Procurement Officer by writing, through mail or email, or by telephone.

3.2 General Instructions

The PUR 1001, General Instructions to Respondents (10/06), is incorporated by reference and is accessible at https://www.dms.myflorida.com/content/download/2934/11780/PUR_1001_General_Instructions_to_Respondents.pdf.

3.3 Special Instructions

The following special instructions modify the general instructions provided in the incorporated PUR 1001.

Paragraphs 10 and 13 of the PUR 1001 is inapplicable in its entirety.

Paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 9, 14, 15, 19, and 20 of the PUR 1001 are inapplicable and are replaced as follows:

3. Electronic Submission of Bids. Bids shall be submitted in accordance with How to Submit a Bid in MyFloridaMarketPlace section.

4. Terms and Conditions. All Bids are subject to the terms of this solicitation, which, in case of conflict, will have the order of precedence listed in the 'Order of Precedence for Solicitation' section.

The Department will not accept any unrequested terms or conditions submitted by a Bidder, including any appearing in documents attached as part of a Bidder's response. In submitting its response, a Bidder agrees that any additional terms or conditions, whether submitted intentionally or inadvertently, shall have no force or effect.

5. Questions. Questions shall be submitted in accordance with the 'Question Submission' section of this solicitation.

9. Bidder's Representation and Authorization. In submitting a Bid, each Bidder certifies that it understands, represents, and acknowledges the following:

- The Bidder is not currently under suspension or debarment by the State or any other governmental authority.
- The Bidder currently has no delinquent obligations to the State, including a claim by the State for liquidated damages under any other contract.
- The submission is made in good faith and not pursuant to any agreement or discussion with, or inducement from, any entity or person to submit a complementary or other noncompetitive Bid.
- The prices and amounts have been arrived at independently and without consultation, communication, or agreement with any other Bidder or potential Bidder; neither the prices nor amounts, actual or approximate, have been disclosed to any other Bidder or potential Bidder, and they will not be disclosed before the solicitation opening.
- The Bidder has fully informed the Department in writing of all convictions of the Bidder, its affiliates (as defined in section 287.133(1)(a), F.S.), and all directors, officers, and employees of the Bidder and its affiliates for violation of any state or federal law involving a public entity crime (as defined in section 287.133(1)(g), F.S.). This includes disclosure of the names of current employees who were convicted of public entity crimes while in the employ of another company.
- Neither the Bidder nor any person associated with it in the capacity of owner, partner, director, officer, principal, investigator, project director, manager, auditor, or in a position involving the administration of federal funds:
 - Is presently indicted or, within the preceding three years, has been convicted or found guilty of, or found civilly liable for: commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a federal, state, or local government transaction or public contract; violation of federal or state antitrust statutes; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property; or
 - Has within a three-year period preceding this certification had one or more federal, state, or local government contracts terminated for cause or default.
- The products and services offered by the Bidder conform to the specifications contained herein without exception.
- The Bidder has read and understands the terms and conditions listed in the Draft Contract, and the submission is made in conformance with those terms and conditions.
- If an award is made to the Bidder, the Bidder agrees that it will execute the Draft Contract.
- The Bidder has made a diligent inquiry of its employees and agents responsible for preparing, approving, or submitting the Response, and has been advised by each of them that he or she has not participated in any communication, consultation, discussion, agreement, collusion, act, or other conduct inconsistent with any of the statements and representations made in the response.

- The Bidder shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Department, Customer, and their employees against any cost, damage, or expense which may be incurred or be caused by any error in the Bidder's preparation of its Bid.
- All information provided by, and representations made by, the Bidder are material and important and will be relied upon by the Department in awarding the Contract. Any misstatement may be treated as fraudulent concealment from the Department and Customers of the true facts relating to submission of the Bid. A misrepresentation may be punishable under law.

The Department reserves the right to deem the Bidder non-responsive or non-responsible based on any information provided in, or omitted from, the Bidder's Bid related to the certifications of this section.

14. Firm Response. The Department intends to make an award within sixty (60) days after the date of the opening, during which period Bids shall remain firm and shall not be withdrawn. If award is not made within sixty (60) days, the Bid shall remain firm until the Department enters into a Contract or the Department receives from the Bidder written notice that the Bid is withdrawn.

15. Clarifying Information. The Department may request, and Bidder shall provide, clarifying information or documentation. Failure to supply the information or documentation as requested may result in the Bid being deemed non-responsive.

19. Public Records. Article 1, section 24, Florida Constitution, guarantees every person access to all public records, and section 119.011, F.S., provides a broad definition of "public record." As such, the entirety of the Bids are public records and are subject to disclosure unless exempt from disclosure by law. If the Bidder considers any portion of its Bid to be Confidential Information, the Bidder is to mark the document as "confidential" and simultaneously provide the Department with a separate, redacted copy of its Bid. For each portion redacted, the Bidder is to briefly describe in writing the grounds for claiming exemption, including the specific statutory citation for such exemption. On the cover of the redacted copy, the Bidder is to provide its name and the Department's solicitation name and number and clearly title it, "Redacted Copy." Only portions of material that the Bidder claims are Confidential Information are to be redacted.

In accordance with section 119.0701, F.S., Bids are exempt from production in response to public records requests until such time as the Department provides notice of an intended decision or until 30 days after opening the Bids, whichever is earlier. After that time, the Department will provide the redacted copy, if any, in response to a public records request.

In the event of a request for public records pursuant to Chapter 119, F.S., the Florida Constitution, or other authority, to which documents that are marked as "confidential" are responsive, the Department will provide the redacted copy to the requestor. If a requestor asserts a right to the redacted Confidential Information, the Department will notify the Bidder such an assertion has been made. It is the Bidder's responsibility to take the appropriate legal action to assert that the information in question is exempt from disclosure under Chapter 119, F.S., or other applicable law.

If the Department becomes subject to a demand for discovery or disclosure of documents that are marked as “confidential” in a legal proceeding, the Department will give the Bidder notice of the demand or request. It will be the Bidder’s responsibility to take the appropriate legal action in response to the demand and to defend its claims of confidentiality. If the Bidder fails to take appropriate and timely action to protect the materials it has designated as Confidential Information, the Department will provide the unredacted materials to the requester.

By submitting a Bid, the Bidder agrees to protect, defend, and indemnify the Department for all claims arising from or relating to the Bidder’s determination that the redacted portions of its Bid are Confidential Information. If a Bidder fails to submit a redacted copy in accordance with this section, of information it claims is Confidential Information, the Department is authorized to produce the entire material submitted to the Department in response to a public records request for, or demand for discovery or disclosure of, these records.

20. Protests. Any protest concerning this solicitation shall be made in accordance with sections 120.57(3) and 287.042(2), F.S., and Chapter 28-110, F.A.C. Any communication not in accordance with these sections or the solicitation, including questions to the Procurement Officer, will not constitute formal notice of a protest.

3.4 How to Submit a Bid in MyFloridaMarketPlace

3.4.1 MFMP Registration

In order to submit questions regarding this procurement, and to submit a Bid, a Vendor must be registered in the MFMP Vendor Information Portal (VIP). After registering, the Vendor should log in to MFMP VIP using its username and password to ensure that its contact information is correct and that it has registered with the matching commodity code(s) of the MFMP Sourcing event. To participate in the procurement, a Vendor must also indicate its intent to participate in electronic solicitations in MFMP Sourcing on the ‘Solicitation Selections’ page of its MFMP VIP account.

If the Vendor is not currently registered with MFMP VIP, the Vendor must:

- a) Create an account through MFMP VIP.
- b) Within MFMP VIP, indicate on the ‘Solicitation Selections’ page that the Vendor wishes to participate in electronic solicitations.
- c) Within MFMP VIP, in the ‘Commodity Codes’ section, ensure that the Vendor has selected the matching commodity codes used in this procurement. VBS and MFMP Sourcing may provide automated notifications to the Vendor community, as a courtesy, based on commodity codes that are tied to a Vendor’s registration in MFMP VIP. Vendors with a commodity code that matches the commodity code of the MFMP Sourcing event will be able to ‘Join’ the MFMP Sourcing event. If a Vendor does not have a matching commodity code, VBS and MFMP Sourcing will not provide a courtesy notification and the Vendor will not be able to ‘Join’ the MFMP Sourcing event. Vendors will not receive notifications for procurements with commodity codes that they have not selected in their MFMP VIP account.

Vendors have the ability to access and update their registration in MFMP VIP by adding commodity codes to their Vendor account. Changes made in MFMP VIP, including new registrations, may take up to 24 hours to take effect.

The MFMP VIP is accessible at <https://vendor.myfloridamarketplace.com/>.

The Department strongly recommends the Vendor set its Microsoft Internet Explorer browser to compatibility mode while using MFMP applications. For more information regarding recommended internet browser settings, please visit https://www.dms.myflorida.com/business_operations/state_purchasing/myfloridamarketplace/mfmp_agency_customers/mfmp_university/job_aids

ALL VENDORS MUST 'JOIN' THE MFMP SOURCING EVENT PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT BID DATE LISTED IN THE TIMELINE OF EVENTS IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS SOLICITATION.

Once registered in MFMP, in order to 'Join' the MFMP Sourcing event, Vendors must:

- a) Have a current MFMP Vendor registration within MFMP VIP; and
- b) Select 'Yes' to participate in electronic sourcing events in MFMP Sourcing on the 'Solicitations' page of their MFMP VIP account.
- c) Within MFMP VIP, in the Commodity Selections section, ensure that the Vendor has selected the matching commodity code(s) used in this procurement. Vendors will not be able to join or receive notifications for procurements with Commodities Codes that they have not selected in their MFMP VIP account.

MFMP Sourcing is accessible at <https://sourcing.myfloridamarketplace.com>.

3.4.2 MFMP Sourcing Phases

A solicitation formally begins when the Department posts the solicitation on VBS. The Department will also publish the solicitation in MFMP Sourcing. Do not rely on MFMP Sourcing for notices of solicitation or agency decisions. VBS is the centralized procurement website designated by the Department for agency decisions or intended decisions. MFMP Sourcing is the application for submitting formal questions and Bids in response to the Department's solicitation. The answers to the formal questions will be posted on VBS.

The following are MFMP Sourcing phases:

Preview Status

When this solicitation is published as a 'Public Event' in MFMP Sourcing, it will initially exist in a 'Preview' status. During the 'Preview' status, Vendors without a matching commodity code can only preview the MFMP Sourcing event using the "Public Access" feature. Vendors with a matching commodity code can 'Join' the event, view and download solicitation documents, and accept the 'Bidder's Agreement.'

In accordance with the time stated on the Timeline of Events, Vendors may submit questions to the Procurement Officer in the 'Messages' tab of the MFMP Sourcing event, during the Preview status, after they have joined the event. The solicitation will remain in 'Preview' status until the 'Open' status begins.

Open Status

When a solicitation is in 'Open' status, all registered Vendors with a matching commodity code who 'Join' the MFMP Sourcing event and accept the 'Bidders Agreement' may submit Bids until the Bid due date and time listed in the 'Timeline of Events' section, above.

Pending Selection Status

After the Bid due date and time, the solicitation will enter 'Pending Selection' status. During this phase of the solicitation, the 'Pending Selection' tab will appear in MFMP Sourcing.

Completed Status

If the tab in MFMP Sourcing indicates 'Completed,' either an agency decision or an intended decision has been posted on VBS. However, do not rely on MFMP Sourcing for this information. VBS is the centralized procurement website for the posting of agency decisions.

3.4.3 MFMP Training

MFMP University offers Vendor training materials on a variety of topics, including Vendor Registration and Selecting Commodity Codes; training materials are accessible at https://www.dms.myflorida.com/business_operations/state_purchasing/myfloridamarketplace/mfmp_vendors/training_for_vendors.

It is highly recommended that Vendors review the training for 'Responding to Electronic Solicitations' provided at https://www.dms.myflorida.com/business_operations/state_purchasing/myfloridamarketplace/mfmp_agency_customers/mfmp_university/course_catalog.

3.4.4 MFMP Assistance

Vendors needing assistance with using MFMP may contact the MFMP Customer Service Desk Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. ET, at 866-352-3776 or email at VendorHelp@myfloridamarketplace.com.

3.5 Modification or Withdrawal of Bid

Bidders are responsible for the content and accuracy of their Bids. A Bidder may modify or withdraw its Bid in MFMP Sourcing at any time prior to the Bid due date and time set forth in the 'Timeline of Events' section.

3.6 Cost of Bid Preparation

The costs related to the development and submission of a Bid are the full responsibility of the Bidder and are not chargeable to the Department.

3.7 Independent Preparation

A Bidder shall not, directly or indirectly, collude, consult, communicate or agree with any other Bidder as to any matter related to the bid each is submitting. Additionally, a Bidder shall not induce any other Bidder to modify, withdraw, submit, or not submit a bid.

3.8 False or Erroneous Information

A Bidder who submits false or erroneous information may be deemed non-responsive and not awarded a Contract. If the Bidder's Bid is found to contain false or erroneous information after Contract award, the Contract may be terminated, and the Department may pursue any other legal action available.

ITB ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A, Draft Contract (including the attachments thereto)
Attachment B, Responsive Requirements

Attachment C, Product Group Discount Sheet
Attachment D, Certification of Drug-Free Workplace
Attachment E, MSRP Certification

Required Documents to be submitted by vendor prior to ITB opening

Vendor signed Attachment B, Responsive Requirements
Vendor completed Attachment C, Product Group Discount Sheet
Vendor completed and signed Attachment E, MSRP Certification