UNIVERSITY of SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

GULF COAST RESEARCH LABORATORY

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS TESTING & INSPECTION SERVICES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Request for Qualifications: The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) will accept sealed proposals from qualified firms for construction materials testing and inspection services for the FEMA funded J.L. Scott Marine Education Center. A labor hour/unit price or firm/fixed price contract will be utilized. Selection of the firm or firms will be based on qualifications.

Sealed statements of qualification from interested firms and individuals will be accepted by Chris Snyder at 703 East Beach Drive, Ocean Springs, MS 39564 until 2:00 PM on February 3, 2015.

All submittals must be sealed and clearly marked on the outside of the envelope **“Marine Education Center – Construction Testing Services”.**

An original and 6 copies of each proposal must be submitted to:

Mr. Chris Snyder

703 East Beach Drive

Ocean Springs, Mississippi 39564

Services requested will be rated on company/individual and employee qualifications to provide testing/inspection services. Services are according to applicable International Building Code requirements and may include but are not limited to:

1. Structural inspections – shearwalls, foundations, floor and roof diaphragms, roof cladding and connections, verification of impact resistant systems or components, welds. Periodic inspections of joist and brace connections, steel deck alignment, pattern, size, closures, etc.
2. Soils – Soil classification (particle size, liquid limit, plastic limit, plasticity index and max. density), density, lift thicknesses, compaction. Periodic inspections include preparation of subgrade prior to fill placement, foundation bearing capacity, quantify fill.
3. Cast in place concrete – slump, sampling and preparing cylinders, air content, unit weight, temperature, water/admixture additions, compressive strength tests.
4. Non-shrink grouting – compressive strength.
5. Concrete masonry – compressive strength, reinforcement welds, grout placement in cells, mortar joint inspection.

Proposals must include: key personnel who will work on this project, experience with related projects, qualification and certifications, current project load/capacity, references and company office address. Additionally, show approximate turn-around time for lab reports and list any sub-consultants.

Proposals for this project will be rated according to the following criteria:

1. **EXPERIENCE (40 points):** with similar projects of the person(s) assigned to provide services. List previous projects with same or similar scope of work.

2. **QUALIFICATIONS (40 points):** education, knowledge, and technical expertise in this and similar projects of the person(s) assigned to provide the services.

3. **CAPACITY FOR PERFORMANCE (20 points):** to perform required services in a timely manner, given current workload and staff. Provide sufficient information regarding evidence of available capacity.

All proposals will be rated on the following system to determine the best Offer: Description and maximum points: Experience - 40 points; Qualifications - 40 points; Capacity -20 points. Total: 100 Points.

A selection committee will rate the proposals according to the above criteria. Negotiations will be conducted initially with the firm/individual receiving the highest number of points, as rated by the selection committee. If a mutually satisfactory contract cannot be negotiated with the firm/individual, the firm/individual will be requested to submit a best and final offer, in writing, and if a contract cannot be reached after the best and final offer, negotiation with that firm/individual will be terminated. Negotiations then will be initiated with the subsequently listed firm/individual in the order of rating, and this procedure will be continued until a mutually satisfactory contract has been negotiated. In addition to reaching a fair and reasonable price for required work, the objective of negotiations will be to reach an agreement on the provisions of the proposed contract including scope and extent of work and other essential requirements.

Any contract(s) awarded under this request for qualifications are expected to be funded in whole or in part by anticipated funds from the FEMA Public Assistance program and USM.

Statements of Qualification may be held by USM for the purpose of reviewing the proposals and investigating the qualifications of the consultant prior to awarding the contract. USM will enter into a contract utilizing hourly rates or lump sum amount. Contracts will be awarded to the qualified offeror(s) in a manner determined to be most advantageous to USM.

USM is an equal opportunity employer and encourages MBE/DBE/WBE proposals. USM reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any or all informalities or irregularities in the proposal process. The USM reserves the right to hire one or more firms/individuals.

The responsibility for timely submission of proposals to the administration office is solely that of the proposer. USM will in no way be responsible for delays in mail delivery or delays caused by any other occurrence. **LATE PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Advertisement Dates: January 6, 2015

January 13, 2015

Please send proof of publication to:

Donna Valestro

Director Finance & Administration

730 East Beach Blvd.

Box 5128

Long Beach, MS 39560