

**THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
GULF COAST RESEARCH LABORATORY
703 EAST BEACH DRIVE
OCEAN SPRINGS, MS 39564**

GENERAL TERMS, CONDITIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR BIDS/PROPOSALS

- 1.) Failure to examine any drawings, specifications, and instructions will be at bidder's risk.
- 2.) Samples of items when called for must be furnished free of expense and if not destroyed in testing, will, upon request, be returned at the bidder's expense. Request for the return of samples must be made within ten (10) days following opening bids. Each individual sample must be labeled with bidder's name and manufacturer's brand name and number.
- 3.) Bids must be signed and sealed with bidder's name and address on the outside of the envelope, and the time and date of the bid opening and the bid file number shown in the lower-left corner of the packages; envelopes, express mailing labels, boxes, etc.
- 4.) In order for your bid to be considered, it must be received and time stamped in our office by 2:00 P.M. of the bid opening date. It is the responsibility of the vendor to ensure their bid is received within the appointed time. If your bid package is not received by 2:00 P.M. of the bid opening date, it will not be considered.

If you are delivering your bid, you need to hand carry the bid package to:

USM/Gulf Coast Research Lab
Procurement Services
Oceanography, Room 148
Ocean Springs, Mississippi

If you are sending your bid package via U.S. Postal Service, Federal Express, UPS, or any other delivery service deliver to:

Cathy Catchot
USM/Gulf Coast Research Laboratory
703 East Beach Drive
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

- 5.) Bids or proposals shall not be modified, corrected, altered, or amended after the specified closing time and the opening of such bids, unless otherwise noted in the request for bids or proposals.
- 6.) The University of Southern Mississippi reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informality in bids, and unless otherwise specified by the bidders, to accept

any items on the bid. If the bidder fails to state the time within which bids must be accepted, it is understood and agreed that The University of Southern Mississippi shall have 60 days to accept. The University of Southern Mississippi reserves the right to make an award to this bid on an all or none basis, or on a line by line basis, whichever serves the best interest of The University of Southern Mississippi.

- 7.) Responses must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the bidder's base bid. Bid Security can be in the form of a certified check made payable to The University of Southern Mississippi. When a bid is to be submitted electronically, a certified check must be physically delivered to the address indicated on the Advertisement for Bids prior to the time and date stated. Bid Bond shall be by a Surety licensed in Mississippi. The Bid Bond shall be duly executed by the Bidder, a Mississippi Licensed Agent for said Surety approved by the Mississippi Insurance Department OR signed by the Surety AND countersigned by a Mississippi Licensed Agent for said Surety approved by the Mississippi Insurance Department.- <https://www.mid.ms.gov> (No standard form is required for the Bid Bond.) Where bid is to be submitted electronically, a scanned copy of bid bond is acceptable. Power of Attorney dated same as Bond (No Power of Attorney is needed with a certified check.)
- 8.) Contracts and purchases will be made or entered into with the lowest, responsible bidder meeting specifications.
- 9.) A written purchase order or contract award mailed or otherwise furnished to the successful bidder within the time of acceptance specified in the Invitation for Bid results in a binding contract without further action by either party. The contract shall not be assignable by the vendor in whole or in part without the written consent of The University of Southern Mississippi.
- 10.) Bid files may be examined during normal working hours by bid participants. Non-participants will be prohibited from obtaining any information relative to the bid until the official award has been made.
- 11.) If purchase orders or contracts are canceled because of the awarded vendor's failure to perform or request for price increase, that vendor shall be removed from our bidders' list for a period of 24 months.
- 12.) No addendum will be issued within a period of two (2) working days prior to the time and date set for the bid opening. Should it become necessary to issue an addendum within the two-day period prior to the bid opening, the bid date will be reset giving bidders ample time to answer the addendum.
- 13.) Alternate bids, unless specifically requested or allowed, will not be considered.
- 14.) Bid openings will be conducted open to the public. However, they will serve only to

open the bids. No discussion will be entered into with any vendor as to the quality or provisions of the specifications, and no award will be made either stated or implied at the bid opening. After the close of the bid opening meeting, the bids will be considered to be in the evaluation process and will not be available for review by bidders. Proposal openings are not required to be open to the public; however, the resulting award is open for public inspection.

- 15.) Prices quoted shall be firm for the term of the contract or for the stated time of acceptance.
- 16.) The bidder understands that The University of Southern Mississippi is an equal opportunity employer and, therefore, maintains a policy which prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, physical handicap, disability, or any other such discrimination; and the bidder, by signing this bid, agrees during the term of agreement that the bidder will strictly adhere to this policy in its employment practices and provision of products or services.
- 17.) Bidders must upon request of The University of Southern Mississippi furnish satisfactory evidence of their ability to furnish products or services in accordance with the terms and conditions of these specifications. The University of Southern Mississippi reserves the right to make the final determination as to the bidder's ability.
- 18.) Questions or problems arising from bid procedures should be directed to:

Cathy Catchot
USM/Gulf Coast Research Lab
703 East Beach Drive
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
Phone: (228) 872-4245
cathy.catchot@usm.edu

- 19.) All items must equal or exceed the specifications listed. The absence of detail specifications or the omission of detail description shall be recognized as meaning that only the best commercial practices are to prevail and that only first quality materials and workmanship are to be used.
- 20.) It is the intent of the specifications to obtain a product that will adequately meet the needs of the user while promoting the greatest extent of competition that is practicable. It is the responsibility of the prospective bidder to review the entire Invitation to Bid packet and to notify The University of Southern Mississippi if the Specifications, Instructions, General, or Special Conditions are formulated in a manner which would unnecessarily restrict competition.
- 21.) It shall be incumbent upon the bidders to understand the specifications. Any requests for clarifications shall be in writing and shall be submitted to our Procurement Services office at least five (5) days prior to the time and date set for the bid opening, unless

otherwise noted in the bid or proposal specifications.

- 22.) The minimum specifications are used to set a standard and in no case are used with the intention to discriminate against any manufacturer. Bidders should note the name and the manufacturer and model number of the product they propose to furnish and submit descriptive literature.
- 23.) Trade names, brand names, and/or manufacturer's information used in these specifications are for the purpose of establishing quality, unless otherwise noted. Bids on products of other qualified manufacturers are acceptable, provided they are demonstrated as equal to those specified in construction, design and suitability. Each bidder shall submit with his bid a complete brochure with pictures on each item and shall point out specifically any deviations from the specified items. Failure to do so may disqualify any bid. Please bid as specified or an approved equal.
- 24.) A copy of the manufacturer's standard guarantee/warranty shall accompany and become a part of this bid.
- 25.) There are no federal or state laws that prohibit bidders from submitting a bid lower than a price or bid given to the U.S. Government. Bidders may bid lower than U.S. Government contract price without any liability as The University of Southern Mississippi is exempt from the provisions of the Robinson-Patman Act and other related laws. In addition, the U.S. Government has no provisions in any of its purchasing arrangements with bidders whereby a lower price to The University of Southern Mississippi must automatically be given to the U.S. Government.
- 26.) All invoices, unless noted otherwise, are to be billed to:

The University of Southern Mississippi
Accounts Payable
118 College Drive #5104
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001
- 27.) All equipment bid shall be of current production and of the latest design and construction.
- 28.) Where all, or part(s), of the bid is requested on a unit price basis, both the unit prices and the extension of the unit prices constitute a basis of determining the lowest responsible and responsive bidder. In cases of error in the extension of price, the unit price will govern.
- 29.) Should the University of Southern Mississippi close due to inclement weather conditions, or any other unforeseen events on the bid opening date, sealed bids will open the following business day at the same time and location.
- 30.) As an alternative to traditional sealed bids in envelopes, the University of Southern Mississippi is capable of receiving electronic bid responses. While this option is

available, it is not required and we ask that all potential respondents keep in mind that with any electronic system there could be delays or glitches with the submission process; therefore the University highly encourages traditional sealed bids which are either mailed or submitted in person. Should a vendor choose to submit their response electronically, please follow the instructions below using the following website:

https://www.ms.gov/dfa/contract_bid_search/Home/Sell. On this site you will find helpful links to procurement opportunities, as well as a link to supplier registration. If not already registered in this system, potential bidders will first need to click on 'Supplier Registration' and follow the steps outlined (a one-time process). Once registered, they can return to the original website and click on 'Procurement Opportunities' where they can either search by keyword for the bid they desire to respond to or leave the search box blank and click 'Search' for a listing of all current bids and proposals for the various State of Mississippi offices.

With regard to construction bids, there is one additional step required during the bid submission process. Along with the bid response and other attachments, contractors will also need to attach their Certificate of Responsibility (COR), or a statement that the bid enclosed does not exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$ 50,000.00). If their COR or such statement is not attached, the bid will be invalid and not considered.

AA/EOE/ADA