

**State of Nebraska State Purchasing Bureau
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR CONTRACTUAL SERVICES**

RETURN TO:
State Purchasing Bureau
1526 K Street, Suite 130
Lincoln, NE 68508
402-471-6500

SOLICITATION NUMBER	RELEASE DATE
RFP 5702 Z1	October 4, 2017
OPENING DATE AND TIME	PROCUREMENT CONTACT
November 2, 2017 2:00 p.m. Central Time	Teresa Fleming/Michelle Thompson

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!
SCOPE OF SERVICE

The State of Nebraska (State), Department of Administrative Services (DAS), Materiel Division, State Purchasing Bureau (SPB), is issuing this Request for Proposal (RFP), RFP Number 5702 Z1 for the purpose of selecting a qualified Bidder to provide analysis of equine urine and blood samples and identification of substances and residue which may be seized or otherwise acquired. A more detailed description can be found in Section V. The resulting contract may not be an exclusive contract as the State reserves the right to contract for the same or similar services from other sources now or in the future.

The term of the contract will be three (3) years commencing upon execution of the contract by the State and the Bidder. The Contract includes the option to renew for one (1) additional one (1) year period upon mutual agreement of the Parties. The State reserves the right to extend the period of this contract beyond the termination date when mutually agreeable to the Parties.

ALL INFORMATION PERTINENT TO THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CAN BE FOUND ON THE INTERNET AT:
<http://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/purchasing.html>.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-602.02, State contracts in effect as of January 1, 2014, and contracts entered into thereafter, must be posted to a public website. The resulting contract, the RFP, and the successful bidder's proposal or response will be posted to a public website managed by DAS, which can be found at <http://statecontracts.nebraska.gov>.

In addition and in furtherance of the State's public records statute (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-712 et seq.) all proposals or responses received regarding this RFP will be posted to the SPB website.

These postings will include the entire proposal or response. Bidders must request that proprietary information be excluded from the posting. The bidder must identify the proprietary information, mark the proprietary information according to state law, and submit the proprietary information in a separate container or envelope marked conspicuously in black ink with the words "PROPRIETARY INFORMATION". The bidder must submit a detailed written document showing that the release of the proprietary information would give a business advantage to named business competitor(s) and explain how the named business competitor(s) will gain an actual business advantage by disclosure of information. The mere assertion that information is proprietary or that a speculative business advantage might be gained is not sufficient. (See Attorney General Opinion No. 92068, April 27, 1992) THE BIDDER MAY NOT ASSERT THAT THE ENTIRE PROPOSAL IS PROPRIETARY. COST PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED PROPRIETARY AND ARE A PUBLIC RECORD IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. The State will then determine, in its discretion, if the interests served by nondisclosure outweighs any public purpose served by disclosure. (See Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-712.05(3)) The Bidder will be notified of the agency's decision. Absent a State determination that information is proprietary, the State will consider all information a public record subject to release regardless of any assertion that the information is proprietary.

If the agency determines it is required to release proprietary information, the bidder will be informed. It will be the bidder's responsibility to defend the bidder's asserted interest in non-disclosure.

To facilitate such public postings, with the exception of proprietary information, the State of Nebraska reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable right to copy, reproduce, publish, post to a website, or otherwise use any contract, proposal, or response to this RFP for any purpose, and to authorize others to use the documents. Any individual or entity awarded a contract, or who submits a proposal or response to this RFP, specifically waives any copyright or other protection the contract, proposal, or response to the RFP may have; and, acknowledges that they have the ability and authority to enter into such waiver. This reservation and waiver is a prerequisite for submitting a proposal or response to this RFP, and award of a contract. Failure to agree to the reservation and waiver will result in the proposal or response to the RFP being found non-responsive and rejected.

Any entity awarded a contract or submitting a proposal or response to the RFP agrees not to sue, file a claim, or make a demand of any kind, and will indemnify and hold harmless the State and its employees, volunteers, agents, and its elected and appointed officials from and against any and all claims, liens, demands, damages, liability, actions, causes of action, losses, judgments, costs, and expenses of every nature, including investigation costs and expenses, settlement costs, and attorney fees and expenses, sustained or asserted against the State, arising out of, resulting from, or attributable to the posting of the contract or the proposals and responses to the RFP, awards, and other documents.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	i
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	ii
GLOSSARY OF TERMS.....	iv
I. PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE	1
A. GENERAL INFORMATION.....	1
B. PROCURING OFFICE AND COMMUNICATION WITH STATE STAFF AND EVALUATORS.....	1
C. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS	1
D. WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.....	2
E. RECYCLING (§81-15,159(d)(2)).....	2
F. SAMPLES.....	2
G. PRICES	2
H. SECRETARY OF STATE/TAX COMMISSIONER REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS (Statutory)	2
I. ETHICS IN PUBLIC CONTRACTING	2
J. DEVIATIONS FROM THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL.....	3
K. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS	3
L. BID PREPARATION COSTS.....	3
M. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL.....	3
N. BID CORRECTIONS	3
O. LATE PROPOSALS.....	4
P. PROPOSAL OPENING.....	4
Q. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL/PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS.....	4
R. EVALUATION COMMITTEE.....	4
S. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS	4
T. ORAL INTERVIEWS/PRESENTATIONS AND/OR DEMONSTRATIONS	5
U. BEST AND FINAL OFFER.....	5
V. REFERENCE AND CREDIT CHECKS	5
W. AWARD	5
II. TERMS AND CONDITIONS	7
A. GENERAL.....	7
B. NOTIFICATION	8
C. GOVERNING LAW (Statutory)	8
D. BEGINNING OF WORK.....	8
E. CHANGE ORDERS	9
F. NOTICE OF POTENTIAL CONTRACTOR BREACH	9
G. BREACH.....	9
H. NON-WAIVER OF BREACH.....	10
I. SEVERABILITY	10
J. INDEMNIFICATION	10
K. ATTORNEY'S FEES.....	11
L. PERFORMANCE BOND.....	11
M. ASSIGNMENT, SALE, OR MERGER	12
N. CONTRACTING WITH OTHER NEBRASKA POLITICAL SUB-DIVISIONS.....	12
O. FORCE MAJEURE	12
P. CONFIDENTIALITY	13
Q. EARLY TERMINATION	13
R. CONTRACT CLOSEOUT	14
III. CONTRACTOR DUTIES	15
A. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR / OBLIGATIONS.....	15
B. EMPLOYEE WORK ELIGIBILITY STATUS.....	16
C. COMPLIANCE WITH CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT / NONDISCRIMINATION (Statutory).....	16

D.	COOPERATION WITH OTHER CONTRACTORS	16
E.	PERMITS, REGULATIONS, LAWS	17
F.	OWNERSHIP OF INFORMATION AND DATA / DELIVERABLES	17
G.	INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS	17
H.	ANTITRUST.....	20
I.	CONFLICT OF INTEREST	20
J.	STATE PROPERTY.....	20
K.	SITE RULES AND REGULATIONS.....	21
L.	ADVERTISING	21
M.	NEBRASKA TECHNOLOGY ACCESS STANDARDS (Statutory)	21
N.	DISASTER RECOVERY/BACK UP PLAN.....	21
O.	DRUG POLICY	22
IV.	PAYMENT	23
A.	PROHIBITION AGAINST ADVANCE PAYMENT (Statutory).....	23
B.	TAXES	23
C.	INVOICES.....	23
D.	INSPECTION AND APPROVAL	23
E.	PAYMENT	24
F.	LATE PAYMENT	24
G.	SUBJECT TO FUNDING / FUNDING OUT CLAUSE FOR LOSS OF APPROPRIATIONS	24
H.	RIGHT TO AUDIT (Statutory)	24
V.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND SCOPE OF WORK	26
A.	BACKGROUND INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE NEBRASKA STATE RACING COMMISSION (THE COMMISSION)	26
B.	SAMPLE COLLECTION/PROCESSING/SHIPMENT	26
C.	TEST BARN SUPPLY INVENTORY MANAGEMENT	27
D.	SHIPPING.....	27
E.	PERSONNEL.....	27
F.	FACILITIES.....	28
G.	ACCREDITATION	28
H.	QUALITY CONTRACT AND QUALITY ASSURANCE.....	28
I.	STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES.....	28
J.	SAMPLE MANAGEMENT/SAMPLE RETENTION	29
K.	SCOPE OF TESTING–STANDARD POST-RACE SCREENING ANALYSIS.....	29
L.	SCOPE OF TESTING–SAMPLES DERIVED FROM HORSES WORKING FOR RELEASE FROM THE VETS LIST.....	29
M.	ELECTIVE TESTING – TARGETED ANALYSIS FOR ADMINISTERED SUBSTANCES	30
N.	SCOPE OF TESTING – SUBSTANCES/UNKNOWN.....	30
O.	TURN AROUND TIMES – SCREENING AND CONFIRMATORY ANALYSES.....	30
P.	REPORTS/COMMUNICATIONS/SUPPORT	30
Q.	DEFAULT ON CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS	31
R.	BIDDER REQUIREMENTS	31
VI.	PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS	33
A.	PROPOSAL SUBMISSION.....	33
VII.	COST PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS	36
A.	PRICING SUMMARY.....	36
B.	PRICES	36
	Form A Bidder Contact Sheet	37
	BIDDER SIGNATURE PAGE	38

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Acceptance Test Procedure: Benchmarks and other performance criteria, developed by the State of Nebraska or other sources of testing standards, for measuring the effectiveness of products or services and the means used for testing such performance.

Addendum: Something to be added or deleted to an existing document; a supplement.

After Receipt of Order (ARO): After Receipt of Order

Agency: Any state agency, board, or commission other than the University of Nebraska, the Nebraska State colleges, the courts, the Legislature, or any other office or agency established by the Constitution of Nebraska.

Agent/Representative: A person authorized to act on behalf of another.

Amend: To alter or change by adding, subtracting, or substituting.

Amendment: A written correction or alteration to a document.

Appropriation: Legislative authorization to expend public funds for a specific purpose. Money set apart for a specific use.

Award: All purchases, leases, or contracts which are based on competitive proposals will be awarded according to the provisions in the RFP. The State reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, wholly or in part, or to award to multiple bidders in whole or in part. The State reserves the right to waive any deviations or errors that are not material, do not invalidate the legitimacy of the proposal, and do not improve the bidder's competitive position. All awards will be made in a manner deemed in the best interest of the State.

Best and Final Offer (BAFO): In a competitive bid, the final offer submitted which contains the bidder's (vendor's) most favorable terms for price.

Bid/Proposal: The offer submitted by a vendor in a response to a written solicitation.

Bid Bond: An insurance agreement, accompanied by a monetary commitment, by which a third party (the surety) accepts liability and guarantees that the vendor will not withdraw the bid.

Bidder: A vendor who submits an offer bid in response to a written solicitation.

Business: Any corporation, partnership, individual, sole proprietorship, joint-stock company, joint venture, or any other private legal entity.

Business Day: Any weekday, except State-recognized holidays.

Calendar Day: Every day shown on the calendar including Saturdays, Sundays, and State/Federal holidays.

Cancellation: To call off or revoke a purchase order without expectation of conducting or performing it at a later time.

Central Processing Unit (CPU): Any computer or computer system that is used by the State to store, process, or retrieve data or perform other functions using Operating Systems and applications software.

Collusion: An agreement or cooperation between two or more persons or entities to accomplish a fraudulent, deceitful, or unlawful purpose.

Commodities: Any equipment, material, supply or goods; anything movable or tangible that is provided or sold.

Commodities Description: Detailed descriptions of the items to be purchased; may include information necessary to obtain the desired quality, type, color, size, shape, or special characteristics necessary to perform the work intended to produce the desired results.

Competition: The effort or action of two or more commercial interests to obtain the same business from third parties.

Confidential Information: Unless otherwise defined below, "Confidential Information" shall also mean proprietary trade secrets, academic and scientific research work which is in progress and unpublished, and other information which if released would give advantage to business competitors and serve no public purpose (see Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-712.05(3)). In accordance with Nebraska Attorney General Opinions 92068 and 97033, proof that information is proprietary requires identification of specific, named competitor(s) who would be advantaged by release of the information and the specific

advantage the competitor(s) would receive.

Contract: An agreement between two or more parties creating obligations that are enforceable or otherwise recognizable at law; the writing that sets forth such an agreement.

Contract Administration: The management of the contract which includes and is not limited to; contract signing, contract amendments and any necessary legal actions.

Contract Award: Occurs upon execution of the State document titled "Service Contract Award" by the proper authority.

Contract Management: The management of day to day activities at the agency which includes and is not limited to ensuring deliverables are received, specifications are met, handling meetings and making payments to the Contractor.

Contract Period: The duration of the contract.

Contractor: Any individual or entity having a contract to furnish commodities or services.

Cooperative Purchasing: The combining of requirements of two or more political entities to obtain advantages of volume purchases, reduction in administrative expenses or other public benefits.

Copyright: A property right in an original work of authorship fixed in any tangible medium of expression, giving the holder the exclusive right to reproduce, adapt and distribute the work.

Critical Program Error: Any Program Error, whether or not known to the State, which prohibits or significantly impairs use of the Licensed Software as set forth in the documentation and intended in the contract.

Customer Service: The process of ensuring customer satisfaction by providing assistance and advice on those products or services provided by the Contractor.

Default: The omission or failure to perform a contractual duty.

Deviation: Any proposed change(s) or alteration(s) to either the terms and conditions or deliverables within the scope of the written solicitation or contract.

Evaluation: The process of examining an offer after opening to determine the vendor's responsibility, responsiveness to requirements, and to ascertain other characteristics of the offer that relate to determination of the successful award.

Evaluation Committee: Committee(s) appointed by the requesting agency that advises and assists the procuring office in the evaluation of bids/proposals (offers made in response to written solicitations).

Extension: Continuance of a contract for a specified duration upon the agreement of the parties beyond the original Contract Period. Not to be confused with "Renewal Period".

Free on Board (F.O.B.) Destination: The delivery charges are included in the quoted price and prepaid by the vendor. Vendor is responsible for all claims associated with damages during delivery of product.

Free on Board (F.O.B.) Point of Origin: The delivery charges are not included in the quoted price and are the responsibility of the agency. Agency is responsible for all claims associated with damages during delivery of product.

Foreign Corporation: A foreign corporation that was organized and chartered under the laws of another state, government, or country.

Installation Date: The date when the procedures described in "Installation by Contractor", and "Installation by State", as found in the RFP, or contract, are completed.

Interested Party: A person, acting in their personal capacity, or an entity entering into a contract or other agreement creating a legal interest therein.

Late Bid/Proposal: An offer received after the Opening Date and Time.

Licensed Software Documentation: The user manuals and any other materials in any form or medium customarily provided by the Contractor to the users of the Licensed Software which will provide the State with sufficient information to operate, diagnose, and maintain the Licensed Software properly, safely, and efficiently.

Mandatory/Must: Required, compulsory, or obligatory.

May: Discretionary, permitted; used to express possibility.

Module (see System): A collection of routines and data structures that perform a specific function of software.

Must: See Mandatory/ Must and Shall/Will/Must.

National Institute for Governmental Purchasing (NIGP): National Institute of Governmental Purchasing – Source used for assignment of universal commodity codes to goods and services.

Open Market Purchase: Authorization may be given to an agency to purchase items above direct purchase authority due to the unique nature, price, quantity, location of the using agency, or time limitations by the AS Materiel Division, State Purchasing Bureau.

Opening Date and Time: Specified date and time for the public opening of received, labeled, and sealed formal proposals.

Operating System: The control program in a computer that provides the interface to the computer hardware and peripheral devices, and the usage and allocation of memory resources, processor resources, input/output resources, and security resources.

Outsourcing: The contracting out of a business process which an organization may have previously performed internally or has a new need for, to an independent organization from which the process is purchased back.

Payroll & Financial Center (PFC): Electronic procurement system of record.

Performance Bond: An insurance agreement, accompanied by a monetary commitment, by which a third party (the surety) accepts liability and guarantees that the Contractor fulfills any and all obligations under the contract.

Platform: A specific hardware and Operating System combination that is different from other hardware and Operating System combinations to the extent that a different version of the Licensed Software product is required to execute properly in the environment established by such hardware and Operating System combination.

Pre-Bid/Pre-Proposal Conference: A meeting scheduled for the purpose of clarifying a written solicitation and related expectations.

Product: Something that is distributed commercially for use or consumption and that is usually (1) tangible personal property, (2) the result of fabrication or processing, and (3) an item that has passed through a chain of commercial distribution before ultimate use or consumption.

Program Error: Code in Licensed Software which produces unintended results or actions, or which produces results or actions other than those described in the specifications. A program error includes, without limitation, any Critical Program Error.

Program Set: The group of programs and products, including the Licensed Software specified in the RFP, plus any additional programs and products licensed by the State under the contract for use by the State.

Project: The total scheme, program, or method worked out for the accomplishment of an objective, including all documentation, commodities, and services to be provided under the contract.

Proposal: See Bid/Proposal.

Proprietary Information: Proprietary information is defined as trade secrets, academic and scientific research work which is in progress and unpublished, and other information which if released would give advantage to business competitors and serve no public purpose (see Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-712.05(3)). In accordance with Attorney General Opinions 92068 and 97033, proof that information is proprietary requires identification of specific named competitor(s) advantaged by release of the information and the demonstrated advantage the named competitor(s) would gain by the release of information.

Protest/Grievance: A complaint about a governmental action or decision related to a RFP or resultant contract, brought by a vendor who has timely submitted a bid response in connection with the award in question, to AS Materiel Division or another designated agency with the intention of achieving a remedial result.

Public Proposal Opening: The process of opening correctly submitted offers at the time and place specified in the written solicitation and in the presence of anyone who wished to attend.

Recommended Hardware Configuration: The data processing hardware (including all terminals, auxiliary storage,

communication, and other peripheral devices) to the extent utilized by the State as recommended by the Contractor.

Release Date: The date of public release of the written solicitation to seek offers

Renewal Period: Optional contract periods subsequent to the original Contract Period for a specified duration with previously agreed to terms and conditions. Not to be confused with Extension.

Request for Information (RFI): A general invitation to vendors requesting information for a potential future solicitation. The RFI is typically used as a research and information gathering tool for preparation of a solicitation.

Request for Proposal (RFP): A written solicitation utilized for obtaining competitive offers.

Responsible Bidder: A bidder who has the capability in all respects to perform fully and lawfully all requirements with integrity and reliability to assure good faith performance.

Responsive Bidder: A bidder who has submitted a bid which conforms to all requirements of the solicitation document.

Shall/Will/Must: An order/command; mandatory.

Should: Expected; suggested, but not necessarily mandatory.

Software License: Legal instrument with or without printed material that governs the use or redistribution of licensed software.

Sole Source – Commodity: When an item is available from only one source due to the unique nature of the requirement, its supplier, or market conditions.

Sole Source – Services: A service of such a unique nature that the vendor selected is clearly and justifiably the only practical source to provide the service. Determination that the vendor selected is justifiably the sole source is based on either the uniqueness of the service or sole availability at the location required.

Specifications: The detailed statement, especially of the measurements, quality, materials, and functional characteristics, or other items to be provided under a contract.

System (see Module): Any collection or aggregation of two (2) or more Modules that is designed to function, or is represented by the Contractor as functioning or being capable of functioning, as an entity.

Termination: Occurs when either party, pursuant to a power created by agreement or law, puts an end to the contract prior to the stated expiration date. All obligations which are still executory on both sides are discharged but any right based on prior breach or performance survives.

Third Party: Any person or entity, including but not limited to fiduciaries, shareholders, owners, officers, managers, employees, legally disinterested persons, and sub-contractors or agents, and their employees. It shall not include any entity or person who is an interested party to the contract or agreement.

Trade Secret: Information, including, but not limited to, a drawing, formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique, code, or process that (a) derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being known to, and not being ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use; and (b) is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy (see Neb. Rev. Stat. §87-502(4)).

Trademark: A word, phrase, logo, or other graphic symbol used by a manufacturer or vendor to distinguish its product from those of others, registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Upgrade: Any change that improves or alters the basic function of a product or service.

Vendor: An individual or entity lawfully conducting business in the State of Nebraska, or licensed to do so, who seeks to provide goods or services under the terms of a written solicitation.

Vendor Performance Report: A report issued to the Contractor by State Purchasing Bureau when products or services delivered or performed fail to meet the terms of the purchase order, contract, and/or specifications, as reported to State Purchasing Bureau by the agency. The State Purchasing Bureau shall contact the Contractor regarding any such report. The vendor performance report will become a part of the permanent record for the Contractor. The State may require vendor to cure. Two such reports may be cause for immediate termination.

Will: See Shall/Will/Must

Work Day: See Business Day.

I. PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

The RFP is designed to solicit proposals from qualified Bidders who will be responsible for providing analysis of equine urine and blood samples and identification of substances and residue which may be seized or otherwise acquired at a competitive and reasonable cost.

Proposals shall conform to all instructions, conditions, and requirements included in the RFP. Prospective bidders are expected to carefully examine all documents, schedules, and requirements in this RFP, and respond to each requirement in the format prescribed. Proposals may be found non-responsive if they do not conform to the RFP.

B. PROCURING OFFICE AND COMMUNICATION WITH STATE STAFF AND EVALUATORS

Procurement responsibilities related to this RFP reside with the State Purchasing Bureau. The point of contact (POC) for the procurement is as follows:

Name: Teresa Fleming/Michelle Thompson
 Agency: State Purchasing Bureau
 Address: 1526 K Street, Suite 130
 Lincoln, NE 68508
 Telephone: 402-471-6500
 E-Mail: as.materielpurchasing@nebraska.gov

From the date the RFP is issued until the Intent to Award is issued communication from the Bidder is limited to the POC listed above. After the Intent to Award is issued the Bidder may communicate with individuals the State has designated as responsible for negotiating the contract on behalf of the State. No member of the State Government, employee of the State, or member of the Evaluation Committee is empowered to make binding statements regarding this RFP. The POC will issue any clarifications or opinions regarding this RFP in writing. Only the buyer can modify the RFP, answer questions, render opinions, and only the SPB or awarding agency can award a contract. Bidders shall not have any communication with, or attempt to communicate or influence any evaluator involved in this RFP.

The following exceptions to these restrictions are permitted:

1. Contact made pursuant to pre-existing contracts or obligations;
2. Contact required by the schedule of events or an event scheduled later by the RFP POC; and
3. Contact required for negotiation and execution of the final contract.

The State reserves the right to reject a bidder's proposal, withdraw an Intent to Award, or terminate a contract if the State determines there has been a violation of these procurement procedures.

C. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The State expects to adhere to the procurement schedule shown below, but all dates are approximate and subject to change.

ACTIVITY	DATE/TIME
1. Release RFP	October 4, 2017
2. Last day to submit written questions	October 18, 2017
3. State responds to written questions through RFP "Addendum" and/or "Amendment" to be posted to the Internet at: http://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/purchasing.html	October 20, 2017
4. Proposal opening Location: State Purchasing Bureau 1526 K Street, Suite 130 Lincoln, NE 68508	November 2, 2017 2:00 PM Central Time
5. Review for conformance of mandatory requirements	November 2, 2017
6. Evaluation period	November 3, 2017 through November 21, 2017
7. "Oral Interviews/Presentations and/or Demonstrations" (if required)	TBD
8. Post "Letter of Intent to Award" to Internet at: http://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/purchasing.html	December 1, 2017
9. Contract finalization period	December 1, 2017 through January 1, 2018
10. Contract award	January 15, 2018
11. Contractor start date	February 1, 2018

D. WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Questions regarding the meaning or interpretation of any RFP provision must be submitted in writing to the State Purchasing Bureau and clearly marked "RFP Number 5702 Z1; Analysis of Equine Urine and Blood Samples Questions". The POC is not obligated to respond to questions that are received late per the Schedule of Events.

Bidders should present, as questions, any assumptions upon which the Bidder's proposal is or might be developed. Proposals will be evaluated without consideration of any known or unknown assumptions of a bidder. The contract will not incorporate any known or unknown assumptions of a bidder.

It is preferred that questions be sent via e-mail to as.materiel purchasing@nebraska.gov, but may be delivered by hand or by U.S. Mail. It is recommended that Bidders submit questions using the following format.

RFP Section Reference	RFP Page Number	Question

Written answers will be posted at <http://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/purchasing.html> per the Schedule of Events.

E. RECYCLING (§81-15,159(d)(2))

Preference will be given to items which are manufactured or produced from recycled material or which can be readily reused or recycled after their normal use. Preference will also be given to purchases of corn-based biodegradable plastics and road deicers if available and suitable. No preference shall be given if such preference would result in the purchase of products, materials, or supplies that are of inadequate quality or of substantially higher cost.

F. SAMPLES

Samples should be furnished at the Bidder's expense with the proposal submission. Each sample must be labeled clearly and identify the Bidder's name, the RFP number and the item number. Samples submitted must be representative of the supplies or equipment to be delivered if awarded the contract. The State reserves the right to request samples even though this may not have been set forth in the RFP. Samples will be returned at Bidder's expense, if requested, or will be donated to a public institution.

G. PRICES

All prices, costs, and terms and conditions submitted in the proposal shall remain fixed and valid commencing on the opening date of the proposal until an award is made or the RFP is cancelled.

Prices submitted on the cost proposal form, once accepted by the State, shall remain fixed for the entire contract period including renewal and/or extension periods.

H. SECRETARY OF STATE/TAX COMMISSIONER REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS (Statutory)

All bidders must be authorized to transact business in the State of Nebraska and comply with all Nebraska Secretary of State Registration requirements. The bidder who is the recipient of an Intent to Award will be required to certify that it has complied and produce a true and exact copy of its current (within ninety (90) calendar days of the Intent to Award) Certificate or Letter of Good Standing, or in the case of a sole proprietorship, provide written documentation of sole proprietorship and complete the United States Citizenship Attestation Form, available on the Department of Administrative Services website at <http://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/purchasing.html>. This must be accomplished prior to execution of the contract.

I. ETHICS IN PUBLIC CONTRACTING

The State reserves the right to reject bids, withdraw an Intent to Award, or award, or terminate a contract if a bidder commits or has committed ethical violations, which include, but are not limited to:

1. Offering or giving, directly or indirectly, a bribe, fee, commission, compensation, gift, gratuity, or anything of value to any person or entity in an attempt to influence the bidding process;
2. Utilize the services of lobbyists, attorneys, political activists, or consultants to influence or subvert the bidding process;
3. Being considered for, presently being, or becoming debarred, suspended, ineligible, or excluded from contracting with any state or federal entity;
4. Submitting a proposal on behalf of another party or entity; and
5. Collude with any person or entity to influence the bidding process, submit sham proposals, preclude bidding, fix pricing or costs, create an unfair advantage, subvert the bid, or prejudice the State.

The Bidder shall include this clause in any subcontract entered into for the exclusive purpose of performing this contract.

Bidder shall have an affirmative duty to report any violations of this clause by the Bidder throughout the bidding process, and throughout the term of this contract for the successful Bidder and their subcontractors.

J. DEVIATIONS FROM THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The requirements contained in the RFP become a part of the terms and conditions of the contract resulting from this RFP. Any deviations from the RFP in Section II through IV must be clearly defined by the bidder in its proposal and, if accepted by the State, will become part of the contract. Any specifically defined deviations must not be in conflict with the basic nature of the RFP, requirements, or applicable state or federal laws or statutes. "Deviation", for the purposes of this RFP, means any proposed changes or alterations to either the contractual language or deliverables within the scope of this RFP. The State discourages deviations and reserves the right to reject proposed deviations.

K. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Bidders should submit one proposal marked on the first page: "ORIGINAL". If multiple proposals are submitted the State will retain one copy marked "ORIGINAL" and destroy the other copies. The Bidder is solely responsible for any variance between the copies submitted. Proposal responses should include the completed Form A, "Bidder Contact Sheet". Proposals must reference the RFP number and be sent to the specified address. Please note that the address label should appear as specified in Section I part B on the face of each container or bidder's bid response packet. If a recipient phone number is required for delivery purposes, 402-471-6500 should be used. The RFP number should be included in all correspondence.

Emphasis should be concentrated on conformance to the RFP instructions, responsiveness to requirements, completeness, and clarity of content. If the bidder's proposal is presented in such a fashion that makes evaluation difficult or overly time consuming the State reserves the right to reject the proposal as non-conforming.

By signing the Bidder Signature Page, the bidder guarantees compliance with the provisions stated in this RFP.

The Technical and Cost Proposals should be packaged separately (loose-leaf binders are preferred) on standard 8 ½" by 11" paper, except that charts, diagrams and the like may be on fold-outs which, when folded, fit into the 8 ½" by 11" format. Pages may be consecutively numbered for the entire proposal, or may be numbered consecutively within sections. Figures and tables should be numbered and referenced in the text by that number. They should be placed as close as possible to the referencing text. The Technical Proposal should not contain any reference to dollar amounts. However, information such as data concerning labor hours and categories, materials, subcontracts and so forth, shall be considered in the Technical Proposal so that the bidder's understanding of the scope of work may be evaluated. The Technical Proposal shall disclose the bidder's technical approach in as much detail as possible, including, but not limited to, the information required by the Technical Proposal instructions.

The State shall not incur any liability for any costs incurred by bidders in replying to this RFP, in the demonstrations and/or oral presentations, or in any other activity related to bidding on this RFP.

L. BID PREPARATION COSTS

The State shall not incur any liability for any costs incurred by Bidders in replying to this RFP, including any activity related to bidding on this RFP.

M. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Violation of the terms and conditions contained in this RFP or any resultant contract, at any time before or after the award, shall be grounds for action by the State which may include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Rejection of a bidder's proposal;
2. Withdrawal of the Intent to Award;
3. Withdrawal of the Award;
4. Termination of the resulting contract;
5. Legal action; and
6. Suspension of the bidder from further bidding with the State for the period of time relative to the seriousness of the violation, such period to be within the sole discretion of the State.

N. BID CORRECTIONS

A bidder may correct a mistake in a bid prior to the time of opening by giving written notice to the State of intent to withdraw the bid for modification or to withdraw the bid completely. Changes in a bid after opening are acceptable only if the change is made to correct a minor error that does not affect price, quantity, quality, delivery, or contractual conditions. In case of a mathematical error in extension of price, unit price shall govern.

O. LATE PROPOSALS

Proposals received after the time and date of the proposal opening will be considered late proposals. Late proposals will be returned unopened, if requested by the bidder and at bidder's expense. The State is not responsible for proposals that are late or lost regardless of cause or fault.

P. PROPOSAL OPENING

Anyone may attend the opening. It is considered a public opening. For services, the Buyer will read the names of the respondents. A List of Respondents will be posted to the SPB website. The bids will **NOT** be available for public viewing until the evaluation process has been completed and the Intent to Award has been posted to the SPB website. Information identified as proprietary by the submitting vendor, in accordance with the RFP/ITB and state statute, will not be posted. If the state determines submitted information should not be withheld, in accordance with the [Public Records Act](#), or if ordered to release any withheld information, said information may then be released. The submitting bidder will be notified of the release and it shall be the obligation of the submitting bidder to take further action, if it believes the information should not be released.

Q. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL/PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

The proposals will first be examined to determine if all requirements listed below have been addressed and whether further evaluation is warranted. Proposals not meeting the requirements may be rejected as non-responsive. The requirements are:

1. Original Bidder Signature Page form signed using an indelible method.
2. Clarity and responsiveness of the proposal;
3. Completed Corporate Overview;
4. Completed Section II through IV;
5. Completed Technical Approach; and
6. Completed State Cost Proposal Template.

R. EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Proposals are evaluated by members of an Evaluation Committee(s). The Evaluation Committee(s) will consist of individuals selected at the discretion of the State. Names of the members of the Evaluation Committee(s) will not be published prior to the Intent to Award.

Any contact, attempted contact, or attempt to influence an evaluator that is involved with this RFP may result in the rejection of this proposal and further administrative actions.

S. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

All proposals that are responsive to the RFP will be evaluated. Each evaluation category will have a maximum point potential. The State will conduct a fair, impartial, and comprehensive evaluation of all proposals in accordance with the criteria set forth below. Areas that will be addressed and scored during the evaluation include:

1. Corporate Overview should include but is not limited to:
 - a. the ability, capacity, and skill of the bidder to deliver and implement the system or project that meets the requirements of the RFP;
 - b. the character, integrity, reputation, judgment, experience, and efficiency of the bidder;
 - c. whether the bidder can perform the contract within the specified time frame;
 - d. the quality of bidder performance on prior contracts;
 - e. such other information that may be secured and that has a bearing on the decision to award the contract;
2. Technical Approach; and,
3. Cost Proposal.

Neb. Rev. Stat. §73-107 allows for a preference for a resident disabled veteran or business located in a designated enterprise zone. When a state contract is to be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, a resident disabled veteran or a business located in a designated enterprise zone under the Enterprise Zone Act shall be allowed a preference over any other resident or nonresident bidder, if all other factors are equal.

Resident disabled veterans means any person (a) who resides in the State of Nebraska, who served in the United States Armed Forces, including any reserve component or the National Guard, who was discharged or otherwise separated with a characterization of honorable or general (under honorable conditions), and who possesses a disability rating letter issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs establishing a service-connected disability or a disability determination from the United States Department of Defense and (b)(i) who owns and controls a business or, in the case of a publicly owned business, more than fifty percent of the stock is owned by one or more persons described in subdivision (a) of this

subsection and (ii) the management and daily business operations of the business are controlled by one or more persons described in subdivision(a) of this subsection. Any contract entered into without compliance with this section shall be null and void.

Therefore, if a resident disabled veteran or business located in a designated enterprise zone submits a proposal in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. §73-107 and has so indicated on the RFP cover page under "Bidder must complete the following" requesting priority/preference to be considered in the award of this contract, the following will need to be submitted by the vendor within ten (10) business days of request:

1. Documentation from the United States Armed Forces confirming service;
2. Documentation of discharge or otherwise separated characterization of honorable or general (under honorable conditions);
3. Disability rating letter issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs establishing a service-connected disability or a disability determination from the United States Department of Defense; and
4. Documentation which shows ownership and control of a business or, in the case of a publicly owned business, more than fifty percent of the stock is owned by one or more persons described in subdivision (a) of this subsection; and the management and daily business operations of the business are controlled by one or more persons described in subdivision (a) of this subsection.

Failure to submit the requested documentation within ten (10) business days of notice will disqualify the bidder from consideration of the preference.

Evaluation criteria weighting will be released with the RFP.

T. ORAL INTERVIEWS/PRESENTATIONS AND/OR DEMONSTRATIONS

The State may determine after the completion of the Technical and Cost Proposal evaluation that oral interviews/presentations and/or demonstrations are required in order to determine the successful bidder. Every bidder may not be given an opportunity to interview/present and/or give demonstrations; the State reserves the right, in its discretion, to select only the top scoring bidders to present/give oral interviews. The scores from the oral interviews/presentations and/or demonstrations will be added to the scores from the Technical and Cost Proposals. The presentation process will allow the bidders to demonstrate their proposal offering, explaining and/or clarifying any unusual or significant elements related to their proposals. Bidders' key personnel, identified in their proposal, may be requested to participate in a structured interview to determine their understanding of the requirements of this proposal, their authority and reporting relationships within their firm, and their management style and philosophy. Only representatives of the State and the presenting bidder will be permitted to attend the oral interviews/presentations and/or demonstrations. A written copy or summary of the presentation, and demonstrative information (such as briefing charts, et cetera) may be offered by the bidder, but the State reserves the right to refuse or not consider the offered materials. Bidders shall not be allowed to alter or amend their proposals.

Once the oral interviews/presentations and/or demonstrations have been completed the State reserves the right to make an award without any further discussion with the bidders regarding the proposals received.

Any cost incidental to the oral interviews/presentations and/or demonstrations shall be borne entirely by the bidder and will not be compensated by the State.

U. BEST AND FINAL OFFER

If best and final offers (BAFO) are requested by the State and submitted by the bidder, they will be evaluated (using the stated BAFO criteria), scored, and ranked by the Evaluation Committee. The State reserves the right to conduct more than one Best and Final Offer. The award will then be granted to the highest scoring bidder. However, a bidder should provide its best offer in its original proposal. Bidders should not expect that the State will request a best and final offer.

V. REFERENCE AND CREDIT CHECKS

The State reserves the right to conduct and consider reference and credit checks. The State reserves the right to use third parties to conduct reference and credit checks. By submitting a proposal in response to this RFP, the bidder grants to the State the right to contact or arrange a visit in person with any or all of the bidder's clients. Reference and credit checks may be grounds to reject a proposal, withdraw an Intent to Award, or rescind the award of a contract.

W. AWARD

The State reserves the right to evaluate proposals and to award contracts in a manner and utilizing criteria selected at the State's discretion and in the State's best interest. After evaluation of the proposals, or at any point in the RFP process for some actions, the State of Nebraska may take one or more of the following actions:

1. Amend the RFP;
2. Extend the time of or establish a new bid opening time;
3. Waive deviations or errors in the State's RFP process and in bidder proposals that are not material, do not compromise the RFP process or a bidder's proposal, and do not improve a bidder's competitive position;
4. Accept or reject a portion of or all of a proposal;
5. Accept or reject all proposals;
6. Withdraw the RFP;
7. Elect to rebid the RFP;
8. Award single lines or multiple lines to one or more bidders; or,
9. Award one or more all-inclusive contracts.

The State of Nebraska may consider, but is not limited to considering, one or more of the following award criteria:

1. Price;
2. Location;
3. Quality;
4. Delivery time;
5. Bidder qualifications and capabilities; and
6. State contract management requirements and/or costs.

The RFP does not commit the State to award a contract. Once Intent to Award decision has been determined, it will be posted to the Internet at:

<http://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/purchasing.html>

Grievance and protest procedure is available on the Internet at:

<http://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/purchasing.html>

Any protests must be filed by a bidder within ten (10) business days after the Intent to Award decision is posted to the Internet.

II. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Bidders should complete Sections II through IV as part of their proposal. Bidder is expected to read the Terms and Conditions and should initial either accept, reject, or reject and provide alternative language for each clause. The bidder should also provide an explanation of why the bidder rejected the clause or rejected the clause and provided alternate language. By signing the RFP bidder is agreeing to be legally bound by all the accepted terms and conditions, and any proposed alternative terms and conditions submitted with the proposal. The State reserves the right to negotiate rejected or proposed alternative language. If the State and bidder fail to agree on the final Terms and Conditions, the State reserves the right to reject the proposal. The State of Nebraska is soliciting bids in response to the RFP. The State of Nebraska reserves the right to reject proposals that attempt to substitute the bidder’s commercial contracts and/or documents for this RFP.

The bidder should submit with their proposal any license, user agreement, service level agreement, or similar documents that the bidder wants incorporated in the Contract. The State will not consider incorporation of any document not submitted with the bidder’s proposal as the document will not have been included in the evaluation process. These documents shall be subject to negotiation and will be incorporated as addendums if agreed to by the Parties.

If a conflict or ambiguity arises after the addendums have been negotiated and agreed to, the addendums shall be interpreted as follows:

1. If only one Party has a particular clause then that clause shall control;
2. If both Parties have a similar clause, but the clauses do not conflict, the clauses shall be read together;
3. If both Parties have a similar clause, but the clauses conflict, the State’s clause shall control.

A. GENERAL

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The contract resulting from this RFP shall incorporate the following documents:

1. Request for Proposal and Addenda;
2. Amendments to the RFP;
3. Questions and Answers;
4. Contractor’s proposal (RFP)
5. Award;
6. The executed Contract and any Addenda (including Contractor’s proposal and properly submitted documents) ; and,
7. Amendments to the Contract

These documents constitute the entirety of the contract.

Unless otherwise specifically stated in a future contract amendment, in case of any conflict between the incorporated documents, the documents shall govern in the following order of preference with number one (1) receiving preference over all other documents and with each lower numbered document having preference over any higher numbered document: 1) Amendment to the executed Contract with the most recent dated amendment having the highest priority, 2) executed Contract and any attached Addenda, 3) Amendments to RFP and any Questions and Answers, 4) the original RFP document and any Addenda, and 5) the Contractor’s submitted Proposal.

Any ambiguity or conflict in the contract discovered after its execution, not otherwise addressed herein, shall be resolved in accordance with the rules of contract interpretation as established in the State of Nebraska.

B. NOTIFICATION

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

Communications regarding the executed contract shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been given if delivered personally or mailed, by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, to the parties at their respective addresses. All notices, requests, or communications shall be deemed effective upon personal delivery or three (3) calendar days following deposit in the mail.

Either party may change its address for notification purposes by giving notice of the change, and setting forth the new address and an effective date.

C. GOVERNING LAW (Statutory)

Notwithstanding any other provision of this contract, or any amendment or addendum(s) entered into contemporaneously or at a later time, the parties understand and agree that, (1) the State of Nebraska is a sovereign state and its authority to contract is therefore subject to limitation by the State's Constitution, statutes, common law, and regulation; (2) this contract will be interpreted and enforced under the laws of the State of Nebraska; (3) any action to enforce the provisions of this agreement must be brought in the State of Nebraska per state law; (4) the person signing this contract on behalf of the State of Nebraska does not have the authority to waive the State's sovereign immunity, statutes, common law, or regulations; (5) the indemnity, limitation of liability, remedy, and other similar provisions of the final contract, if any, are entered into subject to the State's Constitution, statutes, common law, regulations, and sovereign immunity; and, (6) all terms and conditions of the final contract, including but not limited to the clauses concerning third-party use, licenses, warranties, limitations of liability, governing law and venue, usage verification, indemnity, liability, remedy or other similar provisions of the final contract are entered into specifically subject to the State's Constitution, statutes, common law, regulations, and sovereign immunity.

The Parties must comply with all applicable local, state and federal laws, ordinances, rules, orders, and regulations.

D. BEGINNING OF WORK

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The bidder shall not commence any billable work until a valid contract has been fully executed by the State and the successful Contractor. The Contractor will be notified in writing when work may begin.

E. CHANGE ORDERS

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The State and the Contractor, upon the written agreement, may make changes to the contract within the general scope of the RFP. Changes may involve specifications, the quantity of work, or such other items as the State may find necessary or desirable. Corrections of any deliverable, service, or work required pursuant to the contract shall not be deemed a change. The Contractor may not claim forfeiture of the contract by reasons of such changes.

The Contractor shall prepare a written description of the work required due to the change and an itemized cost sheet for the change. Changes in work and the amount of compensation to be paid to the Contractor shall be determined in accordance with applicable unit prices if any, a pro-rated value, or through negotiations. The State shall not incur a price increase for changes that should have been included in the Contractor's proposal, were foreseeable, or result from difficulties with or failure of the Contractor's proposal or performance.

No change shall be implemented by the Contractor until approved by the State, and the Contract is amended to reflect the change and associated costs, if any. If there is a dispute regarding the cost, but both parties agree that immediate implementation is necessary, the change may be implemented, and cost negotiations may continue with both Parties retaining all remedies under the contract and law.

F. NOTICE OF POTENTIAL CONTRACTOR BREACH

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

If Contractor breaches the contract or anticipates breaching the contract, the Contractor shall immediately give written notice to the State. The notice shall explain the breach or potential breach, a proposed cure, and may include a request for a waiver of the breach if so desired. The State may, in its discretion, temporarily or permanently waive the breach. By granting a waiver, the State does not forfeit any rights or remedies to which the State is entitled by law or equity, or pursuant to the provisions of the contract. Failure to give immediate notice, however, may be grounds for denial of any request for a waiver of a breach.

G. BREACH

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

Either Party may terminate the contract, in whole or in part, if the other Party breaches its duty to perform its obligations under the contract in a timely and proper manner. Termination requires written notice of default and a thirty (30) calendar day (or longer at the non-breaching Party's discretion considering the gravity and nature of the default) cure period. Said notice shall be delivered by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, or in person with proof of delivery. Allowing time to cure a failure or breach of contract does not waive the right to immediately terminate the contract for the same or different contract breach which may occur at a different time. In case of default of the Contractor, the State may contract the service from other sources and hold the Contractor responsible for any excess cost occasioned thereby.

The State's failure to make payment shall not be a breach, and the Contractor shall retain all available statutory remedies and protections.

H. NON-WAIVER OF BREACH

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The acceptance of late performance with or without objection or reservation by a Party shall not waive any rights of the Party nor constitute a waiver of the requirement of timely performance of any obligations remaining to be performed.

I. SEVERABILITY

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

If any term or condition of the contract is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be illegal or in conflict with any law, the validity of the remaining terms and conditions shall not be affected, and the rights and obligations of the parties shall be construed and enforced as if the contract did not contain the provision held to be invalid or illegal.

J. INDEMNIFICATION

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

1. GENERAL

The Contractor agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the State and its employees, volunteers, agents, and its elected and appointed officials ("the indemnified parties") from and against any and all third party claims, liens, demands, damages, liability, actions, causes of action, losses, judgments, costs, and expenses of every nature, including investigation costs and expenses, settlement costs, and attorney fees and expenses ("the claims"), sustained or asserted against the State for personal injury, death, or property loss or damage, arising out of, resulting from, or attributable to the willful misconduct, negligence, error, or omission of the Contractor, its employees, Subcontractors, consultants, representatives, and agents, resulting from this contract, except to the extent such Contractor liability is attenuated by any action of the State which directly and proximately contributed to the claims.

2. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The Contractor agrees it will, at its sole cost and expense, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the indemnified parties from and against any and all claims, to the extent such claims arise out of, result from, or are attributable to, the actual or alleged infringement or misappropriation of any patent, copyright, trade secret, trademark, or confidential information of any third party by the Contractor or its employees, Subcontractors, consultants, representatives, and agents; provided, however, the State gives the Contractor prompt notice in writing of the claim. The Contractor may not settle any infringement claim that

will affect the State's use of the Licensed Software without the State's prior written consent, which consent may be withheld for any reason.

If a judgment or settlement is obtained or reasonably anticipated against the State's use of any intellectual property for which the Contractor has indemnified the State, the Contractor shall, at the Contractor's sole cost and expense, promptly modify the item or items which were determined to be infringing, acquire a license or licenses on the State's behalf to provide the necessary rights to the State to eliminate the infringement, or provide the State with a non-infringing substitute that provides the State the same functionality. At the State's election, the actual or anticipated judgment may be treated as a breach of warranty by the Contractor, and the State may receive the remedies provided under this RFP.

3. PERSONNEL

The Contractor shall, at its expense, indemnify and hold harmless the indemnified parties from and against any claim with respect to withholding taxes, worker's compensation, employee benefits, or any other claim, demand, liability, damage, or loss of any nature relating to any of the personnel, including subcontractor's and their employees, provided by the Contractor.

4. SELF-INSURANCE

The State of Nebraska is self-insured for any loss and purchases excess insurance coverage pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-8,239.01 (Reissue 2008). If there is a presumed loss under the provisions of this agreement, Contractor may file a claim with the Office of Risk Management pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 81-8,829 – 81-8,306 for review by the State Claims Board. The State retains all rights and immunities under the State Miscellaneous (Section 81-8,294), Tort (Section 81-8,209), and Contract Claim Acts (Section 81-8,302), as outlined in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-8,209 et seq. and under any other provisions of law and accepts liability under this agreement to the extent provided by law.

5. The Parties acknowledge that Attorney General for the State of Nebraska is required by statute to represent the legal interests of the State, and that any provision of this indemnity clause is subject to the statutory authority of the Attorney General.

K. ATTORNEY'S FEES

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

In the event of any litigation, appeal, or other legal action to enforce any provision of the contract, the Parties agree to pay all expenses of such action, as permitted by law and if order by the court, including attorney's fees and costs, if the other party prevails.

L. PERFORMANCE BOND

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The Contractor will be required to supply a bond executed by a corporation authorized to contract surety in the State of Nebraska, payable to the State of Nebraska, which shall be valid for the life of the contract to include any renewal and/or extension periods. The amount of the bond must be \$20,000.00 and will guarantee that the Contractor will faithfully perform all requirements, terms and conditions of the contract. Failure to comply shall be grounds for forfeiture of the bond as liquidated damages. Amount of forfeiture will be determined by the agency based on loss to the State. The bond will be returned when the service has been satisfactorily completed as solely determined by the State, after termination or expiration of the contract.

M. ASSIGNMENT, SALE, OR MERGER

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

Either party may assign the contract upon mutual written agreement of the other party. Such agreement shall not be unreasonably withheld.

The Contractor retains the right to enter into a sale, merger, acquisition, internal reorganization, or similar transaction involving Contractor's business. Contractor agrees to cooperate with the State in executing amendments to the contract to allow for the transaction. If a third party or entity is involved in the transaction, the Contractor will remain responsible for performance of the contract until such time as the person or entity involved in the transaction agrees in writing to be contractually bound by this contract and perform all obligations of the contract.

N. CONTRACTING WITH OTHER NEBRASKA POLITICAL SUB-DIVISIONS

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The Contractor may, but shall not be required to, allow agencies, as defined in Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-145, to use this contract. The terms and conditions, including price, of the contract may not be amended. The State shall not be contractually obligated or liable for any contract entered into pursuant to this clause. A listing of Nebraska political subdivisions may be found at the website of the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts.

O. FORCE MAJEURE

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

Neither party shall be liable for any costs or damages, or for default resulting from its inability to perform any of its obligations under the contract due to a natural or manmade event outside the control and not the fault of the affected party ("Force Majeure Event"). The Party so affected shall immediately make a written request for relief to the other party, and shall have the burden of proof to justify the request. The other Party may be granted the relief requested; relief may not be unreasonably withheld. Labor disputes with the impacted party's own employees will not be considered a Force Majeure Event.

P. CONFIDENTIALITY

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

All materials and information provided by the Parties or acquired by a Party on behalf of the other Party shall be regarded as confidential information. All materials and information provided or acquired shall be handled in accordance with federal and state law, and ethical standards. Should said confidentiality be breached by a Party, the Party shall notify the other Party immediately of said breach and take immediate corrective action.

It is incumbent upon the Parties to inform their officers and employees of the penalties for improper disclosure imposed by the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a. Specifically, 5 U.S.C. 552a (i)(1), which is made applicable by 5 U.S.C. 552a (m)(1), provides that any officer or employee, who by virtue of his/her employment or official position has possession of or access to agency records which contain individually identifiable information, the disclosure of which is prohibited by the Privacy Act or regulations established thereunder, and who knowing that disclosure of the specific material is prohibited, willfully discloses the material in any manner to any person or agency not entitled to receive it, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not more than \$5,000.

Q. EARLY TERMINATION

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The contract may be terminated as follows:

1. The State and the Contractor, by mutual written agreement, may terminate the contract at any time.
2. The State, in its sole discretion, may terminate the contract for any reason upon thirty (30) calendar day's written notice to the Contractor. Such termination shall not relieve the Contractor of warranty or other service obligations incurred under the terms of the contract. In the event of termination the Contractor shall be entitled to payment, determined on a pro rata basis, for products or services satisfactorily performed or provided.
3. The State may terminate the contract immediately for the following reasons:
 - a. if directed to do so by statute;
 - b. Contractor has made an assignment for the benefit of creditors, has admitted in writing its inability to pay debts as they mature, or has ceased operating in the normal course of business;
 - c. a trustee or receiver of the Contractor or of any substantial part of the Contractor's assets has been appointed by a court;
 - d. fraud, misappropriation, embezzlement, malfeasance, misfeasance, or illegal conduct pertaining to performance under the contract by its Contractor, its employees, officers, directors, or shareholders;
 - e. an involuntary proceeding has been commenced by any party against the Contractor under any one of the chapters of Title 11 of the United States Code and (i) the proceeding has been pending for at least sixty (60) calendar days; or (ii) the Contractor has consented, either expressly or by operation of law, to the entry of an order for relief; or (iii) the Contractor has been decreed or adjudged a debtor;
 - f. a voluntary petition has been filed by the Contractor under any of the chapters of Title 11 of the United States Code;
 - g. Contractor intentionally discloses confidential information;
 - h. Contractor has or announces it will discontinue support of the deliverable; and,
 - i. In the event funding is no longer available.

R. CONTRACT CLOSEOUT

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

Upon termination of the contract for any reason the Contractor shall within 30 days, unless stated otherwise herein:

1. Transfer all completed or partially completed deliverables to the State;
2. Transfer ownership and title to all completed or partially completed deliverables to the State;
3. Return to the State all information and data, unless the Contractor is permitted to keep the information or data by contract or rule of law. Contractor may retain one copy of any information or data as required to comply with applicable work product documentation standards or as are automatically retained in the course of Contractor's routine back up procedures;
4. Cooperate with any successor contractor, person or entity in the assumption of any or all of the obligations of this contract;
5. Cooperate with any successor Contractor, person or entity with the transfer of information or data related to this contract;
6. Return or vacate any state owned real or personal property; and,
7. Return all data in a mutually acceptable format and manner.

Nothing in this Section should be construed to require the Contractor to surrender intellectual property, real or person property, or information or data owned by the Contractor for which the State has no legal claim.

III. CONTRACTOR DUTIES

A. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR / OBLIGATIONS

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

It is agreed that the Contractor is an independent contractor and that nothing contained herein is intended or should be construed as creating or establishing a relationship of employment, agency, or a partnership.

The Contractor is solely responsible for fulfilling the contract. The Contractor or the Contractor’s representative shall be the sole point of contact regarding all contractual matters.

The Contractor shall secure, at its own expense, all personnel required to perform the services under the contract. The personnel the Contractor uses to fulfill the contract shall have no contractual or other legal relationship with the State; they shall not be considered employees of the State and shall not be entitled to any compensation, rights or benefits from the State, including but not limited to, tenure rights, medical and hospital care, sick and vacation leave, severance pay, or retirement benefits.

By-name personnel commitments made in the Contractor's proposal shall not be changed without the prior written approval of the State. Replacement of these personnel, if approved by the State, shall be with personnel of equal or greater ability and qualifications.

All personnel assigned by the Contractor to the contract shall be employees of the Contractor or a subcontractor, and shall be fully qualified to perform the work required herein. Personnel employed by the Contractor or a subcontractor to fulfill the terms of the contract shall remain under the sole direction and control of the Contractor or the subcontractor respectively.

With respect to its employees, the Contractor agrees to be solely responsible for the following:

1. Any and all pay, benefits, and employment taxes and/or other payroll withholding;
2. Any and all vehicles used by the Contractor’s employees, including all insurance required by state law;
3. Damages incurred by Contractor’s employees within the scope of their duties under the contract;
4. Maintaining Workers’ Compensation and health insurance that complies with state and federal law and submitting any reports on such insurance to the extent required by governing law; and
5. Determining the hours to be worked and the duties to be performed by the Contractor’s employees.
6. All claims on behalf of any person arising out of employment or alleged employment (including without limit claims of discrimination alleged against the Contractor, its officers, agents, or subcontractors or subcontractor’s employees)

If the Contractor intends to utilize any subcontractor, the Subcontractor's level of effort, tasks, and time allocation should be clearly defined in the Contractor's proposal. The Contractor shall agree that it will not utilize any Subcontractors not specifically included in its proposal in the performance of the contract without the prior written authorization of the State.

The State reserves the right to require the Contractor to reassign or remove from the project any Contractor or Subcontractor employee.

Contractor shall insure that the terms and conditions contained in any contract with a sub-contractor does not conflict with the terms and conditions of this contract.

The Contractor shall include a similar provision, for the protection of the State, in the contract with any Subcontractor engaged to perform work on this contract.

B. EMPLOYEE WORK ELIGIBILITY STATUS

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The Contractor is required and hereby agrees to use a federal immigration verification system to determine the work eligibility status of employees physically performing services within the State of Nebraska. A federal immigration verification system means the electronic verification of the work authorization program authorized by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, 8 U.S.C. 1324a, known as the E-Verify Program, or an equivalent federal program designated by the United States Department of Homeland Security or other federal agency authorized to verify the work eligibility status of an employee.

If the Contractor is an individual or sole proprietorship, the following applies:

1. The Contractor must complete the United States Citizenship Attestation Form, available on the Department of Administrative Services website at <http://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/purchasing.html>

The completed United States Attestation Form should be submitted with the RFP response.
2. If the Contractor indicates on such attestation form that he or she is a qualified alien, the Contractor agrees to provide the US Citizenship and Immigration Services documentation required to verify the Contractor's lawful presence in the United States using the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program.
3. The Contractor understands and agrees that lawful presence in the United States is required and the Contractor may be disqualified or the contract terminated if such lawful presence cannot be verified as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. §4-108.

C. COMPLIANCE WITH CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT / NONDISCRIMINATION (Statutory)

The Contractor shall comply with all applicable local, state, and federal statutes and regulations regarding civil rights laws and equal opportunity employment. The Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act prohibits Contractors of the State of Nebraska, and their Subcontractors, from discriminating against any employee or applicant for employment, with respect to hire, tenure, terms, conditions, compensation, or privileges of employment because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, marital status, or national origin (Neb. Rev. Stat. §48-1101 to 48-1125). The Contractor guarantees compliance with the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act, and breach of this provision shall be regarded as a material breach of contract. The Contractor shall insert a similar provision in all Subcontracts for services to be covered by any contract resulting from this RFP.

D. COOPERATION WITH OTHER CONTRACTORS

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

Contractor may be required to work with or in close proximity to other contractors or individuals that may be working on same or different projects. The Contractor shall agree to cooperate with such other contractors or individuals, and shall not commit or permit any act which may interfere with the performance of work by any other contractor or individual. Contractor is not required to compromise Contractor's intellectual property or proprietary information unless expressly required to do so by this contract.

E. PERMITS, REGULATIONS, LAWS

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The contract price shall include the cost of all royalties, licenses, permits, and approvals, whether arising from patents, trademarks, copyrights or otherwise, that are in any way involved in the contract. The Contractor shall obtain and pay for all royalties, licenses, and permits, and approvals necessary for the execution of the contract. The Contractor must guarantee that it has the full legal right to the materials, supplies, equipment, software, and other items used to execute this contract.

F. OWNERSHIP OF INFORMATION AND DATA / DELIVERABLES

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The State shall have the unlimited right to publish, duplicate, use, and disclose all information and data developed or obtained by the Contractor on behalf of the State pursuant to this contract.

The State shall own and hold exclusive title to any deliverable developed as a result of this contract. Contractor shall have no ownership interest or title, and shall not patent, license, or copyright, duplicate, transfer, sell, or exchange, the design, specifications, concept, or deliverable.

G. INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The Contractor shall throughout the term of the contract maintain insurance as specified herein and provide the State a current Certificate of Insurance/Acord Form (COI) verifying the coverage. The Contractor shall not commence work on the contract until the insurance is in place. If Contractor subcontracts any portion of the Contract the Contractor must, throughout the term of the contract, either:

1. Provide equivalent insurance for each subcontractor and provide a COI verifying the coverage for the subcontractor;
2. Require each subcontractor to have equivalent insurance and provide written notice to the State that the Contractor has verified that each subcontractor has the required coverage; or,
3. Provide the State with copies of each subcontractor's Certificate of Insurance evidencing the required coverage.

The Contractor shall not allow any Subcontractor to commence work until the Subcontractor has equivalent insurance. The failure of the State to require a COI, or the failure of the Contractor to provide a COI or require subcontractor insurance shall not limit, relieve, or decrease the liability of the Contractor hereunder.

In the event that any policy written on a claims-made basis terminates or is canceled during the term of the contract or within one (1) year of termination or expiration of the contract, the contractor shall obtain an extended discovery or reporting period, or a new insurance policy, providing coverage required by this contract for the term of the contract and one (1) year following termination or expiration of the contract.

If by the terms of any insurance a mandatory deductible is required, or if the Contractor elects to increase the mandatory deductible amount, the Contractor shall be responsible for payment of the amount of the deductible in the event of a paid claim.

Notwithstanding any other clause in this Contract, the State may recover up to the liability limits of the insurance policies required herein.

1. WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE

The Contractor shall take out and maintain during the life of this contract the statutory Workers' Compensation and Employer's Liability Insurance for all of the contractors' employees to be engaged in work on the project under this contract and, in case any such work is sublet, the Contractor shall require the Subcontractor similarly to provide Worker's Compensation and Employer's Liability Insurance for all of the Subcontractor's employees to be engaged in such work. This policy shall be written to meet the statutory requirements for the state in which the work is to be performed, including Occupational Disease. **The policy shall include a waiver of subrogation in favor of the State. The COI shall contain the mandatory COI subrogation waiver language found hereinafter.** The amounts of such insurance shall not be less than the limits stated hereinafter. For employees working in the State of Nebraska, the policy must be written by an entity authorized by the State of Nebraska Department of Insurance to write Workers' Compensation and Employer's Liability Insurance for Nebraska employees.

2. COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE AND COMMERCIAL AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY INSURANCE

The Contractor shall take out and maintain during the life of this contract such Commercial General Liability Insurance and Commercial Automobile Liability Insurance as shall protect Contractor and any Subcontractor performing work covered by this contract from claims for damages for bodily injury, including death, as well as from claims for property damage, which may arise from operations under this contract, whether such operation be by the Contractor or by any Subcontractor or by anyone directly or indirectly employed by either of them, and the amounts of such insurance shall not be less than limits stated hereinafter.

The Commercial General Liability Insurance shall be written on an **occurrence basis**, and provide Premises/Operations, Products/Completed Operations, Independent Contractors, Personal Injury, and Contractual Liability coverage. **The policy shall include the State, and others as required by the contract documents, as Additional Insured(s). This policy shall be primary, and any insurance or self-insurance carried by the State shall be considered secondary and non-contributory. The COI shall contain the mandatory COI liability waiver language found hereinafter.** The Commercial Automobile Liability Insurance shall be written to cover all Owned, Non-owned, and Hired vehicles.

REQUIRED INSURANCE COVERAGE		
COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY		
General Aggregate		\$2,000,000
Products/Completed Operations Aggregate		\$2,000,000
Personal/Advertising Injury		\$1,000,000 per occurrence
Bodily Injury/Property Damage		\$1,000,000 per occurrence
Medical Payments		\$5,000 any one person
Damage to Rented Premises		\$300,000 each occurrence
<i>If higher limits are required, the Umbrella/Excess Liability limits are allowed to satisfy the higher limit.</i>		
WORKER'S COMPENSATION		
Employers Liability Limits		\$500K/\$500K/\$500K
Statutory Limits- All States		Statutory - State of Nebraska
Voluntary Compensation		Statutory
COMMERCIAL AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY		
Bodily Injury/Property Damage		\$1,000,000 combined single limit
Include All Owned, Hired & Non-Owned Automobile liability		Included
Motor Carrier Act Endorsement		Where Applicable
UMBRELLA/EXCESS LIABILITY		
Over Primary Insurance		\$5,000,000 per occurrence
MANDATORY COI SUBROGATION WAIVER LANGUAGE		
"Workers' Compensation policy shall include a waiver of subrogation in favor of the State of Nebraska."		
MANDATORY COI LIABILITY WAIVER LANGUAGE		
"Commercial General Liability & Commercial Automobile Liability policies shall be primary and any insurance or self-insurance carried by the State shall be considered secondary and non-contributory, as Additional Insured."		

If the mandatory COI subrogation waiver language or mandatory COI liability waiver language on the COI states that the waiver is subject to, condition upon, or otherwise limit by the insurance policy a copy of the relevant sections of the policy must be submitted with the COI so the State can review the limitations imposed by the insurance policy.

3. EVIDENCE OF COVERAGE

The Contractor must furnish to the State upon Contract execution, a certificate of insurance coverage complying with the above requirements to the attention of the Certificate Holder.

Certificate Holder:
 Nebraska State Racing Commission
 5903 Walker Avenue
 Lincoln, NE 68507

These certificates or the cover sheet shall reference the RFP number, and the certificates shall include the name of the company, policy numbers, effective dates, dates of expiration, and amounts and types of coverage afforded. If the State is damaged by the failure of the Contractor to maintain such insurance, then the Contractor shall be responsible for all reasonable costs properly attributable thereto.

Reasonable notice of cancellation of any required insurance policy must be submitted to Nebraska State Racing Commission when issued and a new coverage binder shall be submitted immediately to ensure no break in coverage.

4. DEVIATIONS

The insurance requirements are subject to limited negotiation. Negotiation typically includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the correct type of coverage, necessity for Workers' Compensation, and the type of automobile coverage carried by the Contractor.

H. ANTITRUST

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The Contractor hereby assigns to the State any and all claims for overcharges as to goods and/or services provided in connection with this contract resulting from antitrust violations which arise under antitrust laws of the United States and the antitrust laws of the State.

I. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

By submitting a proposal, bidder certifies that there does not now exist a relationship between the bidder and any person or entity which is or gives the appearance of a conflict of interest related to this RFP or project.

The bidder certifies that it shall not take any action or acquire any interest, either directly or indirectly, which will conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of its services hereunder or which creates an actual or an appearance of conflict of interest.

The bidder certifies that it will not knowingly employ any individual known by bidder to have a conflict of interest.

The Parties shall not knowingly, for a period of two years after execution of the contract, recruit or employ any employee or agent of the other Party who has worked on the RFP or project, or who had any influence on decisions affecting the RFP or project.

J. STATE PROPERTY

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The Contractor shall be responsible for the proper care and custody of any State-owned property which is furnished for the Contractor's use during the performance of the contract. The Contractor shall reimburse the State for any loss or damage of such property; normal wear and tear is expected.

K. SITE RULES AND REGULATIONS

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The Contractor shall use its best efforts to ensure that its employees, agents, and Subcontractors comply with site rules and regulations while on State premises. If the Contractor must perform on-site work outside of the daily operational hours set forth by the State, it must make arrangements with the State to ensure access to the facility and the equipment has been arranged. No additional payment will be made by the State on the basis of lack of access, unless the State fails to provide access as agreed to in writing between the State and the Contractor.

L. ADVERTISING

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The Contractor agrees not to refer to the contract award in advertising in such a manner as to state or imply that the company or its services are endorsed or preferred by the State. Any publicity releases pertaining to the project shall not be issued without prior written approval from the State.

M. NEBRASKA TECHNOLOGY ACCESS STANDARDS (Statutory)

Contractor shall review the Nebraska Technology Access Standards, found at <http://nitc.nebraska.gov/standards/2-201.html> and ensure that products and/or services provided under the contract are in compliance or will comply with the applicable standards to the greatest degree possible. In the event such standards change during the Contractor's performance, the State may create an amendment to the contract to request the contract comply with the changed standard at a cost mutually acceptable to the parties.

N. DISASTER RECOVERY/BACK UP PLAN

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The Contractor shall have a disaster recovery and back-up plan, of which a copy should be provided upon request to the State, which includes, but is not limited to equipment, personnel, facilities, and transportation, in order to continue services as specified under the specifications in the contract in the event of a disaster.

O. DRUG POLICY

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

Contractor certifies it maintains a drug free work place environment to ensure worker safety and workplace integrity.
Contractor agrees to provide a copy of its drug free workplace policy at any time upon request by the State.

IV. PAYMENT

A. PROHIBITION AGAINST ADVANCE PAYMENT (Statutory)

Payments shall not be made until contractual deliverable(s) are received and accepted by the State.

B. TAXES

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The State is not required to pay taxes and assumes no such liability as a result of this solicitation. Any property tax payable on the Contractor's equipment which may be installed in a state-owned facility is the responsibility of the Contractor.

C. INVOICES

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

Invoices for payments must be submitted by the Contractor to the agency requesting the services with sufficient detail to support payment. Invoices should be submitted monthly to Nebraska State Racing Commission, 5903 Walker Avenue, Lincoln, NE 68507. The invoice must include, but not limited to: Location of samples taken, the date samples were taken, the number of urine samples analyzed with sample identification number, the number of blood samples analyzed with sample identification number, etc. The terms and conditions included in the Contractor's invoice shall be deemed to be solely for the convenience of the parties. No terms or conditions of any such invoice shall be binding upon the State, and no action by the State, including without limitation the payment of any such invoice in whole or in part, shall be construed as binding or estopping the State with respect to any such term or condition, unless the invoice term or condition has been previously agreed to by the State as an amendment to the contract.

D. INSPECTION AND APPROVAL

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

Final inspection and approval of all work required under the contract shall be performed by the designated State officials.

The State and/or its authorized representatives shall have the right to enter any premises where the Contractor or Subcontractor duties under the contract are being performed, and to inspect, monitor or otherwise evaluate the work being performed. All inspections and evaluations shall be at reasonable times and in a manner that will not unreasonably delay work.

E. PAYMENT

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

State will render payment to Contractor when the terms and conditions of the contract and specifications have been satisfactorily completed on the part of the Contractor as solely determined by the State. (Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 73-506(1)) Payment will be made by the responsible agency in compliance with the State of Nebraska Prompt Payment Act (See Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-2401 through 81-2408). The State may require the Contractor to accept payment by electronic means such as ACH deposit. In no event shall the State be responsible or liable to pay for any services provided by the Contractor prior to the Effective Date of the contract, and the Contractor hereby waives any claim or cause of action for any such services.

F. LATE PAYMENT

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The Contractor may charge the responsible agency interest for late payment in compliance with the State of Nebraska Prompt Payment Act (See Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-2401 through 81-2408).

G. SUBJECT TO FUNDING / FUNDING OUT CLAUSE FOR LOSS OF APPROPRIATIONS

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The State's obligation to pay amounts due on the Contract for a fiscal years following the current fiscal year is contingent upon legislative appropriation of funds. Should said funds not be appropriated, the State may terminate the contract with respect to those payments for the fiscal year(s) for which such funds are not appropriated. The State will give the Contractor written notice thirty (30) calendar days prior to the effective date of termination. All obligations of the State to make payments after the termination date will cease. The Contractor shall be entitled to receive just and equitable compensation for any authorized work which has been satisfactorily completed as of the termination date. In no event shall the Contractor be paid for a loss of anticipated profit.

H. RIGHT TO AUDIT (Statutory)

The State shall have the right to audit the Contractor's performance of this contract upon a 30 days' written notice. Contractor shall utilize generally accepted accounting principles, and shall maintain the accounting records, and other records and information relevant to the contract (Information) to enable the State to audit the contract. The State may audit and the Contractor shall maintain, the information during the term of the contract and for a period of five (5) years after the completion of this contract or until all issues or litigation are resolved, whichever is later. The Contractor shall make the Information available to the State at Contractor's place of business or a location acceptable to both Parties during normal business hours. If this is not practical or the Contractor so elects, the Contractor may provide electronic or paper copies of the information. The State reserves the right to examine, make copies of, and take notes on any Information relevant to this contract, regardless of the form or the Information, how it is stored, or who possesses the information. Under no circumstance will the Contractor be required to create or maintain documents not kept in the ordinary course of contractor's business operations, nor

will contractor be required to disclose any information, including but not limited to product cost data, which is confidential or proprietary to contractor.

The Parties shall pay their own costs of the audit unless the audit finds a previously undisclosed overpayment by the State. If a previously undisclosed overpayment exceeds one-half of one percent (.5%) of the total contract billings, or if fraud, material misrepresentations, or non-performance is discovered on the part of the Contractor, the Contractor shall reimburse the State for the total costs of the audit. Overpayments and audit costs owed to the State shall be paid within ninety days of written notice of the claim. The Contractor agrees to correct any material weaknesses or condition found as a result of the audit.

V. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND SCOPE OF WORK

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE NEBRASKA STATE RACING COMMISSION (THE COMMISSION)

1. *Number of race days:* Approximately 55 race days;
2. *Racing calendar:* **February thru first week of May, three weeks in May, and first week of August thru first week of September;**
3. *Description of previous drug testing services*
 - a. **Number of samples post-race 870 to 1000;**
 - b. **Investigative samples- under ten;**
4. *Analysis of unknowns/confiscated substances/syringe residues, testing performed for non-regulatory/intelligence gathering purposes - Under Ten*

B. SAMPLE COLLECTION/PROCESSING/SHIPMENT

1. The Contractor shall provide to the Commission staff all items necessary to collect, label, process, store, and ship samples, inclusive of: blood collection tubes, blood collection needles, lidded urine collection cups of sufficient size to collect the required sample volume as established by the Contractor, primary and split sample urine specimen containers with screw caps, urine collection sticks, non-sterile exam gloves, sequentially numbered barcoded sample ID tags, tamper-proof security tape, centrifuge, chain of custody documents, shipping containers, security locks, coolants, padding/absorbent fill, secondary watertight receptacles, and shipping labels.

The Contractor shall bear all costs associated with the shipment and delivery of supplies to Commission staff.

a. Sample Collection Supplies Described

- i. Collection materials
 - a) Blood collection tubes, size (volume) and type (i.e. serum separator, EDTA, heparin, sodium citrate) to be determined by
 - 1) the testing methodology employed by the Contractor, and
 - 2) the Commission's statutes and/or regulations (i.e. If a substance is regulated by a threshold in plasma, anticoagulant tubes must be utilized. The analysis of serum when a regulation specifies a threshold in plasma may prove problematic when prosecuting cases.) The Commission's statutes and/or regulations can be found on the following website: <http://racingcommission.nebraska.gov/>
 - b) Collection needle gauge and length are best determined by the preference of those performing phlebotomy in the Test Barn. The Contractor shall be notified of the Commission's needle preferences. (Small bore needles [≥ 21 -gauge] may result both longer fill times and erythrolysis which can impact certain testing methods. Large bore [≤ 18 -gauge] needles increase the risk of hematoma post-collection.)
 - c) Urine collection cups (16 oz.) must be lidded and bear a tamper evident security seal (that can be verified as intact before the lid is removed to perform sample collection).
 - d) Urine primary specimen cups (20-120 ml depending on the Contractor's urine volume requirements) with screw caps
 - e) Urine split sample specimen cups (20-120 ml depending on the Contractor's urine volume requirements and the Commission's storage capacity) with screw caps
 - f) Urine collection sticks
 - g) Non-sterile exam gloves (to be worn by individuals performing urine collection)
 - h) Evidence tape (for sealing stoppered ends of blood tubes and lids of primary and split urine containers).
- ii. Sample ID tags and chain of custody materials
 - a) Sample ID tags
 - 1) adhesive backed (peel and stick) sequentially numbered, barcoded labels
 - 2) sufficient number of labels to identify all samples (blood and urine) collected on a routine basis

- 3) information capture relevant to the specific needs of the Commission (i.e. track, race, date, horse, trainer, horse's medication status, gender, claimed horse, etc.)
- 4) Sample inventory form (copy retained in Test Barn, copy to accompany shipment)

iii. Training

- a) The Contractor shall provide training materials for Commission staff on the collection, labeling, processing, management, packaging, and shipment of official samples.

C. TEST BARN SUPPLY INVENTORY MANAGEMENT

1. The Contractor shall deliver to the address provided by the Commission an inventory of materials (as described in Section B. 1. above) no less than 24 hours prior to the beginning of each race meeting. Commission staff shall monitor depletion of the inventory and submit requests to the Contractor for replenishment two weeks prior to the depletion of inventory. The Commission may request expedited shipping on an as needed basis.

D. SHIPPING

1. The Contractor shall provide clear instructions for packaging of samples such that samples are shipped in accordance with applicable government, International Air Transport Association (IATA) and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) regulations. The Contractor shall provide chain of custody materials.
2. The Contractor shall bear all expenses associated with priority overnight shipment of samples by commercial shipper or by bonded courier (next day delivery by 10:30 a.m.) and standard delivery return of empty coolers to Commission staff to an address provided by the Commission. The Contractor shall be responsible for tracking shipments and identifying and remediating delays or diverted shipments. The Contractor shall appoint a key contact person for the Commission for all matters related to sample shipping. The key contact person shall be accessible on days during which live racing takes place, inclusive of weekends and holidays.

a. Shipping materials described:

- i. Containers
 - a) Insulated cooler with rigid sides
 - b) Size to be determined by number of samples (number of race days) and size of sample containers to be shipped
 - c) Lighter weight coolers are preferable as shipping rates are weight dependent
 - d) Must have lockable hasp, or be modified in order to accommodate security lock
- ii. Locks/security
 - a) Single-use, uniquely numbered, tamper-proof devices
 - b) Keyed padlocks may be used, but alone do not represent a best practice
- iii. Coolants
- iv. Padding/absorbent fill
- v. Secondary watertight receptacle

E. PERSONNEL

1. The Contractor's Director shall be a professional member in good standing of the Association of Racing Chemists (AORC) and have, relevant to their responsibilities, a scientific degree in one or more of the following fields: chemistry, pharmacology, toxicology, veterinary science, or pharmaceutical science.
2. The Contractor shall identify and provide contact information for a Key Contact Person for the Commission. This individual shall be available during standard business hours as well as evenings, weekends, and holidays.
3. The Contractor shall also identify and provide contact information for a designated back-up contact for the Commission.
4. Unscheduled changes in key staff (i.e., director, manager, commission key contact, quality control officer, and senior chemist) determined to be unacceptable by the Commission, may result in early termination of the contract.

F. FACILITIES

1. The Contractor's facilities must be secure from access by unauthorized individuals and that sample-handling areas are user-specific and accessible only by manual key or electronic/digitized device.
2. The Contractor's facility shall have a power-failure notification system and an alternative power source to prevent compromise of samples in the event of a power outage.
3. Prior to contract execution, the Contractor shall provide documentation that its facility is OSHA compliant.

G. ACCREDITATION

1. Prior to contract execution, the Contractor shall provide documentation that it has ISO 17025 and full Racing Medication and Testing Consortium (RMTC) accreditation, and that its accreditation is in good standing.

H. QUALITY CONTRACT AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

1. The Contractor shall participate in AORC and RMTC external quality assurance programs (EQAP). The results of the Contractor's analysis of single or double-blinded proficiency samples shall be disclosed to the Commission within 30 days of its receipt of the EQAP's report. For any testing deficiencies, the Contractor shall provide documentation of the correction plan to be implemented, and a timeline for implementation. For any other EQAP(s) in which the Contractor participates, the Contractor shall provide all results, and corrective action plans as required. The Contractor may not substitute other EQAPs for the AORC and/or RMTC programs.
2. The Contractor shall perform analysis of internal blind samples of substances of Commission interest at relevant concentrations on a quarterly basis. The Contractor shall notify the Commission within 5 business days of a failed analysis, and provide a corrective action plan (and timeline) for remedying the deficiency. The Contractor shall provide the Commission agency with quarterly reports of EQAP and Internal Blind sample analysis, inclusive of the analytes detected.
3. The Contractor shall have, and identify to the Commission, a designated quality control officer who is responsible for implementation of an internal proficiency-testing program comprised of analysis of single blind samples and routine performance reviews of all individuals having contact with the Commission's official samples.

Internal blind samples shall contain substances of current interest at relevant concentrations. The internal proficiency-testing program shall have, as a minimum, a scope of coverage that encompasses routine screening tests.

Results of internal proficiency testing shall be provided to the Commission on a semi-annual basis. The Commission should be promptly notified by the Contractor's key contact when analysis of an internal blind sample fails to detect the analytic present. The Contractor's corrective action process should be documented and provided to the Commission upon request.

4. The Contractor shall participate in external quality assurance programs (EQAP), as required through RMTC and ISO 17025 accreditation. The Contractor's key contact shall provide the Commission the EQAP-issued report of the Contractor's performance within 7 working days of receipt of the results of the tests. The Contractor shall provide the Commission, within 30 days, a written plan to remedy any deficiencies identified through the EQAP process.

I. STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

1. The Contractor shall have Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for all processes and methods. SOP's should be, were applicable, based upon methods that will detect substances at or below the Commission thresholds required by the Commission's regulations. The Contractor shall archive copies of retired SOPs in such a manner that the procedures that were used to test each specific sample can be identified. The SOPs shall be accessible to Contractor's staff. SOPs shall be reviewed and updated, as warranted, on a regular basis.

J. SAMPLE MANAGEMENT/SAMPLE RETENTION

1. The Contractor shall have a Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) in which all interactions with each sample are documented--from accession through the issuance of a final report and until such time as the sample undergoes disposal.

All samples shall be assigned unique laboratory identification numbers. Assignment of internal identification numbers shall be performed by sample accession personnel in a dedicated sample receiving area that is segregated from areas where analyses are performed or drug reference standards are used.

Prior to the initiation of any analysis, samples and their corresponding documents shall be inspected with any irregularities promptly reported to the Commission. The Commission shall then provide the Contractor guidance with respect to the analysis of the affected sample.

With the exception of TCO₂ analysis, all other analyses shall be initiated within 24 hours of the samples' arrival at the Contractor. Analysis of TCO₂ samples shall be initiated promptly upon the samples' arrival at the Contractor. TCO₂ testing shall not be performed on samples that were collected 120 or more hours prior to analysis. The Contractor shall promptly notify the Commission when testing is aborted due to sample age.

From time of accession through the issuance of a final report, all primary blood samples shall be retained in a secured refrigerator and all primary urine samples retained in a secured freezer. Long-term storage freezers shall likewise be secured and accessible only to authorized Contractor personnel.

Negative (passed) samples shall be retained in a refrigerated (blood) or frozen (urine) condition for a period of 90 days.

Suspicious, but subsequently passed, samples (blood and urine) shall be retained in a frozen condition for a period of 90 days.

Positive (failed) samples (blood and urine) shall be retained in a frozen condition (-80o C) for 365 days. The Commission must authorize the disposal of positive (failed) samples, regardless of the designated retention interval.

2. At the end of the specified retention period, the Commission will, upon request by the Contractor authorize disposal of the passed and suspicious samples.

K. SCOPE OF TESTING--STANDARD POST-RACE SCREENING ANALYSIS

1. All post-race samples shall be subjected to instrumental screening analysis as described in below.
 - a. A limited number of ELISA tests, for substances lacking a validated instrumental screening method, may also be proposed. The Contractor shall provide justification for each ELISA test it intends to apply to the Commission's samples.
 - b. The Contractor must demonstrate that the sensitivity of proposed ELISA test kits is relevant to the Commission's regulation of the listed substances.
 - c. ELISA tests may not be rotated; all proposed tests must be applied to all post-race samples.
 - d. The use of thin-layer chromatography is not permitted.
 - e. Samples may not be pooled.
 - f. All samples shall be subjected to the same scope of analysis with respect to threshold substances.
2. The post-race testing menu for all tested samples shall include instrumental screening analysis with a scope of testing encompassing all Controlled Therapeutic Medications (as published in the Racing Commissioners International [RCI] Model Rules Chapter 11) with testing sensitivities at or below Commission thresholds.

L. SCOPE OF TESTING--SAMPLES DERIVED FROM HORSES WORKING FOR RELEASE FROM THE VETS LIST

1. Samples (blood +/- urine) shall be subject to complete screening consistent with analyses performed on post-race samples as described in Section K. Scope of Testing. Samples may not be pooled.
2. All suspicious findings shall be subjected to confirmatory analysis consistent with the requirements of Section K. Scope of Testing.

M. ELECTIVE TESTING – TARGETED ANALYSIS FOR ADMINISTERED SUBSTANCES

1. At the discretion of the Commission, samples may be submitted for targeted analysis for the determination of one or more specific substance(s).

The matrix (blood and/or urine) submitted shall be relevant to the Commission's regulations with respect to the substance's threshold in blood and/or urine.

All samples submitted for targeted analysis will be submitted through the Commission. The Contractor shall not accept privately or independently submitted samples for analysis without the prior consent of the Commission.

For substances associated with a Commission threshold other than the Contractor's limit of detection, quantitative analysis shall be performed. For substances associated with a Commission threshold at the limit of detection, qualitative analysis shall be performed.

The cost for targeted analysis can be substance-specific and may appropriately be addressed on a per-sample basis. Therefore, the Contractor shall establish pricing after receiving notification of the designated substance and inform the Commission in advance of sample submission. The cost for targeted analysis shall not exceed the Contractor's pricing for analysis of a post-race sample of the same matrix absent laboratory justification for the increased cost and the Commission's.

The Contractor shall provide its report to the Commission. Any communications regarding any and all aspects of the analysis shall be between the Commission and the Contractor.

The Contractor shall not consult directly with the submitting veterinarian, trainer, or owner without the prior consent of the Commission.

The Contractor shall not accept samples for analysis related to doping control (regulated therapeutic medications or banned substances) from any individual or agency, other than those with which it has contractual agreements, without the prior consent of the Commission.

N. SCOPE OF TESTING – SUBSTANCES/UNKNOWNNS

1. For substances bearing content labels, the Contractor shall perform analysis consistent with the RMTC Protocol for Verification of Label Ingredients.
2. For substances lacking a list of label ingredients, the Contractor shall perform analysis consistent with the RMTC Unknown Sample Protocol.

O. TURN AROUND TIMES – SCREENING AND CONFIRMATORY ANALYSES

1. The Contractor shall electronically issue screening reports (inclusive of post-race, pre-race, post-work,) within 3 business days of its receipt of samples to a distribution list provided by the Commission. In the event the Contractor determines that a screening report cannot be reported as scheduled, the Contractor shall promptly notify the Commission and provide a justification for the delay and request an extension by the Commission. Extensions shall be for a defined period as warranted by the event that resulted in the delay.

Confirmatory analysis, when warranted, shall be completed within 5 business days of the issuance of the screening report. In the event the Contractor determines that a final report cannot be reported as scheduled, the Contractor shall promptly notify the Commission, provide a justification for the delay and request an extension by the Commission. Extensions shall be for a defined period as warranted by the event that resulted in the delay.

P. REPORTS/COMMUNICATIONS/SUPPORT

1. Screening reports, final reports, reports of adverse findings, and data (litigation) packets shall meet all ISO 17025-2005 and RMTC criteria.

Reports shall be distributed electronically to a distribution list provided by the Commission or via facsimile to a location designated by the Commission. Hard copy reports bearing original signatures will be produced upon request and delivered by First Class US mail to the Commission unless otherwise requested.

Data (litigation) packets shall be delivered to the Commission electronically or via express mail no later than 7 business days after the Commission submits its request for the Contractor to compile the packet.

Only upon prior authorization by the Commission may the Contractor discuss or disclose any methods, testing sensitivities, limits of detection or other information relevant to the testing of the Commission's samples.

Should data derived from the Commission's samples be intended for use in a scientific publication, the Contractor shall solicit permission from the Commission and execute an appropriate non-disclosure agreement prior to submission of a manuscript to a journal for review.

2. The Contractor's Director shall serve as expert witness on behalf of the Commission, and provide consultation, oral testimony, and scientific references as warranted, in the adjudication of cases arising from a laboratory report of finding. The Commission has utilized an expert witness once in 18 years.

Costs associated with travel and time, consumed by the Contractor's Director or other Contractor's personnel in testimony and testimony preparation, will be reimbursed by the Commission at rates current at the time of travel as established by State of Nebraska.

Q. DEFAULT ON CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

1. The Contractor's failure to perform in accordance with all terms of the contract shall provide the Commission certain rights. In such an event, the Commission may require:
 - a. A meeting between representatives of the Commission and Contractor's management;
2. The Contractor shall provide a corrective action plan to bring into compliance with the terms of the contract. The plan must include:
 - a. Identification of areas in which the Contractor is in breach of the contract;
 - b. Clarification as to the cause(s) of deficiencies and a detailed plan to prevent said deficiencies in the future;
 - c. A list of specific actions and deadlines for fulfillment of those obligations in arrears; and,

The Commission is not required to allow any corrective action and shall reserve the right to terminate the contract in accordance with its terms.

R. BIDDER REQUIREMENTS

Bidder should provide a response to each of the following requirements in the space provided below.

1. Sample collection/processing/shipment
a. Provide samples, or photographs and descriptions of materials and equipment described in Section B. Sample Collection/Processing/Shipment. Bidder Response:
b. Provide a copy of proposed training materials for Commission staff on the collection, labeling, processing, management, packaging, and shipment of official samples. Bidder Response:
2. Facilities
a. Demonstrate adequate laboratory work space and storage capabilities to meet the anticipated sample load to be submitted by the Commission and the Contractor's other clients. Photos are acceptable. Bidder Response:
3. Accreditations
a. Disclose any deficiencies noted on the most recent accreditation (or re-accreditation) site inspection for both ISO 17025 and RMTc and provide documentation that said deficiencies have been remedied. Bidder Response:
b. Disclose if any accreditation has ever been suspended, revoked, or otherwise sanctioned. Provide the details of any sanction(s) and its resolution.

Bidder Response:
4. Quality Control and Quality Assurance
a. Provide the preceding 90 day's history of internal blind sample analysis.
Bidder Response:
b. Provide a full description of your internal quality control measures and affirm that it has a designated, qualified Quality Assurance/Quality Control officer having the requisite authority to remedy deficiencies identified.
Bidder Response:
c. Identify the programs in which you participate, the number of EQAP samples it receives in a 12-month period and provide justification for the EQAPs in which it is enrolled.
Bidder Response:
5. Historical information
a. Provide a history of your experience in analytic work relevant to the scope of work required by the Commission. Provide contact information for three clients having similar service requirements to those in this RFP.
Bidder Response:
b. Provide information related to the dismissal of any analytic findings related to failure in chain-of-custody, erroneous or inadequately documented analytic methods, data analysis error, or other event attributable.
Bidder Response:
c. Provide information related to the dismissal of any analytic findings related to a reference Contractor's split sample analysis failing to support the primary Contractor's finding.
Bidder Response:
d. Provide information related to the determination by any hearing officer or quasi-judicial official that testimony provided by Contractor personnel was not credible.
Bidder Response:
6. Research
a. Provide a summary of your ongoing and completed research relevant to equine drug testing, the regulation of therapeutic medications, or the detection of banned substances in racehorse samples.
Bidder Response:
b. Provide the activities of senior staff relevant to meetings and outreach with industry representatives, stakeholders, and licensees. Describe ongoing efforts to monitor analytical trends, gather intelligence, and identify substances representing emerging threats to the integrity of the sport and the safety of its participants.
Bidder Response:
7. Value-added services
a. Describe any value-added services you intend to provide beyond those required in this RFP.
Bidder Response:

VI. PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

This section documents the requirements that should be met by bidders in preparing the Technical and Cost Proposal. Bidders should identify the subdivisions of "Project Description and Scope of Work" clearly in their proposals; failure to do so may result in disqualification. Failure to respond to a specific requirement may be the basis for elimination from consideration during the State's comparative evaluation.

Proposals are due by the date and time shown in the Schedule of Events. Content requirements for the Technical and Cost Proposal are presented separately in the following subdivisions; format and order:

A. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

1. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FORM

By signing the Bidder Signature Page form, the bidder guarantees compliance with the provisions stated in this RFP, agrees to the Terms and Conditions stated in this RFP unless otherwise agreed to, and certifies bidder maintains a drug free work place environment.

The Bidder Signature Page form should be signed using an indelible method (not electronically) and returned per the schedule of events in order to be considered for an award.

Further, Sections II through VII must be completed and returned with the proposal response.

2. CORPORATE OVERVIEW

The Corporate Overview section of the Technical Proposal should consist of the following subdivisions:

a. BIDDER IDENTIFICATION AND INFORMATION

The bidder should provide the full company or corporate name, address of the company's headquarters, entity organization (corporation, partnership, proprietorship), state in which the bidder is incorporated or otherwise organized to do business, year in which the bidder first organized to do business and whether the name and form of organization has changed since first organized.

b. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The bidder should provide financial statements applicable to the firm. If publicly held, the bidder should provide a copy of the corporation's most recent audited financial reports and statements, and the name, address, and telephone number of the fiscally responsible representative of the bidder's financial or banking organization.

If the bidder is not a publicly held corporation, either the reports and statements required of a publicly held corporation, or a description of the organization, including size, longevity, client base, areas of specialization and expertise, and any other pertinent information, should be submitted in such a manner that proposal evaluators may reasonably formulate a determination about the stability and financial strength of the organization. Additionally, a non-publicly held firm should provide a banking reference.

The bidder must disclose any and all judgments, pending or expected litigation, or other real or potential financial reversals, which might materially affect the viability or stability of the organization, or state that no such condition is known to exist.

The State may elect to use a third-party to conduct credit checks as part of the corporate overview evaluation.

c. CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP

If any change in ownership or control of the company is anticipated during the twelve (12) months following the proposal due date, the bidder should describe the circumstances of such change and indicate when the change will likely occur. Any change of ownership to an awarded vendor(s) will require notification to the State.

d. OFFICE LOCATION

The bidder's office location responsible for performance pursuant to an award of a contract with the State of Nebraska should be identified.

e. RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE STATE

The bidder should describe any dealings with the State over the previous five (5) years. If the organization, its predecessor, or any party named in the bidder's proposal response has

contracted with the State, the bidder should identify the contract number(s) and/or any other information available to identify such contract(s). If no such contracts exist, so declare.

f. BIDDER'S EMPLOYEE RELATIONS TO STATE

If any party named in the bidder's proposal response is or was an employee of the State within the past five (5) months, identify the individual(s) by name, State agency with whom employed, job title or position held with the State, and separation date. If no such relationship exists or has existed, so declare.

If any employee of any agency of the State of Nebraska is employed by the bidder or is a Subcontractor to the bidder, as of the due date for proposal submission, identify all such persons by name, position held with the bidder, and position held with the State (including job title and agency). Describe the responsibilities of such persons within the proposing organization. If, after review of this information by the State, it is determined that a conflict of interest exists or may exist, the bidder may be disqualified from further consideration in this proposal. If no such relationship exists, so declare.

g. CONTRACT PERFORMANCE

If the bidder or any proposed Subcontractor has had a contract terminated for default during the past five (5) years, all such instances must be described as required below. Termination for default is defined as a notice to stop performance delivery due to the bidder's non-performance or poor performance, and the issue was either not litigated due to inaction on the part of the bidder or litigated and such litigation determined the bidder to be in default.

It is mandatory that the bidder submit full details of all termination for default experienced during the past five (5) years, including the other party's name, address, and telephone number. The response to this section must present the bidder's position on the matter. The State will evaluate the facts and will score the bidder's proposal accordingly. If no such termination for default has been experienced by the bidder in the past five (5) years, so declare.

If at any time during the past five (5) years, the bidder has had a contract terminated for convenience, non-performance, non-allocation of funds, or any other reason, describe fully all circumstances surrounding such termination, including the name and address of the other contracting party.

h. SUMMARY OF BIDDER'S CORPORATE EXPERIENCE

The bidder should provide a summary matrix listing the bidder's previous projects similar to this RFP in size, scope, and complexity. The State will use no more than three (3) narrative project descriptions submitted by the bidder during its evaluation of the proposal.

The bidder should address the following:

- i. Provide narrative descriptions to highlight the similarities between the bidder's experience and this RFP. These descriptions should include:
 - a) The time period of the project;
 - b) The scheduled and actual completion dates;
 - c) The Contractor's responsibilities;
 - d) For reference purposes, a customer name (including the name of a contact person, a current telephone number, a facsimile number, and e-mail address); and
 - e) Each project description should identify whether the work was performed as the prime Contractor or as a Subcontractor. If a bidder performed as the prime Contractor, the description should provide the originally scheduled completion date and budget, as well as the actual (or currently planned) completion date and actual (or currently planned) budget.
- ii. Contractor and Subcontractor(s) experience should be listed separately. Narrative descriptions submitted for Subcontractors should be specifically identified as Subcontractor projects.
- iii. If the work was performed as a Subcontractor, the narrative description should identify the same information as requested for the Contractors above. In addition,

Subcontractors should identify what share of contract costs, project responsibilities, and time period were performed as a Subcontractor.

i. SUMMARY OF BIDDER'S PROPOSED PERSONNEL/MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The bidder should present a detailed description of its proposed approach to the management of the project.

The bidder should identify the specific professionals who will work on the State's project if their company is awarded the contract resulting from this RFP. The names and titles of the team proposed for assignment to the State project should be identified in full, with a description of the team leadership, interface and support functions, and reporting relationships. The primary work assigned to each person should also be identified.

The bidder shall provide relevant biographical information (education, degrees achieved, experience, scientific publications, ongoing research, and industry relations/outreach) for the Contractor Director, senior chemists, and data review analysts.

The bidder shall provide an organizational chart and job descriptions for all key employees performing contracted services relevant to the Commission's samples.

The bidder shall provide documentation of the training program for all employees performing contract services relevant to the Commission's samples. This documentation shall include a description of ongoing proficiency testing and performance review—including a summary of internal proficiency performance, any deficiencies noted, corrective action plans (CAPAs) applied, and CAPAs outcomes.

The bidder shall describe its succession plan for key staff.

The bidder should provide resumes for all personnel proposed by the bidder to work on the project. The State will consider the resumes as a key indicator of the bidder's understanding of the skill mixes required to carry out the requirements of the RFP in addition to assessing the experience of specific individuals.

Resumes should not be longer than three (3) pages. Resumes should include, at a minimum, academic background and degrees, professional certifications, understanding of the process, and at least three (3) references (name, address, and telephone number) who can attest to the competence and skill level of the individual. Any changes in proposed personnel shall only be implemented after written approval from the State.

j. SUBCONTRACTORS

If the bidder intends to Subcontract any part of its performance hereunder, the bidder should provide:

- i. name, address, and telephone number of the Subcontractor(s);
- ii. specific tasks for each Subcontractor(s);
- iii. percentage of performance hours intended for each Subcontract; and
- iv. total percentage of Subcontractor(s) performance hours.

3. TECHNICAL APPROACH

The technical approach section of the Technical Proposal should consist of the following subsections:

- a. Understanding of the project requirements;
- b. Proposed development approach;
- c. Technical considerations;
- d. Detailed project work plan; and
- e. Deliverables and due dates.

VII. COST PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

This section describes the requirements to be addressed by bidders in preparing the State's Cost template. The bidder must submit the State's Cost Proposal template in a section of the proposal that is a separate section or is packaged separately as specified in this RFP from the Technical Proposal section.

The bidder must use the State's Cost Proposal template contained in this RFP. **THE STATE'S COST PROPOSAL TEMPLATE AND ANY OTHER COST PROPOSAL SUBMITTED WITH ANY PROPOSAL SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL OR PROPRIETARY AND IS CONSIDERED A PUBLIC RECORD IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA AND WILL BE POSTED TO A PUBLIC WEBSITE.**

A. PRICING SUMMARY

This summary shall present the total fixed price to perform all of the requirements of the RFP. The bidder must include details in the State's Cost Proposal template supporting any and all costs. These details must include, at a minimum, detailed descriptions and/or specifications of the goods and/or services to be provided, quantities, and timing and unit costs, if applicable.

The State reserves the right to review all aspects of cost for reasonableness and to request clarification of any proposal where the cost component shows significant and unsupported deviation from industry standards or in areas where detailed pricing is required.

B. PRICES

Prices quoted shall be net, including transportation and delivery charges fully prepaid by the bidder, F.O.B. destination named in the RFP. No additional charges will be allowed for packing, packages, or partial delivery costs. When an arithmetic error has been made in the extended total, the unit price will govern.

Form A
Bidder Contact Sheet
Request for Proposal Number 5702 Z1

Form A should be completed and submitted with each response to this RFP. This is intended to provide the State with information on the bidder's name and address, and the specific person(s) who are responsible for preparation of the bidder's response.

Preparation of Response Contact Information	
Bidder Name:	
Bidder Address:	
Contact Person & Title:	
E-mail Address:	
Telephone Number (Office):	
Telephone Number (Cellular):	
Fax Number:	

Each bidder should also designate a specific contact person who will be responsible for responding to the State if any clarifications of the bidder's response should become necessary. This will also be the person who the State contacts to set up a presentation/demonstration, if required.

Communication with the State Contact Information	
Bidder Name:	
Bidder Address:	
Contact Person & Title:	
E-mail Address:	
Telephone Number (Office):	
Telephone Number (Cellular):	
Fax Number:	

BIDDER SIGNATURE PAGE

BIDDER MUST COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING

By signing this Bidder Signature Page form, the bidder guarantees compliance with the procedures stated in this Request for Proposal, and agrees to the terms and conditions unless otherwise indicated in writing (see Section II through IV) and certifies that bidder maintains a drug free work place.

Per Nebraska's Transparency in Government Procurement Act, Neb. Rev Stat § 73-603 DAS is required to collect statistical information regarding the number of contracts awarded to Nebraska Contractors. This information is for statistical purposes only and will not be considered for contract award purposes.

_____ NEBRASKA CONTRACTOR AFFIDAVIT: Bidder hereby attests that bidder is a Nebraska Contractor. "Nebraska Contractor" shall mean any bidder who has maintained a bona fide place of business and at least one employee within this state for at least the six (6) months immediately preceding the posting date of this RFP.

_____ I hereby certify that I am a Resident disabled veteran or business located in a designated enterprise zone in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 73-107 and wish to have preference, if applicable, considered in the award of this contract.

FORM MUST BE SIGNED USING AN INDELIBLE METHOD (NOT ELECTRONICALLY)

FIRM:	
COMPLETE ADDRESS:	
TELEPHONE NUMBER:	
FAX NUMBER:	
DATE:	
SIGNATURE:	
TYPED NAME & TITLE OF SIGNER:	