

**INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS**

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**A. BIDDER'S PLEDGE AND AGREEMENT**

1. Each Bidder acknowledges that this is a public project involving public funds and that the Owner expects and requires that each successful Bidder adhere to the highest ethical and performance standards. Each Bidder by submitting a bid pledges and agrees that (a) it will act at all times with absolute integrity and truthfulness in its dealings with the Owner and the Engineer, (b) it will use its best efforts to cooperate with the Owner and the Engineer and all other Contractors on the Project and at all times will act with professionalism and dignity in its dealings with the Owner, Engineer, and other Contractors, (c) it will assign only competent supervisors and workers to the Project, each of whom is fully qualified to perform the tasks that are assigned to him/her, and (d) it has read, understands and will comply with the terms of the Contract Documents.

**B. EXAMINATION OF CONTRACT DOCUMENTS AND SITE CONDITIONS AND RELIANCE UPON TECHNICAL DATA**

1. Each Bidder shall have a competent person carefully and diligently review each part of the Contract Documents, including the Divisions of the Specifications and parts of the Drawings that are not directly applicable to the Work on which the Bidder is submitting its bid. By submitting its bid, each Bidder represents and agrees, based upon its careful and diligent review of the Contract Documents, that it is not aware of any conflicts, inconsistencies, errors, or omissions in the Contract Documents for which it has not notified the Owner in writing at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening. If there are any such conflicts, inconsistencies, errors, or omissions in the Contract Documents, the Bidder (i) will provide the labor, equipment, or materials of the better quality or greater quantity of Work and/or (ii) will comply with the more stringent requirements. The Bidder will not be entitled to any Change Order, additional compensation, or additional time on account of such conditions for any conflicts, inconsistencies, errors, or omissions that would have been discovered by such careful and diligent review, unless it has given prior written notice to the Owner.
2. Each Bidder shall have a competent person carefully and diligently inspect and examine the entire site and the surrounding area, including all parts of the site applicable to the Work for which it is submitting its bid, including location, condition, and layout of the site and the location of utilities, and carefully correlate the results of the inspection with the requirements of the Contract Documents. The Bidder's bid shall include all costs attributable to site and surrounding area conditions that would have been discovered by such careful and diligent inspection and examination of the site and the surrounding area, and the Bidder shall not be entitled to any Change Order, additional compensation, or additional time on account of such conditions.
3. The Bidder may rely upon the general accuracy of any technical data identified in the Owner-Contractor Agreement (e.g., any soils exploration reports, soil boring logs, site survey, or abatement reports) in preparing its bid, but such technical data are not part of the Contract Documents. Except for the limited reliance described in the preceding sentence, Bidder may not, if awarded a contract for the Work, rely upon or make any Claim against the Owner or Engineer, or any of their agents or employees, with respect to any of the following:
  - a. the completeness of such reports and drawings for Bidder's purposes, including, but not limited to, any aspects of the means, methods, techniques, sequences, and procedures of construction to be employed by the successful Bidder and safety precautions and programs incident thereto; or
  - b. any interpretation by the successful Bidder of or conclusion drawn from any technical data or any such other data, interpretations, opinions, or information.

For example, all interpolations and extrapolations of data performed by the Bidder to estimate locations or quantities of subsurface strata are independent factual assumptions, which Owner does not warrant.

4. Each Bidder will be deemed to have actual knowledge of all information provided or discussed at the pre-bid meeting.

**C. OWNER & ENGINEER**

1. The Owner is:

The City of Canton  
218 Cleveland Avenue SW  
Canton, OH 44702  
Telephone: 330.489.3245  
Fax: 330.489.3499

The Owner's Representative is:

\_\_\_\_\_

2. The Engineer for the Project is:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, Ohio \_\_\_\_\_

**D. PROJECT**

1. The Project and Work for the Project consists of all labor, materials, equipment, and services necessary for construction of the project identified as \_\_\_\_\_ **Project** ("the Project"), all in accordance with the Drawings and Specifications prepared by the Engineer and/or Owner. The Project must be substantially complete by the Date for Substantial Completion set forth in Section Q below.
2. The Mayor \_\_\_ has/\_\_\_ has not determined that a Project Labor Agreement ("PLA") will advance the City's procurement interest in cost, efficiency, and quality while promoting labor-management stability as well as compliance with applicable legal requirements governing safety and health, equal employment opportunity, labor and employment standards, and other related matters. Any such PLA shall be negotiated by the Mayor of the Owner with the East Central Ohio Building and Construction Trades Council and its affiliated local unions, or said Council's successor. The successful Bidder shall comply with and adhere to all of the provisions of any PLA for the Project.
3. A pre-bid conference will be held at \_\_\_\_\_ .m. on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_, Ohio

**E. WORK**

1. This Project includes \_\_\_\_\_, and the like as set forth in the Contract Documents.
2. Alternate No. 1 for this Project is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Alternate No. 2 for this Project is \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Only one contract will be issued by the Owner for constructing the Project, the General Contract, which will cover all scopes of work necessary to construct the Project.

5. The Contractor awarded the General Contract (General Contractor) will be responsible for the performance and coordination of any and all subcontractors and suppliers either directly or indirectly contracted with the General Contractor.
6. Owner will provide Bidders access to the Project site to conduct such examinations, investigations, explorations, tests, and studies as Bidder deems necessary for submission of a Bid. Bidder shall fill all holes, clean up, and restore the Site to its former condition upon completion of such explorations, investigations, tests, and studies. Bidder shall comply with all applicable laws, regulations and Owner's policies relative to excavation and utility locates. Bidders may contact \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, The City of Canton, at \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ if they have any interest in accessing the Project site, independent of any pre-bid meeting.

**F. ESTIMATE OF COST**

1. The total estimated construction cost for the Base Bid Work for the Project for which bids are being solicited at this time is \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

The estimated cost for Alternate 1 - \_\_\_\_\_ is: \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

The estimated cost for Alternate 2 - \_\_\_\_\_ is: \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

**G. CONTRACT DOCUMENTS**

The Contract Documents consist of the documents listed in Section 1 of the Owner-Contractor Agreement.

Bidders may view and download copies of the Contract Documents from The City of Canton Purchasing web site at <https://cantonohio.gov/purchasing/>, which is the only authorized source of the Contract Documents. The City of Canton's sourcing tool, Vendor Registry, will maintain the Bidder's list and will provide notice and copies of Addenda as issued. It is the responsibility of any person or organization interested in a hard copy of the Contract Documents to pay all costs associated with printing.

Bidders shall use complete sets of Contract Documents in preparing bids. Neither the Owner nor the Design Engineer assumes any responsibility for errors or misinterpretations resulting from the use of incomplete sets of Contract Documents.

The Owner, in making the Contract Documents available on the above terms, does so only for the purpose of obtaining bids on the Work and does not confer a license or grant for any other use.

**H. PREPARATION OF BIDS**

1. All bids must be submitted on the "Bid Form" furnished with the Contract Documents.
2. All blank spaces shall be filled in, in ink or typewritten, in words and figures, and in figures only where no space is provided for words, and signed by the Bidder. The wording on the Bid Form shall be used without change, alteration, or addition. Any change in the wording or omission of specified accompanying documents may cause the bid to be rejected. If there is an inconsistency or conflict in the Bid, the lowest amount shall control, whether expressed in numbers or words.
3. Bidders shall note receipt of Addenda on the Bid Form. If the Bidder fails to acknowledge receipt of each Addendum, the Bid shall be deemed non-responsive, unless the Bid amount clearly and unambiguously reflects receipt of the Addendum or the Addendum involves only a matter of form and does not materially affect the price, quantity or quality of the Work to be performed.

4. Each Bidder shall submit **an original and one copy** of its bid to the Owner. The Bid Form shall be signed with the name typed or printed below the signature. A Bid shall not be submitted by facsimile transmission or any other electronic means. A Bidder that is a corporation shall sign its bid with the legal name of the corporation followed by the name of the state of incorporation and the legal signature of an officer authorized to bind the corporation to a contract.
5. Each Bid shall be enclosed in a sealed opaque envelope with the Bidder's name and the title of the Project printed in the upper left hand corner and addressed as follows:

The City of Canton  
ATTN: [REDACTED]  
218 Cleveland Avenue SW  
Canton, OH 44702

Bids must be received at the designated location for the bid opening before [REDACTED].m., local time, on [REDACTED], [REDACTED], 20[REDACTED].

6. **The completed Bid Form shall be accompanied by the following completed documents:**
  - a. **Pre-Bid Substitution, if any proposed substitutes have been pre-approved. (See Section K, below.)**
  - b. **Bid Guaranty and, if applicable Contract Bond (See Paragraph H.8, below.)**
  - c. **Contractor's Qualification Statement (See Paragraph I.4, below.)**
  - d. **Contractor's List of Subcontracted Work Categories (See Paragraph I.5, below.)**
  - e. **A list identifying its DBE subcontractors and participation rates as a percentage of the Contract Price, and if the DBE participation goal has not been met, certification of good faith efforts to meet the DBE participation goal. (See Section W, below.)**
  - f. **If this project is funded in whole or part by the Ohio Public Works Commission, then certification of agreement and compliance with certain statements and covenants regarding Bidder's subscription to the State's Equal Employment Opportunity Requirements for State-assisted Construction Contracts (See Section Y, below.)**
7. The Bidder shall take the following precautions in preparing its bid:
  - a. Sign the bid and check to ensure all blank spaces have been filled in with requested information and that the specified accompanying documents (listed in Paragraph H.6 above) have been included in a sealed opaque envelope addressed as described in Paragraph H.5 above.
  - b. When the Bid Form provides for quoting either an addition or deduction for an Alternate item, indicate whether the sum named is an addition or deduction. If it is not indicated, it will be conclusively presumed that the amount is a deduction.
  - c. When the Bid Form provides for quoting a unit price, the Bidder should quote the unit price as set forth in the Contract Documents as described in Paragraph M.1 below.

- d. When applicable, make sure that the Bid Guaranty is properly executed and signed by:
  - 1) The Bidder
  - 2) The Surety or Sureties
- e. Make sure that the amount of the Bid Guaranty (if the Bid Guaranty is in the form of a certified check, letter of credit, or cashier's check) is for a specific sum in an amount as instructed in Paragraph H.8.a below. If the Bid Guaranty is in the form of the Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond, the amount may be left blank; if an amount is inserted, it must equal the total of the base bid and all add alternates included. If inserted, then the failure to state an amount equal to the total of the base bid and all add alternates shall make the bid non-responsive if the Owner selects alternates not included in the amount.
- f. Make sure that the appropriate bid package and scope of work is inserted in the correct space on the Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond Form. Failure to include work covered by the bid submitted may make the bid non-responsive.

8. Bonds and Guarantees

- a. Bid Guaranty: Bidder shall furnish a Bid Guaranty, as prescribed in Sections 153.54, 153.57, and 153.571 of the Ohio Revised Code, in the form of either: (1) a bond for the full amount of the bid in the form of the Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond included in the Contract Documents; or (2) a certified check, cashier's check, or irrevocable letter of credit in a form satisfactory to the Owner in an amount equal to 10% of the bid. Bid amount shall be the total of all sums bid, including all add alternatives, but excluding all deduct alternatives. **NOTE: AIA or EJCDC Bid Bond forms are not acceptable.**
- b. Contract Bond: The successful Bidder, who, as a Bid Guaranty, submits a certified check, cashier's check, or irrevocable letter of credit in an amount equal to 10% of the bid, shall furnish a Contract Bond in the form included in the Contract Documents in an amount equal to 100% of the Contract Sum. **NOTE: AIA or EJCDC Bond forms are not acceptable.**
- c. The bond must be issued by a surety company authorized by the Ohio Department of Insurance to transact business in the State of Ohio and acceptable to the Owner. The bond must be issued by a surety capable of demonstrating a record of competent underwriting, efficient management, adequate reserves, and sound investments. These criteria will be deemed to be met if the surety currently has an A.M. Best Company Policyholders Rating of "A-" or better and has or exceeds the Best Financial Size Category of Class VI. Other sureties may be acceptable to the Owner, in its sole discretion.
- d. All bonds shall be signed by an authorized agent of an acceptable surety and by the Bidder.
- e. Surety bonds shall be supported by credentials showing the Power of Attorney of the agent, a certificate showing the legal right of the Surety Company to do business in the State of Ohio, and a financial statement of the Surety.

- f. The Bid Guaranty, as applicable, shall be in the name of or payable to the order of the Owner.
  - g. The name and address of the Surety and the name and address of the Surety's Agent must be typed or printed on each bond.
9. Permits
- a. Owner has obtained, or will obtain the following permits for the Project, as applicable:
  - b. Contractor shall secure and pay for all other permits necessary to complete the Project. Owner shall pay all charges of utility owners for connections for providing permanent service to the Work.

## I. METHOD OF AWARD

1. All bids shall remain open for acceptance for sixty (60) days following the day of the bid opening, but the Owner may, in its sole discretion, release any bid and return the Bid Guaranty prior to that date. The Bid Guaranty shall be subject to forfeiture, as provided in the Ohio Revised Code, if a bid is withdrawn during the period when bids are being held.
2. The Owner reserves the right to reject any, part of any, or all bids and to waive any informalities and irregularities. The Bidder expressly acknowledges this right of the Owner to reject any or all bids or to reject any incomplete or irregular bid. Bidders must furnish all information requested on the Bid Form. Failure to do so may result in disqualification of the bid.
3. Determination of the Lowest and Best Bid. Subject to the right of the Owner to reject any or all bids, pursuant to the Codified Ordinances of Canton Chapters 105, 182, and 507, the Owner will award the Contract for the Work to the bidder submitting the lowest and best bid, taking into consideration accepted alternates. In evaluating bids, the Owner will consider the qualifications of the Bidders, whether or not the bids comply with the prescribed requirements, and alternates and unit prices, if requested, on the Bid Form. The Owner may also consider the qualifications and experience of subcontractors and suppliers. The Owner may conduct such investigations as are deemed necessary to establish the qualifications and financial ability of the Bidder and its subcontractors and suppliers. The factors the Owner may consider in determining which bid is the lowest and best include the factors set forth below, including the Additional Criteria. Depending upon the type of work, the Owner, in its discretion, may also consider other essential factors, as the Owner may determine and as are included in the Specifications. The Owner, in its discretion, may consider and give such weight to these criteria as it deems appropriate. The Owner, in its discretion, reserves the right to request additional information and documentation relating to these criteria from Bidders after the bid opening.
  - a. Work to be subcontracted. The Bidder must identify all work to be subcontracted. See paragraph I.5 below. All subcontractors are subject to the approval of the Owner based on the criteria set forth in this Section I.

- b. The Bidder's work history. The Bidder should have a record of consistent customer satisfaction and of consistent completion of projects, including projects that are comparable to or larger and more complex than the Owner's Project, on time and in accordance with the applicable Contract Documents, and based upon the Bidder's claims history. If the Bidder's management operates or has operated another construction company, the Owner may consider the work history of that company in determining whether the Bidder submitted the lowest and best bid.

The Owner will consider the Bidder's prior experience on other projects of similar scope and/or complexity including prior projects with the Owner and/or Design Professional, including the Bidder's demonstrated ability to complete its work on these projects in accordance with the Contract Documents and on time, and will also consider its ability and capacity to perform a substantial portion of the project with its own forces and its ability to work with the Owner and Engineer as a willing, cooperative, and successful team member. Bringing overstated claims, an excessive number of claims, acting uncooperatively, and filing lawsuits against project owners and/or their design professionals on prior projects of similar scope and/or complexity will be deemed evidence of a Bidder's inability to work with the Owner and Engineer as a willing, cooperative, and successful team member.

The Bidder authorizes the Owner and its representatives to contact the owners and design professionals (and construction managers, if applicable) on projects on which the Bidder has worked and authorizes and requests such owners and design professionals (and construction managers) to provide the Owner with a candid evaluation of the Bidder's performance. By submitting its bid, the Bidder agrees that if it or any person, directly or indirectly, on its behalf or for its benefit brings an action against any of such owners or design professionals (or construction managers) or the employees of any of them as a result of or related to such candid evaluation, the Bidder will indemnify and hold harmless such owners, design professionals (and construction managers) and the employees of any of them from any claims, whether or not proven, that are part of or are related to such action and from all legal fees and expenses incurred by any of them arising out of or related to such legal action. This obligation is expressly intended for the benefit of such owners, design professionals (and construction managers), and the employees of each of them.

- c. The Bidder's prior history regarding timeliness of performance, quality of work, the Bidder's history of filing claims and having claims filed against it, extension requests, fines and penalties imposed and payments thereof, and contract defaults, with explanations.
- d. The Bidder's compliance with federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations, including but not limited to the Occupational Safety and Health Act, Ohio Prevailing Wage laws, Davis Bacon, and Ohio ethics laws.
- e. The Bidder's prior experience with similar work on comparable or more complex projects.
- f. The number of years the Bidder has been actively engaged as a contractor in the construction industry.



- g. The Bidder's recent experience record in the construction industry, including the original contract price for each construction job undertaken by the bidder, the amount of any change orders or cost overruns on each job, the reasons for the change orders or cost overruns, and the bidder's record for complying with and meeting completion deadlines on construction projects.
  - h. A public entities' determination, within the previous five years, that the Bidder was not a responsible bidder, the reasons given by the public entity, and the Bidder's explanation thereof.
  - i. The Bidder's financial ability to complete the Contract successfully and on time without resort to its Surety.
  - j. Financial responsibility demonstrated by the Bidder and whether Bidder possesses adequate resources and availability of credit, the means and ability to procure insurance and acceptable performance bonds required for the Project and whether any claims have been made against performance bonds secured by the bidder on other construction projects.
  - k. Any suspension or revocations of any professional license of any director, officer, owner, or managerial employees of the Bidder, to the extent that any work to be performed on this Project is within the field of such licensed profession.
  - l. The Bidder's equipment and facilities.
  - m. The size and experience of the Bidder's work force and the Bidder's ability to complete the Contract successfully and on time.
  - n. The experience and the continuity of the Bidder's work force including the project manager and project superintendent's tenure with the Bidder.
  - o. The Bidder's participation in a drug-free workplace program acceptable to the Owner, and the Bidder's record for both resolved and unresolved findings of the Auditor of State for recovery as defined in Section 9.24 of the Ohio Revised Code.
  - p. The Owner's prior experience with the Bidder's surety.
  - q. The Bidder's interest in the Project as evidenced by its attendance at any pre-bid meetings or conferences for bidders.
  - r. The adequacy, in numbers and experience, of the Bidders' work force to complete the Contract successfully and on time.
  - s. The foregoing information with respect to each of the Subcontractors and Suppliers that the Bidder intends to use on the Project.
4. **Qualifications Statement. Each Bidder will submit with its bid a completed Contractor Qualifications Statement, which is included with the Contract Documents, and thereafter provide the Owner promptly with such additional information as the Owner may request regarding the Bidder's qualifications. A Bidder shall submit any requested additional information within three (3) business days of the date on the request.**

5. **List of Subcontracted Work Categories. Each Bidder will submit with its bid a completed list of Subcontracted Work Categories, which is included with the Contract Documents, and thereafter provide the Owner promptly with such additional information as the Owner may request regarding the Bidder's qualifications. A Bidder shall submit any requested information within three (3) business days of the date on the request.**
  
6. Additional Criteria for Determining Lowest and Best Bid. Pursuant to the Codified Ordinances of the City of Canton, Chapter 105, the Owner, in its discretion, may consider any or all of the Additional Criteria below in determining which bid is lowest and best.
  - a. Any OSHA violations within the previous three years, as well as all notices of OSHA citations filed against the Bidder in the same three year period, together with a description and explanation of remediation or other steps taken regarding such violations and notices of violation.
  - b. Any violations within the previous five years pertaining to unlawful intimidation or discrimination against any employee by reason of race, creed, color, disability, gender, or national origin, and/or violation of any employee's civil or labor rights or equal employment opportunities.
  - c. Any litigation in which the Bidder has been named as a defendant or third party defendant in an action involving a claim for personal injury or wrongful death arising from performance of work related to any project in which it has been engaged within the previous five years. Bidders shall provide copies of pleadings.
  - d. Allegations of violations of the prevailing wage law and any other state or federal labor law, including, but not limited to, child labor violations, failure to pay wages, or unemployment insurance tax delinquencies or unfair labor practices within the past five years.
  - e. Violations of the workers compensation law.
  - f. Any criminal convictions or criminal indictments, involving the Bidder, its officers, directors, owners, and/or managers within the past five years.
  - g. Any violation within the past five years or pending charges concerning federal, state, or municipal environmental and/or health laws, codes, rules, and/or regulations.
  - h. Documentation that the Bidder provides health insurance and pension benefits to its employees.
  - i. Whether the Bidder participates in a bona fide apprenticeship program that is approved by the Ohio State Apprenticeship Council and the United States Department of Labor.
  - j. Whether the Bidder has adopted and implemented a comprehensive drug and alcohol testing program for its employees.
  - k. Whether the Bidder's employees are OSHA-10 and/or OSHA-30 certified.
  - l. The Bidder's commitment to comply with the Owner's Contract Compliance Program regarding equal employment opportunity. Each Bidder shall file contract employment reports with the Owner's contracting agency or as may be directed by the Owner or its representative. Such contract employment reports shall include such information as to the employment practices, policies, programs, and statistics of the Bidder and shall be in such form as the Owner may prescribe.

- m. The foregoing information with respect to each of the Subcontractors and Suppliers that the Bidder intends to use on the Project.
- 7. The failure to submit information that Owner has the right to receive under these Instructions to Bidders on a timely basis may result in the determination that the Bidder has not submitted the lowest and best bid.
- 8. By submitting its bid, the Bidder agrees that the Owner's determination of which bidder is the lowest and best bidder shall be final and conclusive, and that if the Bidder or any person on its behalf challenges such determination in any legal proceeding, the Bidder will indemnify and hold the Owner and its employees and agents harmless from any claims included or related to such legal proceeding, and from legal fees and expenses incurred by the Owner, its employees, or agents that arise out of or are related to such challenge.
- 9. **After bid opening, within three (3) business days of a request made by the Owner, the apparent low Bidder and any other Bidder so requested by the Owner must submit the following:**

**For all subcontracts with an estimated value of at least \$50,000, a list of all Subcontractors that the Bidder will use to construct the Project, as well as an indication of whether or not the Bidder has ever worked with a proposed Subcontractor before, including the following information for the three most recent projects on which the Bidder and each Subcontractor have worked together:**

- i. **Project Owner**
- ii. **Project Name**
- iii. **Subcontract Scope**
- iv. **Subcontract Value**
- v. **Owner's contact name and phone number.**

**If Bidder and a proposed Subcontractor have not worked together on at least three projects in the past five years, Bidder must submit the information set forth above for the three most recent similar projects to the Project that a proposed Subcontractor has worked on.**

**The above Subcontractor information, as well as the criteria set forth in Paragraph I.3 herein, as it pertains to each Subcontractor may be used in the Owner's determination of the lowest and best bid.**

**Once a Bidder identifies its proposed Subcontractors as set forth in this Paragraph I.9, the list shall not be changed unless written approval or direction for the change is made by Owner.**

- 10. Additional Post-Bid Submittals
  - a) Affidavit as to Personal Property Taxes. The successful Bidder shall submit, prior to the time of the entry into the Contract, an affidavit in the form required by Section 5719.042, Ohio Revised Code, regarding the status of the Bidder's personal property taxes. A copy of the affidavit form is included with the Contract Documents.
- 11. The Owner reserves the right to disqualify bids, before or after opening, upon evidence of collusion with intent to defraud or other illegal practices on the part of the Bidder.

12. Award of Contract. The award of the Contract will only be made pursuant to approval of the City's Board of Control.

**J. EXECUTION OF CONTRACT**

1. Within the time designated by the Owner after award of the Contract, the successful Bidder shall execute and deliver to the Owner the required number of copies of the Owner-Contractor Agreement, in the form included in the Contract Documents, and all accompanying documents requested, including, but not limited to, a Contract Bond (if applicable), insurance certificates, and a valid Workers' Compensation Certificate. The successful Bidder shall have no property interest or rights under the Owner-Contractor Agreement until the Agreement is executed by the Owner.

**K. SUBSTITUTIONS/NON-SPECIFIED PRODUCTS**

1. Certain brands of material or apparatus may be specified. Should this be the case, each bid will be based on these brands, which may be referred to in the Contract Documents as Standards. The use of another brand (referred to as a substitution or proposed equal in the Contract Documents, when a bidder or the contractor seeks to have a different brand of material or apparatus than that specified approved by the Owner of use in the Project) may be requested as provided herein. Substitutions, however, will not be considered in determining the lowest and best bid.
2. The products specified in the Contract Documents establish a standard of required function, dimension, appearance, and quality.
3. Bidders wishing to obtain approval to bid non-specified products shall submit written requests to the Owner a minimum of seven (7) working days before the bid date and hour. To facilitate the submission of requests, a Substitution Form is included in the Contract Documents. The Bidder shall include the name of the material or equipment for which it is to be substituted and a complete description of the proposed substitution, including the name of the proposed manufacturer and/or product and a complete description of the product including the manufacturer's name and model number or system proposed, drawings, product literature, performance and test data, color selections or limitations, and any other information necessary for evaluation. Include a statement including any changes in other materials, equipment, or other work that would be required if the proposed product is incorporated in the work. The burden of proof of the merit of the proposed product is on the proposer. The Owner's decision on approval of a proposed product will be final.

The following will be cause for rejection of a proposed substitution:

- a. Requests submitted by subcontractors, material suppliers, and individuals other than Bidders;
  - b. Requests submitted without adequate documentation;
  - c. Requests received after the specified cut-off date;
  - d. Requests, which in the sole discretion of the Owner, do not offer a sufficient benefit to the Project.
4. When the Owner approves a product submission before receipt of bids, the approval will be included in an Addendum, and Bidders may include the pricing of this product in their bid. Bidders shall not rely on approvals made in any other manner.

5. In proposing a non-specified product or a substitution, the Bidder represents and warrants that each proposed product will not result in any changes to the Project, including changes to the Work or other contractors, or any decrease in the performance of any equipment or systems to be installed in the Project and agrees to pay any additional costs incurred by the Owner and the Owner's consultants as a result of a non-specified or substitute product that is accepted.
6. If an addendum is issued approving a substitution for a specified Standard, any Bidder proposed to use said substitution must indicate so with its Bid, using the form provided.
7. Following the award of the Contract, there shall be no substitution for specified products, except pursuant to a Change Order. The Owner in its sole discretion may decline to consider a substitution for a Change Order.
8. The Owner reserves the right to value engineer any item within the specifications if it is deemed to be in the best interest of the Owner.

**L. ALTERNATES**

1. The Owner may request bids on alternates. At the time of awarding the Contract, the Owner will select or reject alternates as it determines is in its best interest. A Bidder's failure to include on its Bid Form the cost of an alternate selected by the Owner and applicable to the Bidder's work shall render the bid non-responsive and be grounds for the rejection of the bid. Otherwise, the failure to include the cost of an alternate will not be deemed material.
2. The Bidder acknowledges that although there is an estimate for the cost of the Project, the market conditions may and frequently do result in the estimate being different from the sum of the bids received, either higher or lower. The Bidder understands that the Owner may include alternates, which may include deduct alternates as well as add alternates, to give it flexibility to build the Project with the funds available. The Bidder further understands and acknowledges that use of add and deduct alternates is a long held customary practice in the construction industry in the State of Ohio. The Bidder also acknowledges that the Owner will not make a decision about the alternates on which to base the award of contracts until the bids are received, and the Owner can compare its available funds with the base bids and the cost or savings from selecting different alternates. The Bidder understands that the award to the Bidder submitting the lowest and best bid will be based on the base bid plus selected alternates, and may result in an award to a Bidder other than the Bidder that submitted the lowest base bid.

**M. UNIT PRICES**

1. Where unit prices are requested in the Bid Form the Bidder should quote a unit price. Unless otherwise expressly provided in the Contract Documents, such unit prices shall include all labor, materials, and services necessary for the timely and proper installation of the item for which the unit prices are requested. The unit prices quoted in the bid shall be the basis for any Change Orders entered into under the Owner-Contractor Agreement, unless the Owner determines that the use of such unit prices will cause substantial inequity to either the Contractor or the Owner.

**N. ADDENDA**

1. The Owner reserves the right to issue Addenda changing, altering, or supplementing the Contract Documents prior to the time set for receiving bids. The Owner will issue the Addenda to clarify bidders' questions and/or to change, alter, or supplement the Contract Documents.

2. Any explanation, interpretation, correction, or modification of the Contract Documents will be issued in writing in the form of an Addendum, which shall be the only means considered binding; explanations, interpretations, etc., made by any other means shall NOT be legally binding. All Addenda shall become a part of the Contract Documents.
3. All Addenda will be issued, except as hereafter provided, via the current City bid tool at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the published time for the opening of bids, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. If any Addendum is issued within such seventy-two (72) hour period, then the time for opening of bids shall be extended one (1) week with no further advertising of bids required.
4. Copies of each Addendum will be posted via the Owner's current bid tool and it is the responsibility of the bidder or any other interested party to check the bid tool for any updates or addenda. Receipt of Addenda shall be indicated by Bidders in the space provided on the Bid Form. Bidders are responsible for acquiring issued Addenda in time to incorporate them into their bid. Bidders should check the Owner's bid tool prior to the bid opening to verify the number of Addenda issued.
5. Each Bidder shall carefully read and review the Contract Documents and immediately bring to the attention of the Owner any error, omission, inconsistency, or ambiguity therein.
6. If a Bidder fails to indicate receipt of all Addenda through the last Addendum issued by the Owner on its Bid Form, the bid of such Bidder will be deemed to be responsive only if:
  - a. The bid received clearly indicates that the Bidder received the Addendum, such as where the Addendum added another item to be bid upon and the Bidder submitted a bid on that item; or
  - b. The Addendum involves only a matter of form or is one which has either no effect or has merely a trivial or negligible effect on price, quantity, quality, or delivery of the item bid upon.

## **O. INTERPRETATION**

1. If a Bidder contemplating submitting a bid for the proposed Project is in doubt as to the true meaning of any part of the Contract Documents, it may submit a written request for an interpretation thereof to the Owner at [purchasing@cantonohio.gov](mailto:purchasing@cantonohio.gov). Requests received fewer than 5 days prior to bid opening may not be answered. Any interpretation of the proposed documents will be made by Addendum only and will be made available by the City's web tool. The Owner will not be responsible for any other explanation or interpretation of the proposed documents.
2. In interpreting the Contract Documents, words describing materials that have a well-known technical or trade meaning, unless otherwise specifically defined in the Contract Documents, shall be construed in accordance with the well-known meaning recognized by the trade.
3. Bidders are responsible for notifying the Owner in a timely manner of any ambiguities, inconsistencies, errors, or omissions in the Contract Documents. The Bidder shall not, at any time after the execution of the Contract, be compensated for a claim alleging insufficient data, incomplete Contract Documents, or incorrectly assumed conditions regarding the nature or character of the Work, if no request was made by the Bidder prior to the bid opening.

**P. STATE SALES AND USE TAXES**

1. The Owner is a political subdivision of the State of Ohio and is exempt from taxation under the Ohio Sales Tax and Use Tax Laws. Building materials that the successful Bidder purchases for incorporation into the Project will be exempt from state sales and use taxes if the successful Bidder provides a properly completed Ohio Department of Taxation Construction Contract Exemption Certificate to the vendors or suppliers when the materials are acquired. The Owner will execute properly completed certificates on request.

**Q. DATE FOR SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION/DATE FOR FINAL COMPLETION/LIQUIDATED DAMAGES**

1. Dates for Substantial Completion. The Contract Time shall run from the date of the Notice to Proceed or if there is no Notice to Proceed from the Effective Date of the Owner-Contractor Agreement. The Date for Substantial Completion and the Contract Time may be extended only by Change Order. **By submitting its Bid, each Bidder agrees that the period for performing its Work is reasonable.**

- a. Date for Overall Project Substantial Completion. The successful Bidder shall have all of its Work on the Project Substantially Complete (as Substantial Completion is defined in the Contract Documents) by the following date as applicable to the Bidder's scope of work.

Date for Substantial Completion (aka Contract Time) expressed as calendar days from Notice to Proceed:

 **calendar days**

2. Liquidated Damages.
  - a. Overall Project Substantial Completion. If the successful Bidder does not have its Work Substantially Complete by its Date for Substantial Completion or Finally Complete within thirty (30) calendar days of achieving Substantial Completion, whichever may be applicable, the successful Bidder shall pay the Owner and the Owner may set off from amounts otherwise due the successful Bidder Liquidated Damages. The daily amounts of Liquidated Damages for Overall Project Substantial Completion are set forth in the tables included in the Owner-Contractor Agreement. The total amount of Liquidated Damages will be calculated based on the total number of calendar days beyond the Date for Substantial Completion that the Bidder's Work is not Substantially Complete or to the extent that its Work is not Finally Complete more than thirty (30) calendar days after the Substantial Completion of its Work, i.e., number of late days times the per diem rate(s) for Liquidated Damages in the tables.
3. The Bidder acknowledges and agrees, by submitting its bid for the Work and entering into a Contract with the Owner, that such amounts of Liquidated Damages represent a reasonable estimate of the actual damages for loss of or interference with the intended use of the Project that the Owner would incur if the Bidder's Work is not Substantially Complete by its Date for Substantial Completion and/or not Finally Complete by thirty (30) days of the Date of Substantial Completion. The Bidder further acknowledges, agrees and understands that it may seek an extension of the Contract Time (and its Date for Substantial Completion) to avoid or reduce Liquidated Damages by properly following the Claim procedures in the Contract Documents.

**R. OWNER'S RIGHT TO WAIVE DEFECTS AND IRREGULARITIES**

1. The Owner reserves the right to waive any and all irregularities provided that the defects and irregularities do not affect the amount of the bid in any material respect or otherwise give the Bidder a competitive advantage.

**S. MODIFICATION/WITHDRAWAL OF BIDS**

1. Modification. A Bidder may modify its bid by written communication to the Owner at any time prior to the scheduled closing time for receipt of bids, provided such written communication is received by Owner prior to the bid deadline. The written communication shall not reveal the bid price, but should provide the addition or subtraction or other modification so that the final prices or terms will not be known until the sealed bid is opened. If the Bidder's written instructions with the change in bid reveal the bid amount in any way prior to the bid opening, the bid may be rejected as non-responsive.
2. Withdrawal Prior to Bid Deadline. A Bidder may withdraw its bid at any time for any reason prior to the bid deadline for the opening of bids established in the Legal Notice. The request to withdraw shall be made in writing to and received by the Owner prior to the time of the bid opening.
3. Withdrawal after Bid Deadline.
  - a. All bids shall remain valid and open for acceptance for a period of at least 60 days after the bid opening; provided, however, that a Bidder may withdraw its bid from consideration after the bid deadline when all of the following apply:
    - (1) the price bid was substantially lower than the other bids;
    - (2) the reason for the bid being substantially lower was a clerical mistake, rather than a mistake in judgment, and was due to an unintentional and substantial error in arithmetic or an unintentional omission of a substantial quantity of work, labor, or material;
    - (3) the bid was submitted in good faith; and
    - (4) the Bidder provides written notice to the Owner within two (2) business days after the bid opening for which the right to withdraw is claimed.
  - b. No bid may be withdrawn under this provision if the result would be the awarding of the contract on another bid for the bid package from which the Bidder is withdrawing its bid to the same Bidder.
  - c. If a bid is withdrawn under this provision, the Owner may award the Contract to another Bidder determined by the Owner to be the lowest and best bidder or the Owner may reject all bids and advertise for other bids. In the event the Owner advertises for other bids, the withdrawing Bidder shall pay the costs incurred in connection with the rebidding by the Owner, including the cost of printing new Contract Documents, required advertising, and printing and mailing notices to prospective bidders, if the Owner finds that such costs would not have been incurred but for such withdrawal.

**T. COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS**

1. By submitting a bid for Work on the Project, the Bidder acknowledges that it is in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, the following:



- a. Equal Employment Opportunity/Nondiscrimination. The Bidder agrees that if it is awarded a contract that in the hiring of employees for performance of work under the contract or any subcontract, neither it nor any subcontractor, or any person acting on its behalf or its subcontractor's behalf, by reason of race, creed, sex, disability as defined in Section 4112.01 of the Ohio Revised Code, or color, shall discriminate against any citizen of the state in the employment of labor or workers who are qualified and available to perform work to which the employment relates. The Bidder further agrees that neither it nor any subcontractor or any person on its behalf or on behalf of any subcontractor, in any manner, shall discriminate against or intimidate any employees hired for the performance of the work under the contract on account of race, creed, sex, disability as defined in Section 4112.01 of the Ohio Revised Code, or color.
- b. Ethics Laws. The Bidder represents that it is familiar with all applicable ethics law requirements, including without limitation Sections 102.04 and 3517.13 of the Ohio Revised Code, and certifies that it is in compliance with such requirements.

**U. FINDINGS FOR RECOVERY**


- 1. By submitting its bid, each Bidder certifies for reliance of the Owner that it has no unresolved finding for recovery against it issued by the Auditor of the State of Ohio on or after January 1, 2001, except as permitted by Section 9.24 (F) of the Ohio Revised Code.

**V. PREVAILING WAGES**

- 1. The Project is a "Construction" project as defined in Section 4115.03 of the Ohio Revised Code. If the Project is defined as such as "Construction" project, the successful Bidder and all of its subcontractors, regardless of tier, will strictly comply with its obligation to pay a rate of wages on the Project not less than the rate of wages fixed for this Project under Section 4115.04 of the Ohio Revised Code. Additionally, the successful Bidder will comply with all other provisions of Chapter 4115 of the Ohio Revised Code.

**W. DBE PARTICIPATION GOALS**

- 1. Owner has established the following Disadvantaged Business Enterprise ("DBE") participation goal for the Project as a percentage of the Contract Price:  

 %
- 2. Any Minority Business Enterprise ("MBE") or Woman-Owned Business Enterprise ("WBE") proposed to count towards the DBE participation goal must first be certified at bid time as an MBE or WBE under the Ohio Department of Administrative Services MBE Cross Certification Program (which includes MBEs and WBEs certified by the City of Canton), or certified as a DBE under Ohio's Unified Certification Program administered by the Ohio Department of Transportation.
- 3. **Documentation of DBE Participation.** Each Bidder must submit with its bid a list identifying its DBE subcontractors and participation rates as a percentage of the Contract Price.
- 4. **Certification of Good Faith Efforts.** If a Bidder has not met the DBE participation goal, it must attach to its bid, a narrative (which may include exhibits) demonstrating the good faith efforts made by the Bidder to secure DBE participation in the Project. Good faith efforts include:

- **Conducting outreach and recruiting activities;**
- **Informing DBEs of the opportunity to participate in the Project at least 30 calendar days before the bid closes;**
- **Considering subcontracting with a consortium of DBEs; and**
- **Using the services and assistance of the Small Business Administration and Minority Development Agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.**

Owner, in its sole discretion, will be the sole evaluator of whether any particular Bidders' efforts sufficiently demonstrate good faith efforts for securing DBE participation.

5. Challenges to Owner's Discretion. If any Bidder directly challenges, or indirectly challenges through contribution of money or other resources to a third party, Owner's discretion in determining any Bidder's compliance with the DBE goal stated in these Instructions to Bidders, or good faith efforts pertaining to same, that Bidder agrees to indemnify Owner for all claims, costs, losses and damages, including attorney and consultant fees, arising out of such challenge, should there be an adjudication by a court of competent jurisdiction that the Owner did not abuse its discretion in making its determination.
6. Failure to Comply. If a Bidder is awarded a contract for the Project, and later fails to fulfill its stated DBE participation goals, that Bidder agrees to indemnify Owner for all claims, costs, losses and damages, including attorney and consultant fees, arising out of such failure. That Bidder also agrees to cooperate with all reasonable requests to determine actual DBE participation, including but not limited to certifying actual participation and providing documentation in support of same.

#### **X. OTHER LOCAL ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Each Bidder, by the act of submitting its bid agrees to withhold all City income taxes due or payable under Chapter 182 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Canton for wages, salaries, fees, and commissions paid to its employees and further agrees that any of its subcontractors shall be required to agree to withhold any such City income taxes due for services performed under this Agreement. Bidder agrees with the Owner regarding the manner of withholding of City income taxes as provided in Section 718.011(F) of the Ohio Revised Code. Municipal income tax withholding provisions of Section 718.011(B)(1) and 718.011(D) of the Ohio Revised Code shall not apply to qualifying wages paid to employees for work done or services performed or rendered inside the City or on City property. Each Bidder agrees to withhold income tax for the City from employees' qualifying wages earned inside the City or on City property, beginning with the first day of work done or services performed or rendered inside the City.
2. Each Bidder, by the act of submitting its bid agrees that all steel necessary in the construction of the Work performed under the Agreement shall be steel that is produced in the United States unless a specific product which is required is not produced by manufacturers in the United States in which event this prohibition does not apply.
3. Each Bidder, by the act of submitting its bid agrees that all materials used in the construction covered by the Agreement shall be purchased in the Canton area except such materials which are unavailable in the Canton area.
4. Each Bidder, by the act of submitting its bid agrees as follows during the performance of the Agreement:
  - a. The Contractor shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, age, handicap, religion, color, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Contractor shall take affirmative action

to insure that applicants are employed and that employees are treated during employment without regard to race, religion, color, sex, national origin, military status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. As used herein, the word "treated" shall mean and include without limitation the following: recruited, whether by advertising or other means; compensation, whether in the form of rates or pay or other forms of compensation; selected for training, including apprenticeship; promoted; demoted; upgraded; downgraded; transferred; laid off; and terminated. The Contractor agrees to and shall post in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment notices to be provided by the contracting officers setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.

- b. The Contractor shall, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the Contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, age, handicap, religion, color, sex, national origin, military status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.
- c. The Contractor shall send to each labor union or representative of workers, with which he has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice advising the labor union or workers' representative of the Contractor's commitments under the equal opportunity clause of the Owner; and it shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.
- d. The Contractor shall submit in writing to the Owner its affirmative action plan, and each subcontractor and supplier of equipment or supplies shall submit to the Contractor its affirmative action plan. The responsibility for securing these affirmative action plans falls upon the Contractor and shall be on file at the office of the Contractor. The Contractor shall furnish all information and reports required by the Owner or its representative pursuant to the Contract Documents, and shall permit access to its books, records, and accounts by the contracting agency of the Owner and by the Executive Secretary of the Owner for purposes of investigation to ascertain compliance with the program.
- e. The Contractor shall take such action with respect to any subcontractor as the Owner may direct as a means of enforcing the provisions of this equal opportunity clause, including penalties and sanctions for noncompliance; provided, however, that in the event the Contractor becomes involved in or is threatened with litigation as is necessary to protect the interests of the Owner and to effectuate the Owner's equal opportunity program and, in the case of contracts receiving Federal assistance, the Contractor or the Owner may request the United States to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the United States.
- f. The Contractor shall file and shall cause its subcontractors, if any, to file compliance reports with the Owner in the form and to the extent prescribed by the Owner or its representative. Compliance reports filed at such times as directed shall contain information as to the employment practices, policies, programs, and statistics of the Contractor and its subcontractors.
- g. The Contractor shall include the provisions of this equal employment opportunity clause in every subcontract or purchase order, so that such provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor.
- h. Refusal by the Contractor or subcontractor to comply with any portion of this program as herein stated and described will subject the offending party to any or all of the following penalties:

- (1) Withholding of all future payments under the involved public contract to the Contractor in violation, until it is determined that the Contractor or subcontractor is in compliance with the provisions of the Agreement.
- (2) Refusal of all future bids for any public contract with the Owner or any of its departments or divisions, until such time as the Contractor or subcontractor demonstrates that it has established and shall carry out the policies of the program as herein outlined.
- (3) Cancellation of the public contract and declaration of forfeiture of the performance bond.
- (4) In cases in which there is substantial or material violation or the threat of substantial or material violation of the compliance procedure or as may be provided by contract, appropriate proceedings may be brought to enforce these provisions, including enjoining within applicable laws of contractors, subcontractors, or other organizations, individuals, or groups who prevent, directly or indirectly, or seek to prevent, directly or indirectly, compliance with the policy as herein outlined.

**Y. OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION FUNDING**

1.  When this line is checked by the Owner, e.g. with an "X" or other mark, the Project is being funded in whole or part by the Ohio Public Works Commission ("OPWC"), and the requirements of the OPWC, attached to these Instructions to Bidders, apply.
2. The OPWC requirements include that the Bidder include with its bid certification of agreement and compliance with certain statements and covenants regarding its subscription to the State's Equal Employment Opportunity Requirements for State-assisted Construction Contracts.

**END OF INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS**