



PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

SOLICITATION NO. PSC #09-02-13

Issue Date: May 23, 2013

**TECHNICAL STAFF SUPPORT FOR
ORDER NO: 85385 IN CASE NO: 9298**

NOTICE

A Prospective Offeror that has received this document from the Public Service Commission's website or <https://emaryland.buyspeed.com/bs/>, or that has received this document from a source other than the Procurement Officer, and that wishes to assure receipt of any changes or additional materials related to this RFP, should immediately contact the Procurement Officer and provide the Prospective Offeror's name and mailing address so that addenda to the RFP or other communications can be sent to the Prospective Offeror.

Minority Business Enterprises Are Encouraged to Respond to this Solicitation

Veteran Owned Businesses Are Encouraged to Respond to this Solicitation

**STATE OF MARYLAND
NOTICE TO VENDORS**

In order to help us improve the quality of State solicitations, and to make our procurement process more responsive and business friendly, we ask that you take a few minutes and provide comments and suggestions regarding this solicitation. Please return your comments with your response. If you have chosen not to respond to this Contract, please email or fax this completed form to the attention of the Procurement Officer (see Key Information Sheet below for contact information).

Title: TECHNICAL STAFF SUPPORT FOR ORDER NO: 85385 IN CASE NO: 9298
Solicitation No: PSC #09-02-13

1. If you have chosen not to respond to this solicitation, please indicate the reason(s) below:

- Other commitments preclude our participation at this time.
- The subject of the solicitation is not something we ordinarily provide.
- We are inexperienced in the work/commodities required.
- Specifications are unclear, too restrictive, etc. (Explain in REMARKS section.)
- The scope of work is beyond our present capacity.
- Doing business with the State of Maryland is simply too complicated. (Explain in REMARKS section.)
- We cannot be competitive. (Explain in REMARKS section.)
- Time allotted for completion of the Proposal/Proposal is insufficient.
- Start-up time is insufficient.
- Bonding/Insurance requirements are restrictive. (Explain in REMARKS section.)
- Bid/Proposal requirements (other than specifications) are unreasonable or too risky. (Explain in REMARKS section.)
- MBE or VSBE requirements. (Explain in REMARKS section.)
- Prior State of Maryland contract experience was unprofitable or otherwise unsatisfactory. (Explain in REMARKS section.)
- Payment schedule too slow.
- Other: _____

2. If you have submitted a response to this solicitation, but wish to offer suggestions or express concerns, please use the REMARKS section below. (Attach additional pages as needed.)

REMARKS:

Vendor Name: _____ Date: _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone (____) _____ - _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

**STATE OF MARYLAND
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
RFP KEY INFORMATION SUMMARY SHEET**

Request for Proposals: TECHNICAL STAFF SUPPORT FOR
ORDER NO: 85385 IN CASE NO: 9298

Solicitation Number: PSC #09-02-13

RFP Issue Date: May 23, 2013

RFP Issuing Office: Public Service Commission

Procurement Officer: Dolline M. Serra
6 St. Paul Street, 16th floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
Phone: 410-767-8009
Fax: 410-333-6495
e-mail: dserra@psc.state.md.us

Contract Monitor: Leslie M. Romine
Staff Counsel
6 St. Paul Street, 19th floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
Phone: 410-767-8055
Fax: 410-333-6086
e-mail: lromine@psc.state.md.us

Proposals are to be sent to: Public Service Commission
Dolline M. Serra
6 St. Paul Street, 16th floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
Phone: 410-767-8009
Fax: 410-333-6495
e-mail: dserra@psc.state.md.us
Phone: 410-767-8009
Attention: Dolline M. Serra

Pre-Proposal Conference: May 30, 2013 at 2:00PM Local Time
6 St. Paul Street, 19th floor, Room Number: 1941
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Closing Date and Time: June 24, 2013 at 1:00pm Local Time

MBE Subcontracting Goal: 10 %

VSBE Subcontracting Goal: 0 %

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SECTION 1 - GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Summary Statement

- 1.1.1 The Public Service Commission (“PSC” or “Commission”) is issuing this Request for Proposals (RFP) to provide the PSC’s Technical Staff (“Staff”) with support for Order No: 85385 in Case No: 9298.
- 1.1.2 It is the State’s intention to obtain services, as specified in this RFP, from a Contract between the successful Offeror and the State.
- 1.1.3 The Department intends to make a single award as a result of this RFP.
- 1.1.4 Offerors, either directly or through their subcontractor(s), must be able to provide all services and meet all of the requirements requested in this solicitation and the successful Offeror (the Contractor) shall remain responsible for Contract performance regardless of subcontractor participation in the work.

1.2 Abbreviations and Definitions

For purposes of this RFP, the following abbreviations or terms have the meanings indicated below:

- a. **BGE** – Baltimore Gas and Electric Company
- b. **Business Day** – The official Working Days of the week to include Monday through Friday. Official Working Days excludes State Holidays (see definition of “Normal State Business Hours” below).
- c. **Choptank** – Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- d. **COMAR** – Code of Maryland Regulations available on-line at www.dsd.state.md.us.
- e. **Companies** – BGE, Delmarva, PEPCO, PHI, PE, SMECO and Choptank, collectively
- f. **Contract** – The Contract awarded to the successful Offeror pursuant to this RFP. The Contract will be in the form of **Attachment A**.
- g. **Contract Monitor/Manager (CM)** – The State representative for this Contract who is primarily responsible for Contract administration functions, including issuing written direction, invoice approval, monitoring this Contract to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the Contract, monitoring MBE and VSBE compliance, and achieving completion of the Contract on budget, on time, and within scope.
- h. **Contractor** – The selected Offeror that is awarded a Contract by the State.
- i. **Delmarva** – Delmarva Power & Light Company
- j. **Derecho** – a widespread, long-lived wind storm that is associated with a band of rapidly moving showers or thunderstorms.
- k. **Domestic Corporation** - an entity that is incorporated in Maryland
- l. **eMM** – eMaryland Marketplace (see RFP Section 1.8).

- m. **ETR** – Estimated time of restoration
- n. **Foreign Corporation** – an entity that is not incorporated in Maryland
- o. **Go-Live Date** – The date when the Contractor must begin providing all services required by this solicitation.
- p. **Local Time** – Time in the Eastern Time Zone as observed by the State of Maryland. Unless otherwise specified, all stated times shall be Local Time, even if not expressly designated as such.
- q. **Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)** – Any legal entity certified as defined at COMAR 21.01.02.01B(54) which is certified by the Maryland Department of Transportation under COMAR 21.11.03.
- r. **Normal State Business Hours** - Normal State business hours are 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday except State Holidays, which can be found at: www.dbm.maryland.gov – keyword: State Holidays.
- s. **Notice to Proceed (NTP)** – A letter from the Contract Monitor to the Contractor stating the date the Contractor can begin work subject to the conditions of the Contract. After Contract Commencement (see Section 1.4.1), additional NTPs may be issued by the Contract Monitor regarding the start date for any service included within this RFP with a delayed, or non-specified implementation date, or if the Department decides to exercise any optional services identified in this RFP.
- t. **Offeror** – An entity that submits a Proposal in response to this RFP.
- u. **PE or Potomac Edison** – Potomac Edison Company
- v. **PEPCO** – Potomac Electric Power Company
- w. **PHI** – Delmarva and PEPCO together
- x. **Procurement Officer** – The State representative for the resulting Contract. The Procurement Officer is responsible for the Contract and is the only State representative who can authorize changes to the Contract. The Department may change the Procurement Officer at any time by written notice to the Contractor.
- y. **Proposal** – As appropriate, either or both of an Offeror’s Technical or Financial Proposal.
- z. **PUA** – Maryland Public Utilities Article, Annotated Code of Maryland
- aa. **Request for Proposals (RFP)** – This Request for Proposals issued by the Public Service Commission Solicitation Number PSC #09-02-13 dated May 23, 2013 including any addenda.
- bb. **Resident Agent** – an entity that has been contracted by a Domestic or Foreign Corporation to be their local (Maryland) contact and has been registered with the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (“SDAT”).
- cc. **SAIDI** – System-average interruption duration index – the sum of the customer interruption hours divided by the total number of customers served
- dd. **SAIFI** – System-average interruption frequency index – the sum of the number of customer interruptions divided by the total number of customers served
- ee. **SMECO** – Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- ff. **Staff** – The Commission’s Technical Staff.

gg. **State** – The State of Maryland.

hh. **Total Evaluated Price** - The Offeror’s total proposed price for services in response to this solicitation, included in the Financial Proposal with Attachment F – Price Form, and used in the financial evaluation of proposals (see RFP Section 5.3).

ii. **Veteran-owned Small Business Enterprise (VSBE)** – a business that is verified by the Center for Veterans Enterprise of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as a veteran-owned small business. See Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 21.11.13.

jj. **Working Day** – Same as “Business Day.”

1.3 Contract Type

The Contract resulting from this solicitation shall be a firm fixed price contract as defined in COMAR 21.06.03

1.4 Contract Duration

1.4.1 The Contract that results from this solicitation shall commence as of the date the Contract is signed by the Department following approval of the Contract by the Board of Public Works, if such approval is required (“Contract Commencement”).

1.4.2 As of the date contained in a Notice to Proceed letter issued by the Procurement Officer, the Contractor shall begin performing all activities required by the Contract, including the requirements of the solicitation.

1.4.3 The duration of the Contract will be for a period of two (2) years from the date of the Notice to Proceed Letter

1.4.4 The Contractor’s obligations to pay invoices to subcontractors that provided services during the Contract term, as well as the audit, confidentiality, document retention, and indemnification obligations of the Contract (see Attachment A) shall survive expiration or termination of the Contract and continue in effect until all such obligations are satisfied.

1.5 Procurement Officer

The sole point of contact in the State for purposes of this solicitation prior to the award of any Contract is the Procurement Officer at the address listed below:

Dolline M. Serra
Procurement Officer
Maryland Public Service Commission
6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21202
Phone Number: 410-767-8009
Email: dserra@psc.state.md.us

The Department may change the Procurement Officer at any time by written notice.

1.6 Contract Manager

The Contract Manager is:

Leslie M. Romine
Staff Counsel
6 St. Paul Street, 17th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21202
Phone Number: 410-767-8055
E-mail: lromine@psc.state.md.us

The Department may change the Contract Manager at any time by written notice.

1.7 Pre-Proposal Conference

A Pre-Proposal Conference (the Conference) will be held on Thursday, May 30, 2013, beginning at 2:00PM Local Time, at 6 St. Paul Street, 19th floor, Room 1941, Baltimore, MD 21202. All prospective Offerors are encouraged to attend in order to facilitate better preparation of their Proposals.

The Conference will be summarized. As promptly as is feasible subsequent to the Conference, a summary of the Conference and all questions and answers known at that time will be distributed to all prospective Offerors known to have received a copy of this RFP. This summary, as well as the questions and answers, will also be posted on eMaryland Marketplace. See RFP Section 1.8.

In order to assure adequate seating and other accommodations at the Conference, please e-mail, mail, or fax to (410-333-6495) the Pre-Proposal Conference Response Form to the attention of the Procurement Officer no later than 1:00 p.m. Local Time on May 28, 2013. The Pre-Proposal Conference Response Form is included as **Attachment E** to this RFP. In addition, if there is a need for sign language interpretation and/or other special accommodations due to a disability, please notify the Procurement Officer no later than 2:00p.m. local time on May 29, 2013. The Department will make a reasonable effort to provide such special accommodation.

1.8 eMarylandMarketplace

Each Offeror is requested to indicate its eMaryland Marketplace (eMM) vendor number in the Transmittal Letter (cover letter) submitted at the time of its Proposal submission to this RFP.

eMM is an electronic commerce system administered by the Maryland Department of General Services. In addition to using the Commission's website (www.psc.state.md.us) and possibly other means for transmitting the RFP and associated materials, the solicitation and summary of the Pre-Proposal Conference, Offeror questions and the Procurement Officer's responses, addenda, and other solicitation-related information will be provided via eMM.

In order to receive a contract award, a vendor must be registered on eMM. Registration is free. Go to <https://emaryland.buyspeed.com/bsol/login.jsp>, click on "Register" to begin the process, and then follow the prompts.

1.9 Questions

Written questions from prospective Offerors will be accepted by the Procurement Officer prior to the Conference. If possible and appropriate, such questions will be answered at the Conference. (No substantive question will be answered prior to the Conference.) Questions to the Procurement Officer shall be submitted via e-mail to the following e-mail address: dserra@psc.state.md.us. Please identify in the subject line the Solicitation Number and

Title. Questions, both oral and written, will also be accepted from prospective Offerors attending the Conference. If possible and appropriate, these questions will be answered at the Conference.

Questions will also be accepted subsequent to the Conference and should be submitted to the Procurement Officer (see above email address) in a timely manner prior to the Proposal due date. Questions are requested to be submitted at least five (5) days prior to the Proposal due date. The Procurement Officer, based on the availability of time to research and communicate an answer, shall decide whether an answer can be given before the Proposal due date. Time permitting, answers to all substantive questions that have not previously been answered, and are not clearly specific only to the requestor, will be distributed to all vendors that are known to have received a copy of the RFP in sufficient time for the answer to be taken into consideration in the Proposal.

1.10 Procurement Method

This Contract will be awarded in accordance with the Competitive Sealed Proposals method under COMAR 21.05.03.

1.11 Proposals Due (Closing) Date and Time

Proposals, in the number and form set forth in Section 4.2 “Proposals” must be received by the Procurement Officer at the address listed on the Key Information Summary Sheet, no later than 12 noon Local Time on (Proposal due date) in order to be considered.

Requests for extension of this time or date will not be granted. Offerors mailing Proposals should allow sufficient mail delivery time to ensure timely receipt by the Procurement Officer. Except as provided in COMAR 21.05.02.10, Proposals received after the due date and time listed in this section will not be considered.

Proposals may be modified or withdrawn by written notice received by the Procurement Officer before the time and date set forth in this section for receipt of Proposals.

Proposals may not be submitted by e-mail or facsimile.

Vendors not responding to this solicitation are requested to submit the “Notice to Vendors” form, which includes company information and the reason for not responding (e.g., too busy, cannot meet mandatory requirements, etc.). This form is located in the RFP immediately following the Title Page (page ii).

1.12 Multiple or Alternate Proposals

Multiple and/or alternate Proposals will not be accepted.

1.13 Economy of Preparation

Proposals should be prepared simply and economically and provide a straightforward and concise description of the Offeror’s Proposal to meet the requirements of this RFP.

1.14 Public Information Act Notice

An Offeror should give specific attention to the clear identification of those portions of its Proposal that it considers confidential and/or proprietary commercial information or trade secrets, and provide justification why such materials, upon request, should not be disclosed by the State under the Public Information Act, Md. Code Ann., State Government Article, Title 10, Subtitle 6. (Also, see RFP Section 4.4.3.2 “Claim of Confidentiality”). This confidential and/or proprietary information should be identified by page and section number and placed after the Title

Page and before the Table of Contents in the Technical Proposal and if applicable, separately in the Financial Proposal.

Offerors are advised that, upon request for this information from a third party, the Procurement Officer is required to make an independent determination whether the information must be disclosed.

1.15 Award Basis

The Contract shall be awarded to the responsible Offeror submitting the Proposal that has been determined to be the most advantageous to the State, considering price and evaluation factors set forth in this RFP (see COMAR 21.05.03.03F), for providing the goods and services as specified in this RFP. See RFP Section 5 for further information.

1.16 Oral Presentation

Offerors may be required to make oral presentations to State representatives. Offerors must confirm in writing any substantive oral clarification of, or change in, their Proposals made in the course of discussions. Any such written clarifications or changes then become part of the Offeror's Proposal and are binding if the Contract is awarded. The Procurement Officer will notify Offerors of the time and place of oral presentations.

1.17 Duration of Proposal

Proposals submitted in response to this RFP are irrevocable for 120 days following the closing date of the Proposals. This period may be extended at the Procurement Officer's request only with the Offeror's written agreement.

1.18 Revisions to the RFP

If it becomes necessary to revise this RFP before the due date for Proposals, the Department shall endeavor to provide addenda to all prospective Offerors that were sent this RFP or which are otherwise known by the Procurement Officer to have obtained this RFP. In addition, addenda to the RFP will be posted on the Department's procurement web page and through eMM. It remains the responsibility of all prospective Offerors to check all applicable websites for any addenda issued prior to the submission of Proposals. Addenda made after the due date for Proposals will be sent only to those Offerors that submitted a timely Proposal and that remain under award consideration as of the issuance date of the addenda.

Acknowledgment of the receipt of all addenda to this RFP issued before the Proposal due date shall be included in the Transmittal Letter accompanying the Offeror's Technical Proposal. Acknowledgement of the receipt of addenda to the RFP issued after the Proposal due date shall be in the manner specified in the addendum notice. Failure to acknowledge receipt of an addendum does not relieve the Offeror from complying with the terms, additions, deletions, or corrections set forth in the addendum.

1.19 Cancellations

The State reserves the right to cancel this RFP, accept or reject any and all Proposals, in whole or in part, received in response to this RFP, to waive or permit the cure of minor irregularities, and to conduct discussions with all qualified or potentially qualified Offerors in any manner necessary to serve the best interests of the State. The State also reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to award a Contract based upon the written proposals received without discussions or negotiations.

1.20 Incurred Expenses

The State will not be responsible for any costs incurred by any Offeror in preparing and submitting a Proposal, in making an oral presentation, in providing a demonstration, or in performing any other activities related to this solicitation.

1.21 Protest/Disputes

Any protest or dispute related, respectively, to this solicitation or the resulting Contract shall be subject to the provisions of COMAR 21.10 (Administrative and Civil Remedies).

1.22 Offeror Responsibilities

The selected Offeror shall be responsible for all products and services required by this RFP. All subcontractors must be identified and a complete description of their role relative to the Proposal must be included in the Offeror's Proposal. If applicable, subcontractors utilized in meeting the established MBE or VSBE participation goal(s) for this solicitation shall be identified as provided in the appropriate Attachment(s) of this RFP (see Section 1.33 "Minority Business Enterprise Goals" and Section 1.41 "Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprise Goals.").

If an Offeror that seeks to perform or provide the services required by this RFP is the subsidiary of another entity, all information submitted by the Offeror, including but not limited to references, minimum qualifications, and financial reports, or experience and documentation (e.g. insurance policies, bonds, letters of credit) used to meet minimum qualifications, if any, shall pertain exclusively to the Offeror, unless the parent organization will guarantee the performance of the subsidiary. If applicable, the Offeror's proposal shall contain an explicit statement that the parent organization will guarantee the performance of the subsidiary.

A parental guarantee of the performance of the Offeror under this Section will not automatically result in crediting the Offeror with the experience and/or qualifications of the parent under any evaluation criteria pertaining to the Offeror's experience and qualifications. Instead, the Offeror will be evaluated on the extent to which the State determines that the experience and qualification of the parent are transferred to and shared with the Offeror, the parent is directly involved in the performance of the Contract, and the value of the parent's participation as determined by the State.

1.23 Substitution of Personnel

A. Continuous Performance of Key Personnel

Unless substitution is approved per paragraphs B-D of this section, key personnel shall be the same personnel proposed in the Contractor's Technical Proposal, which will be incorporated into the Contract by reference. Such identified key personnel shall perform continuously for the duration of the Contract, or such lesser duration as specified in the Technical Proposal. Key personnel may not be removed by the Contractor from working under this Contract, as described in the RFP or the Contractor's Technical Proposal, without the prior written approval of the Contract Monitor.

If the Contract is task order based, the provisions of this section apply to key personnel identified in each task order proposal and agreement.

B. Definitions

For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

Extraordinary Personal Circumstance – means any circumstance in an individual’s personal life that reasonably requires immediate and continuous attention for more than fifteen (15) days and that precludes the individual from performing his/her job duties under this Contract. Examples of such circumstances may include, but are not limited to: a sudden leave of absence to care for a family member who is injured, sick, or incapacitated; the death of a family member, including the need to attend to the estate or other affairs of the deceased or his/her dependents; substantial damage to, or destruction of, the individual’s home that causes a major disruption in the individual’s normal living circumstances; criminal or civil proceedings against the individual or a family member; jury duty; and military service call-up.

Incapacitating – means any health circumstance that substantially impairs the ability of an individual to perform the job duties described for that individual’s position in the RFP or the Contractor’s Technical Proposal.

Sudden – means when the Contractor has less than thirty (30) days’ prior notice of a circumstance beyond its control that will require the replacement of any key personnel working under the Contract.

C. Key Personnel General Substitution Provisions

The following provisions apply to all of the circumstances of staff substitution described in paragraph D of this section.

1. The Contractor shall demonstrate to the Contract Monitor’s satisfaction that the proposed substitute key personnel have qualifications at least equal to those of the key personnel for whom the replacement is requested.
2. The Contractor shall provide the Contract Monitor with a substitution request that shall include:
 - A detailed explanation of the reason(s) for the substitution request;
 - The resume of the proposed substitute personnel, signed by the substituting individual and his/her formal supervisor;
 - The official resume of the current personnel for comparison purposes; and
 - Any evidence of any required credentials.
3. The Contract Monitor may request additional information concerning the proposed substitution. In addition, the Contract Monitor and/or other appropriate State personnel involved with the Contract may interview the proposed substitute personnel prior to deciding whether to approve the substitution request.
4. The Contract Monitor will notify the Contractor in writing of: (i) the acceptance or denial, or (ii) contingent or temporary approval for a specified time limit, of the requested substitution. The Contract Monitor will not unreasonably withhold approval of a requested key personnel replacement.

D. Replacement Circumstances

1. Voluntary Key Personnel Replacement

To voluntarily replace any key personnel, the Contractor shall submit a substitution request as described in paragraph C of this section to the Contract Monitor at least fifteen (15) days prior to the intended date of change. Except in a circumstance described in paragraph D.2 of this clause, a substitution may not occur unless and until the Contract Monitor approves the substitution in writing.

2. Key Personnel Replacement Due to Vacancy

The Contractor shall replace key personnel whenever a vacancy occurs due to the sudden termination, resignation, leave of absence due to an Extraordinary Personal Circumstance, Incapacitating injury, illness or physical condition, or death of such personnel. (A termination or resignation with thirty (30)

days or more advance notice shall be treated as a Voluntary Key Personnel Replacement as per Section D.1 of this section.).

Under any of the circumstances set forth in this paragraph D.2, the Contractor shall identify a suitable replacement and provide the same information or items required under paragraph C of this section within fifteen (15) days of the actual vacancy occurrence or from when the Contractor first knew or should have known that the vacancy would be occurring, whichever is earlier.

3. Key Personnel Replacement Due to an Indeterminate Absence

If any key personnel has been absent from his/her job for a period of ten (10) days due to injury, illness, or other physical condition, leave of absence under a family medical leave, or an Extraordinary Personal Circumstance and it is not known or reasonably anticipated that the individual will be returning to work within the next twenty (20) days to fully resume all job duties, before the 25th day of continuous absence, the Contractor shall identify a suitable replacement and provide the same information or items to the Contract Monitor as required under paragraph C of this section.

However, if this person is available to return to work and fully perform all job duties before a replacement has been authorized by the Contract Monitor, at the option and sole discretion of the Contract Monitor, the original personnel may continue to work under the Contract, or the replacement personnel will be authorized to replace the original personnel, notwithstanding the original personnel's ability to return.

4. Directed Personnel Replacement

- a. The Contract Monitor may direct the Contractor to replace any personnel who are perceived as being unqualified, non-productive, unable to fully perform the job duties due to full or partial Incapacity or Extraordinary Personal Circumstance, disruptive, or known, or reasonably believed, to have committed a major infraction(s) of law, agency, or Contract requirements. Normally, a directed personnel replacement will occur only after prior notification of problems with requested remediation, as described in paragraph 4.b. If after such remediation the Contract Monitor determines that the personnel performance has not improved to the level necessary to continue under the Contract, if at all possible at least fifteen (15) days notification of a directed replacement will be provided. However, if the Contract Monitor deems it necessary and in the State's best interests to remove the personnel with less than fifteen (15) days' notice, the Contract Monitor can direct the removal in a timeframe of less than fifteen (15) days, including immediate removal.

In circumstances of directed removal, the Contractor shall, in accordance with paragraph C of this section, provide a suitable replacement for approval within fifteen (15) days of the notification of the need for removal, or the actual removal, whichever occurs first.

- b. If deemed appropriate in the discretion of the Contract Monitor, the Contract Monitor shall give written notice of any personnel performance issues to the Contractor, describing the problem and delineating the remediation requirement(s). The Contractor shall provide a written Remediation Plan within ten (10) days of the date of the notice and shall implement the Remediation Plan immediately upon written acceptance by the Contract Monitor. If the Contract Monitor rejects the Remediation Plan, the Contractor shall revise and resubmit the plan to the Contract Monitor within five (5) days, or in the timeframe set forth by the Contract Monitor in writing.

Should performance issues persist despite the approved Remediation Plan, the Contract Monitor will give written notice of the continuing performance issues and either request a new Remediation Plan within a specified time limit or direct the substitution of personnel whose performance is at issue with a qualified substitute, including requiring the immediate removal of the key personnel at issue.

Replacement or substitution of personnel under this section shall be in addition to, and not in lieu of, the State's remedies under the Contract or which otherwise may be available at law or in equity.

1.24 Mandatory Contractual Terms

By submitting a Proposal in response to this RFP, an Offeror, if selected for award, shall be deemed to have accepted the terms and conditions of this RFP and the Contract, attached herein as **Attachment A**. Any exceptions to this RFP or the Contract shall be clearly identified in the Executive Summary of the Technical Proposal. **A Proposal that takes exception to these terms may be rejected (see RFP Section 4.4.3.4).**

1.25 Bid/Proposal Affidavit

A Proposal submitted by an Offeror must be accompanied by a completed Bid/Proposal Affidavit. A copy of this Affidavit is included as **Attachment B** of this RFP.

1.26 Contract Affidavit

All Offerors are advised that if a Contract is awarded as a result of this solicitation, the successful Offeror will be required to complete a Contract Affidavit. A copy of this Affidavit is included as **Attachment C** of this RFP. This Affidavit must be provided within five (5) Business Days of notification of proposed Contract award.

1.27 Compliance with Laws/Arrearages

By submitting a Proposal in response to this RFP, the Offeror, if selected for award, agrees that it will comply with all Federal, State, and local laws applicable to its activities and obligations under the Contract.

By submitting a response to this solicitation, each Offeror represents that it is not in arrears in the payment of any obligations due and owing the State, including the payment of taxes and employee benefits, and that it shall not become so in arrears during the term of the Contract if selected for Contract award.

1.28 Verification of Registration and Tax Payment

Before a business entity can do business in the State it must be registered with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT). SDAT is located at State Office Building, Room 803, 301 West Preston Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201. The SDAT website is <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/datanote.html>.

It is strongly recommended that any potential Offeror complete registration prior to the due date for receipt of Proposals. An Offeror's failure to complete registration with SDAT may disqualify an otherwise successful Offeror from final consideration and recommendation for Contract award.

1.29 False Statements

Offerors are advised that Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, § 11-205.1 provides as follows:

1.29.1 In connection with a procurement contract a person may not willfully:

- (a) Falsify, conceal, or suppress a material fact by any scheme or device;

- (b) Make a false or fraudulent statement or representation of a material fact; or
- (c) Use a false writing or document that contains a false or fraudulent statement or entry of a material fact.

1.29.2 A person may not aid or conspire with another person to commit an act under subsection (1) of this section.

1.29.3 A person who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a felony and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or imprisonment not exceeding five years or both.

1.30 Payments by Electronic Funds Transfer

By submitting a response to this solicitation, the Bidder/Offeror agrees to accept payments by electronic funds transfer (EFT) unless the State Comptroller's Office grants an exemption. Payment by EFT is mandatory for contracts exceeding \$100,000. The selected Bidder/Offeror shall register using the COT/GAD X-10 Vendor Electronic Funds (EFT) Registration Request Form. Any request for exemption must be submitted to the State Comptroller's Office for approval at the address specified on the COT/GAD X-10 form, must include the business identification information as stated on the form, and must include the reason for the exemption. The COT/GAD X-10 form may be downloaded from the Comptroller's website at:

http://comptroller.marylandtaxes.com/Government_Services/State_Accounting_Information/Static_Files/APM/gadx-10.pdf

1.31 Prompt Payment Policy

This procurement and the Contract(s) to be awarded pursuant to this solicitation are subject to the Prompt Payment Policy Directive issued by the Governor's Office of Minority Affairs (GOMA) and dated August 1, 2008. Promulgated pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, §§ 11-201, 13-205(a), and Title 14, Subtitle 3, and COMAR 21.01.01.03 and 21.11.03.01, the Directive seeks to ensure the prompt payment of all subcontractors on non-construction procurement contracts. The Contractor must comply with the prompt payment requirements outlined in the Contract, Section 31 "Prompt Payment" (see **Attachment A**). Additional information is available on GOMA's website at:

http://www.mdminoritybusiness.com/documents/PROMPTPAYMENTFAQs_000.pdf

1.32 Electronic Procurements Authorized

- A. Under COMAR 21.03.05, unless otherwise prohibited by law, the Department may conduct procurement transactions by electronic means, including the solicitation, bidding, award, execution, and administration of a contract, as provided in Md. Code Ann., Maryland Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, Commercial Law Article, Title 21.
- B. Participation in the solicitation process on a procurement contract for which electronic means has been authorized shall constitute consent by the Bidder/Offeror to conduct by electronic means all elements of the procurement of that Contract which are specifically authorized under the solicitation or the Contract.
- C. "Electronic means" refers to exchanges or communications using electronic, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or other means of electronically conducting transactions. Electronic means includes facsimile, e-mail, internet-based communications, electronic funds transfer, specific electronic bidding platforms (e.g., <https://emaryland.buyspeed.com/bs/>), and electronic data interchange.
- D. In addition to specific electronic transactions specifically authorized in other sections of this solicitation (e.g., § 1.30 "Payments by Electronic Funds Transfer") and subject to the exclusions noted in section E of this subsection, the following transactions are authorized to be conducted by electronic means on the terms described:

1. The Procurement Officer may conduct the procurement using eMM, e-mail, or facsimile to issue:
 - (a) the solicitation (e.g., the IFB/RFP);
 - (b) any amendments;
 - (c) pre-Bid/Proposal conference documents;
 - (d) questions and responses;
 - (e) communications regarding the solicitation or Bid/Proposal to any Bidder/Offeror or potential Bidder/Offeror;
 - (f) notices of award selection or non-selection; and
 - (g) the Procurement Officer's decision on any Bid protest or Contract claim.
2. A Bidder/Offeror or potential Bidder/Offeror may use e-mail or facsimile to:
 - (a) ask questions regarding the solicitation;
 - (b) reply to any material received from the Procurement Officer by electronic means that includes a Procurement Officer's request or direction to reply by e-mail or facsimile, but only on the terms specifically approved and directed by the Procurement Officer;
 - (c) submit a "No Bid/Proposal Response" to the solicitation.
3. The Procurement Officer, the Contract Monitor, and the Contractor may conduct day-to-day Contract administration, except as outlined in Section E of this subsection utilizing e-mail, facsimile, or other electronic means if authorized by the Procurement Officer or Contract Monitor.

E. The following transactions related to this procurement and any Contract awarded pursuant to it are *not authorized* to be conducted by electronic means:

1. submission of initial Bids or Proposals;
2. filing of Bid Protests;
3. filing of Contract Claims;
4. submission of documents determined by the Department to require original signatures (e.g., Contract execution, Contract modifications, etc.); or
5. any transaction, submission, or communication where the Procurement Officer has specifically directed that a response from the Contractor or Bidder/Offeror be provided in writing or hard copy.

F. Any facsimile or e-mail transmission is only authorized to the facsimile numbers or e-mail addresses for the identified person as provided in the solicitation, the Contract, or in the direction from the Procurement Officer or Contract Monitor.

1.33 Minority Business Enterprise Goals
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A minimum overall MBE subcontractor participation goal of 10%, with no subgoals has been established for the services resulting from this Contract.

1.33.1 **Attachment D** – Minority Business Enterprise participation, instructions, and forms are provided to assist Bidders/Offerors. A Bidder/Offeror must include with its Bid/Proposal a completed MDOT Certified MBE Utilization and Fair Solicitation Affidavit (**Attachment D-1**) whereby:

- (a) The Bidder/Offeror acknowledges the certified MBE participation goal or requests a waiver, commits to make a good faith effort to achieve the goal, and affirms that MBE subcontractors were treated fairly in the solicitation process; and

- (b) The Bidder/Offeror responds to the expected degree of MBE participation, as stated in the solicitation, by identifying the specific commitment of certified MBEs at the time of Bid/Proposal submission. The Bidder/Offeror shall specify the percentage of contract value associated with each MBE subcontractor identified on the MBE participation schedule.

If a Bidder/Offeror fails to submit a completed Attachment D-1 with the Bid/Proposal as required, the Procurement Officer shall determine that the Bid is non-responsive or the Proposal is not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award.

- 1.33.2 Bidders/Offerors are responsible for verifying that each of the MBE(s) selected to meet the subcontracting goal and subsequently identified in **Attachment D-1** is appropriately certified and has the correct NAICS codes allowing it to perform the intended work.
- 1.33.3 Within ten (10) Working Days from notification that it is the recommended awardee or from the date of the actual award, whichever is earlier, the Bidder/Offeror must provide the following documentation to the Procurement Officer.
 - (a) Outreach Efforts Compliance Statement (**Attachment D-2**).
 - (b) Subcontractor Project Participation Certification (**Attachment D-3**).
 - (c) If the recommended awardee believes a waiver (in whole or in part) of the overall MBE goal or of any sub goal is necessary, it must submit a fully-documented waiver request that complies with COMAR 21.11.03.11.
 - (d) Any other documentation required by the Procurement Officer to ascertain Bidder/Offeror responsibility in connection with the certified MBE subcontractor participation goal.

If the recommended awardee fails to return each completed document within the required time, the Procurement Officer may determine that the recommended awardee is not responsible and, therefore, not eligible for Contract award. If the Contract has already been awarded, the award is voidable.

- 1.33.4 A current directory of certified MBEs is available through the Maryland State Department of Transportation (MDOT), Office of Minority Business Enterprise, 7201 Corporate Center Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076. The phone numbers are (410) 865-1269, 1-800-544-6056, or TTY (410) 865-1342. The directory is also available on the MDOT website at <http://www.mdot.state.md.us>. The most current and up-to-date information on MBEs is available via this website. **Only MDOT-certified MBEs may be used to meet the MBE subcontracting goals.**
- 1.33.5 The Contractor, once awarded a Contract, will be responsible for submitting or requiring its subcontractor(s) to submit the following forms to provide the State with ongoing monitoring of MBE Participation:
 - (a) **Attachment D-4** (MBE Participation Prime Contract Paid/Unpaid MBE Invoice Report).
 - (b) **Attachment D-5** (MBE Participation Subcontractor/Contractor Unpaid MBE Invoice Report).
- 1.33.6 The Bidder/Offeror will be responsible for submitting the following form, if requesting a waiver, within ten (10) Working Days of recommendation for award and all documentation as required in **COMAR 21.11.03.11 - Waiver**:
 - (a) **Attachment D-6** (MBE Minority Contractor Unavailability Certificate).

1.34 Living Wage Requirements

A solicitation for services under a State contract valued at \$100,000 or more may be subject to Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, Title 18. Additional information regarding the State's living wage requirement is contained in **Attachment G**. Bidders/Offerors must complete and submit the Maryland Living Wage Requirements

Affidavit (**Attachment G-1**) with their Bid/Proposal. If a Bidder/Offeror fails to complete and submit the required documentation, the State may determine a Bidder/Offeror to be not responsible under State law.

Contractors and subcontractors subject to the Living Wage Law shall pay each covered employee at least the minimum amount set by law for the applicable Tier area. The specific living wage rate is determined by whether a majority of services take place in a Tier 1 Area or Tier 2 Area of the State. The Tier 1 Area includes Montgomery, Prince George's, Howard, Anne Arundel and Baltimore Counties, and Baltimore City. The Tier 2 Area includes any county in the State not included in the Tier 1 Area. In the event that the employees who perform the services are not located in the State, the head of the unit responsible for a State Contract pursuant to §18-102(d) of the State Finance and Procurement Article shall assign the tier based upon where the recipients of the services are located.

The Contract resulting from this solicitation will be determined to be a Tier 1 Contract or a Tier 2 Contract depending on the location(s) from which the Contractor provides 50% or more of the services. The Bidder/Offeror must identify in its Bid/Proposal the location(s) from which services will be provided, including the location(s) from which 50% or more of the Contract services will be provided.

- If the Contractor provides 50% or more of the services from a location(s) in a Tier 1 jurisdiction(s) the Contract will be a Tier 1 Contract.
- If the Contractor provides 50% or more of the services from a location(s) in a Tier 2 jurisdiction(s), the Contract will be a Tier 2 Contract.
- If the Contractor provides more than 50% of the services from an out-of-State location, the State agency determines the wage tier based on where the majority of the service recipients are located. This Contract has been determined to be a Tier 1 Contract.

Information pertaining to reporting obligations may be found by going to the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) website <http://www.dllr.state.md.us/labor/prev/livingwage.shtml>.

NOTE: Whereas the Living Wage may change annually, the Contract price may not be changed because of a Living Wage change.

1.35 Federal Funding Acknowledgement

This Contract does not contain Federal funds.

1.36 Conflict of Interest Affidavit and Disclosure

Bidders/Offerors shall complete and sign the Conflict of Interest Affidavit and Disclosure (**Attachment I**) and submit it with their Bid/Proposal. All Bidders/Offerors are advised that if a Contract is awarded as a result of this solicitation, the successful Contractor's personnel who perform or control work under this Contract and each of the participating subcontractor personnel who perform or control work under this Contract shall be required to complete agreements substantially similar to **Attachment I** Conflict of Interest Affidavit and Disclosure. For policies and procedures applying specifically to Conflict of Interests, the Contract is governed by COMAR 21.05.08.08.

1.37 Non-Disclosure Agreement

All Bidders/Offerors are advised that this solicitation and any resultant Contract(s) are subject to the terms of the Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) contained in this solicitation as **Attachment J**. This Agreement must be provided within five (5) Business Days of notification of proposed Contract award, however, to expedite processing, it is suggested that this document be completed and submitted with the Bid/Proposal.

1.38 HIPAA - Business Associate Agreement

A HIPAA Business Associate Agreement is not required for this procurement.

1.39 Nonvisual Access

This solicitation does not contain Information Technology (IT) provisions requiring Nonvisual Access.

1.40 Mercury and Products That Contain Mercury

This solicitation does not include the procurement of products known to likely include mercury as a component.

1.41 Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprise Goals

There is no Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprise (VSBE) subcontractor participation goal for this procurement.

Veteran Owned Businesses Are Encouraged to Respond to this Solicitation

1.42 Conflict Minerals Notice

Offerors are advised that Md. Ann. Code, State Finance and Procurement Article, § 14-413 provides as follows:

- (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (2) (i) “Conflict mineral” means a mineral or mineral derivative determined under federal law to be financing human conflict.
- (ii) “Conflict mineral” includes columbite-tantalite (coltan), cassiterite, gold, wolframite, or derivatives of these minerals.
- (3) “Noncompliant person” means a person:
 - (i) that is required to disclose under federal law information relating to conflict minerals that originated in the Democratic Republic of the Congo or its neighboring countries; and
 - (ii) for which the disclosure is not filed, is considered under federal law to be an unreliable determination, or contains false information.
- (b) A unit may not knowingly procure supplies or services from a noncompliant person.

By submitting a response to this solicitation, the Bidder/Offeror represents that it is in compliance with the disclosure requirements related to conflict minerals, as set forth in § 14-413 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

1.43 Investment Activities in Iran

The Bidder/Offeror is required to complete the Investment Activities in Iran Certification. A copy of this Certification is included as **Attachment N**. The Certification must be provided with the Bid/Proposal.

1.44 Location of the Performance of Services Disclosure

This solicitation does not require a Location of the Performance of Services Disclosure.

1.45 Department of Human Resources (DHR) Hiring Agreement

This solicitation does not require a DHR Hiring Agreement.

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SECTION 2 – MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

2.1 Offeror Minimum Qualifications

- 2.1.1 The Offeror shall have references evidencing experience in A-F below:
- a. The electrical distribution field;
 - b. The evaluation, critiquing, assessment and/or analyzing of distribution system reliability for an electric utility, state utility regulatory body or state utility consumer advocate [including making recommendations for remediation/improvements to system];
 - c. Reviewing regulations and advising improvements to regulations for a regulatory body;
 - d. Establishment of a system of estimating and disseminating times of restoration for bringing distribution systems back on line after the interruption of services by any cause;
 - e. Creation or use of performance-based incentives to improve system reliability; and
 - f. Working with COMAR or a similar regulatory scheme.
- 2.1.2 As proof of meeting this requirement, along with or as part of the Offeror's response to RFP § 4.4.3.9, the Offeror shall provide with its Proposal references attesting to the Offeror's experience in providing all of the above qualifications (A-F) within the last 5 years. The Offeror shall identify the above qualification(s) (A-F) on each reference submitted.

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SECTION 3 – SCOPE OF WORK

3.1 Background and Purpose

Beginning on June 29, 2012, the State of Maryland experienced a severe storm, known as a Derecho. The storm impacted electric service to a significant portion of the state, causing prolonged power outages during a time of high temperatures.

Pursuant to the Code of Maryland Regulations (“COMAR”) 20.50.12.13, a utility is required to file a written report with the Maryland Public Service Commission (the “Commission”) within three weeks of the end of a major outage event. Based on the definition of “major outage event” in this regulation, most of the electric utilities in the State had an interruption of service to a sufficient number of customers in each of their service territories to classify the outages resulting from the June 29, 2012 Derecho storm as a “major outage event.” The utilities, which met the requisite requirements and experienced a major outage event, filed Major Outage Event Reports (“Reports”) with the Commission, as required by COMAR. The Commission, by Order No. 85013, initiated Case No. 9298, *In the Matter of the Electric Service Interruptions in the State of Maryland Due to the June 29, 2012 Derecho Storm*, to receive and review these Reports.

The Commission conducted a legislative-style hearing to review each Report. In addition, evening hearings were held at various locations throughout the utility service areas, to receive public comment. Following these hearings, the Commission issued Order No. 85385 (“Order”), dated February 27, 2013. In this Order, the Commission found no lack of general preparedness or response to the Derecho that would give rise to violations of the Public Utilities Article of the Maryland Annotated Code (“PUA”) or COMAR, or that would allow the assessing of civil penalties. However, the Commission identified specific Directives to Staff and the Utilities that will form the basis of future potential Commission action. These Directives include the following, as identified in Attachment I to Order No. 85385:

<u>Action Item</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
• Shorter term plan, comments on Task Force Report	to be announced
• Staffing analysis report (Commission to handle)	August 30, 2013
• Work group sessions - emergency information	Next several months
• Staff report - findings/recommendations from work group sessions	September 30, 2013
• Staff - proposed COMAR revisions (Major Outage Event data and Poorest Performing Feeder Standard)	September 30, 2013
• Staff - proposed new COMAR provisions for ETRs	September 30, 2013

More specific information on what is specifically included in each action item can be found in Order No. 85385. To view Case No: 9298 and Order No: 85385 go to www.psc.state.md.us, left side of page, under Documents, click on Search Cases, left side of page, key in 9298 under Case Search and click on go. Item number 63 is Order No: 85385.

Staff has determined that the assistance of a contractor to evaluate these Action Items and assist Staff in formulating its Staff Reports and COMAR revisions is necessary. The Contractor would be required to meet the Due Dates (or assist Staff in meeting the due dates) set forth above for each Action Item that specifically sets a due date for Staff’s deliverable. The Contractor would be required to meet the Due Dates for all other Action Items as those dates are determined by the Commission for Staff’s response to utility company deliverable Due Dates.

3.2 Scope of Work - Requirements

The Contractor shall:

- Provide technical advice and assist Staff in developing appropriate standards/metrics to be included in a revised regulation, to be incorporated into COMAR, which addresses utility company performance by SAIDI, SAIFI or other measurable standards, for Major Outage Events. (Reference “Staff-proposed COMAR revisions” Action Item.)
- Provide technical advice and assist Staff in developing revised standards, to be incorporated into COMAR, for poorest performing feeders. (Reference “Staff-proposed COMAR revisions Major Outage Event data and Poorest Performing Feeder Standard” Action Item.)
- Review and analyze utility reports, filed pursuant to the Order, determining what enhancements or hardening to systems could be completed by utility companies with the next five (5) years, and review the utilities’ cost/benefit analysis of those short-term improvements. Provide a written report addressing consultant’s review and analysis of the utilities’ reports, in a format to be determined by Staff. Draft discovery to seek clarification of any issues needed to complete full review and coordinate issuance of discovery with Staff. Assist Staff in preparing written comments in the event of a Commission hearing. (Reference “Shorter term plan, comment on Task Force Report” Action Item).
- Review and analyze the assessment and findings of the utilities’ longer term comprehensive reports by the Company-funded consultant selected by the Commission to determine how the findings should impact/be incorporated into proposed COMAR revisions for Major Outage Events and Poorest Performing Feeder Standards, and proposed COMAR ETR regulations. Provide a written report addressing consultant’s review and analysis of the consultant’s reports, in a format to be determined by Staff. Assist Staff in preparing written comments in the event of a Commission hearing. (Reference “Longer Term Comprehensive Report” Action Item.)
- Provide technical advice and assist Staff in researching and developing COMAR regulations to establish objective standards for establishing and updating Estimated Times of Restoration (ETR) and setting appropriate parameters to establish global ETRs, localized ETRs, job level ETRs and revisions. (Reference “Proposed new COMAR provisions for ETRs” Action Item.)
- Analyze whether Staff should request the PSC to use its authority under PUA §3-109 *Annotated Code of Maryland*, to obtain records not already provided, and if so, assist in drafting data requests; Coordinate production and filing of all testimony, discovery, reports, work groups, and other work product, with Staff.

A more detailed discussion of each of the items identified in Section 3.2 may be found by reference to Order No. 85385, and the details and provisions of this Order are incorporated herein by reference.

3.2.1 The Contractor will be expected to assemble the staff necessary to professionally perform all of the functions for each identified task.

3.3 Security Requirements

3.3.1 Employee Identification

- (a) Each person who is an employee or agent of the Contractor or subcontractor shall display his or her company ID badge at all times while on State premises. Upon request of authorized State personnel, each such employee or agent shall provide additional photo identification.
- (b) At all times at any facility, the Contractor's personnel shall cooperate with State site requirements that include but are not limited to being prepared to be escorted at all times, providing information for badge issuance, and wearing the badge in a visual location at all times.

3.4 Invoicing

3.4.1 General

- (a) All invoices for services shall be signed by the Contractor and submitted to the Contract Monitor. All invoices shall include the following information:
 - Contractor name;
 - Remittance address;
 - Federal taxpayer identification number (or if sole proprietorship, the individual's social security number);
 - Invoice period;
 - Invoice date;
 - Invoice number
 - State assigned Contract number;
 - State assigned (Blanket) Purchase Order number(s);
 - Goods or services provided; and
 - Amount due.

Invoices submitted without the required information cannot be processed for payment until the Contractor provides the required information.

- (b) The Department reserves the right to reduce or withhold Contract payment in the event the Contractor does not provide the Department with all required deliverables within the time frame specified in the Contract or in the event that the Contractor otherwise materially breaches the terms and conditions of the Contract until such time as the Contractor brings itself into full compliance with the Contract. Any action on the part of the Department, or dispute of action by the Contractor, shall be in accordance with the provisions of Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article §§ 15-215 through 15-223 and with COMAR 21.10.02.

3.4.2 Invoice Submission Schedule

The Department will accept receipt of invoices on a monthly basis for review and approval of the percentage of work completed at that time. Invoices are due by the 15th of the month following the month in which services were performed.

3.5 MBE Reports

If this solicitation includes a MBE Goal (see Section 1.33), the Contractor and its MBE subcontractors shall provide the following MBE Monthly Reports based upon the commitment to the goal:

- (a) **Attachment D-4**, the MBE Participation Prime Contractor Paid/Unpaid MBE Invoice Report by the 10th of the month following the reporting period to the Contract Monitor and the MBE Liaison Officer.
- (b) **Attachment D-5**, the MBE Participation Subcontractor Paid/Unpaid MBE Invoice Report by the 10th of the month following the reporting period to the Contract Monitor and the MBE Liaison Officer.

3.6 VSBE Reports

If this solicitation includes a VSBE Goal (see Section 1.41), the Contractor and its VSBE subcontractors shall provide the following VSBE Monthly Reports based upon the commitment to the goal:

- (a) **Attachment M-3**, the VSBE Participation Prime Contractor Paid/Unpaid VSBE Invoice Report by the 10th of the month following the reporting period to the Contract Monitor and the VSBE Liaison Officer.
- (b) **Attachment M-4**, the VSBE Participation Subcontractor Paid/Unpaid VSBE Invoice Report by the 10th of the month following the reporting period to the Contract Monitor and the VSBE Liaison Officer.

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SECTION 4 – PROPOSAL FORMAT

4.1 Two Part Submission

Offerors shall submit Proposals in separate volumes:

- Volume I – TECHNICAL PROPOSAL
- Volume II – FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

4.2 Proposals

4.2.1 Volume I – Technical Proposal, and Volume II – Financial Proposal shall be sealed separately from one another. Each Volume shall contain an unbound original, so identified, and four (4) copies. The two (2) sealed Volumes shall be submitted together under one (1) label bearing:

- The RFP title and number,
- Name and address of the Offeror,
- The volume number (I or II), and
- Closing date and time for receipt of Proposals

To the Procurement Officer (see Section 1.5 “Procurement Officer”) prior to the date and time for receipt of Proposals (see Section 1.11 “Proposals Due (Closing) Date and Time”).

4.2.2 An electronic version (CD) of the Technical Proposal in Microsoft Word format must be enclosed with the original Technical Proposal. An electronic version (CD) of the Financial Proposal in Microsoft Word or Microsoft Excel format must be enclosed with the original Financial Proposal. CDs must be labeled on the outside with the RFP title and number, name of the Offeror, and volume number. CDs must be packaged with the original copy of the appropriate Proposal (Technical or Financial).

4.2.3 A second electronic version of Volume I and Volume II in searchable Adobe .pdf format shall be submitted on CD for Public Information Act (PIA) requests. This copy shall be redacted so that confidential and/or proprietary information has been removed (see Section 1.14 “Public Information Act Notice”).

4.2.4 All pages of both proposal volumes shall be consecutively numbered from beginning (Page 1) to end (Page “X”).

4.2.5 Proposals and any modifications to Proposals will be shown only to State employees, members of the Evaluation Committee, or other persons deemed by the Department to have a legitimate interest in them.

4.3 Delivery

Offerors may either mail or hand-deliver Proposals.

4.3.1 For U.S. Postal Service deliveries, any Proposal that has been received at the appropriate mailroom, or typical place of mail receipt, for the respective procuring unit by the time and date listed in the RFP will be deemed to be timely. If an Offeror chooses to use the U.S. Postal Service for delivery, the Department recommends that it use Express Mail, Priority Mail, or Certified Mail only as these are the only forms for which both the date and time of receipt can be verified by the Department. An Offeror using first class mail will not be able

to prove a timely delivery at the mailroom and it could take several days for an item sent by first class mail to make its way by normal internal mail to the procuring unit.

- 4.3.2 Hand-delivery includes delivery by commercial carrier acting as agent for the Offeror. For any type of direct (non-mail) delivery, Offerors are advised to secure a dated, signed, and time-stamped (or otherwise indicated) receipt of delivery.
- 4.3.3 After receipt, a Register of Proposals will be prepared that identifies each Offeror. The Register of Proposals will be open to inspection only after the Procurement Officer makes a determination recommending the award of the Contract.

4.4 Volume I – Technical Proposal

Note: No pricing information is to be included in the Technical Proposal (Volume 1). Pricing information is to be included only in the Financial Proposal (Volume II).

4.4.1 Format of Technical Proposal

Inside a sealed package described in Section 4.2 “Proposals,” the unbound original, four (4) copies, and the electronic version shall be provided. The RFP sections are numbered for ease of reference. Section 4.4.3 sets forth the order of information to be provided in the Technical Proposal, e.g., Section 4.4.3.1 “Title and Table of Contents,” Section 4.4.3.2 “Claim of Confidentiality,” Section 4.4.3.3 “Transmittal Letter,” Section 4.4.3.4 “Executive Summary,” etc. In addition to the instructions below, responses in the Offeror’s Technical Proposal should reference the organization and numbering of Sections in the RFP (ex. “Section 3.2.1 Response . . . ; “Section 3.2.2 Response . . .,” etc.). This proposal organization will allow State officials and the Evaluation Committee (see RFP Section 5.1) to “map” Offeror responses directly to RFP requirements by Section number and will aid in the evaluation process.

4.4.2 Additional Required Technical Submissions

4.4.2.1 The following documents shall be completed, signed, and included in the Technical Proposal, each in its own section that follows the material submitted in response to Section 4.4.3.

- a. Completed Bid/Proposal Affidavit (**Attachment B**).
- c. Completed Maryland Living Wage Requirements Affidavit (**Attachment G-1**).
- d. Completed Certification of Investment Activities in Iran (**Attachment N**).

4.4.2.2 ***If Required**, the following documents shall be completed, signed, and included in the Technical Proposal, each in its own section that follows the material submitted in response to Section 4.4.3.
*See appropriate RFP Section to determine whether the Attachment is required for this procurement:

- a. Completed MDOT Certified MBE Utilization and Fair Solicitation Affidavit (**Attachment D1**) *see **Section 1.33**.
- b. Completed Federal Funds Attachment (**Attachment H**) *see **Section 1.35**.
- c. Completed Conflict of Interest Affidavit and Disclosure (**Attachment I**) *see **Section 1.36**.
- d. Completed Mercury Affidavit (**Attachment L**) *see **Section 1.40**.
- e. Completed Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprise (VSBE) Utilization Affidavit and Subcontractor Participation Schedule. (**Attachment M-1**) *see **Section 1.41**.
- f. Completed Location of the Performance of Services Disclosure (**Attachment O**) *see **Section 1.44**.

4.4.3 The Technical Proposal shall include the following documents and information in the order specified as follows:

4.4.3.1 Title Page and Table of Contents

The Technical Proposal should begin with a Title Page bearing the name and address of the Offeror and the name and number of this RFP. A Table of Contents shall follow the Title Page for the Technical Proposal, organized by section, subsection, and page number.

4.4.3.2 Claim of Confidentiality

Any information which is claimed to be confidential is to be noted by reference and included after the Title Page and before the Table of Contents, and if applicable, also in the Offeror’s Financial Proposal. An explanation for each claim of confidentiality shall be included (see Section 1.14 “Public Information Act Notice”).

4.4.3.3 Transmittal Letter

A Transmittal Letter shall accompany the Technical Proposal. The purpose of this letter is to transmit the Proposal and acknowledge the receipt of any addenda. The Transmittal Letter should be brief and signed by an individual who is authorized to commit the Offeror to the services and requirements as stated in this RFP. The Transmittal Letter should include the following:

- Name and address of Offeror;
- Name, title, e-mail address, and telephone number of primary contact for Offeror;
- Solicitation Title and Solicitation Number that Proposal is in response to;
- Signature, typed name, and title of an individual authorized to commit Offeror to its Proposal;
- Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) of the Offeror, or if a single individual, their Social Security Number (SSN);
- Offeror’s eMM number;
- Offeror’s MBE certification number (if applicable);
- Acceptance of all State RFP and Contract terms and conditions (see Section 1.24); if any exceptions are taken, they are to be noted in the Executive Summary (see Section 4.4.3.4); and
- Acknowledgement of all addenda to this RFP.

4.4.3.4 Executive Summary

The Offeror shall condense and highlight the contents of the Technical Proposal in a separate section titled “Executive Summary.” The Summary should identify the Service Category(ies) and Region(s) the Offeror is proposing to provide services for (if applicable). The Summary shall also identify any exceptions the Offeror has taken to the requirements of this RFP, the Contract (Attachment A), or any other attachments. Exceptions to terms and conditions may result in having the Proposal deemed unacceptable or classified as not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award.

If the Offeror has taken no exceptions to the requirements of this RFP, the Executive Summary shall so state.

4.4.3.5 Minimum Qualifications Documentation:

The Offeror shall submit any Minimum Qualifications documentation that may be required, as set forth in Section 2 “Offeror Minimum Qualifications.”

4.4.3.6 Offeror Technical Response to RFP Requirements and Proposed Work Plan

- a. The Offeror shall address each Scope of Work requirement (Section 3.2) in its Technical Proposal and describe how its proposed services will meet or exceed the requirement(s). If the State is seeking Offeror agreement to any requirement(s), the Offeror shall state its agreement or disagreement. Any paragraph in the Technical Proposal that responds to a Scope of Work (Section 3.2) requirement shall include an explanation of how the work will be done. Any exception to a requirement, term, or condition may result in having the Proposal classified as not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award or the Offeror deemed not responsible.
- b. The Offeror must submit a work plan and proposal for each of the tasks identified in Order No: 85385; See RFP §3.1. The Offeror shall give a definitive description of the proposed plan to meet the requirements of the RFP, i.e., a Work Plan. It shall include the specific methodology and techniques to be used by the Offeror in providing the required services as outlined in RFP Section 3, Scope of Work. The description shall include an outline of the overall management concepts employed by the Offeror and a project management plan, including project control mechanisms and overall timelines. Project deadlines considered contract deliverables must be recognized in the Work Plan.
- c. The Offeror shall identify the location(s) in which it proposes to provide the services, including, if applicable, any current facilities that it operates, and any required construction to satisfy the State's requirements as outlined in this RFP.

4.4.3.7 Experience and Qualifications of Proposed Staff

The Offeror shall identify the number and types of staff proposed to be utilized under the Contract.

The Offeror shall describe in detail how the proposed staff's experience and qualifications relate to their specific responsibilities, as detailed in the Work Plan. The Offeror shall include individual resumes for the key personnel who are to be assigned to the project if the Offeror is awarded the contract. Each resume should include the amount of experience the individual has had relative to the Scope of Work set forth in this solicitation. Letters of intended commitment to work on the project, including any proposed subcontractors, shall be included in this section.

The Offeror is required to provide an Organizational Chart outlining personnel and their related duties. The Offeror shall include job titles and the percentage of time each individual will spend on his/her assigned tasks. Offerors using job titles other than those commonly used by industry standards must provide a crosswalk reference document.

4.4.3.8 Corporate Qualifications and Capabilities

The Offeror shall include information on past corporate experience with similar projects and/or services. The Offeror shall describe how its organization can meet the requirements of this RFP and shall also include the following information:

- a. The number of years the Offeror has provided the similar services;
- b. The number of clients/customers and geographic locations that the Offeror currently serves;
- c. The names and titles of headquarters or regional management personnel who may be involved with supervising the services to be performed under this Contract;

- d. The Offeror shall also describe how it is configured managerially, financially, and individually so as to afford the assurance that it can execute a contract successfully;
- e. The Offeror's process for resolving billing errors; and
- f. A corporate organizational chart that identifies the complete structure of the company including any parent company, headquarters, regional offices, and subsidiaries of the Offeror.

4.4.3.9 References

At least three (3) references are requested from customers who are capable of documenting the Offeror's ability to provide the services specified in this RFP. References used to meet any Offeror Minimum Qualifications (see Section 2) may be used to meet this request. Each reference shall be from a client for whom the Offeror has provided services within the past five (5) years and shall include the following information:

- a. Name of client organization;
- b. Name, title, telephone number, and e-mail address, if available, of point of contact for client organization; and
- c. Value, type, duration, and description of services provided.

The Department reserves the right to request additional references or utilize references not provided by an Offeror.

4.4.3.10 List of Current or Prior State Contracts:

Provide a list of all contracts with any entity of the State of Maryland for which the Offeror is currently performing services or for which services have been completed within the last five (5) years. For each identified contract, the Offeror is to provide:

- a. The State contracting entity;
- b. A brief description of the services/goods provided;
- c. The dollar value of the contract;
- d. The term of the contract;
- e. The State employee contact person (name, title, telephone number, and, if possible, e-mail address); and
- f. Whether the contract was terminated before the end of the term specified in the original contract, including whether any available renewal option was not exercised.

Information obtained regarding the Offeror's level of performance on State contracts will be used by the Procurement Officer to determine the responsibility of the Offeror and considered as part of the experience and past performance evaluation criteria of the RFP.

4.4.3.11 Financial Capability

An Offeror must include in its Proposal a commonly-accepted method to prove its fiscal integrity. The Offeror shall include Financial Statements, preferably a Profit and Loss (P&L) statement and a Balance Sheet, for the last two (2) years (independently audited preferred).

In addition, the Offeror may supplement its response to this Section by including one or more of the following with its response:

- a. Dunn and Bradstreet Rating;
- b. Standard and Poor's Rating;
- c. Lines of credit;
- d. Evidence of a successful financial track record; and
- e. Evidence of adequate working capital.

4.4.3.12 Certificate of Insurance:

There is no insurance requirement for this solicitation or resulting contract.

4.4.3.13 Subcontractors:

The Offeror shall provide a complete list of all subcontractors that will work on the Contract if the Offeror receives an award, including those utilized in meeting the MBE and/or VSBE subcontracting goal, if applicable. This list shall include a full description of the duties each subcontractor will perform and why/how each subcontractor was deemed the most qualified for this project.

4.4.3.14 Legal Action Summary:

This summary shall include:

- a. A statement as to whether there are any outstanding legal actions or potential claims against the Offeror and a brief description of any action;
- b. A brief description of any settled or closed legal actions or claims against the Offeror over the past five (5) years;
- c. A description of any judgments against the Offeror within the past five (5) years, including the case name, number court, and what the final ruling or determination was from the court; and
- d. In instances where litigation is on-going and the Offeror has been directed not to disclose information by the court, provide the name of the judge and location of the court.

4.4.3.15 Economic Benefit Factors

The Offeror shall submit with its Proposal a narrative describing benefits that will accrue to the Maryland economy as a direct or indirect result of its performance of this contract. Proposals will be evaluated to assess the benefit to Maryland's economy specifically offered. See COMAR 21.05.03.03A(3).

Proposals that identify specific benefits as being contractually enforceable commitments will be rated more favorably than Proposals that do not identify specific benefits as contractual commitments, all other factors being equal.

Offerors shall identify any performance guarantees that will be enforceable by the State if the full level of promised benefit is not achieved during the contract term.

As applicable, for the full duration of the contract, including any renewal period, or until the commitment is satisfied, the contractor shall provide to the procurement officer or other designated agency personnel reports of the actual attainment of each benefit listed in response to this section.

These benefit attainment reports shall be provided quarterly, unless elsewhere in these specifications a different reporting frequency is stated.

Please note that in responding to this section, the following do not generally constitute economic benefits to be derived from this contract:

- a. generic statements that the State will benefit from the Offeror's superior performance under the contract;
- b. descriptions of the number of Offeror employees located in Maryland other than those that will be performing work under this contract; or
- c. tax revenues from Maryland based employees or locations, other than those that will be performing, or used to perform, work under this contract.

Discussion of Maryland-based employees or locations may be appropriate if the Offeror makes some projection or guarantee of increased or retained presence based upon being awarded this contract.

Examples of economic benefits to be derived from a contract may include any of the following. For each factor identified below, identify the specific benefit and contractual commitments and provide a breakdown of expenditures in that category:

- The contract dollars to be recycled into Maryland's economy in support of the contract, through the use of Maryland subcontractors, suppliers and joint venture partners. Do not include actual fees or rates paid to subcontractors or information from your Financial Proposal;
- The number and types of jobs for Maryland residents resulting from the contract. Indicate job classifications, number of employees in each classification and the aggregate payroll to which the contractor has committed, including contractual commitments at both prime and, if applicable, subcontract levels. If no new positions or subcontracts are anticipated as a result of this Contract, so state explicitly;
- Tax revenues to be generated for Maryland and its political subdivisions as a result of the contract. Indicate tax category (sales taxes, payroll taxes, inventory taxes and estimated personal income taxes for new employees). Provide a forecast of the total tax revenues resulting from the contract;
- Subcontract dollars committed to Maryland small businesses and MBEs; and
- Other benefits to the Maryland economy which the Offeror promises will result from awarding the contract to the Offeror, including contractual commitments. Describe the benefit, its value to the Maryland economy, and how it will result from, or because of the contract award. Offerors may commit to benefits that are not directly attributable to the contract, but for which the contract award may serve as a catalyst or impetus.

4.5 Volume II – Financial Proposal

Under separate sealed cover from the Technical Proposal and clearly identified in the format identified in Section 4.2 "Proposals," the Offeror shall submit an original unbound copy, four (4) copies, and an electronic version in Microsoft Word or Microsoft Excel of the Financial Proposal. The Financial Proposal shall contain all price information in the format specified in **Attachment F**. The Offeror shall complete the Financial Proposal Form only as provided in the Financial Proposal Instructions and the Financial Proposal Form itself.

SECTION 5 – EVALUATION COMMITTEE, EVALUATION CRITERIA, AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

5.1 Evaluation Committee

Evaluation of Proposals will be performed in accordance with COMAR 21.05.03 by a committee established for that purpose and based on the evaluation criteria set forth below. The Evaluation Committee will review proposals, participate in Offeror oral presentations and discussions, and provide input to the Procurement Officer. The Department reserves the right to utilize the services of individuals outside of the established Evaluation Committee for advice and assistance, as deemed appropriate.

5.2 Technical Proposal Evaluation Criteria

The criteria to be used to evaluate each Technical Proposal are listed below in descending order of importance. Unless stated otherwise, any subcriteria within each criterion have equal weight.

5.2.1 Offeror’s Technical Response to RFP Requirements and Work Plan (See RFP § 4.4.3.6)

The State prefers an Offeror’s response to work requirements in the RFP that illustrates a comprehensive understanding of work requirements and mastery of the subject matter, including an explanation of how the work will be done. Responses to work requirements such as “concur” or “will comply” will receive a lower ranking than those Offerors who demonstrate they understand a work requirement and have a plan to meet or exceed it.

5.2.2 Experience and Qualifications of Proposed Staff (See RFP § 4.4.3.7)

5.2.3 Corporate Qualifications and Capabilities (See RFP § 4.4.3.8)

5.2.4 Subcontractors (see RFP § 4.4.3.13)

5.2.5 Economic Benefit to State of Maryland (See RFP § 4.4.3.15)

5.3 Financial Proposal Evaluation Criteria

All qualified Offerors will be ranked from the lowest (most advantageous) to the highest (least advantageous) price based on the Total Evaluated Price within the stated guidelines set forth in this RFP and as submitted on **Attachment F** - Financial Proposal Form.

5.4 Reciprocal Preference

Although Maryland law does not authorize procuring agencies to favor resident Offerors in awarding procurement contracts, many other states do grant their resident businesses preferences over Maryland contractors. Therefore, COMAR 21.05.01.04 requires that procuring units apply a reciprocal preference under the following conditions:

- The most advantageous offer is from a responsible Offeror whose headquarters, principal base of operations, or principal site (that will primarily provide the services required under this RFP) is in another state.

- The other state gives a preference to its resident businesses through law, policy, or practice; and
- The preference does not conflict with a Federal law or grant affecting the procurement Contract.

The preference given shall be identical to the preference that the other state, through law, policy, or practice gives to its resident businesses.

5.5 Selection Procedures

5.5.1 General

The Contract will be awarded in accordance with the Competitive Sealed Proposals (CSP) method found at COMAR 21.05.03. The Competitive Sealed Proposals method allows for the conducting of discussions and the revision of Proposals during these discussions. Therefore, the State may conduct discussions with all Offerors that have submitted Proposals that are determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for contract award or potentially so. However, the State reserves the right to make an award without holding discussions.

In either case (i.e., with or without discussions), the State may determine an Offeror to be not responsible and/or an Offeror's Proposal to be not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award at any time after the initial closing date for receipt of Proposals and prior to Contract award. If the State finds an Offeror to be not responsible and/or an Offeror's Technical Proposal to be not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award, that Offeror's Financial Proposal will be returned if the Financial Proposal is unopened at the time of the determination.

5.5.2 Selection Process Sequence

- 5.5.2.1 A determination is made that the MDOT Certified MBE Utilization and Fair Solicitation Affidavit (**Attachment D-1**) is included and is properly completed, if there is a MBE goal. In addition, a determination is made that the Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprise (VSBE) Utilization Affidavit and Subcontractor Participation Schedule. (**Attachment M-1**) is included and is properly completed, if there is a VSBE goal.
- 5.5.2.2 The next level of review will be an evaluation to assess compliance with the Offeror Minimum Requirements set forth in **Section 2 – Minimum Qualifications** of the RFP. Offerors who fail to meet these basic requirements will be disqualified and their proposals eliminated from further consideration.
- 5.5.2.3 Technical Proposals are evaluated for technical merit and ranked. During this review, oral presentations and discussions may be held. The purpose of such discussions will be to assure a full understanding of the State's requirements and the Offeror's ability to perform the services, as well as to facilitate arrival at a Contract that is most advantageous to the State. Offerors will be contacted by the State as soon as any discussions are scheduled.
- 5.5.2.4 Offerors must confirm in writing any substantive oral clarifications of, or changes in, their Technical Proposals made in the course of discussions. Any such written clarifications or changes then become part of the Offeror's Technical Proposal. Proposals are given a final review and ranked.
- 5.5.2.5 The Financial Proposal of each Qualified Offeror (a responsible Offeror determined to have submitted an acceptable Proposal) will be evaluated and ranked separately from the Technical evaluation. After a review of the Financial Proposals of Qualified Offerors, the evaluation committee or Procurement Officer may again conduct discussions to further evaluate the Offeror's entire Proposal.

- 5.5.2.6 When in the best interest of the State, the Procurement Officer may permit Qualified Offerors that have submitted acceptable Proposals to revise their initial Proposals and submit, in writing, Best and Final Offers (BAFOs). The State may make an award without issuing a request for a BAFO.

5.5.3 Award Determination

Upon completion of the Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal evaluations and rankings, each Offeror will receive an overall ranking. The Procurement Officer will recommend award of the Contract to the responsible Offeror that submitted the Proposal determined to be the most advantageous to the State. In making this determination, technical factors will receive equal weight with financial factors.

5.6 Documents Required upon Notice of Recommendation for Contract Award

Upon receipt of a Notification of Recommendation for Contract Award, the following documents shall be completed and submitted by the recommended awardee within five (5) Business Days, unless noted otherwise. Submit three (3) copies of each with original signatures:

- a. signed Contract (**Attachment A**),
- b. completed Contract Affidavit (**Attachment C**),
- c. completed MBE **Attachments D-2 and D-3**, within ten (10) Working Days, if applicable; *see **Section 1.33**,
- d. completed MBE **Attachment D-6** if a waiver has been requested, within ten (10) Working Days, if applicable; *see **Section 1.33**,
- e. signed Non-Disclosure Agreement (**Attachment J**), if applicable; *see **Section 1.37**,
- f. signed HIPAA Business Associate Agreement (**Attachment K**), if applicable; *see **Section 1.38**,
- g. completed VSBE **Attachments M-2 and M-3**, if applicable *see **Section 1.41**,
- h. completed DHR Hiring Agreement, **Attachment P**, if applicable *see **Section 1.45**, and
- i. copy of a current Certificate of Insurance with the prescribed limits set forth in Section 3.4 “Insurance Requirements,” naming the State as an additional insured, if applicable; *see **Section 3.4**.

The remainder of this page is intentionally left blank.

RFP ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A – Contract

This is the sample contract used by the Department. It is provided with the RFP for informational purposes and is not required to be submitted at Proposal submission time. Upon notification of recommendation for award, a completed contract will be sent to the recommended awardee for signature. The recommended awardee must return to the Procurement Officer three (3) executed copies of the Contract within five (5) Business Days after receipt. Upon Contract award, a fully-executed copy will be sent to the Contractor.

ATTACHMENT B – Bid/Proposal Affidavit

This Attachment must be completed and submitted with the Technical Proposal.

ATTACHMENT C – Contract Affidavit

This Attachment must be completed and submitted by the recommended awardee to the Procurement Officer within five (5) Business Days of receiving notification of recommendation for award.

ATTACHMENT D – Minority Business Enterprise Forms

If required (see Section 1.33), these Attachments include the MBE subcontracting goal statement, instructions, and MBE Attachments D-1 through D-6. Attachment D-1 must be properly completed and submitted with the Offeror's Technical Proposal or the Proposal will be deemed not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award and rejected. Within 10 Working Days of receiving notification of recommendation for Contract award, the Offeror must submit Attachments D-2 and D-3 and, if the Offeror has requested a waiver of the MBE goal, Attachment D-6.

ATTACHMENT E – Pre-Proposal Conference Response Form

It is requested that this form be completed and submitted as described in Section 1.7 by those potential Offerors that plan on attending the Pre-Proposal Conference.

ATTACHMENT F – Financial Proposal Instructions and Form

The Financial Proposal Form must be completed and submitted with the Financial Proposal.

ATTACHMENT G – Maryland Living Wage Requirements for Service Contracts and Affidavit of Agreement

Attachment G-1 Living Wage Affidavit must be completed and submitted with the Technical Proposal.

ATTACHMENT H – Federal Funds Attachment

If required (see Section 1.35), these Attachments must be completed and submitted with the Technical Proposal as instructed in the Attachments.

ATTACHMENT I – Conflict of Interest Affidavit and Disclosure

If required (see Section 1.36), this Attachment must be completed and submitted with the Technical Proposal.

ATTACHMENT J – Non-Disclosure Agreement

If required (see Section 1.37), this Attachment must be completed and submitted within five (5) Business Days of receiving notification of recommendation for award. However, to expedite processing, it is suggested that this document be completed and submitted with the Technical Proposal.

ATTACHMENT K – HIPAA Business Associate Agreement

If required (see Section 1.38), this Attachment is to be completed and submitted within five (5) Business Days of receiving notification of recommendation for award. However, to expedite processing, it is suggested that this document be completed and submitted with the Technical Proposal.

ATTACHMENT L – Mercury Affidavit

If required (see Section 1.40), this Attachment must be completed and submitted with the Technical Proposal.

ATTACHMENT M – Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprise Forms

If required (see Section 1.41), these Attachments include the VSBE Attachments M-1 through M-4. Attachment M-1 must be completed and submitted with the Technical Proposal. Attachment M-2 is required to be submitted within ten (10) Business Days of receiving notification of recommendation for award.

ATTACHMENT N – Certification of Investment Activities in Iran

This Attachment must be completed and submitted with the Technical Proposal.

ATTACHMENT O – Location of the Performance of Services Disclosure

If required (see Section 1.44), this Attachment must be completed and submitted with the Technical Proposal.

ATTACHMENT P – Department of Human Resources (DHR) Hiring Agreement

If required (see Section 1.45), this Attachment is to be completed and submitted within five (5) Business Days of receiving notification of recommendation for award.

**TECHNICAL STAFF SUPPORT FOR ORDER NO: 85385
IN CASE NO: 9298**

THIS CONTRACT (the “Contract”) is made this _____ day of _____, 2013 by and between _____ and the STATE OF MARYLAND, acting through the Public Service Commission.

In consideration of the promises and the covenants herein contained, the parties agree as follows:

1. Definitions

In this Contract, the following words have the meanings indicated:

- 1.1 “COMAR” means Code of Maryland Regulations.
- 1.2 “Contract Monitor” means the Department employee identified in Section 1.6 of the RFP as the Contract Monitor.
- 1.3 “Contractor” means _____ whose principal business address is _____ (Contractor’s primary address) and whose principal office in Maryland is _____ (Contractor’s local address).
- 1.4 “Department” means the Public Service Commission.
- 1.5 “Financial Proposal” means the Contractor’s Financial Proposal dated _____.
- 1.6 “Procurement Officer” means the Department employee identified in Section 1.5 of the RFP as the Procurement Officer.
- 1.7 “RFP” means the Request for Proposals for Technical Staff Support for Order No.: 85385 in Case No.: 9298 Solicitation # PSC #09-02-13, and any addenda thereto issued in writing by the State.
- 1.8 “State” means the State of Maryland.
- 1.9 “Technical Proposal” means the Contractor’s Technical Proposal dated _____.

2. Scope of Contract

- 2.1 The Contractor shall provide deliverables, programs, goods, and services specific to the Contract awarded in accordance with Exhibits A-C listed in this section and incorporated as part of this Contract. If there is any conflict between this Contract and the Exhibits, the terms of the Contract shall govern. If there is any conflict among the Exhibits, the following order of precedence shall determine the prevailing provision:

Exhibit A – The RFP
Exhibit B – State Contract Affidavit, executed by the Contractor and dated _____
Exhibit C – The Proposal

2.2 The Procurement Officer may, at any time, by written order, make changes in the work within the general scope of the Contract or the RFP. No other order, statement, or conduct of the Procurement Officer or any other person shall be treated as a change or entitle the Contractor to an equitable adjustment under this section. Except as otherwise provided in this Contract, if any change under this section causes an increase or decrease in the Contractor's cost of, or the time required for, the performance of any part of the work, whether or not changed by the order, an equitable adjustment in the Contract price shall be made and the Contract modified in writing accordingly. The Contractor must assert in writing its right to an adjustment under this section within thirty (30) days of receipt of written change order and shall include a written statement setting forth the nature and cost of such claim. No claim by the Contractor shall be allowed if asserted after final payment under this Contract. Failure to agree to an adjustment under this section shall be a dispute under the Disputes clause. Nothing in this section shall excuse the Contractor from proceeding with the Contract as changed.

2.3 While the Procurement Officer may, at any time, by written change order, make unilateral changes in the work within the general scope of the Contract as provided in Section 2.2 above, the Contract may be modified by mutual agreement of the parties, provided: (a) the modification is made in writing; (b) all parties sign the modification; and (c) all approvals by the required agencies as described in COMAR Title 21, are obtained.

3. Period of Performance.

3.1 The Contract resulting from this RFP shall be for a period of approximately two (2) years beginning on the date of the Notice to Proceed Letter and ending two (2) years from that date. The term of this Contract begins on the date the Contract is signed by the Department following approval of the Board of Public Works, if such approval is required. The Contractor shall provide services under this Contract upon receipt of official notification of award and a written Notice to Proceed issued by the Procurement Officer.

3.2 Audit, confidentiality, document retention, and indemnification obligations under this Contract shall survive expiration or termination of the Contract.

4. Consideration and Payment

4.1 In consideration of the satisfactory performance of the work set forth in this Contract, the Department shall pay the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Contract and at the prices quoted on the Financial Proposal Form (Attachment F). Unless properly modified (see above Section 2.3), payment to the Contractor pursuant to this Contract shall not exceed \$ _____.

4.2 Payments to the Contractor shall be made no later than thirty (30) days after the Department's receipt of a proper invoice for services provided by the Contractor, acceptance by the Department of services provided by the Contractor, and pursuant to the conditions outlined in Section 4 of this Contract. Each invoice for services rendered must include the Contractor's Federal Tax Identification or Social Security Number for a Contractor who is an individual which is _____. Charges for late payment of invoices other than as prescribed at Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, §15-104 as from time-to-time amended, are prohibited. Invoices shall be submitted to the Contract Monitor. Electronic funds transfer shall be used by the State to pay Contractor pursuant to this Contract and any other State payments due Contractor unless the State Comptroller's Office grants Contractor an exemption.

4.3 In addition to any other available remedies, if, in the opinion of the Procurement Officer, the Contractor fails to perform in a satisfactory and timely manner, the Procurement Officer may refuse or limit approval of any invoice for payment, and may cause payments to the Contractor to be reduced or withheld until such time as the Contractor meets performance standards as established by the Procurement Officer.

4.4 Payment of an invoice by the Department is not evidence that services were rendered as required under this Contract.

4.5 Contractor's eMarylandMarketplace vendor ID number is _____.

5. Rights to Records

- 5.1 The Contractor agrees that all documents and materials including, but not limited to, software, reports, drawings, studies, specifications, estimates, tests, maps, photographs, designs, graphics, mechanical, artwork, computations, and data prepared by the Contractor for purposes of this Contract shall be the sole property of the State and shall be available to the State at any time. The State shall have the right to use the same without restriction and without compensation to the Contractor other than that specifically provided by this Contract.
- 5.2 The Contractor agrees that at all times during the term of this Contract and thereafter, works created as a deliverable under this Contract, and services performed under this Contract shall be "works made for hire" as that term is interpreted under U.S. copyright law. To the extent that any products created as a deliverable under this Contract are not works made for hire for the State, the Contractor hereby relinquishes, transfers, and assigns to the State all of its rights, title, and interest (including all intellectual property rights) to all such products created under this Contract, and will cooperate reasonably with the State in effectuating and registering any necessary assignments.
- 5.3 The Contractor shall report to the Contract Monitor, promptly and in written detail, each notice or claim of copyright infringement received by the Contractor with respect to all data delivered under this Contract.
- 5.4 The Contractor shall not affix any restrictive markings upon any data, documentation, or other materials provided to the State hereunder and if such markings are affixed, the State shall have the right at any time to modify, remove, obliterate, or ignore such warnings.

6. Exclusive Use

The State shall have the exclusive right to use, duplicate, and disclose any data, information, documents, records, or results, in whole or in part, in any manner for any purpose whatsoever, that may be created or generated by the Contractor in connection with this Contract. If any material, including software, is capable of being copyrighted, the State shall be the copyright owner and Contractor may copyright material connected with this project only with the express written approval of the State.

7. Patents, Copyrights, and Intellectual Property

- 7.1 If the Contractor furnishes any design, device, material, process, or other item, which is covered by a patent, trademark or service mark, or copyright or which is proprietary to, or a trade secret of, another, the Contractor shall obtain the necessary permission or license to permit the State to use such item or items.
- 7.2 The Contractor will defend or settle, at its own expense, any claim or suit against the State alleging that any such item furnished by the Contractor infringes any patent, trademark, service mark, copyright, or trade secret. If a third party claims that a product infringes that party's patent, trademark, service mark, trade secret, or copyright, the Contractor will defend the State against that claim at Contractor's expense and will pay all damages, costs, and attorneys' fees that a court finally awards, provided the State: (a) promptly notifies the Contractor in writing of the claim; and (b) allows Contractor to control and cooperates with Contractor in, the defense and any related settlement negotiations. The obligations of this paragraph are in addition to those stated in Section 7.3 below.
- 7.3 If any products furnished by the Contractor become, or in the Contractor's opinion are likely to become, the subject of a claim of infringement, the Contractor will, at its option and expense: (a) procure for the State the right to continue using the applicable item; (b) replace the product with a non-infringing product substantially complying with the item's specifications; or (c) modify the item so that it becomes non-infringing and performs in a substantially similar manner to the original item.

8. Confidentiality

8.1 Subject to the Maryland Public Information Act and any other applicable laws including, without limitation, HIPAA, the HI-TECH ACT, and the Maryland Medical Records Act, all confidential or proprietary information and documentation relating to either party (including without limitation, any information or data stored within the Contractor's computer systems) shall be held in absolute confidence by the other party. Each party shall, however, be permitted to disclose relevant confidential information to its officers, agents, and employees to the extent that such disclosure is necessary for the performance of their duties under this Contract, provided that the data may be collected, used, disclosed, stored, and disseminated only as provided by and consistent with the law. The provisions of this section shall not apply to information that: (a) is lawfully in the public domain; (b) has been independently developed by the other party without violation of this Contract; (c) was already in the possession of such party; (d) was supplied to such party by a third party lawfully in possession thereof and legally permitted to further disclose the information; or (e) which such party is required to disclose by law.

8.2 This Section 8 shall survive expiration or termination of this Contract.

9. Loss of Data

In the event of loss of any State data or records where such loss is due to the intentional act or omission or negligence of the Contractor or any of its subcontractors or agents, the Contractor shall be responsible for recreating such lost data in the manner and on the schedule set by the Contract Monitor. The Contractor shall ensure that all data is backed up and recoverable by the Contractor. Contractor shall use its best efforts to assure that at no time shall any actions undertaken by the Contractor under this Contract (or any failures to act when Contractor has a duty to act) damage or create any vulnerabilities in data bases, systems, platforms, and/or applications with which the Contractor is working hereunder.

10. Indemnification

10.1 The Contractor shall hold harmless and indemnify the State from and against any and all losses, damages, claims, suits, actions, liabilities, and/or expenses, including, without limitation, attorneys' fees and disbursements of any character that arise from, are in connection with or are attributable to the performance or nonperformance of the Contractor or its subcontractors under this Contract.

10.2 This indemnification clause shall not be construed to mean that the Contractor shall indemnify the State against liability for any losses, damages, claims, suits, actions, liabilities, and/or expenses that are attributable to the sole negligence of the State or the State's employees.

10.3 The State of Maryland has no obligation to provide legal counsel or defense to the Contractor or its subcontractors in the event that a suit, claim, or action of any character is brought by any person not party to this Contract against the Contractor or its subcontractors as a result of or relating to the Contractor's performance under this Contract.

10.4 The State has no obligation for the payment of any judgments or the settlement of any claims against the Contractor or its subcontractors as a result of or relating to the Contractor's performance under this Contract.

10.5 The Contractor shall immediately notify the Procurement Officer of any claim or suit made or filed against the Contractor or its subcontractors regarding any matter resulting from, or relating to, the Contractor's obligations under the Contract, and will cooperate, assist, and consult with the State in the defense or investigation of any claim, suit, or action made or filed against the State as a result of, or relating to, the Contractor's performance under this Contract.

10.6 This Section 10 shall survive termination of this Contract.

11. Non-Hiring of Employees

No official or employee of the State, as defined under Md. Code Ann., State Government Article, § 15-102, whose duties as such official or employee include matters relating to or affecting the subject matter of this Contract, shall, during the pendency and term of this Contract and while serving as an official or employee of the State, become or be an employee of the Contractor or any entity that is a subcontractor on this Contract.

12. Disputes

This Contract shall be subject to the provisions of Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, Title 15, Subtitle 2, and COMAR 21.10 (Administrative and Civil Remedies). Pending resolution of a claim, the Contractor shall proceed diligently with the performance of the Contract in accordance with the Procurement Officer's decision. Unless a lesser period is provided by applicable statute, regulation, or the Contract, the Contractor must file a written notice of claim with the Procurement Officer within thirty (30) days after the basis for the claim is known or should have been known, whichever is earlier. Contemporaneously with or within thirty (30) days of the filing of a notice of claim, but no later than the date of final payment under the Contract, the Contractor must submit to the Procurement Officer its written claim containing the information specified in COMAR 21.10.04.02.

13. Maryland Law

- 13.1 This Contract shall be construed, interpreted, and enforced according to the laws of the State of Maryland.
- 13.2 The Md. Code Ann., Commercial Law Article, Title 22, Maryland Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act, does not apply to this Contract or to any purchase order or Notice to Proceed issued under this Contract.
- 13.3 Any and all references to the Maryland Code, Annotated contained in this Contract shall be construed to refer to such Code sections as are from time to time amended.

14. Nondiscrimination in Employment

The Contractor agrees: (a) not to discriminate in any manner against an employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, creed, age, sex, marital status, national origin, ancestry, or disability of a qualified individual with a disability; (b) to include a provision similar to that contained in subsection (a), above, in any underlying subcontract except a subcontract for standard commercial supplies or raw materials; and (c) to post and to cause subcontractors to post in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment, notices setting forth the substance of this clause.

15. Contingent Fee Prohibition

The Contractor warrants that it has not employed or retained any person, partnership, corporation, or other entity, other than a bona fide employee, bona fide agent, bona fide salesperson, or commercial selling agency working for the business, to solicit or secure the Contract, and that the business has not paid or agreed to pay any person, partnership, corporation, or other entity, other than a bona fide employee, bona fide agent, bona fide salesperson, or commercial selling agency, any fee or any other consideration contingent on the making of this Contract.

16. Non-availability of Funding

If the General Assembly fails to appropriate funds or if funds are not otherwise made available for continued performance for any fiscal period of this Contract succeeding the first fiscal period, this Contract shall be canceled automatically as of the beginning of the fiscal year for which funds were not appropriated or otherwise made available; provided, however, that this will not affect either the State's rights or the Contractor's rights under any termination clause in this Contract. The effect of termination of the Contract hereunder will be to discharge both the Contractor and the State from future performance of the Contract, but not from their rights and obligations existing at

the time of termination. The Contractor shall be reimbursed for the reasonable value of any nonrecurring costs incurred but not amortized in the price of the Contract. The State shall notify the Contractor as soon as it has knowledge that funds may not be available for the continuation of this Contract for each succeeding fiscal period beyond the first.

17. Termination for Cause

If the Contractor fails to fulfill its obligations under this Contract properly and on time, or otherwise violates any provision of the Contract, the State may terminate the Contract by written notice to the Contractor. The notice shall specify the acts or omissions relied upon as cause for termination. All finished or unfinished work provided by the Contractor shall, at the State's option, become the State's property. The State shall pay the Contractor fair and equitable compensation for satisfactory performance prior to receipt of notice of termination, less the amount of damages caused by the Contractor's breach. If the damages are more than the compensation payable to the Contractor, the Contractor will remain liable after termination and the State can affirmatively collect damages. Termination hereunder, including the termination of the rights and obligations of the parties, shall be governed by the provisions of COMAR 21.07.01.11B.

18. Termination for Convenience

The performance of work under this Contract may be terminated by the State in accordance with this clause in whole, or from time to time in part, whenever the State shall determine that such termination is in the best interest of the State. The State will pay all reasonable costs associated with this Contract that the Contractor has incurred up to the date of termination, and all reasonable costs associated with termination of the Contract; provided, however, the Contractor shall not be reimbursed for any anticipatory profits that have not been earned up to the date of termination. Termination hereunder, including the determination of the rights and obligations of the parties, shall be governed by the provisions of COMAR 21.07.01.12A(2).

19. Delays and Extensions of Time

The Contractor agrees to prosecute the work continuously and diligently and no charges or claims for damages shall be made by it for any delays, interruptions, interferences, or hindrances from any cause whatsoever during the progress of any portion of the work specified in this Contract.

Time extensions will be granted only for excusable delays that arise from unforeseeable causes beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of the Contractor, including but not restricted to, acts of God, acts of the public enemy, acts of the State in either its sovereign or contractual capacity, acts of another Contractor in the performance of a contract with the State, fires, floods, epidemics, quarantine restrictions, strikes, freight embargoes, or delays of subcontractors or suppliers arising from unforeseeable causes beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of either the Contractor or the subcontractors or suppliers.

20. Suspension of Work

The State unilaterally may order the Contractor in writing to suspend, delay, or interrupt all or any part of its performance for such period of time as the Procurement Officer may determine to be appropriate for the convenience of the State.

21. Pre-Existing Regulations

In accordance with the provisions of Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, § 11-206, the regulations set forth in Title 21 of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR 21) in effect on the date of execution of this Contract are applicable to this Contract.

22. Financial Disclosure

The Contractor shall comply with the provisions of Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, § 13-221, which requires that every person that enters into contracts, leases, or other agreements with the State or its agencies during a calendar year under which the business is to receive in the aggregate, \$100,000 or more, shall within thirty (30) days of the time when the aggregate value of these contracts, leases or other agreements reaches \$100,000, file with the Secretary of the State certain specified information to include disclosure of beneficial ownership of the business.

23. Political Contribution Disclosure

The Contractor shall comply with Md. Code Ann., Election Law Article, §§ 14-101 through 14-108, which requires that every person that enters into contracts, leases, or other agreements with the State, a county, or an incorporated municipality, or their agencies, during a calendar year in which the person receives in the aggregate \$100,000 or more, shall, file with the State Board of Elections a statement disclosing contributions in excess of \$500 made during the reporting period to a candidate for elective office in any primary or general election. The statement shall be filed with the State Board of Elections: (a) before a purchase or execution of a lease or contract by the State, a county, an incorporated municipality, or their agencies, and shall cover the preceding two calendar years; and (b) if the contribution is made after the execution of a lease or contract, then twice a year, throughout the contract term, on: (i) February 5, to cover the six (6) month period ending January 31; and (ii) August 5, to cover the six (6) month period ending July 31.

24. Documents Retention and Inspection Clause

The Contractor and subcontractors shall retain and maintain all records and documents relating to this contract for a period of five (5) years after final payment by the State hereunder or any applicable statute of limitations, whichever is longer, and shall make them available for inspection and audit by authorized representatives of the State, including the Procurement Officer or designee, at all reasonable times. All records related in any way to the Contract are to be retained for the entire time provided under this section. This Section 24 shall survive expiration or termination of the Contract.

If the Contractor supplies services to a State residential health care facility under the Mental Hygiene Administration, the Family Health Administration, the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration, or the Developmental Disabilities Administration, the Contractor agrees, in addition to the requirements above,:

- 24.1 That pursuant to 42 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Part 420, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Comptroller General of the United States, or their duly-authorized representatives, shall be granted access to the Contractor's contract, books, documents, and records necessary to verify the cost of the services provided under this contract, until the expiration of four (4) years after the services are furnished under this contract; and
- 24.2 That similar access will be allowed to the books, documents, and records of any organization related to the Contractor or controlled by the Contractor (as those terms are defined in 42 C.F.R. (420.301) if that organization is subcontracting to provide services with a value of \$10,000 or more in a twelve (12) month period to be reimbursed through funds provided by this contract.

25. Compliance with Laws

The Contractor hereby represents and warrants that:

- 25.1 It is qualified to do business in the State and that it will take such action as, from time to time hereafter, may be necessary to remain so qualified;
- 25.2 It is not in arrears with respect to the payment of any monies due and owing the State, or any department or unit thereof, including but not limited to the payment of taxes and employee benefits, and that it shall not become so in arrears during the term of this Contract;

- 25.3 It shall comply with all federal, State and local laws, regulations, and ordinances applicable to its activities and obligations under this Contract; and
- 25.4 It shall obtain, at its expense, all licenses, permits, insurance, and governmental approvals, if any, necessary to the performance of its obligations under this Contract.

26. Cost and Price Certification

By submitting cost or price information, the Contractor certifies to the best of its knowledge that the information submitted is accurate, complete, and current as of the date of its Bid/Proposal.

The price under this Contract and any change order or modification hereunder, including profit or fee, shall be adjusted to exclude any significant price increases occurring because the Contractor furnished cost or price information which, as of the date of its Bid/Proposal, was inaccurate, incomplete, or not current.

27. Subcontracting; Assignment

The Contractor may not subcontract any portion of the services provided under this Contract without obtaining the prior written approval of the Procurement Officer, nor may the Contractor assign this Contract or any of its rights or obligations hereunder, without the prior written approval of the Procurement Officer provided, however, that a contractor may assign monies receivable under a contract after due notice to the State. Any subcontracts shall include such language as may be required in various clauses contained within this Contract, exhibits, and attachments. The Contract shall not be assigned until all approvals, documents, and affidavits are completed and properly registered. The State shall not be responsible for fulfillment of the Contractor’s obligations to its subcontractors.

28. Liability

- 28.1 For breach of this Contract, negligence, misrepresentation, or any other contract or tort claim, Contractor shall be liable as follows:
 - a. For infringement of patents, copyrights, trademarks, service marks, and/or trade secrets, as provided in Section 7 of this Contract;
 - b. Without limitation for damages for bodily injury (including death) and damage to real property and tangible personal property; and
 - c. For all other claims, damages, losses, costs, expenses, suits, or actions in any way related to this Contract, regardless of the form. Contractor’s liability for third party claims arising under Section 10 of this Contract shall be unlimited if the State is not immune from liability for claims arising under Section 10.

29. Parent Company Guarantee (If Applicable)

_____ (Corporate name of Contractor’s Parent Company) hereby guarantees absolutely the full, prompt, and complete performance by _____ (Contractor) of all the terms, conditions and obligations contained in this Contract, as it may be amended from time to time, including any and all exhibits that are now or may become incorporated hereunto, and other obligations of every nature and kind that now or may in the future arise out of or in connection with this Contract, including any and all financial commitments, obligations, and liabilities. _____ (Corporate name of Contractor’s Parent Company) may not transfer this absolute guaranty to any other person or entity without the prior express written approval of the State, which approval the State may grant, withhold, or qualify in its sole and absolute subjective discretion. _____

(Corporate name of Contractor's Parent Company) further agrees that if the State brings any claim, action, suit or proceeding against _____ (Contractor), _____ (Corporate name of Contractor's Parent Company) may be named as a party, in its capacity as Absolute Guarantor.

30. Commercial Nondiscrimination

- 30.1 As a condition of entering into this Contract, Contractor represents and warrants that it will comply with the State's Commercial Nondiscrimination Policy, as described at Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, Title 19. As part of such compliance, Contractor may not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or on the basis of disability or other unlawful forms of discrimination in the solicitation, selection, hiring, or commercial treatment of subcontractors, vendors, suppliers, or commercial customers, nor shall Contractor retaliate against any person for reporting instances of such discrimination. Contractor shall provide equal opportunity for subcontractors, vendors, and suppliers to participate in all of its public sector and private sector subcontracting and supply opportunities, provided that this clause does not prohibit or limit lawful efforts to remedy the effects of marketplace discrimination that have occurred or are occurring in the marketplace. Contractor understands that a material violation of this clause shall be considered a material breach of this Contract and may result in termination of this Contract, disqualification of Contractor from participating in State contracts, or other sanctions. This clause is not enforceable by or for the benefit of, and creates no obligation to, any third party.
- 30.2 The Contractor shall include the above Commercial Nondiscrimination clause, or similar clause approved by the Department, in all subcontracts.
- 30.3 As a condition of entering into this Contract, upon the request of the Commission on Civil Rights, and only after the filing of a complaint against Contractor under Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, Title 19, as amended from time to time, Contractor agrees to provide within sixty (60) days after the request a complete list of the names of all subcontractors, vendors, and suppliers that Contractor has used in the past four (4) years on any of its contracts that were undertaken within the State of Maryland, including the total dollar amount paid by Contractor on each subcontract or supply contract. Contractor further agrees to cooperate in any investigation conducted by the State pursuant to the State's Commercial Nondiscrimination Policy as set forth at Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, Title 19, and to provide any documents relevant to any investigation that are requested by the State. Contractor understands that violation of this clause is a material breach of this Contract and may result in contract termination, disqualification by the State from participating in State contracts, and other sanctions.

31. Prompt Pay Requirements

- 31.1 If the Contractor withholds payment of an undisputed amount to its subcontractor, the Department, at its option and in its sole discretion, may take one or more of the following actions:
 - a. Not process further payments to the contractor until payment to the subcontractor is verified;
 - b. Suspend all or some of the contract work without affecting the completion date(s) for the contract work;
 - c. Pay or cause payment of the undisputed amount to the subcontractor from monies otherwise due or that may become due;
 - d. Place a payment for an undisputed amount in an interest-bearing escrow account; or
 - e. Take other or further actions as appropriate to resolve the withheld payment.
- 31.2 An "undisputed amount" means an amount owed by the Contractor to a subcontractor for which there is no good faith dispute. Such "undisputed amounts" include, without limitation:
 - a. Retainage which had been withheld and is, by the terms of the agreement between the Contractor and subcontractor, due to be distributed to the subcontractor; and

- b. An amount withheld because of issues arising out of an agreement or occurrence unrelated to the agreement under which the amount is withheld.
- 31.3 An act, failure to act, or decision of a Procurement Officer or a representative of the Department, concerning a withheld payment between the Contractor and a subcontractor under this provision, may not:
- a. Affect the rights of the contracting parties under any other provision of law;
 - b. Be used as evidence on the merits of a dispute between the Department and the contractor in any other proceeding; or
 - c. Result in liability against or prejudice the rights of the Department.
- 31.4 The remedies enumerated above are in addition to those provided under COMAR 21.11.03.13 with respect to subcontractors that have contracted pursuant to the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) program.
- 31.5 To ensure compliance with certified MBE subcontract participation goals, the Department may, consistent with COMAR 21.11.03.13, take the following measures:
- a. Verify that the certified MBEs listed in the MBE participation schedule actually are performing work and receiving compensation as set forth in the MBE participation schedule.
 - b. This verification may include, as appropriate:
 - i. Inspecting any relevant records of the Contractor;
 - ii. Inspecting the jobsite; and
 - iii. Interviewing subcontractors and workers.
 - iv. Verification shall include a review of:
 - (a) The Contractor's monthly report listing unpaid invoices over thirty (30) days old from certified MBE subcontractors and the reason for nonpayment; and
 - (b) The monthly report of each certified MBE subcontractor, which lists payments received from the Contractor in the preceding thirty (30) days and invoices for which the subcontractor has not been paid.
 - c. If the Department determines that the Contractor is not in compliance with certified MBE participation goals, then the Department will notify the Contractor in writing of its findings, and will require the Contractor to take appropriate corrective action. Corrective action may include, but is not limited to, requiring the Contractor to compensate the MBE for work performed as set forth in the MBE participation schedule.
 - d. If the Department determines that the Contractor is in material noncompliance with MBE contract provisions and refuses or fails to take the corrective action that the Department requires, then the Department may:
 - i. Terminate the contract;
 - ii. Refer the matter to the Office of the Attorney General for appropriate action; or
 - iii. Initiate any other specific remedy identified by the contract, including the contractual remedies required by any applicable laws, regulations, and directives regarding the payment of undisputed amounts.
 - e. Upon completion of the Contract, but before final payment or release of retainage or both, the Contractor shall submit a final report, in affidavit form under the penalty of perjury, of all payments made to, or withheld from, MBE subcontractors.

32. Contract Monitor and Procurement Officer

The work to be accomplished under this Contract shall be performed under the direction of the Contract Monitor. All matters relating to the interpretation of this Contract shall be referred to the Procurement Officer for determination.

33. Notices

All notices hereunder shall be in writing and either delivered personally or sent by certified or registered mail, postage prepaid, as follows:

If to the State: Dolline M. Serra
Procurement Officer
Public Service Commission
6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
Phone: 410-767-8009
Email: dserra@psc.state.md.us

If to the Contractor: _____

34. Hiring Agreement

Not Applicable

35. Miscellaneous

- 35.1 Any provision of this Contract which contemplates performance or observance subsequent to any termination or expiration of this contract shall survive termination or expiration of this contract and continue in full force and effect.
- 35.2 If any term contained in this contract is held or finally determined to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, in whole or in part, such term shall be severed from this contract, and the remaining terms contained herein shall continue in full force and effect, and shall in no way be affected, prejudiced, or disturbed thereby.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the parties have executed this Contract as of the date hereinabove set forth.

CONTRACTOR

By: _____

_____ Date

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF MARYLAND

By: W. Kevin Hughes, Chairman _____

_____ Date

Approved for form and legal
Sufficiency this _____ day
of _____, 2013.

Robert H. Erwin, General Counsel

APPROVED BY BPW: _____
(Date) (BPW Item #)

ATTACHMENT B – BID/PROPOSAL AFFIDAVIT

A. AUTHORITY

I hereby affirm that I, _____ (name of affiant) am the _____ (title) and duly authorized representative of _____ (name of business entity) and that I possess the legal authority to make this affidavit on behalf of the business for which I am acting.

B. CERTIFICATION REGARDING COMMERCIAL NONDISCRIMINATION

The undersigned Bidder/Offeror hereby certifies and agrees that the following information is correct: In preparing its Bid/Proposal on this project, the Bidder/Offeror has considered all Proposals submitted from qualified, potential subcontractors and suppliers, and has not engaged in "discrimination" as defined in § 19-103 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. "Discrimination" means any disadvantage, difference, distinction, or preference in the solicitation, selection, hiring, or commercial treatment of a vendor, subcontractor, or commercial customer on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, or national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or on the basis of disability or any otherwise unlawful use of characteristics regarding the vendor's, supplier's, or commercial customer's employees or owners. "Discrimination" also includes retaliating against any person or other entity for reporting any incident of "discrimination". Without limiting any other provision of the solicitation on this project, it is understood that, if the certification is false, such false certification constitutes grounds for the State to reject the Bid/Proposal submitted by the Bidder/Offeror on this project, and terminate any contract awarded based on the Bid/Proposal. As part of its Bid/Proposal, the Bidder/Offeror herewith submits a list of all instances within the past 4 years where there has been a final adjudicated determination in a legal or administrative proceeding in the State of Maryland that the Bidder/Offeror discriminated against subcontractors, vendors, suppliers, or commercial customers, and a description of the status or resolution of that determination, including any remedial action taken. Bidder/Offeror agrees to comply in all respects with the State's Commercial Nondiscrimination Policy as described under Title 19 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

B-1. CERTIFICATION REGARDING MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES.

The undersigned Bidder/Offeror hereby certifies and agrees that it has fully complied with the State Minority Business Enterprise Law, State Finance and Procurement Article, § 14-308(a)(2), Annotated Code of Maryland, which provides that, except as otherwise provided by law, a contractor may not identify a certified minority business enterprise in a Bid/Proposal and:

- (1) Fail to request, receive, or otherwise obtain authorization from the certified minority business enterprise to identify the certified minority Proposal;
- (2) Fail to notify the certified minority business enterprise before execution of the contract of its inclusion in the Bid/Proposal;
- (3) Fail to use the certified minority business enterprise in the performance of the contract; or
- (4) Pay the certified minority business enterprise solely for the use of its name in the Bid/Proposal.

Without limiting any other provision of the solicitation on this project, it is understood that if the certification is false, such false certification constitutes grounds for the State to reject the Bid/Proposal submitted by the Bidder/Offeror on this project, and terminate any contract awarded based on the Bid/Proposal.

B-2. CERTIFICATION REGARDING VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISES.

The undersigned Bidder/Offeror hereby certifies and agrees that it has fully complied with the State veteran-owned small business enterprise law, State Finance and Procurement Article, § 14-605, Annotated Code of Maryland, which provides that a person may not:

- (1) Knowingly and with intent to defraud, fraudulently obtain, attempt to obtain, or aid another person in fraudulently obtaining or attempting to obtain public money, procurement contracts, or funds expended under a procurement contract to which the person is not entitled under this title;
- (2) Knowingly and with intent to defraud, fraudulently represent participation of a veteran-owned small business enterprise in order to obtain or retain a Bid/Proposal preference or a procurement contract;
- (3) Willfully and knowingly make or subscribe to any statement, declaration, or other document that is fraudulent or false as to any material matter, whether or not that falsity or fraud is committed with the knowledge or consent of the person authorized or required to present the declaration, statement, or document;
- (4) Willfully and knowingly aid, assist in, procure, counsel, or advise the preparation or presentation of a declaration, statement, or other document that is fraudulent or false as to any material matter, regardless of whether that falsity or fraud is committed with the knowledge or consent of the person authorized or required to present the declaration, statement, or document;
- (5) Willfully and knowingly fail to file any declaration or notice with the unit that is required by COMAR 21.11.12; or
- (6) Establish, knowingly aid in the establishment of, or exercise control over a business found to have violated a provision of § B-2(1)-(5) of this regulation.

C. AFFIRMATION REGARDING BRIBERY CONVICTIONS

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

Neither I, nor to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the above business (as is defined in Section 16-101(b) of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland), or any of its officers, directors, partners, controlling stockholders, or any of its employees directly involved in the business's contracting activities including obtaining or performing contracts with public bodies has been convicted of, or has had probation before judgment imposed pursuant to Criminal Procedure Article, § 6-220, Annotated Code of Maryland, or has pleaded nolo contendere to a charge of, bribery, attempted bribery, or conspiracy to bribe in violation of Maryland law, or of the law of any other state or federal law, except as follows (indicate the reasons why the affirmation cannot be given and list any conviction, plea, or imposition of probation before judgment with the date, court, official or administrative body, the sentence or disposition, the name(s) of person(s) involved, and their current positions and responsibilities with the business):

D. AFFIRMATION REGARDING OTHER CONVICTIONS

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

Neither I, nor to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the above business, or any of its officers, directors, partners, controlling stockholders, or any of its employees directly involved in the business's contracting activities including obtaining or performing contracts with public bodies, has:

- (1) Been convicted under state or federal statute of:
 - (a) A criminal offense incident to obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public or private contract; or
 - (b) Fraud, embezzlement, theft, forgery, falsification or destruction of records or receiving stolen property;
- (2) Been convicted of any criminal violation of a state or federal antitrust statute;
- (3) Been convicted under the provisions of Title 18 of the United States Code for violation of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act, 18 U.S.C. § 1961 et seq., or the Mail Fraud Act, 18 U.S.C. § 1341 et seq., for acts in connection with the submission of Bids/Proposals for a public or private contract;
- (4) Been convicted of a violation of the State Minority Business Enterprise Law, § 14-308 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland;
- (5) Been convicted of a violation of § 11-205.1 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland;
- (6) Been convicted of conspiracy to commit any act or omission that would constitute grounds for conviction or liability under any law or statute described in subsections (1)—(5) above;
- (7) Been found civilly liable under a state or federal antitrust statute for acts or omissions in connection with the submission of Bids/Proposals for a public or private contract;
- (8) Been found in a final adjudicated decision to have violated the Commercial Nondiscrimination Policy under Title 19 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland with regard to a public or private contract; or
- (9) Admitted in writing or under oath, during the course of an official investigation or other proceedings, acts or omissions that would constitute grounds for conviction or liability under any law or statute described in §§ B and C and subsections D(1)—(8) above, except as follows (indicate reasons why the affirmations cannot be given, and list any conviction, plea, or imposition of probation before judgment with the date, court, official or administrative body, the sentence or disposition, the name(s) of the person(s) involved and their current positions and responsibilities with the business, and the status of any debarment):

_____.

E. AFFIRMATION REGARDING DEBARMENT

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

Neither I, nor to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the above business, or any of its officers, directors, partners, controlling stockholders, or any of its employees directly involved in the business's contracting activities, including obtaining or performing contracts with public bodies, has ever been suspended or debarred

(including being issued a limited denial of participation) by any public entity, except as follows (list each debarment or suspension providing the dates of the suspension or debarment, the name of the public entity and the status of the proceedings, the name(s) of the person(s) involved and their current positions and responsibilities with the business, the grounds of the debarment or suspension, and the details of each person's involvement in any activity that formed the grounds of the debarment or suspension).

F. AFFIRMATION REGARDING DEBARMENT OF RELATED ENTITIES

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

- (1) The business was not established and it does not operate in a manner designed to evade the application of or defeat the purpose of debarment pursuant to Sections 16-101, et seq., of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland; and
- (2) The business is not a successor, assignee, subsidiary, or affiliate of a suspended or debarred business, except as follows (you must indicate the reasons why the affirmations cannot be given without qualification):

G. SUBCONTRACT AFFIRMATION

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

Neither I, nor to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the above business, has knowingly entered into a contract with a public body under which a person debarred or suspended under Title 16 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland will provide, directly or indirectly, supplies, services, architectural services, construction related services, leases of real property, or construction.

H. AFFIRMATION REGARDING COLLUSION

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

Neither I, nor to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the above business has:

- (1) Agreed, conspired, connived, or colluded to produce a deceptive show of competition in the compilation of the accompanying Bid/Proposal that is being submitted;
- (2) In any manner, directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement of any kind to fix the Bid/Proposal price of the Bidder/Offeror or of any competitor, or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competitive bidding in connection with the contract for which the accompanying Bid/Proposal is submitted.

I. CERTIFICATION OF TAX PAYMENT

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

Except as validly contested, the business has paid, or has arranged for payment of, all taxes due the State of Maryland and has filed all required returns and reports with the Comptroller of the Treasury, the State Department of Assessments and Taxation, and the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, as applicable, and will have paid all withholding taxes due the State of Maryland prior to final settlement.

J. CONTINGENT FEES

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

The business has not employed or retained any person, partnership, corporation, or other entity, other than a bona fide employee, bona fide agent, bona fide salesperson, or commercial selling agency working for the business, to solicit or secure the Contract, and that the business has not paid or agreed to pay any person, partnership, corporation, or other entity, other than a bona fide employee, bona fide agent, bona fide salesperson, or commercial selling agency, any fee or any other consideration contingent on the making of the Contract.

K. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT this Affidavit is to be furnished to the Procurement Officer and may be distributed to units of: (1) the State of Maryland; (2) counties or other subdivisions of the State of Maryland; (3) other states; and (4) the federal government. I further acknowledge that this Affidavit is subject to applicable laws of the United States and the State of Maryland, both criminal and civil, and that nothing in this Affidavit or any contract resulting from the submission of this Bid/Proposal shall be construed to supersede, amend, modify or waive, on behalf of the State of Maryland, or any unit of the State of Maryland having jurisdiction, the exercise of any statutory right or remedy conferred by the Constitution and the laws of Maryland with respect to any misrepresentation made or any violation of the obligations, terms and covenants undertaken by the above business with respect to (1) this Affidavit, (2) the contract, and (3) other Affidavits comprising part of the contract.

I DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE AND AFFIRM UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY THAT THE CONTENTS OF THIS AFFIDAVIT ARE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION, AND BELIEF.

Date: _____

By: _____ (print name of Authorized Representative and Affiant)

_____ (signature of Authorized Representative and Affiant)

ATTACHMENT C – CONTRACT AFFIDAVIT

A. AUTHORITY

I hereby affirm that I, _____ (name of affiant) am the _____ (title) and duly authorized representative of _____ (name of business entity) and that I possess the legal authority to make this affidavit on behalf of the business for which I am acting.

B. CERTIFICATION OF REGISTRATION OR QUALIFICATION WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS AND TAXATION

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

The business named above is a (check applicable box):

- (1) Corporation — domestic or foreign;
- (2) Limited Liability Company — domestic or foreign;
- (3) Partnership — domestic or foreign;
- (4) Statutory Trust — domestic or foreign;
- (5) Sole Proprietorship.

and is registered or qualified as required under Maryland Law. I further affirm that the above business is in good standing both in Maryland and (IF APPLICABLE) in the jurisdiction where it is presently organized, and has filed all of its annual reports, together with filing fees, with the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation. The name and address of its resident agent (IF APPLICABLE) filed with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation is:

Name and Department ID

Number: _____ Address: _____

and that if it does business under a trade name, it has filed a certificate with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation that correctly identifies that true name and address of the principal or owner as:

Name and Department ID

Number: _____ Address: _____

C. FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE AFFIRMATION

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

I am aware of, and the above business will comply with, the provisions of State Finance and Procurement Article, §13-221, Annotated Code of Maryland, which require that every business that enters into contracts, leases, or other agreements with the State of Maryland or its agencies during a calendar year under which the business is to receive in the aggregate \$100,000 or more shall, within 30 days of the time when the aggregate value of the contracts, leases, or other agreements reaches \$100,000, file with the Secretary of State of Maryland certain specified information to include disclosure of beneficial ownership of the business.

D. POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE AFFIRMATION

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

I am aware of, and the above business will comply with, Election Law Article, §§14-101 — 14-108, Annotated Code of Maryland, which requires that every person that enters into contracts, leases, or other agreements with the State of Maryland, including its agencies or a political subdivision of the State, during a calendar year in which the person receives in the aggregate \$100,000 or more shall file with the State Board of Elections a statement disclosing contributions in excess of \$500 made during the reporting period to a candidate for elective office in any primary or general election.

E. DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE WORKPLACE

(Applicable to all contracts unless the contract is for a law enforcement agency and the agency head or the agency head's designee has determined that application of COMAR 21.11.08 and this certification would be inappropriate in connection with the law enforcement agency's undercover operations.)

I CERTIFY THAT:

(1) Terms defined in COMAR 21.11.08 shall have the same meanings when used in this certification.

(2) By submission of its Bid/Proposal, the business, if other than an individual, certifies and agrees that, with respect to its employees to be employed under a contract resulting from this solicitation, the business shall:

(a) Maintain a workplace free of drug and alcohol abuse during the term of the contract;

(b) Publish a statement notifying its employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of drugs, and the abuse of drugs or alcohol is prohibited in the business' workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violation of these prohibitions;

(c) Prohibit its employees from working under the influence of drugs or alcohol;

(d) Not hire or assign to work on the contract anyone who the business knows, or in the exercise of due diligence should know, currently abuses drugs or alcohol and is not actively engaged in a bona fide drug or alcohol abuse assistance or rehabilitation program;

(e) Promptly inform the appropriate law enforcement agency of every drug-related crime that occurs in its workplace if the business has observed the violation or otherwise has reliable information that a violation has occurred;

(f) Establish drug and alcohol abuse awareness programs to inform its employees about:

- (i) The dangers of drug and alcohol abuse in the workplace;
- (ii) The business's policy of maintaining a drug and alcohol free workplace;
- (iii) Any available drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs; and
- (iv) The penalties that may be imposed upon employees who abuse drugs and alcohol in the workplace;

(g) Provide all employees engaged in the performance of the contract with a copy of the statement required by §E(2)(b), above;

(h) Notify its employees in the statement required by §E(2)(b), above, that as a condition of continued employment on the contract, the employee shall:

- (i) Abide by the terms of the statement; and
- (ii) Notify the employer of any criminal drug or alcohol abuse conviction for an offense occurring in the workplace not later than 5 days after a conviction;

(i) Notify the procurement officer within 10 days after receiving notice under §E(2)(h)(ii), above, or otherwise receiving actual notice of a conviction;

(j) Within 30 days after receiving notice under §E(2)(h)(ii), above, or otherwise receiving actual notice of a conviction, impose either of the following sanctions or remedial measures on any employee who is convicted of a drug or alcohol abuse offense occurring in the workplace:

- (i) Take appropriate personnel action against an employee, up to and including termination; or
- (ii) Require an employee to satisfactorily participate in a bona fide drug or alcohol abuse assistance or rehabilitation program; and

(k) Make a good faith effort to maintain a drug and alcohol free workplace through implementation of §E(2)(a)—(j), above.

(3) If the business is an individual, the individual shall certify and agree as set forth in §E(4), below, that the individual shall not engage in the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of drugs or the abuse of drugs or alcohol in the performance of the contract.

(4) I acknowledge and agree that:

(a) The award of the contract is conditional upon compliance with COMAR 21.11.08 and this certification;

(b) The violation of the provisions of COMAR 21.11.08 or this certification shall be cause to suspend payments under, or terminate the contract for default under COMAR 21.07.01.11 or 21.07.03.15, as applicable; and

(c) The violation of the provisions of COMAR 21.11.08 or this certification in connection with the contract may, in the exercise of the discretion of the Board of Public Works, result in suspension and debarment of the business under COMAR 21.08.03.

F. CERTAIN AFFIRMATIONS VALID

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

To the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, each of the affirmations, certifications, or acknowledgements contained in that certain Bid/Proposal Affidavit dated _____, 2013, and executed by me for the purpose of obtaining the contract to which this Exhibit is attached remains true and correct in all respects as if made as of the date of this Contract Affidavit and as if fully set forth herein.

I DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE AND AFFIRM UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY THAT THE CONTENTS OF THIS AFFIDAVIT ARE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION, AND BELIEF.

Date: _____

By: _____ (printed name of Authorized Representative and Affiant)

_____ (signature of Authorized Representative and Affiant)

ATTACHMENT D – MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE FORMS

PURPOSE

The Contractor shall structure its procedures for the performance of the work required in this Contract to attempt to achieve the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) subcontractor participation goal stated in this solicitation. MBE performance shall be in accordance with this Attachment and as set forth in COMAR 21.11.03. The Contractor agrees to exercise all good faith efforts to carry out the requirements set forth in this Attachment.

In order to attempt to meet the MBE subcontractor participation goal using MBE subcontractors, all Bidders/Offerors shall comply with the requirements of COMAR 21.11.03.09 and shall:

- ❑ Identify specific work categories within the scope of the solicitation appropriate for subcontracting;
- ❑ Solicit certified MBEs in writing at least 10 days before Bids or Proposals are due, describing the identified work categories and providing instructions on how to provide a quote on the subcontracts;
- ❑ Attempt to make personal contact with the certified MBEs solicited and to document those attempts;
- ❑ Assist certified MBEs in fulfilling, or seeking a waiver of any bonding requirements; and
- ❑ Attend Pre-Bid/Proposal Conferences or other meetings that the Department schedules to publicize contracting opportunities for certified MBEs.

MBE GOAL AND SUB GOALS

An MBE subcontract participation goal of 10% of the total contract dollar amount has been established for this procurement, as set forth in RFP Section 1.33. The Contractor, including an MBE prime contractor, shall attempt to achieve the MBE subcontracting goal and any subgoals established for this Contract by subcontracting to one or more MDOT-certified MBEs a sufficient portion of the Bidder/Offeror's scope of work that results in total MBE payments that meet or exceed the MBE subcontractor participation goals and, if applicable, subgoals.

SOLICITATION AND CONTRACT FORMATION

- ◆ A Bidder/Offeror must include with its Bid/Proposal a completed MDOT Certified MBE Utilization and Fair Solicitation Affidavit (**Attachment D-1**) whereby:
 - (1) the Bidder/Offeror acknowledges the certified MBE subcontractor participation goal and any subgoals, and commits to make a good faith effort to achieve the goal and any subgoals or requests a waiver, and affirms that MBE subcontractors were treated fairly in the solicitation process; and
 - (2) the Bidder/Offeror responds to the expected degree of MBE subcontractor participation as stated in the solicitation, by identifying the specific commitment of certified MBEs at the time of Bid/Proposal submission. The Bidder/Offeror shall specify the percentage of contract value associated with each MBE subcontractor identified on the MBE Participation Schedule (**Attachment D-1**).

If the Bidder/Offeror specifies a range for a proposed MBE subcontractor, only the lowest amount in the range can be considered for MBE commitment purposes. Ex: If a range of "5-15%" is proposed for a MBE subcontractor, only "5%" can be considered for purposes of totaling the actual MBE commitment for that particular MBE subcontractor. It is suggested that the Bidder/Offeror provide a specific percentage, and not a percentage range, for each MBE subcontractor proposed.

- ◆ *If a Bidder/Offeror fails to submit a completed **Attachment D-1** with the Bid/Proposal, the Procurement Officer shall deem the Bid non-responsive or shall determine that the Proposal is not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award.*
- ◆ Within 10 Working Days from notification that it is the apparent awardee or from the date of the actual award, whichever is earlier, the apparent awardee shall provide the following documentation to the Procurement Officer:
 - a) Outreach Efforts Compliance Statement (Attachment D-2)
 - b) Subcontractor Project Participation Certification (Attachment D-3)
 - c) If the recommended awardee has requested a waiver (in whole or in part) of the overall MBE goal, it shall submit the Minority Contractor Unavailability Certificate (**Attachment D-6**) and a fully documented waiver request that complies with COMAR 21.11.03.11.
 - d) Any other documentation required by the Procurement Officer to ascertain Bidder/Offeror responsibility in connection with the certified MBE participation goal.

NOTE: If the apparent awardee fails to return each completed document within the required time, the Procurement Officer may determine that the apparent awardee is not responsible and therefore not eligible for Contract award. If the Contract has already been awarded, the award is voidable.

MBE REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS

The Contractor shall:

1. Submit by the 10th of each month to the Department's Contract Monitor or designee a Prime Contractor Paid/Unpaid MBE Invoice Report (Attachment D-4) listing any unpaid invoices, over 30 days old, received from any certified MBE subcontractor, the amount of each invoice, and the reason payment has not been made.
2. Include in its agreements with its certified MBE subcontractors a requirement that those subcontractors shall submit by the 10th of each month to the Department's Contract Monitor or a designee a Subcontractor Paid/Unpaid MBE Invoice Report (Attachment D-5) that identifies the prime contract and lists all payments received from Contractor in the preceding 30 days, as well as any outstanding invoices, and the amount of those invoices.
3. Maintain such records as are necessary to confirm compliance with its MBE participation obligations. These records must indicate the identity of certified minority and non-minority subcontractors employed on the Contract, the type of work performed by each subcontractor, and the actual dollar value of work performed. Subcontract agreements must be retained by the Contractor and furnished to the Procurement Officer upon request.
4. Consent to provide such documentation as reasonably requested and to provide right-of-entry at reasonable times for purposes of the State's representatives verifying compliance with the MBE participation obligations. Contractor must retain all records concerning MBE participation and make them available for State inspection for three years after final completion of the contract.
5. At the sole option of the Department, upon completion of the Contract and before final payment and/or release of any retainage, submit a final report in affidavit form and under penalty of perjury, of all payments made to, or withheld from MBE subcontractors.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. MDOT Certified MBE Utilization and Fair Solicitation Affidavit – Attachment D-1 (must be submitted with the Bid/Proposal)
- B. Outreach Efforts Compliance Statement – Attachment D-2 (must be submitted within 10 Working Days of notification of apparent award or actual award, whichever is earlier)
- C. Subcontractor Project Participation Certification – Attachment D-3 (must be submitted within 10 Working Days of notification of apparent award or actual award, whichever is earlier)
- D. Prime Contractor Paid/Unpaid MBE Invoice Report – Attachment D-4 (must be submitted by the 10th of each month by the Prime Contractor)
- E. Subcontractor Paid/Unpaid MBE Invoice Report – Attachment D-5 (must be submitted by the 10th of each month by the Subcontractor)
- F. Minority Contractor Unavailability Certificate – Attachment D-6 (must be submitted within 10 Working Days of notification of apparent award or actual award whichever is earlier, if a waiver has been requested)

MDOT Certified MBE Utilization and Fair Solicitation Affidavit

(submit with Bid/Proposal)

This document **MUST BE** included with the Bid/Proposal. If the Bidder/Offeror fails to complete and submit this form with the Bid/Proposal, the procurement officer shall deem the Bid non-responsive or shall determine that the Proposal is not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award.

In conjunction with the Bid/Proposal submitted in response to Solicitation No. PSC #09-02-13 I affirm the following:

1. I acknowledge and intend to meet the overall certified Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) participation goal of ten (10) percent and, if specified in the solicitation, the following subgoals (complete for only those subgoals that apply):
- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| _____ percent African-American | _____ percent Asian-American |
| _____ percent Hispanic-American | _____ percent Woman-Owned |

Therefore, I will not be seeking a waiver pursuant to COMAR 21.11.03.11.

OR

- I conclude that I am unable to achieve the MBE participation goal and/or subgoals. I hereby request a waiver in whole or in part of the overall goal and/or subgoals. Within 10 Working Days of receiving notice that our firm is the apparent awardee, I will submit all required waiver documentation in accordance with COMAR 21.11.03.11. If this request is for a partial waiver, I have identified the portion of the MBE goal that I intend to meet in this Attachment D-1.
2. I understand that if I am notified that I am the apparent awardee, I must submit the following additional documentation within 10 Working Days of receiving notice of the potential award or from the date of conditional award (per COMAR 21.11.03.10), whichever is earlier.
- (a) Outreach Efforts Compliance Statement (Attachment D2);
 - (b) Subcontractor Project Participation Certification (Attachment D3); and
 - (c) Any other documentation, including waiver documentation, if applicable, required by the Procurement Officer to ascertain Bidder/Offeror responsibility in connection with the certified MBE participation goal.

I understand that if I fail to return each completed document within the required time, the Procurement Officer may determine that I am not responsible and therefore not eligible for Contract award. If the Contract has already been awarded, the award is voidable.

3. In the solicitation of subcontract quotes, MBE subcontractors were provided not less than the same information and amount of time to respond as were non-MBE subcontractors.
4. Set forth below are the (i) certified MBEs I intend to use and (ii) the percentage of the total contract amount allocated to each MBE for this project and the work activity(ies) each MBE will provide under the contract. I hereby affirm that the MBE firms are only providing those work activities for which they are MDOT certified.

MBE Subcontractor Participation Schedule

Prime Contractor: (Firm Name, Address, Phone)	Project Description:
Solicitation Number: PSC #09-02-13	

List Information For Each Certified MBE Subcontractor On This Project

Minority Firm Name	MBE Certification Number
FEIN Identify the Applicable Certification Category (For Dually Certified Firms, Check Only One Category)	
<input type="checkbox"/> African American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian American <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic American <input type="checkbox"/> Woman-Owned <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Percentage of Total Contract Value to be provided by this MBE _____%	
Description of Work to Be Performed:	
Minority Firm Name	MBE Certification Number
FEIN Identify the Applicable Certification Category (For Dually Certified Firms, Check Only One Category)	
<input type="checkbox"/> African American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian American <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic American <input type="checkbox"/> Woman-Owned <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Percentage of Total Contract Value to be provided by this MBE _____%	
Description of Work to Be Performed:	
Minority Firm Name	MBE Certification Number
FEIN Identify the Applicable Certification Category (For Dually Certified Firms, Check Only One Category)	
<input type="checkbox"/> African American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian American <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic American <input type="checkbox"/> Woman-Owned <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Percentage of Total Contract Value to be provided by this MBE _____%	
Description of Work to Be Performed:	
Minority Firm Name	MBE Certification Number
FEIN Identify the Applicable Certification Category (For Dually Certified Firms, Check Only One Category)	
<input type="checkbox"/> African American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian American <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic American <input type="checkbox"/> Woman-Owned <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Percentage of Total Contract Value to be provided by this MBE _____%	
Description of Work to Be Performed:	

Continue on a separate page, if needed.

SUMMARY

Total <i>African-American</i> MBE Participation:	_____ % of total Contract value
Total <i>Asian American</i> MBE Participation:	_____ % of total Contract value
Total <i>Hispanic American</i> MBE Participation:	_____ % of total Contract value
Total <i>Woman-Owned</i> MBE Participation:	_____ % of total Contract value
Total <i>Other</i> Participation:	_____ % of total Contract value

Total All MBE Participation: _____ % of total Contract value

Note: The percentages entered above must reflect the actual percentage of total contract value committed to be paid to MBE subcontractor(s). (i.e., if the total MBE commitment is 25% of the total contract value, the subgroup percentages listed above should total 25%).

I solemnly affirm under the penalties of perjury that the contents of this Affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

Bidder/Offeror Name

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

Signature of Affiant

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

SUBMIT THIS AFFIDAVIT WITH BID/PROPOSAL

Outreach Efforts Compliance Statement

Complete and submit this form within 10 working days of notification of apparent award or actual award, whichever is earlier.

In conjunction with the Bid/Proposal submitted in response to Solicitation No. _____, Bidder/Offeror states the following:

1. Bidder/Offeror identified opportunities to subcontract in these specific work categories.
2. Attached to this form are copies of written solicitations (with instructions) used to solicit MDOT certified MBEs for these subcontract opportunities.
3. Bidder/Offeror made the following attempts to contact personally the solicited MDOT certified MBEs.
4. Select ONE of the following:
 - a. This project does not involve bonding requirements.

OR

 - b. Bidder/Offeror assisted MDOT certified MBEs to fulfill or seek waiver of bonding requirements (*describe efforts*).

5. Select ONE of the following:
 - a. Bidder/Offeror did/did not attend the Pre-Bid/Proposal Conference.

OR

 - b. No Pre-Bid/Proposal Conference was held.

_____ By: _____
 Bidder/Offeror Printed Name Signature

Address: _____

Subcontractor Project Participation Certification

Please complete and submit one form for each MDOT certified MBE listed on Attachment D-1 within 10 working days of notification of apparent award.

_____ (*prime contractor*) has entered into a contract with _____ (*subcontractor*) to provide services in connection with the Solicitation described below.

Prime Contractor Address and Phone	Project Description
Project Number	Total Contract Amount \$
Minority Firm Name	MBE Certification Number
Work To Be Performed	
Percentage of Total Contract	
Total Subcontract Amount \$	

The undersigned Prime Contractor and Subcontractor hereby certify and agree that they have fully complied with the State Minority Business Enterprise law, State Finance and Procurement Article §14-308(a)(2), Annotated Code of Maryland which provides that, except as otherwise provided by law, a contractor may not identify a certified minority business enterprise in a Bid/Proposal and:

- (1) fail to request, receive, or otherwise obtain authorization from the certified minority business enterprise to identify the certified minority business enterprise in its Bid/Proposal;
- (2) fail to notify the certified minority business enterprise before execution of the contract of its inclusion of the Bid/Proposal;
- (3) fail to use the certified minority business enterprise in the performance of the contract; or
- (4) pay the certified minority business enterprise solely for the use of its name in the Bid/Proposal.

PRIME CONTRACTOR SIGNATURE

SUBCONTRACTOR SIGNATURE

By: _____
 Name, Title
 Date: _____

By: _____
 Name, Title
 Date: _____

Rev. 3/11/2013

This form is to be completed monthly by the prime contractor.

**Public Service Commission
Minority Business Enterprise Participation
Prime Contractor Paid/Unpaid MBE Invoice Report**

Report #: _____ Reporting Period (Month/Year): _____ Report is due to the MBE Liaison by the 10th of the month following the month the services were provided. Note: Please number reports in sequence	Contract #: _____ Contracting Unit: _____ Contract Amount: _____ MBE Subcontract Amt: _____ Project Begin Date: _____ Project End Date: _____ Services Provided: _____
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Prime Contractor:		Contact Person:																																					
Address:																																							
City:		State:	ZIP:																																				
Phone:	Fax:	E-mail:																																					
Subcontractor Name:		Contact Person:																																					
Phone:	Fax:																																						
Subcontractor Services Provided:																																							
List all payments made to MBE subcontractor named above during this reporting period: <table style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width:5%;"></th> <th style="width:30%; text-align: center;"><u>Invoice#</u></th> <th style="width:30%; text-align: center;"><u>Amount</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1.</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2.</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3.</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>4.</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Total Dollars Paid: \$</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			<u>Invoice#</u>	<u>Amount</u>	1.			2.			3.			4.			Total Dollars Paid: \$		_____	List dates and amounts of any outstanding invoices: <table style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width:5%;"></th> <th style="width:30%; text-align: center;"><u>Invoice #</u></th> <th style="width:30%; text-align: center;"><u>Amount</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1.</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2.</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3.</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>4.</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Total Dollars Unpaid: \$</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			<u>Invoice #</u>	<u>Amount</u>	1.			2.			3.			4.			Total Dollars Unpaid: \$		_____
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**If more than one MBE subcontractor is used for this contract, you must use separate D-4 forms for each subcontractor.
****Return one copy (hard or electronic) of this form to the following addresses (electronic copy with signature and date is preferred):**

Dolline M. Serra, Procurement Officer
 Public Service Commission
 6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor
 Baltimore, MD 21202
 Email: dserra@psc.state.md.us

Signature: _____ Date: _____
 (Required)

Rev. 3/11/2013

This form must be completed monthly by all MBE subcontractors.

Minority Business Enterprise Participation Subcontractor Paid/Unpaid MBE Invoice Report

Report#: _____ Reporting Period (Month/Year): _____ Report is due by the 10th of the month following the month the services were performed.	Contract # _____ Contracting Unit: _____ MBE Subcontract Amount: _____ Project Begin Date: _____ Project End Date: _____ Services Provided: _____
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MBE Subcontractor Name: _____																															
MDOT Certification #: _____																															
Contact Person: _____		E-mail: _____																													
Address: _____																															
City: _____	State: _____	ZIP: _____																													
Phone: _____	Fax: _____																														
Subcontractor Services Provided:																															
List all payments received from Prime Contractor during reporting period indicated above. <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 5%;"></th> <th style="width: 40%; text-align: center;"><u>Invoice Amt</u></th> <th style="width: 55%; text-align: center;"><u>Date</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1.</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2.</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3.</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Total Dollars Paid: \$ _____</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<u>Invoice Amt</u>	<u>Date</u>	1.			2.			3.			Total Dollars Paid: \$ _____			List dates and amounts of any unpaid invoices over 30 days old. <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 5%;"></th> <th style="width: 40%; text-align: center;"><u>Invoice Amt</u></th> <th style="width: 55%; text-align: center;"><u>Date</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1.</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2.</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3.</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Total Dollars Unpaid: \$ _____</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<u>Invoice Amt</u>	<u>Date</u>	1.			2.			3.			Total Dollars Unpaid: \$ _____		
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Total Dollars Unpaid: \$ _____																															
Prime Contractor: _____		Contact Person: _____																													

****Return one copy of this form to the following address (electronic copy with signature & date is preferred):**

Dolline M. Serra, Procurement Officer Public Service Commission 6 St. Paul Street, 16 th Floor Baltimore, MD 21202 Email: dserra@psc.state.md.us

Signature: _____ Date: _____
(Required)

Rev. 3/11/2013

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR)
Title 21, State Procurement Regulations

(regarding a waiver to a Minority Business Enterprise subcontracting goal)

NOTE: Below is an excerpt only. Full text of COMAR Title 21 may be found at the website of the Secretary of State, Division of State Documents, at: <http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/>.

COMAR 21.11.03.11 - Waiver.

A. If, for any reason, the apparent successful Bidder/Offeror is unable to achieve the contract goal for each certified MBE classification specified as having a subcontract goal or the overall MBE contract goal, the Bidder/Offeror may request, in writing, a waiver to include the following:

(1) A detailed statement of the efforts made to select portions of the work proposed to be performed by certified MBEs, including the work to be performed by each MBE classification if an MBE subgoal has been specified, in order to increase the likelihood of achieving the stated goal;

(2) A detailed statement of the efforts made to contact and negotiate with certified MBEs, and if appropriate, by certified MBE classification, including:

(a) The names, addresses, dates, telephone numbers, and classification of certified MBEs contacted, and

(b) A description of the information provided to certified MBEs regarding the plans, specifications, and anticipated time schedule for portions of the work to be performed;

(3) As to each certified MBE that placed a subcontract quotation or offer that the apparent successful Bidder/Offeror considers not to be acceptable, a detailed statement of the reasons for this conclusion;

(4) A list of certified MBEs including, if applicable, certified MBEs in each MBE classification, found to be unavailable, which shall be accompanied by an MBE unavailability verification form signed by the certified MBE, or a statement from the apparent successful Bidder/Offeror that the certified MBE refused to give the written verification;

(5) The record of the apparent successful Bidder/Offeror's compliance with the outreach efforts required under Regulation .09C(2)(a)—(e) of this chapter; and

(6) If the request for a waiver is for a certain MBE classification within an overall MBE goal, the Bidder/Offeror shall demonstrate reasonable efforts to meet the overall MBE goal with other MBE classification or classifications.

B. A waiver of a certified MBE contract goal may be granted only upon a reasonable demonstration by the Bidder/Offeror that certified MBE subcontract participation was unable to be obtained, or was unable to be obtained at a reasonable price or in the appropriate MBE classifications, and if the agency head or designee determines that the public interest is served by a waiver. In making a determination under this section, the agency head or designee may consider engineering estimates, catalogue prices, general market availability, and availability of certified MBEs in the area in which the work is to be performed, other Bids/Proposals and subcontract Bids/Proposal substantiating significant variances between certified MBE and non-MBE cost of participation, and their impact on the overall cost of the contract to the State and any other relevant factor.

C. An agency head may waive any of the provisions of Regulations .09—.10 of this chapter for a sole source, expedited, or emergency procurement in which the public interest cannot reasonably accommodate use of those procedures.

D. When a waiver is granted, except waivers under §C of this regulation, one copy of the waiver determination and the reasons for the determination shall be kept by the MBE liaison officer with another copy forwarded to the Office of Minority Affairs.

MINORITY CONTRACTOR UNAVAILABILITY CERTIFICATE

Section I (to be completed by PRIME CONTRACTOR)

I hereby certify that the firm of _____
Name of Prime Contractor

located at _____,
(Number) (Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

on _____ contacted certified minority business enterprise, _____
(Date) (Name of Minority Business)

_____ located at _____,
(Number) (Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

seeking to obtain a bid for work/service for project number _____, project name _____

List below the type of work/ service requested:

Indicate the type of bid sought, _____. The Minority Business Enterprise identified above is either unavailable for the work /service in relation to project number _____, or is unable to prepare a quote for the following reasons(s):

The statements contained above are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true and accurate.

(Name) (Title)

(Number) (Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

(Signature) (Date)

Note: Certified Minority Business Enterprise must complete Section II below.

Section II (to be completed by CERTIFIED MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE)

I hereby certify that the firm of _____ MBE Cert.# _____

(Name of MBE Firm)

located at _____

(Number)

(Street)

(City)

(State)

(Zip)

was offered the opportunity to bid on project number _____, ON _____

(Date)

by _____

(Prime Contractor's Name)

(Prime Contractor Official's Name)

(Title)

The statements contained in Section I and Section II of this document are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true and accurate.

(Name)

(Title)

(Phone)

(Signature)

(Fax Number)

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ATTACHMENT E – PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE RESPONSE FORM

**Solicitation Number PSC #09-02-13
TECHNICAL STAFF SUPPORT FOR ORDER NO: 85385
IN CASE NO: 9298**

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held at 2:00p.m. (local time) on May 30, 2013, at 6 St. Paul Street, 19th floor, room 1941. Please return this form by May 28, 2013 by 2:00p.m(local time), advising whether or not you plan to attend.

Return via e-mail or fax this form to the Procurement Officer:

Dolline M. Serra
Public Service Commission
6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21202
Email: dserra@psc.state.md.us
Fax: 410-333-6495

Please indicate:

Yes, the following representatives will be in attendance:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

No, we will not be in attendance.

Please specify whether any reasonable accommodations are requested (see RFP § 1.7 “Pre-Proposal Conference”):

Signature

Title

Name of Firm (please print)

ATTACHMENT F – FINANCIAL PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

In order to assist Offerors in the preparation of their Financial Proposal and to comply with the requirements of this solicitation, Financial Proposal Instructions and a Financial Proposal Form have been prepared. Offerors shall submit their Financial Proposal on the Financial Proposal Form in accordance with the instructions on the Financial Proposal Form and as specified herein. Do not alter the Financial Proposal Form or the Proposal may be determined to be not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award. The Financial Proposal Form is to be signed and dated, where requested, by an individual who is authorized to bind the Offeror to the prices entered on the Financial Proposal Form.

The Financial Proposal Form is used to calculate the Offeror's TOTAL EVALUATED PRICE. Follow these instructions carefully when completing your Financial Proposal Form:

- A) All Unit and Extended Prices must be clearly entered in dollars and cents, e.g., \$24.15. Make your decimal points clear and distinct.
- B) All Unit Prices must be the actual price per unit the State will pay for the specific item or service identified in this RFP and may not be contingent on any other factor or condition in any manner.
- C) All calculations shall be rounded to the nearest cent, i.e., .344 shall be .34 and .345 shall be .35.
- D) Any goods or services required through this RFP and proposed by the vendor at **No Cost to the State** must be clearly entered in the Unit Price, if appropriate, and Extended Price with **\$0.00**.
- E) Every blank in every Financial Proposal Form shall be filled in. Any changes or corrections made to the Financial Proposal Form by the Offeror prior to submission shall be initialed and dated.
- F) Except as instructed on the Financial Proposal Form, nothing shall be entered on or attached to the Financial Proposal Form that alters or proposes conditions or contingencies on the prices. Alterations and/or conditions may render the Proposal not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award.
- G) It is imperative that the prices included on the Financial Proposal Form have been entered correctly and calculated accurately by the Offeror and that the respective total prices agree with the entries on the Financial Proposal Form. Any incorrect entries or inaccurate calculations by the Offeror will be treated as provided in COMAR 21.05.03.03E and 21.05.02.12, and may cause the Proposal to be rejected.
- H) If option years are included, Offerors must submit pricing for each option year. Any option to renew will be exercised at the sole discretion of the State and will comply with all terms and conditions in force at the time the option is exercised. If exercised, the option period shall be for a period identified in the RFP at the prices entered in the Financial Proposal Form.
- I) All Financial Proposal prices entered below are to be fully loaded prices that include all costs/expenses associated with the provision of services as required by the RFP. The Financial Proposal price shall include, but is not limited to, all: labor, profit/overhead, general operating, administrative, and all other expenses and costs necessary to perform the work set forth in the solicitation. No other amounts will be paid to the Contractor. If labor rates are requested, those amounts shall be fully-loaded rates; no overtime amounts will be paid.
- J) Unless indicated elsewhere in the RFP, sample amounts used for calculations on the Financial Proposal Form are typically estimates for evaluation purposes only. Unless stated otherwise in the RFP, the Department does not guarantee a minimum or maximum number of units or usage in the performance of this Contract.
- K) Failure to adhere to any of these instructions may result in the Proposal being determined not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award.

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FINANCIAL PROPOSAL FORM

The Financial Proposal Form shall contain all price information in the format specified on these pages. Complete the Financial Proposal Form only as provided in the Financial Proposal Instructions. Do not amend, alter or leave blank any items on the Financial Proposal Form. If option years are included, Offerors must submit pricing for each option year. Failure to adhere to any of these instructions may result in the Proposal being determined not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award.

The total firm fixed price for completing the scope of work of this solicitation will be

_____.

Submitted By: _____
Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name and Title: _____

Company Name: _____

Company Address: _____

Location(s) from which services will be performed (City/State): _____

FEIN: _____

eMM #: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____ -- _____

Fax: (_____) _____ -- _____

E-mail: _____

ATTACHMENT G – LIVING WAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICE CONTRACTS

Living Wage Requirements for Service Contracts

- A. This contract is subject to the Living Wage requirements under Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, Title 18, and the regulations proposed by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry (Commissioner). The Living Wage generally applies to a Contractor or Subcontractor who performs work on a State contract for services that is valued at \$100,000 or more. An employee is subject to the Living Wage if he/she is at least 18 years old or will turn 18 during the duration of the contract; works at least 13 consecutive weeks on the State Contract and spends at least one-half of the employee’s time during any work week on the State Contract.
- B. The Living Wage Law does not apply to:
- (1) A Contractor who:
 - (a) Has a State contract for services valued at less than \$100,000, or
 - (b) Employs 10 or fewer employees and has a State contract for services valued at less than \$500,000.
 - (2) A Subcontractor who:
 - (a) Performs work on a State contract for services valued at less than \$100,000,
 - (b) Employs 10 or fewer employees and performs work on a State contract for services valued at less than \$500,000, or
 - (c) Performs work for a Contractor not covered by the Living Wage Law as defined in B(1)(b) above, or B(3) or C below.
 - (3) Service contracts for the following:
 - (a) Services with a Public Service Company;
 - (b) Services with a nonprofit organization;
 - (c) Services with an officer or other entity that is in the Executive Branch of the State government and is authorized by law to enter into a procurement (“Unit”); or
 - (d) Services between a Unit and a County or Baltimore City.
- C. If the Unit responsible for the State contract for services determines that application of the Living Wage would conflict with any applicable Federal program, the Living Wage does not apply to the contract or program.

- D. A Contractor must not split or subdivide a State contract for services, pay an employee through a third party, or treat an employee as an independent Contractor or assign work to employees to avoid the imposition of any of the requirements of Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, Title 18.
- E. Each Contractor/Subcontractor, subject to the Living Wage Law, shall post in a prominent and easily accessible place at the work site(s) of covered employees a notice of the Living Wage Rates, employee rights under the law, and the name, address, and telephone number of the Commissioner.
- F. The Commissioner shall adjust the wage rates by the annual average increase or decrease, if any, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers for the Washington/Baltimore metropolitan area, or any successor index, for the previous calendar year, not later than 90 days after the start of each fiscal year. The Commissioner shall publish any adjustments to the wage rates on the Division of Labor and Industry's website. An employer subject to the Living Wage Law must comply with the rate requirements during the initial term of the contract and all subsequent renewal periods, including any increases in the wage rate, required by the Commissioner, automatically upon the effective date of the revised wage rate.
- G. A Contractor/Subcontractor who reduces the wages paid to an employee based on the employer's share of the health insurance premium, as provided in Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, §18-103(c), shall not lower an employee's wage rate below the minimum wage as set in Md. Code Ann., Labor and Employment Article, §3-413. A Contractor/Subcontractor who reduces the wages paid to an employee based on the employer's share of health insurance premium shall comply with any record reporting requirements established by the Commissioner.
- H. A Contractor/Subcontractor may reduce the wage rates paid under Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, §18-103(a), by no more than 50 cents of the hourly cost of the employer's contribution to an employee's deferred compensation plan. A Contractor/Subcontractor who reduces the wages paid to an employee based on the employer's contribution to an employee's deferred compensation plan shall not lower the employee's wage rate below the minimum wage as set in Md. Code Ann., Labor and Employment Article, §3-413.
- I. Under Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, Title 18, if the Commissioner determines that the Contractor/Subcontractor violated a provision of this title or regulations of the Commissioner, the Contractor/Subcontractor shall pay restitution to each affected employee, and the State may assess liquidated damages of \$20 per day for each employee paid less than the Living Wage.
- J. Information pertaining to reporting obligations may be found by going to the Division of Labor and Industry website <http://www.dllr.state.md.us/labor/> and clicking on Living Wage for State Service Contracts.

Maryland Living Wage Requirements Affidavit

(submit with Bid/Proposal)

Contract No. _____

Name of Contractor _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

If the Contract Is Exempt from the Living Wage Law

The Undersigned, being an authorized representative of the above named Contractor, hereby affirms that the Contract is exempt from Maryland’s Living Wage Law for the following reasons (check all that apply):

- Bidder/Offeror is a nonprofit organization
- Bidder/Offeror is a public service company
- Bidder/Offeror employs 10 or fewer employees and the proposed contract value is less than \$500,000
- Bidder/Offeror employs more than 10 employees and the proposed contract value is less than \$100,000

If the Contract Is a Living Wage Contract

A. The Undersigned, being an authorized representative of the above-named Contractor, hereby affirms its commitment to comply with Title 18, State Finance and Procurement Article, Annotated Code of Maryland and, if required, to submit all payroll reports to the Commissioner of Labor and Industry with regard to the above stated contract. The Bidder/Offeror agrees to pay covered employees who are subject to living wage at least the living wage rate in effect at the time service is provided for hours spent on State contract activities, and to ensure that its Subcontractors who are not exempt also pay the required living wage rate to their covered employees who are subject to the living wage for hours spent on a State contract for services. The Contractor agrees to comply with, and ensure its Subcontractors comply with, the rate requirements during the initial term of the contract and all subsequent renewal periods, including any increases in the wage rate established by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry, automatically upon the effective date of the revised wage rate.

B. _____(initial here if applicable) The Bidder/Offeror affirms it has no covered employees for the following reasons: (check all that apply):

- The employee(s) proposed to work on the contract will spend less than one-half of the employee’s time during any work week on the contract

- The employee(s) proposed to work on the contract is 17 years of age or younger during the duration of the contract; or
- The employee(s) proposed to work on the contract will work less than 13 consecutive weeks on the State contract.

The Commissioner of Labor and Industry reserves the right to request payroll records and other data that the Commissioner deems sufficient to confirm these affirmations at any time.

Name of Authorized Representative: _____

Signature of Authorized Representative

Date

Title

Witness Name (Typed or Printed)

Witness Signature

Date

(submit with Bid/Proposal)

ATTACHMENT H - FEDERAL FUNDS ATTACHMENT

This solicitation does not include a Federal Funds Attachment.

ATTACHMENT I – CONFLICT OF INTEREST AFFIDAVIT AND DISCLOSURE

Reference COMAR 21.05.08.08

(submit with Bid/Proposal)

A. "Conflict of interest" means that because of other activities or relationships with other persons, a person is unable or potentially unable to render impartial assistance or advice to the State, or the person's objectivity in performing the contract work is or might be otherwise impaired, or a person has an unfair competitive advantage.

B. "Person" has the meaning stated in COMAR 21.01.02.01B(64) and includes a Bidder/Offeror, Contractor, consultant, or subcontractor or sub-consultant at any tier, and also includes an employee or agent of any of them if the employee or agent has or will have the authority to control or supervise all or a portion of the work for which a Bid/Proposal is made.

C. The Bidder/Offeror warrants that, except as disclosed in §D, below, there are no relevant facts or circumstances now giving rise or which could, in the future, give rise to a conflict of interest.

D. The following facts or circumstances give rise or could in the future give rise to a conflict of interest (explain in detail—attach additional sheets if necessary):

E. The Bidder/Offeror agrees that if an actual or potential conflict of interest arises after the date of this affidavit, the Bidder/Offeror shall immediately make a full disclosure in writing to the procurement officer of all relevant facts and circumstances. This disclosure shall include a description of actions which the Bidder/Offeror has taken and proposes to take to avoid, mitigate, or neutralize the actual or potential conflict of interest. If the contract has been awarded and performance of the contract has begun, the Contractor shall continue performance until notified by the procurement officer of any contrary action to be taken.

I DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE AND AFFIRM UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY THAT THE CONTENTS OF THIS AFFIDAVIT ARE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION, AND BELIEF.

Date: _____ By: _____
(Authorized Representative and Affiant)

ATTACHMENT J – NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT

THIS NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT (“Agreement”) is made by and between the State of Maryland (the “State”), acting by and through the Public Service Commission (the “Department”), and _____ (the “Contractor”).

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Contractor has been awarded a contract (the “Contract”) following the solicitation for Technical Staff Support for Order No.: 85385 in Case NO: 9298 Solicitation # PSC #09-02-13; and

WHEREAS, in order for the Contractor to perform the work required under the Contract, it will be necessary for the State at times to provide the Contractor and the Contractor’s employees, agents, and subcontractors (collectively the “Contractor’s Personnel”) with access to certain information the State deems confidential information (the “Confidential Information”).

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of being given access to the Confidential Information in connection with the solicitation and the Contract, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which the parties acknowledge, the parties do hereby agree as follows:

1. Confidential Information means any and all information provided by or made available by the State to the Contractor in connection with the Contract, regardless of the form, format, or media on or in which the Confidential Information is provided and regardless of whether any such Confidential Information is marked as such. Confidential Information includes, by way of example only, information that the Contractor views, takes notes from, copies (if the State agrees in writing to permit copying), possesses or is otherwise provided access to and use of by the State in relation to the Contract.
2. Contractor shall not, without the State’s prior written consent, copy, disclose, publish, release, transfer, disseminate, use, or allow access for any purpose or in any form, any Confidential Information provided by the State except for the sole and exclusive purpose of performing under the Contract. Contractor shall limit access to the Confidential Information to the Contractor’s Personnel who have a demonstrable need to know such Confidential Information in order to perform under the Contract and who have agreed in writing to be bound by the disclosure and use limitations pertaining to the Confidential Information. The names of the Contractor’s Personnel are attached hereto and made a part hereof as ATTACHMENT J-1. Contractor shall update ATTACHMENT J-1 by adding additional names (whether Contractor’s personnel or a subcontractor’s personnel) as needed, from time to time.
3. If the Contractor intends to disseminate any portion of the Confidential Information to non-employee agents who are assisting in the Contractor’s performance of the Contract or who will otherwise have a role in performing any aspect of the Contract, the Contractor shall first obtain the written consent of the State to any such dissemination. The State may grant, deny, or condition any such consent, as it may deem appropriate in its sole and absolute subjective discretion.
4. Contractor hereby agrees to hold the Confidential Information in trust and in strictest confidence, to adopt or establish operating procedures and physical security measures, and to take all other measures necessary to protect the Confidential Information from inadvertent release or disclosure to unauthorized third parties and to prevent all or any portion of the Confidential Information from falling into the public domain or into the possession of persons not bound to maintain the confidentiality of the Confidential Information.
5. Contractor shall promptly advise the State in writing if it learns of any unauthorized use, misappropriation, or disclosure of the Confidential Information by any of the Contractor’s Personnel or the Contractor’s former

Personnel. Contractor shall, at its own expense, cooperate with the State in seeking injunctive or other equitable relief against any such person(s).

- 6. Contractor shall, at its own expense, return to the Department all copies of the Confidential Information in its care, custody, control or possession upon request of the Department or on termination of the Contract.
- 7. A breach of this Agreement by the Contractor or by the Contractor’s Personnel shall constitute a breach of the Contract between the Contractor and the State.
- 8. Contractor acknowledges that any failure by the Contractor or the Contractor’s Personnel to abide by the terms and conditions of use of the Confidential Information may cause irreparable harm to the State and that monetary damages may be inadequate to compensate the State for such breach. Accordingly, the Contractor agrees that the State may obtain an injunction to prevent the disclosure, copying or improper use of the Confidential Information. The Contractor consents to personal jurisdiction in the Maryland State Courts. The State’s rights and remedies hereunder are cumulative and the State expressly reserves any and all rights, remedies, claims and actions that it may have now or in the future to protect the Confidential Information and to seek damages from the Contractor and the Contractor’s Personnel for a failure to comply with the requirements of this Agreement. In the event the State suffers any losses, damages, liabilities, expenses, or costs (including, by way of example only, attorneys’ fees and disbursements) that are attributable, in whole or in part to any failure by the Contractor or any of the Contractor’s Personnel to comply with the requirements of this Agreement, the Contractor shall hold harmless and indemnify the State from and against any such losses, damages, liabilities, expenses, and costs.
- 9. Contractor and each of the Contractor’s Personnel who receive or have access to any Confidential Information shall execute a copy of an agreement substantially similar to this Agreement, in no event less restrictive than as set forth in this Agreement, and the Contractor shall provide originals of such executed Agreements to the State.
- 10. The parties further agree that:
 - a. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Maryland;
 - b. The rights and obligations of the Contractor under this Agreement may not be assigned or delegated, by operation of law or otherwise, without the prior written consent of the State;
 - c. The State makes no representations or warranties as to the accuracy or completeness of any Confidential Information;
 - d. The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of this Agreement shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision of this Agreement;
 - e. Signatures exchanged by facsimile are effective for all purposes hereunder to the same extent as original signatures;
 - f. The Recitals are not merely prefatory but are an integral part hereof; and
 - g. The effective date of this Agreement shall be the same as the effective date of the Contract entered into by the parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have, by their duly authorized representatives, executed this Agreement as of the day and year first above written.

Contractor: _____

Public Service Commission

By: _____(SEAL)

By: _____

Printed Name: _____

Printed Name: W. Kevin Hughes

Title: _____

Title: Chairman

Date: _____

Date: _____

NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT - ATTACHMENT J-1

LIST OF CONTRACTOR'S EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS WHO WILL BE GIVEN ACCESS TO THE CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Printed Name and Address of Individual/Agent	Employee (E) or Agent (A)	Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT – ATTACHMENT J-2

CERTIFICATION TO ACCOMPANY RETURN OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

I AFFIRM THAT:

To the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, and upon due inquiry, I hereby certify that: (i) all Confidential Information which is the subject matter of that certain Non-Disclosure Agreement by and between the State of Maryland and

_____ (“Contractor”) dated _____, 20____ (“Agreement”) is attached hereto and is hereby returned to the State in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Agreement; and (ii) I am legally authorized to bind the Contractor to this affirmation.

I DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE AND AFFIRM UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY THAT THE CONTENTS OF THIS AFFIDAVIT ARE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION, AND BELIEF, HAVING MADE DUE INQUIRY.

DATE: _____

NAME OF CONTRACTOR: _____

BY: _____
(Signature)

TITLE: _____
(Authorized Representative and Affiant)

Rev. 3/25/2013

ATTACHMENT K – HIPAA BUSINESS ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT

This solicitation does not require a HIPAA Business Associate Agreement.

ATTACHMENT L – MERCURY AFFIDAVIT

This solicitation does not include the procurement of products known to likely include mercury as a component.

ATTACHMENT M – VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

This solicitation does not include a Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprise goal.

CERTIFICATION REGARDING INVESTMENTS IN IRAN

(submit with Bid/Proposal)

I, _____ (print name), possess the legal authority to make this Certification.

Pursuant to Md. Ann. Code, State Finance and Procurement Article, §§ 17-701 through 17-707, and in conjunction with the Bid or Proposal submitted in response to Solicitation No. PSC #09-02-13, the following certifications are hereby made:

1. The Bidder/Offeror is **not** identified on the list created by the Board of Public Works as a person engaging in investment activities in Iran as described in Md. Ann. Code, State Finance and Procurement Article § 17-702; and

2. The Bidder/Offeror is **not** engaging in investment activities in Iran as described in Md. Ann. Code, State Finance and Procurement Article § 17-702.

3. If the Bidder/Offeror is unable to make the certifications listed in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, the Bidder/Offeror shall provide a detailed description of the Bidder/Offeror’s investment activities in Iran (attach additional pages if necessary):

I do solemnly declare and affirm under the penalties of perjury that the contents of this certification are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

Date: _____

Bidder/Offeror Name: _____

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Rev. 3/11/2013

ATTACHMENT O – LOCATION OF THE PERFORMANCE OF SERVICES DISCLOSURE

This solicitation does not require a Location of the Performance of Services Disclosure.

ATTACHMENT P – DHR HIRING AGREEMENT

This solicitation does not require a DHR Hiring Agreement.