

**State of Nebraska  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR CONTRACTUAL  
SERVICES FORM**

RETURN TO:  
Nebraska Department of Roads  
5001 So. 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lincoln, NE 68512  
Phone: (402) 479-4356  
Fax: (402) 479-4567

SOLICITATION NUMBER	RELEASE DATE
<b>RFP #R08-16</b>	<b>December 22, 2015</b>
OPENING DATE AND TIME	PROCUREMENT CONTACT
<b>February 18, 2016 3:00 P.M. Central Time</b>	<b>Gloria Ryken</b>

This form is part of the specification package and must be signed in ink and returned, along with proposal documents, by the opening date and time specified.

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!**

**SCOPE OF SERVICE**

The State of Nebraska, Department of Roads (NDOR), is issuing this Request for Proposal, RFP Number #R08-16 for the purpose of selecting a qualified Contractor for the provision of Right of Way (ROW) Mowing along the State's highway system.

**In accordance with Nebraska State Statutes 39-1351 & 39-1352, and Title 409 of the Nebraska Rules and Regulations; any person desiring to submit to the department a bid for the performance of this contract shall apply to the Department for prequalification not later than 10 days before the bid opening date of the Request for Proposal.**

Written questions are due no later than February 5, 2016 and should be submitted via e-mail to [DOR.OperationsProcurement@nebraska.gov](mailto:DOR.OperationsProcurement@nebraska.gov). Written questions may also be sent by facsimile to (402) 479-4567.

A Pre-Proposal Conference with **mandatory attendance** will be held on February 3, 2016, 10:00 A.M. CDT at Nebraska Department of Roads, District 1 Headquarters, 302 Superior St., Lincoln, NE.

Bidder should submit one (1) original of the entire proposal. Proposals must be submitted by the proposal due date and time.

PROPOSALS MUST MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OUTLINED IN THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TO BE CONSIDERED VALID. PROPOSALS WILL BE REJECTED IF NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THESE REQUIREMENTS.

1. Sealed proposals must be received in Nebraska Department of Roads by the date and time of proposal opening indicated above. No late proposals will be accepted. No electronic, e-mail, fax, voice, or telephone proposals will be accepted.
2. This form "REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR CONTRACTUAL SERVICES" MUST be manually signed, in ink, and returned by the proposal opening date and time along with bidders proposal and any other requirements as specified in the Request for Proposal in order for a bidder's proposal to be evaluated.
3. It is the responsibility of the bidder to check the website for all information relevant to this solicitation to include addenda and/or amendments issued prior to the opening date. Website address is as follows:  
<http://www.transportation.nebraska.gov/operations/procure>.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-602.02, all State contracts in effect as of January 1, 2014 will be posted to a public website beginning July 1, 2014. All non-proprietary or confidential information as defined by Law **WILL BE POSTED FOR PUBLIC VIEWING.**

Contractor hereby grants permission to the State of Nebraska and/or its agencies to reprint or republish any and all copyrighted documents related to Contractor's response to this Request for Proposal, and any and all

figures, illustrations, photographs, charts, and other supplementary material on a website accessible by the public pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-602.02. This waiver does not apply to proprietary information properly submitted in a separate sealed, package clearly marked "Proprietary."

Contractor represents and warrants that the contents of this response to Request for Proposal and all figures, illustrations, photographs, charts, and other supplementary material herein are original and do not libel anyone or infringe upon any patent, copyright, proprietary right, or any other right whatsoever of any other party. Contractor represents and warrants that Contractor has full power and authority to execute this Copyright Release and to grant the State of Nebraska and/or its agencies the right granted herein.

Contractor agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the State of Nebraska and/or its agencies against any and all claims, suits, and/or judgments, including costs, expenses, damages, and reasonable legal fees based upon and arising from Contractor's violation of the rights of others and/or by reason of a breach of any of the foregoing warranties.

**BIDDER MUST COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING**

By signing this Request for Proposal for Contractual Services form, the bidder guarantees compliance with the provisions stated in this Request for Proposal, agrees to the terms and conditions unless otherwise agreed to (see Section III) and certifies that bidder maintains a drug free work place environment.

Per Nebraska's Transparency in Government Procurement Act, Neb. Rev Stat §73-603 DAS is required to collect statistical information regarding the number of contracts awarded to Nebraska Contractors. This information is for statistical purposes only and will not be considered for contract award purposes.

**NEBRASKA CONTRACTOR AFFIDAVIT:** Bidder hereby attests that bidder is a Nebraska Contractor. "Nebraska Contractor" shall mean any bidder who has maintained a bona fide place of business and at least one employee within this state for at least the six (6) months immediately preceding the posting date of this RFP.

I hereby certify that I am a **Resident disabled veteran or business located in a designated enterprise zone** in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. §73-107 and wish to have preference, if applicable, considered in the award of this contract.

FIRM: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPLETE ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TYPED NAME & TITLE OF SIGNER: \_\_\_\_\_

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## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Acceptance Test Procedure:** Benchmarks and other performance criteria, developed by the State of Nebraska or other sources of testing standards, for measuring the effectiveness of products or services and the means used for testing such performance.

**Addendum:** Something to be added or deleted to an existing document; a supplement.

**After Receipt of Order (ARO):** After Receipt of Order

**Agency:** Any state agency, board, or commission other than the University of Nebraska, the Nebraska State colleges, the courts, the Legislature, or any other office or agency established by the Constitution of Nebraska.

**Agent/Representative:** A person authorized to act on behalf of another.

**Amend:** To alter or change by adding, subtracting, or substituting.

**Amendment:** A written correction or alteration to a document.

**Appropriation:** Legislative authorization to expend public funds for a specific purpose. Money set apart for a specific use.

**Award:** All purchases, leases, or contracts which are based on competitive proposals will be awarded according to the provisions in the Request for Proposal. The State reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, wholly or in part, or to award to multiple bidders in whole or in part. The State reserves the right to waive any deviations or errors that are not material, do not invalidate the legitimacy of the proposal, and do not improve the bidder's competitive position. All awards will be made in a manner deemed in the best interest of the State.

**Best and Final Offer (BAFO):** In a competitive bid, the final offer submitted which contains the bidder's (vendor's) most favorable terms for price.

**Bid/Proposal:** The offer submitted by a vendor in a response to written solicitation.

**Bid Bond:** An insurance agreement, accompanied by a monetary commitment, by which a third party (the surety) accepts liability and guarantees that the vendor will not withdraw the bid.

**Bidder:** A vendor who submits an offer bid in response to a written solicitation.

**Business:** Any corporation, partnership, individual, sole proprietorship, joint-stock company, joint venture, or any other private legal entity.

**Business Day:** Any weekday, except State-recognized holidays.

**Calendar Day:** Every day shown on the calendar including Saturdays, Sundays, and State/Federal holidays.

**Cancellation:** To call off or revoke a purchase order without expectation of conducting or performing it at a later time.

**Central Processing Unit (CPU):** Any computer or computer system that is used by the State to store, process, or retrieve data or perform other functions using Operating Systems and applications software.

**Collusion:** An agreement or cooperation between two or more persons or entities to accomplish a fraudulent, deceitful, or unlawful purpose.

**Commodities:** Any equipment, material, supply or goods; anything movable or tangible that is provided or sold.

**Commodities Description:** Detailed descriptions of the items to be purchased; may include information necessary to obtain the desired quality, type, color, size, shape, or special characteristics necessary to perform the work intended to produce the desired results.

**Competition:** The effort or action of two or more commercial interests to obtain the same business from third parties.

**Confidential Information:** Unless otherwise defined below, "Confidential Information" shall also mean proprietary trade

secrets, academic and scientific research work which is in progress and unpublished, and other information which if released would give advantage to business competitors and serve no public purpose (see Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-712.05(3)). In accordance with Nebraska Attorney General Opinions 92068 and 97033, proof that information is proprietary requires identification of specific, named competitor(s) who would be advantaged by release of the information and the specific advantage the competitor(s) would receive.

**Contract:** An agreement between two or more parties creating obligations that are enforceable or otherwise recognizable at law; the writing that sets forth such an agreement.

**Contract Administration:** The management of the contract which includes and is not limited to contract signing, contract amendments and any necessary legal actions.

**Contract Management:** The management of day to day activities at the agency which includes and is not limited to ensuring deliverables are received, specifications are met, handling meetings and making payments to the Contractor.

**Contract Period:** The duration of the contract.

**Contractor:** Any individual or entity having a contract to furnish commodities or services.

**Cooperative Purchasing:** The combining of requirements of two or more political entities to obtain advantages of volume purchases, reduction in administrative expenses or other public benefits.

**Copyright:** A property right in an original work of authorship fixed in any tangible medium of expression, giving the holder the exclusive right to reproduce, adapt and distribute the work.

**Critical Program Error:** Any Program Error, whether or not known to the State, which prohibits or significantly impairs use of the Licensed Software as set forth in the documentation and intended in the contract.

**Customer Service:** The process of ensuring customer satisfaction by providing assistance and advice on those products or services provided by the Contractor.

**Default:** The omission or failure to perform a contractual duty.

**Deviation:** Any proposed change(s) or alteration(s) to either the terms and conditions or deliverables within the scope of the written solicitation or contract.

**Evaluation:** The process of examining an offer after opening to determine the vendor's responsibility, responsiveness to requirements, and to ascertain other characteristics of the offer that relate to determination of the successful award.

**Evaluation Committee:** Committee(s) appointed by the requesting agency that advises and assists the procuring office in the evaluation of bids/proposals (offers made in response to written solicitations).

**Extension:** Continuance of a contract for a specified duration upon the agreement of the parties beyond the original Contract Period. Not to be confused with "Renewal Period".

**Free on Board (F.O.B.) Destination:** The delivery charges are included in the quoted price and prepaid by the vendor. Vendor is responsible for all claims associated with damages during delivery of product.

**Free on Board (F.O.B.) Point of Origin:** The delivery charges are not included in the quoted price and are the responsibility of the agency. Agency is responsible for all claims associated with damages during delivery of product.

**Foreign Corporation:** A foreign corporation that was organized and chartered under the laws of another state, government, or country.

**Installation Date:** The date when the procedures described in "Installation by Contractor", and "Installation by State", as found in the RFP, or contract are completed.

**Late Bid/Proposal:** An offer received after the Opening Date and Time.

**Licensed Software Documentation:** The user manuals and any other materials in any form or medium customarily provided by the Contractor to the users of the Licensed Software which will provide the State with sufficient information to operate, diagnose, and maintain the Licensed Software properly, safely, and efficiently.

**Mandatory/Must:** Required, compulsory, or obligatory.

**May:** Discretionary, permitted; used to express possibility.

**Module (see System):** A collection of routines and data structures that perform a specific function of software.

**Must:** See Shall/Will/Must.

**National Institute for Governmental Purchasing (NIGP):** National Institute of Governmental Purchasing – Source used for assignment of universal commodity codes to goods and services.

**Open Market Purchase:** Authorization may be given to an agency to purchase items above direct purchase authority due to the unique nature, price, quantity, location of the using agency, or time limitations by the AS Materiel Division, State Purchasing Bureau.

**Opening Date and Time:** Specified date and time for the public opening of received, labeled, and sealed formal proposals.

**Operating System:** The control program in a computer that provides the interface to the computer hardware and peripheral devices, and the usage and allocation of memory resources, processor resources, input/output resources, and security resources.

**Outsourcing:** The contracting out of a business process which an organization may have previously performed internally or has a new need for, to an independent organization from which the process is purchased back.

**Payroll & Financial Center (PFC):** Electronic procurement system of record.

**Performance Bond:** An insurance agreement, accompanied by a monetary commitment, by which a third party (the surety) accepts liability and guarantees that the Contractor fulfills any and all obligations under the contract.

**Platform:** A specific hardware and Operating System combination that is different from other hardware and Operating System combinations to the extent that a different version of the Licensed Software product is required to execute properly in the environment established by such hardware and Operating System combination.

**Pre-Bid/Pre-Proposal Conference:** A meeting scheduled for the purpose of clarifying a written solicitation and related expectations.

**Product:** Something that is distributed commercially for use or consumption and that is usually (1) tangible personal property, (2) the result of fabrication or processing, and (3) an item that has passed through a chain of commercial distribution before ultimate use or consumption.

**Program Error:** Code in Licensed Software which produces unintended results or actions, or which produces results or actions other than those described in the specifications. A program error includes, without limitation, any Critical Program Error.

**Program Set:** The group of programs and products, including the Licensed Software specified in the RFP, plus any additional programs and products licensed by the State under the contract for use by the State.

**Project:** The total scheme, program, or method worked out for the accomplishment of an objective, including all documentation, commodities, and services to be provided under the contract.

**Proposal:** See Bid/Proposal.

**Proprietary Information:** Proprietary information is defined as trade secrets, academic and scientific research work which is in progress and unpublished, and other information which if released would give advantage to business competitors and serve no public purpose (see Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-712.05(3)). In accordance with Attorney General Opinions 92068 and 97033, proof that information is proprietary requires identification of specific, named competitor(s) who would be advantaged by release of the information and the specific advantage the competitor(s) would receive.

**Protest/Grievance:** A complaint about a governmental action or decision related to an Invitation to Bid or resultant contract, brought by a vendor who has timely submitted a bid response in connection with the award in question, to AS Materiel

Division or another designated agency with the intention of achieving a remedial result.

**Public Proposal Opening:** The process of opening correctly submitted offers at the time and place specified in the written solicitation and in the presence of anyone who wished to attend.

**Recommended Hardware Configuration:** The data processing hardware (including all terminals, auxiliary storage, communication, and other peripheral devices) to the extent utilized by the State as recommended by the Contractor.

**Release Date:** The date of public release of the written solicitation to seek offers

**Renewal Period:** Optional contract periods subsequent to the original Contract Period for a specified duration with previously agreed to terms and conditions. Not to be confused with Extension.

**Request for Information (RFI):** A general invitation to vendors requesting information for a potential future solicitation. The RFI is typically used as a research and information gathering tool for preparation of a solicitation.

**Request for Proposal (RFP):** A written solicitation utilized for obtaining competitive offers.

**Responsible Bidder:** A bidder who has the capability in all respects to perform fully and lawfully all requirements with integrity and reliability to assure good faith performance.

**Responsive Bidder:** A bidder who has submitted a bid which conforms to all requirements of the solicitation document.

**Shall/Will/Must:** An order/command; mandatory.

**Should:** Expected; suggested, but not necessarily mandatory.

**Software License:** Legal instrument with or without printed material that governs the use or redistribution of licensed software.

**Sole Source – Commodity:** When an item is available from only one source due to the unique nature of the requirement, its supplier, or market conditions.

**Sole Source – Services:** A service of such a unique nature that the vendor selected is clearly and justifiably the only practical source to provide the service. Determination that the vendor selected is justifiably the sole source is based on either the uniqueness of the service or sole availability at the location required.

**Specifications:** The detailed statement, especially of the measurements, quality, materials, and functional characteristics, or other items to be provided under a contract.

**System (see Module):** Any collection or aggregation of two (2) or more Modules that is designed to function, or is represented by the Contractor as functioning or being capable of functioning, as an entity.

**Termination:** Occurs when either party, pursuant to a power created by agreement or law, puts an end to the contract prior to the stated expiration date. All obligations which are still executory on both sides are discharged but any right based on prior breach or performance survives.

**Trade Secret:** Information, including, but not limited to, a drawing, formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique, code, or process that (a) derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being known to, and not being ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use; and (b) is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy (see Neb. Rev. Stat. §87-502(4)).

**Trademark:** A word, phrase, logo, or other graphic symbol used by a manufacturer or vendor to distinguish its product from those of others, registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

**Upgrade:** Any change that improves or alters the basic function of a product or service.

**Vendor:** An individual or entity lawfully conducting business in the State of Nebraska, or licensed to do so, who seeks to provide goods or services under the terms of a written solicitation.

**Vendor Performance Report:** A report issued to the Contractor by State Purchasing Bureau when products or services delivered or performed fail to meet the terms of the purchase order, contract, and/or specifications, as reported to State Purchasing Bureau by the agency. The State Purchasing Bureau shall contact the Contractor regarding any such report. The vendor performance report will become a part of the permanent record for the Contractor. The State may require vendor to cure. Two such reports may be cause for immediate termination.

**Will:** See Shall/Will/Must.

**Work Day:** See Business Day.

Informational Only

**I. SCOPE OF THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

The State of Nebraska, Department of Roads, District 1, is issuing this Request for Proposal, RFP Number R08-16 for the purpose of selecting a qualified Contractor for the provision of ROW Mowing along the State’s highway system. Any resulting contract is not an exclusive contract to furnish the services provided for in this Request for Proposal, and does not preclude the purchase of similar services from other sources.

A contract resulting from this Request for Proposal will be issued for approximately a period of one (1) year effective the date of award. The contract has the option to be renewed for four (4) additional one-year (1) periods as mutually agreed upon by all parties. The State reserves the right to extend the period of this contract beyond the termination date when mutually agreeable to the Contractor and the State of Nebraska.

**ALL INFORMATION PERTINENT TO THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CAN BE FOUND ON THE INTERNET AT:**

<http://www.transportation.nebraska.gov/operations/procure>.

**A. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

The State expects to adhere to the tentative procurement schedule shown below. It should be noted, however, that some dates are approximate and subject to change.

	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>DATE/TIME</b>
1.	Release Request for Proposal	December 22, 2015
2.	Last day to submit “Notification of Intent to Attend Pre-Proposal Conference”	February 2, 2016
3.	<b>Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference</b>  Location: Nebraska Department of Roads District 1 Headquarters 302 Superior Street Lincoln, NE  <i>* Registration Advisement:                      Bids will only be accepted from those Companies/Firms which properly register their attendance at this meeting by completing all of the required information on the State Registration Sheet.</i>	February 3, 2016 10:00 AM CDT
4.	Last day to submit written questions after Pre-Proposal Conference	February 5, 2016
5.	State responds to written questions through Request for Proposal “Addendum” and/or “Amendment” to be posted to the Internet at: <a href="http://www.transportation.nebraska.gov/operations/procure">http://www.transportation.nebraska.gov/operations/procure</a>	February 9, 2016
6.	<b>Proposal opening</b> Location: Nebraska Department of Roads Operations Division 5001 So. 14th Street Lincoln, NE 68512	February 18, 2016 3:00 PM CDT
7.	Review for conformance of mandatory requirements	February 18, 2016
8.	Evaluation period	February 19, 2016 – February 24, 2016
9.	Post “Letter of Intent to Contract” to Internet at: <a href="http://www.transportation.nebraska.gov/operations/procure">http://www.transportation.nebraska.gov/operations/procure</a>	February 25, 2016
10.	Contract finalization period	February 25, 2016 – March 31, 2016
11.	Contract award	April 1, 2016
12.	Contractor start date	May 1, 2016

## II. PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES

### A. PROCURING OFFICE AND CONTACT PERSON

Procurement responsibilities related to this Request for Proposal reside with the Nebraska Department of Roads. The point of contact for the procurement is as follows:

Name: Gloria Ryken  
Agency: Nebraska Department of Roads  
Address: 5001 So. 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lincoln, NE 68512

OR

Address: PO Box 94759  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4579  
Telephone: (402) 479-4356  
Facsimile: (402) 479-4567  
E-Mail: [DOR.OperationsProcurement@nebraska.gov](mailto:DOR.OperationsProcurement@nebraska.gov)

### B. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Request for Proposal is designed to solicit proposals from qualified vendors who will be responsible for the provision of ROW Mowing along the State's highway system at a competitive and reasonable cost. Proposals that do not conform to the mandatory items as indicated in the Request for Proposal will not be considered.

Proposals shall conform to all instructions, conditions, and requirements included in the Request for Proposal. Prospective bidders are expected to carefully examine all documentation, schedules, and requirements stipulated in this Request for Proposal, and respond to each requirement in the format prescribed.

A fixed-price contract will be awarded as a result of this proposal. In addition to the provisions of this Request for Proposal and the awarded proposal, which shall be incorporated by reference in the contract, any additional clauses or provisions required by the terms and conditions will be included as an amendment to the contract.

### C. CUSTOMER SERVICE

In addition to any specified service requirements contained in this agreement, the Contractor agrees and understands that satisfactory customer service is required. Contractor will develop or provide technology and business procedures designed to enhance the level of customer satisfaction and to provide the customer appropriate information given their situation. Contractor, its employees, Subcontractors, and agents must be accountable, responsive, reliable, patient, and have well-developed communication skills as set forth by the customer service industry's best practices and processes.

### D. COMMUNICATION WITH STATE STAFF AND EVALUATORS

From the date the Request for Proposal is issued until a determination is announced regarding the selection of the Contractor, contact regarding this project between potential Contractors and individuals employed by the State is restricted to only written communication with the staff designated above as the point of contact for this Request for Proposal. Bidders shall not have any communication with, or attempt to communicate with or influence in any way, any evaluator involved in this RFP.

Once a Contractor is preliminarily selected, as documented in the intent to contract, that Contractor is restricted from communicating with State staff until a contract is signed. Violation of this condition may be considered sufficient cause to reject a Contractor's proposal and/or selection irrespective of any other condition.

The following exceptions to these restrictions are permitted:

1. Written communication with the person(s) designated as the point(s) of contact for this Request for Proposal or procurement;
2. Contacts made pursuant to any pre-existing contracts or obligations;
3. State staff and/or Contractor staff present at the Pre-Proposal conference when recognized by the Nebraska Department of Roads staff facilitating the meeting for the purpose of addressing questions; and
4. State-requested presentations, key personnel interviews, clarification sessions or discussions to finalize a contract.

Violations of these conditions may be considered sufficient cause to reject a bidder's proposal and/or selection irrespective of any other condition. No individual member of the State, employee of the State, or member of the Evaluation Committee is empowered to make binding statements regarding this Request for Proposal. The buyer will issue any clarifications or opinions regarding this Request for Proposal in writing.

**E. WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Any explanation desired by a bidder regarding the meaning or interpretation of any Request for Proposal provision must be submitted in writing to the Nebraska Department of Roads and clearly marked "RFP Number R08-16; ROW Mowing Services Questions". It is preferred that questions be sent via e-mail to [DOR.OperationsProcurement@nebraska.gov](mailto:DOR.OperationsProcurement@nebraska.gov). Questions may also be sent by facsimile to (402) 479-4567, but must include a cover sheet clearly indicating that the transmission is to the attention of Gloria Ryken, Buyer, showing the total number of pages transmitted, and clearly marked "RFP Number R08-16; ROW Mowing Services Questions".

It is recommended that Bidders submit questions sequentially numbered, include the RFP reference and page number using the following format.

Question Number	RFP Section Reference	RFP Page Number	Question

Written answers will be provided through an addendum to be posted on the Internet at (<http://www.transportation.nebraska.gov/operations/procure>) on or before the date shown in the Schedule of Events.

**F. PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE**

A pre-proposal conference will be held on the date, time and location shown in the Schedule of Events. Attendance at the pre-proposal conference is mandatory in order to submit a proposal. Bidders will have an opportunity to ask questions at the conference to assist in the clarification and understanding of the Request for Proposal requirements. The State will make every reasonable attempt to answer those questions before the end of the conference. Bidders attending the pre-proposal meeting may submit further questions in writing for questions which the bidder requires an official written response as shown in the Schedule of Events.

Written answers to written questions along with a list of conference attendees will be provided through an addendum to be posted on the Internet at <http://www.transportation.nebraska.gov/operations/procure> on or before the date shown in the Schedule of Events. Verbal responses provided during the pre-proposal meeting shall not be binding on the State of Nebraska.

**1. NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO ATTEND MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE**

Notification of attendance should be submitted to the Nebraska Department of Roads via e-mail ([DOR.OperationsProcurement@nebraska.gov](mailto:DOR.OperationsProcurement@nebraska.gov)), facsimile (402) 479-4567, hand delivery or US mail by the date shown in the Schedule of Events. Potential bidders should utilize the "Notification of Intent to Attend Pre-Proposal Conference" (see Form A) that accompanies this document to the contact person shown on the cover page of the Request for Proposal Form. This form should be filled out in its entirety and returned no later than the date shown in the Schedule of Events.

**G. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS**

The following describes the requirements related to proposal submission, proposal handling, and review by the State.

To facilitate the proposal evaluation process, one (1) original of the entire proposal should be submitted. Proposals must be submitted by the proposal due date and time. **A separate sheet must be provided that clearly states which sections have been submitted as proprietary or have copyrighted materials.** All proprietary information the bidder wishes the State to withhold must be submitted in accordance with the instructions outlined in Section III, Proprietary Information. Proposal responses should include the completed Form A, Bidder Contact Sheet. Proposals must reference the Request for Proposal number and be sent to the specified address. Please note that the address label should appear in Section II part A as specified on the face of each container or bidder's bid response packet. Rejected late proposals will be returned to the bidder unopened, if requested, at bidder's expense. If a recipient phone number is required for delivery purposes, (402) 479-4356 should be used. The Request for Proposal number must be included in all correspondence.

Emphasis should be concentrated on conformance to the Request for Proposal instructions, responsiveness to requirements, completeness and clarity of content. If the bidder's proposal is presented in such a fashion that makes evaluation difficult or overly time consuming, it is likely that the proposal will be rejected.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-602.02, all State contracts in effect as of January 1, 2014 will be posted to a public website beginning July 1, 2014. All non-proprietary or confidential information as defined by Law **WILL BE POSTED FOR PUBLIC VIEWING**. Bidders are required to waive copyrights from privilege for posting to the public website.

**H. PROPOSAL OPENING**

The sealed proposals will be publicly opened and the bidding entities announced on the date, time, and location shown in the Schedule of Events. Proposals will be available for viewing by those present after the proposal opening. Vendors may also contact the State to schedule an appointment for viewing proposals after the Intent to Award has been posted.

**I. LATE PROPOSALS**

Proposals received after the time and date of the proposal opening will be considered late proposals. Rejected late proposals will be returned to the bidder unopened, if requested, at bidder's expense. The State is not responsible for proposals that are late or lost due to mail service inadequacies, traffic, or any other reason(s).

**J. REJECTION OF PROPOSALS**

The State reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, or to award to multiple bidders in whole or in part. The State reserves the right to waive any deviations or errors that are not material, do not invalidate the legitimacy of the proposal and do not improve the bidder's competitive position. The State reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and re-advertise for proposals; and further reserves the right to waive any informality or irregularity. All awards will be made in a manner deemed in the best interest of the State.

**K. MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS**

The proposals will first be examined to determine if all mandatory requirements listed below have been addressed to warrant further evaluation. Proposals not meeting mandatory requirements will be excluded from further evaluation. The mandatory requirement items are as follows:

1. Request For Proposal For Contractual Services form, signed in ink
2. Cost Proposal; and
3. Bid Bond, executed on the Department of Roads bid bond form

**Neb. Rev. Stat. §73-107 allows for a preference for a resident disabled veteran or business located in a designated enterprise zone.** When a state contract is to be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, a resident disabled veteran or a business located in a designated enterprise zone under the Enterprise Zone Act shall be allowed a preference over any other resident or nonresident bidder, if all other factors are equal.

**Resident disabled veterans means any person (a) who resides in the State of Nebraska, who served in the United States Armed Forces, including any reserve component or the National Guard, who was discharged or otherwise separated with a characterization of honorable or general (under honorable conditions), and who possesses a disability rating letter issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs establishing a service-connected disability or a disability determination from the United States Department of Defense and (b)(i) who owns and controls a business or, in the case of a publicly owned business, more than fifty percent of the stock is owned by one or more persons described in subdivision (a) of this subsection and (ii) the management and daily business operations of the business are controlled by one or more persons described in subdivision (a) of this subsection. Any contract entered into without compliance with this section shall be null and void.**

Therefore, if a resident disabled veteran or business located in a designated enterprise zone submits a bid in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. §73-107 and has so indicated on the RFP cover page under "Bidder must complete the following" requesting priority/preference to be considered in the award of this contract, the following will need to be submitted by the vendor within ten (10) business days of request:

- a. Documentation from the United States Armed Forces confirming service;
- b. Documentation of discharge or otherwise separated characterization of honorable or general (under honorable conditions);

- c. Disability rating letter issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs establishing a service-connected disability or a disability determination from the United States Department of Defense; and
- d. Documentation which shows ownership and control of a business or, in the case of a publicly owned business, more than fifty percent of the stock is owned by one or more persons described in subdivision (a) of this subsection; and the management and daily business operations of the business are controlled by one or more persons described in subdivision (a) of this subsection.

Failure to submit the requested documentation within ten (10) business days of notice will disqualify the bidder from consideration of the preference.

**L. REFERENCE CHECKS**

The State reserves the right to check any reference(s), regardless of the source of the reference information, including but not limited to, those that are identified by the company in the proposal, those indicated through the explicitly specified contacts, those that are identified during the review of the proposal, or those that result from communication with other entities involved with similar projects. The State may use a third-party to conduct reference checks.

Information to be requested and evaluated from references may include, but is not limited to, some or all of the following: financial stability of the company, project description and background, job performed, functional and technical abilities, communication skills and timeliness, cost and schedule estimates and accuracy, problems (poor quality deliverables, contract disputes, work stoppages, et cetera), overall performance, and whether or not the reference would rehire the firm or individual. Only top scoring bidders may receive reference checks and negative references may eliminate bidders from consideration for award.

**M. SECRETARY OF STATE/TAX COMMISSIONER REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS**

All bidders should be authorized to transact business in the State of Nebraska. All bidders are expected to comply with all Nebraska Secretary of State Registration requirements. It is the responsibility of the bidder to comply with any registration requirements pertaining to types of business entities (e.g. person, partnership, foreign or domestic limited liability company, association, or foreign or domestic corporation or other type of business entity). The bidder who is the recipient of an Intent to Award will be required to certify that it has so complied and produce a true and exact copy of its current (within ninety (90) calendar days), valid Certificate of Good Standing or Letter of Good Standing; or in the case of a sole proprietorship, provide written documentation of sole proprietorship. This must be accomplished prior to the award of the contract. Construction Contractors are expected to meet all applicable requirements of the Nebraska Contractor Registration Act and provide a current, valid certificate of registration. Further, all bidders shall comply with any and all other applicable Nebraska statutes regarding transacting business in the State of Nebraska. Bidders should submit the above certification(s) with their bid.

If a bank is registered with the Office of Comptroller of Currency, it is not required to register with the State. However, the Office of Comptroller of Currency does have a certificate of good standing/registration. The bank could provide that for verification. (Optional)

**N. VIOLATION OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

Violation of the terms and conditions contained in this Request for Proposal or any resultant contract, at any time before or after the award, shall be grounds for action by the State which may include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Rejection of a bidder's proposal;
2. Suspension of the bidder from further bidding with the State for the period of time relative to the seriousness of the violation, such period to be within the sole discretion of the State.
3. Legal action.

### III. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

By signing the "Request for Proposal for Contractual Services" form, the bidder guarantees compliance with the provisions stated in this Request for Proposal, agrees to the Terms and Conditions unless otherwise agreed to, and certifies bidder maintains a drug free work place environment.

Bidders are expected to closely read the Terms and Conditions and provide a binding signature of intent to comply with the Terms and Conditions; provided, however, a bidder may indicate any exceptions to the Terms and Conditions by (1) clearly identifying the term or condition by subsection, (2) including an explanation for the bidder's inability to comply with such term or condition which includes a statement recommending terms and conditions the bidder would find acceptable. Rejection in whole or in part of the Terms and Conditions may be cause for rejection of a bidder's proposal. **Bidders must include completed Section III with their proposal response.**

#### A. GENERAL

The contract resulting from this Request for Proposal shall incorporate the following documents:

1. Amendment to Contract Award with the most recent dated amendment having the highest priority;
2. Contract Award and any attached Addenda;
3. The Request for Proposal form and the Contractor's Proposal, signed in ink;
4. Amendments to RFP and any Questions and Answers; and
5. The original RFP document and any Addenda.

These documents constitute the entirety of the contract.

Unless otherwise specifically stated in a contract amendment, in case of any conflict between the incorporated documents, the documents shall govern in the following order of preference with number one (1) receiving preference over all other documents and with each lower numbered document having preference over any higher numbered document: 1) Amendment to Contract Award with the most recent dated amendment having the highest priority, 2) Contract Award and any attached Addenda, 3) the signed Request for Proposal form and the Contractor's Proposal, 4) Amendments to RFP and any Questions and Answers, 5) the original RFP document and any Addenda.

Any ambiguity in any provision of this contract which shall be discovered after its execution shall be resolved in accordance with the rules of contract interpretation as established in the State of Nebraska.

Once proposals are opened they become the property of the State of Nebraska and will not be returned.

#### B. AWARD

All purchases, leases, or contracts which are based on competitive proposals will be awarded according to the provisions in the Request for Proposal. The State reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, wholly or in part, or to award to multiple bidders in whole or in part, and at its discretion, may withdraw or amend the Request for Proposal at any time. The State reserves the right to waive any deviations or errors that are not material, do not invalidate the legitimacy of the proposal, and do not improve the bidder's competitive position. All awards will be made in a manner deemed in the best interest of the State. The Request for Proposal does not commit the State to award a contract. If, in the opinion of the State, revisions or amendments will require substantive changes in proposals, the due date may be extended.

By submitting a proposal in response to this Request for Proposal, the bidder grants to the State the right to contact or arrange a visit in person with any or all of the bidder's clients.

Once intent to award decision has been determined, it will be posted to the Internet at:  
<http://www.transportation.nebraska.gov/operations/procure>

Grievance and protest procedure is available on the Internet at:  
<http://www.transportation.nebraska.gov/operations/procure>

Any protests must be filed by a vendor within ten (10) business days after the intent to award decision is posted to the Internet.

**C. COMPLIANCE WITH CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT / NONDISCRIMINATION**

The Contractor shall comply with all applicable local, state and federal statutes and regulations regarding civil rights laws and equal opportunity employment. The Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act prohibits Contractors of the State of Nebraska, and their Subcontractors, from discriminating against any employee or applicant for employment, with respect to hire, tenure, terms, conditions, compensations, or privileges of employment because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, marital status, or national origin (Neb. Rev. Stat. §48-1101 to 48-1125). The Contractor guarantees compliance with the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act, and breach of this provision shall be regarded as a material breach of contract. The Contractor shall insert a similar provision in all subcontracts for services to be covered by any contract resulting from this Request for Proposal.

**D. PERMITS, REGULATIONS, LAWS**

The Contractor shall procure and pay for all permits, licenses, and approvals necessary for the execution of the contract. The Contractor shall comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws, ordinances, rules, orders, and regulations.

**E. OWNERSHIP OF INFORMATION AND DATA**

The State of Nebraska shall have the unlimited right to publish, duplicate, use and disclose all information and data developed or derived by the Contractor pursuant to this contract.

The Contractor must guarantee that it has the full legal right to the materials, supplies, equipment, and other rights or titles (e.g. rights to licenses transfer or assign deliverables) necessary to execute this contract. The contract price shall, without exception, include compensation for all royalties and costs arising from patents, trademarks, and copyrights that are in any way involved in the contract. It shall be the responsibility of the Contractor to pay for all royalties and costs, and the State must be held harmless from any such claims.

**F. INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS**

The Contractor shall not commence work under this contract until all the insurance required hereunder has been obtained and such insurance has been approved by the State. The Contractor shall maintain all required insurance for the life of this contract and shall ensure that the State Purchasing Bureau has the most current certificate of insurance throughout the life of this contract. If Contractor will be utilizing any Subcontractors, the Contractor is responsible for obtaining the certificate(s) of insurance required herein under from any and all Subcontractor(s). Contractor is also responsible for ensuring Subcontractor(s) maintain the insurance required until completion of the contract requirements. The Contractor shall not allow any Subcontractor to commence work on any subcontract until all similar insurance required of the Subcontractor has been obtained and approved by the Contractor. Approval of the insurance by the State shall not limit, relieve, or decrease the liability of the Contractor hereunder.

If by the terms of any insurance a mandatory deductible is required, or if the Contractor elects to increase the mandatory deductible amount, the Contractor shall be responsible for payment of the amount of the deductible in the event of a paid claim.

**1. WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE**

The Contractor shall take out and maintain during the life of this contract the statutory Workers' Compensation and Employer's Liability Insurance for all of the Contractors' employees to be engaged in work on the project under this contract and, in case any such work is sublet, the Contractor shall require the Subcontractor similarly to provide Worker's Compensation and Employer's Liability Insurance for all of the Subcontractor's employees to be engaged in such work. This policy shall be written to meet the statutory requirements for the state in which the work is to be performed, including Occupational Disease. This policy shall include a waiver of subrogation in favor of the State. The amounts of such insurance shall not be less than the limits stated hereinafter.

**2. COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE AND COMMERCIAL AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY INSURANCE**

The Contractor shall take out and maintain during the life of this contract such Commercial General Liability Insurance and Commercial Automobile Liability Insurance as shall protect the Contractor and any Subcontractor performing work covered by this contract from claims for damages for bodily injury, including death, as well as from claims for property damage, which may arise from operations under this contract, whether such operation be by the Contractor or by any Subcontractor or by anyone directly or indirectly employed by either of them, and the amounts of such insurance shall not be less than limits stated hereinafter.

The Commercial General Liability Insurance shall be written on an occurrence basis, and provide Premises/Operations, Products/Completed Operations, Independent Contractors, Personal Injury and Contractual Liability coverage. The policy shall include the State, and Nebraska Department of Roads as required by the contract documents as additional insured. This policy shall be primary, and any insurance or self-insurance carried by the State shall be considered excess and non-contributory. The Commercial Automobile Liability Insurance shall be written to cover all Owned, Non-owned and Hired vehicles.

**3. INSURANCE COVERAGE AMOUNTS REQUIRED**

<b>WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYER'S LIABILITY</b>	
Coverage A	Statutory
Coverage B	Statutory
Bodily Injury by Accident	\$100,000 each accident
Bodily Injury by Disease	\$500,000 policy limit
Bodily Injury by Disease	\$100,000 each employee
<b>COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY</b>	
General Aggregate	\$2,000,000
Products/Completed Operations Aggregate	\$2,000,000
Personal/Advertising Injury	\$1,000,000 any one person
Bodily Injury/Property Damage	\$1,000,000 per occurrence
Fire Damage	\$50,000 any one fire
Medical Payments	\$5,000 any one person
<b>COMMERCIAL AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY</b>	
Bodily Injury/Property Damage	\$1,000,000 combined single limit
<b>UMBRELLA/EXCESS LIABILITY</b>	
Over Primary Insurance	\$1,000,000 per occurrence
<b>SUBROGATION WAIVER</b>	
"Waiver of Subrogation on the Worker's Compensation in favor of the State of Nebraska."	
<b>LIABILITY WAIVER</b>	
"The State of Nebraska, Certificate holder, is an additionally insured, primary & noncontributory on the General Liability."	

**4. EVIDENCE OF COVERAGE**

The Contractor should furnish the State, with their proposal response, a certificate of insurance coverage complying with the above requirements, which shall be submitted to the attention of the Buyer.

Nebraska Department of Roads  
 Operations Division  
 5001 So. 14th Street  
 Lincoln, NE 68512  
 (facsimile: (402) 479-4567)

These certificates or the cover sheet shall reference the RFP number, and the certificates shall include the name of the company, policy numbers, effective dates, dates of expiration, and amounts and types of coverage afforded. If the State is damaged by the failure of the Contractor to maintain such insurance, then the Contractor shall be responsible for all reasonable costs properly attributable thereto.

Notice of cancellation of any required insurance policy must be submitted to Nebraska Department of Roads, Operations Division when issued and a new coverage binder shall be submitted immediately to ensure no break in coverage.

**G. COOPERATION WITH OTHER CONTRACTORS**

The State may already have in place or choose to award supplemental contracts for work related to this Request for Proposal, or any portion thereof.

1. The State reserves the right to award the contract jointly between two or more potential Contractors, if such an arrangement is in the best interest of the State.
2. The Contractor shall agree to cooperate with such other Contractors, and shall not commit or permit any act which may interfere with the performance of work by any other Contractor.

**H. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR**

It is agreed that nothing contained herein is intended or should be construed in any manner as creating or establishing the relationship of partners between the parties hereto. The Contractor represents that it has, or will secure at its own expense, all personnel required to perform the services under the contract. The Contractor's employees and other persons engaged in work or services required by the Contractor under the contract shall have no contractual relationship with the State; they shall not be considered employees of the State.

All claims on behalf of any person arising out of employment or alleged employment (including without limit claims of discrimination against the Contractor, its officers, or its agents) shall in no way be the responsibility of the State. The Contractor will hold the State harmless from any and all such claims. Such personnel or other persons shall not require nor be entitled to any compensation, rights, or benefits from the State including without limit, tenure rights, medical and hospital care, sick and vacation leave, severance pay, or retirement benefits.

**I. CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITY**

The Contractor is solely responsible for fulfilling the contract, with responsibility for all services offered and products to be delivered as stated in the Request for Proposal, the Contractor's proposal, and the resulting contract. The Contractor shall be the sole point of contact regarding all contractual matters.

If the Contractor intends to utilize any Subcontractor's services, the Subcontractor's level of effort, tasks, and time allocation must be clearly defined in the Contractor's proposal. The Contractor shall agree that it will not utilize any Subcontractors not specifically included in its proposal, in the performance of the contract without the prior written authorization of the State. Following execution of the contract, the Contractor shall proceed diligently with all services and shall perform such services with qualified personnel in accordance with the contract.

**J. CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL**

The Contractor warrants that all persons assigned to the project shall be employees of the Contractor or specified Subcontractors, and shall be fully qualified to perform the work required herein. Personnel employed by the Contractor to fulfill the terms of the contract shall remain under the sole direction and control of the Contractor. The Contractor shall include a similar provision in any contract with any Subcontractor selected to perform work on the project.

Personnel commitments made in the Contractor's proposal shall not be changed without the prior written approval of the State. Replacement of key personnel, if approved by the State, shall be with personnel of equal or greater ability and qualifications.

The State reserves the right to require the Contractor to reassign or remove from the project any Contractor or Subcontractor employee.

In respect to its employees, the Contractor agrees to be responsible for the following:

1. Any and all employment taxes and/or other payroll withholding;
2. Any and all vehicles used by the Contractor's employees, including all insurance required by state law;
3. Damages incurred by Contractor's employees within the scope of their duties under the contract;
4. Maintaining workers' compensation and health insurance and submitting any reports on such insurance to the extent required by governing State law; and
5. Determining the hours to be worked and the duties to be performed by the Contractor's employees.

**K. STATE OF NEBRASKA PERSONNEL RECRUITMENT PROHIBITION**

The Contractor shall not, at any time, recruit or employ any State employee or agent who has worked on the Request for Proposal or project, or who had any influence on decisions affecting the Request for Proposal or project.

**L. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

By submitting a proposal, bidder certifies that there does not now exist any relationship between the bidder and any person or entity which is or gives the appearance of a conflict of interest related to this Request for Proposal or project.

The bidder certifies that it shall not take any action or acquire any interest, either directly or indirectly, which will conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of its services hereunder or which creates an actual or appearance of conflict of interest.

The bidder certifies that it will not employ any individual known by bidder to have a conflict of interest.

**M. PROPOSAL PREPARATION COSTS**

The State shall not incur any liability for any costs incurred by bidders in replying to this Request for Proposal, or in any other activity related to bidding on this Request for Proposal.

**N. ERRORS AND OMISSIONS**

The bidder shall not take advantage of any errors and/or omissions in this Request for Proposal or resulting contract. The bidder must promptly notify the State of any errors and/or omissions that are discovered.

**O. BEGINNING OF WORK**

The bidder shall not commence any billable work until a valid contract has been fully executed by the State and the successful Contractor. The Contractor will be notified in writing when work may begin.

**P. ASSIGNMENT BY THE STATE**

The State shall have the right to assign or transfer the contract or any of its interests herein to any agency, board, commission, or political subdivision of the State of Nebraska. There shall be no charge to the State for any assignment hereunder.

**Q. ASSIGNMENT BY THE CONTRACTOR**

The Contractor may not assign, voluntarily or involuntarily, the contract or any of its rights or obligations hereunder (including without limitation rights and duties of performance) to any third party, without the prior written consent of the State, which will not be unreasonably withheld.

**R. DEVIATIONS FROM THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

The requirements contained in the Request for Proposal become a part of the terms and conditions of the contract resulting from this Request for Proposal. Any deviations from the Request for Proposal must be clearly defined by the bidder in its proposal and, if accepted by the State, will become part of the contract. Any specifically defined deviations must not be in conflict with the basic nature of the Request for Proposal, mandatory requirements, or applicable state or federal laws or statutes. "Deviation", for the purposes of this RFP, means any proposed changes or alterations to either the contractual language or deliverables within the scope of this RFP. The State discourages deviations and reserves the right to reject proposed deviations.

**S. GOVERNING LAW**

The contract shall be governed in all respects by the laws and statutes of the State of Nebraska. Any legal proceedings against the State of Nebraska regarding this Request for Proposal or any resultant contract shall be brought in the State of Nebraska administrative or judicial forums as defined by State law. The Contractor must be in compliance with all Nebraska statutory and regulatory law.

**T. ATTORNEY'S FEES**

In the event of any litigation, appeal, or other legal action to enforce any provision of the contract, the Contractor agrees to pay all expenses of such action, as permitted by law, including attorney's fees and costs, if the State is the prevailing party.

**U. ADVERTISING**

The Contractor agrees not to refer to the contract award in advertising in such a manner as to state or imply that the company or its services are endorsed or preferred by the State. News releases pertaining to the project shall not be issued without prior written approval from the State.

**V. STATE PROPERTY**

The Contractor shall be responsible for the proper care and custody of any State-owned property which is furnished for the Contractor's use during the performance of the contract. The Contractor shall reimburse the State for any loss or damage of such property; normal wear and tear is expected.

**W. SITE RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The Contractor shall use its best efforts to ensure that its employees, agents, and Subcontractors comply with site rules and regulations while on State premises. If the Contractor must perform on-site work outside of the daily operational hours set forth by the State, it must make arrangements with the State to ensure access to the facility

and the equipment has been arranged. No additional payment will be made by the State on the basis of lack of access, unless the State fails to provide access as agreed to between the State and the Contractor.

#### **X. NOTIFICATION**

During the bid process, all communication between the State and a bidder shall be between the bidder's representative clearly noted in its proposal and the buyer noted in Section II. A., Procuring Office and Contact Person, of this RFP. After the award of the contract, all notices under the contract shall be deemed duly given upon delivery to the staff designated as the point of contact for this Request for Proposal, in person, or upon delivery by U.S. Mail, facsimile, or e-mail. Each bidder should provide in its proposal the name, title, and complete address of its designee to receive notices.

1. Except as otherwise expressly specified herein, all notices, requests, or other communications shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been given if delivered personally or mailed, by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, to the parties at their respective addresses set forth above, or at such other addresses as may be specified in writing by either of the parties. All notices, requests, or communications shall be deemed effective upon personal delivery or three (3) calendar days following deposit in the mail.
2. Whenever the Contractor encounters any difficulty which is delaying or threatens to delay its timely performance under the contract, the Contractor shall immediately give notice thereof in writing to the State reciting all relevant information with respect thereto. Such notice shall not in any way constitute a basis for an extension of the delivery schedule or be construed as a waiver by the State of any of its rights or remedies to which it is entitled by law or equity or pursuant to the provisions of the contract. Failure to give such notice, however, may be grounds for denial of any request for an extension of the delivery schedule because of such delay.

Either party may change its address for notification purposes by giving notice of the change, and setting forth the new address and an effective date.

For the duration of the contract, all communication between Contractor and the State regarding the contract shall take place between the Contractor and individuals specified by the State in writing. Communication about the contract between Contractor and individuals not designated as points of contact by the State is strictly forbidden.

#### **Y. EARLY TERMINATION**

The contract may be terminated as follows:

1. The State and the Contractor, by mutual written agreement, may terminate the contract at any time.
2. The State, in its sole discretion, may terminate the contract for any reason upon thirty (30) calendar day's written notice to the Contractor. Such termination shall not relieve the Contractor of warranty or other service obligations incurred under the terms of the Contract. In the event of termination the Contractor shall be entitled to payment, determined on a pro rata basis, for products or services satisfactorily performed or provided.
3. The State may terminate the contract immediately for the following reasons:
  - a. if directed to do so by statute;
  - b. Contractor has made an assignment for the benefit of creditors, has admitted in writing its inability to pay debts as they mature, or has ceased operating in the normal course of business;
  - c. a trustee or receiver of the Contractor or of any substantial part of the Contractor's assets has been appointed by a court;
  - d. fraud, misappropriation, embezzlement, malfeasance, misfeasance, or illegal conduct pertaining to performance under the contract by its Contractor, its employees, officers, directors, or shareholders;
  - e. an involuntary proceeding has been commenced by any party against the Contractor under any one of the chapters of Title 11 of the United States Code and (i) the proceeding has been pending for at least sixty (60) calendar days; or (ii) the Contractor has consented, either expressly or by operation of law, to the entry of an order for relief; or (iii) the Contractor has been decreed or adjudged a debtor;
  - f. a voluntary petition has been filed by the Contractor under any of the chapters of Title 11 of the United States Code;
  - g. Contractor intentionally discloses confidential information;
  - h. Contractor has or announces it will discontinue support of the deliverable;

- i. second or subsequent documented "vendor performance report" form deemed acceptable by the Agency or;
- j. Contractor engaged in collusion or actions which could have provided Contractor an unfair advantage in obtaining this contract.

**Z. FUNDING OUT CLAUSE OR LOSS OF APPROPRIATIONS**

The State may terminate the contract, in whole or in part, in the event funding is no longer available. The State's obligation to pay amounts due for fiscal years following the current fiscal year is contingent upon legislative appropriation of funds for the contract. Should said funds not be appropriated, the State may terminate the contract with respect to those payments for the fiscal years for which such funds are not appropriated. The State will give the Contractor written notice thirty (30) calendar days prior to the effective date of any termination, and advise the Contractor of the location (address and room number) of any related equipment. All obligations of the State to make payments after the termination date will cease and all interest of the State in any related equipment will terminate. The Contractor shall be entitled to receive just and equitable compensation for any authorized work which has been satisfactorily completed as of the termination date. In no event shall the Contractor be paid for a loss of anticipated profit.

**AA. BREACH BY CONTRACTOR**

The State may terminate the contract, in whole or in part, if the Contractor fails to perform its obligations under the contract in a timely and proper manner. The State may, by providing a written notice of default to the Contractor, allow the Contractor to cure a failure or breach of contract within a period of thirty (30) calendar days (or longer at State's discretion considering the gravity and nature of the default). Said notice shall be delivered by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, or in person with proof of delivery. Allowing the Contractor time to cure a failure or breach of contract does not waive the State's right to immediately terminate the contract for the same or different contract breach which may occur at a different time. In case of default of the Contractor, the State may contract the service from other sources and hold the Contractor responsible for any excess cost occasioned thereby.

**BB. ASSURANCES BEFORE BREACH**

If any document or deliverable required pursuant to the contract does not fulfill the requirements of the Request for Proposal/resulting contract, upon written notice from the State, the Contractor shall deliver assurances in the form of additional Contractor resources at no additional cost to the project in order to complete the deliverable, and to ensure that other project schedules will not be adversely affected.

**CC. ADMINISTRATION – CONTRACT TERMINATION**

1. Contractor must provide confirmation that upon contract termination all deliverables prepared in accordance with this agreement shall become the property of the State of Nebraska; subject to the ownership provision (section E) contained herein, and is provided to the State of Nebraska at no additional cost to the State.
2. Contractor must provide confirmation that in the event of contract termination, all records that are the property of the State will be returned to the State within thirty (30) calendar days. Notwithstanding the above, Contractor may retain one copy of any information as required to comply with applicable work product documentation standards or as are automatically retained in the course of Contractor's routine back up procedures.

**DD. PROPOSAL GUARANTEE BID BOND**

Bidders shall submit a bid bond with their proposal. The bid bond must be in the amount of five percent (5%) of their total bid price. The bid bond shall be executed on the Department bid bond form by corporations authorized to contract as a surety in the State of Nebraska. An original watermarked Department bid bond form may be requested from the Department by contacting the Operations Division at (402) 479-4356 or by e-mail to DOR.OperationsProcurement@nebraska.gov. Any copies, alterations, conditions or limitations added to the Department's bid bond form will be unacceptable and cause the bid not to be read. The bid bond will be released upon execution of the awarded contract (See Exhibit A: Contractor Prequalification).

**Option 1: The completed bid bond and bid shall be placed in separate sealed envelopes, attached to each other and furnished by the Department.** Any copies, alterations, conditions, or limitations added to the Department's bid bond form will be unacceptable and cause the bid not to be read.

**Option 2: (Annual Bid Bond) The Department at its discretion may allow a bidder to place an "Annual Bid Bond" on file with the Department. This bond would cover all projects on which the bidder bids on for a 12-month period shown in the bond. The bidder must indicate in the bid submittal to the Department that their**

**“annual bid bond” applies to the submitted bid. If the “annual bid bond” is applicable the bidder shall indicate this in writing on the bid bond envelope. The envelope containing the bid shall be marked by the bidder to indicate its content. The annual bid bond shall be executed on the Department of Roads’ bid bond form, copies of which may be obtained from the Department.**

In the event the low bidder fails to comply with any requirement regarding the execution of the contract, the Department shall immediately be entitled to recover the full amount of the bid bond as liquidated damages.

**EE. CONTRACT BOND**

The selected contractor shall be required to furnish within 30 days after the award, a contract bond in the sum equal to the full amount of the contract. The contract bond must be executed on the form furnished by the Department. Contract bonds must be executed by a corporation authorized to contract surety in the State of Nebraska. This requirement shall apply to any extensions and/or renewal periods **(See Exhibit A: Contractor Prequalification)**.

**FF. FORCE MAJEURE**

Neither party shall be liable for any costs or damages resulting from its inability to perform any of its obligations under the contract due to a natural disaster, or other similar event outside the control and not the fault of the affected party (“Force Majeure Event”). A Force Majeure Event shall not constitute a breach of the contract. The party so affected shall immediately give notice to the other party of the Force Majeure Event. The State may grant relief from performance of the contract if the Contractor is prevented from performance by a Force Majeure Event. The burden of proof for the need for such relief shall rest upon the Contractor. To obtain release based on a Force Majeure Event, the Contractor shall file a written request for such relief with the State Purchasing Bureau. Labor disputes with the impacted party’s own employees will not be considered a Force Majeure Event and will not suspend performance requirements under the contract.

**GG. PROHIBITION AGAINST ADVANCE PAYMENT**

Payments shall not be made until contractual deliverable(s) are received and accepted by the State.

**HH. PAYMENT**

State will render payment to Contractor when the terms and conditions of the contract and specifications have been satisfactorily completed on the part of the Contractor as solely determined by the State. Payment will be made by the responsible agency in compliance with the State of Nebraska Prompt Payment Act (See Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-2401 through 81-2408). The State may require the Contractor to accept payment by electronic means such as ACH deposit. In no event shall the State be responsible or liable to pay for any services provided by the Contractor prior to the Effective Date, and the Contractor hereby waives any claim or cause of action for any such services.

**II. INVOICES**

Invoices for payments must be submitted by the Contractor to the agency requesting the services with sufficient detail to support payment. Invoices submitted for payment shall include the contract number under which the work has been performed. The contractor’s invoice shall be submitted to Nebraska Department of Roads, District 1 for approval. The terms and conditions included in the Contractor’s invoice shall be deemed to be solely for the convenience of the parties. No terms or conditions of any such invoice shall be binding upon the State, and no action by the State, including without limitation the payment of any such invoice in whole or in part, shall be construed as binding or estopping the State with respect to any such term or condition, unless the invoice term or condition has been previously agreed to by the State as an amendment to the contract. Address to submit invoice is: Nebraska Department of Roads, District 1 Headquarters, 302 Superior Street, Lincoln, NE.

**JJ. RIGHT TO AUDIT**

Contractor shall establish and maintain a reasonable accounting system that enables the State to readily audit contract. The State and its authorized representatives shall have the right to audit, to examine, and to make copies of or extracts from all financial and related records (in whatever form they may be kept, whether written, electronic, or other) relating to or pertaining to this contract kept by or under the control of the Contractor, including, but not limited to those kept by the Contractor, its employees, agents, assigns, successors, and Subcontractors. Such records shall include, but not be limited to, accounting records, written policies and procedures; all paid vouchers including those for out-of-pocket expenses; other reimbursement supported by invoices; ledgers; cancelled checks; deposit slips; bank statements; journals; original estimates; estimating work sheets; contract amendments and change order files; backcharge logs and supporting documentation; insurance documents; payroll documents; timesheets; memoranda; and correspondence.

Contractor shall, at all times during the term of this contract and for a period of five (5) years after the completion of this contract, maintain such records, together with such supporting or underlying documents and materials. The

Contractor shall at any time requested by the State, whether during or after completion of this contract and at Contractor's own expense make such records available for inspection and audit (including copies and extracts of records as required) by the State. Such records shall be made available to the State during normal business hours at the Contractor's office or place of business. In the event that no such location is available, then the financial records, together with the supporting or underlying documents and records, shall be made available for audit at a time and location that is convenient for the State. Contractor shall ensure the State has these rights with Contractor's assigns, successors, and Subcontractors, and the obligations of these rights shall be explicitly included in any subcontracts or agreements formed between the Contractor and any Subcontractors to the extent that those subcontracts or agreements relate to fulfillment of the Contractor's obligations to the State.

Costs of any audits conducted under the authority of this right to audit and not addressed elsewhere will be borne by the State unless certain exemption criteria are met. If the audit identifies overpricing or overcharges (of any nature) by the Contractor to the State in excess of one-half of one percent (.5%) of the total contract billings, the Contractor shall reimburse the State for the total costs of the audit. If the audit discovers substantive findings related to fraud, misrepresentation, or non-performance, the Contractor shall reimburse the State for total costs of audit. Any adjustments and/or payments that must be made as a result of any such audit or inspection of the Contractor's invoices and/or records shall be made within a reasonable amount of time (not to exceed 90 days) from presentation of the State's findings to Contractor.

**KK. TAXES**

The State is not required to pay taxes of any kind and assumes no such liability as a result of this solicitation. Any property tax payable on the Contractor's equipment which may be installed in a state-owned facility is the responsibility of the Contractor.

**LL. INSPECTION AND APPROVAL**

Final inspection and approval of all work required under the contract shall be performed by the designated State officials. The State and/or its authorized representatives shall have the right to enter any premises where the Contractor or Subcontractor duties under the contract are being performed, and to inspect, monitor or otherwise evaluate the work being performed. All inspections and evaluations shall be at reasonable times and in a manner that will not unreasonably delay work.

**MM. CHANGES IN SCOPE/CHANGE ORDERS**

The State may, upon the written agreement of Contractor, make changes to the contract within the general scope of the RFP. The State may, at any time work is in progress, by written agreement, make alterations in the terms of work as shown in the specifications, require the Contractor to make corrections, decrease the quantity of work, or make such other changes as the State may find necessary or desirable. The Contractor shall not claim forfeiture of contract by reasons of such changes by the State. Changes in work and the amount of compensation to be paid to the Contractor shall be determined in accordance with applicable unit prices if any, or a pro-rated value.

Corrections of any deliverable, service or performance of work required pursuant to the contract shall not be deemed a modification.

Changes or additions to the contract beyond the scope of the RFP are not permitted..

**NN. SEVERABILITY**

If any term or condition of the contract is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be illegal or in conflict with any law, the validity of the remaining terms and conditions shall not be affected, and the rights and obligations of the parties shall be construed and enforced as if the contract did not contain the particular provision held to be invalid.

**OO. CONFIDENTIALITY**

All materials and information provided by the State or acquired by the Contractor on behalf of the State shall be regarded as confidential information. All materials and information provided by the State or acquired by the Contractor on behalf of the State shall be handled in accordance with federal and state law, and ethical standards. The Contractor must ensure the confidentiality of such materials or information. Should said confidentiality be breached by a Contractor; Contractor shall notify the State immediately of said breach and take immediate corrective action.

It is incumbent upon the Contractor to inform its officers and employees of the penalties for improper disclosure imposed by the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a. Specifically, 5 U.S.C. 552a (i)(1), which is made applicable to Contractors by 5 U.S.C. 552a (m)(1), provides that any officer or employee of a Contractor, who by virtue of his/her employment or official position has possession of or access to agency records which contain individually identifiable information, the disclosure of which is prohibited by the Privacy Act or regulations established thereunder, and who

knowing that disclosure of the specific material is prohibited, willfully discloses the material in any manner to any person or agency not entitled to receive it, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not more than \$5,000.

**PP. PROPRIETARY INFORMATION**

Data contained in the proposal and all documentation provided therein, become the property of the State of Nebraska and the data becomes public information upon opening the proposal. If the bidder wishes to have any information withheld from the public, such information must fall within the definition of proprietary information contained within Nebraska's public record statutes. **All proprietary information the bidder wishes the State to withhold must be submitted in a sealed package, which is separate from the remainder of the proposal, and provide supporting documents showing why such documents should be marked proprietary.** The separate package must be clearly marked PROPRIETARY on the outside of the package. **Bidders may not mark their entire Request for Proposal as proprietary.** Bidder's cost proposals may not be marked as proprietary information. Failure of the bidder to follow the instructions for submitting proprietary and copyrighted information may result in the information being viewed by other bidders and the public. Proprietary information is defined as trade secrets, academic and scientific research work which is in progress and unpublished, and other information which if released would give advantage to business competitors and serve no public purpose (see Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-712.05(3)). In accordance with Attorney General Opinions 92068 and 97033, bidders submitting information as proprietary may be required to prove specific, named competitor(s) who would be advantaged by release of the information and the specific advantage the competitor(s) would receive. Although every effort will be made to withhold information that is properly submitted as proprietary and meets the State's definition of proprietary information, the State is under no obligation to maintain the confidentiality of proprietary information and accepts no liability for the release of such information.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-602.02, all State contracts in effect as of January 1, 2014 will be posted to a public website beginning July 1, 2014. All non-proprietary or confidential information as defined by Law **WILL BE POSTED FOR PUBLIC VIEWING.** Bidders are required to waive copyrights from privilege for posting to the public website.

**QQ. CERTIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT PRICE DETERMINATION/COLLUSIVE BIDDING**

By submission of this proposal, the bidder certifies, that it is the party making the foregoing proposal and that the proposal is not made in the interest of, or on behalf of, any undisclosed person, partnership, company, association, organization, or corporation; that the proposal is genuine and not collusive or sham; that the bidder has not directly or indirectly induced or solicited any other bidder to put in a false or sham proposal, and has not directly or indirectly colluded, conspired, connived, or agreed with any bidder or anyone else to put in a sham proposal, or that anyone shall refrain from bidding; that the bidder has not in any manner, directly or indirectly, sought by agreement, communication, or conference with anyone to fix the proposal price of the bidder or any other bidder, or to fix any overhead, profit, or cost element of the proposal price, or of that of any other bidder, or to secure any advantage against the public body awarding the contract of anyone interested in the proposed contract; that all statements contained in the proposal are true; and further that the bidder has not, directly or indirectly, submitted the proposal price or any breakdown thereof, or the contents thereof, or divulged information or data relative thereto, or paid, and will not pay, any fee to any corporation, partnership, company association, organization, proposal depository, or to any member or agent thereof to effectuate a collusive or sham proposal.

**RR. STATEMENT OF NON-COLLUSION**

The proposal shall be arrived at by the bidder independently and be submitted without collusion with, and without any direct or indirect agreement, understanding or planned common course of action with, any person; firm; corporation; bidder; Contractor of materials, supplies, equipment or services described in this RFP. Bidder shall not collude with, or attempt to collude with, any state officials, employees or agents; or evaluators or any person involved in this RFP. The bidder shall not take any action in the restraint of free competition or designed to limit independent bidding or to create an unfair advantage.

Should it be determined that collusion occurred, the State reserves the right to reject a bid or terminate the contract and impose further administrative sanctions.

**SS. PRICES**

All prices, costs, and terms and conditions outlined in the proposal shall remain fixed and valid commencing on the opening date of the proposal until an award is made (and for bidder receiving award, prices shall remain as bid for the duration of the contract unless otherwise so stated in the contract) or the Request for Proposal is cancelled.

Prices quoted on the cost proposal sheet shall remain firm for the first year of the contract period. After the initial first year contract period, any request for an increase must be submitted in writing to the Nebraska Department of Roads a minimum of 30 days prior to proposed effective date of increase, and must show cause and be

accompanied by supporting documentation. Further documentation may be required by the State, to authenticate the increase. Failure to supply any requested supporting documentation may be grounds to cancel the contract. The State further reserves the right to reject any proposed price increase(s), cancel the contract and re-bid if determined to be in the best interest of the State. The State will be given full proportionate benefit of any decrease for the term of the contract. No price increases are to be billed to Nebraska Department of Roads without prior written approval by the Department.

Contractor represents and warrants that all prices for services, now or subsequently specified are as low as and no higher than prices which the Contractor has charged or intends to charge customers other than the State for the same or similar products and services of the same or equivalent quantity and quality for delivery or performance during the same periods of time. If, during the term of the contract, the Contractor shall reduce any and/or all prices charged to any customers other than the State for the same or similar products or services specified herein, the Contractor shall make an equal or equivalent reduction in corresponding prices for said specified products or services.

Contractor also represents and warrants that all prices set forth in the contract and all prices in addition, which the Contractor may charge under the terms of the contract, do not and will not violate any existing federal, state, or municipal law or regulations concerning price discrimination and/or price fixing. Contractor agrees to hold the State harmless from any such violation. Prices quoted shall not be subject to increase throughout the contract period unless specifically allowed by these specifications.

**TT. BEST AND FINAL OFFER**

The State will compile the final scores for all parts of each proposal. The award may be granted to the lowest responsible bidder. Alternatively, bidders may be requested to submit best and final offers. If best and final offers are requested by the State and submitted by the bidder, they will be evaluated Based on cost. The award will then be granted to the highest scoring bidder. However, a bidder should provide its best offer in its original proposal. Bidders should not expect that the State will request a best and final offer.

**UU. ETHICS IN PUBLIC CONTRACTING**

No bidder shall pay or offer to pay, either directly or indirectly, any fee, commission compensation, gift, gratuity, or anything of value to any State officer, legislator, employee or evaluator based on the understanding that the receiving person's vote, actions, or judgment will be influenced thereby. No bidder shall give any item of value to any employee of the State Purchasing Bureau or any evaluator.

Bidders shall be prohibited from utilizing the services of lobbyists, attorneys, political activists, or consultants to secure the contract. It is the intent of this provision to assure that the prohibition of state contact during the procurement process is not subverted through the use of lobbyists, attorneys, political activists, or consultants. It is the intent of the State that the process of evaluation of proposals and award of the contract be completed without external influence. It is not the intent of this section to prohibit bidders from seeking professional advice, for example consulting legal counsel, regarding terms and conditions of this Request for Proposal or the format or content of their proposal.

If the bidder is found to be in non-compliance with this section of the Request for Proposal, they may forfeit the contract if awarded to them or be disqualified from the selection process.

**VV. INDEMNIFICATION**

**1. GENERAL**

The Contractor agrees to defend, indemnify, hold, and save harmless the State and its employees, volunteers, agents, and its elected and appointed officials ("the indemnified parties") from and against any and all claims, liens, demands, damages, liability, actions, causes of action, losses, judgments, costs, and expenses of every nature, including investigation costs and expenses, settlement costs, and attorney fees and expenses ("the claims"), sustained or asserted against the State, arising out of, resulting from, or attributable to the willful misconduct, negligence, error, or omission of the Contractor, its employees, Subcontractors, consultants, representatives, and agents, except to the extent such Contractor liability is attenuated by any action of the State which directly and proximately contributed to the claims.

**2. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

The Contractor agrees it will, at its sole cost and expense, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the indemnified parties from and against any and all claims, to the extent such claims arise out of, result from, or are attributable to, the actual or alleged infringement or misappropriation of any patent, copyright, trade secret, trademark, or confidential information of any third party by the Contractor or its employees, Subcontractors, consultants, representatives, and agents; provided, however, the State gives the

Contractor prompt notice in writing of the claim. The Contractor may not settle any infringement claim that will affect the State's use of the Licensed Software without the State's prior written consent, which consent may be withheld for any reason.

If a judgment or settlement is obtained or reasonably anticipated against the State's use of any intellectual property for which the Contractor has indemnified the State, the Contractor shall, at the Contractor's sole cost and expense, promptly modify the item or items which were determined to be infringing, acquire a license or licenses on the State's behalf to provide the necessary rights to the State to eliminate the infringement, or provide the State with a non-infringing substitute that provides the State the same functionality. At the State's election, the actual or anticipated judgment may be treated as a breach of warranty by the Contractor, and the State may receive the remedies provided under this RFP.

**3. PERSONNEL**

The Contractor shall, at its expense, indemnify and hold harmless the indemnified parties from and against any claim with respect to withholding taxes, worker's compensation, employee benefits, or any other claim, demand, liability, damage, or loss of any nature relating to any of the personnel provided by the Contractor.

**WW. NEBRASKA TECHNOLOGY ACCESS STANDARDS**

Contractor shall review the Nebraska Technology Access Standards, found at <http://nitc.nebraska.gov/standards/2-201.html> and ensure that products and/or services provided under the contract are in compliance or will comply with the applicable standards. In the event such standards change during the Contractor's performance, the State may create an amendment to the contract to request the contract comply with the changed standard at a cost mutually acceptable to the parties.

**XX. ANTITRUST**

The Contractor hereby assigns to the State any and all claims for overcharges as to goods and/or services provided in connection with this contract resulting from antitrust violations which arise under antitrust laws of the United States and the antitrust laws of the State.

**YY. DISASTER RECOVERY/BACK UP PLAN**

The Contractor shall have a disaster recovery and back-up plan, of which a copy should be provided to the State, which includes, but is not limited to equipment, personnel, facilities, and transportation, in order to continue services as specified under the specifications in the contract in the event of a disaster.

**ZZ. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE**

Time is of the essence in this contract. The acceptance of late performance with or without objection or reservation by the State shall not waive any rights of the State nor constitute a waiver of the requirement of timely performance of any obligations on the part of the Contractor remaining to be performed.

**AAA. RECYCLING**

Preference will be given to items which are manufactured or produced from recycled material or which can be readily reused or recycled after their normal use as per Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-15,159.

**BBB. DRUG POLICY**

Contractor certifies it maintains a drug free work place environment to ensure worker safety and workplace integrity. Contractor agrees to provide a copy of its drug free workplace policy at any time upon request by the State.

**CCC. EMPLOYEE WORK ELIGIBILITY STATUS**

The Contractor is required and hereby agrees to use a federal immigration verification system to determine the work eligibility status of employees physically performing services within the State of Nebraska. A federal immigration verification system means the electronic verification of the work authorization program authorized by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, 8 U.S.C. 1324a, known as the E-Verify Program, or an equivalent federal program designated by the United States Department of Homeland Security or other federal agency authorized to verify the work eligibility status of an employee.

The undersigned duly authorized representative of the Contractor, by signing this agreement, hereby attests to the truth of the following certifications, and agrees as follows:

**Neb.Rev.Stat. § 4-114.** I certify compliance with the provisions of Section 4-114 and, hereby certify that this Contractor shall register with and use a federal immigration verification system to determine the work eligibility

status of new employees physically performing services within the State of Nebraska. I agree to require all subcontractors, by contractual agreement, to require the same registration and verification process.

If the Contractor is an individual or sole proprietorship, the following applies:

1. The Contractor must complete the United States Citizenship Attestation Form, available on the Department of Roads website at <http://www.nebraskatransportation.org/projdev/docs/save/dr289.pdf>.  
The completed United States Attestation Form should be submitted with the Request for Proposal response.
2. If the Contractor indicates on such attestation form that he or she is a qualified alien, the Contractor agrees to provide the US Citizenship and Immigration Services documentation required to verify the Contractor's lawful presence in the United States using the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program.
3. The Contractor understands and agrees that lawful presence in the United States is required and the Contractor may be disqualified or the contract terminated if such lawful presence cannot be verified as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. §4-108.

**DDD. CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION AND INELIGIBILITY**

The Contractor, by signature to this RFP, certifies that the Contractor is not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded by any federal department or agency from participating in transactions (debarred). The Contractor also agrees to include the above requirements in any and all Subcontracts into which it enters. The Contractor shall immediately notify the Department if, during the term of this contract, Contractor becomes debarred. The Department may immediately terminate this contract by providing Contractor written notice if Contractor becomes debarred during the term of this contract.

Contractor, by signature to this RFP, certifies that Contractor has not had a contract with the State of Nebraska terminated early by the State of Nebraska. If Contractor has had a contract terminated early by the State of Nebraska, Contractor must provide the contract number, along with an explanation of why the contract was terminated early. Prior early termination may be cause for rejecting the proposal.

**EEE. POLITICAL SUB-DIVISIONS**

The Contractor may extend the contract to political sub-divisions conditioned upon the honoring of the prices charged to the State. Terms and conditions of the Contract must be met by political sub-divisions. Under no circumstances shall the State be contractually obligated or liable for any purchases by political sub-divisions or other public entities not authorized by Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 81-145, listed as "all officers of the state, departments, bureaus, boards, commissions, councils, and institutions receiving legislative appropriations." A listing of Nebraska political subdivisions may be found at the website of the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts.

**FFF. OFFICE OF PUBLIC COUNSEL**

If it provides, under the terms of this contract and on behalf of the State of Nebraska, health and human services to individuals; service delivery; service coordination; or case management, Contractor shall submit to the jurisdiction of the Office of Public Counsel, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 81-8,240 et seq. This section shall survive the termination of this contract and shall not apply if Contractor is a long-term care facility subject to the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 81-2237 et seq.

**GGG. LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN**

If it is a long-term care facility subject to the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 81-2237 et seq., Contractor shall comply with the Act. This section shall survive the termination of this contract.

**HHH. LICENSE/SERVICE OR OTHER AGREEMENTS**

Any License/Service or other such agreements which the bidder may want the State to consider must be submitted with the bid. Any License/Service or other such agreements submitted to the State post bid opening may result in the bid being rejected in its entirety. Any such agreement, if agreed to by the State, will be considered an addendum to the contract. Any terms and conditions contained in any such accepted agreement (addendum) must not conflict with or alter the State's Terms and Conditions (Terms and Conditions) as contained in the RFP and finalized in the contract. In the event of any conflict between the Terms and Conditions and any addendum the Terms and Conditions will prevail.

The State reserves the right to reject any submitted addendum and considers the submission of any such addendum to be a proposed alteration of the Terms and Conditions.

This clause does not apply to any third party license or service agreements.

Informational Only

#### IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND SCOPE OF WORK

The State of Nebraska Dept. of Roads (NDOR), District 1-Maintenance Superintendent Areas 110, 120, and 130 is requesting proposals for the provision of machine rotary mowing of the Highway Right-of-Way (ROW) performed on all designated areas where vegetation exists beyond the shoulder or pavement edge(s) of the roadway, which may include on and off ramps of interstate interchanges, the interchange areas, and divided highway medians and around delineators and guardrails.

##### A. SCOPE OF WORK

Contractor(s) shall be responsible for providing all labor, equipment, fuel, materials, and insurance, to properly accomplish ROW mowing in accordance with schedules, specifications, and as directed by Department of Roads' district personnel at a bid price per acre as specified in this RFP.

##### B. MOWING PROCEDURES

The work as specified in this request for proposal shall be performed during the mowing season of May 1 through October 31. A mowing cycle shall consist of one complete mowing of the areas designated in the Mowing Schedules (Exhibit 1, 2 and 3). The total estimated acreages are based on four (4) mowing cycles during the mowing season and are not a guaranteed quantity. Weather conditions and road construction or repairs may alter the mowing frequency and estimated acres. The Mowing Schedule contains necessary information such as highway and reference post numbers, designated acreage, superintendent number, etc., in order for the contractor to accomplish his/her work. The contractor shall perform the number of mowing cycles as described in the mowing schedule. The Department reserves the right to increase or decrease the number of mowing cycles. In addition, the Department has the option to amend the Mowing Schedules to include additional locations not specified in the Mowing Schedules (Exhibit 1, 2 and 3) but that are within the District Superintendent's area at the "Optional" bid price per acre as provided by the Contractor on the Contractor's Cost Proposal/Bid Sheet.

**A minimum of two (2) operators and two (2) 15' rotary mowers must be utilized and operated simultaneously during each mowing cycle.** During tractor/mower down time for maintenance or repairs the Contractor must ensure there will be no disruption of service and that the minimum of two (2) operational 15' rotary mowers is maintained. The contractor must notify the Area Maintenance Superintendent of any disruption of service.

The first mowing cycle shall be performed tentatively on May 1. The final mowing cycle shall be performed approximately on September 15th. Intermediate mowing cycles shall be performed as conditions warrant and per the direction of the Area Maintenance Superintendent. If conditions warrant an earlier start or a later finish than the mowing schedule, written and/or verbal authorization must be received from the Department of Roads before any work is performed. Additional mowing cycles shall be performed as directed and approved by NDOR personnel in accordance with the mowing schedule or as conditions warrant.

The Area Maintenance Superintendent will verbally notify the contractor when to begin each mowing cycle. The contractor must begin work within 3 days after notification and complete each mowing cycle within 4 weeks after receiving notification to begin. In the event that inclement weather or road construction prevents the Contractor from completing the mowing cycle within the required time frame, the Contractor must notify the Area Maintenance Superintendent immediately. The contractor will contact the Area Maintenance Superintendent each morning upon their arrival to begin a mowing cycle and advise the Area Maintenance Superintendent of the mile marker location and direction of travel for 511 posting. The contractor shall notify the Area Maintenance Superintendent when a mowing cycle in their specific area is complete and ready for inspection.

A mowing cycle shall be considered complete when it is inspected and accepted by the Area Maintenance Superintendent or his/her appointee. Photos of the area may be taken by the Area Maintenance Superintendent prior to the work beginning and immediately following the completion of the mowing cycle. If all or a portion of a mowing cycle is considered unacceptable, the contractor shall be required to correct the problem area to an acceptable condition, at no additional cost to the Department of Roads. Payment will be made only after the work performed meets the contract requirements.

The acceptable cutting height of vegetation shall be six (6) inches with a variable of +/- one (1) inch and must not be less than five (5) inches from the ground. Blades shall be kept sharp to provide a neat uniform cut across the entire width of the cut area. No stripping, scalping, or shallow cutting will be permitted. In the event that the area mowed is considered unacceptable, the contractor may be required to re-mow the area to correct unsightly conditions, at no additional cost to the Department of Roads. The contractor shall mow as close as possible to all fixed objects without causing damage to the fixed objects.

Mowing operations shall be performed only during the daylight hours, Monday through Friday. In the event of inclement weather, and/or road constructions or repairs that may alter the mowing schedule, the mowing operation may be performed on Saturday and/or Sunday with a minimum of two (2) days advance notice to the Department and with the approval from the Area Maintenance Superintendent.

The mowing activity may need to be conducted through construction zones, and around construction contractor's personnel, equipment, and operation or traffic control devices. Care is to be taken to prevent damage to the construction contractor's equipment and any disruption to the construction operation.

When equipment is not in use, it shall be parked or stored off the pavement or shoulder of the highway in an inconspicuous location no less than 30 feet from the edge of the pavement. The equipment shall be parked or stored so that it will not cause sight distance problems with the traveling public.

**C. EQUIPMENT AND SAFETY FEATURES**

All contractor equipment must be in good working condition and is suitable and safe for the work to be performed. The contractor shall furnish all fuel, oil, and grease for said equipment for operation. Any equipment found to be unsuitable or a hazard to highway users shall be repaired or replaced prior to beginning work. All labor and repairs necessary for repairing equipment will be at the contractor's expense. All rotary-type mowers shall be equipped with skirt guards of metal or chain to restrict foreign objects from being thrown on to the roadway surface. Tractors shall be equipped so as to conform to the Public Convenience and Safety Requirements for Operations on Highways and Streets as specified under the 2007 Standard Specifications for Highway Construction, available @ <http://www.transportation.nebraska.gov/ref-man/> and per OSHA regulations, which include flashing amber lights and slow moving vehicle emblems. The contractor shall equip rotary mowers with fluorescent orange/red, 24-inch diameter flags as an added safety feature. All equipment traveling on the shoulder will have a flashing amber strobe light during hand mowing or any other operation in the performance of this contract. All employees shall wear a safety vest while performing activities within the ROW (delineator, signing and guardrail mowing). The use of batwing mowers shall be limited to areas of sufficient width to allow the operation of all sections of the mowers in the down position at all times. When a mower of any type is being moved from one site to another, with the mower unit raised, the PTO shaft for the mower shall not be engaged.

**D. DAMAGE TO HIGHWAY PROPERTY**

The contractor shall carry out operations in such a manner so as to not damage existing ground areas, trees, shrubs, signs, delineator posts, mail boxes and posts, or other roadside features. Trees outside the fixed obstacle clear zone are an asset to the roadside corridor and shall be protected from immediate and long term damage from vehicles, equipment or materials too close to the trees. Throughout the duration of the contract, no materials, vehicles or equipment shall be allowed to be stored or parked with 25 feet of existing trees 4" caliper or larger, whether standing alone or in groups. The contractor shall not mow in wet conditions where turf damage or rut damage would occur. In the event damage should occur to any of the above-mentioned features, regardless if it is State or private property, the contractor shall replace or repair the damaged areas or items at no cost to the Department of Roads. The operator shall straighten delineators and signs that are bent over during the mowing operations, at the time damage occurs. In the event highway traffic control and/or warning signs are damaged beyond repair, the operator shall notify the Area Maintenance Superintendent immediately so that replacement of the damaged sign(s) can be made. The cost of such repair and/or replacement of damaged State property shall be deducted from any payment due the contractor. The cost of repair and/or replacement of damaged private property shall be the responsibility of the contractor and the property owner, with no involvement of the Department of Roads.

**E. CONSERVATION CONDITIONS / ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT**

The conservation conditions and environmental commitment requirements are outlined and defined in Exhibit 4 titled "Environmental Commitment" and shall be followed by the Contractor throughout the duration of the contract period(s). The NDOR District Environmental Coordinator and District Maintenance Superintendent(s) will serve as NDOR point of contact. Contact information shall be provided to the Contractor upon commencement of the contract.

**F. CONTRACTOR LIABILITY**

The contractor shall assume full liability for hazards to traffic that might be created by the mowing operation and save harmless the Nebraska Department of Roads. Prior to mowing, it is the contractor's responsibility to clear the ROW mowing path of foreign objects such as tires, logs, cans, bottles, excessive vegetation, etc. that may be thrown onto the pavement by the mowing operation and become a hazard to highway users.

**G. ESTIMATED QUANTITY**

The total estimated acreages are based on four (4) mowing cycles during the mowing season and are not a guaranteed quantity. Budget restraints, weather conditions and road construction or repairs may alter the mowing frequency and estimated acres. The mowing schedule includes the necessary information such as highway and reference post numbers, designated acreage, supervisor number, etc., in order for the contractor to accomplish his/her work. The contractor shall perform the number of mowing cycles as described in the mowing schedule or as directed by NDOR district personnel. The Department reserves the right to increase or decrease the number of mowing cycles and has the option to amend the mowing schedule to include additional locations not specified in the mowing schedule that are within each District Superintendent's area. It shall be clearly understood by all parties that the estimated quantities shown are given for the purpose of securing a unit price bid.

**H. PROPOSAL PRICING**

Proposal pricing shall consist of the following:

- 1) Bid price shall be per acre as specified in this RFP.
- 2) Optional bid price shall be per acre as specified in this RFP.

**I. DELIVERABLES**

The Contractor(s) shall provide the service of Right-of-Way (ROW) mowing on all designated areas where vegetation exists beyond the shoulder or pavement edge(s) of the roadway, which may include on and off ramps of interstate interchanges, the interchange areas, and divided highway medians and around delineators and guardrails and as specified in this RFP.

**J. PAYMENT SCHEDULE**

Invoices for payments must be submitted by the contractor to the District requesting the services with sufficient detail to support payment. Invoices submitted for payment shall include the contract number under which the work has been performed and shall include the highway number, nearest mile post number, and total of acres mowed. The contractor's invoice shall be submitted to the Area Maintenance Superintendent for approval. Payment will not be made until the mowing cycle work area has been completed, inspected and approved by the Department.

NDOR will render payment after receiving and certifying that invoicing is correct. No invoice will be approved unless the associated deliverables have been approved.

**K. MOWING REQUIREMENTS**

**1. Interstate, Expressways and Highway ROW Mowing**

**Method of Measurement:** Per Acre

**Equipment:** Rotary mowers only

**Time frame: The contractor must begin work within 3 days of notification from the Area Maintenance Superintendent and complete each mowing cycle within 4 weeks after notification to begin is received.** The contractor will contact the Area Maintenance Superintendent each morning upon arrival to begin a mowing cycle and advise the Area Maintenance Superintendent of the mile marker location and direction of travel for 511 posting. In the event that inclement weather or road construction prevents the Contractor from completing the mowing cycle within the required time frame, the Contractor must notify the Area Maintenance Superintendent immediately. The Contractor shall notify the Area Maintenance Superintendent when a mowing cycle in their specific area is complete and ready for inspection.

- Median: Mow out complete median
- Outside shoulders: Mow out to 15 feet from along the surfaced shoulders.
- Fence line: Mow out a minimum of 10 feet, and a maximum of 15 feet along the ROW fence line (Final mow only).
- Fence Line within city limits: Mow out within 2 feet from the fence line
- Sound Wall: Mow within 3 feet from the sound wall.
- Care is to be taken to prevent damage to Delineators, Sign Posts, Trees and Structures.
- Mow out within a distance of 12" from any culvert or any other obstructions.
- Mow out a maximum of 12" distance from all trees & shrub beds (12" maximum from outside branches if tractor will not clear the branches).
- Mow out a maximum of 12" distance from washouts.
- Mow out within 12" distance from signs & poles.

During the mowing operation, if the grass balls up and/or streaks, the contractor will be required to complete two (2) passes or whatever is necessary to shred the grass into finer pieces at no additional cost to the Nebraska Department of Roads.

The contractor shall be responsible for reseeding all areas torn up by the mowing operation at no additional cost to the Nebraska Department of Roads. The Department will furnish the seed and fertilizer mix that the contractor is to use. Reseeding these areas shall be done at the end of each mowing cycle.

**2. Community Interchange and 4 Way Intersections Mow Out**

**Method of Measurement:** Per Acre

**Time frame:** completed with each ROW mowing cycle.

Mow out the interchanges and ramps from fence to fence including quadrants.

**3. ROW Mowing Around Object Markers, Signs, Culvert Ends, Light Poles, Delineators, And Guardrails**

Mow out within 12" distance from around all object makers, sign posts, culvert ends, light poles, delineators and guardrails located along the surfaced shoulders.

**4. ROW Mowing Around Highway Curves**

Contractor shall mow around delineators and chevron signs that are present on highway curves. The top side of the highway curve shall be mowed an additional 15' cut or double cut around the delineators and chevron signs.

**5. Additional Mowing Cycles**

Additional mowing cycles within any of the specified Maintenance Superintendent Areas identified in Exhibit 1, 2 and 3 "Mowing Schedules" shall be performed as directed and approved by NDOR personnel in accordance with the Mowing Schedule or as conditions warrant.

Examples of additional Mowing:

- A. Wet Season Growth (Additional cut).
- B. Weedy areas
- C. **Total Mow-out** areas where additional mowing is needed for aesthetics.
- D. **Snow Control Mowing** – The final mowing may extend beyond the 15-foot zone for snow control in those areas that require an extra mowing.

**Method of Measurement – Per Acre**

**Form A**

**Bidder Contact Sheet**

**Request for Proposal Number R08-16**

The Bidder Contact Sheet should be completed and submitted with each response to this Request for Proposal. This is intended to provide the State with information on the bidder's name and address, and the specific person(s) who are responsible for preparation of the bidder's response. Each bidder shall also designate a specific contact person who will be responsible for responding to the State if any clarifications of the bidder's response should become necessary. This will also be the person who the State contacts to set up a presentation/demonstration, if required.

Preparation of Response Contact Information	
Bidder Name:	
Bidder Address:	
Contact Person & Title:	
E-mail Address:	
Telephone Number (Office):	
Telephone Number (Cellular):	
Fax Number:	

Each bidder shall also designate a specific contact person who will be responsible for responding to the State if any clarifications of the bidder's response should become necessary. This will also be the person who the State contacts to set up a presentation/demonstration, if required.

Communication with the State Contact Information	
Bidder Name:	
Bidder Address:	
Contact Person & Title:	
E-mail Address:	
Telephone Number (Office):	
Telephone Number (Cellular):	
Fax Number:	

**Form B**

**Notification of Intent to Attend Pre-Proposal Conference**

**Request for Proposal Number R08-16**

Bidder Name:	
Bidder Address:	
Contact Person:	
E-mail Address:	
Telephone Number:	
Fax Number:	
Number of Attendees:	

The "Notification of Intent to Attend Pre-Proposal Conference" form should be submitted to the Nebraska Department of Roads via e-mail ([DOR.OperationsProcurement@nebraska.gov](mailto:DOR.OperationsProcurement@nebraska.gov)), facsimile (402) 4179-4567, hand delivered or US Mail by the date shown in the Schedule of Events.