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# OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

CENTRAL OFFICE • 1980 WEST BROAD STREET • COLUMBUS, OH 43223  
JOHN R. KASICH, GOVERNOR • JERRY WRAY, DIRECTOR

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6/29/2015

Project 150395      **Addendum No. 3**

PID No. 84868

FRA - IR 71 - 5.29

Major Reconstruction

Letting: July 16, 2015

Notice to all Bidders and Suppliers to please be advised of the attached Proposal Addendum.

The Department utilizes Bid Express (<http://www.bidx.com>) as the official medium for electronic bid submittal. All bidders must prepare bids and submit them online via Bid Express.

Addenda amendments must be acknowledged in the miscellaneous section of the Expedite (EBS) file and all amendments loaded in order for your bid to be considered for award of this project. Bid express will not accept bids that do not have amendments incorporated. Failure to incorporate changed quantities or items in your Expedite (EBS) submissions will result in the rejection of your bid.

**Proposal Addendum  
For  
FRA-IR 71-5.29; PID 84868  
Project No. 150395**

**Please be advised of the following:**

**Replace Proposal Note - Yes**

Replace PN13 with the following dated 5/29/2015:

**PN 013 – 5/29/2015 - DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE)  
UTILIZATION PLAN AND GOOD FAITH EFFORTS**

**DBE UTILIZATION PLAN**

All Bidders shall submit a DBE Utilization Plan at the time of bid setting forth specific information demonstrating how the Bidder will achieve the DBE goal. By submitting a DBE Utilization Plan, the Bidder is affirming that they will be using the DBE firms identified in the Utilization Plan to meet the DBE contract goal. The DBE Utilization Plan shall be submitted with the Expedite Online Submission through the DBE List folder. Bidders shall download the dbe.bin file from <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/Divisions/ContractAdmin/Contracts/Construction/dbe.bin>. This file contains the current list of certified DBEs and is updated regularly. The dbe.bin file must be saved in the same directory as the Expedite EBS file.

The DBE Utilization Plan shall include the following information:

- 1) The names and addresses of the certified DBE firm(s) that will be used to meet the DBE goal;
- 2) A description of the work that each DBE will perform. To count toward meeting a goal, each DBE firm must be certified in a NAICS code applicable to the kind of work the firm would perform on the contract;
- 3) Whether the DBE firm(s) being used to meet the goal will be utilized as a subcontractor, regular dealer, manufacturer, consultant or other capacity; and
- 4) The dollar amount of the participation of each DBE firm used to meet the DBE goal.

**DBE AFFIRMATION**

The Apparent Low Bidder shall ensure the DBE firms being utilized to meet the DBE goal affirm their participation in the bid within five (5) calendar days after the bid opening. The Apparent Low Bidder shall utilize the DBE Affirmation Form located at <http://transportation.ohio.gov/crl/>. The DBE Affirmation Form will be utilized as written confirmation from each listed DBE firm that it is participating in the contract in the kind and amount of work provided in the Bidder's DBE Utilization Plan. The Apparent Low Bidder shall submit a separate DBE Affirmation Form for each DBE it is utilizing for the DBE goal.

All other Bidders shall submit a DBE Affirmation Form(s) if notified that the information is required in order for ODOT to complete its bid assessment. Bidders shall have five (5) calendar days from the date of notification to submit all required DBE Affirmation Forms. Notification will be by phone or email.

In the event a DBE firm fails to confirm the information contained in the DBE Affirmation Form within five (5) calendar days of bid opening, the Apparent Low Bidder shall submit a Request to Terminate/Substitute DBE Form, as set forth herein. The Request to Terminate/Substitute DBE Form shall be submitted within five (5) calendar days after bid opening in order for the Apparent Low Bidder to still be considered for contract award. The Apparent Low Bidder shall include as its reason for termination the DBE firm's failure to provide a timely affirmation and should include all efforts the Apparent Low Bidder made to obtain the affirmation from the DBE firm and shall attach proof of these efforts, if available. If the Apparent Low Bidder intends to replace the DBE Firm, it shall include the replacement firm's information on the form. A DBE firm's failure to timely confirm information contained in the DBE Affirmation Form will be considered as good cause to terminate the DBE firm and will also be considered a part of the Apparent Low Bidder's Good Faith Efforts in meeting the goal.

### **DBE BIDDERS**

In the event that the Bidder is also a certified DBE firm, the Bidder is required to complete a DBE Utilization Plan as set forth above. In this instance, however, the certified DBE Bidder would not need to submit a DBE Affirmation Form for the work it is planning to self-perform in order to meet the goal. ODOT will consider the submission of the bid as the certified DBE Bidder's written confirmation that it is participating in the contract. However, a DBE Affirmation Form must be submitted for all other DBE firms that are being utilized toward the DBE goal.

### **JOINT VENTURES**

In the event that the Bidder is a Joint Venture, the Joint Venture will only be considered a Certified DBE firm if the Joint Venture itself has been certified. The Joint Venture may, however, utilize a Certified DBE firm that is also a partner in the Joint Venture as part of its DBE Utilization Plan. The Certified DBE Firm/Joint Venture Partner, however, does not need to submit a DBE Affirmation Form for any work that the Certified DBE Firm/Joint Venture Partner is going to perform to meet the goal. ODOT will consider submission of the Joint Venture's bid as the Certified DBE Firm/Joint Venture Partner's confirmation that it is participating in the contract.

### **GOOD FAITH EFFORTS (GFEs)**

In the event that the DBE contract goal established by ODOT is not met, the Apparent Low Bidder shall demonstrate that it made adequate good faith efforts to meet the goal, even though it did not succeed in obtaining enough DBE participation to do so.

The Apparent Low Bidder shall demonstrate its GFEs by submitting<sup>[LP1]</sup><sub>[LP2]</sub> the following information within five (5) calendar days after the bid opening:

- (1) All written quotes received from certified DBE firms;
- (2) All written (including email) communications between the Apparent Low Bidder and DBE firms;
- (3) All written solicitations to DBE firms, even if unsuccessful;
- (4) Copies of each non-DBE quote when a non-DBE was selected over a DBE for work on the contract;
- (5) Phone logs of communications with DBE firms.

GFE documentation shall be uploaded through the ODOT Civil Rights & Labor System (CRL) at <https://project.transportation.ohio.gov/>. Detailed instructions are located on the CRL page at <http://transportation.ohio.gov/crl/> under Good Faith Effort (GFE) Instructions.

All other Bidders shall submit documentation of GFE's if notified that the information is required in order for ODOT to complete its bid assessment. Bidders shall have five (5) calendar days from the date of notification to submit all required GFE documentation. Notification will be by phone or email.

ODOT shall utilize the guidance set forth in 49 CFR §26.53 Appendix A in determining whether the Bidder has made adequate good faith efforts to meet the goal.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE RECONSIDERATION**

ODOT will review the GFE documentation and issue a written determination on whether adequate GFE's have been demonstrated prior to contract award. In the event that ODOT determines that the Apparent Low Bidder has failed to demonstrate adequate GFE's to meet the goal, the Apparent Low Bidder will have an opportunity for administrative reconsideration prior to the contract being awarded.

As part of this reconsideration, the Apparent Low Bidder may provide written documentation or argument concerning the issue of whether it met the goal or made adequate good faith efforts to do so. Such written documentation or argument must be provided to ODOT, attention to the Deputy Director of the Division of Chief Legal Counsel, 1980 West Broad Street, MS 1500, Columbus, Ohio 43223, within two (2) business days of ODOT's written determination that GFE's were not adequately demonstrated. The Apparent Low Bidder may also include in their written documentation a request for an in person meeting to discuss the issue of whether it met the goal or made adequate good faith efforts to do so.

ODOT will send the Apparent Low Bidder a written decision on reconsideration explaining the basis for finding that the Apparent Low Bidder did or did not meet the goal or make adequate good faith efforts to do so. The result of the reconsideration process is not administratively appealable to the United States Department of Transportation.

#### **TERMINATION OR REPLACEMENT OF A DBE**

By submitting a DBE Utilization Plan, the Bidder is committing to use the DBE firms identified in the plan. The Apparent Low Bidder/Awarded Contractor shall utilize the specific DBEs listed in the DBE Utilization Plan to perform the work and supply the materials for which each is listed unless the Apparent Low Bidder/Awarded Contractor obtains written consent as provided in this paragraph. In order to request termination or substitution of a DBE firm, the Apparent Low Bidder/Awarded Contractor shall utilize the Request to Terminate/Substitute DBE Form located at <http://transportation.ohio.gov/crl/>.

This termination/replacement procedure applies only to DBE firms or the amount of work being utilized to meet the goal.

Without ODOT's written consent to terminate/replace a DBE firm being utilized to meet the goal, the Awarded Contractor shall not be entitled to any payment for DBE listed work or material unless it is performed or supplied by the listed DBE.

## **GOOD CAUSE**

ODOT may provide written consent to terminate a DBE only if it agrees, for reasons stated in a concurrence document, that the Apparent Low Bidder/Awarded Contractor has good cause to terminate the DBE firm.

For purposes of this paragraph, good cause to terminate a DBE includes the following circumstances:

- 1) The listed DBE firm fails or refuses to provide the required DBE Affirmation Form or to execute a written contract;
- 2) The listed DBE firm fails or refuses to perform the work of its subcontract in a manner consistent with normal industry standards. Provided, however, that good cause does not exist if the failure or refusal of the DBE firm to perform its work on the subcontract results from the bad faith or discriminatory action of the awarded contractor;
- 3) The listed DBE firm fails or refuses to meet the awarded contractor's reasonable, nondiscriminatory bond requirements.
- 4) The listed DBE firm becomes bankrupt, insolvent, or exhibits credit unworthiness;
- 5) The listed DBE firm is ineligible to work on public works projects because of suspension and debarment proceedings pursuant 2 CFR Parts 180, 215 and 1200 or applicable state law;
- 6) ODOT has determined that the listed DBE firm is not a responsible contractor;
- 7) The listed DBE firm voluntarily withdraws from the project and provides to you written notice of its withdrawal;
- 8) The listed DBE is ineligible to receive DBE credit for the type of work required;
- 9) A DBE owner dies or becomes disabled with the result that the listed DBE contractor is unable to complete its work on the contract; and
- 10) Other documented good cause that ODOT determines compels the termination of the DBE firm. Provided, that good cause does not exist if the awarded contractor seeks to terminate a DBE it relied upon to obtain the contract so that the awarded contractor can self-perform the work for which the DBE contractor was engaged or so that the awarded contractor can substitute another DBE or non-DBE contractor after contract award.

## **REPLACEMENT**

When a DBE firm is terminated or fails to complete its work on the contract for any reason the Awarded Contractor must make GFEs to find another DBE firm to replace the original DBE. These GFEs shall be directed at finding another DBE to perform at least the same amount of work under the contract as the DBE that was terminated, to the extent needed to meet the contract goal. The GFEs shall be documented by the Awarded Contractor. If ODOT requests documentation under this provision, the Awarded Contractor shall submit the documentation within seven (7) calendar days, which may be extended for an additional seven (7) calendar days if necessary at the request of the contractor, and ODOT shall provide a written determination to the contractor stating whether or not GFEs have been demonstrated.

In addition to post-award terminations, the provisions of this section apply to pre-award deletions and substitutions of DBE firms put forward by Bidders in the DBE Utilization Plan.

## **WRITTEN NOTICE TO DBE**

Before transmitting to ODOT its request to terminate and/or substitute a DBE firm, the Apparent Low Bidder/Awarded Contractor must give notice in writing to the DBE firm, with a copy to ODOT, of its intent to request to terminate and/or substitute, and the reason(s) for the request.

The Apparent Low Bidder/Awarded Contractor must give the DBE five (5) calendar days to respond to the notice, advising ODOT and the Apparent Low Bidder/Awarded Contractor of the reasons, if any, why it objects to the proposed termination of its subcontract and why ODOT should not approve the Apparent Low Bidder/Awarded Contractor's action. If required in a particular case as a matter of public necessity (e.g., safety), ODOT may provide a response period shorter than five (5) days.

## **GOAL ATTAINMENT POST AWARD**

The Awarded Contractor shall make available upon request a copy of all DBE subcontracts. The Awarded Contractor shall ensure that all subcontracts or agreements with DBEs require that the subcontract and all lower tier subcontractors be performed in accordance with this Proposal Note. Approval of a DBE Utilization Plan does not ensure approval of C-92 Requests to Sublet nor does approval of a DBE Utilization Plan indicate that the DBE goal has been met. ODOT will monitor goal attainment throughout the life of the project. It is the responsibility of the Awarded Contractor to advise ODOT of any changes to the DBE Utilization plan throughout the life of the project.

## **SANCTIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES**

Failure to do any of the following shall result in the bid being rejected in accordance with ORC §5525.08:

- 1) Failure to submit a complete DBE Utilization Plan at the time of bid;
- 2) Failure to submit DBE Affirmation Form(s) and/or failure to submit Request to Terminate/Substitute DBE Form(s) as required by this Proposal Note; and
- 3) Failure to meet the goal and/or failure to demonstrate GFEs to meet the goal as required by this Proposal Note. ODOT will not penalize a company for failure to achieve dollar amounts listed beyond the contract goal.

Failure by the Apparent Low Bidder and/or Awarded Contractor to carry out the requirements of this Proposal Note is a material breach of the contract and may result in the termination of the contract or other remedies available by law including suspension and/or revocation of a contractor's prequalification and/or debarment.

Factors to be considered in issuing sanctions include, but are not limited to:

- 1) The magnitude and the type of offense;
- 2) The degree of the Contractor's culpability;
- 3) Any steps taken by the Contractor to rectify or mitigate the situation;
- 4) The Contractor's record of performance on other projects;
- 5) Evidence that the Contractor falsified, misrepresented, or withheld information;
- 6) Repeated failure to adhere to the requirements of this Proposal Note.