

NASPO ValuePoint
PARTICIPATING ADDENDUM
STATE OF FLORIDA



COPIERS AND MANAGED PRINT SERVICES

Led by the State of Colorado

Master Agreement #: **140596**

Contractor: HP Computing and Printing Inc. (a foreign corporation incorporated under the laws of Delaware in the name "HP Inc.")

Participating State: Florida, Agreement No. 44000000-NASPO-19-ACS

1. **Scope:** This Addendum covers the NASPO ValuePoint Master Agreement for Copiers and Managed Print Services led by the State of Colorado, for use by state agencies and other entities located in the State of Florida and authorized by that state's statutes to utilize state contracts with the prior approval of the state's Chief Procurement Officer.
2. **Order of Precedence:**
 - a) This Participating Addendum and all Amendments;
 - b) State of Florida Additional Special Contract Conditions;
 - c) State of Florida Special Contract Conditions;
 - d) NASPO ValuePoint Master Agreement Terms & Conditions, including all Exhibits;
 - e) An Order issued against the Master Agreement;
 - f) The Solicitation, RFP-NP-18-001, Copiers and Managed Print Services;
 - g) The Contractor's response to the Solicitation, as revised (if permitted) and accepted by the Lead State; and
 - h) The Contractor's Supplemental Documents, including all Attachments.
3. **Term of the Participating Addendum:**
 - a) **Initial Term:** The initial term of this Participating Addendum will become effective on the last date the document is signed by all Parties, whichever is later, and shall be effective through December 31, 2021, unless terminated earlier, in accordance with the Special Contract Conditions.
 - b) **Renewal:** Upon agreement of the Parties, the Department and the Contractor may renew this Participating Addendum in accordance with section 287.057(13), Florida Statutes, and Rule 60A-1.048, Florida Administrative Code. Renewals must be in writing and are subject to the same term, conditions, and modifications set forth in this Participating Addendum. The Contractor and Purchasing Entities may negotiate renewal term pricing, which shall not exceed the pricing provided during the initial term as set forth in the Master Agreement.
4. **Product Offerings:** The Contractor is authorized to provide the Products listed below:
 - **Group A – MFD, A3**
 - **Group B – MFD, A4**
 - **Group D – Single-function Printers**
 - **Group E – Large/Wide Format Equipment**
 - **Group F – Scanners**

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• **Managed Print Services (MPS)**

5. **Service Offerings:** The Contractor is authorized to provide Services listed below:

- **Managed Print Services – Attachment D (HP MPS Statement of Work)**, of the Master Agreement, provides a framework for any ensuing MPS engagement. Prior to any commencement, all MPS engagements must be agreed to and signed by both Customer and Contractor.
- **Maintenance Agreements:**
 - Automatic renewals are not permitted under the Master Agreement
 - Contractor shall have the ability to blend the Service and Supply costs over a large Equipment fleet
 - **Manual Meter Reads** - As part of its Services, Contractor may, at its discretion and dependent upon device capabilities, provide electronic remote meter reading and equipment monitoring. This may allow for automated meter reading and submission, automatic placement of low toner alerts, automatic placement of service calls in the event of a critical Product failure and may enable firmware upgrades
 - **Customer-Owned Equipment** - Customers may elect to enter into a Maintenance Agreement for Equipment they already own, or Equipment they acquire through an up-front purchase. The Maintenance Agreement may be priced on a flat rate fee, which shall include parts, labor, Preventative Maintenance (if applicable) and Service calls. Supplies may or may not be included. The Maintenance Agreement shall not be subject to automatic renewals.
 - **Leased Equipment** - Contractor shall be required to provide a Maintenance Agreement on all Equipment that is leased by a Customer. The Maintenance Agreement shall be priced based on a cost per click rate, or a monthly base charge.

Participating State or Entity must check one of the boxes below. These modifications or additions apply only to actions and relationships within the State of Florida. A Participating Addendum shall not diminish, change, or impact the rights of the Lead State with regard to its contractual relationship with the Contractor under the Terms and Conditions of the State of Colorado NASPO ValuePoint Master Agreement.

No changes to the terms and conditions of the Master Agreement are required.

The following changes are modifying or supplementing the Master Agreement terms and conditions:

- Exhibit A – Additional Special Contract Conditions
- Exhibit B – Special Contract Conditions

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6. HP Additional Provisions

- 6.1 **Remedies.** The Master Agreement and this Participating Addendum state all remedies for warranty claims. To the extent permitted by law, Contractor disclaims all other warranties.
- 6.2 **Entire Agreement.** The Master Agreement and this Participating Addendum (including its attachments) represent the parties' entire understanding with respect to its subject matter and supersedes any previous communication or agreements that may exist.
7. **Master Price Agreement Number:** All purchase orders issued by Purchasing Entities within the jurisdiction of this Participating Addendum shall include the NASPO ValuePoint Master Agreement number: **140596**
8. **Primary Contacts:** The primary contact individuals for this Participating Addendum are as follows (or their named successors):

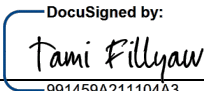

Contractor

Name	Debra Lee
Address	10400 Energy Drive, Spring, Texas 77389
Telephone	847.537.0344 (office) 847.922.2977 (cell)
E-mail	debra.lee@hp.com

Participating Entity

Name	Christia Nunnery
Address	4050 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0950
Telephone	850.488.8367
E-mail	Christia.Nunnery@dms.myflorida.com

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Addendum as of the date of execution by both parties below.

Participating State: Florida	Contractor: HP Computing and Printing Inc.
By: 	By: 
Name: Tami Fillyaw <small>991459A211104A3...</small>	Name: Judith M. Alexander
Title: Chief of Staff	Title: Senior Counsel, State/Local Government & Education
Date: 3/9/2020 3:18 PM EDT	Date: March 9, 2020

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For questions on executing a Participating Addendum, please contact:

NASPO ValuePoint

Cooperative Development Coordinator:	Ted Fosket
Telephone:	(907) 723-3360
Email:	tfosket@naspovaluepoint.org

[Please email fully executed PDF copy of this document to PA@naspovaluepoint.org, to support documentation of participation, and to post in appropriate data bases]



ADDITIONAL SPECIAL CONTRACT CONDITIONS Exhibit A

The following changes are modifying or supplementing the Master Agreement terms and conditions. (These modifications or additions apply only to actions and relationships within the Participating Addendum.)

Upon execution of the Participating Addendum, Customers may purchase products and services under contract using the State of Florida Alternate Contract Source Number 44000000-NASPO-19-ACS.

Customers acknowledge and agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of the Master Agreement except as otherwise specified in this document.

- A. Contractor acknowledges that Participating State is an agency of the State of Florida and mandated by the State of Florida that every contract must include the list of terms and conditions stated in the Additional Special Contract Conditions and Special Contract Conditions.
 - a. Vendor Registration: In order to complete any transaction between an Individual Customer and the Contractor, the Contractor must be registered in [MyFloridaMarketPlace](#).
 - b. Purchases: In order to procure products and services hereunder, Customers shall issue purchase orders or use a purchasing card which shall reference Florida Alternate Contract Source Number 44000000-NASPO-19-ACS. Customers are responsible for reviewing the terms and conditions of this PA including all Exhibits.
 - c. Additional Customer Terms: If any additional ordinance, rule, or other local governmental authority requires additional contract language before a Customer can make a purchase under this PA, the Customer is responsible for entering a separate agreement with the Contractor and capturing that additional contract language therein.
 - d. The State of Florida's performance and obligation to pay under this PA is contingent upon an annual appropriation by the Legislature. The vendor shall comply with section 11.062, Florida Statutes and section 216.347, Florida Statutes, prohibiting use of funds to lobby the Legislature, Judicial, or state agencies.
- B. Product Offerings: The Contractor is authorized to provide Products as referenced in Section 4 of the State of Florida Participating Addenda. Any Product Offerings not listed are not approved.
- C. Service Offerings: The Contractor is authorized to provide Services as referenced in Section 5 of the State of Florida Participating Addenda.

- D. Employment Eligibility Verification: The language of Subsection 13.2 of the Special Contract Conditions regarding E-Verify shall apply to resellers as well as other subcontractors.
- E. Price List/Preferred Price: The Contractor's price list will be the same as the NASPO ValuePoint price list, and the Department will post a link on the Department's website to the price list posted on the NASPO ValuePoint website. Contractors are encouraged to provide special pricing and/or tiered discount rates applicable to State of Florida Customers wherever possible.

The Contractor guarantees that the pricing indicated in this Contract is a maximum price. The remainder of Exhibit B, paragraph 3.2.2 (Preferred Pricing) is not applicable. Also, paragraph 4(b) of the PUR1000 is not applicable.

- F. Orders: Any Order placed by a Customer for a Product and/or Service available from this Participating Addendum shall be deemed to be a sale under and governed by the terms and conditions of the Participating Addendum. To the extent the Customer and the Contractor agree on additional terms, the terms will be documented on the Customer Order, and signed by both parties.
- G. Contractor must be able to accept purchase orders via fax, e-mail, or the MyFloridaMarketPlace (MFMP).
- H. Electronic Invoicing: The Contractor may supply electronic invoices in lieu of paper-based invoices for those transactions processed through MFMP. Electronic invoices may be submitted to the agency through one of the mechanisms as listed below:
 - a. EDI (Electronic Data Interchange)
This standard establishes the data contents of the Invoice Transaction Set (810) for use within the context of an Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) environment. This transaction set can be used for invoicing via the Ariba Network (AN) for catalog and non-catalog goods and services.
 - b. PO Flip via AN
The online process allows Contractors to submit invoices via the AN for catalog and non-catalog goods and services. Contractors have the ability to create an invoice directly from their Inbox in their AN account by simply "flipping" the PO into an invoice. This option does not require any special software or technical capabilities.

For the purposes of this section, the Contractor warrants and represents that it is authorized and empowered to and hereby grants the State and the third-party provider of MFMP, a state contractor, the right and license to use, reproduce, transmit, distribute, and publicly display within the system the information outlined above. In addition, the Contractor warrants and represents that it is authorized and empowered to and hereby grants the State and the third-party provider the right and license to reproduce and display within the system the Contractor's trademarks, system marks, logos, trade dress, or other branding designation that identifies the products made available by the Contractor under the contract.

The Contractor will work with the MFMP management team to obtain specific requirements for the electronic invoicing if needed.

- I. Product Installation & Invoicing: Unless otherwise agreed to by both parties, signing the Contract No. 44000000-NASPO-19-ACS Copiers & Managed Print Services

delivery and acceptance (“D&A”) certificate constitutes Acceptance of the Product(s) and allows Contractor to invoice for the Product(s). Failure to sign the D&A or reject the Product(s) within the foregoing five (5) day period shall be deemed as Acceptance by the Customer.

Contractor will provide timely billing and Customer will notify Contractor, in writing, of any billing concern. In order for Contractor to generate accurate service invoices, Purchasing Entities shall provide meter reads within the Contractor(s) requested timeframe.

Invoices that are generated without receiving the proper meter read information from the Customer will not be considered inaccurate.

The Customer shall provide written notice of any alleged invoicing issue(s) and the Contractor will be allowed a thirty (30) day cure period to address any such issue. Failure on the Contractor(s) part to maintain accurate invoicing shall result in a \$25.00 per instance credit on the following month’s invoice.

- J. Not Specifically Priced (“NSP”) Open Market Items: Not Specifically Priced (NSP) items are not included in Contractor’s Master Agreement.
- K. Software: Customers that acquire software shall be subject to the license agreements distributed with such software. Software subscriptions shall not be subject to automatic renewals. Customers shall have the option to finance software subscriptions by utilizing Contractor lease and rental rates. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event of a conflict in language between an end user license agreement (EULA) and the Master Agreement, the language in the Master Agreement will supersede and control. In addition, any language in a EULA which violates a participating state’s constitution or a statute of that state; or violates the laws of a local entity making a purchase, will be deemed void, and of no force or effect, as applied to the participating or Customer.
- L. Contract Reporting: The Contractor shall report information on orders received from Customers associated with this PA.

The Contractor shall submit reports in accordance with the following schedule:

Report	Period Covered	Due Dates
MFMP Transaction Report	Calendar month	15th calendar day of the month following the receipt of payment for the vendor’s good or services.
Contract Quarterly Sales Report	State’s Fiscal Quarter	15 calendar days after close of the period

No favorable action will be considered for any contractor who has outstanding Contract Quarterly Sales Reports, MFMP Transaction Fee Reports, or any other documentation, to include fees / monies that is required under this Contract.

- a. Contract Quarterly Sales Report: The Contractor agrees to submit a Quarterly Sales Report to the Department’s Contract Manager within 15 calendar days after the close of each State Fiscal quarter.

Quarterly reporting timeframes coincide with the State Fiscal Year as follows:

- Quarter 1 - (July-September) – due 15 calendar days after close of the period
- Quarter 2 - (October-December) – due 15 calendar days after close of the period
- Quarter 3 - (January-March) – due 15 calendar days after close of the period
- Quarter 4 - (April-June) – due 15 calendar days after close of the period

Quarterly Reporting periods should coincide with the PA term and begin the quarter following PA execution. Reports must be submitted in MS Excel format and can be retrieved by accessing the following link at [FL DMS Quarterly Sales Report Form](#). The report will include all sales (orders) from Customers received (associated with this PA) during the period. Initiation and submission of the Quarterly Report is the responsibility of the Contractor without prompting or notification from the Department's Contract Manager. If no orders are received during the period, the Contractor must submit a report stating that there was no activity. If the Contractor fails to submit two consecutive quarterly sales reports, this PA may be terminated for convenience or the Department may choose to not renew the PA.

In addition, the Department may require additional sales information such as copies of purchase orders, or ad hoc sales reports. The Contractor shall submit these specific ad hoc requests within the specified amount of time as requested by the Department.

- b. MFMP Transaction Fee Report: The Contractor is required to submit monthly Transaction Fee Reports in the Department's electronic format. Reports are due 15 calendar days after the end of the reporting period. For information on how to submit Transaction Fee Reports online, please reference the detailed fee reporting instructions and Vendor training presentations available online at the Transaction Fee Reporting and Vendor Training subsections under Vendor on the MFMP website: MFMP Transaction Fee and Reporting. Assistance is also available with the Transaction Fee Reporting System from the MFMP Customer Service Desk by email at feeprocessing@myfloridamarketplace.com or telephone 866-FLA-EPRO (866-352-3776) from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time.
- M. Ad hoc Reports: The Department reserves the right to require additional reports or information pertaining to this PA and any resulting purchase orders or contracts with customers. The Contractor must submit a report or information within five (5) business days after receipt of a Department request, unless otherwise approved by the Department.
- N. Financial Consequences: The following financial consequences will apply for nonperformance of the contract by a Contractor. The State reserves the right to withhold payment or implement other appropriate remedies, such as contract termination or nonrenewal, when the Contractor has failed to perform/comply with provisions of the PA. These consequences for non-performance are not to be considered penalties.

The financial consequences will be paid via check or money order and made out to the Department of Management Services in US Dollars within 30 calendar days after the required report submission date. These consequences are individually assessed for failures over each target period beginning with the first full month or quarter of the contract performance and every quarter thereafter.

Performance Metrics	Description	Performance Target	Frequency	Financial Consequence for Non-Performance (Per Day Late)
Quarterly Sales Report Submission	Quarterly Sales Report are due on or before the 15 th calendar day after close of a quarter.	100%	Quarterly	\$250
Monthly Transaction Fee Report	Transaction Fee Report are due on or before the 15 th calendar day after close of the period.	100%	Monthly	\$100

- O. Financial Consequences for Non-Performance: If the Department determines that the Contractor has failed in any quarter to meet requirements of the Service Level Agreement for two or more standards, the Department may assess the Contractor a fee in accordance with the Service Level Agreement table incorporated herein.

These consequences of non-performance shall not be considered penalties.

- P. Business Review Meetings: The Department reserves the right to schedule business review meetings as frequently as necessary. The Participating State will provide the format for the Contractor's agenda. Prior to the meeting, the Contractor shall submit the completed agenda to the Participating State/Entity for review and acceptance. The Contractor shall address the agenda items and any of the Participating State's additional concerns at the meeting. At minimum, the parties shall meet to discuss:
- a. Program compliance
 - b. Program trending review
 - c. Savings report: Hard dollar and soft dollar
 - d. Spend report
 - e. Subcontractor and contingent staff performance
 - f. Recommendations for improved compliance and performance

Failure to comply with this section may result in the Contractor being found in default and PA termination.

- Q. Certification of Drug-Free Workplace: In executing this PA, Contractor certifies that it has implemented a drug-free workforce program.
- R. Resellers/Partners: The Contractor may use resellers/partners in order to provide equipment and services. All resellers/partners shall be the direct responsibility of the Contractor. The Contractor is responsible for all liability, terms and conditions within Master Agreement and this Addendum. The Contractors resellers/partners' participation will be in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the aforementioned Master Agreement and this Addendum. If a reseller/partner is authorized to conduct business on behalf of the Contractor and the reseller/partner is to receive compensation from the Contractor for its services, then any dispute between the Contractor and the reseller/partner shall be resolved between the Contractor and the reseller/partner. The State of Florida is not a party to any agreement entered into between the Contractor and its resellers/partners. The Contractor shall be responsible to report all contract sales

(and pay any associated MFMP transaction fees), including those of any such resellers/partners and shall ensure that all such resellers/partners meet the following requirements:

The Contractor shall be responsible to report all contract sales (and pay any associated MFMP transaction fees), including those of any such subcontractors and shall ensure that all such subcontractors meet the following requirements:

- Have an ACTIVE Registration with the Florida Department of State, Division of Corporations (www.sunbiz.org)
 - Registered in the MFMP Vendor Information Portal (<https://vendor.myfloridamarketplace.com>)
 - Not be on the State of Florida's Convicted, Suspended, or Discriminatory lists, http://www.dms.myflorida.com/business_operations/State_purchasing/vendor_information/convicted_suspended_discriminatory_complaints_vendor_lists
 - Have a copy of e-Verify Status on file
 - Have a current W-9 filed with the Florida Department of Financial Services (<https://flvendor.myfloridacfo.com>)
- S. Lease Early Termination Charges: Except in the case of Non-appropriation of funds Straight Leases shall be subject to an early termination charge and shall involve the return of the Equipment (in good working condition; ordinary wear and tear excepted) by the Purchasing Entity to the Contractor. With respect to the Equipment, the termination charge shall not exceed the balance of remaining Equipment Payments (including any current and past due amounts), and with respect to Service or maintenance obligations, the termination charge shall not exceed four (4) months of the Service and Supply base charge or twenty-five percent (25%) of the remaining Maintenance Agreement term, whichever is less.
- T. The following sections replace and supersede the corresponding sections of the Special Contract Conditions, Exhibit B:

6.7 Time is of the Essence.

Time is of the essence regarding every obligation of the Contractor under the Contract.

7.5 Indemnification.

To the extent permitted by Florida law, the Contractor agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold the Customer and the State of Florida, its officers, employees, and agents harmless from all fines, claims, assessments, suits, judgments, or damages, including consequential, special, indirect, and punitive damages, including court costs and reasonable attorney's fees, arising from or relating to any third party claims that the equipment and/or products leased or purchased under this agreement ("Products") violate or infringe a trademark, copyright, patent, trade secret, or intellectual property right or out of any acts, actions, breaches, neglect, or omissions of the Contractor, its employees, agents, subcontractors, assignees, or delegates related to the Contract, as well as for any determination arising out of or related to the Contract that the Contractor or Contractor's employees, agents, subcontractors, assignees, or delegates are not independent contractors in relation to the Customer. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Contractor shall have no liability for any claims which are attributable to: (a) any

modification or alteration of the Products made by any party other than Contractor; or (b) any combination of the Products with or any use of the Products with other products, parts, accessories or consumables manufactured by any party other than Contractor; or (c) specifications, designs, standards or instructions provided to Contractor by Customer; or (d) any other cause or reason not attributable to Contractor The Contract does not constitute a waiver of sovereign immunity or consent by the Customer or the State of Florida or its subdivisions to suit by third parties. Without limiting As a condition of this indemnification, the Customer may will provide the Contractor (1) prompt written notice of any action or threatened action, (2) the opportunity to take over and settle or defend any such action at Contractor's sole expense, and (3) assistance in defending the action at Contractor's sole expense.

7.6 Limitation of Liability.

Unless otherwise specifically enumerated in the Contract or in the purchase order, neither the Department nor the Customer shall be liable for special, indirect, punitive, or consequential damages, including lost data or records (unless the Contract or purchase order requires the Contractor to back-up data or records), even if the Department or Customer has been advised that such damages are possible. Neither the Department nor the Customer shall be liable for lost profits, lost revenue, or lost institutional operating savings. The Department or Customer may, in addition to other remedies available to them at law or equity and upon notice to the Contractor, retain such monies from amounts due Contractor as may be necessary to satisfy any claim for damages, penalties, costs, and the like asserted by or against them. The State may set off any liability or other obligation of the Contractor or its affiliates to the State against any payments due the Contractor under any contract with the State. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Contract, Contractor's total liability to the State arising out of this Contract or the products or services provided thereunder, regardless of the legal theory upon which such liability may be based, shall not exceed the greater of \$250,000 or in the aggregate one and one-half (1.5) times the total payments made by the State to Contractor for the products or services in question in the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the first occurrence of the event giving rise to such liability.

9 Data Security.

The Contractor will maintain the security of State of Florida data including, but not limited to, maintaining a secure area around any displayed visible data and ensuring data is stored and secured when not in use. The Contractor and subcontractors will not perform any of the services from outside of the United States, and the Contractor will not allow any State of Florida data to be sent by any medium, transmitted, or accessed outside the United States due to Contractor's action or inaction. In the event of a security breach involving State of Florida data, the Contractor shall give notice to the Customer and the Department without undue delay. "Security breach" for purposes of this section will refer to a confirmed event that compromises the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of data. Once a data breach has been contained, the Contractor must provide the Department with a post-incident report documenting all containment, eradication, and recovery measures taken. The Department reserves the right in its sole discretion to enlist a third party to audit Contractor's findings and produce an independent report, and the Contractor will fully cooperate with the third party. The Department acknowledges the Contractor's need to maintain Contractor's ISO 27001 certification or comparable

security certifications and clearances. The Contractor will also comply with all HIPAA requirements and any other state and federal rules and regulations regarding security of information.

11.3.2 Liquidated Damages.

The Contractor acknowledges that delayed performance will damage the Department Customer, but by their nature such damages are difficult to ascertain. Accordingly, the liquidated damages provisions stated in Section N of the Additional Special Contract conditions will apply. Liquidated damages are not intended to be a penalty and are solely intended to compensate for damages.

12.1 Performance or Compliance Audits.

The Department may conduct or have conducted performance and/or compliance audits of the Contractor and subcontractors as determined by the Department. The Department may conduct an audit and review all the Contractor's and subcontractors' data and records that directly relate to the Contract. To the extent necessary to verify the Contractor's fees and claims for payment under the Contract, the Contractor's agreements or contracts with subcontractors, partners, or agents of the Contractor, pertaining to the Contract, may be inspected by the Department upon fifteen (15) calendar days' notice, during normal working hours and in accordance with the Contractor's facility access procedures where facility access is required. Release statements from its subcontractors, partners, or agents are not required for the Department or its designee to conduct compliance and performance audits on any of the Contractor's contracts relating to this Contract. The Department acknowledges the Contractor's need to maintain Contractor's ISO 27001 certification or comparable certifications or clearances. The Inspector General, in accordance with section 5.6, the State of Florida's Chief Financial Officer, the Office of the Auditor General also have authority to perform audits and inspections.

SPECIAL CONTRACT CONDITIONS
Exhibit B

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In accordance with Rule 60A-1.002(7), F.A.C., Form PUR 1000 is included herein by reference but is superseded in its entirety by these Special Contract Conditions.

SECTION 1. DEFINITION.

The following definition applies in addition to the definitions in Chapter 287, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Rule Chapter 60A-1, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.):

1.1 Customer.

The agency or eligible user that purchases commodities or contractual services pursuant to the Contract.

SECTION 2. CONTRACT TERM AND TERMINATION.

2.1 Initial Term.

The initial term will begin on the date set forth in the Contract documents or on the date the Contract is signed by all Parties, whichever is later.

2.2 Renewal.

Upon written agreement, the Department and the Contractor may renew the Contract in whole or in part only as set forth in the Contract documents, and in accordance with section 287.057(13), F.S.

2.3 Suspension of Work and Termination.

2.3.1 Suspension of Work.

The Department may, at its sole discretion, suspend any or all activities under the Contract, at any time, when it is in the best interest of the State of Florida to do so. The Customer may suspend a resulting contract or purchase order, at any time, when in the best interest of the Customer to do so. The Department or Customer will provide the Contractor written notice outlining the particulars of the suspension. After receiving a suspension notice, the Contractor must comply with the notice and will cease the performance of the Contract or purchase order. Suspension of work will not entitle the Contractor to any additional compensation. The Contractor will not resume performance of the Contract or purchase order until so authorized by the Department.

2.3.2 Termination for Convenience.

The Contract may be terminated by the Department in whole or in part at any time, in the best interest of the State of Florida. If the Contract is terminated before performance is completed, the Contractor will be paid only for that work satisfactorily performed for which costs can be substantiated. Such payment, however, may not exceed an amount which is the same percentage of the Contract price as the amount of work satisfactorily performed. All work in progress will become the property of the Customer and will be turned over promptly by the Contractor.

2.3.3 Termination for Cause.

If the performance of the Contractor is not in compliance with the Contract requirements or the Contractor has defaulted, the Department may:

- (a) immediately terminate the Contract;
- (b) notify the Contractor of the noncompliance or default, require correction, and specify the date by which the correction must be completed before the Contract is terminated; or
- (c) take other action deemed appropriate by the Department.

SECTION 3. PAYMENT AND FEES.

3.1 Pricing.

The Contractor will not exceed the pricing set forth in the Contract documents.

3.2 Price Decreases.

The following price decrease terms will apply to the Contract:

3.2.1 Quantity Discounts. Contractor may offer additional discounts for one-time delivery of large single orders;

3.2.2 Preferred Pricing. The Contractor guarantees that the pricing indicated in this Contract is a maximum price. Additionally, Contractor's pricing will not exceed the pricing offered under comparable contracts. Comparable contracts are those that are similar in size, scope, and terms. In compliance with section 216.0113, F.S., Contractor must annually submit an affidavit from the Contractor's authorized representative attesting that the Contract complies with this clause.

3.2.3 Sales Promotions. In addition to decreasing prices for the balance of the Contract term due to a change in market conditions, the Contractor may conduct sales promotions involving price reductions for a specified lesser period. The Contractor must submit documentation identifying the proposed: (1) starting and ending dates of the promotion, (2) commodities or contractual services involved, and (3) promotional prices compared to then-authorized prices.

3.3 Payment Invoicing.

The Contractor will be paid upon submission of invoices to the Customer after delivery and acceptance of commodities or contractual services is confirmed by the Customer. Invoices must contain sufficient detail for an audit and contain the Contract Number and the Contractor's Federal Employer Identification Number.

3.4 Purchase Order.

A Customer may use purchase orders to buy commodities or contractual services pursuant to the Contract and, if applicable, the Contractor must provide commodities or contractual services pursuant to purchase orders. Purchase orders issued pursuant to the Contract must be received by the Contractor no later than the close of business on the last day of the Contract's term. The Contractor is required to accept timely purchase orders specifying delivery schedules that extend beyond the Contract term even when such extended delivery will occur after expiration of the Contract. Purchase orders shall be valid through their specified term and performance by the Contractor, and all terms and conditions of the Contract shall survive the termination or expiration of the Contract and apply to the Contractor's performance. The duration of purchase orders for recurring deliverables shall not exceed the expiration of the Contract by more than twelve months. Any purchase order terms and conditions conflicting with these Special Contract Conditions shall not become a part of the Contract.

3.5 Travel.

Travel expenses are not reimbursable unless specifically authorized by the Customer in writing and may be reimbursed only in accordance with section 112.061, F.S.

3.6 Annual Appropriation.

Pursuant to section 287.0582, F.S., if the Contract binds the State of Florida or an agency for the purchase of services or tangible personal property for a period in excess of one fiscal year, the State of Florida's performance and obligation to pay under the Contract is contingent upon an annual appropriation by the Legislature.

3.7 Transaction Fees.

The State of Florida, through the Department of Management Services, has instituted MyFloridaMarketPlace, a statewide eProcurement system pursuant to section 287.057(22), F.S. All payments issued by Customers to registered Vendors for purchases of commodities or contractual services will be assessed Transaction Fees as prescribed by rule 60A-1.031, F.A.C., or as may otherwise be established by law. Vendors must pay the Transaction Fees and agree to automatic deduction of the Transaction Fees when automatic deduction becomes available. Vendors will submit any monthly reports required pursuant to the rule. All such reports and payments will be subject to audit. Failure to comply with the payment of the Transaction Fees or reporting of transactions will constitute grounds for declaring the Vendor in default and subject the Vendor to exclusion from business with the State of Florida.

3.8 Taxes.

Taxes, customs, and tariffs on commodities or contractual services purchased under the Contract will not be assessed against the Customer or Department unless authorized by Florida law.

3.9 Return of Funds.

Contractor will return any overpayments due to unearned funds or funds disallowed pursuant to the terms of the Contract that were disbursed to the Contractor. The Contractor must return any overpayment within forty (40) calendar days after either discovery by the Contractor, its independent auditor, or notification by the Department or Customer of the overpayment.

SECTION 4. CONTRACT MANAGEMENT.

4.1 Composition and Priority.

The Contractor agrees to provide commodities or contractual services to the Customer as specified in the Contract. Additionally, the terms of the Contract supersede the terms of all prior agreements between the Parties on this subject matter.

4.2 Notices.

All notices required under the Contract must be delivered to the designated Contract Manager in a manner identified by the Department.

4.3 Department's Contract Manager.

The Department's Contract Manager, who is primarily responsible for the Department's oversight of the Contract, will be identified in a separate writing to the Contractor upon Contract signing in the following format:

Department's Contract Manager Name

Department's Name
Department's Physical Address
Department's Telephone #
Department's Email Address

If the Department changes the Contract Manager, the Department will notify the Contractor. Such a change does not require an amendment to the Contract.

4.4 Contractor's Contract Manager.

The Contractor's Contract Manager, who is primarily responsible for the Contractor's oversight of the Contract performance, will be identified in a separate writing to the Department upon Contract signing in the following format:

Contractor's Contract Manager Name
Contractor's Name
Contractor's Physical Address
Contractor's Telephone #
Contractor's Email Address

If the Contractor changes its Contract Manager, the Contractor will notify the Department. Such a change does not require an amendment to the Contract.

4.5 Diversity.

4.5.1 Office of Supplier Diversity.

The State of Florida supports its diverse business community by creating opportunities for woman-, veteran-, and minority-owned small business enterprises to participate in procurements and contracts. The Department encourages supplier diversity through certification of woman-, veteran-, and minority-owned small business enterprises and provides advocacy, outreach, and networking through regional business events. For additional information, please contact the Office of Supplier Diversity (OSD) at osdinfo@dms.myflorida.com.

4.5.2 Diversity Reporting.

Upon request, the Contractor will report to the Department its spend with business enterprises certified by the OSD. These reports must include the time period covered, the name and Federal Employer Identification Number of each business enterprise utilized during the period, commodities and contractual services provided by the business enterprise, and the amount paid to the business enterprise on behalf of each agency purchasing under the Contract.

4.6 RESPECT.

Subject to the agency determination provided for in section 413.036, F.S., the following statement applies:

IT IS EXPRESSLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED THAT ANY ARTICLES THAT ARE THE SUBJECT OF, OR REQUIRED TO CARRY OUT, THIS CONTRACT SHALL BE PURCHASED FROM A NONPROFIT AGENCY FOR THE BLIND OR FOR THE SEVERELY HANDICAPPED THAT IS QUALIFIED PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 413, FLORIDA STATUTES, IN THE SAME MANNER AND UNDER THE SAME PROCEDURES SET FORTH IN SECTION 413.036(1) AND (2), FLORIDA STATUTES;

AND FOR PURPOSES OF THIS CONTRACT THE PERSON, FIRM, OR OTHER BUSINESS ENTITY CARRYING OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS CONTRACT SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE SUBSTITUTED FOR THE STATE AGENCY INSOFAR AS DEALINGS WITH SUCH QUALIFIED NONPROFIT AGENCY ARE CONCERNED.

Additional information about RESPECT and the commodities or contractual services it offers is available at <https://www.respectofflorida.org>.

4.7 PRIDE.

Subject to the agency determination provided for in sections 287.042(1) and 946.515, F.S., the following statement applies:

IT IS EXPRESSLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED THAT ANY ARTICLES WHICH ARE THE SUBJECT OF, OR REQUIRED TO CARRY OUT, THIS CONTRACT SHALL BE PURCHASED FROM THE CORPORATION IDENTIFIED UNDER CHAPTER 946, F.S., IN THE SAME MANNER AND UNDER THE SAME PROCEDURES SET FORTH IN SECTION 946.515(2) AND (4), F.S.; AND FOR PURPOSES OF THIS CONTRACT THE PERSON, FIRM, OR OTHER BUSINESS ENTITY CARRYING OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS CONTRACT SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE SUBSTITUTED FOR THIS AGENCY INSOFAR AS DEALINGS WITH SUCH CORPORATION ARE CONCERNED.

Additional information about PRIDE and the commodities or contractual services it offers is available at <https://www.pride-enterprises.org>.

SECTION 5. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS.

5.1 Conduct of Business.

The Contractor must comply with all laws, rules, codes, ordinances, and licensing requirements that are applicable to the conduct of its business, including those of federal, state, and local agencies having jurisdiction and authority. For example, the Contractor must comply with section 274A of the Immigration and Nationality Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, if applicable, and all prohibitions against discrimination on the basis of race, religion, sex, creed, national origin, handicap, marital status, or veteran's status. The provisions of subparagraphs 287.058(1)(a)-(c), and (g), F.S., are hereby incorporated by reference.

5.2 Dispute Resolution, Governing Law, and Venue.

Any dispute concerning performance of the Contract shall be decided by the Department's designated Contract Manager, who will reduce the decision to writing and serve a copy on the Contractor. The decision of the Contract Manager shall be final and conclusive. Exhaustion of this administrative remedy is an absolute condition precedent to the Contractor's ability to pursue legal action related to the Contract or any other form of dispute resolution. The laws of the State of Florida govern the Contract. The Parties submit to the jurisdiction of the courts of the State of Florida exclusively for any legal action related to the Contract. Further, the Contractor hereby waives all privileges and rights relating to venue it may have under Chapter 47, F.S., and all such venue privileges and rights it may have under any other statute, rule, or case law, including, but not limited to, those based on convenience. The Contractor hereby submits to venue in the county chosen by the Department.

5.3 Department of State Registration.

Consistent with Title XXXVI, F.S., the Contractor and any subcontractors that assert status, other than a sole proprietor, must provide the Department with conclusive evidence of a certificate of status, not subject to qualification, if a Florida business entity, or of a certificate of authorization if a foreign business entity.

5.4 Suspended, Convicted, and Discriminatory Vendor Lists.

In accordance with sections 287.042, 287.133, and 287.134, F.S., an entity or affiliate who is on the Suspended Vendor List, Convicted Vendor List, or Discriminatory Vendor List may not perform work as a contractor, supplier, subcontractor, or consultant under the Contract. The Contractor must notify the Department if it or any of its suppliers, subcontractors, or consultants have been placed on the Suspended Vendor List, Convicted Vendor List, or Discriminatory Vendor List during the term of the Contract.

5.5 Scrutinized Companies - Termination by the Department.

The Department may, at its option, terminate the Contract if the Contractor is found to have submitted a false certification as provided under section 287.135(5), F.S., or been placed on the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in Sudan List or the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in the Iran Petroleum Energy Sector List, or been engaged in business operations in Cuba or Syria, or to have been placed on the Scrutinized Companies that Boycott Israel List or is engaged in a boycott of Israel.

5.6 Cooperation with Inspector General and Records Retention.

Pursuant to section 20.055(5), F.S., the Contractor understands and will comply with its duty to cooperate with the Inspector General in any investigation, audit, inspection, review, or hearing. Upon request of the Inspector General or any other authorized State official, the Contractor must provide any information the Inspector General deems relevant to the Contractor's integrity or responsibility. Such information may include, but will not be limited to, the Contractor's business or financial records, documents, or files of any type or form that refer to or relate to the Contract. The Contractor will retain such records for the longer of five years after the expiration of the Contract, or the period required by the General Records Schedules maintained by the Florida Department of State, at the Department of State's Records Management website. The Contractor agrees to reimburse the State of Florida for the reasonable costs of investigation incurred by the Inspector General or other authorized State of Florida official for investigations of the Contractor's compliance with the terms of this or any other agreement between the Contractor and the State of Florida which results in the suspension or debarment of the Contractor. Such costs will include but will not be limited to: salaries of investigators, including overtime; travel and lodging expenses; and expert witness and documentary fees. The Contractor agrees to impose the same obligations to cooperate with the Inspector General and retain records on any subcontractors used to provide goods or services under the Contract.

SECTION 6. MISCELLANEOUS.

6.1 Subcontractors.

The Contractor will not subcontract any work under the Contract without prior written consent of the Department. The Contractor is fully responsible for satisfactory completion of all its subcontracted work. The Department supports diversity in its procurements and contracts, and requests that the Contractor offer subcontracting opportunities to certified woman-, veteran-, and minority-owned small businesses. The

Contractor may contact the OSD at osdhelp@dms.myflorida.com for information on certified small business enterprises available for subcontracting opportunities.

6.2 Assignment.

The Contractor will not sell, assign, or transfer any of its rights, duties, or obligations under the Contract without the prior written consent of the Department. However, the Contractor may waive its right to receive payment and assign same upon notice to the Department. In the event of any assignment, the Contractor remains responsible for performance of the Contract, unless such responsibility is expressly waived by the Department. The Department may assign the Contract with prior written notice to the Contractor.

6.3 Independent Contractor.

The Contractor and its employees, agents, representatives, and subcontractors are independent contractors and not employees or agents of the State of Florida and are not entitled to State of Florida benefits. The Department and Customer will not be bound by any acts or conduct of the Contractor or its employees, agents, representatives, or subcontractors. The Contractor agrees to include this provision in all its subcontracts under the Contract.

6.4 Inspection and Acceptance of Commodities.

6.4.1 Risk of Loss.

Matters of inspection and acceptance are addressed in section 215.422, F.S. Until acceptance, risk of loss or damage will remain with the Contractor. The Contractor will be responsible for filing, processing, and collecting all damage claims. To assist the Contractor with damage claims, the Customer will: record any evidence of visible damage on all copies of the delivering carrier's bill of lading; report damages to the carrier and the Contractor; and provide the Contractor with a copy of the carrier's bill of lading and damage inspection report.

6.4.2 Rejected Commodities.

When a Customer rejects a commodity, Contractor will remove the commodity from the premises within ten (10) calendar days after notification of rejection, and the risk of loss will remain with the Contractor. Commodities not removed by the Contractor within ten (10) calendar days will be deemed abandoned by the Contractor, and the Customer will have the right to dispose of such commodities. Contractor will reimburse the Customer for costs and expenses incurred in storing or effecting removal or disposition of rejected commodities.

6.5 Safety Standards.

Performance of the Contract for all commodities or contractual services must comply with requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act and other applicable State of Florida and federal requirements.

6.6 Ombudsman.

A Vendor Ombudsman has been established within the Department of Financial Services. The duties of this office are found in section 215.422, F.S., which include disseminating information relative to prompt payment and assisting contractors in receiving their payments in a timely manner from a Customer. The Vendor Ombudsman may be contacted at (850) 413-5516.

6.7 Time is of the Essence.

Time is of the essence regarding every obligation of the Contractor under the Contract. Each obligation is deemed material, and a breach of any such obligation (including a breach resulting from untimely performance) is a material breach.

6.8 Waiver.

The delay or failure by the Department or the Customer to exercise or enforce any rights under the Contract will not constitute waiver of such rights.

6.9 Modification and Severability.

The Contract may only be modified by written agreement between the Department and the Contractor. Should a court determine any provision of the Contract is invalid, the remaining provisions will not be affected, and the rights and obligations of the Parties will be construed and enforced as if the Contract did not contain the provision held invalid.

6.10 Cooperative Purchasing.

Pursuant to their own governing laws, and subject to the agreement of the Contractor, governmental entities that are not Customers may make purchases under the terms and conditions contained herein, if agreed to by Contractor. Such purchases are independent of the Contract between the Department and the Contractor, and the Department is not a party to these transactions. Agencies seeking to make purchases under this Contract are required to follow the requirements of Rule 60A-1.045(5), F.A.C.

SECTION 7. LIABILITY AND INSURANCE.

7.1 Workers' Compensation Insurance.

The Contractor shall maintain workers' compensation insurance as required under the Florida Workers' Compensation Law or the workers' compensation law of another jurisdiction where applicable. The Contractor must require all subcontractors to similarly provide workers' compensation insurance for all of the latter's employees. In the event work is being performed by the Contractor under the Contract and any class of employees performing the work is not protected under Workers' Compensation statutes, the Contractor must provide, and cause each subcontractor to provide, adequate insurance satisfactory to the Department, for the protection of employees not otherwise protected.

7.2 General Liability Insurance.

The Contractor must secure and maintain Commercial General Liability Insurance, including bodily injury, property damage, products, personal and advertising injury, and completed operations. This insurance must provide coverage for all claims that may arise from performance of the Contract or completed operations, whether by the Contractor or anyone directly or indirectly employed by the Contractor. Such insurance must include the State of Florida as an additional insured for the entire length of the resulting contract. The Contractor is responsible for determining the minimum limits of liability necessary to provide reasonable financial protections to the Contractor and the State of Florida under the resulting contract.

7.3 Florida Authorized Insurers.

All insurance shall be with insurers authorized and eligible to transact the applicable line of insurance business in the State of Florida. The Contractor shall provide Certification(s) of Insurance evidencing that all appropriate coverage is in place and showing the Department to be an additional insured.

7.4 Performance Bond.

Unless otherwise prohibited by law, the Department may require the Contractor to furnish, without additional cost to the Department, a performance bond or irrevocable letter of credit or other form of security for the satisfactory performance of work hereunder. The Department shall determine the type and amount of security.

7.5 Indemnification.

To the extent permitted by Florida law, the Contractor agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold the Customer and the State of Florida, its officers, employees, and agents harmless from all fines, claims, assessments, suits, judgments, or damages, including consequential, special, indirect, and punitive damages, including court costs and attorney's fees, arising from or relating to violation or infringement of a trademark, copyright, patent, trade secret, or intellectual property right or out of any acts, actions, breaches, neglect, or omissions of the Contractor, its employees, agents, subcontractors, assignees, or delegates related to the Contract, as well as for any determination arising out of or related to the Contract that the Contractor or Contractor's employees, agents, subcontractors, assignees, or delegates are not independent contractors in relation to the Customer. The Contract does not constitute a waiver of sovereign immunity or consent by the Customer or the State of Florida or its subdivisions to suit by third parties. Without limiting this indemnification, the Customer may provide the Contractor (1) written notice of any action or threatened action, (2) the opportunity to take over and settle or defend any such action at Contractor's sole expense, and (3) assistance in defending the action at Contractor's sole expense.

7.6 Limitation of Liability.

Unless otherwise specifically enumerated in the Contract or in the purchase order, neither the Department nor the Customer shall be liable for special, indirect, punitive, or consequential damages, including lost data or records (unless the Contract or purchase order requires the Contractor to back-up data or records), even if the Department or Customer has been advised that such damages are possible. Neither the Department nor the Customer shall be liable for lost profits, lost revenue, or lost institutional operating savings. The Department or Customer may, in addition to other remedies available to them at law or equity and upon notice to the Contractor, retain such monies from amounts due Contractor as may be necessary to satisfy any claim for damages, penalties, costs, and the like asserted by or against them. The State may set off any liability or other obligation of the Contractor or its affiliates to the State against any payments due the Contractor under any contract with the State.

SECTION 8. PUBLIC RECORDS, TRADE SECRETS, DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT, AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.

8.1 Public Records.

8.1.1 Termination of Contract.

The Department may terminate the Contract for refusal by the Contractor to comply with this section by not allowing access to all public records, as defined in Chapter 119, F. S., made or received by the Contractor in conjunction with the Contract.

8.1.2 Statutory Notice.

Pursuant to section 119.0701(2)(a), F.S., for contracts for services with a contractor acting on behalf of a public agency, as defined in section 119.011(2), F.S., the following applies:

IF THE CONTRACTOR HAS QUESTIONS REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF CHAPTER 119, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO THE CONTRACTOR'S DUTY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC RECORDS RELATING TO THIS CONTRACT, CONTACT THE CUSTODIAN OF PUBLIC RECORDS AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER, EMAIL ADDRESS, AND MAILING ADDRESS PROVIDED IN THE RESULTING CONTRACT OR PURCHASE ORDER.

Pursuant to section 119.0701(2)(b), F.S., for contracts for services with a contractor acting on behalf of a public agency as defined in section 119.011(2), F.S., the Contractor shall:

- (a) Keep and maintain public records required by the public agency to perform the service.
- (b) Upon request from the public agency's custodian of public records, provide the public agency with a copy of the requested records or allow the records to be inspected or copied within a reasonable time at a cost that does not exceed the cost provided in Chapter 119, F.S., or as otherwise provided by law.
- (c) Ensure that public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure are not disclosed except as authorized by law for the duration of the Contract term and following the completion of the Contract if the Contractor does not transfer the records to the public agency.
- (d) Upon completion of the Contract, transfer, at no cost, to the public agency all public records in possession of the Contractor or keep and maintain public records required by the public agency to perform the service. If the Contractor transfers all public records to the public agency upon completion of the Contract, the Contractor shall destroy any duplicate public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements. If the Contractor keeps and maintains public records upon completion of the Contract, the Contractor shall meet all applicable requirements for retaining public records. All records stored electronically must be provided to the public agency, upon request from the public agency's custodian of public records, in a format that is compatible with the information technology systems of the public agency.

8.2 Protection of Trade Secrets or Otherwise Confidential Information.

8.2.1 Contractor Designation of Trade Secrets or Otherwise Confidential Information. If the Contractor considers any portion of materials to be trade secret under section 688.002 or 812.081, F.S., or otherwise confidential under Florida or federal law, the Contractor must clearly designate that portion of the materials as trade secret or otherwise confidential when submitted to the Department. The Contractor will be

responsible for responding to and resolving all claims for access to Contract-related materials it has designated trade secret or otherwise confidential.

8.2.2 Public Records Requests.

If the Department receives a public records request for materials designated by the Contractor as trade secret or otherwise confidential under Florida or federal law, the Contractor will be responsible for taking the appropriate legal action in response to the request. If the Contractor fails to take appropriate and timely action to protect the materials designated as trade secret or otherwise confidential, the Department will provide the materials to the requester.

8.2.3 Indemnification Related to Confidentiality of Materials.

The Contractor will protect, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Department for claims, costs, fines, and attorney's fees arising from or relating to its designation of materials as trade secret or otherwise confidential.

8.3 Document Management.

The Contractor must retain sufficient documentation to substantiate claims for payment under the Contract and all other records, electronic files, papers, and documents that were made in relation to this Contract. The Contractor must retain all documents related to the Contract for five (5) years after expiration of the Contract or, if longer, the period required by the General Records Schedules maintained by the Florida Department of State available at the Department of State's Records Management website.

8.4 Intellectual Property.

8.4.1 Ownership.

Unless specifically addressed otherwise in the Contract, the State of Florida shall be the owner of all intellectual property rights to all property created or developed in connection with the Contract.

8.4.2 Patentable Inventions or Discoveries.

Any inventions or discoveries developed in the course, or as a result, of services in connection with the Contract that are patentable pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 101 are the sole property of the State of Florida. Contractor must inform the Customer of any inventions or discoveries developed or made through performance of the Contract, and such inventions or discoveries will be referred to the Florida Department of State for a determination on whether patent protection will be sought. The State of Florida will be the sole owner of all patents resulting from any invention or discovery made through performance of the Contract.

8.4.3 Copyrightable Works.

Contractor must notify the Department or State of Florida of any publications, artwork, or other copyrightable works developed in connection with the Contract. All copyrights created or developed through performance of the Contract are owned solely by the State of Florida.

SECTION 9. DATA SECURITY.

The Contractor will maintain the security of State of Florida data including, but not limited to, maintaining a secure area around any displayed visible data and ensuring data is stored and secured when not in use. The Contractor and subcontractors will not perform any of the services from outside of the United States, and the Contractor will not allow any State of Florida data to be sent by any medium, transmitted, or accessed outside the United States due to Contractor's action or inaction. In the event of a security breach involving State of Florida data, the Contractor shall give notice to the Customer and the Department within one business day. "Security breach" for purposes of this section will refer to a confirmed event that compromises the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of data. Once a data breach has been contained, the Contractor must provide the Department with a post-incident report documenting all containment, eradication, and recovery measures taken. The Department reserves the right in its sole discretion to enlist a third party to audit Contractor's findings and produce an independent report, and the Contractor will fully cooperate with the third party. The Contractor will also comply with all HIPAA requirements and any other state and federal rules and regulations regarding security of information.

SECTION 10. GRATUITIES, LOBBYING, AND COMMUNICATIONS.

10.1 Gratuities.

The Contractor will not, in connection with this Contract, directly or indirectly (1) offer, give, or agree to give anything of value to anyone as consideration for any State of Florida officer's or employee's decision, opinion, recommendation, vote, other exercise of discretion, or violation of a known legal duty, or (2) offer, give, or agree to give to anyone anything of value for the benefit of, or at the direction or request of, any State of Florida officer or employee.

10.2 Lobbying.

In accordance with sections 11.062 and 216.347, F.S., Contract funds are not to be used for the purpose of lobbying the Legislature, the judicial branch, or the Department. Pursuant to section 287.058(6), F.S., the Contract does not prohibit the Contractor from lobbying the executive or legislative branch concerning the scope of services, performance, term, or compensation regarding the Contract after the Contract is executed and during the Contract term.

10.3 Communications.

10.3.1 Contractor Communication or Disclosure.

The Contractor shall not make any public statements, press releases, publicity releases, or other similar communications concerning the Contract or its subject matter or otherwise disclose or permit to be disclosed any of the data or other information obtained or furnished in compliance with the Contract, without first notifying the Customer's Contract Manager and securing the Customer's prior written consent.

10.3.2 Use of Customer Statements.

The Contractor shall not use any statement attributable to the Customer or its employees for the Contractor's promotions, press releases, publicity releases, marketing, corporate communications, or other similar communications, without first notifying the Customer's Contract Manager and securing the Customer's prior written consent.

SECTION 11. CONTRACT MONITORING.

11.1 Performance Standards.

The Contractor agrees to perform all tasks and provide deliverables as set forth in the Contract. The Department and the Customer will be entitled at all times, upon request, to be advised as to the status of work being done by the Contractor and of the details thereof.

11.2 Performance Deficiencies and Financial Consequences of Non-Performance.

11.2.1 Proposal of Corrective Action Plan.

In addition to the processes set forth in the Contract (e.g., service level agreements), if the Department or Customer determines that there is a performance deficiency that requires correction by the Contractor, then the Department or Customer will notify the Contractor. The correction must be made within a time-frame specified by the Department or Customer. The Contractor must provide the Department or Customer with a corrective action plan describing how the Contractor will address all performance deficiencies identified by the Department or Customer.

11.2.2 Retainage for Unacceptable Corrective Action Plan or Plan Failure.

If the corrective action plan is unacceptable to the Department or Customer, or implementation of the plan fails to remedy the performance deficiencies, the Department or Customer will retain ten percent (10%) of the total invoice amount. The retainage will be withheld until the Contractor resolves the performance deficiencies. If the performance deficiencies are resolved, the Contractor may invoice the Department or Customer for the retained amount. If the Contractor fails to resolve the performance deficiencies, the retained amount will be forfeited to compensate the Department or Customer for the performance deficiencies.

11.3 Performance Delay.

11.3.1 Notification.

The Contractor will promptly notify the Department or Customer upon becoming aware of any circumstances that may reasonably be expected to jeopardize the timely and successful completion (or delivery) of any commodity or contractual service. The Contractor will use commercially reasonable efforts to avoid or minimize any delays in performance and will inform the Department or the Customer of the steps the Contractor is taking or will take to do so, and the projected actual completion (or delivery) time. If the Contractor believes a delay in performance by the Department or the Customer has caused or will cause the Contractor to be unable to perform its obligations on time, the Contractor will promptly so notify the Department and use commercially reasonable efforts to perform its obligations on time notwithstanding the Department's delay.

11.3.2 Liquidated Damages.

The Contractor acknowledges that delayed performance will damage the Department/Customer, but by their nature such damages are difficult to ascertain. Accordingly, the liquidated damages provisions stated in the Contract documents will apply. Liquidated damages are not intended to be a penalty and are solely intended to compensate for damages.

11.4 Force Majeure, Notice of Delay, and No Damages for Delay.

The Contractor will not be responsible for delay resulting from its failure to perform if neither the fault nor the negligence of the Contractor or its employees or agents contributed to the delay, and the delay is due directly to fire, explosion, earthquake, windstorm, flood, radioactive or toxic chemical hazard, war, military hostilities, terrorism, civil emergency, embargo, riot, strike, violent civil unrest, or other similar cause wholly beyond the Contractor's reasonable control, or for any of the foregoing that affect subcontractors or suppliers if no alternate source of supply is available to the Contractor. The foregoing does not excuse delay which could have been avoided if the Contractor implemented any risk mitigation required by the Contract. In case of any delay the Contractor believes is excusable, the Contractor will notify the Department in writing of the delay or potential delay and describe the cause of the delay either (1) within ten (10) calendar days after the cause that created or will create the delay first arose, if the Contractor could reasonably foresee that a delay could occur as a result, or (2) if delay is not reasonably foreseeable, within five (5) calendar days after the date the Contractor first had reason to believe that a delay could result. The foregoing will constitute the Contractor's sole remedy or excuse with respect to delay. Providing notice in strict accordance with this paragraph is a condition precedent to such remedy. No claim for damages will be asserted by the Contractor. The Contractor will not be entitled to an increase in the Contract price or payment of any kind from the Department for direct, indirect, consequential, impact or other costs, expenses or damages, including but not limited to costs of acceleration or inefficiency, arising because of delay, disruption, interference, or hindrance from any cause whatsoever. If performance is suspended or delayed, in whole or in part, due to any of the causes described in this paragraph, after the causes have ceased to exist the Contractor will perform at no increased cost, unless the Department determines, in its sole discretion, that the delay will significantly impair the value of the Contract to the State of Florida or to Customers, in which case the Department may (1) accept allocated performance or deliveries from the Contractor, provided that the Contractor grants preferential treatment to Customers and the Department with respect to commodities or contractual services subjected to allocation, or (2) purchase from other sources (without recourse to and by the Contractor for the related costs and expenses) to replace all or part of the commodity or contractual services that are the subject of the delay, which purchases may be deducted from the Contract quantity, or (3) terminate the Contract in whole or in part.

SECTION 12. CONTRACT AUDITS.

12.1 Performance or Compliance Audits.

The Department may conduct or have conducted performance and/or compliance audits of the Contractor and subcontractors as determined by the Department. The Department may conduct an audit and review all the Contractor's and subcontractors' data and records that directly relate to the Contract. To the extent necessary to verify the Contractor's fees and claims for payment under the Contract, the Contractor's agreements or contracts with subcontractors, partners, or agents of the Contractor, pertaining to the Contract, may be inspected by the Department upon fifteen (15) calendar days' notice, during normal working hours and in accordance with the Contractor's facility access procedures where facility access is required. Release statements from its subcontractors, partners, or agents are not required for the Department or its designee to conduct compliance and performance audits on any of the Contractor's contracts relating to this Contract. The Inspector General, in accordance with section 5.6, the State of Florida's Chief Financial Officer, the Office of the Auditor General also have authority to perform audits and inspections.

12.2 Payment Audit.

Records of costs incurred under terms of the Contract will be maintained in accordance with section 8.3 of these Special Contract Conditions. Records of costs incurred will include the Contractor's general accounting records, together with supporting documents and records of the Contractor and all subcontractors performing work, and all other records of the Contractor and subcontractors considered necessary by the Department, the State of Florida's Chief Financial Officer, or the Office of the Auditor General.

SECTION 13. BACKGROUND SCREENING AND SECURITY.

13.1 Background Check.

The Department or Customer may require the Contractor to conduct background checks of its employees, agents, representatives, and subcontractors as directed by the Department or Customer. The cost of the background checks will be borne by the Contractor. The Department or Customer may require the Contractor to exclude the Contractor's employees, agents, representatives, or subcontractors based on the background check results. In addition, the Contractor must ensure that all persons have a responsibility to self-report to the Contractor within three (3) calendar days any arrest for any disqualifying offense. The Contractor must notify the Contract Manager within twenty-four (24) hours of all details concerning any reported arrest. Upon the request of the Department or Customer, the Contractor will re-screen any of its employees, agents, representatives, and subcontractors during the term of the Contract.

13.2 E-Verify.

The Contractor must use the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify system to verify the employment eligibility of all new employees hired during the term of the Contract for the services specified in the Contract. The Contractor must also include a requirement in subcontracts that the subcontractor must utilize the E-Verify system to verify the employment eligibility of all new employees hired by the subcontractor during the Contract term. In order to implement this provision, the Contractor must provide a copy of its DHS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to the Contract Manager within five (5) calendar days of Contract execution. If the Contractor is not enrolled in DHS E-Verify System, it will do so within five (5) calendar days of notice of Contract award and provide the Contract Manager a copy of its MOU within five (5) calendar days of Contract execution. The link to E-Verify is <https://www.uscis.gov/e-verify>. Upon each Contractor or subcontractor new hire, the Contractor must provide a statement within five (5) calendar days to the Contract Manager identifying the new hire with its E-Verify case number.

13.3 Disqualifying Offenses.

If at any time it is determined that a person has been found guilty of a misdemeanor or felony offense as a result of a trial or has entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, regardless of whether adjudication was withheld, within the last six (6) years from the date of the court's determination for the crimes listed below, or their equivalent in any jurisdiction, the Contractor is required to immediately remove that person from any position with access to State of Florida data or directly performing services under the Contract. The disqualifying offenses are as follows:

- (a) Computer related crimes;
- (b) Information technology crimes;

- (c) Fraudulent practices;
- (d) False pretenses;
- (e) Frauds;
- (f) Credit card crimes;
- (g) Forgery;
- (h) Counterfeiting;
- (i) Violations involving checks or drafts;
- (j) Misuse of medical or personnel records; and
- (k) Felony theft.

13.4 Confidentiality.

The Contractor must maintain confidentiality of all confidential data, files, and records related to the commodities or contractual services provided pursuant to the Contract and must comply with all state and federal laws, including, but not limited to sections 381.004, 384.29, 392.65, and 456.057, F.S. The Contractor's confidentiality procedures must be consistent with the most recent version of the Department security policies, protocols, and procedures. The Contractor must also comply with any applicable professional standards with respect to confidentiality of information.

SECTION 14. WARRANTY OF CONTRACTOR'S ABILITY TO PERFORM.

The Contractor warrants that, to the best of its knowledge, there is no pending or threatened action, proceeding, or investigation, or any other legal or financial condition, that would in any way prohibit, restrain, or diminish the Contractor's ability to satisfy its Contract obligations. The Contractor warrants that neither it nor any affiliate is currently on the Suspended Vendor List, Convicted Vendor List, or the Discriminatory Vendor List, or on any similar list maintained by any other state or the federal government. The Contractor shall immediately notify the Department in writing if its ability to perform is compromised in any manner during the term of the Contract.

State of Florida
PUR 1001
General Instructions to Respondents

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1. Definitions. The definitions found in s. 60A-1.001, F.A.C. shall apply to this agreement. The following additional terms are also defined:

- (a) "Buyer" means the entity that has released the solicitation. The "Buyer" may also be the "Customer" as defined in the PUR 1000 if that entity meets the definition of both terms.
- (b) "Procurement Officer" means the Buyer's contracting personnel, as identified in the Introductory Materials.
- (c) "Respondent" means the entity that submits materials to the Buyer in accordance with these Instructions.
- (d) "Response" means the material submitted by the respondent in answering the solicitation.
- (e) "Timeline" means the list of critical dates and actions included in the Introductory Materials.

2. **General Instructions.** Potential respondents to the solicitation are encouraged to carefully review all the materials contained herein and prepare responses accordingly.
3. **Electronic Submission of Responses.** Respondents are required to submit responses electronically. For this purpose, all references herein to signatures, signing requirements, or other required acknowledgments hereby include electronic signature by means of clicking the "Submit Response" button (or other similar symbol or process) attached to or logically associated with the response created by the respondent within MyFloridaMarketPlace. The respondent agrees that the action of electronically submitting its response constitutes:
 - an electronic signature on the response, generally,
 - an electronic signature on any form or section specifically calling for a signature, and
 - an affirmative agreement to any statement contained in the solicitation that requires a definite confirmation or acknowledgement.
4. **Terms and Conditions.** All responses are subject to the terms of the following sections of this solicitation, which, in case of conflict, shall have the order of precedence listed:
 - Technical Specifications,
 - Special Conditions and Instructions,
 - Instructions to Respondents (PUR 1001),
 - General Conditions (PUR 1000), and
 - Introductory Materials.

The Buyer objects to and shall not consider any additional terms or conditions submitted by a respondent, including any appearing in documents attached as part of a respondent's response. In submitting its response, a respondent agrees that any additional terms or conditions, whether submitted intentionally or inadvertently, shall have no force or effect. Failure to comply with terms and conditions, including those specifying information that must be submitted with a response, shall be grounds for rejecting a response.

5. **Questions.** Respondents shall address all questions regarding this solicitation to the Procurement Officer. Questions must be submitted via the Q&A Board within MyFloridaMarketPlace and must be RECEIVED NO LATER THAN the time and date reflected on the Timeline. Questions shall be answered in accordance with the Timeline. All questions submitted shall be published and answered in a manner that all respondents will be able to view. Respondents shall not contact any other employee of the Buyer or the State for information with respect to this solicitation. Each respondent is responsible for monitoring the MyFloridaMarketPlace site for new or changing information. The Buyer shall not be bound by any verbal information or by any written information that is not contained within

the solicitation documents or formally noticed and issued by the Buyer's contracting personnel. Questions to the Procurement Officer or to any Buyer personnel shall not constitute formal protest of the specifications or of the solicitation, a process addressed in paragraph 19 of these Instructions.

- 6. Conflict of Interest.** This solicitation is subject to chapter 112 of the Florida Statutes. Respondents shall disclose with their response the name of any officer, director, employee or other agent who is also an employee of the State. Respondents shall also disclose the name of any State employee who owns, directly or indirectly, an interest of five percent (5%) or more in the respondent or its affiliates.
- 7. Convicted Vendors.** A person or affiliate placed on the convicted vendor list following a conviction for a public entity crime is prohibited from doing any of the following for a period of 36 months from the date of being placed on the convicted vendor list:

 - submitting a bid on a contract to provide any goods or services to a public entity;
 - submitting a bid on a contract with a public entity for the construction or repair of a public building or public work;
 - submitting bids on leases of real property to a public entity;
 - being awarded or performing work as a contractor, supplier, subcontractor, or consultant under a contract with any public entity; and
 - transacting business with any public entity in excess of the Category Two threshold amount (\$25,000) provided in section 287.017 of the Florida Statutes.
- 8. Discriminatory Vendors.** An entity or affiliate placed on the discriminatory vendor list pursuant to section 287.134 of the Florida Statutes may not:

 - submit a bid on a contract to provide any goods or services to a public entity;
 - submit a bid on a contract with a public entity for the construction or repair of a public building or public work;
 - submit bids on leases of real property to a public entity;
 - be awarded or perform work as a contractor, supplier, sub-contractor, or consultant under a contract with any public entity; or
 - transact business with any public entity.
- 9. Respondent's Representation and Authorization.** In submitting a response, each respondent understands, represents, and acknowledges the following (if the respondent

cannot so certify to any of following, the respondent shall submit with its response a written explanation of why it cannot do so).

- The respondent is not currently under suspension or debarment by the State or any other governmental authority.
- To the best of the knowledge of the person signing the response, the respondent, its affiliates, subsidiaries, directors, officers, and employees are not currently under investigation by any governmental authority and have not in the last ten (10) years been convicted or found liable for any act prohibited by law in any jurisdiction, involving conspiracy or collusion with respect to bidding on any public contract.
- Respondent currently has no delinquent obligations to the State, including a claim by the State for liquidated damages under any other contract.
- The submission is made in good faith and not pursuant to any agreement or discussion with, or inducement from, any firm or person to submit a complementary or other noncompetitive response.
- The prices and amounts have been arrived at independently and without consultation, communication, or agreement with any other respondent or potential respondent; neither the prices nor amounts, actual or approximate, have been disclosed to any respondent or potential respondent, and they will not be disclosed before the solicitation opening.
- The respondent has fully informed the Buyer in writing of all convictions of the firm, its affiliates (as defined in section 287.133(1)(a) of the Florida Statutes), and all directors, officers, and employees of the firm and its affiliates for violation of state or federal antitrust laws with respect to a public contract for violation of any state or federal law involving fraud, bribery, collusion, conspiracy or material misrepresentation with respect to a public contract. This includes disclosure of the names of current employees who were convicted of contract crimes while in the employ of another company.
- Neither the respondent nor any person associated with it in the capacity of owner, partner, director, officer, principal, investigator, project director, manager, auditor, or position involving the administration of federal funds:
 - Has within the preceding three years been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them or is presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged for: commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a federal, state, or local government transaction or public contract; violation of federal or state antitrust statutes; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property; or
 - Has within a three-year period preceding this certification had one or more federal, state, or local government contracts terminated for cause or default.

- The product offered by the respondent will conform to the specifications without exception.
- The respondent has read and understands the Contract terms and conditions, and the submission is made in conformance with those terms and conditions.
- If an award is made to the respondent, the respondent agrees that it intends to be legally bound to the Contract that is formed with the State.
- The respondent has made a diligent inquiry of its employees and agents responsible for preparing, approving, or submitting the response, and has been advised by each of them that he or she has not participated in any communication, consultation, discussion, agreement, collusion, act or other conduct inconsistent with any of the statements and representations made in the response.
- The respondent shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Buyer and its employees against any cost, damage, or expense which may be incurred or be caused by any error in the respondent's preparation of its bid.
- All information provided by, and representations made by, the respondent are material and important and will be relied upon by the Buyer in awarding the Contract. Any misstatement shall be treated as fraudulent concealment from the Buyer of the true facts relating to submission of the bid. A misrepresentation shall be punishable under law, including, but not limited to, Chapter 817 of the Florida Statutes.

10. Manufacturer's Name and Approved Equivalents. Unless otherwise specified, any manufacturers' names, trade names, brand names, information or catalog numbers listed in a specification are descriptive, not restrictive. With the Buyer's prior approval, the Contractor may provide any product that meets or exceeds the applicable specifications. The Contractor shall demonstrate comparability, including appropriate catalog materials, literature, specifications, test data, etc. The Buyer shall determine in its sole discretion whether a product is acceptable as an equivalent.

11. Performance Qualifications. The Buyer reserves the right to investigate or inspect at any time whether the product, qualifications, or facilities offered by Respondent meet the Contract requirements. Respondent shall at all times during the Contract term remain responsive and responsible. In determining Respondent's responsibility as a vendor, the agency shall consider all information or evidence which is gathered or comes to the attention of the agency which demonstrates the Respondent's capability to fully satisfy the requirements of the solicitation and the contract.

Respondent must be prepared, if requested by the Buyer, to present evidence of experience, ability, and financial standing, as well as a statement as to plant, machinery, and capacity of the respondent for the production, distribution, and servicing of the product bid. If the Buyer determines that the conditions of the solicitation documents are not complied with, or that the

product proposed to be furnished does not meet the specified requirements, or that the qualifications, financial standing, or facilities are not satisfactory, or that performance is untimely, the Buyer may reject the response or terminate the Contract. Respondent may be disqualified from receiving awards if respondent, or anyone in respondent's employment, has previously failed to perform satisfactorily in connection with public bidding or contracts. This paragraph shall not mean or imply that it is obligatory upon the Buyer to make an investigation either before or after award of the Contract, but should the Buyer elect to do so, respondent is not relieved from fulfilling all Contract requirements.

- 12. Public Opening.** Responses shall be opened on the date and at the location indicated on the Timeline. Respondents may, but are not required to, attend. The Buyer may choose not to announce prices or release other materials pursuant to s. 119.071(1)(b), Florida Statutes. Any person requiring a special accommodation because of a disability should contact the Procurement Officer at least five (5) workdays prior to the solicitation opening. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Buyer by using the Florida Relay Service at (800) 955-8771 (TDD).
- 13. Electronic Posting of Notice of Intended Award.** Based on the evaluation, on the date indicated on the Timeline the Buyer shall electronically post a notice of intended award at http://www.myflorida.com/apps/vbs/vbs_main_menu. If the notice of award is delayed, in lieu of posting the notice of intended award the Buyer shall post a notice of the delay and a revised date for posting the notice of intended award. Any person who is adversely affected by the decision shall file with the Buyer a notice of protest within 72 hours after the electronic posting. The Buyer shall not provide tabulations or notices of award by telephone.
- 14. Firm Response.** The Buyer may make an award within sixty (60) days after the date of the opening, during which period responses shall remain firm and shall not be withdrawn. If award is not made within sixty (60) days, the response shall remain firm until either the Buyer awards the Contract or the Buyer receives from the respondent written notice that the response is withdrawn. Any response that expresses a shorter duration may, in the Buyer's sole discretion, be accepted or rejected.
- 15. Clarifications/Revisions.** Before award, the Buyer reserves the right to seek clarifications or request any information deemed necessary for proper evaluation of submissions from all respondents deemed eligible for Contract award. Failure to provide requested information may result in rejection of the response.
- 16. Minor Irregularities/Right to Reject.** The Buyer reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids, or separable portions thereof, and to waive any minor irregularity, technicality, or omission if the Buyer determines that doing so will serve the State's best interests. The Buyer may reject any response not submitted in the manner specified by the solicitation documents.
- 17. Contract Formation.** The Buyer shall issue a notice of award, if any, to successful respondent(s), however, no contract shall be formed between respondent and the Buyer until the Buyer signs the Contract. The Buyer shall not be liable for any costs incurred by a

respondent in preparing or producing its response or for any work performed before the Contract is effective.

18. Contract Overlap. Respondents shall identify any products covered by this solicitation that they are currently authorized to furnish under any state term contract. By entering into the Contract, a Contractor authorizes the Buyer to eliminate duplication between agreements in the manner the Buyer deems to be in its best interest.

19. Public Records. Article 1, section 24, Florida Constitution, guarantees every person access to all public records, and Section 119.011, Florida Statutes, provides a broad definition of public record. As such, all responses to a competitive solicitation are public records unless exempt by law. Any respondent claiming that its response contains information that is exempt from the public records law shall clearly segregate and mark that information and provide the specific statutory citation for such exemption.

20. Protests. Any protest concerning this solicitation shall be made in accordance with sections 120.57(3) and 287.042(2) of the Florida Statutes and chapter 28-110 of the Florida Administrative Code. Questions to the Procurement Officer shall not constitute formal notice of a protest. It is the Buyer's intent to ensure that specifications are written to obtain the best value for the State and that specifications are written to ensure competitiveness, fairness, necessity and reasonableness in the solicitation process.

Section 120.57(3)(b), F.S. and Section 28-110.003, Fla. Admin. Code require that a notice of protest of the solicitation documents shall be made within seventy-two hours after the posting of the solicitation.

Section 120.57(3)(a), F.S. requires the following statement to be included in the solicitation: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in section 120.57(3), Florida Statutes, shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under Chapter 120, Florida Statutes."

Section 28-110.005, Fla. Admin. Code requires the following statement to be included in the solicitation: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Section 120.57(3), Florida Statutes, or failure to post the bond or other security required by law within the time allowed for filing a bond shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under Chapter 120, Florida Statutes."

21. Limitation on Vendor Contact with Agency During Solicitation Period. Respondents to this solicitation or persons acting on their behalf may not contact, between the release of the solicitation and the end of the 72-hour period following the agency posting the notice of intended award, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and state holidays, any employee or officer of the executive or legislative branch concerning any aspect of this solicitation, except in writing to the procurement officer or as provided in the solicitation documents. Violation of this provision may be grounds for rejecting a response.