

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS W/QUALIFICATIONS

**Hidalgo County
Edinburg, Texas**

“TITLE COMPANY SERVICES POOL- FOR HIDALGO COUNTY”

August , 2011

Contact Person:

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
Administration Building
Physical Address: 2802 S. Business Hwy. 281
Mailing/US Postal Address: 2812 S. Business Hwy. 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539

(956) 318-2626

Form HCPD-04

1. Sealed proposals with qualifications will be received for “**Hidalgo County – Title Company Services Pool**”, in accordance with the requirements attached hereto as Exhibit "A." Proposals should address all requirements set forth. Proposers may suggest substitutions of features which they feel would be in the best interest of Hidalgo County ("County"). Strong rationale must be presented for any deviation from the requirements. Hidalgo County reserves the right to reject the deviation and its effect on the overall proposal.
2. One (1) original and seven (7) copies of all RFP/Qs are required, with the vendor's name and 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, **RFP/Q NO: 2011-150-00-00CGA-Hidalgo County- Title Company Services Pool**” and in County's Purchasing Department, **physical address: 2802 S. Business Hwy. 281; mailing address: 2812 S. Hwy. Business 281, New Administration Building, Edinburg, Texas, on or before 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, _____, 2011.**

NO FACSIMILES OR LATE ARRIVALS WILL BE ACCEPTED. ANY RFP/Q 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: RFP/Q NO: 2011-150-00-00CGA- HIDALGO COUNTY- TITLE COMPANY SERVICES POOL”.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED WILL BE ACCEPTED via facsimile to (956) 292-7612 or via e-mail to: cris.villarreal@co.hidalgo.tx.us BY NO LATER THAN Wednesday, _____, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. Responses will be sent to all applicants by Friday, _____, 2011. **TELEPHONE INQUIRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Hidalgo County reserves the right to refuse and reject any/all proposals and to waive any/all formalities or technicalities, or to accept the proposal 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 proposal that it deems necessary to accommodate budgetary and/or operational requirements; **B.** right to reject any or all proposals submitted and further reserves the right to design the evaluation criteria to be used in selecting the lowest and best proposal for approval. Receipt of any proposal shall under no circumstances obligate County to accept the lowest dollar proposal and; **C.** award of this contract shall be made to the responsible offeror whose proposal is determined to be the best evaluated offer resulting from negotiation, taking into consideration the relative importance of price and other evaluation factors as herein set forth.

4. 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 proposer, or to reject all proposals and re-advertise.
5. For work to be performed at a County owned or operated location, each proposer shall, in its sole discretion, visit the job site before preparing the proposal and thoroughly familiarize himself/herself with existing conditions. Proposer should take field dimensions and note all circumstances which affect the dollar amount of the proposal.
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, proposers are required to include illustrations, specifications, explanation of warranties, and service data with their proposal including catalogue numbers and any necessary references.
7. No proposal may be withdrawn within sixty (60) days from the scheduled time to open proposals.
8. Proposed prices are to remain firm for a minimum of ninety (90) days after priced proposal opening.
9. Any interpretations, amendments, corrections or changes to this proposal 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 Proposals. Proposers shall acknowledge receipt of all addenda as a part of their proposal.
10. County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.
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 proposal 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 card 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: (If applicable)

- . 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, CPPB, Purchasing Agent before delivery will be accepted.
- . If you need additional information call the office listed below:

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

16. BILLING AND PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS:

- . Invoices must include:
 - a) Name and address of successful proposer
 - b) Name and address of receiving department or official
 - c) Purchase Order Number and Contract Number (if any)
 - d) Notation – **“Hidalgo County – Title Company Services Pool”**
 - e) 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 Auditor's Office
Ray Eufrazio, County Auditor
2802 S. Business Hwy. 281
Edinburg, TX 78539
956-318-2511

17. Schedule of Events

Projected Proposal Opening, 9:30 A.M., _____, **2011**
Project/Anticipated Award Date: _____, **2011**
Commence Work or Deliver Products _____, **2011**

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 and 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 participants are required to furnish a certification or acknowledgment stating that the contractor or vendor is free from suspension or debarment pursuant to federal regulation 45CFR76.

- ~~· Together with the signing of a contract or issuance of a purchase order following the acceptance of a proposal, and prior to commencement of the actual work, the proposer 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 therefor 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 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 successful Proposer 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 complete CIQ forms to the Hidalgo County Clerk's Office located at 100 No. Clossner, Edinburg, Texas 78539-Hidalgo County Courthouse
COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION OF FORM CIQ IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROSPECTIVE PROPOSER.

21. If, during the life of any contract or proposal awarded, the successful proposer'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. Proposals, 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 Proposers: A prospective proposer must affirmatively demonstrate proposer's responsibility. A prospective proposer, by submitting a proposal, represents to County that it meets the following requirements:
 - . Possess or is able to obtain adequate financial resources as required to perform under the proposal;
 - . 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 proposer 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 and benefits as required by Federal or State law. Successful proposers' 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 proposer 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 (30) 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 proposer; County reserves the right to terminate any contract immediately in the event a successful proposer fails to:
 - A. Meet schedules;
 - B. Pay any required fees or taxes; or
 - C. Otherwise perform in accordance with the requirements.
27. Successful proposer 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 proposer, or of any agent, employee, subcontractor or supplier in the execution of, or performance under, any contract which may result from proposal award. Successful proposer indemnifies and will indemnify and save harmless County from liability, claim or demand on their part, agents, servants, customers, and/or employees whether such liability, claim or demand arise from event or casualty happening or within the occupied premises themselves or happening upon or in any of the halls, elevators, entrances, stairways or approaches of or to the facilities within which the occupied premises are located. Successful proposer 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 proposer'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 or services provided by successful proposer.
28. Successful proposer 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 Proposals shall be subject to County's approval Items found to be defective or not meeting specifications shall be replaced by successful proposer 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 proposer 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.
31. Proposers shall provide with the proposal response, a list of at least three (3) references where like services have been supplied by their firm. Include the name of the business or government, address, telephone number and name of representative or contact person.
32. Proposers must provide **all** documentation requested with this Proposal in their response. Failure to provide this information may result in rejection of the proposal as non conforming.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

**HIDALGO COUNTY
“Title Company Services Pool”**

RFP/Q NO: 2011-150-00-00CGA

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

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

Proposer acknowledges receipt of all of the pages of the documents referenced in the Request for Proposal Checklist presented in connection with this procurement. Proposer understands that Hidalgo County reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and further reserves the right to design the evaluation criteria to be used in selecting the lowest and best proposal.

Proposer agrees that this proposal shall be good and may not be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) calendar days after the scheduled closing time for receiving proposals, as contained in the Requirements.

Respectfully submitted,

Proposer: _____

Address: _____

By: _____

Printed Name: _____

EXHIBIT A
REQUIREMENTS
HIDALGO COUNTY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
"TITLE COMPANY SERVICES POOL"

RFP NO: 2011-150-00-00CGA

Hidalgo County is requesting sealed proposals from qualified and interested "Title Companies" in order to establish a pre-qualified pool of providers for "Title Company Services" for the purposes of providing and rendering title policy related services on an "As Needed/Non Exclusive 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 Commissioner's Court, the term of the pre-qualified pool of "Title Company Services" will be for a period of one (1) year period commencing November 28, 2011, with the County's sole discretion to extend the contract for an additional one (1) year under the same rates/fees, terms and conditions. Hidalgo County reserves the right to continue this bid for an additional sixty (60) day grace period at the end of the contract for unforeseen delay in the award of new bid for the next contract term.

Sealed proposals with qualifications will be accepted until **9:30 A.M., Wednesday, _____, 2011.**
ANY RFP RECEIVED AFTER THAT DATE AND TIME WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AND WILL BE RETURNED UNOPENED.

Deliver Submittal to:
RFP NO: 2011-150-00-00CGA

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 RFP Number, Name and Acceptance Date.

The following outlines the Request for Proposal/Qualifications:

SECTION I GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Hidalgo County requires that "Request for Proposals" 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 FACSIMIL NO LATER THAN Wednesday, _____, 2011, at 5:00 P.M. at (956) 292-7612, and/or **BY EMAIL AT:** cris.villarreal@co.hidalgo.tx.us . Responses will be sent to all applicants via facsimile by Friday, _____, 2011. **TELEPHONE INQUIRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

All costs and expenses associated with the preparation and submission of (bids, proposals, and/or quotes) shall be the responsibility of the bidder/proposer and not reimbursements for such charges or expenses shall be passed onto Hidalgo County

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 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 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 complete CIQ forms to the Hidalgo County Clerk’s Office located at 100 No. Clossner, Edinburg, Texas 78539-Hidalgo County Courthouse **COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION OF FORM CIQ IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROSPECTIVE BIDDER.**

PROPOSER'S AFFIDAVIT:

Prior Contract award, respondents to this RFP 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 PROPOSALS:

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 submitter'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 Proposal w/qualifications (RFP) 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 bidding 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.

HAND DELIVERED PROPOSALS W/QUALIFICATIONS:

Hidalgo County requires submitters, when hand delivering the RFP, to make sure that it is stamped with date and time by the County Purchasing staff.

SIGNING OF PROPOSALS W/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 CONTRACT:

Upon approval and acceptance by Hidalgo County Commissioner's Court, the term of the pre-qualified pool of "Title Company Services" will be for a period of one (1) year period commencing November 28, 2011, with the County's sole discretion to extend the contract for an additional one (1) year under the same rates/fees, terms and conditions.

Hidalgo County reserves the right to continue this bid/pool for an additional sixty (60) day grace period at the end of the contract for unforeseen delay in the award of new bid for the next contract term.

DAVIS BACON ACT: (IF APPLICABLE)

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

SECTION II RFP REQUIREMENTS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL:

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

PURPOSE:

Hidalgo County is requesting sealed proposals w/qualifications from certified, licensed and interested "Title Companies" in order to establish a pre-qualified pool of providers for "Title Company Services" for the purposes of providing and rendering title policy related services on an "As Needed/Non-Exclusive/Purchase Order Basis" per project for title company related services on an "As Needed/Non-Exclusive/Purchase Order Basis" to all Hidalgo County Elected Offices, Departments, Programs, Agencies through their funding sources.

CONTENTS:

The required contents for the RFP are presented below in the order they should be incorporated into the submitted document.

QUALIFICATIONS-REQUIREMENTS-SCOPE OF SERVICES:

I. MINIMUM FIRM QUALIFICATIONS:

- (a) The firm must possess a current license from the Texas Board of Insurance
- (b) The firm or vendor selected is to have adequate experience and staff, such as, but not limited to:
 - Title Examiners
 - Closing Officers
 - Escrow Agents
- (c) The provider should have experience with State (i.e. TxDOT), County and other governmental entities as well as private sector firms.

II. REQUIREMENTS:

Each proposal must address, but may not be limited, to the following issues:

- (a) Firm Name;
- (b) Name, position, phone and fax number of Point of Contact (POC);
- (c) Name of Principal/Owner and number of years in business;

- (d) Provide the number of staff members available in order to render (but not limited to) all the services described and listed herein;
- (e) List three (3) governmental projects with names, addresses and phone number of representatives who can be contacted for references;
- (f) Detail how your firm/company has the capability to deliver the services required on a timely basis;
 - State in how many business days your company can return a “Title Report” after a “Request, i.e. Purchase Order” is received by your firm.
 - State your firm’s/company’s agreement to comply or exceed the timeline of seven (7) to ten (10) days, or sooner to issue a “Title Commitment(s)”.
 - Provide a copy of “Texas Title Insurance Premium Rates”.
 - State how many business days your company can complete “Escrow Agent” services (if requested by County) and include the applicable rates for those services.
 - State how many personnel or staff will be assigned and committed to render the services required.
 - State in detail what “other services” are not included in the rates provided.

III. SCOPE OF TITLE COMPANY SERVICES INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:

- (a) Title Reports
- (b) Title Searches, i.e., Title Certificates
- (c) Title Commitments
- (d) Title Policy*
- (e) Escrow Agent Services when requested by the County

NOTE: * In the event that a Title Commitment is requested and no title policy is necessary or purchased, Hidalgo County will pay a maximum of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for the services.

IV. REQUEST FOR SERVICES:

A department requiring Title Company Services will follow the established and approved requisition and Purchase Order policies and procedures utilizing the company/companies, firm/firms awarded by Commissioner’s Court for the provision of said services.

In the event a situation arises that requires an urgent timeline, a department (i.e elected office, program or agency) may elect to use the awarded provider that commits (in a documented fashion, i.e. in writing or e-mail) to meet or exceed that timeframe.

V. INVOLUNTARY TERMINATION:

The qualified vendor(s) awarded to perform work for the County under this RFP shall be deemed to be terminated upon occurrence of any of the following:

- The death of the vendor, if an individual, or the primary professional member, if a firm or

entity;

- The suspension, revocation or cancellation of the vendor's right to practice this profession in the State of Texas;
- The imposition of any restriction or limitations by any Governmental authority having jurisdiction over the vendor to such an extent that the vendor cannot engage in the professional practice for which vendor is pre-qualified.
- The failure or refusal of the vendor to comply with the reasonable policies, standards and regulations are not contrary to any law or regulatory directive; or
- The conduct of the vendor in any unprofessional, unethical or fraudulent manner; a finding of unprofessional or unethical conduct by any board, institution, organization or professional society having any privilege or right to pass upon the conduct of the vendor, or conduct of the vendor which discredits Hidalgo County.

NUMBER OF COPIES TO BE SUBMITTED:

Hidalgo County requires **one (1) original submittal and seven (7) copies.**

PROPOSERS ARE TO PROVIDE A FEE SCHEDULE WITH THIS SUBMITTAL:

Proposer is to provide a fee proposal with qualifications based on the scope of work and services.

SECTION III: SELECTION, EVALUATION AND AWARD

Hidalgo County Commissioner's Court may score, grade and evaluate the submitted proposals or elect to designate, assign and appoint a committee to do so. Commissioners Court or the Committee will base the grading, scoring and evaluation on the "Criteria" set forth herein. Those firms/vendors/companies scoring a minimum of 80 points will be eligible for Commissioners Court to award to one or multiple vendors/firms/companies to provide the services detailed in this procurement if it is in it's best interest to do so.

EVALUATION (GRADING, SCORING) CRITERIA:

➤ **GRADING AND SCORING POINT SYSTEM:**

- A. **FIRM'S STAFFING AND EXPERIENCE - 20 POINTS**
- B. **FIRM'S CAPABILITY TO PERFORM ALL THE SERVICES REQUIRED FOR THE NOTED PROJECTS- 45 POINTS**
- C. **EXPERIENCE WITH POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS/GOVERNMENT AGENCIES- 15 POINTS**
- D. **COST OF SERVICES REQUESTED HEREIN – (10 points)**
- E. **COST OF "OTHER SERVICES" PROPOSED – (10 points)**

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS = 100

PROPOSAL WITH QUALIFICATION SUBMITTED TO: An original and seven (7) copies of RFPs should be submitted to:

<p><u>US Postal Mail address:</u> Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent Hidalgo County Purchasing Department Administration Building 2812 S. Business Hwy. 281 Edinburg, Texas 78539</p>	<p><u>Physical Address:</u> Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent Hidalgo County Purchasing Department Administration Building 2802 S. Business Hwy. 281 Edinburg, Texas 78539</p>
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RFPs must be submitted by **no later than 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday,** _____, 2011.

DRAFT

EXHIBIT B

**HIDALGO COUNTY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

TITLE COMPANY SERVICES POOL SELECTION CRITERIA

RFQ NO.: 2011-150-00-00-CGA

EVALUATION & SELECTION CRITERIA TITLE COMPANY SERVICES POOL

EVALUATION SYSTEM:

Request for Proposals with qualifications will be evaluated based on the criteria presented below.

Based on the department's review evaluation and considering how many parcels are required a company or companies will be selected to provide the services. A company may be asked to submit supplemental information. Requests for title policy related services will be in the form of a fully executed "Purchase Order" and will be forwarded to the firm(s).

IN THE EVENT THAT A TITLE COMMITMENT IS REQUESTED AND NO TITLE POLICY IS NECESSARY OR PURCHASED, HIDALGO COUNTY WILL PAY A MAXIMUM OF THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$300.00) FOR THE SERVICES.

1. FIRM'S STAFFING AND EXPERIENCE – (20 pts)
 - a) Experience of years in business
 - b) Staffing level/experience of staff

2. FIRM'S CAPABILITY TO PERFORM ALL THE SERVICES REQUIRED – (45 pts)
 - a) Days between "Order" and Title Commitment":
 - o Exceed the 7-10 days;
 - o Comply with 7-10 days
 - b) Days to complete "Order" and "Title Policy";
 - c) Days to complete "Escrow Agent Services";
 - d) Staff assigned to County's work;

3. EXPERIENCE: (15 pts)
 - a) Recent experience with Hidalgo County, Tx-Dot Requirements and Procedures;
 - b) Number of similar governmental projects listed;

4. COST OF SERVICES REQUESTED HEREIN – (10 pts)
 - a) Provides the required services at a reasonable cost.

5. COST OF "OTHER SERVICES" PROPOSED – (10 pts)
 - a) Provides other services at a reasonable cost.

OVERALL TOTAL POINTS = 100

RFQ EVALUATION AND SCORING SHEET TITLE COMPANY SERVICES POOL

The proposals will be evaluated based on the criteria presented below.

1. **Firm's Qualifications and Staffing:** **Maximum Points 20 Pts.**
 a) Number of years in business (10 pts.) _____
 b) Number of staff/personnel in each area of service required (10 pts.) _____
 Comments: _____

2. **Firm Capabilities to perform all services required:** **Maximum Points 45 Pts.**
 a) Days between "Order" and "Title Commitment":
 o Exceed the 7-10 days (5 pts.) _____
 o Comply within the 7-10 days (15 pts.) _____
 b) Days to complete "Order" and "Title Policy" (10 pts.) _____
 c) Days to complete "Escrow Agent Services" (5 pts.) _____
 d) Staff assigned to County's work (10 pts.) _____
 Comments: _____

3. **Experience** **Maximum Points 15 pts.**
 a) Recent experience with Hidalgo County, Tx-Dot Requirements and Procedures (10 pts.) _____
 b) Number of similar governmental projects listed (5 pts.) _____
 Comments: _____

4. **Cost of Services requested herein** **Maximum Points 10 pts.**
 a) Provides the required services at a reasonable cost. (10 pts.) _____
 Comments: _____

5. **Cost of "Other Services" Proposed** **Maximum Points 10 pts.**
 a) Provides other services at a reasonable cost. (10 pts.) _____
 Comments: _____

TOTAL SCORE: _____ **Points**

COMPANY/FIRM: _____

EVALUATOR'S NAME & TITLE _____
 PRINT

COUNTY DEPT: _____ DATE: _____

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF HIDALGO §

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT

C-11-150-00-00

THIS AGREEMENT is made effective the day of , **2011**, by and between the **County of Hidalgo, Texas** ("County") and _____ ("Company").

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the County requires services for: **Title Policy Related Services** located within **Hidalgo County** and

WHEREAS, the County of Hidalgo solicited Request for Proposals (RFP) for the development and establishment of a yearly pool for "Title Companies Services", and

WHEREAS, from which "Title Company provider/firm(s)" has been selected from the "Pool" of pre-qualified Title Companies Services from response to the Request for Qualifications (RFP), and

WHEREAS, County has determined that the services of "Title Companies Services" are sometimes necessary to carry out the required report activities; and

WHEREAS, the County has selected the provider/firm to provide title companies services within the County of Hidalgo, Texas through its procured approved pool of Title Companies Services.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, County and Title Company Provider/Firm do mutually agree as follows:

- 1. Scope of Services.** Title Company provider/firm agrees to provide to County the services shown in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and entitled "Services to be Provided by the provider/firm". Provider/Firm selected is to have adequate experience and a workload free from

constraints to complete said services within the requested time provided by the user department. **The Title Company Provider/Firm will not begin work or incur costs until authorization of a Purchase Order (PO) in writing by the County for each work order.**

Further, in the event that a Title Commitment is requested and no title policy is necessary or purchased, Hidalgo County will pay a maximum of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for the services. Also, if it is demonstrated by Title Company Provider/Firm that Hidalgo County has caused or delayed thus preventing the Title Company Provider/Firm from meeting the specified agreed upon deadline to provided the services ordered, Title Company Provider/Firm must advise in written notice to the Purchasing Department or requesting department(s) to authorize and to secure additional time to comply.

2. Term. Contract will be for one (1) year period commencing _____2011, with the County's sole discretion to extend the contract for an additional one (1) year based on prior year's performance evaluation and contingent upon cost remaining unchanged. Hidalgo County reserves the right to continue this proposal for an additional sixty (60) day "grace period" at the end of the contract term for unforeseen delay of award for next term and contingent upon cost remaining unchanged.

3. Compensation. As consideration for rendering the Services provided for in this Contract, the County agrees to pay the Title Company Provider/Firm the amounts specified in Exhibit "B" attached hereto payable against written invoice submitted by Title Company Provider/Firm. The Title Company Provider/Firm is authorized to submit periodic requests for payment within thirty days after completion of each work order. The request for payment shall be made using forms acceptable to the County and shall show the total amount earned to the date of submission and the amount due and payable as of the date of the current billing. Upon receipt of said request for payment, County shall submit a requisition for payment of said services in the customary manner provided for payments utilized by Hidalgo County, Texas. Title Company Provider/Firm agrees to separately account for the receipt and/or expenditure of funds received

pursuant to this Contract and to keep adequate books and records of all such receipts and/or expenditures. All payments to Title Company Provider/Firm shall be mailed to the address shown in numbered paragraph 21, hereof.

4. Progress. Upon acceptance of a work order, the Title Company Provider/Firm shall undertake and complete the authorized work. The County or the Title Company Provider/Firm can request conferences to be provided at the Title Company Provider/Firm's office, the office of the County, or at other agreed upon locations.

5. Inspection of Work. The County has the right at all reasonable times to inspect or otherwise evaluate the work performed or being performed hereunder. All evaluations shall be performed in such a manner as will not unduly delay the work.

6. Amendments. If it becomes necessary at any time during the contract period to change the scope of work, the contract period, the maximum amount payable, the complexity, or the character of this contract, an amendment must be prepared and executed within the contract period. The County retains the right to reject any such amendment proposed by the Title Company Provider/Firm unless the County finds the proposed amendment necessary to complete the work authorized herein. Any such amendments be made in writing agreed to by all parties hereto and duly executed before the end of the contract period as specified.

If the County finds it necessary to require changes in completed work because of errors made by the Title Company Provider/Firm, the County shall require the Title Company Provider/Firm to correct the work at no cost to the County and without amendment to the contract. If the changes are made at the request of the County and are not due to errors of the Title Company Provider/Firm, the County will reimburse the Title Company Provider/Firm for the additional work at the same rate of pay established in Exhibit "B", "Basis for Payment". If payment for the additional work will cause the maximum amount payable to be exceeded, an amendment shall be executed in accordance with the terms of this provision.

7. Reporting. The Title Company Provider/Firm shall promptly advise the County in

writing of events which have a significant impact upon the contract, including:

- 7.1. Problems, delays, or adverse conditions which will materially affect the ability to meet time schedules and goals, or preclude the attainment of project work units by established time periods. This disclosure shall be accompanied by a statement of the action taken, or contemplated, and any County or, if Federal funds are involved, Federal assistance needed to resolve the situation.
- 7.2. Favorable developments or events which enable meeting time schedules and goals sooner than anticipated or producing more work units than originally projected.

8. Ownership of Documents. Upon completion or termination of this contract, all documents furnished to the County by the Title Company Provider/Firm or furnished to the Title Provider/Firm by the County shall be delivered to and become the property of the County. The Title Company Provider/Firm may, at its own expense, have copies made of the documents or any other data furnished the County under this contract.

9. Independent Contractor. Title Company Provider/Firm must comply with all applicable Hidalgo County policies and with any applicable federal, state or local laws, regulations, orders or ordinances applicable to the services provided by Title Company Provider/Firm under this Contract. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, Title Company Provider/Firm represents and maintains that it is an independent contractor and is not an employee of Hidalgo County, Texas, or any agency thereof, and represents and warrants that it does not desire or request any fringe benefits provided to employees of Hidalgo County, Texas, and/or any agency thereof, including, but not limited to benefits associated with Hidalgo County's civil service program. Title Company Provider/Firm agrees to be responsible for any federal income tax, withholding or social security tax liability that might arise from payments received hereunder.

10. Voluntary Termination. Title Company Provider/Firm and County agree that 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) this contract is terminated without cause by County with the thirty (30) days written notice to the Title Company Provider/Firm.

11. Insurance. Title Company Provider/Firm agrees to provide liability insurance

covering its activities in providing the services for County in an amount not less than the minimum amounts prescribed by the Texas Tort Claims Act, ' 100.001, et seq., Texas Civil Practices and Remedies Code, and shall furnish department a Certificate of Insurance (Exhibit "C"), issued by the insurer that such insurance is in full force and effect.

12. No Assignment. Except as otherwise herein provided, Title Company Provider/Firm, may not assign the obligations or rights under this contract to any person without the prior written consent of County.

13. Termination Date. Unless earlier terminated as herein provided, this Contract shall terminate upon completion of projects'.

14. Conflict. Nothing in this Contract shall be construed so as to require the commission of any act contrary to law, and whenever there is any conflict between any provision of this Contract and any present or future law, ordinance or administrative, executive or judicial regulation, order or decree, or amendment thereof, contrary to which the parties have no legal right to contract, the latter shall prevail, but in such event the affected provision or provisions of this Contract shall be modified only to the extent necessary to bring them within the legal requirements and only during the time such conflict exists.

15. Termination by County. If Title Company Provider/Firm fails to deliver quality service, fails to achieve the defined goals, outcomes, strategies and outputs set by County, or if Title Company Provider/Firm fails to comply with any conditions in this Contract, then County shall have the right to terminate this Contract upon the giving of ten (10) days prior written notice to Title Company Provider/Firm.

16. No Waiver. No waiver by County of any breach of any provision of this Contract shall be deemed to be a waiver of any preceding or succeeding breach of the same or any other provision hereof.

17. Entire Agreement. This Contract contains the entire agreement between the parties hereto, and each party acknowledges that neither has made (either directly or through any agent or

representative) any representations or agreements in connection with this Contract not specifically set forth herein. This Contract may be modified or amended only by agreement in writing executed by County and Title Company Provider/Firm, and not otherwise.

18. Venue. This Contract shall be construed under and in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, and all obligations of the parties created hereunder are performable in Hidalgo County, Texas. The parties hereby consent to personal jurisdiction in Hidalgo County, Texas.

19. Hold Harmless. In the event Title Company Provider/Firm should cause, either directly or indirectly, damage, loss, destruction, liability, or claims against the other party as a result of intentional conduct, negligence or otherwise, Title Company Provider/Firm shall hold harmless and indemnify County from any and all obligations, liabilities, causes of action, lawsuits, damages, and assessments, including legal fees, etc., that result from the Title Company Provider/Firm's intentional actions or negligence. This indemnification clause shall survive this Contract and be enforceable as a separate agreement in the event its survival and enforcement becomes necessary.

20. Attorney's Fees. In the unlikely event that a dispute occurs which is litigated or arbitrated, or a cause of action in law or equity is filed concerning the operation, construction, interpretation, or enforcement of this Contract, the losing party shall bear the cost of the attorney's fees incurred by the prevailing party and any and all costs applicable thereto, including, but not limited to, court costs, deposition fees, expert witness fees, out-of-pocket expenses and travel expenses which are incurred by the prevailing party.

21. Notices. Except as may be otherwise specifically provided in this Contract, all notices, demands, requests or communications required or permitted hereunder shall be in writing and shall either be (i) personally delivered against a written receipt, or (ii) sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid and addressed to the parties at the addresses set forth below, or at such other addresses as may have been theretofore specified by written notice delivered in accordance herewith:

If to County:

County of Hidalgo
Attention: County Judge
1615 So. Closner, Ste. J

If to Title Company Provider/Firm:

Each notice, demand, request or communication which shall be delivered or mailed in the manner described above shall be deemed sufficiently given for all purposes at such time as it is personally delivered to the addressee or, if mailed, at such time as it is deposited in the United States mail.

22. Execution of Documents. The parties hereto covenant and agree that they will execute such other and further instruments and documents as are or may become necessary or convenient to effectuate and carry out the terms of this Contract.

23. Binding Contract. This Contract shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, successors, and assigns where permitted by this contract.

24. Gender. All pronouns used in this Contract shall include the other gender, whether used in the masculine, feminine or neuter gender, and the singular shall include the plural whenever and as often as may be appropriate.

25. Authority. The execution and performance of this Contract by County and Title Company Provider/Firm have been duly authorized by all necessary laws, resolutions or corporate action, and this Contract constitutes the valid and enforceable obligations of County and Title Company Provider/Firm in accordance with its terms.

26. Commitment of Current Revenues Only. In the event that, during any term hereof, the Commissioners Court does not appropriate sufficient funds to meet the obligations of County under this Agreement, County may terminate this Agreement upon ten (10) days written notice to Contractor. County agrees, however, to use reasonable efforts to secure funds necessary for the continuing right to

terminate this Agreement at the expiration of each budget period of County pursuant to the provisions of
Tex. Loc. Govt. Code Ann. § 271.903 (Vernon Supp. 1995).

EXECUTED as of the day and year first written above.

COUNTY OF HIDALGO, TEXAS

By: _____
Ramon Garcia, County Judge

ATTEST:

Arturo Guajardo, Jr., County Clerk

TITLE COMPANY PROVIDER/FIRM:

NAME:

By: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Approved on Commissioners' Court: _____ 2011.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
ATLAS & HALL, L.L.P.

BY: _____
Stephen L. Crain, Attorney

EXHIBIT "A"

Services to be provided by Title Company
Provider/Firm

EXHIBIT "B"

Fee Schedule

DRAFT

EXHIBIT "C"

Insurance Requirements

DRAFT