

EXHIBIT A
REQUIREMENTS

HIDALGO COUNTY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
"TITLE COMPANY SERVICES"

RFP NO: 2009-407-11-18-otm

Hidalgo County is requesting sealed proposals from qualified and interested "Title Companies" in order to award to one or more "Title Company Services Providers/Firms" for the purposes of providing and rendering title policy related services on an "As Needed/Non Exclusive Basis" for a period of one (1) year period commencing November 28, 2009, with the County's sole discretion to extend the contract for an additional one (1) year under the same rates/fees, terms and conditions. Hidalgo County reserves the right to continue this bid for an additional sixty (60) day grace period at the end of the contract for unforeseen delay in the award of new bid for the next contract term.

Sealed proposals will be accepted until **9:30 A.M., Wednesday, November 18, 2009. ANY RFP RECEIVED AFTER THAT DATE AND TIME WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AND WILL BE RETURNED UNOPENED.**

Deliver Submittal to:

RFP NO: 2009-407-11-18-otm

US Postal Mail address:

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
Administration Building
2812 S. Business Hwy. 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539

Physical Address:

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
Administration Building
2802 S. Business Hwy. 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539

The Submittal Envelope Must Show the RFP Number, Name and Acceptance Date.

The following outlines the Request For Proposal/Qualifications:

SECTION I GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Hidalgo County requires that "Request For Proposals" be routed to Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent, at:

US Postal Mail address:

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
Administration Building
2812 S. Business Hwy. 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539

Physical Address:

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
Administration Building
2802 S. Business Hwy. 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539

WRITTEN QUESTIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED VIA FACSIMIL NO LATER THAN Wednesday, November 4, 2009 at 5:00 P.M. at (956) 292-7612, and/or BY EMAIL AT: olga.montero@co.hidalgo.tx.us . Responses will be sent to all applicants via facsimile by Friday, November 6, 2009. TELEPHONE INQUIRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Effective January 1, 2006, Chapter 176 of the Texas Local Government Code requires that any vendor, person, consultant or contractor considering doing business with Hidalgo County (“the County”) to disclose in the Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (the “CIQ”) attached as **Exhibit D**, the vendor, person consultant or contractor’s affiliation or business relationship that might cause a conflict of interest with the County. By law, the CIQ must be filed with the Hidalgo County Clerk’s Office no later than the seventh business day after the date the person becomes aware of facts that require that statement to be filed. The disclosure requirement applies to a person or business who contract or seeks to contract with Hidalgo County for the sale or purchase of property, goods or service. Any purchase order or contract resulting from this process shall be considered null and void if the successful bidder fails to comply with Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176. Vendors, consultants, contractors and others who desire to conduct business with Hidalgo County are encouraged to refer to Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176 for the details of this law. An offense under Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176 is a Class C Misdemeanor.

Please submit complete CIQ forms to the Hidalgo County Clerk’s Office located at 100 No. Clossner, Edinburg, Texas 78539-Hidalgo County Courthouse **COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION OF FORM CIO IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROSPECTIVE BIDDER.**

PROPOSER’S AFFIDAVIT:

Prior Contract award, respondents to this RFP must submit a signed Proposer's Affidavit (attached herein in **Exhibit E**) certifying that the submission is (1) not the result of Collusion as described in the Proposer's Affidavit, (2) that the Respondent does not have a Conflict of Interest as described in the Proposer's, affidavit or that the Respondent has not and will not attempt to lobby directly or indirectly as described in the Proposer's Affidavit.

NON-DISCRIMINATION:

Submitters, during the performance of this contract, will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, sex, national origin or disability except where religion, sex, national origin or disability is a bona fide occupational qualification reasonably necessary to the normal operation of the contractor.

PROCESSING TIME FOR PAYMENT:

Submitters are advised that a minimum of thirty (30) days is required to process invoices for payment.

ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF PROPOSALS:

Hidalgo County's Purchasing Department will not accept telegraphic or electronically transmitted submissions.

PROOF OF FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS CAPABILITY:

Submitters must, upon request, furnish satisfactory evidence of their ability to furnish products or services in accordance with the terms and conditions of these requirements. Hidalgo County will make the final determination as to the submitter's ability.

SUBMITTER DEFAULT:

Hidalgo County reserves the right, in case of submitter default, to procure the articles or services from other sources and hold the defaulting submitter responsible for any excess costs occasioned thereby.

RESTRICTIVE OR AMBIGUOUS REQUIREMENTS:

It is the responsibility of the submitter to review the Request for Proposal (RFP) packet and to notify the Purchasing Department if the requirements are formulated in a manner that would unnecessarily restrict competition. Any such protest or question regarding the requirements or bidding procedures must be received in the Purchasing Department not less than seventy-two hours prior to the time set for the opening. These criteria also apply to requirements that are ambiguous.

HAND DELIVERED PROPOSALS:

Hidalgo County requires submitters, when hand delivering the RFP, to make sure that it is stamped with date and time by the County Purchasing staff.

SIGNING OF PROPOSALS:

In order to be considered all submittals **must** be signed. **Please sign the original in blue ink.**

WAIVING OF INFORMALITIES:

Hidalgo County reserves the right to waive minor informalities or technicalities when it is in the best interest of Hidalgo County.

SUBCONTRACTING: The successful submitter may not subcontract the award without the written consent of the Commissioners' Court of Hidalgo County.

TERM OF CONTRACT:

Contract will be for a one (1) year period commencing November 28, 2009, with the County's sole discretion to extend the contract for an additional one (1) year under the same rates/fees, terms and conditions. Hidalgo County reserves the right to continue this bid for an additional sixty (60) day grace period at the end of the contract for unforeseen delay in the award of new bid for the next contract term.

DAVIS BACON ACT:

All selected and awarded firms are required to include the Davis-Bacon Act when advertising and developing specifications.

SECTION II RFP REQUIREMENTS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL:

The required contents and limitations for the preparation of the RFP are described in this section. Failure to provide the requested information or adhere to any County limitations will result in disqualification of the submitted RFP. A total of **one (1) original and seven (7) copies** of the RFP shall be submitted to the address on the cover letter.

PURPOSE:

Hidalgo County is requesting Proposals from interested firms/companies with proper licenses, certifications and experience in providing the requested information in order to award to one or more Title Companies to provide title company related services on an “As Needed/Non-Exclusive/Purchase Order Basis”. The title company related services extend on an “As Needed/Non-Exclusive Basis” to all Hidalgo County Elected Offices, Departments, Programs, Agencies through their funding sources.

CONTENTS:

The required contents for the RFP are presented below in the order they should be incorporated into the submitted document.

QUALIFICATIONS-REQUIREMENTS-SCOPE OF SERVICES:

I. MINIMUM FIRM QUALIFICATIONS:

- (a) The firm must possess a current license from the Texas Board of Insurance
- (b) The firm or vendor selected is to have adequate experience and staff, such as, but not limited to:
 - Title Examiners
 - Closing Officers
 - Escrow Agents
- (c) The provider should have experience with State (i.e. TxDOT), County and other governmental entities as well as private sector firms.

II. REQUIREMENTS:

Each proposal must address, but may not be limited, to the following issues:

- (a) Firm Name;
- (b) Name, position, phone and fax number of Point of Contact (POC);
- (c) Name of Principal/Owner and number of years in business;
- (d) Provide the number of staff members available in order to render (but not limited to) all the services described and listed herein;
- (e) List three (3) governmental projects with names, addresses and phone number of representatives who can be contacted for references;
- (f) Detail how your firm/company has the capability to deliver the services required on a timely basis;
 - State in how many business days your company can return a “Title Report” after a “Request, i.e. Purchase Order” is received by your firm.
 - State your firm’s/company’s agreement to comply or exceed the timeline of seven (7) to ten (10) days to issue a “Title Commitment(s)”.
 - Provide a copy of “Texas Title Insurance Premium Rates”.
 - State how many business days your company can complete “Escrow Agent” services (if requested by County) and include the applicable rates for those services.
 - State how many personnel or staff will be assigned and committed to render the services required.
 - State in detail what “other services” are not included in the rates provided.

III. SCOPE OF TITLE COMPANY SERVICES INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:

- (a) Title Reports
- (b) Title Searches, i.e., Title Certificates
- (c) Title Commitments
- (d) Title Policy*
- (e) Escrow Agent Services when requested by the County

*** In the event that a Title Commitment is requested and no title policy is necessary or purchased, Hidalgo County will pay a maximum of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for the services.**

IV. REQUEST FOR SERVICES:

A department requiring Title Company Services will follow the established and approved requisition and Purchase Order policies and procedures utilizing the company/companies, firm/firms awarded by Commissioner's Court for the provision of said services.

~~In the event a situation arises that requires an urgent timeline, a department (i.e. elected office, program or agency) may elect to use the awarded provider that commits (in a documented fashion- i.e. in writing or e-mail) to meet or exceed that timeframe.~~

V. INVOLUNTARY TERMINATION

The qualified vendor(s) awarded to perform work for the County under this RFP shall be deemed to be terminated upon occurrence of any of the following:

- The death of the vendor, if an individual, or the primary professional member, if a firm or entity
- The suspension, revocation or cancellation of the vendor's right to practice this profession in the State of Texas
- The imposition of any restriction or limitations by any Governmental authority having jurisdiction over the vendor to such an extent that the vendor cannot engage in the professional practice for which vendor is pre-qualified.
- The failure or refusal of the vendor to comply with the reasonable policies, standards and regulations are not contrary to any law or regulatory directive or
- The conduct of the vendor in any unprofessional, unethical or fraudulent manner; a finding of unprofessional or unethical conduct by any board, institution, organization or professional society having any privilege or right to pass upon the conduct of the vendor, or conduct of the vendor which discredits Hidalgo County.

TERM:

Contract will be for a one (1) year period commencing November 28, 2009, with the County's sole discretion to extend the contract for an additional one (1) year under the same rates/fees, terms and conditions. Hidalgo County reserves the right to continue this bid for an additional sixty (60) day grace period at the end of the contract for unforeseen delay in the award of new bid for the next contract term.

NUMBER OF COPIES TO BE SUBMITTED:

Hidalgo County requires **one (1) original submittal and seven (7) copies.**

PROPOSERS ARE TO PROVIDE A FEE SCHEDULE WITH THIS SUBMITTAL:

Proposer is to provide a fee proposal with qualifications based on the scope of work and services.

SECTION III: SELECTION AND AWARD

Hidalgo County Commissioner’s Court may score, grade and evaluate the submitted proposals or elect to designate, assign and appoint a committee to do so. Commissioners Court or the Committee will base the grading, scoring and evaluation on the “Criteria” set forth herein. Those firms/vendors/companies scoring a minimum of _____ points will be eligible for Commissioners Court to award to one or multiple vendors/firms/companies to provide the services detailed in this procurement if it is in it’s best interest to do so.

SECTION IV: EVALUATION (GRADING, SCORING) CRITERIA:

GRADING AND SCORING POINT SYSTEM:

- A. **FIRM’S STAFFING AND EXPERIENCE - 20 POINTS**
- B. **FIRM’S CAPABILITY TO PERFORM ALL THE SERVICES REQUIRED FOR THE NOTED PROJECTS- 45 POINTS**
- C. **EXPERIENCE WITH POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS/GOVERNMENT AGENCIES- 15 POINTS**
- D. **COST OF SERVICES REQUESTED HEREIN – (10 points)**
- E. **COST OF “OTHER SERVICES” PROPOSED – (10 points)**

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS = 100

PROPOSAL WITH QUALIFICATION SUBMITTED TO: An original and seven (7) copies of RFPs should be submitted to:

<p><u>US Postal Mail address:</u> Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent Hidalgo County Purchasing Department Administration Building 2812 S. Business Hwy. 281 Edinburg, Texas 78539</p>	<p><u>Physical Address:</u> Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent Hidalgo County Purchasing Department Administration Building 2802 S. Business Hwy. 281 Edinburg, Texas 78539</p>
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RFPs must be submitted by **no later than 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 18, 2009.**