

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP No. 720-2101 Helicopter Aerial Survey Services

Proposal Submittal Deadline: Friday, January 15, 2021 at 2:30 PM CST

The University of Texas System UNIVERSITY LANDS

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

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INTRODUCTION

1.1 Description of The University of Texas System

For more than 130 years, The University of Texas System has been committed to improving the lives of Texans and people all over the world through education, research and health care.

The University of Texas System is one of the nation's largest systems of higher education, with <u>14 institutions</u> that educate more than 230,000 students. Each year, UT institutions award more than one-third of all undergraduate degrees in Texas and almost two-thirds of all health professional degrees. With about 20,000 faculty – including Nobel laureates – and more than 80,000 health care professionals, researchers, student advisors and support staff, the UT System is one of the largest employers in the state.

Life-changing research and invention of new technologies at UT institutions places the UT System among the top 10 "World's Most Innovative Universities," according to Reuters. The UT System ranks eighth in the nation in patent applications, and because of the high caliber of scientific research conducted at UT institutions, the UT System is ranked No. 1 in Texas and No. 3 in the nation in federal research expenditures.

In addition, the UT System is home to three of the nation's National Cancer Institute Cancer Centers – UT MD Anderson, UT Southwestern and UT Health Science Center-San Antonio – which must meet rigorous criteria for world-class programs in cancer research. And the UT System is the only System in the country to have four Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) from the National Institutes of Health.

Transformational initiatives implemented over the past several years have cemented UT as a national leader in higher education, including the expansion of educational opportunities in South Texas with the opening of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in 2015. And UT was the only system of higher education in the nation that established not one, but two new medical schools in 2016 at The University of Texas at Austin and UT Rio Grande Valley.

University of Texas institutions are setting the standard for excellence in higher education and will continue to do so thanks to our generous donors and the leadership of the <u>Chancellor</u>, <u>Board of Regents</u> and <u>UT presidents</u>.

1.2 Background

University Lands (UL) manages the surface and mineral interests of 2.1 million acres of land across nineteen counties in West Texas for the benefit of the Permanent University Fund (PUF).

The PUF is one of the largest university endowments in the United States and benefits more than twenty educational and health institutions across both <u>The University of Texas</u> System and Texas A&M University System.

For more information, please visit: http://www.utlands.utsystem.edu/Home/AboutUs

1.3 Objective of Request for Proposal

The University of Texas System is soliciting proposals in response to this Request for Proposal No.720-2101 (this "RFP"), from qualified vendors to provide Helicopter Aerial Survey services (the "Services").

1.4 Group Purchase Authority

Texas law authorizes institutions of higher education (defined by §61.003, Education Code) to use the group purchasing procurement method (ref. §§51.9335, 73.115, and 74.008, Education Code). Additional Texas institutions of higher education may therefore elect to enter into a contract with the successful Proposer under this RFP. In particular, Proposer should note that University is part of The University of Texas System (UT System), which is comprised of fourteen institutions described at http://www.utsystem.edu/institutions. UT System institutions routinely evaluate whether a contract resulting from a procurement conducted by one of the institutions might be suitable for use by another, and if so, this RFP could give rise to additional purchase volumes. As a result, in submitting its proposal, Proposer should consider proposing a pricing model and other commercial terms that take into account the higher volumes and other expanded opportunities that could result from the eventual inclusion of other institutions in the purchase contemplated by this RFP. Any purchases made by other institutions based on this RFP will be the sole responsibility of those institutions.

NOTICE TO PROPOSER

2.1 Submittal Deadline

University will accept proposals submitted in response to this RFP until 2:30 p.m., Central Standard Time ("CST") on Monday, February 8, 2021 (the "Submittal Deadline").

2.3 Criteria for Selection

The successful Proposer, if any, selected by University through this RFP will be the Proposer that submits a proposal on or before the Submittal Deadline that is the most advantageous to University. The successful Proposer is referred to as "**Contractor**."

Proposer is encouraged to propose terms and conditions offering the maximum benefit to University in terms of (1) service, (2) total overall cost, and (3) project management expertise.

The evaluation of proposals and the selection of Contractor will be based on the information provided in the proposal. University may consider additional information if University determines the information is relevant.

Criteria to be considered by University in evaluating proposals and selecting Contractor, will be these factors:

2.3.1 Threshold Criteria Not Scored

- A. Ability of University to comply with laws regarding Historically Underutilized Businesses; and
- B. Ability of University to comply with laws regarding purchases from persons with disabilities.

2.3.2 Scored Criteria

- A. Cost (20%)
- B. Vendor Experience (20%)
- C. Quality of Service / Capabilities (15%)
- D. Meets Specific Needs (10%)
- E. Safety (15%)
- F. Test Flight (performance and equipment) (20%)

2.4 Key Events Schedule

Issuance of RFP January 15, 2021

Pre-Proposal Conference (10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. CST)

(ref. **Section 2.6** of this RFP) January 22, 2021

Deadline for Questions / Concerns 5:00 p.m. CST on (ref. **Section 2.2** of this RFP) January 26, 2021

Submittal Deadline 2:30 p.m. CST on (ref. **Section 2.1** of this RFP) February 8, 2021

Test Flight TBD

2.5 Historically Underutilized Businesses

- 2.5.1 All agencies of the State of Texas are required to make a good faith effort to assist historically underutilized businesses (each a "HUB") in receiving contract awards. The goal of the HUB program is to promote full and equal business opportunity for all businesses in contracting with state agencies. Pursuant to the HUB program, if under the terms of any agreement or contractual arrangement resulting from this RFP, Contractor subcontracts any of the Services, then Contractor must make a good faith effort to utilize HUBs certified by the Procurement and Support Services Division of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. Proposals that fail to comply with the requirements contained in this Section 2.5 will constitute a material failure to comply with advertised specifications and will be rejected by University as non-responsive. Additionally, compliance with good faith effort guidelines is a condition precedent to awarding any agreement or contractual arrangement resulting from this RFP. Proposer acknowledges that, if selected by University, its obligation to make a good faith effort to utilize HUBs when subcontracting any of the Services will continue throughout the term of all agreements and contractual arrangements resulting from this RFP. Furthermore, any subcontracting of the Services by Proposer is subject to review by University to ensure compliance with the HUB program.
- 2.5.2 University has reviewed this RFP in accordance with <u>Title 34</u>, <u>Texas Administrative Code</u>, <u>Section 20.285</u>, and has determined that subcontracting opportunities (HUB and/or Non-HUB) are probable under this RFP. The HUB participation goal for this RFP is **23.7%**
- 2.5.3 A HUB Subcontracting Plan ("**HSP**") is required as part of, *but submitted separately from*, Proposer's proposal. The HSP will be developed and administered in accordance with University's Policy on Utilization of Historically Underutilized Businesses and incorporated for all purposes.

Each Proposer, whether self-performing or planning to subcontract, must complete and return the HSP in accordance with the terms and conditions of this RFP. Proposers that fail to do so will be considered non-responsive to this RFP in accordance with §2161.252, Government Code.

Questions regarding the HSP may be directed to:

Contact: Kyle Hayes

HUB Coordinator

Phone: 512-322-3745

Email: khaves@utsystem.edu

Contractor will not be permitted to change its HSP after the deadline submittal date unless: (1) Contractor completes a new HSP, setting forth all modifications requested by Contractor, (2) Contractor provides the modified HSP to University, (3) University HUB Program Office approves the modified HSP in writing, and (4) all agreements resulting from this RFP are amended in writing to conform to the modified HSP.

Instructions on completing an HSP

Proposer must visit https://www.utsystem.edu/offices/historically-underutilized-business/hub-forms/hub-plan-templates-commodities-services-procurement to download the most appropriate HUB Subcontracting Plan (HSP) / Exhibit H form for use with this Request for Proposal. Proposer will find, on the HUB Forms webpage, a link to "Guide to Selecting the Appropriate HSP Option". Click on this link and read the Guide first before selecting an HSP Option. Proposer shall select, from the four (4) Options

available, the Option that is most applicable to Proposer's subcontracting intentions. These forms are in *fillable* PDF format and must be downloaded and opened with *Adobe Acrobat / Reader* to utilize the fillable function. If Proposer has any questions regarding which Option to use, Proposer shall contact the HUB Coordinator listed in Section 2.5.3.

Proposer must complete the HSP, then print, sign and scan *all pages* of the HSP Option selected, with additional support documentation*, *and submit via Bonfire portal*. NOTE: during this time, electronic signatures are acceptable.

Any proposal submitted in response to this RFP that does not have a corresponding HSP meeting the above requirements may be rejected by University and returned to Proposer as non-responsive due to material failure to comply with advertised specifications.

Each Proposer's HSP will be evaluated for completeness and compliance prior to opening the proposal to confirm Proposer compliance with HSP rules and standards. Proposer's failure to submit one (1) completed and signed HUB Subcontracting Plan <u>to the Bonfire portal</u> may result in University's rejection of the proposal as non-responsive due to material failure to comply with advertised specifications.

*If Proposer's submitted HSP refers to specific page(s) / Sections(s) of Proposer's proposal that explain how Proposer will perform entire contract with its own equipment, supplies, materials and/or employees, Proposer must submit copies of those pages with the HSP sent to the Bonfire Portal. In addition, all solicitation emails to potential subcontractors must be included as backup documentation to the Proposer's HSP to demonstrate Good Faith Effort. Failure to do so will slow the evaluation process and may result in DISQUALIFICATION.

2.5.4 University may offer Proposer an opportunity to seek informal review of its draft HSP by University's HUB Office before the Submittal Deadline. If University extends this offer, details will be provided at the Pre-Proposal Conference (ref. **Section 2.6** of this RFP) or by other means. Informal review is designed to help address questions Proposer may have about how to complete its HSP properly. Concurrence or comment on Proposer's draft HSP by University will *not* constitute formal approval of the HSP, and will *not* eliminate the need for Proposer to submit its final HSP to University as instructed by **Section 2.5**.

2.6 Pre-Proposal Conference

University will hold a virtual pre-proposal meeting at **10:00 am, Central Time on January 22, 2021**. The pre-proposal call will allow all Proposers an opportunity to ask University's representatives relevant questions and clarify provisions of this RFP.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

Click here to join the meeting

Or call in (audio only)

<u>+1 737-220-2549,,307091729#</u> United States, Austin (888) 614-9689,,307091729# United States (Toll-free)

Phone Conference ID: 307 091 729#

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL

3.1 Proposal Validity Period

Each proposal must state that it will remain valid for University's acceptance for a minimum of one hundred and twenty (120) days after the Submittal Deadline, to allow time for evaluation, selection, and any unforeseen delays.

3.2 Terms and Conditions

- 3.2.1 Proposer must comply with the requirements and specifications contained in this RFP, including the <u>Agreement</u> (ref. **APPENDIX TWO**), the <u>Notice to Proposer</u> (ref. **Section 2** of this RFP), <u>Proposal Requirements</u> (ref. **APPENDIX ONE**) and the <u>Specifications and Additional Questions</u> (ref. **Section 5** of this RFP). If there is a conflict among the provisions in this RFP, the provision requiring Proposer to supply the better quality or greater quantity of services will prevail, or if such conflict does not involve quality or quantity, then interpretation will be in the following order of precedence:
 - 3.2.1.1. Specifications and Additional Questions (ref. **Section 5** of this RFP);
 - 3.2.1.2. Agreement (ref. Section 4 and APPENDIX TWO);
 - 3.2.1.3. Proposal Requirements (ref. **APPENDIX ONE**);
 - 3.2.1.4. Notice to Proposers (ref. **Section 2** of this RFP).

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The terms and conditions contained in the attached Agreement (ref. **APPENDIX TWO**) or, in the sole discretion of University, terms and conditions substantially similar to those contained in the Agreement, will constitute and govern any agreement that results from this RFP. If Proposer takes exception to any terms or conditions set forth in the Agreement, Proposer will submit redlined **APPENDIX TWO** as part of its proposal in accordance with **Section 5.3.1** of this RFP. Proposer's exceptions will be reviewed by University and may result in disqualification of Proposer's proposal, then University may consider Proposer's exceptions when University evaluates the Proposer's proposal.

Proposer's exceptions and proposed terms and conditions will be reviewed by University and may result in disqualification of Proposer's proposal as non-responsive to this RFP. If Proposer's exceptions do not result in disqualification of Proposer's proposal, then University may consider Proposer's exceptions when University evaluates the Proposer's proposal.

SPECIFICATIONS AND ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

5.1 General

The minimum requirements and the specifications for the Services, as well as certain requests for information to be provided by Proposer as part of its proposal, are set forth below. As indicated in **Section 2.3** of this RFP, the successful Proposer is referred to as the "**Contractor**."

Contract Term: University intends to enter into an agreement with the Contractor to perform the Services for an initial three (3) year base term, with the option to renew for two (2) additional one (1) year renewal periods, upon mutual written agreement of both parties.

5.2 Minimum Requirements

- 5.2.1 Test Flight. Each Proposer will take University employees up in their aircraft for a one (1) to two (2) hour test flight. This test flight will be at no expense to University.
- 5.2.2 Aircraft will provide services on aircraft of a make and model certified to carry the following cargo/load:
 - o Two (2) University passengers (up to 475 pounds); plus
 - o The pilot and any required crew; plus
 - o Ten (10) pounds of cargo.
- 5.2.3 Proposer must have GIS/GPS capabilities to fly transects that are established before surveys begin. Property lines and fence lines will be provided through shapefiles to pilot beforehand to input into their navigation system.
- 5.2.4 Proposer must provide safety records of flying career, identify and explain any incidents they have been involved in.

5.3 Additional Questions Specific to this RFP

Proposer must submit the following information as part of Proposer's proposal:

5.3.1 If Proposer takes exception to any terms or conditions set forth in the Agreement (ref. **APPENDIX TWO**), Proposer must redline APPENDIX TWO and include **APPENDIX TWO** as part of its Proposal. If Proposer agrees with terms or conditions set forth in the **APPENDIX TWO**, Proposer will submit a written statement acknowledging it.

5.4 Scope of Work

- Helicopter is certified to carry pilot plus two (2) University Lands ("UL") passengers (up to 475 pounds, not including pilot).
- Ability to conduct low level wildlife surveys, livestock audits and oilfield surveillance across nineteen (19) West Texas counties during all seasons in altitudes up to 5,500 ft. above sea level in areas with high amounts of Oil and Gas, and Renewable Energy infrastructure (tank farms, drilling rigs, electric lines-both distribution and large transmission lines, communication towers, gas processing plants, wind turbines) and in mountainous terrain.
- Pilots providing service under this contract will have 5+ years of aerial survey experience in West Texas as a helicopter pilot.
- Interested bidders will provide test flights with University Lands ("UL") employees before contract is awarded.

- Ability to fly approximately 6-9 hours a day, for 2-3 continuous weeks, at least twice a year and be fully dedicated to University for the entire stretch of time.
- Each flight will be 2-3 hours long with 2-4 flights per day.
- Must have the ability to travel and ferry helicopter across West Texas during these stretches. Major flight time will be in January – February and September – October timeframe
- Flexible to last minute schedule changes due to weather or personnel changes throughout the course of the survey work
- Ability to provide one-off flights throughout the year with at least 2 weeks notification.
 University understands that Contractor may be booked, and University must wait longer to make last minute flight(s).
- Willingness to fly University staff and invited guests on tours of University Lands when convenient during scheduled survey times
- Contractor must have GIS/GPS capabilities to fly transects that are established before surveys begin. Property lines and fence lines will be provided through shapefiles to pilot beforehand to input into their navigation system.
- Ability to transport several days' worth of fuel to remote sites for survey work due to distance to airports and/or fueling stations.
- Able to perform some mechanical maintenance while in the field at remote locations without having to haul helicopter back to base site.
- Ability to assist with some counting and observations.
- Observations will include distinguishing livestock categories and determining size of animals, babies vs. weaned animals vs. mature adults.
- Counting wildlife (deer along with other wildlife) and determining sex and quantity of animals observed.
- Proposer must provide safety records of flying career; identify and explain any incidents they
 have been involved in.

5.5 Additional Questions Specific to this RFP

Proposer must submit the following information as part of Proposer's proposal:

Vendor Experience (20%)

1. Provide references from three (3) of Proposer's customers from the past five (5) years for services that are similar in scope, size, and complexity to the Services described in this RFP.

Provide the following information for each customer:

- Customer name and address;
- Contact name with email address and phone number;
- Time period in which work was performed;
- Short description of work performed.
- Has Proposer worked with University institutions in the past five (5) years? If "yes," state
 University Institution name, department name, department contact, and provide a brief
 description of work performed.
- 3. How many years of experience does Proposer have conducting low level helicopter aerial surveys?

- 4. What types of aerial service does Proposer typically conduct with their aircraft?
- 5. What locations/areas has Proposer worked? List counties or general regions in Texas and other states?
- 6. Is Proposer experienced in handling and gathering livestock via helicopter?
- 7. Is Proposer familiar with common livestock species and different age groups? If yes, how many years of experience? If yes, how many hours per year is conducted on this type of flying?
- 8. Is Proposer experienced in conducting wildlife surveys or handling wildlife via helicopter? If yes, how many years of experience? If yes, how many hours per year is conducted on this type of flying?
- 9. Has Proposer flown for predator control before? If yes, list type of species? If yes, how many hours per year is conducted on this type of flying?

Quality of Service / Capabilities (15%)

- 10. What is the make and model of the aircraft Proposer will use to perform the helicopter aerial survey services?
- 11. How many passengers does the aircraft accommodate, not including the pilot? What is the total passenger weight capacity?
- 12. Can both passengers see/make observations in front of and to both sides of the helicopter while flying?
- 13. What are Proposer's mechanical capabilities? Is Proposer able to conduct repairs on their own aircraft in the field, or does Proposer request a mechanic conduct repairs, when needed?
- 14. How much down time is generally spent on repairs in the field when necessary? Does Proposer have access to equipment and replacement parts for repairs in the field, or does Proposer have to go back to the shop for all repairs?
- 15. How many hours' worth of fuel can the Proposer store and transport in vehicle/trailer while conducting flights in remote locations?
- 16. If multiple pilots operate under Proposer's business, how many are able to manage the work being requested by University?

- 17. Would the same pilot be assigned to work with University every year or would pilot assignments vary daily or year-to-year?
- 18. Does Proposer have the ability to trailer and ferry the helicopter to different locations or towns, on a daily basis?

Meets Specific Needs (10%)

- 19. What kind of experience does Proposer have conducting surveys in elevations greater than 5,000 feet?
- 20. Has Proposer flown in areas with high amounts of surface infrastructure, including power lines, oil field infrastructure, regional air traffic around local airports, military bases, etc.? If yes, describe.
- 21. Is Proposer or Proposer's pilots comfortable taking-off and landing in remote locations or pastureland? If not, please explain?
- 22. Does Proposer have GIS capabilities in the aircraft that would aid in flying preset transects? If yes, identify the GIS software.
- 23. Does Proposer have the ability to upload shapefiles into their GIS or mapping programs to use during flights?
- 24. List and describe any technologies Proposer uses to fly accurately and precisely to complete different jobs.
- 25. What is Proposer's availability for a full two plus weeks in the Jan/Feb and Sept/Oct. timeframes to fly for University with no interruptions?

Safety (15%)

- 26. Has Proposer or Proposer's employees been charged or investigated for any incidents they were involved in while conducting aerial services?
- 27. How many reportable flying incidents has Proposer or Proposer's company been involved in throughout the history of the company or individual's personal flights. Provide flying record.

Flight Test (Performance and Equipment) (20%)

28. University requires all Proposers to provide a test flight to University employees as part of the scored criteria of this RFP. The test flight will be a maximum of 2 hours and at no cost to University. Proposer will be scored on Proposer's aircraft, equipment as well as the aircraft's abilities and capabilities in the air.

PRICING AND DELIVERY SCHEDULE (20%)

Propo	osal of:(Proposer Company Name)		
To:	The University of Texas System		
RFP I	No.: 720-2101 Helicopter Aerial Survey		
Ladie	s and Gentlemen:		
theret Propo	ng carefully examined all the specifications are to, the undersigned proposes to furnish the requestal upon the terms quoted (firm fixed price) be the assumptions or exceptions to the work identification.	uired pursuant to the above-referenced low. The University will not accept prop	Request for
6.1	Pricing Schedule:		
	Aircraft rate (duty time > 5 hours) Aircraft rate (duty time < 5 hours) Pilot Standby rate Per Diem Service/Fuel Truck Charge Helicopter Trailer Charge	\$ / per Hour \$ / per Hour \$ / per Hour \$ / per Day \$ / per Mile \$ / per Mile	
6.2	Discounts		
	Describe all discounts that may be available and local discounts.	to University, including, educational, fe	ederal, state
6.3	Schedule for Completion of Tasks and Su	bmittal of Deliverables	
6.4	Delivery Schedule of Events and Time Per	iods	
	Indicate number of calendar days needed to services agreement:	commence the Services from the exec	oution of the
		Calendar Days	

6.5 Payment Terms

University's standard payment terms are "net 30 days" as mandated by the *Texas Prompt Payment Act* (ref. <u>Chapter 2251, Government Code</u>).

Indicate below the prompt payment discount that Proposer offers:
Prompt Payment Discount:%days / net 30 days.
Section 51.012, Education Code, authorizes University to make payments through electronic funds transfer methods. Proposer agrees to accept payments from University through those methods including the automated clearing house system ("ACH"). Proposer agrees to provide Proposer's banking information to University in writing on Proposer letterhead signed by an authorized representative of Proposer. Prior to the first payment, University will confirm Proposer's banking information. Changes to Proposer's bank information must be communicated to University in writing at least thirty (30) days before the effective date of the change and must include an IRS Form W-S signed by an authorized representative of Proposer.
University, an agency of the State of Texas, is exempt from Texas Sales & Use Tax on goods and services in accordance with §151.309, <i>Tax Code</i> , and <u>Title 34 TAC §3.322</u> . Pursuant to <u>34 TAC §3.322(c)(4)</u> , University is not required to provide a tax exemption certificate to establish its tax exemptatus.
Respectfully submitted,
Proposer:
By:(Authorized Signature for Proposer)
Name:
Title:

Date: _____

APPENDIX ONE

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

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GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Purpose

University is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from Proposers having suitable qualifications and experience providing services in accordance with the terms, conditions and requirements set forth in this RFP. This RFP provides sufficient information for interested parties to prepare and submit proposals for consideration by University.

By submitting a proposal, Proposer certifies that it understands this RFP and has full knowledge of the scope, nature, quality, and quantity of the services to be performed, the detailed requirements of the services to be provided, and the conditions under which such services are to be performed. Proposer also certifies that it understands that all costs relating to preparing a response to this RFP will be the sole responsibility of the Proposer.

PROPOSER IS CAUTIONED TO READ THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS RFP CAREFULLY AND TO SUBMIT A COMPLETE RESPONSE TO ALL REQUIREMENTS AND QUESTIONS AS DIRECTED.

1.2 Inquiries and Interpretations

University may in its sole discretion respond in writing to written inquiries concerning this RFP and mail its response as an Addendum to all parties recorded by University as having received a copy of this RFP. Only University's responses that are made by formal written Addenda will be binding on University. Any verbal responses, written interpretations or clarifications other than Addenda to this RFP will be without legal effect. All Addenda issued by University prior to the Submittal Deadline will be and are hereby incorporated as a part of this RFP for all purposes.

Proposers are required to acknowledge receipt of each Addendum as specified in this Section. The Proposer must acknowledge all Addenda by completing, signing and returning the <u>Addenda Checklist</u> (ref. **Section 4** of **APPENDIX ONE**). The Addenda Checklist must be received by University prior to the Submittal Deadline and should accompany the Proposer's proposal.

Any interested party that receives this RFP by means other than directly from University is responsible for notifying University that it has received an RFP package, and should provide its name, address, telephone and facsimile (**FAX**) numbers, and email address, to University, so that if University issues Addenda to this RFP or provides written answers to questions, that information can be provided to that party.

1.3 Public Information

Proposer is hereby notified that University strictly adheres to all statutes, court decisions and the opinions of the Texas Attorney General with respect to disclosure of public information.

University may seek to protect from disclosure all information submitted in response to this RFP until such time as a final agreement is executed.

Upon execution of a final agreement, University will consider all information, documentation, and other materials requested to be submitted in response to this RFP, to be of a non-confidential and non-proprietary nature and, therefore, subject to public disclosure under the *Texas Public Information Act* (ref. <u>Chapter 552</u>, <u>Government Code</u>). Proposer will be advised of a request for public information that implicates their materials and will have the opportunity to raise any objections to disclosure to the Texas Attorney General. Certain information may be protected from release under §§552.101, 552.104, 552.110, 552.113, and 552.131, Government Code.

1.4 Type of Agreement

Contractor, if any, will be required to enter into a contract with University in a form substantially similar to the Agreement between University and Contractor (the "Agreement") attached to this RFP as APPENDIX TWO and incorporated for all purposes.

1.5 Proposal Evaluation Process

University will select Contractor by using the competitive sealed proposal process described in this Section. Any proposals that are not submitted by the Submittal Deadline or that are not accompanied by required number of completed and signed originals of the HSP will be rejected by University as non-responsive due to material failure to comply with this RFP (ref. **Section 2.5.4** of this RFP). Upon completion of the initial review and evaluation of proposals, University may invite one or more selected Proposers to participate in oral presentations. University will use commercially reasonable efforts to avoid public disclosure of the contents of a proposal prior to selection of Contractor.

University may make the selection of Contractor on the basis of the proposals initially submitted, without discussion, clarification or modification. In the alternative, University may make the selection of Contractor on the basis of negotiation with any of the Proposers. In conducting negotiations, University will use commercially reasonable efforts to avoid disclosing the contents of competing proposals.

University may discuss and negotiate all elements of proposals submitted by Proposers within a specified competitive range. For purposes of negotiation, University may establish, after an initial review of the proposals, a competitive range of acceptable or potentially acceptable proposals composed of the highest rated proposal(s). In that event, University may defer further action on proposals not included within the competitive range pending the selection of Contractor; provided, however, University reserves the right to include additional proposals in the competitive range if deemed to be in the best interest of University.

After the Submittal Deadline but before final selection of Contractor, University may permit Proposer to revise its proposal in order to obtain the Proposer's best and final offer. In that event, representations made by Proposer in its revised proposal, including price and fee quotes, will be binding on Proposer. University will provide each Proposer within the competitive range with an equal opportunity for discussion and revision of its proposal. University is not obligated to select the Proposer offering the most attractive economic terms if that Proposer is not the most advantageous to University overall, as determined by University.

University reserves the right to (a) enter into an agreement for all or any portion of the requirements and specifications set forth in this RFP with one or more Proposers, (b) reject any and all proposals and re-solicit proposals, or (c) reject any and all proposals and temporarily or permanently abandon this selection process, if deemed to be in the best interests of University. Proposer is hereby notified that University will maintain in its files concerning this RFP a written record of the basis upon which a selection, if any, is made by University.

1.6 Proposer's Acceptance of RFP Terms

Proposer (1) accepts [a] Proposal Evaluation Process (ref. **Section 1.5** of **APPENDIX ONE**), [b] Criteria for Selection (ref. **2.3** of this RFP), [c] Specifications and Additional Questions (ref. **Section 5** of this RFP), [d] terms and conditions of the Agreement (ref. **APPENDIX TWO**), and [e] all other requirements and specifications set forth in this RFP; and (2) acknowledges that some subjective judgments must be made by University during this RFP process.

1.7 Solicitation for Proposal and Proposal Preparation Costs

Proposer understands and agrees that (1) this RFP is a solicitation for proposals and University has made no representation written or oral that one or more agreements with University will be awarded under this RFP; (2) University issues this RFP predicated on University's anticipated requirements for the Services, and University has made no representation, written or oral, that any particular scope of services will actually be required by University; and (3) Proposer will bear, as its sole risk and responsibility, any cost that arises from Proposer's preparation of a proposal in response to this RFP.

1.8 Proposal Requirements and General Instructions

- 1.8.1 Proposer should carefully read the information contained herein and submit a complete proposal in response to all requirements and questions as directed.
- 1.8.2 Proposals and any other information submitted by Proposer in response to this RFP will become the property of University.
- 1.8.3 University will not provide compensation to Proposer for any expenses incurred by the Proposer for proposal preparation or for demonstrations or oral presentations that may be made by Proposer. Proposer submits its proposal at its own risk and expense.
- 1.8.4 Proposals that (i) are qualified with conditional clauses; (ii) alter, modify, or revise this RFP in any way; or (iii) contain irregularities of any kind, are subject to disqualification by University, at University's sole discretion.
- 1.8.5 Proposals should be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of Proposer's ability to meet the requirements and specifications of this RFP. Emphasis should be on completeness, clarity of content, and responsiveness to the requirements and specifications of this RFP.
- 1.8.6 University makes no warranty or guarantee that an award will be made as a result of this RFP. University reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, waive any formalities, procedural requirements, or minor technical inconsistencies, and delete any requirement or specification from this RFP or the Agreement when deemed to be in University's best interest. University reserves the right to seek clarification from any Proposer concerning any item contained in its proposal prior to final selection. Such clarification may be provided by telephone conference or personal meeting with or writing to University, at University's sole discretion. Representations made by Proposer within its proposal will be binding on Proposer.
- 1.8.7 Any proposal that fails to comply with the requirements contained in this RFP may be rejected by University, in University's sole discretion.

1.9 Preparation and Submittal Instructions

1.9.1 Specifications and Additional Questions

Proposals must include responses to the questions in <u>Specifications and Additional Questions</u> (ref. **Section 5** of this RFP). Proposer should reference the item number and repeat the question in its response. In cases where a question does not apply or if unable to respond, Proposer should refer to the item number, repeat the question, and indicate N / A (Not Applicable) or N / R (No Response), as appropriate. Proposer should explain the reason when responding N / A or N / R.

1.9.2 Execution of Offer

Proposer must complete, sign and return the attached <u>Execution of Offer</u> (ref. **Section 2** of **APPENDIX ONE**) as part of its proposal. The Execution of Offer must be signed by a representative of Proposer duly authorized to bind the Proposer to its proposal. Any proposal received without a completed and signed Execution of Offer may be rejected by University, in its sole discretion.

1.9.3 Pricing and Delivery Schedule

Proposer must complete and return the <u>Pricing and Delivery Schedule</u> (ref. **Section 6** of this RFP), as part of its proposal. In the <u>Pricing and Delivery Schedule</u>, the Proposer should describe in detail (a) the total fees for the entire scope of the Services; and (b) the method by which the fees are calculated. The fees must be inclusive of all associated costs for delivery, labor, insurance, taxes, overhead, and profit.

University will not recognize or accept any charges or fees to perform the Services that are not specifically stated in the Pricing and Delivery Schedule.

In the <u>Pricing and Delivery Schedule</u>, Proposer should describe each significant phase in the process of providing the Services to University, and the time period within which Proposer proposes to be able to complete each such phase.

1.9.4 Proposer's General Questionnaire

Proposals must include responses to the questions in <u>Proposer's General Questionnaire</u> (ref. **Section 3** of **APPENDIX ONE).** Proposer should reference the item number and repeat the question in its response. In cases where a question does not apply or if unable to respond, Proposer should refer to the item number, repeat the question, and indicate N / A (Not Applicable) or N / R (No Response), as appropriate. Proposer should explain the reason when responding N / A or N / R.

1.9.5 Addenda Checklist

Proposer should acknowledge all Addenda to this RFP (if any) by completing, signing and returning the <u>Addenda Checklist</u> (ref. **Section 4** of **APPENDIX ONE**) as part of its proposal. Any proposal received without a completed and signed Addenda Checklist may be rejected by University, in its sole discretion.

1.9.6 <u>Submission</u>

Proposer should submit all proposal materials as instructed in **Section 3** of this RFP. RFP No. (ref. **Title Page** of this RFP) and Submittal Deadline (ref. **Section 2.1** of this RFP) should be clearly shown (1) in the Subject line of any email transmitting the proposal, and (2) in the lower left-hand corner on the top surface of any envelope or package containing the proposal. In addition, the name and the return address of the Proposer should be clearly visible in any email or on any envelope or package.

University will not under any circumstances consider a proposal that is received after the Submittal Deadline or which is not accompanied by the HSP as required by **Section 2.5** of this RFP. University will not accept proposals submitted by email, telephone or FAX transmission.

Except as otherwise provided in this RFP, no proposal may be changed, amended, or modified after it has been submitted to University. However, a proposal may be withdrawn and resubmitted at any time prior to the Submittal Deadline. No proposal may be withdrawn after the Submittal Deadline without University's consent, which will be based on Proposer's written request explaining and documenting the reason for withdrawal, which is acceptable to University.

EXECUTION OF OFFER

THIS <u>EXECUTION OF OFFER</u> MUST BE COMPLETED, SIGNED AND RETURNED WITH PROPOSER'S PROPOSAL. FAILURE TO COMPLETE, SIGN AND RETURN THIS EXECUTION OF OFFER WITH THE PROPOSER'S PROPOSAL MAY RESULT IN THE REJECTION OF THE PROPOSAL.

- 2.1 Representations and Warranties. Proposer represents, warrants, certifies, acknowledges, and agrees as follows:
 - 2.1.1 Proposer will furnish the Services to University and comply with all terms, conditions, requirements and specifications set forth in this RFP and any resulting Agreement.
 - 2.1.2 This RFP is a solicitation for a proposal and is not a contract or an offer to contract Submission of a proposal by Proposer in response to this RFP will not create a contract between University and Proposer. University has made no representation or warranty, written or oral, that one or more contracts with University will be awarded under this RFP. Proposer will bear, as its sole risk and responsibility, any cost arising from Proposer's preparation of a response to this RFP.
 - 2.1.3 Proposer is a reputable company that is lawfully and regularly engaged in providing the Services.
 - 2.1.4 Proposer has the necessary experience, knowledge, abilities, skills, and resources to perform the Services.
 - 2.1.5 Proposer is aware of, is fully informed about, and is in full compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations and ordinances relating to performance of the Services.
 - 2.1.6 Proposer understands (i) the requirements and specifications set forth in this RFP and (ii) the terms and conditions set forth in the Agreement under which Proposer will be required to operate.
 - 2.1.7 Proposer will not delegate any of its duties or responsibilities under this RFP or the Agreement to any sub-contractor, except as expressly provided in the Agreement.
 - 2.1.8 Proposer will maintain any insurance coverage required by the Agreement during the entire term.
 - 2.1.9 All statements, information and representations prepared and submitted in response to this RFP are current, complete, true and accurate. University will rely on such statements, information and representations in selecting Contractor. If selected by University, Proposer will notify University immediately of any material change in any matters with regard to which Proposer has made a statement or representation or provided information.
 - 2.1.10 PROPOSER WILL DEFEND WITH COUNSEL APPROVED BY UNIVERSITY, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS UNIVERSITY, THE STATE OF TEXAS, AND ALL OF THEIR REGENTS, OFFICERS, AGENTS AND EMPLOYEES, FROM AND AGAINST ALL ACTIONS, SUITS, DEMANDS, COSTS, DAMAGES, LIABILITIES AND OTHER CLAIMS OF ANY NATURE, KIND OR DESCRIPTION, INCLUDING REASONABLE ATTORNEYS' FEES INCURRED IN INVESTIGATING, DEFENDING OR SETTLING ANY OF THE FOREGOING, ARISING OUT OF, CONNECTED WITH, OR RESULTING FROM ANY NEGLIGENT ACTS OR OMISSIONS OR WILLFUL MISCONDUCT OF PROPOSER OR ANY AGENT, EMPLOYEE, SUBCONTRACTOR, OR SUPPLIER OF PROPOSER IN THE EXECUTION OR PERFORMANCE OF ANY CONTRACT OR AGREEMENT RESULTING FROM THIS RFP.
 - 2.1.11 Pursuant to §§2107.008 and 2252.903, Government Code, any payments owing to Proposer under the Agreement may be applied directly to any debt or delinquency that Proposer owes the State of Texas or any agency of the State of Texas, regardless of when it arises, until such debt or delinquency is paid in full.
 - 2.1.12 Any terms, conditions, or documents attached to or referenced in Proposer's proposal are applicable to this procurement only to the extent that they (a) do not conflict with the laws of the State of Texas or this RFP, and (b) do not place any requirements on University that are not set forth in this RFP. Submission of a proposal is Proposer's good faith intent to enter into the Agreement with University as specified in this RFP and that Proposer's intent is not contingent upon University's acceptance or execution of any terms, conditions, or other documents attached to or referenced in Proposer's proposal.
 - 2.1.13 Pursuant to <u>Chapter 2270, Government Code</u>, Proposer certifies Proposer (1) does not currently boycott Israel; and (2) will not boycott Israel during the Term of the Agreement. Proposer acknowledges the Agreement may be terminated and payment withheld if this certification is inaccurate.
 - 2.1.14 Pursuant to <u>Chapter 2271, Texas Government Code</u>, Contractor certifies Contractor (1) does not currently boycott Israel; and (2) will not boycott Israel during the Term of this Agreement. Contractor acknowledges this Agreement may be terminated and payment withheld if this certification is inaccurate.
- 2.2 No Benefit to Public Servants. Proposer has not given or offered to give, nor does Proposer intend to give at any time hereafter, any economic opportunity, future employment, gift, loan, gratuity, special discount, trip, favor or service to a public servant in connection with its proposal. Failure to sign this Execution of Offer, or signing with a false statement, may void the submitted proposal or any resulting Agreement, and Proposer may be removed from all proposer lists at University.
- **Tax Certification.** Proposer is not currently delinquent in the payment of any taxes due under Chapter 171, Tax Code, or Proposer is exempt from the payment of those taxes, or Proposer is an out-of-state taxable entity that is not subject to those taxes, whichever is applicable. A false certification will be deemed a material breach of any resulting contract or agreement and, at University's option, may result in termination of any resulting Agreement.

- 2.4 Antitrust Certification. Neither Proposer nor any firm, corporation, partnership or institution represented by Proposer, nor anyone acting for such firm, corporation or institution, has violated the antitrust laws of the State of Texas, codified in §15.01 et seq., Business and Commerce Code, or the Federal antitrust laws, nor communicated directly or indirectly the proposal made to any competitor or any other person engaged in such line of business.
- **2.5 Authority Certification.** The individual signing this document and the documents made a part of this RFP, is authorized to sign the documents on behalf of Proposer and to bind Proposer under any resulting Agreement.
- 2.6 Child Support Certification. Under §231.006, Family Code, relating to child support, the individual or business entity named in Proposer's proposal is not ineligible to receive award of the Agreement, and any Agreements resulting from this RFP may be terminated if this certification is inaccurate.

2.7 Relationship Certifications.

- No relationship, whether by blood, marriage, business association, capital funding agreement or by any other such kinship or connection exists between the owner of any Proposer that is a sole proprietorship, the officers or directors of any Proposer that is a corporation, the partners of any Proposer that is a partnership, the joint venturers of any Proposer that is a joint venture, or the members or managers of any Proposer that is a limited liability company, on one hand, and an employee of any member institution of University, on the other hand, other than the relationships which have been previously disclosed to University in writing.
- Proposer has not been an employee of any member institution of University within the immediate twelve (12) months prior to the Submittal Deadline.
- No person who, in the past four (4) years served as an executive of a state agency was involved with or has any interest in Proposer's proposal or any contract resulting from this RFP (ref. §669.003, Government Code).
- All disclosures by Proposer in connection with this certification will be subject to administrative review and approval before University enters into any Agreement resulting from this RFP with Proposer.
- 2.8 Compliance with Equal Employment Opportunity Laws. Proposer is in compliance with all federal laws and regulations pertaining to Equal Employment Opportunities and Affirmative Action.
- 2.9 Compliance with Safety Standards. All products and services offered by Proposer to University in response to this RFP meet or exceed the safety standards established and promulgated under the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Law (<u>Public Law 91-596</u>) and the *Texas Hazard Communication Act*, <u>Chapter 502</u>, <u>Health and Safety Code</u>, and all related regulations in effect or proposed as of the date of this RFP.
- **Exceptions to Certifications.** Proposer will and has disclosed, as part of its proposal, any exceptions to the information stated in this Execution of Offer. All information will be subject to administrative review and approval prior to the time University makes an award or enters into any Agreement with Proposer.
- 2.11 Manufacturer Responsibility and Consumer Convenience Computer Equipment Collection and Recovery Act Certification. If Proposer will sell or lease computer equipment to University under any Agreement resulting from this RFP then, pursuant to §361.965(c), Health & Safety Code, Proposer is in compliance with the Manufacturer Responsibility and Consumer Convenience Computer Equipment Collection and Recovery Act set forth in Chapter 361, Subchapter Y, Health & Safety Code, and the rules adopted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality under that Act as set forth in 30 TAC Chapter 328. §361.952(2), Health & Safety Code, states that, for purposes of the Manufacturer Responsibility and Consumer Convenience Computer Equipment Collection and Recovery Act, the term "computer equipment" means a desktop or notebook computer and includes a computer monitor or other display device that does not contain a tuner.

2.12 Conflict of Interest Certification.

- Proposer is not a debarred vendor or the principal of a debarred vendor (i.e. owner, proprietor, sole or majority shareholder, director, president, managing partner, etc.) either at the state or federal level.
- Proposer's provision of services or other performance under any Agreement resulting from this RFP will not constitute an actual
 or potential conflict of interest.
- · Proposer has disclosed any personnel who are related to any current or former employees of University.
- Proposer has not given, nor does Proposer intend to give, at any time hereafter, any economic opportunity, future employment, gift, loan, gratuity, special discount, trip, favor or service to an officer or employee of University in connection with this RFP.

214	Proposer should complete the following information:	
	If Proposer is a Corporation, then State of Incorporation:	
	If Proposer is a Corporation, then Proposer's Corporate Charter Number:	
	RFP No.: 720-2101 Helicopter Aerial Survey Services	

NOTICE: WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, INDIVIDUALS ARE ENTITLED ON REQUEST TO BE INFORMED ABOUT THE INFORMATION THAT GOVERNMENTAL BODIES OF THE STATE OF TEXAS COLLECT ABOUT SUCH INDIVIDUALS. UNDER §\$52.021 AND 552.023, GOVERNMENT CODE, INDIVIDUALS ARE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE AND REVIEW SUCH INFORMATION. UNDER §559.004, GOVERNMENT CODE, INDIVIDUALS ARE ENTITLED TO HAVE GOVERNMENTAL BODIES OF THE STATE OF TEXAS CORRECT INFORMATION ABOUT SUCH INDIVIDUALS THAT IS INCORRECT.

(Proposer Institution's Name)
(Signature of Duly Authorized Representative)
(Printed Name / Title)
(Date Signed)
(Proposer's Street Address)
(City, State, Zip Code)
(Telephone Number)
75000
(FAX Number)
(Farail Address)
(Email Address)

Submitted and Certified By:

PROPOSER'S GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE

NOTICE: WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, INDIVIDUALS ARE ENTITLED ON REQUEST TO BE INFORMED ABOUT THE INFORMATION THAT GOVERNMENTAL BODIES OF THE STATE OF TEXAS COLLECT ABOUT SUCH INDIVIDUALS. UNDER §\$52.021 AND 552.023, GOVERNMENT CODE, INDIVIDUALS ARE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE AND REVIEW SUCH INFORMATION. UNDER §559.004, GOVERNMENT CODE, INDIVIDUALS ARE ENTITLED TO HAVE GOVERNMENTAL BODIES OF THE STATE OF TEXAS CORRECT INFORMATION ABOUT SUCH INDIVIDUALS THAT IS INCORRECT.

Proposals must include responses to the questions contained in this <u>Proposer's General Questionnaire</u>. Proposer should reference the item number and repeat the question in its response. In cases where a question does not apply or if unable to respond, Proposer should refer to the item number, repeat the question, and indicate N / A (Not Applicable) or N / R (No Response), as appropriate. Proposer will explain the reason when responding N / A or N / R.

3.1

Propos	er Profile
3.1.1	Legal name of Proposer company:
	Address of principal place of business:
	Address of office that would be providing service under the Agreement:
	Number of years in Business:
	State of incorporation:
	Number of Employees:
	Annual Revenues Volume:
	Name of Parent Corporation, if any
3.1.2	State whether Proposer will provide a copy of its financial statements for the past two (2) years, if requested by University
3.1.3	Proposer will provide a financial rating of the Proposer entity and any related documentation (such as a Dunn and Bradstre analysis) that indicates the financial stability of Proposer.
3.1.4	Is Proposer currently for sale or involved in any transaction to expand or to become acquired by another business entity? yes, Proposer will explain the expected impact, both in organizational and directional terms.
3.1.5	Proposer will provide any details of all past or pending litigation or claims filed against Proposer that would affect i performance under the Agreement with University (if any).
3.1.6	Is Proposer currently in default on any loan agreement or financing agreement with any bank, financial institution, or other entity? If yes, Proposer will specify the pertinent date(s), details, circumstances, and describe the current prospects for resolution.
3.1.7	Proposer will provide a customer reference list of no less than three (3) organizations with which Proposer currently had contracts and / or to which Proposer has previously provided services (within the past five (5) years) of a type and scop similar to those required by University's RFP. Proposer will include in its customer reference list the customer's compared contact person, telephone number, project description, length of business relationship, and background of services.

provided by Proposer.

- 3.1.8 Does any relationship exist (whether by family kinship, business association, capital funding agreement, or any other such relationship) between Proposer and any employee of University? If yes, Proposer will explain.
- 3.1.9 Proposer will provide the name and Social Security Number for each person having at least 25% ownership interest in Proposer. This disclosure is mandatory pursuant to §231.006, Family Code, and will be used for the purpose of determining whether an owner of Proposer with an ownership interest of at least 25% is more than 30 days delinquent in paying child support. Further disclosure of this information is governed by the Texas Public Information Act (ref. Chapter 552, Government Code), and other applicable law.

3.2 Approach to Project Services

- 3.2.1 Proposer will provide a statement of the Proposer's service approach and will describe any unique benefits to University from doing business with Proposer. Proposer will briefly describe its approach for each of the required services identified in **Section 5.4** Scope of Work of this RFP.
- 3.2.2 Proposer will provide an estimate of the earliest starting date for services following execution of the Agreement.
- 3.2.3 Proposer will submit a work plan with key dates and milestones. The work plan should include:
 - 3.2.3.1 Identification of tasks to be performed;
 - 3.2.3.2 Time frames to perform the identified tasks;
 - 3.2.3.3 Project management methodology;
 - 3.2.3.4 Implementation strategy; and
 - 3.2.3.5 The expected time frame in which the services would be implemented.
- 3.2.4 Proposer will describe the types of reports or other written documents Proposer will provide (if any) and the frequency of reporting, if more frequent than required in this RFP. Proposer will include samples of reports and documents if appropriate.

3.3 General Requirements

- 3.3.1 Proposer will provide summary resumes for its proposed key personnel who will be providing services under the Agreement with University, including their specific experiences with similar service projects, and number of years of employment with Proposer.
- 3.3.2 Proposer will describe any difficulties it anticipates in performing its duties under the Agreement with University and how Proposer plans to manage these difficulties. Proposer will describe the assistance it will require from University.

3.4 Service Support

Proposer will describe its service support philosophy, how it is implemented, and how Proposer measures its success in maintaining this philosophy.

3.5 Quality Assurance

Proposer will describe its quality assurance program, its quality requirements, and how they are measured.

3.6 Miscellaneous

- 3.6.1 Proposer will provide a list of any additional services or benefits not otherwise identified in this RFP that Proposer would propose to provide to University. Additional services or benefits must be directly related to the goods and services solicited under this RFP.
- 3.6.2 Proposer will provide details describing any unique or special services or benefits offered or advantages to be gained by University from doing business with Proposer. Additional services or benefits must be directly related to the goods and services solicited under this RFP.
- 3.6.3 Does Proposer have a contingency plan or disaster recovery plan in the event of a disaster? If so, then Proposer will provide a copy of the plan.

ADDENDA CHECKLIST

Proposal of:	
(Proposer Company Name)	
To: The University of Texas System	
Ref.: Helicopter Aerial Survey Services	
RFP No.: 720-2101	
Ladies and Gentlemen:	
The undersigned Proposer hereby acknowledges receip	ot of the following Addenda to the captioned RFP (initial if applicable)
Note: If there was only one (1) Addendum, initial just	st the first blank after No. 1, <u>not</u> all five (5) blanks below.
No. 1 No. 2 N	No. 3 No. 4 No. 5
F	Respectfully submitted,
P	Proposer:
	By:(Authorized Signature for Proposer)
	Name:
	Title:
	Date:

APPENDIX TWO

SAMPLE AGREEMENT

(INCLUDED AS SEPARATE ATTACHMENT)