

# State of Nebraska - INVITATION TO BID CONTRACT

Date	02/04/22	Page	1 of 1
Solicitation Number	6577 OF REBID		
Opening Date and Time	02/28/22	2:00 pm	
Buyer	BRENDA SENSIBAUGH (AS)		

## DESTINATION OF GOODS

AS - SPB BUYER  
1526 K ST, SUITE 130  
LINCOLN NE 68509-4847

Per Nebraska's Transparency in Government Procurement Act, 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 ITB.

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.

Contract to supply and deliver Ice Melt to the State of Nebraska as per the attached specifications for a One (1) year period from date of award. The contract may be renewed for Four (4) additional one (1) year periods when mutually agreeable to the vendor and the State of Nebraska.

(MH 02/04/22)

## INVITATION

SEE ATTACHMENT "B" FOR THE BID SHEET

## BIDDER MUST COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING

DISCOUNT PAYMENT TERMS: \_\_\_\_\_ % \_\_\_\_\_ DAYS

By signing this Invitation to Bid form, the bidder guarantees compliance with the provisions stated in this Invitation to Bid, agrees to the terms and conditions unless otherwise agreed to and certifies that bidder maintains a drug free work place environment. Vendor will furnish the items requested within \_\_\_\_\_ days after receipt of order. Failure to enter Delivery Date may cause quotation to be REJECTED.

Sign

Here (Authorized Signature Mandatory – Form must be signed manually in ink or by DocuSign)

Enter Contact Information Below

VENDOR#

\_\_\_\_\_

VENDOR:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact

Telephone

Email

## **INVITATION TO BID Number 6577 OF REBID**

The State of Nebraska (State), Department of Administrative Services (DAS), Materiel Division, State Purchasing Bureau (SPB), is issuing this solicitation for a contract, ITB Number 6577 OF REBID for the purpose of selecting a qualified Vendor to provide Ice Melt. A more detailed description can be found in Section VI. The resulting contract may not be an exclusive contract as the State reserves the right to contract for the same or similar goods from other sources now or in the future.

The term of the contract will be One (1) year commencing upon execution of the contract by the State and the Contractor (Parties). The Contract includes the option to renew for Four (4) 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.

**INFORMATION PERTINENT TO THIS SOLICITATION 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 thereafter, must be posted to a public website. The resulting contract, the solicitation, and the successful Contractor's proposal or response will be posted to a public website managed by DAS, which can be found at:

<https://statecontracts.nebraska.gov>

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

These postings will include the entire bid. Bidder(s) 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 using an indelible method 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 enough. (See Attorney General Opinion No. 92068, April 27, 1992) **THE BIDDER MAY NOT ASSERT THAT THE ENTIRE BID OR RESPONSE IS PROPRIETARY. COST WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED PROPRIETARY AND IS A PUBLIC RECORD IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA.**

The State will determine, in its sole discretion, if the disclosure of the information designated by the Bidder as proprietary would 1) give advantage to business competitors and 2) serve no public purpose. The Bidder will be notified of the State's decision. Absent a determination by the State that the information may be withheld pursuant to **Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-712.05**, the State will consider all information a public record subject to disclosure. 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, or bid for this solicitation for any purpose, and to authorize others to use the documents. Any individual or entity awarded a contract, or who submits a bid or response to this solicitation, specifically waives any copyright or other protection the contract, or bid for the solicitation may have; and acknowledges that they have the ability and authority to enter into such waiver. This reservation and waiver are a prerequisite for submitting a bid or response to this solicitation, and award of a contract. Failure to agree to the reservation and waiver will result in the bid being found non-responsive and rejected.

**Any entity awarded a contract or submitting a bid or response to the solicitation 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 bids and responses to the solicitation, awards, and other documents.**

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## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Acceptance Test Procedure:** Benchmarks and other performance criteria, developed by the State or other sources of testing standards, for measuring the effectiveness of products or goods 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:** After Receipt of Order.

**Agency:** Using agencies shall mean and include all officers of the state, departments, bureaus, boards, commissions, councils, and institutions receiving legislative appropriations.

**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.

**Automated Clearing House :** Electronic network for financial transactions in the United States.

**Award:** All purchases, leases, or contracts which are based on competitive bids will be awarded according to the provisions in the ITB.

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

**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 ITB.

**Breach:** Violation of a contractual obligation by failing to perform or repudiation of one's own promise.

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

**Business Day:** Monday through Friday, excluding Saturdays and Sundays and State/Federal holidays.

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

**Cancellation:** To call off or revoke a bid, purchase order or contract without expectation of conducting or performing later.

**Catalog/Non-Core:** A printed or electronic list of products a vendor may provide at a discounted rate or discount off list price to the State. Initial contract award(s) is not based on Catalog/Non-Core items.

**Central Processing Unit:** 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.

**Change Order:** Document that provides amendments to an executed purchase order.

**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 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 Vendor.

**Contract Period:** The duration of the contract.

**Contractor:** An individual or entity lawfully conducting business in the State, who seeks or agrees to provide goods or services under the terms of a written contract.

**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.

**Core List:** Items specifically listed on the ITB upon which a bid is evaluated for award.

**Critical Program Error:** Any Program Error, whether 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 goods provided by a Vendor.

**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 ITB 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 bid/s (offers made in response to written ITB).

**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 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 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 Vendor", and "Installation by State", as found in the ITB, 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.

**Invalid Bid:** A bid that does not meet the requirements of the ITB or cannot be evaluated against the other bids.

**Invitation to Bid:** A written solicitation utilized for obtaining competitive offers for Services or Goods.

**Late Bid:** 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 Vendor 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:** 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"

**National Institute for Governmental Purchasing:** Source used for assignment of universal commodity codes to goods and services.

**Non-core:** See Catalog.

**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 bids.

**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:** 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 Vendor 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.

**Point of Contact:** The person designated to receive communications and to communicate.

**Pre-Bid Conference:** A meeting scheduled for the purpose of clarifying a written ITB 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 ITB, 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 goods to be provided under the contract.

**Bid:** An offer, bid, or quote submitted by a vendor in a response to a written ITB.

**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 service 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 See "Grievance"**

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

**Quote:** See "Bid".

**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 Vendor.

**Release Date:** The date of public release of the written ITB 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:** A general invitation to vendor is requesting information for a potential future ITB. The RFI is typically used as a research and information gathering tool for preparation of an ITB.

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

**Responsive Vendor:** A Vendor who has submitted a bid which conforms to all requirements of the ITB document.

**Shall:** See "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 vendor, or market conditions.

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

**Statutory:** These clauses are controlled by state law and are not subject to negotiation.

**Subcontractor:** Individual or entity with whom the vendor enters a contract to perform a portion of the work awarded to the vendor.

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

**Termination:** Occurs when the contract expires or 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 Performance Report:** A report completed by the using agency and submitted to State Purchasing Bureau documenting products or services delivered or performed which exceed or fail to meet the terms of the purchase order, contract, and/or ITB specifications.

**Vendor:** Inclusive term for any Bidder or Contractor.

**Will:** See "Mandatory".

**Work Day:** See "Business Day".

## ACRONYM LIST

**ARO** – After Receipt of Order

**ACH** – Automated Clearing House

**BAFO** – Best and Final Offer

**COI** – Certificate of Insurance

**CPU** – Central Processing Unit

**DAS** – Department of Administrative Services

**F.O.B.** – Free on Board

**ITB** – Invitation to Bid

**NIGP** – National Institute for Governmental Purchasing

**PA** – Participating Addendum

**RFI** – Request for Information

**RFP** – Request for Proposal

**SPB** – State Purchasing Bureau

## I. PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE

### A. GENERAL INFORMATION

The ITB is designed to solicit bids from qualified Bidders who will be responsible for providing Ice Melt at a competitive and reasonable cost. Terms and Conditions, Project Description and Scope of Work, Bid, and Cost Bid Requirements may be found in Sections II through VI.

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

### B. PROCURING OFFICE AND COMMUNICATION WITH STATE STAFF AND EVALUATORS

Procurement responsibilities related to this ITB reside with SPB. The point of contact (POC) for the procurement is as follows:

ITB#: 6577 OF REBID  
Name: Brenda Sensibaugh, Buyer  
Agency: State Purchasing Bureau  
Address: 1526 K Street, Suite 130  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
Telephone: 402-471-6500  
E-Mail: [as.materielpurchasing@nebraska.gov](mailto:as.materielpurchasing@nebraska.gov)

From the date the ITB is issued until the Intent to Award is issued, communication from the Vendor is limited to the POC listed above. After the Intent to Award is issued, the Vendor 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 ITB. The POC will issue any answers, clarifications or amendments regarding this ITB in writing. Only the SPB or awarding agency can award a contract. Vendors shall not have any communication with or attempt to communicate or influence any evaluator involved in this ITB.

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 POC; and
3. Contact required for negotiation and execution of the final contract.

*The State reserves the right to reject a Bidder's Bid, 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 ITB	2-4-22
2.	Last day to submit written questions  <b>Upload electronic submissions via ShareFile to:</b>  <a href="https://nebraska.sharefile.com/r-r6f9532bbba9740c6bfed07ada7feab04">https://nebraska.sharefile.com/r-r6f9532bbba9740c6bfed07ada7feab04</a>	2-14-22
3.	State responds to written questions through a solicitation "Addendum" and/or "Amendment" to be posted to the Internet at: <a href="http://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/purchasing.html">http://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/purchasing.html</a>	2-18-22
4.	Electronic Bid Opening  Topic: 6577 Of Ice Melt Time: Sep 28, 2021 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)  Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2629176739?pwd=NkhobXNpOU94UmFmTG1wYmJqTXhpUT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2629176739?pwd=NkhobXNpOU94UmFmTG1wYmJqTXhpUT09</a>  Meeting ID: 262 917 6739 Passcode: 5VwBuR One tap mobile +16699006833,,2629176739#,,,*722624# US (San Jose) +12532158782,,2629176739#,,,*722624# US (Tacoma)  Dial by your location +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose) +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma) +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston) +1 929 205 6099 US (New York) +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC) +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) Meeting ID: 262 917 6739 Passcode: 722624  <b>Upload electronic submissions via ShareFile to:</b> <a href="https://nebraska.sharefile.com/r-r0a3f807e53704262aa3ccd5566edd1cf">https://nebraska.sharefile.com/r-r0a3f807e53704262aa3ccd5566edd1cf</a>	2-28-22
5.	Post "Notification of Intent to Award" to Internet at: <a href="http://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/purchasing.html">http://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/purchasing.html</a>	TBD
6.	Contract award	TBD

#### **D. WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Questions regarding the meaning or interpretation of any ITB provision must be submitted in writing to SPB and clearly marked "ITB Number 6577 OF; Ice Melt Questions". 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 bid is or might be developed. Bids 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.

Questions should be uploaded using the following ShareFile link:

<https://nebraska.sharefile.com/r-r6f9532bbba9740c6bfed07ada7feab04>

ITB Section Reference	ITB Page Number	Question

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

#### **E. SECRETARY OF STATE/TAX COMMISSIONER REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS (Statutory)**

All Bidders must be authorized to transact business in the State 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 correct 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 the United States Citizenship Attestation Form, available on the DAS website at: <http://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/purchasing.html>. This must be accomplished prior to execution of the contract.

#### **F. 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 Vendor 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 bid on behalf of another party or entity;
5. Collude with any person or entity to influence the bidding process, submit sham bids, preclude bidding, fix pricing or costs, create an unfair advantage, subvert the proposal, or prejudice the State.

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

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

#### **G. DEVIATIONS FROM THE INVITATION TO BID**

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

#### **H. SUBMISSION OF BIDS**

The State is accepting only electronically submitted responses for this ITB.

It is the Bidders responsibility to ensure the bid is submitted and received by the date and time indicated in the Schedule of Events. All electronic bids must be received by the State Purchasing Bureau by the date and time of the bid opening per the Schedule of Events. **No late bids will be accepted.**

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

The Invitation to Bid form must be manually signed in an indelible manner or by DocuSign and returned by the bid opening date and time along with the bidder's Invitation to Bid and any other requirements as stated in the Invitation to Bid document in order for the bidder's Invitation to Bid response to be evaluated.

It is the responsibility of the bidder to check the website for all information relevant to this Invitation to Bid to include addenda and/or amendments issued prior to the opening date. Website address is as follows:

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

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

By signing the Invitation to Bid, the Bidder guarantees compliance with the provisions stated in this ITB.

#### **BIDDERS SUBMITTING ELECTRONIC RESPONSES:**

##### **1. ELECTRONICALLY UPLOADING BID(S) TO SHAREFILE**

- a. Bidders should upload bid(s) via ShareFile Link to:  
<https://nebraska.sharefile.com/r-r0a3f807e53704262aa3ccd5566edd1cf>
- b. Each bid will have an individual ITB Number and Attachment Letter (i.e. 1234 OF Attachment "?", etc.) in each bid. **Bidders are to be sure to upload their Bid(s) to the correct ShareFile link listed in the bid.**
- c. Not all browsers are compatible with ShareFile. Currently Chrome, Internet Explorer and Firefox are compatible, but Microsoft Edge is not.
- d. After the bidder clicks the bid submission link, the bidder will be prompted to enter contact information including an e-mail address so that the bidder will receive a confirmation email confirming the successful upload directly from ShareFile.

##### **2. OTHER BID DOCUMENTS TO UPLOAD TO SHAREFILE**

- a. Any "Proprietary information" (if applicable) should be uploaded as separate and distinct files.
- b. If it is the bidder's intent to submit multiple bids, the bidder must clearly identify each submission separately (see "Electronic ITB File Names" below).
- c. It is the Bidder's responsibility to submit the Electronic Bid(s) and be received by the date and time of the Bid Opening indicated in the Schedule of Events.
- d. **No late Bids will be accepted.**
- e. **Hardware, software, internet, user, or electronic issues will not excuse a late bid.**

### 3. ELECTRONIC ITB FILE NAMES

The bidder should clearly identify the uploaded ITB bid files. To assist in identification please use the following naming convention:

- a. For a single file being submitted
  - ITB 6577 OF ABC Company
- b. For multiple files being submitted, add number of files to file names:
  - ITB 6577 OF ABC Company File 1 of 2
- c. For Proprietary Information being submitted, make 1 file that has all the proprietary information in it. Then add number of files to file names and put proprietary to the end of the name:
  - ITB 6577 OF ABC Company File 1 of 2 Proprietary
- d. For multiple ITB bids being submitted from the same company, add a bid number to the file names:
  - ITB 6577 OF ABC Company Bid 1  
or
  - ITB 6577 OF ABC Company Bid 1 File 1 of 2  
or
  - ITB 6577 OF ABC Company Bid 1 File 1 of 2 Proprietary

**Do not submit** bid/bid documents more than **30 days prior to the Bid Opening**. Once the bid/bid documents are uploaded they are only available for 30 days.

### I. BID PREPARATION COSTS

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

### J. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH INVITATION TO BID

Violation of the terms and conditions contained in this solicitation 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 bid;
2. Withdrawal of the Intent to Award;
3. Withdrawal of the Award;
4. Negative Vendor Performance Report(s)
5. Termination of the resulting contract;
6. Legal action; or
7. Suspension of the Bidder from further bidding with the State for the period relative to the seriousness of the violation, such period to be within the sole discretion of the State.

### K. 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. Changing a bid after opening may be permitted 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.

### L. LATE BID

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

### M. BID OPENING

Anyone may attend the opening. It is considered a public opening. The Buyer will read the names of the respondents. Depending upon the complexity of the bid for goods, the buyer may read the bids aloud or allow bids to be

available for viewing by the public during the bid opening. Once the bid opening has concluded, the bids will not be available for viewing until the Intent to Award has been posted. An initial bid tabulation will be posted to the website as soon as feasible. Information identified as proprietary by the submitting Bidder, in accordance with the solicitation 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.

#### **N. INVITATION TO BID REQUIREMENTS**

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

1. Original Commodity ITB form signed using an indelible method (electronic signatures are acceptable);
2. Clarity and responsiveness of the bid;
3. Completed Sections II through X;
4. Completed ITB Form or State's Cost Sheet.

#### **O. EVALUATION OF BIDS**

All bids that are responsive to the solicitation will be evaluated based on the following:

1. Bid/Cost Bid

**Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-161 allows the quality of performance of previous contracts to be considered when evaluating responses to competitively bid solicitations in determining the lowest responsible bidder.** Information obtained from any Vendor Performance Report (See Terms & Conditions, Section H) may be used in evaluating responses to solicitations for goods and services to determine the best value for the State.

**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 contractor, 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 bid in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. §73-107 and has so indicated on the ITB cover page under "Vendor 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 vendor from consideration of the preference.

**P. 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) and ranked by the Evaluation Committee. The State reserves the right to conduct more than one BAFO. The award will then be granted to the lowest responsible bidder. However, a bidder should provide its best offer in its original bid. Bidders should not expect that the State will request a BAFO.

**Q. 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 bid in response to this ITB, the Vendor grants to the State the right to contact or arrange a visit in person with any or all the vendor's clients. Reference and credit checks may be grounds to reject a bid, withdraw an intent to award, or rescind the award of a contract.

**R. AWARD**

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

1. Amend the ITB;
2. Extend the time of or establish a new bid opening time;
3. Waive deviations or errors in the State's ITB process and in vendor bids that are not material, do not compromise the ITB process or a vendor's bid, and do not improve a vendor's competitive position;
4. Accept or reject a portion of or all of a bid;
5. Accept or reject all bids;
6. Withdraw the ITB;
7. Elect to rebid the ITB;
8. Award single lines or multiple lines to one or more vendors; 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. Vendor qualifications and capabilities;
6. State contract management requirements and/or costs; and,

The ITB 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>

Any protests must be filed by a vendor within ten (10) business days after the intent to award decision is posted to the Internet. Grievance and protest procedure is available on the Internet at:

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

**S. SPECIFICATIONS**

Any manufacturer's names, trade names, brand names, information and/or catalog numbers listed in a specification are for reference and not intended to limit competition but will be used as the standard by which equivalent material offered will be judged. The Materiel Administrator will be the sole judge of equivalency. The Vendor may offer any brands which meets or exceeds the specification. When a specific product is required, the ITB will so state. Any item bid is to be the latest current model under standard production at the time of order. No used or refurbished equipment

**T. SAMPLES**

When requested, samples should be furnished at the Vendor's expense prior to the opening of the proposal, unless another time is specified. Each sample should be labeled clearly, and identify the Vendor's name, the ITB number, item number, and the brand and model number, if applicable. Samples submitted must be the commodities or equipment which would be delivered if awarded the bid. The State reserves the right to request samples even though this may not have been set forth in the ITB. Samples may be destroyed in testing. If a sample is not destroyed in testing and a Vendor wishes to have the sample returned, it will be returned at the Vendor's expense upon request. The sample will not be returned until thirty (30) calendar days after any bid protest or, the execution of a contract. The Vendor shall have ten (10) calendar days to arrange for the return of the sample to the Vendor following any of the above dates. If no request from the Vendor is received within the above dates, the State reserves the right to use, donate, or surplus the samples in accordance with the State's policies.

**U. PERFORMANCE TESTING**

YES	NO	NO & PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE	
			<p>1. Samples of Ice Melt, in accordance with the specifications utilizing materials and features as proposed, may be required prior to award.</p>
			<p>2. Samples of Ice Melt shall be provided at no cost to the State and will not be returned to the Vendor upon completion of testing conducted by the State Purchasing Bureau.</p>
			<p>3. Vendor shall have ten (10) business days to provide sample(s) upon the State's written request.</p>
			<p>4. Sample Ice Melt is to be of material and construction as bid. Failure to supply samples and/or sample(s) that do not meet specifications and/or fail any of the protocols/tests as outlined below, may be grounds to reject the bid. Bids may be rejected based on the quality of samples provided.</p>
			<p>5. Upon a written request from the State of Nebraska Purchasing Bureau, sample(s) shall be shipped to:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Attn: Brenda Sensibaugh State Purchasing Bureau 1526 K Street Suite 130 Lincoln, NE 68508</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Receiving hours are between 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., Monday through Friday (excluding State holidays and / or as otherwise directed).</p>

**V. CORE LIST AND CATALOG/NON-CORE**

1. The State of Nebraska intends to enter into a Contract(s) for state agencies and/or facilities. The contract(s) will be for a list of common use items identified as a Core List and additional items identified as a Catalog/Non-Core List. Catalog/Non-Core List items shall be represented by a catalog or current manufacturer price list(s) containing items not called out in the Core List, as shown in Attachment B 6577 OF, Core & Catalog Bid Sheet
2. The Core List shall contain the most repetitively purchased items and will represent those products which the State wishes to establish as standard items based upon their value to the State in terms of quality and price. The Core List shall be subject to a greater discount than the Catalog/Non-Core item list. The State will not accept substitutions on the products listed on the Core List.
3. The Core List identifies the most commonly purchased items but is not a complete list of items purchased by the State, nor does it guarantee future purchase of these products. The State reserves the right to add or remove items from the Core Item list based on usage.
4. Catalog/Non-Core List items are defined as those additional items available from the contractor not listed as part of

the Core List. Prices for Catalog/Non-Core items shall be determined by applying the quoted discount for the item(s)/category to the manufacturer's current catalog or manufacturer vendor's price list(s). The discount percentage for the Catalog/Non-Core items shall remain firm for the duration of the contract period.

5. All items not included on the Core List shall be considered Catalog/Non-Core Items.
6. At the request of the State Purchasing Bureau, the contractor shall block availability on certain Catalog/Non-Core items as identified by State Purchasing Bureau (i.e. printing, weapons, furniture, vehicles, micrographic equipment/copiers, mail equipment, and office supplies).
7. Any quantities stated are estimated annual quantities and shall not be construed to be either a minimum or a maximum. The State will not accept substitutions.
8. A manufacturer's model/number has been provided for each item, if requested.
9. In those cases where items may have been more than one brand name, the vendor may submit a bid on either brand. Please indicate which brand was proposed. Vendor must complete Attachment 6577 OF ATTACHMENT B CORE & CATALOG BID SHEET. Pay special attention to the unit of measure.
10. Prices for Catalog/Non-Core items shall be determined by applying the quoted discount for the item to the manufacturer's current catalog or price list. The percentage discount for the items shall remain firm for the duration of the contract period. Bidder Vendor must clearly state the date of the catalog or price list used and provide a copy of the catalog to the State Purchasing Bureau upon request.
11. The pricing structure, consisting of all pricing formulas and pertinent information, for all non-core items must be clearly defined and documented for future auditing purposes.
12. The percentage discount rate for Catalog/Non-Core items or categories will not decrease during the life of the contract.

14. A firm percentage rate must be quoted by item or category, but a percentage range will not be considered by item or category.
16. After award of the contract(s), the vendor shall supply additional copies of the current catalog or price list used for this bid for distribution to any requesting state agency at no charge, within ten (10) business days of request.
17. Additional catalogs and/or price lists may be required and shall be provided without charge.
18. Any catalog or price list revisions which occur during the duration of the contract shall be provided upon request and without charge.
19. Usage reports may be requested by the State Purchasing Bureau. The reporting period may be determined based on need and may include the following:
  - a. Fill rate information for Core List and Catalog/Non-Core items, statewide and by agency to include the number of orders received, orders processed, back orders, and partially filled orders.
  - b. Usage reports by agency and statewide indicating the numbers of each Core List and Catalog/Non-Core item sold.
20. Any additional report the State Purchasing Bureau may deem necessary
21. Vendor will not substitute any Core List item that has been awarded without prior written approval of State Purchasing Bureau.

**W. ALTERNATE/EQUIVALENT BIDS**

Vendor may offer bids which are at variance from the express specifications of the ITB. The State reserves the right to consider and accept such bids if, in the judgment of the Materiel Administrator, the bid will result in goods and/or services equivalent to or better than those which would be supplied in the original bids specifications. Vendor must indicate on the ITB the manufacturer's name, number and shall submit with their bid, sketches, descriptive literature and/or complete specifications. Reference to literature submitted with a previous bid will not satisfy this provision. Bids which do not comply with these requirements are subject to rejection. In the absence of any stated deviation or exception, the bid will be accepted as in strict compliance with all terms, conditions and specification, and the Vendor shall be held liable, therefore.

**X. LUMP SUM OR " ALL OR NONE" BIDS**

The State reserves the right to purchase item-by-item, by groups or as a total when the State may benefit by so doing. Vendors may submit a bid on an "all or none" or "lump sum" basis but should also submit a bid on an item-by-item basis. The term "all or none" means a conditional bid which requires the purchase of all items on which bids are offered and Vendor declines to accept award on individual items; a "lump sum" bid is one in which the Vendor offers a lower price than the sum of the individual bids if all items are purchased, but agrees to deliver individual items at the prices quoted.

**Y. EMAIL SUBMISSIONS**

SPB will not accept bids by email, electronic, voice, or telephone proposals **except** for one-time purchases under \$50,000.00.

**Z. BID TABULATIONS**

Bid tabulations are available on the website at: <http://www.das.state.ne.us/materiel/purchasing/bidtabs.htm>.

**AA. REJECTION OF BIDS**

The State reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, wholly or in part, in the best interest of the State.

**BB. RESIDENT BIDDER**

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 73-101.01 through 73-101.02, a Resident Bidder shall be allowed a preference against a Non-resident Bidder from a state which gives or requires a preference to Bidders from that state. The preference shall be equal to the preference given or required by the state of the Nonresident Bidders. Where the lowest responsible bid from a resident Bidder is equal in all respects to one from a nonresident Bidder from a state which has no preference law, the resident Bidder shall be awarded the contract. The provision of this preference shall not apply to any contract for any project upon which federal funds would be withheld because of the provisions of this preference.

## II. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

**Vendors should complete Section II through VI as part of their bid.** Vendor is expected to read the Terms and Conditions and must initial either accept, reject, or reject and provide alternative language for each clause. The Vendor should also provide an explanation of why the Vendor rejected the clause or rejected the clause and provided alternate language using "Track Changes". Upon request an electronic copy of the bid with "Track Changes" must be submitted in an editable Word format. By signing the ITB, Vendor is agreeing to be legally bound by all the accepted terms and conditions, and any proposed alternative terms and conditions submitted with the bid. The State reserves the right to negotiate rejected or proposed alternative language. If the State and Vendor fail to agree on the final Terms and Conditions, the State reserves the right to reject the bid. The State is soliciting bids in response to the ITB. The State reserves the right to reject bids that attempt to substitute the Vendor's commercial contracts and/or documents for this ITB.

The Vendor should submit with their proposal any license, user agreement, service level agreement, or similar documents that the Vendor wants incorporated in the Contract. Upon notice of Intent to Award, the Vendor must submit a copy of these documents in an editable Word format. The State will not consider incorporation of any document not submitted with the Vendor's bid. 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 (1) Party's document has a particular clause then that clause shall control;
2. If both Party's documents have a similar clause, but the clauses do not conflict, the clauses shall be read together; If both Party's documents have a similar clause, but the clauses conflict, the State's clause shall control.

### A. GENERAL

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

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

1. Invitation to Bid and Addenda;
2. Amendments to the ITB;
3. Questions and Answers;
4. Vendor's bid response;
5. The executed Contract and any Addenda, if applicable, and properly submitted documents; and,
6. 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 solicitation and any Questions and Answers, 4) the original solicitation document and any Addenda, and 5) the Vendor's submitted Bid.

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.

**B. NOTIFICATION**

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within ITB 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, or at such other addresses as may be specified in writing by either of the parties. All notices, requests, or communications shall be deemed effective upon personal delivery or five (5) 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. NOTICE (POC)**

The State reserves the right to appoint a Buyer's Representative to manage [or assist the Buyer in managing] the contract on behalf of the State. The Buyer's Representative will be appointed in writing, and the appointment document will specify the extent of the Buyer's Representative authority and responsibilities. If a Buyer's Representative is appointed, the Vendor will be provided a copy of the appointment document and is expected to cooperate accordingly with the Buyer's Representative. The Buyer's Representative has no authority to bind the State to a contract, amendment, addendum, or other change or addition to the contract.

**D. 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 contract 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.

**E. AMENDMENT**

This Contract may be amended in writing, within scope, upon the agreement of both parties.

**F. CHANGE ORDERS OR SUBSTITUTIONS**

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

The State and the Vendor, upon the written agreement, may make changes to the contract within the general scope of the solicitation. 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 Vendor may not claim forfeiture of the contract by reasons of such changes.

The Vendor 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 Vendor 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 Vendor's bid, were foreseeable, or result from difficulties with or failure of the Vendor's bid or performance.

No change shall be implemented by the Vendor 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.

In the event any product is discontinued or replaced upon mutual consent during the contract period or prior to delivery, the State reserves the right to amend the contract or purchase order to include the alternate product at the same price.

\*\*\*Vendor will not substitute any item that has been awarded without prior written approval of SPB\*\*\*

#### **G. VENDOR PERFORMANCE REPORT(S)**

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

The State may document any instance(s) of products or services delivered or performed which exceed or fail to meet the terms of the purchase order, contract, and/or solicitation specifications. The State Purchasing Bureau may contact the Vendor regarding any such report. Vendor performance report(s) will become a part of the permanent record of the Vendor.

#### **H. NOTICE OF POTENTIAL VENDOR BREACH**

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

If Vendor breaches the contract or anticipates breaching the contract, the Vendor 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.

## I. BREACH

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within ITB 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 breach by the vendor, the State may, without unreasonable delay, make a good faith effort to make a reasonable purchase or contract to purchased goods in substitution of those due from the vendor. The State may recover from the Vendor as damages the difference between the costs of covering the breach. Notwithstanding any clause to the contrary, the State may also recover the contract price together with any incidental or consequential damages defined in UCC Section 2-715, but less expenses saved in consequence of Vendor's breach. OR In case of default of the Vendor, the State may contract the service from other sources and hold the Vendor responsible for any excess cost occasioned thereby.

The State's failure to make payment shall not be a breach, and the Vendor shall retain all available statutory remedies. (See Indemnity - Self-Insurance and Payment)

## J. NON-WAIVER OF BREACH

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within ITB 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.

## K. SEVERABILITY

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within ITB 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.

## L. INDEMNIFICATION

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

### 1. GENERAL

The vendor 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 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 Vendor, its employees, Subcontractors, consultants, representatives, and agents, resulting from this contract, except to the extent such Vendor liability is attenuated by any action of the State which directly and proximately contributed to the claims.

### 2. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The Vendor 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 Vendor or its employees, Subcontractors, consultants, representatives, and agents; provided, however, the State gives the Vendor prompt notice in writing of the claim. The Vendor 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 Vendor has indemnified the State, the Vendor shall, at the Vendor'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 Vendor, and the State may receive the remedies provided under this ITB.

### 3. SELF-INSURANCE (Statutory)

The State 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 contract, Vendor may file a claim with the Office of Risk Management pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 81-8,829 through 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 contract to the extent provided by law.

### 4. ALL REMEDIES AT LAW

Nothing in this contract shall be construed as an indemnification by one-party of the other for liabilities of a party or third parties for property loss or damage or death or personal injury arising out of and during the performance of this contract. Any liabilities or claims for property loss or damages or for death or personal injury by a party or its agents, employees, contractors or assigns or by third persons, arising out of and during the performance of this lease shall be determined according to applicable law.

The Parties acknowledge that Attorney General for the State 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.

**M. ATTORNEY'S FEES**

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within ITB 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 ordered by the court, including attorney's fees and costs, if the other party prevails.

**N. ASSIGNMENT, SALE, OR MERGER**

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within ITB 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 Vendor retains the right to enter into a sale, merger, acquisition, internal reorganization, or similar transaction involving Vendor's business. Vendor 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 Vendor 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.

**O. CONTRACTING WITH OTHER POLITICAL SUB-DIVISIONS OF THE STATE OR ANOTHER STATE**

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

The Vendor 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.

The Vendor may, but shall not be required to, allow other states, agencies or divisions of other states, or political subdivisions of other states to use this contract. The terms and conditions, including price, of this contract shall apply to any such contract, but may be amended upon mutual consent of the Parties. The State of Nebraska shall not be contractually or otherwise obligated or liable under any contract entered into pursuant to this clause. The State shall be notified if a contract is executed based upon this contract.

**P. FORCE MAJEURE**

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within ITB 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 man-made 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 grant 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.

**Q. CONFIDENTIALITY**

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within ITB 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.

**R. EARLY TERMINATION**

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

The contract may be terminated as follows:

1. The State and the Vendor, by mutual written agreement, may terminate the contract at any time.
2. The State, at its sole discretion, may terminate the contract for any reason upon thirty (30) calendar day's written notice to the Vendor. Such termination shall not relieve the Vendor of warranty or other service obligations incurred under the terms of the contract. In the event of termination, the Vendor 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. Vendor 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 Vendor or of any substantial part of the Vendor'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 Vendor, its employees, officers, directors, or shareholders;
  - e. an involuntary proceeding has been commenced by any party against the Vendor 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 Vendor has consented, either expressly or by operation of law, to the entry of an order for relief; or (iii) the Vendor has been decreed or adjudged a debtor;
  - f. a voluntary petition has been filed by the Vendor under any of the chapters of Title 11 of the United States Code;
  - g. Vendor intentionally discloses confidential information;
  - h. Vendor has or announces it will discontinue support of the deliverable; and,
  - i. In the event funding is no longer available.

#### S. CONTRACT CLOSEOUT

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

Upon termination of the contract for any reason the Vendor shall within thirty (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 Vendor is permitted to keep the information or data by contract or rule of law. Vendor 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 Vendor's routine back up procedures;
4. Cooperate with any successor vendor, person or entity in the assumption of any or all of the obligations of this contract;
5. Cooperate with any successor vendor, 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 Vendor to surrender intellectual property, real or personal property, or information or data owned by the Vendor for which the State has no legal claim.

### III. VENDOR DUTIES

#### A. INDEPENDENT VENDOR / OBLIGATIONS

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

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

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

The Vendor shall secure, at its own expense, all personnel required to perform the services under the contract. The personnel the Vendor 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.

The Contractor warrants that all persons assigned to the project 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;
5. Determining the hours to be worked and the duties to be performed by the Contractor's employees; and,
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 must 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**

The Contractor is required and hereby agrees to use a federal immigration verification system to determine the work eligibility status of employees physically performing work within the State. 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 DAS website at <http://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/purchasing.html>

The completed United States Attestation Form should be submitted with the solicitation response.

2. If the Contractor indicates on such attestation form that he or she is a qualified alien, the Contractor agrees to provide the U.S. 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 Vendor 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 Vendors of the State, 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 through 48-1125). The Vendor guarantees compliance with the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act, and breach of this provision shall be regarded as a material breach of contract. The Vendor shall insert a similar provision in all Subcontracts for goods or services to be covered by any contract resulting from this ITB.

**D. COOPERATION WITH OTHER VENDORS**

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

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

**E. DISCOUNTS**

Prices quoted shall be inclusive of ALL trade discounts. Cash discount terms of less than thirty (30) days will not be considered as part of the bid. Cash discount periods will be computed from the date of receipt of a properly executed claim voucher or the date of completion of delivery of all items in a satisfactory condition, whichever is later.

**F. PRICES**

Prices quoted shall be net, including transportation and delivery charges fully prepaid by the contractor, F.O.B. destination named in the ITB. 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.

All prices, costs, and terms and conditions submitted in the bid shall remain fixed and valid commencing on the opening date of the bid until an award is made or the ITB is cancelled. Prices submitted on the cost bid form shall remain fixed for the first one hundred eighty (180) days of the contract. Requests for an increase must be submitted in writing to the State Purchasing Bureau a minimum of 30 days prior to the effective date of the price increase. Documentation may be required by the State to support the price increase.

**The State reserves the right to deny any requested price increase. No price increases are to be billed to any State Agencies prior to written amendment of the contract by the parties.**

**The State will be given full proportionate benefit of any decreases for the term of the contract.**

**G. COST CLARIFICATION**

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

**H. PERMITS, REGULATIONS, LAWS**

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within ITB 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 Vendor shall obtain and pay for all royalties, licenses, and permits, and approvals necessary for the performance of the contract. The Vendor must guarantee that it has the full legal right to the materials, supplies, equipment, software, and other items used to execute this contract.

**I. NOTICE OF POTENTIAL VENDOR BREACH**

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

If Vendor breaches the contract or anticipates breaching the contract the Vendor shall immediately give written notice to the State. The notice shall explain the breach or potential breach and may include a request for a waiver of the breach if so desired. The State may, at its discretion, temporarily or permanently waive the breach. By granting a temporary 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.

**J. ANTITRUST**

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

The Vendor 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.

**K. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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

By submitting a bid, bidder certifies that no relationship exists between the bidder and any person or entity which either is, or gives the appearance of, a conflict of interest related to this ITB or project.

Bidder further certifies that bidder will not employ any individual known by bidder to have a conflict of interest nor shall bidder take any action or acquire any interest, either directly or indirectly, which will conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of its contractual obligations hereunder or which creates an actual or appearance of conflict of interest.

If there is an actual or perceived conflict of interest, bidder shall provide with its bid a full disclosure of the facts describing such actual or perceived conflict of interest and a proposed mitigation plan for consideration. The State will then consider such disclosure and proposed mitigation plan and either approve or reject as part of the overall bid evaluation.

**L. STATE PROPERTY**

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

**M. SITE RULES AND REGULATIONS**

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

The Vendor 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 Vendor 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 Vendor.

**N. ADVERTISING**

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

The Vendor agrees not to refer to the contract award in advertising in such a manner as to state or imply that the company or its goods and 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.

**O. DISASTER RECOVERY/BACK UP PLAN**

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

The Vendor 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 delivery of goods and services as specified under the specifications in the contract in the event of a disaster.

**P. DRUG POLICY**

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

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

**Q. WARRANTY**

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

Despite any clause to the contrary, the Vendor represents and warrants that its services hereunder shall be performed by competent personnel and shall be of professional quality consistent with generally accepted industry standards for the performance of such services and shall comply in all respects with the requirements of this Contract. For any breach of this warranty, the Vendor shall, for a period of ninety (90) days from performance of the service, perform the services again, at no cost to Customer, or if Vendor is unable to perform the services as warranted, Vendor shall reimburse Customer the fees paid to Vendor for the unsatisfactory services. The rights and remedies of the parties under this warranty are in addition to any other rights and remedies of the parties provided by law or equity, including, without limitation actual damages, and, as applicable and awarded under the law, to a prevailing party, reasonable attorneys'

fees and costs.

#### IV. PAYMENT

##### A. PROHIBITION AGAINST ADVANCE PAYMENT (Statutory)

Neb. Rev. Stat. §§81-2403 states, “[n]o goods or services shall be deemed to be received by an agency until all such goods or services are completely delivered and finally accepted by the agency.”

##### B. TAXES (Statutory)

The State is not required to pay taxes and assumes no such liability as a result of this ITB. The Vendor may request a copy of the Nebraska Department of Revenue, Nebraska Resale or Exempt Sale Certificate for Sales Tax Exemption, Form 13 for their records. Any property tax payable on the Vendor's equipment which may be installed in a state-owned facility is the responsibility of the Vendor.

##### C. INVOICES

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

Invoices for payments must be submitted by the Vendor to the agency requesting the services with sufficient detail to support payment. The terms and conditions included in the Vendor'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. PAYMENT (Statutory)

Payment will be made by the responsible agency in compliance with the State of Nebraska Prompt Payment Act (See Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-2403). The State may require the Vendor to accept payment by electronic means such as ACH deposit. In no event shall the State be responsible or liable to pay for any goods and services provided by the Vendor prior to the Effective Date of the contract, and the Contractor hereby waives any claim or cause of action for any such services.

##### E. LATE PAYMENT (Statutory)

The Vendor 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).

##### F. SUBJECT TO FUNDING / FUNDING OUT CLAUSE FOR LOSS OF APPROPRIATIONS (Statutory)

The State's obligation to pay amounts due on the Contract for a fiscal year 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 Vendor 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 Vendor 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 Vendor be paid for a loss of anticipated profit.

**G. RIGHT TO AUDIT (First Paragraph is Statutory)**

The State shall have the right to audit the Vendor's performance of this contract upon a thirty (30) day written notice. Vendor 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. (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-304 et seq.) The State may audit and the Vendor 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 Vendor shall make the Information available to the State at Vendor's place of business or a location acceptable to both Parties during normal business hours. If this is not practical or the Vendor so elects, the Vendor 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. In no circumstances will vendor be required to create or maintain documents not kept in the ordinary course of vendor's business operations, nor will vendor be required to disclose any information, including but not limited to product cost data, which is confidential or proprietary to vendor.

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

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 Three (3) percent of the total contract billings, or if fraud, material misrepresentations, or non-performance is discovered on the part of the Vendor, the Vendor shall reimburse the State for the total costs of the audit. Overpayments and audit costs owed to the State shall be paid within ninety (90) days of written notice of the claim. The Vendor agrees to correct any material weaknesses or condition found as a result of the audit.

## **V. SCOPE OF WORK**

The Vendor must provide the following information in response to this ITB.

### **A. A.SCOPE**

It is the intent of this ITB invitation to establish a contract to supply Ice Melt per the attached specifications from the date of award for a period of one (1) year with the option to renew for an additional four (4) one (1) year periods when mutually agreeable to the Vendor and the State. The State reserves the right to extend the period of this contract beyond the end date when mutually agreeable to the Vendor and the State.

It is the intent of this solicitation to issue a contract for the item(s) requested.

Complete specifications, manufacturer's current descriptive literature and/or advertising data sheets with cuts or photographs must be included with the bid for the IDENTICAL items proposed. Any information necessary to show compliance with these specifications not given on the manufacturer's descriptive literature and/or advertising data sheets must be supplied in writing on or attached to the bid document. If manufacturer's information necessary to show compliance with these specifications is not attached to the bid document, the Vendor may be required to submit requested information within three (3) business days of a written request. Failure to submit requested descriptive literature or advertising data sheets may be grounds to reject the bid.

### **B. AMENDMENT**

This contract may be amended at any time in writing upon the agreement of both parties.

### **C. REVISIONS**

In the event any product is discontinued or replaced with a newer version during the period, the State of Nebraska reserves the right to amend this contract to include the new product.

## VI. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

### A. VENDOR INSTRUCTIONS

Vendor must respond to each of the following statements. Specifications listed are minimum conditions that must be met in order for a Vendor to qualify for the award.

"YES" response means the Vendor guarantees they can meet this condition.

"NO" response means the Vendor cannot meet this condition and will not be considered.

"NO & PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE" responses should be used only with a narrative response in the NOTES/COMMENTS section explaining in detail any deviation from the Vendor's ability to meet the condition, and an explanation of how this would be determined to be an acceptable alternative to meeting the condition. Alternatives must be detailed in such a way that allows such deviations to be fully evaluated. The State shall determine at its sole discretion whether or not the Vendor's alternative is an acceptable alternative.

### B. NON-COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

YES	NO	NO & PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE	
			<p><b>1.</b> Read these specifications carefully. Any and all exceptions to these specifications must be written on or attached to ITB response. Any noncompliance may void your bid. Non-compliance to any single specification can void your bid.</p>
			<p><b>2.</b> It is the responsibility of Vendors to obtain information and clarifications as provided below. The State is not responsible for any erroneous or incomplete understandings or wrongful interpretations of this solicitation by any Vendor.</p>
			<p><b>3.</b> No interpretation related to the meaning of ITB specifications or other pre-bid documents will be made orally to any Vendor by the State. Any ITB interpretation must be put in writing by the Vendor to: the State Purchasing Bureau, E-mail questions to SPB, <a href="mailto:as.materielpurchasing@nebraska.gov">as.materielpurchasing@nebraska.gov</a> by the last day to submit written questions per the Schedule of Events. (Inquiries received after the last day to submit written questions may not be addressed).</p>
<b>NOTES/COMMENTS:</b>			

**C. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS: ICE MELT**

YES	NO	NO & PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE	
			1. Must be pelletized or granular. Not powdered or flaked.
			2. Shall have additives to prevent damage to grass, plants, shrubs, tile and carpet.
			3. Pallet deliveries must be shrink wrapped.
			4. Packaged in 40-60-pound watertight bags with minimal dust during use.
			5. Vendor can block availability of certain non-core items if requested by State Purchasing Bureau.
<b>NOTES/COMMENTS:</b>			

**D. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION: CALCIUM CHLORIDE**

YES	NO	NO & PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE	
			1. Must be pelletized or granular. Not powdered or flaked.
			2. Shall have additives to prevent damage to grass, plants, shrubs, tile and carpet.
			3. Pallet deliveries must be shrink wrapped.
			4. Packaged in 40-60-pound watertight bags with minimal dust during use.
			5. Vendor can block availability of certain non-core items if requested by State Purchasing Bureau.
<b>NOTES/COMMENTS:</b>			

**E. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION: CALCIUM MAGNESIUM ACETATE**

YES	NO	NO & PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE	
			1. Must be pelletized or granular. Not powdered or flaked.
			2. Shall have additives to prevent damage to grass, plants, shrubs, tile and carpet.
			3. Pallet deliveries must be shrink wrapped.

			4. Packaged in 40-60-pound watertight bags with minimal dust during use.
			5. Vendor can block availability of certain non-core items if requested by State Purchasing Bureau. <b>6.</b>
<b>NOTES/COMMENTS:</b>			

**F. ANNUAL USAGE, ESTIMATED**

YES	NO	NO & PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE	
			1. Annual usage figures provided are estimates and are not to be construed as either a minimum or maximum purchase quantity. The orders shall be for the actual quantities of each item ordered by or for any agency during the life of the contract. Vendor shall not impose minimum order requirements.
			2. 2000-3000 BAGS – ICE MELT BLENDS
			3. 260 BAGS – CALCIUM CHLORIDE
			4. 350 BAGS -CALCIUM MAGNESIUM ACETATE
<b>NOTES/COMMENTS:</b>			

**G. USAGE REPORT**

YES	NO	NO & PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE	
			1. Per Section VI, subsection J, the vendor shall submit quarterly usage reports. Information may be requested at any time by the State Purchasing Bureau, but may typically be requested at the end of the contract period or upon renewal of the contract, or at other intervals (monthly, quarterly, etc.) as determined by the State
<b>NOTES/COMMENTS:</b>			

#### H. DELIVERY ARO

YES	NO	NO & PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE	
			<p>1. Delivery desired within 5 days after receipt of order(s).</p> <p>A successful Bidder will maintain sufficient inventory to process and deliver within five calendar days ARO. There will be no minimum order requirements. Deliveries must be clearly marked with the purchase order number. If delays in delivery are anticipated, the Contractor will immediately notify the Ordering Agency of the expected delivery date. The order may be canceled if the delivery time is unsatisfactory, and the State may procure item(s) from other sources and the Contractor will be held responsible for any/all excess cost.</p>
<b>NOTES/COMMENTS</b>			

#### I. DELIVERY LOCATIONS / INSTRUCTIONS (BIDDER AGREES THAT THEY CAN MEET THE DELIVERY LOCATIONS/INSTRUCTIONS)

YES	NO	NO & PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE	
			<p>1. A list of State delivery locations provided with these specifications is for reference only. Contract may not be limited to the agencies/facilities shown. Vendor will impose no delivery restrictions. Vendor is to make deliveries to the "Ship To" address referenced on the purchase order, or as otherwise indicated by the ordering agency. See Attachment A.</p>
<b>NOTES/COMMENTS:</b>			

#### J. PACKAGING

YES	NO	NO & PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE	
			<p>1. Packaging to be clearly marked with size, weight, quantity, and. Cartons must be of suitable size and of sufficient strength to protect the contents during shipping, handling and storage.</p>
<b>NOTES/COMMENTS:</b>			

**K. ORDERS**

YES	NO	NO & PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE	
			<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Orders will be placed either by, phone, fax, e-mail or Internet (if available and not to the exclusion of the other methods). All orders must reference a purchase order number and the purchase order number must be referenced on the packing slip, and invoice. Invoices are to be sent to the "Invoice to" address on the purchase order.</li></ol>
<b>NOTES/COMMENTS:</b>			

**L. QUALITY**

YES	NO	NO & PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE	
			<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Product quality must meet specifications and be consistent for the term of the contract. A guarantee of satisfactory performance by the supplier and meeting delivery dates are considered an integral part of the purchase contract resulting from this bid invitation. All materials must be of first quality, under standard production by the manufacturer, be of standard design, complete as regularly advertised and marketed, and be of proven performance. Products are to be fully guaranteed and may be returned for full credit or replacement (at the State's option) for any reason during the initial warranty period with no additional charges for shipping or restocking</li></ol>

**M. GRAY MARKET PRODUCTS PROHIBITION**

YES	NO	NO & PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE	
			<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The State will not accept Gray Market Products for this solicitation. Gray Market is defined as the trade of a commodity through distribution channels which, while legal, are unofficial, unauthorized, or unintended by the original manufacturer. Gray Market items are not designed to be sold in a particular market and cannot be supported by the authorized importer because of various reasons.</li></ol>
<b>NOTES/COMMENTS:</b>			

N. PRICES – CORE LIST AND CATALOG/NON-CORE

YES	NO	NO & PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE	
			<p>1. The State of Nebraska intends to enter into a Contract(s) for ICE MELT for state agencies and/or facilities. The contract(s) will be for a list of common use items identified as a Core List and additional items identified as a Catalog/Non-Core List. Catalog/Non-Core List items shall be represented by a catalog or current manufacturer price list(s) containing additional Ice Melt Products not called out in the Core List, as shown in Attachment A Rebid 6577 OF, Core List and Catalog/Non-Core. <b>The Core List shall contain the most repetitively purchased ICE MELT items</b> and will represent those products which the State wishes to establish as standard items based upon their value to the State in terms of quality and price. The Core List shall be subject to a greater discount than the Catalog/Non-Core item list. The State will not accept substitutions on the products listed on the Core List.</p> <p>Core Categories have been identified as follows</p> <p>a. Ice Melt Blend Granules or Pellets (excluding core items)</p> <p>b. Calcium Chloride Granules or Pellets (excluding core items)</p> <p>c. Calcium Magnesium Acetate Granules or Pellets (excluding core items)</p> <p>The Core List identifies the most commonly purchased items but is not a complete list of items purchased by the State, nor does it guarantee future purchase of these products. The State reserves the right to add or remove items from the Core Item list based on usage.</p>
			<p>2. <b>Catalog (Non-Core List) items are defined as those additional items available from the vendor not listed as part of the Core List.</b> Prices for Catalog/Non-Core items shall be determined by applying the quoted discount for the item(s)/category to the manufacturer's current catalog or manufacturer price list(s). The discount percentage for the Catalog/Non-Core items shall remain firm for the duration of the contract period.</p> <p><b>All items not included on the Core List shall be considered Catalog/Non-Core Items.</b></p>
			<p>3. At the request of the State Purchasing Bureau, the vendor shall block availability on certain non-core items as identified by State Purchasing Bureau</p>
			<p>4. <b>PRICE - CORE LIST and CATALOG (NON-CORE)</b></p> <p>Core List prices quoted shall be net, including transportation and delivery charges fully prepaid by the vendor, FOB Destination to the ordering state facility/agency. Core List pricing is to remain firm for the initial 180 days of the contract. Any request for price increase must be submitted in writing to the State Purchasing Bureau a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to proposed effective date of increase and be accompanied by any/all supporting documentation such as a notification letter from the manufacturer indicating the percentage of increase. The supporting information must clearly establish the increase is for all customers, not to the State of Nebraska alone. Further documentation may be required by the State, to authenticate the increase (such as manufacturer invoices). Failure to supply any requested supporting documentation may be grounds to cancel the contract.</p> <p>Catalog (/Non-Core) item purchases shall be net, including transportation and delivery charges fully prepaid by the vendor, FOB Destination to the ordering state facility/agency. Discount bid off manufacturers suggested list price shall remain fixed for the duration of</p>

			<p>the contract. During the life of the contract, there may be new manufacturer's list price schedules published. In the event this occurs, it will be necessary for the Contractor to supply the State Purchasing Bureau and any requesting agencies with one (1) copy of each as applicable. New catalog and/or price list(s) will be incorporated into the contract thirty (30) days after receipt by the State Purchasing Bureau.</p> <p>Discounts for Catalog (Non-Core) items shall be applied to products as presented in Attachment B Rebid 6577, Core and Non-core List. Bidder shall include each manufacturer's list price schedule to coincide with manufacturers listed in Attachment A discount schedule.</p> <p>Prices quoted for products on the Core List and Catalog (Non-Core) items shall be inclusive of all costs, to include but not limited to storage, processing and/or delivery throughout the State of Nebraska. Vendor cannot impose any additional service fees. Vendor shall inform the State Purchasing Bureau in the event of any unanticipated or overlooked contingency affecting pricing or contract performance.</p> <p>NO price increases are to be billed to the State facilities without prior written approval by the State Purchasing Bureau.</p> <p>The State further reserves the right to reject any proposed price increase(s), cancel the contract and re-bid if determined in the best interest of the State.</p> <p>It is understood and agreed that in the event of a reduction in the manufacturer's published standard price list for all or any portion of the proposed items, the State of Nebraska will be given full benefit of such decline in price immediately, including any promotional allowances offered to the balance of the trade during the contract period.</p>
			<p>5. <b>QUANTITIES CORE LIST and CATALOG (NON-CORE)</b></p> <p>Any quantities stated are estimated annual quantities and shall not be construed to be either a minimum or a maximum. The State will not accept substitutions. A manufacturer's model/number has been provided for each item. All bid units should match exactly. NOTE: If vendor fails to provide a price on any items, those items for that vendor will be adjusted to the lowest quoted price for those items. In those cases where items may have more than one brand name, the vendor may bid on either brand. Please indicate which brand was bid. <b>Bidder must complete Attachment B Rebid 6577 OF, Core and Non-Core List.</b> Please pay special attention to the unit of measure.</p>
			<p>6. <b>CATALOG (NON-CORE) PRICING</b></p> <p>Prices for Catalog (Non-Core) items shall be determined by applying the <b>quoted</b> discount for the item to the manufacturer's current catalog or price list. The percentage discount for the items shall remain firm for the duration of the contract period. Bidder must clearly state the date of the catalog or price list used and provide a copy of the catalog to the State Purchasing Bureau upon request.</p> <p>The pricing structure, consisting of all pricing formulas and pertinent information, for all non-core items must be clearly defined and documented for future auditing purposes.</p> <p>The percentage discount rate for Catalog (Non-Core) items or categories will not decrease during the life of the contract.</p> <p>A firm percentage rate must be quoted--a range of percentages will not be considered.</p> <p>Furniture is not to be made available for purchase by state agencies without approval from the State Purchasing Bureau and must be blocked in vendor's order system.</p>

			<p><b>7. PRICE LISTS AND CATALOGS - CORE LIST and CATALOG(NON-CORE)</b>  After award of the contract(s), the vendor(s) shall supply additional copies of the current catalog or price list used for this Invitation to Bid for distribution to any requesting state agency at no charge, within ten (10) days of request. Additional catalogs and/or price lists may be required and shall be provided without charge. Any catalog or price list revisions, which occur during the duration of the contract, shall be provided upon request without charge.</p>
			<p><b>8. USAGE REPORTS - CORE LIST and CATALOG (NON-CORE)</b>  Usage reports may be requested by the State Purchasing Bureau. The reporting period may be determined (monthly, quarterly, etc.) based on need and may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Fill rate information for core and non-core items, statewide and by agency to include the number of orders received, orders processed, back orders, and partially filled orders.</li> <li>b. Usage reports by agency and statewide indicating the numbers of each core item and non-core item sold.</li> <li>c. Any additional report the State Purchasing Bureau may deem necessary.</li> </ul>
			<p><b>9. SUBSTITUTION - CORE LIST</b> Vendor will not substitute any Core List item that has been awarded without prior approval of State Purchasing Bureau.</p>
<b>NOTES/COMMENTS:</b>			

**Form A**  
**Vendor Contact Sheet**  
**Invitation To Bid Number Rebid 6577 OF**

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

<b>Preparation of Solicitation Contact Information</b>	
<b>Vendor Name:</b>	
<b>Vendor Address:</b>	
<b>Contact Person &amp; Title:</b>	
<b>E-mail Address:</b>	
<b>Telephone Number (Office):</b>	
<b>Telephone Number (Cellular):</b>	
<b>Fax Number:</b>	

Each Vendor shall also designate a specific contact person who will be responsible for responding to the State if any clarifications of the Vendor's response should become necessary.

<b>Communication with the State Contact Information</b>	
<b>Vendor Name:</b>	
<b>Vendor Address:</b>	
<b>Contact Person &amp; Title:</b>	
<b>E-mail Address:</b>	
<b>Telephone Number (Office):</b>	
<b>Telephone Number (Cellular):</b>	
<b>Fax Number:</b>	

