

EXHIBIT A

REQUIREMENTS

HIDALGO COUNTY

(Including all funding sources, programs, and entities)

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

PROFESSIONAL ARCHITECTURAL POOL

RFQ No. 2010-015-01-13-MEG

The County of Hidalgo will be accepting Statements of Qualifications from qualified State of Texas registered Professional Architectural firms in order to establish a pre-qualified pool of Architects 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 Architects 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 "Professional Architectural Pool-Hidalgo County" (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: 2010-015-01-13-MEG

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/Packet 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 to (956)292-7612 or via e-mail to elena.gomez@co.hidalgo.tx.us **BY NO LATER THAN** Wednesday, December 30, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. Responses will be sent to all applicants by Monday, January 4th, 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 of 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 D) 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 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 architectural firm(s), registered and licensed to practice in the State of Texas that has had experience in, but not limited to, the following areas:

- General Design and Construction
- Federal, State and County-funded construction projects
- Projects located in this general region of the state

Additionally, this section should include a description of the firm's project personnel and their most recent (and varied) projects. 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 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 AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, etc. The architectural firm(s) should add copies of their current insurance.

SCOPE OF SERVICES: The architectural services contract will encompass all project-related architectural services to the County of Hidalgo including, but not limited to, the following:

- A.
 - Building Design
 - Plans, drawings and specifications
 - Preparation of the Bid Packet

- B.
 - Construction Contract Management
 - Conduct all Field Testing and Inspections
 - Design for New Construction
 - Design for Alterations/Renovations
 - Needs Assessment
 - ADA Compliance
 - Code Analysis
 - Cost Estimating

Additionally, this section should include, but not be restricted to the following information:

- A. Firm name, address, phone number and person to contact regarding the Statement of Qualification.

- B. Qualifications and recent experience of the firm and key personnel relative to the performance of similar services for public entities. This should also include the following information:
 - 1. Copy of current license certification with state seal
 - 2. History of architectural certification from the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners.
 - 3. General list of construction projects within the past year.

- C. List of in-State references including the name, address and phone number of the person most closely associated with the firm's prior project performance.

- D. Ability to commence services immediately after successfully negotiating a contract for services.

- E. Familiarity with the geographical area.

- E. Statement regarding an Affirmative Action Program.

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 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. Professional Qualifications of Team (25)

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 various types of contracts for counties, cities, or other clients as stated in the Request For Qualifications (RFQ). Varied 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.

Minimum Qualifications - One (1) A.I.A. with educational background or strong experience in, but not limited to, General Building Design and Construction; structural planning and design; needs assessment; interior design; etc..

Preferred Qualifications - One (1) A.I.A. with educational background and strong experience in, but not limited to, General Building Design and Construction; structural design; needs assessment; interior design; etc., who has designed and constructed various projects in the area.

2. Experience of Project Team/Ability to Commit Resources (25)

In addition to the Project Manager and the Professional Team Member(s), the provider shall designate experienced technical staff to completely and efficiently perform the work, either through their own personnel, sub-providers or commitment to hire additional staff. The proposal shall identify the project team composition, project leadership, reporting responsibilities and address how sub-providers will fit into the management structure. Resumés 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 various projects proposed as similar work experience.

Minimum Qualifications - One technical staff member shall have five (5) years experience working on various projects.

Preferred Qualifications - One technical staff member shall have ten (10) years experience working on various projects in the area.

3. Experience/Availability of Project Manager (20)

The Project Manager must be an AIA, have adequate experience in managing varied projects of a similar nature and scope and shall be a professional Architect registered in the State of Texas; the project manager's resume must be included in an appendix. Scope of relative projects must be included as well.

In the following criteria for minimum and preferred qualifications, one year, two years, etc. experience need not consist of continuous work but may be made up of discontinuous periods of full-time work adding up to the equivalent years of full-time experience.

Minimum Qualifications - The project manager must have managed two (2) different types of projects and must be personally involved with 50% of the technical development of the projects.

Preferred Qualifications - The project manager must have managed five (5) different types of projects; plus be 85-100% personally involved with the technical development of the projects.

4. Understanding of Project (20)

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

Minimum Qualifications - The RFQ must address knowledge and experience of working with multiple entities, such as counties, cities, etc..

Preferred Qualifications - The RFQ must address the proposed approach to complete the scope and identify information to be gathered or obtained and how it will be used in addition to the minimum qualifications.

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).

Minimum Qualifications - The RFQ must contain a narrative that outlines applicable regulations, guidelines, standards and policies.

Preferred Qualifications - Suitable examples of previous projects completed in the area by the Project Manager, in addition to the minimum qualifications.

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS GRADING AND RANKING:

Once a Project has been identified and it is determined that Architectural 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 Architecture 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) a "scope of service" 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;

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The Submittal Envelope/Packet Must Show The RFQ Number, Participate Name And Opening Date.

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
SELECTION CRITERIA
HIDALGO COUNTY
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES

(Including all funding sources, Programs, and Entities)

RFQ No. 2010-015-01-13-MEG

EVALUATION CRITERIA
Hidalgo County
EXHIBIT "B"
PROFESSIONAL ARCHITECTURAL POOL
RFQ No. 2010-015-01-13-MEG

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. Professional Qualifications of Firm (25)

The firms should provide information on their proposed professional Firm 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 various types of contracts for counties, cities, or other clients as stated in the Request For Qualifications (RFQ). Varied 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.

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5. Familiarity with Applicable Rules and Regulations (10)

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

Minimum Qualifications - The RFQ must contain a narrative that outlines applicable regulations, guidelines, standards and policies.

Preferred Qualifications - Suitable examples of previous projects completed in the area by the Project Manager, in addition to the minimum qualifications.

Hidalgo County
PROFESSIONAL ARCHITECTURAL POOL
RFQ No. 2010-015-01-13-MEG
RFQ EVALUATION FORM

<u>Selection Criteria</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Score</u>
1. Firm's Qualifications (25 pts)		
➤ Registered and licenses to practice in the State of Texas (i.e. certifications/registrations and other pertinent information that demonstrates their qualifications to perform the contract)	10	
➤ Provide information on proposed professional Firm experience	5	
➤ One (1) A.I.A educational background (in General Building Design & Construction, (plans, drawings & specifications, structural planning & design in various projects in the area).	10	
Comments/Rationale For Points:		TOTAL
2. Firm's Experience of Project (25 pts)		
➤ Designate management structure with Resumes of the key technical staff members in an appendix form	5	
➤ Identifying the project composition, project leadership, reporting responsibilities	10	
➤ One technical staff member with five (5) years experience	5	
➤ One technical staff member with ten (10) years experience	5	
Comments/Rationale For Points:		TOTAL
3. Availability & Experience of Project Manager (20 pts)		
➤ The Project Manager must be an AIA with adequate experience in similar nature and scope	5	
➤ Must be a Professional Architect registered in the State of Texas and must be included in Appendix	5	
➤ Project Manager must have five (5) types of projects plus be 85-100 % involvement with technical development of project	10	
Comments/Rationale For Points:		TOTAL
4. Understanding of Project (20 pts)		
➤ Demonstrate and understanding of the scope of services	5	
➤ Address appropriate Federal/ State/ Local regulations and policies	5	
➤ Identify information to be gathered or obtained/proposed approach to complete the scope	5	
➤ Knowledge and experience of working with multiple entities, counties, cities, etc.	5	
Comments/Rationale For Points:		TOTAL
5. Familiarity with Applicable Rules and Regulations (10 pts)		
➤ Indicate passed experience of the proposed Firm knowledge of governmental regulations, appropriate codes, guidelines, professional standards and policies	5	
➤ Must contain a narrative that outlines applicable regulations, guideline, standards, and policies	5	
Comments/Rationale For Points:		TOTAL
Total Score		

Provider: _____

Evaluator: _____ Date: _____