

REQUEST FOR BIDS

HIDALGO COUNTY (ALL FUNDING SOURCES) “WELDING SUPPLIES AND OTHER MISC. ITEMS”

BID OPENING DATE:

Contact Person:

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
2812 S. Bus Hwy 281 New Administration Building
Edinburg, Texas 78539

956 318-2626



Form HCPD-03

1. Sealed bids will be received for **HIDALGO COUNTY (All Funding Sources) “WELDING SUPPLIES AND OTHER MISC. ITEMS”** in accordance with the specifications attached as Exhibit "A" hereto. Bids should address all specifications set forth. Bidders may suggest substitutions of features which they feel would be in the best interest of Hidalgo County ("County"). Strong rationale must be presented for any deviation from the specifications. Hidalgo County reserves the right to reject the deviation and its effect on the overall bid.
2. **One (1) original and Three (3) copies** of all bids are required with the bidders name and return address clearly typed/printed on upper left hand corner and the proper notation clearly typed/printed on the lower left hand corner of the envelope and/or package: **BID-2013-015-00-00-MEG- HIDALGO COUNTY(All Funding Sources)-“WELDING SUPPLIES AND OTHER MISC. ITEMS”** and in County's Purchasing Department, 2812 S. Business Highway 281, Edinburg, Texas, **on or before 9:30 A.M., Wednesday, month date, 2013. NO FACSIMILES OR LATE ARRIVALS WILL BE ACCEPTED. ANY RFB RECEIVED AFTER THAT TIME WILL NOT BE OPENED AND WILL BE RETURNED. OVERNIGHT MAIL MUST ALSO BE PROPERLY LABELED ON THE OUTSIDE OF EXPRESS ENVELOPE OR PACKAGE WITH REFERENCE TO REQUEST FOR BIDS-2013-015-00-00-MEG.** Hidalgo County reserves the right to refuse and reject any/all RFB and to waive any/all formalities or technicalities, or to accept the RFB considered the best and most advantageous to Hidalgo County.
3. Hidalgo County reserves the right to: A. separate and accept, or eliminate any item(s) listed under this bid that it deems necessary to accommodate budgetary and/or operational requirements; B. reject any or all bids submitted and further reserves the right to design the evaluation criteria to be used in selecting the lowest and best bid for approval; and C. award the bid to one bidder or to multiple bidders if the County determines it is in its best interest to do so.”
4. The Bidder shall not substitute items named in the bid without the express written consent of Hidalgo County. Failure of the delivered item(s) to perform as specified, or failure to meet the stated delivery schedule shall release Hidalgo County from all obligations to the contracting party with regard to the item(s) in question. In such event, County may elect to award the contract to the next-lowest responsible bidder, or to reject all bids and re-advertise.
5. For work to be performed at a County owned or operated location, each bidder shall, in its sole discretion, visit the job site before preparing the bid and thoroughly familiarize himself/herself with existing conditions. Bidder should take field dimensions and note all circumstances which affect the dollar amount of the bid.
6. Descriptive specifications are referenced in this document to indicate the general kind and quality of equipment desired by Hidalgo County. Due to various styles and models of equipment, bidders are required to include illustrations, specifications, explanation of

warranties, and service data with their bid including catalogue numbers and any necessary references.

7. No bid may be withdrawn within thirty (30) days from the scheduled time to open bids.
8. Proposed prices are to remain firm for a minimum of ninety (90) days after bid opening.
9. Any interpretations, amendments, corrections or changes to this bid document must be in a written addendum and signed by the County Judge or his designee. Addenda will be mailed to all who are known to have received a copy of the Request for Bids. Bidders shall acknowledge receipt of all addenda as a part of their bid.
10. County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.
11. Costs are to be net F.O.B., County Prepaid.
12. County is exempt from Federal Excise Tax, State Tax and Local Tax. Do Not include tax in cost figure. If it is determined that tax was included in the cost figures it will not be included in the tabulation of any awards. Tax exemption certificates will be furnished upon request.
13. Funds for this procurement have been provided through the County budget for this fiscal year only. County, on an annual basis, has the right to reconsider a contract during the budget process for ensuing years if financial resources of County are insufficient to meet the liabilities of said contract. The award of a bid or contract hereunder will not be construed to create a debt of the County which is payable out of funds beyond the current fiscal year.
14. Upon award and prior to execution of a contract, Sole Proprietorships are required to submit a copy of their social security cards to the Hidalgo County Auditor's Office in order to establish an account with the County. All awarded vendors must submit a completed W-9 and a copy of their Federal ID Number Certificate.
15. **DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS:**

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

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

16. **BILLING AND PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS:**

- . Invoices must include:
 - a) Name and address of successful bidder
 - b) Name and address of receiving department or official
 - c) Purchase Order Number (if any)
 - d) Notation - **HIDALGO COUNTY (All Funding Sources) “WELDING SUPPLIES AND OTHER MISC. ITEMS”** 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
2808 South Highway 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539
(956) 318-2511

17. **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:**

Bid Opening, 9:30 AM	<u>month, date , 2013</u>
Award of Contract	_____, 2013
Commence Work or Deliver Products	_____, 2013

18. **BID OR PERFORMANCE BOND AND DEBARMENT CERTIFICATION; PAYMENT UNDER CONTRACT:**

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

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

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

. If a contract is for the construction, alteration or repair of public buildings

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

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

19. **ETHICAL STANDARDS:**

. It shall be a breach of ethics to offer, give or agree to give any elected official, department head or employee, or former elected official, department head or employee, of the County, or for any elected official, department head or employee or former elected official, department head or employee of the County, to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, entity or organization, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation or any part of a program requirement or purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing, or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract, or to any solicitation or proposal therefore pending before any department or agency of the County.

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

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

20. **DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:**

. Effective January 1, 2006, Chapter 176 of the Texas Local Government Code requires that any vendor, person, consultant or contractor considering doing business with Hidalgo County (“the County”) to disclose in the Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (the “CIQ”) attached as Exhibit D, the vendor, person, consultant or contractor’s affiliation or business relationship that might cause a conflict of interest with the County. By law, the CIQ must be filed with the Hidalgo County Clerk’s Office no later than the seventh business day after the date the person becomes aware of facts that require that statement to be filed. The disclosure requirement applies to a person or business who contracts or seeks to contract with Hidalgo County for the sale or purchase of property, goods or service. Any purchase order or contract resulting from this process shall be considered null and void if the successful bidder fails to comply with Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176. Vendors, consultants, contractors and others who

desire to conduct business with Hidalgo County are encouraged to refer to Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176 for the details of this law. An offense under Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176 is a Class C Misdemeanor.

Please Submit completed CIQ forms to the Hidalgo County Clerk's Office located at 100 N. Closner, Edinburg, Texas 78539-Hidalgo County Courthouse

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

21. If, during the life of any contract or bid awarded, the successful bidder's net prices generally available to other customers for items awarded herein are reduced below the contracted price, it is understood and agreed that the benefits of such reduction shall be extended to County.
22. Bids, and all goods and services provided there under, shall comply with all federal, state and local laws concerning this type(s) of goods and/or services.
23. Minimum Standards for Responsible Prospective Bidders: A prospective bidder must affirmatively demonstrate bidder's responsibility. A prospective bidder, by submitting a bid, represents to County that it meets the following requirements:
 - . Possess or is able to obtain adequate financial resources as required to perform under the bid;
 - . Be able to comply with the required or proposed delivery schedule;
 - . Have a satisfactory record of performance;
 - . Have a satisfactory record of integrity and ethics;
 - . Be otherwise qualified and eligible to receive an award.
24. Successful bidder will pay or cause to be paid, without cost or expenses to County, all FICA, FUTA/SUTA and Federal Income Withholding Taxes of all employees, and all wages and benefits as required by Federal or State law. Successful bidder's officers, agents and/or employees will not be entitled to any benefits of an employee or elected official of County, including, but not limited to, benefits associated with County's civil service system.
25. Any contract award to a successful bidder will be in effect until (a) the contract expires, (b) delivery and acceptance of products, and/or performance of services ordered, or (c) terminated by County with thirty day's written notice prior to cancellation.
26. County reserves the right to enforce performance of any contract awarded hereunder in any manner prescribed by law or deemed to be in the best interest of the County in the event of breach or default by successful bidder; County reserves the right to terminate any contract immediately in the event a successful bidder fails to:
 - A. Meet schedules;
 - B. Pay any required fees or taxes; or
 - C. Otherwise perform in accordance with the specifications.

27. Successful bidder shall defend, indemnify and save harmless County and all its elected officials, officers, agents and employees from all suits, actions, or other claims of any character, name and description brought for or on account of any injuries or damages received or sustained by any person, persons, or property on account of any negligent act or fault of the successful bidder, or of any agent, employee, subcontractor or supplier of successful bidder in the execution of, or performance under, any contract which may result from bid award or which arises from any event or casualty happening on or within County premises themselves or happening upon or in any halls, elevators, entrances, stairways or approaches of or to such County facilities. Successful bidder shall pay any judgment with costs which may be obtained against County growing out of such injury or damages, and shall, upon request, provide a defense to County by counsel reasonably acceptable to County. Successful bidder's indemnity hereunder shall include, but is not limited to, claims relating to patent, copyright or trademark infringement, and the like, arising out of the goods and services provided by successful bidder.
28. Successful bidder shall warrant that all items/services shall conform with the specifications and/or all warranties provided under the Uniform Commercial Code and be free from all defects in material, workmanship and the like. Items supplied under a contract pursuant to this Request for Bids shall be subject to County's approval. Items found to be defective or not meeting specifications shall be replaced by successful bidder within two business days at no expense to County. Items not picked up within one (1) week after notification shall be deemed a donation to County and may be used or disposed of at County's discretion and without waiver of any other rights of County as to the item's nonconformity.
29. This document and any disputes arising hereunder shall be governed and construed according to the laws of the State of Texas, and will be performable exclusively in Hidalgo County, Texas.
30. The successful bidder shall not assign, sell, transfer or convey its rights under any awarded contract, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of County.

Bid
For
HIDALGO COUNTY
(All Funding Sources)
“WELDING SUPPLIES
AND OTHER MISC. ITEMS”
BID NO.: 2013-015-00-00-MEG

To: Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
2812 S Business Hwy 281 -New Administration Building
Edinburg, Texas 78539

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

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

Bidder agrees that this bid shall be good and may not be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) calendar days after the scheduled closing time for receiving bids, as contained in the Specifications.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Exhibit "A"
HIDALGO COUNTY(All Funding Sources)
"Welding Supplies and Other Misc. Items"
BID NO.: 2013-015-00-00-MEG

SPECIFICATIONS

Hidalgo County is seeking to enter into a Welding Supplies and Other Misc. Items contract with qualified participants. Sealed Bids will be received for the following ***“Welding Supplies and Other Misc. Items”*** on an **“As Needed Basis”**

It is intended that the amount of **Industrial welding supplies and other misc. items** will be on an **“as needed basis”** by Hidalgo County. It shall be agreed & understood that Hidalgo County will purchase no more supplies/material than is needed. All costs are to be net F.O.B., County Prepaid.

WELDING SUPPLIES AND MISC. ITEMS:

The following welding supplies/material will be awarded to the lowest bidder(s). (Enter Bid amounts on Exhibit “B”-Bid Page)

*The following materials/items listed will be on an **“As Needed Basis”** only.

WELDING SUPPLIES** (No items are specific name brands)

	SIZE	CASE/UNIT S
1. Metal welding Rods (different gauges) 1a Stainless steel welding Rods (different gauges)	7018 1/8	50 LBS
	7018 5/32	50 LBS
	6011 1/8	50 LBS
	6011 5/32	50 LBS
	6011 3/32	50 LBS
	6010 1/8	50 LBS
	6010 5/32	50 LBS
	6013 1/8	50 LBS
	6013 5/32	50 LBS
	2. Rod keeper (storage system) - Electrode oven 120v	
3. Aluminum welding Rods (different gauges)	#35 1/8	5 LBS
4. Cable (by feet) AWG Cooper	SIZE	
	1	
	2	
	4	
	1/0	
	2/0	
5. Torch RD-45	1/8 Steel	1 LB
	3/32	1 LB
6. Alloy 144 Brass Electrode 10 minimum	1/8	10 LB
	5/32	10 LB
7. Torch Brass	1/8	1 LB
	5/32	1 LB
	SIZE	
	21 Series	
	80 Series	

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BID NO.: 2013-015-00-00-MEG

8. Oxygen (for welding gas)	100 Series		
	125 Series		
	200 Series		
9. Acetylene, (for welding gas)	# 3		
	# 4		
	MC		
	100 Series		
10. Nitrogen (for welding gas)	19 Series		
	40		
11. Argon - CO2 75-25% -Mig welder -mild steel	20		
	40		
	80		
	100		
	125		
	200		
	300		
12. Welding Goggles standard (square frame, flip lens preferred)			
13. Leather Welding Gloves (standard) all sizes s, m, l - 4x	Mig Leather gloves		
	Tig Leather gloves		
14. Nomex welding Gloves (standard sizes s, m, l-4x)			
15. Welding Helmets (2" with flip lens preferred)			
16. Jackson HSL1 Apprentice Quick Chance Hood			
17. Leather Jackets for Welders (complete)	Small		
	Medium		
	Large		
18. Doo- Rag Flame Retardant Cap and/or Beanies			
19. Welding Blanket Coated Fiberglass and Acrylic Coated	Size		
	6x4		
	6x6		
	6x8		
	6x10		
	8x8		
	8x10		
10x10			
20. Bib Apron Leather	36"		
	48"		
21. Lens Clear Huntsman "Nitro" Auto Darkening Inner Replacement	1-13/16" x 4-1/16"		
22. Torch Lighters (3 way)			
23. Torch Tips	Medium Torch 100 Series	Tip Type 0-3-101	Size
		Cutting Tip Org. Victor	0-3-101 Victor
		Welding Tip Victor or equivalent to	#0-W-1
			#1-W-1
	#2-W-1		
	Heating Tip	Rosebud Victor 8 or equivalent to	
	Large Torch	Tip Type 0-1-101	Size
Cutting Tip Org. Victor		0-1-101 Victor	
		#0-W-1	

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	300 Series	Welding Tip Victor 2 or equivalent to	#1-W-1 #2-W-1 #3-W-1
		Heating Tip	Rosebud Victor 8 or equivalent to
24. Torch Gauges- Replacement Gauges for regulators are preferred : a) Victor & b) Victor CR150CR	a)Victor		1 1/2" gauge
			2" gauge
			2 1/2" gauge
	b)Victor CR150CR		1 1/2" gauge
			2" gauge
			2 1/2" gauge
25. Torch Hoses - "R" and "T"	Size		"R" & "T"
		25 ft x 1/4	
		50 ft x 1/4	
		100 ft x 1/4	
26. Torches- Complete Kit is preferred with handle and cutting attachments	Medium 100 Series		
	Large 300 Series		
27. Rental of Cylinder (as needed)	Gas		Tank Size
	Oxygen		80 Series
			100 Series
			200 Series
Acetylene		100 Series	
28. Tip cleaner- Standard			
29. Flat Soap Stone-Standard Square			
30. Soap Stone Holder			
31. Safety Glasses – High Impact Protector Z94.3	Dark		
	Clear		
32. Cutting Dark Goggles			
33. Welding cable liners -(for Millermatic 135) OEM Miller or equivalent to- Profax194011	Sizes		
	.30		
34. Welder Tips - (for Millermatic 135) Contact tip	Sizes		
	.030		
35. Welding Wire- Spools - (Flux Coated) 1-lb -10lb no shield gas	Sizes		LBS
	.030		1 lb
			2 lb
			3 lb
			4 lb
			5 lb
			6 lb
			7 lb
			8 lb
			9 lb
		10 lb	
36. Grinding Disc- Screw On – 4.1/2 x 1/4 x 5/8-11			
37. Sanding Disc- Screw On – (Med. Coarse grid- Zircowia flap disc) Hub style	Hub Style 4 1/2 x 5/8" x 11		
	Z-40		
	Z-60		
	Z-80		
	Z-100		
	Hub Less 4 1/2 x 7/8"		

Exhibit "A"
HIDALGO COUNTY(All Funding Sources)
"Welding Supplies and Other Misc. Items"
BID NO.: 2013-015-00-00-MEG

		Z-40
		Z-60
		Z-80
		Z-100
38. Chop Saw Blades – 14 x 3/32 x 1		
39. Strikers 1 & 3 flint striker		single
		triple
40. Flints 1 & 3 flint replacement sets		single
		triple
41. Spring Handle Cross Chisel & Pick Hammer		
42. Headgear w/ clear visor - (CEPMPH-CL)- & dark shade 5		
43. Maximum- Hazardous Material Fee		
44. Plastic Rod Canister (Rod Guards)		14" (water tight-standard)
		16" (water tight-tig brazing rods)
45. Flash back Arrestors		
46. Electrodes Holder		
47. Ground Clamp		
48. Cable connectors- male & female		
49. Ball point lugs		
50. Female Terminals		
51. Leather Sleeves protectors		
52. Quick Connect sets		
53. Welding Cable Liners (Milleromatic 135)		Size
		.035
54. Welding Tips-(Milleromatic 135) Contact tip		.035
55. Tungsten tip for Tig		Size
Pure Tungsten		1/16
		3/32
		1/8
		1/16
		3/32
		1/8
56. Flux Cored welding wire-used with Shielding gas		Size
.030		1 lb
		10 lb
.035		1 lb
		10 lb
57. Flux Cored welding wire- self shielded wire		.030
		1 lb
		.035
		10 lb
58. Flux coated (ET-IT-GS) mild steel		.030
		1 lb
		.035
		10 lb

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59. Carbon Steel-(70S-6) mild steel	.030	1 lb
	.035	10 lb
60. Stainless Steel (ER 308LSI)	.030	1 lb
	.035	10 lb
61. Grinding Disc with hub		size 7 1/4x5/8-11 large
62. Wire cup brush		2 3/4 x 5/8-11
63. Standard Twist wire wheel		4" x 5/8-11
64. Stringer Bead knot wheel		6"x 5/8-11
65. Shaft Knot wheel brush 3" x 1/4"	Carbon	Crimped
		.014
	Stainless Steel	.020
		.014
	Carbon	Knotted
		.020
	Stainless Steel	.014
		.020
66. Flow gauge- for CO2 Argon for Mig & Tig welding		
67. Brazing Alloy Safety Silv - 15 %		
68. Mig Welding Machine 120 volt-180 volt, 208 volt, 240 volts (Miller or Lincoln model equal to or better)		single face
		triple face
69. Replacement Mig Gun (milliermatic 135)		
70. Auto Dark welding helmet multi shade 10-12 mask lens for Mig & Tig welding		Large
71. Tri-Gas Argon-CO2-Helium 7.5%-2.5-90% for stainless steel - All Sizes		Cylinder Size
		291
72. Aluminum - ER 4043 - and 1-lb - 1 ER 4356 - and 1-1b		Size
	.030	.035
	.030	.035
73. Hand Held wire brush – mild & stainless steel		Mild
		Stainless Steel
74. Refill of Co. owned cylinders- all series – Argon CO2- Tri-gas-Nitrogen		

BID REQUIREMENTS AND OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

1. After bid is awarded and low bidder(s) default(s) in meeting the terms and conditions of this bid and/or comply with the contractual agreement, Hidalgo County reserves the right to seek services from the next lowest bidder(s). In such event, County shall charge the successful bidder(s) the difference for any additional cost of such item(s).
2. It is expressly understood and agreed that in case Hidalgo County should need "Industrial

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"Welding Supplies and Other Misc. Items"
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Welding Services and/or Welding Supplies" not available within the time frame needed from the successful vendor during the term of this contract, Hidalgo County reserves the right to purchase these items or request these services from other sources other than the successful vendor and shall not be in violation of any terms or conditions of said contract. Further, Hidalgo County reserves the right to seek another vendor if, at any time, vendor's prices do not conform to public pricing.

3. Continuing non-performance of the bidder(s) in terms of specifications shall be basis for termination of contract by the County. The County shall not pay for work, equipment, or supplies which are unsatisfactory. Bidder(s) will be given a reasonable opportunity before termination to correct the deficiencies.
4. In the event the material furnished does not meet all the above requirements (regardless of weather, tests acceptability, method of repair or other conditions), the County reserves the option to require the material supplier to replace or to reimburse the County for the unused portion of material found to be unsatisfactory.
5. Name Brands: Specifications may reference name brands and model numbers. It is not the intent of Hidalgo County to restrict these bids in such cases, but to establish a desired quality level of merchandise or to meet a pre-established standard due to like existing items. Offerors may offer items of equal stature and the burden of proof of such stature rests with offerors. Hidalgo County shall act as sole judge in determining equality and acceptability of products offered.
6. Hidalgo County reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any or all formalities, or to accept the bid considered the lowest, best, and most advantageous to the County, including compliance to the bid specifications.
7. Hidalgo County reserves the right to add or delete items during the term of the contract under the same rates and conditions.
8. Hidalgo County reserves the right to hold the bids for a period of (90) ninety days without taking action hereon.
9. Hidalgo County shall award the bid on a **LUMP SUM BASIS to ONE VENDOR** and/or **ITEM BY ITEM BASIS** and/or to **MULTIPLE** bidders, whichever is in the best interest of the County.
10. Hidalgo County may seek purchases from state awarded vendors or any other cooperative purchasing programs, whenever it is in the best interest to do so.
11. Any contract award to a successful bidder will be in effect until (a) the contract expires, (b) delivery and acceptance of product, and /or performance of services ordered, or (c) terminated by County with thirty day's written notice prior to cancellation.
12. The contract will be in effect for a period of **one (1) year** with the County's sole discretion to extend for a one (1) additional year under the same rates, terms and conditions.
13. Hidalgo County reserves the right to continue this bid for an additional (60) sixty day Grace

Period at the end of the contract term due to unforeseen delay of award for the next contract term.

14. Insurance Certificates as per Exhibit "C" must be submitted to the Purchasing Department prior to any services being performed by the awarded bidder(s).

Market Volatility and Unit Price Adjustments:

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

1. Requesting Price Adjustment: Upon written request of the Vendor to the County Purchasing Agent, the County may review evidence of prevailing industry-wide market conditions that warrant an adjustment in bid prices contained in the contract.

- A Vendor must tie any price change clause to an industry-wide or otherwise nationally recognized index, or some other form of verifiable document. Such written request must be accompanied by a certified copy of the suppliers advisory or notification to the vendor of the price changes.
- The Vendor must put the Purchasing Agent on the mailing lists for such publications so that the Purchasing Agent can monitor said changes. Such membership shall be at no cost to the County.
- The County Purchasing Agent retains the right to determine whether or not such proposed price changes are in the best interest of the County.
- No price escalation will be authorized in excess of the amount of the increase referred to in the suppliers notice.
- The County may only grant a price increase if the evidence presented is deemed reliable. Should the County allow a price increase, the approved price change shall be honored for all orders received by the vendor or contractor after the effective date of such price change. Approved price changes are not applicable to orders already issued and in process at time of price change.

2. Price Reduction: Vendor shall notify the County at the time when the Vendor's costs for items and/or supplies reduce due to stabilization in the market at which time prices for items on this contract shall be reduced accordingly. Failure by the Vendor to notify the County of a decrease in costs for items and/or supplies for which the Vendor was granted a price adjustment, may result in immediate termination of this contract and the County shall not be obligated to pay the Vendor the difference between the contract price and the price adjustment.

3. Time frame for Adjusted Price Increases: Price increases are only valid for the quarter in which they are requested and approved. Prices shall return to the original contract price at the beginning of the following quarter unless a Vendor notifies the County in writing within ten (10) days of expiration of the quarter in which the price increase is in effect, that it desires to have the price increase continue or that the Vendor is requesting a different price increase for the following quarter. Such request must be supplemented with sufficient justification to demonstrate that the price increase remains

necessary. The County Purchasing Department shall have sole discretion whether to grant the price increase extension. The County too, shall have discretion to unilaterally reduce, eliminate or extend a price adjustment to the Vendor at any time upon written notice from the County to the Vendor demonstrating justification for such reduction, elimination or extension of the price adjustment.

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

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

Hidalgo County is requesting that any and all questions, inquiries, and clarifications regarding quotes, bids, proposals, or statements of qualifications be addressed to, Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent, 2802 S. Bus. Hwy 281, Edinburg, Texas 78539. **TELEPHONE INQUIRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

ALL WRITTEN INQUIRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED VIA FACSIMILE NO LATER THAN, WEDNESDAY, month day, 2013, 5:00 P.M. Responses will be sent to all applicants via facsimile by no later than, **5:00 P.M., FRIDAY, month day, 2013.**