



May 12, 2026

Chief Procurement Officer
Materials Management Office
SC Department of Environmental Services
1333 Main Street
Suite 600
Columbia, SC 29201

Re: Formal Protest of Award, Solicitation No. 5400029491
PFAS in Public Drinking Water

Dear Chief Procurement Officer:

Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 11-35-4210, GEL Laboratories, LLC (GEL) hereby protests the Intent to Award issued by the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SC DES) on May 6, 2026, under Solicitation No. 5400029491 for PFAS in Public Drinking Water.

The Intent to Award identified Eurofins Drinking Water and Wastewater South East LLC as the successful offeror and states that GEL's proposal was deemed "non-responsive."

GEL respectfully requests review of this determination based on the ongoing status of GEL's PFAS certification review process with SC DES at the time proposals were evaluated and the award decision was issued.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

GEL has been actively engaged with SC DES in the PFAS certification review process for several months prior to the issuance of the solicitation award decision.

Relevant dates include the following:

- October 16, 2025 – GEL submitted its PFAS certification package to SC DES.
- April 8, 2026 – Initial audit/report documentation issued by SC DES.
- April 9, 2026 – SC DES conducted an in-house PFAS audit of GEL.
- April 15, 2026 – SC DES issued a revised report identifying issues requiring response.
- May 14, 2026 – SC DES established the deadline for GEL's corrective action response.
- May 7, 2026 – GEL submitted its response and corrective action materials to SC DES.

At the time the Intent to Award was issued on May 6, 2026, GEL remained actively engaged in the State's PFAS certification review process and within the corrective action response period established by SC DES.

GROUND'S FOR PROTEST

1. Responsiveness Determination During Active Certification Review

GEL understands and respects the State's responsibility to ensure compliance with applicable certification requirements. However, GEL respectfully submits that the responsiveness determination warrants further review given that the State's PFAS certification review process remained active and incomplete at the time the award determination was issued.

The determination of non responsiveness appears to have occurred prior to completion of the agency's established corrective action review period and prior to completion of the ongoing certification evaluation process.

2. Clarification Regarding Application of Certification Related Requirements

GEL understands that, at the time of award, no laboratory located in South Carolina had yet been formally issued PFAS certification by SC DES. If accurate, GEL respectfully requests clarification regarding how certification related responsiveness criteria were interpreted and applied during proposal evaluation.

GEL requests confirmation regarding:

- Which laboratories in SC, if any, possessed SC-issued PFAS certification at the time proposals were evaluated,
- The standards applied to determine responsiveness,
- Whether those standards were uniformly applied to all offerors.

3. Timing of Award Determination

SC DES established May 14, 2026 as the deadline for GEL's response to audit findings. The award determination and associated responsiveness finding were issued on May 6, 2026, prior to expiration of that response period.

Based on the timing of these events, GEL respectfully requests confirmation that the agency's evaluation process fully considered the ongoing certification review status and corrective action process prior to issuance of the responsiveness determination.

The timing of the award decision suggests that GEL's proposal may have been rejected before the agency completed evaluation of GEL's corrective action responses and certification materials.

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

GEL respectfully requests that the Chief Procurement Officer:

1. Review and consider this protest;
2. Stay further contract performance pending resolution of the protest;

3. Provide access to procurement and evaluation materials relevant to the responsiveness determination;
4. Reevaluate GEL's proposal consistent with the solicitation requirements and applicable procurement procedures;
5. Review whether the responsiveness evaluation criteria were fairly and consistently applied; and
6. Grant such other relief as may be determined appropriate.

GEL appreciates the opportunity to submit this protest and remains committed to working cooperatively with SC DES throughout the certification review and procurement process.

Please direct all communications regarding this protest to Anna Wilcox, Contracts Manager, at mrkt@gel.com and 843-769-7380.

Warm regards,



Carey J. Bocklet
Chief Operating Officer

cc: Trey Shealy, Procurement Director

ATTACHMENT B

	State of South Carolina Invitation For Bid	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%; border: none;">Solicitation:</td> <td style="border: none;">5400029491</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">Date Issued:</td> <td style="border: none;">03/06/2026</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">Procurement Officer:</td> <td style="border: none;">TREY SHEALY</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">E-Mail Address:</td> <td style="border: none;">trey.shealy@des.sc.gov</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">Mailing Address:</td> <td style="border: none;">SC Dept. of Environmental Services Attn: Procurement 2600 Bull Street Columbia SC 29201-2104</td> </tr> </table>	Solicitation:	5400029491	Date Issued:	03/06/2026	Procurement Officer:	TREY SHEALY	E-Mail Address:	trey.shealy@des.sc.gov	Mailing Address:	SC Dept. of Environmental Services Attn: Procurement 2600 Bull Street Columbia SC 29201-2104
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E-Mail Address:	trey.shealy@des.sc.gov											
Mailing Address:	SC Dept. of Environmental Services Attn: Procurement 2600 Bull Street Columbia SC 29201-2104											

DESCRIPTION: **PFAS in Public Drinking Water**

USING GOVERNMENTAL UNIT: **SC Department of Environmental Services**

SUBMIT YOUR OFFER ON-LINE AT THE FOLLOWING URL: <http://www.procurement.sc.gov>

SUBMIT OFFER BY (Opening Date/Time): **04/15/2026 2:30 PM ET** (See "Deadline For Submission Of Offer" provision)

QUESTIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY: **04/01/2026 12:00 PM ET** (See "Questions From Offerors" provision)

NUMBER OF COPIES TO BE SUBMITTED: **One (1) on-line submission and One (1) Redacted Copy Submitted On-line**

Initial here if NO redacted copy is necessary _____

CONFERENCE TYPE: **Not Applicable**
DATE & TIME:

(As appropriate, see "Conferences - Pre-Bid/Proposal" & "Site Visit" provisions)

LOCATION: **Not Applicable**

AWARD &
AMENDMENTS

Award will be posted on **04/22/2026**. The award, this solicitation, any amendments, and any related notices will be posted at the following web address: <http://www.procurement.sc.gov>

You must submit a signed copy of this form with Your Offer. By signing, You agree to be bound by the terms of the Solicitation. You agree to hold Your Offer open for a minimum of thirty (30) calendar days after the Opening Date. (See "Signing Your Offer" provision.)

NAME OF OFFEROR

(full legal name of business submitting the offer)

Any award issued will be issued to, and the contract will be formed with, the entity identified as the Offeror. The entity named as the offeror must be a single and distinct legal entity. Do not use the name of a branch office or a division of a larger entity if the branch or division is not a separate legal entity, i.e., a separate corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, etc.

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

(Person must be authorized to submit binding offer to contract on behalf of Offeror.)

DATE SIGNED

TITLE

(business title of person signing above)

STATE VENDOR NO.

(Register to Obtain S.C. Vendor No. at www.procurement.sc.gov)

PRINTED NAME

(printed name of person signing above)

STATE OF INCORPORATION

(If you are a corporation, identify the state of incorporation.)

OFFEROR'S TYPE OF ENTITY: (Check one) (See "Signing Your Offer" provision.)

___ Sole Proprietorship ___ Partnership ___ Other _____

___ Corporate entity (not tax-exempt) ___ Corporation (tax-exempt) ___ Government entity (federal, state, or local)

COVER PAGE - ON-LINE ONLY (MAR. 2015)

(Return Page Two with Your Offer)

PAGE TWO (SEP 2009)

Page 2

Table of Contents

I. SCOPE OF SOLICITATION	5
ACQUIRE SERVICES (JAN 2006)	5
MAXIMUM CONTRACT PERIOD - ESTIMATED (JAN 2006)	5
II. INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFERORS - A. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS	6
DEFINITIONS, CAPITALIZATION, AND HEADINGS (MAY 2024)	6
AMENDMENTS TO SOLICITATION (JAN 2004)	6
AUTHORIZED AGENT (FEB 2015)	6
AWARD NOTIFICATION (MAR 2024)	7
BID/PROPOSAL AS OFFER TO CONTRACT (JAN 2004)	7
BID ACCEPTANCE PERIOD (JAN 2004)	7
BID IN ENGLISH and DOLLARS (JAN 2004)	7
CERTIFICATE OF INDEPENDENT PRICE DETERMINATION (MAR 2024)	7
CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS (JAN 2004)	8
CODE OF LAWS AVAILABLE (JAN 2006)	8
DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST OR UNFAIR COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE (JUL 2023)	8
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF OFFER (JAN 2004)	9
DRUG FREE WORK PLACE CERTIFICATION (JAN 2004)	9
DUTY TO INQUIRE (FEB 2015)	9
ETHICS CERTIFICATE (MAY 2008)	9
OMIT TAXES FROM PRICE (JAN 2004)	9
OPEN TRADE REPRESENTATION (JUN 2015)	9
PROTESTS (MAR 2024)	10
PROHIBITED COMMUNICATIONS AND DONATIONS (FEB 2015)	10
PUBLIC OPENING (JAN 2004)	10
QUESTIONS FROM OFFERORS (MODIFIED)	10
REJECTION/CANCELLATION (JAN 2004)	11
RESPONSIVENESS (MAR 2024)	11
SIGNING YOUR OFFER (JAN 2004)	11
STATE OFFICE CLOSINGS (JAN 2004)	11
DISCLOSURE OF YOUR BID / PROPOSAL and SUBMITTING CONFIDENTIAL DATA (FEB 2021)	11
SUBMITTING A PAPER OFFER OR MODIFICATION (MAR 2015)	12
TAX CREDIT FOR SUBCONTRACTING WITH DISADVANTAGED SMALL BUSINESSES (APR 2024)	12
VENDOR REGISTRATION MANDATORY (MAY 2024)	12
WITHDRAWAL OR CORRECTION OF OFFER (JAN 2004)	13
II. INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFERORS -- B. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS	14
ON-LINE BIDDING INSTRUCTIONS (MAR 2015)	14
PROTEST - CPO - MMO ADDRESS (MAR 2024)	14
RESPONSIVENESS – CORRECTION OF NON-CONFORMITY (MAR 2024)	14
UNIT PRICES REQUIRED (JAN 2006)	14
III. SCOPE OF WORK/SPECIFICATIONS	15
IV. INFORMATION FOR OFFERORS TO SUBMIT	19
INFORMATION FOR OFFERORS TO SUBMIT -- GENERAL (MAR 2015)	19
SUBMITTING REDACTED OFFERS (MAR 2015)	19
V. QUALIFICATIONS	20
QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFEROR (MAR 2015)	20
QUALIFICATIONS - SPECIAL STANDARDS OF RESPONSIBILITY (MODIFIED)	20
SUBCONTRACTOR – IDENTIFICATION (FEB 2015)	20
VI. AWARD CRITERIA	21
AWARD CRITERIA -- BIDS (JAN 2006)	21
AWARD TO ONE OFFEROR (JAN 2006)	21
COMPETITION FROM PUBLIC ENTITIES (JAN 2006)	21
UNIT PRICE GOVERNS (JAN 2006)	21
VII. TERMS AND CONDITIONS -- A. GENERAL	22
ASSIGNMENT, NOVATION, AND CHANGE OF NAME, IDENTITY, OR STRUCTURE (FEB 2015)	22
BANKRUPTCY - GENERAL (FEB 2015)	22
CHOICE-OF-LAW (JAN 2006)	22
CONTRACT AWARDED PURSUANT TO CODE (MAR 2024)	22
CONTRACT DOCUMENTS & ORDER OF PRECEDENCE (MAY 2024)	22
DISCOUNT FOR PROMPT PAYMENT (JAN 2006)	23

DISPUTES (MAY 2024).....	23
EFT INFORMATION (APR 2024):.....	23
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY (JAN 2006)	23
FALSE CLAIMS (JAN 2006).....	23
FIXED PRICING REQUIRED (JAN 2006).....	23
NO INDEMNITY OR DEFENSE (FEB 2015).....	24
NOTICE (MAY 2024).....	24
OPEN TRADE (JUN 2015)	24
ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST (JUL 2023).....	24
PAYMENT and INTEREST (FEB 2021).....	24
PUBLICITY (JAN 2006)	25
PURCHASE ORDERS (JAN 2006).....	25
SURVIVAL OF OBLIGATIONS (JAN 2006).....	25
TAXES (JAN 2006)	25
TERMINATION DUE TO UNAVAILABILITY OF FUNDS (JAN 2006).....	25
THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARY (JAN 2006).....	25
WAIVER (JAN 2006)	25
VII. TERMS AND CONDITIONS -- B. SPECIAL	26
CHANGES (JAN 2006).....	26
COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS (JAN 2006).....	26
CONTRACT LIMITATIONS (JAN 2006).....	26
CONTRACTOR'S LIABILITY INSURANCE - GENERAL (FEB 2015)	26
CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL (JAN 2006)	27
CONTRACTOR'S OBLIGATION -- GENERAL (JAN 2006).....	27
DEFAULT (JAN 2006).....	27
ESTIMATED QUANTITY -- UNKNOWN (JAN 2006).....	28
ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION (NOV 2008).....	28
INDEMNIFICATION-THIRD PARTY CLAIMS - GENERAL (NOV 2011)	29
INFORMATION SECURITY - DEFINITIONS (FEB 2015)	29
INFORMATION USE AND DISCLOSURE (FEB 2015)	30
INFORMATION USE AND DISCLOSURE -- STANDARDS (FEB 2015).....	31
LICENSES AND PERMITS (JAN 2006)	31
RELATIONSHIP OF THE PARTIES (JAN 2006).....	31
TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE -- INDEFINITE DELIVERY / INDEFINITE QUANTITY CONTRACTS (JAN 2006)	31
TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE (JAN 2006).....	31
VIII. BIDDING SCHEDULE / PRICE-BUSINESS PROPOSAL	33
IX. ATTACHMENTS TO SOLICITATION.....	34
ATTACHMENTS LIST.....	34
IMPORTANT TAX NOTICE - NONRESIDENTS ONLY	35
OFFEROR'S CHECKLIST (JUN 2007)	36

I. SCOPE OF SOLICITATION

The State of South Carolina, Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) is seeking qualified offerors to provide bids to conduct drinking water analyses on South Carolina's public drinking water system for PFAS using the analytical methods listed under the State Primary Drinking Water Regulations and the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR).

ACQUIRE SERVICES (JAN 2006)

The purpose of this solicitation is to acquire services complying with the enclosed description and/or specifications and conditions. [01-1010-1]

MAXIMUM CONTRACT PERIOD - ESTIMATED (JAN 2006)

Start date: 04/30/2026 End date: 04/29/2027.

Dates provided are estimates only. Any resulting contract will begin on the date specified in the notice of award. See clause entitled "Term of Contract - Effective Date/Initial Contract Period". [01-1040-1]

II. INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFERORS - A. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

DEFINITIONS, CAPITALIZATION, AND HEADINGS (MAY 2024)

CLAUSE HEADINGS USED IN THIS SOLICITATION ARE FOR CONVENIENCE ONLY AND WILL NOT BE USED TO CONSTRUE MEANING OR INTENT. EVEN IF NOT CAPITALIZED, THE FOLLOWING DEFINITIONS APPLY TO ALL PARTS OF THE SOLICITATION, UNLESS EXPRESSLY PROVIDED OTHERWISE.

AMENDMENT means a document issued to supplement the original solicitation document.

AUTHORITY means the State Fiscal Accountability Authority or its successor in interest.

BUSINESS means any corporation, partnership, individual, sole proprietorship, joint stock company, joint venture, or any other legal entity. [11-35-310(3)]

CHANGE ORDER means any written alteration in specifications, delivery point, rate of delivery, period of performance, price, quantity, or other provisions of any contract accomplished by mutual agreement of the parties to the contract. [11-35-310(5)]

CONTRACT See clause entitled Contract Documents & Order of Precedence.

CONTRACT MODIFICATION means a written order signed by the procurement officer, directing the contractor to make changes which the clause of the contract titled "Changes," if included herein, authorizes the Procurement Officer to order without the consent of the contractor. [11-35-310(9)]

CONTRACTOR means the Offeror receiving an award as a result of this solicitation.

COVER PAGE means the top page of the original solicitation on which the solicitation is identified by number.

Offerors are cautioned that Amendments may modify information provided on the Cover Page.

OFFER means the bid or proposal submitted in response to this solicitation. The terms Bid and Proposal are used interchangeably with the term Offer.

OFFEROR means the single legal entity submitting the offer. The term Bidder is used interchangeably with the term Offeror. See bidding provisions entitled Signing Your Offer and Bid/Proposal As Offer To Contract.

PAGE TWO means the second page of the original solicitation, which is labeled Page Two.

PROCUREMENT OFFICER means the person, or his successor, identified as such on either the Cover Page, an amendment, or an award notice.

YOU and YOUR means Offeror.

SOLICITATION means this document, including all its parts, attachments, and any Amendments.

STATE means the Using Governmental Unit(s) identified on the Cover Page.

SUBCONTRACTOR means any person you contract with to perform or provide any part of the work.

US or WE means the using governmental unit.

USING GOVERNMENTAL UNIT means the unit(s) of government identified as such on the Cover Page. If the Cover Page identifies the Using Governmental Unit as "Statewide Contract," either optional or mandatory, the phrase "Using Governmental Unit" means any South Carolina Public Procurement Unit [11-35-4610(5)] that has submitted a Purchase Order to you pursuant to the contract resulting from this solicitation. Reference the clauses titled "Purchase Orders" and "Statewide Contract." WORK means all labor, materials, equipment, services, or property of any type, provided or to be provided by the Contractor to fulfill the Contractor's obligations under the Contract. [02-2A003-4]

AMENDMENTS TO SOLICITATION (JAN 2004)

(a) The Solicitation may be amended at any time prior to opening. All actual and prospective Offerors should monitor the following web site for the issuance of Amendments: www.procurement.sc.gov (b) Offerors shall acknowledge receipt of any amendment to this solicitation (1) by signing and returning the amendment, (2) by identifying the amendment number and date in the space provided for this purpose on Page Two, (3) by letter, or (4) by submitting a bid that indicates in some way that the bidder received the amendment. (c) If this solicitation is amended, then all terms and conditions which are not modified remain unchanged. [02-2A005-1]

AUTHORIZED AGENT (FEB 2015)

All authority regarding this procurement is vested solely with the responsible Procurement Officer. Unless specifically delegated in writing, the Procurement Officer is the only government official authorized to bind the government with regard to this procurement or the resulting contract. [02-2A007-1]

AWARD NOTIFICATION (MAR 2024)

Notice regarding any award, cancellation of award, or extension of award will be posted at the location and on the date specified on the Cover Page or, if applicable, the most recent notice of extension of award. Should the contract resulting from this Solicitation have a total or potential value more than one hundred thousand dollars, such notice will be sent electronically to all Offerors responding to the Solicitation. Unless a written notice of intent to protest is timely filed pursuant to Section 11-35-4210(1)(b) or the award is otherwise suspended or canceled, the award will be effective on the calendar day (including weekends and holidays) immediately following the seventh business day after such notice is given. [02-2A010-3]

BID/PROPOSAL AS OFFER TO CONTRACT (JAN 2004)

By submitting Your Bid or Proposal, You are offering to enter into a contract with the Using Governmental Unit(s). Without further action by either party, a binding contract shall result upon final award. Any award issued will be issued to, and the contract will be formed with, the entity identified as the Offeror on the Cover Page. An Offer may be submitted by only one legal entity; "joint bids" are not allowed. [02-2A015-1]

BID ACCEPTANCE PERIOD (JAN 2004)

In order to withdraw Your Offer after the minimum period specified on the Cover Page, You must notify the Procurement Officer in writing. [02-2A020-1]

BID IN ENGLISH and DOLLARS (JAN 2004)

Offers submitted in response to this solicitation shall be in the English language and in US dollars, unless otherwise permitted by the Solicitation. [02-2A025-1]

CERTIFICATE OF INDEPENDENT PRICE DETERMINATION (MAR 2024)

GIVING FALSE, MISLEADING, OR INCOMPLETE INFORMATION ON THIS CERTIFICATION MAY RENDER YOU SUBJECT TO PROSECUTION UNDER SECTION 16-9-10 OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS AND OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS.

(a) By submitting an offer, the offeror certifies that-

(1) The prices in this offer have been arrived at independently, without, for the purpose of restricting competition, any consultation, communication, or agreement with any other offeror or competitor relating to—

(i) Those prices;

(ii) The intention to submit an offer; or

(iii) The methods or factors used to calculate the prices offered.

(2) The prices in this offer have not been and will not be knowingly disclosed by the offeror, directly or indirectly, to any other offeror or competitor before bid opening (in the case of a sealed bid solicitation) or contract award (in the case of a negotiated solicitation) unless otherwise required by law; and

(3) No attempt has been made or will be made by the offeror to induce any other concern to submit or not to submit an offer for the purpose of restricting competition.

(b) Each signature on the offer is considered to be a certification by the signatory that the signatory-

(1) Is the person in the offeror's organization responsible for determining the prices being offered in this bid or proposal, and that the signatory has not participated and will not participate in any action contrary to paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(3) of this certification; or (2)(i) Has been authorized, in writing, to act as agent for the offeror's principals in certifying that those principals have not participated, and will not participate in any action contrary to paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(3) of this certification [As used in this subdivision (b)(2)(i), the term "principals" means the person(s) in the offeror's organization responsible for determining the prices offered in this bid or proposal];

(ii) As an authorized agent, does certify that the principals referenced in subdivision (b)(2)(i) of this certification have not participated, and will not participate, in any action contrary to paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(3) of this certification; and

(iii) As an agent, has not personally participated, and will not participate, in any action contrary to paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(3) of this certification.

(c) If the offeror deletes or modifies paragraph (a)(2) of this certification, the offeror must furnish with its offer a signed statement setting forth in detail the circumstances of the disclosure. [02-2A032-1]

CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS (JAN 2004)

(a) (1) By submitting an Offer, Offeror certifies, to the best of its knowledge and belief, that-

(i) Offeror and/or any of its Principals-

(A) Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, or declared ineligible for the award of contracts by any state or federal agency;

(B) Have not, within a three-year period preceding this offer, been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for: commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, state, or local) contract or subcontract; violation of Federal or state antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, or receiving stolen property; and

(C) Are not presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with, commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (a)(1)(i)(B) of this provision.

(ii) Offeror has not, within a three-year period preceding this offer, had one or more contracts terminated for default by any public (Federal, state, or local) entity.

(2) "Principals," for the purposes of this certification, means officers; directors; owners; partners; and, persons having primary management or supervisory responsibilities within a business entity (e.g., general manager; plant manager; head of a subsidiary, division, or business segment, and similar positions).

(b) Offeror shall provide immediate written notice to the Procurement Officer if, at any time prior to contract award, Offeror learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.

(c) If Offeror is unable to certify the representations stated in paragraphs (a)(1), Offer must submit a written explanation regarding its inability to make the certification. The certification will be considered in connection with a review of the Offeror's responsibility. Failure of the Offeror to furnish additional information as requested by the Procurement Officer may render the Offeror nonresponsive.

(d) Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render, in good faith, the certification required by paragraph (a) of this provision. The knowledge and information of an Offeror is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

(e) The certification in paragraph (a) of this provision is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when making award. If it is later determined that the Offeror knowingly or in bad faith rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the State, the Procurement Officer may terminate the contract resulting from this solicitation for default.

[02-2A035-1]

CODE OF LAWS AVAILABLE (JAN 2006)

The South Carolina Code of Laws, including the Consolidated Procurement Code, is available at:

<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/statmast.php>

The South Carolina Regulations are available at:

<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/coderegs/statmast.php>

[02-2A040-2]

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST OR UNFAIR COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE (JUL 2023)

("OCI FAQ for Contractors" is available at www.procurement.sc.gov)

(a) You certify that, after reasonable inquiry, to the best of your knowledge and belief: (1) your offer identifies any services that relate to either this solicitation or the work and that have already been performed by you, a proposed subcontractor, or an affiliated business or consultant of either; and (2) there are no relevant facts or circumstances that may give rise to an actual or potential organizational conflict of interest, as defined in S.C. Code Ann. Reg. 19-445.2127, or that your offer identifies and explains any unfair competitive advantage you may have in competing for the proposed contract and any

actual or potential conflicts of interest that may arise from your participation in this competition or your receipt of an award.

(b) If you, a proposed subcontractor, or an affiliated business or consultant of either, have an unfair competitive advantage or an actual or potential conflict of interest, the State may withhold award. Before withholding award on these grounds, the State will notify you of the concerns and provide a reasonable opportunity for you to respond. The State may consider efforts to avoid or mitigate such concerns, including restrictions on future activities.

(c) The certification in paragraph (a) of this provision is a material representation of fact upon which the State will rely when considering your offer for award. [02-2A047-3]

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF OFFER (JAN 2004)

Any offer received after the Procurement Officer of the governmental body or his designee has declared that the time set for opening has arrived, shall be rejected unless the offer has been delivered to the designated purchasing office or the governmental body's mail room which services that purchasing office prior to the opening. [R.19-445.2070(G)] [02-2A050-1]

DRUG FREE WORK PLACE CERTIFICATION (JAN 2004)

By submitting an Offer, Contractor certifies that, if awarded a contract, Contractor will comply with all applicable provisions of The Drug-free Workplace Act, Title 44, Chapter 107 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended. [02-2A065-1]

DUTY TO INQUIRE (FEB 2015)

Offeror, by submitting an Offer, represents that it has read and understands the Solicitation and that its Offer is made in compliance with the Solicitation. Offerors are expected to examine the Solicitation thoroughly and should request an explanation of any ambiguities, discrepancies, errors, omissions, or conflicting statements in the Solicitation. Failure to do so will be at the Offeror's risk. All ambiguities, discrepancies, errors, omissions, or conflicting statements in the Solicitation shall be interpreted to require the better quality or greater quantity of work and/or materials, unless otherwise directed by amendment. Offeror assumes responsibility for any patent ambiguity in the Solicitation that Offeror does not bring to the State's attention. See clause entitled "Questions from Offerors." [02-2A070-2]

ETHICS CERTIFICATE (MAY 2008)

By submitting an offer, the offeror certifies that the offeror has and will comply with, and has not, and will not, induce a person to violate Title 8, Chapter 13 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended (ethics act). The following statutes require special attention: Section 8-13-700, regarding use of official position for financial gain; Section 8-13-705, regarding gifts to influence action of public official; Section 8-13-720, regarding offering money for advice or assistance of public official; Sections 8-13-755 and 8-13-760, regarding restrictions on employment by former public official; Section 8-13-775, prohibiting public official with economic interests from acting on contracts; Section 8-13-790, regarding recovery of kickbacks; Section 8-13-1150, regarding statements to be filed by consultants; and Section 8-13-1342, regarding restrictions on contributions by contractor to candidate who participated in awarding of contract. The state may rescind any contract and recover all amounts expended as a result of any action taken in violation of this provision. If contractor participates, directly or indirectly, in the evaluation or award of public contracts, including without limitation, change orders or task orders regarding a public contract, contractor shall, if required by law to file such a statement, provide the statement required by Section 8-13-1150 to the procurement officer at the same time the law requires the statement to be filed. [02-2A075-2]

OMIT TAXES FROM PRICE (JAN 2004)

Do not include any sales or use taxes in Your price that the State may be required to pay. [02-2A080-1]

OPEN TRADE REPRESENTATION (JUN 2015)

By submitting an Offer, Offeror represents that Offeror is not currently engaged in the boycott of a person or an entity based in or doing business with a jurisdiction with whom South Carolina can enjoy open trade, as defined in SC Code Section 11-35-5300. [02-2A083-1]

PROTESTS (MAR 2024)

If you are aggrieved in connection with the solicitation or award of the contract, you may be entitled to protest, but only as provided in Section 11-35-4210. To protest the solicitation or an amendment, your written protest must be received within fifteen Days of the date the applicable solicitation document is issued. To protest an award, (i) written notice of your intent to protest must be received within seven Business Days of the date the award notice is posted, and (ii) your actual written protest must be received within fifteen Days of the date the award notice is posted. Time periods are computed in accordance with Section 11-35-310(13) and the definitions for Day and Business Day. Both protests and notices of intent to protest must be received by the appropriate Chief Procurement Officer (CPO). See clause entitled "Protest-CPO." (b) Pursuant to Section 11-35-410, documents directly connected to a procurement activity may be available within five days after request. All document requests should be directed to DocReq@mmo.sc.gov. If a protest is pending, the protestant's lawyer may access otherwise unavailable information by applying to the CPO for the issuance of a protective order. Additional information is available at www.procurement.sc.gov/legal [02-2A085-3]

PROHIBITED COMMUNICATIONS AND DONATIONS (FEB 2015)

Violation of these restrictions may result in disqualification of your offer, suspension or debarment, and may constitute a violation of law.

(a) During the period between publication of the solicitation and final award, ***you must not communicate, directly or indirectly, with the Using Governmental Unit or its employees, agents or officials regarding any aspect of this procurement activity***, unless otherwise approved in writing by the Procurement Officer. All communications must be solely with the Procurement Officer. [R. 19-445.2010]

(b) You are advised to familiarize yourself with Regulation 19-445.2165, which restricts donations to a governmental entity with whom you have or seek to have a contract. ***You represent that your offer discloses any gifts made, directly or through an intermediary, by you or your named subcontractors to or for the benefit of the Using Governmental Unit during the period beginning eighteen months prior to the Opening Date.*** [R. 19-445.2165] [02-2A087-1]

PUBLIC OPENING (JAN 2004)

Offers will be publicly opened at the date/time and at the location identified on the Cover Page, or last Amendment, whichever is applicable. [02-2A090-1]

QUESTIONS FROM OFFERORS (MODIFIED)

(a) Any prospective offeror desiring an explanation or interpretation of the solicitation, drawings, specifications, etc., must request it in writing. Questions regarding the original solicitation or any amendment must be received by the Procurement Officer no later than five (5) days prior to opening unless an earlier date is stated on the Cover Page. Label any communication regarding your questions with the name of the procurement officer, and the solicitation's title and number. Oral explanations or instructions will not be binding. [See R. 19-445.2042(B)] Any information given a prospective offeror concerning a solicitation will be furnished promptly to all other prospective offerors as an Amendment to the solicitation, if that information is necessary for submitting offers or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to other prospective offerors. See clause entitled "Duty to Inquire." **We will not identify you in our answer to your question.** (b) The State seeks to permit maximum practicable competition. Offerors are urged to advise the Procurement Officer -- as soon as possible -- regarding any aspect of this procurement, including any aspect of the Solicitation that unnecessarily or inappropriately limits full and open competition. [See R. 19-445.2140] [02-2A095-2]

All questions must be submitted in writing and received by the Procurement Officer for this solicitation no later than **THE DATE AND TIME LISTED ON COVER PAGE 1.**

Email is the preferred method for submitting questions to the procurement officer. Title the "Subject Line" of your email "Questions 5400029491." Questions must be submitted in an easily copied format such as MS Word.

Please do not place your questions in tables.

Email: trey.shealy@des.sc.gov

REJECTION/CANCELLATION (JAN 2004)

The State may cancel this solicitation in whole or in part. The State may reject any or all proposals in whole or in part. [SC Code Section 11-35-1710 & R.19-445.2065] [02-2A100-1]

RESPONSIVENESS (MAR 2024)

Award will not be made on a nonresponsive offer. An offer is nonresponsive (i) if it does not constitute an unambiguous offer to enter into a contract with the State, or (ii) if it imposes conditions inconsistent with, or does not unambiguously agree to, the solicitation's material requirements. (b) Bid as Specified. Offers for supplies or services other than those specified will not be considered unless authorized by the Solicitation. [02-2A105-3]

SIGNING YOUR OFFER (JAN 2004)

Every Offer must be signed by an individual with actual authority to bind the Offeror. (a) If the Offeror is an individual, the Offer must be signed by that individual. If the Offeror is an individual doing business as a firm, the Offer must be submitted in the firm name, signed by the individual, and state that the individual is doing business as a firm. (b) If the Offeror is a partnership, the Offer must be submitted in the partnership name, followed by the words by its Partner, and signed by a general partner. (c) If the Offeror is a corporation, the Offer must be submitted in the corporate name, followed by the signature and title of the person authorized to sign. (d) An Offer may be submitted by a joint venturer involving any combination of individuals, partnerships, or corporations. If the Offeror is a joint venture, the Offer must be submitted in the name of the Joint Venture and signed by every participant in the joint venture in the manner prescribed in paragraphs (a) through (c) above for each type of participant. (e) If an Offer is signed by an agent, other than as stated in subparagraphs (a) through (d) above, the Offer must state that it has been signed by an Agent. Upon request, Offeror must provide proof of the agent's authorization to bind the principal. [02-2A115-1]

STATE OFFICE CLOSINGS (JAN 2004)

If an emergency or unanticipated event interrupts normal government processes so that offers cannot be received at the government office designated for receipt of bids by the exact time specified in the solicitation, the time specified for receipt of offers will be deemed to be extended to the same time of day specified in the solicitation on the first work day on which normal government processes resume. In lieu of an automatic extension, an Amendment may be issued to reschedule bid opening. If state offices are closed at the time a pre-bid or pre-proposal conference is scheduled, an Amendment will be issued to reschedule the conference. Useful information may be available at: <https://scemd.org/closings/> [02-2A120-3]

DISCLOSURE OF YOUR BID / PROPOSAL and SUBMITTING CONFIDENTIAL DATA (FEB 2021)

(a) According to Section 11-35-410, any person submitting a document in response or with regard to any solicitation or other request must "comply with instructions provided in the solicitation for marking information exempt from public disclosure. Information not marked as required by the applicable instructions may be disclosed to the public." **IF YOU IDENTIFY YOUR ENTIRE RESPONSE AS EXEMPT FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, OR IF YOU DO NOT SUBMIT A REDACTED COPY AS REQUIRED, THE STATE MAY, IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION, DETERMINE YOUR BID OR PROPOSAL NONRESPONSIVE AND INELIGIBLE FOR AWARD.** (b) By submitting a response to this solicitation or request, Offeror (1) agrees to the public disclosure of every page, or portion thereof, of every document regarding this solicitation or request that was submitted at any time prior to entering into a contract (including, but not limited to, documents contained in a response, documents submitted to clarify a response, and documents submitted during negotiations), unless the page, or portion thereof, was redacted and conspicuously marked "Trade Secret" or "Confidential" or "Protected", (2) agrees that any information not redacted and marked, as required by these bidding instructions, as a "Trade Secret" is not a trade secret as defined by the Trade Secrets Act, and (3) agrees that, notwithstanding any claims or markings otherwise, any prices, commissions, discounts, or other financial figures used to determine the award, as well as the final contract amount, are subject to public disclosure. (c) If your offer includes any information that you claim is exempt from public disclosure, you must submit one complete copy of your offer from which you have removed or concealed such information (the redacted copy). Except for the information removed or concealed, the redacted copy must be identical to your original offer. (d) Do not mark your entire response (bid, proposal, quote, etc.) as confidential, trade secret, or protected. If only portions of a page are subject to some protection, do not redact the entire page. The redacted copy must reflect the same pagination as the original and show the empty space from which information was redacted. The Procurement Officer must be able to view, search, copy and print the redacted copy without a password. If your response,

or any part thereof, is improperly marked as confidential or trade secret or protected, the State may, in its sole discretion, determine it nonresponsive. (e) On the redacted copy, you must identify the basis of your claim by marking each redaction as follows: You must separately mark with the word "CONFIDENTIAL" every page, or portion thereof, that you redacted and claim as exempt from public disclosure because it is either (1) a trade secret as defined in Section 30-4-40(a)(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, or (2) privileged and confidential, as that phrase is used in Section 11-35-410. You must separately mark with the words "TRADE SECRET" every page, or portion thereof, that you redacted and claim as exempt from public disclosure as a trade secret pursuant to Section 39-8-20 of the Trade Secrets Act. You must separately mark with the word "PROTECTED" every page, or portion thereof, that you redacted and claim as exempt from public disclosure pursuant to Section 11-35- 1810. All markings must be conspicuous; use color, bold, underlining, or some other method in order to conspicuously distinguish the mark from the other text. (f) In determining whether to release documents, the State will detrimentally rely on your redaction and marking of documents, as required by these bidding instructions, as being either "Confidential" or "Trade Secret" or "Protected". By submitting a response, you agree to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the State of South Carolina, its agencies, officers and employees, from every claim, demand, loss, expense, cost, damage or injury, including attorney's fees, arising out of or resulting from withholding information by the State of South Carolina or any of its agencies, that you have redacted or marked as "Confidential" or "Trade Secret" or "Protected". (All references to S.C. Code of Laws.) [02-2A125-3]

SUBMITTING A PAPER OFFER OR MODIFICATION (MAR 2015)

Unless specifically instructed otherwise in the solicitation, you should submit your offer or modification in accordance with the clause titled "ON-LINE BIDDING INSTRUCTIONS." Paper offers are discouraged. If you must submit a paper offer or modification the following instructions apply. (a) All prices and notations should be printed in ink or typewritten. Errors should be crossed out, corrections entered and initialed by the person signing the bid. Do not modify the solicitation document itself (including bid schedule). (b) (1) All copies of the offer or modification, and any other documents required to be submitted with the offer shall be enclosed in a sealed, opaque envelope or package. (2) Submit your offer or modification to the address on the Cover Page. (3) The envelope or package must show the time and date specified for opening, the solicitation number, and the name and address of the bidder. If the offer or modification is sent by mail or special delivery service (UPS, Federal Express, etc.), the outermost envelope or wrapper must be labeled "OFFER ENCLOSED" on the face thereof. (c) If you are responding to more than one solicitation, submit each offer in a separate envelope or package. (d) Submit the number of copies indicated on the Cover Page. (e) Facsimile or e-mail offers, modifications, or withdrawals, will not be considered unless authorized by the Solicitation. [02-2A130-2]

TAX CREDIT FOR SUBCONTRACTING WITH DISADVANTAGED SMALL BUSINESSES (APR 2024)

Pursuant to Section 12-6-3350, a taxpayer having a contract with this State who subcontracts with a socially and economically disadvantaged small business is eligible for an income tax credit equal to four percent of the payments to that subcontractor for work pursuant to the contract. The subcontractor must be certified as a socially and economically disadvantaged small business as defined in Section 11-35-5010 and regulations pursuant to it. The credit is limited to a maximum of fifty thousand dollars annually. A taxpayer is eligible to claim the credit for ten consecutive taxable years beginning with the taxable year in which the first payment is made to the subcontractor that qualifies for the credit. After the above ten consecutive taxable years, the taxpayer is no longer eligible for the credit. A taxpayer claiming the credit shall maintain evidence of work performed for the contract by the subcontractor. The credit may be claimed on Schedule TC-2, "Credit for State Contractors Subcontracting with Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Small Business." A copy of the subcontractor's certificate from the Division of Small and Minority Business Contracting and Certification is to be attached to the contractor's income tax return. Questions regarding the tax credit and how to file are to be referred to: SC Department of Revenue, <http://dor.sc.gov>. Questions regarding subcontractor certification are to be referred to: Division of Small and Minority Business Contracting and Certification, <http://smbcc.sc.gov>. [02-2A135-2]

VENDOR REGISTRATION MANDATORY (MAY 2024)

You must have a state vendor number to be eligible to submit an offer. To obtain a state vendor number, visit www.procurement.sc.gov and select Doing Business with Us. Then select New Vendor Registration. (To determine if your business is already registered, go to "Vendor Search"). Upon registration, you will be assigned a state vendor number. **Note that your vendor registration submission may take up to 30 days to process due to high numbers of registrants.** Vendors must keep their vendor information current. If you are already registered and know your User ID and Password, you can update your information by selecting Update Vendor Registration. If you need to update information but do not have your User ID/Password, you must complete a new vendor registration and On Step 9 – Messages to Administration indicate "Update vendor number" with your existing 10-digit vendor number. (Please note that vendor registration does not

substitute for any obligation to register with the S.C. Secretary of State or S.C. Department of Revenue. You can register with the agencies at South Carolina Business One Stop, <http://scbos.sc.gov>) [02-2A145-2]

WITHDRAWAL OR CORRECTION OF OFFER (JAN 2004)

Offers may be withdrawn by written notice received at any time before the exact time set for opening. If the Solicitation authorizes facsimile offers, offers may be withdrawn via facsimile received at any time before the exact time set for opening. A bid may be withdrawn in person by a bidder or its authorized representative if, before the exact time set for opening, the identity of the person requesting withdrawal is established and the person signs a receipt for the bid. The withdrawal and correction of Offers is governed by S.C. Code Section 11-35-1520 and Regulation 19-445.2085. [02-2A150-1]

II. INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFERORS -- B. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

ON-LINE BIDDING INSTRUCTIONS (MAR 2015)

(a) Mandatory Registration. You must register before you can submit an offer on line! See clause entitled "VENDOR REGISTRATION MANDATORY."

(b) Steps for On-Line Bidding

1 The link provided on the solicitation's Cover Page will take you to our web based on-line bidding system, where you will enter and/or upload your offer.

2 Follow the general user instructions posted at www.procurement.sc.gov under the heading "Submitting Offers."

3 Confirm your offer has a status of "submitted" by refreshing the "RFx and Auctions" screen.

Only offers with a status of "submitted" have been received by the State.

Offers with a status of "saved" have not been received.

4 Save or print a copy of your offer using the "Print Preview" button after your offer has been submitted.

[02-2B105-2]

PROTEST - CPO - MMO ADDRESS (MAR 2024)

Any protest must be addressed to the Chief Procurement Officer, Materials Management Office, and submitted in writing

(a) by email to protest-mmo@mmo.state.sc.us , or

(b) by post or delivery to 1333 Main Street, Suite 600, Columbia, SC 29201.

[02-2B122-2]

RESPONSIVENESS – CORRECTION OF NON-CONFORMITY (MAR 2024)

Offerors will not be given an opportunity to correct any material nonconformity. Any deficiency resulting from a minor informality may be cured or waived at the sole discretion of the Procurement Officer. [02-2B127-1]

UNIT PRICES REQUIRED (JAN 2006)

Unit price to be shown for each item. [02-2B170-1]

III. SCOPE OF WORK/SPECIFICATIONS

The South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) is responsible for conducting drinking water analyses on South Carolina's public drinking water systems for Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) using the analytical methods listed under the South Carolina State Primary Drinking Water Regulations and the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR).

3.1. Scope of Work

- 3.1.1. Services to include all necessary documentation, work, and equipment to perform drinking water sample analyses for South Carolina's public water systems for the PFAS as listed in the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR).
- 3.1.2. Analyses must be performed in accordance with Federal Regulations, 40 CFR, Parts 141 and 142.

3.2. Certification/Inspection/Evaluation

- 3.2.1. Bidders must be able to perform and report for PFAS analysis.
- 3.2.2. The contract laboratory will also be subject to inspection and evaluation by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the SCDES Office of Environmental Laboratory Certification and the Drinking Water Compliance Monitoring Section of the Bureau of Water, should it be necessary.
- 3.2.3. An on-site evaluation may be required of those laboratories that have not had an on-site visit performed by the South Carolina SCDES Office of Environmental Laboratory Certification or a certifying authority recognized by the SCDES program. Out-of-state vendors will incur all expenses of the regulatory staff performing the on-site inspection/evaluation.

3.3. Number of Samples

- 3.3.1. Bidders shall provide an estimated analysis of 1,600 PFAS samples.
- 3.3.2. There is no guarantee of the number of samples that will be submitted for analysis.

3.4. Performance Timeframe

- 3.4.1. Analysis must be completed by April 27, 2027

3.5. Analytical Data

- 3.5.1. Reporting - The analytical data is to be reported to SCDES Bureau of Water in written and electronic medium, as specified under Part 3.9. of this solicitation.
- 3.5.2. Confidentiality of Data - All data is the property of SCDES Bureau of Water and must not be released to anyone without written permission from SCDES. Any request for data must be addressed to the SCDES Freedom of Information Office.

3.6. Delivery of Bottles

- 3.6.1. Sample kits including coolers, ice packs, chain-of-custody forms, appropriate bottles, packing materials, and sampling instructions for each method are to be delivered to public water systems subject to PFAS monitoring (176 systems), and to each SCDES BRLS regional office for 237 systems in total. A detailed schedule will be provided to the contracted vendor after an award is made.
- 3.6.2. The locations for sample kits to be sent to are located in 46 of 48 counties within South Carolina, one county in Georgia, , a. The specific number of facilities by each county and state are:

County	Number of Shipping Locations
Clarke, GA	1
Abbeville	1
Aiken	17
Allendale	3
Anderson	2
Bamberg	3
Barnwell	3
Beaufort	4
Berkeley	1
Calhoun	1
Charleston	4
Cherokee	1
Chester	1
Chesterfield	2
Clarendon	1

Colleton	1
Darlington	3
Dillon	3
Edgefield	1
Fairfield	4
Florence	9
Georgetown	5
Greenville	4
Greenwood	2
Hampton	2
Horry	4
Jasper	1
Kershaw	4
Lancaster	1
Laurens	3
Lee	1
Lexington	8
Marion	1
Marlboro	5
McCormick	1
Newberry	3
Oconee	4
Orangeburg	8
Pickens	2
Richland	8
Saluda	1
Spartanburg	3
Sumter	5
Union	1
Williamsburg	5
York	4

- 3.6.3. The addresses of each public water system and each SCDES Regional BRLS Office for samples kits to be delivered to will be provided to the awarded Offeror after the contract is awarded.
- 3.6.4. The laboratory must consider both normal temperature conditions and extreme temperature conditions when delivering sampling kits to SCDES regional offices and public water systems. Based on seasons, kits should reflect normal sampling conditions (normal temperature conditions relative to the southern climate) or kits should reflect extreme sampling conditions (temperatures more than 100 degrees).
- 3.6.5. Delivery method (by courier, parcel post, or common carrier) is at the offeror's expense. Delivery to our Regional EA Offices and water systems shall be completed in a timely manner and prior to the week of the required sampling event .
- 3.6.6. Written instructions are to be provided concerning collection, preservation, and return shipping procedures.
- 3.6.7. SCDES does not designate a preferred shipping partner.

3.7. Chain of Custody

- 3.7.1. A "chain-of-custody" form is to be provided for each system.
- 3.7.2. These forms are to be maintained on file by the contract laboratory and are included within the final lab report submitted to SCDES Bureau of Water.
- 3.7.3. Return shipping or retrieval of samples within the proper holding time is a minimum requirement of this contract and is the responsibility of the contract laboratory.
- 3.7.4. Retrieval may be by courier, parcel post, or common carrier provided proper handling and preservation techniques are followed.

3.8. SCDES Assigned Identification Codes

- 3.8.1. Each SCDES Regional EA Office has assigned water systems which include water system names, water system identification codes (PWSID or PWS#), water system facility identification codes (WSFID) and sample point identification codes (SPID).
- 3.8.2. The identification codes, including sampling point identifications codes must appear on all chain-of-custody, sample bottles, analysis forms, report forms and invoices.

3.8.3. These codes will be provided to the laboratories once the contract has been awarded.

3.9. Reporting Results

- 3.9.1. The analytical results are to be reported to the SCDES Bureau of Water in electronic format within twenty-one (21) days of analysis. The final report must include the results and a copy of the chain-of-custody form and shall be reported via email to Megan.johnson@des.sc.gov. Analytical results must be reported through South Carolina's Compliance Monitoring Data Portal (CMDP). Information regarding CMDP found at <https://SCDES.gov/electronic-reporting-water-quality-compliance-monitoring-data-portal-cmdp>.
- 3.9.2. The laboratory must submit monthly updates to the Program Manager and Lead Environmental Health Manager for PFAS monitoring within the Drinking Water Compliance Monitoring Section. These updates should include documentation of bottle deliveries and contacts with SCDES Regional EA Offices, and any complications should they arise.
- 3.9.3. Individual analytes shall be reported via CMDP. Totals shall not be reported via CMDP (the Safe Drinking Water Information System [SDWIS] software calculates the total).
- 3.9.4. The sample point ID (SPID) and location description shall be reported in the Sample Comments section via CMDP. Example see Attachment B.

3.10. Laboratory Procedures

- 3.10.1. Proper laboratory procedures such as sample preservation, analysis of quality control samples, quality control procedures, and record keeping are included in the contract.
- 3.10.2. Copies of the procedures in use and daily analysis records with corresponding quality control (including detection limit studies) will be required, for a review of completeness.

3.11. Subcontracting

- 3.11.1. Any subcontracting laboratory would be subject to the same contract specifications, certification and inspection requirements as stated under Section III. Scope of Work/Specifications.

3.12. Lost or Damaged Samples

- 3.12.1. Samples lost or damaged while in transit or in the custody of the contract laboratory will be repeated at no additional cost to the SCDES Bureau of Water. The awarded lab is responsible for the entire cost of the resample, including analytical costs.
- 3.12.2. Invalidated samples are to be repeated and may be billed as additional samples if not due to laboratory error.

3.13. Confidentiality of Data

- 3.13.1. All data including sampling site location and analytical results are the property of SCDES Bureau of Water and are not to be released to anyone including the water system from which they were collected without written permission from SCDES. Any request for data must be addressed to SCDES Freedom of Information Office.

3.14. Invoicing

- 3.14.1. The actual data results must accompany all invoices (electronic copy) for those samples included in the invoice.
- 3.14.2. The invoice must include the lab assigned sample number (or work order number), the system identification code, water system name, the sample point identification code (including address description).
- 3.14.3. These codes have been assigned by SCDES and are unique for each drinking water system. These codes will be provided to the laboratories once the contract has been awarded.
- 3.14.4. The laboratory shall invoice SCDES on a monthly basis for work completed. Any other invoicing arrangements (frequency) shall be addressed with the Program Manager in writing.

SEE BIDDING SCHEDULE

See Bidding Schedule [03-3005-1]

DELIVERY/PERFORMANCE LOCATION -- SPECIFIED (JAN 2006)

After award, all deliveries shall be made and all services provided to the following address, unless otherwise specified:

South Carolina Department of Environmental Services
Environmental Affairs Administration
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201

[03-3030-1]

IV. INFORMATION FOR OFFERORS TO SUBMIT

INFORMATION FOR OFFERORS TO SUBMIT -- GENERAL (MAR 2015)

You shall submit a signed Cover Page and Page Two. If you submit your offer electronically, you must upload an image of a signed Cover Page and Page Two. Your offer should include all other information and documents requested in this part and in parts II.B. Special Instructions; III. Scope of Work; V. Qualifications; VIII. Bidding Schedule/Price Proposal; and any appropriate attachments addressed in Part IX. Attachments to Solicitations. You should submit a summary of all insurance policies you have or plan to acquire to comply with the insurance requirements stated herein, if any, including policy types; coverage types; limits, sub-limits, and deductibles for each policy and coverage type; the carrier's A.M. Best rating; and whether the policy is written on an occurrence or claims-made basis. [04-4010-2]

SUBMITTING REDACTED OFFERS (MAR 2015)

If your offer includes any information that you marked as “Confidential,” “Trade Secret,” or “Protected” in accordance with the clause entitled “Submitting Confidential Information,” you must also submit one complete copy of your offer from which you have removed or concealed such information (the redacted copy). The redacted copy should (i) reflect the same pagination as the original, (ii) show the empty space from which information was redacted, and (iii) be submitted on magnetic media. (See clause entitled “Electronic Copies - Required Media and Format.”) Except for the information removed or concealed, the redacted copy must be identical to your original offer, and the Procurement Officer must be able to view, search, copy and print the redacted copy without a password. [04-4030-2]

V. QUALIFICATIONS

QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFEROR (MAR 2015)

(1) To be eligible for award, you must have the capability in all respects to perform fully the contract requirements and the integrity and reliability which will assure good faith performance. We may also consider a documented commitment from a satisfactory source that will provide you with a capability. We may consider information from any source at any time prior to award. We may elect to consider (i) key personnel, any predecessor business, and any key personnel of any predecessor business, including any facts arising prior to the date a business was established, and/or (ii) any subcontractor you identify. (2) You must promptly furnish satisfactory evidence of responsibility upon request. Unreasonable failure to supply requested information is grounds for rejection. (3) **Corporate subsidiaries are cautioned that the financial capability of an affiliated or parent company will not be considered in determining financial capability;** however, we may elect to consider any security, e.g., letter of credit, performance bond, parent-company corporate guaranty, that you offer to provide. Instructions and forms to help assure acceptability are posted on procurement.sc.gov, link to "Standard Clauses & Provisions." [05-5005-2]

QUALIFICATIONS - SPECIAL STANDARDS OF RESPONSIBILITY (MODIFIED)

(a) This section establishes special standards of responsibility. UNLESS YOU POSSESS THE FOLLOWING MANDATORY MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS, DO NOT SUBMIT AN OFFER:

1. Each Offeror (contract laboratory) must be certified by the SCDES Office of Environmental Laboratory Certification to perform and report regulatory monitoring data under the Safe Drinking Water Act for both the regulated and unregulated contaminants listed in the State Primary Drinking Water Regulations. The certification must be in effect at the time of submission of the Offeror's bid for this IFB.
2. The award Offeror's Contract Laboratory must retain certification for the analysis of the PFAS as listed under the Safe Drinking Water Act for the duration of the entire contract period.

(b) Provide a detailed, narrative statement with adequate information to establish that you meet all the requirements stated in subparagraph (a) above. Include all appropriate documentation. If you intend for us to consider the qualifications of your key personnel, predecessor business(es), or subcontractor(s), explain the relationship between you and such person or entity. [R. 19-445.2125(F)]
[05-5010-2]

SUBCONTRACTOR – IDENTIFICATION (FEB 2015)

If you intend to subcontract, at any tier level, with another business for any portion of the work and that portion either (1) exceeds 10% of your cost, (2) involves access to any "government information," as defined in the clause entitled "Information Security - Definitions," if included, or (3) otherwise involves services critical to your performance of the work (err on the side of inclusion), your offer must identify that business and the work which they are to perform. Identify potential subcontractors by providing the business name, address, phone, taxpayer identification number, and point of contact. In determining your responsibility, the state may contact and evaluate your proposed subcontractors. [05-5030-2]

VI. AWARD CRITERIA

AWARD CRITERIA -- BIDS (JAN 2006)

Award will be made to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder(s). [06-6020-1]

AWARD TO ONE OFFEROR (JAN 2006)

Award will be made to one Offeror. [06-6040-1]

COMPETITION FROM PUBLIC ENTITIES (JAN 2006)

If a South Carolina governmental entity submits an offer, the Procurement Officer will, when determining the lowest offer, add to the price provided in any offers submitted by non-governmental entities a percentage equivalent to any applicable sales or use tax. S.C. Code Ann. Regs 117-304.1 (Supp. 2004). [06-6057-1]

UNIT PRICE GOVERNS (JAN 2006)

In determining award, unit prices will govern over extended prices unless otherwise stated. [06-6075-1]

VII. TERMS AND CONDITIONS -- A. GENERAL

ASSIGNMENT, NOVATION, AND CHANGE OF NAME, IDENTITY, OR STRUCTURE (FEB 2015)

(a) Contractor shall not assign this contract, or its rights, obligations, or any other interest arising from this contract, or delegate any of its performance obligations, without the express written consent of the responsible procurement officer. The foregoing restriction does not apply to a transfer that occurs by operation of law (e.g., bankruptcy; corporate reorganizations and consolidations, but not including partial asset sales). Notwithstanding the foregoing, contractor may assign monies receivable under the contract provided that the state shall have no obligation to make payment to an assignee until thirty days after contractor (not the assignee) has provided the responsible procurement officer with (i) proof of the assignment, (ii) the identity (by contract number) of the specific state contract to which the assignment applies, and (iii) the name of the assignee and the exact address or account information to which assigned payments should be made. (b) If contractor amends, modifies, or otherwise changes its name, its identity (including its trade name), or its corporate, partnership or other structure, or its FEIN, contractor shall provide the procurement officer prompt written notice of such change. (c) Any name change, transfer, assignment, or novation is subject to the conditions and approval required by Regulation 19-445.2180, which does not restrict transfers by operation of law. [07-7A004-2]

BANKRUPTCY - GENERAL (FEB 2015)

(a) Notice. In the event the Contractor enters into proceedings relating to bankruptcy, whether voluntary or involuntary, the Contractor agrees to furnish written notification of the bankruptcy to the Using Governmental Unit. This notification shall be furnished within two (2) days of the initiation of the proceedings relating to the bankruptcy filing. This notification shall include the date on which the bankruptcy petition was filed, the identity of the court in which the bankruptcy petition was filed, and a listing of all State contracts against which final payment has not been made. This obligation remains in effect until final payment under this Contract. (b) Termination. This contract is voidable and subject to immediate termination by the State upon the contractor's insolvency, including the filing of proceedings in bankruptcy. [07-7A005-2]

CHOICE-OF-LAW (JAN 2006)

The Agreement, any dispute, claim, or controversy relating to the Agreement, and all the rights and obligations of the parties shall, in all respects, be interpreted, construed, enforced and governed by and under the laws of the State of South Carolina, except its choice of law rules. As used in this paragraph, the term "Agreement" means any transaction or agreement arising out of, relating to, or contemplated by the solicitation. [07-7A010-1]

CONTRACT AWARDED PURSUANT TO CODE (MAR 2024)

Any contract resulting from this solicitation is formed pursuant to the South Carolina Consolidated Procurement Code and is deemed to incorporate all applicable provisions thereof and the ensuing regulations. See also clause titled "Code of Laws Available." [07-7A012-1]

CONTRACT DOCUMENTS & ORDER OF PRECEDENCE (MAY 2024)

(a) Any contract resulting from this solicitation shall consist of the following documents: (1) the solicitation, as amended, (2) your offer, as amended, (3) any statement reflecting the State's final acceptance (a/k/a "award"), and (4) purchase orders. These documents shall be read to be consistent and complementary. Any conflict among these documents shall be resolved by giving priority to these documents in the order listed above.

(b) The terms and conditions of documents (1) through (4) above shall apply notwithstanding any additional or different terms and conditions in any other document, including without limitation, (i) any instrument submitted by the State other than a purchase order, (ii) any invoice or other document submitted by Contractor, or (iii) any privacy policy, terms of use, or end user agreement. Except as otherwise allowed by the solicitation, the terms and conditions of all such documents and any purchase orders shall be void and of no effect.

(c) No contract, license, or other agreement containing contractual terms and conditions will be signed by any Using Governmental Unit. Any document signed or otherwise agreed to by persons other than the Procurement Officer shall be void and of no effect. [07-7A015-2]

DISCOUNT FOR PROMPT PAYMENT (JAN 2006)

(a) Discounts for prompt payment will not be considered in the evaluation of offers. However, any offered discount will form a part of the award, and will be taken if payment is made within the discount period indicated in the offer by the offeror. As an alternative to offering a discount for prompt payment in conjunction with the offer, offerors awarded contracts may include discounts for prompt payment on individual invoices.

(b) In connection with any discount offered for prompt payment, time shall be computed from the date of the invoice. If the Contractor has not placed a date on the invoice, the due date shall be calculated from the date the designated billing office receives a proper invoice, provided the state annotates such invoice with the date of receipt at the time of receipt. For the purpose of computing the discount earned, payment shall be considered to have been made on the date that appears on the payment check or, for an electronic funds transfer, the specified payment date. When the discount date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday when Federal Government offices are closed and Government business is not expected to be conducted, payment may be made on the following business day.

[07-7A020-1]

DISPUTES (MAY 2024)

(1) Choice-of-Forum. All disputes, claims, or controversies relating to the Agreement shall be resolved exclusively by the appropriate Chief Procurement Officer in accordance with Title 11, Chapter 35, Article 17 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, or in the absence of jurisdiction, only in the Court of Common Pleas for, or a federal court located in, Richland County, State of South Carolina. Contractor agrees that any act by the government regarding the Agreement is not a waiver of either the government's sovereign immunity or the government's immunity under the Eleventh Amendment of the United States Constitution. As used in this paragraph, the term "Agreement" means any transaction or agreement arising out of, relating to, or contemplated by the solicitation. The government does not consent to the jurisdiction of any judicial or administrative tribunals in any other state or to any forum of alternative dispute resolution. (2) Service of Process. Contractor consents that any papers, notices, or process necessary or proper for the initiation or continuation of any disputes, claims, or controversies relating to the Agreement; for any court action in connection therewith; or for the entry of judgment on any award made, may be served on Contractor by certified mail (return receipt requested) addressed to Contractor at the address provided as the Notice Address on Page Two or by personal service or by any other manner that is permitted by law, in or outside South Carolina. Notice by certified mail is deemed duly given upon deposit in the United States mail. [07-7A025-2]

EFT INFORMATION (APR 2024):

The Contractor must furnish to the State Treasurer's Office information necessary for making a payment by electronic funds transfer (EFT). Additional information is available at the STO's website at <https://treasurer.sc.gov> (.). The Contractor is responsible for the currency, accuracy and completeness of the EFT information. Updating EFT information may not be used to accomplish an assignment of the right to payment, does not alter the terms and conditions of this contract, and is not a substitute for a properly executed contractual document. [07-7A027-2]

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY (JAN 2006)

Contractor is referred to and shall comply with all applicable provisions, if any, of Title 41, Part 60 of the Code of Federal Regulations, including but not limited to Sections 60-1.4, 60-4.2, 60-4.3, 60-250.5(a), and 60-741.5(a), which are hereby incorporated by reference. [07-7A030-1]

FALSE CLAIMS (JAN 2006)

According to the S.C. Code of Laws Section 16-13-240, "a person who by false pretense or representation obtains the signature of a person to a written instrument or obtains from another person any chattel, money, valuable security, or other property, real or personal, with intent to cheat and defraud a person of that property is guilty" of a crime. [07-7A035-1]

FIXED PRICING REQUIRED (JAN 2006)

Any pricing provided by contractor shall include all costs for performing the work associated with that price. Except as otherwise provided in this solicitation, contractor's price shall be fixed for the duration of this contract, including option

terms. This clause does not prohibit contractor from offering lower pricing after award. [07-7A040-1]

NO INDEMNITY OR DEFENSE (FEB 2015)

Any term or condition is void to the extent it requires the State to indemnify, defend, or pay attorney's fees to anyone for any reason. [07-7A045-2]

NOTICE (MAY 2024)

(A) After award, any notices shall be in writing and shall be deemed duly given (1) upon actual delivery, if delivery is by hand, (2) upon receipt by the transmitting party of automated confirmation or answer back from the recipient's device if delivery is by telex, telegram, facsimile, or electronic mail, or (3) ten days after deposit into the United States mail, if postage is prepaid, a return receipt is requested, and either registered or certified mail is used. (B) Notice to contractor shall be to the address identified as the Notice Address on Page Two. Notice to the state shall be to the Procurement Officer's address on the Cover Page. Either party may designate a different address for notice by giving notice in accordance with this paragraph. [07-7A050-2]

OPEN TRADE (JUN 2015)

During the contract term, including any renewals or extensions, Contractor will not engage in the boycott of a person or an entity based in or doing business with a jurisdiction with whom South Carolina can enjoy open trade, as defined in SC Code Section 11-35-5300. [07-7A053-1]

ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST (JUL 2023)

(a) The Contractor agrees to immediately advise the Procurement Officer if an actual or potential organizational conflict of interest is discovered after award, and to make a full written disclosure promptly thereafter to the Procurement Officer. This disclosure shall include a description of actions which the Contractor has taken or proposes to take, after consultation with the Procurement Officer, to avoid, mitigate, or neutralize the actual or potential conflict.

(b) The State may terminate this contract for convenience, in whole or in part, if it deems such termination necessary to avoid an organizational conflict of interest. Contractor's failure to include an appropriate termination for convenience clause in any subcontract shall not increase the obligation of the State beyond what it would have been if the subcontract had contained such a clause. (c) The disclosure required by paragraph (a) of this provision is a material obligation of the contract. If the Contractor knew or should have known of an organizational conflict of interest prior to award, or discovers an actual or potential conflict after award, and does not disclose, or misrepresents, relevant information to the Procurement Officer, the State may terminate the contract for default. [07-7A054-1]

PAYMENT and INTEREST (FEB 2021)

The State shall pay the Contractor, after the submission of proper invoices or vouchers, the prices stipulated in this contract for supplies delivered and accepted or services rendered and accepted, less any deductions provided in this contract. Unless otherwise specified herein, including the purchase order, payment shall not be made on partial deliveries accepted by the Government. (b) Unless otherwise provided herein, including the purchase order, payment will be made by electronic funds transfer (EFT). See clause titled " EFT Information." (c) Notwithstanding any other provision, payment shall be made in accordance with S.C. Code Section 11-35-45, or Chapter 6 of Title 29 (real property improvements) when applicable, which provides the Contractor's exclusive means of recovering any type of interest from the Owner. Contractor waives imposition of an interest penalty unless the invoice submitted specifies that the late penalty is applicable. Except as set forth in this paragraph, the State shall not be liable for the payment of interest on any debt or claim arising out of or related to this contract for any reason. (d) Amounts due to the State shall bear interest at the rate of interest established by the South Carolina Comptroller General pursuant to Section 11-35-45 (" an amount not to exceed fifteen percent each year "), as amended, unless otherwise required by Section 29-6-30. (e) Any other basis for interest, including but not limited to general (pre- and post-judgment) or specific interest statutes, including S.C. Code Ann. Section 34-31-20, are expressly waived by both parties. If a court, despite this agreement and waiver, requires that interest be paid on any debt by either party other than as provided by items (c) and (d) above, the parties further agree that the applicable interest rate for any given calendar year shall be the lowest prime rate as listed in the first edition of the Wall Street Journal published for each year, applied as simple interest without compounding. (f) The State shall have all of its common law, equitable and statutory rights of set-off. [07-7A055-4]

PUBLICITY (JAN 2006)

Contractor shall not publish any comments or quotes by State employees, or include the State in either news releases or a published list of customers, without the prior written approval of the Procurement Officer. [07-7A060-1]

PURCHASE ORDERS (JAN 2006)

Contractor shall not perform any work prior to the receipt of a purchase order from the using governmental unit. The using governmental unit shall order any supplies or services to be furnished under this contract by issuing a purchase order. Purchase orders may be used to elect any options available under this contract, e.g., quantity, item, delivery date, payment method, but are subject to all terms and conditions of this contract. Purchase orders may be electronic. No particular form is required. An order placed pursuant to the purchasing card provision qualifies as a purchase order. [07-7A065-1]

SURVIVAL OF OBLIGATIONS (JAN 2006)

The Parties' rights and obligations which, by their nature, would continue beyond the termination, cancellation, rejection, or expiration of this contract shall survive such termination, cancellation, rejection, or expiration, including, but not limited to, the rights and obligations created by the following clauses: Indemnification - Third Party Claims, Intellectual Property Indemnification, and any provisions regarding warranty or audit. [07-7A075-1]

TAXES (JAN 2006)

Any tax the contractor may be required to collect or pay upon the sale, use or delivery of the products shall be paid by the State, and such sums shall be due and payable to the contractor upon acceptance. Any personal property taxes levied after delivery shall be paid by the State. It shall be solely the State's obligation, after payment to contractor, to challenge the applicability of any tax by negotiation with, or action against, the taxing authority. Contractor agrees to refund any tax collected, which is subsequently determined not to be proper and for which a refund has been paid to contractor by the taxing authority. In the event that the contractor fails to pay, or delays in paying, to any taxing authorities, sums paid by the State to contractor, contractor shall be liable to the State for any loss (such as the assessment of additional interest) caused by virtue of this failure or delay. Taxes based on Contractor's net income or assets shall be the sole responsibility of the contractor. [07-7A080-1]

TERMINATION DUE TO UNAVAILABILITY OF FUNDS (JAN 2006)

Payment and performance obligations for succeeding fiscal periods shall be subject to the availability and appropriation of funds therefor. When funds are not appropriated or otherwise made available to support continuation of performance in a subsequent fiscal period, the contract shall be canceled. In the event of a cancellation pursuant to this paragraph, contractor will be reimbursed the resulting unamortized, reasonably incurred, nonrecurring costs. Contractor will not be reimbursed any costs amortized beyond the initial contract term. [07-7A085-1]

THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARY (JAN 2006)

This Contract is made solely and specifically among and for the benefit of the parties hereto, and their respective successors and assigns, and no other person will have any rights, interest, or claims hereunder or be entitled to any benefits under or on account of this Contract as a third party beneficiary or otherwise. [07-7A090-1]

WAIVER (JAN 2006)

The State does not waive any prior or subsequent breach of the terms of the Contract by making payments on the Contract, by failing to terminate the Contract for lack of performance, or by failing to strictly or promptly insist upon any term of the Contract. Only the Procurement Officer has actual authority to waive any of the State's rights under this Contract. Any waiver must be in writing. [07-7A095-1]

VII. TERMS AND CONDITIONS -- B. SPECIAL

CHANGES (JAN 2006)

(1) Contract Modification. By a written order, at any time, and without notice to any surety, the Procurement Officer may, subject to all appropriate adjustments, make changes within the general scope of this contract in any one or more of the following:

- (a) drawings, designs, or specifications, if the supplies to be furnished are to be specially manufactured for the [State] in accordance therewith;
- (b) method of shipment or packing;
- (c) place of delivery;
- (d) description of services to be performed;
- (e) time of performance (i.e., hours of the day, days of the week, etc.); or,
- (f) place of performance of the services. Subparagraphs (a) to (c) apply only if supplies are furnished under this contract. Subparagraphs (d) to (f) apply only if services are performed under this contract.

(2) Adjustments of Price or Time for Performance. If any such change increases or decreases the contractor's cost of, or the time required for, performance of any part of the work under this contract, whether or not changed by the order, an adjustment shall be made in the contract price, the delivery schedule, or both, and the contract modified in writing accordingly. Any adjustment in contract price made pursuant to this clause shall be determined in accordance with the Price Adjustment Clause of this contract. Failure of the parties to agree to an adjustment shall not excuse the contractor from proceeding with the contract as changed, provided that the State promptly and duly make such provisional adjustments in payment or time for performance as may be reasonable. By proceeding with the work, the contractor shall not be deemed to have prejudiced any claim for additional compensation, or an extension of time for completion.

(3) Time Period for Claim. Within 30 days after receipt of a written contract modification under Paragraph (1) of this clause, unless such period is extended by the Procurement Officer in writing, the contractor shall file notice of intent to assert a claim for an adjustment. Later notification shall not bar the contractor's claim unless the State is prejudiced by the delay in notification.

(4) Claim Barred After Final Payment. No claim by the contractor for an adjustment hereunder shall be allowed if notice is not given prior to final payment under this contract.

[07-7B025-1]

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS (JAN 2006)

During the term of the contract, contractor shall comply with all applicable provisions of laws, codes, ordinances, rules, regulations, and tariffs. [07-7B035-1]

CONTRACT LIMITATIONS (JAN 2006)

No sales may be made pursuant to this contract for any item or service that is not expressly listed. No sales may be made pursuant to this contract after expiration of this contract. Violation of this provision may result in termination of this contract and may subject contractor to suspension or debarment. [07-7B045-1]

CONTRACTOR'S LIABILITY INSURANCE - GENERAL (FEB 2015)

(a) Without limiting any of the obligations or liabilities of Contractor, Contractor shall procure from a company or companies lawfully authorized to do business in South Carolina and with a current A.M. Best rating of no less than A: VII, and maintain for the duration of the contract, insurance against claims for injuries to persons or damages to property which may arise from or in connection with the performance of the work and the results of that work by the contractor, his agents, representatives, employees or subcontractors.

(b) Coverage shall be at least as broad as:

(1) Commercial General Liability (CGL): Insurance Services Office (ISO) Form CG 00 01 12 07 covering CGL on an "occurrence" basis, including products-completed operations, personal and advertising injury, with limits no less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence. If a general aggregate limit applies, the general aggregate limit shall be twice the required occurrence limit. This contract shall be considered to be an "insured contract" as defined in the policy.

(2) Auto Liability: ISO Form Number CA 00 01 covering any auto (Code 1), or if Contractor has no owned autos, hired,

(Code 8) and non-owned autos (Code 9), with limits no less than \$1,000,000 per accident for bodily injury and property damage.

(3) Worker's Compensation: As required by the State of South Carolina, with Statutory Limits, and Employer's Liability Insurance with limit of no less than \$1,000,000 per accident for bodily injury or disease.

(c) Every applicable Using Governmental Unit, and the officers, officials, employees and volunteers of any of them, must be covered as additional insureds on the CGL policy with respect to liability arising out of work or operations performed by or on behalf of the Contractor including materials, parts or equipment furnished in connection with such work or operations. General liability coverage can be provided in the form of an endorsement to the Contractor's insurance at least as broad as ISO Form CG 20 10 11 85 or if not available, through the addition of both CG 20 10 and CG 20 37 if a later edition is used.

(d) For any claims related to this contract, the Contractor's insurance coverage shall be primary insurance as respects the State, every applicable Using Governmental Unit, and the officers, officials, employees and volunteers of any of them. Any insurance or self-insurance maintained by the State, every applicable Using Governmental Unit, or the officers, officials, employees and volunteers of any of them, shall be excess of the Contractor's insurance and shall not contribute with it.

(e) Prior to commencement of the work, the Contractor shall furnish the State with original certificates and amendatory endorsements or copies of the applicable policy language effecting coverage required by this section. All certificates are to be received and approved by the State before work commences. However, failure to obtain the required documents prior to the work beginning shall not waive the Contractor's obligation to provide them. The State reserves the right to require complete, certified copies of all required insurance policies, including endorsements required by this section, at any time.

(f) Should any of the above described policies be cancelled before the expiration date thereof, notice will be delivered in accordance with the policy provisions. In addition, the Contractor shall notify the State immediately upon receiving any information that any of the coverages required by this section are or will be changed, cancelled, or replaced.

(g) Contractor hereby grants to the State and every applicable Using Governmental Unit a waiver of any right to subrogation which any insurer of said Contractor may acquire against the State or applicable Using Governmental Unit by virtue of the payment of any loss under such insurance. Contractor agrees to obtain any endorsement that may be necessary to effect this waiver of subrogation, but this provision applies regardless of whether or not the State or Using Governmental Unit has received a waiver of subrogation endorsement from the insurer.

(h) Any deductibles or self-insured retentions must be declared to and approved by the State. The State may require the Contractor to purchase coverage with a lower deductible or retention or provide proof of ability to pay losses and related investigations, claim administration, and defense expenses within the retention.

(i) The State reserves the right to modify these requirements, including limits, based on the nature of the risk, prior experience, insurer, coverage, or other special circumstances.

[07-7B056-2]

CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL (JAN 2006)

The Contractor shall enforce strict discipline and good order among the Contractor's employees and other persons carrying out the Contract. The Contractor shall not permit employment of unfit persons or persons not skilled in tasks assigned to them. [07-7B060-1]

CONTRACTOR'S OBLIGATION -- GENERAL (JAN 2006)

The contractor shall provide and pay for all materials, tools, equipment, labor and professional and non-professional services, and shall perform all other acts and supply all other things necessary, to fully and properly perform and complete the work. The contractor must act as the prime contractor and assume full responsibility for any subcontractor's performance. The contractor will be considered the sole point of contact with regard to all situations, including payment of all charges and the meeting of all other requirements. [07-7B065-1]

DEFAULT (JAN 2006)

(a) (1) The State may, subject to paragraphs (c) and (d) of this clause, by written notice of default to the Contractor, terminate this contract in whole or in part if the Contractor fails to:

(i) Deliver the supplies or to perform the services within the time specified in this contract or any extension;

(ii) Make progress, so as to endanger performance of this contract (but see paragraph (a)(2) of this clause); or

(iii) Perform any of the other material provisions of this contract (but see paragraph (a)(2) of this clause).

(2) The State's right to terminate this contract under subdivisions (a)(1)(ii) and (1)(iii) of this clause, may be exercised if the Contractor does not cure such failure within 10 days (or more if authorized in writing by the Procurement Officer) after receipt of the notice from the Procurement Officer specifying the failure.

(b) If the State terminates this contract in whole or in part, it may acquire, under the terms and in the manner the Procurement Officer considers appropriate, supplies or services similar to those terminated, and the Contractor will be liable to the State for any excess costs for those supplies or services. However, the Contractor shall continue the work not terminated.

(c) Except for defaults of subcontractors at any tier, the Contractor shall not be liable for any excess costs if the failure to perform the contract arises from causes beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of the Contractor. Examples of such causes include (1) acts of God or of the public enemy, (2) acts of the State in either its sovereign or contractual capacity, (3) fires, (4) floods, (5) epidemics, (6) quarantine restrictions, (7) strikes, (8) freight embargoes, and (9) unusually severe weather. In each instance the failure to perform must be beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of the Contractor.

(d) If the failure to perform is caused by the default of a subcontractor at any tier, and if the cause of the default is beyond the control of both the Contractor and subcontractor, and without the fault or negligence of either, the Contractor shall not be liable for any excess costs for failure to perform, unless the subcontracted supplies or services were obtainable from other sources in sufficient time for the Contractor to meet the required delivery schedule.

(e) If this contract is terminated for default, the State may require the Contractor to transfer title and deliver to the State, as directed by the Procurement Officer, any (1) completed supplies, and (2) partially completed supplies and materials, parts, tools, dies, jigs, fixtures, plans, drawings, information, and contract rights (collectively referred to as "manufacturing materials" in this clause) that the Contractor has specifically produced or acquired for the terminated portion of this contract. Upon direction of the Procurement Officer, the Contractor shall also protect and preserve property in its possession in which the State has an interest.

(f) The State shall pay contract price for completed supplies delivered and accepted. The Contractor and Procurement Officer shall agree on the amount of payment for manufacturing materials delivered and accepted and for the protection and preservation of the property; if the parties fail to agree, the Procurement Officer shall set an amount subject to the Contractor's rights under the Disputes clause. Failure to agree will be a dispute under the Disputes clause. The State may withhold from these amounts any sum the Procurement Officer determines to be necessary to protect the State against loss because of outstanding liens or claims of former lien holders.

(g) If, after termination, it is determined that the Contractor was not in default, or that the default was excusable, the rights and obligations of the parties shall, if the contract contains a clause providing for termination for convenience of the State, be the same as if the termination had been issued for the convenience of the State. If, in the foregoing circumstances, this contract does not contain a clause providing for termination for convenience of the State, the contract shall be adjusted to compensate for such termination and the contract modified accordingly subject to the contractor's rights under the Disputes clause.

(h) The rights and remedies of the State in this clause are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or under this contract.

[07-7B075-1]

ESTIMATED QUANTITY -- UNKNOWN (JAN 2006)

The total quantity of purchases of any individual item on the contract is not known. The State does not guarantee that the State will buy any specified item or total amount. The omission of an estimated purchase quantity does not indicate a lack of need but rather a lack of historical information. [07-7B095-1]

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION (NOV 2008)

(An overview is available at www.procurement.sc.gov) By signing your offer, you certify that you will comply with the applicable requirements of Title 8, Chapter 14 of the South Carolina Code of Laws and agree to provide to the State upon request any documentation required to establish either: (a) that Title 8, Chapter 14 is inapplicable to you and your subcontractors or sub-subcontractors; or (b) that you and your subcontractors or sub-subcontractors are in compliance with

Title 8, Chapter 14. Pursuant to Section 8-14-60, "A person who knowingly makes or files any false, fictitious, or fraudulent document, statement, or report pursuant to this chapter is guilty of a felony, and, upon conviction, must be fined within the discretion of the court or imprisoned for not more than five years, or both." You agree to include in any contracts with your subcontractors language requiring your subcontractors to (a) comply with the applicable requirements of Title 8, Chapter 14, and (b) include in their contracts with the sub-subcontractors language requiring the sub-subcontractors to comply with the applicable requirements of Title 8, Chapter 14. [07-7B097-1]

INDEMNIFICATION-THIRD PARTY CLAIMS - GENERAL (NOV 2011)

Notwithstanding any limitation in this agreement, and to the fullest extent permitted by law, Contractor shall defend and hold harmless Indemnitees for and against any and all suits or claims of any character (and all related damages, settlement payments, attorneys' fees, costs, expenses, losses or liabilities) by a third party which are attributable to bodily injury, sickness, disease or death, or to injury to or destruction of tangible property arising out of or in connection with the goods or services acquired hereunder or caused in whole or in part by any act or omission of contractor, its subcontractors, their employees, workmen, servants, agents, or anyone directly or indirectly employed by them or anyone for whose acts any of them may be liable, regardless of whether or not caused in part by an Indemnatee, and whether or not such claims are made by a third party or an Indemnatee; however, if an Indemnatee's negligent act or omission is subsequently determined to be the sole proximate cause of a suit or claim, the Indemnatee shall not be entitled to indemnification hereunder. Contractor shall be given timely written notice of any suit or claim. Contractor's obligations hereunder are in no way limited by any protection afforded under workers' compensation acts, disability benefits acts, or other employee benefit acts. This clause shall not negate, abridge, or reduce any other rights or obligations of indemnity which would otherwise exist. The obligations of this paragraph shall survive termination, cancellation, or expiration of the parties' agreement. This provision shall be construed fairly and reasonably, neither strongly for nor against either party, and without regard to any clause regarding insurance. As used in this clause, "Indemnitees" means the State of South Carolina, its instrumentalities, agencies, departments, boards, political subdivisions and all their respective officers, agents and employees. [07-7B100-2]

INFORMATION SECURITY - DEFINITIONS (FEB 2015)

The following definitions are used in those clauses that cross reference this clause.

Compromise means disclosure of information to unauthorized persons, or a violation of the security policy of a system in which unauthorized intentional or unintentional disclosure, modification, destruction, or loss of an object may have occurred. Without limitation, the term "compromise" includes copying the data through covert network channels, or copying the data to unauthorized media, or disclosure of information in violation of any obligation imposed by this contract.

Data means a subset of information in an electronic format that allows it to be retrieved or transmitted.

Government information means information (i) provided to Contractor by, or generated by Contractor for, the using governmental unit, or (ii) acquired or accessed by Contractor as a result of performing the Work. Without limiting the foregoing, government information includes any information that Contractor acquires or accesses by software or web-based services, which includes, without limitation, any metadata or location data. Government information excludes unrestricted information.

Information means any communication or representation of knowledge such as facts, statistics, or opinions, in any medium or form, including textual, numerical, graphic, cartographic, narrative, or audiovisual.

Information system means a discrete set of information resources organized for the collection, processing, maintenance, use, sharing, dissemination, or disposition of information.

Public information means any specific information, regardless of form or format, that the State has actively and intentionally disclosed, disseminated, or made available to the public. Information is not public information solely because it may be subject to inspection pursuant to an unfulfilled public records request.

Software means any computer program accessed or used by the Using Governmental Unit or a third party pursuant to or as a result of this contract.

Third party means any person or entity other than the Using Governmental Unit, the Contractor, or any subcontractors at any tier.

Unrestricted information means (1) public information acquired other than through performance of the work, (2) information acquired by Contractor prior to contract formation, (3) information incidental to your contract administration, such as financial, administrative, cost or pricing, or management information, and (4) any ideas, concepts, know-how, methodologies, processes, technologies, techniques which Contractor develops or learns in connection with Contractor's performance of the work.

Web-based service means a service accessed over the Internet and acquired, accessed, or used by the using governmental unit or a third party pursuant to or as a result of this contract, including without limitation, cloud services, software-as-a-service, and hosted computer services.

[07-7B104-1]

INFORMATION USE AND DISCLOSURE (FEB 2015)

Except to the extent necessary for performance of the work, citizens should not be required to share information with those engaged by the government in order to access services provided by the government and such information should be used by those engaged by the government only to the extent necessary to perform the work acquired; accordingly, this clause addresses basic requirements for the Contractor's use and disclosure of government information, which expressly includes, but is not limited to, information provided by or obtained from the citizens. Anonymizing information does not resolve the foregoing concern. This clause should be broadly interpreted to effectuate this intent. Every obligation in this clause is material. Absent express reference to this clause, this clause supersedes any other clause to the extent of any inconsistency unless and to the extent the other clause provides greater protection for government information.

(a) Definitions. The terms used in this clause shall have the same meaning as the terms defined in the clause titled Information Security – Definitions.

(b) Legal mandates. Contractor shall be permitted to use, disclose, or retain government information to the limited extent necessary to comply with any requirement imposed on Contractor by law. If it is necessary for Contractor to use, disclose, or retain government information in order to comply with a law, Contractor shall provide using governmental unit with written notice, including a description of the circumstances and applicable law, in advance of such use, disclosure or retention except to the extent expressly prohibited by law.

(c) Flow down. Any reference in this clause to Contractor also includes any subcontractor at any tier. Contractor is responsible for, and shall impose by agreement the requirements of this clause on, any other person or entity that contractor authorizes to take action related to government information.

(d) Collecting Information. Contractor must gather and maintain government information only to the minimum extent necessary to accomplish the work.

(e) Rights, Disclosure and Use. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this solicitation, Contractor agrees NOT to either (1) use or disclose government information, or (2) retain government information after termination or expiration of this contract. Contractor acquires no rights in any government information except the limited rights to use, disclose and retain the government information in accordance with the terms of this solicitation. To the extent reasonably necessary to perform the work, Contractor may: (i) use (including access, process, transmit, and store) and maintain the government information itself; and (ii) disclose government information to persons having a need-to-know (e.g., subcontractors). Before disclosing government information to a subcontractor or third party, Contractor shall give the using governmental unit detailed written notice of both the reason for disclosure and the identity and location of the recipient. The notice shall be provided no later than fifteen (15) business days in advance of the disclosure.

(f) Return. Notwithstanding the using governmental unit's failure to perform or the pendency of a dispute, Contractor agrees to promptly deliver to the using governmental unit (or destroy, at the using governmental unit's option) all government information in its possession as and upon written request of using governmental unit (provided that, if the contract has not expired or been terminated, Contractor shall be excused from the performance of any work reasonably dependent on Contractor's further access to such government information).

(g) Privacy Policy & Applicable Laws. Without limiting any other legal or contractual obligations imposed by this contract or the law, Contractor shall (a) comply with its own privacy policies and written privacy statements relevant to the work, and (b) comply with (1) all laws applicable to Contractor regarding government information, and (2) all laws and standards identified in the clause, if included, entitled Information Use and Disclosure – Standards.

(h) Actions Following Disclosure. Immediately upon discovery of a compromise or improper use of government information, Contractor shall take such action as may be necessary to preserve forensic evidence and eliminate the cause of the compromise or improper use. As soon as practicable, but no later than twenty-four hours after discovery, Contractor shall notify using governmental unit of the compromise or improper use, including a description of the circumstances of the use or compromise. As soon as practicable after discovery, Contractor shall undertake a thorough forensic investigation of any compromise or improper use and provide the using governmental unit all information necessary to enable the using governmental unit to fully understand the nature and extent of the compromise or improper use. With regard to any compromise or improper use of government information, Contractor shall: (1) provide any notification to third parties legally required to be provided such notice by Contractor, and if not (e.g., if legally required of the using governmental unit), Contractor shall reimburse using governmental unit for the cost of providing such notifications; (2) pay all costs and expenses for at least two years of identity theft monitoring services (including without limitation, credit monitoring) and identity theft restoration services for any such affected individuals receiving notice where such services are appropriate given the circumstances of the incident and the nature of the information compromised; (3) undertake any other measures that are customary and reasonable for an entity to take when experiencing a similar disclosure, (4) pay any related fines or penalties imposed on the using governmental unit, and (5) reimburse the Using Governmental Unit all costs reasonably incurred for communications and public relations services involved in responding to the compromise or improper use. Notwithstanding any other provision, contractor's obligations pursuant to this item (h) are without limitation.

(i) Survival & Remedy. All the obligations imposed by this paragraph are material. The obligations of this section shall survive termination or expiration of the contract. Without limiting any rights the using governmental unit may have, and notwithstanding any other term of this contract, Contractor agrees that using governmental unit may have no adequate

remedy at law for a breach of Contractor's obligations under this clause and therefore the using governmental unit shall be entitled to pursue equitable remedies in the event of a breach of this clause. [07-7B108-1]

INFORMATION USE AND DISCLOSURE – STANDARDS (FEB 2015)

To the extent applicable:

- (a) Breach of security of state agency data; notification; rights and remedies of injured parties; penalties; notification of Consumer Protection Division, S.C. Code Ann. Section 1-11-490.
- (b) South Carolina Financial Identity Fraud and Identity Theft Protection Act (FIFITPA), 2008 Act 190, as amended. Solely for purposes of Section 39-1-90 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, Contractor is deemed to be the owner of government information, as defined herein, and Contractor agrees that the Using Governmental Unit is not a licensee.
- (c) The South Carolina Family Privacy Protection Act of 2002, S.C. Code Ann. Sections 30-2-10, et seq.
- (d) Personal Identifying Information Privacy Protection, S.C. Code Ann. Sections 30-2-310 et seq.
- (e) Data Breach Notification, 2014 Act No. 286, Section 117.117, as revised in any future annual appropriations act. [07-7B110-1]

LICENSES AND PERMITS (JAN 2006)

During the term of the contract, the Contractor shall be responsible for obtaining, and maintaining in good standing, all licenses (including professional licenses, if any), permits, inspections and related fees for each or any such licenses, permits and /or inspections required by the State, county, city or other government entity or unit to accomplish the work specified in this solicitation and the contract. [07-7B115-1]

RELATIONSHIP OF THE PARTIES (JAN 2006)

Neither party is an employee, agent, partner, or joint venturer of the other. Neither party has the right or ability to bind the other to any agreement with a third party or to incur any obligation or liability on behalf of the other party. [07-7B205-1]

TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE -- INDEFINITE DELIVERY / INDEFINITE QUANTITY CONTRACTS (JAN 2006)

Unless the termination so provides, a termination for convenience shall not operate to terminate any purchase orders issued prior to the effective date of termination. [07-7B255-1]

TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE (JAN 2006)

- (1) Termination. The Procurement Officer may terminate this contract in whole or in part, for the convenience of the State. The Procurement Officer shall give written notice of the termination to the contractor specifying the part of the contract terminated and when termination becomes effective.
- (2) Contractor's Obligations. The contractor shall incur no further obligations in connection with the terminated work and on the date set in the notice of termination the contractor will stop work to the extent specified. The contractor shall also terminate outstanding orders and subcontracts as they relate to the terminated work. The contractor shall settle the liabilities and claims arising out of the termination of subcontracts and orders connected with the terminated work. The Procurement Officer may direct the contractor to assign the contractor's right, title, and interest under terminated orders or subcontracts to the State. The contractor must still complete the work not terminated by the notice of termination and may incur obligations as are necessary to do so.
- (3) Right to Supplies. The Procurement Officer may require the contractor to transfer title and deliver to the State in the manner and to the extent directed by the Procurement Officer: (a) any completed supplies; and (b) such partially completed supplies and materials, parts, tools, dies, jigs, fixtures, plans, drawings, information, and contract rights (hereinafter called "manufacturing material") as the contractor has specifically produced or specially acquired for the performance of the terminated part of this contract. The contractor shall, upon direction of the Procurement Officer, protect and preserve property in the possession of the contractor in which the State has an interest. If the Procurement Officer does not exercise this right, the contractor shall use best efforts to sell such supplies and manufacturing materials in accordance with the standards of Uniform Commercial Code Section 2-706. Utilization of this Section in no way implies that the State has breached the contract by exercise of the Termination for Convenience Clause.
- (4) Compensation. (a) The contractor shall submit a termination claim specifying the amounts due because of the termination for convenience together with cost or pricing data required by Section 11-35-1830 bearing on such claim. If the contractor fails to file a termination claim within one year from the effective date of termination, the Procurement Officer

may pay the contractor, if at all, an amount set in accordance with Subparagraph (c) of this Paragraph.

(b) The Procurement Officer and the contractor may agree to a settlement and that the settlement does not exceed the total contract price plus settlement costs reduced by payments previously made by the State, the proceeds of any sales of supplies and manufacturing materials under Paragraph (3) of this clause, and the contract price of the work not terminated;

(c) Absent complete agreement under Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, the Procurement Officer shall pay the contractor the following amounts, provided payments agreed to under Subparagraph (b) shall not duplicate payments under this Subparagraph:

(i) contract prices for supplies or services accepted under the contract;

(ii) costs reasonably incurred in performing the terminated portion of the work less amounts paid or to be paid for accepted supplies or services;

(iii) reasonable costs of settling and paying claims arising out of the termination of subcontracts or orders pursuant to Paragraph (2) of this clause. These costs must not include costs paid in accordance with Subparagraph (c)(ii) of this paragraph;

(iv) any other reasonable costs that have resulted from the termination. The total sum to be paid the contractor under this Subparagraph shall not exceed the total contract price plus the reasonable settlement costs of the contractor reduced by the amount of payments otherwise made, the proceeds of any sales of supplies and manufacturing materials under Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, and the contract price of work not terminated.

(d) Contractor must demonstrate any costs claimed, agreed to, or established under Subparagraphs (b) and (c) of this Paragraph using its standard record keeping system, provided such system is consistent with any applicable Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

(5) Contractor's failure to include an appropriate termination for convenience clause in any subcontract shall not (i) affect the State's right to require the termination of a subcontract, or (ii) increase the obligation of the State beyond what it would have been if the subcontract had contained an appropriate clause.

[07-7B265-1]

VIII. BIDDING SCHEDULE / PRICE-BUSINESS PROPOSAL

BIDDING SCHEDULE (NOV 2007)

Line Number	Quantity	Unit of Measure	Unit Price	Extended Price
0001	1.000	each		
Product Catg.: 96148 – Laboratory and Field Testing (Not Otherwise Class)				
Item Description: PFAS Sampling				
Internal Item Number: 1				
Question	Mandatory / Optional	Multiple Responses Accepted?	Response	
The bidder has read and understands all Amendments.	Mandatory	No	☐ Yes ☐ No	
1. The Submitter has read and understands the terms and conditions of this solicitation.	Mandatory	No	☐ Yes. I have read and understand the terms and conditions.	
2. The offer is in accordance with the terms and conditions of this solicitation.	Mandatory	No	☐ Yes, I am in accordance with the terms and conditions.	

IX. ATTACHMENTS TO SOLICITATION

ATTACHMENTS LIST

The following documents are attached to this solicitation:

1. Important Tax Notice
2. Offeror's Checklist

IMPORTANT TAX NOTICE - NONRESIDENTS ONLY

Withholding Requirements for Payments to Nonresidents: Section 12-8-550 of the South Carolina Code of Laws requires persons hiring or contracting with a nonresident conducting a business or performing personal services of a temporary nature within South Carolina to withhold 2% of each payment made to the nonresident. The withholding requirement does not apply to (1) payments on purchase orders for tangible personal property when the payments are not accompanied by services to be performed in South Carolina, (2) nonresidents who are not conducting business in South Carolina, (3) nonresidents for contracts that do not exceed \$10,000 in a calendar year, or (4) payments to a nonresident who (a) registers with either the S.C. Department of Revenue or the S.C. Secretary of State and (b) submits a Nonresident Taxpayer Registration Affidavit - Income Tax Withholding, Form I-312 to the person letting the contract.

The withholding requirement applies to every governmental entity that uses a contract ("Using Entity"). Nonresidents should submit a separate copy of the Nonresident Taxpayer Registration Affidavit - Income Tax Withholding, Form I-312 to every Using Entity that makes payment to the nonresident pursuant to this solicitation. Once submitted, an affidavit is valid for all contracts between the nonresident and the Using Entity, unless the Using Entity receives notice from the Department of Revenue that the exemption from withholding has been revoked.

Section 12-8-540 requires persons making payment to a nonresident taxpayer of rentals or royalties at a rate of \$1,200.00 or more a year for the use of or for the privilege of using property in South Carolina to withhold 7% of the total of each payment made to a nonresident taxpayer who is not a corporation and 5% if the payment is made to a corporation. Contact the Department of Revenue for any applicable exceptions.

For information about other withholding requirements (e.g., employee withholding), contact the South Carolina Department of Revenue at 1-844-898-8542 or visit the Department's website at: **dor.sc.gov**

This notice is for informational purposes only. This agency does not administer and has no authority over tax issues. All registration and withholding tax questions should be directed to the South Carolina Department of Revenue at 1-844-898-8542. Additional contact information can be found by visiting the Department's website at dor.sc.gov

PLEASE SEE THE "NONRESIDENT TAXPAYER REGISTRATION AFFIDAVIT INCOME TAX WITHHOLDING" FORM (FORM NUMBER I-312) LOCATED AT: **dor.sc.gov**

[09-9005-5]

OFFEROR'S CHECKLIST (JUN 2007)

OFFEROR'S CHECKLIST -- AVOID COMMON BID/PROPOSAL MISTAKES

Review this checklist prior to submitting your bid/proposal.

If you fail to follow this checklist, you risk having your bid/proposal rejected.

- Do not include any of your standard contract forms!
 - Unless expressly required, do not include any additional boilerplate contract clauses.
 - Reread your entire bid/proposal to make sure your bid/proposal does not take exception to any of the state's mandatory requirements.
 - Make sure you have properly marked all protected, confidential, or trade secret information in accordance with the instructions entitled: SUBMITTING CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. **DO NOT mark your entire bid/proposal as confidential, trade secret, or protected! Do not include a legend on the cover stating that your entire response is not to be released!**
 - Have you properly acknowledged all amendments? Instructions regarding how to acknowledge an amendment should appear in all amendments issued.
 - Make sure your bid/proposal includes a copy of the solicitation cover page. Make sure the cover page is signed by a person that is authorized to contractually bind your business.
 - Make sure your Bid/proposal includes the number of copies requested.
 - Check to ensure your Bid/proposal includes everything requested!
 - If you have concerns about the solicitation, do not raise those concerns in your response! **After opening, it is too late! If this solicitation includes a pre-bid/proposal conference or a question & answer period, raise your questions as a part of that process!** Please see instructions under the heading "submission of questions" and any provisions regarding pre-bid/proposal conferences.
- [09-900-1]

ATTACHMENT C

	State of South Carolina Invitation For Bid Amendment 1	Solicitation: 5400029491 Date Issued: 04/13/2026 Procurement Officer: TREY SHEALY E-Mail Address: trey.shealy@des.sc.gov Mailing Address: SC Dept. of Environmental Services Attn: Procurement 2600 Bull Street Columbia SC 29201-2104
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DESCRIPTION: **PFAS in Public Drinking Water**

USING GOVERNMENTAL UNIT: **SC Department of Environmental Services**

SUBMIT YOUR OFFER ON-LINE AT THE FOLLOWING URL: http://www.procurement.sc.gov

SUBMIT OFFER BY (Opening Date/Time): ~~04/15/2026~~ **04/29/2026 2:30 PM ET** (See "Deadline For Submission Of Offer" provision)

QUESTIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY: **SUBMISSION DEADLINE HAS PASSED** (See "Questions From Offerors" provision)

NUMBER OF COPIES TO BE SUBMITTED: **One (1) on-line submission and One (1) Redacted Copy Submitted On-line**

Initial here if NO redacted copy is necessary _____

CONFERENCE TYPE: Not Applicable DATE & TIME: (As appropriate, see "Conferences - Pre-Bid/Proposal" & "Site Visit" provisions)	LOCATION: Not Applicable
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AWARD & AMENDMENTS	Award will be posted on 04/22/2026 05/06/2026. The award, this solicitation, any amendments, and any related notices will be posted at the following web address: http://www.procurement.sc.gov
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You must submit a signed copy of this form with Your Offer. By signing, You agree to be bound by the terms of the Solicitation. You agree to hold Your Offer open for a minimum of thirty (30) calendar days after the Opening Date. (See "Signing Your Offer" provision.)

NAME OF OFFEROR (full legal name of business submitting the offer)	Any award issued will be issued to, and the contract will be formed with, the entity identified as the Offeror. The entity named as the offeror must be a single and distinct legal entity. Do not use the name of a branch office or a division of a larger entity if the branch or division is not a separate legal entity, i.e., a separate corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, etc.
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE (Person must be authorized to submit binding offer to contract on behalf of Offeror.)	DATE SIGNED
TITLE (business title of person signing above)	STATE VENDOR NO. (Register to Obtain S.C. Vendor No. at www.procurement.sc.gov)
PRINTED NAME (printed name of person signing above)	STATE OF INCORPORATION (If you are a corporation, identify the state of incorporation.)

OFFEROR'S TYPE OF ENTITY: (Check one) (See "Signing Your Offer" provision.) ☐ Sole Proprietorship ☐ Partnership ☐ Other _____ ☐ Corporate entity (not tax-exempt) ☐ Corporation (tax-exempt) ☐ Government entity (federal, state, or local)
--

PAGE TWO

(Return Page Two with Your Offer)

HOME OFFICE ADDRESS (Address for offeror's home office / principal place of business)	NOTICE ADDRESS (Address to which all procurement and contract related notices should be sent.) (See "Notice" clause)
	_____ Area Code - Number - Extension Facsimile _____ E-mail Address
PAYMENT ADDRESS (Address to which payments will be sent.) (See "Payment" clause)	ORDER ADDRESS (Address to which purchase orders will be sent) (See "Purchase Orders and "Contract Documents" clauses)
_____ Payment Address same as Home Office Address _____ Payment Address same as Notice Address (check only one)	_____ Order Address same as Home Office Address _____ Order Address same as Notice Address (check only one)

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF AMENDMENTS
 Offerors acknowledges receipt of amendments by indicating amendment number and its date of issue. (See "Amendments to Solicitation" Provision)

Amendment No.	Amendment Issue Date	Amendment No.	Amendment Issue Date	Amendment No.	Amendment Issue Date	Amendment No.	Amendment Issue Date

ISCOUNT FOR PROMPT PAYMENT (See "Discount for Prompt Payment" clause)	10 Calendar Days (%)	20 Calendar Days (%)	30 Calendar Days (%)	_____ Calendar Days (%)
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PREFERENCES - A NOTICE TO VENDORS (SEP. 2009): On June 16, 2009, the South Carolina General Assembly rewrote the law governing preferences available to in-state vendors, vendors using in-state subcontractors, and vendors selling in-state or US end products. This law appears in Section 11-35-1524 of the South Carolina Code of Laws. A summary of the new preferences is available at www.procurement.sc.gov/preferences . ***ALL THE PREFERENCES MUST BE CLAIMED AND ARE APPLIED BY LINE ITEM, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER AWARD IS MADE BY ITEM OR LOT. VENDORS ARE CAUTIONED TO CAREFULLY REVIEW THE STATUTE BEFORE CLAIMING ANY PREFERENCES. THE REQUIREMENTS TO QUALIFY HAVE CHANGED. IF YOU REQUEST A PREFERENCE, YOU ARE CERTIFYING THAT YOUR OFFER QUALIFIES FOR THE PREFERENCE YOU'VE CLAIMED. IMPROPERLY REQUESTING A PREFERENCE CAN HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES. [11-35-1524(E)(4)&(6)] PREFERENCES DO NOT APPLY***

PREFERENCES - ADDRESS AND PHONE OF IN-STATE OFFICE: Please provide the address and phone number for your in-state office in the space provided below. An in-state office is necessary to claim either the Resident Vendor Preference (11-35-1524(C)(1)(i)&(ii)) or the Resident Contractor Preference (11-35-1524(C)(1)(iii)). Accordingly, you must provide this information to qualify for the preference. An in-state office is not required, but can be beneficial, if you are claiming the Resident Subcontractor Preference (11-35-1524(D)). ***PREFERENCES DO NOT APPLY***

_____ In-State Office Address same as Home Office Address _____ In-State Office Address same as Notice Address (**check only one**)

Amendment Number 1
IFB 5400029491
PFAS in Public Drinking Water

AMENDMENTS TO SOLICITATION (JAN 2004)

The Solicitation may be amended at any time prior to opening. All actual and prospective Offerors should monitor the following web site for the issuance of Amendments: www.procurement.sc.gov (b) Offerors shall acknowledge receipt of any amendment to this solicitation (1) by signing and returning the amendment, (2) by identifying the amendment number and date in the space provided for this purpose on Page Two, (3) by letter, or (4) by submitting a bid that indicates in some way that the bidder received the amendment. (c) If this solicitation is amended, then all terms and conditions which are not modified remain unchanged.

QUESTIONS FROM OFFERORS - AMENDMENT (JUN 2017)

THE SOLICITATION IS AMENDED AS PROVIDED HEREIN. INFORMATION OR CHANGES RESULTING FROM QUESTIONS WILL BE SHOWN IN A QUESTION-AND-ANSWER FORMAT. ALL QUESTIONS RECEIVED HAVE BEEN REPRINTED BELOW. THE "STATE'S RESPONSE" SHOULD BE READ WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE QUESTIONS. THE QUESTIONS ARE INCLUDED SOLELY TO PROVIDE A CROSS-REFERENCE TO THE POTENTIAL OFFEROR THAT SUBMITTED THE QUESTION. QUESTIONS DO NOT FORM A PART OF THE CONTRACT; THE "STATE'S RESPONSE" DOES. ANY RESTATEMENT OF PART OR ALL OF AN EXISTING PROVISION OF THE SOLICITATION IN AN ANSWER DOES NOT MODIFY THE ORIGINAL PROVISION EXCEPT AS FOLLOWS: UNDERLINED TEXT IS ADDED TO THE ORIGINAL PROVISION. STRICKEN TEXT IS DELETED. [02-2A097-1]

Opening date will CHANGE from: 04/15/2026 to 04/29/2026

Award date will CHANGE from: 04/22/2026 to 05/06/2026

Questions from Vendors

1. QUESTION:

The bid file contains no specifics about Field Reagent Blanks (FRBs). Can SCDES explain how these are to be required and handled please?

State's Response: FIELD REAGENT BLANK (Required) A Field Reagent Blank (FRB) is analyzed to assess the potential for PFAS cross contamination being introduced during the sampling process. The FRB consists of a sample bottle filled by the laboratory with PFAS-free water and shipped to the site with the other sample bottles. For each FRB, a second sample bottle containing only the preservative must also be included. At the sample site, the sampler will open the FRB and pour the preserved reagent water into the empty sample bottle. An FRB must be handled along with each sample set. The sample set includes samples collected from the same sample site and at the same time. The FRB is collected and placed in the ice chest used to store and transport samples.

At the sampling site, the sample personnel must open the FRB sample bottle, pour the pre-preserved PFAS-free reagent water into the empty sample bottle, and seal and label this bottle as the FRB. Record the FRB identification number on the COC form.

The FRB is shipped back to the laboratory along with the site samples. The empty container that the field reagent water was poured out of must also be shipped back to the laboratory in the same shipment.

(FRB) Analyze the FRB if any analyte is detected in the associated field samples. If an analyte detected in the field sample is present in the associated FRB at greater than one-third the MRL, the results for that analyte are invalid

The purpose of the FRB is to ensure that PFAS measured in the field samples were not inadvertently introduced into the sample during sample collection and handling. The FRB is processed, extracted, and analyzed in exactly the same manner as a field sample. Analysis of the FRB is required only if a field 533-f field sample is present in the FRB at a concentration greater than one-third of the MRL, then the results for that analyte are invalid for all samples associated with the failed FRB

FBC are required to be collected for all samples but are only analyzed if the analyte is above the reporting limit. FRB will be analyzed as required by the method and billed separately and the number of samples will increased to account for these samples.

2. **QUESTION:**

Can SCDES provide the number of Surface Water/Groundwater Under the Direct Influence of surface water (GWUDI) systems, the number of Groundwater systems there are, and how many Entry Points to the Distribution System (EPTDS) there are for each please?

State's Response: The count of systems that are required to monitor for PFAS:

- 54 Surface water systems
- 439 Groundwater water systems
- 910 Entry points (EP) Groundwater and Surface water
 - o 59 Surface water EP
 - o 851 Groundwater EP

Sampling done under the UCMR rule is being used to meet the requirements of the PFAS rule. This is a breakdown of the sampling that will be required:

- UCMR samples collected but additional samples needed.
 - o 263 additional routine samples (GW source with population over 10,000 or sources not a part of the UCMR sampling)
 - o Systems with a population between 3,300 and 10,000 need 26 additional samples.
- Systems not a part of UCMR sampling:
 - o Systems with a population below 3,300 will need 1,260 samples (including some SW systems)

Total samples needed are 1,549. A detailed schedule will be provided once the contract is awarded.

3. **QUESTION:**

Page 33 - VIII. BIDDING SCHEDULE / PRICE-BUSINESS PROPOSAL Line Number 001, Quantity – is this quantity meant to represent

State's Response: The quantity requested in the bidding schedule is 1.

4. **QUESTION:**

Do you have a preferred PFAS testing method between EPA533 vs. EPA 537.1v2 or is this up to lab discretion?

State's Response: The testing method will be at the lab's discretion.

5. **QUESTION:**

Are you looking for reporting on the full method analyte list or only the 6 PFAS compounds that SC accredits?

State's Response: Reporting shall be on the full method analyte list.

6. **QUESTION:**

Both EPA methods require Field Reagent Blank (FRB) testing if PFAS is found in the primary sample. Is FRB analysis included in the estimated 1,600 samples? If not, are you expecting the FRB to be analyzed with every sample?

State's Response: See the response to question # 1 of this Amendment.

7. **QUESTION:**

We are currently in the process of applying for SC Office of Environmental Laboratory Certification. Can labs operate under NELAP accreditation while certification is pending?

State's Response: Proof of certification by the SC Office of Environmental Laboratory Certification Program to perform and report regularly monitoring PHAS data is required at the time of bid submission.

8. **QUESTION:**

The bidding schedule includes fields for a unit price and an extended price. Should we use 1600 samples for our extended price calculation?

State's Response: No. For the purpose of the bidding schedule, the extended price will be the same value as the unit price.

9. **QUESTION:**

You've listed that results need to be submitted in CMDP within 21 days of analysis. What is your expected turnaround time for analysis after receipt of the samples in the lab?

State's Response: 50 days.

10. **QUESTION:**

Weck Laboratories applied for certification with the SCDES Office of Environmental Laboratory Services and we were told applications were backlogged from July of 2025. Would certification under the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) and Approval by EPA under the UCMR 5 program be acceptable to qualify for submission of an offer?

State's Response: See the response to question # 7 of this Amendment.

END OF AMENDMENT 1



Re: PFAS Solicitation

From Wendi A. Smith <Wendi.Smith@des.sc.gov>

Date Thu 4/30/2026 1:36 PM

To Trey V. Shealy <Trey.Shealy@des.sc.gov>

That is correct

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Trey V. Shealy <Trey.Shealy@des.sc.gov>

Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 1:34 PM

To: Wendi A. Smith <Wendi.Smith@des.sc.gov>; Megan M. Johnson <Megan.Johnson@des.sc.gov>; Doug Kinard <Doug.Kinard@des.sc.gov>

Subject: Re: PFAS Solicitation

Just to be clear, EMSL is also not certified by SCDES for PFAS?

Trey Shealy

Procurement Director

Finance & Operations

O: 803-898-3471

C: 839-292-6192

trey.shealy@des.sc.gov

DES.SC.gov



From: Wendi A. Smith <Wendi.Smith@des.sc.gov>

Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 1:28 PM

To: Trey V. Shealy <Trey.Shealy@des.sc.gov>; Megan M. Johnson <Megan.Johnson@des.sc.gov>; Doug Kinard <Doug.Kinard@des.sc.gov>

Subject: Fw: PFAS Solicitation

attached list shows the current certified labs. There are only 2 certified lab

EUROFINS SOUTH BEND
ALLIANCE TECHNICAL GROUP LLC - AKRON

FYI- EMSL just sent in their application yesterday (4/29/26); they won't be certified for several months.

Did either of these labs bid on this contract

From: Bennie L. Cockerel <Bennie.Cockerel@des.sc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 12:57 PM
To: Wendi A. Smith <Wendi.Smith@des.sc.gov>
Subject: Re: PFAS Solicitation

Hey Wendi,

See attached list. FYI- EMSL just sent in their application yesterday (4/29/26); they won't be certified for several months.

Thanks,
Bennie

Bennie L. Cockerel Jr.
Program Manager
Office of Environmental Laboratory Certification
Bureau of Regional and Laboratory Services
Phone - Main Office (803) 896-0970
Phone - Direct Office (803) 896-0974; Cell (803) 429-1735
Email: Bennie.Cockerel@des.sc.gov
LabCertHelp Email: Labcerthelp@des.sc.gov
Web: <https://www.des.sc.gov/labcert>

[DES.SC.gov](https://www.des.sc.gov)



From: Wendi A. Smith <Wendi.Smith@des.sc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 12:46 PM
To: Bennie L. Cockerel <Bennie.Cockerel@des.sc.gov>
Subject: Fw: PFAS Solicitation

Will you also check the Certification status for this lab

Or if it's easier will you send me a list of the labs certified to analyze PFAS I do have the list that you provided in March but I wanted to make sure no labs have been added

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From: Trey V. Shealy <Trey.Shealy@des.sc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 12:40 PM
To: Wendi A. Smith <Wendi.Smith@des.sc.gov>
Subject: Re: PFAS Solicitation

Ok. In that case, they will be deemed non-responsive, and their bid will be removed from further consideration. I've attached the next lowest offer for your review.

Trey Shealy
Procurement Director
Finance & Operations

O: 803-898-3471

C: 839-292-6192

trey.shealy@des.sc.gov

DES.SC.gov



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From: Wendi A. Smith <Wendi.Smith@des.sc.gov>

Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 12:35 PM

To: Trey V. Shealy <Trey.Shealy@des.sc.gov>

Subject: Re: PFAS Solicitation

That is correct they are certified under the Safe Drinking Water Act but because PFAS is a new part of the rule they have not received certification to analyze PFAS samples in Drinking water.

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From: Trey V. Shealy <Trey.Shealy@des.sc.gov>

Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 12:27 PM

To: Wendi A. Smith <Wendi.Smith@des.sc.gov>; Megan M. Johnson <Megan.Johnson@des.sc.gov>; Doug Kinard <Doug.Kinard@des.sc.gov>

Subject: Re: PFAS Solicitation

Hey Wendi,

The solicitation specified labs had to be certified at the time of submission. Am I understanding correctly that they're certified for Safe Drinking Water Act monitoring but are not certified for PFAS? If GEL's certification for PFAS was not completed at the time of submission, they are not qualified to submit a bid, will be deemed non-responsive, and will be removed from further consideration.

Trey Shealy
Procurement Director
Finance & Operations

O: 803-898-3471

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trey.shealy@des.sc.gov

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From: Wendi A. Smith <Wendi.Smith@des.sc.gov>

Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 12:19 PM

To: Trey V. Shealy <Trey.Shealy@des.sc.gov>; Megan M. Johnson <Megan.Johnson@des.sc.gov>; Doug Kinard <Doug.Kinard@des.sc.gov>

Subject: Fw: PFAS Solicitation

Please see Bennie's message below about GELs certification

There certification status is the only problem that I see with this lab
Can we ask when they plan on submitting there response to D ES inspection

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From: Bennie L. Cockerel <Bennie.Cockerel@des.sc.gov>

Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 11:52 AM

To: Wendi A. Smith <Wendi.Smith@des.sc.gov>

Cc: Eric W. Rice <Eric.Rice@des.sc.gov>

Subject: Re: PFAS Solicitation

Hey Wendi,

No, not at this moment. GEL applied, we have performed the onsite evaluation and sent the evaluation report to the laboratory on April 15th. We are waiting on their response to the evaluation report. Once we receive the response, if all is good, we will certify them for these methods.

Thanks,
Bennie

Bennie L. Cockerel Jr.

Program Manager

Office of Environmental Laboratory Certification

Bureau of Regional and Laboratory Services

Phone - Main Office (803) 896-0970

Phone - Direct Office (803) 896-0974; Cell (803) 429-1735

Email: Bennie.Cockerel@des.sc.gov

LabCertHelp Email: Labcerthelp@des.sc.gov

Web: <https://www.des.sc.gov/labcert>

[DES.SC.gov](https://www.des.sc.gov)



SC DEPARTMENT of
**ENVIRONMENTAL
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From: Wendi A. Smith <Wendi.Smith@des.sc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 11:31 AM
To: Bennie L. Cockerel <Bennie.Cockerel@des.sc.gov>
Subject: Fw: PFAS Solicitation

We required that the labs that bid on this contract be certified by SCDES to analyze PFAS samples under the SDWA. You provided me with a list of certified labs but I do not remember this lab being on the list. Are they certified by SCDES to analyze these samples.

Thank you

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From: Trey V. Shealy <Trey.Shealy@des.sc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 8:09:27 AM
To: Wendi A. Smith <Wendi.Smith@des.sc.gov>
Subject: PFAS Solicitation

Good morning, Wendi,

The bid submission deadline for the PFAS solicitation was yesterday. We received 4 bids with GEL Laboratories being the lowest priced offeror. I've already performed my evaluation to ensure the bid is compliant with the requirements for submitting a bid. Now, I'm sending you the bid to review to ensure you don't have any concerns. I'm scheduled to publish the award on 5/6, so please reply to this email no later than Tuesday, 5/5 to let me know if the bid is acceptable to you.

Trey Shealy
Procurement Director
Finance & Operations

O: 803-898-3471

C: 839-292-6192

trey.shealy@des.sc.gov

DES.SC.gov



SC DEPARTMENT of
**ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES**



South Carolina Department of Environmental Services

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Date: 04/30/2026

DETERMINATION OF NON-RESPONSIVE and/or NON-RESPONSIBLE BIDDER

PROCUREMENT OFFICER: Trey Shealy

SOLICITATION NO.: 5400029491

OPENING DATE: 4/29/2026

COMMODITY: PFAS in Public Drinking Water

BIDDER: GEL Laboratories, LLC

In accordance with the S. C. Consolidated Procurement Code Regulation §19-445.2070, the referenced bid/bidder is rejected. S. C. Consolidated Procurement Code Regulation §19-445.2070(A) states that “any bid which fails to conform to the essential requirements of the invitation for bids shall be rejected.”

S.C. Code Ann. §11-35-1410(7) defines a “Responsive” bidder as “a person who has submitted a bid or offer which conforms in all material aspects to the invitation for bids or request for proposals.” S.C. Code Ann. §11-35-1410(6) defines a “Responsible” bidder as “a person who has the capability in all respects to perform fully the contract requirements and the integrity and reliability which will assure good faith performance which may be substantiated by past performance.”

REASON FOR REJECTION:

The “Qualifications – Special Standards of Responsibility” clause in Section V of the solicitation outlines that “

1. Each Offeror (contract laboratory) must be certified by the SCDES Office of Environmental Laboratory Certification to perform and report regulatory monitoring data under the Safe Drinking Water Act for both the regulated and unregulated contaminants listed in the State Primary Drinking Water Regulations. The certification must be in effect at the time of submission of the Offeror’s bid for this IFB.
2. The award Offeror’s Contract Laboratory must retain certification for the analysis of the PFAS as listed under the Safe Drinking Water Act for the duration of the entire contract period.”

According to the SCDES Office of Environmental Laboratory Certification, GEL Laboratories, LLC is not certified at the time of their bid submission.

Trey Shealy, Director
Division of Procurement Services