

State of Nebraska Department of Transportation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SERVICES CONTRACT

SOLICITATION NUMBER	RELEASE DATE
126331 Z6	July 6, 2026
OPENING DATE AND TIME	PROCUREMENT CONTACT
August 3, 2026, 2:00 p.m. Central Time	Aaron Thrash

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

SCOPE OF SERVICE

The State of Nebraska (State), Department of Transportation is issuing this solicitation for a service contract for the purpose of selecting a qualified bidder to provide **On-Call Fiber Optic Cable Repair Services**. A more detailed description can be found in Section V. The resulting contract may not be an exclusive contract as the State reserves the right to contract for the same or similar services from other sources now or in the future.

The term of the contract will be one (1) year commencing upon execution of the contract by the State and the Vendor (Parties). The Contract includes the option to renew for six (6) additional one (1) year periods upon mutual agreement of the Parties. The State reserves the right to extend the period of this contract beyond the termination date when mutually agreeable to the Parties.

In the event that a contract with the awarded bidder(s) is cancelled or in the event that the State needs additional Vendors to supply the solicited services, this solicitation may be used to procure the solicited services for up to eighteen (18) months from the date the Intent to Award is posted, provided that 1) the solicited goods or services will be provided by a bidder (or a successive owner) who submitted a response pursuant to this solicitation, 2) the bidder's solicitation response was evaluated, and 3) the bidder will honor the bidder's original solicitation response, including the proposed cost, allowing for any price increases that would have otherwise been allowed if the bidder would have received the initial award.

ALL INFORMATION PERTINENT TO THIS SOLICITATION CAN BE FOUND ON THE INTERNET AT: <https://dot.nebraska.gov/business-center/procurement/procure-service-opp/>.

An optional Solicitation Conference will be held on July 15, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. CST at Nebraska Department of Transportation, 5001 S. 14th Street, Conference Room 152, Lincoln, Nebraska, and <https://teams.microsoft.com/join/226082618651159?p=1UlwKQKBnCINrW5Ka> Meeting ID: 226 082 618 651 159 Passcode: fR3Q3BK9.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-602.04, State contracts in effect as of January 1, 2014, and contracts entered into thereafter, must be posted to a public website. The resulting contract, the Solicitation, and the awarded solicitation response will be posted to a public website managed by DAS, which can be found at <http://statecontracts.nebraska.gov> and on NDOT's website at <https://dot.nebraska.gov/business-center/contractor/service-maintenance-contracts/>.

In addition, and in furtherance of the State's public records Statute (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-712 et seq.), all responses received regarding this Solicitation will be posted to the Nebraska Department of Transportation's public website.

These postings will include the entire solicitation response. Bidder must request that proprietary information be excluded from the posting. The bidder must identify the proprietary information, mark the proprietary information according to state law, and submit the proprietary information in a separate file named conspicuously as "PROPRIETARY INFORMATION". The bidder should submit a detailed written document showing that the release of the proprietary information would give a business advantage to named business competitor(s) and explain how the named business competitor(s) will gain an actual business advantage by disclosure of information. The mere assertion that information is proprietary or that a speculative business advantage might be gained is not sufficient. (See Attorney General Opinion No. 92068, April 27, 1992). **THE BIDDER MAY NOT ASSERT THAT THE ENTIRE SOLICITATION IS PROPRIETARY. COST PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED PROPRIETARY AND ARE A PUBLIC RECORD IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA.** The State will determine, in its sole discretion, if the disclosure of the information designated by the Bidder as proprietary would 1) give advantage to business competitors and 2) serve no public purpose. The Bidder will be notified of the State's decision. Absent a determination by the State that the information may be withheld pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-712.05, the State will consider all information a public record subject to disclosure.

If the State determines it is required to release withheld proprietary information, the bidder will be informed. It will be the bidder's responsibility to defend the bidder's asserted interest in non-disclosure.

To facilitate such public postings, with the exception of proprietary information, the State of Nebraska reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable right to copy, reproduce, publish, post to a website, or otherwise use any contract, or solicitation response for any purpose, and to authorize others to use the documents. Any individual or entity awarded a contract, or who submits a solicitation response, specifically waives any copyright or other protection the contract, or solicitation response may have; and acknowledges that they have the ability and authority to enter into such waiver. This reservation and waiver are a prerequisite for submitting a solicitation response, and award of a contract. Failure to agree to the reservation and waiver will result in the solicitation response being found non-responsive and rejected.

Any entity awarded a contract or submitting a solicitation response agrees not to sue, file a claim, or make a demand of any kind, and will indemnify and hold harmless the State and its employees, volunteers, agents, and its elected and appointed officials from and against any and all claims, liens, demands, damages, liability, actions, causes of action, losses, judgments, costs, and expenses of every nature,

including investigation costs and expenses, settlement costs, and attorney fees and expenses, sustained or asserted against the State, arising out of, resulting from, or attributable to the posting of the contract or solicitation response, awards, and other documents.

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- Addendum:** A written correction or alteration to a document during the solicitation process (e.g., Questions and Answers, Revised Schedule of Events, Addendum to Contract Award)
- Agency:** All officers of the state, departments, bureaus, boards, commissions, councils, and institutions receiving legislative appropriations
- Agent/Representative:** A person authorized to act on behalf of another
- Amend:** To alter or change by adding, subtracting, or substituting
- Amendment:** A written correction or alteration to a document
- Appropriation:** Legislative authorization to expend public funds for a specific purpose; money set apart for a specific use
- Automated Clearing House (ACH):** Electronic network for financial transactions in the United States
- Award:** All purchases, leases, or contracts which are based on competitive solicitations will be awarded according to the provisions in the solicitation
- Best and Final Offer (BAFO):** In a competitive solicitation, the final offer submitted which contains Vendor's most favorable terms for price
- Bid:** See Solicitation Response
- Bid Opening:** The process of opening correctly submitted solicitation responses at the time and place specified in the written solicitation and in the presence of any bidder who wishes to attend
- Bidder:** A Vendor who submits a Solicitation Response
- Breach:** Violation of a contractual obligation by failing to perform or repudiation of one's own promise
- Business:** Any corporation, partnership, individual, sole proprietorship, joint-stock company, joint venture, or any other private legal entity
- Business Day:** Any weekday, except State-recognized holidays
- Calendar Day:** Every day shown on the calendar including Saturdays, Sundays, and State/Federal holidays
- Cancellation:** To call off or revoke a solicitation, purchase order, or contract without expectation of conducting or performing at a later time
- Change Order:** Document that provides amendments to an executed purchase order or contract
- Collusion:** An agreement or cooperation between two or more persons or entities to accomplish a fraudulent, deceitful, or unlawful purpose
- Competition:** The effort or action of two or more commercial interests to obtain the same business from third parties
- Confidential Information:** See Proprietary Information
- Contract:** An agreement between two or more parties creating obligations that are enforceable or otherwise recognizable at law; the writing that sets forth such an agreement
- Contract Administration:** The management of the contract which includes and is not limited to contract signing, contract amendments and any necessary legal actions
- Contract Award:** Document that officially awards a contract to a bidder(s) as the result of a competitive solicitation or a vendor(s) in a contract that qualifies for an exception or exemption from the competitive bidding requirements of the State Procurement Act
- Contract Management:** The management of day-to-day activities at the agency which includes but is not limited to ensuring deliverables are received, specifications are met, handling meetings and making payments to the Vendor
- Contract Period:** The duration of the contract
- Contractor:** See Vendor
- Cooperative Purchasing:** The combining of requirements of two or more political entities to obtain advantages of volume purchases, reduction in administrative expenses or other public benefits

Copyright: A property right in an original work of authorship fixed in any tangible medium of expression, giving the holder the exclusive right to reproduce, adapt and distribute the work

Cost Proposal: A required document that is completed by the vendor in the prescribed format to show the vendor's pricing to provide the commodities or perform the services requested.

Customer Service: The process of ensuring customer satisfaction by providing assistance and advice on those commodities or services provided by a Vendor

Default: The omission or failure to perform a contractual duty

Deviation: Any proposed change(s) or alteration(s) to either the terms and conditions or deliverables within the scope of the written solicitation or contract

Evaluation: The process of examining a solicitation response after opening to determine the bidder's responsibility, responsiveness to requirements, and to ascertain other characteristics of the solicitation response that relate to determination of the successful award

Evaluation Committee: Individual(s) identified by the agency that leads the solicitation to evaluate solicitation responses

Extension: Continuance of a contract for a specified duration upon the agreement of the parties beyond the original Contract Period; not to be confused with "Renewal Period"

Foreign Corporation: A foreign corporation that was organized and chartered under the laws of another state, government, or country

Installation Date: The date when the procedures described in "Installation by Vendor" and "Installation by State" as found in the solicitation or contract are completed

Interested Party: A person acting in their personal capacity or an entity entering into a contract or other agreement creating a legal interest therein

Late Solicitation Response: A solicitation response received after the Opening Date and Time

Mandatory: Required, compulsory, or obligatory

May: Discretionary, permitted; used to express possibility

Must: See Shall

National Institute for Governmental Purchasing (NIGP): National Institute of Governmental Purchasing – Source used for assignment of universal commodity codes to goods and services

Non-Responsive Solicitation Response: Any solicitation response that does not comply with the requirements of the solicitation or cannot be evaluated against the other solicitation responses

Nonnegotiable: These clauses are controlled by state law and are not subject to negotiation

Opening Date and Time: Specified date and time for the opening of received, labeled, and sealed formal solicitation responses

Payroll & Financial Center (PFC): Electronic procurement system of record

Performance Bond: An insurance agreement accompanied by a monetary commitment by which a third party (the surety) accepts liability and guarantees that the Vendor fulfills any and all obligations under the contract

Point of Contact (POC): The person designated to receive communications and to communicate

Product: Something that is distributed commercially for use or consumption and that is usually (1) tangible personal property, (2) the result of fabrication or processing, and (3) an item that has passed through a chain of commercial distribution before ultimate use or consumption

Project: The total scheme, program, or method worked out for the accomplishment of an objective, including all documentation, commodities, and services to be provided under the contract

Proposal: See Solicitation Response

Proprietary Information: Trade secrets, academic and scientific research work that is in progress and unpublished or other information that if released would give advantage to business competitors and service no public purpose. See Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-712.05(3). In accordance with Attorney General Opinions 92068 and 97033, proof that information is proprietary requires identification of specific named competitor(s) advantaged by release of the information and the demonstrated advantage the named competitor(s) would gain by the release of information.

Protest/Grievance: A complaint about a governmental action or decision related to the solicitation or resultant contract under NDOT's Protest Policy.

Quote: See Solicitation Response

Release Date: The date of public release of the solicitation

Renewal Period: Optional contract periods subsequent to the original Contract Period for a specified duration with previously agreed to terms and conditions; not to be confused with "Extension"

Request for Proposal (RFP): See Solicitation

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

Responsive Bidder: A Vendor who has submitted a solicitation response which conforms to all requirements of the solicitation

Shall: An order/command; mandatory

Should: Expected; suggested, but not necessarily mandatory

Solicitation: A formal invitation to receive quotes in the form of a Request for Proposal or Invitation to Bid

Solicitation Conference: A meeting scheduled for the purpose of clarifying a written solicitation and related expectations

Solicitation Response: An offer, quote, bid, or proposal submitted by a Vendor in response to a Solicitation

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

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

Termination: Occurs when either Party, under a power created by agreement or law, puts an end to the contract prior to the stated expiration date; all obligations that are still executory on both sides are discharged but any right based on prior breach or performance survives

Third-Party: Any person or entity, including but not limited to fiduciaries, shareholders, owners, officers, managers, employees, legally disinterested persons, and subcontractors or agents, and their employees. It shall not include any entity or person who is an interested party to the contract or agreement

Trade Secret: Information, including but not limited to, a drawing, formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique, code, or process that (a) derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being known to, and not being ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use; and (b) is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy (see Neb. Rev. Stat. § 87-502(4))

Trademark: A word, phrase, logo, or other graphic symbol used by a manufacturer or Vendor to distinguish its product from those of others, registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Upgrade: Any change that improves or alters the basic function of a product of service

Vendor: An individual or entity lawfully conducting business with the State, or licensed to do so, who seeks to provide and contract for goods or services under the terms of a Solicitation and/or Contract

Vendor Performance Report: A report completed by the using agency and submitted to Nebraska Department of Transportation documenting products or services delivered or performed which exceed or fail to meet the terms of the purchase order, contract, and/or solicitation specifications

Will: See Shall

Work Day: See Business Day

ACRONYM LIST

ACH - Automated Clearing House

ANSI - American National Standards Institute

ARO – After Receipt of Order

BAFO - Best and Final Offer

COI - Certificate of Insurance

DAS - Department of Administrative Services

EIA - Electronic Industries Association

F.O.B. - Free on Board

HDPE - High Density Polyethylene

MDPE - Medium Density Polyethylene

NDOT - Nebraska Department of Transportation

NEC - National Electric Code

NESC - National Electrical Safety Code

NIGP - National Institute for Governmental Purchasing

OLTS - Optical Loss Test Set

OOS - Out of Specification

OTDR - Optical Time Domain Reflectometer

PA - Participating Addendum

PCO - Procurement Contracts Officer

RFP - Request for Proposal

SM - Single-Mode

SPB - State Purchasing Bureau

TIA - Telecommunications Industries Association

UL - Underwriters Laboratory

I. PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

This solicitation is designed to solicit responses from qualified bidders who will be responsible for providing On-Call Fiber Optic Cable Repair Services at a competitive and reasonable cost.

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

B. PROCURING OFFICE AND COMMUNICATION WITH STATE STAFF AND EVALUATORS

Procurement responsibilities related to this solicitation reside with the Nebraska Department of Transportation. The point of contact (POC) for the procurement is as follows:

RFP Number: 126331 Z6
Name: Aaron Thrash
Agency: Nebraska Department of Transportation
Operations Division
Mailing Address: PO Box 94759
(USPS delivery) Lincoln, NE 68509-4759
Physical Address: 5001 S. 14th Street
(all other deliveries) Lincoln, NE 68512
Telephone: (402) 479-3111
E-Mail: <mailto:NDOT.ProcurementSourcing@nebraska.gov>

From the date the solicitation is issued until the Intent to Award is issued, communication from the bidder is limited to the POC listed above. After the Intent to Award is issued, the bidder may communicate with individuals the State has designated as responsible for negotiating the contract on behalf of the State. No member of the State Government, employee of the State, or member of the Evaluation Committee is empowered to make binding statements regarding this solicitation. The POC will issue any answers, clarifications, or amendments regarding this solicitation in writing. Only the SPB or awarding agency can award a contract. Bidders shall not have any communication with or attempt to communicate or influence any evaluator involved in this solicitation.

The following exceptions to these restrictions are permitted:

Contact made pursuant to pre-existing contracts or obligations;
Contact required by the schedule of events or an event scheduled later by the POC; and
Contact required for negotiation and execution of the final contract.

The State reserves the right to reject a bidder's solicitation response, withdraw an Intent to Award, or terminate a contract if the State determines there has been a violation of these procurement procedures.

C. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The State expects to adhere to the procurement schedule shown below, but all dates are approximate and subject to change.

Schedule of Events		
ACTIVITY		DATE/TIME
1.	Release solicitation	July 6, 2026
2.	Last day to submit "Intent to Attend Solicitation Conference"	July 14, 2026
3.	Optional Solicitation Conference Location: Department of Transportation 5001 South 14 th Street Lincoln, NE 68512 Or Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/226082618651159?p=1UlwKQKBnCINrW5Ka Meeting ID: 226 082 618 651 159 Passcode: fR3Q3BK9	July 15, 2026 2:00 PM Central Time
4.	Last day to submit written questions after Solicitation Conference	July 22, 2026
5.	State responds to written questions through solicitation "Addendum" to be posted to the Internet at: https://dot.nebraska.gov/business-center/procurement/procure-service-opp/	July 27, 2026
6.	Proposal Opening Location: Nebraska Department of Transportation Operations Division 5001 So. 14 th Street Lincoln, NE 68512	August 3, 2026 2:00 PM Central Time
7.	Review for conformance to solicitation requirements	August 4, 2026
8.	Evaluation period	August 5-6, 2026
9.	Post "Intent to Award" to the Internet at: https://dot.nebraska.gov/business-center/procurement/procure-service-opp/	August 10, 2026
10.	Contract finalization period	August 11-28, 2026
11.	Contract Award	August 31, 2026
12.	Contract start date	September 1, 2026

D. WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Questions regarding the meaning or interpretation of any solicitation provision must be submitted in writing to Nebraska Department of Transportation and clearly marked "Solicitation Number 126331 Z6; On-Call Fiber Optic Cable Repair Questions". The POC is not obligated to respond to questions that are received late per the Schedule of Events.

Bidders should submit questions for any items upon which assumptions may be made when preparing a response to the solicitation. Any solicitation response containing assumptions may be deemed non-responsive and may be rejected by the State. Solicitation responses will be evaluated without consideration of any known or unknown assumptions of a bidder. The contract will not incorporate any known or unknown assumptions of a bidder.

Questions should be submitted to NDOT.ProcurementSourcing@nebraska.gov; it is recommended that bidders submit questions using the following format:

RFP Section Reference	RFP Page Number	Question

Written answers will be posted at <https://dot.nebraska.gov/business-center/procurement/procure-service-opp/> per the Schedule of Events.

E. OPTIONAL SOLICITATION CONFERENCE

A solicitation conference will be held per the Schedule of Events. Attendance at the solicitation conference is optional. Vendors will have an opportunity to ask questions at the conference to assist in the clarification and understanding of the solicitation requirements. Questions that have a material impact on the solicitation or solicitation process, and relevant to all Vendors will be answered in writing and posted at <https://dot.nebraska.gov/business-center/procurement/procure-service-opp/>. An answer must be posted to be binding on the State. The State will attempt to provide verbal answers to questions that do not impact the solicitation or process and are only of interest to an individual Vendor during the conference. If a Vendor feels it necessary to have a binding answer to a question that was answered verbally, the question should be submitted in writing per the Schedule of Events.

F. NOTICE OF INTENT TO ATTEND OPTIONAL SOLICITATION CONFERENCE

Vendors should notify the NDOT of their intent to attend by submitting an "Intent to Attend the Solicitation Conference Form" to NDOT.ProcurementSourcing@nebraska.gov.

G. SECRETARY OF STATE/TAX COMMISSIONER REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS (Nonnegotiable)

All bidders must be authorized to transact business in the State of Nebraska and comply with all Nebraska Secretary of State Registration requirements. The bidder who is the recipient of an Intent to Award may be required to certify that it has complied and produce a true and exact copy of its current (within ninety (90) calendar days of the intent to award) Certificate or Letter of Good Standing, or in the case of a sole proprietorship, provide written documentation of sole proprietorship and complete the United States Citizenship Attestation Form, available on the Department of Transportation's website at: <https://dot.nebraska.gov/media/gurelo3n/us-citizenship-attestation-form.pdf>. This should be accomplished prior to execution of the contract.

H. ETHICS IN PUBLIC CONTRACTING

The State reserves the right to reject solicitation responses, withdraw an intent to award or award, or terminate a contract if an ethical violation has been committed, which includes, but is not limited to:

1. Offering or giving, directly or indirectly, a bribe, fee, commission, compensation, gift, gratuity, or anything of value to any person or entity in an attempt to influence the bidding process;
2. Utilizing the services of lobbyists, attorneys, political activists, or consultants to influence or subvert the bidding process;
3. Being considered for, presently being, or becoming debarred, suspended, ineligible, or excluded from contracting with any state or federal entity;

Submitting a solicitation response on behalf of another Party or entity; and

Colluding with any person or entity to influence the bidding process, submit sham solicitation responses, preclude bidding, fix pricing or costs, create an unfair advantage, subvert the solicitation response, or prejudice the State.

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

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

I. DEVIATIONS FROM THE SOLICITATION

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

J. SUBMISSION OF SOLICITATION RESPONSES

Bidders should submit one (1) solicitation response marked on the first page: "ORIGINAL". If multiple solicitation responses are submitted, the State will retain one (1) copy marked "ORIGINAL" and destroy the other copies. The bidder is solely responsible for any variance between the copies submitted. Solicitation responses must reference the solicitation number and be sent to the specified address. Please note that the address label should appear as specified in Section I B. on the face of each container or bidder's solicitation response packet. If a recipient phone number is required for delivery purposes, (402) 479-3111 should be used. The solicitation number should be included in all correspondence. The State will not furnish packaging and sealing materials.

It is the bidder's responsibility to ensure the solicitation response is received by the date and time indicated in the Schedule of Events. Solicitation Responses must be submitted by the date and time of the opening per the Schedule of Events. No late solicitation responses will be accepted.

Pages may be consecutively numbered for the entire solicitation response or may be numbered consecutively within sections. Figures and tables should be numbered and referenced in the text by that number. They should be placed as close as possible to the referencing text.

The Technical Responses should not contain any reference to dollar amounts. However, information such as data concerning labor hours and categories, materials, subcontracts and so forth, shall be considered in the Technical Response so that the bidder's understanding of the scope of work may be evaluated. The Technical Response shall disclose the bidder's technical requirements in as much detail as possible, including, but not limited to, the information required by the Technical Response instructions.

It is the responsibility of the bidder to check the website for all information relevant to this solicitation to include addenda and/or amendments issued prior to the opening date. The website can be found here: <https://dot.nebraska.gov/business-center/business-opp/procure-service-opp/>.

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

The "Contractual Agreement Form" must be signed manually in ink or by DocuSign or other electronic means with signature authentication/certification and returned by the opening date and time along with the bidder's solicitation response and any other requirements as stated in this solicitation in order for the bidder's solicitation response to be evaluated.

By signing this Contractual Agreement Form, the bidder guarantees compliance with the provisions stated in this solicitation and agrees to the terms and conditions unless otherwise indicated in writing.

K. INVALID SOLICITATION SUBMISSIONS

NDOT will not accept solicitations by email, electronic, voice, or telephone.

L. SOLICITATION PREPARATION COSTS

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

M. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH SOLICITATION

Violation of the terms and conditions contained in this solicitation or any resultant contract, at any time before or after the award, shall be grounds for action by the State which may include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Rejection of a bidder's solicitation response,
2. Withdrawal of the Intent to Award,
3. Withdrawal of the Award,
4. Negative documentation regarding Vendor Performance,
5. Termination of the resulting contract,

Legal action; and

Suspension or Debarment of the bidder from further bidding with the State for the period of time relative to the seriousness of the violation. Such period to be within the sole discretion of the State.

N. SOLICITATION RESPONSE CORRECTIONS

A bidder may correct a mistake in a solicitation response prior to the time of opening by giving written notice to the State of intent to withdraw the solicitation response for modification or to withdraw the solicitation response completely.

Changing a solicitation response after opening may be permitted if the change is made to correct a minor error that does not affect price, quantity, quality, delivery, or contractual conditions. In case of a mathematical error in extension of price, unit price shall govern.

O. LATE SOLICITATION RESPONSES

Solicitation Responses received after the time and date of the opening will be considered late responses. Late responses will be considered non-responsive. The State is not responsible for responses that are late or lost regardless of cause or fault.

P. BID OPENING

The opening will consist of opening solicitation responses and announcing the names of bidders. Responses **WILL NOT** be available for viewing by those present at the opening. Responses will be posted to the Nebraska Department of Transportation's website once

an Intent to Award has been posted to the website. Once responses are opened, they become the property of the State of Nebraska and will not be returned.

Q. SOLICITATION REQUIREMENTS

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

1. Original Contractual Agreement Form signed manually in ink or by DocuSign or other electronic means with signature authentication/certification;
2. Clarity and responsiveness;
3. Completed Sections II through IV; and
4. Completed Attachment A - Cost Proposal.

R. EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Solicitation Responses are evaluated by members of an Evaluation Committee(s). The Evaluation Committee(s) will consist of individuals selected at the discretion of the State. Names of the members of the Evaluation Committee(s) will not be published prior to the intent to award.

Any contact, attempted contact, or attempt to influence an evaluator that is involved with this Solicitation may result in the rejection of this response and further administrative actions.

S. EVALUATION OF SOLICITATION RESPONSES

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

1. Attachment A - Cost Proposal.

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 73-808 allows the State to consider a variety of factors, including, but not limited to, the quality of performance of previous contracts to be considered when evaluating responses to competitive solicitations in determining a responsible bidder. Information obtained from any Contract Compliance Request or any Contract Non-Compliance Notice (See Terms & Conditions, Section II.H) may be used in evaluating responses to solicitations for goods and services to determine the best value for the State.

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 73-107 allows for a preference for a resident disabled veteran or business located in a designated enterprise zone. When a state contract is to be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, a resident disabled veteran or a business located in a designated enterprise zone under the Enterprise Zone Act shall be allowed a preference over any other resident or nonresident bidder, if all other factors are equal.

Resident disabled veterans means any person (a) who resides in the State of Nebraska, who served in the United States Armed Forces, including any reserve component or the National Guard, who was discharged or otherwise separated with a characterization of honorable or general (under honorable conditions), and who possesses a disability rating letter issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs establishing a service-connected disability or a disability determination from the United States Department of Defense and (b)(i) who owns and controls a business or, in the case of a publicly owned business, more than fifty percent of the stock is owned by one or more persons described in (a) of this paragraph and (ii) the management and daily business operations of the business are controlled by one or more persons described in (a) of this paragraph. Any contract entered into without compliance with this section shall be null and void.

Therefore, if a resident disabled veteran or business located in a designated enterprise zone submits a solicitation response in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 73-107 and has so indicated on the Contractual Agreement Form under "Vendor must complete the following" requesting priority/preference to be considered in the award of this contract, the following will need to be submitted by the Vendor within ten (10) business days of request:

1. Documentation from the United States Armed Forces confirming service,
2. Documentation of discharge or otherwise separated characterization of honorable or general (under honorable conditions),
3. Disability rating letter issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs establishing a service-connected disability or a disability determination from the United States Department of Defense; and
4. Documentation which shows ownership and control of a business or, in the case of a publicly owned business, more than fifty percent of the stock is owned by one or more persons described in subdivision (a) of this subsection; and the management and daily business operations of the business are controlled by one or more persons described in subdivision (a) of this subsection.

Failure to submit the requested documentation within ten (10) business days of notice will disqualify the bidder from consideration of the preference.

T. BEST AND FINAL OFFER

Each bidder should provide its best offer with their original solicitation response and should not expect the State to request a best and final offer (BAFO).

The State reserves the right to conduct more than one BAFO. If requested by the State, the BAFO must be submitted on the BAFO Cost Proposal and in accordance with the State's instructions. Failure to submit a requested BAFO or failure to submit a BAFO in accordance with the State's instructions may result in rejection of the bidder's entire solicitation response. BAFOs may be scored and ranked by the Evaluation Committee.

U. REFERENCE AND CREDIT CHECKS

The State reserves the right to conduct and consider reference and credit checks. The State reserves the right to use third parties to conduct reference and credit checks. By submitting a solicitation response, the bidder grants to the State the right to contact or arrange a visit in person with any or all of the bidder's clients. Reference and credit checks may be grounds to reject a solicitation response, withdraw an intent to award, or rescind the award of a contract.

V. AWARD

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

1. Amend the solicitation;
2. Extend the date and time of a solicitation;
3. Waive deviations or errors in the State's solicitation process and in bidder responses that are not material, do not compromise the solicitation process or a bidder's response, and do not improve a Vendor's competitive position;
4. Accept or reject a portion of or all of a solicitation response;
5. Accept or reject all responses;
6. Withdraw the solicitation;
7. Elect to re-release the solicitation;
8. Award single lines or multiple lines to one or more Vendors; or,
9. Award one or more all-inclusive contracts.

The State of Nebraska may consider, but is not limited to considering, one or more of the following award criteria:

1. Price,
2. Location,
3. Quality,
4. Delivery time,
5. Bidder qualifications and capabilities, and
6. State contract management requirements and/or costs.

The solicitation does not commit the State to award a contract. Once intent to award decision has been determined, it will be posted to the Internet at: <https://dot.nebraska.gov/business-center/procurement/procure-service-opp/>

Any protests must be filed by a bidder within ten (10) business days after the intent to award decision is posted to the Internet. Grievance and protest procedure is available on the Internet at: <https://dot.nebraska.gov/media/pwgjyfqj/06-25-policy-25-23-07-signed.pdf>

W. LUMP SUM OR "ALL OR NONE" SOLICITATION RESPONSES

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

**"LUMP SUM" OR "ALL OR NONE" RESPONSES SHOULD BE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED
ON THE FIRST PAGE OF THE SOLICITATION AND COST PROPOSAL**

X. REJECTION OF SOLICITATION RESPONSES

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

Y. PRICES & COST CLARIFICATION

Discount and Price provisions are discussed in Sections III.F. and III.G. The State reserves the right to review all aspects of cost for reasonableness and realism as those terms are defined in (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 73-810 (1) (a) and (b) The State may request clarification of any solicitation where the cost component indicates a significant and unsupported deviation from industry standards or in areas where detailed pricing is required. Under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 73-810 (2), the State may reject a bid if the price is not reasonable or realistic.

II. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Bidder should read the Terms and Conditions within this section and must initial either "Accept All Terms and Conditions Within Section as Written" or "Exceptions Taken to Terms and Conditions Within Section as Written" in the table below. If exception is not taken to a provision, it is deemed accepted as stated. If the bidder takes any exceptions, they must provide the following within the "Exceptions" field of the table below (Bidder may provide responses in separate attachment if multiple exceptions are taken):

1. The specific clause, including section reference, to which an exception has been taken;
2. An explanation of why the bidder took exception to the clause; and
3. Provide alternative language to the specific clause within the solicitation response.

By signing the solicitation, bidder agrees to be legally bound by all the accepted terms and conditions, and any proposed alternative terms and conditions submitted with the solicitation response. The State reserves the right to negotiate rejected or proposed alternative language. If the State and bidder fail to agree on the final Terms and Conditions, the State reserves the right to reject the solicitation response. The State reserves the right to reject solicitation responses that attempt to substitute the bidder's commercial contracts and/or documents for this solicitation.

Accept All Terms and Conditions Within Section as Written (Initial)	Exceptions Taken to Terms and Conditions Within Section as Written (Initial)	Exceptions: (Bidder must note the specific clause, including section reference, to which an exception has been taken, an explanation of why the bidder took exception to the clause, and provide alternative language to the specific clause within the solicitation response.)

The bidders should submit with their solicitation response any license, user agreement, service level agreement, or similar documents that the bidder wants incorporated in the Contract. The State will not consider incorporation of any document not submitted with the solicitation response as the document will not have been included in the evaluation process. These documents shall be subject to negotiation and will be incorporated as addendums if agreed to by the Parties.

If a conflict or ambiguity arises after the Addendum to Contract Award has been negotiated and agreed to, the Addendum to Contract Award shall be interpreted as follows:

- If only one (1) Party has a particular clause, then that clause shall control,
If both Parties have a similar clause, but the clauses do not conflict, the clauses shall be read together,
If both Parties have a similar clause, but the clauses conflict, the State's clause shall control.

A. GENERAL

1. The contract resulting from this Solicitation shall incorporate the following documents:
Solicitation, including any attachments and addenda;
Questions and Answers;
Bidder's properly submitted solicitation response, including any terms and conditions or agreements submitted by the bidder;
Addendum to Contract Award (if applicable); and
Amendments to the Contract. (if applicable)

These documents constitute the entirety of the contract.

Unless otherwise specifically stated in a future contract amendment, in case of any conflict between the incorporated documents, the documents shall govern in the following order of preference with number one (1) receiving preference over all other documents and with each lower numbered document having preference over any higher numbered document: 1) Amendment to the executed Contract with the most recent dated amendment having the highest priority, 2) Executed Contract and any attached Addenda 3) Addendums to the solicitation and any Questions and Answers, 4) the original solicitation document and any Addenda or attachments, and 5) the Vendor's submitted solicitation response, including any terms and conditions or agreements that are accepted by the State.

Unless otherwise specifically agreed to in writing by the State, the State's standard terms and conditions, as executed by the State, shall always control over any terms and conditions or agreements submitted or included by the Vendor.

Any ambiguity or conflict in the contract discovered after its execution, not otherwise addressed herein, shall be resolved in accordance with the rules of contract interpretation as established in the State of Nebraska.

B. NOTIFICATION

Bidder and State shall identify the contract manager who shall serve as the point of contact for the executed contract.

Communications regarding the executed contract shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been given if delivered personally; electronically, return receipt requested; or mailed, return receipt requested. All notices, requests, or communications shall be deemed effective upon receipt.

Either party may change its address for notification purposes by giving notice of the change and setting forth the new address and an effective date.

C. BUYER'S REPRESENTATIVE

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

D. GOVERNING LAW (Nonnegotiable)

Notwithstanding any other provision of this contract, or any amendment or addendum(s) entered into contemporaneously or at a later time, the parties understand and agree that, (1) the State of Nebraska is a sovereign state and its authority to contract is therefore subject to limitation by the State's Constitution, statutes, common law, and regulation; (2) this contract will be interpreted and enforced under the laws of the State of Nebraska; (3) any action to enforce the provisions of this agreement must be brought in the State of Nebraska per state law; (4) the person signing this contract on behalf of the State of Nebraska does not have the authority to waive the State's sovereign immunity, statutes, common law, or regulations; (5) the indemnity, limitation of liability, remedy, and other similar provisions of the final contract, if any, are entered into subject to the State's Constitution, statutes, common law, regulations, and sovereign immunity; and, (6) all terms and conditions of the final contract, including but not limited to the clauses concerning third party use, licenses, warranties, limitations of liability, governing law and venue, usage verification, indemnity, liability, remedy or other similar provisions of the final contract are entered into specifically subject to the State's Constitution, statutes, common law, regulations, and sovereign immunity.

The Parties must comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws, ordinances, rules, orders, and regulations.

E. BEGINNING OF WORK & SUSPENSION OF SERVICES

The bidder shall not commence any billable work until a valid contract has been fully executed by the State and the successful Vendor. The Vendor will be notified in writing when work may begin.

The State may, at any time and without advance notice, require the Vendor to suspend any or all performance or deliverables provided under this Contract. In the event of such suspension, the Contract Manager or POC, or their designee, will issue a written order to stop work. The written order will specify which activities are to be immediately suspended and the reason(s) for the suspension. Upon receipt of such order, the Vendor shall immediately comply with its terms and take all necessary steps to mitigate and eliminate the incurrence of costs allocable to the work affected by the order during the period of suspension. The suspended performance or deliverables may only resume when the State provides the Vendor with written notice that such performance or deliverables may resume, in whole or in part.

F. AMENDMENT

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

G. CHANGE ORDERS OR SUBSTITUTIONS

The State and the Vendor, upon the written agreement, may make changes to the contract within the general scope of the solicitation. Changes may involve specifications, the quantity of work, or such other items as the State may find necessary or desirable. Corrections of any deliverable, service, or work required pursuant to the contract shall not be deemed a change. The Vendor may not claim forfeiture of the contract by reasons of such changes.

The Vendor shall prepare a written description of the work required due to the change and an itemized cost proposal for the change. Changes in work and the amount of compensation to be paid to the Vendor shall be determined in accordance with applicable unit prices if any, a pro-rated value, or through negotiations. The State shall not incur a price increase for changes that should have been included in the Vendor's solicitation response, were foreseeable, or result from difficulties with or failure of the Vendor's solicitation response or performance.

No change shall be implemented by the Vendor until approved by the State, and the Contract is amended to reflect the change and associated costs, if any. If there is a dispute regarding the cost, but both parties agree that immediate implementation is necessary, the change may be implemented, and cost negotiations may continue with both Parties retaining all remedies under the contract and law.

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

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

H. RECORD OF VENDOR PERFORMANCE

The State may document the vendor's performance, which may include, but is not limited to, the customer service provided by the vendor, the ability of the vendor, the skill of the vendor, and any instance(s) of products or services delivered or performed which fail to meet the terms of the purchase order, contract, and/or specifications. In addition to other remedies and options available to the State, the State may issue one or more notices to the vendor outlining any issues the State has regarding the vendor's performance for a specific contract ("Contract Compliance Request"). The State may also document the Vendor's performance in a report, which may or may not be provided to the vendor ("Contract Non-Compliance Notice"). The Vendor shall respond to any Contract Compliance Request or Contract Non-Compliance Notice in accordance with such notice or request. At the sole discretion of the State, such

Contract Compliance Requests and Contract Non-Compliance Notices may be placed in the State's records regarding the vendor and may be considered by the State and held against the vendor in any future contract or award opportunity. The record of vendor performance will be considered in any suspension or debarment action.

I. NOTICE OF POTENTIAL VENDOR BREACH

If Vendor breaches the contract or anticipates breaching the contract, the Vendor shall immediately give written notice to the State. The notice shall explain the breach or potential breach, a proposed cure, and may include a request for a waiver of the breach if so desired. The State may, in its discretion, temporarily or permanently waive the breach. By granting a waiver, the State does not forfeit any rights or remedies to which the State is entitled by law or equity, or pursuant to the provisions of the contract. Failure to give immediate notice, however, may be grounds for denial of any request for a waiver of a breach.

J. BREACH

Either Party may terminate the contract, in whole or in part, if the other Party breaches its duty to perform its obligations under the contract in a timely and proper manner. Termination requires written notice of default and a thirty (30) calendar day (or longer at the non-breaching Party's discretion considering the gravity and nature of the default) cure period. Said notice shall be delivered by email, delivery receipt requested; certified mail, return receipt requested; or in person with proof of delivery. Allowing time to cure a failure or breach of contract does not waive the right to immediately terminate the contract for the same or different contract breach which may occur at a different time.

The State's failure to make payment shall not be a breach, and the Vendor shall retain all available statutory remedies.

K. NON-WAIVER OF BREACH

The acceptance of late performance with or without objection or reservation by a Party shall not waive any rights of the Party nor constitute a waiver of the requirement of timely performance of any obligations remaining to be performed.

L. SEVERABILITY

If any term or condition of the contract is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be illegal or in conflict with any law, the validity of the remaining terms and conditions shall not be affected, and the rights and obligations of the parties shall be construed and enforced as if the contract did not contain the provision held to be invalid or illegal.

M. INDEMNIFICATION

1. GENERAL

The Vendor agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the State and its employees, volunteers, agents, and its elected and appointed officials ("the indemnified parties") from and against any and all third party claims, liens, demands, damages, liability, actions, causes of action, losses, judgments, costs, and expenses of every nature, including investigation costs and expenses, settlement costs, and attorney fees and expenses ("the claims"), sustained or asserted against the State for personal injury, death, or property loss or damage, arising out of, resulting from, or attributable to the willful misconduct, negligence, error, or omission of the Vendor, its employees, Subcontractors, consultants, representatives, and agents, resulting from this contract, except to the extent such Vendor liability is attenuated by any action of the State which directly and proximately contributed to the claims.

2. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The Vendor agrees it will, at its sole cost and expense, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the indemnified parties from and against any and all claims, to the extent such claims arise out of, result from, or are attributable to, the actual or alleged infringement or misappropriation of any patent, copyright, trade secret, trademark, or confidential information of any third party by the Vendor or its employees, Subcontractors, consultants, representatives, and agents; provided, however, the State gives the Vendor prompt notice in writing of the claim. The Vendor may not settle any infringement claim that will affect the State's use of the Licensed Software without the State's prior written consent, which consent may be withheld for any reason.

If a judgment or settlement is obtained or reasonably anticipated against the State's use of any intellectual property for which the Vendor has indemnified the State, the Vendor shall, at the Vendor's sole cost and expense, promptly modify the item or items which were determined to be infringing, acquire a license or licenses on the State's behalf to provide the necessary rights to the State to eliminate the infringement, or provide the State with a non-infringing substitute that provides the State the same functionality. At the State's election, the actual or anticipated judgment may be treated as a breach of warranty by the Vendor, and the State may receive the remedies provided under this Solicitation.

3. PERSONNEL

The Vendor shall, at its expense, indemnify and hold harmless the indemnified parties from and against any claim with respect to withholding taxes, worker's compensation, employee benefits, or any other claim, demand, liability, damage, or loss of any nature relating to any of the personnel, including subcontractor's and their employees, provided by the Vendor.

4. SELF-INSURANCE

The State of Nebraska is self-insured for any loss and purchases excess insurance coverage pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-8,239.01. If there is a presumed loss under the provisions of this agreement, Vendor may file a claim with the Office of Risk Management pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 81-8,239.01 to 81-8,306 for review by the State Claims Board. The State retains all rights and immunities under the State Miscellaneous (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-8,294), Tort (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-8,209), and Contract Claim Acts (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-8,302), as outlined in state law and accepts liability under this agreement only to the extent provided by law.

5. The Parties acknowledge that Attorney General for the State of Nebraska is required by statute to represent the legal interests of the State, and that any provision of this indemnity clause is subject to the statutory authority of the Attorney General.

N. ATTORNEY'S FEES

In the event of any litigation, appeal, or other legal action to enforce any provision of the contract, the Parties agree to pay all expenses of such action, as permitted by law and if ordered by the court, including attorney's fees and costs, if the other Party prevails.

O. PERFORMANCE BOND

The Awarded Bidder will be required to supply a bond executed by a corporation authorized to contract surety in the State of Nebraska, payable to the State of Nebraska, which shall be valid for the life of the contract to include any renewal and/or extension periods. The amount of the bond must be one hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount. The bond will guarantee that the Awarded Bidder will faithfully perform all requirements, terms and conditions of the contract. Failure to comply shall be grounds for forfeiture of the bond as liquidated damages. Amount of forfeiture will be determined by the agency based on loss to the State. The bond will be returned when the contract has been satisfactorily completed as solely determined by the State, after termination or expiration of the contract.

P. ASSIGNMENT, SALE, OR MERGER

Either Party may assign the contract upon mutual written agreement of the other Party. Such agreement shall not be unreasonably withheld.

The Vendor retains the right to enter into a sale, merger, acquisition, internal reorganization, or similar transaction involving Vendor's business. Vendor agrees to cooperate with the State in executing amendments to the contract to allow for the transaction. If a third party or entity is involved in the transaction, the Vendor will remain responsible for performance of the contract until such time as the person or entity involved in the transaction agrees in writing to be contractually bound by this contract and perform all obligations of the contract.

Q. CONTRACTING WITH OTHER NEBRASKA POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THE STATE OR ANOTHER STATE

The Vendor may, but shall not be required to, allow agencies, as defined in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-145(2), to use this contract. The terms and conditions, including price, of the contract may not be amended. The State shall not be contractually obligated or liable for any contract entered into pursuant to this clause. A listing of Nebraska political subdivisions may be found at the website of the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts.

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

R. FORCE MAJEURE

Neither Party shall be liable for any costs or damages, or for default resulting from its inability to perform any of its obligations under the contract due to a natural or manmade event outside the control and not the fault of the affected Party ("Force Majeure Event") that was not foreseeable at the time the Contract was executed. The Party so affected shall immediately make a written request for relief to the other Party and shall have the burden of proof to justify the request. The other Party may grant the relief requested; relief may not be unreasonably withheld. Labor disputes with the impacted Party's own employees will not be considered a Force Majeure Event.

S. CONFIDENTIALITY

All materials and information provided by the Parties or acquired by a Party on behalf of the other Party shall be regarded as confidential information. All materials and information provided or acquired shall be handled in accordance with federal and state law, and ethical standards. Should said confidentiality be breached by a Party, the Party shall notify the other Party immediately of said breach and take immediate corrective action.

It is incumbent upon the Parties to inform their officers and employees of the penalties for improper disclosure imposed by the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a. Specifically, 5 U.S.C. 552a (i)(1), which is made applicable by 5 U.S.C. 552a (m)(1), provides that any officer or employee, who by virtue of his/her employment or official position has possession of or access to agency records which contain individually identifiable information, the disclosure of which is prohibited by the Privacy Act or regulations established thereunder, and who knowing that disclosure of the specific material is prohibited, willfully discloses the material in any manner to any person or agency not entitled to receive it, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not more than \$5,000.

T. EARLY TERMINATION

The contract may be terminated as follows:

1. The State and the Vendor, by mutual written agreement, may terminate the contract, in whole or in part, at any time.
2. The State, in its sole discretion, may terminate the contract, in whole or in part, for any reason upon thirty (30) calendar day's written notice shall be delivered by email, delivery receipt requested; certified mail, return receipt requested; or in person with proof of delivery to the Vendor. Such termination shall not relieve the Vendor of warranty or other service obligations incurred under the terms of the contract. In the event of termination, the Vendor shall be entitled to payment, determined on a pro rata basis, for products or services satisfactorily performed or provided.
3. The State may terminate the contract, in whole or in part, immediately for the following reasons:

- a. if directed to do so by statute,
- b. Vendor has made an assignment for the benefit of creditors, has admitted in writing its inability to pay debts as they mature, or has ceased operating in the normal course of business,
- c. a trustee or receiver of the Vendor or of any substantial part of the Vendor's assets has been appointed by a court,
- d. fraud, misappropriation, embezzlement, malfeasance, misfeasance, or illegal conduct pertaining to performance under the contract by its Vendor, its employees, officers, directors, or shareholders,
- e. an involuntary proceeding has been commenced by any Party against the Vendor under any one of the chapters of Title 11 of the United States Code and (i) the proceeding has been pending for at least sixty (60) calendar days; or (ii) the Vendor has consented, either expressly or by operation of law, to the entry of an order for relief; or (iii) the Vendor has been decreed or adjudged a debtor,
- f. a voluntary petition has been filed by the Vendor under any of the chapters of Title 11 of the United States Code,
- g. Vendor intentionally discloses confidential information,
- h. Vendor has or announces it will discontinue support of the deliverable; and,
- i. In the event funding is no longer available.

U. CONTRACT CLOSEOUT

Upon termination of the contract for any reason the Vendor shall within thirty (30) days, unless stated otherwise herein:

- 1. Transfer all completed or partially completed deliverables to the State,
- 2. Transfer ownership and title to all completed or partially completed deliverables to the State,
- 3. Return to the State all information and data unless the Vendor is permitted to keep the information or data by contract or rule of law. Vendor may retain one copy of any information or data as required to comply with applicable work product documentation standards or as are automatically retained in the course of Vendor's routine back up procedures,

Cooperate with any successor Vendor, person, or entity in the assumption of any or all of the obligations of this contract,

Cooperate with any successor Vendor, person, or entity with the transfer of information or data related to this contract,

Return or vacate any state owned real or personal property; and,

Return all data in a mutually acceptable format and manner.

Nothing in this section should be construed to require the Vendor to surrender intellectual property, real or personal property, or information or data owned by the Vendor for which the State has no legal claim.

V. PROHIBITED PRODUCTS

The State will not accept Gray Market Products for this solicitation. Gray Market is defined as the trade of a commodity through distribution channels which, while legal, are unofficial, unauthorized, or unintended by the original manufacturer. Gray Market items are not designed to be sold in a particular market and cannot be supported by the authorized importer because of various reasons.

The State will not accept any products made by a company owned by the Chinese Communist Party. Furthermore, pursuant to Executive Order No. 23-05, the State will not accept any communications equipment or services developed by organizations on the Federal Communications Commission's Covered List.

The State will not accept goods from countries or persons identified on the Office of Foreign Assets Control Sanctions List.

W. AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Vendor shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12131–12134), as amended by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADA Amendments Act) (Pub.L. 110–325, 122 Stat. 3553 (2008)), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by public entities.

III. VENDOR DUTIES

Bidder should read the Vendor Duties within this section and must initial either "Accept All Terms and Conditions Within Section as Written" or "Exceptions Taken to Vendor Duties Within Section as Written" in the table below. If exception is not taken to a provision, it is deemed accepted as stated. If the bidder takes any exceptions, they must provide the following within the "Exceptions" field of the table below (Bidder may provide responses in separate attachment if multiple exceptions are taken):

1. The specific clause, including section reference, to which an exception has been taken;
2. An explanation of why the bidder took exception to the clause; and
3. Provide alternative language to the specific clause within the solicitation response.

By signing the solicitation, bidder agrees to be legally bound by all the accepted terms and conditions, and any proposed alternative terms and conditions submitted with the solicitation response. The State reserves the right to negotiate rejected or proposed alternative language. If the State and bidder fail to agree on the final Terms and Conditions, the State reserves the right to reject the solicitation response. The State reserves the right to reject solicitation responses that attempt to substitute the bidder's commercial contracts and/or documents for this solicitation.

Accept All Vendor Duties Within Section as Written (Initial)	Exceptions Taken to Vendor Duties Within Section as Written (Initial)	Exceptions: (Bidder must note the specific clause, including section reference, to which an exception has been taken, an explanation of why the bidder took exception to the clause, and provide alternative language to the specific clause within the solicitation response.)

A. INDEPENDENT VENDOR / OBLIGATIONS

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

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

The Vendor shall secure, at its own expense, all personnel required to perform the services under the contract. The personnel the Vendor uses to fulfill the contract shall have no contractual or other legal relationship with the State; they shall not be considered employees of the State and shall not be entitled to any compensation, rights or benefits from the State, including but not limited to, tenure rights, medical and hospital care, sick and vacation leave, severance pay, or retirement benefits.

By-name personnel commitments made in the bidder's solicitation response shall not be changed without the prior written approval of the State. Replacement of these personnel, if approved by the State, shall be with personnel of equal or greater ability and qualifications.

All personnel assigned by the Vendor to the contract shall be employees of the Vendor or a subcontractor and shall be fully qualified to perform the work required herein. Personnel employed by the Vendor or a subcontractor to fulfill the terms of the contract shall remain under the sole direction and control of the Vendor or the subcontractor respectively.

With respect to its employees, the Vendor agrees to be solely responsible for the following:

1. Any and all pay, benefits, and employment taxes and/or other payroll withholding,
2. Any and all vehicles used by the Vendor's employees, including all insurance required by state law,
3. Damages incurred by Vendor's employees within the scope of their duties under the contract,
4. Maintaining Workers' Compensation and health insurance that complies with state and federal law and submitting any reports on such insurance to the extent required by governing law,
5. Determining the hours to be worked and the duties to be performed by the Vendor's employees; and,
6. All claims on behalf of any person arising out of employment or alleged employment (including without limit claims of discrimination alleged against the Vendor, its officers, agents, or subcontractors or subcontractor's employees).

If the Vendor intends to utilize any subcontractor, the subcontractor's level of effort, tasks, and time allocation should be clearly defined in the solicitation response. The Vendor shall agree that it will not utilize any subcontractors not specifically included in its solicitation response in the performance of the contract without the prior written authorization of the State. If the Vendor subcontracts any of the work, the Vendor agrees to pay any and all subcontractors in accordance with the Vendor's agreement with the respective subcontractor(s).

The State reserves the right to require the Vendor to reassign or remove from the project any Vendor or subcontractor employee.

Vendor shall insure that the terms and conditions contained in any contract with a subcontractor does not conflict with the terms and conditions of this contract.

The Vendor shall include a similar provision, for the protection of the State, in the contract with any Subcontractor engaged to perform work on this contract.

B. EMPLOYEE WORK ELIGIBILITY STATUS

The Vendor is required and hereby agrees to use a federal immigration verification system to determine the work eligibility status of employees physically performing services within the State of Nebraska. A federal immigration verification system means the electronic verification of the work authorization program authorized by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, 8 U.S.C. 1324a, known as the E-Verify Program, or an equivalent federal program designated by the United States Department of Homeland Security or other federal agency authorized to verify the work eligibility status of an employee.

If the Vendor is an individual or sole proprietorship, the following applies:

1. The Vendor must complete the United States Citizenship Attestation Form, available on the Department of Administrative Services website at <https://dot.nebraska.gov/media/gurelo3n/us-citizenship-attestation-form.pdf>
2. The completed United States Attestation Form should be submitted with the Solicitation response.
3. If the Vendor indicates on such attestation form that he or she is a qualified alien, the Vendor agrees to provide the US Citizenship and Immigration Services documentation required to verify the Vendor's lawful presence in the United States using the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program.
4. The Vendor understands and agrees that lawful presence in the United States is required, and the Vendor may be disqualified or the contract terminated if such lawful presence cannot be verified as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 4-108.

C. COMPLIANCE WITH CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT / NONDISCRIMINATION (Nonnegotiable)

The Vendor shall comply with all applicable local, state, and federal statutes and regulations regarding civil rights laws and equal opportunity employment. The Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act prohibits Vendors of the State of Nebraska, and their Subcontractors, from discriminating against any employee or applicant for employment, with respect to hire, tenure, terms, conditions, compensation, or privileges of employment because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, marital status, or national origin (Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 48-1101 to 48-1125). The Vendor guarantees compliance with the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act, and breach of this provision shall be regarded as a material breach of contract. The Vendor shall insert a similar provision in all Subcontracts for goods and services to be covered by any contract resulting from this Solicitation.

D. COOPERATION WITH OTHER VENDORS

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

E. DISCOUNTS

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

F. PRICES

Prices submitted on Attachment A - Cost Proposal shall remain fixed for the first year of the contract. Any request for a price increase subsequent to the first year of the contract shall be submitted in writing to the NDOT a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the requested effective date of the increase. Documentation may be required by the State to support the price increase.

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

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

G. PERMITS, REGULATIONS, LAWS

The contract price shall include the cost of all royalties, licenses, permits, and approvals, whether arising from patents, trademarks, copyrights or otherwise, that are in any way involved in the contract. The Vendor shall obtain and pay for all royalties, licenses, and permits, and approvals necessary for the execution of the contract. The Vendor must guarantee that it has the full legal right to the materials, supplies, equipment, software, and other items used to execute this contract.

H. INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

The Vendor shall throughout the term of the contract maintain insurance as specified herein and provide the State a current Certificate of Insurance/Acord Form (COI) verifying the coverage. The Vendor shall not commence work on the contract until the insurance is in place. If Vendor subcontracts any portion of the Contract the Vendor must, throughout the term of the contract, either:

1. Provide equivalent insurance for each subcontractor and provide a COI verifying the coverage for the subcontractor,
2. Require each subcontractor to have equivalent insurance and provide written notice to the State that the Vendor has verified that each subcontractor has the required coverage; or,
3. Provide the State with copies of each subcontractor's Certificate of Insurance evidencing the required coverage.

The Vendor shall not allow any Subcontractor to commence work until the Subcontractor has equivalent insurance. The failure of the State to require a COI, or the failure of the Vendor to provide a COI or require subcontractor insurance shall not limit, relieve, or decrease the liability of the Vendor hereunder.

In the event that any policy written on a claims-made basis terminates or is canceled during the term of the contract or within one (1) years of termination or expiration of the contract, the Vendor shall obtain an extended discovery or reporting period, or a new insurance policy, providing coverage required by this contract for the term of the contract and one (1) years following termination or expiration of the contract.

If by the terms of any insurance a mandatory deductible is required, or if the Vendor elects to increase the mandatory deductible amount, the Vendor shall be responsible for payment of the amount of the deductible in the event of a paid claim.

Notwithstanding any other clause in this Contract, the State may recover up to the liability limits of the insurance policies required herein.

1. WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE

The Vendor shall take out and maintain during the life of this contract the statutory Workers' Compensation and Employer's Liability Insurance for all of the contactors' employees to be engaged in work on the project under this contract and, in case any such work is sublet, the Vendor shall require the Subcontractor similarly to provide Worker's Compensation and Employer's Liability Insurance for all of the Subcontractor's employees to be engaged in such work. This policy shall be written to meet the statutory requirements for the state in which the work is to be performed, including Occupational Disease. **The policy shall include a waiver of subrogation in favor of the State. The COI shall contain the mandatory COI subrogation waiver language found hereinafter.** The amounts of such insurance shall not be less than the limits stated hereinafter. For employees working in the State of Nebraska, the policy must be written by an entity authorized by the State of Nebraska Department of Insurance to write Workers' Compensation and Employer's Liability Insurance for Nebraska employees.

2. COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE AND COMMERCIAL AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY INSURANCE

The Vendor shall take out and maintain during the life of this contract such Commercial General Liability Insurance and Commercial Automobile Liability Insurance as shall protect Vendor and any Subcontractor performing work covered by this contract from claims for damages for bodily injury, including death, as well as from claims for property damage, which may arise from operations under this contract, whether such operation be by the Vendor or by any Subcontractor or by anyone directly or indirectly employed by either of them, and the amounts of such insurance shall not be less than limits stated hereinafter.

The Commercial General Liability Insurance shall be written on an **occurrence basis**, and provide Premises/Operations, Products/Completed Operations, Independent Vendors, Personal Injury, and Contractual Liability coverage. **The policy shall include the State, and others as required by the contract documents, Additional Insured(s). This policy shall be primary, and any insurance or self-insurance carried by the State shall be considered secondary and non-contributory. The COI shall contain the mandatory COI liability waiver language found hereinafter.** The Commercial Automobile Liability Insurance shall be written to cover all Owned, Non-owned, and Hired vehicles.

REQUIRED INSURANCE COVERAGE	
COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY	
General Aggregate	\$2,000,000
Products/Completed Operations Aggregate	\$2,000,000
Personal/Advertising Injury	\$1,000,000 per occurrence
Bodily Injury/Property Damage	\$1,000,000 per occurrence
Medical Payments	\$10,000 any one person
Damage to Rented Premises (Fire)	\$100,000 each occurrence
Contractual	Included
<i>If higher limits are required, the Umbrella/Excess Liability limits are allowed to satisfy the higher limit.</i>	
WORKER'S COMPENSATION	
Employers Liability Limits	\$500K/\$500K/\$500K
Statutory Limits- All States	Statutory - State of Nebraska
Voluntary Compensation	Statutory
COMMERCIAL AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY	
Bodily Injury/Property Damage	\$1,000,000 combined single limit
Include All Owned, Hired & Non-Owned Automobile liability	Included
Motor Carrier Act Endorsement	Where Applicable
UMBRELLA/EXCESS LIABILITY	
Over Primary Insurance	\$5,000,000 per occurrence
PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY	
All Other Professional Liability (Errors & Omissions)	\$1,000,000 Per Claim / Aggregate
MANDATORY COI SUBROGATION WAIVER LANGUAGE	
"Workers' Compensation policy shall include a waiver of subrogation in favor of the State of Nebraska."	
MANDATORY COI LIABILITY WAIVER LANGUAGE	
"Commercial General Liability & Commercial Automobile Liability policies shall name the State of Nebraska as an Additional Insured and the policies shall be primary and any insurance or self-insurance carried by the State shall be considered secondary and non-contributory as additionally insured."	

3. EVIDENCE OF COVERAGE

The Vendor shall furnish the Contract Manager, via email, with a certificate of insurance coverage complying with the above requirements prior to beginning work at:

Nebraska Department of Transportation
Attn: Operations Division
PO Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509
NDOT.ProcurementSourcing@nebraska.gov

These certificates or the cover sheet shall reference the solicitation number, and the certificates shall include the name of the company, policy numbers, effective dates, dates of expiration, and amounts and types of coverage afforded. If the State is damaged by the failure of the Vendor to maintain such insurance, then the Vendor shall be responsible for all reasonable costs properly attributable thereto.

Reasonable notice of cancellation of any required insurance policy must be submitted to the contract manager as listed above when issued and a new coverage binder shall be submitted immediately to ensure no break in coverage.

4. DEVIATIONS

The insurance requirements are subject to limited negotiation. Negotiation typically includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the correct type of coverage, necessity for Workers' Compensation, and the type of automobile coverage carried by the Vendor.

I. ANTITRUST

The Vendor hereby assigns to the State any and all claims for overcharges as to goods and/or services provided in connection with this contract resulting from antitrust violations which arise under antitrust laws of the United States and the antitrust laws of the State.

J. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

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

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

K. STATE PROPERTY

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

L. SITE RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Vendor shall use its best efforts to ensure that its employees, agents, and Subcontractors comply with site rules and regulations while on State premises. If the Vendor must perform on-site work outside of the daily operational hours set forth by the State, it must make arrangements with the State to ensure access to the facility and the equipment has been arranged. No additional payment will be made by the State on the basis of lack of access, unless the State fails to provide access as agreed to in writing between the State and the Vendor.

M. ADVERTISING

The Vendor agrees not to refer to the contract award in advertising in such a manner as to state or imply that the company or its goods or services are endorsed or preferred by the State. Any publicity releases pertaining to the project shall not be issued without prior written approval from the State.

N. DISASTER RECOVERY/BACK UP PLAN

The Vendor shall have a disaster recovery and back-up plan, of which a copy should be provided upon request to the State, which includes, but is not limited to equipment, personnel, facilities, and transportation, in order to continue delivery of goods and services as specified under the specifications in the contract in the event of a disaster.

O. DRUG POLICY

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

P. WARRANTY

Despite any clause to the contrary, the Vendor represents and warrants that its services hereunder shall be performed by competent personnel and shall be of professional quality consistent with generally accepted industry standards for the performance of such services and shall comply in all respects with the requirements of this Agreement. For any breach of this warranty, the Vendor shall, for a period of ninety (90) days from performance of the service, perform the services again, at no cost to the State, or if Vendor is unable to perform the services as warranted, Vendor shall reimburse the State all fees paid to Vendor for the unsatisfactory services.

The rights and remedies of the parties under this warranty are in addition to any other rights and remedies of the parties provided by law or equity, including, without limitation actual damages, and, as applicable and awarded under the law, to a prevailing party, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

Q. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE

Time is of the essence with respect to Vendor's performance and deliverables pursuant to this Contract.

IV. PAYMENT

Bidder should read the Payment clauses within this section and must initial either "Accept All Terms and Conditions Within Section as Written" or "Exceptions Taken to Payment clauses Within Section as Written" in the table below. If exception is not taken to a provision, it is deemed accepted as stated. If the bidder takes any exceptions, they must provide the following within the "Exceptions" field of the table below (Bidder may provide responses in separate attachment if multiple exceptions are taken):

1. The specific clause, including section reference, to which an exception has been taken;
2. An explanation of why the bidder took exception to the clause; and
3. Provide alternative language to the specific clause within the solicitation response.

By signing the solicitation, bidder agrees to be legally bound by all the accepted terms and conditions, and any proposed alternative terms and conditions submitted with the solicitation response. The State reserves the right to negotiate rejected or proposed alternative language. If the State and bidder fail to agree on the final Terms and Conditions, the State reserves the right to reject the solicitation response. The State reserves the right to reject solicitation responses that attempt to substitute the bidder's commercial contracts and/or documents for this solicitation.

Accept All Payment Clauses Within Section as Written (Initial)	Exceptions Taken to Payment Clauses Within Section as Written (Initial)	Exceptions: (Bidder must note the specific clause, including section reference, to which an exception has been taken, an explanation of why the bidder took exception to the clause, and provide alternative language to the specific clause within the solicitation response.)

A. PROHIBITION AGAINST ADVANCE PAYMENT (Nonnegotiable)

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

B. TAXES (Nonnegotiable)

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

C. INVOICES

Invoices for payments must be submitted by the Vendor to the agency requesting the services with sufficient detail to support payment, including but not limited to: date of service, location of service, Work Order number, etc. The cost of materials used will be reimbursed, at cost, to the Vendor with receipts accompanying invoices.

Invoices shall be submitted to: NDOT.OperationsITSFiberManagement@nebraska.gov

The terms and conditions included in the Vendor's invoice shall be deemed to be solely for the convenience of the parties. No terms or conditions of any such invoice shall be binding upon the State, and no action by the State, including without limitation the payment of any such invoice in whole or in part, shall be construed as binding or estopping the State with respect to any such term or condition, unless the invoice term or condition has been previously agreed to by the State as an amendment to the contract. **The State shall have forty-five (45) calendar days to pay after a valid and accurate invoice is received by the State.**

D. INSPECTION AND APPROVAL

Final inspection and approval of all work required under the contract shall be performed by the designated State officials.

The State and/or its authorized representatives shall have the right to enter any premises where the Vendor or Subcontractor duties under the contract are being performed, and to inspect, monitor or otherwise evaluate the work being performed. All inspections and evaluations shall be at reasonable times and in a manner that will not unreasonably delay work.

E. PAYMENT (Nonnegotiable)

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

F. LATE PAYMENT (Nonnegotiable)

The Vendor may charge the responsible agency interest for late payment in compliance with the State of Nebraska Prompt Payment Act (See Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 81-2401 through 81-2408).

G. SUBJECT TO FUNDING / FUNDING OUT CLAUSE FOR LOSS OF APPROPRIATIONS (Nonnegotiable)

The State's obligation to pay amounts due on the Contract for fiscal years following the current fiscal year is contingent upon legislative or federal appropriation of funds. Should said funds not be appropriated, the State may terminate the contract with respect to those payments for the fiscal year(s) for which such funds are not appropriated. The State will give the Vendor reasonable written

notice prior to the effective date of termination. All obligations of the State to make payments after the termination date will cease. The Vendor shall be entitled to receive just and equitable compensation for any authorized work which has been satisfactorily completed as of the termination date. In no event shall the Vendor be paid for a loss of anticipated profit.

H. RIGHT TO AUDIT (First Paragraph is Nonnegotiable)

The State shall have the right to audit the Vendor's performance of this contract upon a thirty (30) days' written notice. Vendor shall utilize generally accepted accounting principles, and shall maintain the accounting records, and other records and information relevant to the contract (Information) to enable the State to audit the contract. (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-304 et seq.) The State may audit, and the Vendor shall maintain, the Information during the term of the contract and for a period of five (5) years after the completion of this contract or until all issues or litigation are resolved, whichever is later. The Vendor shall make the Information available to the State at Vendor's place of business or a location acceptable to both Parties during normal business hours. If this is not practical or the Vendor so elects, the Vendor may provide electronic or paper copies of the Information. The State reserves the right to examine, make copies of, and take notes on any Information relevant to this contract, regardless of the form or the Information, how it is stored, or who possesses the Information. Under no circumstance will the Vendor be required to create or maintain documents not kept in the ordinary course of Vendor's business operations, nor will Vendor be required to disclose any information, including but not limited to product cost data, which is confidential or proprietary to Vendor.

The Parties shall pay their own costs of the audit unless the audit finds a previously undisclosed overpayment by the State. If a previously undisclosed overpayment exceeds one-half of one percent (.5%) of the total contract billings, or if fraud, material misrepresentations, or non-performance is discovered on the part of the Vendor, the Vendor shall reimburse the State for the total costs of the audit. Overpayments and audit costs owed to the State shall be paid within ninety (90) days of written notice of the claim. The Vendor agrees to correct any material weaknesses or condition found as a result of the audit.

V. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND SCOPE OF WORK

The bidder should provide the following information in response to this Solicitation.

A. PROJECT OVERVIEW

The State of Nebraska Department of Transportation is looking for a Vendor to perform On-Call Fiber Optic Cable Repair Services. The successful bidder must complete repair services within the timeframe specified in this RFP, keep track of records associated with the repairs, utilize the correct materials, follow instructions provided by NDOT, test the repair for completeness and invoice the NDOT accordingly.

B. WORK PLAN

Vendor shall retain on hand sufficient equipment and materials to effect repairs within the following timeframes for each corridor classification at locations identified by the NDOT representative. Vendor shall provide a twenty-four (24) hours, seven (7) days a week, 365 days a year contact phone and email support for NDOT to notify Vendor immediately when repairs are required. All work must be scheduled in order to minimize after-hours and weekend work.

Vendor must contact Nebraska 811 prior to the start of any work, and will confirm with NDOT that it was completed prior to any work commencing. Work time frames will begin once utility locations are approved/completed via 811.

1. **Network Backhaul:** The Vendor shall provide a repair quote within twenty-four (24) hours of notification. Repair work shall be completed within three (3) calendar days following approval and completion of all required utility locates through Nebraska 811.
2. **Standalone Network:** The Vendor shall provide a repair quote within twenty-four (24) hours of notification. Repair work shall be completed within four (4) calendar days following approval and completion of all required utility locates through Nebraska 811.
3. **Individual Interchange:** The vendor shall provide a repair quote within twenty-four (24) hours of notification. Repair work shall be completed within ten (10) business/working days following approval and completion of all required utility locates through Nebraska 811.
4. **Signal Interconnect:** The Vendor shall provide a repair quote within twenty-four (24) hours of notification. Repair work shall be completed within ten (10) business/working days following approval and completion of all required utility locates through Nebraska 811.

C. FIBER INVENTORY

See Attachment B - Fiber Inventory for a listing of fiber installations to be covered by this bid.

D. TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CONTROL

All cost for temporary traffic control, **excluding the cost for flashing arrow panels and traffic control flagging** shall be incidental to mobilization and shall be inclusive in the bid price for mobilization. Traffic control devices shall be provided by the Vendor including but is not limited to barrels, all necessary signs, cones and any other traffic control devices as needed at each work site.

All traffic control devices including flashing arrow panels and traffic control flagging shall be in compliance with the following:

1. Federal Highway Administration Publication titled "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices" (MUTCD) at: <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/> and
2. The Nebraska Department of Transportation Standard Specifications for Highway Construction 2017 edition at: <https://govdocs.nebraska.gov/epubs/R6000/Q003-2017.pdf>

E. FLASHING ARROW PANELS AND TRAFFIC CONTROL FLAGGING

In the event the work requires lane closures, it shall be at NDOT's discretion whether to utilize NDOT personnel and/or equipment for traffic control including flagmen and flashing arrow panels or require the Vendor to provide flagmen and/or flashing arrow panels. The Vendor will be notified by the designated NDOT personnel if the Vendor is to provide flagmen and/or flashing arrow panels and NDOT will be responsible for the hourly cost of the flashing arrow panels and the hourly rate per flagmen for traffic control flagging. Bidders shall provide a bid price for the hourly cost for flashing arrow panels and a bid price for the hourly rate per flagmen for traffic control flagging on the Attachment A - Cost Proposal.

F. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Vendor shall provide shop drawings or catalogue cuts for each material prescribed, including manufacturer name and model number, as part of the Work Order (Attachment C).

G. MATERIAL, TESTING AND CONSTRUCTION METHOD REQUIREMENTS

1. Single-Mode (SM) Fiber Optic Cable

- a. Fiber optic cable shall be SM fiber optic outside plant (OSP) cable – dielectric loose tube. All fiber optic cable used shall be a Corning compatible product to maintain serviceability of the existing fiber optic network.
- b. Fiber optic SM graded loose tube dielectric cable constructed with industry standard 2.5 mm buffer tubes stranded around a central strength member shall be used.
- c. Buffer tubes shall be compatible with standard hardware and shall have twelve (12) fibers per tube. The fibers shall not adhere to the inside of the buffer tube; and each buffer tube shall be distinguishable by means of color coding in accordance with TIA/EIA-598-B, "Optical Fiber Cable Color Coding" and shall be colored with ultraviolet (UV) curable ink.

- d. The central member shall consist of a dielectric, glass reinforced plastic rod. Each buffer shall be water-blocked material embedded in the inside wall of the buffer tube for water-blocking protection. The water-blocking material shall be non-nutritive to fungus, electrically non-conductive and homogeneous. This material will preclude the need for other water-blocking materials such as gels, yarns, foams or tapes; and the buffer tube shall be gel-free.
- e. Water swellable yarn(s) shall be applied longitudinally along the central member during stranding, water-blocking elements shall be applied uniformly throughout the buffer tube.
- f. The cables shall be designed for point-to-point applications as well as mid-span access and shall be stranded around the dielectric central member using the reverse oscillation, or "S-Z", stranding process.
- g. SM, dispersion-unshifted fiber meeting ITUT G.652D requirements shall be used.
- h. The fiber shall be fully capable of handling existing and legacy SM applications which traditionally operate in the 1310 nm and 1550 nm regions; and shall be designed to operate the full spectrum from 1260 nm to 1625 nm for optical transmission.
- i. The fiber shall be designed to provide optimum performance from 1260 nm to 1625 nm intended for 16-channel Course Wavelength Division Multiplexing applications.
- j. Cables shall be sheathed with medium density polyethylene (MDPE). The minimum nominal jacket thickness shall be 1.3 mm. Jacketing material shall be applied directly over cable core and water swellable tape. The polyethylene shall contain carbon black to provide ultraviolet light protection and shall not promote the growth of fungus.
- k. The MDPE jacket material shall be as defined by ASTM D1248, Type II, Class C, Category 4 and Grades J4, E7 and E8.
- l. The jacket or sheath shall be free of holes, splits and blisters.
- m. The cable jacket shall contain no metal elements and shall be of a consistent thickness.
- n. Cable jackets shall be marked with the manufacturer's name, month and year of manufacture, sequential meter or foot markings, a telecommunication handset symbol as required by Section 350G of the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC), fiber count and fiber type. The actual length of the cable shall be within -0/+1% of the length markings. The print color shall be white, with the exception that cable jackets containing one or more coextruded white stripes, which shall be printed in light blue. The height of the marking shall be approximately 2.5 mm.
- o. The maximum pulling tension shall be 2700 N (600 lbf) during installation (short term), and 890 N (200 lbf) long term installed.
- p. The minimum bend radius shall be twenty (20) times the cable outside diameter while under tension and 10 times the cable outside diameter installed.
- q. The shipping, storage and operating temperature range shall be -40 degrees Celsius to +70 degrees Celsius. The installation temperature range shall be -30 degrees Celsius to +70 degrees Celsius.

H. CONSTRUCTION

1. General

- a. Fiber optic cable reels shall be tested prior to any installation to ensure that the cable is viable.
- b. Remove fiber optic cable from the reel in a manner acceptable to the manufacturer.
- c. Visually inspect all fiber optic cable and perform OTDR tests on every strand to ensure there are no factory defects before installation. Report any defects to Engineer.
- d. Do not twist or bend the fiber optic cable in excess of the limits recommended by the manufacturer.
- e. As the cable is fed into the duct and conduit system, the Vendor shall use a manufacturer approved, water-based cable lubricant for all installations.
- f. Protect at all times all proposed cables, cable ends and any exposed portion of fiber optic cable from damage including, but not limited to, water intrusion.
- g. Any existing pull tape or tracer wire that is used as a pull rope for fiber optic cable installation shall be replaced with matching product. The cost of any tracer wire or pull tape replacement shall be subsidiary to the fiber optic cable installation.

2. Cable Installation

- a. All fiber optic cable shall be installed in ducts or conduits according to existing network configuration. Deviations from existing configuration must be approved by the NDOT Fiber Team at NDOT.OperationsITSFiberManagement@nebraska.gov prior to proceeding with any work.
- b. A suitable cable feeding method shall be used between the cable reel and the face of the duct and conduit to protect the cable and guide it into the duct and conduit.
- c. Dynamometers and breakaway pulling swings shall be used to ensure that the pulling line tension does not exceed 2700 N (600 lbf).
- d. The mechanical stress placed on a cable during installation shall not be such that the cable is twisted or stretched. A pulling eye and swivel shall be attached to the cable and used to install the cable through the duct and conduit system to prevent the cable from twisting.
- e. The figure-eight configuration should be used to prevent kinking or twisting when the cable must be unreeled or backfed. Cables shall not be forced around sharp corners or allowed to be kinked or crushed.
- f. Minimum bending radius during installation shall not be less than twenty (20) times the outside diameter of the cable or as recommended by the manufacturer, whichever is greater.
- g. Pulling of the cable shall be hand assisted.

- h. NDOT approved installation methods include pulling, high air speed blowing, air-assist, push/pull installation and air-blown cable. Installation shall comply with all manufacturers' recommendations for cable installation including pulling tensions and bending radii.
- i. The cable shall be carefully inspected for jacket defects. If defects are noticed, the pulling operation shall be stopped immediately, and the NDOT Fiber Team notified at NDOT.OperationsITSFiberManagement@nebraska.gov. The NDOT Fiber Team shall make a determination of acceptability or shall reject the cable. Vendor shall not proceed until a decision is made by the NDOT.
- j. If cable ends are not capped while exposed to the environment, the Vendor shall cut off a minimum of three (3) feet of each cable end before splicing.
- k. The fiber optic cable shall be installed in continuous runs; splices will only be allowed in vaults.
- l. Seal all conduit openings using a targeted rodent resistant sealant at the junction boxes, pull boxes, poles, cabinets, and building entrances after cable installation. The sealant shall not degrade when exposed to prolonged water exposure.

3. Slack Coils

- a. Sufficient slack shall be left at each end of the cable to allow proper cable splicing and termination. The minimum slack amount shall be as follows, or as indicated in the plans:
 - 1) Pull box, type FOR27 – 60 feet
 - 2) Pull box, type Fiber Vaults – 150 feet
- b. Storage of slack cable in cabinets and pull boxes shall be neatly coiled. The slack coils shall be bound at a minimum of three (3) points around the coil perimeter. Secure and support cables at intervals not exceeding thirty (30) inches (60 mm) and not more than six (6) inches (150 mm) from cabinets, boxes, fittings, outlets, racks, frames and terminals.
- c. For storage purposes, the minimum bend radius shall not be less than ten (10) times the outside diameter of the cable or as recommended by the manufacturer, whichever is greater.

4. Cable Identification

- a. Place tags on all fiber optic cable identifying the owner and direction of the cable.
- b. Tags shall clearly identify where each individual cable run originated and where it ends (pull box to pull box, pull box to cabinet, pull box to building, etc.).

I. TERMINATED FIBER CONNECTOR

1. Description

- a. Fiber connectors shall consist of a pigtail with terminated end.
- b. Fiber used for pigtails shall be compatible with Corning fiber optic cable.

2. Material

- a. All fiber connectors shall be factory installed connectors; field terminated connectors shall not be allowed.
- b. Connectors shall be SM UPC/SC or UPC/LC as indicated on the plans provided by NDOT; and have a typical insertion loss of 0.20 dB or less, and a maximum loss of 0.50 dB or less, with typical reflectance of -55 dB.

3. Construction

- a. Fusion splices shall be used to splice fiber optic cable to terminated fiber connector pigtails for each connector shown in the plans provided by NDOT.
- b. Splices shall be allowed only in fiber connector housings as indicated in the plans provided by NDOT.
- c. Maximum attenuation per splice as estimated by the fusion splicer shall not exceed 0.02 dB. Any splice exceeding 0.02 dB at the time of splicing shall be re-spliced.
- d. Splice shall provide three axis core alignment using light injection and loss measurement techniques.
- e. No mechanical splices of fiber optic cable will be allowed.

J. FIBER OPTIC ACCEPTANCE TESTING

1. Post Repair

- a. One hundred percent (100%) of the terminated fiber shall be tested bidirectionally with an Optical Loss Test Set (OLTS) at 1310 nm and 1550 nm; in addition, an Optical Time Domain Reflectometer (OTDR) shall be used to perform bidirectional testing of the fiber at 1310 nm and 1550 nm. An OTDR report must be provided in PDF format. Raw OTDR measurements must be provided in SOR format.
- b. Each and every tube will be tested. Vendor shall test one strand per tube that doesn't have a terminated strand.
- c. All test equipment shall be factory certified within the last year. The Vendor shall provide copies of the certification to the NDOT Fiber Team at NDOT.OperationsITSFiberManagement@nebraska.gov. Documents shall be provided upon awarding of the contract and each year on the anniversary of the award date until the contract is no longer effective.
- d. Test results will be recorded on a form supplied by the Vendor, with data compiled in PDF format through the meter manufacturer's software. No additional alteration using software from the Vendor beyond the meter manufacturer's software will be allowed. The Vendor shall submit test results in a format approved by the NDOT Fiber Team. Completed test forms on each terminator fiber shall be submitted to the NDOT Fiber Team at NDOT.OperationsITSFiberManagement@nebraska.gov. The Vendor shall also provide bi-directional native test (electronic version) with no alterations and meter software for viewing of fiber traces. Test results shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - 1) Cable and fiber identification (as approved by NDOT).
 - 2) Operator name.
 - 3) Manufacturer/Model/Serial Number of the OTDR and OLTS.
 - 4) Date of most recent OTDR and OLTS calibration.
 - 5) Date and time the test was performed.
 - 6) Setup and test parameters including wavelength, pulse width, range, scale, ambient temperature, and length of launch/receive cables.
 - 7) Bidirectional attenuation (OLTS) test results including:
 - a) Total link length from OTDR.
 - b) Number of splices.
 - c) Number of connectors.
 - d) Total link attenuation (dB) measured at 1310 nm and 1550 nm, compared to the allowable maximum attenuation (link-loss budget).
 - e) Bi-directional OTDR measurements (averaged where applicable) for the total fiber trace, including:
 - i. Individual splice loss/gain for each splice, with bidirectional averaged values.
 - ii. Individual connector loss/gain for each splice, with bidirectional averaged values.
 - iii. All detected events with a loss greater than 0.05 dB, including location (distance from launch/reference point), event type, reflectance (dB), and loss/reflectance details.
 - iv. Total measured length from the OTDR trace (end-to-end, including launch/receive cables if noted).
 - 8) OTDR testing shall use a launch and receiving cables minimum 1000 meters or greater than the dead zone for the OTDR used for this test.
 - 9) Vendor shall verify, prior to submittal, that all test results satisfy the requirements of the contract documents. NDOT will have ten (10) business days to approve or reject the test results. All test results submitted by the Vendor are subject to the requirements detailed below:
 - a) The fiber optic cable is to have a maximum attenuation of 0.4 dB/km at 1310 nm and 0.3 dB/km at 1550 nm when measured with an OLTS. Fiber test results submitted to the NDOT Fiber Team that exceed the maximum attenuation loss specification will be identified as Out of Specification (OOS) and shall result in the Vendor repairing the cable, run test and repeat as necessary until the cable is within specification.
 - b) Each connector shall have an average loss value of 0.25 dB or less, when measured bi-directionally with an OTDR at 1310 nm and 1550 nm. Connector test results submitted to the NDOT Fiber Team that exceed the maximum loss of 0.50 dB in a single direction or an average bi-directional loss of 0.25 dB will be identified as OOS and shall result in the Vendor repairing the connector, run test and repeat as necessary until the connector is within specification.
 - c) Each splice shall have an average loss value of 0.08 dB or less when measured bi-directionally with an OTDR at 1310 nm and 1550 nm. Splice test results submitted to the NDOT Fiber Team that exceed the 0.08 dB will be identified as OOS and shall result in the Vendor repairing the splice, run test and repeat as necessary until the splice is within specification.
 - 10) All fiber connectors shall be cleaned and checked for dirt, scratches or chips with a fiber microscope before installed in adapters and testing. All dust covers shall be installed after testing is complete. Images showing inspection results will be submitted as part of the document submittals.
 - 11) Remove malfunctioning connectors, replace with new connectors and retest as specified above.
 - 12) Upon completion of the repair the Vendor shall submit as-built plans detailing the path of the repaired section(s) of fiber. The as-built plans shall include XYZ GPS coordinates of conduit at no more than fifty (50) foot intervals. The Z value

shall be in relation to sea level. XYZ GPS information will also be provided for all pull boxes in which fiber optic work occurred as part of the repair work.

- 13) The Vendor shall furnish high-resolution images of each connector end face, captured with a fiber optic inspection microscope or probe prior to mating. All fiber connectors shall be cleaned and inspected in accordance with IEC 61300-3-35 for dirt, scratches, or chips before being installed in adapters and prior to testing. All dust covers shall be installed on the connectors immediately after testing is complete.
- 14) Connector end-face images shall be submitted as high-resolution JPEG or PNG files embedded within the PDF test reports or as a separate organized folder clearly labeled with the corresponding fiber identification. Each image shall be labeled with the location, fiber ID, date, and time of inspection.

K. FIBER CONNECTOR HOUSING

1. Description

- a. Shall be suitable for the enclosure the connection housing will be in. Housing shall provide termination capabilities, splice protection, and associated fiber optic cable and terminated fiber connector storage. Submittals shall be approved in the shop drawing submittals stage of the project.
- b. Shall be the same manufacturer as Connector Adaptor Panel.
- c. Fiber Connector Housing manufacturer shall be Corning, Commscope or equal as approved by NDOT.

2. Material

- a. Surface-mounted termination/splice housings shall provide for termination capabilities, splice protection, and associated fiber/pigtail storage.
- b. Surface-mounted housing shall be intended for fiber terminations, shall have built-in splice tray, fiber management, and cross-connect for up to twelve (12) fibers.
- c. Top and bottom cable entry grommets for incoming fiber optic cable and duplex fiber jumper.
- d. The fiber connector housing shall be manufactured of metal.
- e. Housing shall have a hinged front door, universal and DIN rail mounting option, jumper bend limiters, and labels for identifying fiber terminations.

L. CONNECTOR ADAPTOR PANEL

1. Description

- a. Connector Adaptor Panel shall be 6 Duplex SC.
- b. Connector Adaptor Panel shall be Corning, Commscope or equal as approved by NDOT.

2. Material

- a. Adaptor panels shall provide inter-connect or cross-connect capability in housing and provide a secure way to mate two (2) connectors.
- b. The panel shall be manufactured of metal.
- c. The fiber adapter shall have a ceramic alignment and composite housing.
- d. The fiber adapter shall be for single-mode UPC (OS2) fiber connectors and be blue in color.
- e. The adapter panel shall be able to accommodate fiber counts of twelve (12) connectors.

M. CABLE MANAGEMENT

1. Description

- a. Cables shall be organized in a neat manner such that cables do not prevent or risk damage from normal work within the enclosure.

2. Material

- a. Cable management material shall not make use of adhesives or risk damage from crimping of individual strands.

N. DUPLEX FIBER JUMPER

1. Description

- a. Duplex Fiber Jumper shall connect Connector Adaptor Panel to Fiber Ethernet Switch or Fiber Ethernet Transceiver as shown in the plans. Duplex fiber jumpers shall be subsidiary to the associated Connector Adaptor Panel.

2. Material

- a. The fiber jumper shall be configurable with a standard LC duplex terminated connector to attach to an SFP on the switch end and a standard SC duplex terminated connector to attach to the patch panel. It shall be available in 3.0 mm and Yellow in color.
- b. The fiber shall be fully capable of handling existing and legacy single-mode applications which traditionally operate in the 1310 nm and 1550 nm regions and shall also be designed to operate the full spectrum from 1260 nm to 1625 nm for optical transmission.

- c. This fiber jumper shall be designed to provide optimum performance from 1260 nm to 1625 nm intended for 16-channel Course Wavelength Division Multiplexing applications.
- d. The fiber jumper shall be available in 1.6 mm cordage, have pull-proof connector design, and have distinctive color coding for positive identification.
- e. Jumper shall be a factory terminated assembly with a standard length of one (1) or three (3) meter(s). The Vendor will provide and use whichever length is necessary to provide neat and orderly cable management in the cabinet.

O. FIBER ETHERNET SWITCH

1. General

- a. NDOT will furnish Fiber Ethernet Switches as needed.
- b. Switches will be programmed and labeled by NDOT.

2. Handling

- a. All optical connectors shall be covered with dust caps and remain on the switch until installing cable connectors to the switch.

3. Preparation

- a. Shall be mounted to support weight and size of the unit and provide easy access for cable management. placement of the rack and unit shall not restrict the cabling or maintenance of other cabinet components.
- b. If DIN Rail does not exist, the Vendor shall furnish and install as necessary.

4. Patch Cord

- a. Patch cords will be furnished and installed by the Vendor.
- b. Factory-made, four-pair cables in one (1) meter lengths, terminated with eight-position modular RJ-45 plug at each end.
- c. Shall have 24AWG copper alloy polycarbonate stranded conductors, PVC non-plenum UL 94 V-0 jacket material. The cable shall be unshielded Category 6 or higher.
- d. Patch cords shall be used to connect Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) devices to the switch inside specified cabinets.

5. Small Form-factor Pluggable (SFP) Module

- a. NDOT will furnish SFP modules for the project, as needed.
- b. The Vendor shall determine SFP length requirements, based on actual cable measurements post installation, dB loss results, and final fiber acceptance testing.
- c. Vendor shall supply NDOT with a list of necessary SFP's, then NDOT will furnish them to the Vendor.
- d. The Vendor shall allow NDOT at least three (3) weeks to obtain the SFP's.

P. FIBER SPLICE CLOSURE

1. Material

- a. Supply environmental protection of cable and splices from water and dirt. Cable must be designed to be submersed in water and installed underground outside plant use for splicing fiber optic cables in pull boxes.
- b. The splice closure shall be compatible with all sizes of fiber cables used on this project and large enough to accommodate the number of splices plus an additional 10% at locations where splices are shown on the plans.
- c. The closures shall be dome-type splice closures manufactured from a high-density polyethylene or NDOT-approved nonmetallic material with the following properties:
 - 1) Cable entry shall be manufactured of similar material to the dome body and shall seal the closure with reusable, compressed gel cable sealing components that accommodate a wide range of cable sizes.
 - 2) Closures shall be re-enterable and resealable without the need for specialized tools or equipment, or any additional parts.
 - 3) No encapsulated materials shall be allowed.
 - 4) Be provisioned for a minimum of six (6) cable entries.
 - 5) Hinging splice trays that provide controlled access to splices and slack storage.
- d. The closure shall allow for the storage of at least eight (8) unopened buffer tubes.
- e. Splice and storage compartments accessible via removable dome-clamp system.
- f. The splice closure shall contain all splice trays, storage, splice sleeves, organizing materials, and any other incidental materials required to complete the splices at the locations in the field.
- g. After splicing is completed, the fiber optic cable and closure shall be flash tested for leaks.
- h. The splice closure shall be TYCO Model FOSC450 series, Systimax or NDOT-approved equivalent.

Q. TEST STATION

1. Material

- a. Test station shall be a sixty inch (60") triangular flexible orange plastic marker with five (5) separate access terminals and set screws to hold the terminal concealment cap in place. These shall accompany the vaults.

2. Construction

- a. Place custom warning decals on all sides per detail in the repair plans. *See Exhibit A – Fiber Vault Detail.*

R. FIBER MARKER

1. Material

- a. Fiber marker shall be seventy-eight inches (78"), orange, polyester resin with reinforcing fibers, and remain flexible from - 40 degrees Fahrenheit to +140 degrees Fahrenheit.
- b. Supply Vulcan Inc. part number 0303168, or NDOT-approved equivalent, markers at all FOR-27 pull boxes.

2. Construction

- a. Place custom warning decals on all sides per detail in the repair plans. *See Exhibit A – Fiber Vault Detail.*

S. CONDUIT REPAIR REQUIREMENTS

1. General

- a. Open trench installation is only permitted within twenty-five feet (25') of any pull box, pole, structure, tower or other similar improvement, unless approved by the NDOT engineer.
- b. Tunneling under pavement or water jetting is not permitted.
- c. Seal all conduit openings using an NDOT approved sealing compound. This applies to the final product and openings left temporarily during construction.
- d. Depth of all conduit shall be a minimum of forty-eight inches (48") unless stated otherwise in the repair plans.
- e. At locations indicated in the repair plans, multiple ducts shall be installed in continuity in the same bore/plow/trench.
- f. Maintain a minimum of two feet (2') separation when underground conduits parallel an existing facility.
- g. Conduit containing fiber optic cable shall be HDPE. All HDPE will satisfy the following requirements:
 - 1) HDPE shall be smooth duct of Type III, Grade 34, Class C, Category 5 High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) in accordance with the latest edition of ATSM D 1248. The polyethylene conduit shall be manufactured in accordance with ASTM D 3035 and NEMA TC-7.
 - 2) HDPE conduit's minimum bending radius shall be the larger of twenty (20) times the outside diameter or the HDPE manufacturer's recommendations for minimum bending radius.
- h. Conduit containing power legs shall satisfy all requirements of the National Electric Code (NEC).

2. Splicing

- a. Mechanically joined conduit splices shall use compression couplings designed for underground placement and blown-in fiber installation.
- b. Electrofusion joining of HDPE conduit will be allowed, provided that the method used does not create a ridge on the inside of the conduit that may impact future fiber installation.
- c. Butt fusion welding and solvent welding of conduits will not be allowed.
- d. All splices shall be watertight to 200 psi.

3. Plowing

- a. Use equipment and construction methods, subject to the approval of the NDOT Engineer, that cause minimal displacement of the soil.
- b. The equipment shall be capable of extending the plow in order to maintain the required minimum depths under all terrain conditions.
- c. The reel carrier shall be of adequate size and be configured so that the reel sizes being used can be handled safely.
- d. Avoid damaging any paved surfaces, ditches or other similar surface features. Immediately repair any damage to such features to the satisfaction of the NDOT Engineer managing the contract.
- e. Perform plowing in accordance with standard industry practices using a prime mover with hydrostatic type steering and a vibratory plow. The design of the plowshare shall be such that the buried conduit passing through the plow shall not bind and shall not be bent in a radius less than 20 times the outside diameter of the conduit and maintains the structural integrity of the conduit. The feed chute shall have a removable gate for the purpose of inspection and to allow the conduit to be removed from or inserted into the feed chute at any intermediate point between splice locations. The conduit path inside the feed chute shall have low friction surfaces and be free of burrs and sharp edges to prevent damage to the conduit as it passes through. Smooth any welds before use. Internal guide rollers shall not be used. Exercise care during the plowing operation to avoid conduit damage. Feed the conduit into the ground through the plow loose and at no tension.

- f. Excavate as needed start and finish pits and pits at points of intersection in advance of plowing. Expose ends of casings and crossings of foreign utilities before the start of plowing operations for a conduit segment. Exercise care in the use of trenching and excavating tools and equipment to avoid damaging installed and intersecting conduits or other facilities.
- g. Restore plow furrowed areas to conform to the surrounding terrain using a rubber tire tractor or heavy truck or a vibratory roller having a weight of three tons and a drum width between four (4) and six (6) feet or by other suitable means approved by NDOT.

4. Boring

- a. Use equipment and methods that cause minimal displacement of the soil.
- b. Bore all crossings beneath roadways, streets, paved surfaces, railroads, drainage structures, drainage areas, or flow lines in accordance with all requirements and regulations of the authority that has jurisdiction.
- c. Limit bore pit sizes to the outside diameter of the conduit being placed.

5. Liquid-tight Flexible Metal Conduit (LFMC)

- a. The metal core is made with a continuously interlocked, hot-dipped, galvanized steel strip with a heavy zinc coating.
- b. Trade sizes 3/8" to 1-1/4" contain an integral copper bonding conductor located within the interlocking strip.
- c. A thermoplastic jacket is extruded over the metal core which provides protection from sunlight, weather, temperature, liquids, oil and certain chemicals.
- d. UL listed per UL Standard for Safety 360.
- e. Use manufacturer approved LFMC fittings.

6. HDPE

- a. HDPE shall be orange in color.
- b. HDPE shall be SDR 13.5 minimum.
- c. HDPE shall have sequential foot markings printed on the outside wall.
- d. HDPE shall be UL 651 listed.

7. Fiberglass

- a. All fiberglass conduit and fittings shall have a temperature range of -60 degrees Fahrenheit to +250 degrees Fahrenheit.
- b. The conduit shall be designed for above ground installation and be orange in color.
- c. The wall thickness should be extra heavy wall to provide the highest level of physical protection.
- d. The conduit hanger support system shall consist of clevis type hangers designed for use with four 4-inch conduit, with 1/2" hanger rods rated for a maximum load of 600 pounds.
- e. Anchorage into the existing bridge deck concrete shall be achieved through use of a stainless-steel expansion anchor.
- f. Anchorage tensile capacity shall be twice that of the clevis rated capacity.
- g. Expansion joints shall be installed in order to meet the requirement of NEC 2011 Article 355.44 Expansion Fittings.
- h. Expansion joints shall be designed for four (4) inch conduit and consist of a single expansion joint socket.
- i. The jointing between individual segments of conduit shall be completed using an interference joint system consisting of an integral bell and spigot. The spigot end shall have a buttress type, male thread for easy installation. The belled end shall contain the mating female threads.
- j. Epoxy adhesive shall be a two-part adhesive, epoxy resin system.
- k. The anchoring system assembly will consist of a trapeze hanging system using threaded rods that are attached to the bridge.
- l. The horizontal components are fiberglass flatbars, 2" wide x 1/2" thick, and the threaded rods shall be sleeved overusing 1" fiberglass pultruded pipe, in order not to abrade the conduit.
- m. Fiberglass conduit shall be manufactured by Champion Fiberglass, United Fiberglass, or NDOT-approved equivalent.

8. Tracer Wire

- a. Tracer wire shall be installed throughout the project in all conduit containing fiber and any underground conduit segment (pull box to pull box) that is empty of cables.
- b. Pull tape shall be installed throughout the project in all empty conduit to facilitate the installation of future cables.

T. CONSTRUCTION METHODS

- 1. Install, splice and test for continuity tracer wire in all conduit installations as indicated on repair plans.
- 2. Splice tracer wires in fiber vault pull boxes and cabinets to form a continuous network using splice kits that are UL listed for wet locations.
- 3. Terminate each tracer wire run at fiber vault pull boxes and in test stations.
- 4. Maintain the continuity of the tracer wire through FOR27 pull boxes.

U. MATERIALS/PARTS REQUIREMENTS & REIMBURSEMENTS

The single-mode (SM) fiber optic cable, accessories and hardware shall meet the latest applicable standard specifications by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), Electronic Industries Association (EIA), Telecommunications Industries Association (TIA) and Underwriters Laboratory (UL). Only new, name brand materials shall be used for repairs requested by NDOT. Components, accessories and hardware must be compatible with existing equipment and Corning cabling previously installed by NDOT.

Materials shall be stored in an environment between -40 degrees Celsius and +85 degrees Celsius. All materials shall operate in an environment of -40 degrees Celsius to +75 degrees Celsius and relative humidity of 0% to 95% (non-condensing) without the assistance of fan-forced cooling unless specified otherwise. Materials shall be kept in manufacturer's packaging until installation. Vendor shall, at all times, prevent dust, water and other pollutants from contaminating any fiber optic connection point.

All manufacturer's manuals, instructions and warranties shall be transferred to NDOT. Warranty periods shall not commence prior to final acceptance of the completed work.

The cost of materials used will be reimbursed, at cost, to the Vendor with receipts accompanying invoices.

V. DELIVERABLES

1. Vendor shall submit a report to the NDOT Fiber Team at NDOT.OperationsITSFiberManagement@nebraska.gov including the following:
 - a. Where and which strands were affected by the repair made on the existing fiber network.
 - b. Fiber testing results through the manner detailed in the fiber testing Section V.I.
2. Vendor shall complete repairs as indicated by NDOT through a notification of repair (Work Order – Attachment C).
3. Provide invoices as indicated in Section IV.C of this RFP.

CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT FORM

BIDDER MUST COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING

By signing this Contractual Agreement Form, the bidder guarantees compliance with the provisions stated in this solicitation and agrees to the terms and conditions unless otherwise indicated in writing and certifies that bidder is not owned by the Chinese Communist Party.

Per Nebraska's Transparency in Government Procurement Act, Neb. Rev Stat § 73-603, DAS is required to collect statistical information regarding the number of contracts awarded to Nebraska Vendors. This information is for statistical purposes only and will not be considered for contract award purposes.

____ NEBRASKA VENDOR AFFIDAVIT: Bidder hereby attests that bidder is a Nebraska Vendor. "Nebraska Vendor" shall mean any bidder who has maintained a bona fide place of business and at least one employee within this state for at least the six (6) months immediately preceding the posting date of this Solicitation. All vendors who are not a Nebraska Vendor are considered Foreign Vendors under Neb. Rev Stat § 73-603 (c).

____ I hereby certify that I am a Resident disabled veteran or business located in a designated enterprise zone in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 73-107 and wish to have preference, if applicable, considered in the award of this contract.

____ I hereby certify that I am a blind person licensed by the Commission for the Blind & Visually Impaired in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-8611 and wish to have preference considered in the award of this contract.

THIS FORM MUST BE SIGNED MANUALLY IN INK OR BY DOCUSIGN OR OTHER ELECTRONIC MEANS WITH SIGNATURE AUTHENTICATION/CERTIFICATION

COMPANY:	
ADDRESS:	
PHONE:	
EMAIL:	
BIDDER NAME & TITLE:	
SIGNATURE:	
DATE:	
VENDOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE STATE CONTACT INFORMATION (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE)	
NAME:	
TITLE:	
PHONE:	
EMAIL:	

INTENT TO ATTEND SOLICITATION CONFERENCE
Solicitation Number 126331 Z6

Bidder Name:	
Bidder Address:	
Contact Person:	
E-mail Address:	
Telephone Number:	
Fax Number:	
Number of Attendees:	

The "Intent to Attend Solicitation Conference" form should be uploaded using the ShareFile link provided in the Schedule of Events, Section I.C.