# RFPs as Part of Procurement Excellence





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Director of Education

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#### Download Today's Slides & Resources

center4procurement.org/dfw-nigp/





#### 20+ Years | 150+ Owners

#### 3,000+ Projects | \$15+ Billion Procured

# Information Technology

Networking
Data centers
Hardware
COTS software
ERP systems

#### Facility Management

maintenance custodial landscaping conveyance security service pest control building systems industrial moving waste management energy management





#### Business/Municipal/ University Services

dining reti
multi-media rights ma
fitness equipment boo
online education furn
document management
property management
audiovisual
communications systems
emergency response systems

laundry

retirement fund material recycling bookstores

furniture

Help desk services

**eProcurement** 

Municipal
Laboratory
Education
Hospital
Corrections
Financial

Infrastructure

Engineering

Renovation
Repair
Maintenance
Roofing
Specialty
Demolition

**Development** 

Construction/Design/

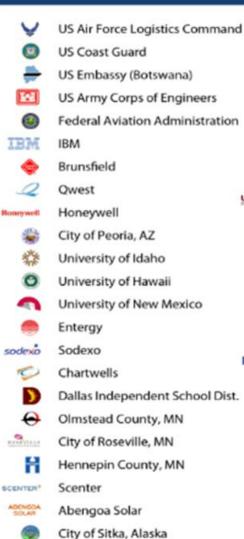
CMAR
DB
IDIQ
JOC
Low Bid
IPD

DBB





PROJECT PARTNERS AND PARTICIPANTS:



rpu

**US Solar** 

**Rochester Public Utilities** 







Baptist Health

City of Columbia, SC

PECO Energy

Intermediate District 287





























**Environment** Protection







SFU







www.sprucegrove.org





































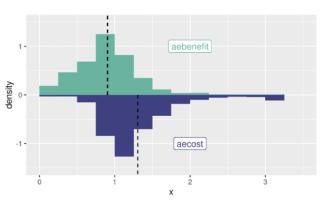




#### Current "Solutions"

- "Better" contracts, "Alternative" Delivery
  - DB to CM to CMAR to IPD to ....
  - Technology
  - Financial adjustments
- None have proven to not be enough to drive consistently high performance outcomes on projects (even in past times)
- Procurement often overemphasizes the power of a contract to drive performance and protect the organization from non-performance
- Many organizations struggle to show value in the work and performance that is received – getting "finished" is not enough of a performance metric to use to make economic and org decisions

Study: Cost-Benefit Analyses for Projects Are 'Worse than Worthless'



October 8, 2021

Peter Reina

KEYWORDS construction proj / cost / economic analysis Order Reprints A large new global study of project performance over 86 years confirms that ingrained optimism bias results in forecast-based cost-benefit analyses "so misleading as to be worse than worthless," say UK researchers. While construction technology and practice have developed over the decades, failures of cost-benefit analysis "seem universal across space and time," they add.



# Reality





## Reality of the Situation

- Performance in built environment (construction, design, FM work) has been proven to NOT correlate to contract types, delivery methods, software, design quality, etc.
- ■Performance on built environment work HAS BEEN PROVEN to highly correlate to the capability, skill, and experience of the people doing the work – the critical personnel on a project – PM, SS, Client Lead, Design Arch, Key Engrs, Critical Sub SS, FM, technicians, etc.

### Importance of the People

The ability to realize

innovation,

risk minimization,

value creation, &

cost reduction

will not exceed the capability of the people doing the work



# We Want to be seen as a "Client of Choice!"



# Are You Writing RFP's And Not Getting Any Responses???



## Case Study

- Challenges with performance of procured services
- How fair is the procurement process
- How transparent is the procurement process
- What is most important to the owner
- What is their overall satisfaction with the owner



# Vendor Perceptions 56 Contractors

#### CONTRACTOR ASSESSMENT

Regarding Experiences With The State of Tennessee

#### **OVERVIEW**

Researchers from Arizona State University conducted two separate surveys on contractors that perform work with the State of Tennessee. The first survey was performed in person (Nashville) at a general educational presentation (on August 15, 2016). During the presentation, contractors were asked to provide feedback regarding their experiences working with the State of Tennessee. The second survey was performed online (September 30, 2016), by sharing the survey link with the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of TN. The contractor responses were collected anonymously. The results of the survey are shown below.

#### SURRESULTS

56 Contractors responded to the anonymous survey

31% believe that the procurement process is fair, and all vendors have an equal opportunity to win the contract

21% believe that the procurement process is clear and transparent (they understand the criteria that they will be evaluated on, and how the scoring will be performed)

75% believe that the State is more concerned about lowest cost rather than highest value

89% believe that Contractors should be awarded projects based on their overall value

31% believe that the Scope of Work contained in each solicitation is complete & accurate

42% Satisfaction with the Designers that are selected by the State of TN

Overall Satisfaction with State of TN = 31%

Overall Satisfaction with other Owners they work for = 80%

#### COMPARISON

The following table provides a comparison to 3 other Public Agencies that have performed similar vendor benchmarking and analytics.

CRITERIA	STATE OF TN	3 PUBLIC AGENCIES
The procurement process is clear and transparent	21%	85%
2. The procurement process is fair	31%	68%
3. The Organization is more concerned about lowest cost rather than value	75%	66%
4. Overall satisfaction with the Organization	31%	77%
5. Overall satisfaction with other Organizations	80%	79%
6. Total number of vendor responses	56	147



#### **Vendor Perceptions**

56 Contractors

31% believe the process is fair

69% believe that vendors do not have an equal opportunity to win the contract

75% believe that the State only cares about lowest price versus getting overall value

31% overall satisfaction rate with the State (compared to 80% with other owners)

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#### If Vendor Perceive That Process Is Not Fair

Who bids
Quality of the bid
Quality of the team assigned
Quality and Performance of the services



# Supplier Perceptions Matter!





# RFP Solicitation

# The RFP Solicitation



# What Is The Primary Goal Of The RFP?



## What Is The 'Primary' Objective

- Follow procurement policies and regulations?
- Minimize the risk of protest?
- Create a document that transfers risk to the supplier?
- Create a document that protects the owner/organization?



# What Is The 'Primary' Objective

- Follow procurement policies and regulations?
- Minimize the risk of proteshould not be
   Create a document that transferviobjectives!
   Create a your primary objective?
   Create a your protects the owner/organization?



# What Is The Primary Goal Of The RFP?

Help us award to a high-performing supplier





# Important

We must first *attract the best* suppliers/solutions to your RFP



# What Type Of Suppliers Do You Want To Attract?

Supplier A



Supplier B







# **Proposals Cost Money**





# Suppliers Don't Have Unlimited Funds



### **Proposing Costs Money**

- Suppliers can't afford to propose on solicitations for fun
- Responding to RFP's costs money and resource
- Suppliers make a business decision on whether your solicitation is 'worth' the effort to propose





#### How we want Vendors to react to our RFP...

I'm so excited.



Ooooh, I ♥ CPE's RFP Templates!



But sometimes, we run out of grape jelly





#### **RFP**

**Request for Proposal** 



Information Technology (IT)
Software Implementation Template

RFP Number: #####

RFP Release Date: MM/DD/YYYY RFP Due Date: MM/DD/YYYY



**RFP** 

**Request for Proposal** 



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Software Implementation Template

RFP Number: ####

RFP Release Date: MM/DD/YYYY RFP Due Date: MM/DD/YYYY

Statement of Work

2 Current Conditions

Proposal Requirements

4 Evaluation Procedures

5 Administrative Requirements

6 Proposal Forms



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What Will Be Evaluated

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**How the Client will Score & Award** 

Administrative Requirements

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Administrative Requirements

**General Instructions, Dates & Contact** 

Proposal Forms

Attachments & Exhibits



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**Forms for Vendors to Complete** 

Attachments & Exhibits



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7 Attachments & Exhibits

**Supplemental Information** 



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**How the Client will Score & Award** 

Administrative Requirements

**General Instructions, Dates & Contact** 

6 Proposal Forms

Forms to Complete

Center for Procurement Excellen

7 Attachments & Exhibits

**Supplemental Information** 

# Simple Things To Consider

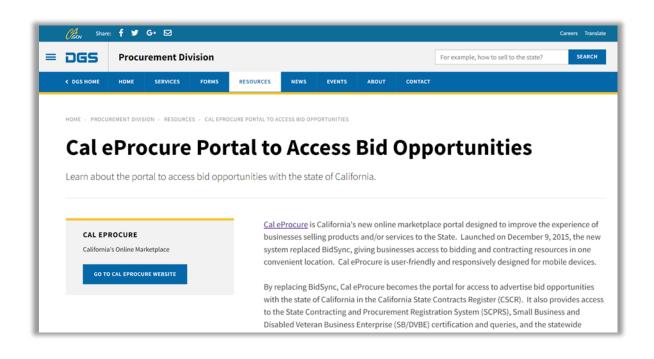


## **Attracting Suppliers**

Step 1 – Have a "good" name/title of the RFP



### Registration



- How many agencies have their own eProcurement system?
- Local firms may be registered with the State's system
- Larger/National firms cannot afford to register with every Public organization across the country

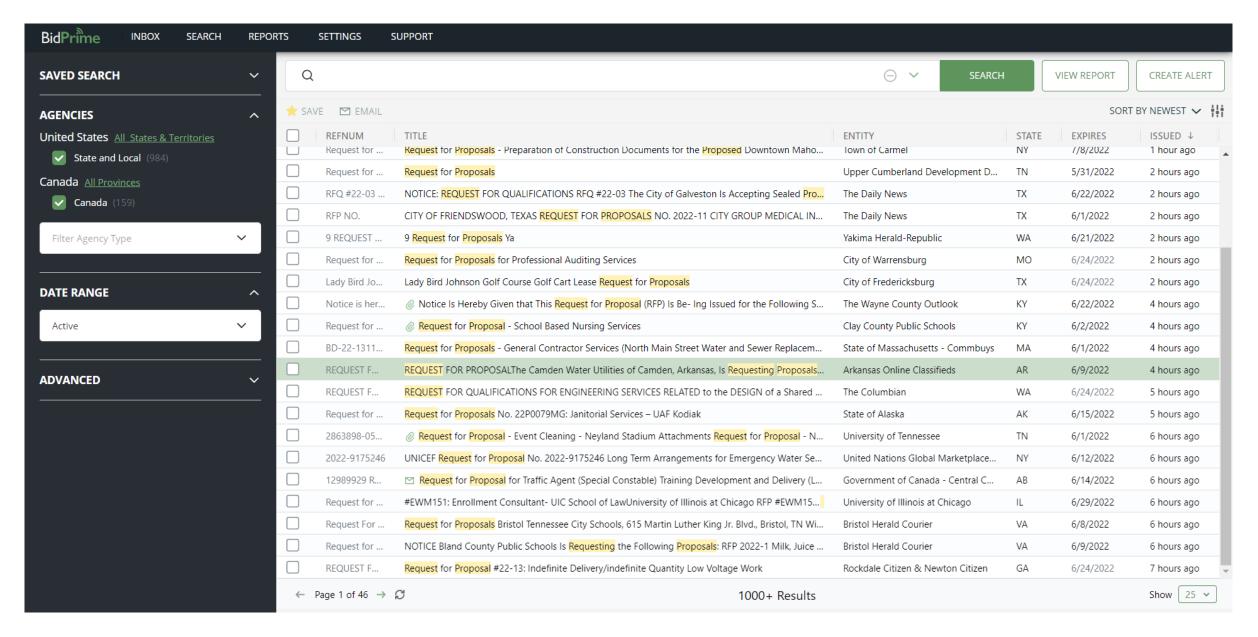


### National Solicitation Warehouse

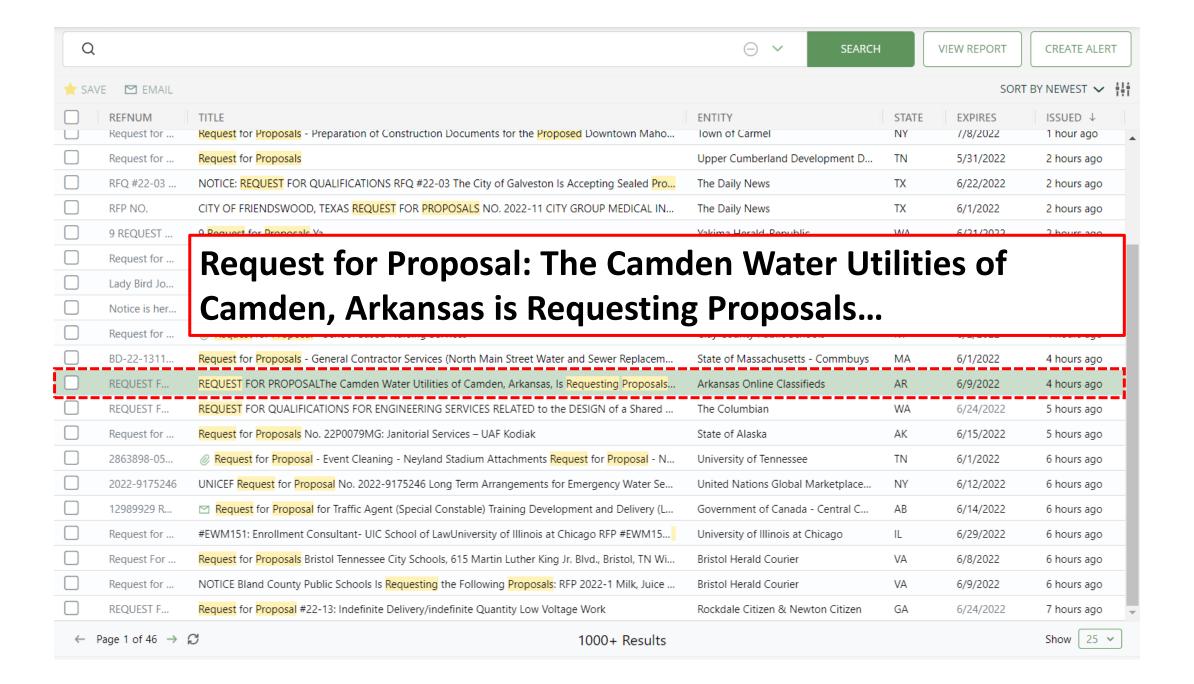
- Larger/National firms will pay for and utilize procurement search engines that collect solicitations throughout the country
- Provides hourly updates on posted solicitations
- Thousands of solicitations

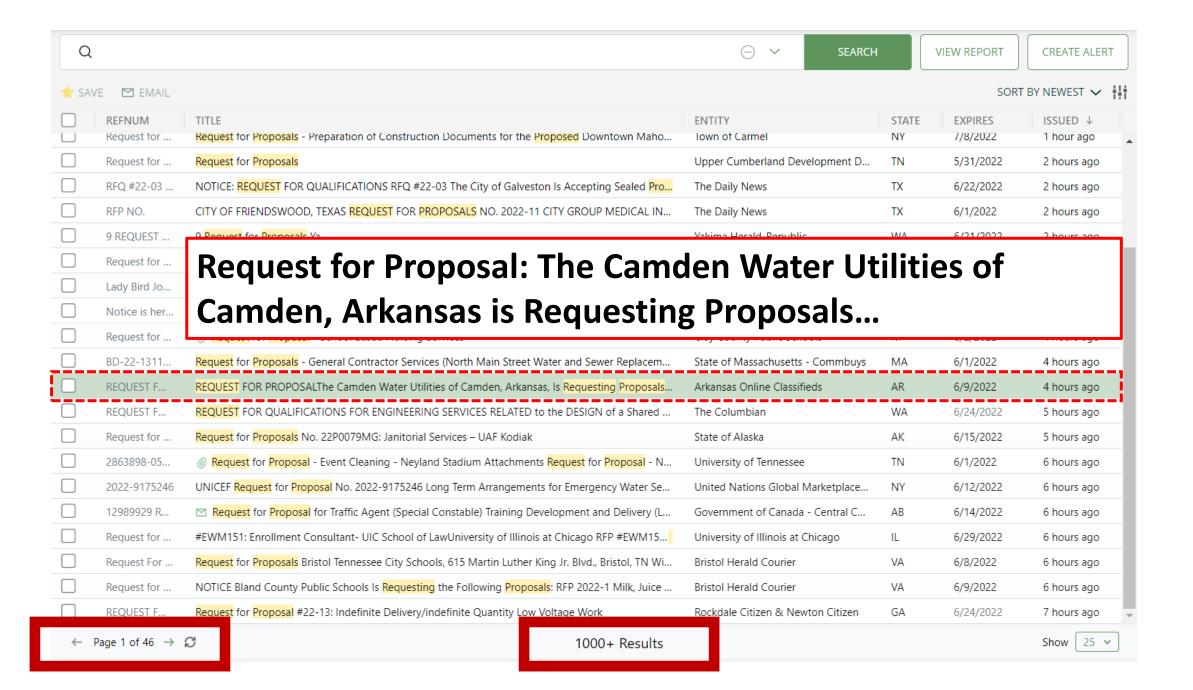






Suppliers Can Be Reviewing 1,000 RFP's per Week





Q			→ SEARCH		VIEW REPORT	CREATE ALERT
★ SAVE MAIL SORT BY NEWES						BY NEWEST ✓ ‡‡‡
	REFNUM	TITLE	ENTITY	STATE	EXPIRES	ISSUED ↓
	Request for	Request for Proposals - Preparation of Construction Documents for the Proposed Downtown Maho	lown of Carmel	NY	//8/2022	1 hour ago
	Request for	Request for Proposals	Upper Cumberland Development D	TN	5/31/2022	2 hours ago
	RFQ #22-03	NOTICE: REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS RFQ #22-03 The City of Galveston Is Accepting Sealed Pro	The Daily News	TX	6/22/2022	2 hours ago
	RFP NO.	CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD, TEXAS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. 2022-11 CITY GROUP MEDICAL IN	The Daily News	TX	6/1/2022	2 hours ago
	9 REQUEST	9 Request for Proposals Ya	Yakima Herald-Republic	WA	6/21/2022	2 hours ago
	Request for	Request for Proposals for Professional Auditing Services	City of Warrensburg	МО	6/24/2022	2 hours ago
	Lady Bird Jo	Lady Bird Johnson Golf Course Golf Cart Lease Request for Proposals	City of Fredericksburg	TX	6/24/2022	2 hours ago
	Notice is her	Notice Is Hereby Given that This Request for Proposal (RFP) Is Be- Ing Issued for the Following S	The Wayne County Outlook	KY	6/22/2022	4 hours ago
	Request for		Clay County Public Schools	KY	6/2/2022	4 hours ago
	BD-22-1311	Request for Proposals - General Contractor Services (North Main Street Water and Sewer Replacem	State of Massachusetts - Commbuys	MA	6/1/2022	4 hours ago
	REQUEST F	REQUEST FOR PROPOSALThe Camden Water Utilities of Camden, Arkansas, Is Requesting Proposals	Arkansas Online Classifieds	AR	6/9/2022	4 hours ago
	REQUEST F	REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATED to the DESIGN of a Shared	The Columbian	WA	6/24/2022	5 hours ago
	Request for	Request for Proposals No. 22P0079MG: Janitorial Services – UAF Kodiak	State of Alaska	AK	6/15/2022	5 hours ago
	2863898-05		University of Tennessee	TN	6/1/2022	6 hours ago
	2022-9175246	UNICEF Request for Proposal No. 2022-9175246 Long Term Arrangements for Emergency Water Se	United Nations Global Marketplace	NY	6/12/2022	6 hours ago
	12989929 R	☑ Request for Proposal for Traffic Agent (Special Constable) Training Development and Delivery (L	Government of Canada - Central C	AB	6/14/2022	6 hours ago
	Request for	#EWM151: Enrollment Consultant- UIC School of LawUniversity of Illinois at Chicago RFP #EWM15	University of Illinois at Chicago	IL	6/29/2022	6 hours ago
	Request For	Request for Proposals Bristol Tennessee City Schools, 615 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Bristol, TN Wi	Bristol Herald Courier	VA	6/8/2022	6 hours ago
	Request for	NOTICE Bland County Public Schools Is Requesting the Following Proposals: RFP 2022-1 Milk, Juice	Bristol Herald Courier	VA	6/9/2022	6 hours ago
	REQUEST F	Request for Proposal #22-13: Indefinite Delivery/indefinite Quantity Low Voltage Work	Rockdale Citizen & Newton Citizen	GA	6/24/2022	7 hours ago
<b>←</b>	Page 1 of 46 →	€ 1000+ Results				Show 25 V

Q					VIEW REPORT	CREATE ALERT
★ SA	★ SAVE MAIL					
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← Page 1 of 46 → Ø 1000+ Results					Show 25 🗸	

 Request for Proposals for the Alexander Goldwater Improvement Center Construction Documents Preparation



Request for Proposals for the Alexander Goldwater Improvement
 Center Construction Documents Preparation



 City of Nashville Request for Proposals for Suppliers that can perform Needs Assessments



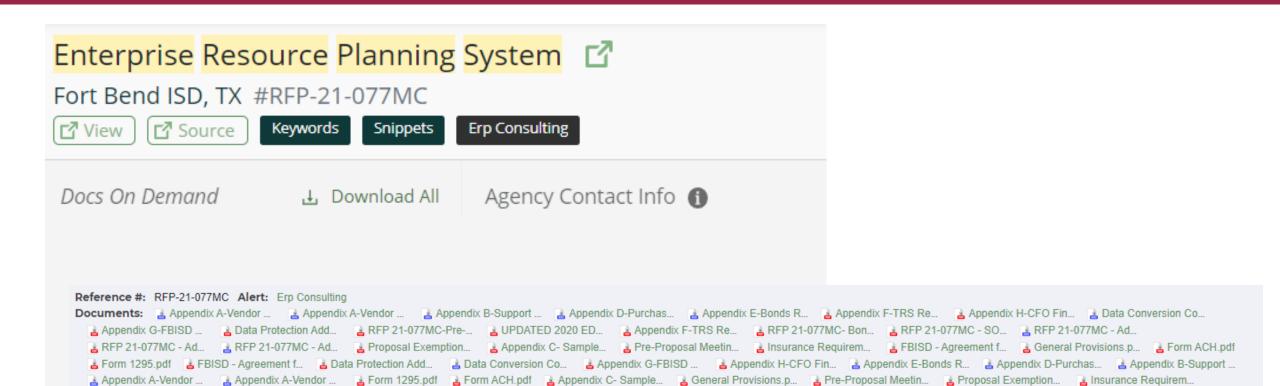
 City of Nashville Request for Proposals for Suppliers that can perform Needs Assessments for Food Services



### **Attracting Suppliers**

- Step 1 Have a "good" name/title of the RFP
- Step 2 Simplify the posted documents/files





🙎 RFP 21-077MC - Ad... 👔 RFP 21-077MC - Ad... 👔 RFP 21-077MC - Ad... 👔 RFP 21-077MC - SO... 👔 RFP 21-077MC- Bon... 👔 UPDATED 2020 ED... 📑 RFP 21-077MC-Pre-...

Download All



### Which File Contains The RFP?





### Which File Contains The RFP?



- 1. RFP (210347)
- 2. Appendix A (210347)
- 3. Appendix B (210347)
- 4. Appendix C (210347)



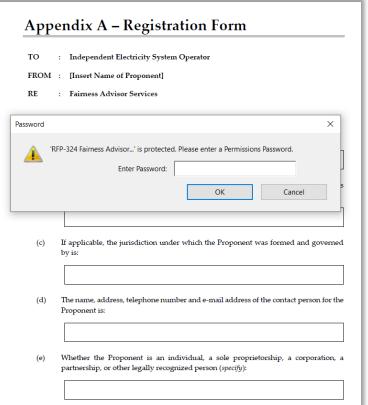
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- Step 3 Don't make the document difficult to read



### Don't Make It Difficult To Read





Center for Progurement Excel

### **Attracting Suppliers**

- Step 1 Have a "good" name/title of the RFP
- Step 2 Simplify the posted documents/files
- Step 3 Don't make the document difficult to read
- Step 4 Consider the amount of work for the size of the project



# Respond to 20 Items...

#### Requested Information:

Listed below are the documents and information needed to complete your submission:

Name	Туре	# Files	Requirement
REQUIREMENTS SCHEDULE	File Type: Any (.*)	Multiple	REQUIRED
Excutive Summary	File Type: Any (.*)	Multiple	REQUIRED
Corporate Overview	File Type: Any (.*)	Multiple	REQUIRED
Guarantee	File Type: Any (.*)	Multiple	REQUIRED
Preferred Terms	File Type: Any (.*)	Multiple	REQUIRED
Resource Requirements	File Type: Any (.*)	Multiple	REQUIRED
Quality of Work Plan	File Type: Any (.*)	Multiple	REQUIRED
Project Management Process	File Type: Any (.*)	Multiple	REQUIRED
Proposed Timelines	File Type: Any (.*)	Multiple	REQUIRED
Samples/Templates	File Type: Any (.*)	Multiple	REQUIRED
Reference Schedule	File Type: Any (.*)	Multiple	REQUIRED
Purchase Price Schedule	File Type: Any (.*)	Multiple	REQUIRED
Purchase Price Appendix	File Type: Excel (.xls, .xlsx)	Multiple	REQUIRED
BID SUBMISSION FORM SCHEDULE	File Type: Any (.*)	Multiple	REQUIRED
FULL DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION SCHEDULE	File Type: Any (.*)	Multiple	REQUIRED
Legal Action Schedule	File Type: Any (.*)	Multiple	REQUIRED
Auxiliary	File Type: Any (.*)	Multiple	OPTIONAL
PERSONAL HEALTH INFORMATION SCHEDULE	File Type: Any (.*)	Multiple	REQUIRED
SPECIFICATIONS SCHEDULE	File Type: Any (.*)	Multiple	REQUIRED
NH Confidentiality Conflict of Interest	File Type: Any (.*)	Multiple	REQUIRED



# Respond to 20 Items...

# For Chance At Winning \$25K

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...Why Aren't
More Suppliers
Responding To
Our RFP's??





### **Attracting Suppliers**

- Step 1 Have a "good" name/title of the RFP
- Step 2 Simplify the posted documents/files
- Step 3 Don't make the document difficult to read
- Step 4 Consider the amount of work for the size of the project
- Step 5 Understand what information is most critical to Suppliers



### Most Important Items To The Supplier?

- Definitions
- Prohibited Communication
- Rights of the Client
- Rights to Clarify
- Conflict of Interest
- Unethical Conduct
- Terms and Conditions of the RFP
- Security Checks
- Governing Laws
- Following Instructions

- Withdrawing Proposals
- Addenda
- Disclosure Information
- Tax Responsibilities
- Protest procedures



### Most Important Items To The Supplier?

- **X** Definitions
- Prohibited Communication
- **≭**Rights of the Client
- **≭**Rights to Clarify
- **Conflict of Interest**
- **≭**Unethical Conduct
- Terms and Conditions of the RFP
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- **≭**Governing Laws
- **≭**Following Instructions

- Withdrawing Proposals
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- **≭**Disclosure Information
- **≭**Tax Responsibilities
- > Protest procedures



# ...So What Are The Most Important Items To The Supplier?





### 1. Can I Provide What You Need?

- SOW
- Budget
- Schedule





### 1. Can I Provide What You Need?

- SOW
- Budget
- Schedule

### 2. What Are The Odds That I Can Win?

- Perceptions of being open, fair, and transparent
- Criteria & weights





#### 1. Can I Provide What You Need?

- SOW
- Budget
- Schedule

### 2. What Are The Odds That I Can Win?

- Perceptions of being open, fair, and transparent
- Criteria & weights

### 3. How Much Effort Will It Take To Respond

Proposal contents



### Putting RFP Excellence Into Practice

Fair

Open

Transparent

Value

Integrity



**Request for Proposal** 



Information Technology (IT)
Software Implementation Template

RFP Number: #####
RFP Release Date: MM/DD/YYYY
RFP Due Date: MM/DD/YYYY



### We spend a lot of time focusing on the Scope...

- -What success looks like
- -What will make you happy at the end of the contract
- -What you want to look like
- -What you want to achieve





### ...But we forget to describe what we look like

right now





### **Importance of Current Conditions**

- Allows the Proposers to understand the impact of the change
- Allows the Proposer to confirm if Scope is achievable
- Allows the Proposer to identify & address challenges
- Allows the Proposer to verify the accuracy of your Scope







# Goal Is Not Perfection!





Do Our Best
Within Resource
Constraints



# Free Webinar Series

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays every month @ 12pm Central

15-min Teaching Moment

(learn a new tip, trick, or tool)

30-min Virtual Peer Group

(network with professionals)

Office Hours

(open Q&A until the questions run out!)







### **Previous Recordings Available Online!**

































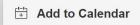


### center4procurement.org

18 January







### Can We Craft Better RFP Questions to Ask Our Vendors?

Has your procurement group ever asked this question? Usually the intent is to better differentiate vendors during the proposal stage.

Despite the good intent, we will discuss why this is the \*wrong\* question to ask (no offense!!!) and how to change the way we think

15 February





#### Setting Realistic Procurement Schedules

Do your evaluation teams insist on rapid procurement timelines... only to delay things as the process unfolds? This session will discuss the foundations of a solid procurement timeline and share facilitation skills to help your evaluation teams be more realistic. Fewer delays = fewer headaches!



## **Upcoming Topics!**

Register at: center4procurement.org/rfp-doctor



### \*FREE\* Online Course!







### **Better RFPs = Better Projects**

- Session #1 = Organizing a High-Performing RFP
- Session #2 = Effective Statements of Work (SOWs)
- Session #3 = Evaluation Best Practices & RFP Admin
- Session #4 = RFP Ethics & Vendor Debriefings

### Register via NASPO's Procurement U

- Log on to the Procurement U Learning Management System (LMS) to register, access the course and materials.
  - www.naspo.org/procurement-u/
- Open to all (even non-members of NASPO)
- Limited to first 100 participants.





# **Volunteers Requested!**

- CPE is conducting a research project on the use of Diversity, Equity,
   & Inclusion (DEI) as part of the procurement process
- Looking to understand:
  - Best practices & recommendations
  - Innovative ideas
  - RFP structure and integration
- We need volunteers for a brief interview!
  - Experience in this area
  - Policy insights
  - Firsthand knowledge

Jake.Smithwick@charlotte.edu

# Want today's Presentation?

White papers?
Toolkits?
Templates?



center4procurement.org/dfw-nigp/

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