

**sandy.suarez**

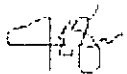
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**From:** Raul Sestin [Raul.Sestin@co.hidalgo.tx.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 12, 2011 11:44 AM  
**To:** 'sandy.suarez'  
**Cc:** 'Nora D Cavazos'  
**Subject:** RE: 2011-106-04-20-SGS- "GEO-GRID REINFORCEMENT MATERIAL"  
**Attachments:** Hidalgo County Geogrid Specification - Exhibit B rev.docx; Hidalgo County Geogrid Specification - REV.docx


Good Morning Ms. Suarez, Yes I concur with your assessment of the bid and probable cause for rejection of the bid and therefore I am recommending that you reject the bid and re-advertise with the latest bid specifications.

I am attaching the specs I provide to you last week. I just want to make sure you have all you need for the re-bid.

Thank you very much for your patience and assistance. Please let me know if you have any other questions or how I can assist you further.



**Raul E. Sestin, PE, CFM**  
**Planning Administrator**

 Please refrain from printing this email unless completely necessary. Go Green!

**From:** sandy.suarez [mailto:sandy.suarez@co.hidalgo.tx.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 12, 2011 10:50 AM  
**To:** 'Raul Sestin'; 'Raul Sestin'  
**Cc:** 'Darlene Betancourt'; 'Nora D Cavazos'  
**Subject:** 2011-106-04-20-SGS- "GEO-GRID REINFORCEMENT MATERIAL"  
**Importance:** High

Good Morning Mr. Sestin,

The Bid Opening for the above referenced project took place yesterday morning. There was one submittal from Hanes Geo Components. The vendor wants to change the Term of contract from two years to one year, which is a probable cause to reject this Bid. With your approval, the Purchasing department would like to suggest that we reject this bid and request to re-advertise, which in turn will enable me to incorporate the final specifications that you sent to me on Friday, May 06, 2011. I am enclosing a copy of the Bid submittal for your review. Please advise.

Any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Thank you,

**Sandy Suarez, Buyer II**  
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department  
2802 South Bus. Hwy 281

**EXHIBIT "A"**  
**HIDALGO COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 2**  
**"GEO-GRID REINFORCEMENT MATERIAL"**  
**BID NO.: 2011-000-00-00-SGS**  
**SPECIFICATIONS**

**SCOPE OF SERVICE:**

Hidalgo County is requesting bids from qualified vendors to furnish Punched and Drawn Geo-Grid and Interwoven High Tensile Strands Biaxial Geo-Grid Reinforcement Materials to Hidalgo County Commissioner Precinct 2, in accordance with the specifications/requirements specified herein and including, but not limited to all provisions set forth in the accompanying documentation.

**SPECIFICATIONS/REQUIREMENTS:**

The following are the minimum material requirements and/or specifications that will be acceptable to the County. Any bid that does not meet the minimum requirements and/or specifications will be rejected.

**MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PUNCHED AND DRAWN GEO-GRID:**

- A. General Requirements.** The structure shall be capable of maintaining dimensional stability during placement and under normal construction traffic. The geogrid shall be resistant to damage during construction, including ultraviolet degradation, and it shall have long-term resistance to chemical and biological degradation caused by the materials being reinforced. Geogrid shall meet both the physical requirements of sub-part B – Table 1 and the performance requirements of sub-part C.
- B. Physical Requirements.** Furnish punched and drawn geogrid to reinforce the aggregate base course to create a mechanically stabilized aggregate layer. Geogrids shall meet the physical requirements shown in the Table 1 below.

**Table 1.**  
**Geo-Grid Physical Requirements**

Properties	<u>Type 1</u>			General
	Longitudinal	Diagonal	Transverse	
Rib pitch, mm (in)	40 (1.60)	40 (1.60)	-	
Mid-rib depth, mm (in)	-	1.3 (0.05)	1.2 (0.05)	
Mid-rib width, mm (in)	-	0.9 (0.04)	1.2 (0.05)	
Rib shape				rectangular
Aperture shape				triangular

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**SPECIFICATIONS**  
**Type 2**

<b>Properties</b>	<b>Longitudinal</b>	<b>Diagonal</b>	<b>Transverse</b>	<b>General</b>
Rib pitch, mm (in)	40 (1.60)	40 (1.60)	-	
Mid-rib depth, mm (in)	-	2.0 (0.08)	1.6 (0.06)	
Mid-rib width, mm (in)	-	1.0 (0.04)	1.3 (0.05)	
Rib shape				rectangular
Aperture shape				triangular

**C. Design and Performance Requirements.** Punched and drawn geogrids are utilized to reinforce the aggregate layer to create a composite layer with an improved structural contribution to the pavement known as a mechanically stabilized layer. The structural contribution of the mechanically stabilized layer shall be incorporated into the pavement design by utilizing modified layer coefficients for the reinforced base course as recommended by AASHTO Standard Practice R 50-09 Sections 3.1 & 5.2. Modified layer coefficient values shall be calibrated and validated with the results of full-scale pavement testing where actual geogrids are tested in-soil and in representative conditions. In-air index properties do not directly correlate with in field performance and will not be accepted as such. The geogrid provided shall when incorporated into a mechanically stabilized layer, at a minimum, be able to show a structural number of **1.51** for the mechanically stabilized layer under the following conditions:

- a. Thickness of asphalt = 3 inches
- b. Asphalt Layer Coefficient =  $a_i = 0.44$
- c. Thickness of mechanically stabilized layer = 6 inches
- d. Aggregate Base Layer Coefficient =  $a_i = 0.14$
- e. Reliability = 95%
- f. Standard Deviation = 0.49
- g. Subgrade Resilient Modulus = 5000 psi
- h. Initial Serviceability = 4.2
- i. Terminal Serviceability = 2.0
- j. Full section equivalent single axle load (ESALS) count = 80,000

**SPECIFICATIONS FOR PUNCHED AND DRAWN GEO-GRID::**

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Geogrids not meeting the physical requirements of sub-part B above may be submitted to Hidalgo County prior to the bid date for approval. Alternate material submittals take time to be properly evaluated. It is recommended that submitters allow a minimum of 2 weeks for evaluation. Acceptable geogrids must meet or exceed the performance requirements of sub-part C. Submittals for alternative geogrids must be accompanied with the following:

1. Geogrid product data sheet, product sample, and certification from the manufacturer that the performance values for the geogrid utilized in the design of the alternate section are valid.
2. A design signed and sealed by a professional Engineer registered in the State of Texas that meets or exceeds the performance requirements of sub-part C.
3. Performance values for the alternate geogrid shall be calibrated and validated with the results of full scale pavement testing where actual geogrids are tested in-soil and in representative conditions.
4. A list of five (5) comparable projects, similar in terms of size and applications, in the United States, where the results of the specific alternate geogrids use can be verified after a minimum of one (1) year of service.
5. Recommended guidelines on the installation of the product provided by the manufacture and any additional information to assist the County in fully evaluating the alternate product.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR PUNCHED AND DRAWN GEO-GRID::**

- A qualified experienced representative from the geo-grid manufacturer must be available on an "As Needed Basis" and visit each site at least once during the course of construction and/or installation of the product.
- The Geo-Grid shall be packaged in rolls with lengths between 150 feet and 250 feet. The Geo-Grid shall be packaged in rolls with widths of wide rolls that are between 12 to 15 feet and widths of narrow rolls that are between 8 to 10 feet.
- Each roll shall be one continuous piece packaged in a suitable sheath, wrapper or container to protect the geo-grid from damage due to ultraviolet light, moisture and normal storage and handling.
- May be custom cut to specific lengths or widths to suit specific engineering designs.
- Include a sample of the geo-grid approximately 4 inches by 7 inches or larger.
- Include Geo-Grid product data sheet and certification from the manufacturer.
- Any damage or defective Geo-Grid roll (i.e. frayed coating, separated junctions, separated layers, tears ect.) will be repaired/replaced by the contractor before, during and after installation at no additional cost to the County.
- Replacement of damaged area shall consist of adding over the affected area a minimum 3 ft<sup>2</sup> (1 m<sup>2</sup>) layer on top of the existing geo-grid that overlaps the existing geo-grid a minimum of 1 ft in all directions.

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**SPECIFICATIONS**

- Proposed bidder shall provide all equipment, supplies, material, and labor necessary in getting the product safely to its final destination at Precinct 2.
- Unit price, to be by roll or square yards.
- **Delivery Charges: All delivery, unloading of product and freight charges, shall be included in the bid price and F.O.B. Hidalgo County Commissioner Precinct 2, 310 E. State Street, Pharr, Texas 78577 or to the address(es) specified on the purchase order during normal working hours, unless otherwise authorized by the Purchasing Agent or designee. Bidder bears freight charges. All prices must be written in ink or typewritten.**

**MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERWOVEN HIGH TENSILE STRANDS BIAxIAL GEO-GRID:**

- A. Biaxial Subgrade/Base Reinforcement Interwoven High Tensile Strands Biaxial Geo-Grid – The Interwoven High Tensile Strands Biaxial Geo-Grid shall be integrally formed and deployed as a single layer having the following characteristics (ALL VALUES ARE MINIMUM AVERAGE ROLL VALUES UNLESS A RANGE OR CHARACTERISTIC IS INDICATED):

REINFORCEMENT PROPERTIES		TEST METHOD	MARV VALUES	
			Type 1	Type 2
Ultimate Strength	MD XMD	ASTM 6637	850 1,300	1,310 1,970
Tensile Strength at 2% Strain	MD XMD	ASTM 6637	280 450	410 620
Tensile Strength at 5% Strain	MD XMD	ASTM 6637	580 920	810 1,340
Junction Strength (per junction)		GRI GG2	25 lb	25 lb
Coefficient of Pullout Interaction Sandy Gravel Sand		ASTM 6706	C <sub>i</sub> = 1.0 C <sub>i</sub> = 1.0	
Percent Open Area		Measured	70%	
Aperture Size		Measured	MD 1.0 in. XMD 1.0 in.	

GP: Poorly Graded Gravel  
SW: Well Groomed Gravel

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- B. Alternate Subgrade/Base Reinforcement Materials – Alternate structural soil reinforcement materials will be considered in accordance with the following conditions:
1. Geotextile materials will not be considered as an alternate to Interwoven High Tensile Strands Biaxial Geo-Grid materials for sub-grade improvement or base/sub-base reinforcement applications. A geotextile may be used in the cross-section to provide separation, filtration or drainage; however, no structural contribution will be attributed to the geotextile.
  2. Alternate Geo-Grid materials shall not be used unless submitted to the County and pre-approved in writing by the County.

#### **REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERWOVEN HIGH TENSILE STRANDS BIAxIAL GEO-GRID:**

- A qualified experienced representative from the geo-grid manufacturer must be available on an "As Needed Basis" and visit each site at least once during the course of construction and/or installation of the product.
- The Geo-Grid shall be packaged in rolls with lengths between 150 feet and 250 feet. The Geo-Grid shall be packaged in rolls with widths of wide rolls that are between 12 to 15 feet and widths of narrow rolls that are between 8 to 10 feet.
- Each roll shall be one continuous piece packaged in a suitable sheath, wrapper or container to protect the geo-grid from damage due to ultraviolet light, moisture and normal storage and handling.
- Interwoven High Tensile Strands Biaxial Geo-Grid materials should not be left directly exposed to sunlight for a period longer than recommended by the manufacturer.
- May be custom cut to specific lengths or widths to suit specific engineering designs.
- Include a sample of the geo-grid approximately 4 inches by 7 inches or larger.
- Include Geo-Grid product data sheet and certification from the manufacturer.
- Submit Manufacturer's installation instructions and general recommendations.
- Prevent excessive mud, wet concrete, epoxy, or other deleterious materials from coming in contact with and affixing to the Interwoven High Tensile Strands Biaxial Geo-Grid materials.
- Store at temperatures above -20 degrees F (-29 degrees C).
- Rolled materials may be laid flat or stood on end.
- Any damage or defective Geo-Grid roll (i.e. frayed coating, separated junctions, separated layers, tears ect.) will be repaired/replaced by the contractor before, during and after installation at no additional cost to the County.

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## SPECIFICATIONS

- Replacement of damaged area shall consist of adding over the affected area a minimum 3 ft<sup>2</sup> (1 m<sup>2</sup>) layer on top of the existing geo-grid that overlaps the existing geo-grid a minimum of 1 ft in all directions.
- Proposed bidder shall provide all equipment, supplies, material, and labor necessary in getting the product safely to its final destination at Precinct 2.
- Unit price, to be by roll or square yards.
- **Delivery Charges: All delivery, unloading of product and freight charges, shall be included in the bid price and F.O.B. Hidalgo County Commissioner Precinct 2, 310 E. State Street, Pharr, Texas 78577 or to the address(es) specified on the purchase order during normal working hours, unless otherwise authorized by the Purchasing Agent or designee. Bidder bears freight charges. All prices must be written in ink or typewritten.**

### TERM AND CONDITIONS:

1. The initial terms of the contract shall be for a period of two (2) years with the County's option to renew contract for one (1) additional year under the same rates, terms and conditions and meeting all specifications set forth hereto.
2. Hidalgo 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 the next contract term.
3. Hidalgo County reserves the right to hold bids for a period of ninety (90) days without taking action.
4. Any contract award to a successful bidder will be in effect until:
  - a. The contract expires
  - b. Delivery and acceptance of products and/performance of services ordered
  - c. Or termination by the County with a (30) days written notice prior to cancellation/termination.
5. All cost 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.
6. 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.

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7. After bid is awarded and successful awarded contractor defaults in meeting the general instructions to bidder(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 of such item.
8. Hidalgo County reserves the right to seek state contracts from its memberships with existing or new cooperatives whenever it is in the County's interest to do so.
9. 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.
10. Insurance requirements for this project to be maintained throughout the contract term (Refer to limits on the Exhibit "C" for limits).
11. Bidder(s) agrees that to the extent an item(s) is unavailable from Bidder(s) own inventory, Bidder(s) will be responsible for locating an alternative supplier and for providing the product or service to Hidalgo County.
12. Have been in the business at least two (2) years.

### **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. 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.
  - b. 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.
  - c. The County Purchasing Agent retains the right to determine whether or not such proposed price changes are in the best interest of the County.

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- d. No price escalation will be authorized in excess of the amount of the increase referred to in the supplier's notice.
  - e. 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 change. Approved price changes are not applicable to orders already issued and in process at the 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 the 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 Adjustment 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.

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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 quotes, bids, proposals, or statements of qualifications be routed to: Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent, 2812 South Business 281, Edinburg, Texas 78539.

**TELEPHONE INQUIRES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

**ALL WRITTEN INQUIRES WILL BE ACCEPTED VIA FACSIMILE to (956) 292-7612 or via e-mail to [sandy.suarez@co.hidalgo.tx.us](mailto:sandy.suarez@co.hidalgo.tx.us), by no later than, Wednesday, Month day, 2011 by 5:00 P.M. Responses to said inquires will be sent to all applicants via facsimile or via e-mail by no later than Friday, Month day, 2011 no later than 5:00 P.M.**