



**Solicitation Information  
March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**RFP# 7602845**

**TITLE: Clean Energy Non-Wires Solutions Technical Consulting and Inspection Services**

**Submission Deadline: April 15, 2020 10:30 am (Eastern Time)**

**PRE-BID/ PROPOSAL CONFERENCE: NO**

Questions concerning this solicitation must be received by the Division of Purchases at [Max.Rightier@purchasing.ri.gov](mailto:Max.Rightier@purchasing.ri.gov) no later than **March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 at 5:00 pm (EST)**. Questions should be submitted in a *Microsoft Word attachment*. Please reference the RFP# on all correspondence. Questions received, if any, will be posted on the Division of Purchases' website as an addendum to this solicitation. It is the responsibility of all interested parties to download this information.

**BID SURETY BOND REQUIRED: NO**

**PAYMENT AND PERFORMANCE BOND REQUIRED: NO**

Max Rightier, Senior Buyer

**Note to Applicants:**

- Applicants must register on-line at the State Purchasing Website at [www.purchasing.ri.gov](http://www.purchasing.ri.gov)
- Proposals received without a completed RIVIP Bidder Certification Cover Form attached may result in disqualification.

**THIS PAGE IS NOT A BIDDER CERTIFICATION COVER FORM**

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## SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION

The Rhode Island Department of Administration/Division of Purchases, on behalf of the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (“OER”), is soliciting proposals from qualified firms to provide technical consulting services to evaluate project proposals for clean energy non-wires solutions, in accordance with the terms of this Request for Proposals (“RFP”) and the State’s General Conditions of Purchase, which may be obtained at the Division of Purchases’ website at [www.purchasing.ri.gov](http://www.purchasing.ri.gov).

The initial contract period will begin approximately April 1, 2020 for one year. Contracts may be renewed for up to four additional 12-month periods based on vendor performance and the availability of funds.

This is a Request for Proposals, not a Request for Quotes. Responses will be evaluated on the basis of the relative merits of the proposal, in addition to cost; there will be no public opening and reading of responses received by the Division of Purchases pursuant to this solicitation, other than to name those offerors who have submitted proposals.

### **Instructions and Notifications to Offerors**

1. Potential vendors are advised to review all sections of this RFP carefully and to follow instructions completely, as failure to make a complete submission as described elsewhere herein may result in rejection of the proposal.
2. Alternative approaches and/or methodologies to accomplish the desired or intended results of this RFP are solicited. However, proposals which depart from or materially alter the terms, requirements, or scope of work defined by this RFP may be rejected as being non-responsive.
3. All costs associated with developing or submitting a proposal in response to this RFP or for providing oral or written clarification of its content, shall be borne by the vendor. The State assumes no responsibility for these costs even if the RFP is cancelled or continued.
4. Proposals are considered to be irrevocable for a period of not less than 180 days following the opening date, and may not be withdrawn, except with the express written permission of the State Purchasing Agent.
5. All pricing submitted will be considered to be firm and fixed unless otherwise indicated in the proposal.
6. It is intended that an award pursuant to this RFP will be made to a prime vendor, or prime vendors in the various categories, who will assume responsibility for all aspects of the work. Subcontracts are permitted, provided that their use is clearly indicated in the vendor’s proposal and the subcontractor(s) to be used is identified in the proposal.
7. The purchase of goods and/or services under an award made pursuant to this RFP will be contingent on the availability of appropriated funds.

8. Vendors are advised that all materials submitted to the Division of Purchases for consideration in response to this RFP may be considered to be public records as defined in R. I. Gen. Laws § 38-2-1, *et seq.* and may be released for inspection upon request once an award has been made.

Any information submitted in response to this RFP that a vendor believes are trade secrets or commercial or financial information which is of a privileged or confidential nature should be clearly marked as such. The vendor should provide a brief explanation as to why each portion of information that is marked should be withheld from public disclosure. Vendors are advised that the Division of Purchases may release records marked confidential by a vendor upon a public records request if the State determines the marked information does not fall within the category of trade secrets or commercial or financial information which is of a privileged or confidential nature.

9. Interested parties are instructed to peruse the Division of Purchases website on a regular basis, as additional information relating to this solicitation may be released in the form of an addendum to this RFP.
10. By submission of proposals in response to this RFP vendors agree to comply with R. I. General Laws § 28-5.1-10 which mandates that contractors/subcontractors doing business with the State of Rhode Island exercise the same commitment to equal opportunity as prevails under Federal contracts controlled by Federal Executive Orders 11246, 11625 and 11375.

Vendors are required to ensure that they, and any subcontractors awarded a subcontract under this RFP, undertake or continue programs to ensure that minority group members, women, and persons with disabilities are afforded equal employment opportunities without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, national origin, or disability.

Vendors and subcontractors who do more than \$10,000 in government business in one year are prohibited from engaging in employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, national origin, or disability, and are required to submit an “Affirmative Action Policy Statement.”

Vendors with 50 or more employees and \$50,000 or more in government contracts must prepare a written “Affirmative Action Plan” prior to issuance of a purchase order.

- a. For these purposes, equal opportunity shall apply in the areas of recruitment, employment, job assignment, promotion, upgrading, demotion, transfer, layoff, termination, and rates of pay or other forms of compensation.
- b. Vendors further agree, where applicable, to complete the “Contract Compliance Report” (<http://odeo.ri.gov/documents/odeo-eeo-contract-compliance-report.pdf>), as well as the “Certificate of Compliance” (<http://odeo.ri.gov/documents/odeo-eeo-certificate-of-compliance.pdf>), and submit both documents, along with their Affirmative Action Plan or an Affirmative Action Policy Statement, prior to issuance of a purchase order. For public works projects vendors and all subcontractors must submit a “Monthly Utilization Report” (<http://odeo.ri.gov/documents/monthly-employment->

[utilization-report-form.xlsx](#)) to the ODEO/State Equal Opportunity Office, which identifies the workforce actually utilized on the project.

For further information, contact Vilma Peguero at the Rhode Island Equal Employment Opportunity Office, at 222-3090 or via e-mail at [ODEO.EOO@doa.ri.gov](mailto:ODEO.EOO@doa.ri.gov).

11. In accordance with R. I. Gen. Laws § 7-1.2-1401 no foreign corporation has the right to transact business in Rhode Island until it has procured a certificate of authority so to do from the Secretary of State. This is a requirement only of the successful vendor(s). For further information, contact the Secretary of State at (401-222-3040).
12. In accordance with R. I. Gen. Laws §§ 37-14.1-1 and 37-2.2-1 it is the policy of the State to support the fullest possible participation of firms owned and controlled by minorities (MBEs) and women (WBEs) and to support the fullest possible participation of small disadvantaged businesses owned and controlled by persons with disabilities (Disability Business Enterprises a/k/a “DisBE”)(collectively, MBEs, WBEs, and DisBEs are referred to herein as ISBEs) in the performance of State procurements and projects. As part of the evaluation process, vendors will be scored and receive points based upon their proposed ISBE utilization rate in accordance with 150-RICR-90-10-1, “Regulations Governing Participation by Small Business Enterprises in State Purchases of Goods and Services and Public Works Projects”. As a condition of contract award vendors shall agree to meet or exceed their proposed ISBE utilization rate and that the rate shall apply to the total contract price, inclusive of all modifications and amendments. Vendors shall submit their ISBE participation rate on the enclosed form entitled “MBE, WBE and/or DisBE Plan Form”, which shall be submitted in a separate, sealed envelope as part of the proposal. ISBE participation credit will only be granted for ISBEs that are duly certified as MBEs or WBEs by the State of Rhode Island, Department of Administration, Office of Diversity, Equity and Opportunity or firms certified as DisBEs by the Governor’s Commission on Disabilities. The current directory of firms certified as MBEs or WBEs may be accessed at <http://odeo.ri.gov/offices/mbeco/mbe-wbe.php>. Information regarding DisBEs may be accessed at [www.gcd.ri.gov](http://www.gcd.ri.gov).

For further information, visit the Office of Diversity, Equity & Opportunity’s website, at <http://odeo.ri.gov/> and *see* R.I. Gen. Laws Ch. 37-14.1, R.I. Gen. Laws Ch. 37-2.2, and 150-RICR-90-10-1. The Office of Diversity, Equity & Opportunity may be contacted at, (401) 574-8670 or via email [Dorinda.Keene@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Dorinda.Keene@doa.ri.gov)

## **SECTION 2. BACKGROUND**

The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER) is making available \$500,000 in financial incentives to support the adoption of clean energy-based non-wires solutions for Municipal-Centric Utilities in Rhode Island – Pascoag Utility District and Block Island Utility District. These funds are being made available thanks to the state’s participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiatives (RGGI).

Non-wires solutions use clean energy technologies to address electric grid needs. Clean energy technologies can include solar PV, energy efficiency and conservation, demand response, and other renewable energy systems, either alone or in combination. Non-wires solutions can help the grid deliver electricity to homes and businesses when electricity demand is highest, sometimes at a lower cost than upgrading the traditional wires, transformers, and substations. Non-wires solutions can also provide clean renewable energy, which reduces our greenhouse gas emissions relative to the default electricity supply.

Specifically, through this initiative, OER will make available financial incentives to support associated equipment and construction costs of clean energy non-wires solution(s) owned and operated by the utility and/or associated services under ownership of a third-party solution provider. In all cases, approved incentives will be provided directly to the utility upon review and approval of OER, subject to program terms and conditions.

OER’s financial incentives are designed to decrease the total investment cost of grid solutions by promoting cost-effective clean energy non-wires solutions in municipal utility districts, therefore increasing the adoption of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Applications for financial incentives will be accepted on a rolling basis. OER, working with the selected vendor, will evaluate project proposals. The selected vendor will specifically assist in evaluating project proposals for technical merit, likelihood of success in addressing the applicant-specified distribution grid need, reasonableness of project costs, and estimation of project benefits. The selected vendor will also conduct an inspection of the completed project. An inspection is defined as an on-site assessment of the project by a licensed electrician of an installed system to determine compliance with appropriate codes, including provision of required labeling and operating instructions, and to verify that the system components have been installed with the specifications provided. Inspections include a final report for each project which is submitted to OER detailing the inspection findings.

## **SECTION 3: SCOPE OF WORK AND REQUIREMENTS**

### **General Scope of Work**

The selected vendor will work with OER to evaluate clean energy non-wires solution project proposals and inspect installed projects.

## **Task 1 – Evaluate Project Proposals**

The selected vendor will work with OER to evaluate and score project proposals submitted by applicants for financial incentives. The application includes descriptions of grid needs, proposed clean energy non-wires solution, how the clean energy non-wires solution addresses the grid need, the alternative traditional wires solution, cost comparison, and project timeline. Additional technical documentation including but not limited to all appropriate electrical diagrams and spec sheets for major components, supplied by the applicant.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, with grant funding awarded to successful applications on a first-come, first-served basis. Each complete application will be reviewed by OER, working with the selected vendor, and scored for the following criteria:

1. The applicant adequately responds to the application.
2. The proposed project demonstrates a high likelihood of success of addressing the grid need.
3. The grant request, matching funds, and total project cost are reasonable.
4. The application demonstrates reasonably anticipated benefits, such as benefits to ratepayers, to the electric grid, or to the environment.

Each criterion will be assessed on a scale of zero to 25 points, with applicants required to meet a certain threshold of points to be awarded grant funding. Applicants will be notified of decisions within four weeks of the date of their complete application submission.

The selected vendor will be expected to review proposed projects in a timely manner, including requesting additional information from the applicant via OER, documenting merits and concerns of the proposed project, communicating with OER, and recommending a numerical score for each evaluation criterion.

## **Task 2 – Inspect Completed Projects**

The selected vendor will be responsible for conducting an inspection of each proposed project when it is installed, and document findings in an inspection report. The vendor may be required to conduct site visits pre-construction, during construction, and/or post-construction. The inspection report should include any necessary changes to the installed project to comply with relevant codes and ensure the project is able to address the specified grid needs from the project application. The selected vendor should determine whether the installed project is complete, as sufficient to disburse a portion of financial incentives to the applicant. Up to, but no more than, two site visits will be required for each project.

The selected vendor must demonstrate ability to inspect solar PV projects, other renewable energy non-PV projects, and energy storage projects. Such projects may range from small-scale (e.g. distributed energy resources that are aggregated to address grid needs) to utility-scale (e.g. large renewable energy systems or energy storage systems co-located with other utility infrastructure).

### **Task 3 – Miscellaneous technical consulting**

The selected vendor may be called on by OER for additional miscellaneous technical consulting related to clean energy non-wires solutions, including but not limited to evaluating change orders or revisions to proposed projects, reviewing documentation of procurement of equipment or services, reviewing contracts or memoranda of understanding, assisting OER with determining post-commissioning project reporting requirements, and/or analyzing data of project operations and determining project impacts. This work may include both remote and in-person meetings between the selected consultant, OER, and applicants.

#### **Requirements**

Renewable energy inspectors must hold professional licenses or certifications in the appropriate fields, as applicable. To ensure objectivity, OER will give preference to applicants who are not actively installing systems in Rhode Island. Inspectors with the following backgrounds are preferred, if accompanied by appropriate formal training in the relevant technologies:

- Professional Engineers
- Retired or inactive master electricians
- Home Inspectors
- Vocational School/community college instructors

It is preferred, but not required, that inspectors have received or are in the process of attaining the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) PV System Inspector Board Certification.

The selected consultant will need to demonstrate:

- Experience and technical knowledge necessary to perform commercial scale solar PV project inspections
- Ability to present information and speak clearly in order to articulate difficult concepts to a wide audience, including the general public
- Ability to use equipment and software necessary to perform independent shading analyses
- Experience with writing reports
- Demonstrated ability to analyze data and summarize findings
- Demonstrated understanding of Rhode Island renewable energy incentive programs
- Demonstrated understanding and/or experience with the Rhode Island Building and Electrical Codes.
- Ability to climb ladders to inspect renewable energy systems
- Sufficient flexibility in their schedule to respond to requests for site inspections within 10 (ten) business days
- Inspectors of PV systems who are licensed electricians with the following experience and credentials may be given preference:



- Significant experience with PV system installations
- Good working knowledge of the 2017 and 2020 National Electric Codes

## SECTION 4: PROPOSAL

### A. Technical Proposal

Narrative and format: The proposal should address specifically each of the following elements:

1. **Staff and Company Qualifications** – Applicant should provide information on company history, length of time in business, organizational capacity & staff, core competencies. The applicant must show evidence that:
  - References and prior work demonstrate the applicant’s ability to provide superior modeling analyses and technical support.
  - Shows clarity of team management structure, the availability of senior staff to supervise and contribute to the proposed work, and ability to schedule and complete inspections in a timely fashion
  - The firm has personnel capacity and organizational resources well suited to the scope of the RFP.
  - The applicant has completed similar projects and is qualified to undertake the scope of work outlined in the RFP
  - Staff resumes/CV and describe qualifications and experience of key staff who will be involved in this project. Describe their duties, responsibilities, and concentration of effort applying to each task.
  - Copies of any relevant certifications, including but not limited to electrical licenses, NABCEP certifications, etc.
2. **Capability, Capacity, and Qualifications of the Offeror** - Application should provide the information below:
  - Reference Information: Provide names, addresses, telephone numbers and permission to contact two former or current clients who do not work for the State of Rhode Island for which your organization has performed similar work outlined in the Scope of Work in the last two years.
  - Past Experience: Describe your experience with similar work for governmental agencies and/or businesses in the New England region. Include any experience working in Rhode Island. Also, include details of any trainings your company has offered in the past to the solar industry, municipal inspectors, and/or building inspectors, including curriculum.
  - Examples of Prior Work: If possible, reference two or three examples of previous projects that best display your work and outline the role your firm played in each project.
3. **Work Plan** - Please describe in detail the plans to meet all of the work outlined in Tasks 1-3.
4. **Approach/Methodology** – The applicant should discuss the approach to each task in Scope of Work. Provide information on experience and ability to perform inspections, summarize findings, and produce study results with the relevant technologies. Indicate ability to complete the scope of work within the established timeframe.

## **B. Cost Proposal**

The cost proposal must include estimated costs to evaluate and inspect one clean energy non-wires project.

The bidder should specify the estimated number of hours, hourly rate, and total cost for evaluating one proposed project as described in Task 1.

The bidder should specify the estimated number of hours, hourly rate, and total cost for inspecting one installed project as described in Task 2.

The bidder should specify an hourly rate for miscellaneous technical consulting as described in Task 3. In calculating the total cost proposal for Task 3, the bidder should assume 10 hours for one project.

The total cost proposal should sum the costs to complete Tasks 1-3 for one project.

Please note reasons why actual billed costs may vary, such as due to differences in costs for evaluating or inspecting different technologies, and specify the cost per technology.

## **C. ISBE Proposal**

See Appendix A for information and the MBE, WBE, and/or Disability Business Enterprise Participation Plan form(s). Bidders are required to complete, sign and submit these forms with their overall proposal in a sealed envelope. Please complete separate forms for each MBE, WBE and/or Disability Business Enterprise subcontractor/supplier to be utilized on the solicitation.

## **SECTION 5: EVALUATION AND SELECTION**

Proposals shall be reviewed by a technical evaluation committee (“TEC”) comprised of staff from State agencies. The TEC first shall consider technical proposals.

Technical proposals must receive a minimum of 60 (85.7%) out of a maximum of 70 points to advance to the cost evaluation phase. Any technical proposals scoring less than 60 points shall not have the accompanying cost or ISBE participation proposals opened and evaluated. The proposal will be dropped from further consideration.

Technical proposals scoring 60 points or higher will have the cost proposals evaluated and assigned up to a maximum of 30 points in cost category bringing the total potential evaluation score to 100 points. After total possible evaluation points are determined ISBE proposals shall be evaluated and assigned up to 6 bonus points for ISBE participation.

The Division of Purchases reserves the right to select the vendor(s) or firm(s) (“vendor”) that it deems to be most qualified to provide the goods and/or services as specified herein; and, conversely, reserves the right to cancel the solicitation in its entirety in its sole discretion.

Proposals shall be reviewed and scored based upon the following criteria:

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
Staff Qualifications	15 Points
Capability, Capacity, and Qualifications of the Offeror	15 Points
Work Plan	20 Points
Approach Proposed	20 Points
<b>Total Possible Technical Points</b>	<b>70 Points</b>
Cost proposal*	30 Points
<b>Total Possible Evaluation Points</b>	<b>100 Points</b>
ISBE Participation**	6 Bonus Points
<b>Total Possible Points</b>	<b>106 Points</b>

**\*Cost Proposal Evaluation:**

The vendor with the lowest cost proposal shall receive one hundred percent (100%) of the available points for cost. All other vendors shall be awarded cost points based upon the following formula:

$$(\text{lowest cost proposal} / \text{vendor's cost proposal}) \times \text{available points}$$

For example: If the vendor with the lowest cost proposal (Vendor A) bids \$65,000 and Vendor B bids \$100,000 for monthly costs and service fees and the total points available are thirty (30), Vendor B's cost points are calculated as follows:

$$\$65,000 / \$100,000 \times 30 = 19.5$$

**\*\*ISBE Participation Evaluation:**

a. Calculation of ISBE Participation Rate

1. ISBE Participation Rate for Non-ISBE Vendors. The ISBE participation rate for non-ISBE vendors shall be expressed as a percentage and shall be calculated by dividing the amount of non-ISBE vendor's total contract price that will be subcontracted to ISBEs by the non-ISBE vendor's total contract price. For example if the non-ISBE's total contract price is \$100,000.00 and it subcontracts a total of \$12,000.00 to ISBEs, the non-ISBE's ISBE participation rate would be 12%.
2. ISBE Participation Rate for ISBE Vendors. The ISBE participation rate for ISBE vendors shall be expressed as a percentage and shall be calculated by dividing the amount of the ISBE vendor's total contract price that will be subcontracted to ISBEs and the amount that will be self-performed by the ISBE vendor by the ISBE vendor's total

contract price. For example if the ISBE vendor's total contract price is \$100,000.00 and it subcontracts a total of \$12,000.00 to ISBEs and will perform a total of \$8,000.00 of the work itself, the ISBE vendor's ISBE participation rate would be 20%.

b. Points for ISBE Participation Rate:

The vendor with the highest ISBE participation rate shall receive the maximum ISBE participation points. All other vendors shall receive ISBE participation points by applying the following formula:

$$\begin{aligned} & (\text{Vendor's ISBE participation rate} \div \text{Highest ISBE participation rate}) \\ & \times \text{Maximum ISBE participation points} \end{aligned}$$

For example, assuming the weight given by the RFP to ISBE participation is 6 points, if Vendor A has the highest ISBE participation rate at 20% and Vendor B's ISBE participation rate is 12%, Vendor A will receive the maximum 6 points and Vendor B will receive  $(12\% \div 20\%) \times 6$  which equals 3.6 points.

**General Evaluation:**

Points shall be assigned based on the vendor's clear demonstration of the ability to provide the requested goods and/or services. Vendors may be required to submit additional written information or be asked to make an oral presentation before the TEC to clarify statements made in the proposal.

**SECTION 6. QUESTIONS**

Questions concerning this solicitation must be e-mailed to the Division of Purchases at [Max.Rightier@purchasing.ri.gov](mailto:Max.Rightier@purchasing.ri.gov) no later than the date and time indicated on page one of this solicitation. No other contact with State parties is permitted. Please reference **RFP # 7602845** on all correspondence. Questions should be submitted in writing in a Microsoft Word attachment in a narrative format with no tables. Answers to questions received, if any, shall be posted on the Division of Purchases' website as an addendum to this solicitation. It is the responsibility of all interested parties to monitor the Division of Purchases website for any procurement related postings such as addenda. If technical assistance is required, call the Help Desk at (401) 574-8100.

**SECTION 7. PROPOSAL CONTENTS**

A. Proposals shall include the following:

1. One completed and signed RIVIP Bidder Certification Cover Form (included in the original copy only) downloaded from the Division of Purchases website at [www.purchasing.ri.gov](http://www.purchasing.ri.gov). *Do not include any copies in the Technical or Cost proposals.*
2. One completed and signed Rhode Island W-9 (included in the original copy only) downloaded from the Division of Purchases website at [/documents/Forms/Misc Forms/13 RI Version of IRS W-9 Form.docx](#). *Do not include any copies in the Technical or Cost proposals.*
3. Two (2) completed original and copy versions, signed and sealed Appendix A. MBE,

WBE, and/or Disability Business Enterprise Participation Plan. Please complete separate forms for each MBE/WBE or Disability Business Enterprise subcontractor/supplier to be utilized on the solicitation. *Do not include any copies in the Technical or Cost proposals.*

4. Technical Proposal - describing the qualifications and background of the applicant and experience with and for similar projects, and all information described earlier in this solicitation. The technical proposal is limited to ten (10) pages (this excludes any appendices and as appropriate, resumes of key staff that will provide services covered by this request).
  - a. One (1) Electronic copy on a CD-R, marked “Technical Proposal - Original”.
  - b. One (1) printed paper copy, marked “Technical Proposal -Original” and signed.
  - c. Four (4) printed paper copies
5. Cost Proposal - A separate, signed and sealed cost proposal reflecting the hourly rate, or other fee structure, proposed to complete all of the requirements of this project.
  - a. One (1) Electronic copy on a CD-R, marked “Cost Proposal -Original”.
  - b. One (1) printed paper copy, marked “Cost Proposal -Original” and signed.
  - c. Four (4) printed paper copies

**B. Formatting of proposal response contents should consist of the following:**

- A. Formatting of CD-Rs – Separate CD-Rs are required for the technical proposal and cost proposal. All CD-Rs submitted must be labeled with:
  - a. Vendor’s name
  - b. RFP #
  - c. RFP Title
  - d. Proposal type (e.g., technical proposal or cost proposal)
  - e. If file sizes require more than one CD-R, multiple CD-Rs are acceptable. Each CD-R must include the above labeling and additional labeling of how many CD-Rs should be accounted for (e.g., 3 CD-Rs are submitted for a technical proposal and each CD-R should have additional label of ‘1 of 3’ on first CD-R, ‘2 of 3’ on second CD-R, ‘3 of 3’ on third CD-R).

Vendors are responsible for testing their CD-Rs before submission as the Division of Purchase’s inability to open or read a CD-R may be grounds for rejection of a Vendor’s proposal. All files should be readable and readily accessible on the CD-Rs submitted with no instructions to download files from any external resource(s). If a file is partial, corrupt or unreadable, the Division of Purchases may consider it “non-responsive”. USB Drives or any other electronic media shall not be accepted. Please note that CD-Rs submitted, shall not be returned.

**B. Formatting of written documents and printed copies:**

- a. For clarity, the technical proposal shall be typed. These documents shall be single-spaced with 1” margins on white 8.5”x 11” paper using a font of 12 point Calibri or 12 point Times New Roman.
- b. All pages on the technical proposal are to be sequentially numbered in the footer, starting with number 1 on the first page of the narrative (this does not include the cover page or table of contents) through to the end, including all forms and

attachments. The Vendor's name should appear on every page, including attachments. Each attachment should be referenced appropriately within the proposal section and the attachment title should reference the proposal section it is applicable to.

- c. The cost proposal shall be typed using the formatting provided on the provided template.
- d. Printed copies are to be only bound with removable binder clips.

## **SECTION 8. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION**

Interested vendors must submit proposals to provide the goods and/or services covered by this RFP on or before the date and time listed on the cover page of this solicitation. Responses received after this date and time, as registered by the official time clock in the reception area of the Division of Purchases, shall not be accepted.

Proposals should be mailed or hand-delivered in a sealed envelope marked “**RFP# 7602845**” to:

RI Dept. of Administration  
Division of Purchases, 2nd floor  
One Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02908-5855

NOTE: Proposals received after the above-referenced due date and time shall not be accepted. Proposals misdirected to other State locations or those not presented to the Division of Purchases by the scheduled due date and time shall be determined to be late and shall not be accepted. Proposals faxed, or emailed, to the Division of Purchases shall not be accepted. The official time clock is in the reception area of the Division of Purchases.

## **SECTION 9. CONCLUDING STATEMENTS**

Notwithstanding the above, the Division of Purchases reserves the right to award on the basis of cost alone, to accept or reject any or all proposals, and to award in the State's best interest.

Proposals found to be technically or substantially non-responsive at any point in the evaluation process will be rejected and not considered further.

If a Vendor is selected for an award, no work is to commence until a purchase order is issued by the Division of Purchases.

The State's General Conditions of Purchase contain the specific contract terms, stipulations and affirmations to be utilized for the contract awarded for this RFP. The State's General Conditions of Purchases can be found at the following URL: <https://rules.sos.ri.gov/regulations/part/220-30-00-13>

## **APPENDIX A. PROPOSER ISBE RESPONSIBILITIES AND MBE, WBE, AND/OR DISABILITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PARTICIPATION FORM**

### **A. Proposer's ISBE Responsibilities (from 150-RICR-90-10-1.7.E)**

1. Proposal of ISBE Participation Rate. Unless otherwise indicated in the RFP, a Proposer must submit its proposed ISBE Participation Rate in a sealed envelope or via sealed electronic submission at the time it submits its proposed total contract price. The Proposer shall be responsible for completing and submitting all standard forms adopted pursuant to 105-RICR-90-10-1.9 and submitting all substantiating documentation as reasonably requested by either the Using Agency's MBE/WBE Coordinator, Division, ODEO, or Governor's Commission on Disabilities including but not limited to the names and contact information of all proposed subcontractors and the dollar amounts that correspond with each proposed subcontract.
2. Failure to Submit ISBE Participation Rate. Any Proposer that fails to submit a proposed ISBE Participation Rate or any requested substantiating documentation in a timely manner shall receive zero (0) ISBE participation points.
3. Execution of Proposed ISBE Participation Rate. Proposers shall be evaluated and scored based on the amounts and rates submitted in their proposals. If awarded the contract, Proposers shall be required to achieve their proposed ISBE Participation Rates. During the life of the contract, the Proposer shall be responsible for submitting all substantiating documentation as reasonably requested by the Using Agency's MBE/WBE Coordinator, Division, ODEO, or Governor's Commission on Disabilities including but not limited to copies of purchase orders, subcontracts, and cancelled checks.
4. Change Orders. If during the life of the contract, a change order is issued by the Division, the Proposer shall notify the ODEO of the change as soon as reasonably possible. Proposers are required to achieve their proposed ISBE Participation Rates on any change order amounts.
5. Notice of Change to Proposed ISBE Participation Rate. If during the life of the contract, the Proposer becomes aware that it will be unable to achieve its proposed ISBE Participation Rate, it must notify the Division and ODEO as soon as reasonably possible. The Division, in consultation with ODEO and Governor's Commission on Disabilities, and the Proposer may agree to a modified ISBE Participation Rate provided that the change in circumstances was beyond the control of the Proposer or the direct result of an unanticipated reduction in the overall total project cost.

### **B. MBE, WBE, AND/OR Disability Business Enterprise Participation Plan Form:**

Attached is the MBE, WBE, and/or Disability Business Enterprise Participation Plan form. Bidders are required to complete, sign and submit with their overall proposal in a sealed envelope. Please complete separate forms for each MBE, WBE and/or Disability Business Enterprise subcontractor/supplier to be utilized on the solicitation.



**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION  
ONE CAPITOL HILL  
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02908**

**MBE, WBE, and/or DISABILITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PARTICIPATION PLAN**

Bidder's Name:

Bidder's Address:

Point of Contact:

Telephone:

Email:

Solicitation No.:

Project Name:

This form is intended to capture commitments between the prime contractor/vendor and MBE/WBE and/or Disability Business Enterprise subcontractors and suppliers, including a description of the work to be performed and the percentage of the work as submitted to the prime contractor/vendor. Please note that all MBE/WBE subcontractors/suppliers must be certified by the Office of Diversity, Equity and Opportunity MBE Compliance Office and all Disability Business Enterprises must be certified by the Governor's Commission on Disabilities at time of bid, and that MBE/WBE and Disability Business Enterprise subcontractors must self-perform 100% of the work or subcontract to another RI certified MBE in order to receive participation credit. Vendors may count 60% of expenditures for materials and supplies obtained from an MBE certified as a regular dealer/supplier, and 100% of such expenditures obtained from an MBE certified as a manufacturer. This form must be completed in its entirety and submitted at time of bid. **Please complete separate forms for each MBE/WBE or Disability Business Enterprise subcontractor/supplier to be utilized on the solicitation.**

Name of Subcontractor/Supplier:			
Type of RI Certification:	<input type="checkbox"/> MBE	<input type="checkbox"/> WBE	<input type="checkbox"/> Disability Business Enterprise
Address:			
Point of Contact:			
Telephone:			
Email:			
Detailed Description of Work To Be Performed by Subcontractor or Materials to be Supplied by Supplier:			
Total Contract Value (\$):		Subcontract Value (\$):	ISBE Participation Rate (%):
Anticipated Date of Performance:			

I certify under penalty of perjury that the forgoing statements are true and correct.

<b>Prime Contractor/Vendor Signature</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Subcontractor/Supplier Signature</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>