

# PROCUREMENT SOLICITATION DOCUMENT



## The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS)

A Cooperative Purchasing Program available for membership by Government and Other Entities in all fifty states.

*Lead Agency*



**Region 8 Education Service Center**

4845 US Hwy. 271 North, Pittsburg, Texas 75686 - Toll-free (866) 839-8477

www.tips-usa.com

E-mail: bids@tips-usa.com

## NOTICE TO PROPOSERS

**DEADLINE DATE FOR ALL PROPOSALS TO BE RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY  
or otherwise is:**

**February 17, 2017 at 3:00 P.M. Local Time**

**The solicitation documents may be found at <https://tips.ionwave.net>**

If a problem is encountered accessing the solicitation, please contact TIPS at the address or phone listed above for help.

**This solicitation is a Request for Proposals as permitted in the Texas Education Code § 44.031 for the category:**

**RFP 170102 Comprehensive Facilities Management and Services**

Specifications are below

---

NOTICE: The use of the terms Solicitation, Bid, Request for Proposals, RFP, Request for Competitive Sealed Proposals, RCSP, or other specific terms may not be accurate in legal terminology and should be construed to mean the method of competitive procurement listed above with the legal citation of the source of the procurement method. Example: "This Solicitation is a Request for Proposals as permitted in the Texas Education Code Section 44.031".

## **General Information**

## FINANCING OF TIPS

### **TIPS Vendor Paid Fee for RFP 170102 Comprehensive Facilities Management and Services**

The total cost of the TIPS program, in most cases, is primarily funded through an administration fee paid to TIPS by the awarded contractors. The fee is based on actual vendor project sales. Vendor will pay the fee on the actual invoiced and paid sales to TIPS members. Fees are not assessed to vendors for shipping cost, required bond cost, or any taxes that may be applicable.

TIPS establishes a fee for each solicitation for proposals that is in the best interest of TIPS and its members.

**The fee schedule for agreements awarded under solicitation is 1 %.**

### **Term of Agreement and Renewals**

The initial term of the agreement is one year. Awarded agreements may be renewed on the annual agreement award date for two additional consecutive one year terms if sales have been successfully reported to TIPS and if both parties agree. THIS CLAUSE CONTROLS OVER ANY OTHER TERM IN ANY OTHER PART OF THIS SOLICITATION. TIPS reserved the right to solicit proposals at any time it is in the best interest of TIPS and/or its members.

### **Vendor Questions**

Questions about the specific SOLICITATION shall be submitted to [bids@tips-usa.com](mailto:bids@tips-usa.com) with the following in the subject line: "SOLICITATION NAME #xxxxxx contractor question". Questions of a ministerial nature will be answered without an addendum, but questions of a substantive nature that are not addressed in the SOLICITATION or deemed relevant to the process by TIPS will be addressed by properly posted addendum. **QUESTIONS WILL BE RECEIVED UNTIL February 2, 2017 AT NOON Local Time.**

### **Pre-Bid Meeting (Not Mandatory)**

Where:           Region 8 Education Service Center  
                      4845 U.S. Highway 271 North, Pittsburg, Texas 75686  
                      TIPS Board Room  
Date:             January 19, 2017       Time: 9:00 AM Local Time  
Agenda:          TIPS Overview  
                      TIPS eBid System  
                      SOLICITATION Overview  
                      Questions and Answers  
                      Tour of TIPS Facility

---

## **ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE OF AWARD OR RELATED EVENT:**

<b>Posting Date</b>	<b>January 5, 2017</b>
<b>Proposal available before end of day</b>	<b>January 5, 2017 through February 17, 2017 at 3:00 PM Local Time</b>
<b>Pre-Bid Meeting</b>	<b>January 19, 2017 at 9:00 AM Local Time</b>
<b>Proposal Deadline</b>	<b>February 17, 2017 at 3:00 PM Local Time</b>
<b>Proposal Opening</b>	<b>February 17, 2017 at 3:00 PM Local Time</b>
<b>Proposals Review/Scoring</b>	<b>February 17, 2017 to March 15, 2017</b>
<b>Proposals Award</b>	<b>March 23, 2017</b>
<b>Award Notifications</b>	<b>Begin posting to TIPS Website March 24, 2017</b>
	<b>Contractor may call for results after March 27, 2017</b>
	<b>Award letters will be made available online.</b>
	<b>Non-Award letters will be mailed to contractors with No Awards.</b>

---

## **SPECIFICATIONS and PRICING FORMAT (EXCEL SPREADSHEET)**

Proposals on any reputable manufacturers regularly produced goods falling within the general categories solicited herein will be considered for award. If a name brand is mentioned, it is only to illustrate type and quality and is not intended to restrict competition. Any list included herein is inclusive and not exclusive. There may be other similarly used items that are sold by the responding vendors that may be included as part of the proposing vendor's "catalogue" now or during the life of the contract that are considered included in this RFP. Example: During the life of the contract, models change and new products come to market that are in the same category and are added to the vendor's "catalogue" and are available for purchase by users of the contract provided the catalogue discount or cost markup proposed is honored by the awarded vendor.

TIPS is soliciting proposals for vendors to provide goods items and services listed in the category title of this solicitation and otherwise contained herein. **The following is a list of included items meant to illustrate what we seek vendors to propose.** Since the list of items a vendor may carry is potentially very long, and items are removed and added to the market frequently, it may be more advantageous to propose a **minimum discount** off your catalogue for goods and services. You may offer different discounts for different brands or lines of goods if you choose.

**A zero discount off catalogue proposal is permitted, but** TIPS encourage vendors to propose the best discount they feel is necessary to compete with other retailers to provide the greatest benefit to TIPS members.

You may propose all goods as a line item list if you prefer but the PREFERRED proposal method is a minimum discount off catalogue prices. Line item proposal prices may only be increased by either the markup method or by application of the US Department of Labor (General (not industry specific) Consumer Price Index (CPI) percentage increase applied annually, so proposing the discount off catalogue price may provide easier price adjustments but ensures that they are applied fairly to all customers of the vendor because they are published for all customers to see. **You may propose, both discount off a catalogue AND line item pricing for specific lists of items if you choose to.** Caution: Using the Markup method of pricing require the proposer to make available to TIPS or its members proof of the cost of the item to the proposer to verify the markup is applied according to the terms of this solicitation ad resulting award.

You may stipulate different discounts off or markups on specific brands or lines of goods if you desire.

Types of items that may be included in your proposal would include, but not limited to, things like:

## **Proposal Submission and Evaluation**

### **Specifications Section 1**

Comprehensive Facilities Services and Management includes, but is not limited to, Full Service Facilities Management, Maintenance, Custodial, Janitorial, Grounds, Uniform Services and Management, and Facilities Management Software and Systems and Related Services. Proposals by any reputable service provider for such services or services of a similar nature and substantially equivalent will be considered. The list below is inclusive and not exclusive. There may be other similar services that are sold by the responding Vendors that may be included as part of the proposing Vendor's "service offering" now or during the life of the contract that are considered included in this RFP. Example: During the life of the contract, services change and new products come to market that are in the same category and are added to the Vendor's "service offering" and are available for purchase by users of the contract. Your published catalogue price for the new service or good will be applied to the discount you propose for the future pricing basis.

TIPS is soliciting proposals for Vendors to provide Comprehensive Facilities Services and Management; inclusive of Full Service Facilities Management, Maintenance, Custodial,

Janitorial, Grounds, Uniform Services and Management, and Facilities Management Software and Systems and Related Services. The following is a list of included services meant to illustrate what TIPS seek Vendors to propose. Since the list of services a Vendor may offer is variable, and services are removed and added to the market frequently, it may be more advantageous to propose a **minimum discount** off your published catalogue or specifically proposed base services and rates. You may offer different discounts for different services or lines of products and services if you choose. For instance, in different geographic areas your company may have different service offering and service rates available to TIPS members. Please explicitly define your company's services, rates and pricing matrix.

Examples of these services are Full Service Maintenance, Custodial and Grounds is defined as the Vendor operating as a separate entity using the TIPS member's facilities to operate and administer the contract in accordance with the contract agreement. At a level of quality acceptable to the TIPS member, services provided may include, **but not be limited to:**

- Plant Operation and Maintenance
- Custodial
- Grounds
- Scheduled and Non-scheduled Projects
- Kitchens
- Employee Relations
- Work Orders
- Audio-Visual Systems and Equipment Repair
- Preventive Maintenance
- Facility Improvement
- Comprehensive Facilities Services and Management
- Janitorial Services
- Custodial Services
- Facilities Maintenance and Operations Services
- Grounds Management
- Athletic Field and Athletic Facility Management
- Uniform Services
- Concession Operations
- Pest Control Management
- Parking Management
- Administrative and Management Services for the Facilities Services
- Value Added Services Related to Facilities Management
- Hiring, training, development, and retention of the Vendor staff, all of which shall be on the Vendor's payroll and covered by the Vendor's total fringe benefit program;
- Quality control;
- Operational and technical support;
- Financial management and reporting of departments covered by the contract;

- Transportation cost of all employees other than the agreed upon purchases of vehicle fleet; and
- Personnel, supplies, materials, inventories, insurance and technical support necessary for the performance of a FULL-SERVICE contract.

Proposer may propose any relevant services and with various components that may be included in typical contracts in this category.

- Note: Food Service Operations- It is anticipated that this solicitation will not comply with the procurement rules for the Federal Child Nutrition Programs, however the TIPS member is ultimately responsible for determining if the procurement through this solicitation is suitable for any specific funding source and the TIPS member's determination on applicability of this solicitation for their use is solely with the TIPS member's discretion.
- Food Service Operations purchases pursuant to this solicitation utilizing funding with other than Federal Child Nutrition Funds, is likely permissible under this solicitation.

A catalogue is defined here.

**"Catalogue"** means the available list of services, in the most current listing, regardless of date, during the life of the contract, which takes the form of a catalogue, price list, schedule, or other form that:

- A. is regularly provided by the service firm or Vendor of a service; And
- B. is either published or otherwise available for a customer during the purchase process;
- C. to which the minimum discount proposed by the proposing Vendor may be applied.

**A zero discount off catalogue proposal is permitted, but** TIPS encourage Vendors to propose the best discount they feel is necessary to compete with other retailers to provide the greatest benefit to TIPS members.

You may propose all services and goods as a line items list if you prefer but the PREFERRED proposal method is a minimum discount off published service rates.

### **PRICING FORMAT (1) (EXCEL SPREADSHEET)**

DO NOT PROPOSE "PRICE TO BE DETERMINED".

There is one (1) section in the Excel sheet provided in the solicitation documents, please complete all that are applicable to your proposal. The discount off catalogue price is the preferred method and please propose that method in addition to any other method you desire.

Example: If you are providing a line item pricing sheet AND a discount off the rest of your catalogue, be sure to provide both the line item prices on the list of items proposed and a minimum discount off the rest of your catalogue. If different sections of your catalogue have different minimum discounts, please note accordingly.

### **IMPORTANT: PRICING FORMAT**

**PROPOSERS DO NOT HAVE TO USE THE EXCEL PRICING SHEET BUT-**

**Proposers may provide pricing in any format but all pricing MUST be firm and calculable at any time during the life of the award. EXAMPLE: If you propose to provide vacuuming service, you should price it in some unit of calculable measure, such as, vacuuming carpeted surfaces are \$xx per square foot per each time**

**performed.** By pricing all your services in this manner, regardless of the number of time it is vacuumed each, day week, month or year, the price is calculable. You may provide additional prices for quantity or volume of each task. Or have a base price for the minimum quantity and show a discount percentage or rate for larger volumes of work. Each task the proposer is offering under this solicitation must be priced in a calculable manner such as this or other similar method.

### **CONTRACT PRICE ADJUSTMENT**

Commencing with the second annual period and continuing for each succeeding annual period thereafter, the contract price and installment payments of the contract price may be adjusted on an annual basis by a percentage equal to the annual percentage increase, if any, of the Consumer Price Index, <http://www.bls.gov/cpi/>, during the contiguous twelve (12) month period immediately predating the first day of the current annual period. Adjustments may only be made annually at the anniversary of the awarded contract execution date. Should the applicable CPI decrease, the Contract Price shall not change from the previous annual period.

### **Additional Qualifications**

#### **STAFFING/PERSONNEL**

All personnel shall be employees of the Vendor and shall be compensated directly by the Vendor. Vendor shall process the payroll for such employees with its own personnel unless otherwise approved by the TIPS member.

Background checks, including fingerprinting, shall be performed prior to hiring any applicant, or subcontractor and subcontractor employees. Vendor shall perform all criminal history record checks according to the TIPS Member applicable policies, laws and regulations.

Each party shall be solely responsible for all personnel actions regarding employees on its respective payroll. Each party shall withhold all applicable federal, state, and local employment taxes and payroll insurance with respect to its employees, insurance premiums, contributions to benefit and deferred compensation plans, licensing fees, and worker's compensation cost and shall file all required documents and forms. The Vendor shall indemnify, defend, and hold the TIPS member harmless from and against any claims, liabilities, and expenses related to or arising out of the Vendor's responsibilities set forth in the contract agreement.

If pricing is per hour, the Vendor will be required to provide a time recording system to accurately reflect the actual hours worked and made available to TIPS member officials as needed for periodic review.

The Vendor shall be responsible for adjusting staff hours to accommodate all school functions without receiving additional compensation.

## **GOVERNMENTAL REGULATIONS**

The Vendor will be familiar with and advise the TIPS member about federal, state and local regulations and laws concerning work place hazards and laws. These will include but not be limited to asbestos abatement, lead in drinking water, radon gas, PCB's, disposal of chemical wastes, training of employees to use hazardous chemicals, electrical, gas regulations/testing regulations, accommodations for the handicapped, and fire and general safety. The Vendor must be responsible for, and show evidence of experience with, reports and submittals as required by federal, state and local governments.

## **TRAINING**

The Vendor shall supply classroom and on-the-job training for managerial, supervisory, technical, clerical, skilled/craft and custodial supervisory personnel. A written list of types of programs along with the program content and employees attending the training is to be provided to the TIPS member on a semi-annual basis at the Joint Review Committee meeting.

## **EQUIPMENT/MATERIALS**

It is expected that the Vendor will provide all necessary equipment and supplies when contracting to provide services to a TIPS member, but the negotiated services agreement between the Vendor and the TIPS member may provide for other terms.

## **QUALITY OF SERVICE**

Vendor shall provide a quality of service described in the proposed agreement and the proposal should include provisions for quality control and evaluation and by the TIPS member and the Vendor.

Vendor should propose a method or list of possible methods of conflict resolution regarding their services with the TIPS member.

## **INSURANCE**

Vendor Insurance: Vendor shall obtain and keep in force during the term of the Agreement, WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE, in conformance with the state of Texas laws. Vendor shall obtain and keep in force during the term of this Agreement, Comprehensive General Bodily Injury and Property Damage Liability Insurance, with a combined single limit of not less than deemed by TIPS Member per occurrence including, but not limited to, Personal Injury Liability, Broad Form Property Damage Liability, Blanket Contractual Liability and Products Liability, covering the operations and activities of the Vendor under the agreement. TIPS member shall be named as additional insured.

## **AUDIT**



The Vendor must agree to an annual audit by an outside firm of the TIPS member's choosing. The scope of the audit shall be determined by the TIPS member and at the expense of the Vendor.

The successful Vendor must agree to provide to the auditor, TIPS member, the applicable Agency, the Comptroller General of the United States, or any other duly authorized governmental representatives access to any books, documents, papers, and records of the Vendor which are directly pertinent to that specific contract for the purpose of making audit, examination, excerpts, and transcriptions.

## **VENDOR QUALIFICATIONS**

Each Vendor shall submit for consideration such record of work and further evidence as may be required by the TIPS member regarding experience, financial standing and assurance that they have, or will promptly provide suitable expertise, personnel, supplies and adequate inventories to satisfactorily complete the work specified. The qualification data shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- The Vendor must be licensed to do business in the State of the TIPS Member.
- The Vendor must be presently operating a successful "management service" or "full service" maintenance program, which includes the employment by contract of a staff of full time employees, at locations within the United States of America.

## **PRICING FORMAT (EXCEL SPREADSHEET)**

**DO NOT PROPOSE "PRICE TO BE DETERMINED".**

There are two (2) sections in the Excel sheet provided in the solicitation documents, please complete all that are applicable to your proposal. The discount off catalogue price is the preferred method and please propose that method in addition to any other method you desire to cover future item or service availability.

Example: IF you are providing a line item pricing sheet AND a discount off the rest of your catalogue, be sure to provide both the line item prices on the list of items proposed and a minimum discount off the rest of your catalogue. If different sections of your catalogue have different minimum discounts, please note accordingly.

**Excel sheet provided in electronic solicitation in ION Wave bidding site for TIPS.**

List any other services, maintenance agreements, mileage fees, travel costs, etc. with line item pricing for years One, Two and Three of the awarded contract AND/OR discount off Catalogue price as defined above.

**Vendor may provide additional pricing in another format.**

ALL PRICING SHALL BE FIRM AND CALCULABLE AT THE TIME OF SALE DURING THE LIFE OF THE CONTRACT AND MUST COMPLY WITH THE VENDOR'S PROPOSED PRICING MODEL IN RESPONSE TO THE ORIGINAL SOLICITATION. DO NOT PROPOSE "PRICE TO BE DETERMINED".

Example: Proposed catalogue, web or store price for an item is \$10.00 each and your proposed minimum discount is 5%, then the price is firm and calculable as \$9.50.

Please provide any explanatory information on your pricing proposal you believe is necessary to fully inform TIPS of your intent.

### **Service Incidental to the Sale of Goods**

Many times, the sale of goods may be accompanied by the installation or set up of said goods. Proposers may submit pricing for the services in the spreadsheet or in an attachment.

**Any and All Services may be proposed, but must be priced either as a line item or as a discount off the published Catalogue price for said services. You may provide a catalogue of services or a link to the available services or you may create a TIPS-specific Catalogue list of services with applicable pricing. Please specify or illustrate your chosen method.**

**If Line item goods pricing, and during the life of the award, prices may be increased only commensurate, dollar for dollar as your cost for the item increases. To increase the price of a line item prices good, vendor must submit proof from the manufacturer or distributor that the pricing has increased and by how much.**

**NOTE: FAILURE TO PROPOSE SERVICES SHALL EXCLUDE THEM FROM YOUR OFFERING THROUGH THIS AWARD SO, PLEASE INCLUDE THEM IN SOME CALCULABLE WAY. YOU MAY PROVIDE A PERCENTAGE DISCOUNT OFF POSTED PRICES OR CATALOGUE PRICES FOR THE LOCATION OF THE STORE OR IN SOME SPECIFIC MANNER THAT FITS YOUR BUSINESS MODEL.**

Pricing Spreadsheet must be downloaded from the "Attachments" section, completed and uploaded to the "Response Attachments" PRICING SPREADSHEET. If you decide not to use the supplied spreadsheet pricing form, you must submit a substitute form you have created that encompasses all the required pricing criteria you are proposing.

### **Pricing for Line Items or Catalogue**

It is the intention of TIPS to establish an agreement to furnish and/or deliver all goods and services provided by awarded vendors to its members. Proposers are requested to submit a proposal for offering their complete and total line of available products and services to governmental entities, including school districts.

If a name brand is mentioned in the specifications, proposals on any reputable manufacturer's regularly produced equipment of such items of a similar nature or similarly used and substantially equivalent will be considered.

The list or category of goods or services sought by this solicitation is inclusive and not exclusive. There may be other similarly used items that are sold by the responding vendors that may be included as part of the proposing vendor's "catalogue" now or during the life of the agreement that are considered included in this solicitation and subject to the minimum discount proposed. Pricing may also be exclusively line item pricing or in combination with a minimum catalogue discount.

Example: During the life of the agreement, models change and new products come to market that are in the same category and are added to the vendor's "catalogue" and are available for purchase by users of the agreement.

### **Definition of "catalogue"**

"Catalogue" means the available list of tangible personal property or services, in the most current listing, regardless of date, during the life of the contract, that takes the form of a catalogue, price list, schedule, shelf price or other form that:

- A. is regularly maintained by the manufacturer or vendor of an item; and
- B. is either published or otherwise available for inspection by a customer during the purchase process;
- C. to which the minimum discount proposed by the proposing vendor may be applied.

### **Adding New or Replacement Goods Items During the Life of the Agreement**

Requires proposing a Discount off (PREFERRED MODEL) catalogue prices for goods or a markup on vendor's cost of a good item.

**Pay Careful Attention to This When Completing the Pricing spreadsheet or your proposed pricing sheet.**

### **Adding New or Replacement Services During the Life of the Agreement**

Requires proposing a Discount off (PREFERRED MODEL) catalogue prices for goods because there is no manufacturer or supplier's price in which to apply a markup percentage.

**Pay Careful Attention to This When Completing the Pricing spreadsheet.**

### **Explanation:**

Markup on cost

When proposing a markup on cost model, the vendor shall be required to provide proof of actual cost to the vendor of the goods sold to verify pricing markup is properly and legally applied for the sale of the goods.

**NEW ITEMS:** TIPS will allow the addition of new goods items to be added to the agreement when they become available to the market through the vendor under the discount off published pricing model or markup on cost model. You must stipulate a discount or markup on catalogue price in the appropriate section of the pricing Excel sheet to be eligible for this option. You may stipulate discount off specific brands or lines of goods if you desire. Be thorough and concise. Any items added must be available to all customers, within legal or contractual limitations, if any. (Example: Apple products are not permitted to be sold to the education market but may be sold to other government customers.)

**REPLACEMENT OF DISCONTINUED OR LIMITED AVAILABILITY ITEMS:** When proposing a Line Item pricing model - TIPS will allow replacement items to the original list item if it is no longer manufactured or is available in limited quantities. Limited availability must be documented by a letter from the manufacturer. Vendor may replace it with an item of like kind and quality and the price will remain the same as proposed, except if it is cheaper, vendor shall lower the price accordingly and if it is more expensive due to vendor's actual cost from the manufacturer, it will be priced with the same markup as the item it replaces. Vendor shall be required to prove the cost and markup if the cost is higher than the original core list price to customer.

**You may propose, both discount off or markup AND line item pricing if you choose to.**

### **PROPOSAL SCORING AND EVALUATION**

A qualified evaluation committee will evaluate and score all proposals. Recommendations for award will be made to the Region 8 Education Service Center Board of Directors. Awards will be granted or denied at the monthly stated meeting of the Region 8 ESC Board of Directors. TIPS will base a recommendation for award on several factors mandated by the Texas Education Code section 44.031. The factors which will be considered and weighted points in each area as follows (100 total points):

TIPS shall use a final overall scoring system to include consideration for competitive pricing, best value price and cost evaluation. TIPS reserves the right to assign any number of point awards or penalties it considers warranted if a offeror stipulates exceptions, exclusions, or limitations of liabilities. Strong consideration will be given to the best value price as it relates to the products and services. However, price is ultimately only one of the factors taken into consideration in the evaluation and award. TIPS shall reserve the right to reject any or all proposals or any part of any proposal.

The following evaluation criteria are mandated for consideration by Texas Education Code § 44.031 (b).

1. Purchase Price: (32) point weight. Per prices quoted as related to information within the request for proposals and the discount off MSRP or other published list pricing or stated prices of goods.
2. The reputation of the vendor and of the vendor's goods or services; (1) point weight. References and TIPS staff knowledge and any other available information known to TIPS may be used to score this criterion.
3. The quality of the vendor's goods or services; (30) point weight. References and TIPS staff knowledge and any other available information known or available through the RFP or otherwise to TIPS may be used to score this criterion.
4. The total long-term cost to TIPS and its members to acquire the vendor's goods or services; (1) point weight. Same as 1 above as there is no objective long term cost on this type of award.
5. Extent to which the Goods or Services meet the Needs: (31) point weight. TIPS evaluators will determine if the proposal provides value to TIPS members and if the goods and/or services offered by the proposer meets the needs outlined in the solicitation.
6. Vendor's Past Relationship: (5) point weight –Only experience within the past 5 years will be evaluated unless otherwise specified. No past relationship is 2.5 points and a good relationship is 2.6 to 5 points and a poor relationship is 0 to 2.4 points
7. Impact on the Ability of the District to Comply with Laws and Rules Relating to Historically Underutilized Businesses: (0) point weight – There are no Texas laws that apply to this procurement but since federal funds are anticipated to be utilized during the life of this contract, the proposer should agree to abide by the federal regulations in the forms contained in this SOLICITATION document related to underutilized businesses in its subcontracting practices. This factor has been considered and due to the foregoing, no points will be assigned. NOTE: Failure to agree to comply with the federal regulations in the forms herein shall make use of federal funds to purchase the goods or services proposed unallowable.
8. Residency: for a contract for goods and services, ***other than goods and services related to telecommunications and information services, building construction and maintenance, or instructional materials***, whether the vendor or the vendor's ultimate parent company or majority owner:  
(A) has its principal place of business in this state; or  
(B) employs at least 500 persons in this state; and

(0) point weight- federal funds may be utilized by ESC Region 8 or TIPS member entities during the life of this contract, and residency is a prohibited criterion under federal regulation, it has been considered and assigned a weight of 0 points.

**PROPOSERS FALLING BELOW AN 80-point THRESHOLD WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR AN AWARD.**

# About TIPS

TIPS agreements are available for use by all schools, colleges, universities, cities, counties and other government entities in all fifty states if permitted by the jurisdictions of the governmental entities.

It is the purpose of this SOLICITATION to establish awarded vendor agreements to satisfy the procurement needs of participating member entities in this particular commodity category. These awarded agreements will enable member entities to purchase on an “as needed” basis from competitively awarded agreements with high performance vendors. Proposers are requested to submit a proposal for offering their line of available products that are commonly purchased by government agencies, cities, counties and educational entities.

- Awards will be made to the successful proposer(s) for the products and/or services. (Unless proposer has submitted inappropriate items for the commodity category. Those items will not be awarded. Example: a software company may not propose to perform construction work)
- TIPS reserves the right to award multiple vendors for each solicitation.
- This proposal is requested for the benefit of the current list of members and other new members as they execute TIPS membership Agreements in the future. Member List: <http://www.tips-usa.com/assets/documents/docs/membership.pdf>
- TIPS reserves the right to extend the proposal deadline for any reason.
- TIPS reserves the right to make changes to this Solicitation by way of one or more posted addenda.

## Benefits of TIPS

- Provide government entities opportunities for greater efficiency and economy in acquiring goods and services through competitively procured vendor agreements.
- Provide comprehensive purchasing practices according the Laws of the State of Texas and Federal Regulation 2 CFR part 200, when appropriate, and is designed to result in competitive agreements that meet a wide variety of needs.
- Provide competitively priced purchasing options for multiple government entities that yields economic benefits usually unobtainable by the individual entity.
- Provide quick and efficient delivery of goods and services by entering into pricing agreements with “high performance” vendors.
- Equalized purchasing power for smaller entities.
- Maintain credibility and confidence in business procedures by maintaining free, full and open competition for purchases and by complying with purchasing laws and ethical business practices.
- Provide document retention for competitive procurement process for all TIPS Awarded Agreements.

## Customer Service

- TIPS staff is available to members for assistance in viewing/contacting awarded vendors for categories to make purchases and agreement decisions.
- TIPS provides a way for government entities to avoid the time and expense of seeking competition for purchases on an agency-by-agency basis.
- TIPS enables vendors to become more efficient and competitive by reducing the number of proposals that require responses to be made to individual entities.

## Purchasing Procedures

- Agreements are established through free, full and open competition as described by the laws of the State of Texas and are available for piggy-back by other government entities anywhere in the United States, subject to each entities' jurisdictional law and regulation. Purchase orders or equivalent are issued by participating governmental entities directly to the Vendor or vendor assigned dealer. Purchase orders or equivalent are usually sent to the TIPS office where they are reviewed by the TIPS staff and forwarded to the Vendor within one working day. In some instances, the entity may send the purchase orders or equivalent directly to the vendor and report the purchase to TIPS.
- [NOTE: It is always the vendor's responsibility under the TIPS agreement to report all sales under the agreement to TIPS.](#)
- Vendors deliver goods/services directly to the participating member agency and then invoice the participating member agency. The Vendor receives payment directly from the participating member agency.

## Notice of Confidentiality of Proposed Information

The proposal submitted and all information therein is available to TIPS members. Also, according to the Texas Public Information Act, any documents or information held by TIPS "may" be public information. In the documents for the proposer to complete is a declaration form entitled "CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT REQUESTS OF EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER REGION 8 AND TIPS IS GOVERNED BY TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, CHAPTER 552" that must be completed by the proposer that designates specified pages as confidential or waives confidentiality of the entire proposal.

# Proposal Instructions

1. Electronically sealed proposals are the preferred and most accurate method and is highly encouraged through our online procurement software, ION Wave.
2. Proposals may be amended at any time prior to the due date and time. ION wave permits you to withdraw and resubmit your proposal.
3. If an addendum is posted, you are required to login to the ION Wave bidding software and address the addendum. No addendum will be issued within five calendar days of the opening unless it is to extend the opening or address a non-substantive issue. Legal



holidays not counted as calendar days are New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, Easter, Memorial Day, July 4<sup>th</sup>, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas.

4. Proposals may be submitted on any or all sections, related to the category, unless stated otherwise. TIPS reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to accept any proposal(s) deemed advantageous to the TIPS members and to waive any informality in the proposal process.
5. Deviations to any Terms, Conditions and/or Specifications shall be clearly noted in writing by the contractor and shall be included with the proposal.
6. Withdrawal of proposals will not be allowed for a period of 90 days following the opening unless approved by TIPS.
7. Addenda, if required, will be issued by TIPS to all those known to have reviewed the SOLICITATION documents through our electronic bidding software, ION Wave.

**PROPOSAL FORMAT - PROPOSERS PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO DETAILS LISTED.**

TIPS reserves the right to waive any informality and/or reject any or all proposals.

All responses should be direct, concise, complete, and unambiguous. With regard to those items that cannot be answered in the affirmative, clearly explain the precise portion to which you disagree and why you disagree. Proposers must propose pricing that is calculable based on the prices presented or discounts proposed as they relate to a published price of the goods or services. Published prices are prices that are provided by a catalog, website, shelf, price list accessible to TIPS and its members at any time during the term of an awarded agreement with the vendor or specifically proposed. Other methods of publishing prices will be considered if proposed but must be calculable.

**Felony Conviction Notice (Required in Texas) -Notification of Criminal History** “A person or business entity that enters into an agreement with a school district must give advance notice to the district if the person or an owner or operator of the business entity has been convicted of a felony. The notice must include a general description of the conduct resulting in the conviction of a felony. A school district may terminate an agreement with a person or business entity if the district determines that the person or business entity failed to give notice as required or misrepresented the conduct resulting in the conviction. The district must compensate the person or business entity for services performed before the termination of the agreement.” This notice is not required of a publicly held corporation. Texas Education Code § 44.034. See FELONY CONVICTION NOTICE document on the “Attachments” tab. Felony conviction notice document must be uploaded to the “Response Attachments” FELONY CONVICTION NOTICE section.

**References**

The proposal response should contain a minimum of Three (3) references of customers you have served that would be considered eligible for membership in TIPS (i.e. K-12 School Districts, College/Universities, and/or City/County Government Entities, Water or Fire Districts, etc.). In

addition to the name of the entity, a contact name, email and phone number shall be included. The references document must be downloaded from the “Attachments” section, completed and uploaded to the “Response Attachments” REFERENCES section.

### **Resellers/Dealers**

Vendors with Resellers/Dealers must provide the Resellers/Dealers document from the “Attachments” section, complete and uploaded to the “Response Attachments” RESELLERS/DEALERS section.

### **Vendor Certifications**

Vendor certifications will include applicable D/M/WBE, HUB and manufacturer certifications for sales and service (if applicable). Certificates must be scanned and uploaded to the “Response Attachments” D/M/WBE, HUB and/or ALL OTHER CERTIFICATES section. Whether or not you are a D/M/WBE, HUB or similar business will have no bearing on the evaluation score, but provides our members the information if it is part of their entities’ policies.

There is a form that relates to all vendors that is required by Federal Regulation when federal funds are expended by a member. Vendors should complete all requested forms agreeing to comply with regulations.

### **Vendor Agreement**

Vendor Agreement must be downloaded from the “Attachments” section, completed and uploaded to the “Response Attachments” VENDOR AGREEMENT section.

### **Agreement Signature Form**

Agreement Signature Form must be downloaded from the “Attachments” section, completed, signed, scanned and uploaded to the “Response Attachments” AGREEMENT SIGNATURE FORM section.

### **Warranty (If applicable)**

Warranty documentation must be scanned and uploaded to the “Response Attachments” WARRANTY section.

### **Protest Procedure**

If a contractor/proposer (contractor) desires to protest a process or decision by TIPS, the contractor must follow the following process:

[http://www.tips-usa.com/assets/documents/docs/letters/Protest\\_Procedures\\_for\\_Vendor.pdf](http://www.tips-usa.com/assets/documents/docs/letters/Protest_Procedures_for_Vendor.pdf)

### **Supplementary Catalogs and Information (If applicable)**

Supplementary Catalogs and Information documentation must be scanned and uploaded to the “Response Attachments” SUPPLEMENTARY section. You may provide a link to catalogues or pricing that is published for all customers to see when shopping for your goods or services.

Links to catalogue pricing must be kept current during the term of the awarded agreement. It is the intent of TIPS to award a manufacturer's complete line of products, when possible.

**LIMITATIONS OF THE SOLICITATION AND THE USE OF AWARDED AGREEMENTS BY MEMBERS**  
**Depending on different entities' and jurisdictions' laws and regulations, members may be prohibited from participating in one or more of the TIPS agreements. TIPS has no control over those legal restrictions and does not warrant that a member entity will be able to utilize a TIPS awarded agreement.**

## Terms and Conditions

1. **Exclusivity**- Any award under this solicitation is not exclusive and TIPS reserves the right to multi award or not award. TIPS reserves the right to solicit same or similar categories again for additional awards during the life of an existing agreement with one or more awarded vendors of another solicitation, if TIPS decides it is in the best interest of our members.
2. **Confidentiality of Proposal** - If you believe part of your proposal is confidential and not subject to sunshine laws such as the Public Information Act, there is a form to complete to make such a declaration. Read it carefully.
3. **Best and Final Offer** – There will be NO best and final offer, your proposal will be your final offer for solicitation competition purposes. Vendor may lower prices at any time during agreement period. See pricing section.
4. **Non-Responsive Proposals:** All proposals will be reviewed for responsiveness to the material requirements of the solicitation. A proposal that is not materially responsive shall not be eligible for further consideration for award of the agreement. There may be required specifications for this proposal and desired and other specifications. IF YOUR PROPOSAL FAILS TO MEET ANY OF THE DESIGNATED **REQUIRED** SPECIFICATIONS, YOUR PROPOSAL SHALL BE DEEMED NON-RESPONSIVE AND WILL NOT BE EVALUATED FURTHER OR CONSIDERED FOR AWARD.
5. **Deviations and Exceptions:** Deviations or exceptions stipulated as non-negotiable in the response by the proposer may result in disqualification if they are not acceptable to TIPS.
6. **Equal Pricing** – Pricing proposed shall be provided to any TIPS member and regardless of the quantity of product or service purchased from the awarded vendor. Pricing may always be lowered by the vendor if circumstances permit to provide better value to TIPS members and for the vendor to be more competitive in that particular circumstance of sales opportunity. If prices are lowered in a specific circumstance, the same lowered pricing must be offered to all TIPS members if the quantities, timing and all other circumstances are identical.

7. **Estimated Quantities:** Because TIPS cannot accurately anticipate which members will utilize the awarded agreements due to the thousands of members and the different government entity types, TIPS makes no guarantee or commitment of any kind concerning quantities or usage of agreements resulting from this solicitation. This information, if provided, is provided solely as an aid to vendors in preparing proposals only. The successful Vendor(s) discount and pricing schedule shall apply regardless of the total cumulative volume of business under the agreement.
8. **Conditions of Agreement** - The terms and conditions of this solicitation shall control in the order that best serves the TIPS members' needs and deciding the controlling order is at the sole discretion of TIPS. The terms and conditions of this solicitation shall be incorporated by reference in a resulting agreement unless expressly agreed otherwise by the parties in writing.
9. **Name brands** – If name brands are required to be priced but other products of equal or similar type and quality may also be represented in the pricing and will be considered. TIPS want pricing either in a fixed price or a discount off published price or both if applicable to your proposal. A published price is defined as catalog, website, shelf or other production of pricing for goods or services offered by the proposer.
10. **Evaluation** – TIPS will evaluate the best value by rating the proposals submitted by the vendors. The point score received will be the weighted score which will be used to determine awarded vendors. See Evaluation criteria sheet with applicable point weights in this document. If applicable, extensions of unit prices shown will be subject to verification by the district. In case of variation between the unit price and the extension, the unit price will be considered to be the proposal.
11. **LIMITATION OF LIABILITY – Waiver:** BY SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL, OFFERER EXPRESSLY AGREES TO WAIVE ANY CLAIM IT HAS OR MAY HAVE AGAINST BOTH THE INTERLOCAL PURCHASING SYSTEM REGION 8 EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER, ITS DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, ITS TRUSTEES, OR AGENTS ARISING OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH (1) THE ADMINISTRATION, EVALUATION, RECOMMENDATION OF ANY PROPOSAL; (2) ANY REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE SOLICITATION, PROPOSAL PACKAGE, OR RELATED DOCUMENTS; (3) THE REJECTION OF ANY PROPOSAL OR ANY PART OF ANY PROPOSAL; AND/OR (4) THE AWARD OF AN AGREEMENT, IF ANY. NEITHER REGION 8 ESC NOR TIPS SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE OR LIABLE FOR ANY COSTS INCURRED BY PROPOSERS OR THE SELECTED CONTRACTOR IN CONNECTION WITH RESPONDING TO THE SOLICITATION, PREPARING FOR ORAL PRESENTATIONS, PREPARING AND SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL, ENTERING OR NEGOTIATING THE TERMS OF AN AGREEMENT, OR ANY OTHER EXPENSES INCURRED BY A PROPOSER. THE PROPOSER OR SELECTED CONTRACTOR IS WHOLLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY SUCH COSTS AND EXPENSES AND SHALL NOT BE REIMBURSED IN ANY MANNER BY REGION 8 ESC OR TIPS.
12. **RESERVATION OF RIGHTS** - TIPS expressly reserves the right to:

- a) Reject or cancel any or all proposals;
- b) Waive any defect, irregularity or informality in any proposal or SOLICITATION procedure provided the waiver is equally applied to all Offerors and an Offeror is not prejudiced by the waiver as compared to other Offerors;
- c) Waive as an informality, minor deviations from specifications for goods or services at a lower price than other proposals meeting all aspects of the specifications if it is determined that total cost is lower and the overall function is not impaired;
- d) Reissue a SOLICITATION;
- e) Consider and accept an alternate proposal as provided herein when most advantageous to TIPS and its members;
- f) TIPS has the right to terminate the agreement for cause or no cause for convenience with a thirty-day written notice, unless otherwise agreed in writing in an executed agreement between the parties;
- g) This is not an exclusive award and no guaranteed volumes of purchases are guaranteed. TIPS and its members reserves the right to procure any items or services by other means at the sole discretion of TIPS or its members.