

**City of Seattle**

**RFP No. SCL- 4820**

**TITLE: Arc Rated Clothing**

**Table 1 – Solicitation Schedule**

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| --- | --- |
| **Events** | **Date** |
| RFP Issued | June 17, 2019 |
| Optional Pre-Proposal Conference  Seattle Municipal Tower  700 5th Ave  Seattle, WA. 98124  Room 4110 | June 25, 2019 1PM PT  Skype: 206-386-1200  844-386-1200  Conference ID: 3997128 |
| Deadline for Questions | July 2, 2019 3PM PT |
| Sealed Proposals Due to the City | July 12, 2019 2PM PT |
| Interviews, if conducted | Week of August 5th |

*The City reserves the right to modify this schedule at the City’s discretion. Notification of changes in the response due date would be posted on the City website or as otherwise stated.*

***PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE THE DUE DATE AND TIME***

***AND MUST BE AT THE LOCATION STATED IN SECTION 6***

**Mark the outside of your mailing envelope indicating RFP# SCL-4820**

By responding to this Request for Proposal (RFP), Proposer agrees that s/he has read and understands all documents within this RFP package.

# PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

**Purpose:**

The purpose of the RFP is to partner the City of Seattle – (the City) with a vendor that is a qualified reseller of arc-rated clothing and provides uniform service that includes a vendor managed and tracked allowance-based program. The vendor shall set up individual accounts for each employee in the clothing program. Each employee can access and order City approved items over the phone, online, or by fax. The contracted City departments, in this case Seattle City Light (SCL), shall be billed monthly for the arc -rated purchased by their employees. The vendor shall make funding available for employees to purchase arc- via their account. The amount of funding made available for employees shall be determined by SCL or other City departments that may use this contract. Vendor shall work with the departments in setting controls regarding how the allowances are used to ensure employees are using the allowances appropriately.

**Background:**

The latest editions of electric industry consensus standards, National Electric Safety Code (NESC) and National Fire Protection Association 70E (NFPA 70E), require electrical workers to wear arc-rated clothing when performing work on or near electrical components that have the potential to expose workers to electric arc flash hazards. SCL is looking to contract an “Allowance Based Employee Direct Purchase” program with an experienced FRC service providing vendor. The ideal vendor will provide services that include setting up and managing individual employee accounts for purchasing SCL approved FRC.

Each employee shall have an annual allowance and will purchase FRC directly from the vendor. Employees will have an open account that allows multiple purchases for FRC related items up to the predetermined funding amount. Any cost beyond this amount will be paid by the employee. SCL plans to have a variety of annual funding amounts available for employees to purchase FRC. The funding made available shall roll over year to year but shall not exceed a total sum of two times the single year amount. This contract will be open to all City departments with the need for FRC clothing.

SCL provides FRC for approximately 800 employees. SCL is looking to partner with an organization that not only provides the quality clothing directly to the end user but also offers full management services that is allowance based and tied to individual employees under the City’s contract.

The City requires each Vendor to agree and sign a Code of Conduct as a mandatory requirement. It is also mandatory for the Vendor to submit (at time of bid or prior to award) an independent monitor that the Vendor will use for this contract, accredited by the Fair Labor Association (FLA) to monitor compliance with the Code of Conduct per the FLA Principles of Monitoring for all of the contractors and manufacturing plants which are involved in the manufacturing process that results in the product.

**Single Award:** With this solicitation, the City intends to award one contract and does not anticipate award to multiple companies. Regardless, the City reserves the right to make multiple or partial awards.

1. **SOLICITATION OBJECTIVES**

The City expects to achieve the following outcomes through a new blanket contract.

* Implement an arc-rated PPE clothing purchasing processes that connects a vendor with SCL employees for direct ARC purchasing over-the-phone, online, and by fax using funds provided by SCL, and/or by the employee;
* Ensure ARC allowances are used only to purchase the appropriate work apparel and to allow for employees to easily obtain the correct arc-rated protective clothing;
* Increase employee involvement and personal preference when selecting arc-rated work apparel;
* Reduce SCL personnel involvement in managing arc-rated protective clothing purchasing and issuance
* Contract with a vendor that provides SCL Management with a hassle-free arc-rated supply service;
* Select a vendor with long-term expertise in providing arc-rated clothing programs for the electric utility industry to ensure SCL employees receive dependable, responsive, proven, expert services;
* Obtain the best quality gear and customer service while being cost conscious

\*\*\*\*The City requires each Vendor to agree and sign a Code of Conduct as a mandatory requirement. It is also mandatory for the Vendor to submit (at time of bid or prior to award) an independent monitor that the Vendor will use for this contract, accredited by the Fair Labor Association (FLA) to monitor compliance with the Code of Conduct per the FLA Principles of Monitoring for all of the vendors and manufacturing plants which are involved in the manufacturing process that results in the product.

1. **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS**

The following are minimum qualifications and licensing requirements that the Vendor must meet to be eligible to submit a RFP response. Responses must clearly show compliance to these minimum qualifications. Those that are not clearly responsive to these minimum qualifications shall be rejected by the City without further consideration:

* Vendor must be an authorized reseller/distributor of Arc Rated clothing. Include brand names of clothing offered.
* Vendor must have the capability to take orders online, over-the-phone, and by fax.
* Vendor must have at least 2 years previous experience selling Arc Rated clothing including programs with allowances.
* Vendor must have been in business for 5 consecutive years, without interruption.

# LICENSING AND BUSINESS TAX REQUIREMENTS

This solicitation and resultant contract may require additional licensing. The Vendor must meet all licensing requirements that apply to their business immediately after contract award or the City may reject the Vendor.

Companies must license, report and pay revenue taxes for the Washington State business License (UBI#) and Seattle Business License, if they are required to hold such a license by the laws of those jurisdictions. The Vendor should carefully consider those costs prior to submitting their offer, as the City will not separately pay or reimburse those costs to the Vendor.

**Seattle Business Licensing and associated taxes**

1. If you have a “physical nexus” in the city, you must obtain a Seattle Business license and pay all taxes due before the Contract can be signed.
2. A “physical nexus” means you have physical presence, such as: a building/facility located in Seattle, you make sales trips into Seattle, your own company drives into Seattle for product deliveries, and/or you conduct service work in Seattle (repair, installation, service, maintenance work, on-site consulting, etc).
3. We provide a Vendor Questionnaire Form in our submittal package items later in this RFP, and it will ask you to specify if you have “physical nexus”.
4. All costs for any licenses, permits and Seattle Business License taxes owed shall be borne by the Vendor and not charged separately to the City.
5. The apparent successful Vendor must immediately obtain the license and ensure all City taxes are current, unless exempted by City Code due to reasons such as no physical nexus. Failure to do so will result in rejection of the bid/proposal.
6. Self-Filing You can pay your license and taxes on-line using a credit card [www.seattle.gov/self](http://www.seattle.gov/self).
7. For Questions and Assistance, call the License and Tax Administration office which issues business licenses and enforces licensing requirements. The general e-mail is [tax@seattle.gov](mailto:tax@seattle.gov). The main phone is 206-684-8484.
8. The licensing website is [www.seattle.gov/licenses](http://www.seattle.gov/licenses).
9. The City of Seattle website allows you to apply and pay on-line with a Credit Card if you choose.
10. If a business has extraordinary balances due on their account that would cause undue hardship to the business, the business can contact our office to request additional assistance. A cover-sheet providing further explanation, along with the application and instructions for a Seattle Business License is provided below.
11. Those holding a City of Seattle Business license may be required to report and pay revenue taxes to the City. Such costs should be carefully considered by the Vendor prior to submitting your offer. When allowed by City ordinance, the City will have the right to retain amounts due at the conclusion of a contract by withholding from final invoice payments.
12. A hard copy version of the Seattle Business license application can be found at <http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/FAS/Licensing/Seattle-business-license-application.pdf>

**State Business Licensing and associated taxes**

Before the contract is signed, you must have a State of Washington business license (a State “Unified Business Identifier” known as a UBI number#). If the State of Washington has exempted your business from State licensing (for example, some foreign companies are exempt and in some cases, the State waives licensing because the company does not have a physical presence in the State), then submit proof of that exemption to the City. All costs for any licenses, permits and associated tax payments due to the State as a result of licensing shall be borne by the Vendor and not charged separately to the City. Instructions and applications are at <http://bls.dor.wa.gov/file.aspx>

**Permits**: All permits required to perform work are to be supplied by the Vendor at no additional cost to the City.

1. **SPECIFICATIONS and SCOPE OF WORK**

Seattle City Light (SCL) is seeking an experienced arc-rated clothing vendor to provide approximately 800 employees with arc-rated protective clothing. For this contract, providing arc-rated shall consist of at minimum: sizing, delivering, returning/exchanging, purchasing/selling, and repairing arc-rated protective clothing. The vendor shall also provide timely customer service; any necessary computer software; and training on the vendor’s processes and the care, maintenance, and repair of garments as requested. An outline of your typical training curriculum shall be included.

See “Proposal Response Form” for complete list.

The vendor must take orders over-the-phone, online, via us mail, and by fax; and provide electronic and paper catalogs with order forms as requested by SCL. All items offered to SCL employees must be first approved in writing by the SCL Safety Unit and shall include, but is not limited to, the following FRC items: long sleeve shirts, pants, coveralls, bib overalls, jackets, rain jackets, rain pants/bibs, beanies/watch caps, and sweatshirts. The vendor shall create an individual account for each employee in the program with a specific amount of funding available for purchasing and distribution of arc-rated protective clothing directly to the purchasing employee. The vendor shall store, at a SCL facility, sizing sample sets for all arc-rated items offered to SCL employees. Storage space will be made available for sizing samples. At times SCL facilities will be used to fit and size employees for arc-rated clothing. The vendor shall include the city/state location and availability of the sales/customer service representative that will be servicing this account and their availability to perform onsite training and fittings.

The vendor shall bill SCL monthly. Invoices shall have a summarized cover page with following page(s) displaying at least the purchase date, ship date, cost of items and shipping, employee name, and item(s) purchased. The vendor shall have the capability to accept payment by cash, credit card, and check from employees for purchases beyond their SCL predetermined allowance. SCL may request reports by individual employee, company-wide, work location, arc-rated items, job title, or cost.

Arc-rated items purchased with SCL funding shall have one price per item (blended/singular pricing) and shall not change dependent on size. The vendor shall size and sell custom/altered sized arc-rated protective clothing. The following pricing shall be submitted with the proposal in all sizes including short/regular/tall cuts for each product item number listed in the “arc-rated Products” document below: blended/singular price you’re offering the City; the mark up for shipping, logos, and all other services; extended price (blended/singular price + the mark up); pricing for repairing items; and all additional charges for customizations/alterations and management services.

All manufacturing, repairing, storage, and other responsibilities related to this contract shall be performed off-site unless otherwise coordinated by City Light personnel. Typically, fitting employees for FRC and training will be coordinated with the vendor on-site by City Light personnel.

**Brand Name or Equal**: Equal arc rated products may be accepted upon approval by the SCL Safety Unit. The manufacturer, product, and fabric listed in the “arc-rated Products” and “Acceptable Fabrics” documents below are to indicate a standard of performance acceptable to the City. At minimum, all listed product numbers and colors must be available for employees to purchase unless discontinued by the manufacture. Any alternate “or equal” items offered shall be submitted with the proposal and must clearly meet or exceed the specifications of the equipment listed in both published specifications and actual performance and must be approved by the SCL Safety Unit. Any alternate item proposed is subject to acceptance at the sole opinion of the City. Such determinations are not subject to protest and remain the sole discretion of the City. If you intend to submit an “or equal” product, it must be made of an acceptable fabric listed in the “Acceptable Fabrics” document below; or you must present sufficiently clear and detailed materials, product specification sheets, manufacturer materials, evidence that the product is an “or equal”, and arc testing data of the proposed fabric layered under 8oz Protera and 9.5oz Indura fabrics resulting in an ATPV of 25 cal/cm2 or greater. See the Evaluation Section for further detail about “or equal” determinations.

**Test Sample**: Once the contract is executed, the City may require the vendor to submit a test or sample of the product. If the product is custom-designed, the cost of the custom production may be charged to the City at a mutually agreed upon cost (OR alternatively – the cost of the custom production to test must be provided to the City on the Offer Form). If the equipment demonstrated does not meet performance and/or capability requirements in the opinion of the City, the City will notify the Vendor. The Vendor may be asked to modify the product to the City’s satisfaction and submit a new product sample at no additional cost to the City unless mutually agreed upon otherwise in advance of such costs being incurred, or the City may terminate the contract.

**Contract Term**: This contract shall be for five (5) years, with one (1) two-year extension allowed at the option of the City. Such extensions shall go into effect with written confirmation. The Vendor may provide a notice to not extend but must provide such notice at least ninety (90) days prior to the renewal date.

**No Guaranteed Utilization**: The City does not guarantee utilization through any resultant contract. The solicitation may provide estimates of utilization solely to help Vendors prepare their proposals; and does not serve as a guarantee of usage. The City reserves the right to multiple or partial awards, and/or to order greater or less quantities based on City needs. The City reserves the right to use other appropriate contract sources to obtain these products or services, such as State of Washington Contracts. The City may also periodically re-solicit for new additions to the Vendor pool, to invite additional Vendors to submit proposals or proposals for award. Use of such supplemental contracts does not limit the right of the City to terminate existing contracts for convenience or cause.

* If the City awards multiple contracts to form a vendor pool, this RFP established competition compliant to City competitive proposal laws; the City Project Manager may place an order with any pool vendor or may solicit multiple quotes to select among the pool vendors. If departments request quotes, the Vendors must use the costs and hourly rates in the contract.

**Contact Expansion**: Any resultant contract or Purchase Order may be expanded as allowed below. A modification may be considered per the criteria and procedures below, for any ongoing Contract that has not yet expired. Likewise, a one-time Purchase Order may be modified if the proposal reserved the right for additional orders to be placed within a specified period of time, or if the project or body of work associated with a Purchase Order is still active. Such modifications must be mutually agreed. The only person authorized to make such agreements the City is the Buyer from the City Purchasing Division (Department of Finance and Administrative Services). No other City employee is authorized to make such written notices. Expansions must be issued in writing from the City Buyer in a formal notice. The Buyer will ensure the expansion meets the following criteria collectively: (a) it could not be separately propose, (b) the change is for a reasonable purpose, (c) the change was not reasonably known to either the City or vendors at time of proposal or else was mentioned as a possibility in the proposal (such as a change in environmental regulation or other law); (d) the change is not significant enough to be reasonably regarded as an independent body of work; (e) the change could not have attracted a different field of competition; and (f) the change does not vary the essential identity or main purpose of the contract. The Buyer shall make this determination, and may make exceptions for immaterial changes, emergency or sole source conditions, or for other situations as required in the opinion of the Buyer.

Note that certain changes are not considered an expansion of scope, including an increase in quantities ordered, the exercise of options and alternates in the proposal, or ordering of work originally identified within the originating solicitation. If such changes are approved, changes are conducted as a written order issued by the City Purchasing Buyer in writing to the Vendor.

**Limits of Sales to Authorized Products and Services:** Vendor has responsibility to limit sales to those products or services authorized within the contract, whether authorized by changes and amendments or stated within the original contract scope. The Vendor is responsible for refusing orders that are not properly authorized by the contract or through other proper Purchase Orders issued by authorized persons from the City. If the Vendor has consistent sales of unauthorized products or services, the City reserves the right to use any of the following: terminate the contract in accordance with termination provisions, place the Vendor payments on “hold” for all incoming invoices while the City determines which are authorized items eligible for payment, and/or refuse certain invoices that contain non-authorized items.

**Vendor Usage Reports**: The City may request that the Vendor provide reports of purchases made by the City during the contract term. Within 10 business days of a request, the Vendor will supply the City a report in the requested format. The report must be clearly titled (Company name, contact information, dates of report period). The Vendor will provide, upon a request by the City, information sorted according to the City request, which may include: invoice specific detail or summary detail, by item name, by the user name (the department customer placing the order), by City Department, and date or order.

**Trial Period and Right to Award to Next Low Vendor:** A ninety (90) day trial period shall apply to contract(s) awarded as a result of this solicitation. During the trial period, the vendor(s) must perform in accordance with all terms and conditions of the contract. Failure to perform during this trial period may cause the immediate cancellation of the contract. If dispute or discrepancy as to the acceptability of product or service occurs, the City’s decision shall prevail. The City agrees to pay only for authorized orders received up to the date of termination. If the contract is terminated within the trial period, the City reserves the option to award the contract to the next low responsive Vendor by mutual agreement with such Vendor. Any new award will be for the remainder of the contract and will also be subject to this trial period.

**Background Checks and Immigrant Status**

Background checks will not be required for workers that will be performing the work under this contract. The City has strict policies regarding the use of Background checks, criminal checks, immigrant status, and/or religious affiliation for contract workers. The policies are incorporated into the contract and available for viewing on-line at <http://www.seattle.gov/city-purchasing-and-contracting/social-equity/background-checks>

**Schedule, Orders, Delivery**

**Order Desk:** The vendorshall provide a telephone service or “order desk” to receive calls from City departments for advice or assistance, recommendations on products, parts, and repairs, and for receiving and processing of phone orders. The Order Desk shall be available from 7:00a.m to 5:00 p.m. all business days except City holidays. If your standard operating hours are otherwise, notify the RFP Coordinator (Buyer). Depending on the operating needs of the Department, hours that are similar to, but not exactly the same as the 7-5 schedule may be accepted by the City as compliance to this requirement.

**Adequate Inventory and Response Times:**  The vendor shall provide five (5) business days’ response time and delivery for most new product orders placed by the City. Vendor will maintain adequate inventory to stock and provide same-day response on the most frequently ordered items, allowing City employees to purchase tools or parts at the Vendor location within the same-day of placing the order.

**Pick-up Option:** City employees may pick up orders that are purchased or that have been serviced at the Vendor location, directly at the Vendor’s location, at the option of the City employee. Vendor shall request City ID with the employee’s Washington Driver’s license, City shop assignment and City equipment number when placing and picking up an order.

**Delivery Option:**  The Vendor shall provide a delivery service that will be available for routine orders. The Vendor will pick up or deliver products to the City location specified. There will not be an additional charge for delivery, unless specified in the RFP.

**No Minimum Order:** There shall be no minimum order quantity for this contract.

**Warranty:**  The Vendor shall warrant all materials and workmanship delivered under any resulting contract to be free from defects, damage or failure for any reason whatsoever which the City may reasonably determine is the responsibility of the Vendor, for a minimum of ninety (90) days after the date of final acceptance and without cost to the City for labor, materials, parts, installation or any other costs except where longer periods of warranty of guarantees are specified.

**Right to Replace Products & Product Discontinuance:** In the event the manufacturer discontinues or replaces a product, Vendor may request the City substitute a new product or model on the contract. The City may allow the Vendor to provide a substitute product, upon confirmation that the product has been discontinued. Pricing for such a product replacement or substitute must be the same discount rate as provided to the City on the original product.

**Prohibition on Advance Payments:**The City does not accept requests for early payment, down payment or partial payment, unless Proposal Submittal specifically allows such pre-payment proposals or alternates within the RFP process. Maintenance subscriptions may be paid up to one year in advance provided that should the City terminate early, the amount paid shall be reimbursed to the City on a prorated basis; all other expenses are payable net 30 days after receipt and acceptance of satisfactory compliance.

## Environmental Specifications

**Environmental Standards**: Unless notified otherwise by the Vendor, products bid will be considered complaint to USEPA Standards. See [https://www.epa.gov/smm/comprehensive-procurement-guideline-cpg-program.](https://www.epa.gov/smm/comprehensive-procurement-guideline-cpg-program)

**PBT Free Specification - Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxic (PBT) Chemicals – Mercury, Dioxin, PCB. PBDE, Lead, PVC and other:** The City of Seattle adopted Resolution #30487 in 2002. This Resolution requires that City Purchasing differentiate products that contain PBT chemicals and those that release PBT chemicals during production or disposal, from those products that do not, and requires City Purchasing reduce acquisition of products that contain or release PBT chemicals. PBT chemicals are defined as mercury, dioxin, PCB, PBDE (polybrominated diphenyl ethers, i.e. flame retardants), or others as identified on the State of Washington, Department of Ecology PBT priority list (for the complete list, see <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/RTT/pbt/>.

Unless specifically allowed within this solicitation, all equipment, supplies and other products submitted for Bid/response are to be free of Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxic chemicals including mercury, dioxin, PCB and others as listed in the DOE PBT priority list. If an interested Vendor has a product that contains or releases any PBT materials as defined above, Vendor may notify the City RFP Coordinator by the date specified on the schedule (see Page 1). Should the City determine that the product being acquired by the City does not have a reasonable or economically feasible substitute, the City may amend this PBT-Free requirement to allow for -- or provide a maximum of 10% preference for -- products that include or release the least amount of such PBT chemical as practical. The City may reject responses with PBT content or release, if the responses is not in accordance with this PBT-Free specification or has not amended the specification otherwise. Additional information about such products is available at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/toxhaz.html>

The City Council Resolution is attached:



**Independent Contractor:**

The Vendor shall work as an independent contractor. Although the City provides responsible contract and project management, such as managing deliverables, schedules, tasks and contract compliance, this is distinguished from a traditional employer-employee function. This contract prohibits vendor workers from supervising City employees and prohibits vendor workers from supervision by a City employee. Prohibited supervision tasks include conducting a City of Seattle Employee Performance Evaluation, preparing and/or approving a City of Seattle timesheet, administering employee discipline, and similar supervisory actions.

Contract workers shall not be given City office space unless expressly provided for below, and in no case shall such space be provided for over 36 months without specific authorization from the City Project Manager.

The City will not provide space in City offices for performance of this work. Vendors must perform work from their own office space or in the field, as appropriate to the work.

**Fair Trade**

The City has mandatory requirements to ensure Fair Labor standards in the products that the City buys:

**List of Manufacturing Locations**: The City asks each Proposer to submit a list of all contractors, subcontractors and manufacturing plants that are involved in the manufacturing process of the product. If the Vendor intends to change any company on this list during the course of the Contract, the Vendor will notify the City and comply with contract terms regarding approval of subcontracting.

**Code of Conduct:** The City requires that Vendors agree to a Code of Conduct that will apply to the Vendor, subcontractors and manufacturing plants that are involved in the manufacturing process of the product.

**Fair Labor Monitoring**: The Proposer must also agree to submit the name of an independent monitor that the Vendor will use for this contract, accredited by the Fair Labor Association (FLA) to monitor compliance with the Code of Conduct per the FLA Principles of Monitoring for all of the contractors and manufacturing plants which are involved in the manufacturing process that results in the product. This can be submitted at time of bid or upon receipt of City intent to award. If the Proposer waits until the City issues intent to award to the Proposer, the Proposer must supply the name in a timely way to not delay execution of the contract, or the City may reject the Offer and proceed to the next compliant Proposer. During the contract, the City may request information about the monitoring and compliance, which the Proposer shall provide to the City as a condition.

**Paid Sick Time and Safe Time Ordinance**

Be aware that the City has a Paid Sick Time and Safe Time ordinance that requires companies to provide employees who work more than 240 hours within a year inside Seattle, with accrued paid sick and paid safe time for use when an employee or a family member needs time off from work due to illness or a critical safety issue. The ordinance applies to employers, regardless of where they are located, with more than four full-time equivalent employees. This is in addition and additive to benefits a worker receives under prevailing wages per WAC 296-127-014(4). City contract specialists may audit payroll records or interview workers as needed to ensure compliance to the ordinance. Please see <http://www.seattle.gov/laborstandards>, or may call the Office of Labor Standards at 206.684.4500 with questions.

1. **INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION**

This chapter details City procedures for directing the RFP process. The City reserves the right in its sole discretion to reject the proposal of any Proposer that fails to comply with any procedure in this chapter.

**Registration into City Online Business Directory:** If you have not previously completed a one-time registration into the City of Seattle Online Business Directory, we request you register at [www.seattle.gov/obd](http://www.seattle.gov/obd). The City’s Online Business Directory is used by City staff to locate your contract(s) and identify companies for bid lists on future purchases. Responses will be not rejected for failure to register, however, if you win a contract and have not registered, you will be required to place yourself, or you will be added into the system. Women and minority owned firms are asked to self-identify. If you need assistance, please call 206-684-0444.

## Communications with the City: All Vendor communications concerning this acquisition shall be directed to the RFP Coordinator. The RFP Coordinator is:

**David McLean**

**206-684-0445**

[David.mclean@seattle.gov](mailto:David.mclean@seattle.gov)

Unless authorized by the RFP Coordinator, no other City official or City employee is empowered to speak for the City regarding this acquisition. Any Proposer seeking to obtain information, clarification, or interpretations from any other City official or City employee (other than the RFP Coordinator) is advised that such material is used at the Proposer’s own risk. The City will not be bound by any such information, clarification, or interpretation.

Following the Proposal submittal deadline, Proposers shall continue to direct communications to only the City RFP Coordinator. The RFP Coordinator will send out information to responding companies as decisions are concluded.

## Contact by a vendor regarding this acquisition with a City employee other than the RFP Coordinator or an individual approved by the RFP Coordinator in writing, may be grounds for rejection of the vendor’s proposal.

**Pre-Proposal Conference:** The City shall conduct an optional pre-proposal conference on the time and date in page 1, at the Seattle City Purchasing Office, 700 5th Avenue, Suite 4112, Seattle. Proposers are highly encouraged to attend but not required to attend to be eligible to submit a proposal. The meeting answers questions potential Proposers may have regarding the solicitation document and to discuss and clarify any issues. This is an opportunity for Proposers to raise concerns regarding specifications, terms, conditions, and any requirements of this solicitation. Failure to raise concerns over any issues at this opportunity will be a consideration in any protest filed regarding such items known as of this pre-proposal conference. Those unable to attend in person may participate via the Skype Information on page 1.

**Questions:** Questions are to be submitted tothe Buyer no later than the date and time on page 1, to allow sufficient time for the City Buyer to consider the question before the proposals are due. The City prefers such questions to be through e-mail directed to the City Buyer e-mail address. Failure to request clarification of any inadequacy, omission, or conflict will not relieve the vendor of any responsibilities under this solicitation or any subsequent contract. It is the responsibility of the interested Vendor to assure they received responses to Questions if any are issued.

**Changes to the RFP/Addenda:** A change may be made by the City if, in the sole judgment of the City, the change will not compromise the City’s objectives in this acquisition. A change to this RFP will be made by formal written addendum issued by the City’s Buyer Addenda and shall become part of this RFP and included as part of the Contract. It is the responsibility of the interested Vendor to assure they have received Addenda if any are issued.

**Bid Blog:** Our website has an option for those companies familiar with RSS Technology. You may opt to subscribe to an “RSS Feed” on our new Blog (titled “The Buy Line”). This is optional; it is for your convenience and recommended for those companies familiar with RSS technology. The RSS Feed technology provides alerts for updates, including addenda, or information posted on our blog for the solicitation you are interested in. <http://www.seattle.gov/city-purchasing-and-contracting/city-purchasing>

**Receiving Addenda and/or Question and Answers:** The City Buyer will try to provide you notices, either through the RSS Feed or direction e-mail courtesy announcements, that changes or addendums have been posted on our website.

Notwithstanding efforts by the City to provide such notice to known vendors, it remains the obligation and responsibility of the Vendor to learn of any addendums, responses, or notices issued by the City. Such efforts by the City to provide notice or to provide it on the website do not relieve the Vendor from the sole obligation for learning of such material.

Note that some third-party services decide to independently post City of Seattle proposals on their websites as well. The City does not, however, guarantee that such services have accurately provided proposers with all the information published by the City, particularly Addendums or changes to bid date/time.

All proposals sent to the City shall be compliant to all Addendums, with or without specific confirmation from the Proposer that the Addendum was received and incorporated. However, the Buyer can reject the Bid if it does not reasonably appear to have incorporated the Addendum. The Buyer could decide that the Proposer did incorporate the Addendum information, or could determine that the Proposer failed to incorporate the Addendum changes and that the changes were material so the Buyer must reject the Offer, or the Buyer may determine that the Proposer failed to incorporate the Addendum changes but that the changes were not material and therefore the Bid may continue to be accepted by the Buyer.

## Submittal Requirements: This section details City procedures for submittal.

1. Number all pages sequentially. The format should follow closely that requested in this RFP.
2. The City may designate page limits for certain sections of the response. Any pages that exceed the page limit will be excised from the document for evaluation.

1. The response should be in an 8 1/2” by 11” format. Non-recyclable materials are strongly discouraged. Proposers are encouraged to “double side”. If there are page limitations, one side of a printed page is considered one page.

**Late Submittals:** Proposers have full responsibility to ensure the response arrives at the City within the deadline. A late submittal may be rejected, unless the lateness is waived as immaterial by the City Purchasing and Contracting Services Director, given specific fact-based circumstances. Late responses may be returned unopened to the submitting firm; or CPCS may accept the package and make a determination as to lateness.

**Hard Copy Submittal:** Submittal Requirements. One original (1) unbound, three (3) copies, and one (1) electronic CD copy of the response must be received no later than the date and time specified on the Solicitation Schedule or as otherwise amended. Fax, e-mail and CD copies **will not** be an alternative to the hard copy. If a CD, fax or e-mail version is delivered to the City, the hard copy will be the only official version accepted by the City.

Table 2: Hard Copy Submittal Addresses

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Physical Address (courier)** | **Mailing Address (For US Post Office mail)** |
| City Purchasing and Contracting Services Division  Seattle Municipal Tower  Suite 4112  700 Fifth Avenue  Seattle, Washington, 98104  **RFP# SCL-4820**  **David McLean** | City Purchasing and Contracting Services Division  Seattle Municipal Tower  P.O. Box 94687  Seattle, Washington, 98124-4687  **RFP# SCL-4820**  **David McLean** |

1. Hard-copy responses should be in a sealed box or envelope clearly marked and addressed with the CPCS Buyer Name, RFP title and number. If packages are not clearly marked, the Proposer has all risks of the package being misplaced and not properly delivered.
2. The Submittal may be hand-delivered or must otherwise be received by the Buyer at the address provided, by the submittal deadline*.* Delivery errors will result without careful attention to the proper address.
3. Submittals and their packaging (boxes or envelopes) should be clearly marked with the name and address of the Proposer.
4. Please do not use any plastic or vinyl binders or folders. The City prefers simple, stapled paper copies. If a binder or folder is essential due to the size of your submission, they are to be fully 100% recycled stock. Such binders are available from Keeney’s Office Supply at 425-285-0541 or Complete Office Solutions at 206-650-9195.
5. Please double-side your submittal.

**No RFP Opening – No Reading of Prices**: The City does not conduct a bid opening for RFP responses.

**Offer Form:** Proposer shall specify response in the format and on any forms provided, indicating unit prices if appropriate, and attaching additional pages if needed. In the case of difference between the unit pricing and the extended price, the City shall use the unit pricing. The City may correct the extended price accordingly. Proposer shall quote prices with freight prepaid and allowed. Proposer shall quote prices FOB Destination. All prices shall be in US Dollars.

**Proposer Responsibility to Provide Full Response:** It is the Proposer’s responsibility to respond, which does not require interpretation or clarification by the Buyer. The Proposer is to provide all requested materials, forms and information. The Proposer is responsible to ensure the materials submitted will properly and accurately reflects the Proposer specifications and offering. During scoring and evaluation (prior to interviews if any), the City will rely upon the submitted materials and shall not accept materials from the Proposer after the RFP deadline; however this does not limit the right of the City to consider additional information (such as references that are not provided by the Proposer but are known to the City, or past experience by the City in assessing responsibility), or to seek clarifications by the City.

**Partial and Multiple Awards:** Unless stated to the contrary in the Scope of Work, the City reserves the right to name a partial and/or multiple awards, in the best interest of the City. Proposers are to prepare proposals given the City’s right to a partial or multiple awards. If Proposer is submitting an “All” or “None” offer such offer must be clearly marked as “All” or “None”. Further, the City may eliminate an individual line item when calculating award, to best meet the needs of the City, if a line item is not routinely available or is a cost that exceeds the City funds. For Proposals, the City may negotiate with the successful Proposer, to finalize the work and specifications consistent with the objectives of the RFP.

**Taxes:** The City is exempt from Federal Excise Tax. Washington state tax use tax if any, and local sales tax will be added onto the resultant Contract cost, although will not be used in evaluation of costs.

## Interlocal Purchasing Agreements: This is for information only and is not be used to evaluate candidates. RCW 39.34 allows cooperative purchasing between public agencies, and other political subdivisions. **SMC 20.60.100 also allows nonprofits to use these agreements.**The seller agrees to sell additional items at the offer prices, terms and conditions, to other eligible governmental agencies that have such agreements with the City. The City of Seattle accepts no responsibility for the payment of the purchase price by other governmental agencies. Should the Proposer require additional pricing for such purchases, the Proposer is to name such additional pricing upon Offer to the City.

## Contract Terms and Conditions: Vendors are to price and submit proposals with the understanding that all specifications, requirements, terms and conditions are mandatory for the Vendor to comply with. Proposers are responsible to review all specifications, requirements, Terms and Conditions, insurance requirements, and other requirements. Submittal of a proposal is agreement to comply without exception, unless modified by the City. The City has the right to negotiate changes to submitted proposals and to change the City's otherwise mandatory terms and conditions during negotiations, or by providing notice to the Vendor during the contract.

**Negotiations:** Nothing herein prohibits the City from opening discussions with the highest ranked apparent successful Proposer, to negotiate modifications to either the proposal or the contract terms and conditions, to align the proposal or the contract to best meet City needs within the scope sought by the RFP.

## Effective Dates of Offer: Offer prices and costs in Proposer submittal must remain valid until City completes award. Should any Proposer object to this condition, the Proposer must provide objection through a question and/or complaint to the Buyer prior to the proposal due date.

**Prompt Payment Discount:** On the Offer form or in submittal, the Proposer may state a prompt payment discount term, if the Proposer offers one to the City. A prompt payment discount term of ten or more days will be considered in evaluation.

## Cost of Preparing Proposals: The City will not be liable for any costs incurred by the Proposer in the preparation and presentation of proposals submitted in response to this RFP including, but not limited to, costs incurred in connection with the Proposer’s participation in demonstrations and the pre-proposal conference.

## Proposer Responsibility: It is the Proposer responsibility to examine all specifications and conditions thoroughly, and comply fully with specifications and all attached terms and conditions. Proposers must comply with all Federal, State, and City laws, ordinances and rules, and meet any and all registration requirements where required for contractors as set forth in the Washington Revised Statutes.

**Prohibited Contacts:** Proposers shall not interfere in any way to discourage other potential and/or prospective Proposers from proposing or considering a proposal process.  Prohibited contacts includes but is not limited to any contact, whether direct or indirect (i.e. in writing, by phone, email or other, and by the Proposer or another person acting on behalf of the Proposer) to a likely firm or individual that may discourage or limit competition.  If such activity is evidenced to the satisfaction and in sole discretion of the City Purchasing Manager, the Proposer that initiates such contacts may be rejected from the process.

**Readability:** Proposers are advised that the City’s ability to evaluate proposals is dependent in part on the Proposer’s ability and willingness to submit proposals which are well ordered, detailed, comprehensive, and readable. Clarity of language and adequate, accessible documentation is essential.

**Changes or Corrections in Proposal Submittal:** Prior to the submittal closing date and time, a Vendor may change its proposal, if the change is initialed and dated by the Vendor. No change shall be allowed after the closing date and time. Note you cannot change, mark-up or cross-out any condition, format, provision or term that appears on the City’s published Offer Form. If you need to change any of your own prices or answers that you write on the Offer Form, it must be made in pen, initialed, and be clear in intent. Do not use white-out.

**Errors in Proposals:** Proposers are responsible for errors and omissions in their proposals. No such error or omission shall diminish the Proposer’s obligations to the City.

**Withdrawal of Proposal:** A submittal may be withdrawn by written request of the submitter, prior to the quotation closing date and time. After the closing date and time, the submittal may be withdrawn only with permission by the City.

## Rejection of Proposals and Rights of Award: The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals with no penalty. The City also has the right to waive immaterial defects and minor irregularities in any submitted proposal.

## Incorporation of RFP and Proposal in Contract: This RFP and the Proposer’s response, including all promises, warranties, commitments, and representations made in the successful proposal as accepted by the City, shall be binding and incorporated by reference in the City’s contract with the Proposer.

## Equal Benefits: Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 20.45 (SMC 20.45) requires consideration of whether proposers provide health and benefits that are the same or equivalent to the domestic partners of employees as to spouses of employees, and of their dependents and family members. The bid package includes a “Vendor Questionnaire” which is the mandatory form on which you make a designation about the status of such benefits. If your company does not comply with Equal Benefits and does not intend to do so, you must still supply the information on the Vendor Questionnaire. Instructions are provided at the back of the Questionnaire.

**Women and Minority Opportunities:** The City intends to provide the maximum practicable opportunity for successful participation of minority and women owned firms, given that such businesses are underrepresented. The City requires all Proposers agree to SMC Chapter 20.42, and will require proposals with meaningful subcontracting opportunities to also supply a plan for including minority and women owned firms.

A Woman and Minority Inclusion Plan is a mandatory submittal with your RFP response, and is provided for you in the Submittal Instruction section of this RFP document. The City requires all vendors to submit an Inclusion Plan.  Failure to submit a plan will result in rejection of your RFP response. The inclusion plan will be scored as part of the evaluation.  The Inclusion Plan is a material part of the contract.  Read the Inclusion Plan carefully; it is incorporated into the contract.  At City request, vendors must furnish evidence of compliance, such as copies of agreements with WMBE subcontractors.    The plan seeks WMBE business utilization as well as recognizes those companies or respondents that have a unique business purpose for hiring of workers with barriers.

## Insurance Requirements: Insurance requirements in Attachment #1 are mandatory. If none, then Contract requirements apply. If formal proof of insurance must be submitted to the City before execution of the Contract, the City will remind the apparent successful proposal in the Intent to Award letter. The apparent successful Proposer must promptly provide such proof of insurance to the City in reply to the Intent to Award Letter. Contracts will not be executed until all required proof of insurance has been received and approved by the City.

Vendors are encouraged to immediately contact their Broker to begin preparation of the required insurance documents, if the Vendor is selected as a finalist. Proposers may elect to provide the requested insurance documents within their Proposal.

## Proprietary Materials

## The State of Washington’s Public Records Act (Release/Disclosure of Public Records) Under Washington State Law (reference RCW Chapter 42.56, the Public Records Act) all materials received or created by the City of Seattle are considered public records. These records include but are not limited to bid or proposal submittals, agreement documents, contract work product, or other bid material.

The State of Washington’s Public Records Act requires that public records must be promptly disclosed by the City upon request unless that RCW or another Washington State statute specifically exempts records from disclosure. Exemptions are narrow and explicit and are listed in Washington State Law (Reference RCW 42.56 and RCW 19.108).

Bidders/proposers must be familiar with the Washington State Public Records Act and the limits of record disclosure exemptions. For more information, visit the Washington State Legislature’s website at <http://www1.leg.wa.gov/LawsAndAgencyRules>).

If you have any questions about disclosure of the records you submit with your bid, please contact City Purchasing at (206) 684-0444.

## Marking Your Records Exempt from Disclosure (Protected, Confidential, or Proprietary)

As mentioned above, all City of Seattle offices (“the City”) are required to promptly make public records available upon request. However, under Washington State Law some records or portions of records are considered legally *exempt from disclosure* and can be withheld. A list and description of records identified as exempt by the Public Records Act can be found in RCW 42.56 and RCW 19.108.

If you believe any of the records you are submitting to the City as part of your bid/proposal or contract work products, are exempt from disclosure you can request that they not be released before you receive notification. To do so you must complete the City Non-Disclosure Request Form (“the Form”) provided by City Purchasing (see attached Form as part of the Vendor Questionnaire), very clearly and specifically identify each record and the exemption(s) that may apply, and submit a copy of your records with the specified exemptions redacted. (If you are awarded a City contract, the same exemption designation will carry forward to the contract records.)

The City will not withhold materials from disclosure simply because you mark them with a document header or footer, page stamp, or a generic statement that a document is non-disclosable, exempt, confidential, proprietary, or protected. Do not identify an entire page as exempt unless each sentence is within the exemption scope; instead, identify paragraphs or sentences that meet the specific exemption criteria you cite on the Form. Only the specific records or portions of records properly listed on the Form will be protected and withheld for notice. All other records will be considered fully disclosable upon request.

If the City receives a public disclosure request for any records you have properly and specifically listed on the Form, the City will notify you in writing of the request and will postpone disclosure. While it is not a legal obligation, the City, as a courtesy, will allow you up to ten business days to file a court injunction to prevent the City from releasing the records (reference RCW 42.56.540). If you fail to obtain a Court order within the ten days, the City may release the documents.

The City will not assert an exemption from disclosure on your behalf. If you believe a record(s) is exempt from disclosure you are obligated to clearly identify it as such on the Form and submit it with your solicitation. Should a public record request be submitted to City Purchasing for that record(s), you can then seek an injunction under RCW 42.56 to prevent release. By submitting a bid document, the bidder acknowledges this obligation; the proposer also acknowledges that the City will have no obligation or liability to the proposer if the records are disclosed.

## Requesting Disclosure of Public Records

The City asks bidders and their companies to refrain from requesting public disclosure of bids until an intention to award is announced. This measure is intended to protect the integrity of the solicitation process particularly during the evaluation and selection process or in the event of a cancellation or re-solicitation. With this preference stated, the City will continue to be responsive to all requests for disclosure of public records as required by State Law. If you do wish to make a request for records, please make your request through the City of Seattle’s Public Records Request Center at [www.seattle.gov/public-records/public-records-request-center](http://www.seattle.gov/public-records/public-records-request-center).

**Ethics Code:** Please familiarize yourself with the new code: <http://www.seattle.gov/ethics/etpub/et_home.htm>. Attached is a pamphlet for Vendors, Customers and Clients. Specific question should be addressed to the staff of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission at 206-684-8500.

**No Gifts and Gratuities:** Vendors shall not directly or indirectly offer anything of value (such as retainers, loans, entertainment, favors, gifts, tickets, trips, favors, bonuses, donations, special discounts, work, or meals) to any City employee, volunteer or official, if it is intended or may appear to a reasonable person to be intended to obtain or give special consideration to the Vendor. An example is giving a City employee sporting event tickets to a City employee on the evaluation team of a bid you plan to submit. The definition of what a “benefit” would be is broad and could include not only awarding a contract but also the administration of the contract or the evaluation of contract performance. The rule works both ways, as it also prohibits City employees from soliciting items from vendors. Promotional items worth less than $25 may be distributed by the vendor to City employees if the Vendor uses the items as routine and standard promotions for the business.

**Involvement of Current and Former City Employees:** If a Vendor has any current or former City employees, official or volunteer, working or assisting on solicitation of City business or on completion of an awarded contract, you **must** provide written notice to City Purchasing of the current or former City official, employee or volunteer’s name. The Vendor Questionnaire within your bid documents prompts you to answer that question. You must continue to update that information to City Purchasing during the full course of the contract. The Vendor is aware and familiar with the Ethics Code, and educates vendor workers accordingly.

**Contract Workers with more than 1,000 Hours:** The Ethics Code has been amended to apply to vendor company workers that perform over 1,000 cumulative hours on any City contract during any 12-month period. Any such vendor company employee covered by the Ethics Code must abide by the City Ethics Code. The Vendor is to be aware and familiar with the Ethics Code and educate vendor workers accordingly.

**No Conflict of Interest:** Vendor (including officer, director, trustee, partner or employee) must not have a business interest or a close family or domestic relationship with any City official, officer or employee who was, is, or will be involved in selection, negotiation, drafting, signing, administration or evaluating Vendor performance. The City shall make sole determination as to compliance.

**Campaign Contributions (Initiative Measure No. 122)**

Elected officials and candidates are prohibited from accepting or soliciting campaign contributions from anyone having at least $250,000 in contracts with the City in the last two years or who has paid at least $5,000 in the last 12 months to lobby the City. Please see Initiative 122, or call the Ethics Director with questions. For questions about this measure, contact: Polly Grow, Seattle Ethics and Elections, 206-615-1248 or [polly.grow@seattle.gov](mailto:polly.grow@seattle.gov).

1. **OFFER SHEET AND MANDATORY SUBMITTALS**

Submit proposal with the following format and attachments. Failure to clearly and completely provide all information below, on forms provided and in order requested, may result in rejection as non-responsive.

1. **Cover letter (optional)**
2. **Legal Name:** Submit a certificate, copy of web-page, or other documentation from the Secretary of State in which you incorporated that shows your legal name as a company. Many companies use a “Doing Business As” Name, or a Nickname in their daily business. However, the City requires the legal name of your company, as it is legally registered. When preparing all forms below, use the proper company legal name. Your company’s legal name can be verified through the State Corporation Commission in the state in which you were established, which is often located within the Secretary of State’s Office for each state. <http://www.coordinatedlegal.com/SecretaryOfState.html>
3. **Minimum Qualifications: This is a mandatory submittal.** Provide a document of sufficient length or on the form embedded below to indicate Vendor compliance to the Minimum Qualifications. Describe exactly how you achieve each minimum qualification. The determination you have achieved all the minimum qualifications is made from this or similar document alone and therefore the Buyer is not obligated to check references or search other materials in your proposal to make this decision.

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1. **Vendor Questionnaire: This form is mandatory.** Submit this questionnaire, even if you have submitted one to the City on previous solicitations or contracts.



1. **Proposal Response**: **This is a mandatory submittal**. Elements of this response will be scored or ranked by the Evaluation Committee.



1. **Pricing Response**. **This is mandatory submittal.**



1. **Inclusion Plan. This is a mandatory submittal.**

****

1. **References. This is a mandatory submittal.**

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**Submittal Checklist**

This checklist is for your convenience only and does not need to be submitted with your proposal. This checklist summarizes each form or other information required to complete and submit your proposal package to the City.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Cover Sheet |  |
| Legal Name |  |
| Minimum Qualifications Page | Mandatory |
| Vendor Questionnaire | Mandatory |
| Proposal Response | Mandatory |
| Inclusion Plan | Mandatory |
| References | Mandatory |
| Independent Monitor | Mandatory |

## EVALUATION PROCESS

**Step #1: Initial Screening**: **Minimum Qualifications and Responsiveness**: City Purchasing shall first review submittals to determine responsiveness and responsibility. Those found responsive and responsible based on this initial review shall proceed to Step 2. Equal Benefits, Minimum Qualifications for those specifications upon which the Proposer is submitting, a responsive and responsible Inclusion Plan, and other elements of responsiveness will be screened in this Step.

**Step #2: Proposal Evaluation:** The City will evaluate proposals using the criteria specified below. Responses will be evaluated and ranked or scored.

**Specifications**: The City will evaluate each Vendor’s compliance with the specifications and other bid requirements in the RFP and shall make determinations of “or equal” alternates prior to calculation of Vendors. If the proposer attaches manufacturing line cards or specification sheets as supporting documentation of compliance to technical specifications, the Buyer may rely upon such attachments to make determinations of whether the product properly complies with City requirements. Likewise, the Buyer may obtain and rely upon a manufacturer line card if the Buyer desires verification that the OEM product is compliant. In the event a manufacturer’s material differs from the proposer’s written response, it is your responsibility to clearly explain why the manufacturer specification sheet would be different, or the Buyer may rely upon the manufacturer specification materials to make the determination.

**Evaluation Criteria: Weight (points)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Proposal Response**  Experience – 85  Product Support - 65  Account Management Support - 135 | **285** |
| **Price** | **55** |
| **Inclusion Plan** | **40** |
| **References – Pass / Fail** | **0** |
| **Total** | **380** |

**Step #3: Pricing**: Items on price sheets shall then be calculated for award. Item pricing will be multiplied by the number of units required for an item total. Item totals will be totaled for all items for a tabulated total. If an error in math occurs, unit pricing will be considered the correct price and will be used. *If any cost item is missing from a proposed Offer Form, the City will calculate and compare responses without that cost item considered.* Vendors should bid at least 95 percent of the items on the price list. The City may reject responses that don’t bid 95 percent of the items.

Discounts for prompt payment shall be reviewed for acceptance and shall be calculated into the Vendor’s response for evaluation.

**Local Business Tax Revenue Consideration:** SMC 20.60.106(K) authorizes that in determining the lowest and best bid, the City shall consider the tax revenues derived by the City from its business and occupation, utility, sales and use taxes from the proposed purchase.   The City of Seattle’s Business and Occupation Tax rate varies according to business classification. Typically, the rate for services such as consulting and professional services is .00427% and for retail or wholesale sales and associated services, the rate is .00222%. Only vendors that have a City of Seattle Business License and have an annual gross taxable Seattle income of $100,000 or greater are required to pay Business and Occupation Tax. The City will apply SMC 20.60.106(K) and calculate as necessary to determine the lowest bid price proposal.

**Step #4: Interviews**. An interview may be conducted with the top ranked firm on a Pass/Fail basis. If they Fail, we will move on to the second ranked firm. The Vendor is to submit the list of names and company affiliations with the Buyer before the interview. Vendors invited to interview may bring other key personnel. The Vendor shall not bring an individual who does not work for the Vendor or for the Vendor as a subcontractor on this project, without specific advance authorization by the City Buyer.

**Step #5: Selection:** The City shall select the highest ranked Proposer for award or may consider a combination of awards at the option of the City.

**Step #6: Contract Negotiations:** The City may negotiate elements of the proposal as required to best meet the needs of the City, with the apparent successful Proposer. The City may negotiate any aspect of the proposal or the solicitation.

**Repeat of Evaluation Steps**: If no Vendor is selected at the conclusion of all the steps, the City may return to any step in the process to repeat the evaluation with those proposals that were active at that step in the process. The City shall then sequentially step through all remaining steps as if conducting a new evaluation process. The City reserves the right to terminate the process if no proposals meet its requirements.

**Points of Clarification**: Throughout the evaluation process, the City reserves the right to seek clarifications from any Vendor.

**Substantially Equivalent Scores**: if the top two Vendors receive the substantially equivalent scores, the contract will be awarded to that Vendor who, in the opinion of the City, best meets the City needs.

**9. AWARD AND CONTRACT EXECUTION INSTRUCTIONS**

The RFP Coordinator intends to provide written notice of the intention to award in a timely manner and to all Vendors responding to the Solicitation.

**Protests and Complaints:** The City has rules to govern the rights and obligations of interested parties that desire to submit a complaint or protest to this RFP process. Please see the City website at <http://www.seattle.gov/city-purchasing-and-contracting/solicitation-and-selection-protest-protocols> for these rules. Interested parties have the obligation to be aware of and understand these rules, and to seek clarification from the City. Note there are time limits on protests and Proposers have final responsibility to learn of results in sufficient time for such protests to be filed in a timely manner.

**Limited Debriefs:** The City issues results and award decisions to all proposers. The City provides debriefing on a limited basis for the purpose of allowing bidders to understand how they may improve in future bidding opportunities.

**Instructions to the Apparently Successful Vendor(s):** The Apparently Successful Vendor(s) will receive an Intent to Award Letter from the RFP Coordinator after award decisions are made by the City. The Letter will include instructions for final submittals that are due prior to execution of the contract or Purchase Order.

If the Vendor was allowed to request exceptions in the instructions and chose to do so, the City will review and select those the City is willing to accept. There will be no discussion on exceptions. Once the Contract is formulated, the City may identify proposal elements that require further discussion to align the proposal and contract fully with City business needs before finalizing the agreement. If so, the City will initiate the discussion and the Vendor is to be prepared to respond quickly in City discussions. The City has provided only 15 calendar days to finalize such discussions. If mutual agreement requires more than 15 calendar days, the City may terminate negotiations, reject the Proposer and may disqualify the Proposer from future submittals for these same products/services, and continue to the next highest ranked Proposal, at the sole discretion of the City. The City will send a final agreement package to the Vendor for signature.

Once the City has finalized and issued the contract for signature, the Vendor must execute the contract and provide all requested documents within ten (10) business days. This includes attaining a Seattle Business License, payment of associated taxes due, and providing proof of insurance. If the Vendor fails to execute the contract with all documents within the ten (10) day time frame, the City may cancel the award and proceed to the next ranked Vendor, or cancel or reissue this solicitation. Cancellation of an award for failure to execute the Contract as attached may cause Proposer disqualification for future solicitations for this product/service.

**Checklist of Final Submittals Prior to Award**: The Vendor(s) should anticipate that the Letter will require at least the following. Vendors are encouraged to prepare these documents as soon as possible, to eliminate risks of late compliance.

* Seattle Business License is current and all taxes due have been paid.
* State of Washington Business License.
* Certificate of Insurance (if a hard-copy is required by the specifications)
* Special Licenses (if any)

**Taxpayer Identification Number and W-9:** Unless the Vendor has already submitted a Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification Request Form (W-9) to the City, the Vendor must execute and submit this form prior to the contract execution date.

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**Attachments**

For convenience, the following documents have been embedded in Icon form within this document. (**Double click on Icon to open**).

**Attachment #1: Insurance Requirements**

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**Attachment #2: Terms & Conditions**

