



MINORITY SET-ASIDE OPPORTUNITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH ORC 125.081

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NUMBER: CSP902216
INDEX NUMBER: AGR005
UNSPSC CATEGORY: 80100000

The state of Ohio, through the Department of Administrative Services, Office of Procurement Services, on behalf of the Ohio Department of Agriculture is requesting Proposals for a:

CONSUMER PERCEPTION STUDY FOR THE OHIO GRAPE INDUSTRY COMMITTEE

OBJECTIVE: The goal of the Consumer Perception Study is to better understand consumer perceptions of Ohio wines/wineries, including how consumers prefer to learn about and experience Ohio wines/wineries. This study will serve as a baseline for consumers' perceptions of Ohio wines/wineries. The results of this study will be used to develop future strategic marketing plans for the industry and will also be shared with Ohio wineries.

RFP ISSUED: June 3, 2015
INQUIRY PERIOD BEGINS: June 3, 2015
INQUIRY PERIOD ENDS: June 24, 2015 at 8:00 AM
PROPOSAL DUE DATE: July 1, 2015 by 1:00 PM

Proposals received after the due date and time will not be evaluated.

Submit Sealed Proposals to:

Department of Administrative Services
Office of Procurement Services
Attn: Bid Desk
4200 Surface Road
Columbus, OH 43228-1395

Note: Please review the [Proposal Instructions](#) on our Web site.

The Offeror must submit this cover page (signed) with its Technical Proposal.

Offeror Name and Address: _____ _____ _____ _____ E-Mail Address: _____ Phone Number: () _____ - _____, Ext. _____	Name/Title: _____ _____ Signature: _____ By submitting a response to this RFP, and signing above, Offeror acknowledges, understands and agrees to comply with the RFP requirements and confirms all the instructions and links have been read and understood.
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RFP GLOSSARY OF TERMS

AA:	Affirmative Action
AGR:	Ohio Department of Agriculture
Contractor:	Vendor after Award
CSP:	Competitive Sealed Proposal
DAS:	Department of Administrative Services
EOD:	Equal Opportunity Division
FEI:	Federal Employer Identification
Mandatory:	Must, Will, Shall
OAC:	Ohio Administrative Code
OAKS:	Ohio Administrative Knowledge System (Ohio's Accounting System)
OBG:	Ohio Business Gateway
Offeror:	Vendor Submitting Proposal
OGIC:	Ohio Grape Industries Committee
OPS:	Office of Procurement Services
ORC:	Ohio Revised Code
RFP:	Request for Proposal
SOS:	Secretary of State
UNSPSC:	The United Nations Standard Products and Services Code

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 INTRODUCTION This is a Request for Competitive Sealed Proposals (RFP) under Section 125.071 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) and Section 123:5-1-08 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC). The Department of Administrative Services (DAS), Office of Procurement Services, on behalf of the Ohio Department of Agriculture (the Agency), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals (Proposals) for a Consumer Perception Study for the Ohio Grape Industries Committee. If a suitable offer is made in response to this RFP, the state of Ohio (State), through DAS, may enter into a contract (the Contract) to have the selected Offeror (the Contractor) perform all or part of the Project (the Work). This RFP provides details on what is required to submit a Proposal for the Work, how the State will evaluate the Proposals, and what will be required of the Contractor in performing the Work.

This RFP gives the dates on page 1 for the various events in the submission process. While these dates are subject to change, prospective Offerors must be prepared to meet them as they currently stand.

1.2 CONTRACT PERIOD Once awarded, the term of the Contract will be from the award date through June 30, 2016. The State may solely renew all or part of this Contract at the discretion of DAS for a period of one month and subject to the satisfactory performance of the Contractor and the needs of the Agency.

1.3 BACKGROUND The Ohio Grape Industries Committee (OGIC) is a quasi-state agency housed at the Ohio Department of Agriculture and funded through a portion of the excise tax collected on the sale of wine in the state of Ohio. The OGIC is responsible for providing marketing, production and research opportunities for Ohio's grape industry and/or grape products.

1.4 SCOPE OF WORK The goal of the Consumer Perception Study is to better understand consumer perceptions of Ohio wines/wineries, including how consumers prefer to learn about and experience Ohio wines/wineries. This study will serve as a baseline for consumers' perceptions of Ohio wines/wineries. The results of this study will be used to develop future strategic marketing plans for the industry and will also be shared with Ohio wineries.

1.4.1 Key Groups to be addressed:

1. Key industry stakeholders (i.e., Committee/Subcommittee members, retailers, distributors, etc.)
2. Frequent Ohio wine drinkers/buyers (those who drink wine at least twice a week and who have visited more than five Ohio wineries within the past year).
3. Moderate/occasional Ohio wine drinkers/buyers (those who drink wine at least twice a month and who have visited at least one Ohio winery/winery within the past year).
4. Non-Ohio wine drinkers/buyers (those who don't drink wine and have not visited an Ohio winery/winery within the past year).

1.4.2 Study Methods. All questions and study instruments (i.e., focus group, on-line survey, etc.) shall be approved by the OGIC designee, prior to being implemented.

Stage 1

1. Key Stakeholder Input. Gather input from key industry stakeholders regarding current market environment, opportunities and challenges/obstacles for the Ohio wine industry.
2. This stage should take no longer than three weeks to complete, based on stakeholder availability.
3. Within 2 weeks of completing this stage, a written report must be provided by the Contractor.

Stage 2

1. Review current wine marketing data regarding consumer purchasing trends.
2. This stage should take no longer than two weeks to complete.
3. Within 2 weeks of completing this stage, a written report must be provided by the Contractor.

Stage 3

1. Conduct a minimum of four focus groups consisting of frequent, moderate/occasional and non-Ohio wine drinkers/buyers. Each group must be comprised of 8-12 participants representing different geographic regions of the state, focusing on the experience of a winery, including the following:
 - a. Experience. Determine emotional, social and lifestyle drivers within frequent, moderate/occasional and non-drinking segments
 - b. Expectation such as tours, tastings, food, amenities, etc.
 - c. Importance of competitions/awards received by wineries
 - d. Definition of and importance of supporting local
 - e. Challenges to purchasing Ohio winesParticipants shall be at least 21 years of age and represent a cross section of age, gender, ethnic background and income levels.
2. This stage should take no longer than 6 weeks to complete.
3. Within 2 weeks of completing this stage, a written report must be provided by the Contractor.

Stage 4

1. On-Line Survey. Conduct an on-line survey, including both in-state and out-of-state (within 200 miles of Ohio) to gather input regarding the following:
 - a. Expectations – tours, tastings, food, amenities, etc.
 - b. Importance of competitions/awards received by wineries
 - c. Definition of and importance of supporting local
 - d. Challenges to purchasing Ohio wines
2. This stage should take no longer than 8 weeks to complete.
3. Within 2 weeks of completing this stage, a written report must be provided by the Contractor.

Stage 5

Within one month of completing the four stages listed above, or 6 months after beginning the project, the vendor shall provide the OGIC with a final report that includes a summary of each stage along with key actionable tactics and marketing approaches based on the findings of the study.

Stages must occur in numerical order and build upon the data gathered from the previous stage. Contractor must meet with OGIC's designee after the completion of each stage and present a summary of findings and discuss plans for next stage. All findings from each stage shall be shared with the OGIC designee.

1.4.3 Work Plan.

Offeror shall provide a detailed plan of action, including specific methodology to be used. Plan shall detail how all tasks in the Scope of Work will be accomplished.

- 1.5 CONFIDENTIAL, PROPRIETARY OR TRADE SECRET INFORMATION DAS procures goods and services through a RFP in a transparent manner and in accordance with the laws of the state of Ohio. All proposals provided to DAS in response to this RFP become records of DAS and as such, will be open to inspection by the public after award unless exempt from disclosure under the Ohio Revised Code or another provision of law. Refer to section 5.1.6 in the Instructions.
- 1.6 REGISTRY OF OFFERORS DAS will prepare a registry of Proposals containing the name and address of each Offeror. The registry will be on the Office of Procurement Services Web site and available for public inspection after the Proposals are received.
- 1.7 PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL Offeror must submit both a "Technical Proposal" and a "Cost Proposal" as a part of its Proposal package. These are two separate components which shall be submitted in separate sealed envelopes/packages, clearly identified on the exterior as either "Technical Proposal" or "Cost Proposal" with CSP902216 and due date on each. Offeror must submit this signed cover page with its technical Proposal. Offeror shall mark the correct CSP number on all envelopes/packages. Refer to sections 5.1.10 and 5.1.12 in the Instructions for further detail.
- 1.8 NUMBER OF PROPOSALS TO SUBMIT Offeror must submit one (1) original, completed and signed in blue ink, and nine (9) copies for a total of ten (10) Proposal packages.

2.0 EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

- 2.1 MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS The following table contains items that are Mandatory Requirements for this RFP.

Determining the Offeror's ability to meet the Mandatory Requirements is the first step of the DAS evaluation process. The Offeror's response must be clearly labeled "Mandatory Requirements" and collectively contained in Tab 2 of the Offeror's Proposal in the "Offeror Required Information and Certification" section.

DAS will evaluate Tab 2 alone to determine whether the Proposal meets all Mandatory Requirements (accept/reject). If the information contained in Tab 2 does not clearly meet every Mandatory Requirement, the Proposal may be disqualified by DAS from further consideration.

TABLE 1 - MANDATORY PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS Not applicable for this project.

- 2.2 PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA If the Offeror provides sufficient information to DAS in its Proposal, demonstrating it meets the Mandatory Requirements, the Offeror's Proposal will be included in the next step of the evaluation process which involves the scoring of the Proposal Technical Requirements (Table 3), followed by the scoring of the Cost Proposals. In the Proposal evaluation step, DAS rates the Proposals based on the following listed criteria and the weight assigned to each criterion. The possible points allowed in this RFP are distributed as indicated in the Table 2 - Scoring Breakdown.

2.3 TABLE 2 - SCORING BREAKDOWN

Criteria	Maximum Allowable Points
Proposal Technical Requirements	600 Points
Proposal Cost	420 Points
Presentation	250 Points
Total	1,270 Points

2.4 SCORE RATINGS The scale below (0-5) will be used to rate each proposal on the criteria listed in the Technical Proposal Evaluation table.

DOES NOT MEET 0 POINTS	WEAK 1 POINT	WEAK TO MEETS 2 POINTS	MEETS 3 POINTS	MEETS TO STRONG 4 POINTS	STRONG 5 POINTS
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DAS will score the Proposals by multiplying the score received in each category by its assigned weight and adding all categories together for the Offeror's Total Technical Score in Table 3. Representative numerical values are defined as follows:

DOES NOT MEET (0 pts.): Response does not comply substantially with requirements or is not provided.

WEAK (1 pt.): Response was poor related to meeting the objectives.

WEAK TO MEETS (2 pts.): Response indicates the objectives will not be completely met or at a level that will be below average.

MEETS (3 pts.): Response generally meets the objectives (or expectations).

MEETS TO STRONG (4 pts.): Response indicates the objectives will be exceeded.

STRONG (5 pts.): Response significantly exceeds objectives (or expectations) in ways that provide tangible benefits or meets objectives (or expectations) and contains at least one enhancing feature that provides significant benefits.

2.5 TABLE 3 - TECHNICAL PROPOSAL EVALUATION

Criterion	Weight	Rating (0 to 5)	Extended Score
Offeror Profile			
Each Proposal must include a profile of the Offeror's history, capability, capacity, and relevant experience working on projects similar to this Work. (Complete Form 5.2.3).	40		
Offeror Prior Projects			
The Offeror provides, at a minimum, three (3) previous references for jobs similar to this Project within the last five (5) years and provides details of similarities. All references provided must be willing to be contacted and to answer questions and provide details of the projects performed by the Offeror. (Complete Form 5.2.4).	20		
Staffing Plan			
The Offeror must submit a staffing plan naming all key personnel that will be used to complete the project. The plan shall include the planned duties of key personnel and the time commitment of the proposed work team.	5		

Criterion	Weight	Rating (0 to 5)	Extended Score
The Offeror must submit forms 5.2.5 and 5.2.6 for proposed Project Manager and any other key personnel to include candidate's education, training, qualifications and proposed work assignment.	5		
Scope of Work. Offeror's Work Plan shall provide detailed descriptions, including specific methodology proposed, of how it will accomplish the following:			
Stage 1 tasks	10		
Stage 2 tasks	10		
Stage 3 tasks	10		
Stage 4 tasks	10		
Stage 5 tasks	10		

Total Technical Score: _____

- 2.6 **PRESENTATIONS AND INTERVIEWS** DAS may require top Offerors to be interviewed. Such interviews will provide an Offeror with an opportunity to present its Proposal and to ensure a mutual understanding of the Proposal's content. This will also allow DAS and the Agency an opportunity to test or probe the professionalism, qualifications, skills, and work knowledge of the proposed candidates. The interviews will be scheduled at the convenience and discretion of DAS and the Agency. DAS or the Agency may record any presentations and interviews. The one (1) to three (3) highest scoring Offerors; but no more than the top three (3) may be required to participate. Interviews will be scheduled to be held in Columbus, Ohio at the vendor's expense, if applicable.

Presentation			Maximum Score
1. Oral Presentation			250

Total Presentation Score: _____

In this RFP, DAS asks for responses and submissions from Offerors, most of which represent components of the above criteria. While each criterion represents only a part of the total basis for a decision to award the Contract to an Offeror, a failure by an Offeror to make a required submission or meet a mandatory requirement will normally result in a rejection of that Offeror's Proposal. The value assigned above to each criterion is only a value used to determine which Proposal is the most advantageous to the State in relation to the other Proposals that DAS received.

Once the technical merits of a Proposal are evaluated, the costs of that Proposal will be considered. It is within DAS' discretion to wait to factor in a Proposal's cost until after the conclusion of any interviews, presentations, demonstrations or discussions. Also, before evaluating the technical merits of the Proposals, DAS may do an initial review of costs to determine if any Proposals should be rejected because of excessive cost. DAS may reconsider the excessiveness of any Proposal's cost at any time in the evaluation process.

- 2.7 COST PROPOSAL POINTS DAS will use the information the Offeror submits on the Cost Summary Form to calculate Cost Proposal Points. DAS will calculate the Offeror's Cost Proposal points after the Offeror's total technical points are determined, using the following method:

Cost points = (lowest Offeror's cost/Offeror's cost) x Maximum Allowable Cost Points as indicated in the "Scoring Breakdown" table. "Cost" = Total Not-to-Exceed Cost identified in the Cost Summary section of Offeror's Proposal. In this method, the lowest cost proposed will receive the maximum allowable points.

The number of points assigned to the cost evaluation will be prorated, with the lowest accepted Cost Proposal given the maximum number of points possible for this criterion. Other acceptable Cost Proposals will be scored as the ratio of the lowest Cost Proposal to the Proposal being scored, multiplied by the maximum number of points possible for this criterion.

An example for calculating cost points, where Maximum Allowable Cost Points Value = 60 points, is the scenario where Offeror X has proposed a cost of \$100.00. Offeror Y has proposed a cost of \$110.00 and Offeror Z has proposed a cost of \$120.00. Offeror X, having the lowest cost, would get the maximum 60 cost points. Offeror Y's cost points would be calculated as \$100.00 (Offeror X's cost) divided by \$110.00 (Offeror Y's cost) equals 0.909 times 60 maximum points, or a total of 54.5 points. Offeror Z's cost points would be calculated as \$100.00 (Offeror X's cost) divided by \$120.00 (Offeror Z's cost) equals 0.833 times 60 maximum points, or a total of 50 points.

Cost Score: _____

- 2.8 FINAL STAGES OF EVALUATION The Offeror with the highest point total from all phases of the evaluation (Technical Points + Cost Points) will be recommended for the next phase of the evaluation.

Technical Score: _____ + Cost Score: _____ = Total Score: _____

If DAS finds that one or more Proposals should be given further consideration, DAS may select one or more of the highest-ranking Proposals to move to the next phase. DAS may alternatively choose to bypass any or all subsequent phases and make an award based solely on the Proposal evaluation phase.

- 2.9 REJECTION OF PROPOSALS DAS may reject any Proposal that is not in the required format, does not address all the requirements of this RFP, or that DAS believes is excessive in price or otherwise not in the interest of the State to consider or to accept. In addition, DAS may cancel this RFP, reject all the Proposals, and seek to do the Work through a new RFP or by other means.

3.0 COST SUMMARY

3.1 SUBMISSION The Cost Summary shall be submitted with the Proposal (under separate cover labeled as the Cost Proposal). All prices, costs, and conditions outlined in the Proposal shall remain fixed and valid for acceptance for 120 days, starting on the due date for Proposals. No price change shall be effective without prior written consent from DAS, Office of Procurement Services.

The Offeror's total cost for the entire Work must be represented as the not-to-exceed total. All costs for furnishing the services must be included in the Cost Proposal.

3.2 THE OFFEROR'S FEE STRUCTURE The Contractor will be paid as proposed on the Cost Summary after the Agency approves the receipt of product(s)/services and continued completion of all deliverables. All costs must be in U.S. Dollars.

3.3 REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES None; there will be no additional reimbursement for travel or other related expenses. The State will not be responsible for any costs not identified.

3.4 BILL TO ADDRESS
Ohio Department of Agriculture – Ohio Grape Industries Committee
8995 E. Main Street, Room 329
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Contractor may bill OGIC at the completion of each stage.

Consumer Perception Study for the Ohio Grape Industry Committee
CSP902216
UNSPSC CATEGORY CODE: 80100000
BUDGET: \$70,000.00 for the project

OFFEROR: _____

Description	Cost
<p>Stage 1 Tasks.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Key Stakeholder Input. Gather input from key industry stakeholders regarding current market environment, opportunities and challenges/obstacles for the Ohio wine industry. 2. This stage should take no longer than three weeks to complete, based on stakeholder availability. 3. Within 2 weeks of completing this stage, a written report must be provided by the Contractor. 	\$
<p>Stage 2 Tasks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review current wine marketing data regarding consumer purchasing trends. 2. This stage should take no longer than two weeks to complete. 3. Within 2 weeks of completing this stage, a written report must be provided by the Contractor. 	\$
<p>Stage 3 Tasks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct a minimum of four focus groups consisting of frequent, moderate/occasional and non-Ohio wine drinkers/buyers. Each group must be comprised of 8-12 participants representing different geographic regions of the state, focusing on the experience of a winery. 2. This stage should take no longer than 6 weeks to complete. 3. Within 2 weeks of completing this stage, a written report must be provided by the Contractor. 	\$

<p>Stage 4 Tasks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On-Line Survey. Conduct an on-line survey, including both in-state and out-of-state (within 200 miles of Ohio) to gather input. 2. This stage should take no longer than 8 weeks to complete. 3. Within 2 weeks of completing this stage, a written report must be provided by the Contractor. 	\$
<p>Stage 5 Task</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Final report. 	\$
<p>Not-To-Exceed Total Cost</p>	\$

All Offerors who seek to be considered for a contract award must submit the above information in the format specified. The Original Cost Summary must be included in a separate, sealed envelope/package labeled on the exterior as "Cost Proposal" with the RFP Number and due date.

4.0 AWARD OF THE CONTRACT

- 4.1 CONTRACT AWARD DAS intends to award the Contract based on the schedule in the RFP, if DAS decides the Work is in the best interests of the State and has not changed the award date.

DAS expects the Contractor to commence the Work upon receipt of a state issued purchase order. If DAS awards a Contract pursuant to this RFP and the Contractor is unable or unwilling to commence the Work, DAS reserves the right to cancel the Contract and return to the original RFP process and evaluate any remaining Offeror's Proposals reasonably susceptible of being selected for award of the Contract. The evaluation process will resume with the next highest ranking, viable Proposal.

- 4.2 CONTRACT If this RFP results in a Contract award, the Contract will consist of this RFP including the Terms and Conditions, all forms, written addenda to this RFP, the Contractor's accepted Proposal and written authorized addenda to the Contractor's Proposal. It will also include any materials incorporated by reference in the above documents and any purchase orders and amendments issued under the Contract. The general terms and conditions for the Contract are contained in the following link:

<https://procure.ohio.gov/pdf/5.3 Terms and Conditions.pdf>

If there are conflicting provisions between the documents that make up the Contract, the order of precedence for the documents is as follows:

1. The one-page Contract Signature Page, Form 5.2.2
2. The RFP, as addended, including the Terms and Conditions;
3. The documents and materials incorporated by reference in the RFP;
4. The Executive Order. EO2011-12K incorporated by reference in the RFP;
5. The Contractor's Proposal, as amended, clarified, and accepted by the State; and
6. The documents and materials incorporated by reference in the Contractor's Proposal.

Notwithstanding the order listed above, amendments issued after the Contract is executed may expressly change the provisions of the Contract. If they do so expressly, then the most recent amendment will take precedence over anything else that is part of the Contract.

- 4.3 ECONOMIC PRICE ADJUSTMENT The Contract prices(s) will remain firm throughout the initial term of the Contract. Thereafter, prior to Contract renewal, the Contractor may submit a request to adjust their price(s) to be effective on the effective date of the Contract's renewal. No price adjustment will be permitted prior to the effective date; on purchase orders that already being processed; or on purchase orders that have been filled.

Price increases must be supported by a general price increase in the cost of the materials/services rendered due to documented increases in the cost of related materials/services. Detailed documentation, to include a comparison list of the Contract items and proposed price adjustments must be submitted to support the requested adjustment. Supportive documentation should include, but is not limited to: copies of the old and the current price lists or similar documents which indicate the original base cost of the product to the Contractor and the corresponding adjustment, and/or copies of correspondence sent by the Contractor's supplier on the supplier's letterhead, which contain the above price information and explains the source of the adjusted costs in such areas as raw materials, freight, fuel or labor, etc.

Should there be a decrease in the cost of the finished product due to a general decline in the market or some other factor, the Contractor is responsible to notify DAS immediately. The price decrease adjustment will be incorporated into the Contract and will be effective on all purchase orders issued after the effective date of the decrease. If the price decrease is a temporary decrease, such should be noted on the invoice. In the event that the temporary decrease is revoked, the Contract pricing will be returned to the pricing in effect prior to the temporary decrease. Failure to comply with this provision will be considered as a default and will be subject to the Suspension and Termination section contained herein.

4.4 SPECIAL PROVISIONS

- 4.4.1 Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Set Aside. The State is committed to making more State contracts and opportunities available to minority business enterprises (MBE) certified by the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS) pursuant to Section 123.151 of the Ohio Revised Code and Rule 123:2-15-01 of the Ohio Administrative Code. This RFP is being issued as a minority set aside contract in accordance with Section 125.081 of the Ohio Revised Code. All Offerors must be an Ohio certified MBE at the proposal due date. For more information regarding the Ohio MBE certification requirements, including a list of Ohio certified MBE businesses, please visit the DAS Equal Opportunity website at:

<http://das.ohio.gov/Divisions/EqualOpportunity/MBEEDGECertification/tabid/134/default.aspx>

5.0 LINKS To be applicable to all Proposals and subsequent award(s), including sections named below.

5.1 Instructions

- 5.1.1 General Instructions
- 5.1.2 Inquiries
- 5.1.3 Protests
- 5.1.4 Addenda to the RFP
- 5.1.5 Proposal Submittal
- 5.1.6 Confidential, Proprietary or Trade Secret Information
- 5.1.7 Waiver of Defects
- 5.1.8 Multiple or Alternate Proposals
- 5.1.9 Addenda to Proposals
- 5.1.10 Proposal Format
- 5.1.11 Evaluation of Proposals
- 5.1.12 Proposal Format and Documentation Required

5.2 Forms

- 5.2.1 Offeror Required Information
- 5.2.2 Contract Signature Page
- 5.2.3 Offeror Profile
- 5.2.4 Offeror Prior Projects
- 5.2.5 Offeror's Candidate References
- 5.2.6 Offeror's Candidate Education, Training, Experience
- 5.2.7 Offeror Performance Form
- 5.2.8 Contractor/Subcontractor Affirmation and Disclosure

5.3 Terms and Conditions

- 5.3.1 Performance and Payment
- 5.3.2 Work and Contract Administration
- 5.3.3 Ownership & Handling of Intellectual Property & Confidential Information
- 5.3.4 Representations, Warranties and Liabilities
- 5.3.5 Acceptance and Maintenance
- 5.3.6 Construction
- 5.3.7 Law & Courts

5.4 ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

EOD Reporting	http://eodreporting.oit.ohio.gov/searchEODReporting.aspx
Office of Budget and Management	http://obm.ohio.gov/LandingPages/Vendor/default.aspx
Office of Procurement Services	http://procure.ohio.gov/proc/index.asp
Ohio Shared Services	http://www.ohiosharedservices.ohio.gov/Home.aspx
Ohio Business Gateway	http://business.ohio.gov/
Ohio Secretary of State	http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/Businesses.aspx

All links are subject to change in accordance with state of Ohio laws, Ohio Revised Code, Ohio Administrative Code, Executive Orders or any other updates issued by the state of Ohio, Department of Administrative Services, and the Office of Procurement Services. It is the Offeror's responsibility to read and be aware of any changes, corrections, updates or deletions to any information included in the link(s) above.

- 6.0 Guide for Proposal Submission This guide outlines steps for submission of a Proposal in response to the advertised Request for Proposal. This guide does not contain the complete instructions for preparing and submitting a Proposal and anything stated herein shall not be considered a term or condition of the Contract. The complete instructions can be found in section 5.1.1, Proposal Instructions.
- 6.1 _____ Read the entire document, including all Web site links. Note critical items such as: Mandatory Requirements; goods or services required, submittal date and time; number of copies to submit; contract requirements; reporting requirements; minimum qualifications; read and understand the terms and conditions.
- 6.2 _____ Take advantage of the “question and answer” period specified in the schedule of events. Questions must be submitted on-line in the Inquiry Process as explained in the Instructions. See section 5.1.1, Proposal Instructions.
- 6.3 _____ Follow the format required in the RFP Instructions when preparing the response in chronological order. Provide point-by-point responses to all sections in a clear and concise manner. See section 5.1.3, Proposal Format & Documentation Required.
- 6.4 _____ Use the forms provided; i.e. Signed RFP Cover Page, Offeror Required Information, Contract Signature Page, Offeror Profile and Prior Projects, Key Personnel forms, Disclosure Form, and Cost Summary Form, See section 5.2, Forms.
- 6.5 _____ Provide complete answers/descriptions. Do not assume the State or any evaluation committee member will know what the Offeror’s capabilities are or what items/services the Offeror can provide, even if previously contracted with the State. The Proposals are evaluated based solely on the information and materials provided in the Offeror’s response.
- 6.6 _____ Check the State’s Web site for RFP addenda. It is the responsibility of the Offeror to be aware of additional information posted on the Web.
- 6.7 _____ The following documents may be submitted with the Proposal or within five (5) business days of request from the Office of Procurement Services: Affirmative Action and proof of insurance. No award will be made without this documentation. Offeror’s Proposal may be eliminated from further consideration upon failure to submit within the specified time frame
- 6.8 _____ If not a current vendor of the state of Ohio, the Offeror will download both the W-9 and Vendor Information Form and submit to Ohio Shared Services (OSS) at vendor@ohio.gov. See section 5.4, Additional Resources.
- 6.9 _____ Review and read the RFP Document again to make sure that you have addressed all requirements. Read and understand Supplements, if applicable. Offeror’s original response and the requested copies must be identical and be complete. The copies are provided to the evaluation committee members and used to score the response.
- 6.10 _____ Offeror’s response must be submitted on time. Late Proposals are never accepted. Make sure the response is labeled on the exterior of the envelope/package with the RFP# and due date, and whether the packet is for the Technical Proposal or the Cost Proposal. Do not place the Cost Proposal in the Technical Proposal.