



SUBMIT BID TO: Grambling State University
Purchasing Department
purchasingbids@gram.edu

To maintain the integrity of the bid process,
please **do not cc** any other University email
address when submitting your bid.

Purchasing Department Contacts: Erin Walker
(318-274-3280)
walkere@gram.edu

Bid Number: 50018-270004

DATE: August 11, 2026

TITLE: ATOMIC FORCE MICROSCOPE (AFM)

BID SCHEDULE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

DUE DATE/TIME (*email only*): SEPTEMBER 8, 2026, BY 2:00 PM CST

BID OPENING (*Zoom*): SEPTEMBER 8, 2026, AT 2:05 PM CST

MEETING ID: 879 7223 4163

PASSWORD: 995134

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87972234163?pwd=b0lH8vCjrye94rzn2n8zbUslxyRrMc.1>

General Instructions to Bidders

1. Grambling State University reserves the right to award items separately, grouped or on an all or none basis and to reject any or all bids and waive any informalities.
2. Electronic submission is the preferred method for this solicitation. Sealed hard-copy bids will also be accepted. All bids must be received by the Purchasing Office or through the electronic bidding system no later than the date and time stated in this IFB. Bids received after the deadline will not be opened or considered.
3. Sealed bids for furnishing the items and/or services specified are hereby solicited, and will be received by the issuing Grambling State University Campus/Department at the "Submit Bid To" address stated above, until the specified due date and time. Bidder is solely responsible for the timely delivery of bid. The Purchasing Office is not responsible for any delays. It is the responsibility of the Supplier to ensure the bid is received by GSU Purchasing by the indicated due date and time. Any delays that may occur in transmission of the bid is the responsibility of the supplier. A bid will be considered late if it is not received at the "Submit Bid TO" email address by the indicated due date and time.
4. The maximum email attachment size accepted is 125 MB. It is the supplier's responsibility to ensure bid submission is sized such that it is successfully transmitted and received by GSU. If the bid response is too large to be emailed as one document, the bid must be sent as separate documents. Each submittal should be labeled. **(Example – Bid Submittal 1 out of 3 for IFB 50018-27XXXX - Title; Bid Submittal 2 out of 3 for IFB-50018-27XXXX - Title, etc.).** If any submittal is received late, GSU will not consider the late submittal(s). Only the submittal(s) received by the due date and time will be considered. Late bids will not be accepted per
5. Bid submissions must be signed by a person authorized to bind the vendor. In accordance with Louisiana R.S. 39:1594, the person signing the bid must be:
 - (1) any corporate officer listed on the most current annual report on file with the secretary of state, or the signature on the bid is that of any member of a partnership or partnership in commended listed in the most current partnership records on file with the secretary of state; or
 - (2) an authorized representative of the corporation, partnership, or other legal entity and the Bidder submits or provides upon request a corporate resolution, certification as to the corporate principal, or other documents indicating authority which are acceptable to the public entity, including registration on an electronic Internet database maintained by the public entity; or
 - (3) entity has filed in the appropriate records of the secretary of state in which the public entity is located, an affidavit, resolution, or other acknowledged or authentic document indicating the names of all parties authorized to submit bids for public contracts.
6. When bid is submitted by email, **the subject line must show the Solicitation/File No.** and submission must be received by bid deadline. Read the entire solicitation, including all terms, conditions and specifications within this packet.

7. All bid information and prices must be typed or written in ink. Any corrections, erasures or other forms of alteration to unit prices are to be initialed by the Bidder.
8. Bid prices shall include all delivery charges paid by the vendor, F.O.B. Grambling State University Destination, unless otherwise provided in the solicitation. Any invoiced delivery charges not quoted and itemized on the Grambling State University purchase order are subject to rejection and non-payment.
9. Payment terms: Net 30 after receipt of properly executed invoice or delivery and acceptance, whichever is later.
10. By signing this solicitation, the Bidder certifies compliance with all general instructions to Bidders, terms, conditions and specifications; and further certifies that this bid is made without collusion or fraud. MANDATORY bid requirements are detailed immediately following the Standard Terms & Conditions section.
11. Quantities listed in these specifications are approximate and are not guaranteed by the University. The University reserves the right to increase or reduce quantity as needed if in the best interest of the University.
12. **Bid Bonds: Are required on ALL bids and/or Public Works Project over \$25,000**, a bid bond must be submitted for each separate bid response. The bid bond shall be in an amount equal to 5% of the bid price submitted and alternates, if any. The bid security shall be in a form of a bid bond or certified check, or cashier's check.

*****FOR THIS BID SOLICITATION: To provide the most comprehensive coverage for this renovation project, bidders are required to submit a bid bond during the bidding phase and transition to a performance bond once the contractor is selected. This approach ensures both the integrity of the bidding process and the successful completion of the project.**
13. The Contractor is required to record the Contract with the Clerk of Court in Lincoln Parish and must provide the Purchasing Department with proof of filing. Additionally, **a Performance Bond will be required at the time of the award of the contract.**

(PLEASE NOTE THAT A BID BOND MUST BE SIGNED BY THE AGENT OR ATTORNEY-IN-FACT OF THE SURETY.)

(*) The surety or insurance company furnishing the bid bond shall be currently on the U.S. Department of the Treasury Financial Management Service list of approved bonding companies or by an insurance company that is either domiciled in Louisiana or owned by Louisiana residents and is licensed to write surety bonds.

STANDARD TERMS & CONDITIONS INVITATION TO BID

These standard terms and conditions shall apply to all Grambling State University solicitations, unless otherwise specifically amended and provided for in the special terms and conditions, specifications, or other solicitation documents. In the event of conflict between the General Instructions to Bidders or Standard Terms & Conditions and the Special Terms & Conditions, the Special Terms & Conditions shall govern.

Bids submitted are subject to provisions of the laws of the State of Louisiana, including but not limited to: the Louisiana Procurement Code (R.S. 39:1551-1736); Purchasing Rules and Regulations (Title 34 of the Louisiana Administrative Code); Executive Orders; and the terms, conditions, and specifications stated in this solicitation.

1. **Bid Delivery and Receipt:** To be considered, Bidders may submit bids electronically to purchasingbids@gram.edu When bid is submitted by email, **the subject line must show the Solicitation/File No.** and must be received by bid deadline.

Bidders are advised that the U.S. Postal Service does not make deliveries to the Purchasing Office. Bids will no longer be accepted by mail or in person. Bidder is solely responsible for the timely delivery of its bid, and failure to meet the bid due date and time shall result in rejection of the bid.

2. **Bid Forms:** Bids are to be submitted on and in accordance with the Grambling State University solicitation forms provided, and must be signed by an authorized agent of the vendor. Bids submitted on other forms or in other price formats may be considered informal and may be rejected in part or in its entirety. Bids submitted in pencil and/or bids containing no original signature indicating the Bidder's intent to be bound will not be accepted.
3. **Interpretation of Solicitation/Bidder Inquiries:** If Bidder is in doubt as to the meaning of any part or requirement of this solicitation, Bidder may submit a written request for interpretation to the Grambling State University Purchasing at the email address on page 1 of this solicitation. Written inquiries must be received in the Grambling State University Purchasing Department no later than five (5) calendar days prior to the opening of bids, and shall be clearly cross-referenced to the relevant solicitation/specification in question.

No decisions or actions shall be executed by any Bidder as a result of oral discussions with any Grambling State University employee or consultant. Any interpretation of the documents will be made by formal addendum only, issued by the Grambling State University Purchasing Department. It is the responsibility of the bidder, prior to submitting their bid, to periodically visit the State of Louisiana Purchasing Department LaPAC website, or contact the Grambling State University Purchasing Department, to identify if any addendums were issued. Grambling State University shall not be responsible for any other interpretations or assumptions made by Bidder.

4. **Bid Opening:** In-person bid openings have been suspended for the foreseeable future. Bidders may attend the public bid opening of sealed bids and proposals conducted on Zoom. No information or opinions concerning the ultimate contract award will be given at bid opening or during the evaluation process. Written bid tabulations will not be furnished. Bids may be examined within 72 hours after bid opening. Information pertaining to completed files may be secured by submitting a written request to the Grambling State University Purchasing at the email address shown in header.
5. **Special Accommodations:** Any "qualified individual with a disability" as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, who has submitted a bid and desires to attend the public bid opening, must notify the Grambling State University Purchasing Department in writing not later than seven days prior to the bid opening date of their need for special accommodations. If the request cannot be reasonably provided, the individual will be informed prior to the bid opening.
6. **Standards of Quality:** Any product or service bid shall conform to all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, and the specifications contained in the solicitation. Any manufacturer's name, trade name, brand name, or catalog number used in the specification is for the purpose of describing the standard of quality, performance, and characteristics desired; and is not intended to limit or restrict competition. Bidder must specify the brand and model number of the product offered in his bid. Bids not specifying brand and model number shall be considered as offering the exact product specified in the solicitation.
7. **New Products/Warranty/Patents:** All products bid for purchase must be new, never previously used, of the manufacturer's current model and/or packaging, and of best quality as measured by acceptable trade standards. No remanufactured, demonstrator, used or irregular products will be considered for purchase unless otherwise specified.

The manufacturer's standard published warranty and provisions shall apply, unless more stringent warranties are otherwise required by Grambling State University and specified in the solicitation. In such cases, the Bidder and/or manufacturer shall honor the specified warranty requirements, and bid prices shall include any premium costs of such coverage.

Bidder guarantees that the products proposed and furnished will not infringe upon any valid patent or trademark; and shall, at its own expense, defend any and all actions or suits charging such infringement, and shall save Grambling State University harmless. Descriptive Information: Bidders proposing an equivalent brand or model should submit descriptive information (such as

literature, technical data, illustrations, etc.) sufficient for Grambling State University to evaluate quality, suitability, and compliance with the specifications with the bid submission. Failure to submit descriptive information may cause bid to be rejected. Any changes made by Bidder to a manufacturer's published specifications shall be verifiable by the manufacturer. If items bid do not fully comply with specifications, Bidder should state in what respect items deviate. Bidder's failure to note exceptions in its bid will not relieve the Bidder from supplying the actual products requested.

8. Bids/Prices/F.O.B. Point

- The bid price for each item is to be quoted on a "net" basis and F.O.B. Grambling State University Destination, i.e. title passing upon receipt and inclusive of all delivery charges, any item discounts, etc.
- Bids other than F.O.B. Grambling State University Destination may be rejected.
- Bids indicating estimated freight charges may be rejected.
- Bids requiring deposits, payment in advance, or C.O.D. terms may be rejected.
- Bidders who do not quote "net" item prices and who separately quote an overall "lump sum" freight cost or discount for all items shall be considered as submitting an "all-or-none" bid for evaluation and award purposes; and risk rejection if award is made on an item basis.
- Prices shall be firm for acceptance for a minimum of 30 days, unless otherwise specified. Bids conditioned with shorter acceptance periods may be rejected.
- Prices are to be quoted in the unit/packaging specified (e.g. each, 12/box, etc), or may be rejected.
- In the event of extension errors, the unit price bid shall prevail.

9. Taxes: Vendor is responsible for including all applicable taxes in the bid price. Grambling State University is exempt from all Louisiana state and local sales and use taxes. By accepting an award, resident and non-resident firms acknowledge their responsibility for the payment of all taxes duly assessed by the State of Louisiana and its political subdivisions for which they are liable, including but not limited to: franchise taxes, privilege taxes, sales taxes, use taxes, ad valorem taxes, etc.

10. Terms and Conditions: This solicitation contains all terms and conditions with respect to the purchase of the goods and/or services specified herein. Submittal of any contrary terms and conditions may cause your bid to be rejected. By signing and submitting a bid, vendor agrees that contrary terms and conditions which may be included in its bid are nullified; and agrees that this contract shall be construed in accordance with this solicitation and governed by the laws of the State of Louisiana.

11. Vendor Forms/ Grambling State University Signature Authority: The terms and conditions of the Grambling State University solicitation, purchase order and contract shall solely govern the purchase agreement, and shall not be amended by any vendor contract, form, etc.

The University's has assigned delegated authorities to execute/sign any vendor contracts, forms, etc., on behalf of Grambling State University as a result of any award of the solicitation. Departments are expressly prohibited from signing any vendor forms.

Any such vendor contracts/forms bearing unauthorized signatures shall be null and void, shall have no legal force, and shall not be recognized by Grambling State University in any dispute arising therefrom. Vendors who present any such forms to department users for signature without regard to this strict Grambling State University policy may face contract cancellation, suspension, and/or debarment.

12. Awards: The intent to award this bid on an all-or-none basis to the lowest responsible and responsive Bidder will be stated on the bid form. For bids with several items, Grambling State University reserves the right: (1) to award items separately, grouped, or on an all-or-none basis, as deemed in its best interest; (2) to reject any or all bids and/or items; and (3) to waive any informalities.

All solicitation specifications, terms and conditions shall be made part of any subsequent award as if fully reproduced and included therein, unless specifically amended in the formal contract.

13. Acceptance of Bid: Only the issuance of an official Grambling State University purchase order, contract, Notification of Award letter, or a Notification of Intent to Award letter shall constitute the University's acceptance of a bid. Grambling State University shall not be responsible in any way to a vendor for goods delivered or services rendered without an official purchase order and/or contract.

14. Applicable Law: All contracts shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of the State of Louisiana.

15. Awarded Products/Unauthorized Substitutions: Only those awarded brands and numbers stated in the Grambling State University contract are approved for delivery, acceptance, and payment purposes. Any substitutions must be reviewed and approved by the Grambling State University Purchasing Department prior to awarding the contract. Unauthorized product substitutions are subject to rejection at time of delivery, post-return at vendor's expense, and non-payment. Testing/Rejected Goods: Vendor warrants that the products furnished will be in full conformity with the specification, drawing or sample, and agrees that this warranty shall survive delivery, acceptance, and use. Any defect in any product may cause its rejection.

Grambling State University reserves the right to test products for conformance to specifications both prior to and after any award. Vendor shall bear the cost of testing if product is found to be non-compliant. All rejected goods will be held at vendor's risk and expense, and subject to vendor's prompt disposition. Unless otherwise arranged, rejected goods will be returned to the vendor freight collect.

- 16. Delivery:** Vendor is responsible for making timely delivery in accordance with its quoted delivery terms. Vendor shall promptly notify the Grambling State University Purchasing Department of any unforeseen delays beyond its control. In such cases, Grambling State University reserves the right to cancel the order and to make alternative arrangements to meet its needs. All deliveries must go to: **Property and Receiving, 407 Central Ave., Grambling, La 71245.**
- 17. Default of Vendor:** Failure to deliver within the time specified in the bid/award will constitute a default and may be cause for contract cancellation. Where the University has determined the vendor to be in default, Grambling State University reserves the right to purchase any or all goods or services covered by the contract on the open market and to surcharge the vendor with costs in excess of the contract price. Until such assessed surcharges have been paid, no subsequent bids from the defaulting vendor will be considered for award.
- 18. Vendor Invoices:** Invoices shall reference the Grambling State University purchase order number, vendor's packing list/delivery ticket number, shipping/delivery date, etc. Invoices are to be itemized and billed in accordance with the order, show the amount of any prompt payment discount, and submitted on the vendor's own invoice form. Invoices submitted by the vendor's supplier are not acceptable.
- 19. Delinquent Payment Penalties:** Delinquent payment penalties are mandated and governed by Louisiana R.S. 39:1695. Vendor penalties to the contrary shall be null and void, shall have no legal force, and shall not be recognized by Grambling State University in any dispute arising therefrom.
- 20. Assignment of Contract/Contract Proceeds:** Vendor shall not assign, sublet or transfer its contractual responsibilities, or payment proceeds thereof, to another party without the prior written consent and approval of the Grambling State University Purchasing Department. Unauthorized assignments of contract or assignments of contract proceeds shall be null and void, shall have no legal force, and shall not be recognized by Grambling State University in any dispute arising therefrom.
- 21. Contract Cancellation/Termination:** Grambling State University has the right to cancel any contract for cause, in accordance with purchasing rules and regulations, including but not limited to: (1) failure to deliver within the time specified in the contract; (2) failure of the product or service to meet specifications, conform to sample quality or to be delivered in good condition; (3) misrepresentation by the vendor; (4) fraud, collusion, conspiracy or other unlawful means of obtaining any contract with the University; (5) conflict of contract provisions with constitutional or statutory provisions of state or federal law; (6) any other breach of contract.

Grambling State University has the right to cancel any contract for convenience at any time by giving thirty (30) days written notice to the vendor. In such cases, the vendor shall be entitled to payment for compliant deliverables in progress.
- 22. Prohibited Contractual Arrangements:** Per Louisiana R.S. 42:1113.A, no public servant, or member of such a public servant's immediate family, or legal entity in which he has a controlling interest shall bid on or enter into any contract, subcontract, or other transaction that is under the supervision or jurisdiction of the agency of such public servant. See statute for complete law, exclusions, and provisions.
- 23. Equal Employment Opportunity Compliance:** By submitting and signing this bid, vendor agrees to abide by the requirements of the following as applicable: Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended by the Equal Opportunity Act of 1972; federal Executive Order 11246; federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Vietnam Era Veteran's Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Act of 1975; the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Vendor agrees not to discriminate in its employment practices and will render services under any contract entered into as a result of this solicitation without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, veteran status, political affiliation, handicap, disability, or other non-merit factor. Any act of discrimination committed by vendor, or failure to comply with these statutory obligations when applicable, shall be grounds for termination of any contract entered into as a result of this solicitation.
- 24. Mutual Indemnification:** Each party hereto agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold the other, the State of Louisiana, any governing board, each party's officers, directors, agents and employees harmless from and against any and all losses, liabilities, and claims, including reasonable attorney's fees arising out of or resulting from the willful act, fault, omission, or negligence of the indemnifying party or of its employees, contractors, or agents in performing its obligations under this agreement, provided however, that neither party hereto shall be liable to the other for any consequential damages arising out of its willful act, fault, omission, or negligence. Certification of No Suspension or Debarment: By signing and submitting this bid, Bidder certifies that its company, any subcontractors, or principals thereof, are not suspended or debarred under federal or state laws or

regulations. A list of parties who have been suspended or debarred by federal agencies is maintained by the General Services Administration and can be viewed on the internet at <https://sam.gov/content/home>

- 25. Substitution of Personnel:** If applicable, the University intends to include in any contract resulting from this IFB the following condition: Substitution of Personnel: If, during the term of the contract, the Contractor or subcontractor cannot provide the personnel as proposed and requests a substitution, that substitution shall meet or exceed the requirements stated herein. A detailed resume of qualifications and justification is to be submitted to the University for approval prior to any personnel substitution. It shall be acknowledged by the Contractor that every reasonable attempt shall be made to assign the personnel listed in the Contractor's bid.
- 26. Insurance Requirements:** Please note insurance requirements section included in these bid specifications. **If applicable** to the services procured in this solicitation, the successful Bidder will be required to furnish a certificate of insurance evidencing required coverages and naming the Grambling State University as an additional insured, and grant a waiver of subrogation on all liability policies.
- 27. Nonperformance:** Successful Bidder is required to perform in strict accordance with all contract specifications, terms, and conditions. Successful Bidder will be advised in writing of nonperformance issues and shall be required to promptly implement corrective actions to ensure contract compliance and to prevent recurrences. In the event the successful Bidder is issued three or more complaints of nonperformance, Grambling State University reserves the right at its sole discretion to cancel the contract with a ten (10) day written notice. Contract cancellations due to nonperformance may be cause to deem vendor non-responsible in future solicitations.

NOTE: The University has a fall break and a Spring Break. Each Break is approximately 4 Days Each.

- 28. No Smoking Campus:** The Successful Bidder shall be responsible for compliance with all University policies, security measures and vehicle regulations. Specifically, the University is a NO SMOKING campus and all prospective Bidders are cautioned that smoking will not be permitted inside or outside on ANY part of this facility at any time. Any employee who is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to immediate dismissal.
- 29. Non-Exclusivity:** This agreement is non-exclusive and shall not in any way preclude Grambling State University from entering into similar agreements and/or arrangements with other Vendors or from acquiring similar, equal, or like goods and/or services from other entities or sources.
- 30. Contract Amendments:** Requests for contract changes must be made in writing by an authorized agent/signatory of the Vendor and submitted to the Grambling State University Purchasing Department for prior approval. Requests shall include detailed justification and supporting documentation for the proposed amendment.
- Contract revisions shall be effective only upon approval by Grambling State University Purchasing Department and issuance of a formal Grambling State University Contract Amendment. The Vendor shall honor purchase orders issued prior to the approval of any contract amendment as applicable.
- 31. Term of Contract:** The duration of this Contract commences from the date specified herein or date of award notification and continues until University accepts final delivery of all deliverables. Total initial contract period not to exceed **Twelve (12)** months, unless renewal terms are specified in the solicitation documents. All terms of the solicitation shall be firm for the duration of Contract.
- 32. Notification of Fund Appropriation:** The continuation of this contract is contingent upon the appropriation of funds to fulfill the requirements of the contract by the Legislature. If the Legislature fails to appropriate sufficient monies to provide for the continuation of the contract or if such appropriation is reduced by the veto of the Governor or by any means provided in the Appropriations Act to prevent the total appropriations for the year from exceeding revenues for that year or for any lawful purpose and the effect of such reduction is to provide insufficient monies for the continuation of the contract, the contract shall terminate on the date of the beginning of the first fiscal year for which funds are not appropriated.

All Bidders should be aware that our Legislative process is such that it is often impossible to give prior notice of the non-appropriation of funds. Number of Bid Response Copies: Each Bidder must submit one (1) signed original bid to the Office of Purchasing at the mailing address specified in this solicitation document. The original must CONTAIN ORIGINAL SIGNATURES of those company officials or agents duly authorized to sign on behalf of the organization. Bidders may be required to mail in the original documents upon award.

- 33. Prohibition of Discriminatory Boycotts of Israel:** In accordance with LA R.S. 39:1602:1, for any contract for \$100,000 or more and for any contractor with five or more employees, Contractor, or any Subcontractor, shall certify it is not engaging in a boycott of Israel, and shall, for the duration of this contract, refrain from a boycott of Israel.

The State reserves the right to terminate this contract if the Contractor, or any Subcontractor, engages in a boycott of Israel during the term of the contract.

- 34. Pre-Bid Meeting: Non Applicable. La. R.S. 38:2212.H; Bidders must attend (and stay at) any mandatory pre-bid meeting.**
- 35. Site Visit/Contract Information:** It is the responsibility of the prospective bidder to visit and examine the jobsite, take measurements to his/her own satisfaction and determine conditions under which work is to be done. Owner will not accept responsibility for conditions which careful examination of premises would have shown existed.
- To visit jobsite and for further information, prospective bidder is to contact the Grambling State University Purchasing Departments at the contacts listed on page 1. It is preferred to have a written record of the correspondence for each site visit request. Please do not contact us by phone to schedule a visit unless you do not receive a response to your email request after 48 hours.
- 36. Piggy Back Clause:** Grambling State University is asking all responding vendors to indicate their willingness to extend the terms of resulting contracts, inclusive of price, to other Louisiana state agencies and/or universities. While this clause in no way commits any state agency and/or university to purchase from the awarded vendor, nor does it guarantee any additional orders will result, it does allow state agencies and/or universities, at their discretion, to make use of the Grambling State University's competitive process (provided said process satisfies their own procurement guidelines) and purchase directly from the awarded contractor. All purchases made by other state agencies and/or universities shall be understood to be transactions between that state agency and/or university and the awarded vendor. Grambling State University shall not be responsible for any such purchases.
- 37. State of Louisiana Contractor's Licenses Requirements:** If a Louisiana Contractor's License Number is Required for the items, work, or services to be performed under this solicitation, then it shall be stated in the bid advertisement that will appear in the Baton Rouge Advocate, and it will be stated in the specifications provided with these bid documents.
- 38. Examination of Bid Documents:** Bidders shall carefully examine the bidding documents and the sites to obtain first-hand knowledge of the scope and the conditions of the work. The submittal of a bid means the Contractor has inspected all elevators and related equipment in the buildings specified and has found elevators to be in a proper working order and satisfactory condition. No additional compensation will be allowed by the owner for failure of such contractor or subcontractor to inform themselves as to the conditions affecting the work
- 39. Errors and Omissions in Bid:** The University will not be liable for any error in the bid. Bidder will not be allowed to alter bid documents after the deadline for bid submission, except under the following condition: The University reserves the right to make corrections or clarifications due to patent errors identified in bids by the University or the Bidder. The University, at its option, has the right to request clarification or additional information from the Bidder.
- 40. Waiver of Administration Informalities:** The University reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to waive administrative informalities contained in any bid.
- 41. Cost of Offer Preparation:** The University is not liable for any costs incurred by prospective Bidders or Contractors prior to issuance of or entering into a Contract. Costs associated with developing the bid, and any other expenses incurred by the Bidder in responding to the ITB are entirely the responsibility of the Bidder, and shall not be reimbursed in any manner by Grambling State University.
- 42. Notice of Intent to Award:** Upon review and approval of the evaluation committee and agency recommendation for award, the Grambling State University will issue a Notice of Intent to Award letter to the apparent successful Bidder. A contract shall be completed and signed by all parties concerned on or before the date indicated. If this date is not met through no fault of the University, the University may elect to cancel the Notice of Intent to Award letter and make the award to the next most advantageous Bidder.

The Purchase Order and the Contractor's specifications will be combined to form the complete contract when the award is made. The Contractor shall be responsible for Contract filing fee with the Lincoln Parish Courthouse.

Any person aggrieved by the proposed award has the right to submit a protest in writing, in accordance with R.S. 39:1671, to the University Purchasing Director, within fourteen (14) days of the award/intent to award.

NOTICE TO VENDORS
LOUISIANA'S HUDSON (SMALL ENTREPRENEURSHIP) AND VETERAN INITIATIVE

The Louisiana Initiative for Small Entrepreneurships (the Hudson Initiative) and the Veteran Initiative (Veteran Small Entrepreneurship) are race and gender neutral goal-oriented programs which encourage State agencies to contract with and encourage contractors who receive contracts from the State to use good faith efforts to utilize certified small entrepreneurships and certified veteran or service-connected disabled veteran owned small entrepreneurships as subcontractors in the performance of the contract. The primary intent of the programs is to provide additional opportunities for Louisiana-based small entrepreneurships that are certified by the Louisiana Department of Economic Development (LED) to participate in contracting and procurement with the State.

Small entrepreneurships that are not currently certified and are interested in participating in procurement and contracting opportunities with the State are encouraged to visit <https://www.opportunitylouisiana.gov/small-business/special-programs-for-small-business/hudson-initiative> or <https://www.opportunitylouisiana.gov/small-business/special-programs-for-small-business/veteran-initiative> for qualification requirements and on-line certification. After certification, businesses are encouraged to register in the [LaGov Supplier Portal](#).

END OF SECTION

DEFINITIONS

Agent - The University's representative in Purchasing Department who is referred to throughout these documents as singular in number.

Contractor - The person/company who contracts with Grambling State University to provide the items, services, or to perform the work as called for on these documents who is referred to as singular in number.

Owner –Grambling State University.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1. **VENDOR BIDDING ANYTHING OTHER THAN EXACT GOODS/SERVICES SPECIFIED IN THESE SPECIFICATIONS SHOULD SUBMIT DESCRIPTIVE AND ILLUSTRATIVE LITERATURE WITH BID FOR CONSIDERATION OF AWARD. FAILURE TO DO SO MAY BE CAUSE FOR REJECTION OF BID.**
2. **ALL PRICES QUOTED ARE TO REMAIN FIRM UNTIL ALL DELIVERABLE GOODS OR SERVICES ARE RENDERED TO AND ACCEPTED BY GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY.**
3. **IN THE EVENT OF EXTENSION ERRORS, THE UNIT PRICE ON THE BID FORM SHALL PREVAIL.**
4. **GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY ADHERES TO NET 30 PAYMENT TERMS. ALL OTHER PAYMENT TERMS MUST BE DISCLOSED WITH BID. BE ADVISED THAT STRICTER PAYMENT TERMS MAY BE CAUSE FOR REJECTION OF BID.**
5. **QUANTITIES ARE APPROXIMATE AND ARE NOT GUARANTEED BY THE UNIVERSITY. THE UNIVERSITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO INCREASE OR REDUCE QUANTITY AS NEEDED IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE UNIVERSITY.**
6. **THE UNIVERSITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO AWARD PROPOSAL ON AN INDIVIDUAL ITEM BASIS, A COMBINATION OF ITEMS BASIS, OR AS A TOTAL PACKAGE TO ONE VENDOR, WHICHEVER IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE UNIVERSITY.**
7. **BID SUBMISSIONS MUST DISCLOSE ALL FEES INCLUDING SHIPPING, HANDLING, FREIGHT, FUEL SURCHARGES, ETC.. NO ADDITIONAL FEES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER AWARD.**
8. **FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ANY MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS SHALL BE CAUSE FOR REJECTION OF BID.**
9. **TAX EXEMPTION: *Grambling State University is exempt from all Louisiana state and local sales and use taxes and will not pay taxes delineated on invoices for this or any other project. Grambling State University is a tax-exempt State Agency. However, that tax-exempt status does not transfer to its contractors, subcontractors, suppliers or vendors for their use in purchasing project-related materials.***

END OF SECTION

MANDATORY BID REQUIREMENTS

Failure to meet all of the listed mandatory requirements will result in rejection of bid without further consideration.

1. **CERTIFICATION STATEMENT:** The Bidder **must** sign and include the Certification Statement as set forth in solicitation document. The signature of Bidder's Authorized Representative **must be an ORIGINAL signature** - not a typed/electronic signature. Documents signed in the DocuSign™ program are the only exceptions to this policy.
2. **BID SHEET/FORM:** The Bidder must submit bid on the form herein provided. The proposal must be signed in ink, and blank space(s) should be filled in for every applicable blank in the UNIT PRICE and EXTENDED TOTAL column. Items left blank will not be awarded to that bidder. It is not necessary to bid on all items. However, if you are not bidding on a particular item, or find a blank that is not applicable to your submission, write "NO BID" or "N/A" in the provided space(s). The Bidder must state the UNIT price (written in ink or typewritten) for each item and shall show the total amount for each item based on the quantities listed.
3. **CONTRACTOR QUALIFICATIONS REFERENCE LETTERS (BY REQUEST)** The University reserves the right to verify contractor's qualifications regarding the bid response received, and to request references for verification purposes.
4. **CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE:** If Insurance is required under this solicitation, it will be stated in the advertisement of the solicitation to appear in the Baton Rouge Advocate, and in the specification provided with these bid documents. Bidder shall submit a certificate of insurance with bid submission or by provide the following information: Policy number, names and addresses of carriers and Agents, amounts of coverage, types of coverage, and effective dates on the bid form enclosed.
5. **ILLUSTRATIVE MATERIALS: (If Applicable)** Vendor bidding anything other than exact goods/services specified in these specifications should submit descriptive and illustrative literature with the bid for consideration of award. Failure to do so may be cause for rejection of bid.

CONTACT INFORMATION

ELECTRONIC BID SUBMISSIONS (ONLY) *Do not email questions about the bid to this email address.*

purchasingbids@gram.edu

Be sure to include the solicitation number in the subject line.

Do not send your submission to any other University email address.

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS ABOUT SPECIFICATIONS

walkere@gram.edu

Do not email bid submissions this address.

To contact Purchasing by phone: 318-274-3280

CAMPUS DELIVERIES

Please send samples or other associated documents when a hard copy is requested or deemed necessary. By Mail –
Grambling State University

Purchasing Department PO
Box 4269
Grambling LA 71245

By Courier Service: Grambling State University
Purchasing Department PO
Box 4269
Grambling, LA 71245

EXHIBIT E INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT

The _____{Contractor/Lessee} agrees to protect, defend, indemnify, save, and hold harmless, Grambling State University, the State of Louisiana, all State Departments, Agencies, Boards and Commissions, its officers, agents, servants, employees, and volunteers, from and against any and all claims, damages, expenses, and liability arising out of injury or death to any person or the damage, loss or destruction of any property which may occur, or in any way grow out of, any act or omission of

_____{Contractor/Lessee}, its agents, servants, and employees, or any and all costs, expenses and/or attorney fees incurred by _____{Contractor/Lessee} as a result of any claims, demands, suits or causes of action, except those claims, demands, suits, or causes of action arising out of the negligence of the State of Louisiana, all State Departments, Agencies, Boards, Commissions, its officers, agents, servants, employees and volunteers.

_____{Contractor/Lessee} agrees to investigate, handle, respond to, provide defense for and defend any such claims, demands, suits, or causes of action at its sole expense and agrees to bear all other costs and expenses related thereto, even if the claims, demands, suits, or causes of action are groundless, false or fraudulent.

Accepted by _____

Company Name

Signature

Title

Date Accepted _____

Is Certificate of Insurance Attached? ____Yes ____No

Contract No. _____ for

Grambling State University State Agency

PURPOSE OF CONTRACT: _____

**BID BOND FOR
GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY PROJECTS**

Date:

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE
PRESENTS:

That _____ of _____, as Principal, and as Surety, are held and firmly bound unto GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY (Obligee), in the full and just sum of five (5%) percent of the total amount of this proposal, including all alternates, lawful money of the United States, for payment of which sum, well and truly be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns, jointly and severally firmly by these presents.

Surety represents that it is listed on the current U. S. Department of the Treasury Financial Management Service list of approved bonding companies as approved for an amount equal to or greater that the amount for which it obligates itself in this instrument or that it is a Louisiana domiciled insurance company with at least an A - rating in the latest printing of the A. M. Best's Key Rating Guide. If surety qualifies by virtue of its Best's listing, the Bond amount may not exceed ten percent of policyholders' surplus as shown in the latest A. M. Best's Key Rating Guide.

Surety further represents that it is licensed to do business in the State of Louisiana and that this Bond is signed by surety's agent or attorney-in-fact. This Bid Bond is accompanied by appropriate power of attorney.

THE CONDITION OF THIS OBLIGATION IS SUCH that, whereas said Principal is herewith submitting its proposal to the Obligee on a Contract for:

NOW, THEREFORE, if the said Contract be awarded to the Principal and the Principal shall, within such time as may be specified, enter into the Contract in writing and give a good and sufficient bond to secure the performance of the terms and conditions of the Contract with surety acceptable to the Obligee, then this obligation shall be void; otherwise this obligation shall become due and payable.

PRINCIPAL (BIDDER)

SURETY

BY: _____
AUTHORIZED OFFICER-OWNER-PARTNER

BY: _____
AGENT OR ATTORNEY-IN-FACT(SEAL)

INSURANCE-STATEMENT

This is to certify that we carry the Workmen's Compensation, Employer's Liability Insurance, General Liability Insurance, and Automobile Liability Insurance as outlined above with:

Liability Insurance Company: _____

Auto Liability Company Insurance: _____

Workers Compensation Insurance Company: _____

Grambling State University to be named as additional insured on Insurance Certificate provided for this contract for Liability Coverage and Auto Liability Coverage. Grambling State University shall be granted a waiver of subrogation for all Insurance Policies.

Business Name: _____

Business Address: _____ Phone No.: _____

Authorized Signature of Bidder: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____

Email Address: _____

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

The undersigned hereby acknowledges she/he has read and understands all requirements and specifications of the Invitation for Bid (IFB), including any attachments.

OFFICIAL CONTACT. The University requests that the Bidder designate one person to receive all documents and the method in which the documents are best delivered. Identify the Contact name and fill in the information below: (Print Clearly)

Date	_____ Official Contact Name:	
A.	E-mail Address	
B.	Telephone Number with area code:	(_____) _____

Bidder certifies that the above information is true and grants permission to the University to contact the above-named person or otherwise verify the information provided. By its submission of this Proposal and authorized signature below, Bidder certifies that:

1. The information contained in its response to this IFB is accurate;
2. Bidder complies with each of the mandatory requirements listed in the IFB and will meet or exceed the requirements specified therein; Bidder agrees to provide all tasks, services, and deliverables listed in Scope of Services for the total cost stated on Bid Form
3. Bidder accepts the procedures, evaluation criteria, mandatory contract terms, and all other administrative requirements set forth in this IFB.
4. Bidder confirms that its bid will be considered valid until award is made.
5. In making this bid, each Bidder represents that: They have read and understand the bid documents and the bid is made in accordance herewith, and the bid is based upon the specifications described in the bid documents without exception.
6. Bidder certifies, by signing and submitting a proposal for \$25,000 or more, that their company, any subcontractors, or principals are not suspended or debarred by the General Services Administration (GSA) in accordance with the requirements in OMB Circular A-133. (A list of parties who have been suspended or debarred can be viewed via the internet at <https://sam.gov/content/home>.)
7. **FEDERAL CLAUSES, IF APPLICABLE:** Should Federal Funds be utilized in this procurement transaction, the following clauses apply:

ANTI-KICKBACK CLAUSE: The contractor hereby agrees to adhere to the mandate dictated by the Copeland "Anti-Kickback" Act which provides that each contractor or subgrantee shall be prohibited from inducing, by any means, any person employed in the completion of work, to give up any part of the compensation to which he is otherwise entitled.

CLEAN AIR ACT: The contractor hereby agrees to adhere to the provisions which require compliance with all applicable standards, orders or requirements issued under Section 306 of the Clean Air Act which prohibits the use under non-exempt Federal Contracts, Grants or Loans of Facilities included on the EPA list of Violating Facilities.

ENERGY POLICY AND CONSERVATION ACT: The contractor hereby recognizes the mandatory standards and policies relating to energy efficiency which are contained in the State Energy Conservation Plan issued in compliance with the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (P.L. 94-163).

CLEAN WATER ACT: The contractor hereby agrees to adhere to the provisions which require compliance with all applicable standards, orders or requirements issued under Section 508 of the Clean Water Act which prohibits the use under non-exempt Federal Contracts, Grants or Loans of Facilities included on the EPA list of Violating Facilities.

ANTI-LOBBYING AND DEBARMENT ACT: The contractor will be expected to comply with Federal Statutes required in the Anti Lobbying Act and the Debarment Act.

Professional Job Title:		
Official Company Name:		
Federal Identification Number:		
Street Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:

SIGNATURE of Bidder's Authorized Representative: _____
(Signature MUST be HAND SIGNED and should be in Blue ink)

Date: _____

**Request for Taxpayer
Identification Number and Certification**

Go to www.irs.gov/FormW9 for instructions and the latest information.

**Give form to the
requester. Do not
send to the IRS.**

Before you begin. For guidance related to the purpose of Form W-9, see *Purpose of Form*, below.

Print or type. See Specific Instructions on page 3.	1 Name of entity/individual. An entry is required. (For a sole proprietor or disregarded entity, enter the owner's name on line 1, and enter the business/disregarded entity's name on line 2.)	
	2 Business name/disregarded entity name, if different from above.	
	3a Check the appropriate box for federal tax classification of the entity/individual whose name is entered on line 1. Check only one of the following seven boxes. ☐ Individual/sole proprietor ☐ C corporation ☐ S corporation ☐ Partnership ☐ Trust/estate ☐ LLC. Enter the tax classification (C = C corporation, S = S corporation, P = Partnership) Note: Check the "LLC" box above and, in the entry space, enter the appropriate code (C, S, or P) for the tax classification of the LLC, unless it is a disregarded entity. A disregarded entity should instead check the appropriate box for the tax classification of its owner. ☐ Other (see instructions) _____	4 Exemptions (codes apply only to certain entities, not individuals; see instructions on page 3): Exempt payee code (if any) _____ Exemption from Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) reporting code (if any) _____ (Applies to accounts maintained outside the United States.)
	3b If on line 3a you checked "Partnership" or "Trust/estate," or checked "LLC" and entered "P" as its tax classification, and you are providing this form to a partnership, trust, or estate in which you have an ownership interest, check this box if you have any foreign partners, owners, or beneficiaries. See instructions ☐	
	5 Address (number, street, and apt. or suite no.). See instructions.	Requester's name and address (optional)
	6 City, state, and ZIP code	
	7 List account number(s) here (optional)	

Part I Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

Enter your TIN in the appropriate box. The TIN provided must match the name given on line 1 to avoid backup withholding. For individuals, this is generally your social security number (SSN). However, for a resident alien, sole proprietor, or disregarded entity, see the instructions for Part I, later. For other entities, it is your employer identification number (EIN). If you do not have a number, see *How to get a TIN*, later.

Note: If the account is in more than one name, see the instructions for line 1. See also *What Name and Number To Give the Requester* for guidelines on whose number to enter.

Social security number											
				-				-			
or											
Employer identification number											
					-						

Part II Certification

Under penalties of perjury, I certify that:

1. The number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number (or I am waiting for a number to be issued to me); and
2. I am not subject to backup withholding because (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) I have not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding; and
3. I am a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (defined below); and
4. The FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that I am exempt from FATCA reporting is correct.

Certification instructions. You must cross out item 2 above if you have been notified by the IRS that you are currently subject to backup withholding because you have failed to report all interest and dividends on your tax return. For real estate transactions, item 2 does not apply. For mortgage interest paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, contributions to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), and, generally, payments other than interest and dividends, you are not required to sign the certification, but you must provide your correct TIN. See the instructions for Part II, later.

Sign Here	Signature of U.S. person	Date
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General Instructions

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

Future developments. For the latest information about developments related to Form W-9 and its instructions, such as legislation enacted after they were published, go to www.irs.gov/FormW9.

What's New

Line 3a has been modified to clarify how a disregarded entity completes this line. An LLC that is a disregarded entity should check the appropriate box for the tax classification of its owner. Otherwise, it should check the "LLC" box and enter its appropriate tax classification.

New line 3b has been added to this form. A flow-through entity is required to complete this line to indicate that it has direct or indirect foreign partners, owners, or beneficiaries when it provides the Form W-9 to another flow-through entity in which it has an ownership interest. This change is intended to provide a flow-through entity with information regarding the status of its indirect foreign partners, owners, or beneficiaries, so that it can satisfy any applicable reporting requirements. For example, a partnership that has any indirect foreign partners may be required to complete Schedules K-2 and K-3. See the Partnership Instructions for Schedules K-2 and K-3 (Form 1065).

Purpose of Form

An individual or entity (Form W-9 requester) who is required to file an information return with the IRS is giving you this form because they

LOUISIANA UNIFORM PUBLIC WORK BID FORM

TO: Grambling State University
GSU PO Box 4249

BID FOR: ATOMIC FORCE MICROSCOPE (AFM)
50018-270004

(Owner to provide name of project and other identifying information)

Grambling, La 71245
(Owner to provide name and address of owner)

The undersigned bidder hereby declares and represents that she/he: a) has carefully examined and understands the Bidding Documents, b) has not received, relied on, or based his bid on any verbal instructions contrary to the Bidding Documents or any addenda, c) has personally inspected and is familiar with the project site, and hereby proposes to provide all labor, materials, tools, appliances and facilities as required to perform, in a workmanlike manner, all work and services for the construction and completion of the referenced project, all in strict accordance with the Bidding Documents prepared by: Grambling State University Purchasing Office and dated: August 11, 2026
(Owner to provide name of entity preparing bidding documents.)

Bidders must acknowledge all addenda. The Bidder acknowledges receipt of the following **ADDENDA:** (Enter the number the Designer has assigned to each of the addenda that the Bidder is acknowledging) _____.

TOTAL BASE BID: For all work required by the Bidding Documents (including any and all unit prices designated "Base Bid" * but not alternates) the sum of:

_____ Dollars (\$ _____)

ALTERNATES: For any and all work required by the Bidding Documents for Alternates including any and all unit prices designated as alternates in the unit price description.

Alternate No. 1 (Owner to provide description of alternate and state whether add or deduct) for the lump sum of:

_____ Dollars (\$ _____)

Alternate No. 2 (Owner to provide description of alternate and state whether add or deduct) for the lump sum of:

_____ Dollars (\$ _____)

NAME OF BIDDER: _____

ADDRESS OF BIDDER: _____

LOUISIANA CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE NUMBER: _____

NAME OF AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY OF BIDDER: _____

TITLE OF AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY OF BIDDER: _____

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY OF BIDDER **: _____

DATE: _____

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE TO BE INCLUDED WITH THE SUBMISSION OF THIS LOUISIANA UNIFORM PUBLIC WORK BID FORM:

* The Unit Price Form shall be used if the contract includes unit prices. Otherwise it is not required and need not be included with the form. The number of unit prices that may be included is not limited and additional sheets may be included if needed.

** **A CORPORATE RESOLUTION OR WRITTEN EVIDENCE** of the authority of the person signing the bid for the public work as prescribed by LA R.S. 38:2212(B)(5).

BID SECURITY in the form of a bid bond, certified check or cashier's check as prescribed by LA R.S. 38:2218(A) attached to and made a part of this bid.

LOUISIANA UNIFORM PUBLIC WORK BID FORM

UNIT PRICE FORM

TO: Grambling State University
GSU PO Box 4249
Grambling, La 71245
(Owner to provide name and address of owner)

BID FOR: ATOMIC FORCE MICROSCOPE (AFM)
IFB 50018-270004

(Owner to provide name of project and other identifying information)

UNIT PRICES: This form shall be used for any and all work required by the Bidding Documents and described as unit prices. Amounts shall be stated in figures and only in figures.

DESCRIPTION:	☐ Base Bid or ☐ Alt.# ____			
REF. NO.	QUANTITY:	UNIT OF MEASURE:	UNIT PRICE	UNIT PRICE EXTENSION <i>(Quantity times Unit Price)</i>

DESCRIPTION:	☐ Base Bid or ☐ Alt.# ____			
REF. NO.	QUANTITY:	UNIT OF MEASURE:	UNIT PRICE	UNIT PRICE EXTENSION <i>(Quantity times Unit Price)</i>

DESCRIPTION:	☐ Base Bid or ☐ Alt.# ____			
REF. NO.	QUANTITY:	UNIT OF MEASURE:	UNIT PRICE	UNIT PRICE EXTENSION <i>(Quantity times Unit Price)</i>

DESCRIPTION:	☐ Base Bid or ☐ Alt.# ____			
REF. NO.	QUANTITY:	UNIT OF MEASURE:	UNIT PRICE	UNIT PRICE EXTENSION <i>(Quantity times Unit Price)</i>

DESCRIPTION:	☐ Base Bid or ☐ Alt.# ____			
REF. NO.	QUANTITY:	UNIT OF MEASURE:	UNIT PRICE	UNIT PRICE EXTENSION <i>(Quantity times Unit Price)</i>

DESCRIPTION:	☐ Base Bid or ☐ Alt.# ____			
REF. NO.	QUANTITY:	UNIT OF MEASURE:	UNIT PRICE	UNIT PRICE EXTENSION <i>(Quantity times Unit Price)</i>

DESCRIPTION:	☐ Base Bid or ☐ Alt.# ____			
REF. NO.	QUANTITY:	UNIT OF MEASURE:	UNIT PRICE	UNIT PRICE EXTENSION <i>(Quantity times Unit Price)</i>

DESCRIPTION:	☐ Base Bid or ☐ Alt.# ____			
REF. NO.	QUANTITY:	UNIT OF MEASURE:	UNIT PRICE	UNIT PRICE EXTENSION <i>(Quantity times Unit Price)</i>

Wording for "DESCRIPTION" is to be provided by the Owner.

All quantities are estimated. The contractor will be paid based upon actual quantities as verified by the Owner.

GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY

STANDARDIZED IFB LANGUAGE

1. **CHANGES IN THE WORK:** A Change Order is a written order to the Contractor signed by the Owner, issued after execution of the Contract, authorizing a Change in the Work or an adjustment in the Contract Sum or the Contract Time. The Contract Sum and the Contract Time may be changed only by Change Order. A Change Order signed by the Contractor indicates his agreement therewith, including the adjustment in the Contract Sum or the Contract Time. Any Change Order not signed by the Owner will be considered null and void.

The Owner, without invalidating the Contract, may order changes in the Work within the general scope of the Contract consisting of additions, deletions or other revisions, the Contract Sum and the Contract Time being adjusted accordingly. All such changes in the Work shall be authorized by Change Order and shall be performed under the applicable conditions of the Contract Documents.

When the Change Order is negotiated it shall be fully documented and itemized as to cost, including material quantities, material costs, insurance, employee benefits, other related costs, profit and overhead, and will be processed in accordance with LA R.S. 38:2222.

2. **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPANIES SUBMITTING A BID:** All bidders submitting a bid for this contract shall meet the minimum qualifications listed below. Documentation demonstrating compliance with each requirement shall be included with the bid submission.

The bidder shall:

- Submit a completed Bid Form, including all required pricing and supporting documentation.
- Be a legally established business that has been continuously operating for a minimum of **two (2) years** prior to the Bid Opening Date.
- Obtain and maintain throughout the term of the Contract all required licenses, permits, certificates, registrations, and insurance necessary to perform the services.
- Provide all required bonds, if applicable.
- Demonstrate the experience, personnel, equipment, and resources necessary to successfully perform the services required under this solicitation.
- Submit Bid Security in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total bid, when required by the bid documents.

3. **PERFORMANCE BOND LABOR AND MATERIAL PAYMENT BOND:** Performance and Payment Bonds shall be required on projects with an expected cost greater than \$50,000. Performance and Payment Bonds, when required, shall be provided in an amount of 50% of the contract price. Performance and Payments Bonds shall be required by the successful bidder.

Any surety bond required shall be written by a surety or insurance company currently on the U. S. Department of the Treasury Financial Management Service list of approved bonding companies which is published annually in the Federal Register. For any Public Works projects, no surety or insurance company shall write a bond which is in excess of the amount indicated as approved by the U. S. Department of the Treasury Financial Management Service list. The surety bond written for a Public Works project shall be written by a surety or insurance company that is currently licensed to do business in the State of Louisiana. **PLEASE NOTE THAT A BID BOND MUST BE SIGNED BY THE AGENT OR ATTORNEY-IN-FACT OF THE SURETY.**

The bidder shall require the attorney in fact who executes the required bonds on behalf of the surety to affix thereto a certified and current copy of his power of attorney indicating the monetary limit of such power.

Contractor shall be licensed and certified as required by the State of Louisiana Secretary of State, and all other applicable agencies. Documentation to be provided within five (5) days after receipt of request from the University.

Contractor awarded the bid shall provide a copy of their insurance certificate indicating proof of coverage as required in the insurance section of these bid within five (5) days from receipt of request.

4. **SUBSTITUTIONS:** Each bidder represents that his bid is based upon the materials and equipment described in the bidding documents.

5. **MANUFACTURER'S NUMBERS OR TRADE NAMES:** Where a manufacturer's product is named or specified, it is understood that "or equal" shall apply, whether stated or not. Such name and number is meant to establish the standard of quality desired and does not restrict bidders to the specific brand, make, manufacturer, or specification named; and are set forth and convey to prospective bidders the general style, type, character, and quality of product desired; and that equal products will be acceptable. Grambling State University shall be sole judge as to whether or not the material is equal to that specified.
6. **EXAMINATION OF BIDDING DOCUMENTS:** Each bidder shall examine the bidding documents carefully and, no later than seven days prior to the date for receipt of bids, shall make written request to the Owner for interpretation or correction of any ambiguity, inconsistency or error therein which he may discover. Any interpretation or correction will be issued as an Addendum by the Owner. Only a written interpretation or correction by Addendum shall be binding. No bidder shall rely upon any interpretation or correction given by any other method.
7. **INQUIRY PROCESS:** Contractors shall direct all inquiries, requests for information, requests for clarification, etc. in writing to the Grambling State University Purchasing Department. Inquiries may be emailed to Erin Walker at walkere@gram.edu. **The last day to receive inquiries shall be by the close of business August 25, 2026.**
8. **CONTRACT COORDINATORS FOR THE UNIVERSITY:** The University will assign a contract coordinator for this contract. The University may assign one or more University employees to supervise and or coordinate work activities to be performed under this contract. The Contractor awarded the bid shall be provided the name(s) of University employee supervisors.
9. **AWARDS:** Awards may not be made to any person, firm, or company in default of any contract. Said person, firm, or company shall be considered non-responsible bidders and may be reinstated and awards made to them only after they have given evidence of good faith and have satisfactorily completed their obligations.
10. **PUBLICIZING AWARDS:** Written notice of award shall be sent to the successful bidder. In procurement over \$50,000, each unsuccessful bidder shall be notified of the award provided that he/she submitted with his/her bid in and email requesting this information to purchasingbids@gram.edu. Notice of award will be made a part of the procurement file.
11. **RIGHT TO PROTEST:** Any person who is aggrieved in connection with the solicitation or award of a contract shall protest to the Director Purchasing. Protests with respect to a solicitation shall be submitted in writing at least (2) two days prior to the opening of bids on all matters except housing of state agencies, their personnel, operations, equipment, or activities pursuant to R.S. 39:1643 for which such protest shall be submitted at least (10) ten days prior to the opening of bids. Protests with respect to the award of a contract shall be submitted in writing within (14) fourteen days after contract award.
12. **AUTHORITY TO RESOLVE PROTESTS:** Prior to the commencement of an action in court concerning any controversy, the Director of Purchasing or his/her designee shall have the authority, to resolve the protest of any aggrieved person concerning the solicitation or award of a contract. This authority shall be exercised in accordance with regulations.
13. **REJECTION OF BIDS:** The Bidder acknowledges the right of the University to reject any or all bids and to waive any informality or irregularity in any bid received. In addition, the bidder recognizes the right of the University to reject a bid if the Bidder failed to furnish any required bid security, or to submit the data required by the bidding documents, or if the bid is in any way incomplete or irregular.
14. **NORMAL / ROUTINE SCHEDULE:** The Contractor shall provide complete services Monday thru Thursday every week, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.
15. **CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE:** On any bid amounting \$50,000 or more, the Contractor shall certify that she/he is licensed under Act 377 of the 1976 Louisiana Regular Legislative Session and show the contractor license number and the bid number on the front portion of the envelope; except projects financed, partially or wholly, with Federal Funds, provided that any successful Bidder before signing Contract thereon, files application for a license and pays the fee as provided in this Act and complies with all terms and provisions of this Act and with the rules and regulations of the Licensing Board.

A subcontractor who wishes to bid or perform commercial work where the total cost of the project including labor and materials for the following must be licensed:

- \$50,000 or more for major and specialty classifications
- \$10,000 or more for electrical, mechanical, and plumbing

- \$1 or more for hazardous

16. **CONTRACTOR'S AFFIDAVIT:** In accordance with the Louisiana R.S. 38:2190 -2220, if the Contract is awarded to the successful Bidder, the Bidder shall, at the time of the signing of the Contract, execute the Contractor's Affidavit included in the Contract Documents.
17. **INTEREST:** There shall be no payment of interest on money owed.
18. **SECURITY REQUIREMENTS:** The University may allow the contractor to store tools, equipment, materials, supplies, etc. on site at University facilities, however, the University in no way warrants the security of any of this property. The Contractor shall be responsible for security of their property. The University may allow the Contractor to store tools, equipment, supplies, and materials on site at University facilities in designated storage areas. The University reserves the right to change these designated areas as needed and additionally the University is not required to provide these storage areas. The Contractor shall be required to keep all designated areas in a neat / orderly manner. The Contractor shall be required to provide insurance coverage for all equipment stored on site at Grambling. The contractor assumes all risk with storing tools, equipment, and materials on site at University facilities. The University shall not be responsible for theft, damage, or other harm to any property of the contractor securing any property.
19. **DAMAGES TO FACILITIES:** Contractor shall be responsible for all damages to the existing site, facilities, furniture, and equipment that are caused by this project. The contractor shall carefully document existing site conditions and existing damages prior to commencing work. The contractor shall repair all damage to its original, undamaged condition prior to completing this project
20. **CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEE REQUIREMENTS:** Contractor shall provide a sufficient amount of adequately trained staff to perform all required services in a timely manner.
21. **Supervision and Professional Conduct-**

The Supervisor shall be responsible for communicating work schedules with the University's designated contract coordinator.

The Supervisor shall be present at all times when any contractor personnel are working at Grambling. The contractor shall designate employees who may fill in for the supervisor if the supervisor is absent for any reason. The University shall be notified by telephone and email as soon as possible if the normal supervisor will be absent. This notification shall be made no later than one hour after the normal work day schedule begins. The contractor shall provide complete contact information for the supervisors and the personnel designated as "back up" supervisors. The contractor shall provide the supervisors with a mobile cellular phone and shall provide the University with the phone number for the cellular phone so that the University can reach the supervisor at any time.

The University reserves the right to require the contractor to remove any contract employee who is not dressed appropriately or who is not taking care of their personal hygiene from any or all buildings employed under the contract when the University deems it to be in the University's best interest. Contractor's employees shall maintain a neat, clean, and professional appearance at all times. Contractor's employees shall wear clothing identifying the name of their company. The contractor shall be responsible for furnishing a replacement employee who also shall meet all previously stated requirements in the event of sickness or absence of the regular worker and notify the University contract coordinator of that replacement.

Contractor's employees will be able to use McCall Dining Hall for lunch. Pricing varies during the summer. The contractor, sub-contractors, material suppliers, and all workers associated with the project shall use University facilities such as restrooms, break rooms, vending machines, etc. The contractor shall supply a portable restroom for their employees to use.

Contractor's employees shall adhere to the university's tobacco-free policy. See GSU's tobacco use policy for detailed information at <https://www.gram.edu/student-life/judicial-affairs/docs/Tobacco-Free%20Policy-2013-1.pdf>

22. **SUPPLIES, MATERIALS, TOOLS, AND EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR THIS CONTRACT:** The Contractor must provide all supplies, materials, tools, equipment, etc. necessary to complete the requirements of this contract. In no case will the University be required to provide / supply any of these items. The tools and equipment provided shall be maintained in optimum condition at all times. Specifically, the tools and equipment provided shall include but not be limited to.

Equipment and tools used for this contract shall be professional equipment / tools in good working condition. Contractor shall utilize equipment and tools that provide the least amount of interruption to normal building operations (very noisy equipment shall not be used, equipment that creates objectionable fumes shall not be used, etc.). The University reserves the right to deny the Contractor use of a certain tool or piece of equipment if the University deems that tool or piece of equipment to cause an unacceptable interruption. Contractor must have an adequate supply of appropriate equipment and tools to efficiently provide service to all facilities included in this contract. Furthermore, the Contractor must have backup equipment / tools that are immediately ready for use in the event that the normally used equipment / tool fails to operate, is lost / stolen, etc. A delay in service is not acceptable due to equipment / tool failure or loss.

- 23. SUPPLIES / MATERIALS:** Contractor shall supply and provide all needed materials to complete the scope of services. The quality of these materials shall meet or exceed the quality of materials currently being used at these facilities. Contractors are encouraged to inspect each facility prior to submitting a bid to ensure that the quality of materials in their bid meets or exceeds the quality of materials / supplies currently used.

- 24. SAFETY / ENVIRONMENTAL / PUBLIC HEALTH COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS:** The Contractor shall emphasize that safety is the most important part of this contract. The goal of the contract is to provide safe and sanitary facilities for the University community. We want to ensure that the Contractor has a proactive approach to working safely and a written safety program that their employees are trained on. Additionally, we expect the Contractor to strictly comply with all applicable rules, guidelines, laws, requirements, etc. The University shall require the Contractor to take immediate action to remedy any deficiencies / areas of non-compliance.

Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) Compliance - the Contractor shall meet or exceed all OSHA requirements, rules, laws, guidelines. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) Compliance the Contractor shall meet or exceed all EPA and / or LDEQ requirements, rules, laws, guidelines, etc.

Safety Program - the Contractor shall include a copy of their written safety program with their bid submission that covers all policies and procedures that pertain to compliance with safety / OSHA requirements.

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) -the Contractor must keep a printed copy of a material safety data sheet for each chemical used to complete the requirements of this contract. The MSDS must be readily available and easily accessible to all employees.

- 25. PAYMENTS AND COMPLETION and SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION:** The Owner will issue a NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE for the Contractor to record with the Clerk of Court in Lincoln Parish.
- 26. FINAL COMPLETION AND FINAL PAYMENT:** The Contract is to provide that the contractor is not to be paid more than ninety percent (90%) of the amount of the contract upon completion of the work. The Contractor shall record the NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE with the Lincoln Parish Clerk of Court and shall furnish a CLEAR LIEN CERTIFICATE from the Clerk of Court within forty-five days after recordation of NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE. At that time, the remaining ten percent (10%) will be paid.
- 29. LIQUIDATED DAMAGES:** The Owner will suffer financial loss if the Project is not substantially complete on the date set forth in the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS. The Contractor (and/or Surety) shall be liable for and shall pay to the Owner Liquidated Damages for each calendar day of delay until the work is Substantially Complete.

The Completion Time stated in Consecutive Calendar Days and the Liquidated Damages stated in (\$300) three-hundred Dollars per Day are listed in the PROPOSAL FORM.

- 30. PRICING REQUIREMENTS:** Pricing for all items shall be a complete, turnkey price and shall include but is not limited to: labor, equipment, tools, materials, supplies, insurance, permitting, taxes, and shipping.
- 31. TAXES:** Applicable taxes are to be included in lump sum bid.
- 32. INVOICING / PAYMENT TERMS:** The contractor will be required to submit an itemized monthly invoice, to Accounts Payable email address acctpayable@gram.edu. Monthly payments will be made by the Agency within approximately thirty (30) days after receipt of a properly executed invoice, and approval by the Agency.

All invoices must list the following information: the contract purchase order number, dates of services performed, building name and elevator number if applicable, a brief explanation of repair including any parts replaced. Invoices

submitted without the requested documentation will not be approved for payment until the required information is provided.

STANDARDIZED INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE AGENCY CONTRACTS

EXHIBIT A INSURANCE AND INDEMNIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRACTORS

The Contractor shall purchase and maintain for the duration of the contract insurance against claims for injuries to persons or damages to property which may arise from or in connection with the performance of the work hereunder by the Contractor, its agents, representatives, employees or subcontractors.

A. MINIMUM SCOPE AND LIMITS OF INSURANCE

1. **WORKER COMPENSATION:** Workers Compensation insurance shall be in compliance with the Workers Compensation law of the State of the Contractor's headquarters. Employers Liability is included with a minimum limit of \$500,000 per accident/per disease/per employee. If work is to be performed over water and involves maritime exposure, applicable LHWCA, Jones Act, or other maritime law coverage shall be included and the Employers Liability limit increased to a minimum of \$1,000,000. A.M. Best's insurance company rating requirement may be waived for workers compensation coverage only.
2. **COMMERICAL GENERAL LIABILITY:** Commercial General Liability insurance, including Personal and Advertising Injury Liability, shall have a minimum limit per occurrence of \$1,000,000 and a minimum general aggregate of \$2,000,000. The Insurance Services Office (ISO) Commercial General Liability occurrence coverage form CG 00 01 (current form approved for use in Louisiana), or equivalent, is to be used in the policy. Claims-made form is unacceptable.
3. **AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY:** Automobile Liability Insurance shall have a minimum combined single limit per occurrence of \$1,000,000. ISO form number CA 00 01 (current form approved for use in Louisiana), or equivalent, is to be used in the policy. This insurance shall include third-party bodily injury and property damage liability for owned, hired and non-owned automobiles.

B. **DEDUCTIBLES AND SELF-INSURED RETENTIONS:** Any deductibles or self-insured retentions must be declared to and accepted by the Agency. The Contractor shall be responsible for all deductibles and self-insured retentions.

C. **OTHER INSURANCE PROVISIONS:** The policies are to contain, or be endorsed to contain, the following provisions:

1. **General Liability and Automobile Liability Coverages**

- a. The Agency, its officers, agents, employees and volunteers shall be named as an additional insured as regards negligence by the contractor. ISO Form CG 20 10 (current form approved for use in Louisiana), or equivalent, is to be used when applicable. The coverage shall contain no special limitations on the scope of protection afforded to the Agency.
- b. The Contractor's insurance shall be primary as respects the Agency, its officers, agents, employees and volunteers. Any insurance or self-insurance maintained by the Agency shall be excess and non-contributory of the Contractor's insurance.
- c. Any failure of the Contractor to comply with reporting provisions of the policy shall not affect coverage provided to the Agency, its officers, agents, employees and volunteers.
- d. The Contractor's insurance shall apply separately to each insured against whom claim is made or suit is brought, except with respect to the policy limits.
- e. All property losses caused by the actions of the Contractor shall be adjusted with and made payable to the Agency.
- f. Neither the acceptance of the completed work nor payment shall release the Contractor from the insurance requirements and indemnification agreement obligations.
- g. Additional insurance may be required on an individual basis for hazardous activities and specific service agreements. If such additional insurance is required for a specific contract, that requirement should be added to the list of required coverages found in the appropriate Exhibit.
- h. If the Contractor does not continue to comply with all of the insurance requirements at any time during the contract or at contract renewal, the Agency has the following options:
 - Payments to the Contractor may be withheld until the requirements have been met;

- The Agency may pay any renewal policy premiums and withhold such payments from any monies due the Contractor;
- The Agency may suspend, discontinue or terminate the contract.

2. **Workers Compensation and Employers Liability Coverage**

The insurer shall agree to waive all rights of subrogation against the Agency, its officers, agents, employees and volunteers for losses arising from work performed by the Contractor for the Agency.

3. **All Coverages**

- a. Coverage shall not be canceled, suspended, or voided by either party (the Contractor or the insurer) or reduced in coverage or in limits except after 30 days written notice has been given to the Agency. Ten-day written notice of cancellation is acceptable for non-payment of premium. Notifications shall comply with the standard cancellation provisions in the Contractor's policy.
- b. Neither the acceptance of the completed work nor the payment thereof shall release the Contractor from the obligations of the insurance requirements or indemnification agreement.
- c. The insurance companies issuing the policies shall have no recourse against the Agency for payment of premiums or for assessments under any form of the policies. Any failure of the Contractor to comply with reporting provisions of the policy shall not affect coverage provided to the Agency, its officers, agents, employees and volunteers.

- D. **ACCEPTABILITY OF INSURERS:** All required insurance shall be provided by a company or companies lawfully authorized to do business in the jurisdiction in which the Project is located. Insurance shall be placed with insurers with a A.M. Best's rating of A:-VI or higher. This rating requirement may be waived for workers compensation coverage only.

If at any time an insurer issuing any such policy does not meet the minimum A.M. Best rating, the Contractor shall obtain a policy with an insurer that meets the A.M. Best rating and shall submit another Certificate of Insurance as required in the contract.

- E. **VERIFICATION OF COVERAGE:** Contractor shall furnish the Agency with Certificates of insurance reflecting proof of required coverage. The Certificates for each insurance policy are to be signed by a person authorized by that insurer to bind coverage on its behalf. The Certificates are to be received and approved by the Agency before work commences and upon any contract renewal thereafter.

In addition to the Certificates, Contractor shall submit the declarations page and the cancellation provision endorsement for each insurance policy. The Agency reserves the right to request complete certified copies of all required insurance policies at any time.

Upon failure of the Contractor to furnish, deliver and maintain such insurance as above provided, this contract, at the election of the Agency, may be suspended, discontinued or terminated. Failure of the Contractor to purchase and/or maintain any required insurance shall not relieve the Contractor from any liability or indemnification under the contract.

- F. **SUBCONTRACTORS:** Contractor shall include all subcontractors as insureds under its policies OR shall be responsible for verifying and maintaining the Certificates provided by each subcontractor. Subcontractors shall be subject to all of the requirements stated herein. The Agency reserves the right to request copies of subcontractor's Certificates at any time.

- G. **WORKERS COMPENSATION INDEMNITY:** In the event Contractor is not required to provide or elects not to provide workers compensation coverage, the parties hereby agree that Contractor, its owners, agents and employees will have no cause of action against, and will not assert a claim against, the State of Louisiana, its departments, agencies, agents and employees as an employer, whether pursuant to the Louisiana Workers Compensation Act or otherwise, under any circumstance. The parties also hereby agree that the State of Louisiana, its departments, agencies, agents and employees shall in no circumstance be, or considered as, the employer or statutory employer of Contractor, its owners, agents and employees. The parties further agree that Contractor is a wholly independent contractor and is exclusively responsible for its employees, owners, and agents. Contractor hereby agrees to protect, defend, indemnify and hold the State of Louisiana, its departments, agencies, agents and employees harmless from any such assertion or claim that may arise from the performance of this contract.

- H. **INDEMNIFICATION/HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT:** Contractor agrees to protect, defend, indemnify, save, and hold harmless, Grambling State University, the State of Louisiana, all State Departments, Agencies, Boards and Commissions, its officers, agents, servants, employees, and volunteers, from and against any and all claims, damages, expenses, and liability arising out of injury or death to any person or the damage, loss or destruction of any property which may occur, or in any way grow out of, any act or omission of Contractor, its agents, servants, and employees, or any and all costs, expenses and/or attorney fees incurred by Contractor as a result of any claims, demands, suits or causes of action, except those claims, demands, suits, or causes of action arising out of the negligence of Grambling State University, the State of Louisiana, all State Departments, Agencies, Boards, Commissions, its officers, agents, servants, employees and volunteers.

Contractor agrees to investigate, handle, respond to, provide defense for and defend any such claims, demands, suits, or causes of action at its sole expense and agrees to bear all other costs and expenses related thereto, even if the claims, demands, suits, or causes of action are groundless, false or fraudulent.

GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY

ATOMIC FORCE MICROSCOPE (AFM) – BID SPECIFICATIONS

Grambling State University (GSU) is soliciting sealed bids from qualified vendors for the purchase, delivery, installation, and setup of a research-grade Atomic Force Microscope (AFM) system.

The system shall be a complete and fully operational scanning probe microscopy system capable of high-resolution imaging and characterization of nanomaterial samples. The successful bidder shall provide all equipment, hardware, software, computers, accessories, components, and other items necessary for the system to perform the required functions identified in these specifications.

The AFM system shall meet or exceed all minimum technical and performance requirements contained herein, including standard and advanced AFM imaging modes, environmental isolation, motorized stages, microscope vision support, controller, computer and software, and required accessories.

EQUIVALENT PRODUCTS

The specifications establish the minimum requirements of the University. References to specific technologies, components, manufacturers, or compatibility requirements are intended to establish the required level of performance and functionality and shall not be interpreted as restricting competition to a particular manufacturer.

Bidders may offer an equivalent product that meets or exceeds the minimum requirements. The bidder shall clearly identify the manufacturer and model offered and provide sufficient technical documentation with the bid to demonstrate compliance.

BIDDER RESPONSIBILITY

The bidder shall review each specification and clearly indicate whether the proposed system COMPLIES or DOES NOT COMPLY with each requirement. Any exceptions, substitutions, or deviations shall be clearly identified and explained in the bid response.

Failure to identify a deviation may be considered confirmation that the product offered fully complies with the specifications.

The University reserves the right to request additional technical information, product literature, demonstrations, or clarification as necessary to determine compliance with the specifications.

COMPLETE SYSTEM REQUIREMENT

Pricing shall include all costs necessary to provide a complete and operational AFM system, including equipment, required accessories, software, computer equipment, delivery, installation, setup, testing, and any other components required by these specifications.

The system provided shall be new, current production equipment and shall not be used, refurbished, or previously demonstrated equipment unless specifically authorized by the University.

Specifications for Atomic Force Microscope (AFM)

This specification establishes the minimum functional, technical, and performance requirements for a research-grade Atomic Force Microscope (AFM). Equivalent products meeting or exceeding all minimum requirements shall be considered. References to technologies are intended to describe the required performance and shall not be construed to favor a particular manufacturer.

Atomic Force Microscope (AFM) is a complete scanning probe microscopy system capable of imaging and measuring nanomaterial samples with sub-nanometer resolution. The system provided should be a complete system inclusive of all necessary computers, software, hardware, and accessories for all the specified imaging modes. The Atomic Force Microscope should meet the specifications and requirements as stated below:

1. The system must consist of:

- A complete 3D scanning system with electronics and accessories for high resolution imaging.
- Main AFM unit with standard topography imaging modes operated on contact mode, tapping mode and non-contact mode (3 modes). Advanced modes for imaging and material characterization should also be included.
- Ability to integrate with a custom confocal microscope for combined AFM and confocal experiments
- Accommodate large samples with sizes up to 50 x 50 x 20 mm (XYZ) and must come with a fully motorized XY sample and Z stages.
- An active vibration isolation system and acoustic enclosure
- PC and SPM control and analysis Software.

2. Feature must include:

2.1 Standard modes

- Contact mode AFM
- Intermittent (tapping, soft dynamic, or AC) mode AFM
- Non-Contact mode AFM
- Lateral Force Microscopy (LFM)
- Phase Imaging
- Force Distance (F-D) Spectroscopy
- Force Distance Volume Mapping

2.2 The following advanced modes must also be included without additional hardware

- Nanomechanical Mode for mapping mechanical properties such as stiffness, Young's elastic modulus, and adhesion simultaneously with topography in real-time from high-speed force-distance curves.
- Magnetic Force Microscopy (MFM) with appropriate cantilevers.
- Electric Force Microscopy (EFM) using both 1-pass and 2-pass scan methods with appropriate cantilevers.
- Piezoelectric Force Microscopy (PFM) with appropriate cantilevers.
- Kelvin Probe Force Microscopy (KPFM) using both 1-pass and 2-pass methods with appropriate cantilevers.
- Force Modulation Microscopy (FMM) with appropriate cantilevers
- Nanoindentation with appropriate cantilevers.

2.3 The following advanced modes must also be included with additional hardware

- Scanning Electrochemical Cell Microscopy (SECCM) for measuring the electrochemical properties of a surface with a single channel pipette. All the hardware to obtain SECCM images must be included in the system.
- Scanning Ion Conductance Microscopy (SICM) for in-liquid measurements using ionic current through a nano-pipette probe. All the hardware to obtain SICM images must be included in the system.
- Spectroscopy modes for current-bias (IV) measurements and cyclic voltammetry (CV).
- Scanning Tunneling Microscopy (STM) with appropriate cantilevers. All the hardware and accessories to obtain STM images must be included in the system.

2.4 AFM Head

- The AFM head must accommodate both standard and advanced AFM modes without the need of exchanging to a different scanner.
- The AFM head should be equipped with a SLD (Super Luminescent Diode) with infrared wavelength, and with low coherent length less than 50 μm to reduce light interference noise.
- The scan head should enable cantilever oscillation frequency up to 3 MHz.
- The AFM head should be using a mount for position repeatability and easy and quick removal and re-insertion with the use of tools.
- The AFM head should have a pre-aligned kinematic (magnetic) quick change tip mount for convenient probe tip exchange without requiring special tools or head removal.
- The probe mount should also allow use of unmounted cantilevers from commercial probe suppliers.
- Systems must include a SICM / SECCM scan head with a clip-type holder for glass pipettes.
- SICM/SECCM scan head must include an integrated low-noise, high precision current amplifier for measuring probe current.

2.5 Sample Mount

- Allowable sample dimensions up to 50 x 50 mm (w x l) and 20 mm thick.
- Allowable sample weight up to 500 g.
- Able to apply DC bias voltages to the sample between -10 to 10 V via software.
- Should allow dual optical access to the top and bottom sample area for use with an inverted optical microscope. Closed-

loop XY and Z position sensors.

2.6 XY & Z Scanner

- The XY scanner and Z scanner are based on piezoelectric materials and can be operated in both open loop and closed-loop.
- The XY scanner design should be 2D symmetric single-module flexure and X and Y scanner movement should be independent from each other axis.
- The XY scanner scan range should be at least 100 μm
- The XY scanner position must be sensed, and the resolution should be 24 bit or higher.
- The XY scanner out of plane motion should be less than 2 nm for the scan range of 40 μm .
- The XY scanner must have scan position control resolution of 0.05 nm or better.
- The XY scanner must have position detector noise less than 0.25nm at 1 kHz bandwidth, rms.
- The XY scanner should have an orthogonality error of less than 0.3° to each other axis.
- The XY scanner should have linearity error of less than 0.1% on each axis.
- The Z-scanner, which controls the vertical movement of the SPM tip, is completely separated from the XY-scanner which moves sample in XY horizontal directions.
- The Z scan range should be at least 15 μm or better.
- The Z scanner position must be sensed, and the resolution should be 24 bit or higher.
- The Z scanner must have topography noise of less than 0.05 nm or better.
- The Z scanner must have scan position control resolution of 0.015 nm or better.
- The Z scanner must have position detector noise less than 0.05 nm at 1 kHz bandwidth.
- The Z scanner must have high feedback speed with resonant frequency 9 kHz or better.
- The Z scanner movement should have orthogonality error to the XY plane less than 1°.
- The linearity error of the Z scanner position detector should be 2% or less Motorized XY and Z stages.

2.7 Stages should have

- Motorized XY stage and motorized Z stage.
- Motorized XY stage should have at least 10 mm $\times$ 10 mm moveable range.
- The travel range of Z stage should be at least 22 mm with 0.08 μm step.
- There should be a separate motorized optical focus stage on the AFM system with software controlled focusing.
- The AFM system must allow automated cantilever approach using the motorized Z stage for quick approach to a sample surface within seconds when the probe is more than 1 mm away.

2.8 Microscope Vision support

- The AFM system must provide a top down on-axis optical view of the sample and cantilever.
- The AFM vision system must come with a 10X optical objective lens.
- A 5MP CCD camera or more should be included.
- The optical vision system should have resolution of 1 μm or better
- The vision system should provide field of view of 840 μm $\times$ 630 μm or better using a 10x objective lens.
- LED camera illumination intensity should be software-controlled.

2.9 Optical light microscopy integration

- The system must provide upgrades to allow for future integration with a custom confocal microscope and related optical microscope accessories.
- The system must allow optical access from both top and bottom of the sample when mounted on an inverted microscope.

3. AFM Controller

- The AFM controller should come with a high performance processing unit within 4 built-in digital lock-in amplifiers.
- The controller should have least 18 AD channels for signal acquisition.
- The controller should have at least 12 DACs for output signals.
- The AFM controller should have built-in BNC connections for monitoring input and output signals.
- Enables simultaneously acquisition up to 16 images.
- Ability to acquire images up to 4096 $\times$ 4096 pixels resolution.
- The controller should include digital Q control.
- Communication with the PC should be via TCP/IP for noise isolation from the PC to the AFM controller

4. PC and Software

4.1. PC should be with below specification or better

- Intel(R) Core(TM) i5 CPU or compatible
- 16 GB RAM, 2 × 1 TB Hard Disc Drives
- Dual 32 inch curved monitors with curvature of 1000R, 4K resolution (3640 × 2160 pixel)
- Graphic Card: Geforce GT1030 graphics card or compatible
- Operating System: Microsoft Windows 10 Professional 64-bit (English)

4.2. AFM Software

- The AFM system should have separate software programs for data acquisition / measurements and image processing / statistical analysis.
- The data acquisition software should include 2 modes depending on the skill of the user, i.e., Auto Modes for inexperienced user and Manual Modes for expert user.
- The data acquisition software should allow users to plot any two signal channels on the same real-time dual-axis graph for comprehensive analysis.
- The data acquisition software must have built-in macros, which can be easily loaded and applied for repeating operations, such as moving the XY or the Z stage to a specific location, or resetting the operation. Users can edit existing macros or create new ones as needed.
- The data analysis software should have 'Copy to Clipboard' function for convenient presentation editing and data export.
- The data analysis software should include common features and functions such as 3D view, line profile measurements, power spectrum, surface roughness, surface volume / area calculations, and grain analysis.

5. Environmental Isolation

5.1. Active Vibration Isolation system

- An active vibration isolation system must be included with direct velocity feedback via electromagnetic transducers to cancel out the floor vibration.
- The Vibration Isolation system should come with an aluminium surface plate and body that does not require air supply.
- The Vibration Isolation system should active between 0.7 Hz to 1 kHz.
- The isolation technology must cover across all translational and rotational directions of movement (six degrees of freedom).

5.2. Standalone acoustic enclosure

- Environmentally sealed acoustic enclosure to block external acoustic and light noise.
- Approximate outer dimensions should be at least 800 x 1000 x 1400 mm (WxDxH).
- Ergonomic design for user convenience.

6. Additional Accessories and Optional Features

The AFM must also provide modules and accessories for the following modes of operation.

6.1. Optical light microscopy integration

- The SPM must provide upgrades to allow for future integration with an inverted optical light microscope and related optical microscope accessories.
- The system must allow optical access from both top and bottom of the sample when mounted on an inverted microscope and be compatible with Nikon and Thorlabs equipment.

6.2. Liquid Imaging accessories

- Accessories for AFM operation in fluid must be compatible for biological samples and electrochemical studies.
- An open liquid cell for samples must be included
- An additional liquid cell for heating and cooling experiments from ambient to 70 degrees Celsius is also required.

6.3. Conductive AFM

- Conductive AFM mode is to measure the conductivity / resistance of a sample using a conductive probe.
- The preamplifier module should have a software-controlled switchable gain that covers 7 decades of current ranges from 10^6 V/A to 10^{12} V/A.
- The maximum current range should be $\pm 10 \mu\text{A}$ (at 10^6 V/A gain) or better.
- The rms noise level should be 0.4 pA (at 10^9 V/A gain) or better.