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**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

Jackson State University

**All Sports Apparel**

Release Date: March 29, 2018

Due Date: April 17, 2018

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**Statement of Purpose**

Jackson State University (JSU) is soliciting proposals for the purpose of awarding a contract for Athletic team, coaches and staff apparel, footwear and soft goods. Jackson State University Athletics currently has an agreement with Russell Athletics, LLC for all sports which will expire on June 30, 2018. At the time of expiration of the agreements, the contract awarded to the vendor from this RFP, if in the best interest of the University, will become the exclusive all-sports apparel vendor. It is the intent of JSU to enter into a multiyear agreement with a qualified and experienced athletic apparel and equipment company to produce a full range of athletic uniforms and related apparel, footwear, and equipment for all teams in the JSU athletic department on an as-needed basis. Apparel is to outfit JSU’s athletic coaches, players, and staff members.

**Background Information**

**ATHLETIC PROGRAMS**

The JSU Tigers and JSU Lady Tigers represent Jackson State University in NCAA Division I intercollegiate sports. The Tigers compete as members of the Southwestern Athletic Conference for all varsity sports.

The following sports are covered in this IFB (Invitation for Bids):

**Football**

Since 1911, Jackson State football has been a dominant force in college football. The Tigers have won three Black College National Championships and 16 SWAC titles, in addition to producing some of the most recognizable names in the sport including Pro Football Hall of Famers Walter Payton, Jackie Slater, Lem Barney and Robert Brazile.

**Men’s Basketball**

The Jackson State Basketball Tigers have won 15 SWAC championships and three NCAA postseason appearances. Former Tiger standouts such as Lindsey Hunter, brothers Eugene and Purvis Short, Ed Manning and Trey Johnson have helped raise the profile of the Tigers program. Since 1950 the Tigers have posted over 1100 wins.

**Women’s Basketball**

Since 1975, the Jackson State women’s basketball team has established itself as one of the preeminent programs in the SWAC. The Lady Tigers have won 14 SWAC titles and received four NCAA Tournament bids and two WNIT appearances.

**Baseball**

The Jackson State baseball team is one of the most successful collegiate programs in the South

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Region. Since 1957 the Tigers have won 14 SWAC championships and have made three NCAA

Regional appearances. Robert “Bob” Braddy, Sr., who is the “Winningest” baseball coach in

SWAC history, won 12 conference titles, 824 games and became the first African American to enter the Baseball Coaches of America Hall of Fame. The Tigers have produced MLB stars in Dennis “Oil Can” Boyd, Dave Clark, Curt Ford and Wes Chamberlain.

**Volleyball**

The Lady Tiger volleyball program has reached unprecedented heights over the last decade. During this time, the Lady Tigers have amassed over 250 wins, three SWAC titles (2011, 2012, and 2015), five SWAC Eastern Division championships and three SWAC Coach of the Year awards.

**Softball**

Jackson State softball program was founded during the 1996-97 season and over the last 21 seasons have established themselves as a competitive force in the SWAC. The Lady Tigers have won a conference title and several SWAC Eastern Division Championships to go along with a NCAA Tournament appearance.

**Men’s and Women’s Track and Field**

The Jackson State men’s and women’s track and field programs have dominated the SWAC and collegiate track and field since its inception in the mid-1970s. JSU has won a combined 27 men’s and women’s cross country, indoor and outdoor SWAC titles. JSU standout Michael Tinsley won a silver medal in the 400 meter hurdles during the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio. Tiger sprinter Anaso Jobodwana also made his Olympic debut at the 2016 Rio Olympics.

**Men’s and Women’s Tennis**

Head coach Willie Shepherd helped put the Jackson State tennis program on the map. He guided the Lady Tigers to their first conference title in 1998 and won three straight with the men’s team (1996-98). The Tigers won another SWAC title in 2016 and participated in the NCAA Tournament. In 2017, the Tigers participated in the NCAA Tournament for a second straight year.

**Soccer**

The Jackson State Lady Tigers soccer team is one of the most established programs in the SWAC. Since its inception in 2002 JSU has posted over 130 wins. In 2010 the Lady Tigers won their first conference championship.

**Bowling**

The Jackson State women’s bowling team is the premier bowling program in the SWAC. The Lady Tigers posted its first SWAC championship in 2016.

**Men’s and Women’s Golf**

The JSU men's and women's golf teams have dominated the SWAC for nearly three decades. The men have won 21 championships (1989–2006, 2008–09, 2011), include 18 consecutive, and

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the women have won nine championships (1996–97, 2001, 2005–09, 2012). Notable alumni

from the golf program include LPGA member Shasta Averyhardt and PGA participant Tim O’Neal.

**SUPPORT PROGRAMS**

**JSU Marching Band**

The JSU Marching Band, universally known as the “**Sonic Boom of the South”** is a nationally recognized marching band. It is one of the largest marching bands in Mississippi with nearly 250 members.  In 2003, the marching band was in enshrined in the NCAA Hall of Champions. Also, the marching band was filmed by Electronic Art Sports (EA Sports) for inclusion in the 2005 version of the video game "EA Sports NCAA Football 2005". Performing artist Drake  mentioned the band in his hit song "Used To" featuring Lil Wayne on his 2015 *Late mixtape*. In 2017, Time Magazine and Motown Records reposted on their  social media a video with the band performing its theme song "Get Ready”

**Scope of Work**

**General** JSU Athletics requests to initiate an Athletic apparel, footwear, and soft goods contract to:

* Establish a single supplier for uniforms, apparel, shoes, footwear, and athletic accessories for each sponsored intercollegiate athletic program, and for certain support personnel and programs to provide a recurring source of self-generated revenue to support the department.
* Have an assigned company representative servicing the needs of the intercollegiate athletic programs in a timely and professional manner, and to act as a network in marketing the University community as a whole.
* Develop consistency in apparel worn by all teams to appeal to prospective student athletes and fans.
* Promote and protect the Brand and Image of Jackson State University
* Minimize cost of supplies and materials purchased through an Athletic Apparel Contract.
* Obtain the best quality product for durability, performance, and appearance.

**Customer service plan:** The University athletic department seeks a driven customer service vendor and dedicated sales representative. We ask all bidders to:

* Provide a description of the customer service plan and delivery schedule proposed.
* Provide a description of communication plan (number of visits to campus, response time to return calls or emails, etc.)
* Provide information (names and locations) on those individuals assigned to work with the University including a description of the experience in providing support for this type of program.

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**Term of Contract**

We are seeking a one (1) year contract with the option of four (4) additional one (1) year renewal.

**Contractual Terms and Conditions**

**Service** **Requirements** The contract shall provide all required athletic apparel, shoes, and accessories for all intercollegiate athletic programs offered at JSU. The contract may provide some sports equipment; however, the University will purchase equipment from other sources as well. All products supplied shall be durable, within the range of colors required by JSU, and conform to the University’s standards for numbers and logos. If products are deemed insufficient by the University at any time during the duration of the contract, the University reserves the right to outsource insufficient products.

The contract shall:

• Be the single supplier for uniforms, apparel, shoes, other footwear, and accessories for each sponsored intercollegiate athletic program and for certain support personnel and programs.

• Provide a dedicated regional contact that is available year-round for technical support and makes regular scheduled visits to campus.

• Provide products for all teams with consistency in color, marks and fonts.

• Assist the Athletic department in activation of retail products and brands within our marketplace, community, and university partners. Uniforms, apparel and shoes are purchased as required for each sports program. Practice clothing, outerwear, and accessories are purchased each year. Game uniforms are purchased as needed.

**Requirements for Proposal Preparation and Submission**

Notice is hereby given that Jackson State University (JSU) is soliciting Competitive Sealed Request for Bids (hereafter called Bid #18-04) for **All Sports Apparel**. **Bids shall be submitted in sealed packaging with one original and five copies to the address shown below or submitted electronically on the Mississippi Department of Finance MAGIC portal at www.dfa.gov. Please state your firm’s name, address, submittal deadline, and Bid # (18-04) “All Sports Apparel.”**

Bids will be received at the address below and electronically by way of the Mississippi Department of Finance MAGIC portal until 1:00 P.M. (CST) on April 17, 2018 at which time

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bids will be publicly opened and the firm’s name will be read aloud at the above specified date and time.

**Bids** must be submitted in sufficient time to be received on or before the deadline date. **Bids received after the deadline date and time cannot be considered and will not be opened. Faxed bids will not be accepted**. Failure to have the Bid submitted by the deadline date and time in accordance with the official time as stated shall deem the Bid late and no consideration will be given. The time of arrival is not negotiable nor will it be discussed if any documents are declared late.

**Bid NO: 18-04**

**Bid Title: All Sports Apparel**

**Deadline Date & Time: April 17, 2018 1:00 pm (CST)**

**Mail or Deliver to: Jackson State University**

 **Paula Nelson, Purchasing Manager**

 **Office of Purchasing and Travel**

 **1400 John R. Lynch Street, Post Office Box 170269**

 **Administration Tower 4th Floor**

 **Jackson, MS 39217**

Any questions related to these requirements should be emailed to Ms. Paula Nelson at paula.d.nelson@jsums.edu

RESPONDENTS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO CAREFULLY READ THE ENTIRE INVITATION TO NEGOTIATE

**Evaluation and Award Process**

Bids will be reviewed by our review committee. The contract will be awarded to the lowest and best responsible/responsive bidder whose bid meets the requirements and criteria set forth in the invitation for Bids.

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