



**Solicitation Amendment No. 2**

<b>To: Prospective Bidder/Offeror:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	
Prospective Bidders		May 13,2020	
<b>Project Title:</b>		<b>Project No.:</b>	
Culinary Arts Interior Shell Build Out		IFB 20-22	
<p>Description of Solicitation Amendment: The Invitation for Bid (Project No. IFB 20-22) is hereby amended by removing and replacing in their entirety, Section 4 – Instructions to Bidder and Section 5 General Instructions as set forth below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Section 4 - Instructions for Proposers, Page No. 17 of 54 to Page No. 21 of 54 and</li> <li>2. Section 5 – General Information, Page No. Page No. 22 of 54 to Page No. 27 of 54 (attached herein)</li> </ol> <p>Please visit our website at <a href="https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procurement/">https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procurement/</a></p> <p>Except as provided herein, all terms and conditions of the solicitation remain unchanged and in full force and effect.</p>			
<b>Acknowledgement of Amendment No. by:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Company Name (Bidder/Offeror):</b>			
<b>Signed by:</b>			
<b>Name (Type or Print):</b>		<b>Title:</b>	

## **Section 4 – Instructions to Bidder**

### **1. General Instructions**

- a. Bidders should carefully read the information contained herein and submit a complete response to all requirements and questions as directed.
  - b. Bids and any other information submitted by Bidders in response to this Invitation For Bid (IFB) shall become the property of HCC.
  - c. HCC will not provide compensation to Bidders for any expenses incurred by the Bidder for bid preparation or for any demonstrations that may be made, unless otherwise expressly stated. Bidders submit bids at their own risk and expense.
  - d. Bids, which are qualified with conditional clauses, or alterations, or items, not called for in the IFB documents, or irregularities of any kind are subject to disqualification by HCC, at its option.
  - e. Each bid should be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of your firm's ability to meet the requirements of this IFB. Emphasis should be on completeness, clarity of content, responsiveness to the requirements, and an understanding of HCCs needs.
  - f. HCC makes no guarantee that an award will be made as a result of this IFB, and reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, waive any formalities or minor technical inconsistencies, or delete any item/requirements from this IFB or resulting Agreement when deemed to be in HCCs best interest. Representations made within the bid will be binding on responding firms. HCC will not be bound to act by any previous communication or bid submitted by the firms other than this IFB.
  - g. Firms wishing to submit a "No-Response" are requested to return the first page of the Contact Award Form (ref. Attachment No. 1). The returned form should indicate your company's name and include the words "No-Response" in the right-hand column.
  - h. Failure to comply with the requirements contained in this IFB may result in the rejection of your bid.
- a. Bid must be signed by Bidder's company official(s) authorized to commit such bids. Failure to sign and return these forms will subject your bid to disqualification.
  - b. Responses to this IFB must include a response to the bid requirements set forth in the Scope of Work, above.
  - c. Bids must be typed on letter-size (8-1/2" x 11") paper. HCC requests that bids be submitted in a binder. Preprinted material should be referenced in the bid and included as labeled attachments. Sections should be divided for ease of reference. An electronic copy of the bid must be provided in an Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format.
  - d. Table of Contents: Include with the bid a Table of Contents that includes page number references. The Table of Contents should be in sufficient detail to facilitate easy reference of the sections of the bid as well as separate attachments (which should be included in the main Table of Contents). Supplemental information and attachments included by your firm (i.e., not required) should be clearly identified in the Table of Contents and provided as a separate section.
  - e. Pagination: All pages of the bid should be numbered sequentially in Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3, etc.) Attachments should be numbered or referenced separately.
  - f. Number of Copies: Submit one (1) original printed and one (1) electronic copy of your bid including all required HCC Forms and documents. An original (manual) signature must appear on the original printed copy and must be reflected in the original electronic copy. The electronic copies should be in non-editable .PDF format and should include the entire submission, including an individual separate file containing your Sealed Bid Form. The front cover of the binder containing your response should be clearly marked with the Project Name and Number.
  - g. Bids must be submitted and received in the HCC Procurement Operations Department on or before the time and date specified in the Solicitation Schedule.
  - h. The envelope containing a bid shall be addressed as follows:
    - i. Name, Address and Telephone Number of Bidder;
    - ii. Project Description/Title; Project Number; and Bid Due Date/Time.
  - i. Late bids properly identified will be returned to Bidder unopened. Late bids will not be considered under any circumstances.

### **2. Preparation and Submittal Instructions**

All Attachments noted in Section are to be completed and submitted with Bid, Attachments 1, 5 and 7 must be signed and notarized.

### **3. Document Format and Content**

- j. Telephone, Facsimile ("FAX") or electronic (email) bids are not acceptable when in response to this Invitation For Bid.

#### 4. Bidder Response

General: Your Technical Bid should clearly define (i) your Firm's total capacity and capabilities, (ii) your qualifications to perform the work, (iii) your ability to perform the services outlined in the Scope of Work, (iv) your understanding of HCC, and (v) what differentiates you from your competitors. At a minimum, your Technical Bid shall include the following:

- a. Sealed Price Form  
The Bidder shall furnish all resources and services necessary and required to provide the goods and services of the type and kind required in this IFB, in accordance with the Scope of Work/Specifications, and the governing terms and conditions for the proposed price(s) listed in Section 2 – Sealed Price Form.
- b. Cover letter  
The cover letter shall not exceed 1 page in length, summarizing key points in the bid and shall briefly furnish background information about your firm, including date of founding, legal form (sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation/state of incorporation), number and location of offices, location of company headquarters/main office, total number of employees' company-wide and total number of employees in the State of Texas, and principal lines of business. Certify that the firm is legally permitted or licensed to conduct business in the State of Texas for the services offered.  
  
**Only individual firms or lawfully formed business organizations may apply (This does not preclude a respondent from using consultants.) HCC will contract only with the individual firm or formal organization that submits a response to this IFB.**
- c. Confirm acceptance of all requirements noted in the IFB, including all requirements noted in the Scope of Work/Specifications.
- d. Provide references of firm's past performance, including contact information (name, number, email), where Bidder has successfully performed the work of the type and kind required in this IFB.
- e. Provide the name of the project manager that will be assigned to this project through completion.
- f. Provide your Experience Modification Rate (EMR) for the past three years.
- g. Small Business Commitment  
This section shall include a clear statement of the firm's commitment and plan to meet the

small business goal specified in this solicitation, if any.

- i. Describe your previous experience, involvement and approach in working with certified Small Business firms; including level of effort, division of duties and providing opinions. Provide a statement detailing small business participation commitment.
- ii. For this Project HCC has a small business participation goal of **Thirty-Five Percent (35%)**.
- iii. At a minimum, your response must include: (a) Firm's commitment to meeting the small business participation goal for the projects (b) a description of previous projects where your firm has successfully subcontracted work to small businesses including the percentage (%) of work subcontracted to these firms under each project; (c) a narrative outlining your overall approach to subcontracting and how you will solicit small businesses for participation as part of this Project; and (d) indicate what challenges you anticipate in attaining HCC's goal.
- iv. Describe your company's process for the selection of subcontractors in accordance with the statutory procedures required for the solicitation of subcontractors, including your process for evaluating subcontractors' performance while also incorporating a Small Business Development Program.
- v. Provide a reference list of all customers noted in Section 4(d) above that included a Small Business or similar program where you have performed work similar to the type of work described in this IFB. Provide the contact person and the representative who served as the Small Business Development liaison (or equivalent), telephone number and email address.

#### h. Firm's Financial Status

- i. Provide a statement from the president, owner or financial officer on company letterhead certifying that the company is in good financial standing and current in payment of all taxes and fees including but not limited to state franchise fees.
  - ii. Is your company currently in default on any loan agreement or financing agreement with any bank, financial institution, or other entity? If yes, specify date(s), details, circumstances, and prospects for resolution.
- i. Required Attachments

This section shall include all Attachments noted in Section 6, all forms shall be completed, signed and submitted with Bid. Attachments 1, 5 and 7 must be signed and notarized.

*Balance of page intentionally left blank.*

## Section 5 – General Information

### **BIDDERS ARE CAUTIONED TO READ THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS IFB CAREFULLY AND TO SUBMIT A COMPLETE RESPONSE TO ALL REQUIREMENTS AND QUESTIONS AS DIRECTED.**

#### **1. General Information**

Houston Community College's service area is Houston Independent School District, Katy, Spring Branch, Alief Independent School Districts, Stafford Municipal District, and the Fort Bend portion of Missouri City. The System is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award the associate degree.

Houston Community College serves its students each semester, by offering associate degrees, certificates, academic preparation, workforce training, and lifelong learning opportunities that prepares students in our diverse community to compete in an increasingly technological and international society. Houston Community College plays an integral role in transforming the lives of its students and making our community work.

More information regarding HCC can be found in the annual [HCC Fact Book](#).

*HCC Mission* - Houston Community College is an open-admission, public institution of higher education offering a high-quality, affordable education for academic advancement, workforce training, career development, and lifelong learning to prepare individuals in our diverse communities for life and work in a global and technological society.

*HCC Vision* - Houston Community College will be a leader in providing high quality, innovative education leading to student success and completion of workforce and academic programs. We will be responsive to community needs and drive economic development in the communities we serve.

Additional information about Houston Community College may be found by visiting [HCC Website](#).

Visit the [HCC Procurement Operations Department website](#) to get more information on this and other business opportunities. While at our website we invite you to [Register as a Vendor](#), if already registered, please confirm your contact information is current.

#### **2. Overview**

The Houston Community College, ("HCC") or ("College") is seeking bids from qualified firms in accordance with the Scope of Work noted above. Qualified respondents are invited to submit a written response outlining your qualifications and willingness to provide goods, equipment and services as described in the Scope of Work, and in accordance with the terms, conditions and requirements set forth in the Invitation For Bid (IFB). The successful bidder will provide the scope of work in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations and professional standards.

HCC reserves the right to make single, multiple or no award for the goods or services described herein and as deemed in its own best interests.

HCC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to accept any bids it considers most favorable to HCC, or to waive irregularities in the Invitation For Bid (IFB) and submittal process. HCC further reserves the right to reject all bids or submittals and terminate the solicitation process or seek new bids when such procedure is reasonably in the best interest of HCC.

This IFB solicitation does not in any way obligate HCC to award a contract or pay any expense or cost incurred in the review and submission of bids responding to this IFB.

All applicable attachments contained in the IFB shall be completed. Failure to do so may result in the firm's bid being declared non-responsive to the solicitation requirements.

Information provided in response to the IFB is subject to the Texas Public Information Act and may be subject to public disclosure.

By submitting its bid in response to this IFB, respondent accepts the evaluation process and acknowledges and accepts that determination of "most-qualified" and "best valued" firm(s) will require subjective judgments by HCC.

Any exceptions taken to the terms of the IFB must be specific, and the respondent must indicate clearly what alternative is being offered to allow HCC a meaningful opportunity to evaluate implications of the exception (if any).

Where exceptions are taken, HCC shall determine the acceptability of the proposed exceptions. HCC may accept or reject the exceptions.

All exceptions shall be referenced by utilizing the corresponding Section, paragraph and page number in this IFB. However, HCC is under no obligation to accept any exceptions. Respondent shall be deemed to have accepted all terms and conditions to which no exceptions have been taken.

The IFB provides information necessary to prepare and submit bids or responses for consideration by HCC based on the listed criteria. HCC may request additional

clarification and oral interviews solely on the written responses to this Invitation For Bid.

**3. Pre-Bid Meeting**

The purpose of the meeting is to briefly describe the procurement process and specifications while allowing interested firms to ask general questions. Nothing said in the pre-bid meeting shall be binding to HCC; any changes to the requirements of this IFB shall be made by way of written solicitation amendment.

If applicable, the Pre-Bid Meeting date and time is noted in the Solicitation Schedule.

**4. Award / Contract Approval**

This Procurement, any award under this procurement, and the resulting contract, if any, is subject to approval by HCC Board of Trustees. Subsequent to Board approval, the only person authorized to commit HCC contractually is the Chancellor or designee. This solicitation is an invitation for bid and neither this solicitation nor the response or bid from any prospective bidder shall create a contractual relationship that would bind HCC until such time as both HCC and the selected bidder sign a legally binding contract, which includes, without limitation, the terms required by HCC as set forth in the Scope of Work/Services and this IFB.

**5. HCC Contact**

Any questions or concerns regarding this Invitation For Bid shall be directed to the named HCC individual listed on the cover page. HCC specifically requests that bidders restrict all contact and questions regarding this IFB to that named individual. The HCC individual must receive all questions or concerns no later than the date and time listed in the Solicitation Schedule.

**6. Inquiries and Interpretations**

Responses to inquiries, which directly affect an interpretation or change to this IFB, will be issued in writing by addendum (amendment) and all addenda will be posted on the HCC Website [www.hccs.edu](http://www.hccs.edu). All such addenda issued by HCC prior to the time that bids are received shall be considered part of the IFB, and the Bidder shall be required to consider and acknowledge receipt of such in their bid.

Only those HCC replies to inquiries, which are made by formal written addenda, shall be binding. Oral and other interpretations or clarification will be without legal effect. Bidder must acknowledge receipt of all addenda in Attachment No. 1 of this IFB (Contract Award Form).

**7. Commitment**

Bidder understands and agrees that this IFB and any resulting Agreement is issued predicated on anticipated requirements for the materials or services described herein and that HCC has made no representation, guarantee or commitment with respect to any specific quantity of or dollar value to be furnished under any resulting Agreement. Further Bidder recognizes and understands

that any cost borne by the Bidder, which arises from Bidder's performance under any resulting agreement, shall be at the sole risk and responsibility of Bidder.

**8. Acquisition from Other Sources**

HCC reserves the right and may, from time to time as required by HCCs operational needs, acquire goods and services of equal type and kind from other sources during the term of the agreement without invalidating in whole or in part, the agreement or any rights or remedies HCC may have hereunder.

**9. Vendor Registration**

The Houston Community College Procurement Operations Department has developed an online vendor application. This is designed to allow firms or individuals that are interested in doing business with HCC to register online and become part of our vendor database. Once registered, you will receive a password and personal login information that will allow you to modify your vendor information anytime a change occurs with your company. You will have the flexibility to add or delete commodity lines, update phone numbers, and contact information, etc. This database will allow HCC to notify, via email, all companies that match the desired commodity criteria for procurement opportunities within Houston Community College. What a great way to never miss out on an HCC bid or proposal opportunity again.

Please take a moment to go to the Houston Community College Procurement Operations Department website and register as a vendor. The website address to access the vendor registration form is <https://hccs.sbcompliance.com/FrontEnd/VendorsIntroduction.asp>

If you do not have internet access, you are welcome to use a computer at any HCC library to access the website and register.

**10. Obligation and Waivers**

**THIS IFB IS A SOLICITATION FOR BIDS AND IS NOT A CONTRACT OR AN OFFER TO CONTRACT.**

**A PROPERLY COMPLETED VENDOR APPLICATION IS REQUIRED AND IS A CONDITION OF CONTRACT AWARD.**

**THIS INVITATION FOR BID DOES NOT OBLIGATE HCC TO AWARD A CONTRACT OR PAY ANY COSTS INCURRED BY THE BIDDER IN THE PREPARATION AND SUBMITTAL OF A BID.**

**HCC, IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION, RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT ANY BID AND/OR REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS OR A PART OF A BID, WITHOUT REASON OR CAUSE, SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO THIS SOLICITATION.**

**HCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY NON-RESPONSIVE OR CONDITIONAL BID. HCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO WAIVE ANY**

**INFORMALITIES, IRREGULARITIES AND/OR TECHNICALITIES IN THIS SOLICITATION, THE BID DOCUMENTS AND /OR BIDS RECEIVED OR SUBMITTED.**

**BY SUBMITTING A BID, BIDDER AGREES TO WAIVE ANY CLAIM IT HAS, OR MAY HAVE, AGAINST HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM AND ITS TRUSTEES OR AGENTS ARISING OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH (1) THE ADMINISTRATION, EVALUATION OR RECOMMENDATIONS OF ANY BID; (2) ANY REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE SOLICITATION, BID PACKAGE, OR RELATED DOCUMENTS; (3) THE REJECTION OF ANY BID OR ANY PART OF ANY BID; AND/OR (4) THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT, IF ANY.**

**HCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW THIS SOLICITATION AT ANY TIME FOR ANY REASON; REMOVE ANY SCOPE COMPONENT FOR ANY REASON AND TO ISSUE SUCH CLARIFICATIONS, MODIFICATIONS AND/OR AMENDMENTS AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE.**

**HCC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION, WHICH DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, GENDER, AGE, DISABILITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, OR VETERAN STATUS.**

**11. Contract Award**

Award of a contract, if awarded, will be made to the Bidder who (a) submits a responsive bid; (b) is a responsible bidder; and (c) offers the lowest responsive responsible bid price in accordance with the Texas Government Code Section 2269, Subchapter C Competitive Bidding Method.

A responsive bid and a responsible bidder are those that meet the requirements of and are as described in this solicitation. HCC may award a contract, based on initial bid received, without discussion of such bids. Accordingly, each initial bid should be submitted on the most favorable terms from a price and technical standpoint, which the bidder can submit to HCC. Except as otherwise may be set forth in this solicitation, HCC reserves the right to waive any informalities, non-material errors, technicalities, or irregularities in the bid documents submitted and consider the bid for award.

**12. Postponement of Bids Due Date/Time:**

Notwithstanding the date/time for receipt of bids established in this solicitation, the date and time established herein for receiving bids may be postponed solely at HCCs discretion.

**13. Oral Presentations:**

During the process of selecting a company to provide the required services, oral presentations may or may not be held. Each bidder should be prepared to make a presentation to HCC. The presentations must show that the bidder is responsible and clearly understands the requirements of the solicitation, and has a strategic plan and approach to complete the work.

**14. Small Business Development Program (SBDP):**

The Houston Community College System's Small Business Development Program ("SBDP" or the "Program") was created to provide business opportunities for local small businesses to participate in contracting and procurement at Houston Community College (HCC).

The SBDP is a goal-oriented program, requiring Contractors who receive Contracts from HCC to use Good Faith Efforts to utilize certified small businesses. The Program applies to all Contracts over \$50,000, except Contracts for sole-source items, federally funded Contracts, Contracts with other governmental entities, and those Contracts that are otherwise prohibited by applicable law or expressly exempted by HCC. The SBDP is a race and gender-neutral program, however HCC actively encourages the participation of minority and women-owned small businesses in the SBDP.

To participate, small businesses must be certified by an agency or organization whose certification is recognized by HCC. Certification is based on the firm's gross revenues or number of employees averaged over the past three years, inclusive of any affiliates as defined by 13 C.F.R. § 121.103, does not exceed the size standards as defined pursuant to Section 3 of the Small Business Act and 13 C.F.R. § 121.201.

HCC recognizes certification by the following governmental and private agencies: Port of Houston Authority SBE Certification, Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO) SBE Certification, City of Houston SBE Certification, Texas Department of Transportation SBE Certification, City of Austin SBE Certification, South Central Texas Regional Certification Agency SBE Certification, Small Business Administration 8(a). HCC has the right to revoke acceptance of a business as a certified or qualifying small business and to conduct certification reviews.

Good Faith Efforts: HCC will make a good faith effort to utilize small businesses in all contracts. The annual program goals may be met by contracting directly with small businesses or indirectly through subcontracting opportunities. Therefore, any business that contracts with HCC will be required to make a good faith effort to award subcontracts to small businesses. The subcontracting goal applies to all vendors regardless of their status. By implementing the following procedures, a contractor shall be presumed to have made a good faith effort:

- a. To the extent consistent with industry practices, divide the contract work into reasonable lots.
- b. Give notice to SBDP eligible firms of subcontract opportunities or post notices of such opportunities in newspapers and other circulars.
- c. Document reasons for rejecting a firm that bids on subcontracting opportunities.

**15. Prime Contractor/Contracts for Services:**

The prime contractor must perform a minimum of 30% of any contract for services with its labor force and or demonstrate management of the contract for services to the satisfaction of HCC.

**16. Internship Program:**

HCC is expanding its student internship program. All vendors are encouraged to make a commitment to utilize certain HCC student(s) in an internship capacity with the company under any resulting contract for services required under this solicitation. The selected contractor will be expected to pay the student(s) at least the minimum wage required by law. HCC will provide the selected contractor with the name of student(s) eligible to participate in the internship program.

For additional information regarding the internship program, please contact the Procurement Operations Department at 713-718-5001.

**17. Prohibited Communications and Political Contributions:**

Except as provided in exceptions below, political contributions and the following communications regarding this solicitation or any other invitation for bid, requests for proposal, requests for qualifications, or other solicitation are prohibited:

- [1] Between a potential vendor, subcontractor to vendor, service provider, respondent, Offeror, lobbyist or consultant and any Trustee;
- [2] Between any Trustee and any member of a selection or evaluation committee; and
- [3] Between any Trustee and administrator or employee.

The communications prohibition shall be imposed from the day the solicitation is first advertised through thirty (30) days after the contract is executed by the Chancellor or his/her designee, or when a determination is made that the contract will not be awarded. During this period, no HCC Trustee and no vendor shall communicate in any way concerning any pending Solicitation involving the Vendor, subject to the penalties stated herein.

In the event the Board refers the recommendation back to the staff for reconsideration, the communication prohibition shall be re-imposed.

The communications prohibition shall not apply to the following:

- [1] Duly noted pre-bid or pre-proposal conferences.
- [2] Communications with the HCC General Counsel.
- [3] Emergency contracts.
- [4] Presentations made to the Board during any duly-noticed public meeting.
- [5] Unless otherwise prohibited in the solicitation documents, any written communications between any

parties, provided that the originator shall immediately file a copy of any written communication with the Board Services Office. The Board Services Office shall make copies available to any person upon request.

Nothing contained herein shall prohibit any person or entity from publicly addressing the Board during any duly-noticed public meeting, in accordance with applicable Board policies, regarding action on the contract.

Any potential vendor, subcontractor vendor, service provider, proposer, offeror, lobbyist or consultant who engages or attempts to engage in prohibited communications shall not be eligible for the award of any resulting contract under this solicitation. Any other direct or indirect actions taken to unduly influence competitive purposes, to circumvent equal consideration for competitive proposers, or to disregard ethical and legal trade practices will disqualify proposers, vendors, service providers, lobbyist, consultants, and contractors from both this current and any future consideration for participation in HCC orders and contracts.

**18. Drug Policy:**

HCC is a drug-free workforce and workplace. The manufacture, sale, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of illegal drugs (except legally prescribed medications under physician's prescription and in the original container) or alcohol by vendors or contractors while on HCC's premises is strictly prohibited.

**19. Taxes:**

HCC is tax exempt as a governmental subdivision of the State of Texas under Section 501C (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Limited Sales Tax Number: 1-74-1709152-1. No bid shall include any costs for taxes to be assessed against HCC. The Contractor shall be responsible for paying all applicable taxes and fees, including but not limited to, excise tax, state and local income tax, payroll and withholding taxes for Contractor Employees. The contract shall hold HCC harmless for all claims arising from payment of such taxes and fees.

**20. Texas Public Information Act:**

HCC considers all information, documentation and other materials requested to be submitted in response to this solicitation to be of a non-confidential and/or non-proprietary nature, and therefore, shall be subject to public disclosure under the Texas Public Information Act (Texas Government Code, Chapter 552.001, et seq.) ("The Act") after a contract if any, is awarded. If the Bidder considers any information submitted in response to this Invitation For Bid to be confidential under law or constitute trade secrets or other protected information, the bidder must identify such materials in the bid response. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the identification of such materials would not be construed or require HCC to act in contravention of its obligation to comply with the Act and the Bidder releases HCC from any liability or responsibility for maintaining the confidentiality of such documents.



**21. Appropriated Funds:**

The purchase of service or product, which arises from this solicitation, is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. HCC shall have the right to terminate the resulting contract at the end of the current or each succeeding fiscal year if funds are not appropriated by the HCC Board of Trustees for the next fiscal year that would permit continuation of the resulting contract. If funds are withdrawn or do not become available, HCC reserves the right to terminate the resulting contract by giving the selected contractor a thirty (30) day written notice of its intention terminate without penalty or any further obligations on the part of HCC or the contractor. Upon termination of the contract HCC shall not be responsible for any payment of any service or product received that occurs after the end of the current contract period or the effective date of termination, whichever is the earlier to occur. HCCs fiscal year begins on September 1 and ends on August 31st.

**22. Conflict of Interest:**

If a firm, Bidder, contractor, or other person responding to this solicitation knows of any material personal interest, direct or indirect, that any member, official, or employee of HCC would have in any contract resulting from this solicitation, the firm must disclose this information to HCC. Persons submitting a bid or response to this solicitation must comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, and regulations of the State of Texas Government Code, including, without limitation, Chapter 171 and 176 of the Local Government Code. The person / Bidder submitting a response to this solicitation must complete (as applicable), sign and submit **Attachment No. 6, Conflict of Interest Questionnaire Form, and Attachment No. 7, Financial Interest and Potential Conflict of Interests** with the bid package. HCC expects the selected contractor to comply with Chapter 176 of the Local Government Code and that failure to comply will be grounds for termination of the contract.

Note: **Attachment No. 6 and Attachment No. 7** shall be completed signed and returned to HCC. Enter N/A in those areas on the Attachments that are not applicable to your company. Failure to complete, sign and notarize (if applicable) these Attachments may render your bid non-responsive.

**23. Ethics Conduct:**

Any direct or indirect actions taken to unduly influence competitive purposes, to circumvent equal consideration for competitive bidders, or to disregard ethical and legal trade practices will disqualify vendors and contractors from current and future consideration for participation in HCC orders and contracts.

**24. No Third Party Rights:**

This Contract is made for the sole benefit of HCC and the Contractor and their respective successors and permitted assigns. Nothing in this Contract shall create or be deemed to create a relationship between the Parties to this Contract and any third person, including a relationship in the nature of a third party beneficiary or fiduciary.

**25. Withdrawal or Modification:**

No bid may be changed, amended, modified by telegram or otherwise, after the same has been submitted or filed in response to this solicitation, except for obvious errors in extension. However, a bid may be withdrawn and resubmitted any time prior to the time set for receipt of bids. No bid may be withdrawn after the submittal deadline without approval by HCC, which shall be based on Respondent's submittal, in writing, of a reason acceptable to HCC.

**26. Validity Period:**

Bids are to be valid for HCCs acceptance for a minimum of 180 days from the submittal deadline date to allow time for evaluation, selection, and any unforeseen delays. Bids, if accepted, shall remain valid for the life of the Agreement.

**27. Terms and Conditions:**

The form of Contract and HCC Uniform General Conditions shall govern any Purchase Order issued as a result of this solicitation.

Bidders may offer for HCC's consideration alternate provisions to the form of Contract and Uniform General Conditions. Alternates proposed must refer to the specific article(s) or section(s) concerned. General exceptions such as "company standard sales terms apply" or "will negotiate" are not acceptable. Bidder's silence as to the terms and conditions shall be construed as an indication of complete acceptance of these conditions as written.

**28. Submission Waiver:**

By submitting a response to this Solicitation, the Offeror or respondent agrees to waive any claim it has or may have against Houston Community College System and its trustees, employees or agents arising out of or in connection with (1) the Administration, evaluation or recommendation of any offer or response; (2) any requirements under the solicitation, the solicitation or response package or related documents; (3) the rejection of any offer or any response or any part of any offer or response; and/or (4) the award of a contract, if any.

**29. Indemnification:**

Contractor shall indemnify, pay for the defense of, and hold harmless the College and its officers, agents and employees of and from any and all liabilities, claims, debts, damages, demands, suits, actions and causes of actions of whatsoever kind, nature or sort which may be incurred by reason of Contractor's negligence, recklessness, or willful acts and/or omission in rendering any services hereunder. Contractor shall assume full responsibility for payments of federal, state and local taxes or contributions imposed or required under the social security, Workers' Compensation or income tax law, or any disability or unemployment law, or retirement contribution of any sort whatever, concerning Contractor or any employee and shall further indemnify, pay for the defense of, and hold harmless the College of and from any such payment or liability arising out of or in

any manner connected with Contractor's performance under this Agreement.

**30. Delegation:**

Unless delegated, HCC Board of Trustees must approve all contracts valued at over \$100,000. The Board has granted the Chancellor authority to initiate and execute contracts valued up to \$100,000. The procurement of goods and services, including professional services and construction services shall be completed as per any applicable HCC policy and procedure and shall be in accordance with Section 44.031 of the Texas Education Code for the purchase of goods and services, Section 2254 of the Texas Government Code for the purchase of Professional and Consulting Services, and Section 2269 of the Texas Government Code for the purchase of construction services. The Board delegates its authority to the administration and the designated evaluation committee to evaluate score and rank the proposals. This includes the evaluation of all bids, proposals, or statements of qualification under procurement, regardless of contract amount, including the final ranking and selection which shall be made on the evaluation and scoring as per the published selection criteria and the final evaluation ranking. The Board of Trustees shall approve the final award of contracts to the firm based on the published selection criteria and as evidenced in the final evaluation, scoring and ranking.

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