

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

RFQ REDM2526-07

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL, AND PLUMBING SERVICES FOR THE NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGION CONTINUING CONTRACT

FAILURE TO FILE A PROTEST WITHIN THE TIME PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 120.57(3), FLORIDA STATUTES, OR FAILURE TO POST THE BOND OR OTHER SECURITY REQUIRED BY LAW WITHIN THE TIME ALLOWED FOR FILING A BOND SHALL CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF PROCEEDINGS UNDER CHAPTER 120, FLORIDA STATUTES.

The Department's responses to timely submitted questions are below.

Question Number	Question	Response
1.	Does the response need to be in conjunction with other firms that would partner with our firm on future projects?	No.
2.	Will the Veterans' Preference requirements outlined in Section 295.187 of the Florida Statutes be applied to this procurement? If the answer is 'no,' please identify the specific Florida Statute or legal authority that establishes Section 287.055 (CCNA) as taking precedence over the Florida Veteran Business Enterprise Opportunity Act (Section 295.187) for this procurement.	No.
3.	Is the demographic makeup of the evaluation panel a matter of public record, and if not, can the agency provide a summary of the panel's diversity to assure all bidders of a fair process?	Please see RFQ REDM2526-07, Section 13: Preliminary Screening, and Section 15: Interviews and Presentations.
4.	What steps has the agency taken to ensure that the evaluation panel itself is diverse and includes representation from qualified African American or other qualified minority professionals to ensure a balanced perspective during the selection process?	The Department complies with the requirements of Section 287.055, Florida Statutes.
5.	Can you explain how the specific selection criteria for this project align with the agency's broader annual MBE procurement goals under Florida Statute 287.09451?	The selection criteria are outlined in Section 287.055, Florida Statutes.
6.	If a prime firm is not an MBE, how will you evaluate their commitment to using minority sub-consultants in meaningful, professional roles rather than just administrative or 'pass-through' capacities?	Please see the Response to Question 4.
7.	Will the 2019 Tallahassee Leon County diversity Study be taken into consideration when selecting Firms to participate in this procurement? According to this study African American firms and some other minorities get very little opportunities.	No.

Question Number	Question	Response
8.	Section 15 states Interviews will consider “References for relevant projects from prior Clients and Architects-Engineers using the information provided in the Response (see Section 8, Number 3). Please Note: References may not be provided from current DMS employees”. We request the following clarification: A. Request verification that this restriction is limited to project references under Section 8, Number 3 and the Interview. B. Request verification that it is acceptable to list projects under SF330 Section F with a current DMS employee listed under Project Owner’s Information. C. If the above is not permissible, request verification that the DMS employee name can be omitted in the SF330 Section F project reference with all other relevant details included.	A. Correct B. That is acceptable.
9.	We respectfully request clarification regarding the requirement in Section 8 of the RFQ to provide a “copy of the firm’s current Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) License.” As the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation no longer issues formal license certificates for firms (effective 10/2019), active licensure status is verified through the DBPR online license registry. Please confirm whether a PDF printout or electronic verification of the firm’s active license status from the DBPR online licensing portal is acceptable to satisfy this requirement, or if an alternative form of documentation is preferred.	Confirmed. A PDF printout of the firm’s active license status from the DBPR online licensing portal is acceptable.