

EXHIBIT A

REQUIREMENTS

HIDALGO COUNTY

(INCLUDING ALL FUNDING SOURCES, PROGRAMS, AND ENTITIES)

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

“CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS TESTING SERVICES”

2010-014-01-13-YZV

The County of Hidalgo will be accepting Statements of Qualifications from qualified State of Texas Professional Independent Testing Laboratories in order to establish a pre-qualified pool of Independent Testing Laboratories on an "As Needed Basis" per project by all County Departments and/or applicable Programs requiring said services as set forth in the requirements. Upon approval and acceptance by Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court, the term of the pre-qualified pool of Independent Testing Laboratories will be for a period starting February 9, 2010 and ending February 9, 2011. The Hidalgo County Purchasing Department will receive sealed envelopes containing Statements of Qualifications for the provision of "Hidalgo County-Construction Materials Testing Services" (including all funding sources, Programs, and Entities)-Request For Qualifications" as specified herein. Statements of Qualifications will be accepted until 9:30 A.M., Wednesday, January 13, 2010. **ANY RFQ RECEIVED AFTER THAT TIME WILL NOT BE OPENED AND WILL BE RETURNED.**

Deliver Submittal to:
RFQ Number: 2010-014-01-13-YZV

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 RFQ Number, Name And Opening Date.

The following outlines the Request For Qualifications:

SECTION I - GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Hidalgo County is requesting that statements of qualifications 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 FACSIMILE NO LATER THAN Wednesday, December 30, 2009 at 5:00 P.M. at (956) 318-2629. Responses will be sent to all applicants via facsimile by Monday, January 4, 2010. **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 of 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 Vendors, consultants, contractors and others who desire to conduct business with Hidalgo County are encourage 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 N. Closner, Edinburg, TX 78539-Hidalgo County Courthouse. **COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION OF FORM CIQ IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROSPECTIVE BIDDER.**

PROPOSER'S AFFIDAVIT:

Respondents to this RFQ must submit a signed Proposer's Affidavit (attached herein in Exhibit E) certainly 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 RFQ's:

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 vendor'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 Qualifications (RFQ) 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 request for qualifications 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.

RFQ DELIVERY:

Hidalgo County requires submitters, when hand delivering statements of qualifications, to have a Purchasing Department representative time/date stamp and initial the envelope when dropping RFQ off.

SIGNING OF QUALIFICATIONS:

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 POOL:

The pool term is for a period of one (1) year, or upon completion of project(s) unless project specific for more than one (1) year.

DAVIS BACON ACT:

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

SECTION II - RFQ REQUIREMENTS

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS:

The required contents and limitations for the preparation of the RFQ are described in this section. Failure to provide the requested information or adhere to any County limitations will result in disqualification of the submitted RFQ. A total of **one (1) original and seven (7) copies** of the RFQ and two (2) CDs in PDF Format shall be submitted to the address on the cover letter.

UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROJECT:

This section should demonstrate the submitter's understanding of the project needs, the work required, and any local issues or concerns. This description should be concise, candid, and limited to 3 pages in length.

FIRM QUALIFICATIONS:

The County of Hidalgo is seeking to contract with a competent independent material testing laboratory, registered and licensed to practice in the State of Texas that has had experience in, but not limited to, the following areas:

- Roadway Material Production and Construction Inspection Testing
- Inspection of Hot Mix and Concrete Plants
- Drilling and Logging of Soil Borings
- Acquisition and Testing of Samples of Existing Soils for the Planning, Design and Construction of Transporting Facilities

- Roadway Construction Project located in Hidalgo County
- TxDOT Certification

Additionally, this section should include a description of the firm’s project personnel and their most recent similar projects. **A list of ongoing projects similar in scope under TxDOT procurement basis shall be included in an appendix.** For each project, a client contract name and phone number should be included for reference purposes. Additionally, the names of the personnel proposed for this project who participated in the listed projects should be provided. This project list is limited to five (5) pages.

PERSONNEL AND STAFFING:

The firm should provide an organizational chart for the project and a summary paragraph of the project work to be performed by each proposed staff member. Biographic summaries that highlight the experience relevant to the specific project responsibilities should be provided for all proposed personnel. There is a one (1) page limitation for each biographic summary provided.

REQUIRED CERTIFICATIONS AND SUBMITTAL:

This section will contain any licenses and certifications as required by HIDALGO COUNTY, the STATE OF TEXAS, TxDOT, etc. The independent Testing Laboratories should add copies of their Professional Liability Insurance.

SCOPE OF SERVICES:

The construction materials testing services contract will encompass all project-related testing services to the County of Hidalgo including, but not limited to, the following:

Hidalgo County is inviting qualifications from qualified Independent Testing Laboratories to provide construction materials testing services for the “Projects”. **Name additional testing services that are sublet to other consulting firms.**

Minimum Qualifications for Independent Testing Laboratories include, but may not be limited to the following:

- a. Ability to perform Geotechnical Testing/ Investigation/ Drilling
- b. Ability to perform Environmental Services
- c. Ability to perform Soil Density Testing
- d. Ability to perform Surveying and Sampling Soils
- e. Ability to perform Materials Testing (Asphaltic and Concrete)
- f. Ability to perform Material Testing and Laboratory Analysis
- g. Ability to perform Hot Mix Plant Inspections and Testing
- h. Ability to perform Transportation Foundation Studies
- i. Ability to perform Building Foundation Studies
- j. Ability to perform Professional Liability Insurance for \$1 Million Dollars without limiting liability to Professional Fees
- k. Average response time from your office to the job site

PARTICIPATING FIRMS ARE NOT TO PROVIDE A FEE PROPOSAL WITH THIS SUBMITTAL:

The fee will be negotiated in accordance with the Professional Services Procurement Act, Tex. Govt. Code Ann. 2254.001, et seq. Once selected, proposer is to provide a fee proposal for the following scope of work.

NUMBER OF COPIES TO BE SUBMITTED: Hidalgo County requires **one (1) original submittal, seven (7) copies and two (2) CD'S in PDF Format.**

PART III - SELECTION / EVALUATION

SELECTION/EVALUATION PROCESS:

The evaluation system consists of a 100-point system. The firms will be ranked after evaluation on a per project basis upon approval of roster by Hidalgo County Commissioner's Court. Categories under the 100-point system include response to RFQ. RFQ submittal evaluation will be based on the criteria outlined below, and will be scored on the scales shown on the enclosed "RFQ Evaluation Form."

1. **STAFFING OF PROJECT TEAM**

The firms should provide information on their proposed professional team members, i.e. applicable certifications/registrations and other pertinent information that demonstrates their qualifications to perform the contract. The professional team members shall have experience in performing similar contracts for counties, cities, irrigation districts, TX DOT or other clients as stated in the Request For Qualifications (RFQ). Similar experience gained through other clients should be substantiated by reference. A list of, and scope of, the various projects, for comparative purposes, shall be included in an appendix. **Indicate the number of engineers on your staff. A list of ongoing project similar in scope under TxDot procurement basis shall be included in an appendix.**

2. **EXPERIENCE OF PROJECT TEAM/ABILITY TO COMMIT RESOURCES**

The provider shall designate experienced independent testing laboratory staff to completely and efficiently perform the work. The designated individuals (Project Manager and Key Personnel) may not be replaced during the project unless approved by the County. The proposal shall identify the project team composition, project leadership, reporting responsibilities and address how sub providers, if any, will fit into the management structure. Resumes of the key technical staff members, limited to two (2) pages per person must be included in an appendix, as well as narrative descriptions of projects proposed as similar work experience. Also, in this selection, outline the firm's contingency plans for servicing the project in the event that one or more key personnel are not available for any reason during the period of performance.

3. **METHODOLOGY**

The RFQ should provide a description of the firm's approach to the methodology and management to the scope of services for the project.

4. **UNDERSTANDING OF PROJECT/SIMILAR PROJECTS**

The proposal shall include the following:

- * demonstrate an understanding of the scope of services
- * address appropriate Federal/State/Local regulations and policies
- * identify information to be gathered or obtained

The firms should provide as much background information as to it's experience in providing similar services to State, City, County or any other governmental agencies. Reference information should be as current as possible, especially contact persons and telephone numbers.

5. FAMILIARITY WITH APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS (10)

The RFQ should indicate through past experience of the proposed Team that they possess sufficient knowledge of governmental regulations, appropriate codes, guidelines, professional standards and policies (as required)

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS GRADING AND RANKING:

Once a Project has been identified and it is determined that Construction Materials Testing Services are required, approval to seek engagement for professional services is sought from Hidalgo County Commissioners Court. The following protocol and procedures are utilized;

1. Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court and/or the User Department in need of Construction Materials Testing Services will nominate (at the minimum) three (3) firms from Hidalgo County's approved pool of firms;
2. Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court and/or an Evaluation Committee (selected and/or designated by County Commissioner's Court) will review, score, and evaluate the proposals received in response to this Hidalgo County Request for Proposals;
3. A grid of the scores will be presented to Commissioners' Court for the purpose of ranking and approval for the Purchasing Department to enter into negotiations with the number one (1) ranked firm;

NEGOTIATION PROCESS:

Negotiations will commence with Commissioners' Court approved number one ranked firm;

1. Firms will be asked to submit (as part of those negotiations) Attachment "A" including fees;
2. The negotiated contract including best and final offer with the successful firm will be presented to Commissioners' Court (including compliance with all requirements as well as insurances) for consideration and final approval.
3. If negotiations with the number one (1) ranked firm fail, the Purchasing Department will recommend to Commissioners' Court that negotiations cease with the number one (1) ranked firm and commence to negotiate with the next highest ranked firm;

RFQ SUBMITTED TO: One (1) original, seven (7) copies, and two (2) CD's in PDF Format of RFQs should be submitted to:

US Postal Mail Address:

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Edinburg, Texas 78539

RFQs must be submitted by **no later than 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 13, 2010.** All costs and expenses associated with the preparation and submission of (rfq's, bids, proposals and/or quotes) shall be the responsibility of the participant and no reimbursement for such charges or expenses shall be passed onto Hidalgo County.

EXHIBIT B

EVALUATION CRITERIA

**HIDALGO COUNTY
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

**“CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS TESTING
SERVICES”**

2010-014-01-13-YZV

EVALUATION CRITERIA
Hidalgo County
Exhibit "B"
Construction Material Testing Services
RFQ No 2010-014-01-13-YZV

The respondent's RFQ will be evaluated based on the criteria presented below. These criteria will be scored on the scales shown on the enclosed "RFQ Evaluation Form."

1. STAFFING OF PROJECT TEAM (20)

The firms should provide information on their proposed professional team members, i.e. applicable certifications/registrations and other pertinent information that demonstrates their qualifications to perform the contract. The professional team members shall have experience in performing similar contracts for counties, cities, irrigation districts, TX DOT or other clients as stated in the Request For Qualifications (RFQ). Similar experience gained through other clients should be substantiated by reference. A list of, and scope of, the various projects, for comparative purposes, shall be included in an appendix.

2. EXPERIENCE OF PROJECT TEAM/ABILITY TO COMMIT RESOURCES (25)

The provider shall designate experienced engineering staff to completely and efficiently perform the work. The designated individuals may not be replaced during the project unless approved by the County. The proposal shall identify the project team composition, project leadership, reporting responsibilities and address how sub-providers, if any, will fit into the management structure. Résumés of the key technical staff members, limited to two (2) pages per person, must be included in an appendix, as well as narrative descriptions of projects proposed as similar work experience. Also, in this section, outline the firm's contingency plans for servicing the project in the event that one or more key personnel are not available for any reason during the period of performance.

3. METHODOLOGY (20)

The RFQ should provide a description of the firm's approach to the methodology and management to the scope of services for the project.

4. UNDERSTANDING OF PROJECT/SIMILAR PROJECTS (25)

The proposal shall include the following:

- * demonstrate an understanding of the scope of services
- * address appropriate Federal/State/Local regulations and policies
- * identify information to be gathered or obtained

The firms should provide as much background information as to its experience in providing similar services to State, City, County or any other governmental agencies. Reference information should be as current as possible, especially contact persons and telephone numbers.

5. FAMILIARITY WITH APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS (10)

The RFQ should indicate through past experience of the proposed Team that they possess sufficient knowledge of governmental regulations, appropriate codes, guidelines, professional standards and policies (as required)

HIDALGO COUNTY
"CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS TESTING SERVICES"
RFQ No. 2010-014-01-13-YZV-YZV

RFQ EVALUATION FORM

<u>Selection Criteria</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Score</u>
1. Staffing of Project Team Comments/Rationale For Points: _____ _____ _____	20	_____
2. Experience of Project Team/Ability to Commit Resources Comments/Rationale For Points: _____ _____ _____	25	_____
3. Methodology Comments/Rationale For Points: _____ _____ _____	20	_____
4. Understanding of Project/Similar Projects Comments/Rationale For Points: _____ _____ _____	25	_____
5. Familiarity with Applicable Rules and Regulations	10	_____

Total Score _____

Provider: _____

Evaluator: _____ Date: _____