

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFx Number 3140003252

Smart Number 1401-23-R-RFQF-00002

Issue Date: October 4, 2022

**Provide: Solid Waste Disposal
Services for the MS Fairgrounds**

CLOSING LOCATION

MS Department of Agriculture and Commerce
121 North Jefferson Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

PROPOSAL COORDINATOR

Hewitt Pittman
Telephone: (601)359-1127
E-Mail: Hewitt@mdac.ms.gov

CLOSING DATE AND TIME

Proposals must be received by
October 31, 2022, at 1:00 PM

SECTION 1

1.0 Purpose

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce herein after referred to as “Department or Agency” is seeking to establish a contract for solid waste removal and disposal for the Mississippi State Fairgrounds, 1207 Mississippi Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39202. This contract is necessary to ensure that all garbage, trash and other solid waste on the Mississippi State Fairgrounds in Jackson is timely and properly removed therefrom. It is understood that any contract resulting from this RFP requires approval by the Public Procurement Review Board. If any contract resulting from this RFP is not approved by the Public Procurement Review Board, it is void and no payment shall be made.

1.1 Scope of Services

The successful Contractor herein after referred to as “Contractor” will be required to perform the following services:

- (1) Collect all solid waste from the Fairgrounds and dispose of it in a landfill, recycle facility or other waste disposal site. Contractor must provide and place on the Fairgrounds the receptacles described below, into which the persons may deposit solid waste.
- (2) Contractor must retrieve such receptacles when notified by the Agency, haul them to a landfill, recycle facility or waste disposal site, empty the contents, and then return the empty receptacles to the Fairgrounds. Contractor must retrieve, haul and empty said receptacles when requested by the Agency, except as stated below. If the Agency requests a pickup before 2:00 P.M., Contractor will make that haul the same day; if the request is made after 2:00 P.M., Contractor will make the haul by noon the following day.
- (3) The Agency will give Contractor one week’s notice of any event to be conducted on the Fairgrounds requiring waste services, whereupon Contractor will dispatch one truck and one 30 cubic yard roll off dumpster to the Fairgrounds by 8:00 A.M. on each day of such event to service the Agency’s needs.
- (4) The Agency will not deposit any hazardous or toxic materials into said trash receptacles or the 55-gallon barrels on the Fairgrounds, and Contractor shall have no responsibility to collect, or dispose of, such materials.
- (5) Contractor shall dispose of all waste materials only at a duly licensed and permitted landfill, recycle facility or waste disposal site that is in full compliance with all applicable laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations.

- (6) During the preparation, performance and closing of the Mississippi State Fair, Contractor will retrieve and empty the contents of the trash receptacles on the Fairgrounds between the hours of 12:00 A.M. (midnight) and 10:00 A.M. Contractor will also empty the contents of all the 55-gallon barrels on the Fairgrounds into a truck or other receptacle during said hours and dispose of said waste. Contractor is not required to sweep and clean the Fairgrounds while the Fair is open to the public, as this task will be performed by another party.
- (7) Contractor shall paint a number on each dumpster or compactor placed on the Fairgrounds by the Contractor, and the Contractor shall prepare a list of such items and give a copy to the Agency. Contractor shall prepare and maintain a log as a record of the solid waste collected from the Fairgrounds and disposed of. The log will contain information such as the date of each pull, dumpster number, tonnage, disposal site, nature of waste (garbage or other) and other appropriate information. Each load of waste shall be weighed by a licensed weigh scale operator, and the scale tickets shall be maintained in the Contractor's records. The Contractor shall deliver to the Agency a copy of the Contractor's log entries and scale tickets for each month's activity on the Fairgrounds no later than the 15th day of the following month. The Agency shall have the right to enter Contractor's offices during regular business hours without a search warrant or other legal process and examine and copy Contractor's books and records relative to this contract.
- (8) Contractor must own or otherwise provide the following equipment which shall be placed on the Fairgrounds as trash receptacles:
- a. One (1) 30 cubic yard self-contained trash compactor with a three-sided rear feed hopper, access gate, tread plate and hand and toe rails.
 - b. Eight (8) 30 cubic yard open-top roll-off dumpsters.
 - c. One (1) 20 cubic yard open-top roll-off dumpster. Contractor shall provide such additional open-top roll-off dumpsters for the State Fair as may be requested by the Agency.
- Contractor shall maintain in its fleet such trucks in sufficient numbers to perform its obligations herein, and which have the capacity to pick up and empty said roll-off dumpsters. The Contractor shall be responsible for the upkeep, maintenance, repair and replacement of all vehicles and equipment used in its operations on the Fairgrounds. Contractor must maintain such items in a clean and serviceable condition during the term of the contract.
- (9) The Contractor must, with respect to all solid waste disposal employees provided to the Agency:
- a. Maintain a pool of employees sufficient to meet the Agency's needs within 24 hours.
 - b. Accurately describe the job duties required to the waste disposal employees.

- c. Administer and maintain all employment and payroll records, payroll processing, and payment of payroll checks and taxes, including the deductions required by state, federal and local laws such as social security and withholding taxes.
- d. Abide by all ordinances and laws pertaining to the Agency's operation and secure all required licenses and permits, including those required by the Environmental Protection Agency, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and the State Health Department.
- e. Make all unemployment compensation contributions as required by federal and state law and process claims as required.
- f. Ensure all waste disposal services are provided during the hours specified by the Agency.
- g. Replace, at no additional expense to the Agency, any employee not performing satisfactorily within 24 hours.
- h. Perform all services provided in the contract in accordance with customary and reasonable industry standards.
- i. Provide information required for the Agency to perform a criminal background check or drug screening of a waste disposal worker, if requested.
- j. Alternatively, the Contractor shall, for an additional negotiated fee, perform the check or screening and verify the results to the Agency, if requested.

1.2 Term

The term of the contract shall be for a period of four years, and is anticipated to begin on January 1, 2023, and end on December 31, 2026. Upon written agreement of both parties prior to expiration of the primary term, the contract may be renewed for a one-year period subject to approval by PPRB.

1.2.1 Multi-Term Contracts

Unless otherwise provided by law, a contract for services may be entered into for a period of time not to exceed four (4) years with an option to renew for one (1) year, provided the term of the contract and conditions of renewal or extension, if any, are included in the solicitation and funds are available for the first fiscal period at the time of contracting. Payment and performance obligations for succeeding fiscal periods shall be subject to the availability and appropriation of funds

Compensation for services will be in the form of a Fixed Price Agreement.

1.2.2 Requirements

- a. Contractor shall place dumpsters on the Fairgrounds and then deliver the waste collected in the dumpsters and trash compactors to a sanitary landfill, as needed.
- b. A unit price shall be given for each service, and that unit price shall be the same throughout the contract.
- c. A multi-term contract will be canceled if funds are not appropriated or otherwise made available to support the continuation of performance in any

fiscal period succeeding the first; however, this does not affect either the State's right or the contractor's rights under any termination clause in the contract.

- d. The Procurement Officer must notify the contractor on a timely basis that the funds are or are not available for the continuation of the contract for each succeeding fiscal period.
- e. A multi-term contract may be awarded based on the decision of the evaluation committee and as approved by the Department.

SECTION 2

2.0 Proposal Acceptance Methods

2.1 Electronic Proposal Submittal & Assistance

The Agency prefers that Proposers submit their proposals electronically through the State of Mississippi's MAGIC system:

<https://portal.magic.ms.gov>

https://www.ms.gov/dfa/contract_bid_search/Home/Buy

Please use either of the websites above to search for RFx # 3140003252. If you need assistance, please call the Mississippi Management and Reporting System (MMRS) help desk at 601-359-1343, select Option 2 for MAGIC functionality. Please allow a day or two for assistance with your issue.

2.2 Bidder Registration in MAGIC

Bidders must be registered in MAGIC when submitting a Proposal.

If the bidder is not registered as a bidder for the State of Mississippi, please go to the website: <https://www.dfa.ms.gov/mississippi-suppliersvendors> and click on information to help you register as a vendor for the State of Mississippi. Should you need assistance, please contact the MMRS help desk at 601-359-1343.

2.3 Surrogate Proposal Submittal by Mail / Hand-mail

If the bidder is unable to submit a proposal electronically through the MAGIC System, sealed paper proposal using the format in section 4 and shall be signed and submitted by the proposer at the address on the cover page of this RFP. The proposal will be entered manually by an MDAC representative on behalf of the proposer into the MAGIC System. Proposers requesting the manual entry of their proposal by an MDAC representative must complete Attachment C, which indicates that the proposer allows MDAC to enter the sealed paper proposal manually into the MAGIC System on behalf of the proposer.

Sealed proposals will be received by the Proposal Coordinator referenced in 2.5. **The envelopes or packages shall be marked with the proposal opening date and time, and the RFx # number of the Request for Proposals.** The Proposer is responsible to ensure the time and date of receipt by the Proposal Coordinator is indicated on the envelopes or packages when submitted.

2.4 General Conditions

- 2.4.1 Proposers shall understand that any eventual contract resulting from this Request for Proposals, shall be governed by the above referenced Mississippi Public Procurement Review Board Office of Personal Service Contract Rules and Regulations, a copy of which is available at 501 North West Street, Suite 701 E, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201 for inspection or downloadable at www.dfa.ms.gov.
- 2.4.2 Written sealed proposals must be received by the Proposal Coordinator in Section 2.5 of this RFP no later than October 31, 2022, at 1:00PM. Proposals submitted by mail or hand-mail are considered "received" only upon receipt by the Proposal Coordinator. Proposers submitting electronically should confirm with the Proposal Coordinator that their proposal was received.

Any proposal received after the time and date set for receipt of proposals is late. Any withdrawal or modification of a proposal received after the time and date set for opening of proposals at the place designated for opening is late. No late proposal, late modification, or late withdrawal will be considered.

Timely submission, whether electronically, by mail, or by hand delivery, is the sole responsibility of the respondent. Proposals received after the specified time shall be rejected and retained unopened as part of the procurement file. Offerors submitting late proposals, which shall not be considered for award, shall be notified as soon as practicable.

If the Department is closed for any reason, including but not limited to acts of God, strikes, lockouts, riots, acts of war, epidemics, pandemics, governmental regulations superimposed after the fact, fire, earthquakes, floods, or other natural disasters (the "Force Majeure Events"), which closure prevents the opening of solicitations at the date and time, all solicitations received shall be opened on the next business day that the agency shall be open. Solicitations shall be received by the agency until the new date and time of the solicitation opening as set forth herein. The agency shall not be held responsible for the receipt of any solicitation for which the delivery was attempted and failed due to the closure of the agency because of a Force Majeure Event. Each Proposer shall be required to ensure the delivery and receipt of its solicitation by the agency prior to the new date and time of the solicitation opening.

All prices and notations on paper proposals must be printed in ink. No erasures are permitted. Errors may be crossed out and corrections printed in ink or adjacent and must be initialed, in ink, by the person signing the quote.

Proposer must Price each item separately. Unit prices shall be shown and must be net. It is understood that reference to available specifications shall be sufficient to make the terms of such specifications binding on the Proposer. Proposers must furnish all information requested herein.

2.4.3 ALL PROPOSALS MUST BE SIGNED BY A PERSON HAVING THE LEGAL AUTHORITY TO BIND THEIR FIRM IN A CONTRACT.

2.4.4 Mistakes in Proposals. Mistakes in proposals submitted shall be determined and resolved as specified in paragraph 3-202.12 of the Public Procurement Review Board Office of Personal Services Contract Review Rules and Regulations. All prices and notations on paper proposals must be printed in ink. No erasures are permitted. Errors may be crossed out and corrections printed in ink or adjacent and must be initialed, in ink, by the person signing the quote.

2.4.5 Proposal Modification and Withdrawal. Proposals may be modified or withdrawn by written notice received by the Proposal Coordinator in Section 2.5 of this RFP prior to the time and date set for proposal opening.

Modifications or additions to any portion of the procurement document may be cause for rejection of the proposal. The Department reserves the right to decide, on a case-by-case basis, whether to reject a proposal with modifications or additions as non-responsive. As a precondition to proposal acceptance, the Department may request the respondent to withdraw or modify those portions of the proposal deemed non-responsive that do not affect quality, quantity, price, or delivery of the service.

2.4.6 Minor Informalities: Minor informalities, unless otherwise corrected by an offeror shall be treated as they are under competitive sealed bidding. See Section 3-202.12.4 (Mistakes Discovered After Opening Bid but Before Award) of the Public Procurement Review Board Office of Personal Services Contract Review Rules and Regulations

2.5 Questions. The Request for Proposal (RFP) coordinator is as listed below and any questions concerning the RFP document, or the RFP process, must be submitted by email to:

Email Address — hewitt@mdac.ms.gov
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce
Attention: Hewitt Pittman, Purchasing Director

2.6 Valuation - Proposals which are timely submitted will be evaluated as detailed in Section 4 of this RFP. The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce reserves the right to reject any proposals.

2.7 No Award Implied - No award will be made either stated or implied at the formal proposal opening. No contracts and or purchases will be made or entered into automatically as a result from the RFP.

2.8 Rejection of Proposals - Proposals which do not conform to the requirements set forth in this Request for Proposals may be rejected by MDAC. Proposals may be rejected for reasons which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The proposal contains unauthorized amendments to the requirements of the Request for Proposals.
- The proposal is conditional.
- The proposal is incomplete or contains irregularities which make the proposal indefinite or ambiguous.
- The proposal is received late. Late proposals will be maintained unopen in the procurement file.
- The proposal is not signed by an authorized representative of the party.
- The proposal contains false or misleading statements or references.
- The proposal does not offer to provide all services required by the Request for Proposal.

2.9 Expenses Incurred in Preparing Offers

The Department accepts no responsibility for any expense incurred by the respondent in the preparation and presentation of an offer. Such expenses shall be borne exclusively by the respondent.

2.10 Proprietary Information

The respondent should mark any and all pages of the proposal considered to be proprietary information which may remain confidential in accordance with Mississippi Code Annotated §§ 25-61-9 and 79-23-1 (1972, as amended). Any pages not marked accordingly will be subject to review by the general public after award of the contract. Requests to review the proprietary information will be handled in accordance with applicable legal procedures.

2.11 Registration with Mississippi Secretary of State

By submitting a proposal, the respondent certifies that it is registered to do business in the State of Mississippi as prescribed by the Mississippi Secretary of State or, if not already registered, that it will do so within seven (7) business days of being offered an award. Sole proprietors are not required to register with the Mississippi Secretary of State.

2.12 Debarment

By submitting a proposal, the respondent certifies that it is not currently debarred from submitting proposals for contracts issued by any political subdivision or agency of the State of Mississippi or Federal government and that it is not an agent of a person or entity that is currently debarred from submitting proposals for contracts issued by any political subdivision or agency of the State of Mississippi.

2.13 Estimated Timeline of the Procurement

October 4, 2022	Request for Proposals Issued
October 14, 2022	Questions or Requests for Clarification Due
October 19, 2022	Anticipated Date Answers Posted
October 31, 2022, 1:00 PM	Proposals Due
November 16, 2022	Anticipated Notice of Intent to Award
November 21, 2022	Anticipated Deadline to Request Debriefing
November 23, 2022	Anticipated Protest Deadline
December 7, 2022	Anticipated Date of PPRB Approval
January 1, 2023	Anticipated Contract Start Date

SECTION 3

- 3.0 Insurance** The successful vendor shall maintain at least the minimum level of workers' compensation insurance, comprehensive general liability or professional liability insurance, with minimum limits of \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence. All workers' compensation, comprehensive general liability and professional liability insurance will provide coverage to the Department as an additional insured. The Department reserves the right to request from carriers, certificates of insurance regarding the required coverage. Insurance carriers must be licensed or hold a Certificate of Authority from the Mississippi Department of Insurance. The vendor shall be prepared to provide evidence of required insurance upon request by the Department at any point during the contract period and should consult with legal counsel regarding its obligations.

SECTION 4

4.1 Proposals

All proposals shall be in writing or submitted electronically through MAGIC. Proposers must submit three separate parts of their proposals. Each part must be submitted in separate binders or as separate electronic documents, if submitting through MAGIC.

4.1.1 The proposer may identify itself by name, address, and telephone number in a separate cover letter to accompany its proposal.

4.1.2 Management: Identifying information is allowed.

4.1.3 Technical: Proposers may not identify themselves in their Technical proposals and this section should be submitted separately from the Management section with only a coversheet stating the name of the Offeror. The cover sheet will be removed before the Technical proposal is given to the evaluation committee.

Identifying Information which must not be included in the Technical proposal includes, but is not limited to, any prior, current and future names or addresses of the offeror, any names of incumbent staff, any prior, current and future logos, watermarks, and company colors, any information, which identifies the offeror as an incumbent, and any other information, which would affect the blind evaluation.

4.1.4 Cost: Offerors should complete the bid sheet (Attachment B). Identifying information will be removed from the bid sheet before the Cost proposal is given to the evaluation committee.

4.2 Proposal Compliance Review

Proposals will be reviewed to assure compliance with the minimum specifications. Proposals that do not comply with the minimum specifications will be rejected immediately, receiving no further consideration. The proposer shall be notified in writing.

Discussions may be conducted with offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award, but proposals may be accepted without such discussions.

4.2.1 Responsive Respondent

Respondent must submit a proposal which conforms in all material respects to this Request for Proposals as determined by the Department.

4.2.2 Responsible Respondent

Respondent must meet all minimum qualifications and have at a minimum of 5 years' experience in the commercial solid waste disposal business in order to demonstrate it has the capability in all respects to perform fully the contract requirements and the integrity and reliability which will assure good faith performance.

4.3 Proposal Evaluation

All proposals deemed to be responsive and responsible will be evaluated on the following minimum information required for each proposal.

4.3.1 Management Factors: (35%) The personnel, equipment, facilities, and experience to perform the services currently available or demonstrated to be made available at the time of contracting. Management Factors which will be evaluated are Management (15%) and Experience (20%). The Management Proposal shall contain the following minimum information:

4.3.1.1 Age of proposer's business and the average number of employees over the past three (3) years.

4.3.1.2 Organizational Chart (Positions only no names); Responsibilities of the positions in the organizational chart.

4.3.1.3 Listing and description of staffing / operation offices and corporate offices.

4.3.1.4 Copies of the commercial drivers' licenses, which may not be suspended, revoked or otherwise have a negative status, of all Contractor's truck drivers who will be collecting trash on the Fairgrounds (this information shall be included in an exhibit to your proposal).

4.3.1.5 Registration with Mississippi Secretary of State.

4.3.1.6 Listing of three contracts under which services similar in scope, size, or discipline that were performed or undertaken during the past three (3) years, including the names and addresses of the projects and the

scope of the projects including a contact that worked with the contractor at the projects (name, title, phone number and e-mail address). (This information shall be included in an exhibit to your proposal).

- 4.3.1.7 Show detailed job descriptions of the covered employees required to provide the services.
- 4.3.1.8 Your company's financial statement for your last fiscal year. (This information shall be included in an exhibit to your proposal).
- 4.3.1.9 Additional data: Provide any additional information that will aid in evaluation of the response. (This information shall be included in an exhibit to your proposal.)

4.3.2 Technical Factors: (30%) Ability to perform the services reflected by technical training, education, and specific experience. The plan proposed for performing the required services to include completeness and presentation. The Technical Proposal shall not contain identifying information as described in Section 4.1 of this RFP and shall contain the following minimum information:

- 4.3.2.1 Provide a statement indicating the underlying philosophy of the firm in providing the service.
- 4.3.2.2 Narrative description of proposer's plan giving as much information as possible explaining how the services will be performed.
- 4.3.2.3 Listing of equipment and or supplies proposer will need and provide to perform the services requested.
- 4.3.2.4 Additional data: Provide any additional information that will aid in evaluation of the response. (This information shall be included in an exhibit to your proposal.)

4.3.3 Cost Factors: (35%) A firm quotation of the price for providing the following services: (See Solid Waste Services Price Recap Sheet Attachment B). Price will be scored by computing the hauling, and disposal of one ton of waste and the monthly rental of dumpsters provided by each Proposer. The lowest price will receive the full 35 points with points for all other Proposers being distributed objectively.

- 4.3.3.1 One pull of solid waste in a dumpster. (A pull is one trip in which a dumpster is hauled to the landfill, emptied, and returned to the Fairgrounds.)
- 4.3.3.2 One pull of solid waste in a trash compactor.
- 4.3.3.3 Disposal of one ton of garbage
- 4.3.3.4 Monthly rental for trash compactor.
- 4.3.3.5 Monthly rental for 30 cubic yard dumpster.

- 4.3.3.6 Monthly rental for 20 cubic yard dumpster.
- 4.3.3.7 State Fair pick-up and disposal (sweeping and cleaning are excluded.)
- 4.3.3.8 Fuel surcharge.
- 4.3.3.9 Environmental surcharge.

SECTION 5

- 5.0 Nonconforming Terms and Conditions:** A proposal response that includes terms and conditions that do not conform to the terms and conditions in the proposal document is subject to rejection as non-responsive. The Department reserves the right to permit the respondent to withdraw nonconforming terms and conditions from its proposal response prior to a determination by the Department of non-responsiveness based on the submission of nonconforming terms and conditions.
- 5.1 Conditioning Proposal Upon Other Awards:** Any proposal which is conditioned upon receiving award of both the particular contract being solicited and another Mississippi contract shall be deemed non-responsive and not acceptable.
- 5.2 Award:** Award shall be made to the responsive and/or responsible respondent whose proposal is determined in writing to be the most advantageous to the State taking into consideration price and the evaluation factors set forth in the Request for Proposals. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation.
- 5.3 Notification:** All participating vendors will be notified in writing of the Department's intent to award a contract. In addition, the Department will identify the selected vendor. Public notice of award will be issued 48 hours prior to the Notice of Intent being provided to the proposers.
- 5.4 Acknowledgment of Amendments:** Proposers shall acknowledge receipt of any amendment to the solicitation by signing and returning the amendment with the proposal. The acknowledgment must be received by the Department by the time and at the place specified for receipt of proposals on the cover sheet of the solicitation.
- 5.5 Required Contract Terms and Conditions:** Any contract entered between a Contracting Agency and a vendor/respondent shall include the required clauses found in Attachment A and those required by the Public Procurement Review Board Office of Personal Service Contract Review Rules and Regulations.
- 5.6 Optional Contract Terms and Conditions:** Any contract entered into between a Contracting Agency and a vendor/respondent may have at the discretion of the Contracting Agency, the optional clauses found in Attachment B and those within the Public Procurement Review Board Office of Personal Service Contract Review Rules and Regulations.
- 5.7 Mississippi Contract/Procurement Opportunity Search Portal:** This Request for Proposals, amendments and questions and answers concerning this Request for Proposals, are posted on the Contract/Procurement Opportunity Search Portal and the Mississippi Department of Agriculture & Commerce webpage.

5.8 Attachments: The attachments to this Request for Proposals are made a part of this Request for Proposal Solicitation as if copied herein in words and figures.

Attachment A - Certifications and Assurances (Return with Proposal)

Attachment B – Solid Waste Services Price Recap Sheet (Return with Proposal)

Attachment C - Proposal Submittal Instructions for a Paper Submission (Return with Proposal)

Attachment D - Required Clauses for Service Contracts

Attachment E Optional Clauses for Service Contracts

SECTION 6

6.0 Post-Award Vendor Debriefing

A respondent, successful or unsuccessful, may request a post-award debriefing, in writing, by U.S. mail or electronic submission. The written request must be received the Procurement Coordinator within three (3) business days of receiving the Notice of the Intent to Award. A debriefing typically occurs within three (3) business days of receipt of the request.

A post-award debriefing is a meeting and not a hearing; therefore, legal representation is not required. If a respondent prefers to have legal representation present, the respondent must notify the Procurement Coordinator in writing and identify its attorney by name, address, and telephone number. The Department will schedule and/or suspend and reschedule the meeting at a time when a Representative of the Office of the Mississippi Attorney General can be present.

At a minimum, the debriefing information shall include the following: (1) The agency's evaluation of significant weaknesses or deficiencies in the vendor's bid, proposal, or qualifications, if applicable; (2) The overall evaluated cost or price, and technical rating, if applicable, of the successful vendor(s) and the debriefed vendor; (3) The overall ranking of all vendors, when any ranking was developed by the agency during the selection process; (4) A summary of the rationale for award; and, (5) Reasonable responses to relevant questions about selection procedures contained in the solicitation, applicable regulations, and other applicable authorities that were followed.

For additional information regarding Post-Award Debriefing, as well as the information that may be provided and excluded, please see Section 7-113, Post-Award Vendor Debriefing, of the Mississippi Public Procurement Review Board Office of Personal Service Contract Review Rules and Regulations.

6.1 Protest of Solicitation or Award

Any actual or prospective respondent or contractor who is aggrieved in connection with this solicitation or the outcome of the Request for Proposals may file a protest with the Procurement Coordinator. The protest shall be submitted in writing within seven (7) calendar days after the aggrieved party knew or should have known of the facts and circumstances upon which the protest is based, but in no event later than within seven (7) days of the solicitation posting or award.

All protests must be in writing, dated, signed by the respondent or an individual authorized to sign contracts on behalf of the protesting respondent, and contain a statement of the reason(s) for protest, citing the law(s), rule(s) or regulation(s), and/or procedure(s) on which the protest is based. The written protest letter shall contain an explanation of the specific basis for the protest. The protesting respondent must provide facts and evidence to support the protest.

A protest is considered filed when received by the Procurement Coordinator Hewitt Pittman, via either U.S. mail, postage prepaid, or personal delivery. Protests filed after the filing deadline will not be considered.

Protestors are encouraged to seek resolution of their complaints initially with the office that issued the solicitation. However, to file a protest directly to the PPRB, the aggrieved party shall file a protest with the Office of Personal Service Contract Review and the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration within seven (7) calendar days after the aggrieved party knew or should have known of the facts and circumstances upon which the protest is based, but in no event later than within seven (7) calendar days of the solicitation posting or award.

For additional information regarding Protest of Solicitations or Awards, please see Section 7-112 of the Mississippi Public Procurement Review Board Office of Personal Service Contract Review Rules and Regulations.

ATTACHMENT A

Certifications and Assurances

I/We make the following certifications and assurances as a required element of the offer to which it is attached, of the understanding that the truthfulness of the facts affirmed here and the continued compliance with these requirements are conditions precedent to the award or continuation of the related contract(s):

1. REPRESENTATION REGARDING CONTINGENT FEES

Contractor represents that it **has/has not** retained a person to solicit or secure a state contract upon an agreement or understanding for a Department, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee, except as disclosed in Contractor's proposal.

2. REPRESENTATION REGARDING GRATUITIES

The Respondent or Contractor represents that it **has/has not** violated, is not violating, and promises that it will not violate the prohibition against gratuities set forth in Section 6204 (Gratuities) of the Mississippi Public Procurement Review Board's Office of Personal Service Contract Review's Rules and Regulations.

3. CERTIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT PRICE DETERMINATION

The respondent certifies that the prices submitted in response to the solicitation **have/have not** been arrived at independently and without, for the purpose of restricting competition, any consultation, communication, or agreement with any other respondent or competitor relating to those prices, the intention to submit a proposal, or the methods or factors used to calculate price.

4. PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S REPRESENTATION REGARDING CONTINGENT FEES

The prospective Contractor represents as a part of such Contractor's proposal that such Contractor **has/has not** retained any person or agency on a percentage, Department, or other contingent arrangement to secure this contract.

Name/Title: _____

Signature/Date: _____

Note: Please be sure to circle the applicable word or words provided above. Failure to circle the applicable word or words and/or to sign the proposal form may result in the proposal being rejected as nonresponsive. Modifications or additions to any portion of this proposal document may be cause for rejection of the proposal.

ATTACHMENT B

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE SOLID WASTE SERVICES PRICE RECAP SHEET REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFx # 3140003252

By signing below, the Company Representative certifies that he/she has authority to bind the company, and further acknowledges on behalf of the company: That he/she has thoroughly read and understands this Request for Proposals and the attachments herein;

1. That the company meets all requirements and acknowledges all certifications contained in this Request for Proposals and the attachments herein;
2. That the company agrees to all provisions of this Request for Proposals and the attachments herein;
3. That the company has, or will secure, at its own expense, applicable personnel who shall be qualified to perform the duties required to be performed under this Request for Proposals.

Company Name:

Address:

Contact Person:

Telephone Number:

Fax Number:

Email:

Signature:

Attachment B: Fees
Proposer's Fees:_____

\$_____ One pull of solid waste in a dumpster. (A pull is one trip in which a dumpster is hauled to the landfill, emptied, and returned to the Fairgrounds.)

\$_____ One pull of solid waste in a trash compactor.

\$_____ Disposal of one ton of garbage

\$_____ Monthly rental for trash compactor.

\$_____ Monthly rental for 30 cubic yard dumpster.

\$_____ Monthly rental for 20 cubic yard dumpster

\$_____ State Fair pick-up and disposal (sweeping and cleaning are excluded.)

\$_____ Fuel surcharge.

\$_____ Environmental surcharge.

ATTACHMENT C

RFP SUBMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR A SEALED PAPER SUBMISSION

The instructions in Section 2.3 are for the submittal of the RFP to be entered manually by an MDAC representative. The bidder has chosen not to submit the RFP electronically into the MAGIC System.

Proposals must be submitted in sealed envelope(s).

**** RFx IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE ENVELOPE
MUST BE AS SHOWN BELOW**

STREET DELIVERY:

Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce
Attention: Hewitt Pittman, Purchasing Director
121 North Jefferson Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

RFx No 3140003252

- . (Bottom Left-Hand Corner of Sealed Proposal Submission) Sign
your Proposal and return it, as shown above

DEPENDING ON APPLICABILTY INITIAL ITEMS BELOW:

- _____ 1. I/We certify that we have read and understand the "Request For
Proposal" solicitation document.
- _____ 2. I/We certify that we request MDAC to enter my sealed written
proposal on my behalf into the MAGIC System.

ATTACHMENT D

Required Clauses for Service Contracts Resulting from this Request for Proposals

1. Applicable Law. The contract shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Mississippi, excluding its conflicts of laws, provisions, and any litigation with respect thereto shall be brought in the courts of the State. Contractor shall comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
2. Approval Clause. It is understood that if this contract requires approval by the Public Procurement Review Board and/or the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration Office of Personal Service Contract Review and this contract is not approved by the PPRB and/or OPSCR, it is void and no payment shall be made hereunder.
3. Availability of Funds. It is expressly understood and agreed that the obligation of the Agency to proceed under this agreement is conditioned upon the appropriation of funds by the Mississippi State Legislature and the receipt of state and/or federal funds. If the funds anticipated for the continuing fulfillment of the agreement are, at any time, not forthcoming or insufficient, either through the failure of the federal government to provide funds or of the State of Mississippi to appropriate funds or the discontinuance or material alteration of the program under which funds were provided or if funds are not otherwise available to the Agency, the Agency shall have the right upon ten (10) working days written notice to Contractor, to terminate this agreement without damage, penalty, cost or expenses to the Agency of any kind whatsoever. The effective date of termination shall be as specified in the notice of termination.
4. Compliance with Laws. Contractor understands that the Agency 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, genetic information, or any other consideration made unlawful by federal, state, or local laws. All such discrimination is unlawful, and Contractor agrees during the term of the agreement that Contractor will strictly adhere to this policy in its employment practices and provision of services. Contractor shall comply with, and all activities under this agreement shall be subject to, all applicable federal, State of Mississippi, and local laws and regulations, as now existing and as may be amended or modified.
5. E-Payment. Contractor agrees to accept all payments in United States currency via the State of Mississippi's electronic payment and remittance vehicle. The agency agrees to make payment in accordance with Mississippi law on "Timely Payments for Purchases by Public Bodies," which generally provides for payment of undisputed amounts by the agency within forty-five (45) days of receipt of invoice. Mississippi Code Annotated § 317-301.
6. E-Verification. If applicable, Contractor represents and warrants that it will ensure its compliance with the Mississippi Employment Protection Act of 2008 and will register and

participate in the status verification system for all newly hired employees. Mississippi Code Annotated §§ 71-11-1 *et seq.* The term “employee” as used herein means any person that is hired to perform work within the State of Mississippi. As used herein, “status verification system” means the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996 that is operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security, also known as the E-Verify Program, or any other successor electronic verification system replacing the E-Verify Program. Contractor agrees to maintain records of such compliance. Upon request of the State and after approval of the Social Security Administration or Department of Homeland Security when required, Contractor agrees to provide a copy of each such verification. Contractor further represents and warrants that any person assigned to perform services hereafter meets the employment eligibility requirements of all immigration laws. The breach of this agreement may subject Contractor to the following:

- a. termination of this contract for services and ineligibility for any state or public contract in Mississippi for up to three (3) years with notice of such cancellation/termination being made public;
 - b. the loss of any license, permit, certification or other document granted to Contractor by an agency, department or governmental entity for the right to do business in Mississippi for up to one (1) year; or both.
 - c. In the event of such cancellation/termination, Contractor would also be liable for any additional costs incurred by the State due to contract cancellation or loss of license or permit to do business in the State.
7. Paymode. Payments by state agencies using the State’s accounting system shall be made and remittance information provided electronically as directed by the State. These payments shall be deposited into the bank account of Contractor’s choice. The State may, at its sole discretion, require Contractor to electronically submit invoices and supporting documentation at any time during the term of this Agreement. Contractor understands and agrees that the State is exempt from the payment of taxes. All payments shall be in United States currency.
8. Procurement Regulations. The contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of the *Mississippi Public Procurement Review Board Office of Personal Service Contract Review Rules and Regulations*, a copy of which is available at 501 North West Street, Suite 701E, Jackson, Mississippi 39201 for inspection, or downloadable at <http://www.dfa.ms.gov>.
9. Representation Regarding Contingent Fees. Contractor represents that it has not retained a person to solicit or secure a state contract upon an agreement or understanding for a Department, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee, except as disclosed in Contractor’s proposal.
10. Representation Regarding Gratuities. Contractor represents that it has not violated, is not violating, and promises that it will not violate the prohibition against gratuities set forth in Section 6-204 (Gratuities) of the *Mississippi Public Procurement Review Board Office of Personal Service Contract Review Rules and Regulations*.

11. Stop Work Order.

- a. *Order to Stop Work:* The Procurement Officer, may, by written order to Contractor at any time, and without notice to any surety, require Contractor to stop all or any part of the work called for by this contract. This order shall be for a specified period not exceeding 90 days after the order is delivered to Contractor unless the parties agree to any further period. Any such order shall be identified specifically as a stop work order issued pursuant to this clause. Upon receipt of such an order, Contractor shall forthwith comply with its terms and take all reasonable steps to minimize the occurrence of costs allocable to the work covered by the order during the period of work stoppage. Before the stop work order expires, or within any further period to which the parties shall have agreed, the Procurement Officer shall either:
 - i. cancel the stop work order; or,
 - ii. terminate the work covered by such order as provided in the Termination for Default clause or the Termination for Convenience clause of this contract.
- b. *Cancellation or Expiration of the Order:* If a stop work order issued under this clause is canceled at any time during the period specified in the order, or if the period of the order or any extension thereof expires, Contractor shall have the right to resume work. An appropriate adjustment shall be made in the delivery schedule or Contractor price, or both, and the contract shall be modified in writing accordingly, if:
 - i. the stop work order results in an increase in the time required for, or in Contractor's cost properly allocable to, the performance of any part of this contract; and,
 - ii. Contractor asserts a claim for such an adjustment within 30 days after the end of the period of work stoppage; provided that, if the Procurement Officer decides that the facts justify such action, any such claim asserted may be received and acted upon at any time prior to final payment under this contract.
- c. *Termination of Stopped Work:* If a stop work order is not canceled and the work covered by such order is terminated for default or convenience, the reasonable costs resulting from the stop work order shall be allowed by adjustment or otherwise.
- d. *Adjustments of Price:* Any adjustment in contract price made pursuant to this clause shall be determined in accordance with the Price Adjustment clause of this contract.

12. Termination for Convenience.

- a. *Termination.* The Agency Head or designee may, when the interests of the State so require, terminate this contract in whole or in part, for the convenience of the State. The Agency Head or designee shall give written notice of the termination to Contractor specifying the part of the contract terminated and when termination becomes effective.

- b. *Contractor's Obligations.* Contractor shall incur no further obligations in connection with the terminated work and on the date set in the notice of termination Contractor will stop work to the extent specified. Contractor shall also terminate outstanding orders and subcontracts as they relate to the terminated work. Contractor shall settle the liabilities and claims arising out of the termination of subcontracts and orders connected with the terminated work. The Agency Head or designee may direct Contractor to assign Contractor's right, title, and interest under terminated orders or subcontracts to the State. Contractor must still complete the work not terminated by the notice of termination and may incur obligations as are necessary to do so.

13. Termination for Default.

- a. *Default.* If Contractor refuses or fails to perform any of the provisions of this contract with such diligence as will ensure its completion within the time specified in this contract or any extension thereof, or otherwise fails to timely satisfy the contract provisions, or commits any other substantial breach of this contract, the Agency Head or designee may notify Contractor in writing of the delay or nonperformance and if not cured in ten (10) days or any longer time specified in writing by the Agency Head or designee, such officer may terminate Contractor's right to proceed with the contract or such part of the contract as to which there has been delay or a failure to properly perform. In the event of termination in whole or in part, the Agency Head or designee may procure similar supplies or services in a manner and upon terms deemed appropriate by the Agency Head or designee. Contractor shall continue performance of the contract to the extent it is not terminated and shall be liable for excess costs incurred in procuring similar goods or services.
- b. *Contractor's Duties.* Notwithstanding termination of the contract and subject to any directions from the procurement officer, Contractor shall take timely, reasonable, and necessary action to protect and preserve property in the possession of Contractor in which the State has an interest.
- c. *Compensation.* Payment for completed services delivered and accepted by the State shall be at the contract price. The State may withhold from amounts due Contractor such sums as the Agency Head or designee deems to be necessary to protect the State against loss because of outstanding liens or claims of former lien holders and to reimburse the State for the excess costs incurred in procuring similar goods and services.
- d. *Excuse for Nonperformance or Delayed Performance.* Except with respect to defaults of subcontractors, Contractor shall not be in default by reason of any failure in performance of this contract in accordance with its terms (including any failure by Contractor to make progress in the prosecution of the work hereunder which endangers such performance) if Contractor has notified the Agency Head or designee within 15 days after the cause of the delay and the failure arises out of causes such as: acts of God; acts of the public enemy; acts of the State and any other governmental entity in its sovereign or contractual capacity; fires; floods; epidemics; quarantine restrictions; strikes or other labor disputes; freight embargoes; or unusually severe weather. If the failure to perform is caused by the failure of a subcontractor to perform or to make progress, and if such failure arises out of causes similar to those set forth above, Contractor shall not be deemed to be in default,

unless the services to be furnished by the subcontractor were reasonably obtainable from other sources in sufficient time to permit Contractor to meet the contract requirements. Upon request of Contractor, the Agency Head or designee shall ascertain the facts and extent of such failure, and, if such officer determines that any failure to perform was occasioned by any one or more of the excusable causes, and that, but for the excusable cause, Contractor's progress and performance would have met the terms of the contract, the delivery schedule shall be revised accordingly, subject to the rights of the State under the clause entitled in fixed price contracts, "Termination for Convenience". (As used in this Paragraph of this clause, the term "subcontractor" means subcontractor at any tier).

- e. *Erroneous Termination for Default.* If, after notice of termination of Contractor's right to proceed under the provisions of this clause, it is determined for any reason that the contract was not in default under the provisions of this clause, or that the delay was excusable under the provisions of Paragraph (4) (Excuse for Nonperformance or Delayed Performance) of this clause, the rights and obligations of the parties shall, if the contract contains a clause providing for termination for convenience of the State, be the same as if the notice of termination had been issued pursuant to such clause.
 - f. *Additional Rights and Remedies.* The rights and remedies provided in this clause are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or under this contract.
14. Termination Upon Bankruptcy. This contract may be terminated in whole or in part by Agency upon written notice to Contractor, if Contractor should become the subject of bankruptcy or receivership proceedings, whether voluntary or involuntary, or upon the execution by Contractor of an assignment for the benefit of its creditors. In the event of such termination, Contractor shall be entitled to recover just and equitable compensation for satisfactory work performed under this contract, but in no case shall said compensation exceed the total contract price.
15. Trade Secrets, Commercial and Financial Information. It is expressly understood that Mississippi law requires that the provisions of this contract which contain the commodities purchased or the personal or professional services provided, the price to be paid, and the term of the contract shall not be deemed to be a trade secret or confidential commercial or financial information and shall be available for examination, copying, or reproduction.
16. Transparency. This contract, including any accompanying exhibits, attachments, and appendices, is subject to the "Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983," and its exceptions. See Mississippi Code Annotated §§ 25-61-1 *et seq.* and Mississippi Code Annotated § 7923-1. In addition, this contract is subject to the provisions of the Mississippi Accountability and Transparency Act of 2008. Mississippi Code Annotated §§ 27-104-151 *et seq.* Unless exempted from disclosure due to a court-issued protective order, a copy of this executed contract is required to be posted to the Department of Finance and Administration's independent agency contract website for public access at <http://www.transparency.mississippi.gov>. Information identified by Contractor as trade secrets, or other proprietary information, including confidential vendor information or any other information which is required confidential by state or federal law or outside the applicable freedom of information statutes, will be redacted.

ATTACHMENT E

Optional Clauses for Use in Service Contracts Resulting from this Request for Proposals

[Agency may choose to incorporate some or all of these clauses into their procurement or not include Attachment C. Inclusion of any of these clauses is at the discretion of the Agency.]

1. Anti-assignment/Subcontracting. Contractor acknowledges that it was selected by the State to perform the services required hereunder based, in part, upon Contractor's special skills and expertise. Contractor shall not assign, subcontract, or otherwise transfer this agreement, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of the State, which the State may, in its sole discretion, approve or deny without reason. Any attempted assignment or transfer of its obligations without such consent shall be null and void. No such approval by the State of any subcontract shall be deemed in any way to provide for the incurrence of any obligation of the State in addition to the total fixed price agreed upon in this agreement. Subcontracts shall be subject to the terms and conditions of this agreement and to any conditions of approval that the State may deem necessary. Subject to the foregoing, this agreement shall be binding upon the respective successors and assigns of the parties.
2. Attorney's Fees and Expenses. Subject to other terms and conditions of this agreement, in the event Contractor defaults in any obligations under this agreement, Contractor shall pay to the State all costs and expenses (including, without limitation, investigative fees, court costs, and attorney's fees) incurred by the State in enforcing this agreement or otherwise reasonably related thereto. Contractor agrees that under no circumstances shall the customer be obligated to pay any attorney's fees or costs of legal action to Contractor.
3. Authority to Contract. Contractor warrants: (a) that it is a validly organized business with valid authority to enter into this agreement; (b) that it is qualified to do business and in good standing in the State of Mississippi; (c) that entry into and performance under this agreement is not restricted or prohibited by any loan, security, financing, contractual, or other agreement of any kind; and, (d) notwithstanding any other provision of this agreement to the contrary, that there are no existing legal proceedings or prospective legal proceedings, either voluntary or otherwise, which may adversely affect its ability to perform its obligations under this agreement.
4. Information Designated by Contractor as Confidential. Any disclosure of those materials, documents, data, and other information which Contractor has designated in writing as proprietary and confidential shall be subject to the provisions of Mississippi Code Annotated §§ 25-61-9 and 79-23-1. As provided in the contract, the personal or professional services to be provided, the price to be paid, and the term of the contract shall not be deemed to be a trade secret, or confidential commercial or financial information.

Any liability resulting from the wrongful disclosure of confidential information on the part of Contractor, or its subcontractor shall rest with Contractor. Disclosure of any confidential information by Contractor or its subcontractor without the express written approval of the Agency shall result in the immediate termination of this agreement.

5. Confidentiality. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary contained herein, it is recognized that Agency is a public agency of the State of Mississippi and is subject to the Mississippi Public Records Act. Mississippi Code Annotated §§ 25-61-1 *et seq.* If a public records request is made for any information provided to Agency pursuant to the agreement and designated by the Contractor in writing as trade secrets or other proprietary confidential information, Agency shall follow the provisions of Mississippi Code Annotated §§ 25-61-9 and 79-23-1 before disclosing such information. The Agency shall not be liable to the Contractor for disclosure of information required by court order or required by law.
6. Contractor Personnel. The Agency shall, throughout the life of the contract, have the right of reasonable rejection and approval of staff or subcontractors assigned to the work by Contractor. If the Agency reasonably rejects staff or subcontractors, Contractor must provide replacement staff or subcontractors satisfactory to the Agency in a timely manner and at no additional cost to the Agency. The day-to-day supervision and control of Contractor's employees and subcontractors is the sole responsibility of Contractor.
7. Debarment and Suspension. Contractor certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it:
 - (1) is not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transaction by any federal department or agency or any political subdivision or agency of the State of Mississippi;
 - (2) has not, within a three-year period preceding this proposal, been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against it for Department of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state, or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction;
 - (3) has not, within a three-year period preceding this proposal, been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against it for a violation of federal or state antitrust statutes or Department of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
 - (4) is not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (federal, state or local) with Department of any of these offenses enumerated in paragraphs two (2) and (3) of this certification; and,
 - (5) has not, within a three-year period preceding this proposal, had one or more public transactions (federal, state, or local) terminated for cause or default.
8. Disclosure of Confidential Information. In the event that either party to this agreement receives notice that a third-party requests divulgence of confidential or otherwise protected information and/or has served upon it a subpoena or other validly issued administrative or judicial process ordering divulgence of confidential or otherwise protected information that

party shall promptly inform the other party and thereafter respond in conformity with such subpoena to the extent mandated by law. This section shall survive the termination or completion of this agreement. The parties agree that this section is subject to and superseded by Mississippi Code Annotated §§ 25-61-1 *et seq.*

9. Exceptions to Confidential Information. Contractor and the State shall not be obligated to treat as confidential and proprietary any information disclosed by the other party (“disclosing party”) which:
 - (1) is rightfully known to the recipient prior to negotiations leading to this agreement, other than information obtained in confidence under prior engagements;
 - (2) is generally known or easily ascertainable by nonparties of ordinary skill in the business of the customer;
 - (3) is released by the disclosing party to any other person, firm, or entity (including governmental agencies or bureaus) without restriction;
 - (4) is independently developed by the recipient without any reliance on confidential information;
 - (5) is or later becomes part of the public domain or may be lawfully obtained by the State or Contractor from any nonparty; or;
 - (6) is disclosed with the disclosing party’s prior written consent
10. Errors in Extension. If the unit price and the extension price are at variance, the unit price shall prevail.
11. Failure to Deliver. In the event of failure of Contractor to deliver services in accordance with the contract terms and conditions, the Agency, after due oral or written notice, may procure the services from other sources and hold Contractor responsible for any resulting additional purchase and administrative costs. This remedy shall be in addition to any other remedies that the Agency may have.
12. Failure to Enforce. Failure by the Agency at any time to enforce the provisions of the contract shall not be construed as a waiver of any such provisions. Such failure to enforce shall not affect the validity of the contract or any part thereof or the right of the Agency to enforce any provision at any time in accordance with its terms.
13. Final Payment. Upon satisfactory completion of the work performed under this contract, as a condition before final payment under this contract, or as a termination settlement under this contract, Contractor shall execute and deliver to the Agency a release of all claims against the State arising under, or by virtue of, the contract, except claims which are specifically exempted by Contractor to be set forth therein. Unless otherwise provided in this contract, by state law, or otherwise expressly agreed to by the parties in this contract, final payment under the contract or settlement upon termination of this contract shall not constitute waiver of the State’s claims against Contractor under this contract.

14. Force Majeure. Each party shall be excused from performance for any period and to the extent that it is prevented from performing any obligation or service, in whole or in part, as a result of causes beyond the reasonable control and without the fault or negligence of such party and/or its subcontractors. Such acts shall include without limitation acts of God, strikes, lockouts, riots, acts of war, epidemics, governmental regulations superimposed after the fact, fire, earthquakes, floods, or other natural disasters (“force majeure events”). When such a cause arises, Contractor shall notify the State immediately in writing of the cause of its inability to perform, how it affects its performance, and the anticipated duration of the inability to perform. Delays in delivery or in meeting completion dates due to force majeure events shall automatically extend such dates for a period equal to the duration of the delay caused by such events, unless the State determines it to be in its best interest to terminate the agreement.
15. HIPAA Compliance. Contractor agrees to comply with the “Administrative Simplification” provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, including electronic data interchange, code sets, identifiers, security, and privacy provisions, as may be applicable to the services under this contract.
16. Indemnification. To the fullest extent allowed by law, Contractor shall indemnify, defend, save and hold harmless, protect, and exonerate the agency, its Departmenters, board members, officers, employees, agents, and representatives, and the State of Mississippi from and against all claims, demands, liabilities, suits, actions, damages, losses, and costs of every kind and nature whatsoever including, without limitation, court costs, investigative fees and expenses, and attorney’s fees, arising out of or caused by Contractor and/or its partners, principals, agents, employees and/or subcontractors in the performance of or failure to perform this agreement. In the State’s sole discretion, Contractor may be allowed to control the defense of any such claim, suit, etc. In the event Contractor defends said claim, suit, etc., Contractor shall use legal counsel acceptable to the State. Contractor shall be solely responsible for all costs and/or expenses associated with such defense, and the State shall be entitled to participate in said defense. Contractor shall not settle any claim, suit, etc. without the State’s concurrence, which the State shall not unreasonably withhold.
17. Independent Contractor Status. Contractor shall, at all times, be regarded as and shall be legally considered an independent contractor and shall at no time act as an agent for the State. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed or construed by the State, Contractor, or any third party as creating the relationship of principal and agent, master and servant, partners, joint ventures, employer and employee, or any similar such relationship between the State and Contractor. Neither the method of computation of fees or other charges, nor any other provision contained herein, nor any acts of the State or Contractor hereunder creates or shall be deemed to create a relationship other than the independent relationship of the State and Contractor. Contractor’s personnel shall not be deemed in any way, directly or indirectly, expressly or by implication, to be employees of the State. Neither Contractor nor its employees shall, under any circumstances, be considered servants, agents, or employees of the Agency, and the Agency shall be at no time legally responsible for any negligence or other wrongdoing by Contractor, its servants, agents, or employees. The Agency shall not

withhold from the contract payments to Contractor any federal or state unemployment taxes, federal or state income taxes, Social Security tax, or any other amounts for benefits to Contractor. Further, the Agency shall not provide to Contractor any insurance coverage or other benefits, including Worker's Compensation, normally provided by the State for its employees.

18. Integrated Agreement/Merger. This agreement, including all contract documents, represents the entire and integrated agreement between the parties hereto and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations or agreements, irrespective of whether written or oral. This agreement may be altered, amended, or modified only by a written document executed by the State and Contractor. Contractor acknowledges that it has thoroughly read all contract documents and has had the opportunity to receive competent advice and counsel necessary for it to form a full and complete understanding of all rights and obligations herein. Accordingly, this agreement shall not be construed or interpreted in favor of or against the State or Contractor on the basis of draftsmanship or preparation hereof.
19. Modification or Renegotiation. This agreement may be modified only by written agreement signed by the parties hereto. The parties agree to renegotiate the agreement if federal and/or state revisions of any applicable laws or regulations make changes in this agreement necessary. (Contract Modification means any written alteration in contract requirements, deliverables, delivery point, rate of delivery, period of performance, price, quantity, or other provisions of any contract accomplished by mutual action of the parties to the contract. Modifications must be approved by the PPRB pursuant to Section 7-111 (Modifications) of the Mississippi Public Procurement Review Board's Office of Personal Service Contract Review's Rules and Regulations. Modifications shall not grant extra compensation, fee, or allowance to any Contractor after service is rendered or contract is made, unless contemplated within the contract itself or unless the scope of services is increased.)
20. No Limitation of Liability. Nothing in this agreement shall be interpreted as excluding or limiting any tort liability of Contractor for harm caused by the intentional or reckless conduct of Contractor or for damages incurred through the negligent performance of duties by Contractor or the delivery of products that are defective due to negligent construction.
21. Notices. All notices required or permitted to be given under this agreement must be in writing and personally delivered or sent by certified United States mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, to the party to whom the notice should be given at the address set forth below. Notice shall be deemed given when actually received or when refused. The parties agree to promptly notify each other in writing of any change of address.

For the Agency:	For Contractor:
Hewitt Pittman, Chief Procurement Officer	[Name, Title]
MS Dept. of Agriculture and Commerce	[Contractor Name]
P.O. Box 892	[Address]

Jackson, MS 39205

[City, State, Zip]

22. Non-solicitation of Employees. Each party to this agreement agrees not to employ or to solicit for employment, directly or indirectly, any persons in the full-time or part-time employment of the other party until at least six (6) months after this agreement terminates unless mutually agreed to in writing by the State and Contractor.
23. Oral Statements. No oral statement of any person shall modify or otherwise affect the terms, conditions, or specifications stated in this contract. All modifications to the contract must be made in writing by the Agency and agreed to by Contractor.
24. Ownership of Documents and Work Papers. Agency shall own all documents, files, reports, work papers and working documentation, electronic or otherwise, created in connection with the project which is the subject of this agreement, except for Contractor's internal administrative and quality assurance files and internal project correspondence. Contractor shall deliver such documents and work papers to Agency upon termination or completion of the agreement. The foregoing notwithstanding, Contractor shall be entitled to retain a set of such work papers for its files. Contractor shall be entitled to use such work papers only after receiving written permission from Agency and subject to any copyright protections.
25. Priority. The contract consists of this agreement with exhibits, the procurement Request for Proposals (hereinafter referred to as RFP and attached as Schedule ____, and the response dated _____ by _____ (contractor's name) (hereinafter referred to as Proposal and attached as Schedule _____. Any ambiguities, conflicts or questions of interpretation of this contract shall be resolved by first, reference to this agreement with exhibits and, if still unresolved, by reference to the RFP and, if still unresolved, by reference to the Proposal. Omission of any term or obligation from this agreement or attached Schedules _____ or _____ shall not be deemed an omission from this contract if such term or obligation is provided for elsewhere in this contract. (Please make sure you list all documents to be considered including amendments to the procurement or response, etc. In addition, make sure the order of these documents always has State's documents first, and Contractor's documents last, in order to ensure that State's documents always take precedence. Consult with your Attorney General Counsel if you have questions on the order of precedence. Delete if no documents need to be included.)
26. Quality Control. Contractor shall institute and maintain throughout the contract period a properly documented quality control program designed to ensure that the services are provided at all times and in all respects in accordance with the contract. The program shall include providing daily supervision and conducting frequent inspections of Contractor's staff and ensuring that accurate records are maintained describing the disposition of all complaints. The records so created shall be open to inspection by the Agency.
27. Record Retention and Access to Records. Provided Contractor is given reasonable advance written notice and such inspection is made during normal business hours of Contractor, the

State or any duly authorized representatives shall have unimpeded, prompt access to any of Contractor's books, documents, papers, and/or records which are maintained or produced as a result of the project for the purpose of making audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcriptions. All records related to this agreement shall be retained by Contractor for three (3) years after final payment is made under this agreement and all pending matters are closed; however, if any audit, litigation or other action arising out of or related in any way to this project is commenced before the end of the three-year period, the records shall be retained for one (1) year after all issues arising out of the action are finally resolved or until the end of the three-year period, whichever is later.

28. Recovery of Money. Whenever, under the contract, any sum of money shall be recoverable from or payable by Contractor to the Agency, the same amount may be deducted from any sum due to Contractor under the contract or under any other contract between Contractor and the Agency. The rights of the Agency are in addition and without prejudice to any other right the Agency may have to claim the amount of any loss or damage suffered by the Agency on account of the acts or omissions of Contractor.
29. Right to Audit. Contractor shall maintain such financial records and other records as may be prescribed by the Agency or by applicable federal and state laws, rules, and regulations. Contractor shall retain these records for a period of three (3) years after final payment, or until they are audited by the Agency, whichever event occurs first. These records shall be made available during the term of the contract and the subsequent three-year period for examination, transcription, and audit by the Mississippi State Auditor's Office, its designees, or other authorized bodies.
30. Right to Inspect Facility. The State may, at reasonable times, inspect the place of business of a Contractor or any subcontractor which is related to the performance of any contract awarded by the State.
31. Severability. If any part of this agreement is declared to be invalid or unenforceable, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision of the agreement that can be given effect without the invalid or unenforceable provision, and to this end the provisions hereof are severable. In such event, the parties shall amend the agreement as necessary to reflect the original intent of the parties and to bring any invalid or unenforceable provisions in compliance with applicable law.
32. State Property. Contractor will be responsible for the proper custody and care of any state owned property furnished for Contractor's use in connection with the performance of this agreement. Contractor will reimburse the State for any loss or damage, normal wear and tear excepted.
33. Third Party Action Notification. Contractor shall give the customer prompt notice in writing of any action or suit filed, and prompt notice of any claim made against Contractor by any entity that may result in litigation related in any way to this agreement.

34. Unsatisfactory Work. If, at any time during the contract term, the service performed or work done by Contractor is considered by the Agency to create a condition that threatens the health, safety, or welfare of the citizens and/or employees of the State of Mississippi, Contractor shall, on being notified by the Agency, immediately correct such deficient service or work. In the event Contractor fails, after notice, to correct the deficient service or work immediately, the Agency shall have the right to order the correction of the deficiency by separate contract or with its own resources at the expense of Contractor.
35. Waiver. No delay or omission by either party to this agreement in exercising any right, power, or remedy hereunder or otherwise afforded by contract, at law, or in equity shall constitute an acquiescence therein, impair any other right, power or remedy hereunder or otherwise afforded by any means, or operate as a waiver of such right, power, or remedy. No waiver by either party to this agreement shall be valid unless set forth in writing by the party making said waiver. No waiver of or modification to any term or condition of this agreement will void, waive, or change any other term or condition. No waiver by one party to this agreement of a default by the other party will imply, be construed as or require waiver of future or other defaults.
36. Requirements Contract. During the period of the contract, Contractor shall provide all the service described in the contract. Contractor understands and agrees that this is requirements contract and that the Agency shall have no obligation to Contractor if no services are required. Any quantities that are included in the scope of work reflect the current expectations of the Agency for the period of the contract. The amount is only an estimate and Contractor understands and agrees that the Agency is under no obligation to Contractor to buy any amount of the services as a result of having provided this estimate or of having any typical or measurable requirement in the past. Contractor further understands and agrees that the Agency may require services in an amount less than or in excess of the estimated annual contract amount and that the quantity actually used, whether in excess of the estimate or less than the estimate, shall not give rise to any claim for compensation other than the total of the unit prices in the contract for the quantity actually used.