



Hidalgo County Purchasing Department  
New Administration Building  
2812 S. Business Highway 281  
Edinburg, Texas 78539  
(956) 318-2626/ Fax: (956) 318-2629

December 12, 2011

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State, Zip Code

Re: **HIDALGO COUNTY** *(Including all funding sources, programs, and entities)*  
**Request for Qualifications (RFQ)-** *“Professional Engineering Services-Geotechnical and  
Construction Materials Testing Pool”*  
**RFQ NO: 2012-003-01-04-SMA**

Dear Respondent:

Enclosed please find a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) packet for you review and consideration. Hidalgo County Purchasing Department welcomes and appreciates your participation in the RFQ process.

**We have updated out RFQ packet.** Carefully read and review all instructions, requirements, specification and/or scope of work included in this packet. **All forms must be properly completed and submitted your response** in order to be considered responsive and qualified.

If any further assistance is required, please do not hesitate to call the Purchasing Department at (956) 318-2626.

Sincerely,

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB  
Hidalgo County Purchasing Agent

MLS/sma

Enclosures



**HIDALGO COUNTY**  
*(Including all funding sources, programs, and entities)*  
**“PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES  
GEOTECHNICAL and CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS TESTING POOL”**  
**RFQ NO: 2012-003-01-04-SMA**

## **RFQ SUBMITTAL CHECK LIST**

All forms listed below must be included in the RFQ response, failure to submit any of these forms will be considered non responsive.

**Indicate with a check mark (✓) the Forms completed and included in this response:**

- ..... Page 9 of Legal Notice
- ..... Attachment “B” –Procurement Form –Areas of Specialization
- ..... Exhibit “C” -Acknowledgement forms (pages 3 and 4)
- ..... Exhibit “D” -CIQ Form -Copy of County Clerk File Recording fee receipt.
- ..... Exhibit “E” –Proposers Affidavit
- ..... Vendor Bidder Application and IRS form W-9
- ..... Certification Regarding Debarment
- ..... One (1) original, seven (7) copies and two (2) CD’s in PDF format containing a complete copy of Response.



**Hidalgo County Purchasing Department**  
2812 S. Business Highway 281  
Edinburg, Texas 78539  
(956) 318-2626/ Fax: (956) 318-2629

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)

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(Including all funding sources, programs, and entities)

*“Professional Engineering Services-Geotechnical and Construction Materials Testing Pool”*

**RFQ NO: 2012-003-01-04-SMA**

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10.	Certification Regarding Debarment	1
11.	<b>RFQ Submittal Check List</b>	1

The above mentioned items shall be found in the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) packet that is attached herewith. Should you find that any of the items are not attached in its entirety please contact Purchasing by calling (956) 318-2626, advise of missing documentation, and Purchasing will forward information either through facsimile or by U.S. Mail.

Thank you.

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Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent

December 12, 2011  
Date

DRAFT

# **EXHIBIT A** **REQUIREMENTS**

## **HIDALGO COUNTY** (Including all funding sources, programs, and entities) **REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

**HIDALGO COUNTY**  
(Including all funding sources, programs, and entities)

*“Professional Engineering Services-Geotechnical and Construction  
Materials Testing Pool”*

**RFQ NO: 2012-003-01-04-SMA**

The County of Hidalgo will be accepting Statements of Qualifications from qualified State of Texas Professional Independent Testing Laboratories in order to establish a pre-qualified pool of Independent Testing Laboratories on an “As Needed Basis” per project by all County Departments and/or applicable Programs requiring said services as set forth in the requirements. Upon approval and acceptance by Hidalgo County Commissioners’ Court, the term of the pre-qualified pool of Independent Testing Laboratories will be for a period starting **February 9, 2012 and ending February 8, 2013**. The Hidalgo County Purchasing Department will receive sealed envelopes containing Statements of Qualifications for the provision of **“PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES GEOTECHNICAL and CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS TESTING POOL” RFQ NO: 2012-003-12-14-SMA Request For Qualifications**” as specified herein. Statements of Qualifications will be accepted until **9:30 A.M., Wednesday, January 04, 2012**. **ANY RFQ RECEIVED AFTER THAT TIME WILL NOT BE OPENED AND WILL BE RETURNED.**

The following outlines the Request for Qualifications:

**SECTION- I**  
**GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**RFQ DOCUMENT SUBMITTALS/DELIVERY:**

**A total of One (1) original, seven (7) copies, and two (2) CD’s in PDF Format** of RFQs should be submitted as part of your response.

Respondents must complete and include in their response, all documentation requested in this RFQ. Refer to enclosed RFQ Check List form for documents to be included with your response.

**Hidalgo County is requesting that statements of qualifications responses be clearly marked and/or labeled with the Company’s name, RFQ Number, Project Title, and Opening Date, and be delivered 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

Hidalgo County requires respondents, when hand delivering statements of qualifications, to have a Purchasing Department representative time/date stamp and initial the envelope when dropping RFQ off.

All costs and expenses associated with the preparation and submission of (rfq’s, bids, proposals and/or quotes) shall be the responsibility of the respondent and no reimbursement 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 of business relationship that might cause a conflict of interest with the County. By law, the CIQ must be filed with the Hidalgo County Clerk’s Office no later than the seventh business day after the date the person becomes aware of facts that require that statement to be filed. The disclosure requirement applies to a person or business who contract or seeks to contract with Hidalgo County for the sale or purchase of property, goods or service. Any purchase order or contract resulting from this process shall be considered null and void if the Vendors, consultants, contractors and others who desire to conduct business with Hidalgo County are encourage to refer to Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176 for the details of this law. An offense under Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176 is a Class C Misdemeanor.

Please submit complete CIQ forms to the Hidalgo County Clerk’s Office located at 100 N. Clossner, Edinburg, TX 78539-Hidalgo County Courthouse. **COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION OF FORM CIQ IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROSPECTIVE BIDDER.**

**PROPOSER’S AFFIDAVIT:**

Respondents to this RFQ must submit a signed Proposer’s Affidavit (attached herein in Exhibit 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:**

Respondents, during the performance of this contract, will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, sex, national origin or disability except where religion, sex, national origin or disability is a bona fide occupational qualification reasonably necessary to the normal operation of the contractor.

**PROCESSING TIME FOR PAYMENT:**

Submitters are advised that a minimum of thirty (30) days is required to process invoices for payment.

**ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF RFQ’s:**

Hidalgo County's Purchasing Department will not accept telegraphic or electronically transmitted submissions.

**PROOF OF FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS CAPABILITY:**

Submitters must, upon request, furnish satisfactory evidence of their ability to furnish products or services in accordance with the terms and conditions of these requirements. Hidalgo County will make the final determination as to the vendor's ability.

**RESPONDENT DEFAULT:**

Hidalgo County reserves the right, in case of respondent default, to procure the articles or services from other sources and hold the defaulting respondent responsible for any excess costs occasioned thereby.

**RESTRICTIVE OR AMBIGUOUS REQUIREMENTS:**

It is the responsibility of the respondent to review the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) packet and to notify in writing the Purchasing Department if the requirements are formulated in a manner that would unnecessarily restrict competition. These criteria also apply to requirements that are ambiguous.

**RFQ QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:**

Any protest(s) or question(s) regarding the requirements or request for qualifications procedures must be received in the Purchasing Department **via facsimile to (956)292-7612 or via e-mail to [sandra.montalvo@co.hidalgo.tx.us](mailto:sandra.montalvo@co.hidalgo.tx.us) BY NO LATER THAN Wednesday, December 21, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. Responses will be sent to all applicants by Wednesday, December 28, 2011. **TELEPHONE INQUIRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.****

**SIGNING OF QUALIFICATIONS:**

In order to be considered, all submittals **must** be signed. **Please sign the original in [blue ink](#).**

**WAIVING OF INFORMALITIES:**

Hidalgo County reserves the right to waive minor informalities or technicalities when it is in the best interest of Hidalgo County.

**SUBCONTRACTING:**

The successful respondent may not subcontract the award without the written consent of the Commissioners' Court of Hidalgo County.

**TERM OF POOL:**

The pool term is for a period of one (1) year, or upon completion of project(s) unless project specific for more than one (1) year.

**DAVIS BACON ACT:**

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

**SECTION II**  
**RFQ REQUIREMENTS**

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS:**

The required contents and limitations for the preparation of the RFQ are described in this section. Failure to provide the requested information or adhere to any County limitations will result in disqualification of the submitted RFQ

**UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROJECT:**

This section should demonstrate the respondent understands of the project needs, the work required, and any local issues or concerns. This description should be concise, candid, and limited to 3 pages in length.

**FIRM QUALIFICATIONS:**

The County of Hidalgo is seeking to contract with a competent independent material testing laboratory, registered and licensed to practice in the State of Texas that has had experience in, but not limited to, the following areas:

- Roadway Material Production and Construction Inspection Testing
- Inspection of Hot Mix and Concrete Plants
- Drilling and Logging of Soil Borings
- Acquisition and Testing of Samples of Existing Soils for the Planning, Design and Construction of Transporting Facilities
- Roadway Construction Project located in Hidalgo County
- TxDOT Certification

Additionally, this section should include a description of the firm’s project personnel and their most recent similar projects. **A list of ongoing projects similar in scope under TxDOT procurement basis shall be included in a appendix.** For each project, a client contract name and phone number should be included for reference purposes. Additionally, the names of the personnel proposed for this project who participated in the listed projects should be provided. This project list is limited to five (5) pages.

**PERSONNEL AND STAFFING:**

The firm should provide an organizational chart for the project and a summary paragraph of the project work to be performed by each proposed staff member. Biographic summaries that highlight the experience relevant to the specific project responsibilities should be provided for all proposed personnel. There is a one (1) page limitation for each biographic summary provided.

**REQUIRED CERTIFICATIONS AND SUBMITTAL:**

This section will contain any licenses and certifications as required by HIDALGO COUNTY, the STATE OF TEXAS, TxDOT, etc. The independent Testing Laboratories may (Refer to Exhibit “C”) add copies of their Professional Liability Insurance.

**SCOPE OF SERVICES:**

The construction materials testing services contract will encompass all project-related testing services to the County of Hidalgo including, but not limited to, the following:

Hidalgo County is inviting qualifications from qualified Independent Testing Laboratories to provide construction materials testing services for the “Projects”. **Name additional testing services that are sublet to other consulting firms.**

Minimum Qualifications for Independent Testing Laboratories include, but may not be limited to the following:

- a) Ability to perform Geotechnical Testing/ Investigation/ Drilling
- b) Ability to perform Environmental Services
- c) Ability to perform Soil Density Testing
- d) Ability to perform Surveying and Sampling Soils
- e) Ability to perform Materials Testing (Asphaltic and Concrete)

- f) Ability to perform Material Testing and Laboratory Analysis
- g) Ability to perform Hot Mix Plant Inspections and Testing
- h) Ability to perform Transportation Foundation Studies
- i) Ability to perform Building Foundation Studies
- j) Ability to perform Professional Liability Insurance for \$1 Million Dollars without limiting liability to Professional Fees
- k) Average response time from your office to the job site

**PARTICIPATING FIRMS ARE NOT TO PROVIDE A FEE PROPOSAL WITH THIS SUBMITTAL:**

The fee will be negotiated in accordance with the Professional Services Procurement Act, Tex. Govt. Code Ann. 2254.001, et seq.

**SECTION -III  
SELECTION / EVALUATION**

**SELECTION/EVALUATION PROCESS:**

The evaluation system consists of a 100-point system.

**1. STAFFING OF PROJECT TEAM**

The firms should provide information on their proposed professional team members, i.e. applicable certifications/registrations and other pertinent information that demonstrates their qualifications to perform the contract. The professional team members responsible/assigned to assist County projects shall be identified in the organizational chart. Team members shall have experience in performing various types of contracts for counties, cities or other clients as stated in the Request for Qualifications (RFQ). Varied experience gained through other clients should be substantiated by reference. A list of, and scope of, the various projects, for comparative purposes, shall be included in an appendix. **Indicate the number of engineers on your staff.**

**2. EXPERIENCE OF PROJECT TEAM/ABILITY TO COMMIT RESOURCES**

The provider shall designate experienced independent testing laboratory staff to completely and efficiently perform the work. The designated individuals (Project Manager and Key Personnel) may not be replaced during the project unless approved by the County. The proposal shall identify the project team composition, project leadership and reporting responsibilities and address how sub providers, if any, will fit into the management structure. Resumes of the key technical staff members, limited to two (2) pages per person must be included in an appendix, as well as narrative descriptions of projects proposed as similar work experience. Also, in this selection, outline the firm's contingency plans for servicing the project in the event that one or more key personnel are not available for any reason during the period of performance.

**3. METHODOLOGY**

The RFQ should provide a description of the firm's approach to the methodology and management to the scope of services for the project.

- Knowledge, experience, and the equipment to provide the anticipated services
- Management Plan for the anticipated services that will be highly responsive to the needs and interests of the County.

#### **4. UNDERSTANDING OF PROJECT/SIMILAR PROJECTS**

The statement of qualifications shall include the following:

- demonstrate an understanding of the scope of services
- address appropriate Federal/State/Local regulations and policies
- identify information to be gathered or obtained

Responsiveness to RFQ:

- Response is Clear
- Response is Well Organized
- Easy to Evaluate
- Appropriate to this RFQ.

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

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

#### **5. FAMILIARITY WITH APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS**

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

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

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

#### **STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS GRADING AND RANKING PROTOCOL:**

Once a Project has been identified and it is determined that Construction Materials Testing Services are required, approval to seek engagement for professional services is sought from Hidalgo County Commissioners Court. The following protocol and procedures are utilized;

1. Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court , Elected Official and/or the User Department in need of Construction Materials Testing Services **will nominate** (at the minimum) three (3) firms from Hidalgo County's approved pool of firms;
2. Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court and/or an Evaluation Committee will **review, score, and evaluate** the statement of qualifications received in response to this Hidalgo County Request for Qualifications;
3. A grid of the scores will be presented to Commissioners' Court for the purpose of **ranking and approval** for the Purchasing Department to enter into negotiations with the number one (1) ranked firm;

**NEGOTIATION PROCESS:**

Negotiations will commence with Commissioners' Court approved number one ranked firm;

1. Firms will be asked to submit (as part of those negotiations) Attachment "A" including fees;
2. The negotiated contract including best and final offer with the successful firm will be presented to Commissioners' Court (including compliance with all requirements as well as insurances) for consideration and final approval.
3. If negotiations with the number one (1) ranked firm fail, the Purchasing Department will recommend to Commissioners' Court that negotiations cease with the number one (1) ranked firm and commence to negotiate with the next highest ranked firm;



## **REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)**

### **HIDALGO COUNTY**

(Including all funding sources, programs, and entities)

### **“Professional Engineering Services-Geotechnical and Construction Materials Testing Pool”**

**RFQ NO: 2012-003-01-04-SMA**

Acceptance Due Date: **January 04, 2012**

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent  
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department

#### Project Buyer Contact Information:

Sandra Montalvo, Buyer III  
(956) 292-7000 Ext. 4863  
[sandra.montalvo@co.hidalgo.tx.us](mailto:sandra.montalvo@co.hidalgo.tx.us)

1. Sealed qualifications will be received for "HIDALGO COUNTY (Including all funding sources, programs, and entities) Professional Engineering Services-Geotechnical and Construction Materials Testing Pool", in accordance with the requirements attached hereto as Exhibit "A." Qualifications should address all requirements set forth. Respondents 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 qualifications.
2. One (1) original, seven (7) copies of all qualifications and two (2) CDs in PDF Format are required with the respondent'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, RFQ-2012-003-01-04-SMA-"HIDALGO COUNTY (Including all funding sources, programs, and entities) Professional Engineering Services-Geotechnical and Construction Materials Testing Pool", and in County's Purchasing Department, Physical Location: 2802 S. Business Hwy. 281 Postal/ Mailing: 2812 S. Business Hwy. 281 New Administration Building , Edinburg, Texas, **ON OR BEFORE 9:30 A.M., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 04, 2012.**

**NO FACSIMILES OR LATE ARRIVALS WILL BE ACCEPTED. ANY QUALIFICATION 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 IN REFERENCE TO QUALIFICATION.**

Hidalgo County reserves the right to refuse and reject any/all qualifications 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 separate and accept, or eliminate any item(s) listed under this qualification that it deems necessary to accommodate budgetary and/or operational requirements. Hidalgo County also reserves the right to reject any or all qualifications submitted and further reserves the right to design the evaluation criteria to be used in selecting the lowest and best qualification for approval. Receipt of any qualification shall under no circumstances obligate County to accept the lowest dollar qualification. The award of this contract shall be made to the responsible offeror whose qualification 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 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 respondent, or to reject all qualifications and re-advertise.
5. For work to be performed at a County owned or operated location, each respondent shall, in its sole discretion, visit the job site before preparing the qualification and thoroughly familiarize himself/herself with existing conditions. Respondent should take field dimensions and note all circumstances which affect the dollar amount of the qualification.
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, respondents

are required to include illustrations, specifications, explanation of warranties, and service data with their qualification including catalogue numbers and any necessary references.

7. Proposed prices are to remain firm for a minimum of ninety (90) days after priced qualification opening.
8. County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all qualifications.
9. Any interpretations, amendments, corrections or changes to this qualification 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 Qualifications. Respondents shall acknowledge receipt of all addenda as a part of their qualification.
10. Costs are to be net F.O.B., County Prepaid.
11. 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.
12. 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 qualification 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.

13. **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, 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

14. **BILLING AND PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Invoices must include:
  - a) Name and address of successful respondent
  - b) Name and address of receiving department or official
  - c) Purchase Order Number and Contract number (if any)
  - d) Notation- **HIDALGO COUNTY (Including all funding sources, programs, and entities) Professional**

Engineering Services-Geotechnical and Construction Materials Testing 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**  
 Postal/Mailing 2812 S. Business Hwy. 281  
 Edinburg, Texas 78539  
 (956) 318-2511

**15. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Qualification Opening, 9:30 A.M.	<u>January 04</u> , 2012
Award of Contract	_____, 2012
Commence Work or Deliver Products	_____, 2012

**16. HIDALGO COUNTY APPROVED HOLIDAYS**

2012 YEAR	
<b>New Year’s Day</b>	<b>12/30/11 and 01/02/12</b>
<b>Martin Luther King Day</b>	<b>01/16/12</b>
<b>President’s Day</b>	<b>02/20/12</b>
<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>04/06/12</b>
<b>Easter</b>	<b>04/09/12</b>
<b>Memorial Day</b>	<b>05/28/12</b>
<b>Independence Day</b>	<b>07/04/12</b>
<b>Labor Day</b>	<b>09/03/12</b>
<b>Columbus Day</b>	<b>10/08/12</b>
<b>Veteran’s Day</b>	<b>11/12/12</b>
<b>Thanks Giving Day</b>	<b>11/22/12 and 11/23/12</b>
<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>12/24/12 and 12/25/12</b>

**17. ~~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 respondents 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 45CFR76.~~

- ~~Together with the signing of a contract or issuance of a purchase order following the acceptance of a qualification, and prior to commencement of the actual work, the respondent 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 materialmen 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.~~

#### **18. 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 qualification 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.

- **NOTICE:**

**ALL COMMUNICATIONS BY A VENDOR TO THE COUNTY, ITS OFFICIALS, AND DEPARTMENT HEADS REGARDING THIS PROCUREMENT SHALL BE DONE THROUGH THE HIDALGO COUNTY PURCHASING DEPARTMENT.**

**No vendor, its representative, agent, or employee shall engage in private communication with a**

member of the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court or county department heads regarding any procurement of goods or services by the County from the date that the bid, RFP, or RFQ is released. No private communication regarding the purchase shall be permitted until the procurement process is complete and a purchase order is granted or a contract is entered into. Members of the commissioners court are required to make a reasonable effort to inform themselves regarding potential procurements and have a duty to inquire of vendors, their representatives or employees, the nature of any private communication being sought prior to engaging in any communication. "Private Communication" means communication with any vendor outside of a posted meeting of the governing body, a regular meeting of a standing or appointed committee, or a negotiation with a vendor which has been specifically authorized by the governing body.

#### **19. 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 respondent 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 78539CHidalgo County Courthouse.**

**COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION OF FORM CIQ IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROSPECTIVE RESPONDENT.**

20. If, during the life of any contract or qualification awarded, the successful respondent'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.
21. Qualifications, 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.
22. Minimum Standards For Responsible Prospective Respondents: A prospective respondent must affirmatively demonstrate respondent's responsibility. A prospective respondent, by submitting a qualification, represents to County that it meets the following requirements:

- Possess or is able to obtain adequate financial resources as required to perform under the qualification;
  - 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.
- 23.** Successful respondent 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 respondent'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.
- 24.** Any contract award to a successful respondent 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.
- 25.** 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 respondent; County reserves the right to terminate any contract immediately in the event a successful respondent fails to:
- A. Meet schedules;
  - B. Pay any required fees or taxes; or
  - C. Otherwise perform in accordance with the requirements.
- 26.** Successful respondent 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 respondent, or of any agent, employee, subcontractor or supplier in the execution of, or performance under, any contract which may result from qualification award. Successful respondent 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 respondent 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 respondent'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 respondent.

27. Successful respondent 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 Qualifications shall be subject to County's approval. Items found to be defective or not meeting specifications shall be replaced by successful respondent 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.
28. 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.
29. The successful respondent 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.
30. Respondents shall provide with the qualification 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.
31. Respondents must provide **all** documentation requested with this Qualification in their response. Failure to provide this information may result in rejection of the qualification as none conforming.

Request for Qualifications  
for  
**HIDALGO COUNTY**

*(Including all funding sources, programs, and entities)*

**“Professional Engineering Services-Geotechnical and Construction Materials Testing Pool”**

To: Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent  
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department  
Physical Location: 2802 S. Business Hwy. 281  
Postal/ Mailing: 2812 S. Business Hwy. 281  
New Administration Building  
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 respondent proposes and commits to furnish all labor, equipment, material, software and services as set forth in the documents hereinbefore mentioned. The undersigned further agrees, upon acceptance of its qualification, 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.

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

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

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Firm:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Address:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**By:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Printed Name:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Title:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**EXHIBIT "B"**

Evaluation Criteria and Form

Hidalgo County

(Including all funding sources, programs, and entities)

*"Professional Engineering Services-Geotechnical and Construction Materials Testing Pool"*

**RFQ NO: 2012-003-01-04-SMA**

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The respondent's RFQ will be evaluated based on the criteria presented below. These criteria will be scored on the scales shown on the enclosed "RFQ Evaluation Form."

**1. STAFFING OF PROJECT TEAM-- (25) points**

The firms should provide information on their proposed professional team members, i.e. applicable certifications/registrations and other pertinent information that demonstrates their qualifications to perform the contract. The professional team members responsible/assigned to assist County projects shall be identified in the organizational chart. Team members shall have experience in performing various types of contracts for counties, cities or other clients as stated in the Request for Qualifications (RFQ). Varied experience gained through other clients should be substantiated by reference. A list of, and scope of, the various projects, for comparative purposes, shall be included in an appendix. **Indicate the number of engineers on your staff.**

**2. EXPERIENCE OF PROJECT TEAM/ABILITY TO COMMIT RESOURCES (20 points)**

The provider shall designate experienced independent testing laboratory staff to completely and efficiently perform the work. The designated individuals (Project Manager and Key Personnel) may not be replaced during the project unless approved by the County. The proposal shall identify the project team composition, project leadership and reporting responsibilities and address how sub providers, if any, will fit into the management structure. Resumes of the key technical staff members, limited to two (2) pages per person must be included in an appendix, as well as narrative descriptions of projects proposed as similar work experience. Also, in this selection, outline the firm's contingency plans for servicing the project in the event that one or more key personnel are not available for any reason during the period of performance.

**3. METHODOLOGY (20 points)**

The RFQ should provide a description of the firm's approach to the methodology and management to the scope of services for the project.

- Knowledge, experience, and the equipment to provide the anticipated services
- Management Plan for the anticipated services that will be highly responsive to the needs and interests of the County.

**4. UNDERSTANDING OF PROJECT/SIMILAR PROJECTS (25 points)**

The statement of qualifications shall include the following:

- demonstrate an understanding of the scope of services
- address appropriate Federal/State/Local regulations and policies
- identify information to be gathered or obtained

Responsiveness to RFQ:

- Response is Clear
- Response is Well Organized
- Easy to Evaluate
- Appropriate to this RFQ

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

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

**5. FAMILIARITY WITH APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS (10 points)**

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

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

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

**EXHIBIT "B"**

Evaluation Criteria and Form

Hidalgo County

(Including all funding sources, programs, and entities)

*"Professional Engineering Services-Geotechnical and Construction Materials Testing Pool"*

RFQ NO: 2012-003-01-04-SMA

SELECTION CRITERIA		POINTS	SCORE
<b>1) STAFFING OF PROJECT TEAM (25)</b>			
➤ Provide information on their proposed professional team members		10	
➤ Experience in performing similar contracts for counties, cities, drainage/irrigation districts, TXDOT etc.		10	
➤ A list of various projects for comparative purposes		5	
Comments/Rationale for points:		<b>TOTAL</b>	=====
<b>2) EXPERIENCE OF PROJECT TEAM/ABILITY TO COMMIT RESOURCES (20)</b>			
➤ Designate experienced engineering staff to efficiently perform the work.		10	
➤ Identify the project team composition, project leadership, reporting responsibilities etc.		10	
Comments/Rationale for points:		<b>TOTAL</b>	=====
<b>3) METHODOLOGY (20)</b>			
➤ Knowledge, experience, and the equipment to provide the anticipated services		10	
➤ Management Plan for the anticipated services that will be highly responsive to the needs and interests of the County		10	
Comments/Rationale for points:		<b>TOTAL</b>	=====
<b>4) UNDERSTANDING OF PROJECT/SIMILAR PROJECTS (25)</b>			
➤ Demonstrate an understanding of the scope of services		10	
➤ Address appropriate Federal/State/Local regulations and policies		5	
➤ Identify information to be gathered or obtained		10	
Comments/Rationale for points:		<b>TOTAL</b>	=====
<b>5) FAMILIARITY WITH APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS (10)</b>			
➤ Indicate passed experience of the proposed Firm knowledge of governmental regulations, appropriate codes, guidelines, professional standards and policies		10	
Comments/Rationale for points:		<b>TOTAL</b>	=====
		<b>TOTAL SCORE:</b>	

Provider: \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTACHMENT "A"**  
**Engineering Laboratories-Schedule of Services and Related Fees**  
**RFQ NO: 2012-003-01-04-SMA**

**\*\*This form is merely to be used as a guide for the used post ranking by commissioners' court only\*\*  
**Refer back to requirements page 7, negotiations process****

NO.	DESCRIPTION	UNIT COST
<b>PERSONNEL RATES</b>		
01	Soils and Aggregate Technician	\$ _____/ Hour
02	Surveying and Sampling Soils for Highways	\$ _____/ Hour
03	Soils Technician- Density Testing, Radiation Safety Certified	\$ _____/ Hour
04	HMA Level 1-A Certified Technician	\$ _____/ Hour
05	HMA Level 1-B Certified Technician	\$ _____/ Hour
06	ACI Certified Field Grade I Technician A. Includes necessary concrete slump cone, rod, air meter, thermometer	\$ _____/ Hour
07	ACI Certified Field Grade II Technician	\$ _____/ Hour
08	Geotechnical Engineer, P.E.	\$ _____/ Hour
09	Geotechnical Engineer, E.I.T.	\$ _____/ Hour
10	Secretarial, Report Preparation and Reporting	\$ _____/ Hour
11	Logger (In Conjunction with Engineer)	\$ _____/ Hour
<b>TRAVEL EXPENSE</b>		
12	Vehicle Fee Mileage (Applicable for all Trips)	\$ _____/ Mile
13	Mobilization for Truck Mounted Rig, Drill Crew & Support	\$ _____/ Mile
14	Mobilization non standard equipment (4x4 All Terrain Rig)	Cost + _____%
15	Barge Mobilization and Rental	Cost + _____%
<b>GEOTECHNICAL DRILLING AND ENGINEERING SERVICES</b>		
16	Borings in Soil	\$ _____/ Foot
17	Borings in Soft Rock	\$ _____/ Foot
18	Rock Coring	\$ _____/ Foot
19	Standby Time (Drill Rig and Crew)	\$ _____/ Foot
20	Grout/ Bentonite Backfill	\$ _____/ Foot
21	Dozer/ Clearing Cost	Cost + _____%
22	Concrete/Asphalt Patch	\$
23	Traffic Control/ Signs, Barricades, etc.	Cost + _____%
24	All Other Outside Expenses	Cost + _____%

**ATTACHMENT "A"**  
**Engineering Laboratories-Schedule of Services and Related Fees**  
**RFQ NO: 2012-003-01-04-SMA**

NO.	DESCRIPTION	UNIT COST
<b>EQUIPMENT EXPENSE</b>		
25	Laptop Computer Rental (w/ Printer)	\$ _____/Day
26	Laptop Computer Rental (w/ Printer)	\$ _____/Wk
27	Laptop Computer Rental (w/ Printer)	\$ _____/Mo.
28	Concrete Beam Breaker	\$ _____/Day
29	Concrete Beam Breaker	\$ _____/Wk
30	Concrete Beam Breaker	\$ _____/Mo.
31	Vacuum Extractor	\$ _____/Mo
32	Asphalt Thermometer (Provided w/ Technician)	NC
33	Miscellaneous Expenses	Cost + _____ %
TEX METHOD	TEST DESCRIPTION	UNIT COST
<b>SOILS SECTION</b>		
Tex-100-E	Surveying and Sampling Soils for Highways	\$ _____ Hr
Tex-103-E	Determination of Moisture Content is Soil Material	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-104-E	Determination of Liquid Limit of Soils	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-105-E	Determination of Plastic Limit of Soils	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-106-E	Methods of Calculating the Plasticity Index of Soils w/ 104-E and 105-E	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-107-E	Determination of Bar Linear Shrinkage of Soils	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-108-E	Determination of Specific Gravity of Soils	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-110-E	Part I Sieves thru 40	\$ _____ Ea
	Part II Sieves thru 200	\$ _____ Ea
	Additional Sieves	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-111-E	Minus 200 Sieve Analysis	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-113-E	Laboratory Compaction Characteristics and Moisture Density Relationship of Base Materials and Cohesionless Sand	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-116-E	Ball Mill Method for Determination of the Disintegration of Flexible Base Material	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-117-E	TRIAXIAL COMPRESSIVE TEST FOR Disturbed Soils and Base materials (Part I Standard Method)	\$ _____ Ea
	Disturbed Soils and Base Materials (Part II)	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-118-E	Triaxial Compression Test for Undisturbed Samples	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-128-E	Determination of Soil pH	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-129-E	Method of Test for the Resistivity of Soils Material	\$ _____ Ea
<b>HOT MIX SECTION</b>		
Tex-200-F	Sieve Analysis of Fine and Coarse Aggregates (Dry)	\$ _____ Ea

**ATTACHMENT "A"**  
**Engineering Laboratories-Schedule of Services and Related Fees**  
**RFQ NO: 2012-003-01-04-SMA**

	Sieve Analysis of Fine and Coarse Aggregates (Wet)	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-201-F	Bulk Specific Gravity and Water Absorption of Aggregate	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-202-F	Apparent Specific Gravity of material Finer than 180m (No. 80) Sieve	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-203-F	Sand Equivalent Test	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-205-F	Laboratory Method of Mixing Bituminous Mixtures	\$ _____ Ea
<b>TEX METHOD</b>	<b>TEST DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>UNIT COST</b>
Tex-206-F	Method of Compacting Test Specimens of Bituminous Mixtures	\$ _____ Set
Tex-207-F	Determination of Density of Compacted Bituminous Mixtures	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-208-F	Test for Stabilometer Value of Bituminous Mixtures	\$ _____ Set
Tex-210-F	Determination of Asphalt Content of Bituminous Mixtures by Extraction	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-212-F	Determination of Moisture Content of Bituminous Mixtures Part II	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-217-F	Determination of Deleterious Material and Decantation Test for Coarse Aggregate	\$ _____ Ea \$ _____ Ea
Tex-224-F	Determination of Falkiness index	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-227-F	Theoretical Maximum Specific Gravity of Bituminous Mixtures	\$ _____ Ea
<b>CONCRETE SECTION</b>		
Tex-401-A	Sieve Analysis of Fine and Coarse Aggregate (Dry)	\$ _____ Ea
	Sieve Analysis of Fine and Coarse Aggregate (Wet)	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-402-A	Fineness Modulus of Fine Aggregate (In Conjunction with 401-A)	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-403-A	Saturated Surface Dry Specific Gravity and Absorption of Aggregates	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-404-A	Determination of Unit Mass (Weight) of Aggregates	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-405-A	Determination of Percent Solids and Voids in Concrete Aggregate	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-406-A	Material Finer than 75um (No. 200) Sieve in Mineral Aggregates (Decantation Test for Concrete Aggregates)	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-407-A	Method For Sampling Freshly Mixed Concrete (included in hourly technician rate)	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-408-A	Organic Impurities in Fine Aggregate for Concrete	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-409-A	Free Moisture and Water Absorption in Aggregate for Concrete	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-413-A	Determination of Deleterious Materials in Mineral Aggregate	\$ _____ Ea

**ATTACHMENT "A"**  
**Engineering Laboratories-Schedule of Services and Related Fees**  
**RFQ NO: 2012-003-01-04-SMA**

Tex-415-A	Slump of Portland Cement Concrete (Included in hourly technician rate)	N/C
Tex-416-A	Air Content of Freshly Mixed Concrete by the Pressure Method (Included in hourly technician rate)	N/C
Tex-420-A	Flexural Strength of Concrete (Using Simple Beam Center Point Loading)	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-447-A	Making and Curing Concrete Test Specimens (Technician time to make cylinders will be charged at approved hourly rates)	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-448-A	Flexural Strength of Concrete (Using Sample Beam Third Point Loading)	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-460-A	Determination of Crushed Face Particle Count	\$ _____ Ea
<b>TEX METHOD</b>	<b>TEST DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>UNIT COST</b>
ASPHALT SECTION		
Tex-530-C	Effect of Water on Bituminous Paving Mixtures	\$ _____ Ea
Tex-531-C	Prediction of Moisture Induced Damage to Bituminous Paving Materials Using Molded Specimens	\$ _____ Ea
other section	Insert any other services provided and unit price category (i.e. Each, Set, Hour, Etc.)	