

GENERAL CONDITIONS

In submitting this bid, the Bidder understands and agrees to be bound by the following terms and conditions. These terms and conditions shall become a part of the purchase order or contract and will consist of the invitation to bid, specifications, the responsive bid and the contract with attachments, together with any additional documents identified in the contract and any written change orders approved and signed by a city official with authority to do so. All shall have equal weight and be deemed a part of the entire contract. If there is a conflict between contract documents, the provision more favorable to the City shall prevail.

1. BID TIME

It shall be the responsibility of each Bidder to ensure his/her bid is turned in to the City of North Richland Hills on or before the due date and time. The official time shall be determined by the clock located at the switchboard in the North Richland Hills City Hall lobby. Bids received after the time stated above will be considered ineligible and returned unopened.

All attached bid documents are to be returned completely filled out, totaled, and signed. Envelopes containing bids must be *sealed*. The City of North Richland Hills will not accept any bid documents other than the attached.

2. WITHDRAWING BIDS/PROPOSALS/QUOTES

Bids may be withdrawn at any time prior to the official opening; request for non-consideration of bids must be made in writing to the Purchasing Manager and received prior to the time set for opening bids. The bidder warrants and guarantees that his/her bid has been carefully reviewed and checked and that it is in all things true and accurate and free of mistakes. Bidder agrees that a bid price may not be withdrawn or canceled by the bidder for a period of ninety (90) days following the date designated for the receipt of bids.

3. IRREGULAR BIDS/PROPOSALS/QUOTES

Bids will be considered irregular if they show any omissions, alterations of form, additions, or conditions not called for, unauthorized alternate bids, or irregularities of any kind. However, the City of North Richland Hills reserves the right to waive any irregularities and to make the award in the best interest of the City.

4. REJECTION/DISQUALIFICATION

Bidders will be disqualified and/or their bids rejected, among other reasons, for any of the specific reasons listed below:

- a) Bid received after the time set for receiving bids as stated in the advertisement.
- b) Reason for believing collusion exists among the Bidders.
- c) Bid containing unbalanced value of any item; bid offering used or reconditioned equipment.
- d) Where the bidder, sub-contractor or supplier is in litigation with the City of North Richland Hills or where such litigation is contemplated or imminent.
- e) Uncompleted work which in the judgment of the City will prevent or hinder the prompt completion of additional work, or having defaulted on a previous contract.
- f) Lack of competency as revealed by reference checks, financial statement, experience and equipment, questionnaires, or qualification statement.
- g) Bid containing special conditions, clauses, alterations, items not called for or irregularities of any kind, which in the Owner's opinion may disqualify the Bidder.

However, the City of North Richland Hills reserves the right to waive any irregularities and to make the award in the best interest of the City of North Richland Hills.

5. BID EVALUATION

Award of bid, if it be awarded, will be made to the lowest responsible bidder or may be awarded to the bidder that offers the goods and/or services at the *best value* for the City (Texas Local Government Code, 252.043). In determining the best value the City will consider the following:

- a) The purchase price; terms and discounts; delivery schedule;
- b) The reputation of the bidder and of the bidder's goods or services;
- c) The quality of the bidders' goods or services;
- d) The extent to which the bidder's goods or services meet the City specifications and needs;
- e) The bidder's past relationship with the City;
- f) Total long term cost to the city to acquire the bidder's goods or services;
- g) Any relevant criteria specifically listed in the specifications;
- h) Compliance with all State and local laws, general conditions and specifications;
- i) Results of testing, if required;
- j) Warranty and/or guarantee, maintenance requirements and performance data of the product requested;
- k) City's evaluation of the bidder's ability to perform to specifications.

6. AWARD OF BID

The bid award will be made within sixty (60) days after the opening of bids. No award will be made until after investigations are made as to the responsibilities of the best bidder.

The City of North Richland Hills reserves the right to award bids whole or in part when deemed to be in the best interest of the City. Bidder shall state on bid form if their bid is "all or none", otherwise it shall be considered as agreeing to this section.

Information contained in submitted bid documents shall not be available for inspection until after the award has been made by the City Council. Requests for this information must be submitted in writing.

7. ASSIGNMENT

The successful bidder may not assign his/her rights and duties under an award without the written consent of the North Richland Hills City Manager. Such consent shall not relieve the assignor of liability in the event of default by his assignee.

8. SUBSTITUTIONS/EXCEPTIONS

Exceptions/variations from the specifications may be acceptable provided such variations, in each instance, is noted and fully explained in writing and submitted with bid. NO substitutions or changes in the specifications shall be permitted after award of bid without prior written approval by the Purchasing Manager.

9. DELIVERY / ACCEPTANCE

The delivery date is an important factor of this bid and shall be considered during the evaluation process. The City considers delivery time the period elapsing from the time the order is placed until the City receives the order at the specified delivery location.

All material shall be delivered F.O.B. City of North Richland Hills to the address specified at the time of order. Acceptance by the City of North Richland Hills of any delivery shall not relieve the Contractor of any guarantee or warranty, expressed or implied, nor shall it be considered an acceptance of material not in accordance with the specifications thereby waiving the City of North Richland Hills right to request replacement of defective material or material not meeting specifications.

10. NOTICE OF DELAYS

Whenever the contractor encounters any difficulty which is delaying or threatens to delay timely performance, written notice shall immediately be given to the Purchasing Manager, stating all relevant information. Such notice shall not in any way be construed as a waiver by the City of any rights or remedies to which it is entitled by law. Delays in performance and/or completion may result in cancellation of agreement.

11. SALES TAX

The City of North Richland Hills is exempt from Federal Excise and State sales tax; therefore tax must not be added to bid.

12. TIE BIDS

In the event of a tie bid, State Law provides the bid or contract shall be awarded to the local bidder. In cases where a local bidder is not involved, tie bids shall be awarded by drawing lots at the City Council meeting, or as otherwise directed by the Mayor.

13. BRAND NAME OR EQUAL

If items are identified by a "brand name" description, such identification is intended to be descriptive, not restrictive, and is to indicate the quality and characteristics of products that will be satisfactory. As used in this clause, the term "brand name" includes identification of products by make and model.

Such products must be clearly identified in the bid as an equal product and published specifications of the equal products offered must be included with the bid reply.

Bids offering equal products will be considered for award if determined by the Purchasing Manager and the user department to be equal in all material respects to the brand name products referenced. The decision of acceptable "equal" items or variations in the specifications will solely be the City of North Richland Hills. Unless the bidder clearly indicates in his/her bid that he is offering an "equal" product, his bid shall be considered as offering the brand name product referenced in the invitation for bids.

14. REFERENCES

A minimum of three (3) references, preferably located within the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex, must be submitted with each bid. Company name, contact and phone number must be included with each reference.

15. PROHIBITION AGAINST PERSONAL FINANCIAL INTEREST IN CONTRACTS

No employee of the City of North Richland Hills shall have a direct or indirect financial interest in any proposed or existing contract, purchase, work, sale or service to or by the City (CMA-074, Standards of Conduct, Section IV).

16. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Pursuant to Chapter 176 of the Texas Local Government Code, a person, or agent of a person, who contracts or seeks to contract for the sale or purchase of property, goods, or services with the City of North Richland Hills must file a completed conflict of interest questionnaire which is available online at www.ethics.state.tx.us. The conflict of interest questionnaire must be filed with the City Secretary of the City of North Richland Hills no later than the seventh business day after the person or agent begins contract discussions or negotiations with the City of North Richland Hills or submits to the City of North Richland Hills an application, response to a request for proposal or bid, correspondence, or another writing related to a potential agreement with the City of North Richland Hills. An updated conflict of interest questionnaire must be filed in accordance with Chapter 176 of the Local Government Code. An offense under Chapter 176 is a Class C misdemeanor.

17. TERMINATION/NON PERFORMANCE

Continuing non-performance of the vendor in terms of Specifications shall be a basis for the termination of the contract by the City. The City of North Richland Hills reserves the right to enforce the performance of this contract in any manner prescribed by law or deemed to be in the best interest of the City in the event of breach or default of this contract. The City reserves the right to terminate the contract immediately in the event the successful bidder fails to:

- a) Meet delivery schedules or,
- b) Otherwise not perform in accordance with these specifications.

Breach of contract or default authorizes the City to award to another bidder, and/or purchase elsewhere and charge the full increase in cost and handling to the defaulting successful bidder.

The contract may be terminated by either party upon written thirty (30) days' notice prior to cancellation without cause.

18. ATTORNEYS FEES

Neither party to this contract shall be entitled to attorney fees for any matter arising under this contract, whether for additional work, breach of contract, or other claim for goods, services, or compensation. All claims for attorney's fees are hereby WAIVED.

19. INDEMNITY

City shall not be liable or responsible for, and shall be saved and held harmless by Contractor from and against any and all suits, actions, losses, damages, claims, or liability of any character, type, or description, including claims for copyright and patent infringement, and including all expenses of litigation, court costs, and attorney's fees for injury or death to any person, or injury to any property, received or sustained by any person or persons or property, arising out of, or occasioned by, directly or indirectly, the performance of Contractor under this agreement, including claims and damages arising in part from the negligence of City, without; however, waiving any governmental immunity available to the CITY under Texas law and without waiving any defenses of the parties under Texas law. The provisions of this indemnification are solely for the benefit of the parties hereto and not intended to create or grant any rights, contractual or otherwise, to any other person or entity.

It is the expressed intent of the parties to this Agreement that the indemnity provided for in this section is an indemnity extended by Contractor to indemnify and protect City from the consequences of City's own negligence, provided, however, that the indemnity provided for in this section shall apply only when the negligent act of City is a contributory cause of the resultant injury, death, or damage, and shall have no application when the negligent act of City is the sole cause of the resultant injury, death, or damage, unmixed with the legal fault of another person or entity. Contractor further agrees to defend, at its own expense, and on behalf of City and in the name of City, any claim or litigation brought in connection with any such injury, death, or damage.

The Contractor will secure and maintain Contractual Liability insurance to cover this indemnification agreement that will be primary and noncontributory as to any insurance maintained by the City for its own benefit, including self-insurance.

20. PERFORMANCE AND PAYMENT BONDS

In the event the total contract amount exceeds \$100,000, the Contractor shall be required to execute a performance bond in the amount of one hundred (100) percent of the total contract price; if the total contract amount exceeds \$50,000 the contractor shall be required to execute a payment bond in the amount of one hundred (100) percent of the total contract price, each in standard forms for this purpose, guaranteeing faithful performance of work and guaranteeing payment to all persons supply labor and materials or furnishing any equipment in the execution of the contract. It is agreed that this contract shall not be in effect until such performance and payment bonds are furnished and approved by the City of North Richland Hills. No exceptions to this provision allowed.

Unless otherwise approved in writing by the City of North Richland Hills, the surety company underwriting the bonds shall be acceptable according to the latest list of companies holding certificates of authority from the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States.

Attorneys-in-fact who sign bid bonds or contract bonds must file with each bond a certified and current copy of their power of attorney.

21. INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

Successful bidder agrees to extend prices and terms to all entities who have entered into or will enter into joint purchasing interlocal cooperation agreements with the City of North Richland Hills.

22. U.S. DOT STANDARD TITLE VI ASSURANCE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

“The (Recipient), in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C 2000d to 2000d-4 and Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21. Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the Department of Transportation issued pursuant to such Act, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.”

23. ELECTRONIC PROCUREMENT

The City of North Richland Hills has adopted policies and procedures complying with Local Government Code Section 252.0415, Section 271.906 and Section 2155.062. The City of North Richland Hills may receive submittals in electronic form in response to procurement requests. However, a bid that is submitted non-electronically by the due date and time will be accepted and then entered electronically by Purchasing after the bid opening.

Due care and diligence has been used in preparation of this information, and it is believed to be substantially correct. However, the responsibility for determining the full extent of the exposure and the verification of all information presented herein shall rest solely with the bidder. The City of North Richland Hills and its representatives will not be responsible for any errors or omissions in these specifications, nor for the failure on the part of the proposer to determine the full extent of the exposures.