



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY**

**Invitation for Bid #: 73-RFQ00595**

**Printed Mailers (Accept Packet)**

**Date of Issue: 06/14/2021**

**Bid Opening Date: 06/25/2021**

**At 2:00 pm ET**

Direct all inquiries concerning this RFQ to:

Brent Russ

Purchasing Specialist

Email: [bdruss@wcu.edu](mailto:bdruss@wcu.edu)

Phone: 828-227-7203



## STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

### Request for Quote #

**73-RFQ00595**

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For internal State agency processing, please provide your company's Federal Employer Identification Number or alternate identification number (e.g. Social Security Number). Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 132-1.10(b) this identification number shall not be released to the public. **This page will be removed and shredded, or otherwise kept confidential**, before the procurement file is made available for public inspection.

**This page is to be filled out and returned with your quote.**

**ID Number:**

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Federal ID Number or Social Security Number

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Vendor Name



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY**

**PURCHASING DEPARTMENT**

**301 H F ROBINSON BLDG**

**CULLOWHEE, NC 28723**

Refer <u>ALL</u> Inquiries regarding this RFQ to:  <b>Brent Russ</b> <b>Purchasing Department</b> <b>Western Carolina University</b> <b>Phone: 828-227-7203</b> <b>Fax: 828-227-7444</b> <b>Email: bdruss@wcu.edu</b>	<b>Request for Quote # 73-RFQ00595</b>
	<b>Quotes will be publicly opened: 06/25/2021 @ 2:00pm ET</b>
	<b>Contract Type: Open Market</b>
	<b>Commodity No. and Description: Printed Mailers (Accept Packet)</b>
	<b>Using Agency: Western Carolina University</b>
	<b>Requisition No.:</b>
	<b>Issue Date: 06/14/2021</b>

**EXECUTION**

In compliance with this Request for Quote, 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 quoted, at the prices set opposite each item within the time specified herein. By executing this quote, the undersigned Vendor certifies that this quote 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 that it is not an ineligible Vendor as set forth in G.S. 143-59.1. False certification is a Class I felony. Furthermore, by executing this quote, 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 RFQ, 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. 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 any response in this quote, you attest, for your entire organization and its employees or agents, that you are not aware that any such gift has been offered, accepted, or promised by any employees of your organization.

**Failure to execute/sign quote prior to submittal shall render quote invalid and it WILL BE REJECTED. Late quotes cannot be accepted.**

VENDOR:		
STREET ADDRESS:	P.O. BOX:	ZIP:
CITY & STATE & ZIP:	TELEPHONE NUMBER:	TOLL FREE TEL. NO:
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE (SEE INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDORS ITEM #11):		
PRINT NAME & TITLE OF PERSON SIGNING ON BEHALF OF VENDOR:	FAX NUMBER:	
VENDOR'S AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:	DATE:	EMAIL:

Offer valid for at least **30 days** from date of quote opening, unless otherwise stated here: \_\_\_\_\_ days. After this time, any withdrawal of offer shall be made in writing, effective upon receipt by the agency issuing this RFQ.

**ACCEPTANCE OF QUOTE**

If any or all parts of this quote are accepted by the State of North Carolina, an authorized representative of Western Carolina University shall affix his/her signature hereto and this document and all provisions of this Request for Quote along with the Vendor response and the written results of any negotiations shall then constitute the written agreement between the parties. A copy of this acceptance will be forwarded to the successful Vendor(s).

<p><b><u>FOR STATE USE ONLY:</u></b> Offer accepted and Contract awarded this ____ day of _____, 20____, as indicated on the attached certification, by _____</p> <p>(Authorized Representative of Western Carolina University).</p>
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## 1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

Western Carolina University is requesting quotes for Printed Mailers (Accept Packet).

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

## 2.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

### 2.1 REQUEST FOR QUOTE DOCUMENT

The RFQ is comprised of the base RFQ document, any attachments, and any addenda released before Contract award. All attachments and addenda released for this RFQ in advance of any Contract award are incorporated herein by reference. Vendor may attach its quote to this RFQ for submission; however, any and all additional, modified or conflicting terms and conditions submitted on or with Vendor’s quote shall be disregarded and shall not be considered a part of any contract arising from this RFQ. Any attempt to delete or avoid the force of the previous sentence shall render Vendor’s quote invalid, and it shall not be considered.

### 2.2 E-PROCUREMENT SOLICITATION

**ATTENTION:** This is NOT an E-Procurement solicitation. Paragraph #17 of Attachment E: North Carolina General Contract Terms and Conditions, paragraphs (b) and (c), do not apply to this solicitation.

### 2.3 RFQ SCHEDULE

The table below shows the *intended* schedule for this RFQ. The Contract Lead will make every effort to adhere to this schedule.

Action	Responsibility	Date and Time
Issue RFQ	State	06/14/2021
Submit Written Questions by	Vendors	06/21/2021 @ 12:00 PM ET
Provide Response to Questions	State	06/22/2021 @ 5:00 PM ET (Approximate)
Submit Bids	Vendors	06/25/2021 @ 2:00PM ET
Award Contract	State	TBD

### 2.4 BID SUBMITTAL

**SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS – MAILED COPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**

**SEE SECTION 4.0 REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION INSTRUCTION**

### 2.5 QUESTIONS ABOUT QUOTE

**Purpose:** Upon review of the RFQ documents, Vendors may have questions to clarify or interpret the RFQ in order to submit the best quote possible. To accommodate the Quote Questions process, Vendors shall submit any such questions by the above due date.

**Instructions:** Written questions shall be emailed to [bdruss@wcu.edu](mailto:bdruss@wcu.edu) by the date and time specified above. Vendors should enter “73-RFQ00595 – Questions” as the subject for the email. Questions submittals should include a reference to the applicable RFQ section and be submitted in a format shown below:

Reference	Vendor Question
RFQ Section, Page Number	Vendor question...?

Questions received prior to the submission deadline date, the State’s response, and any additional terms deemed necessary by the State will be posted and shall become an Addendum to this RFQ. 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 RFQ, shall be considered authoritative or binding. Vendors shall be entitled to rely *only* on written material contained in an Addendum to this RFQ.

**2.6 QUOTE CONTENTS**

Vendor shall populate all attachments of this RFQ that require the Vendor to provide information and include an authorized signature where requested, as outlined below. Vendor Responses shall include the following items and they should be arranged in the following order:

- a) Completed and signed version of EXECUTION PAGE, along with the body of the RFQ (pages 2-10)<sup>1</sup>, and signed receipt pages of any addenda released in conjunction with this RFQ.
- b) Completed version of ATTACHMENT A: PRICING FORM
- c) Completed version of ATTACHMENT B: LOCATION OF WORKERS UTILIZED BY VENDOR
- d) Completed version of ATTACHMENT C: EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 50 (PRICE-MATCHING PREFERENCE)
- e) Completed version of ATTACHMENT D: INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDORS
- f) ATTACHMENT E: NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS
- g) Completed version of ATTACHMENT F: SUPPLEMENTAL VENDOR INFORMATION

**2.7 DEFINITIONS, ACRONYMS, AND ABBREVIATIONS**

- a) **BUYER:** The employee of the State or Other Eligible Entity that places an order with the Vendor.
- b) **CONTRACT LEAD:** Representative of Western Carolina University who corresponds with potential Vendors in order to identify and contract with that Vendor providing the greatest benefit to the State and who will administer the contract for the State.
- c) **FOB-DESTINATION:** Title changes hand from Vendor to purchaser at the destination point of the shipment; Vendor owns commodity in transit and files any claims, and Vendor pays all freight and any related transportation charges. A solicitation may request Vendors to separately identify freight charges in their quote, but no amount or charge not included as part of the total quote price will be paid.
- d) **LOT:** A grouping of similar products within this RFQ.
- e) **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.
- f) **RFQ:** Request for Quote.
- g) **STATE AGENCY:** Any of the more than 400 sub-units within the executive branch of the State, including its departments, boards, commissions, institutions of higher education and other institutions.
- h) **VENDOR:** Supplier, bidder, proposer, company, firm, corporation, partnership, individual or other entity submitting a response to a Request for Quote.

**2.8 NOTICE TO VENDORS REGARDING TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

It shall be the Vendor’s responsibility to read the Instructions, the State’s terms and conditions, all relevant exhibits and attachments, and any other components made a part of this RFQ, 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 RFQ.

If Vendors have questions, issues, or exceptions regarding any term, condition, instruction or other component within this RFQ, those *shall* be submitted as questions to the Agency prior to submission of a Quote. If the State determines that any changes will be made as a result of the points raised, then such decisions will be communicated in the form of an addendum. Other than through this process, and subject to the provisions of section 2.1, the State rejects and shall not be required to evaluate or consider any additional or modified terms and conditions or Instructions to Vendor submitted with Vendor's response. This applies to any language appearing in or attached to the document as part of the Vendor's response that purports to vary any terms and conditions or Vendors' instructions herein or to render the quote non-binding or subject to further negotiation. Vendor's response to this RFQ shall constitute a firm offer. **By execution and delivery of a response to this RFQ, Vendor agrees that any additional or modified terms and conditions, including Instructions to Vendors, whether submitted purposely or inadvertently, or any purported condition to the offer shall have no force or effect, and will be disregarded. Noncompliance with, or any attempt to alter or delete, this paragraph shall constitute sufficient grounds to reject Vendor's Quote.**

## 3.0 METHOD OF AWARD AND QUOTE EVALUATION PROCESS

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### 3.1 METHOD OF AWARD

The State may obtain quotes from one or more potential Vendors. All quotes will be evaluated and award will be based on lowest responsive quote meeting specifications.

### 3.2 PERFORMANCE OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

Vendor shall complete ATTACHMENT B: LOCATION OF WORKERS UTILIZED BY VENDOR. In addition to any other evaluation criteria identified in this RFQ, the State may, for purposes of evaluating proposed or actual contract performance outside of the United States, also consider 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

### 3.3 QUOTE EVALUATION PROCESS

- a) Quotes are requested for the items as specified, or item(s) equivalent in design, function and performance. The State reserves the right to reject any quote on the basis of fit, form and function as well as cost.
- b) The State shall review the responses to this RFQ to confirm that they meet the specifications and requirements. The State reserves the right to waive any minor informality or technicality.
- c) For all responses that pass the initial review process, the State will review and assess the Vendors' pricing. The State may request additional formal responses or submissions from any or all Vendors for the purpose of clarification or to amplify the materials presented in any part of the quote. Vendors are cautioned, however, that the State is not required to request clarification, and often does not. Therefore, all quotes should be complete and reflect the most favorable terms available from the Vendor. Prices quoted cannot be altered or modified as part of a clarification.
- d) Quotes will be evaluated, based on the award criteria identified in Section 3.1 METHOD OF AWARD.

Award of a Contract to one Vendor does not mean that the other quotes lacked merit, but that, all factors considered, the selected quote was deemed most advantageous and represented the best value to the State.



Vendors are cautioned that this is a request for quote, not a request or an offer 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.

**CONFIDENTIALITY DURING PROCESS:** During the evaluation period and prior to award, all information concerning the quote and evaluation is confidential, and possession of the quotes and accompanying information is limited to personnel of the issuing agency and any third parties involved in this procurement process, and to the committee responsible for participating in the evaluation. Any attempt on behalf of a Vendor to gain such confidential information, or to influence the evaluation process (e.g., contact anyone involved in the evaluation, criticize another Vendor, offer any benefit or information not contained in the quote) in any way is a violation of North Carolina purchasing law and regulations and shall constitute sufficient grounds for disqualification of Vendor's offer from further evaluation or consideration in the discretion of the State.

### 3.4 INTERPRETATION OF TERMS AND PHRASES

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

## 4.0 REQUIREMENTS

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This Section lists the requirements related to this RFQ. By submitting a quote, 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 RFQ. If Vendor is unclear or has any question about the specifications, requirements and terms and conditions herein, it is urged and cautioned to contact the issuing agency Contract Lead as specified in this RFQ.

**Proposals must be submitted electronically at:**

**<https://wcu.bonfirehub.com>**

### 4.1 PRICING

Quote price shall constitute the total cost to Buyer for delivery fully assembled and ready for use, including all applicable charges for shipping, delivery, handling, administrative and other similar fees. Vendor shall not invoice for any amounts not specifically allowed for in this Quote. Complete ATTACHMENT A: PRICING FORM and include with Quote.

### 4.2 TRANSPORTATION AND IDENTIFICATION

The Vendor shall deliver Free-On-Board (FOB) Destination to the specified destination(s) with all transportation costs included in the quoted 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.

**4.3 DELIVERY**

**The Vendor shall deliver Free-On-Board (FOB) Destination to the following location(s):**

Western Carolina University  
Cullowhee, NC 28723

For completion by Vendor: Delivery will be made from \_\_\_\_\_ (city, state) within \_\_\_\_\_ consecutive calendar days after receipt of purchase order. Promptness of delivery may be used as a factor in the award criteria.

**4.4 QUALITY ACCEPTANCE INSPECTION – NOT REQUIRED FOR THIS RFQ**

~~Upon delivery of the goods and/or completion of the project (whichever is applicable) the Vendor shall request a Quality Acceptance Inspection. Such requests shall be forwarded (in writing) to the Division of Purchase and Contract, Attn: Quality Acceptance Inspections, 1305 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1305; Fax # (919) 807-4511; or email to [P&C.inspections@doa.nc.gov](mailto:P&C.inspections@doa.nc.gov). Vendor shall include a copy of the Purchase Order and a copy of the quote with its inspection request.~~

~~**INVOICES WILL NOT BE PAID BY THE USING AGENCY UNTIL A QA INSPECTION HAS OCCURRED AND THE GOODS ACCEPTED.**~~

**4.5 PRODUCT RECALL**

Vendor expressly assumes full responsibility for prompt notification to the Buyer listed on the face of this RFQ 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.

**4.6 WARRANTY**

Manufacturer’s standard warranty shall apply. Vendors shall include a copy of the manufacturer’s standard warranty with the quote response.

**4.7 MAINTENANCE OPTION - NOT REQUIRED FOR THIS RFQ**

~~Following expiration of the above warranty, Vendor, or third party service provider listed above, shall maintain the system specifications and performance level in accordance with the manufacturer’s published specifications and of this Request for Quote. It shall include all parts, all remedial maintenance labor, all travel and living expenses incurred. Coverage shall be for 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, 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 an option to accept the maintenance coverage in this paragraph at the price offered in the Furnish and Deliver section of this RFQ.~~

**4.8 INVOICES**

Vendor shall invoice the Agency. The standard format for invoicing shall be Single Invoices meaning that the Vendor shall provide the Buyer with an invoice for each order. Invoices shall include detailed line item information to allow Buyer 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, Buyers Order Number, Manufacturer Part Numbers, Vendor Part Numbers, Item Descriptions, Price, Quantity, and Unit of Measure.

## 5.0 PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

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### 5.1 GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS – SEE ATTACHMENT A PRICING FORM FOR SPECIFICATIONS

### 5.2 DEVIATIONS

The nature of all deviations from the *Specifications/Requirements* 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/Requirements*, and Vendor shall be held responsible 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.

  

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### 5.3 CERTIFICATION AND SAFETY LABELS

PRODUCT SAFETY LISTING: 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. A list of acceptable marks is available on the Division of Purchase and Contract website at: <https://ncadmin.nc.gov/government-agencies/procurement/vendor-resources/quality-acceptance-inspections>. The CE mark is not acceptable. 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. Having the appropriate certification or safety label affixed to any device delivered pursuant to this solicitation, under the conditions described above, is a material condition of any contract awarded as a result of this solicitation. All costs for product and industry certifications and listings required to supply conforming products to the State as described in this RFQ are the sole responsibility of the Vendor. The certification or safety label shall be affixed and be visible on the OUTSIDE of the all products that require a certification or safety label in order to pass the State Quality Acceptance Inspection.

**Attachments to this RFQ begin on the next page.**

**ATTACHMENT A: PRICING FORM**

	Price	Ext Price
<p><b>Accept Packet:</b>  <b>Delivery by 9/1</b> (please let us know when you need final finals for this delivery date)                      Count of each below: 10,000</p> <p><b>Rigid Mailer - self-adhesive</b>                      9.5" x 12.5"                      White chip board                      Matte with soft-touch varnish                      2 spot colors (incl metallic) + 4C - outside of mailer only (one side)</p> <p><b>Inside printed piece:</b>                      9" x 36" trim-fold (finished 9x12)                      Bright White 100# text dull coated                      Matte varnish                      4C process both sides</p> <p><b>Inside Card:</b>                      9" x 12" 80# card stock Bright White dull coated                      Matte Varnish                      4C process both sides</p> <p><b>Enrolled Student Box:</b>  <b>Delivery by 10/1</b> (please let us know when you need final finals for this delivery date)                      Count of each below: 3,500</p> <p><b>Corrugated Box:</b>                      Size: 9" x 6" x 1.5"                      Kraft corrugated - printed both sides                      Outside: 2 Spot Colors                      Inside: 1 color                      Dividers (2): card stock folded + glued – PLEASE QUOTE WITH AND WITHOUT DIVIDERS &amp; ASSEMBLY</p> <p><b>4" x 6" Inside card</b>                      80# card stock Bright White dull coated                      Matte Varnish                      4c process both sides</p> <p><b>2" x 4" Inside card:</b>                      80# card stock Bright White dull coated                      Matte Varnish                      4c process both sides</p> <p>*** The closest equivalent in paper for pricing flexibility is acceptable, but only it's a direct equivalent. ***</p>		

Shipping: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

**RECYCLED CONTENT:**

If the products offered herein contain any recycled content, indicate the material and content percentage:

Material: \_\_\_\_\_ Percentage %: \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTACHMENT B: LOCATION OF WORKERS UTILIZED BY VENDOR**

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In accordance with NC General Statute 143-59.4, the Vendor shall detail the location(s) at which performance will occur, as well as the manner in which it intends to utilize resources or workers outside of the United States in the performance of this Contract. The State will evaluate the additional risks, costs, and other factors associated with such utilization prior to making an award. Please complete items a, b, and c below.

a) Will any work under this Contract be performed outside the United States?  YES  NO

If the Vendor answered "YES" above, Vendor shall complete items 1 and 2 below:

1. List the location(s) outside the United States where work under this Contract will be performed by the Vendor, any sub-Contractors, employees, or other persons performing work under the Contract:
  
2. Describe the corporate structure and location of corporate employees and activities of the Vendor, its affiliates or any other sub-Contractors that will perform work outside the U.S.:

b) The Vendor agrees to provide notice, in writing to the State, of the relocation of the Vendor, employees of the Vendor, sub-Contractors of the Vendor, or other persons performing services under the Contract outside of the United States  YES  NO

NOTE: All Vendor or sub-Contractor personnel providing call or contact center services to the State of North Carolina under the Contract **shall** disclose to inbound callers the location from which the call or contact center services are being provided.

c) Identify all U.S. locations at which performance will occur:

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*This Space is Intentionally Left Blank*

**ATTACHMENT C: EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 50 (PRICE-MATCHING PREFERENCE)**

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute § 143-59 (G.S. § 143-59) and Executive Order No. 50 issued by Governor Perdue on February 17, 2010, entitled “Enhanced Purchasing Opportunities for North Carolina Businesses,” a price-matching preference may be given to North Carolina resident bidders on contracts for the purchase of goods. This preference will allow a qualified North Carolina resident bidder to match the price of the lowest responsible nonresident bidder, if the North Carolina resident bidder’s price is within five percent (5%) or \$10,000, whichever is less, of the nonresident bidder’s price. If the resident bidder requests and qualifies for the price-matching preference, the resident bidder will first be offered the contract award and will have three (3) business days to accept or decline the award based on the lowest responsible nonresident bidder’s price.

Executive Order #50 applies to procurements from the Governor’s Office, Cabinet Agencies (i.e., Administration, Commerce, Correction, Crime Control and Public Safety, Cultural Resources, Environment and Natural Resources, Health and Human Services, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Revenue, and Transportation), Universities and Community Colleges and all procurements handled by the Division of Purchase and Contract. All other State Agencies are encouraged to implement the requirements of the Executive Order #50 and vendors should contact these State Agencies to determine whether they have adopted and implemented Executive Order #50.

ANY RESIDENT BIDDER REQUESTING THIS PREFERENCE SHOULD CAREFULLY REVIEW PARAGRAPH 24 OF THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR QUOTES, WHICH PROVIDES MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFINITION OF RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT BIDDERS; THE QUALIFICATION PROCESS FOR GRANTING THE PREFERENCE AND HOW THE CONTRACT WILL BE AWARDED IF THE PREFERENCE IS APPLICABLE.

**ALL BIDDERS (RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT) MUST ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:**

- 1. **Bidder is a resident of North Carolina as defined in G.S. § 143-59:**

(Bidder may be deemed a nonresident bidder, if it failed to circle any choice.)

**YES / NO**  
(circle one)

ALL RESIDENT BIDDERS REQUESTING A PRICE-MATCHING PREFERENCE MUST ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION AND MUST COMPLETE “RESIDENT BIDDER’S CERTIFICATION FOR PRICE-MATCHING PREFERENCE UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER #50”, WHICH IS BELOW AFTER QUESTION 2. AS STATED ABOVE AND PARAGRAPH 24 OF THE INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS, A RESIDENT BIDDER ANSWERING “YES” TO THE QUESTION BELOW AND IS QUALIFIED FOR THE PRICE-MATCHING PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO ACCEPT OR DECLINE THE CONTRACT AWARD WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD OF TIME.

- 2. **Resident Bidder requests the price-matching preference:**

(Bidder shall be deemed not to have requested the preference, if it failed to circle any choice and did not complete the Resident Bidder’s Certification. If a Bidder failed to circle a choice above and completed and notarized the Bidder’s Certification, then it will have been deemed to have responded YES to the above question.)

**YES / NO**  
(circle one)

**RESIDENT BIDDER'S CERTIFICATION FOR  
PRICE-MATCHING PREFERENCE UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER #50**

**NOTICE: The Price-Matching Preference will only be given to bidders that fully complete this affidavit (i.e., all information must be provided, all supporting documents must be attached, the affidavit must be signed by an authorized representative of the bidder and the affidavit must be notarized) and demonstrate their qualifications for the Price-Matching Preference through the certification and information provided in this affidavit and any required attachments.**

Affidavit of \_\_\_\_\_ (name of resident bidder, hereinafter the "Bidder")

**PART I**

Please check the box applicable to the Bidder's business in order for the Bidder to be considered for the price-matching preference established by Executive Order #50 and North Carolina General Statute § 143-59(c)(1).

I hereby certify that the Bidder paid unemployment taxes to the State of North Carolina for the most recent quarter or annually, and has specifically done so for the last such payment period.

**OR**

I hereby certify that the Bidder paid income taxes to the State of North Carolina each calendar quarter, or otherwise annually, and has specifically done so for the last such payment period.

**AND**

**PART II**

1. I hereby certify that the Bidder is a resident of the State of North Carolina under North Carolina General Statute § 143-59(c)(1), in that, Bidder's principal place of business is located in North Carolina.

YES / NO  
(circle one)

A. **Business Type** (circle one of the following): CORPORATION (ALL TYPES); LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY; GENERAL PARTNERSHIP; LIMITED PARTNERSHIP; LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP; SOLE PROPRIETORSHIP; INDIVIDUAL; UNINCORPORATED ASSOCIATION; OR OTHER.

B. Provide address of principal place of business/principal office in North Carolina:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address (no P.O. Box number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code

Is the above address the location of Bidder's headquarters? YES / NO (circle one)

If Bidder has a public website, provide the link/address: \_\_\_\_\_

C. **ATTACH A COPY OF BIDDER'S MOST RECENT FILINGS WITH THE NORTH CAROLINA SECRETARY OF STATE** (such as Bidder's Certificate of Authority, Annual Report or such other filing that discloses a North Carolina business address for the Bidder).

**OR (check the box below)**

Bidder certifies that its business is **not** required to make filings with the North Carolina Secretary of State.

2. I hereby certify that the Bidder is a resident of the State of North Carolina under North Carolina General Statute § 143-59(c)(3), in that, Bidder directs or manages its trade or business from its principal place of business in North Carolina.

YES / NO  
(circle one)

A. State the number of Bidder's employees that work at the North Carolina principal place of business:

B. State the total number of employees in Bidder's entire workforce:

C. Briefly describe in the box below how Bidder manages or directs its business or trade from its North Carolina principal place of business:

IF BIDDER DESIRES TO KEEP CONFIDENTIAL ITS ANSWERS TO QUESTION 2.A, B AND C ABOVE PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 17 OF THE INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS, THEN PLEASE CIRCLE YES OR NO IN THE BOX. IF BIDDER FAILS TO CIRCLE YES FOR ANY REASON, THEN BIDDER'S ANSWERS MAY BE SUBJECT TO PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.

<b>YES /NO</b> (circle one)
--------------------------------



**PART III**

By executing this affidavit, the Bidder agrees to provide any additional information or documentation requested by the State (during the procurement process seeking clarification of the request for the Price-Matching Preference or after contract award to resolve any bid protest) to confirm the above certifications and statements within five (5) business days of request (including tax filings in North Carolina, banking statements, financial and accounting statements reflecting Bidder’s payment of the subject taxes, and any other documentation that may establish Bidder’s principal place of business in North Carolina, including but not limited to information regarding the amount of income and unemployment taxes paid to other states and number of employees in North Carolina and number of employees in other states). Pursuant to G.S. §§ 132-1.1, 105-259(b) and Paragraph 17 of the Instructions to Bidders, the State is prohibited from making public disclosures of the bidder’s tax information and documents (except if one of the 39 exceptions applies in G.S. § 105-259(b)) and the State shall preserve the confidentiality of the information and/or documents received in response to a request for clarification (or, as discussed below, to resolve a bid protest challenging resident bidder’s qualification for the price-matching preference). In order to further preserve the confidentiality of bidder’s tax information and documentation provided the State, the bidder shall comply with Paragraph 17 of the Instructions to Bidders and mark “CONFIDENTIAL” at the top and bottom of each page of the information and documentation. Bidder further understands and agrees that if Bidder fails to provide the State with the additional information and documentation within five (5) business days of the request; or the State determines that certifications or information in this Affidavit are false at any time after the contract is awarded to Bidder, the State may:

- (1) Cancel the Bidder’s contract and/or purchase order that was awarded based on the price-matching preference and Bidder shall be liable for all its cost it incurs as a result of the cancellation and all increased costs of the State by awarding the contract to the next lowest bidder;
- (2) Bidder will not be entitled to any price-matching preference in any future State bidding opportunities;
- (3) Action may be taken against the contractor under the False Claims Act, G.S. § 1-605 through 1-617, inclusive, for submitting a false Certification for the price-matching preference under Executive Order #50 (including but not limited to treble damages and civil penalties); and/or
- (4) Debar Bidder from doing business with the State of North Carolina for a period determined by the State Purchasing Officer and/or Board of Award.

The undersigned hereby certifies that he or she has read this certification and is an officer, member, partner, owner or such managing employee of the Bidder (the “Authorized Representative”) that is authorized to execute this affidavit and to bind the Bidder to the certifications, statements and agreements herein.

Name of Authorized Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

State of \_\_\_\_\_, County of \_\_\_\_\_

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_\_

Notary Public: \_\_\_\_\_

My commission expires \_\_\_\_\_

## **ATTACHMENT D: INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDORS**

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1. **READ, REVIEW AND COMPLY:** It shall be the Vendor's responsibility to read this entire document, review all enclosures and attachments, and any addenda thereto, and comply with all requirements specified herein, regardless of whether appearing in these Instructions to Vendors or elsewhere in this RFQ document.
2. **EXECUTION:** Failure to sign the Execution page (page 3 of the RFQ) in the indicated space will render quote non-responsive and it shall be rejected.
3. **ORDER OF PRECEDENCE:** In cases of conflict between specific provisions in this solicitation or in any resulting contract, the order of precedence shall be (high to low) (1) any special terms and conditions specific to this RFQ, including any negotiated terms; (2) specifications in Sections 2, 4, and 5 of this RFQ; (3) North Carolina General Contract Terms and Conditions in ATTACHMENT D: NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS; (4) Instructions in ATTACHMENT C: INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDORS; and (5) Vendor's quote.
4. **INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTIVE LITERATURE:** Vendor shall furnish all information requested and in the spaces provided in this document. Further, if required elsewhere in this quote, each Vendor shall submit with their quote sketches, descriptive literature and/or complete specifications covering the products offered.
5. **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.
6. **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:
  - All copies of the quote are printed double sided.
  - All submittals and copies are printed on recycled paper with a minimum post-consumer content of 30%.
  - Unless absolutely necessary, all quotes 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.
  - 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.
7. **HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESSES:** Pursuant to General Statute 143-48 and Executive Order 150 (1999), the State invites and encourages participation in this procurement process by businesses owned by minorities, women, disabled, disabled business enterprises and non-profit work centers for the blind and severely disabled.
8. **CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION:** To the extent permitted by applicable statutes and rules, the State will maintain confidential trade secrets 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 or 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 as 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 and cautioned to limit the marking of information as a trade secret or as confidential so far as is possible.

9. **PROTEST PROCEDURES:** When a Vendor wishes to protest a Contract resulting from this RFQ that is awarded by the Division of Purchase and Contract, or awarded by an agency in an awarded amount of at least \$25,000, a Vendor shall submit a written request addressed to the State Purchasing Officer at Purchase and Contract, 1305 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1305. A protest request related to an award amount of less than \$25,000 shall be sent to the purchasing officer of the agency that issued the award. The protest request shall 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. Bid status and Award notices are posted on the Internet at <https://www.ips.state.nc.us/ips/>. All protests will be handled pursuant to the North Carolina Administrative Code, 01 NCAC 05B .1519.
10. **MISCELLANEOUS:** Masculine pronouns shall be read to include feminine pronouns, and the singular of any word or phrase shall be read to include the plural and vice versa.
11. **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 this RFQ and in formal Addenda issued.
12. **COST FOR QUOTE PREPARATION:** Any costs incurred by Vendor in preparing or submitting quotes are the Vendor's sole responsibility; the State of North Carolina will not reimburse any Vendor for any costs incurred prior to award.
13. **VENDOR'S REPRESENTATIVE:** Each Vendor shall submit with its quote the name, address, and telephone number of the person(s) with authority to bind the firm and answer questions or provide clarification concerning the firm's quote.
14. **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 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.

*This Space is Intentionally Left Blank*

**ATTACHMENT E: NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL CONTRACT TERMS & CONDITIONS**

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1. **DEFAULT AND PERFORMANCE BOND:** If, through any cause, Vendor shall fail to fulfill in timely and proper manner the obligations under this agreement, the State shall have the right to terminate this contract by giving written notice to the Vendor and specifying the effective date thereof. In case of default by the Vendor for any reason, the State may procure substitute goods from other sources and hold the Vendor responsible for any excess cost occasioned thereby. The State reserves the right to require at any time a performance bond or other acceptable alternative guarantees from a successful Vendor without expense to the State.

In addition, in the event of default by the Vendor under this 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, immediately terminate this Contract for cause, and take action to debar the Vendor from doing future business with the State.

2. **GOVERNMENTAL RESTRICTIONS:** In the event any Governmental restrictions are imposed which necessitate alteration of the material, quality, workmanship or performance of the items offered prior to their delivery, it shall be the responsibility of the Vendor to notify, in writing, the issuing purchasing office at once, indicating the specific regulation which required such alterations. The State reserves the right to accept any such alterations, including any price adjustments occasioned thereby, or to cancel the Contract.

3. **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS:** Any and all payments to the Vendor are dependent upon and subject to the availability of funds to the agency for the purpose set forth in this Contract.

4. **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 quote document the Vendor certifies that it and all of its affiliates, (if it has affiliates), collect(s) the appropriate taxes.
- b. All agencies participating in this 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.

5. **SITUS:** The place of this Contract, its situs and forum, shall be North Carolina, where all matters, whether sounding in Contract or tort, relating to its validity, construction, interpretation and enforcement shall be determined.

6. **GOVERNING LAWS:** This Contract is made under and shall be governed, construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina, without regard to its conflict of laws rules.

7. **PAYMENT TERMS:** Payment terms are Net not later than 30 days after receipt of correct invoice or acceptance of goods, whichever is later. The using 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 that card (Visa, MasterCard, etc.) from other customers, and it shall be accepted by the Vendor for payment under the same terms and conditions as any other method of payment accepted by the Vendor. If payment is made by procurement card, then payment may be processed immediately by the Vendor.

8. **AFFIRMATIVE ACTION:** The Vendor will take affirmative action in complying with all Federal and State requirements 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.

9. **CONDITION AND PACKAGING:** Unless otherwise provided by special terms and conditions or specifications, it is

understood and agreed that any item offered or shipped has not been sold or used for any purpose and shall be in first class condition. All containers/packaging shall be suitable for handling, storage or shipment.

- 10. **STANDARDS:** 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.

The complete product(s) offered herein, and NOT merely its component parts or subsystems, shall comply with the above requirement for safety listing. Having the appropriate certification or safety label affixed to any device delivered pursuant to this solicitation, under the conditions described above, is a material condition of any contract awarded as a result of this solicitation. All costs for product and industry certifications and listings, and any other actions required to supply conforming products to the State as described in this RFQ, are the sole responsibility of the Vendor. The certification or safety label shall be affixed and be visible on the OUTSIDE of the all products that require a certification or safety label in order to pass the State Quality Acceptance Inspection. The requirements of this paragraph 10 shall not be waived by contract award or otherwise by the purchasing agency.

- 11. **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY 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 copyrighted material, patented or unpatented invention, articles, device or appliance delivered in connection with this contract.
- 12. **ADVERTISING:** Vendor agrees not to use the existence of this Contract or the name of the State of North Carolina as part of any commercial advertising or marketing of products or services. A Vendor may inquire whether the State is willing to act as a reference by providing factual information directly to other prospective customers.
- 13. **ACCESS TO PERSONS AND RECORDS:** During and after the term hereof, the State Auditor and any using agency's internal auditors shall have access to persons and records related to this Contract to verify accounts and data affecting fees or performance under the Contract, as provided in G.S. 143-49(9).
- 14. **ASSIGNMENT:** No assignment of the Vendor's obligations nor the Vendor's right to receive payment hereunder shall be permitted.

However, upon written request approved by the issuing purchasing authority and solely as a convenience to the Vendor, the State may:

- a. Forward the Vendor's payment check directly to any person or entity designated by the Vendor, and
- b. Include any person or entity designated by Vendor 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 and the Vendor shall remain responsible for fulfillment of all Contract obligations. Upon advance written request, the State may, in its unfettered discretion, approve an assignment to the surviving entity of a merger, acquisition or corporate reorganization, if made as part of the transfer of all or substantially all of the Vendor's assets. Any purported assignment made in violation of this provision shall be void and a material breach of this Contract.

15. **INSURANCE:**

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

- a. **Worker's Compensation** - The Vendor shall provide and maintain Worker's Compensation Insurance, as required by the laws of North Carolina, as well as employer's liability coverage with minimum limits of \$500,000.00,

covering all of Vendor's employees who are engaged in any work under the Contract. If any work is sublet, the Vendor shall require the sub-Contractor to provide the same coverage for any of his employees engaged in any work under the Contract.

b. **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 cost shall be in excess of the limit of liability.)

c. **Automobile** - Automobile Liability Insurance, to include liability coverage, covering all owned, hired and non-owned vehicles, used in connection with the Contract. The minimum combined single limit shall be \$250,000.00 bodily injury and property damage; \$250,000.00 uninsured/under insured motorist; and \$2,500.00 medical payment.

**REQUIREMENTS** - Providing and maintaining adequate insurance coverage is a material obligation of the Vendor and is of the essence of this Contract. All such insurance shall meet all laws of the State of North Carolina. Such insurance coverage shall be obtained from companies that are authorized to provide such coverage and that are authorized by the Commissioner of Insurance to do business in North Carolina. The Vendor shall at all times comply with the terms of such insurance policies, and all requirements of the insurer under any such insurance policies, except as they may conflict with existing North Carolina laws or this Contract. The limits of coverage under each insurance policy maintained by the Vendor shall not be interpreted as limiting the Vendor's liability and obligations under the Contract.

16. **GENERAL INDEMNITY:** The Vendor shall 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 this Contract, and 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 this Contract and that are attributable to the negligence or intentionally tortious acts of the Vendor provided that the Vendor is notified in writing within 30 days that the State has knowledge of such claims. 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 goods to the State. The representation and warranty in the preceding sentence shall survive the termination or expiration of this Contract.

17. **ELECTRONIC PROCUREMENT:** (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 SUCCESSFUL BIDDER(S) SHALL PAY A TRANSACTION FEE OF 1.75% (.0175) ON THE TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT (EXCLUDING SALES TAXES) OF GOODS INCLUDED ON EACH PURCHASE ORDER ISSUED THROUGH THE STATEWIDE E-PROCUREMENT SERVICE.** This applies to all purchase orders, regardless of the quantity or dollar amount of the purchase order. The transaction fee shall not be stated or included as a separate item on the invoice. There are no additional fees or charges to the Vendor for the services rendered by the Supplier Manager under this contract. Vendor will receive a credit for transaction fees they paid for the purchase of any item(s) if an item(s) is returned through no fault of the Vendor. Transaction fees are non-refundable when an item is rejected and returned, or declined, due to the Vendor's failure to perform or comply with specifications or requirements of the contract.

(c) Vendor or its Authorized Reseller, as applicable, will be invoiced monthly for the State's transaction fee by the Supplier Manager. The transaction fee shall be based on a) purchase activity for the prior month, or b) purchases for which the supplier invoice has been paid. Unless 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. If payment of the transaction fee is not received by the State within this payment period, it shall be considered a material breach of contract. Pursuant to G.S. 147-86.23, the Service will charge interest and late payment penalties on past due balances. Interest shall be charged 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. The late-payment penalty will be ten percent (10%) of the account receivable.

Within thirty (30) days of the receipt of invoice, Vendor may dispute in writing the accuracy of an invoice. 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.

(d) The Supplier Manager will capture the order from the State approved user, including the shipping and payment information, and submit the order in accordance with the E-Procurement Service. Subsequently, the Supplier Manager will send those orders to the appropriate Vendor on State Contract. The State or State-approved user, not the Supplier Manager, shall be responsible for the solicitation, quotes received, evaluation of quotes received, award of contract, and the payment for goods delivered.

(e) Vendor agrees at all times to maintain the confidentiality of its user name and password for the Statewide E-Procurement Services. If Vendor is a corporation, partnership or other legal entity, then the Vendor may authorize its employees to use its password. Vendor shall be responsible for all activity and all charges by such employees. Vendor agrees not to permit a third party to use the Statewide E-Procurement Services through its account. If there is a breach of security through the Vendor's account, Vendor shall immediately change its password and notify the Supplier Manager of the security breach by email. Vendor shall cooperate with the State and the Supplier Manager to mitigate and correct any security breach.

**VENDOR IS AND SHALL REMAIN RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYING THE TRANSACTION FEE ON BEHALF OF ANY SUB-CONTRACTOR OR DEALER INVOLVED IN PERFORMANCE UNDER THIS CONTRACT IN THE EVENT THAT SUCH SUB-CONTRACTOR OR DEALER DEFAULTS ON PAYMENT.**

**18. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS:** Vendor shall comply with all laws, ordinances, codes, rules, regulations, and licensing requirements that are applicable to the conduct of its business and performance in accordance with this contract, including those of federal, state, and local agencies having jurisdiction and/or authority.

**19. ENTIRE AGREEMENT:** This RFQ and any documents incorporated specifically by reference represent the entire agreement between the parties and supersede all prior oral or written statements or agreements. This RFQ, any Addenda hereto, and the Vendor's quotes are incorporated herein by reference as though set forth verbatim.

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.

**20. AMENDMENTS:** This contract may be amended only by written amendments duly executed by the State and the Vendor. The NC Division of Purchase and Contract shall give prior approval to any amendment to a contract awarded through that office.

**21. WAIVER:** The failure to enforce or the waiver by the State of any right or of breach or default on one occasion or instance shall not constitute the waiver of such right, breach or default on any subsequent occasion or instance.

**22. FORCE MAJEURE:** Neither party shall be deemed to be in default of its obligations hereunder if and so long as it is prevented from performing such obligations as a result of events beyond its reasonable control, including without limitation, fire, power failures, any act of war, hostile foreign action, nuclear explosion, riot, strikes or failures or refusals to perform under subcontracts, civil insurrection, earthquake, hurricane, tornado, or other catastrophic natural event or act of God.

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

**ATTACHMENT F: SUPPLEMENTAL VENDOR INFORMATION**

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**HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESSES**

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

Pursuant to G.S. 143B-1361(a), 143-48 and 143-128.4, the State invites and encourages participation in this procurement process by businesses owned by minorities, women, disabled, disabled business enterprises and non-profit work centers for the blind and severely disabled. This includes utilizing subcontractors to perform the required functions in this RFP. Any questions concerning NC HUB certification, contact the **North Carolina Office of Historically Underutilized Businesses** at (919) 807-2330. The Vendor shall respond to question #1 and #2 below.

- a) Is Vendor a Historically Underutilized Business?  Yes  No
- b) Is Vendor Certified with North Carolina as a Historically Underutilized Business?  Yes  No

If so, state HUB classification:

\_\_\_\_\_