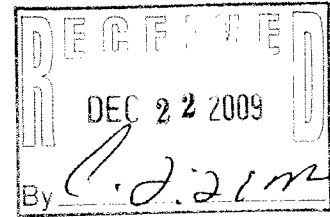


MEMORANDUM

To: Anacleto Martinez, Chief Deputy
Attn: Juan Tapia, Procurement Specialist
Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office



From: Elena Gomez, Buyer *h*
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department

Date: December 18, 2009

Re: Bid No: 2010-029-00-00-MEG Approval of Specifications for Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office for "DNA TESTING LAB SERVICES"

Please review the following **SPECIFICATIONS** and indicate if they meet all your requirements by marking **APPROVE** (or) **DISAPPROVE** and signing below. If you mark **DISAPPROVE**, please make any and all modifications necessary to the specifications and fax back the revised copy to the designated Buyer in the Purchasing Department.

If you have any questions, please call me at (956) 318-2626 ext# 4855.

APPROVE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DISAPPROVE <input type="checkbox"/>
APPROVED WITH MODIFICATIONS <input type="checkbox"/>	

FUNDS AVAILABILITY: YES / NO / Other

(Specify) _____

BUDGET ACCOUNT #: 9-1100-421-00-280-001-0-339

[Signature] A. "Sonny" Martinez 12-22-09
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE PRINTED NAME DATE

SUBMIT THIS FORM TO THE HIDALGO COUNTY PURCHASING DEPARTMENT, VIA FAX TO (956) 292-7612 or e-mail: elena.gomez@co.hidalgo.tx.us by no later than Monday December 21, 2009, at 5:00p.m.

Enclosures

REQUEST FOR BIDS

HIDALGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Request for Bids "DNA Testing Lab Services"

Bid No: 2009-460-02-03-MEG

BID OPENING DATE:

February 03, 2010

Contact Person:

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent

Hidalgo County Purchasing Department

Physical location: 2802 S. Business Highway 281

Postal/Mailing: 2812 S. Business Highway 281

Edinburg, Texas, 78539

956 318-2626

Form HCPD-03

1. Sealed bids will be received for **HIDALGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE "DNA Testing Lab Services"** in accordance with the specifications attached as Exhibit "A" hereto. Bids should address all specifications set forth. Bidders may suggest substitutions of features which they feel would be in the best interest of Hidalgo County. Strong rationale must be presented for any deviation from the specifications. Hidalgo County reserves the right to reject the deviation and its effect on the overall bid.
2. One (1) original and Three (3) copies of all bids are required with the bidders name and return address clearly typed/printed on upper left hand corner and the proper notation clearly typed/printed on the lower left hand corner of the envelope and/or package: **BID-2009-460-00-00-MEG- HIDALGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE –"DNA Testing Lab Services"** and in County's Purchasing Department, Physical location: 2802 S. Business Highway 281 Postal/Mailing: 2812 S. Business Highway 281, New Administration Building, Edinburg, Texas, on or before 9:30 a.m. **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 03,2010.** **NO FACSIMILES OR LATE ARRIVALS WILL BE ACCEPTED. ANY RFB RECEIVED AFTER THAT TIME WILL NOT BE OPENED AND WILL BE RETURNED. OVERNIGHT MAIL MUST ALSO BE PROPERLY LABELED ON THE OUTSIDE OF EXPRESS ENVELOPE OR PACKAGE WITH REFERENCE TO REQUEST FOR BIDS-2009-460-00-00-MEG-HIDALGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE–"DNA Testing Lab Services".** Hidalgo County reserves the right to refuse and reject any/all RFB and to waive any/all formalities or technicalities, or to accept the RFB considered the best and most advantageous to Hidalgo County
3. Hidalgo County reserves the right to: A. separate and accept, or eliminate any item(s) listed under this bid that it deems necessary to accommodate budgetary and/or operational requirements; B. reject any or all bids submitted and further reserves the right to design the evaluation criteria to be used in selecting the lowest and best bid for approval; and C. award the bid to one bidder or to multiple bidders if the County determines it is in its best interest to do so."
4. The Bidder shall not substitute items named in the bid without the express written consent of Hidalgo County. Failure of the delivered item(s) to perform as specified, or failure to meet the stated delivery schedule shall release Hidalgo County from all obligations to the contracting party with regard to the item(s) in question. In such event, County may elect to award the contract to the next-lowest responsible bidder, or to reject all bids and re-advertise.
5. For work to be performed at a County owned or operated location, each bidder shall, in its sole discretion, visit the job site before preparing the bid and thoroughly familiarize himself/herself with existing conditions. Bidder should take field dimensions and note all circumstances which affect the dollar amount of the bid.
6. Descriptive specifications are referenced in this document to indicate the general kind and quality of equipment desired by Hidalgo County. Due to various styles and models of equipment, bidders are required to include illustrations, specifications, explanation of warranties, and service data with their bid including catalogue numbers and any necessary references.
7. No bid may be withdrawn within thirty (30) days from the scheduled time to open bids.

8. Proposed prices are to remain firm for a minimum of ninety (90) days after bid opening.
9. Any interpretations, amendments, corrections or changes to this bid document must be in a written addendum and signed by the County Judge or his designee. Addenda will be mailed to all who are known to have received a copy of the Request for Bids. Bidders shall acknowledge receipt of all addenda as a part of their bid.
10. County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.
11. Costs are to be net F.O.B., County Prepaid.
12. County is exempt from Federal Excise Tax, State Tax and Local Tax. Do not include tax in cost figure. If it is determined that tax was included in the cost figures it will not be included in the tabulation of any awards. Tax exemption certificates will be furnished upon request.
13. Funds for this procurement have been provided through the County budget for this fiscal year only. County, on an annual basis, has the right to reconsider a contract during the budget process for ensuing years if financial resources of County are insufficient to meet the liabilities of said contract. The award of a bid or contract hereunder will not be construed to create a debt of the County which is payable out of funds beyond the current fiscal year.
14. Upon award and prior to execution of a contract, Sole Proprietorships are required to submit a copy of their social security cards to the Hidalgo County Auditor's Office in order to establish an account with the County. All awarded vendors must submit a completed W-9 and a copy of their Federal ID Number Certificate.

15. DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS:

- . No deliveries accepted after 3:00 P.M., Monday-Friday.
- . At least seventy two (72) hours prior notice of delivery must be given to Martha L. Salazar, Purchasing Agent before delivery will be accepted.
- . If you need additional information call the office listed below:

Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
 Martha L. Salazar, Purchasing Agent
 (956) 318-2626

16. BILLING AND PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS:

- . Invoices must include:
 - a) Name and address of successful bidder
 - b) Name and address of receiving department or official
 - c) Purchase Order Number (if any)
 - d) Notation - **HIDALGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE --"DNA Testing Lab Services"** Descriptive information as to the items or services delivered, including product code, item number, quantity, etc.

- . Discount payments will be considered when offered.
- . Contact person for Billing and Payment questions:

Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office
 711 El Cibolo Road
 Edinburg Texas 78539
 ATTN.: Guadalupe Lupe Trevino
 (956) 383-8114

17. Schedule of Events

Bid Opening, 9:30 AM	<u>FEBRUARY 03, 2010</u>
Award of Contract	_____, 2010
Commence Work or Deliver Products	_____, 2010

18. Bid or Performance Bond and Debarment Certification; Payment Under Contract:

. If the contract proposed is for the construction of public works or is for a contract for goods & services exceeding \$100,000, all bidders shall furnish a good and sufficient bid bond in the amount of five percent of the total contract price. A bid bond must be executed with a surety company authorized to do business in Texas. All bidders are also required to furnish a certification or acknowledgment stating that the contractor or vendor is free from suspension or debarment pursuant to federal regulation 45CFR Part 76.

. Together with the signing of a contract or issuance of a purchase order following the acceptance of a bid, and prior to commencement of the actual work, the bidder shall furnish a performance bond to the County for the full amount of the contract, if that contract exceeds \$50,000.

. If the contract is for \$50,000 or less, no money will be paid to the contractor until completion and acceptance of the work or the fulfillment of the purchase obligation to the County, and, if applicable, the receipt by County of satisfactory evidence that all subcontractors and material men have been paid.

. If a contract is for the construction, alteration or repair of public buildings or public works, the contractor *shall* provide a payment bond for a contract in excess of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), as required by Tex. Govt. Code Ch. 2253.

- . For requirements contracts, bond requirements are determined by applying the proposed unit price to the estimated quantities included in the specifications.

19. Ethical Standards:

. It shall be a breach of ethics to offer, give or agree to give any elected official, department head or employee, or former elected official, department head or employee, of the County, or for any elected official, department head or employee or former elected official, department head or employee of the County, to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, entity or organization, a

gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation or any part of a program requirement or purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing, or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract, or to any solicitation or proposal therefore pending before any department or agency of the County.

. It shall be a breach of ethics for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor for any contract for the County, or any person associated therewith, as an inducement for the award of a subcontract or order.

. No public official shall have an interest in a contract awarded hereunder except in accordance with Tex. Loc. Govt. Code Chapter 171.

20. 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 contracts 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 completed CIQ forms to the Hidalgo County Clerk's Office located at 100 N. Clossner, Edinburg, Texas 78539-Hidalgo County Courthouse
COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION OF FORM CIQ IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROSPECTIVE BIDDER.

21. If, during the life of any contract or bid awarded, the successful bidder's net prices generally available to other customers for items awarded herein are reduced below the contracted price, it is understood and agreed that the benefits of such reduction shall be extended to County.
22. Bids, and all goods and services provided thereunder, shall comply with all federal, state and local laws concerning this type(s) of goods and/or services
23. Minimum Standards For Responsible Prospective Bidders: A prospective bidder must

affirmatively demonstrate bidder's responsibility. A prospective bidder, by submitting a bid, represents to County that it meets the following requirements:

- . **Possess and submit a Certificate of Account Status indicating bidder is in “Good Standing” with the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts if such bidder is incorporated in the State of Texas. To secure a certificate of “Good Standing”, you may access the following website: www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/coastintr.html .**
If the bidder is not incorporated with the Texas, the bidder must submit the appropriate evidence of filing with the Texas Secretary of State stating that the business is authorized to transact business in Texas.
 - . Possess or is able to obtain adequate financial resources as required to perform under the bid;
 - . Be able to comply with the required or proposed delivery schedule;
 - . Have a satisfactory record of performance;
 - . Have a satisfactory record of integrity and ethics;
 - . Be otherwise qualified and eligible to receive an award.
24. Successful bidder will pay or cause to be paid, without cost or expenses to County, all FICA, FUTA/SUTA and Federal Income Withholding Taxes of all employees, and all wages and benefits as required by Federal or State law. Successful bidder's officers, agents and/or employees will not be entitled to any benefits of an employee or elected official of County, including, but not limited to, benefits associated with County's civil service system.
25. Any contract award to a successful bidder will be in effect until (a) the contract expires, (b) delivery and acceptance of products, and/or performance of services ordered, or (c) terminated by County with thirty day's written notice prior to cancellation.
26. County reserves the right to enforce performance of any contract awarded hereunder in any manner prescribed by law or deemed to be in the best interest of the County in the event of breach or default by successful bidder; County reserves the right to terminate any contract immediately in the event a successful bidder fails to:
- A. Meet schedules;
 - B. Pay any required fees or taxes; or
 - C. Otherwise perform in accordance with the specifications.
27. Successful bidder shall defend, indemnify and save harmless County and all its elected officials, officers, agents and employees from all suits, actions, or other claims of any character, name and description brought for or on account of any injuries or damages received or sustained by any person, persons, or property on account of any negligent act or fault of the successful bidder, or of any agent, employee, subcontractor or supplier of successful bidder in the execution of, or performance under, any contract which may result from bid award or which arises from any event or casualty happening on or within County premises themselves or happening upon or in any halls, elevators, entrances, stairways or approaches of or to such County facilities. Successful bidder shall pay any judgment with costs which may be obtained against County growing out of such injury or damages, and shall, upon request, provide a defense to County by counsel reasonably acceptable to County. Successful bidder's indemnity hereunder shall include, but is not limited to, claims relating to patent, copyright or trademark infringement, and the like, arising out of the goods and services provided by successful bidder.

28. Successful bidder shall warrant that all items/services shall conform with the specifications and/or all warranties provided under the Uniform Commercial Code and be free from all defects in material, workmanship and the like. Items supplied under a contract pursuant to this Request for Bids shall be subject to County's approval. Items found to be defective or not meeting specifications shall be replaced by successful bidder within two business days at no expense to County. Items not picked up within one (1) week after notification shall be deemed a donation to County and may be used or disposed of at County's discretion and without waiver of any other rights of County as to the item's nonconformity.
29. This document and any disputes arising hereunder shall be governed and construed according to the laws of the State of Texas, and will be performable exclusively in Hidalgo County, Texas.
30. The successful bidder shall not assign, sell, transfer or convey its rights under any awarded contract, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of County.

Bid
for
HIDALGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
"DNA Testing Lab Services"
BID NO.: 2009-460-00-00-MEG

To: Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
Physical location: 2802 S. Business Highway 281
Postal/Mailing: 2812 S. Business Highway 281
Edinburg, Texas, 78539

In accordance with the Specifications, and subject to all laws and regulations of the United States and state and local laws, the undersigned bidder proposes and commits to furnish all labor, equipment, material, software and services as set forth in the documents hereinbefore mentioned. The undersigned bidder further agrees, upon acceptance of its bid, to execute a contract and/or Purchase Order issued by Hidalgo County for performing and completing the work described in the Specifications within the time stated and for the prices proposed in the documents attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Bidder acknowledges receipt of all of the pages of the documents referenced in the Invitation to Bid Checklist presented in connection with this procurement. Bidder understands that Hidalgo County reserves the right to reject any or all bids and further reserves the right to design the evaluation criteria to be used in selecting the lowest and best bid.

Bidder agrees that this bid shall be good and may not be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) calendar days after the scheduled closing time for receiving bids, as contained in the Specifications.

Respectfully submitted,

Bidder: _____
Address: _____
By: _____
Printed Name: _____
Title: _____

Must submit this form with Bid Packet

EXHIBIT "A"
HIDALGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
"DNA Testing Lab Services"
RFP NO: 2010-029-00-00-MEG

SCOPE

Hidalgo County is seeking qualified companies to submit bids to the County of Hidalgo Texas, to establish contract for the purpose of performing **"DNA TESTING LAB SERVICES"** for Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office, Services on an **"As Needed Basis"**.

SERVICE LOCATION:

711 El Cibolo Road, Edinburg, Texas 78542.

Vendor's Minimum Qualification

Interested and qualified Vendors that meet the Minimum Qualifications stated below are invited to submit a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ).

- 1 Vendor must have a DNA Testing Laboratory that is accredited by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Director's Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB). This must be demonstrated by the submission of a copy of the most current valid accreditation documentation.
- 2 Vendor must have a DNA Testing Laboratory that complies with the standard for quality assurance program for DNA analysis, issued by Forensic Quality Services International (FQS-I). This must be demonstrated by the submission of its most recent external audit documentation.
- 3 Vendor must have accreditation by the Director of the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). This must be demonstrated by the submission of a copy of the most current valid accreditation documentation.
- 4 Vendor must have at least a three (3) year history of successful past performance in forensic criminal DNA testing in a DNA Testing Laboratory. Vendor must provide documented experience with mixed stain casework analysis and batch casework.
- 5 Vendor's DNA Testing Laboratory is required to have the capability to perform STR, Y-STR, Minifiler, and Mitochondrial DNA testing.
- 6 Vendor must have a DNA Testing Laboratory that can conduct DNA extraction from biological fluids (blood, semen, hair, cellular material and as well as bone, teeth, muscular tissue).
- 7 Vendor must have a DNA Testing Laboratory that can conduct Paternity Testing and Sexual Assault Testing.
- 8 Vendor must have a DNA Testing Laboratory that can conduct a comparison of DNA profile from a known source to DNA profile from an unknown source.
- 9 Vendor shall provide Expert Witness Testimony and Consultations of DNA testing on casework.

EXHIBIT "A"
HIDALGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
"DNA Testing Lab Services"
RFP NO: 2010-029-00-00-MEG

- 10 Vendor must have three (3) references, each reference from a different law enforcement agencies or government crime laboratories that can attest to the criteria stated.
 - a). Company
 - b). Contact Person
 - c). Phone Number
 - d). Worked Preformed
 - e). Contract Term
- 11 Vendor must provide a turn around time, complete DNA analysis, within 21-28 business days.
- 12 Vendor must have a representative within the State of Texas to maintain a chain of custody.

TERMS & CONDITION:

1. Term of contract is for one (1) year period with County's option to renew contract for additional two (2) one (1) year term under the same rates and conditions.
2. County reserves the right to continue this bid for an additional sixty (60) day grace period at the end of the contract term for unforeseen delay in award of new bid for next contract term.
3. County will seek purchases from state awarded vendors whenever it is, its best interest to do so.
4. Bid award will be made to the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder meeting all specifications and/or requirements.
5. After bid is awarded and successful awarded contractor defaults in meeting the general instructions to bidders(s) and/or in complying with the contract agreement, Hidalgo County reserves the right to seek the services of the next lowest bidder(s). In such event, Hidalgo County shall charge the successful bidder the difference for any additional cost to the County.
6. Hidalgo County reserves the right to add or delete sites during the term of the contract under the same rates and conditions.
7. Any contract awarded to a successful bidder will be in effect until;
 - a) The contract expires
 - b) Delivery acceptance of products and/or performance of services ordered, or
 - c) Terminated by County with thirty (30) days written notice prior to be cancellation.
- 8 Hidalgo County reserves the right to award the bid to **MULTIPLE** bidders if the County Determines it is in its best interest to do so.
- 9 Vendor must provide and maintain proof of Automobile, General and Worker's Compensation Insurance's (Refer to Exhibit "C", Insurance Requirements).
10. Hidalgo County reserves the right to reject any/all bids, to waive any/all formalities or technicalities, or to accept the bid considered the best and most advantage to the County.
11. Hidalgo County reserves the right to hold bids for a period of ninety (90) days without taking any action.

EXHIBIT "A"
HIDALGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
"DNA Testing Lab Services"
RFP NO: 2010-029-00-00-MEG

12. All costs and expenses associated with the preparation and submission of (bids, proposals And/or quotes) shall be the responsibility of the bidder and no reimbursements for such charges or expenses shall be passed onto Hidalgo County.
13. The successful bidder will indemnify and hold harmless the County, and its officers, Officials, and employees, agents and attorneys for any and all claims and expenses arising out of or related to the performance of the contract awarded pursuant hereto.
14. County, upon request, shall be furnished with samples of all proposed containers, together with written construction specifications for the same.

MARKET VOLATILITY AND UNIT PRICE ADJUSTMENTS:

Hidalgo County recognizes that during periods of national crisis and unstable economic conditions, unforeseen price increases might affect costs for goods and services contracted on an annual basis. The following procedure may be employed to mediate price volatility:

- 1) **Requesting Price Adjustment:** Upon written request of the Vendor to the County Purchasing Agent, the County may review evidence of prevailing industry-wide market conditions that warrant an adjustment in bid prices contained in the contract.
 - A Vendor must tie any price change clause to an industry-wide or otherwise nationally recognized index, or some other form of verifiable document. Such written request must be accompanied by a certified copy of the supplier's advisory or notification to the vendor of the price changes.
 - The Vendor must put the Purchasing Agent on the mailing lists for such publications so that the Purchasing Agent can monitor said changes. Such membership shall be at no cost to the County.
 - The County Purchasing Agent retains the right to determine whether or not such proposed price changes are in the best interest of the County.
 - No price escalation will be authorized in excess of the amount of the increase referred to in the supplier's notice.
 - The County may only grant a price increase if the evidence presented is deemed reliable. Should the County allow a price increase, the approved price change shall be honored for all orders received by the vendor or contractor after the effective date of such price change. Approved price changes are not applicable to orders already issued and in process at time of price change.
- 2) **Price Reduction:** Vendor shall notify the County at the time when the Vendor's costs for items and/or supplies reduce due to stabilization in the market at which time prices for items on this contract shall be reduced accordingly. Failure by the Vendor to notify the County of a decrease in costs for items and/or supplies for which the Vendor was granted a price adjustment, may result in immediate termination of this contract and the County shall not be obligated to pay the Vendor the difference between the contract price and the price adjustment.

EXHIBIT "A"
HIDALGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
"DNA Testing Lab Services"
RFP NO: 2010-029-00-00-MEG

- 3) **Timeframe for Adjusted Price Increases:** Price increases are only valid for the quarter in which they are requested and approved. Prices shall return to the original contract price at the beginning of the following quarter unless a Vendor notifies the County in writing within ten (10) days of expiration of the quarter in which the price increase is in effect, that it desires to have the price increase continue or that the Vendor is requesting a different price increase for the following quarter. Such request must be supplemented with sufficient justification to demonstrate that the price increase remains necessary. The County Purchasing Department shall have sole discretion whether to grant the price increase extension. The County too, shall have discretion to unilaterally reduce, eliminate or extend a price adjustment to the Vendor at any time upon written notice from the County to the Vendor demonstrating justification for such reduction, elimination or extension of the price adjustment.

- 4) **Allowable Review Periods:** Price adjustment reviews may only be requested by the Vendor on a quarterly basis. However, the County may at its own discretion, conduct temporary price adjustment reviews at any time. The County Purchasing Agent and/or the County Auditor reserve the right to audit and/or examine any pertinent books, documents, papers, records or invoices relating directly to the contract transaction in question after reasonable notice and during normal business hours.

- 5) **Dollar Limit to Price Changes:** The total increase in contract price shall not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the original contract price during the contract term.

Additional Information:

All costs and expenses associated with the preparation and submission of bids shall be the responsibility of the bidder and no reimbursements for such charges or expenses shall be passed on to Hidalgo County.

Information regarding this project can be addressed in writing, to the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department. Hidalgo County is also requesting that any and all questions, inquiries and clarifications regarding quotes, bids, proposal or statement of qualifications be addressed to Martha L. Salazar, Cppb, Purchasing Agent, **AT 2802 SOUTH BUSINESS HWY 281, EDINBURG, TEXAS 78539. TELEPHONE INQUIRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

ALL WRITTEN INQUIRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED VIA FACSIMILE NO LATER THAN, month date, 2009 AT 5:00 P.M., AT (956) 318-2629. RESPONSES TO SAID INQUIRIES WILL BE SENT TO ALL APPLICANTS VIA FACSIMILE BY NO LATER THAN 5:00 P.M. month, date, 2009.

Specifications contained in Exhibit "A" Request for Bids (RFB) Procurement Packet within **Hidalgo County** following a request for Services by the **Hidalgo County Sheriff** or his designated agent. Company agrees in performing the Services that it will use proper professional standards, comply with any and all appropriate laws and regulations in providing the Services, and devote such time as is necessary to safely and efficiently provide the Services. Further Hidalgo County reserves the right to request these services from other sources other than the successful vendor and shall not be in violation of any terms or conditions of said contract.

3. This Contract shall be for a period of **one (1) year**, commencing on _____, **2010** and expiring on _____, **2011** and may be extended at the sole discretion of the County for an additional two (2) one (1) year terms under the same rates, terms and conditions. Hidalgo County also reserves the right to continue this bid for an additional sixty (60) day grace period at the end of the contract term for unforeseen delay of award for the next term and contingent upon cost remaining unchanged.

4. As a condition of this Contract, Company shall hold and maintain throughout the term of this Contract all licenses and permits required, or which may be required by any authority during the term hereof to provide the Services.

5. All trucks or vehicles operated by the Company to perform the Services shall contain all equipment required by any authority to operate on streets and roads and all persons in the employ of Company who operate such trucks or vehicles shall have the required licenses, qualifications, skill and expertise to perform such Services and shall comply with all laws, rules and regulations prescribed by any agency or authority having jurisdiction with regard to the operation of

such trucks or vehicles in providing the Services.

6. As consideration for rendering the Service provided for in this Contract, the County agrees to pay Company the amounts specified in Exhibit "B" attached hereto payable against written invoice submitted by Company.

7. Company shall provide insurance in force on all its vehicles and all persons connected with providing services under this Contract naming County as an additional insured (with the coverages and in the amounts described on Exhibit "C" attached hereto and incorporated herein at this point for all purposes), and shall furnish to County certificates of such insurance coverage.

8. Company shall provide a sufficient number of trucks, vehicles, personnel and equipment available to safely and efficiently provide the Services.

9. Company shall indemnify and hold harmless County, its elected officials, employees and agents from any and all claims, damages, losses, and expenses including attorney's fees for the defense of any action against County arising out of, resulting from, or connected with the provision of the Service by Company under this Contract. Said indemnity shall cover any act or failure to act by the Company, its agents or employees.

10. This Contract shall not be assignable in whole or in part by either party without prior written consent of the other party.

11. It is expressly agreed that this Contract and the performance by the parties hereunder does not create any agency relationship or master-servant relationship that County has no supervision of the performance of the Services provided by Company, and that Company is an independent contractor under this Contract.

WITNESS our hands in duplicate originals this ____ day of _____, 2010.

APPROVED AS TO FORM

By: _____

COUNTY OF HIDALGO

ATTEST:

By: _____
Rene A. Ramirez, County Judge

Arturo Guajardo, Jr., County Clerk

COMPANY:

By: _____
Printed Name: _____
Title: _____

EXHIBIT "A"
REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)
PROCUREMENT PACKET

EXHIBIT "B"
VENDOR'S BID

EXHIBIT "C"
INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS