

REGION 4 EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER

STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR PROCUREMENT SOLICITATIONS

These Standard Terms and Conditions for Procurement Solicitations ("Terms and Conditions" or "General Terms and Conditions"); the terms and conditions specified in REGION 4 EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER'S Contract with VENDOR; any Purchase Order (or other similar document agreed to in writing by Region 4); the procurement solicitation and any addenda, exhibits or forms to same ("RFP") (if any); the REGION 4 ESC Electronic Bid Certifications; and the portions of VENDOR'S proposal submitted in response to the RFP, including any best and final offers, that were accepted by REGION 4 ESC represent the basis for VENDOR to deliver the required goods and/or services. In the event of a conflict or inconsistency between or among the documents that form the entire agreement, the following order of precedence shall control: (1) the Contract; (2) any Purchase Order (or other similar document agreed to in writing by Region 4); (3) these Terms and Conditions; (4) the RFP and any Addenda; (5) Region 4's Electronic Bid Certifications; (6) VENDOR's Best and Final Offer, as accepted by Region 4; and (7) the portions of VENDOR'S proposal submitted in response to the RFP that were accepted by REGION 4 ESC. The Contract supersedes all prior offers, negotiations, exceptions, and understandings, whether oral or in writing.

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1 PROPOSAL PREPARATION

1. Contract for Purchase

The Contract(sometimes referred to as "Contract" or "Agreement") constitutes a binding contract between REGION 4 Educational Service CENTER ("REGION 4 ESC", "REGION 4" or "CENTER") and the VENDOR ("VENDOR"), having submitted a proposal in response to a procurement solicitation issued by REGION 4 ESC and whose proposal has been accepted and awarded by REGION 4 ESC, to furnish the goods and/or services specified on the face of the Agreement. This Agreement shall govern each purchase by REGION 4 ESC from VENDOR and is part of the terms and conditions of any purchase order or other similar document agreed to in writing by Region 4 issued in connection with this solicitation.

NOTWITHSTANDING ANYTHING TO THE CONTRARY IN ANY VENDOR FORM, PROPOSAL AND/OR OTHER DOCUMENTATION, THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE AGREEMENT AS INTEGRATED HEREIN SHALL BE CONTROLLING IN ALL INSTANCES. No pre-published terms on VENDOR'S order acknowledgments, invoices, or other forms shall have any force or effect. Acceptance of the VENDOR'S goods and/or services does not equal acceptance of any of the terms and conditions or other contractual provisions which may be stated in the VENDOR'S forms, proposals, and/or other documentation, except as specifically provided herein.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in these Terms and Conditions, upon the CENTER'S acceptance of a proposal, the VENDOR and the CENTER will have entered a binding contract. A solicitation/proposal does not become a contract unless and until it is accepted in writing by REGION 4 ESC after all necessary approvals, including any required approval by the REGION 4 ESC Board of Directors. The Agreement is enforceable from the time of the CENTER'S acceptance, without regard to the time of notification to the VENDOR of such acceptance.

2. Waiver of Preparation Costs and Claims

By submitting a proposal, Offeror expressly agrees to waive any claim it has or may have against REGION 4 ESC, its directors, officers, its trustees, or agents arising out of or in connection with (1) the receipt, handling, administration, evaluation, recommendation of any proposal; (2) any requirements under the solicitation, proposal package, or related documents; (3) the rejection of any proposal or any part of any proposal; and/or (4) the award of a Contract, if any.

REGION 4 ESC shall not be responsible or liable for any costs incurred by Offerors or the successful Offeror in connection with responding to the RFP, preparing for oral presentations, preparing and submitting a proposal, entering or negotiating the terms of a Contract, or any other expenses incurred by an Offeror. The Offeror is wholly responsible for any such costs and expenses and shall not be reimbursed in any manner by REGION 4 ESC.

3. Confidentiality

Trade secrets and confidential information in the proposals must be clearly identified. If a VENDOR believes that a proposal is, or parts of a proposal are confidential, then the business organization must specify. The VENDOR must stamp in bold letters or watermark the term "CONFIDENTIAL" on that part of the proposal that the bidder believes to be confidential. The successful proposal may be considered public information even though parts are marked confidential. Copyrighted proposals are unacceptable and will be disqualified as unresponsive.

4. Preparation Guidance

A representative of the proposing entity authorized to enter into contracts on behalf of the proposing entity must manually sign proposals in ink or electronically, as applicable. The person signing the proposal must indicate their title along with their signature. Proposals received without proper signatures will not be considered. At times, more readily editable versions of documents will be provided where necessary to facilitate the ease of providing information back to the CENTER for all VENDORS. **ALL DOCUMENTS SET FORTH IN THIS PROPOSAL SOLICITATION SHALL REIGN OVER ALTERED VERSIONS PROVIDED BY THE PROPOSER UNLESS SUCH DEVIATIONS OR MODIFICATIONS ARE DOCUMENTED AND SWORN TO ON THE PRESCRIBED AND PROVIDED DEVIATION/COMPLIANCE/ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSAL REQUEST AND ACCEPTED IN WRITING BY REGION 4.**

VENDORS or their authorized representatives are expected to fully inform themselves of the terms, conditions, requirements, and specifications of this invitation before submitting proposals. Failure to do so will be at the VENDOR's own risk. The law makes no allowance for errors of omission or commission on the part of the proposal companies; furthermore, the VENDOR cannot secure relief on the plea of error or ignorance concerning any requirement included in the proposal invitation.

If a pre-proposal meeting is held, that information will be indicated on page one (1) of the Notice to Propose or indicated explicitly in the electronic bidding portal. VENDORS are welcome to attend the proposal opening via Zoom at the date and time indicated in this proposal solicitation; however, VENDOR presence is not required, and no weight or other consideration toward any award decision will be given to any VENDOR s' attendance or absence at the proposal opening. The form and content of the proposal recaps will be at the sole discretion of the management and staff of REGION 4.

Proposals shall be submitted only on the forms provided by REGION 4. Deviations from the General Conditions and Specifications shall be conspicuously noted in writing by VENDOR and included in the proposal.

Small and Minority Firms, Women's Business Enterprises, Veteran-Owned Businesses, and Labor Surplus Area firms are especially invited to submit proposals.

2 **STATEMENT OF INCLUSION/APPLICABILITY**

These General Terms and Conditions apply to all proposal invitations issued by REGION 4. By this inclusion, they become an integral part of any contract awarded or purchase order issued in association with this proposal invitation.

3 GENERAL TERMINOLOGY

Throughout this document, the terms "Member," "Participating Member," etc., are used interchangeably to mean "the collective, cooperative association and the related activities of the management and staff of REGION 4 and any one or all of its participating school entity or other cooperative members and their management and staff."

The section titles contained in these Terms and Conditions document are for convenience and reference only and in no way define, describe, extend, or limit the scope or intent of the provisions of any section of this document.

No number listing of factors, or organization of subject matter or criteria in this document constitutes an order of preference, precedence, or importance unless specifically stated to the contrary.

4 CONTRACT PERIOD

The term length for any contract resulting from any award under this proposal is stated in the Contract, RFP, Purchase Order or other Contract document, as applicable. Unless otherwise indicated in these Terms and Conditions, all proposal pricing will be firm throughout the Contract period.

5 ADDENDUMS

REGION 4 reserves the right to revise and amend the specifications before the date set for the bid opening. It is the responsibility of each VENDOR, before submitting their proposal, to review <https://region4esc.ionwave.net> to determine if any addendums have been issued.

If any changes to this proposal invitation occur after the original proposal invitation, the changes or corrections to this invitation will be made by addendum, and any updated information contained in any addendum will prevail over the information contained in the original proposal invitation or any previous addendum.

Each addendum will be sent to all entities that have received a copy of this proposal invitation. REGION 4 or their appointed representative is the sole authority for issuing any addendum related to this proposal. Any communications from any person or entity other than REGION 4 regarding any matters related to this proposal are invalid and will not influence this proposal invitation.

Each addendum must be acknowledged and signed by the VENDOR. The addendum acknowledgment form must be submitted along with the proposal submission before the bid opening date and time indicated the proposal solicitation.

6 CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

This Agreement may be changed or amended only by the mutual agreement of the parties, in writing to be attached to and incorporated in this Agreement. No such changes or amendments shall have any effect unless and until a written amendment to this Agreement is executed by REGION 4 ESC's Executive Director (or designee) after any necessary approvals have been obtained from the REGION 4 ESC Board of Directors.

7 REQUESTS FOR EXPLANATION/INTERPRETATION

Any explanation desired by a prospective VENDOR regarding the meaning or interpretation of any part of the proposal documents must be requested in writing to the REGION 4 ESC Procurement Contract Specialist identified in this solicitation at least five (5) REGION 4 ESC business days prior to the date set to receive proposals, in order to allow a response to reach all prospective VENDORS s before the submission of their proposals. Any REGION 4 ESC response, interpretation, correction, approval, supplemental instruction or change to the proposal documents will be made in the form of a written addendum and will be posted at the location where the original bid solicitation was accessed. Sole authority for issuing addenda shall be vested in the REGION 4 ESC Procurement Department. All interpretations and/or clarifications considered necessary by and approved by the CENTER in response to a prospective VENDOR'S written request will be issued by such addenda; verbal requests for clarification or additional information will not be addressed.

Receipt of any addenda issued by the CENTER shall be acknowledged by all prospective VENDORS s with their proposal submissions. The CENTER reserves the right to reject any proposal due to its failure to incorporate addenda, and the CENTER further reserves the rights: to waive any and/or all formalities, irregularities, and/or technicalities; to be the sole judge of quality and suitability; and to accept any proposal and/or to reject any or all proposals or part(s) of a proposal, without reason or cause. The issuance of the procurement solicitation in no way obligates REGION 4 ESC to award, enter into an agreement, or purchase any goods and/or services.

8 SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications have been developed by REGION 4 and are intended to give information on the type and kind of service requested. Catalog numbers, brand names, or manufacturer's product or reference numbers used in the item specifications are intended to be descriptive, not restrictive. These references, as well as "approved brands" listed, are intended to identify and indicate the type of product being sought and establish the level of quality desired. If any conflict exists in the item s VENDOR specifications between the product descriptions and any brand names, models, or reference numbers used, the product descriptions will override the brand names or model number references.

Most proposals on brands of equivalent nature and quality will be considered, provided a reputable manufacturer regularly produces them. However, in some cases, REGION 4 may find it advantageous to standardize equipment and supplies by the manufacturer to achieve efficiencies in procurement, repair, and operation, match existing stock, or satisfy other requirements. In these cases, the specific products identified as "approved brands" will be preferred, especially if all other evaluation factors are equal. For this reason, where particular brands or models are identified, the VENDOR should propose the specified item and an alternate brand or model where desired.

The apparent silence of the specifications as to any detail or the evident omission from any specification of a detailed description concerning any point shall be regarded as meaning that only the best commercial practices shall prevail. All interpretations of the specifications shall be made based on this statement.

If you discover or suspect an error in the item specifications in this proposal invitation, please note it as part of your response. We will attempt to correct errors for future proposal invitations.

9 CONTRACTOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

Before submitting a proposal, VENDORS shall carefully examine the specifications and related documents, visit the site(s) of the work and fully inform themselves as to all existing conditions and limitations, and shall include in the proposal a sum to cover the cost of all items included in the contract. The VENDOR, if awarded the contract, shall be allowed no extra compensation by reason of any matter or thing which the VENDOR might have or should have fully informed himself prior to the deadline. The submission of a bid indicates that the contractor has visited the site(s), familiarized themselves with the local conditions under which the work is to be performed, and correlated their observations with the requirements of the contract documents.

Supervise and direct the work and be solely responsible for all methods, techniques, procedures, and coordination of the work under this contract.

Initiate, maintain, and supervise safety precautions in connection with the work. The contractor shall obtain approval from the Facility Director for the location of equipment, supplies, and access during the work.

Take all precautions necessary for the safety of and provide protection to prevent damage, injury, or loss to:

- All employees on the premises and all other people who may be affected thereby.
- All the work and all materials to be incorporated therein, whether in storage on or off the site.
- All property at and adjacent to the sites, including trees, shrubs, lawns, walks, pavements, roadways, structures, and utilities. All property damaged due to work operations shall be restored by the contractor to its original condition at no charge.
- Please comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, and orders of all public authorities having jurisdiction for the safety of persons and property to protect them from damage, injury, and loss.
- Secure all necessary licenses and permits required to perform the work.
- All work shall take place in accordance with the contract documents, be completed in all parts, and be in accordance with approved practices and customs.

10 SUBCONTRACTORS

The VENDOR shall not subcontract services provided in this solicitation without prior written approval by REGION 4 ESC. If the CENTER gives written permission for VENDOR to use subcontractor(s) in the performance of any part of this Agreement, VENDOR shall ensure that each subcontractor complies with all provisions of this Agreement and shall be fully responsible to REGION 4 ESC for all acts and omissions of the subcontractors, just as VENDOR is responsible for VENDOR'S own acts and omissions. VENDOR shall require each subcontractor to maintain and to furnish VENDOR with satisfactory evidence of Workers Compensation, Employer's Liability, and such other forms and amounts of insurance which VENDOR deems reasonably adequate. VENDOR shall remain liable for the acts and omissions of such subcontractor(s) and the proper performance and delivery of all goods and services under this Agreement. Nothing in this Agreement shall create for the benefit of any such subcontractor any contractual relationship between REGION 4 ESC and any such subcontractor, nor shall it create any obligation on the part of REGION 4 ESC to pay or to see to the payment of any moneys due any such subcontractor except as may otherwise be required by law.

11 INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

VENDOR shall comply with all of the CENTER'S insurance requirements. VENDOR shall carry and maintain in full force and effect, for the duration of this Agreement, the following insurance coverages, in the amount(s) set out in the sub-sections that follow and with responsible insurer(s) (rated A or better by A.M. Best) acceptable to the CENTER: Workers' Compensation; Employers' Liability; Commercial General Liability; Automobile Liability; and Umbrella Liability. VENDOR'S insurance coverage shall be in accordance with the following requirements:

1. REGION 4 ESC shall be designated as an Additional Insured on the Commercial General Liability, Automobile Liability, and Umbrella Liability policies. In addition, REGION 4 ESC shall be named as an alternate employer on the workers' compensation policy.
2. VENDOR shall cause the insurance policies to: provide that any losses will be payable notwithstanding any act or negligence of the CENTER or any other person; provide that the insurer will have no right of subrogation against REGION 4 ESC; and be reasonably satisfactory to the CENTER in all other respects.
3. All of VENDOR'S insurance coverage shall be primary and non-contributory.
4. All insurance policies required under this Agreement shall contain a provision that at least thirty (30) days' prior written notice shall be given to REGION 4 ESC in advance of the effective dates of any cancellation, reduction, modification, termination, material change, or non-renewal of such insurance policies.
5. VENDOR shall maintain insurance coverage in the amounts specified by the CENTER. The VENDOR shall not commence any portion of the work under this Agreement until all the insurance required herein and certificates of such insurance have been filed with and approved in writing by REGION 4 ESC.
6. There shall be a hold harmless agreement in which the VENDOR assumes liability on the Agreement and holds REGION 4 ESC harmless.
7. The VENDOR shall purchase and maintain in force the following types and amounts of insurance for the performance of all of its obligations under this Agreement and provide REGION 4 ESC with a certificate(s) of insurance as evidence. Certificates of Insurance on the current ACORD form shall be issued to the CENTER prior to the start of work showing all required insurance coverage. Copies of such insurance documents shall be part of the Agreement documents, and the VENDOR shall maintain such in force throughout the term of its Agreement with the CENTER.
8. Casualty Insurance and Securities-Minimum Requirements:
 - a. Successful VENDOR must maintain workers' compensation coverage for employees as required by all applicable Federal, State, Maritime, and local laws, as well as Employer's Liability with required statutory limits per accident.
 - b. Comprehensive-General Liability Insurance (Occurrence basis only - Bodily Injury and Property Damage): Each Occurrence - \$1,000,000; Aggregate - \$2,000,000
 - c. Comprehensive Automobile Liability Insurance- Business (Commercial) Automobile Liability Insurance*: Bodily Injury and Property Damage covering all owned, non-owned and hired vehicles:
 - d. Bodily Injury and Property Damage Combined Single Limit: \$1,000,000
 - e. Umbrella Liability Insurance (Excess): \$1,000,000

No deletions/exclusions from standard coverage form shall be allowed without the prior written consent of REGION 4 ESC's CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, or designee. The VENDOR shall have ten (10) REGION 4 ESC business days from the date of the award of the Agreement to furnish the REGION 4 ESC Procurement Department the required insurance certificates. No work shall commence until a copy of VENDOR'S current insurance certificate(s) is/are received at and approved in writing by the REGION 4 ESC Procurement Department, 7145 West Tidwell Road, Houston, Texas 77092.

When insurance is required, the above limits are the minimum required by REGION 4 ESC. REGION 4 ESC reserves the right to require additional coverages and/or higher limits to be carried by VENDOR as specified in the procurement solicitation documentation, as deemed desirable by REGION 4 ESC, depending on the type of project.

12 PROPOSAL EVALUATIONS AND AWARDS

All proposals received in response to this proposal invitation, which are submitted in accordance with the instructions and restrictions contained in the section entitled "Proposal Preparation," will initially be considered for award; however, initial consideration of any proposal will not constitute an assessment of its meeting the necessary qualifications, and any proposal may be disqualified at any time during the process of evaluating proposals for failure to meet any other terms or conditions contained anywhere else in the proposal invitation.

REGION 4 reserves the right to waive any or all proposing irregularities, formalities, or other technicalities, to be the sole and independent judge of quality and suitability of any products offered, and may accept or reject any proposal in its entirety, or may reject any part of any proposal without affecting the remainder of that proposal, and may award the individual items on this proposal in any combination or in any way to best serve the interests of its Members as it perceives those interests to be in its sole discretion.

REGION 4 reserves the right to award contracts to multiple VENDORS. The fact that REGION 4 may make multiple awards should be taken into consideration when responding to this proposal. This is a non-exclusive contract; REGION 4 reserves the right to obtain goods and services from another source as the CENTER deems most advantageous.

REGION 4 ESC does not purchase on the basis of low prices alone. REGION 4 ESC represents that it has considered each of the criteria in Texas Education Code § 44.031(b), thereby fulfilling Section 44.031(b)'s requirement that it "shall consider" the criteria listed in 44.031(b); in accordance with Module 5 of the TEA FASRG and applicable federal laws, REGION 4 ESC has determined which criteria should be considered most important and has assigned weights/points to each criterion based on its importance as outlined in the procurement solicitation. In considering a contract for award, the CENTER may evaluate aspects of the following, as permitted by applicable law:

- Purchase price;
- the reputation of the VENDOR and of the VENDOR'S goods or services;
- the quality of the VENDOR'S goods or services;
- the extent to which the goods or services meet the CENTER'S needs;
- the VENDOR'S past relationship with the CENTER;
- the impact on the ability of the CENTER to comply with laws and rules relating to historically underutilized businesses;
- the total long-term cost to the CENTER to acquire the VENDOR'S goods or services;
- for a contract for goods and services, other than goods and services related to telecommunications and information services, building construction and maintenance, or instructional materials, whether the VENDOR or the VENDOR'S ultimate parent company or majority owner:
 - has its principal place of business in this state; or
 - employs at least 500 persons in this state; and
- any other relevant factor specifically listed in the request for bids or proposals.

The CENTER may choose to contract with a single or multiple VENDORS as necessary to obtain the contract mix that is most advantageous. It may be necessary for REGION 4 ESC to establish a competitive range of acceptable responses as part of the evaluation process, or to establish weights for criteria. Such additions, subtractions, or changes to evaluation criteria would be declared elsewhere in the proposal and would supersede this section. If a competitive range is established, responses failing to score in the competitive range may not receive further award consideration.

It is understood that REGION 4, through its management and its Members, may use all means at their collective disposal to evaluate the proposals received on these criteria and the final decision as to the best overall offer, both as to price and to the suitability of the products and services offered to fit the needs of the members of REGION 4, will rest solely with the Board of Directors of REGION 4.

The successful VENDOR(s) will be notified by "Notice(s) of Award" issued by the management of REGION 4.

13 QUANTITIES

Quantities reflected in this proposal invitation are estimates based upon the projected needs for REGION 4 during the contract period. Quantities are the best estimate of anticipated needs available at the time of publication of this proposal invitation, but the accuracy of these estimated quantities may be affected by numerous factors including, but not limited to, budgetary adjustments, changing market forces, unintentional errors or omissions, and new construction. Actual needs may be greater or less than the estimated quantities provided.

REGION 4 reserves the right to increase or decrease the order at the same unit price or decrease quantities as funding and needs vary throughout the contract term. VENDORS at the close of the contract period agree not to hold REGION 4 liable for any inaccuracies in estimated quantities.

14 PRICING/ESCALATION/DE-ESCALATION

The request for proposal process provides for full competition among proposals and allows for negotiation with the supplier(s) to obtain the best product and service at the best price. **Under requests for proposals, changes in the nature of a proposal and in prices may be negotiated after proposals are opened.** REGION 4 will evaluate proposals and select the VENDOR offering the most advantageous proposal. Since proposal pricing can be negotiated and is subject to change, no pricing information will be revealed at the public opening. All participating VENDORS will be given the same opportunity if negotiations are started unless otherwise directed by law. The REGION 4 evaluation committee will be the only deciding body in making the decision to negotiate or not to negotiate.

Proposal prices must remain firm for at least one (1) calendar year from the proposal opening date, unless a deviation from this standard and purpose for the deviation is noted in the Vendor's response. Such deviations are subject to Region 4 ESC approval. Price increases requested during the term of the contract may be granted at the sole discretion of Region 4 ESC.

No escalation of cost changes in contracted prices or increased rates will be added during the contract period. **Exceptions will be considered at Region 4's discretion if there are state-mandated increases that will affect all applicable VENDORS equally.** The awarded VENDOR agrees not to sell the same product or service at a lower cost to another customer without offering the same pricing discount to REGION 4. In the event that a lower price is provided through any other RFP in the state, REGION 4 will receive that lower price as well.

New technology and products that meet the scope of work may be added to the existing contract. Pricing shall be equivalent to the percentage discount of other products offered. VENDOR may replace or add product lines to an existing contract if the line is replacing or supplementing products on contract, is superior to the original products offered, is discounted in a similar or to a greater degree, and if the products meet the requirements of the original solicitation. No products may be added to avoid competitive procurement procedures. REGION 4 may reject any additions without cause.

If there is a discrepancy between the unit cost and the total price, the unit cost will stand as the proposal price. The unit cost will be considered the price by weight or the cost whichever is applicable. The unit cost will only be the case price if the package quantity throughout the industry is standardized.

15 TAX

REGION 4 and Participating Members are public jurisdictions that are exempt from sales, excise, and use taxes. REGION 4 and Participating Members, upon individual requests, will provide tax exemption certificates for the VENDOR. Unless otherwise specified in this proposal invitation, sales tax will only be included in any proposal response or invoice submitted by any VENDOR if the VENDOR has requested a tax exemption certificate from the CENTER in writing and failed to receive the same within a reasonable period of time. The limited sales, excise, and use tax laws recognize the inclusion of tax exemption information as part of a purchase order document to be as binding as if it had been submitted separately, and by responding to this proposal invitation, the VENDOR agrees to accept tax exemption information in such form.

16 WITHDRAWALS OR MODIFICATION OF PROPOSAL

Subject to the restrictions discussed below, REGION 4 will consider a written request from any VENDOR that the VENDOR be allowed to withdraw any proposal submitted, but only in its entirety, and only until the due date and time for proposal submission as stated in the request for proposal included with this proposal invitation. A representative of the proposing entity who is authorized to enter into contracts on behalf of the proposing entity must manually sign any request for the withdrawal of any proposal in ink, and the person signing the request must indicate their title along with their signature. No proposal may be withdrawn after the date and time that proposals are due as specified in the RFP. Only proposals that have been submitted consistent with the instructions relating to packaging and labeling of the proposal will be considered for withdrawal.

If there is any question in the mind of the management or staff of REGION 4 regarding the identity of the proposal or the identity of the VENDOR relating to any request for the withdrawal of any proposal, REGION 4 will refuse to allow the withdrawal of the proposal. Withdrawal of any proposal allowed by REGION 4 will require the completion and signature of a written receipt by the VENDOR's representative satisfactory to the management or staff of REGION 4 before the proposal is released. The decision of the management or staff of REGION 4 relating to any matters concerning proposal withdrawal will be final.

If a VENDOR requests to withdraw a proposal and REGION 4 allows the withdrawal of the proposal, the VENDOR may resubmit the proposal, or submit a new proposal, up until the due date and time for proposal submission as stated in the RFP included with this proposal invitation, provided any new submission meets all the qualifications of proposal submission included in these General Terms and Conditions.

If a VENDOR resubmits a proposal that was withdrawn and makes changes to any document in the proposal package, an authorized agent of the proposing entity must indicate alterations made to any proposal document.

All proposals in the possession of REGION 4 at the time proposals are due shall be deemed final, conclusive, and irrevocable, and no proposal shall be subject to withdrawal, amendment, or correction after the due date and time for proposal submission as stated in the RFP included with this proposal invitation.

17 DEVIATIONS FROM SPECIFICATIONS OR TERMS/CONDITIONS

Any and all limitations, exceptions, qualifications, special conditions, or deviations from these General Terms and Conditions or any of the item specifications, including the offering of any alternate to the "approved brand and/or model" (where identified) must be clearly noted in detail by the VENDOR at the time of submission of the proposal. The absence of such limitations, exceptions, qualifications, special conditions, or deviations being submitted in writing with the VENDOR'S response will hold the VENDOR accountable to REGION 4 and its Members to perform in strict accordance with all these General Terms and Conditions and all the item specifications as written, including any "approved brands and/or models" identified. The VENDOR should be aware that the submission of any such limitations, exceptions, qualifications, special conditions, or deviations with the proposal response may place the VENDOR at a competitive disadvantage or otherwise prevent REGION 4 from considering the proposal on the affected item(s).

Any deviation from any of the item specifications, including the delivery of any product other than the specific brand and model of the product awarded, will be grounds for rejection of the product(s) when delivered, and will expose the VENDOR to the remedies identified in the section entitled "Non-Performance/Termination of Contract" and may jeopardize future business from the CENTER.

18 CONTRACTS AND PURCHASE ORDERS

A response to this proposal invitation is an offer to contract with REGION 4 and its Members based on the item specifications and the General Terms and Conditions contained in the proposal invitation. Proposals do not become contracts until they are accepted by REGION 4 through an award notice to the VENDOR and put into effect by the issuance of a purchase order(s) signed by an authorized representative of REGION 4. Purchase orders will be delivered by facsimile, emailed or mailed to the VENDOR. All deliveries and financial transactions will occur directly between the VENDOR and REGION 4.

All contracts and agreements between vendors and REGION 4 shall strictly adhere to the statutes as set forth in the Uniform Commercial Code as last amended.

19 NON-PERFORMANCE/TERMINATION OF CONTRACT

Termination of this Agreement will take place under the following conditions:

- **Termination by REGION 4 ESC**, if the VENDORS refuses or fails to comply, or proceeds in a manner that does not comply, with the Agreement, or otherwise breaches any provision of the Agreement, and fails to cure the default as set forth below.
- **Termination by REGION 4 ESC**, if the VENDOR does not carry out the provisions of this Agreement in its true intent and meaning as specified in the scope of work and fails to cure the default as set forth below.
- **Termination by REGION 4 ESC**, if the VENDOR does any of the following and fails to cure the default as set forth below: fails to make progress; fails to provide the goods or perform the services within the time period specified or any written extension thereof; breaches any provision of the Agreement, the procurement solicitation, and/or a purchase or work order; fails to make payment(s) owed; or defaults in whole or in part.
- **Termination by REGION 4 ESC**, if the VENDOR charges increased rates that are not agreed to in advance or as specified herein.
- **Termination by REGION 4 ESC**, if the VENDOR becomes insolvent, enters voluntary or involuntary bankruptcy or receivership proceedings, or makes an assignment for the benefit of creditors.
- **Termination by REGION 4 ESC**, if the VENDOR is in violation of any federal, state, or local law.
- **Termination by REGION 4 ESC** due to budgetary requirements, including, but not limited to, as set forth in the section of these terms and conditions entitled "Funding Out Clause."
- **Termination by Region 4 for Convenience** - Unless specifically stated otherwise in the procurement solicitation, this Agreement may be terminated for any reason, with or without cause, by Region 4 by giving thirty (30) business days' written notice to the VENDOR. Region 4 may further direct VENDOR to cease providing all products and services during the interim notice period prior to such termination, and upon receipt of such written notice from Region 4, VENDOR shall immediately discontinue same and Region 4 shall incur no additional charges from the time forward.

In the event of a breach or default of the Agreement and/or the procurement solicitation by VENDOR, REGION 4 ESC reserves the right to enforce the performance of the Agreement and/or the procurement solicitation in any manner prescribed by law or deemed to be in the best interest of REGION 4 ESC. REGION 4 ESC's right to require strict performance of any obligation in the Agreement will not be affected by any previous waiver, forbearance, or course of dealing.

Upon VENDOR'S default of obligation to the Agreement, VENDOR will be served notice to provide satisfactory compliance to the Agreement without penalty. If the VENDOR neglects or refuses to follow such notice and fails to cure the default within ten (10) business days, REGION 4 ESC will have the right (without limiting any other rights or remedies that it may have in the Agreement or by law) to terminate the Agreement with five (5) calendar days' prior written notice to VENDOR. REGION 4 ESC will then be relieved of all obligations, except to pay for VENDOR'S prior acceptable performance as set forth below. In the event of VENDOR'S default, REGION 4 ESC is expressly authorized to obtain the goods and/or services that would have been provided by VENDOR under this Agreement from an alternative source. VENDOR shall be held liable to REGION 4 ESC for all losses, costs, and/or expenses (including those exceeding the Agreement price) sustained by REGION 4 ESC as a result of VENDOR'S failure to conform to this Agreement, including, but not limited to, those losses, costs, and expenses that REGION 4 ESC incurs in completing or procuring the services and/or goods as provided for in the Agreement. In the event the Agreement is terminated, REGION 4 ESC reserves the right to award the Agreement to another VENDOR at its sole discretion, and/or to obtain comparable goods and/or services elsewhere and either deduct the costs of obtaining such services from any amount owed VENDOR or VENDOR shall reimburse the CENTER for such costs incurred by the CENTER.

In the event of early termination, including for convenience, the CENTER will make payment only for goods and services rendered and accepted by the CENTER through the effective date of the Agreement's termination, at a cost not exceeding the Agreement rate and subject to any claims, costs and expenses incurred by REGION 4 ESC as a result of VENDOR'S default. The CENTER will be responsible for payment for only those goods and services that have been accepted by the CENTER up to the termination date. The CENTER is entitled to a pro-rata refund for any goods and/or services for which the CENTER has paid but which have not yet been provided by VENDOR or accepted by the CENTER.

In the event this Agreement is terminated because of a violation or breach of the Agreement's terms by the VENDOR, the CENTER shall be entitled to all administrative, contractual, and legal remedies, including sanctions and penalties.

VENDOR agrees that REGION 4 ESC shall not be liable for damages in the event that REGION 4 ESC declares VENDOR to be in default or breach of this Agreement and/or the procurement solicitation. VENDOR further agrees that upon termination of the Agreement for any reason, VENDOR shall, in good faith and with reasonable cooperation, aid in the transition to any new arrangement and/or VENDOR.

20 FORCE MAJEURE

The parties to this Agreement may be excused from performance hereunder during the time and to the extent that they are prevented from performance due to an act of God, fire, strike or lockout, or other occurrences which are reasonably beyond such party's control, when satisfactory evidence thereof is presented to the other party and provided that such non-performance is not due to the fault of the non-performing party. The parties to this Agreement are required to use due caution and preventive measures to protect against the effects of force majeure, and the burden of proving that a force majeure event has occurred shall rest on the party seeking relief under this provision. Neither party shall have any claim for damages against the other resulting from delays caused solely by force majeure. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, in the event the VENDOR'S performance of its obligations under this Agreement is delayed or stopped by a force majeure event, REGION 4 ESC shall have the option to terminate this Agreement. This section shall not be interpreted as to limit or otherwise modify any of REGION 4 ESC's contractual, legal, or equitable rights.

21 NON-COLLUSION CERTIFICATION

By signing this proposal, the VENDOR certifies that, to the best of their knowledge:

- Neither the VENDOR nor any business entity represented by the VENDOR has received compensation for participation in the preparation of the item specifications or the General Terms and Conditions related to this proposal invitation.
- This proposal has been arrived at independently and is submitted without collusion with any other VENDOR, with any competitor or potential competitor, or with any other person or entity to obtain any information or gain any special treatment or favoritism that would in any way limit competition or give any VENDOR an unfair advantage over any other VENDOR with respect to this proposal.
- The VENDOR has not accepted, offered, conferred, or agreed to confer, and will not in the future accept, offer, confer, or agree to confer, any benefit or anything of value to any person or entity related to REGION 4 or any of its Members in connection with any information or submission related to this proposal, any recommendation, decision, vote, or award related to this proposal, or the exercise of any influence or discretion concerning the sale, delivery, or performance of any product or service related to this proposal.
- Neither the VENDOR, nor any business entity represented by the VENDOR, nor anyone acting for such business entity, has violated the Federal Antitrust Laws or the antitrust laws of this State with regard to this proposal, and this proposal has not been knowingly disclosed, and will not be knowingly disclosed to any other VENDOR, competitor, or potential competitor prior to the opening of proposals or proposals for this project.
- No attempt has been or will be made to influence any other person or entity to submit or to not submit a bid or proposal response.
- The person signing this bid proposal agrees to the accuracy regarding the statements contained in this document.

22 NO ASSIGNMENT

Neither this Agreement nor any right, interest, duty, obligation, or responsibility of VENDOR to furnish the goods and/or services specified in this Agreement shall be subcontracted, assigned, transferred, mortgaged, pledged, or otherwise delegated, disposed of, or encumbered in any way by the VENDOR without the prior written acknowledgment and approval of REGION 4 ESC. Any attempted assignment of this Agreement by VENDOR shall be null and void. In the event REGION 4 ESC approves of any assignment, VENDOR shall have full responsibility for the completion and performance of all services and the delivery of all goods awarded to VENDOR pursuant to this Agreement.

No purchase or work order made as a result of this Agreement may be transferred, assigned, subcontracted, mortgaged, pledged, or otherwise disposed of or encumbered in any way by VENDOR without the prior written approval of REGION 4 ESC.

VENDOR is required to notify REGION 4 ESC when any material change in operations occurs, including but not limited to, changes in distribution rights for awarded products, bankruptcy, material changes in financial condition, change of ownership, and the like, within three (3) business days of such change.

23 CERTIFICATIONS REGARDING LEGAL AND ETHICAL MATTERS

1. VENDOR has read and understands all the General Terms and Conditions in this document, and agrees to be bound by them, and is authorized to submit proposals on behalf of their entity.
2. The VENDOR has noted any and all relationships that might be conflicts of interest and included such information with their proposal response.
3. The proposal submitted conforms to all item specifications, these General Terms and Conditions, and any other instructions, requirements, or schedules outlined or included in this proposal invitation.

4. If this proposal is accepted, in whole or in part, the proposing entity will furnish any item(s) awarded to them under this proposal invitation to REGION 4 at the price proposal, and in accordance with the item specifications and the terms and conditions contained in this proposal invitation.
5. The proposing entity has, or has the ability to obtain, such financial and other resources, including inventories, as may be required to fulfill all the responsibilities associated with this proposal.
6. The proposing entity has a high degree of integrity and business ethics, and a satisfactory record of performances, and has not been notified by any local, state, or federal agency with competent jurisdiction that its standing in any matters whatsoever would preclude it from participating in this proposal, it would in no other way whatsoever be disqualified to proposal or receive any award or contract related to this proposal, and the VENDOR will comply with any reasonable request from REGION 4 to supply any information sufficient to substantiate the proposing entity's ability to meet these minimum standards.
7. The VENDOR has not given, offered to give, nor intends 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 the submitted bid.
8. The VENDOR is not currently delinquent in the payment of any franchise tax owed to the State of Texas.
9. The proposing entity has identified and disclosed in this written proposal response any and all known or suspected matters that would disqualify it from participating in this proposal or receiving any award or contract related to this proposal, recognizing that the VENDORS failure to identify and disclose in this proposal response any such matters which do exist is a material breach of contract which will void the submitted proposal or any resulting contracts, and subject the proposing entity to be removed from all proposal lists, and possible criminal prosecution.
10. The proposing entity has obtained and will continue to maintain, during the entire term of this contract, all permits, approvals, or licenses necessary for the lawful performance of its obligations under this contract.
11. The prices, prompt payment discount terms, delivery terms, distribution allowances, and the quality and/or performance of the products and services offered in the proposal response are and will remain the same or better than those offered to the VENDOR's most favored customer under equivalent circumstances.
12. The proposing entity will comply with all laws relating to intellectual property, will not infringe on any third party's intellectual property rights, and will indemnify, defend, and hold REGION 4 and its Members harmless against any claims for infringement of any copyrights, patents, or other infringements related to its activities under this contract.
13. The proposal submitted complies with all federal, state, and local laws concerning these types of products or services, and the proposing entity will continue to comply with any applicable federal, state, and local laws related to the proposing entity's activities in connection with this contract.
14. The proposing entity will maintain, at the proposing entity's expense, any insurance necessary to protect REGION 4 and its Members from all claims for bodily injury, death, or property damage that might arise from the performance by the proposing entity or the proposing entity's employees or its agents of any service required of the proposing entity under this contract; however, the existence of such insurance will not relieve the proposing entity of full responsibility and liability damages, injury, death, or loss as described or as otherwise provided for by law.
15. Neither REGION 4 nor any of its Members shall be liable to the VENDOR for any damages (including, but not limited to, loss of profits or loss of business, or any special, consequential, exemplary, or incidental damages) in the event that REGION 4 declares the VENDOR in default.
16. VENDOR understands that signing the proposal with any false statement is a material breach of contract which will void the submitted proposal or any resulting contracts and subject the VENDOR to removal from all proposal lists, and possible criminal prosecution.
17. Unless otherwise provided for in this proposal invitation, any written notice or other communication required by this proposal or by law will be conclusively deemed to have been given and received on the second business day after such written notice has been deposited in the U.S. Mail, properly addressed, and with sufficient postage affixed thereto, provided such notice shall not prevent the giving of actual notice in any other manner. Such notice shall also be deemed to be delivered to Vendor upon sending an email to the Vendor's email address provided in the Vendor's response to the RFP or at such other email address provided by Vendor.

24 EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY (EEO) DISCLOSURES

By submission of a proposal, the VENDOR agrees that in the performance of any contract resulting from any award under this proposal, the proposing entity will comply with all applicable equal employment opportunity laws and regulations, including, but not limited to an agreement not to deny any benefit to, exclude from any opportunity, or discriminate in any way against, any applicant, employee, or any other person because of age, color, creed, gender, handicapping condition, marital status, national origin, political affiliation or belief, race, religion, or veteran status.

The proposing entity agrees that during the period of any contract resulting from any award under this proposal invitation will remain, in compliance with Executive Order 11246, entitled "Equal Employment Opportunity" as amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in Department of Labor Regulations (41CFR Part 60).

The occurrence of any prohibited discrimination will constitute VENDOR's breach of contract due to a substantial failure by the VENDOR to fulfill its obligations, whereupon REGION 4 may terminate the VENDOR's contract for cause as provided by section entitled "Non-Performance/Termination of Contract."

25 OWNERSHIP OF AND RIGHTS TO USE COPYRIGHTED MATERIALS

The VENDOR hereby covenants and warrants that the VENDOR is the owner of and/or has full right and authority to use all of the copyrights incorporated in the scope of the work. The VENDOR agrees that the VENDOR will not contest REGION 4's right to use any copyrighted material within the scope of work and that the VENDOR will not contest the validity of any copyright arising out of the scope of work performed in accordance with this agreement. **VENDOR SHALL INDEMNIFY REGION 4 FOR ANY CLAIMS OR DAMAGES ARISING FROM ANY THIRD-PARTY ALLEGATION THAT REGION 4'S USE OF ANY SUCH MATERIALS ARE A BREACH OF SUCH PARTIES INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS.**

26 DISPUTES/VENUE/ATTORNEYS' FEES

This contract shall be governed by REGION 4 ESC and VENDOR shall have all remedies afforded each by the Uniform Commercial Code, as adopted in the State of Texas, except as otherwise provided in this contract or in statutes pertaining specifically to the State. This contract shall be governed by the laws of the State of Texas, and suits pertaining to this contract may be brought only in the courts of the State of Texas in Harris County.

The prevailing party in any adjudication relating to or arising out of this Agreement shall be awarded all reasonable and necessary attorneys' fees and costs.

27 WAIVER

No claims or rights arising out of a breach of this contract can be discharged in whole or part by a waiver or renunciation of the claim or right unless the waiver or renunciation is supported by consideration and is in writing signed by the aggrieved party.

28 INTERPRETATION – PAROLE EVIDENCE

The parties intend this writing as a final expression of their agreement and a complete and exclusive statement of the terms of their agreement. No course of prior dealing between the parties and no usage of the trade shall be relevant to supplement or explain any terms used in this agreement. Acceptance of acquiescence in a course of performance rendered under this agreement shall not be relevant to determine the meaning of this agreement even though the accepting or acquiescing party has knowledge of the performance and opportunity for objection. Whenever a term defined by the Texas Business & Commerce Code is used in this agreement, the definition contained in the Code shall be controlling.

29 RIGHT TO ASSURANCE

Whenever one party to the contract in good faith has reason to question the other party's intent to perform he may demand that the other party give written assurance of his intent to perform. In the event that a demand is made and no assurance is given within five (5) days, the demanding party may treat this failure as an anticipatory repudiation of the contract.

30 FUNDING OUT CLAUSE (NON-APPROPRIATION)

Renewal of this Agreement or continuation beyond the current fiscal year, if any, will be in accordance with Texas Local Government Code § 271.903 concerning non-appropriation of funds for multi-year contracts. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement or obligation imposed on REGION 4 ESC by this Agreement, REGION 4 ESC shall have the right to terminate this Agreement without default or liability to VENDOR resulting from such termination, effective as of the expiration of each budget period of REGION 4 ESC if it is determined by REGION 4 ESC, in REGION 4 ESC's sole discretion, that there are insufficient funds to extend this Agreement. The parties agree that this Agreement is a commitment of REGION 4 ESC's current revenue only. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement, the CENTER is obligated to make payments only as approved each year by the CENTER'S Board of Directors. The CENTER'S Board of Directors retains the right to terminate this Agreement at the expiration of each budget period of the CENTER. To the extent that the CENTER will use federal grant funds to fulfill its obligations under this Agreement, VENDOR acknowledges that federal funds will be used to pay for all or a portion of funds due under this Agreement and that this Agreement is only effective upon receipt of the Notice of Grant Award ("NOGA") by the CENTER from the awarding agency. As such, if the CENTER does not receive sufficient funding for the services provided in this Agreement, the CENTER may terminate this Agreement without penalty or further obligation to VENDOR, at any time upon written notice to VENDOR.

31 RELATIONSHIP OF PARTIES

It is the intention of the parties that VENDOR be an independent contractor and not an employee, agent, joint venturer, or partner of the CENTER. REGION 4 ESC and VENDOR acknowledge that they do not have a continuing relationship, and that this Agreement is intended only to create a limited relationship for the specific purposes of providing the goods and/or services referenced in this Agreement. Neither party shall have any power or authority to bind or commit, or to assume or create any obligation or responsibility on behalf of, the other party in any respect, contractually or otherwise, to any third party. In the event this Agreement requires the VENDOR'S performance of services by VENDOR'S employees, or persons under contract to VENDOR, to be done on REGION 4 ESC property, the VENDOR agrees that all such work shall be done as an independent contractor and that the persons doing such work shall not be considered employees of REGION 4 ESC. In no event shall either party, or any of its respective officers, agents, or employees, be considered the officers, agents, or employees of the other party. Nothing in this Agreement shall be interpreted or construed as creating or establishing the relationship of employer and employee, a joint venture, merger, or any business partnership between the CENTER and either VENDOR or any employee or agent of VENDOR. VENDOR agrees that the CENTER has no responsibility for any conduct of any of VENDOR'S staff, participants, visitors, employees, agents, representatives, personnel, contractors, subcontractors, invitees, or licensees. VENDOR assumes full responsibility for the actions of its staff, participants, visitors, employees, agents, representatives, personnel, contractors, subcontractors, invitees, and licensees while performing any services incident to this Agreement and shall remain solely responsible for their supervision, daily direction and control, payment of salary (including withholdings), workers' compensation, disability benefits, and like requirements and obligations. As an independent contractor, VENDOR will be solely responsible for determining the means and methods for performing the Services and shall furnish all tools, materials, transportation, and personal incidentals necessary in the performance of the Services. VENDOR shall be responsible for any and all applicable social security and personal income taxes that may become due as a result of any payments made by the CENTER hereunder and VENDOR shall indemnify and hold the CENTER harmless in this regard.

32 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

This Agreement shall not be constructed to convey any rights of ownership or any other license, right, title or interest in the other Party's trademarks, copyrights, video programs, curriculum, documents, patents or any other intellectual property.

33 RIGHT TO AUDIT

REGION 4 ESC reserves the right to audit the accounting for a period of three (3) years from the time such purchases are made. This audit right shall survive termination of this Agreement for a period of one (1) year from the effective date of termination. REGION 4 ESC shall have the authority to conduct random audits of VENDOR'S pricing that is offered at REGION 4 ESC's sole cost and expense. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event that REGION 4 ESC is made aware of any pricing being offered that is materially inconsistent with the pricing under this agreement; REGION 4 ESC shall have the ability to conduct an extensive audit of VENDOR'S pricing at VENDOR'S sole cost and expense. REGION 4 ESC may conduct the audit internally or may engage a third-party auditing firm. In the event of an audit, the requested materials shall be provided in the format and at the location designated by REGION 4 ESC.

34 PROPOSAL ACCEPTANCE

The period for acceptance of this proposal will be sixty (60) calendar days unless the VENDOR indicates a different period.

35 PAYMENT

Prior to authorizing payment to Contractor, REGION 4 shall evaluate Contractor's performance using the performance standards set forth in all documents constituting this Contract. Contractor shall provide invoices to REGION 4 for Commodities/Services provided/performed. Invoices must be submitted not later than the 15th day of the month after the Services are completed. No payment whatsoever shall be made under this contract without the prior submission of detailed, correct invoices. Subject to the foregoing, REGION 4 must make all payments in accordance with the Texas Prompt Payment Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 2251. Payments under this Contract may be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Contractor acknowledges and agrees that payments for services provided under this Contract may be contingent upon REGION 4's receipt of funds appropriated by the Texas Legislature.

36 LAWS AND REGULATIONS

VENDOR agrees to comply and certifies compliance with, on behalf of itself and any subcontractors (if approved by the CENTER in accordance with this Agreement), and their respective employees, agents, and representatives, all federal, state, and local laws, acts, rules, regulations, and ordinances, as applicable, including, but not limited to the Education Department General Administrative Regulations ("EDGAR"), 2 C.F.R. Parts 200 and 3474, and 34 C.F.R. Parts 75-77 and 81, and Texas Government Code Chapter 2258. If applicable, VENDOR certifies compliance with all provisions, laws, acts, regulations, rules, and ordinances as detailed in the "Contract Provisions for Non-Federal Entity Contracts under Federal Awards" in Appendix II to 2 C.F.R. Part 200, which is incorporated by reference herein. VENDOR further certifies compliance with all applicable provisions, laws, acts, regulations, rules, and ordinances, including but not limited to those referenced in the CENTER'S Bid Attributes completed by VENDOR, which is incorporated by reference herein. Further, VENDOR agrees to and shall comply with all rules, regulations, policies, procedures, and other requirements of the CENTER and the school campus(es) on which any work is to be performed under this Agreement. VENDOR shall indemnify and hold REGION 4 ESC harmless from and against all claims, demands, suits, actions, judgments, fines, penalties, and liability of every kind arising from the breach of VENDOR'S obligations under this provision.

37 LAW AND WAGE RATES

In the execution of this contract, the VENDOR shall comply with all applicable local, state and federal laws.

38 DAMAGES

The successful VENDOR will be held responsible for and required to make good, at his own expense, all damages to persons and property caused by carelessness or neglect on the part of their employees.

39 VENDOR ASSURANCE

The VENDOR must supply assurance which warrants that the prompt payment discount terms, delivery terms, distribution allowance, quality and performance of product/services, prices and other conditions/provisions offered in this proposal are the same or better than those offered by the proposing entities most favored customer.

40 VENDOR EXPERIENCE

The VENDOR must be fully prepared with the necessary personnel, materials, machinery and equipment to begin the work promptly and to conduct the work as required in the terms, conditions and specifications of this proposal.

REGION 4 may make investigations as deemed necessary to determine the ability of the VENDOR to perform the work, and the VENDOR shall furnish to the CENTER all information and data as requested. REGION 4 reserves the right to reject any proposal if the evidence submitted by, or investigation of, a VENDOR fails to satisfy REGION 4 that the VENDOR is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the contract and to complete the work contemplated therein.

41 PROPRIETARY INFORMATION OR TRADE SECRETS

If any of the information requested is considered to be proprietary or a trade secret belonging to the VENDOR, that information should be filed with the proposal in a separate envelope appropriately designated.

42 SURVIVAL

Expiration or termination of the contract for any reason does not release VENDOR from any liability or obligation set forth in the contract that is expressly stated to survive any such expiration or termination, that by its nature would be intended to be applicable following any such expiration or termination, or that is necessary to fulfill the essential purpose of the contract, including without limitation the provisions regarding warranty, indemnification, confidentiality, and rights and remedies upon termination.

All applicable software license agreements, warranties or service agreements that are entered into between VENDOR and REGION 4 ESC under the terms and conditions of the Contract shall survive the expiration or termination of the Contract. All Purchase Orders issued and accepted by VENDOR shall survive expiration or termination of the Contract. All quotations issued by VENDOR shall survive expiration or termination of the Contract where such quotation is furnished inside of the Contract Period or subsequent renewal.

43 SEVERABILITY

In the event that any one or more of the provisions contained in this Agreement shall for any reason be held to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provisions, and the Agreement shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had never been contained in it.

44 EDUCATIONAL RECORDS

VENDOR agrees that VENDOR and its employees, agents, and/or representatives may receive access to student information for certain students of the CENTER or its Participating Member pursuant to this Agreement. VENDOR shall secure the confidentiality of all information and records in accordance with applicable federal and state laws, rules, and regulations, including but not limited to all privacy laws. VENDOR understands that the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, governs the privacy and security of educational records and information, and VENDOR agrees to abide by FERPA rules and regulations, as applicable. Pursuant to the FERPA, the VENDOR must protect the confidentiality of the CENTER, or its Participating Member, student records and shall not release any information without written consent from the CENTER, or its Participating Member, the student's parent/guardian, or eligible student unless required to do so by applicable law. VENDOR further acknowledges that to the extent VENDOR, including but not limited to, VENDOR'S staff, employees, and/or representatives, receives confidential CENTER, or its Participating Member, student information during the performance of duties under this Agreement, VENDOR is considered a "school official" in accordance with FERPA and shall not disclose confidential student information or education records except as otherwise permitted by applicable law. VENDOR shall require its employees and other agents to execute written agreements requiring that such information be kept confidential. The Parties agree to enter into a Data-Sharing Addendum (or similarly titled and intended document) in the event confidential student information is to be shared, as required by applicable law. VENDOR and its employees/ representatives shall at all times abide by applicable laws, including FERPA and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). VENDOR must destroy any student information received from the CENTER, or its Participating Member when no longer needed for the purposes of the Agreement. VENDOR shall immediately provide notice to the CENTER, or its Participating Member of any violation of the terms of this section. VENDOR shall be solely responsible for any breach of the obligations of this section by any of its employees, agents, representatives, or subcontractors or their employees, agents, or representatives.

45 CENTER'S CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

In the course of performing duties under this Agreement, VENDOR may view, obtain, or have access to financial, accounting, statistical, personnel, and other information of a confidential nature concerning students and schools being served by the CENTER and employees of the CENTER or its Participating Member. All such information is confidential and shall not be disclosed, directly or indirectly, to any person other than authorized officials of the CENTER or its Participating Member, either during or after the effective period of this Agreement. VENDOR acknowledges that the CENTER or its Participating Member would be irreparably injured if VENDOR were to disclose such information to third parties not entitled to receive such information or to misappropriate such confidential information for VENDOR'S own purposes or benefit and that money damages would not compensate the CENTER or its Participating Member for such irreparable injury.

46 INVOICING AND PAYMENT

Itemized invoices shall be mailed to the CENTER and directed to the CENTER'S Accounts Payable Department. VENDOR shall submit invoices within a timely manner during the CENTER'S fiscal year in which the good(s) and/or services are purchased, as applicable. Invoices received more than 60 days after the date the work was performed will not be paid by the CENTER. The following requirements apply to invoices submitted for payment:

1. One invoice shall be submitted per CENTER Purchase Order.
2. Invoice shall bear the following: (a) date of invoice; (b) date(s) of service, if applicable; (c) name of VENDOR; (d) brief description of the item(s), quantity, unit price(s), and extended price(s); (e) if applicable, dates of service(s), including list of services provided daily including dates and amount of time spent performing each service and detailed descriptions of the services provided on each of the dates listed including location where services were provided; (f) VENDOR'S complete mailing address and telephone number.

3. Invoice submission shall include any necessary substantiating documentation or information as required by the Agreement; and certification of goods and/or services provided through a signature by a VENDOR company representative.
4. Invoice shall reference the CENTER Purchase Order Number.
5. Invoice shall be in duplicate.
6. Invoice shall only be paid for goods/products/equipment/services delivered and accepted by CENTER
7. Advance payment to VENDOR is strictly prohibited unless otherwise determined on a case-by-case basis.
8. VENDOR is required to submit to the CENTER a completed IRS Form W-9 for the current tax year and all other forms required by the CENTER (e.g., Felony Conviction Notice, Conflict of Interest Questionnaire, etc.) before payment is rendered.
9. In accordance with Texas Government Code §2251.021, payments are due to VENDOR within forty-five (45) days after the later of the following: (1) the date CENTER receives the goods; (2) the date the performance of the service is completed; or (3) the date CENTER receives an invoice for the goods and/or services.

In the event VENDOR presents the CENTER with invoices, statements, reports, etc. that are incomplete, inaccurate or in need of substantial internal research, such action could result in delay of payment. The CENTER will not be responsible for any interest charges and/or late fees because of delayed payment due to time delays caused by inadequate or incomplete information provided in invoices by VENDOR.

VENDOR agrees to pay any subcontractors, if any, the appropriate share of the payment received from the CENTER not later than the tenth (10th) day after the date VENDOR receives the payment from the CENTER. VENDOR shall be responsible for satisfaction of all applicable IRS standards concerning reporting of income and payments to VENDOR'S subcontractors and/or employees, if any. The exceptions to payments made by the CENTER and/or VENDOR listed in Texas Government Code § 2251.002 shall apply to this Agreement. In the event that VENDOR'S personnel begin work before VENDOR receives a valid purchase order and/or the signing of this Agreement, VENDOR agrees that the CENTER is not liable for payment of such services rendered.

In addition to all other rights and remedies that the CENTER may have, the CENTER shall have the right to setoff, against any and all amounts due to VENDOR by the CENTER, whether due under this Agreement or any other agreement between the CENTER (including any division of the CENTER) and VENDOR, any sums to which the CENTER is entitled under this Agreement, as determined by the CENTER in its sole discretion, including, without limitation, sums due by VENDOR to the CENTER as a result of indemnification obligations and/or warranty claims.

47 INDEMNIFICATION, REMEDIES, AND GOVERNING LAW/VENUE

1. TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, VENDOR AGREES TO PROTECT, DEFEND, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS THE CENTER, ITS DIRECTING BOARD MEMBERS, TRUSTEES, OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, AND REPRESENTATIVES, FROM AND AGAINST ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, LIABILITIES, LOSSES, DAMAGES, COSTS, FINES, PENALTIES, AND EXPENSES (INCLUDING REASONABLE LITIGATION COSTS AND ATTORNEY'S FEES, INCLUDING APPEALS), FOR WHICH THE CENTER, ITS DIRECTING BOARD MEMBERS, TRUSTEES, OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, AND/OR REPRESENTATIVES, CAN OR MAY BE HELD LIABLE AS A RESULT OF INJURY (UP TO AND INCLUDING DEATH) TO A PERSON OR PERSONS OR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY, ARISING OUT OF, OCCASIONED BY, OR IN ANY WAY CONNECTED, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, WITH THE VENDOR'S PERFORMANCE UNDER THIS AGREEMENT (COLLECTIVELY, "CLAIM"), WHETHER OR NOT THE CLAIM ARISES FROM THE NEGLIGENCE, WILLFUL ACT, BREACH OF CONTRACT, OR VIOLATION OF LAW BY VENDOR, ITS EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, CONTRACTORS, OR SUBCONTRACTORS, EXCEPT FOR CLAIMS ARISING ENTIRELY FROM THE WRONGFUL ACTS, OMISSIONS, OR NEGLIGENCE OF THE CENTER, OR ITS AGENTS, EMPLOYEES OR REPRESENTATIVES. ALL OBLIGATIONS AS SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION SHALL SURVIVE THE EXPIRATION, COMPLETION, OR TERMINATION OF THIS AGREEMENT.
2. It is agreed with respect to any legal limitations now or hereafter in effect and affecting the validity or enforceability of the aforementioned indemnification obligation, such legal limitations are made a part of the indemnification obligation to the minimum extent necessary to bring the provision into conformity with the requirements of such limitations, and as so modified, the indemnification obligations shall continue in full force and effect.
3. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to create a claim or cause of action against the CENTER for which it is not otherwise liable, to waive any immunity or defense to which the CENTER may be entitled, or to create an impermissible deficiency debt of the CENTER.
4. REGION 4 ESC and VENDOR shall have all remedies afforded each by the Uniform Commercial Code, as adopted in the State of Texas, except as otherwise provided in this Agreement or in statutes pertaining specifically to Texas governmental entities.
5. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, without regard to its provisions on conflicts of laws. The mandatory and exclusive venue for the adjudication or resolution of any dispute arising out of or relating to this Agreement shall be a court of competent jurisdiction in Harris County, Texas.
6. VENDOR hereby assigns the CENTER any and all claims for overcharges associated with this Agreement under the antitrust laws of the United States, 15 USCA Section 1, et seq., and which arise under the antitrust laws of the State of Texas, Tex. Bus. & Com. Code, Section 15.01, et. seq.

48 QUALITY, WARRANTY, AND SUBSTITUTIONS

In addition to the guarantees and warranties provided by law, by accepting this Agreement, VENDOR hereby expressly guarantees, warrants, and represents that:

1. all products/goods and/or services supplied and/or furnished under this Agreement are of high quality, free from all defects in material and workmanship, free from defects in design, meet or exceed and exactly conform in all respects to all terms and requirements of this Agreement (including any drawings, specifications, and/or standards incorporated herein, including, without limitation, those detailed in the procurement solicitation issued by the CENTER) and all applicable REGION 4 ESC specifications and requirements, and are suitable for and will perform in accordance with the ordinary, intended purpose(s) as well as any special purposes specified by REGION 4 ESC, for a period of one (1) year from the date of the CENTER'S acceptance of the goods and/or services or payment of the applicable invoice, whichever is later. All warranties shall survive delivery of the goods and completion of the services; neither the CENTER'S acceptance of, nor payment for, said goods and services shall constitute a waiver or modification of any of the warranties of VENDOR, or the rights of REGION 4 ESC;

2. any goods delivered to the CENTER will be new (i.e., previously unused, non-floor model, in their original packaging, and have not been reconditioned, remanufactured, repackaged, returned, damaged, or refurbished), unless otherwise specified;
3. all services performed by VENDOR or its subcontractors and all material used on REGION 4 ESC's behalf, will be completely paid for and that there are no materialman's or other liens attached to the goods, products, merchandise, materials, or services which are provided to REGION 4 ESC;
4. the goods to be delivered hereunder will not infringe on any valid intellectual property right, including any patent, trademark, trade name, or copyright, and that VENDOR will, at VENDOR'S expense, defend any and all actions or suits charging such infringement and will save REGION 4 ESC, its trustees, agents, and employees, harmless in case of any such action or suit;
5. the goods to be delivered hereunder will be manufactured, sold, and/or installed in compliance with the provisions of all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations;
6. VENDOR shall uphold the manufacturer's standard warranty on any products. This warranty shall provide for replacement of defective merchandise, parts and labor, and include pick-up and delivery from the specified CENTER location effective from the date of delivery. VENDOR shall assume all liabilities incurred within the scope of consequential damages and incidental expenses, as set forth in the VENDOR or manufacturer's warranty, which result from either delivery or use of product, which does not meet the specifications within this Agreement or the procurement solicitation, if any;
7. Substituting without the prior approval of a REGION 4 Member placing the order will constitute a breach of contract by the vendor, which may result in the initiation of actions covered in the section entitled "Non-Performance/Termination of Contract" and the associated financial impacts attached thereto and may jeopardize any future business from the CENTER.; and
8. nothing contained herein shall exclude or affect the operation of any implied warranties otherwise arising in favor of REGION 4 ESC.
9. All products provided or installed under this contract must be in the best possible condition and will be subject to inspection, testing, and approval by REGION 4 and its Members.

49 LICENSES AND PERMITS: PERFORMANCE

For the entire effective period of this Agreement, VENDOR represents and warrants that VENDOR (and, if approved by the CENTER, any and all subcontractors): (1) has the experience, qualifications, licenses, and certifications required to provide the goods and/or services pursuant to this Agreement; and (2) shall maintain all required licenses, certifications, permits, and any other documentation and/or authorization(s) necessary to perform this Agreement, including, without limitation, authorizations required by any governing entity(ies), including, but not limited to, the City of Houston, Harris County, the State of Texas, and the like. VENDOR must comply with all state and local building code requirements unless otherwise specifically provided in the REGION 4 ESC's purchase or work order, and VENDOR must pay all fees and charges for connections to outside services and for use of property outside the project site. When required or requested by REGION 4 ESC, VENDOR shall furnish REGION 4 ESC with satisfactory proof of VENDOR'S compliance with this provision.

Further, VENDOR agrees that VENDOR'S goods will be provided, and/or services will be performed, with reasonable care, skill, judgment, and experience in a professional business-like manner, with no direct supervision from the CENTER. VENDOR shall employ only orderly and competent workers, skilled in the performance of the services, if any, which shall be performed under this Agreement. If VENDOR is unable to complete the work in this manner based on the mutually agreed upon timeline, VENDOR shall notify the CENTER'S Director of Procurement in writing.

50 SUPPORT

VENDOR shall provide timely and accurate technical advice and sales support to REGION 4 ESC and REGION 4 ESC staff. VENDOR shall respond to requests for customer support within one (1) business day after receipt of the request. VENDOR shall promptly provide training to REGION 4 ESC staff regarding products and/or services supplied by VENDOR, at no additional charge, if requested by REGION 4 ESC.

51 NO WAIVER OF BREACH

Failure of REGION 4 ESC to insist upon strict performance of any of the terms and conditions hereof, or failure or delay to exercise any rights or remedies provided herein or by law or to properly notify successful VENDOR in the event of breach, or the acceptance of or payment for any goods hereunder shall not release VENDOR from any of the warranties or obligations of this Agreement, and shall not be deemed to waive any right of REGION 4 ESC to insist upon strict performance hereof or any of its rights or remedies as to any such goods, regardless of when shipped, received or accepted, or as to any prior or subsequent default hereunder; nor shall any purported oral modification or rescission of an Agreement, contract or service agreement by REGION 4 ESC operate as a waiver of any of the terms hereof.

52 NO WAIVER OF IMMUNITY

The execution of this Agreement and the performance by the CENTER of any of its obligations hereunder do not, and are not intended to, waive or relinquish, and the CENTER shall not waive or relinquish, any governmental, sovereign immunity or defense from or to liability or prosecution available to the CENTER, its trustees, officers, employees, or agents under federal or Texas laws. Nothing in this Agreement shall be constructed as creating any personal liability on the part of any trustee, officer, employee, or representative of REGION 4 ESC.

53 PRODUCT RECALLS

VENDOR shall notify the REGION 4 ESC's PROCUREMENT CONTRACT SPECIALIST immediately if a product recall is instituted on any good and/or service VENDOR has delivered or if VENDOR discovers or becomes aware of any quality or other deficiency in the delivered goods and/or services. This requirement shall survive payment and acceptance of the goods and/or services.

54 TEXAS HAZARD COMMUNICATION ACT

It is the policy of REGION 4 ESC to comply with applicable federal law and the Texas Hazard Communication Act, Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 502. Therefore, it is necessary to require that all suppliers provide REGION 4 ESC with a current and accurate Safety Data Sheet (SDS), if applicable, for all items sold to REGION 4 ESC, including, but not limited to: products which may contain hazardous substances, create hazardous substances as a by-product, cause harmful physical effects, or otherwise be considered hazardous. VENDOR shall be solely responsible to promptly obtain and provide to REGION 4 ESC all necessary SDSs from suppliers of items under this Agreement, as applicable. A separate sheet shall be provided for each individual item (if required) when purchase is made, as well as when the proposal is submitted. The SDSs must conform to the most current requirements of the Hazard Communication Standard issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and codified as 29 CFR Section 1910.1200.

55 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

In the performance of VENDOR'S services, VENDOR shall not cause any release of hazardous substances, including but not limited to asbestos, or contamination of the environment, including the soil, the atmosphere, or any water course or ground water. VENDOR shall be liable for any claims or damages resulting from such release of or exposures to any such substances as a result of VENDOR'S activities.

56 TEXAS PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT

1. The Parties acknowledge that REGION 4 ESC is obligated to strictly comply with the Texas Public Information Act (TPIA), Chapter 552, Texas Government Code, in responding to any request for public information pertaining to this Agreement, as well as any other disclosure of information required by applicable Texas law. All VENDOR Agreements shall be in compliance with the TPIA.
2. All documents exchanged or created in connection with and communications regarding this solicitation or any Agreement with the CENTER are governed by the TPIA.
3. Documents submitted and communications regarding a VENDOR'S proposal response to a solicitation may be deemed confidential during the evaluation process, as provided in Texas Government Code, Subchapter C, Section §552.104, "Exception: Information Related to Competition or Bidding."
4. The requirements of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Government Code, may apply to this bid and Agreement, and the contractor or VENDOR agrees that the Agreement can be terminated if the contractor or VENDOR knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.
5. Upon the written request of the CENTER, VENDOR will promptly provide specified contracting information exchanged or created under this Agreement. VENDOR waives any claim against and releases from liability the CENTER, its trustees, officers, employees, agents, and attorneys with respect to disclosure of information provided under or in this Agreement or otherwise created, assembled, maintained, or held by either party and determined by the CENTER, the Attorney General of Texas, or a court of law to be subject to disclosure under the Texas Public Information Act, Chapter 552, Texas Government Code.
6. VENDORS should consult with their legal counsel regarding disclosure issues and take the appropriate precautions to safeguard trade secrets, or any other proprietary information before responding to this procurement solicitation. Should VENDOR'S response to this procurement solicitation include trade secrets or proprietary information, or other technical information, documentation and/or expertise that the VENDOR considers confidential, VENDOR must either (1) conspicuously mark such information as being confidential or, (2) if the information is delivered in oral form, summarize the information in writing within ten (10) REGION 4 ESC business days and identify it as being confidential ("Confidential Information"). REGION 4 ESC shall not be held liable for disclosure of information that is not conspicuously marked or identified as Confidential Information in accordance with the aforementioned process. All requests to secure trade secrets must be accompanied by factual evidence of potential loss of competitive or economic harm.
7. VENDOR shall immediately notify the CENTER if VENDOR receives from any third-party a request for information (including, but not limited to, a subpoena), which pertains to the documentation and records maintained by VENDOR on behalf of the CENTER pursuant to this Agreement. VENDOR shall provide a copy of such request to the CENTER, unless otherwise prohibited by law.

57 NO THIRD-PARTY BENEFICIARIES

Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed or construed to create any third-party beneficiaries or otherwise give any third party any claim or right of action against any party to this Agreement.

58 NOTICE

Any notice provided under the terms of this Agreement by either party to the other shall be in writing and may be effected by certified mail, return receipt requested. Notice to either party shall be sufficient if made or addressed to the address listed in the signature line of this Agreement. Each party may change the address to which notice is to be sent to that party by giving notice of such change to the other party by certified mail, return receipt requested.

59 NON-EXCLUSIVITY

Nothing in this Agreement may be construed to imply that VENDOR has the exclusive right to provide the CENTER with goods and/or services. During the effective period of this Agreement, the CENTER reserves the right to use all available resources to procure other goods and/or services as needed, and doing so will not violate any rights of VENDOR. In addition, nothing in this Agreement may be construed to require that the CENTER purchase any specific amount, quantity, or quota of goods and/or services from VENDOR.

60 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

VENDOR represents and warrants that it has all intellectual property rights necessary to enter into and perform its obligations in this Agreement.

61 INDEBTEDNESS

VENDOR represents that to the best of its knowledge it is not indebted to the CENTER. Indebtedness to the CENTER may be grounds for termination of this Agreement.

62 FEDERAL GRANT REQUIREMENTS

1. All contracts under federal awards must meet federal, state and local requirements.
2. The Agreement shall only be effective upon receipt by the CENTER of the Notice of Grant Award (NOGA) from the federal/state awarding agency.
3. The Agreement term/period shall be aligned to the grant period of availability, as stated on the NOGA from the federal/state awarding agency (period of availability).
4. All services shall be completed during the effective dates of the Agreement.
5. All services shall be invoiced monthly after services are received (rather than paid lump sum at the beginning of the period of availability before services are rendered) and shall only be paid upon verification of receipt of services.
6. The regulations for procurement in 2 CFR § 200.317-327 shall be followed by REGION 4 ESC in issuing the Agreement.
7. All professional services provided under the Agreement will follow the provisions of 2 CFR § 200.459 Professional service costs.
8. The Agreement shall identify the funding sources that will be used for the goods and/or services to be provided, including the specific amount and/or percentage of the total contract amount to be charged to each funding source.
9. The Agreement shall identify and lists only reasonable, necessary, and allocable services to be provided during the period of availability of the funding sources listed in the Agreement.
10. The administrative costs charged to the grant in the Agreement must comply with any limitations for administrative costs for funding sources (if applicable).
11. The Agreement shall specify that the invoice provided by the VENDOR will include the list of services provided, dates of services, and location(s) where services were provided during the billing period.
12. If the source of funds for this purchase is federal funds, the following federal provisions apply, as applicable: the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. § 276a / 29 CFR Part 5), the Copeland "Anti-Kickback" Act (18 U.S.C. § 874 / 29 CFR Part 5), the Equal Opportunity Employment requirements (Executive Orders 11246 and 11375 / 41 CFR Chapter 60), the McNamara-O'Hara Service Contract Act (41 U.S.C. 351), Section 306 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. § 1857h), Section 508 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1368), Executive Order 11738, Environmental Protection Agency regulations (40 CFR Part 15), the Contract Work Hours and Safety Act (40 U.S.C. § 3701-3708; 29 C.F.R. Part 5), Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment (31 U.S.C. 1352), Debarment and Suspension (Executive Orders 12549 and 12689), the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 CFR Part 200), the Education Department General Administrative Regulations, 2 C.F.R. Parts 200 and 3474, and 34 C.F.R. Parts 75-77, 79, 81-82, 84, 86, and 97-99 ("EDGAR"), mandatory standards and policies contained in the state energy conservation plan issued in compliance with the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (Pub. L. 94-163, 89 Stat. 871), and all federal certifications and other requirements of federal law, including but not limited to those included within REGION 4 ESC's Bid Attributes and those mandated by federal agencies making award(s) of federal funds to REGION 4 ESC. Without limitation to the forgoing, Region 4 has and will comply with all requirements related to contracting with small and minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms, as set forth in 2 C.F.R. § 200.321. Region 4 has and does solicit all qualified small and minority businesses and women's business enterprises. VENDOR shall comply with 2 C.F.R. § 200.321 in its own sub-contracting practices.