

Protection of Proprietary Information and Trade Secrets

Data contained in any bid (hereinafter "Submission") and all documentation provided therein, become the property of the City of Lincoln/Lancaster County. Upon receipt of any Submission by the City of Lincoln/Lancaster County, all data and documentation becomes a public record and is subject to disclosure by the City of Lincoln/Lancaster County to any party initiating a public records request under Nebraska Revised Statutes § 84-712 et seq. In response to a public records request, the City of Lincoln/Lancaster County may include the entire response. The City of Lincoln/Lancaster County has no duty to protect proprietary or commercial information and/or trade secrets.

If the Bidder wishes to have any information withheld from a public records request, such information must fall within the definition of "proprietary or commercial information" contained within Nebraska Public Records Statutes as defined by Nebraska Revised Statute § 84-712.05(3) and/or must be considered "trade secrets" as defined by Nebraska Revised Statutes §§ 87-501 to 87-507. Any and all information the Bidder wishes the City of Lincoln/Lancaster County to withhold from public disclosure must be submitted in the City/County E-bid system as a Response Attachment with the following information:

- 1) Is clearly marked "*proprietary or commercial information*" and/or "*trade secrets*" on the title of the document and the file attached;
- 2) Individually identifies each separate page as confidential;
- 3) Contains supporting documentation specifically enumerating why the information in such documents are marked and qualify as proprietary or commercial information/trade secrets. Under Nebraska law, in order for such information to be protected, the information, if released, would give competitors an advantage *and* serve no public purpose.

**FAILURE TO STRICTLY COMPLY WITH THESE INSTRUCTIONS WILL RESULT IN DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION DECLARED BY THE BIDDER TO BE PROPRIETARY OR COMMERCIAL INFORMATION AND/OR TRADE SECRETS.
NO NOTICE OF FAILURE TO COMPLY WILL BE PROVIDED.**

If the instructions above for designating proprietary or commercial information and/or trade secrets are strictly followed, the City of Lincoln/Lancaster County will provide the bidder with reasonable notice that a public records request has been made that may include the information designated as proprietary and commercial or a trade secret. It is the sole responsibility of the Bidder to take actions necessary to protect the information claimed as proprietary or commercial, or a trade secret.

Bidders may not mark their entire Submission as *proprietary or commercial information and/or trade secrets*. Bid pricing may not be marked as proprietary or commercial information/trade secrets, and are deemed to be a public record in the State of Nebraska. Failure of the Bidder to follow the instructions for submitting proprietary or commercial information/trade secrets may result in the material being viewed by other bidders and/or the public.

"Proprietary or commercial information" is defined as trade secrets, academic and scientific research work which is in progress and unpublished, and other information which if released would give advantage to business competitors and serve no public purpose. (see Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-712.05(3)).

"Trade Secrets" is defined as information, including, but not limited to, a drawing, formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique, code, or process that:
Derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being known to, and not being ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use; and Is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy.
(See Neb. Rev. Stat. § 87-502 (4)(a)(b))

In accordance with the Nebraska Attorney General Opinions 92068 and 97033, Bidders submitting information as proprietary or commercial information/trade secrets may be required to prove specific competitor(s) by name who would be advantaged by release of the information and the specific advantage the competitor(s) would receive.