

EXHIBIT "A"
Specifications/Requirements
Hidalgo County
"Drinking And/or Spring Bottled Water Service"
Bid No: 2010-005-00-00-SMA

OVERVIEW:

The purpose of this solicitation is to solicit sealed bids to establish a vendor to provide bottled water service for the Hidalgo County Departments. All services shall be provided in accordance with the specifications contained herein.

SCOPE OF WORK: The vendor shall furnish all resources required to provide bottled drinking and/or spring water, paper cups and dispensing equipment, as specified herein on an "AS NEEDED BASIS". Hidalgo County reserves the right to add or delete item(s) during the term of the contract.

SPECIFICATIONS/REQUIREMENTS

CONTAINERS:

All containers shall be returnable/reusable, five (5) vessel/gallon capacity, designed for inverted operation on dispensers. All containers shall be clear or translucent, impact resistant, poly carbonate plastic. Water caps shall be compatible with cooler models awarded pursuant to awarded contracts and those cooler models currently owned by the respective user departments.

LEASED EQUIPEMENT:

All equipment offered by the vendor through this contract shall be new and in compliance with the following minimum specifications:

- COOLERS-Full size, free standing, shall be approximately 12.5"W x 12.5"Depth x 38"H
- DELIVERY, INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE shall be included in the bid price.
- All COOLERS shall be Underwriter Lab approved, or equal.
- All EQUIPMENT shall not contain lead or lead based solder in contact with water.
- COOLERS shall be free standing, suitable to accept containerized water.
- COLD WATER service equipment shall be mechanically cooled with thermostatic controls.
- HOT WATER service equipment shall be electrically heated and thermostatically controlled (approximately 160°-180° Fahrenheit)
- ELECTRICAL REQUIREMENTS- 120 volt, single phase, 60 Hz.
- DRIP RECEPTOR shall be removable
- Should the models bid become obsolete, the substitution of models will be permitted under the following conditions:
 - a) The substitution conforms to the specifications as stated herein,
 - b) The specifications for the proposed substitution is provided to the user department

MAINTENANCE OF LEASED EQUIPMENT

The leased cost of each cooler shall include inside delivery and installation, full service maintenance, including labor and replacement of all non-consumable parts as well as one (1) annual inspection and cleaning/sanitizing. The vendor shall repair or replace malfunctioning coolers within twenty-four (24) of receiving the service call from the user department.

DELIVERIES:

1. All deliveries throughout the contract term must be during normal business hours;Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. -4:00 p.m.
2. Bidder shall be solely responsible for familiarity with any site-specific delivery conditions. (i.e. building access, parking, elevators, stairs, security requirements, etc)
3. Bidder shall deliver the requested amount of product within twenty-four (24) hours following the request or earlier if requested.

PRICING:

Bidders shall indicate on the Bid Page (refer to Exhibit B); a firm unit price per five (5) gallon vessel/bottle water, 16.5 and 20 oz per case bottled water, as well as a monthly rental fee to supply water dispensers to all user departments. Prices shall include all cost associated with maintenance, installation and repairs of the water dispenser unit(s). All prices must remain firm throughout the term of the contract and any extensions thereto.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- 1) **CONTRACT TERM:** The Contract term shall remain firm for an initial one (1) year with Hidalgo County's sole discretion to extend the contract for an additional two (2) one (1) year terms under the same rates, terms and conditions. Hidalgo County reserves the right to continue this bid for an additional sixty (60) day grace period at the at the end of the contract term for unforeseen delay in the award of the new bid and contingent upon cost to remain unchanged.
- 2) The Bidder who is awarded will ensure that all water dispensers are working properly before and after delivery and will provide maintenance and/or replacement service in accordance with the contract.
- 3) 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 prior to cancellation.
- 4) Hidalgo County may seek purchases from state awarded vendors or any other cooperative purchasing programs, whenever it is in the best interest to do so.
- 5) After bid award and low bidder(s) default(s) in meeting the general instructions to bidders and/or comply with contractual agreement, Hidalgo County reserves the right to seek services from the next low bidder(s). In such event, County shall charge the successful bidder(s) the difference for any additional cost of such item(s).
- 6) **SUBMITTAL OF INVOICES:** Vendor (s) must submit an invoice to each County department user. The signed delivery/sales ticket provided with each delivery shall be verified with the invoice. The vendor (s) shall provide the following on each invoice:
 - a) County department name and invoice & account number;
 - b) Purchase Order number;
 - c) Description and unit price for each item and total cost per line item and grand total of each invoice.
- 7) **PURCHASE ORDERS:** Purchase order(s) shall be generated by the Hidalgo County Purchasing Agent to the successful vendor. The purchase order number must appear on all itemized invoices and packing slips. The County will not be held responsible for any orders placed without a valid current purchase order number. Payment will be made for all orders received and accepted by the user department.
- 8) To expedite evaluation of the bid. It is mandatory that Hidalgo County forms be used to submit pricing information.
- 9) The bidder shall abide by and comply with the true intent of the specifications and not take advantage of any unintentional error or omission.
- 10) Hidalgo County shall award the bid on a lump sum basis to one bidder and/or on an item by item bid basis, whichever is in the best interest of the County.
- 11) After bid awarded and low bidder(s) default(s) in meeting all specifications to bidders and/or comply with contract agreement, Hidalgo County reserves the right to seek services from the next low bidder. In such event, County shall charge the successful bidder the difference for any additional cost of such item.
- 12) Delivery of **DRINKING AND/OR SPRING BOTTLED WATER SERVICE** will be to various Hidalgo County agencies as covered by purchase order only. Contractor is to provide water dispensing units on a rental basis as requested by the user department in any County office.
- 13) **INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS:** Vendor must meet Hidalgo County insurance requirements and shall submit documentation requested on Exhibit "C".
- 14) 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.
- 15) **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.
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:

Hidalgo County is requesting that any and all questions, inquiries, and clarifications regarding this bid to be addressed to: Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent, 2812 S. Business Hwy. 281, Edinburg, Texas 78539. **TELEPHONE INQUIRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

ALL WRITTEN INQUIRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED VIA FACSIMILE TO (956) 292-7612 OR VIA E-MAIL TO sandra.montalvo@co.hidalgo.tx.us by NO LATER THAN, month date, 2010, 5:00 P.M. Responses will be sent to all applicants via facsimile or e-mail by no later than, 5:00 P.M., month date 2010.

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