



COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM
Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments
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www.hgacbuy.org

INVITATION TO SUBMIT COMPETITIVE:

BIDS

PROPOSALS

INVITATION NO.: **CW10-19**

ISSUE DATE: **May 2, 2019**

CATEGORY: **WIRELESS & VOIP TELECOMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES**

PURPOSE OF THIS INVITATION

The Cooperative Purchasing Program (**HGACBuy**) of the Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments is soliciting offerings for the furnishing of products/services as described herein. These products/services may be purchased by any of more than 7,000 member local governments, districts, agencies in 49 states across the nation.

Responses must be submitted in an original and one (1) copy, and shall be subject to the terms, conditions, requirements and specifications detailed in the documents comprising this Invitation. Responses are scheduled to be opened publicly at **H-GAC** offices on the date indicated. For Bid Invitations, responses will be available for public review until 4:00 p.m. CT that day, and on subsequent days by appointment only. Any Responses submitted later than 1:00 p.m. on the due date will be returned unopened to the bidder/proposer.

PROCUREMENT SCHEDULE & DETAILS

| | | |
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| DRAFT SPECIFICATION / INVITATION: | March 6, 2019 | |
| PRE-BID/PROPOSAL CONFERENCE: | April 9, 2019 @ 9:00 a.m. CT H-GAC Clock | |
| FINAL SPECIFICATION / INVITATION: | May 2, 2019 | |
| BID/PROPOSAL RESPONSES DUE: | June 4, 2019 @ 1:00 p.m. CT H-GAC Clock | |
| PUBLIC RESPONSE OPENING: | June 4, 2019 @ 2:00 p.m. CT H-GAC Clock | |
| RECOMMENDATIONS TO BOARD: | July 16, 2019 | |
| CONTRACT START DATE & TERM: | October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2022 | |
| The documents comprising this Invitation are available via web download at: https://www.hgacbuy.org/bids/ | | |
| For assistance regarding this Invitation, please contact: | | |
| Name: Jasmine Wilson | Phone: 713-993-4554 | E-mail: Jasmine.Wilson@h-gac.com |

CONTENTS OF THIS INVITATION

SECTION A - General Terms & Conditions

SECTION B - Product/Service Specific Requirements & Specifications (Final)

SECTION C - **HGACBuy** FORMS (Final)

SECTION D - Pro-Forma (Sample) Contract

This procurement conforms to government requirements for Competitive Procurement.

LABELING OF SEALED RESPONSE PACKAGE

IMPORTANT:

You must affix an identifying label to the outside of your Sealed Response Package to ensure proper identification and log-in at **HGACBuy** offices on receipt. **HGACBuy** is not responsible for any response that might be lost or misdirected due to improper or unclear labeling. Your label should look as follows and should be affixed conspicuously to the package.



Responses by E-mail or FAX will not be acceptable. Hard copies, as described herein, plus appropriate electronic media are required.



SECTION A
GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS
FOR BIDS AND PROPOSALS

INVITATION NO. CW10-19

DESCRIPTION: Wireless & VOIP Telecommunication Equipment & Services

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (**H-GAC**) is a "Government-to-Government" procurement service for States, State Agencies, Local Governments, Districts, Authorities, and qualifying Not-for-Profit Corporations (**End Users**). End Users become **Members** of the **H-GAC** Cooperative Purchasing Program (**HGACBuy**) by executing an Interlocal Contract, which is free of cost and evergreen unless cancelled. **HGACBuy**, acting on behalf of **Members**, is soliciting competitive offerings for the furnishing of products and/or services, as described elsewhere, which MAY be purchased by **Members** during the contract term. **Members** using the Program issue purchase orders directly to **HGACBuy** contractors.

2. DEFINITIONS, ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

The following definitions, abbreviations and acronyms may be found in these specifications, and shall be interpreted herein as specified below.

Definitions and Abbreviations:

Acceptance. Acceptance takes place when the **End User** agrees with the **Contractor** that the terms and conditions of the contract have been met and verified. Acceptance is not the same as Receipt, and can only occur after intact shipping, inspection by **End User**, and any onsite testing that has been stipulated as part of the order

Aggregate/Single Occurrence. The term "*aggregate*" in insurance terms is the sum of all claims against a specific policy for a specific loss incident. The term "*single occurrence*" differentiates between multiple claims and single claims against a specific policy. The inherent value of a policy's aggregate value is less important to an **End User** than is the value of a single claim as stated under "*single occurrence*."

Approved. Acceptable to the "authority having jurisdiction."

ARO. "After Receipt of Order". Used in conjunction with a defined time period (usually days or weeks) to establish the delivery or lead time pursuant to any individual purchase transaction. In the case of orders for bodies which will be mounted on a customer furnished cab/chassis, the term ARO shall be construed to mean "After Receipt Of Cab/Chassis".

Authority Having Jurisdiction. The authority shall be either **H-GAC** or the relevant **End User** based on the requirements as stated in each specification item. Unless specifically stated, the authority shall be **H-GAC**.

Bidder. Any entity that submits a competitive bid to this Invitation. (See also "**Offeror**")

Change Order. Request by an **End User** for a change in the composition of an already submitted purchase order, for example to change quantity ordered, add or delete items, etc.

Contract. Specifically, a contract between **H-GAC** and a successful **Offeror** which is executed based on an award made pursuant this Invitation.

Contract Pricing Worksheet. The standard **H-GAC** form to be used by **Contractor** in preparing a quotation to an End User, upon which End User's purchase order will be based. **Contractor** may use another quotation form provided it contains required information, and only if approved by **H-GAC**.

Contractor. The contracted business entity responsible for fulfilling a contract executed pursuant to this Invitation.

Dealer/Distributor. A duly authorized and/or franchised business entity which sells and services a manufacturer's product in a specified marketing area.

Defect. A discontinuity in a part or a failure to function that interferes with the service or reliability for which the part was intended.

Electronic Media. As used herein, means computer based media such as 100mb Zip Disk, CDRom, e-mail, e-mail attachment, file downloaded from the web, etc.

End User. (See "**Participant**" and "**Member**")

Listed. Equipment or materials included in a list published by an organization, acceptable to the "Authority Having Jurisdiction" and concerned with product evaluation, that conducts periodic inspection of production of listed equipment or materials and whose listing states either that the equipment or materials meet appropriate standards or has been tested and found suitable for use in a specified manner. NOTE: The means for identifying listed equipment may vary for each organization concerned with product evaluation, some of which do not recognize equipment as listed unless it is also labeled. The "authority having jurisdiction" should utilize the system employed by the listing organization to identify a listed product.

Manufacturer. The person or persons, company firm, corporation, partnership, or other organization responsible for taking raw materials or components and making a finished product.

May. A term indicating a permissive use or an acceptable alternative to a specified requirement.

Member. An authorized Participant in the Program. (See "**Participant**" and "**End User**")

Motor Vehicle. The meaning of this term shall be based on the legal definition ascribed to it by the laws and/or regulations of the state in which any specific sale made pursuant to a Contract takes place.

Must. A term indicating a mandatory requirement.

Offer or Offering. Any product or service offered in reply to this Invitation.

Offeror. Any entity that submits a competitive bid or proposal in response to this Invitation. Bidder or Proposer.

Participant. Generally, any qualifying governmental or non-profit entity which has executed an Interlocal Contract for cooperative purchasing services with **H-GAC**.

Product Liability Insurance. Failure of Components and/or assembled equipment resulting in personal injury, disability or death and/or property damage is covered under the product liability insurance provisions.

Product or Product Item. Any of the specific goods, materials, equipment or service(s) specified in this Invitation. This term encompasses the base line item itself, and any and all accessories, options, modifications, ancillary services, assembly, testing, etc. that may be included in the delivered Product.

Proposer. Any entity that submits a competitive proposal in response to this Invitation. (See also "**Offeror**")

Purchaser. The **End User** having responsibility for the specification, requisition, ordering and acceptance of the Product or Service. (See also "**End User**")

Purchasing Authority. The agency that has sole responsibility and authority for negotiating, placing and, if necessary, modifying any solicitation, purchase order, or other award issued by a governing body [**H-GAC**].

Quotation. See "Contract Pricing Worksheet".

Receipt. Receipt takes place when a Product or Service is delivered to an **End User** and a document is executed that establishes that the Product is now in the possession of the **End User** or that the Service has been completed. Receipt DOES NOT connote or imply Acceptance.

Response. All or part of any offering submitted in response to this Invitation.

Shall. A term indicating a mandatory requirement or action.

Should. A term indicating a recommended or advised response to a specified requirement.

Vendor. A manufacturer's representative or dealer authorized to make sales and supply parts and service.

Acronyms:

ANSI = **A**merican **N**ational **S**tandards **I**nstitute

ASTM = **A**merican **S**ociety for **T**esting and **M**aterials

ASME = **A**merican **S**ociety of **M**echanical **E**ngineers

CFR = U.S. **C**ode of **F**ederal **R**egulations

DOJ = U.S. Department Of Justice
DOT = U.S. Department Of Transportation
EPA = U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FAA = Federal Aviation Administration
FMVSS = U.S. Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards
H-GAC = Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments
IEEE = Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
MVD = Motor Vehicle Division of Texas Department of Transportation
NFPA = National Fire Protection Association
NHTSA = National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
NIOSH = National Institute For Occupational Safety And Health
NIST = National Institute of Standards and Technology
NTEA = National Truck Equipment Association
OSHA = U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration
RRC = Railroad Commission of Texas
SAE = Society of Automotive Engineers
TBPC = Texas Building and Procurement Commission (formerly GSC)
TxDOT = Texas Department Of Transportation
UL = Underwriter's Laboratories Inc.
VTCS = Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes

3. NON-BINDING ORAL COMMENTS

No oral comment, utterance or response made by any employee, member, or agent of H-GAC or any Member of the Cooperative Purchasing Program shall be considered factual or binding with regard to this Invitation, or any contract awarded as a result of this Invitation. Valid and binding terms, conditions, provisions, changes or clarifications, or requests thereof, shall ONLY be communicated written form.

4. STRUCTURE OF RESPONSE

Depending on the Product or Service, market structures and sales practices can differ substantially. For example, dealers may sell into any market or may be restricted to certain territories, manufacturers may sell direct or may be limited by law to selling thru independent dealerships, etc. H-GAC's objective is to ensure that End Users, no matter where located, can buy contracted products/services and receive quality and timely service and support, while at the same time allowing for the most appropriate and effective response to this Invitation. Therefore, responses to this Invitation will be accepted in conformance with the following scenarios and requirements:

A. Single Respondent Acting Alone Or As "Lead" For A Group:

Offeror shall complete and sign a **Form A** and, if contracted, shall be solely responsible for all contractual requirements including administration, processing of purchase orders and handling of payments for transactions which may involve other dealers who actually deliver the products or services.

B. Multiple Respondents Acting Jointly:

A single Response shall be submitted, and each party to the Response shall complete and sign a separate **Form A** to be included in the single Response. If the Response is successful each party shall sign a separate contract with H-GAC and shall be responsible for compliance with all terms and conditions. Only those which have executed a written contract with H-GAC may process purchase orders and payments.

In any event, Offeror may be a party to one, and only one, response.

5. BASIC REQUIREMENTS & CONDITIONS

- a. The final requirements and specifications contained herein may be different, perhaps materially, from those in the "Invitation To Attend Pre-Bid / Pre-Proposal Conference", if any. It is **Offeror's** sole responsibility to thoroughly examine and review all documentation associated with this Invitation, including any Addendums, and to insure that any response submitted complies in every respect with all requirements.

- b. Any Addendum to this Invitation which may be required prior to the Response due date will be delivered to those prospective Offerors of record who have previously obtained a copy of this Invitation from **H-GAC**. Prospective Offerors shall be responsible for obtaining all documents relating to submission of a Response.
- c. **Offeror** shall thoroughly examine any drawings, specifications, schedules, instructions and any other documents, supplied as a part of this Invitation, and is solely responsible for understanding and compliance.
- d. **H-GAC** shall not be liable for **Offeror's** incomplete documentation, or for any costs associated with preparation and submission of any Response hereto. Additionally, all components of any Response become the property of **H-GAC**, and shall be considered to be in the public domain.
- e. **Offeror** shall make all investigations necessary to become thoroughly informed regarding any plan and/or infrastructure that may be required to support delivery of any Product or Service covered by this Invitation. No plea of ignorance by **Offeror** stemming from failure to investigate conditions that may now or hereafter exist, shall be accepted as a basis for varying **H-GAC's** requirements, or **Offeror's/Contractor's** obligations or entitlements.
- f. Requests for changes to the requirements or specifications herein must be in writing (e-mail, fax, letter) and must be received by **H-GAC** no later than fifteen (15) calendar days prior to the Response Due Date. **H-GAC** will review such requests, but may or may not make changes at its sole discretion. Changes, if any, will only be made by written Addendum sent to addressees of record. In any event, it is **Offeror's** sole responsibility to insure that any and all Addendums which may have been issued have been received and addressed.
- g. By submission of a response, **Offeror** expressly understands and agrees that all terms and conditions herein will be part of any subsequent contract that is executed pursuant to this Invitation.
- h. **Offeror** is advised that all **H-GAC** contracts are subject to the legal requirements established in any applicable Local, State or Federal statute.
- i. **Offeror/Contractor** must be in compliance with all licensing, permitting, registration and other applicable legal or regulatory requirements imposed by any governmental authority having jurisdiction. It is **Offeror/Contractor's** responsibility to insure that this requirement is met, and to supply to **H-GAC** upon request, copies of any license, permit or other documentation bearing on such compliance.
- j. Unless otherwise established elsewhere in this Invitation, NO minimum purchase quantities or spending levels are provided or guaranteed by **H-GAC** or any **End User**.
- k. This Invitation is not meant to restrict competition, but rather is intended to allow for a wide range of responses.
- l. Responses which are 'qualified' with conditional clauses or alterations of or exceptions to any of the terms and conditions in this Invitation may be deemed non-compliant at **H-GAC's** sole discretion.
- m. The term '**Offeror**', or derivative thereof, shall become synonymous with '**Contractor**' for any successful **Offeror** recommended for a contract pursuant to this Invitation.
- n. **H-GAC** reserves the right to:
 - Reject any and all offers received in response to this Invitation.
 - Reject any part of an offer received in response to this Invitation.
 - Determine the correct price and/or terminology in the event of any discrepancies in any response.
 - Accept a response from, and enter into agreement with, other than the lowest price **Offeror**.
 - Accept responses and award contracts to as many or as few **Offerors** as **H-GAC** may select.
 - Amend, waive, modify, or withdraw (in part or in whole) this Invitation, or any requirements herein.
 - Hold discussions with **Offerors**, although award may be made without discussion.
 - Request an **Offeror** to give a presentation of the Response at a time and place scheduled by **H-GAC**.
 - Exercise any of these rights at any time without liability to any **Offeror**.
- o. **H-GAC** reserves the right to determine that conditions exist which prevent the public opening of responses on the date and at the time advertised, and to reschedule the public opening for a future date and time. Responses received by **H-GAC** by the original deadline will be secured unopened until the rescheduled opening date and time, and those having timely submitted such responses will be notified.

6. OFFEROR'S AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY

The signatory shall be authorized to sign and contractually bind **Offeror**, and shall sign any and all Response documentation requiring a signature.

7. SURETY FOR INSURANCE

Contractor shall be responsible for using a surety company properly licensed by any and all states in which Contractor will do business with Participants. The surety company shall not expose itself to any loss on any one risk in an amount exceeding ten percent (10%) of its surplus to policy holders, provided any risk or portion of any risk shall have been reinsured, and such reinsurance shall be deducted in determining the limitation of risk applicable to **H-GAC's** insurance requirements.

8. CONFIDENTIAL / PROPRIETARY MATERIALS

All documentation submitted as part of **Offeror's** response to this Invitation will be considered to be in the public domain and may be made available to Members and others, after contract award, upon properly submitted request. If **Offeror** submits documents marked “confidential” or “proprietary”, the Response may be deemed non-compliant.

9. REFERENCES

- a. **Offeror** shall list the names of at least five government agencies within the continental United States which have purchased from **Offeror** products or services similar to those covered by this Invitation, within the last two years. **H-GAC** reserves the right to determine if such products or services are appropriately similar.
- b. **Offeror** may provide reference information in whatever format desired, but each should include the following specific information:
 - Agency name
 - Contact person name
 - Address
 - Phone & Fax numbers
 - Description of product(s) or service(s) and date sold
- c. Other information, including criticism however learned, may be used by **H-GAC** in evaluation of responses.

10. INSURANCE

- a. Unless otherwise stipulated in Section B, **Offeror/Contractor** must have the following insurance and coverage minimums:
 - General liability** insurance with a Single Occurrence limit of at least \$1,000,000.00, and a General Aggregate limit of at least two times the Single Occurrence limit.
 - Product liability** insurance with a Single Occurrence limit of at least \$1,000,000.00, and a General Aggregate limit of at least two times the Single Occurrence limit for all Products except Automotive Fire Apparatus. For Automotive Fire Apparatus, see Section B – Product Specific of this Invitation.
 - Property Damage or Destruction** insurance is required for coverage of **End User** owned equipment while in **Contractor's** possession, custody or control. The minimum Single Occurrence limit is \$500,000.00 and the General Aggregate limit must be at least two times the Single Occurrence limit. This insurance may be carried in several ways, e.g. under an Inland Marine policy, as part of Automobile coverage, or under a Garage Keepers policy. In any event, this coverage must be specifically and clearly listed on insurance certificate(s) submitted to **H-GAC**.
- b. Insurance coverage shall be in effect for the length of any contract made pursuant to this Invitation, and for any extensions thereof, plus the number of days/months required to *deliver* any outstanding order after the close of the contract period.
- c. Original Insurance Certificates must be furnished to **H-GAC** on request, showing **Offeror/Contractor** as the insured and showing coverage and limits for the insurances listed above.
- d. If any Product(s) or Service(s) will be provided by parties other than **Offeror/Contractor**, all such parties are required to carry the minimum insurance coverages specified herein, and if requested by **H-GAC**, a separate insurance certificate must be submitted for each such party.
- e. **H-GAC** reserves the right to contact insurance underwriters to confirm policy and certificate issuance and document accuracy.

11. OFFEROR CERTIFICATIONS

Offeror, by submission of a Response hereto, makes the following certifications under penalty of perjury and possible contract termination if any of these certifications are found to be false.

Non-Collusive Response

- a. The prices in the Response have been arrived at independently without collusion, consultation, communication, or agreement for the purpose of restricting competition, as to any matter relating to such prices with any other **Offeror** or potential competitor.
- b. The prices which have been quoted in the Response (unless otherwise required by law), have not been knowingly disclosed by **Offeror** and will not be knowingly disclosed by **Offeror** prior to the public response opening, either directly or indirectly, to any other **Offeror** or competitor.
- c. No attempt has been made or will be made by **Offeror** to induce any other person, partnership or corporation to submit or not to submit a response for the purpose of restricting competition.

Non-Biased Specifications

This Invitation contains no requirements considered to be unduly biased in favor of **Offeror** or any other **Offerors** that may be competing for this procurement.

No Financial Interest or Other Conflict

- a. No **H-GAC** officer, employee, Board of Directors member or member of any **H-GAC** board or commission, nor family member of any such person, has a financial interest, direct or indirect, in **Offeror** or in any contract **Offeror** might enter into with **H-GAC**.
- b. No economic or employment opportunity, gift, loan, gratuity, special discount, trip, favor or service has been, or will be, offered or given to any officer, employee, Board of Directors member, or member of any **H-GAC** board or commission, nor to any family member of any such person.

Debarment and Suspension Status

- a. **Offeror** is not currently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any government agency, nor is **Offeror** an agent of any person or entity that is currently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from covered transaction by any government agency.
- b. **Offeror** has not within a three year period preceding this Invitation been convicted of or had a civil suit judgement rendered against **Offeror** for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain or performing a public transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of federal or state antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statement, or receiving stolen property.
- c. **Offeror** is not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a government entity (federal, state, or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated above.
- d. Offeror has not, within a three year period preceding this Invitation, had any government (federal, state, or local) transactions terminated for cause or default.

Insurance Coverages

Offeror has and will maintain insurance coverage in accordance with the requirements of this Invitation.

Licensing & Permits

Offeror(s) has (have) all licenses and/or permits, required by any and all governmental entities having jurisdiction, to legally sell the products/services offered.

12. HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESS (HUB) PARTICIPATION

- a. To satisfy Texas' statutory requirements [Government Code, Chapter 2161, Subchapter D], **H-GAC** requires all **Offerors** to supply information in any bid/proposal response listing (1) the total number of subcontracts and (2) the total number of HUB contracts applicable to the Products or Services offered in the response. Local governments often require this information for their own reporting requirements prior to placing orders through the **H-GAC** Cooperative Purchasing Program.
- b. **Offeror** must complete **Form B** and include subcontracts with HUB's that provide any materials or services related to sales that may be made thru **H-GAC**'s Cooperative Purchasing Program.

13. NON-RESIDENT RECIPROCAL SALES ACT

As required by Texas Civil Statutes in the award of contracts, an offeror which is not a Texas resident business must determine if its state of residence prohibits award of government contracts to Texas resident offerors without penalty. If **Offeror's** resident state DOES penalize Texas offerors, **Offeror** must provide this information along with a copy of its applicable resident state's statute in the Response.

14. TEXAS MOTOR VEHICLE COMMISSION CODE & LICENSING

Sales of motor vehicles in the State of Texas are subject to the Texas Motor Vehicle Commission Code. If this Invitation includes any motor vehicle to be sold in the State of Texas, **Offeror** certifies by submission of a response hereto that all required Texas Motor Vehicle Commission licenses are in place and current, and that copies of all such licenses **have been submitted with the Response**. Further, it shall be **Contractor's** responsibility to keep current all required Texas Motor Vehicle Commission licensing during the term of the contract, and to furnish license copies at any time on request by **H-GAC**. If **Contractor** does not maintain current licensing, **H-GAC** reserves the right to immediately terminate the contract.

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| <p>NOTE: In accordance with the Texas Motor Vehicle Commission Code, contracts for motor vehicles to be sold within the state of Texas may be made ONLY with properly licensed Texas Motor Vehicle Dealers. Therefore, to be considered for a contract covering Texas End Users, the Response must include a Form A from a licensed Texas Motor Vehicle Dealer</p> |
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15. INTENT AND SCOPE OF SPECIFICATIONS

- a. The intent of the specifications herein is to provide **Offeror** with sufficient information concerning the Products/Services to be contracted such that **Offeror** can prepare and submit an acceptable Response.
- b. The specifications may be detailed or general in nature with regard to any particular Product/Service. Where not otherwise specified, details of construction, materials, or the way in which services will be provided, are left to the discretion of the **Offeror**, provided only that any offering shall conform, as a minimum, to best Industry standards and practices and to what is currently being sold in the marketplace.
- c. Responses shall be considered only from **Offerors** that have established good reputations in their markets, and who furnish satisfactory evidence of ability to supply the Products/Services specified herein.
- d. **Offeror** shall show proof of ability to provide to **End Users** prompt and competent service, including parts if applicable, for all Products/Services covered by this Invitation, by proper completion of a Service Organization Document as described elsewhere herein.

16. REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO PHYSICAL GOODS

In the case of physical goods (e.g. equipment, material, supplies, as opposed to services), all Products offered must, unless otherwise stipulated in Section B:

- a. Be new, unused, and not refurbished.
- b. Not be a prototype insofar as the general design, operation and performance. This requirement is NOT meant to preclude **Offeror** from offering new models or configurations which incorporate improvements in a current design or add functionality, but which in such new model or configuration may be new to the marketplace.
- c. Include any and all accessories which may or may not be specifically mentioned herein, but which are normally furnished or which are necessary to make a delivered Product ready for its intended use. Such accessories shall be assembled, installed and adjusted such that the Product is ready for continuous operation at time of delivery.
- d. Have assemblies, sub-assemblies and component parts that are standard and interchangeable throughout the entire quantity of a particular Product as may be purchased simultaneously by any individual **End User**.
 - a. Be designed and constructed using current industry accepted engineering and safety practices, and materials.
 - b. Be available for inspection at any time prior to or after procurement.

17. PRODUCT CODES

Unless otherwise addressed in Section B of this Invitation, the following requirements shall apply:

- a. Each Product/Service offered shall be uniquely identified using an **H-GAC** Product Code, which shall be determined as described in Section B of this Invitation. **Offeror** shall offer ONLY ONE Product for any particular Product Code. For example, **Offeror** may wish to submit a bid for Product Code ABC and may have another offering that also meets the requirements for ABC. **Offeror** MAY NOT submit two offerings for ABC. The alternate offering that also meets the requirements for ABC must be offered as an option "upgrade/downgrade" to ABC on **Form E**.
- b. Pricing for optional upgrades or downgrades to base bid items should be quoted as an "adder" or "deduct" amount as appropriate, to be applied to the offered price of the base Product Item listed on **Form D**.
- c. Base bid items and their associated HGACBuy Product Codes are included in the Section B and/or on **Form D**.
- d. Selection of Product Codes for which to submit an offer is at **Offeror**'s sole discretion.

18. SPECIFIC DESCRIPTIVE REFERENCES

Except for Base Product Items listed on Form D, any reference to a specific catalog, data sheet, form, brochure, model name or number, etc. used herein to describe an item such as an option or accessory is only descriptive and is not to be considered restrictive unless otherwise noted. Such references are normally used only to indicate a type, general description, level of quality and/or required performance standards.

19. MANUALS

Unless otherwise specified or superceded herein, each Product delivered under an **H-GAC** contract, and if applicable any options thereto, shall be supplied with at least one (1) copy of a safety and operating manual. The cost of any such manuals must be included in the base price for any Product Item offered hereunder. If more detailed and technically orientated parts and maintenance manuals are available for a Product or option, at a cost, they shall be offered as options on the *FORM* designated herein for such options, or elsewhere in the Response as may be directed herein.

20. STANDARD FEATURES & OPTIONS

The following requirements are applicable primarily to physical goods.

Standard Features

- a. The stated minimum requirements for all Products listed herein include what **H-GAC** considers to be "standard" features. Even though such features might normally be offered as options rather than as standard, they are nonetheless considered to be standard in this Invitation, and must be included in the base price for any Product offered. Such features **SHOULD NOT** be offered as options except as deducts for their omission from the base Product.
- b. If it is unclear in the Response that an **H-GAC** standard feature is included in the base price, it will be assumed that such is the case. If awarded a contract **Offeror** will be expected to sell the Product with all **H-GAC** specified standard features included in the base price.
- c. Any feature or accessory normally offered by manufacturer as "standard" shall be considered a standard feature and shall be included in the base price of any offering, even though not specifically listed as a requirement in **H-GAC**'s specifications. Such features **SHOULD NOT** be offered as options except as deducts for their omission from the base Product.

Options - General

- a. Options are considered to be any features or accessories, other than **H-GAC**'s and Manufacturer's "standard" features or accessories.
- b. Options should be offered on the *FORMS* designated for quoting options. Each option should be listed and described on a separate line, and should include any Manufacturer's/Dealer's code number. If no Manufacturer's/Dealer's code number exists, **Offeror** should create one.
- c. Prices for all offered options shall be assumed to include any installation or mounting required to make it a fully functional component of the Product, unless otherwise stated in **Offeror**'s response.

Required Options

- a. Product specifications in this Invitation may include **H-GAC** "Required Options". If so, **Offeror** must quote a price for ALL such options, and, if there is an **H-GAC** Option Code provided in this Invitation for such options, it MUST be used as part of the description.
- b. For any specific "Required Option", **Offeror** may quote an equivalent so long as its design and performance are as good as, or better than, the specified option item. Responses which do not include pricing for Required Options may be considered non-compliant.

Other Options

- a. "Suggested" or "Other" options may be listed for any particular Product in this Invitation, and **Offeror** is encouraged to quote pricing for such options. The extent of offered options in any response may be taken into consideration as part of the award criteria, at **H-GAC's** sole discretion.
- b. **Offeror** is encouraged to include options for non-equipment items that may be applicable to a sale, such as: Extended Warranties, Maintenance Agreements, Buy-back or Trade-In Agreements, Out-of-state Delivery Charges, Quantity or Special Discounts, Extended Training Classes, etc.

Published & Unpublished Options

- a. H-GAC Cooperative Purchasing Program (Program) contracts are awarded through a public competitive bid or proposal (RFP) process. Further to that process, Program policy considers an 'option' listed and priced in a bid or RFP Response: (1) To be a "**Published Option**"; (2) To be part of any awarded contract; and (3) To be available for purchase by Program members separately and independently from associated base line items. However, since Published Options may have not been subjected to the same scrutiny as the associated base line items, it cannot be concluded they were directly competed. Therefore, pursuant to Local Government Code 252.021(a), purchase of a published option costing more than \$50,000 shall not be allowed. Furthermore, **H-GAC** reserves the right at its sole discretion to disallow purchase of any Published Option through the Program if deemed contrary to the intent of the law.
- b. Any option that has not been listed and priced in the Response is considered to be an "**Unpublished Option**". Unpublished Options may be sold, but only in connection with the sale of a base Product Item, and only insofar as the total cost of all Unpublished Options remains below twenty five percent (25%) of the total summed cost of the base Product(s) plus any Published Options.
- c. No Published or Unpublished Option may be sold which essentially converts a Product such that it competes with a Product Item awarded to another contractor.

21. WARRANTIES, SALES & SERVICE

Unless otherwise addressed in Section B, the following requirements shall apply:

- a. Offeror must be a properly franchised dealer authorized to sell and service, including warranty service, all products offered and sold in response to the bid invitation or under any **H-GAC** contract.
- b. **Offeror** shall provide detailed Parts and Labor Warranty information with the Response. If **Offeror** submits a warranty with the Response which does not meet the minimum requirements herein, **Offeror** agrees by submission of a Response that such warranty shall be considered to be amended to meet those minimums.
- c. Warranties shall be manufacturer's standard and shall be inclusive of any other warranty requirements which may be stipulated elsewhere herein.
- d. Any warranties offered by a dealer shall be in addition to the manufacturer's standard warranty, and shall not be a substitute for such. **Offeror's** base price for any Product shall be inclusive of the standard warranty.
- e. Complete warranty information will be supplied to **End User** with each Product sold.
- a. Warranties need not apply to normal maintenance service or adjustments, or to any product reasonably shown to have been repaired or altered in any way so as to affect its stability, or to any product which has been subject to misuse, negligence, or accident.
- f. **Offeror/Contractor** is encouraged to offer extended warranties as an option.
- g. Neither **H-GAC** nor **End User** assume any warranty or liability on **Contractor's** behalf unless made or assumed in writing, initiated by **Contractor**, and agreed to in writing by **H-GAC** or the **End User** respectively.
- h. **Contractor** shall be responsible for the execution and effectiveness of all product warranty, and shall be the sole source for solution to problems arising from warranty claims. **Contractor** agrees to respond directly to correct warranty claims and to ensure reconciliation of warranty claims that have been assigned to a third party.

22. H-GAC ORDER PROCESSING CHARGE

H-GAC will levy an Order Processing Charge on **Contractor** for each sale done thru the **H-GAC** contract, with the exception of orders for motor vehicles. Any bid pricing submitted will be considered to include the Charge. The amount of the applicable charge shall be per the most current **H-GAC** schedule. For motor vehicle orders, the Processing Charge shall be levied on and paid by the **End User**.

23. PRE-PAYMENTS AND DISCOUNTS

- a. Progress, pre-payment and special discounts of any kind may be offered and detailed in the Response. Such discounts shall be clearly explained, but shall not be a determining factor in awarding contracts except in the case of tie offerings.
 - b. Quantity discounts applicable to similar Products sold to one or more **End User** Departments may be offered. Determination as to product similarity shall rest solely with **Contractor**.
 - c. For specific purchases, any proposed quantity, pre-payment or special discounts shall be clearly shown on the Contract Pricing Worksheet.
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24. INSPECTION / TESTING

All Products sold pursuant to this Invitation shall be subject to inspection/testing by or at the direction of **H-GAC** and/or the ordering **End User**, either at the delivery destination or the place of manufacture. In the event a Product fails to meet or exceed all requirements of this Invitation, and unless otherwise agreed in advance, the cost of any inspection and/or testing, shall be borne by the **Contractor**.

25. PRODUCT DELIVERY

Unless otherwise addressed in Section B, the following requirements shall apply:

- a. Title to goods, and responsibility and liability for loss and/or damage in shipping pass to **End User** at the delivery destination after receipt and acceptance have taken place. Cost of shipping/delivery shall be paid by **End User** unless otherwise agreed to by **Contractor**. If **Contractor** will be paying for shipping/delivery, shipping terms must be "F.O.B. Destination, Freight Prepaid". If **End User** will be paying for shipping/delivery, shipping terms must be "F.O.B. Destination – Freight Collect".
 - b. The details for the application and calculation of shipping and delivery charges must be stated in the Response on **Form E**. Any freight, shipping or delivery charged to **End User** will be prepaid and added to the invoice, and will be clearly shown on any Contract Pricing Worksheet or other quote presented to the **End User**.
 - c. The estimated delivery time after receipt of order (ARO), inclusive of Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, for all Products offered must be stated in the Response. Actual delivery for any particular order must be confirmed with **End User** at time of order placement, and must be stated clearly on the Contract Pricing Worksheet.
 - d. **Contractor** shall be responsible for delivery and Acceptance according to the requirements of the Contract and the Purchase Order.
 - e. **Contractor** shall advise **End User** prior to making any shipment/delivery, and shall make such shipment/delivery in accordance with **End User's** requirements, providing only that such arrangements do not contravene any requirement of the **H-GAC** contract unless agreed to by **Contractor**.
 - f. The execution of all required tests, certifications and/or licensing, and costs thereof, shall be the responsibility of **Contractor**. Upon request by **End User** or **H-GAC**, **Contractor** shall provide any documentation or certification related to such tests, certifications or licensing.
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26. OFFERED PRODUCT ITEM VARIANCES

Any variance in the specifications or performance of Products offered pursuant to this Invitation shall be acceptable to **H-GAC** only insofar as it MEETS or EXCEEDS the specifications and requirements of this Invitation.

27. REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION OF A RESPONSE

Unless otherwise addressed in Section B, the following requirements shall apply:

- a. Responses shall be submitted in two complete printed sets including an Original and one (1) Copy in separate "hard side" three-ring binders. The outer spine of each binder shall be labeled showing this Invitation No., **Offeror** Name, and either "Original" or "Copy", as applicable. The Original printed response will be
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considered to be the binding Response in case of any conflicts between printed copies and electronic copies. Except for required forms, **H-GAC** Invitation documents should not be included in the Response.

- b. The Original and the Copy shall be submitted complete, except that the Electronic Media should be submitted only with the Copy.
- c. All required **H-GAC FORMS** and documents shall be properly completed, without exception or **Offeror's** Response may be deemed non-compliant. **Offeror** may not modify the format of any **H-GAC FORM** in any way. **Offeror** may photocopy or print blank **FORMS** as needed. Information submitted on the printed copies of the **FORMS** may not be handwritten except for signatures and initials. It is **Offeror's** responsibility to insure that printed **FORMS** are clear and legible. Handwritten and illegible entries may be rejected. **Offeror's** printed, stamped or typed name shall appear on every **FORM** submitted in the Response.
- d. **The entire response submission** shall also be submitted on electronic media, including all required **H-GAC FORMS**. **Offeror** is strongly advised to make and work with copies of the original electronic **FORMS**. The originals can then be used to make additional electronic or printed copies of the blank **FORMS**. Signatures are not required on the electronic **FORMS**.
- e. The Response shall include ample written evidence, in the form of technical specifications, cut/tear sheets, brochures, pictures, drawings, etc., to demonstrate that all specifications herein have been met and/or exceeded.
- f. The Response shall include, in any format desired, an overview of the **Service Organization** which will support Products sold under any **H-GAC** contract. The overview must include facility locations, phone numbers and Service Manager names, as well as the following:
 - The procedure to be used by an **End User** requiring repairs.
 - Typical turn-around time on repairs.
 - Service Department days and hours of operation.
 - Number of qualified / factory trained service personnel normally on hand.
 - Description of the parts inventory on hand.
 - Training services, facilities and personnel available.
- g. Responses shall be enclosed in a sealed package(s) addressed to the Houston-Galveston Area Council, Cooperative Purchasing. The following information shall be stated on the exterior of the package(s):
 - Name and address of **Offeror**.
 - Date and hour of public response opening.
 - Bid/Proposal Invitation number.
 - The statement: "**SEALED BID/PROPOSAL, DO NOT OPEN IN MAIL ROOM**".**H-GAC** shall not be responsible for any Response not properly labeled.
- h. Submission of a COMPLETE Response by telegraphic or electronic transmission is not acceptable. However, Responses may be modified by telegraphic or electronic notice if such notice is received prior to the deadline for submission.
- i. Samples, when required, shall be submitted within the time specified and at no expense to **H-GAC**. If not destroyed or consumed during testing, samples will be returned upon request at **Offeror's** expense.
- j. **Offeror** shall provide firm contract pricing for all Products and Options being offered.
- k. If applicable, responses shall include copies of all current licensing which may be required by the Texas Motor Vehicle Division for execution of sales pursuant to any contract with **H-GAC**.
- l. Due to the complexity of responses and to aid in evaluation, the Response should contain **ALL** required information in tabbed sections as detailed below. Omission of any required **FORM** or information will be sufficient grounds for **H-GAC** to consider your response to be non-compliant.
- m. **First Section:**
 - **Form(s) A – Offeror Identification & Signatory:** Identifies the offering party(ies), and should be completed by each party to the Response. If awarded, a contract will be executed with each.
 - **Form B – Historically Underutilized Business Enterprises:** Used to collect information about disadvantaged and minority suppliers and subcontractors, and to commit **Offeror** to working with Participants toward their program goals.
 - **Form C – Response Checklist:** Certification, and also an aid, to insure that all required information has been included in your Response.

- **Form W-9 – Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification:** Should be completed by each party to the response.
- **Form CIQ – Conflict Of Interest Questionnaire:** Chapter 176 of the Texas Local Government Code requires vendors and consultants contracting or seeking to contract with **H-GAC** to file a Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (CIQ) if they have an employment or other business relationship with an **H-GAC** officer or an officer's close family member. The required questionnaire is located at the Texas Ethics Commission website: http://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/conflict_forms.htm. It is Bidder's responsibility to download the form and furnish a completed copy with the Response.
- **Form 1295 – Certificate of Interested Parties –** Must be filled out electronically with the Texas Ethics Commission's online filing application, printed out, signed and provided from each entity that has submitted a Form A for this submission.
- **House Bill HB 89 Verification Form –** completed and signed and provided from each entity that has submitted a Form A for this submission.
- **References,** formatted as described elsewhere herein.
- **Service Organization Document,** formatted as described elsewhere herein.

Second Section:

- **Form D – Offered Items Pricing:** For Bids, contains the list of the Product Items covered by this Invitation. Select the items offered and fill in the price for each. (For RFPs, follow the instructions in Section B as this **Form** may or may not be used.)
- **Form E – Published Options:** Used to list and price all offered options. List, each on a separate line, all upgrades, downgrades, optional equipment, features, accessories and services which you desire to sell thru the **H-GAC** contract, if awarded. Published catalogs/price sheets may be listed, along with the discount structure that will apply. (For RFPs, follow the instructions in Section B as this **Form** may or may not be used.)

Third Section:

- Technical Specifications, Product Brochures, Tear Sheets, Cut Sheets, Strippers, etc. which clearly list and show all the standard features and capabilities of each Product Item offered on **Form D**.
- Warranty Documentation, as described elsewhere herein, for all items offered.

Fourth Section:

- Copies of any applicable Texas MVD Licenses.
 - Electronic Media, containing the complete response including all required *FORMS*, stored in a pouch or an envelope such that it will not fall out of the binder. (Required in 'Copy' only, not in 'Original'.)
- n. By submittal of Response, **Offeror** certifies to the best of its knowledge that all information is true and correct.

28. CLARIFICATION TO SPECIFICATIONS & REQUIREMENTS

- If **Offeror** is in doubt as to the meaning of any item in this Invitation, a written request for clarification may be submitted to **H-GAC** up to fifteen (15) calendar days prior to the deadline for response submission. **H-GAC** shall not be responsible for late delivery. Requests may be transmitted by FAX or e-mail to the assigned Specification Specialist, and should clearly reference this Invitation number and the specific page and paragraph in question. If there are multiple questions, they should be stated separately and numbered.
- Any interpretation of Invitation documents, if made, will be by written Addendum duly issued. A copy of such Addendum will be mailed or delivered to each person officially on record as having been sent a copy of this Invitation. **H-GAC** will not be responsible for any other explanation or interpretation of the Invitation documents made or given prior to the award of the contract.
- Any objections to the Invitation documents must be filed in writing with **H-GAC** on or before fifteen (15) calendar days prior to the deadline for submission of responses.
- Prospective offerors are advised that, after a draft specification has been issued, the Pre-Bid/Proposal Conference is the primary forum through which comments and suggestions may be offered for consideration by **H-GAC** prior to issuance of the final invitation and specifications.

- e. All best efforts have been made to insure that the product/service descriptions and associated specification information in Sections B & C are correct, and adequate time has been given to prospective Offerors to point out mistakes. However, if an error remains and is caught by Offeror before the scheduled bid/proposal opening, Offeror shall make note of the required correction in the Response, and shall also notify **H-GAC** prior to the opening of responses.

29. INCONSISTENT INFORMATION

H-GAC review of responses supplied on **H-GAC FORMS** is a significant part of the evaluation process. **Offeror** shall state clearly all information required on the *FORMS*. **Offeror's** information supplied on the *FORMS* shall take precedence in the event any standard “boilerplate” type language included in **Offeror's** response is inconsistent with the information supplied by **Offeror** on the **H-GAC FORMS**. In all cases, information on **H-GAC's** printed *FORMS* supplied as part of **Offeror's** response shall take precedence over information supplied on electronic media.

30. REJECTION OF RESPONSES

- a. **H-GAC** may reject a response if:
- **Offeror** misstates or conceals any material fact in the Response, or if,
 - **Offeror** does not strictly conform to law or the requirements of this Invitation.
- b. **H-GAC** may reject any and all responses, and may reject any part of a response.
- c. **H-GAC, at its sole discretion,** may also waive any formalities or irregularities in any response, or ask for corrected information except for pricing.
- d. **The following occurrences require disqualification of the bid/proposals:**
- Unsigned or unauthorized signatures on bids/proposals;
 - Bids received after the date and time for opening
 - Bids where prices are conditional on award of another bid or are subject to unlimited escalation
- e. **H-GAC** may refuse to award a contract to or enter into a transaction with an apparent low bidder if that bidder is indebted to **H-GAC**.

31. WITHDRAWAL OR MODIFICATION OF RESPONSES

Once received by **H-GAC**, responses may be modified or withdrawn prior to the submission deadline only if the request to do so is in writing submitted by **Offeror's** authorized representative. Responses and requests for modification received after the submission deadline will not be accepted. Requests for response withdrawal received after the submission deadline will be accepted if the request to do so is in writing submitted by **Offeror's** authorized representative.

32. RESPONSE EVALUATION

For Bid Responses:

- a. Section B will state whether the contract will be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder or to the bidder who provides goods or services at the best value for **H-GAC** and its participants.
- b. If the contract will be awarded based on best value, Section B will state any relevant criteria which **H-GAC** will consider.
- c. For each offered Product Item, **H-GAC** may use the offered price, prices for Required Options, and the prices of selected common Published Options to determine the lowest responsible offer.
- d. Failure of **Offeror** to submit pricing for frequently purchased options and any **H-GAC** required options may cause response to be considered non-compliant at **H-GAC's** sole discretion.

For Proposal Responses:

- e. **H-GAC** will evaluate proposals as detailed in Section B.
- f. By submission of a Response Offeror indicates acceptance of the evaluation technique, and recognizes and accepts that **H-GAC** may at its sole discretion make subjective judgments during the evaluation process.

33. ORDER OF PRECEDENCE PRIOR TO CONTRACT AWARD

In the event of conflict between this document and any references or documents cited herein, this document shall take precedence prior to contract award.

34. AWARD OF CONTRACT

- a. **H-GAC** reserves the right to accept or reject any Product Item or option offered. Additionally, all options included in Offeror's response and accepted by **H-GAC** are understood to be included in any contract.
- b. **H-GAC** shall award contract(s) for line items or groups of line items, at its sole discretion.
- c. With authority granted by the **H-GAC** Board of Directors, a written contract shall be presented to the successful **Offeror(s)** and shall be subject to acceptance by the successful **Offeror(s)** within forty-five (45) calendar days after presentation by **H-GAC**. If a contract is not executed within forty-five (45) calendar days, **H-GAC** may rescind the contract offer and award a contract to the next **Offeror** in order of rank as determined by **H-GAC**.
- d. Delivery time and prompt payment discounts, including time allowed for payment, may be considered in tie-breaking of offers which are judged by **H-GAC** to be equal in all other criteria.
- e. The contract shall include the following documents in the stated order of precedence:
 - 1st The contract document signed by **H-GAC** and **Offeror**.
 - 2nd This Invitation and all specifications referenced herein.
 - 3rd **Offeror's** response to this Invitation.

35. PRO-FORMA CONTRACT

This Invitation includes a Pro-Forma (sample) Contract which successful offerors will be expected to sign. The actual final contract will be the same or nearly the same as the Pro-Forma. NOTE: Successful Offerors MAY NOT process any purchase orders until the contract documents have been executed and returned to **H-GAC**.

36. CONTRACT TERM

The contract shall be in effect throughout the period stated elsewhere in the contract documents, and thereafter until such time as any outstanding orders against the contract have been fulfilled. The contract may be extended if deemed by **H-GAC** to be in the best interests of the Program, and subject to mutual agreement of the parties.

37. PERFORMANCE & PAYMENT BOND

H-GAC's contractual requirements DO NOT include a Performance & Payment Bond (PPB), and offered pricing should reflect this cost saving. However, **Contractor** must be prepared to offer a PPB to cover any specific order if so requested by **End User**. **Contractor** shall quote a price to **End User** for provision of any requested PPB, and agrees to furnish the PPB within ten business (10) days of receipt of **End User's** purchase order.

38. CHANGE ORDERS

End Users shall have the right to make additions by addenda for the purpose of clarification or inclusion of additional specifications, qualifications, conditions, etc. Any such addenda shall be made in writing and agreed upon by **Contractor** and the **End User** agency prior to issuance of any Change Order. A copy of any such Change Order shall be furnished by **Contractor** to **H-GAC**.

39. DUPLICATION OF TERMS OR STATEMENTS

Where statements or terms are duplicated or are extremely similar, **H-GAC** and the **End User** reserve the right to use the statement or term most favorable to **H-GAC** and/or the **End User**.

40. PUBLICITY

H-GAC encourages contractors to "market" the Program, and can provide some information and artwork to be used in published promotional materials. However, any publicity or published material released by **Contractor** referencing the contract, whether in the form of a press release, brochure, photographic coverage, or verbal announcement, shall be issued only with prior review and approval by **H-GAC**.

41. TAXES

HGAC and **End User** participants are either units of government or qualified non-profit agencies, and are generally exempt from Federal and State sales, excise or use taxes. **Offeror** shall not include any such taxes in the Response. Further, it shall be the responsibility of **Contractor** to determine the applicability of any taxes to a particular order and act accordingly. Exemption certificates will be provided upon request.

42. DRUG FREE WORKPLACE

Contractor shall provide notice to its employees and sub-contractors, as required under the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988. A copy of **Contractor's** Drug-Free Workplace policy shall, on request, be furnished to any **End User**.

43. PRODUCT NOTICES & MAILINGS

H-GAC is NOT the owner of Products sold pursuant to this Invitation, but acts only in the capacity of purchasing agent. In that regard, **Contractor** accepts sole responsibility for insuring that notices and mailings, such as Safety Alerts, Safety Recall Notices and Customer Surveys, are sent directly to the **End User** of record.

44. HANDLING OF ORDERS & PAYMENTS

In general, orders and payments will be handled as described below. More specific instructions and information regarding handling of purchase orders and the Order Processing Charge may be provided after contract award. Established procedures may be changed at any time by **H-GAC** as may be dictated by efficient business practice. The particulars of any sale, e.g. specific products, pricing, delivery, warranty, etc., will be in strict accordance with the terms and conditions of this Invitation and the specific contract awarded to **Contractor**. Beyond that:

- a. For any particular procurement to be made under the provisions of an **H-GAC** contract, **End User** and **Contractor** will discuss requirements and agree as to what will be provided.
- b. **Contractor** will prepare a Contract Pricing Worksheet and provide it to **End User**. The Worksheet will list everything being purchased including the base bid item(s), all published and unpublished options and the delivery date. All pricing shall be per the current contract.
- c. **End User** will send a purchase document to **Contractor**, which **Contractor** will send **H-GAC** together with the Contract Pricing Worksheet. **NOTE: Contractor** agrees not to offer, agree to or accept from **End User** any terms or conditions that conflict with or contravene those in **Contractor's** **H-GAC** contract, except for pricing discounts.
- d. **H-GAC** will prepare an "Order Confirmation" and send it to **End User** and to **Contractor**. The Order Confirmation verifies that **Contractor** has a valid **H-GAC** contract and that the order is in compliance with the requirements of the **H-GAC** Cooperative Purchasing Program. **Contractor** will not ship any goods before receipt of both **End User's** purchase document and **H-GAC's** Order Confirmation.
- e. On notification that **Contractor** has received an order, **H-GAC** will invoice **Contractor** for the applicable Order Processing Charge. **NOTE: The Order Processing Charge is charged to Contractor, EXCEPT in the case of motor vehicles.** For all sales of motor vehicles the Order Processing Charge is levied on the **End User**, collected by **Contractor**, and remitted to **H-GAC** by **Contractor**.
- f. **Contractor** will deliver products/services ordered, and will invoice **End User** for products/services accepted by **End User**. (See other Sub-Section herein dealing with Product Delivery.) **Contractor** will not invoice before shipment has been made.
- g. **End User** will pay **Contractor** for those products and/or services ordered which have been received and accepted. Under no circumstances shall any check be made payable to a representative or agent. Should a representative or agent submit an invoice to **End User** for any cost related to a purchase order issued to **Contractor** for products/services covered by an **H-GAC** contract, such invoice shall be forwarded to **Contractor** and **Contractor** will take action to correct the error.
- h. Upon delivery of any product/service by **Contractor** and acceptance by **End User**, **Contractor** shall remit to **H-GAC** the full amount of the applicable Order Processing Charge in accordance with the payment terms established in the **H-GAC** contract. Note, the Order Processing Charge is due whether or not **Contractor** has ever received an invoice from **H-GAC**. Sales executed based on the particulars of **Contractor's** **H-GAC** contract, without payment of the Order Processing Charge, may constitute fraud.

45. PRICE CHANGES

- a. Any permanent increase or decrease in offered pricing for a base contract item or published option is considered to be a price change. Temporary increases in pricing by whatever name (e.g. 'surcharge', 'adjustment', 'equalization charge', 'compliance charge', 'recovery charge', etc.), are also considered to be price changes.
- b. Except in the case of contracted published catalogs and price sheets, prices for Base Bid Items and Published Options are expected to be held firm for a minimum of 90 days from the date an awarded Offeror signs the H-GAC contract. Thereafter, changes will be considered if accompanied by justifying documentation satisfactory to H-GAC. For published catalogs and price sheets which are on an H-GAC contract, requests to amend the contract to reflect any new published catalog or price sheet may be submitted whenever the manufacturer publishes the new document. Any such request must include the new catalog or price sheet.
- c. If **Contractor** routinely offers discounted contract pricing, **H-GAC** may request **Contractor** to accept amended contract pricing equivalent to the routinely discounted pricing.
- d. No price change will be allowed unless it has been reviewed and approved by **H-GAC** in writing. **Contractor** must have received **H-GAC's** written approval of any change prior to charging the new price or using it in any quotation prepared for an End User.
- e. Price change requests must be submitted to **H-GAC** in writing and must be received by **H-GAC** at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the requested effective date of the change, and must state the time period for which the requested pricing will remain firm.
- f. Price change requests shall include **H-GAC Forms D and E**, or whatever documentation was used to submit pricing in the original Response hereto, showing all affected items with current contract price, requested price, and percentage change shown clearly for each. This documentation should be submitted in MSExcel format to facilitate analysis and updating of the website.
- g. Price change requests **MUST** be supported with substantive documentation (e.g. manufacturer's price increase notices, copies of invoices from suppliers, etc.) showing that **Contractor's actual costs** have increased. The Producer Price Index (PPI) may be used as partial justification, subject to approval by **H-GAC**, but no price increase based solely on an increase in the PPI will be allowed.
- h. All Products shall, at time of sale, be equipped as may be required under any then current applicable local, state, and federal government requirements. If, during the course of any contract, changes are made to such government requirements which cause a manufacturer's costs of production to increase, **Contractor** may increase Product pricing to the extent of **Contractor's** actual cost increase. The increase must be substantiated with support documentation acceptable to **H-GAC** prior to taking effect. Modifications to a Product required to comply with such requirements which become effective after the date of any sale shall be the responsibility of the **End-User**.
- i. In cases involving contract extensions exceeding sixty-one (61) days beyond the stated expiration date of the contract, **Contractor** may request a price change based on the same conditions as stated above. However the thirty (30) day prior notice is waived and **H-GAC** will consider the request immediately on receipt.
- j. H-GAC reserves the right to accept or reject any price change request. Acceptance, if granted, will be in writing and the approved changes will become part of the contract.

46. CONTRACT ITEM CHANGES

- a. If a manufacturer discontinues a contracted item, that item will automatically be considered to be deleted from the contract with no penalty to Contractor. However, **H-GAC** may at its sole discretion elect to make a contract award to the next low offeror for the item, or take any other action deemed by **H-GAC** to be in the best interests of **End Users**, at its sole discretion.
- b. If a manufacturer makes any change in a contracted item which does not affect the contract price, Contractor shall advise **H-GAC** of the details. If the 'new' item is equal to or better than the originally contracted item, the 'new' item shall be approved as a replacement. Otherwise **H-GAC** may allow or reject the change, or take any other action deemed by **H-GAC** to be in the best interests of **End Users**, at its sole discretion. If the change is rejected there will be no penalty to Contractor.
- c. If a manufacturer makes any kind of change in a contracted item which affects the contract price, Contractor shall advise **H-GAC** of the details. **H-GAC** may allow or reject the change at its sole discretion. If the change is rejected there will be no penalty to Contractor. However, **H-GAC** may elect to make a contract award to the next low offeror for the item, or take any other action deemed by **H-GAC** to be in the best interests of **End Users**, at its sole discretion.

- d. In the case of specifically identified catalogs or price sheets which have been contracted as base bid items or as published options, routine published changes to products and pricing shall be automatically incorporated into the contract. However, **Contractor** must still provide thirty (30) calendar days written notice and an explanation of the changes to products and pricing. **H-GAC** will respond with written approval.

47. FORCE MAJEURE

If either party shall be wholly or partially prevented from the performance of any contractual obligation or duty by reason of or through strikes, stoppage of labor, riot, fire, flood, acts of war, insurrection, accident., order of any court, act of God, or specific cause reasonably beyond the party's control and not attributable to its neglect or nonfeasance, in such event, the time for the performance of such obligation or duty shall be suspended until such disability to perform is removed. Determination of Force Majeure shall rest solely with **H-GAC**.

48. PERFORMANCE UNDER CONTRACT

H-GAC is committed to insuring that **Contractor** provides effective and efficient service to all Participants in the Cooperative Purchasing Program, and expects that certain Performance Conditions must be met. Failure to meet these conditions may result in contract termination. In that regard, **Contractor shall:**

- a. Appoint a dedicated representative to be the contact person and focal point for all matters relating to End User quotations and orders. The representative shall have: A toll free phone number with voice mail; A fax number; A working e-mail address; and A postal address.
- b. Insure that the representative timely monitors all communication modes listed above, and promptly responds to communications from **End Users** and **H-GAC** in any of these modes. Phone calls will be promptly returned, in any event not later than the next business day. Acceptable failure will be due only to Force Majeure.
- c. Maintain sufficient qualified staff to promptly process all communications from **H-GAC** or **End Users**, and to efficiently, effectively and accurately service all requirements of the contract.
- d. As may be requested by **H-GAC**, replace any staff members who are not providing the service and expertise deemed necessary by **H-GAC** for acceptable support of **End Users**.
- e. Properly prepare and provide to **End User** a Contract Pricing Worksheet, or a quotation in other format as approved by **H-GAC**, for each and every order that is to be executed.
- f. Furnish, on request of **H-GAC**, reasonable data, forms and graphic material to be used in brochures or other print media, or on **H-GAC**'s website.
- g. Allow access to **H-GAC** authorized personnel for inspection of operating facilities, and auditing of purchase orders during the contract period, and for a period extending thru the completion of any outstanding orders. Site inspection may be arranged not less than ten (10) calendar days prior, shall include the names of all participants, and shall be at no expense to **Contractor**.
- h. **Reporting Requirements:**
 - **Contractor** agrees to submit written quarterly reports to **H-GAC** detailing all transactions during the previous three month period. Such reports shall include, but are not limited to the following:
 - **End User** name
 - Product/Service purchased, including Product Code if applicable
 - End User Purchase Order Number
 - Purchase Order Date
 - Product/Service dollar amount
 - **HGACBuy** Order Processing Charge amount
 - Reports must be provided to **H-GAC** in MSExcel or other acceptable electronic format, and are due by the 30th day of the month following the applicable quarter being reported.
- i. Should **Contractor** default in providing Products or Services as required by this Invitation and the contract, recourse may be exercised thru cancellation of the contract and other legal remedies as may be appropriate.

49. CONTRACTOR ORIENTATION/TRAINING

H-GAC believes that **Contractor's** familiarity with the operational policies and requirements of the Cooperative Purchasing Program is a key factor in achieving **End User** satisfaction. In that regard, the Contact Person listed on **Form A**, or an alternate, shall be required to participate in an **H-GAC** vendor orientation/training as soon as

possible after contract award. In addition, any other of Contractor's staff who will be involved in any way with the HGACBuy Program should participate in orientation. The orientation may be presented as a teleconference or webinar, or may be held in **H-GAC**'s offices as may be determined by **H-GAC** and Contractor to be the most efficient and effective form of delivery.

50. LEGAL & CONTRACTUAL REMEDIES

RESOLUTION OF PROTESTED SOLICITATIONS AND AWARDS

Procedure

Any actual or prospective **Offeror** or **Contractor** who is aggrieved in connection with a purchase transaction may file a grievance. The grievance may be filed at any phase of the procurement. In order for an above mentioned party to enter the grievance process, a written complaint must be sent to the Chief Operations Officer (COO) of **H-GAC** by certified mail which identifies the following:

1. Name, mailing address and business phone number of the complainant.
2. Appropriate identification of the procurement being questioned.
3. A precise statement of reasons for the protest.
4. Supporting exhibits evidence or documents to substantiate any claims.

The grievance must be based on an alleged violation of **H-GAC**'s Procurement Procedures, a violation of State or Federal law (if applicable), or a violation of applicable grant or contract agreements to which **H-GAC** is a party. Failure to receive a procurement award from **H-GAC** in and of itself does not constitute valid grievance. Upon receipt of grievance, the Chief Operations Officer will initiate the informal resolution process.

Expedited Resolution

The Procurement Officer or Departmental Director responsible for the solicitation shall contact the complainant and all interested parties and attempt to resolve the allegations informally within ten (10) working days from date of complaint. If the allegations are successfully resolved by mutual agreement, documentation will be forwarded to the Chief Operations Officer of the resolution with specifics on each point addressed in the original complaint.

If the Procurement Officer or Departmental Director is not successful in resolving the allegations, the complaint along with the comments will be forwarded to the Chief Operations Officer immediately. The Chief Operations Officer will review all documentation. All interested parties will be given written notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing and an opportunity to present evidence. A written decision will be issued within five (5) working days after the hearing along with notice of appeal rights.

Appeals

The complainant may appeal the Chief Operations Officer's decision by submitting a written appeal, within five (5) working days, to the Executive Director of **H-GAC**. The Executive Director, upon receipt of a written notice of appeal, shall contact the complainant and schedule a hearing within ten (10) working days. The Executive Director of **H-GAC** has the option of appointing a Hearing Officer to preside over the hearing. If appointed, the Hearing Officer shall conduct a hearing and forward a summary and recommended resolution to the Executive Director.

The decision reached by the Executive Director or his designee shall be final and conclusive. This decision will be forwarded to the complainant in writing within thirty (30) working days.

The **Contractor** may, if it elects to do so, appeal the final and conclusive decision of the Executive Director to a Court of competent jurisdiction.

RESOLUTION OF CONTRACT DISPUTES

Upon breach or default, **H-GAC** shall give the **Contractor** written notice of default. If the default is not remedied, within a reasonable specified time from date of notification, to the satisfaction and approval of **H-GAC**, default will be declared.

Upon breach of contract or default, **H-GAC** may exercise any and all of its rights afforded by law, including but not limited to those referenced in the General Contract Provisions.

SOLICITATIONS OR AWARDS IN VIOLATION OF THE LAW

Contracts awarded in violation of the competitive process or otherwise in violation of the law are voidable by **H-GAC**.

51. NATIONWIDE SALES OPPORTUNITIES

HGACBuy provides purchasing services to local governments qualifying non-profits throughout the nation, and desires to make established contracts available to them wherever and whenever practicable. Therefore, once a contract is awarded, **Contractor** is expected to expand the scope of its marketing effort to include sales to **End Users** in all areas of the United States, and/or to assign any **H-GAC** contract to another contractor(s) as deemed appropriate by **H-GAC** in the interest of its End Users.

- **Contractor** may sell through **HGACBuy** anywhere subject to compliance with applicable laws and regulations. If the market structure in which **Contractor** operates requires a contract assignment for any particular sale, **H-GAC** will expect **Contractor** to assign the contract to a Manufacturer or to another Dealer(s). Such assignment must be approved by **H-GAC**.
- **Contractor**'s differential costs (e.g. transportation & delivery charges) and allowances (e.g. manufacturer's sales incentives) related to any sale may be charged to buyer.

End of Section A General Terms And Conditions

**SECTION B - PRODUCT SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS
FOR
WIRELESS & VOIP TELECOMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT & SERVICES**

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1. BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

HGACBuy, the Cooperative Purchasing Program of the **Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments (H-GAC)** is issuing this Request for Proposal (RFP) for the acquisition of Wireless-VOIP Telecommunications Equipment and Services. Our intention is to establish a contract(s) with qualified and cost-effective provider(s) who will furnish such services, under a three-year blanket contract, which will be made available to **H-GAC** or any of our 7000 + local government and qualified non-profit members (**End Users**) throughout the United States. Our expectation is that **End Users** purchasing covered services thru our Program will receive high quality service more cost effectively and in a timelier manner than they would be able to accomplish by doing the basic procurement themselves.

Respondent shall demonstrate in the response to this RFP how sales, service, training and support will be provided and achieved throughout the geographic areas you are proposing. Organizational structure, including all sales and support centers should be detailed, including the number and type of employees at each location. Local governmental references, including contact name and contact information shall also be provided as part of any response. It is the sole discretion of **HGACBuy** and its staff to be able to award multiple contracts under the same services provided.

2. SCOPE

The purpose of this RFP is to establish contracts with qualified vendors to supply a broad array of wireless communication services including but not limited to: wireless voice, data and/or video transmission services; wireless broadband internet access or other related communication services; messaging, push to talk/two-way radio

services. Wireless-VOIP equipment, devices and related maintenance and support services are also include. Proposals may be submitted for the Wireless-VOIP communication services portion, the Wireless-VOIP equipment and devices portion or both. If submitting a Response for both, only 1-Response binder is necessary, but each category must be clearly separated and tabbed within the Response.

Focus will also be given to the overall depth and breadth of services including public safety interoperability functionalities, **End User** Service Agreement terms and conditions, home service area coverage, customized reporting capabilities as well as the Respondents ability to satisfy the requirements of **End Users** in rural areas.

3. COMMITMENT

Offeror is required to make some basic commitments to insure the overall success of this program. By submission of a response, offeror commits to the following:

- **Corporate/Sales Commitment** – A commitment that **HGACBuy** has the support of senior management and that **HGACBuy** will be the primary government contracting vehicle when offering services/products awarded from this solicitation to eligible end users nationwide. A further commitment to aggressively market the program, both independently as well in partnership with **HGACBuy**.
- **HUB Participation** – It is **H-GAC's** goal to have Historically Underutilized Business Enterprise (HUB) participation in providing services under a contract. IF **Offeror(s)** intends to employ subcontractors in providing services/products related to this solicitation, **Offeror(s)** shall make and demonstrate a good faith effort to include HUB participation under a contract. **Offeror(s)** good faith effort shall include, but is not limited to the following affirmative steps (ref. 2CFR 200.321):
 - 1) Placing qualified small and minority businesses and women's business enterprises on solicitation list;
 - 2) Assuring that small and minority businesses and women's business enterprises are solicited whenever they are potential sources;
 - 3) Dividing total requirements, when economically feasible, into smaller task or quantities to permit maximum participation by small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises;
 - 4) Establishing delivery schedules, where the requirement permits, which encourage participation by small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises;
 - 5) Using the services and assistance as appropriate, of such organizations as the Small Business Administration and the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce;

NOTE: The term HUB as used in this solicitation is understood to encompass all programs/business enterprises such as Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB), Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE), Minority Owned Business Enterprise (MBE), Women Owned Business Enterprise (WBE) and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE).

4. H-GAC ADMINISTRATIVE FEE AND PROCUREMENT PROCESS:

As described in Section A (Sub-section 22), for each purchase order processed under an awarded contract, **H-GAC** will directly invoice contractor a **1.5% Order Processing Charge** applicable to the price of all equipment/services submitted in contractor's response. **Fee is calculated from awarded bid pricing before additional discounts (if any) have been applied.**

It is Bidder's responsibility to take this into consideration when preparing **Form-D** and **Form-E** bid pricing, building this fee into Base Unit and options pricing accordingly (for example, a 20% discount-off-list price should ideally be listed on Bidder's bid as 18.5%).

Contractor may, at the sole discretion of the Contractor, offer discounted wireless equipment and services, broadband equipment and services to employees of **H-GAC** or its **End Users** as Individual Liabile accounts (employee program), within the jurisdiction of the **End User**, with the understanding that **H-GAC** and its **End Users** have no liability whatsoever concerning the equipment or payment of services. All such employees must be validated in order to participate in the employee program under this agreement.

Provide **H-GAC** and its **End Users** with detailed account information or any records subject to billing audits, upon request, by **H-GAC**, its **End Users** or auditors anytime during the contract period.

Competitive Pricing:

By submission of a response, Offeror certifies that offered pricing is as good as or better than pricing offered to local government customers thru any other program under normal circumstances. If such is not the case, Offeror shall explain how offered pricing differs from “best” pricing, and by how much.

Procurement Process:

- a. On request of **End User**, Contractor shall provide a written quotation based on its **H-GAC** contract product, service and price offerings. **End User** shall have the right to accept or reject the quotation, and/or to request changes for re-evaluation. **End User** and Contractor shall be free to negotiate terms and pricing other than as stipulated in the base **H-GAC** contract. In that regard, Contractor is allowed and encouraged to discount pricing for large or extended projects. and must show both HGAC contract base price and agreed discount separately on quote. In any event, the transaction shall still be considered as falling under the umbrella of the **H-GAC** contract.
- b. **Contractor** will prepare a Contract Pricing Worksheet and provide it to **End User**. All pricing shall be per the current HGAC contract. The Worksheet will list everything being purchased including the base bid item(s) and pricing, all published options and pricing, unpublished options and pricing, additional discounts and the delivery date.
- c. **End User** will send a purchase order/purchase document to **Contractor** as mutually agreed between the parties and contractor will deliver the ordered equipment/services.
- d. Contractor will submit required quarterly reports to **H-GAC** within 30 days after the end of the reported quarter. The report will list all billed activity for the quarter showing **End User** name, date, products and services delivered/provided to **End User**, purchase amount for each **End User**, **H-GAC** Order Processing Charge amount and grand total of report.
- e. **H-GAC** will send an “Order Confirmation” to Contractor covering the reported transactions, followeGeneral Contract by an invoice for the 1.5% Order Processing Charge.
- f. Contractor will immediately remit the full amount of the Order Processing Charge due from all orders processed on quarterly report.
- g. In the interest of **End User** satisfaction and efficient use of resources, **H-GAC** desires to maintain contracts only with active contractors providing satisfactory services to Members. In that regard contracts will be monitored, and subsequently terminated or allowed to expire without renewal if in **H-GAC**'s opinion activity is insufficient to warrant continuation.

5. CONTRACT PERIOD

The commencement date of a contract for those Respondents whom have been awarded contracts resulting from this proposal will be October 1, 2019 and shall remain in effect for three (3) years with an end date of September 30, 2022. At that time, **H-GAC** shall have the option to renew the contract, under the same terms and conditions, for up to two (2) one-year extensions when agreed upon by all parties concerned in writing. Active **End User** Service Agreements in place at contract termination shall continue in full force and effect thru the term stipulated in the Agreement, and Order Processing Charges will continue to be due to **H-GAC**.

6. WIRELESS EQUIPMENT & SERVICES - BASIC REQUIREMENTS

Respondents are expected to provide a wide variety of quality wireless voice and/or data equipment and services to **H-GAC** or its members, at the lowest available cost, in a timely manner. **All equipment proposed for sale pursuant to this RFP must be new and unused when delivered.** Such services would include, but will not necessarily be limited to:

- Dependable wireless voice and data communications, as applicable, encompassing all commercially available devices such as cellular phones, desktops and laptops, tablets, PDA's such as Blackberries, and other handheld/vehicular computing or enhanced performance devices.
- Set of standard Plans for voice service.
- Cellular voice/data/video communication utilizing a 3G network or higher.
- Digital text messaging.
- Internet access.
- Encrypted VPN access by End User's in-house computer system.
- Email thru both cellular and VPN services.
- High speed WiFi availability that meets all provisions of IEEE 802.11-2012.
- Direct access to 9-1-1 emergency communications without cost to End User.
- Push-to-talk type "walkie-talkie" communications.
- Provide a set of "standard" plans for voice services.
- Provide updated coverage maps upon request.
- Detail standard features such as voicemail, call waiting, in-plan minutes or megabytes included in the proposed services.
- Provide the following services at no extra charge. This list is not meant to be all inclusive and respondents may add other services at their discretion:
 - Per line caller ID blocking;
 - Upgrades or downgrades to service plans as needed, with no limits;
 - Cancellation of services without early termination fees.
- Describe detailed repair/replacement procedures/processes for equipment covered under warranty and for equipment out of warranty.
- Define any value-added services as part of your offering in your response. This may include, but not be limited to:
 - Cloud Hosting Services/Systems
 - Satellite capabilities;
 - Emergency services;
 - Green Initiatives;
 - Buyback programs.
- Any products or services offered will be provided to **End Users** with all normally provided documentation and instructional material required to safely and effectively use such product or service, free of charge.

6.1 IoT REQUIREMENTS

The IoT (Internet of Things) is the extension of network connectivity into any device that can communicate and interact with others over the wireless network.

This category is for the IoT solutions or applications and can be provided as a supplemental offer by the Wireless Carriers or any other offeror(s). Such solutions/applications would include, but will not be necessarily limited to:

- Fleet Management to remotely monitor and manage various fleet vehicles and other fleet related equipment.
- Mobile Device Management (MDM) to manage mobile devices and applications.
- Public Safety Systems for the First Responder Priority wireless voice and data connectivity and support
- Monitor and Control systems that include sensors, security maintenance, cameras and other related functions operating over wireless network
- Enterprise Messaging to provide secured SMS/MMS solutions
- Secure LAN Access to provide a virtual private network (VPN) connection.

- Mobile Forms and Data Collection to collect data using mobile devices and then send the results to cloud storage.
- Failover Internet Connection is a solution that helps maintain network continuity using cellular technology.

For each of the proposed IoT solutions provide the following information:

1 - General information: Please provide a general description of the solution you are offering including:

- a. Product Name
- b. General capabilities provided
- c. Subcontractors/partners involved in delivering service

2 - Strength and functionality of operational product as described:

- a. Applicability to government needs
- b. Number actual turnkey systems as proposed or similar to proposed system currently in successful use. Provide references
- c. Overall interoperability of turnkey system for government use
- d. Accessories available for turnkey offering
- e. Thoroughness of the vetting process used to select partners
- f. Thoroughness of the process used to test the integration of the components in the solution and ensure the functionality of the overall solution

3 - Description of system planning, coordination and process:

- a. Pre-installation coordination
- b. Project coordination
- c. Installation and Testing process
- d. End user Acceptance process
- e. Approach to maintenance and support
- f. Initial and Ongoing Training provided
- g. On-going support and enhancement over the life of the agreement

4 - Service Factors:

- a. Description of related services included in the Solution
- b. Experience and qualifications of partners and subcontractors
- c. Description of Additional Integration and Consulting Services provided

Any products or services offered will be provided to **End Users** with all normally provided documentation and instructional material required to safely and effectively use such product or service, free of charge.

7. VOICE OVER INTERNET PROTOCOL (VOIP) - BASIC REQUIREMENTS

Respondents are expected to provide a wide variety of quality VOIP equipment and services to **H-GAC** or its **End Users**, at the lowest available, cost in a timely manner. Offered VOIP equipment and services must be new and unused when delivered. Equipment must include/provide the following and meet any stated requirements and/or specifications. Such services would include, but will not necessarily be limited to:

- Compliance with ITU-T H.320, H.323, H.324, H.331 and VPIM standards.
- SIP (RFC 3261) based multimedia communication.
- Embedded and Distributed call processing and control.
- IP phone/Gateway/PSTN/Ethernet/Power failover.
- Call Detail Reporting.
- Real time system monitoring and failure notification.
- Plug-And-Play installation.
- Integrated software distribution/new user addition.
- SNMP support.
- Online documentation
- Provide a set of “standard” plans for Broadband services.

- Provide updated coverage maps upon request.
- Describe detailed repair/replacement procedures/processes for equipment covered under warranty and for equipment out of warranty.
- Provide in detail the length and terms of the warranty/maintenance and service provided with equipment/device.
- Define any value-added services as part of your offering in your response. This may include, but not be limited to:
 - Cloud Hosting Systems/Services
 - Satellite capabilities;
 - Emergency services;
 - Green Initiatives;
 - Buyback programs.
- Any products or services offered will be provided to **End Users** with all normally provided documentation and instructional material required to safely and effectively use such product or service, free of charge.

8. GENERAL CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements apply to all contracts awarded as a result of this RFP regardless of whether a proposer is awarded any one or all listed equipment and/or services.

8.1 Contract Management:

- a. Assign a Contract Manager to manage the **H-GAC** account. Responsibilities of this function include, but are not limited to acting as liaison between the Contractor, **H-GAC** and its **End Users** on all service order related matters, including receiving Purchase Orders from **H-GAC** and/or its **End Users** and providing any necessary remediation plans. The Contract Manager is responsible for complete end to end provisioning of service orders.
- b. Contract Manager will submit required quarterly reports to **H-GAC** documenting all purchasing activity thru the **HGACBuy** program upon request.
- c. Assign a Billing Manager to serve as the single point of contact for all billing questions and issues between the Contractor, **H-GAC** and its **End Users**.
- d. Contractor shall adhere to all applicable industry standards (e.g., Bellcore, American National Standards Institute (ANSI), FCC, and Electronic Industries Association (EIA)/Telecommunications Industries Association (TIA) for all services to be provided. The exception to these requirements is if a service-specific standard is explicitly specified in the service description. Compliance with the latest versions of standards is required throughout the duration of the contract. Considering the evolving nature of standards in the telecommunications industry, discussions will be held between the Contractor and **H-GAC** on an ongoing basis to assess the effect of these changes. A schedule will be established by the State to implement new standards or changes to existing ones. New implementations and/or changes to maintain conformance with Contractor imposed standards shall be made at no additional cost to the State.
- b. Performance. Contractor shall be responsible for all aspects of service quality, reliability, interconnectivity, and interoperability of services up to the points of interface (demarcation point).
- c. Contractor shall have a plan for ensuring full interoperability among networks, services and features. Partial interoperability is unacceptable. The service Contractor's capabilities must include, but are not limited to, interoperation with the public switched network (PSN) and any other network or system that is interoperable with the PSN.
- d. Contractor shall identify all subcontractors and shall include a complete description of their role to **H-GAC**. Contractor shall strive to maintain the subcontractors as originally proposed to **H-GAC**. Any changes or additions by the Contractor of their subcontractors shall be pre-approved by **H-GAC**.
- e. Contractor shall be responsible for all work performed by its Subcontractor(s).
- f. The Contractor's work shall be executed in such a manner that it does not disrupt day-to-day functions of the **End User** or cause any unauthorized disruptions to existing telecommunications services.

9. LICENSING & PERMITS

It is Contractor's responsibility to secure and maintain all licenses and permits which contractor may be required to maintain in any jurisdiction in which business is transacted pursuant to any **HGACBuy** contract.

10. STRUCTURE OF RESPONSE AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The following core areas must be addressed specifically in any response to this RFP:

- ❖ Proposals (**1-original and 1-copy**), marked accordingly and in hard-sided 3-ring binders, shall be organized in tabbed sections, each containing ALL required information and/or FORMS as described below.
- ❖ In addition, complete responses shall also be provided in an electronic format such as; CD, thumb-drive, flash-drive, etc., such that the entire response can be uploaded to H-GAC's data system and be made available to End Users as may be requested. A single electronic copy of the solicitation will suffice and should be put with/in the copy binder.
- ❖ **Forms D & E** must be provided in an Excel format. **NOTE:** Keep in mind, the 3-ringed binder marked ORIGINAL is locked away and the entire evaluation process is done from the COPY as well as the electronic copy. Therefore, the 3-ringed binder marked copy must be an exact duplicate of the original including all the signatures and other markings.

Proposer shall provide the information described below, **labeled and tabbed to correspond with the designated Segment (Tab) Headings (A thru F) being bid.** The requested information within each of these Tabs (A-F) items must be addressed completely. **It is this information that will be evaluated and determine the proposers final score.**

It is extremely important to set-up the binders as instructed. Responses not organized in the prescribed manner may be eliminated from consideration.

Proposal Format

Tab A: H-GAC Forms

Place the completed **Forms A, B, C, W-9, Contractor Info Form, CIQ, Form 1295 and Form HB 89.**

As a "Business Entity", all vendors must:

- (1) **Complete Form 1295 electronically** with the Texas Ethics Commission using the online filing application, which can be found at http://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/elf_info_form1295.htm
 - All vendors must complete Form 1295, even if no interested parties exist.
 - In Section 2, insert "HGACBuy"
 - In Section 3, insert HGACBuy RFP No. **CW10-19**
- (2) **Print a copy of the completed form** (make sure that it has a computer-generated certification number in the "Office Use Only" box)
- (3) Have an authorized agent of the business entity **sign the form.**
- (4) **Submit** the completed, signed, notarized Form 1295, with the certification of filing, by **including the form to your proposal in Tab A – H-GAC Forms of the solicitation.**

HGACBuy must acknowledge the receipt of the filed Form 1295 by notifying the Texas Ethics Commission of the receipt of the filed Form 1295 no later than the 30th day after receipt by HGACBuy. After HGACBuy acknowledges the Form 1295, the Texas Ethics Commission will post the completed Form 1295 to its website within seven business days after receiving the notice from HGACBuy.

Tab B: Products & Pricing

Respondent must provide detailed and comprehensive pricing for all cost associated with products and services being offered in your response. Include any bundling/volume discounts, options and assessorial products or services. Also include, if applicable, such things as installation labor (hourly rate), warranties, service calls, repair parts, software upgrades, maintenance contracts, and technical support.

Define and price any value-added services as part of your offering in your response. This may include, but not be limited to: Cloud Hosting Services; Satellite Capabilities; Emergency Services; Green Initiatives; Buyback Programs. In the case of VOIP equipment, list all equipment and services that would provide a total turnkey solution for the **End User**. On a separate and appropriately titled sheet, estimate per user costs for Capital, Operation, Maintenance, Total Cost of Ownership, together with the source of such data. **The objective is to list and price ALL equipment and services that you intend to provide to End Users thru an HGACBuy contract.**

All products/services listed must be coded and described in such a way that **H-GAC** staff can easily check and verify Quotes/Contract Pricing Worksheets and Purchase Orders. Published catalogs and/or price lists are preferred and should be provided, on CDRom if appropriate. Respondent must state the discount(s) that will be given to **HGACBuy End Users**. Products and services not listed in the response may not later be sold unless approved by **H-GAC**. Do not list products or services without pricing (e.g. "price on application", "open" or "call for pricing"). Such listings will not be included in any contract and may not be sold thru the **HGACBuy Program**.

This proposal requires published catalog and/or price list pricing. In this Tab Proposer shall list/price a manufacturer's published catalog and/or price lists with % discounts. The information shall be provided on **H-GAC Form D**. **Form E** is included in the bid package to allow pricing of those options that are not included in a particular catalog (e.g. extended warranty, additional training). Proposer **MUST** provide all pricing (**Forms D & E**) in an electronic format (**excel format**). **Proposer shall provide:**

1. Offeror shall submit its standard published pricing containing all products that will be offered for sale through the Program.
 - Pricing must be provided in either an itemized/component format or in a standard manufacturer published catalog or price list showing the % discount off retail/list (where applicable) on Form D.
 - Proposer to list pricing of those options that are not included in a particular catalog (e.g. extended warranty, additional training, quantity discounts) or other incentive programs which will be made available through the program on **Form E**.
 - Proposer must provide an electronic copy of all catalogs bid in addition to **Form D & E pricing**. **Copies must be in an excel format.**
 - Catalogs/Price Lists MUST be identified (name, year, edition etc.) on Form D as a line item along with % discount.

Note: Catalogs/Price lists bid with 0% discount from list/retail price may be deemed non-compliant. Discount should be shown as "List" instead of 0% for these items.

2. Basic specification information for products and systems offered (e.g. cut/tear sheets, brochures, etc.); such that the basic capabilities and features of the equipment offered can be ascertained.
3. Product information covering basic/standard warranty of equipment/products being offered.

Tab C: References

Further to the requirements for references as detailed in Section A, General Terms & Conditions, Proposer must provide references from **at least five (5) government and/or non-profit entities** which have purchased offered Products within the past two years. Information provided shall include, as a minimum:

1. Entity name
2. Contact person's name, address & phone number
3. Description and value of product(s) purchased

Proposer is encouraged to include any letters of endorsement which may be available from the supplied references. In any event, **H-GAC** reserves the right to consider historic information and other facts in its proposal evaluations, whether gained from this proposal, references, or any other source.

Tab D: Geographic Areas Served

1. HGACBuy is a nationwide program. Describe your Geographic Coverage so H-GAC may evaluate your ability to meet the needs of End Users throughout the United States.
2. Explain how you will market the HGACBuy program.
3. Detail your dealer network (nationwide) and describe how it will be used to promote this program and provide products/services to H-GAC members nationwide.

Tab E: Service Facilities & Personnel

1. Sales office locations.
2. Factory and Service Center Locations.
3. Technical and maintenance services provided after a sale, and on what basis
4. Warranties, policies and procedures for handling problems and returns
5. Customer training provided, and on what basis?

Tab F: Customer Contract/Agreement Documents

Proposer shall provide copies of all documentation that a customer would be required to sign in the event a purchase is made (e.g. End User Agreements). **H-GAC** shall review documentation relative to consistency with industry norms and restrictiveness relative to the best interests of Participants.

11. PROPOSAL EVALUATION

All aspects of the evaluation of proposals will be based solely on the judgment and determination of H-GAC. Proposals will be evaluated in two (2) stages.

The **first stage** will be a general evaluation of the overall compliance of the response with RFP requirements. Proposals deemed to be responsive will then be passed to the second stage. (**Pass/Fail**).

The **second stage** of evaluation will involve consideration of the criteria specified below. There will be a maximum score of 100 points. Proposers scoring the minimum 70 points or above may be offered a contract, but the number of contracts offered in any Product Category will be based solely on H-GAC's determination what best serves the interests of Program Participants.

The highest scoring proposer in each Product Code will be invited to negotiate a contract with **H-GAC**. If a contract cannot be negotiated within 45 days, **H-GAC** may, at its sole discretion, terminate negotiations with the highest scoring proposer and enter into negotiations, or not, with the next highest scoring proposer.

- **Scoring Component: Past Performance**

An evaluation will be conducted of the Offeror's sales performance on the current contract (contract start date thru bid conference date) as an HGACBuy Contractor. Maximum score is 10 Points. If a bidder is a current vendor and has sales they will receive the full **10 Points**. Current vendors with no sales will receive a score of **0**. Note: Those first-time bidders will garner the maximum 10 Points for this scoring component.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION TABLE

| Proposal Evaluation Criteria | Points | Score |
|---|------------|-------|
| Overall compliance of Response with RFP requirements. | Pass/Fail | |
| Products and Pricing on Form D: (Tab B) | 30 | |
| References: (Tab C) | 15 | |
| Geographic Area Covered: (Tab D) | 20 | |
| Service Facilities & Personnel: (Tab E) | 20 | |
| Restrictiveness of Documentation: (Tab F) | 5 | |
| Past Performance (Sales History) | 10 | |
| Total: | 100 | |

Note: Proposer shall address in depth each of the above criteria. Failure to do so may result in the bid being deemed non-compliant.

❖ CONTRACT AWARDS

One or more contracts may be recommended in each of the listed **H-GAC** Product Categories, at **H-GAC's** sole discretion. Offerings made by a single Proposer in more than one Category will be considered separately. On approval of an award recommendation by the **H-GAC** Board, a contract may be offered to the recommended awardee(s). If the parties are unable to come to an agreement on the contract, **H-GAC** may withdraw the offer at **H-GAC's** sole discretion.

END OF SECTION B

For questions about this specification, please contact:

Jasmine Wilson – 713-993-4554

Jasmine.Wilson@h-gac.com

Houston-Galveston Area Council

Cooperative Purchasing Program



SECTION C - H-GAC FORMS

(Rev 12/02/09)

For Use In Responding To Competitive Bid And Proposal Invitations

Invitation No.: CW10-19

Title: Wireless & Voip Telecommunication Equipment & Services

This Section contains the following **H-GAC FORMS**.

| FORM | DESCRIPTION |
|------------------------|--|
| Form A: | Offeror Identification and Authorized Signatory |
| Form B: | Historically Underutilized Business Enterprises |
| Form C: | Response Checklist |
| Form D: | Offered Items Pricing |
| Form E: | Published Options |
| Form W-9 | Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification |
| Form CIQ | Conflict of Interest Questionnaire |
| Form 1295 | Certificate of Interested Parties |
| HB 89 | Prohibition on Contracts with Companies Boycotting Israel |
| Contractor Info | Contractor Information Form |

These *FORMS* are hereby made available in electronic format. They should be copied to Offeror's computer for completion and/or printout as required. The *FORMS* **may not** be changed or altered in any way, except as may be specified on the *FORM*.

ALL completed *FORMS* must also be submitted electronically on electronic media (DVD, CDROM, flash/thumb drive), excepting of course for signatures. The printed "Original" of the response will be considered as the official copy in case of any discrepancy between the electronic version and the printed Original.

Title: Wireless & Voip Telecommunication Equipment & Services**Offeror:** _____

Most, if not all, of the Members of HGACBuy are subject to various requirements relative to purchasing goods and services from Historically Underutilized Business Enterprises (HUBs)(See Note 1). These requirements are promulgated by federal and state governmental authorities, and include measureable criteria such as 'percentage of total dollars spent directed to HUBs', 'number of HUB contractors used', 'HUB subcontractors employed by primary contractors', etc. These requirements are generally formalized in goal oriented programs.

HGACBuy is comitted to promoting full and equal business opportunities for HUB contractors, and to assisting Cooperative Purchasing Program (COOP) Members in meeting mandated HUB goals. In that regard, Contractor shall make a good faith effort to use the services of Certified/Listed (See Note 2) HUBs whenever possible.

As part of a good faith effort, Contractor agrees to work with and assist HGACBuy Members in meeting HUB targets and goals, as may be required by any rules, processes or programs they might have in place. Such assistance may include such things as compliance with reporting requirements, provision of documentation, consideration of 'Certified/Listed' subcontractors, provision of documented evidence that an active participatory role for a HUB entity was considered in a procurement transaction, etc.

Note 1: There are many designations other than "HUB" used across the country within various jurisdictions. Examples include terms such as Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), Minority Owned Business Enterprise (MBE), Woman Owned Business Enterprise (WBE), Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB), Small, Woman or Minority-owned Business (SWAM), etc. Regardless of the formal designation, the overall objective of the relavant programs is basically the same, i.e. to insure that disadvantaged and underutilized members of the business community receive a fair share of public spending. The term HUB as used herein shall be understood to encompass all such programs/business enterprises, no matter what terminology is used by the Member.

Note 2: The terms "Certified" and "Listed" as used in conjunction with HUB programs relate to the process of HUB qualification review. Jurisdictions usually require that companies claiming HUB status be reviewed and confirmed as meeting certain minimum requirements to claim that status, and that the review and confirmation process be carried out by certain designated entities. They are then "Certified" or "Listed" by having their name included on an official listing published by the Certifying or Listing Authority.

Accepted and Agreed By:

Title:

Date:

HUB Status Of Offeror Offeror is a HUB, as detailed below. Offeror is not a HUB.

Designation(s):

 HUB DBE MBE WBE Other

Certifying/Listing Authority(s):

Subcontracts

On a separate sheet, list any subcontractors that would be employed in providing products or services related to this procurement. Include subcontractor name, designation (HUB, DBE, etc.) and certifying/listing authority.

 Subcontractor List attached. No Subcontractors will be used.

FORM C - RESPONSE CHECKLIST

Procurement No.: CW10-19

Title: Wireless & Voip Telecommunication Equipment & Services

Offeror: _____

This *FORM* is provided to help insure that all required Response elements have been completed and included, or certified as being available upon request. **Responses that do not comply with all requirements may be considered non-compliant.** Offeror's signatory must review each item below, and certify by initialing in the space to the right.

This Response Includes:

Init.

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 1 | An "Original" hard copy of the COMPLETE submission, including all required <i>FORMS</i> , plus one copy, each in a separate hard-sided 3-ring binder . | |
| 2 | A copy of the COMPLETE submission, including all required <i>FORMS</i> , in electronic format (CD, DVD, flash drive). Forms D & E are to be provided in an excel format. | |
| 3 | An originally signed Form A from all entities who are party to this submission and who should be offered a contract if this submission is successful. Note: Contracts cannot be awarded without a properly completed Form A. Form A's must be submitted with the bid package and cannot be accepted once bids have been opened. | |
| 4 | Forms A, B, C, D, E (EXCEL FORMAT), 1295, W-9, CIQ, HB89. A 1295, W-9, CIQ & HB89, Contractor Info form shall be provided from each entity that has submitted a Form A for this submission. | |
| 5 | The required list of References . | |
| 6 | Details of " Service Organization ", including locations, hours, personnel and parts/service availability. (Applies to hard goods only.) | |
| 7 | Complete Warranty Documentation for all Products offered. | |
| 8 | The manufacturer's latest Specification Documents detailing standard features, operating characteristics, etc., for all products offered. | |
| 9 | Form CIQ , if required by law, completed and signed. (The Form, and instructions for its use, can be found at: http://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/conflict_forms.htm) If Form CIQ does not apply, put "N/A" in the box to the right. | |
| 10 | If the Non-Resident Reciprocal Bid Act applies, a copy of your state statute and a determination of the status of Texas bidders/proposers in your home state. If not applicable, indicate "N/A" | |
| 11 | If offer includes motor vehicles to be sold in Texas, copies of all current licenses as required by the Texas Motor Vehicle Commission. | |

12 A **Bid/Proposal Bond**, or **Cashier's Check** in the amount of **\$3000**. (A percentage bond is NOT acceptable.)

n/a

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE
For vendor doing business with local governmental entity

FORM CIQ

This questionnaire reflects changes made to the law by H.B. 23, 84th Leg., Regular Session.

This questionnaire is being filed in accordance with Chapter 176, Local Government Code, by a vendor who has a business relationship as defined by Section 176.001(1-a) with a local governmental entity and the vendor meets requirements under Section 176.006(a).

By law this questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator of the local governmental entity not later than the 7th business day after the date the vendor becomes aware of facts that require the statement to be filed. See Section 176.006(a-1), Local Government Code.

A vendor commits an offense if the vendor knowingly violates Section 176.006, Local Government Code. An offense under this section is a misdemeanor.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received

1 Name of vendor who has a business relationship with local governmental entity.

2 **Check this box if you are filing an update to a previously filed questionnaire.** (The law requires that you file an updated completed questionnaire with the appropriate filing authority not later than the 7th business day after the date on which you became aware that the originally filed questionnaire was incomplete or inaccurate.)

3 Name of local government officer about whom the information is being disclosed.

Name of Officer

4 Describe each employment or other business relationship with the local government officer, or a family member of the officer, as described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A). Also describe any family relationship with the local government officer. Complete subparts A and B for each employment or business relationship described. Attach additional pages to this Form CIQ as necessary.

A. Is the local government officer or a family member of the officer receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than investment income, from the vendor?

Yes No

B. Is the vendor receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than investment income, from or at the direction of the local government officer or a family member of the officer AND the taxable income is not received from the local governmental entity?

Yes No

5 Describe each employment or business relationship that the vendor named in Section 1 maintains with a corporation or other business entity with respect to which the local government officer serves as an officer or director, or holds an ownership interest of one percent or more.

6 Check this box if the vendor has given the local government officer or a family member of the officer one or more gifts as described in Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), excluding gifts described in Section 176.003(a-1).

7

Signature of vendor doing business with the governmental entity

Date

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE

For vendor doing business with local governmental entity

A complete copy of Chapter 176 of the Local Government Code may be found at <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/LG/htm/LG.176.htm>. For easy reference, below are some of the sections cited on this form.

Local Government Code § 176.001(1-a): "Business relationship" means a connection between two or more parties based on commercial activity of one of the parties. The term does not include a connection based on:

- (A) a transaction that is subject to rate or fee regulation by a federal, state, or local governmental entity or an agency of a federal, state, or local governmental entity;
- (B) a transaction conducted at a price and subject to terms available to the public; or
- (C) a purchase or lease of goods or services from a person that is chartered by a state or federal agency and that is subject to regular examination by, and reporting to, that agency.

Local Government Code § 176.003(a)(2)(A) and (B):

(a) A local government officer shall file a conflicts disclosure statement with respect to a vendor if:

(2) the vendor:

(A) has an employment or other business relationship with the local government officer or a family member of the officer that results in the officer or family member receiving taxable income, other than investment income, that exceeds \$2,500 during the 12-month period preceding the date that the officer becomes aware that

- (i) a contract between the local governmental entity and vendor has been executed;
- or
- (ii) the local governmental entity is considering entering into a contract with the vendor;

(B) has given to the local government officer or a family member of the officer one or more gifts that have an aggregate value of more than \$100 in the 12-month period preceding the date the officer becomes aware that:

- (i) a contract between the local governmental entity and vendor has been executed; or
- (ii) the local governmental entity is considering entering into a contract with the vendor.

Local Government Code § 176.006(a) and (a-1)

(a) A vendor shall file a completed conflict of interest questionnaire if the vendor has a business relationship with a local governmental entity and:

- (1) has an employment or other business relationship with a local government officer of that local governmental entity, or a family member of the officer, described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A);
- (2) has given a local government officer of that local governmental entity, or a family member of the officer, one or more gifts with the aggregate value specified by Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), excluding any gift described by Section 176.003(a-1); or
- (3) has a family relationship with a local government officer of that local governmental entity.

(a-1) The completed conflict of interest questionnaire must be filed with the appropriate records administrator not later than the seventh business day after the later of:

(1) the date that the vendor:

- (A) begins discussions or negotiations to enter into a contract with the local governmental entity; or
- (B) submits to the local governmental entity an application, response to a request for proposals or bids, correspondence, or another writing related to a potential contract with the local governmental entity; or

(2) the date the vendor becomes aware:

- (A) of an employment or other business relationship with a local government officer, or a family member of the officer, described by Subsection (a);
- (B) that the vendor has given one or more gifts described by Subsection (a); or
- (C) of a family relationship with a local government officer.

CERTIFICATE OF INTERESTED PARTIES – FORM 1295

Certificate of Interested Parties (Form 1295 – must be filled out electronically with the Texas Ethics Commission’s online filing application, printed out, signed, notarized, and attached to proposal in the response - Section TAB A)

H-GAC is required to comply with House Bill 1295, which amended the Texas Government Code by adding Section 2252.908, Disclosure of Interested Parties. Section 2252.908 prohibits H-GAC from entering into a contract resulting from this RFP with a business entity unless the business entity submits a Disclosure of Interested Parties (Form 1295) to H-GAC at the time business entity submits the signed contract. The Texas Ethics Commission has adopted rules requiring the business entity to file Form 1295 electronically with the Texas Ethics Commission. The following **definitions** apply:

- (1) **“Business Entity”** means an entity recognized by law through which business is conducted, including a sole proprietorship, partnership, or corporation. TEX. GOV’T CODE § 2252.908(1).
- (2) **“Interested Party”** means a person:
 - a) who has a controlling interest in a business entity with whom H-GAC contracts; or
 - b) who actively participates in facilitating the contract or negotiating the terms of the contract, including a broker, intermediary, adviser, or attorney for the business entity. TEX. GOV’T CODE § 2252.908(3).
- (3) **“Controlling interest”** means:
 - a) an ownership interest or participating interest in a business entity by virtue of units, percentage, shares, stock, or otherwise that exceeds 10 percent;
 - b) membership on the board of directors or other governing body of a business entity of which the board or other governing body is composed of not more than 10 members; or
 - c) service as an officer of a business entity that has four or fewer officers, or service as one of the four officers most highly compensated by a business entity that has more than four officers. *Subsection (c) does not apply to an officer of a publicly held business entity or its wholly owned subsidiaries.* TEX. ETHICS COMM. RULE 46.3(c).
- (4) **“Intermediary”** means a person who actively participates in the facilitation of the contract or negotiating the contract, including a broker, adviser, attorney, or representative of or agent for the business entity who:
 - a) receives compensation from the business entity for the person’s participation;
 - b) communicates directly with the governmental entity or state agency on behalf of the business entity regarding the contract; and
 - c) is not an employee of the business entity. TEX. ETHICS COMM. RULE 46.3(e).

As a “business entity,” all vendors must:

- (1) **complete Form 1295 electronically** with the Texas Ethics Commission using the online filing application, which can be found at https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/elf_info_form1295.htm
 - **All vendors must complete Form 1295, even if no interested parties exist**
 - In Section 2, insert “Houston-Galveston Area Council”
 - In Section 3, insert the H-GAC RFP # for this proposal
- (2) **print a copy of the completed form** (make sure that it has a computer-generated certification number in the “Office Use Only” box)
- (3) have an authorized agent of the business entity **sign the form**
- (4) **notarize the form**
- (5) **submit** the completed, signed, notarized Form 1295, with the certification of filing, by **attaching the form to your proposal in Section TAB A**

H-GAC must acknowledge the receipt of the filed Form 1295 by notifying the Texas Ethics Commission of the receipt of the filed Form 1295 no later than the 30th day after receipt by H-GAC. After H-GAC acknowledges the Form 1295, the Texas Ethics Commission will post the completed Form 1295 to its website with seven business days after receiving notice from H-GAC.

CERTIFICATE OF INTERESTED PARTIES

FORM 1295

Complete Nos. 1 - 4 and 6 if there are interested parties.
 Complete Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 if there are no interested parties.

OFFICE USE ONLY

1 Name of business entity filing form, and the city, state and country of the business entity's place of business.

2 Name of governmental entity or state agency that is a party to the contract for which the form is being filed.

3 Provide the identification number used by the governmental entity or state agency to track or identify the contract, and provide a description of the services, goods, or other property to be provided under the contract.

| 4 Name of Interested Party | City, State, Country (place of business) | Nature of Interest (check applicable) | |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| | | Controlling | Intermediary |
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5 Check only if there is NO Interested Party.

6 AFFIDAVIT I swear, or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the above disclosure is true and correct.

 Signature of authorized agent of contracting business entity

AFFIX NOTARY STAMP / SEAL ABOVE

Sworn to and subscribed before me, by the said _____, this the _____ day of _____, 20____, to certify which, witness my hand and seal of office.

 Signature of officer administering oath Printed name of officer administering oath Title of officer administering oath

ADD ADDITIONAL PAGES AS NECESSARY

House Bill 89 Verification Form

Prohibition on Contracts with Companies Boycotting Israel

The 85th Texas Legislature approved new legislation, effective Sept. 1, 2017, which amends Texas Local Government Code Section 1. Subtitle F, Title 10, Government Code by adding Chapter 2270 which states that a governmental entity may not enter into a contract with a company for goods or services unless the contract contains a written verification from the company that it:

- 1) does not boycott Israel; and
- 2) will not boycott Israel during the term of the contract

Pursuant to Section 2270.001, Texas Government Code:

1. "Boycott Israel" means refusing to deal with, terminating business activities with, or otherwise taking any action that is intended to penalize, inflict economic harm on, or limit commercial relations specifically with Israel, or with a person or entity doing business in Israel or in an Israeli-controlled territory, but does not include an action made for ordinary business purposes; and
2. "Company" means a for-profit sole proprietorship, organization, association, corporation, partnership, joint venture, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, or any limited liability company, including a wholly owned subsidiary, majority-owned subsidiary, parent company or affiliate of those entities or business associations that exist to make a profit.

I, (authorized official) _____, do hereby depose and verify the truthfulness and accuracy of the contents of the statements submitted on this certification under the provisions of Subtitle F, Title 10, Government Code Chapter 2270 and that the company named below:

- 1) does not boycott Israel currently; and
- 2) will not boycott Israel during the term of the contract; and
- 3) is not currently listed on the State of Texas Comptroller's Companies that Boycott Israel List located at <https://comptroller.texas.gov/purchasing/publications/divestment.php>

Company Name

Signature of Authorized Official

Title of Authorized Official

Date

CONTRACTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

ATTENTION Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Contractor: The following information is needed to communicate with your company concerning contract matters which may arise. To expedite the process, we ask that you provide the information requested below. During the term of this contract, notify H-GAC in writing of any changes to this information by emailing updates to: cpcontractfax@h-gac.com

Section I

| | |
|--|--|
| CONTRACTOR: _____ Purchase Order Address: _____ | CONTRACT #: _____ Invoice Address: _____ |
| Contact Name: _____ Address: _____ | Contact Name: _____ Address: _____ |
| City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ | City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ |
| Telephone No.: _____ Fax No.# _____ Email Address: _____ | Telephone No.# _____ Fax No.# _____ Email Address: _____ |

Section II

CONTRACT INFORMATION:

Indicate the person (s) authorized to sign contracts, requests for contract price increases, or other contract-related documents. A copy of your corporate resolution may be acceptable for Section II.

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Printed Name of Signatory: _____ | Printed Name of Signatory: _____ |
| Corporate Title: _____ | Corporate Title: _____ |
| Tel. No.: _____ | Tel. No.: _____ |
| Fax No.: _____ | Fax No.: _____ |
| Email Address: _____ | Email Address: _____ |

Section III

SALES CONTACT INFORMATION

Person who End Users will contact for product information and pricing quotes

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Contact Name: _____ | Title: _____ |
| Address: _____ | |
| Street _____ | City _____ State _____ Zip _____ |
| Telephone No.: _____ | Fax No.: _____ |
| Mobile No.: (optional) _____ | |
| Email Address: _____ | |