**Bid Delivery Instructions for State Procurement:**

Bidders are hereby advised that the Office of State Procurement (OSP) must receive bids at its physical location by the date and time specified on page 1 of the Invitation to Bid.

Bids may be mailed or delivered by hand or courier service to the Office of State Procurement’s physical location as follows:

Office of State Procurement

Claiborne Building, Suite 2-160

1201 North Third Street

Baton Rouge, LA 70802

**Or** bids may be submitted online by accessing the link on page 1 of the Invitation to Bid.

Bidder should be aware of security requirements for the Claiborne Building and allow time to be photographed and presented with a temporary identification badge.

Bidder is solely responsible for ensuring that its courier service provider makes inside deliveries to the Office of State Procurement’s physical location. The Office of State Procurement is not responsible for any delays caused by the bidder's chosen means of bid delivery. Bidder is solely responsible for the timely delivery of its bid. Failure to meet the bid opening date & time shall result in rejection of the bid.

**Note:** Bidders who choose to respond to this bid online via the vendor portal are encouraged to not submit a written bid as well.

Bidders are hereby advised that due to the nature of the internet, the State of Louisiana cannot guarantee that access to the LaGov or LaPAC websites will be uninterrupted or that e-mails or other electronic transmissions will be sent to you or received by us. The Office of State Procurement is not responsible for any delays caused by the bidder’s choice to submit their bid online. Bidder is solely responsible for the timely delivery of its bid. Failure to meet the bid opening date and time shall result in rejection of the bid.

\*\*Attention\*\*

Receipt of a solicitation or award cannot be relied upon as an assurance of receiving future solicitations. In order to receive notifications of future solicitations from this office, you must register and enroll in the proper category in LaGov at the following website:

<https://lagoverpvendor.doa.louisiana.gov/irj/portal/anonymous?guest_user=self_reg>

Enrollment in LaGov provides LaPAC email notification of bid opportunities based upon commodities that you select.

**Calendar of Events:**

Deadline to receive written inquiries: 11/27/2024

 Deadline to answer written inquiries: 12/4/2024

 Bid opening date and time: 12/11/2024 at 10:00AM (Central Time)

**NOTE: The State of Louisiana reserves the right to revise this calendar. Revisions before the bid opening date and time, if any, will be formalized by the issuance of an addendum to this ITB.**

**Bidder Inquiries:** The State shall not and cannot permit an open-ended inquiry period, as this creates an unwarranted delay in the procurement cycle and operations of our Agency customers. The State reasonably expects and requires responsible and interested bidders to conduct their in-depth bid review and submit inquiries in a timely manner.

An inquiry period is hereby firmly set for all interested bidders to perform a detailed review of the bid documents and to submit any written inquiries relative thereto. *Without exception,* all inquiries MUST be submitted in writing by an authorized representative of the bidder, clearly cross-referenced to the relevant bid section. All inquiries must be received by the Inquiry Deadline set forth in the Calendar of Events section of this bid. Only those inquiries received by the established deadline shall be considered by the State. Inquiries received after the established deadline shall not be entertained.

Inquiries concerning this bid may be delivered by mail, express courier, e-mail, hand, or fax to:

Office of State Procurement

Attention: Raymond McKnight

1201 North Third Street, Suite 2-160

Baton Rouge, LA 70802

E-Mail: Raymond.McKnight2@la.gov

Phone: (225) 342-4832

Fax: (225) 342-9756

Only the person identified above or their designee has the authority to officially respond to bidder’s questions on behalf of the State. Any communications from any other individuals are not binding to the State.

An addendum will be issued and posted at the Office of State Procurement’s LaPAC\* website to address all inquiries received and any other changes or clarifications to the bid. Thereafter, all bid documents, including but not limited to the specifications, terms, conditions, plans, etc., will stand as written and/or amended by any addendum. No negotiations, decisions, or actions shall be executed by any bidder as a result of any oral discussions with any state employee or state consultant. It is the Bidder’s responsibility to check the LaPAC website frequently for any possible addenda that may be issued. The Office of State Procurement is not responsible for a bidder’s failure to download any addenda documents required to complete the bid.

\*Note: LaPAC is the State’s online electronic bid posting and notification system resident on the State Procurement’s website: <http://www.doa.la.gov/doa/osp/>. In that LaPAC provides an immediate e-mail notification to subscribing bidders that a solicitation and any subsequent addenda have been let and posted, notice and receipt thereof is considered formally given as of their respective dates of posting.

To receive the email notification, vendors must register in the LaGov portal. Registration is intuitive at the following link:

<https://lagoverpvendor.doa.louisiana.gov/irj/portal/anonymous?guest_user=self_reg>

Help scripts are available on the Office of State Procurement’s website under Vendor Resources at <https://www.doa.la.gov/doa/osp/vendor-resources/>

**Terms and Conditions:** This solicitation contains all terms and conditions with respect to the commodities herein. Any vendor contracts, forms, terms or other materials submitted with bid may cause bid to be rejected.

 **Vendor’s Forms:** The purchase order is the only binding document to be issued against the contract. Signing of vendor's forms is not allowed.

**Acceptance:** Unless otherwise specified, bids on the contract will be assumed to be firm for acceptance for a minimum of 60 days. If accepted, prices must be firm for the specified contract period.

**Contractual Period:** The State of Louisiana intends to award all items for an initial period,

not to exceed 12 months. Delays in awarding, beyond the anticipated starting date, may result in a change in the contract period. If the situation occurs, an award may be made for less than 12 months.

**Renewals:** At the option of the State of Louisiana and acceptance by Contractor, the contract may be extended for two additional 12 month periods at the same prices, terms and conditions. Total contract time may not exceed 36 months.

**Contract Usage Reports:** Successful vendor is to keep a record of all orders issued against the contract during the contract period. Approximately four months prior to the end of the contract period, the vendor is to be prepared to submit to the Office of State Procurement a contract usage report.

The specific usage report content, scope, and format requirements are available on the Office of State Procurement’s website under Vendor Resource/Vendor Forms:

<https://www.doa.la.gov/doa/osp/vendor-resources/>

In addition, the person’s name who compiled the report and their contact information shall be provided. OSP reserves the right to request copies of any purchase orders issued against the contract.

The usage reports shall be submitted utilizing this format or an equivalent format that has been pre-approved by OSP.

**Invoices:** Invoices will be submitted by the Contractor to the Using Agency as indicated on the purchase order and the invoice shall refer to the delivery ticket number, delivery date, purchase order number, quantity, unit price, and delivery point. A separate invoice for each order delivered and accepted shall be submitted by the Contractor in duplicate directly to the accounting department of the Using Agency. Invoices shall show the amount of any cash discount and shall be submitted on the Contractor’s own invoice form.

Using Agencies are directed to pay the Contractor upon presentation of a properly executed invoice after goods have been received, inspected and accepted. Invoices will be paid within 30 days of receipt of a properly executed invoice, or receipt of goods, whichever is later.

**Payment:** Payment will be made on the basis of unit price as listed in the contract; such price and payment will constitute full compensation for furnishing and delivering the contract commodities. In no case will the State Agency refuse to make partial payments to the Contractor although all items have not been delivered. The payment in no way relieves the Contractor of his responsibility to effect shipment of the balance of the order. Payments will be made to vendor and address as shown on the order.

**PAYMENTS WILL BE MADE TO THE VENDOR AND TO THE ADDRESS AS SHOWN ON THE PURCHASE ORDER. ADVANCE PAYMENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN THE CONTRACT.**

**Prices:** Prices shall be complete including transportation/freight charges prepaid by vendor to destination, inside delivery, unpacking, assembly of all components (if necessary), and removal of all associated debris from premises. Prices should be quoted in the unit (each, box, case, hour, flat, mile, etc.) as specified in the solicitation.

**Freight Charges:** Unit price must be inclusive of any freight charges. Bid should be F.O.B. Destination – title passing upon receipt of goods. Failure to comply with this requirement may disqualify your bid.

**Increase/Decrease:** The quantities listed herein are estimated to be the amount needed. In the event a greater or lesser quantity is needed, the right is reserved by the State of Louisiana to increase or decrease the amount, at the unit price stated in the bid.

**Delivery:** Delivery is a critical factor in this solicitation; therefore vendor must maintain an adequate local supply of all items in order to meet the specified delivery. Failure to complete deliveries in a satisfactory manner or to meet specifications outlined in this bid may be the basis for declaring default.

**Delivery is of the Essence:** Delivery is a critical factor in this solicitation, and will be a factor in evaluation for award. The State reserves the right to award to that vendor which provides the earliest possible delivery within 42 days of receipt of the purchase order. Failure to complete deliveries in a satisfactory manner or to meet specifications outlined in this bid may be the basis for declaring default.

State delivery time: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ days ARO

**Sample(s) may be required:** When requested, samples must be furnished at the vendor’s expense, and received no later than 10 business days after request. Packages should be clearly labeled with the solicitation number. Each individual sample within the package must be clearly labeled with the bidder’s name, manufacturer’s brand name and number, solicitation number and item reference. Submit only one bid proposal’s samples per box. Samples of the successful bidder will be retained at the Office of State Procurement or the Using Agency for the purpose of receiving merchandise. Any part of merchandise received that does not meet the quality standards and construction of the sample will be rejected and returned at the vendor’s expense.

The Using Agency reserves the right to inspect and test the delivered merchandise for compliance with the bid specifications. If merchandise fails to meet the specifications, the cost of testing and inspection will be paid by the vendor. If the merchandise is in compliance, cost of all testing will be paid by the Using Agency.

**Literature:** Literature and/or specifications must be submitted upon request; if requested, literature and/or specifications must be submitted within five business days of written request by OSP.

If bidding other than specified, sufficient information should be enclosed with the bid in order to determine quality, suitability, and compliance with the specifications.

Failure to comply with this request may eliminate your bid from consideration.

**Electronic Vendor Payment Solution:**

In an effort to increase efficiencies and effectiveness as well as be strategic in utilizing technology and resources for the State and Contractors, the State intends to make all payments to Contractors electronically. The LaCarte procurement card will be used for purchases of $5,000 and under, and where feasible, over $5,000. Contractors will have a choice of receiving electronic payment for all other payments by selecting the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). If you receive an award and do not currently accept the LaCarte card or have not already enrolled in EFT, you will be asked to comply with this request by choosing either the LaCarte Procurement Card and/or EFT. You may indicate your acceptance below.

The **LaCarte** procurement card uses a Visa card platform. Contractors receive payment from State Agencies using the card in the same manner as other Visa card purchases. Contractors cannot process payment transactions through the credit card clearinghouse until the purchased products have been shipped or received or the services performed.

For all Statewide and Agency Term Contracts:

* Under the LaCarte program, purchase orders are not necessary. Orders must be placed against the net discounted products of the contract. All contract terms and conditions apply to purchases made with LaCarte.
* If a purchase order is not used, the Contractor must keep on file a record of all LaCarte purchases issued against the contract during the contract period. The file must contain the particular item number, quantity, line total and order total. Records of these purchases must be provided to the Office of State Procurement on request.

 **EFT** payments are sent from the State's bank directly to the payee's bank each weekday. The

 only requirement is that you have an active checking or savings account at a financial

 institution that can accept Automated Clearing House (ACH) credit files and remittance

 information electronically. Additional information and an enrollment form is available by

 contacting the Office of Statewide Reporting & Accounting Policy at DOA-OSRAP-EFT@la.gov.

 To facilitate this payment process, you will need to complete and return the EFT enrollment

 form.

If an award is made to your company, please check which option you will accept or indicate if you are already enrolled.

Payment type Will Accept Already Enrolled

LaCarte \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 EFT \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Individual Authorized

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Authorized Signature for Payment Type Chosen Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email address and phone number of authorized individual

**Method of Award:** Award to be made on an all-or-none basis to the overall lowest, responsive, responsible bidder meeting specifications. The State reserves the right to reject individual line items from the award.

**Louisiana Preference**:

Notwithstanding any other provision of La. R.S. 39:1604 to the contrary, the following preferences shall apply only to bidders whose Louisiana business workforce is comprised of a minimum of 50% Louisiana residents.

1. Do you have a Louisiana Business workforce? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ no
2. If so, do you certify that at least 50% of your Louisiana business workforce is comprised of Louisiana residents? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ no
3. In accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 39:1604, each procurement officer, purchasing agent, or similar official who procures or purchases agricultural or forestry products, including meat, seafood, produce, eggs, paper or paper products under the provisions of Chapter 17 of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes shall procure or purchase Louisiana products provided all of the following conditions are met:
4. The bidder certifies in the bid submitted that the product meets the criteria of a Louisiana product.
5. The product is equal to or better than equal in quality to other products.
6. The cost of the Louisiana product shall not exceed the cost of other products by more than 10%, except as otherwise provided in this Chapter as a specific exception.

Do you claim this preference? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ no

Specify line number(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. In accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 39:1604, each procurement officer, purchasing agent, or similar official who procures or purchases products under the provisions of Chapter 17 of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes shall procure or purchase meat and meat products, domesticated or wild catfish, produce, eggs or crawfish which are further processed in Louisiana, provided the cost of the further processed meat and meat products, domesticated or wild catfish, produce, eggs or crawfish do not exceed the cost of other products by more than 7%.

Do you claim this preference? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ no

Specify line number(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Specify location within Louisiana where product is further processed:

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 (NOTE: If more space is required, include on a separate sheet.)

1. In accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 39:1604, each procurement officer, purchasing agent, or similar official who procures or purchases materials, supplies, products, provisions, or equipment under the provisions of Chapter 17 of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes may purchase such materials, supplies, products, provisions, or equipment which are produced, manufactured, or assembled in Louisiana, as defined in La. R.S. 38:2251(A), and which are equal in quality to other materials, supplies, products, provisions, or equipment, provided that all of the following conditions are met:
2. The cost of such items does not exceed the cost of other items which are manufactured, processed, produced, or assembled outside the State by more than 10%.
3. The vendor of such Louisiana items agrees to sell the items at the same price as the lowest bid offered on such items.
4. In cases where more than one bidder offers Louisiana items which are within 10% of the lowest bid, the bidder offering the lowest bid on Louisiana items is entitled to accept the price of the lowest bid made on such items.

Do you claim this preference? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ no

Specify line number(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Specify location within Louisiana where product is produced, manufactured, or assembled:

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 (NOTE: If more space is required, include on a separate sheet.)

**NOTE: FAILURE TO SPECIFY ABOVE INFORMATION MAY CAUSE ELIMINATION FROM PREFERENCES**.

**Procurement of United States Products:**

In accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 39:1604.7, in the event a contract is not entered into for products purchased under the provisions of La. R.S. 39:1595, each procurement officer, purchasing agent, or similar official who procures or purchases materials, supplies, products, provisions, or equipment under the provisions of this Chapter may purchase such materials, supplies, products, provisions, or equipment which are manufactured in the United States, and which are equal in quality to other materials, supplies, products, provisions, or equipment, provided that all of the following conditions are met:

(1) The cost of such items does not exceed the cost of other items which are manufactured outside the United States by more than 5%.

(2) The vendor of such items agrees to sell the items at the same price as the lowest bid offered on such items.

(3) In cases where more than one bidder offers items manufactured in the United States which are within 5% of the lowest bid, the bidder offering the lowest bid on such items is entitled to accept the price of the lowest bid made on such items.

(4) The vendor certifies that such items are manufactured in the United States.

For the purposes of this preference,

(1)"Manufactured in the United States" means produced by a process in which the manufacturing, final assembly, processing, packaging, testing, and any other process that adds value, quality, or reliability to assembled articles, materials, or supplies, occur in the United States.

(2) "United States" means the United States and any place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

Do you claim this preference? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ no

Specify line number(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Specify location within the United States where this product is manufactured:

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(NOTE: If more space is required, include on a separate sheet.)

**Escalation Clause:** The prices set forth in the contract shall remain effective for the duration of the initial contract period. Price adjustments will be considered for subsequent annual contract renewals. The Contractor must submit a written request for price adjustments to the Office of State Procurement at least 60 days prior to the contract anniversary. No adjustments shall be effective until approved by the Office of State Procurement. The State reserves the right to accept the adjustment, negotiate the adjustment, or re-bid the contract. All orders shall be invoiced at the contract price in effect on the date of the purchase order. Price adjustments shall be based on the Producer Price Index (PPI) for series ID PCU322---322---, Industry: Paper Manufacturing, as published by the US Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, DC. The base index shall be the index announced for the month in which the contract originates. Price adjustments shall be applied to the original price accepted. Price adjustments for each subsequent contract renewal period will be calculated from the base index re-established at the time of any previously approved price adjustments. No price adjustment shall exceed 10% of the previous year’s price.