



**DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(DoIT)**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)**

**DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS MANAGEMENT**

**SOLICITATION NO. 060B6400030**

**Issue Date: September 6, 2016**

**NOTICE**

**Minority Business Enterprises Are Encouraged to Respond to  
this Solicitation**

**STATE OF MARYLAND**  
**Department of Information Technology (DoIT)**  
**RFP KEY INFORMATION SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>RFP Title:</b>	Digital Communications Management
<b>RFP Number:</b>	<i>060B6400030</i>
<b>RFP Issuing Department:</b>	DoIT 100 Community Place Crownsville, MD 21032
<b>RFP Issue Date:</b>	<i>9/6/2016</i>
<b>Proposals Due Date and Time:</b>	<i>9/27/2016</i> at 12:00 PM Local Time
<b>Questions Due Date and Time:</b>	<i>9/13/2016</i> at 2:00 PM Local Time
<b>Procurement Officer:</b>	Alicia Baltimore Phone: 410-697-9673 e-mail: Alicia.baltimore@maryland.gov
<b>Contract Manager:</b>	Susan Lyon Phone: 410-697-9356 e-mail: susan.lyon@maryland.gov
<b>Send Proposals to:</b>	e-mail: Alicia.baltimore@maryland.gov
<b>Send Questions (e-mail only) to:</b>	e-mail address: Alicia.baltimore@maryland.gov
<b>Contract Type</b>	Fixed Price
<b>Contract Duration</b>	Five (5) years and five (5) one-year option periods
<b>MBE Subcontracting Goal:</b>	0 %
<b>VSBE Subcontracting Goal:</b>	0 %
<b>Small Business Reserve</b>	No
<b>Pre-Proposal Conference:</b>	A pre-proposal conference will not be held for this RFP.

**STATE OF MARYLAND**  
**NOTICE TO OFFERORS/BIDDERS/CONTRACTORS**  
**Maryland Wants to Do Business with You**

Please let us know why you are not proposing. (Check all that apply).

- We do not offer the services/commodities requested.
- Busy with other commitments.
- Specifications are unclear or too restrictive.
- Timetable is unworkable.
- Bonding/Insurance requirements are prohibitive.
- Our experience with State of Maryland has not been satisfactory.
- Other (Please specify)

Additional Comments:

Please add suggestions for improvement here:

Name of commenter and Business (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person (optional): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ -  
\_\_\_\_\_

Bid/proposal Number: **060B6400030** Entitled: ***Digital Communications Management***

Your comments will help us improve the procurement process.

**Thank You.**

Please return your comments with your proposal. If you have chosen not to propose to this RFP, please e-mail this completed form to the Procurement Officer's e-mail address.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

RFP KEY INFORMATION SUMMARY SHEET..... 2

TABLE OF CONTENTS ..... 4

1 GENERAL INFORMATION..... 8

    1.1 Summary Statement ..... 8

    1.2 Abbreviations and Definitions ..... 8

    1.3 Contract Type..... 13

    1.4 Contract Duration..... 13

    1.5 Procurement Officer..... 13

    1.6 Contract Manager..... 13

    1.7 Pre-proposal Conference..... 13

    1.8 eMaryland Marketplace (eMM)..... 13

    1.9 Questions..... 14

    1.10 Procurement Method ..... 14

    1.11 Proposals Due (Closing) Date and Time ..... 14

    1.12 Multiple or Alternate Proposals ..... 14

    1.13 Economy of Preparation ..... 14

    1.14 Public Information Act Notice ..... 15

    1.15 Award Basis ..... 15

    1.16 Oral Presentation ..... 15

    1.17 Duration of Proposal ..... 15

    1.18 Revisions to the RFP ..... 15

    1.19 Cancellations ..... 16

    1.20 Incurred Expenses ..... 16

    1.21 Protest/Disputes..... 16

    1.22 Offeror Responsibilities ..... 16

    1.23 Substitution of Contractor Personnel ..... 16

    1.24 Mandatory Contractual Terms..... 17

    1.25 Bid/Proposal Affidavit ..... 17

    1.26 Contract Affidavit..... 17

    1.27 Compliance with Laws/Arrearages ..... 17

    1.28 Verification of Registration and Tax Payment..... 17

    1.29 False Statements ..... 18

1.30	Payments by Electronic Funds Transfer.....	18
1.31	Prompt Payment Policy .....	18
1.32	Electronic Procurements Authorized.....	18
1.33	Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Participation Goal.....	20
1.34	Living Wage Requirements.....	20
1.35	Federal Funding Acknowledgement .....	21
1.36	Conflict of Interest Affidavit and Disclosure .....	21
1.37	Non-Disclosure Agreement.....	21
1.38	HIPAA - Business Associate Agreement.....	21
1.39	Non-Visual Access .....	21
1.40	Mercury and Products That Contain Mercury.....	22
1.41	Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprise Goals .....	22
1.42	Location of the Performance of Services Disclosure .....	22
1.43	Department of Human Resources (DHR) Hiring Agreement .....	22
1.44	Purchasing and Recycling Electronic Products.....	22
1.45	Contract Extended To Include Other Non-State Governments or Agencies.....	22
2	COMPANY AND PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS .....	23
2.1	Offeror Minimum Qualifications .....	23
2.2	Offeror Preferred Qualifications .....	23
3	SCOPE OF WORK.....	24
3.1	Background and Purpose .....	24
3.2	Agency / Project Background .....	24
3.3	General Requirements.....	24
3.4	Security Requirements .....	29
3.5	Labor Categories and Qualifications.....	32
3.6	Performance and Personnel.....	32
3.7	Problem Escalation Procedure .....	33
3.8	Service Level Agreement (SLA).....	33
3.9	Deliverables .....	34
3.10	Work Order Process .....	34
3.11	Insurance Requirements .....	34
3.12	Invoicing.....	35
3.13	SOC 2 Type II Audit Report .....	36
4	PROPOSAL FORMAT .....	39
4.1	Two-Part Submission.....	39

4.2	Volume I – Technical Proposal.....	39
4.3	Volume II – Financial Proposal .....	43
4.4	Proposal Packaging .....	44
4.5	Proposal Delivery.....	44
5	EVALUATION CRITERIA AND PROCEDURE .....	45
5.1	Evaluation Committee.....	45
5.2	Technical Proposal Evaluation Criteria .....	45
5.3	Financial Proposal Evaluation Criteria .....	45
5.4	Reciprocal Preference .....	45
5.5	Selection Procedures .....	46
5.6	Documents Required upon Notice of Recommended Award.....	47
	Attachment A - CONTRACT .....	50
1.	<b>Definitions</b> .....	50
2.	<b>Scope of Contract</b> .....	51
3.	<b>Period of Performance</b> .....	51
4.	<b>Consideration and Payment</b> .....	52
5.	<b>Patents, Copyrights, Intellectual Property</b> .....	53
6.	<b>Indemnification</b> .....	55
7.	<b>Limitations of Liability</b> .....	55
8.	<b>Prompt Pay Requirements</b> .....	56
9.	<b>Risk of Loss; Transfer of Title</b> .....	56
10.	<b>Confidentiality</b> .....	57
11.	<b>Exclusive Use and Ownership</b> .....	57
12.	<b>Source Code Escrow</b> .....	57
13.	<b>Notification of Legal Requests</b> .....	57
14.	<b>Termination and Suspension of Service</b> .....	57
15.	<b>Data Center Audit</b> .....	58
16.	<b>Change Control and Advance Notice</b> .....	58
17.	<b>Redundancy, Data Backup and Disaster Recovery</b> .....	58
18.	<b>Effect of Contractor Bankruptcy</b> .....	58
19.	<b>Parent Company Guarantee (If Applicable)</b> .....	59
R20.	<b>General Terms and Conditions</b> .....	59
R21	<b>Data Protection</b> .....	65
R22	<b>Other Mandatory Items</b> .....	66
R23.	<b>Right to Audit</b> .....	69

**24. Administrative Information** ..... 70

Attachment B - BID/PROPOSAL AFFIDAVIT ..... 72

Attachment C - CONTRACT AFFIDAVIT ..... 79

Attachment D - MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE FORMS ..... 83

Attachment E - PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE RESPONSE FORM ..... 83

Attachment F - Financial Proposal PRICING INSTRUCTIONS ..... 84

ATTACHMENT F – PRICE SHEET ..... 86

Attachment G - LIVING WAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICE CONTRACTS ..... 87

ATTACHMENT G-1 Maryland Living Wage Requirements Affidavit of Agreement ..... 89

Attachment H - FEDERAL FUNDS ATTACHMENT ..... 91

Attachment I - CONFLICT OF INTEREST AFFIDAVIT AND DISCLOSURE ..... 92

Attachment J - NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT (CONTRACTOR)..... 93

NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT - ATTACHMENT J-1 ..... 96

NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT – ATTACHMENT J-2..... 97

Attachment K - HIPAA BUSINESS ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT ..... 98

Attachment L - MERCURY AFFIDAVIT ..... 98

Attachment M - VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE ..... 98

Attachment N - LOCATION OF THE PERFORMANCE OF SERVICES DISCLOSURE ..... 98

Attachment O - DHR HIRING AGREEMENT ..... 98

# 1 GENERAL INFORMATION

## 1.1 Summary Statement

- 1.1.1 The Department of Information Technology (DoIT or “the Department”) is issuing this Request for Proposals (RFP) to obtain digital communication services which will enable State agencies to automatically generate e-mail notifications and Short Message Service (SMS/text message) notifications when content on website pages are updated or when an agency needs to send bulletins and other regulatory news manually to target audiences, as described more fully in Section 3 of this RFP.
- 1.1.2 It is the State’s intention to obtain products/services, as specified in this RFP, through a Contract between the successful Offeror and the State. See Section 1.4 for contract duration information.
- 1.1.3 The Department intends to make a single award as a result of this RFP.
- 1.1.4 Offerors, either directly or through their Subcontractor(s), must be able to provide all products/services and meet all of the requirements requested in this solicitation and the successful Offeror (the Contractor) shall remain responsible for Contract performance regardless of Subcontractor participation in the work.
- 1.1.5 The resulting Contract applies exclusively to all entities of State of Maryland government subject to Section 3A-302(c) of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

## 1.2 Abbreviations and Definitions

For the purposes of this RFP, the following abbreviations and terms have the meanings indicated below:

Term	Definition
Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)	A written policy documenting constraints and practices that a user must agree to in order to access a private network or the Internet
Access	The ability or the means necessary to read, write, modify, or communicate data/information or otherwise use any information system resource
Business Day	Monday through Friday (excluding State holidays)
COMAR	Code of Maryland Regulations available on-line at <a href="http://www.dsd.state.md.us">www.dsd.state.md.us</a>
Contract	The Contract awarded to the successful Offeror pursuant to this RFP, the form of which is attached to this RFP as Attachment A

Contract Manager	The State representative who is primarily responsible for Contract administration functions, including issuing written direction, invoice approval, monitoring the Contract to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the Contract, monitoring MBE and VSBE compliance, and achieving completion of the Contract on budget, on time, and within scope
Contractor	The successful Offeror awarded the Contract
Contractor Personnel	Employees and agents and Subcontractor employees and agents performing work at the direction of the Contractor under the terms of the Contract awarded from this RFP
Contractor's Point of Contact (Contractor's POC)	Person designated at the time of Contract award by the Contractor as the single point of contact with the authority and knowledge to resolve Contract issues.
Department of Information Technology (DoIT, or the Department)	The unit of the Executive Branch of Maryland State government issuing the RFP
eMaryland Marketplace (eMM)	Maryland's online procurement system
End User License Agreement (EULA)	The terms of service governing access to and use of software services provided pursuant to this Contract
Fixed Price	Pricing option which places responsibility on the Contractor for the delivery of any products and the complete performance of any services in accordance with the RFP at a price that is not subject to adjustment
Handle Data	Collect, store, transmit, have access to data
Information System	A discrete set of information resources organized for the collection, processing, maintenance, use, sharing, dissemination, or disposition of information
Information Technology (IT)	All electronic information-processing hardware and software, including: (a) Maintenance; (b) Telecommunications; and (c) Associated consulting services
Key Personnel	Contractor Personnel that, should they leave during the performance period, will, in the State's opinion, have a substantial negative impact on the Contractor's performance under the Contract. As provided in Section 1.23, Key Personnel may be identified after Contract award.

Local Time	Time in the Eastern Time zone as observed by the State of Maryland. Unless otherwise specified, all stated times shall be Local Time, even if not expressly designated as such
Maryland Department of General Services (DGS)	
Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)	A Minority Business Enterprise certified by the Maryland Department of Transportation under COMAR 21.11.03
Normal State Business Hours	Normal State business hours are 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday except State Holidays, which can be found at: <a href="http://www.dbm.maryland.gov">www.dbm.maryland.gov</a> – keyword: State Holidays
Notice to Proceed (NTP)	A written notice from the Procurement Officer that work on the Contract, project, or Work Order shall begin on a specified date. Additional NTPs may be issued by either the Procurement Officer or the Contract Manager regarding the start date for any service included within this solicitation with a delayed or non-specified implementation date.
NTP Date	The date specified in a NTP for work on the Contract, project, or Work Order to begin
Offeror	An entity that submits a proposal in response to this RFP
Personally Identifiable Information (PII)	Any information about an individual maintained by the State, including (1) any information that can be used to distinguish or trace an individual's identity, such as name, social security number, date and place of birth, mother's maiden name, or biometric records; and (2) any other information that is linked or linkable to an individual, such as medical, educational, financial, and employment information.
Point of Contact (POC)	The individual named as the person to coordinate on a particular topic
Procurement Officer	The State representative who is responsible for the Contract, determining scope issues and is the only State representative who can authorize changes to the Contract
Proposal	As appropriate, either or both an Offeror's Technical or Financial Proposal
Protected Health Information (PHI)	Information that relates to the past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition of an individual; the provision of health care to an individual; or the past,

	present, or future payment for the provision of health care to an individual; and (i) that identifies the individual; or (ii) with respect to which there is a reasonable basis to believe the information can be used to identify the individual
Request for Proposals (RFP)	This Request for Proposals for the Department of Information Technology, including any amendments / addenda thereto
Security Incident	A violation or imminent threat of violation of computer security policies, Security Measures, acceptable use policies, or standard security practices. “Imminent threat of violation” is a situation in which the organization has a factual basis for believing that a specific incident is about to occur.
Security or Security Measures	The technology, policy and procedures that a) protects and b) controls access to networks, systems, and data
Sensitive Data	Means PII; PHI; information about an individual that (1) can be used to distinguish or trace an individual’s identity, such as name, social security number, date and place of birth, mother’s maiden name, or biometric records; (2) is linked or linkable to an individual, such as medical, educational, financial, and employment information; or other proprietary or confidential data as defined by the State, including but not limited to “personal information” under Md. Code Ann., Commercial Law § 14-3501(d) and Md. Code Ann., State Govt. § 10-1301(c)
Service Level Agreement (SLA)	Measurable levels governing Contractor performance and establishing associated liquidated damages for failure to meet those performance standards
Software as a Service (SaaS)	<p>Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) as used in this document is defined as the capability provided to the State to use the Contractor’s applications running on a cloud infrastructure. The applications are accessible from various client devices through a thin client interface such as a Web browser (e.g., Web-based e-mail) or a program interface. The State does not manage or control the underlying cloud infrastructure, including network, servers, operating systems, or storage, but may be permitted limited user-specific application configuration settings.</p> <p>Under SaaS, the Contractor is responsible for the acquisition and operation of all hardware, software and network support related to the services being provided,</p>

	and shall keep all software current. The technical and professional activities required for establishing, managing, and maintaining the environments are the responsibilities of the Contractor.
State	The State of Maryland
Subcontractor	An agent, service provider, supplier, or vendor selected by the Contractor to provide subcontracted services or products under the direction of the Contractor or other Subcontractors, and including any direct or indirect Subcontractors of a Subcontractor. Subcontractors are subject to the same terms and conditions as the Contractor.
System Availability	The period of time the System will work as required including non-operational periods associated with reliability, maintenance, and logistics
Technical Safeguards	The technology and the policy and procedures for its use that protect Sensitive Data and control access to it
Total Evaluated Price	The Offeror's price as submitted on Attachment F - Price Sheet, upon which the Offeror's Financial Proposal will be evaluated. (see RFP Section 5.3)
Upgrade	A new release of any component of the System containing major new features, functionality and/or performance improvements. An Upgrade would conventionally be indicated where the version number is changed by incrementing the numeric digits to the left of the decimal point, e.g., versions 1.0, 2.0, 3.0, and 4.0 would each typically be Upgrades to prior versions.
Veteran-owned Small Business Enterprise (VSBE)	A business that is verified by the Center for Verification and Evaluation (CVE) of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as a veteran-owned small business. See Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 21.11.13 and <a href="http://www.vetbiz.gov">http://www.vetbiz.gov</a> .
Work Order	A subset of work authorized by the Contract Manager performed under the general scope of this RFP, which is defined in advance of Contractor fulfillment, and which may not require a Contract Modification. Except as otherwise provided, any reference to the Contract shall be deemed to include reference to a Work Order.
Working Day(s)	Same as "Business Day"

**1.3 Contract Type**

The Contract shall be a Fixed Price Contract in accordance with COMAR 21.06.03.02.

**1.4 Contract Duration**

- 1.4.1 The Contract shall start from the date of mutual contract execution by the parties (“Effective Date”).
- 1.4.2 As of the NTP Date contained in a Notice to Proceed (NTP), the Contractor shall perform all activities required by the Contract, including the requirements of this solicitation and the offerings in its Technical Proposal, for the compensation described in its Financial Proposal.
- 1.4.3 The Contract resulting from this RFP shall be for five (5) years from the Effective Date. The State, at its sole option and direction, may renew the term of the Contract through five (5) additional one-year renewal options for a total potential Contract length of up to ten (10) years.
- 1.4.4 The Contractor’s obligations to pay invoices to subcontractors that provide products/services during the Contract term, as well as the audit, confidentiality, document retention, and indemnification obligations of the Contract (see Attachment A), shall survive expiration or termination of the Contract and continue in effect until all such obligations are satisfied.
- 1.4.5 In accordance with BPW Advisory 1995-1, in the event there are unspent funds remaining on the Contract, prior to the Contract's expiration date the Procurement Officer may modify the Contract to extend the Contract beyond its expiration date for a period up to, but not exceeding, one-third of the base term of the Contract (e.g., eight-month extension on a two-year contract) for the performance of work within the Contract's scope of work. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, no funds may be added to the Contract in connection with any such extension.

**1.5 Procurement Officer**

The sole point of contact in the State for purposes of this RFP prior to the award of a contract is the Procurement Officer as listed Key Information Summary Sheet.

DoIT may change the Procurement Officer at any time by written notice.

**1.6 Contract Manager**

The Contract Manager for the Contract is listed in the Key Information Summary Sheet.

DoIT may change the Contract Manager at any time by written notice.

**1.7 Pre-proposal Conference**

A pre-proposal conference will not be held for this RFP.

**1.8 eMaryland Marketplace (eMM)**

- 1.8.1 eMaryland Marketplace (eMM) is an electronic commerce system administered by the Maryland Department of General Services (DGS). In addition to using the DoIT’s website [www.doit.maryland.gov](http://www.doit.maryland.gov) and possibly using other means for transmitting the RFP and

associated materials, the RFP, pre-proposal conference summary and attendance sheet, Offerors' questions and the Procurement Officer's responses, addenda, and other solicitation related information will be made available via eMM.

1.8.2 In order to receive a contract award, a company must be registered on eMM. Guidelines can be found on the eMaryland Marketplace website at <http://emaryland.buyspeed.com>.

## 1.9 Questions

All questions shall be submitted via e-mail to the Procurement Officer no later than the date and time indicated in the Key Information Summary Sheet. Please identify in the subject line the Solicitation Number and Title. Answers to all questions that are not clearly specific only to the requestor will be distributed via the same mechanism as for RFP amendments and posted on eMM.

## 1.10 Procurement Method

The Contract will be awarded in accordance with the Competitive Sealed Proposals procurement method as described in COMAR 21.05.03.

## 1.11 Proposals Due (Closing) Date and Time

- 1.11.1 Proposals, in the number and form set forth in Section 4 "Proposal Format," must be received by the Procurement Officer no later than the date and time listed on the Key Information Summary Sheet in order to be considered. To minimize Offeror Proposal duplication costs, e-mail delivery of Proposals is strongly preferred.
- 1.11.2 Requests for extension of this date or time shall not be granted. Offerors mailing Proposals should allow sufficient mail delivery time to ensure timely receipt by the Procurement Officer. Except as provided in COMAR 21.05.02.10, Proposals received by the Procurement Officer after the due date and time shall not be considered.
- 1.11.3 Proposals may be modified or withdrawn by written notice received by the Procurement Officer before the Proposals due time and date.
- 1.11.4 Proposals delivered by facsimile shall not be considered.
- 1.11.5 Companies not responding to this solicitation are requested to submit the "Notice to Offerors/Bidders/Contractors" form, which includes company information and the reason for not responding (e.g., too busy, cannot meet mandatory requirements).

## 1.12 Multiple or Alternate Proposals

Multiple and/or alternate Proposals will not be accepted.

## 1.13 Economy of Preparation

Proposals should be prepared simply and economically and provide a straightforward and concise description of the Offeror's Proposal to meet the requirements of this RFP.

**1.14 Public Information Act Notice**

- 1.14.1 Offerors should give specific attention to the clear identification of those portions of their Proposals that they deem to be confidential, proprietary commercial information or trade secrets and provide justification why such materials, upon request, should not be disclosed by the State under the Public Information Act, Md. Code Ann., General Provisions Article, Title 4 (Also, see RFP Section 4.2.2.2 “Claim of Confidentiality”). This confidential and/or proprietary information should be identified by page and section number and placed after the Title Page and before the Table of Contents in the Technical Proposal and if applicable, separately in the Financial Proposal.
- 1.14.2 Offerors are advised that, upon request for this information from a third party, the Procurement Officer is required to make an independent determination whether the information must be disclosed.

**1.15 Award Basis**

A Contract shall be awarded to the responsible Offeror submitting the Proposal that has been determined to be the most advantageous to the State, considering price and evaluation factors set forth in this RFP (see COMAR 21.05.03.03F), for providing the products/services as specified in this RFP. See RFP Section 5 for further award information.

**1.16 Oral Presentation**

Offerors determined to be reasonably susceptible may be required to make oral presentations to State representatives. Offerors must confirm in writing any substantive oral clarification of their Proposals made in the course of discussions. Any such written clarifications then become part of the Offeror’s Proposal and are binding if the Contract is awarded. The Procurement Officer will notify Offerors of the time and place of oral presentations.

**1.17 Duration of Proposal**

Proposals submitted in response to this RFP are irrevocable for the latest of the following: 180 days following the closing date for submission of proposals, best and final offers (if requested), or the date any protest concerning this RFP is finally resolved. This period may be extended at the Procurement Officer’s request only with the Offeror’s written agreement.

**1.18 Revisions to the RFP**

- 1.18.1 If it becomes necessary to revise this RFP before the due date for Proposals, the Department shall endeavor to provide addenda to all prospective Offerors that were sent this RFP or which are otherwise known by the Procurement Officer to have obtained this RFP. In addition, addenda to the RFP will be posted on the Department’s procurement web page and through eMM. It remains the responsibility of all prospective Offerors to check all applicable websites for any addenda issued prior to the submission of Proposals. Addenda made after the due date for Proposals will be sent only to those Offerors that submitted a timely Proposal and that remain under award consideration as of the issuance date of the addenda.
- 1.18.2 Acknowledgment of the receipt of all addenda to this RFP issued before the Proposal due date shall be included in the Transmittal Letter accompanying the Offeror’s Technical Proposal.

Acknowledgement of the receipt of addenda to the RFP issued after the Proposal due date shall be in the manner specified in the addendum notice. Failure to acknowledge receipt of an addendum does not relieve the Offeror from complying with the terms, additions, deletions, or corrections set forth in the addendum, and may cause the Proposal to be deemed not susceptible for award.

### **1.19 Cancellations**

The State reserves the right to cancel this RFP, accept or reject any and all Proposals, in whole or in part, received in response to this RFP, to waive or permit the cure of minor irregularities, and to conduct discussions with all qualified or potentially qualified Offerors in any manner necessary to serve the best interests of the State. The State also reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to award a Contract based upon the written Proposals received without discussions or negotiations.

### **1.20 Incurred Expenses**

The State will not be responsible for any costs incurred by any Offeror in preparing and submitting a Proposal, in making an oral presentation, in providing a demonstration, or in performing any other activities related to submitting a Proposal in response to this solicitation.

### **1.21 Protest/Disputes**

Any protest or dispute related, respectively, to this solicitation or the Contract shall be subject to the provisions of COMAR 21.10 (Administrative and Civil Remedies).

### **1.22 Offeror Responsibilities**

- 1.22.1 The successful Offeror shall be responsible for rendering products and services for which it has been selected as required by this RFP. All subcontractors shall be identified and a complete description of their role relative to the Proposal shall be included in the Offeror's Proposal. If applicable, subcontractors utilized in meeting the established MBE or VSBE participation goal(s) for this solicitation shall be identified as provided in the appropriate Attachment(s) of this RFP (see Section 1.33 "Minority Business Enterprise Goals" and Section 1.41 "Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprise Goals").
- 1.22.2 If an Offeror that seeks to perform or provide the products/services required by this RFP is the subsidiary of another entity, all information submitted by the Offeror, such as but not limited to, references, financial reports, or experience and documentation (e.g. insurance policies, bonds, letters of credit) used to meet minimum qualifications, if any, shall pertain exclusively to the Offeror, unless the parent organization will guarantee the performance of the subsidiary. If applicable, the Offeror's Proposal shall contain an explicit statement that the parent organization will guarantee the performance of the subsidiary.

### **1.23 Substitution of Contractor Personnel**

This section does not apply to this RFP.

**1.24 Mandatory Contractual Terms**

By submitting a Proposal in response to this RFP, an Offeror, if selected for award, shall be deemed to have accepted the terms and conditions of this RFP and the Contract, attached hereto as Attachment A. Any exceptions to this RFP or the Contract shall be clearly identified in the Executive Summary of the Technical Proposal. **The volume and severity of exceptions to the Contract terms, including the terms of the RFP, will be considered in the evaluation process, and may be grounds for finding an Offeror not reasonably susceptible for award.**

**1.25 Bid/Proposal Affidavit**

A Proposal submitted by an Offeror must be accompanied by a completed Bid/Proposal Affidavit. A copy of this Affidavit is included as Attachment B of this RFP.

**1.26 Contract Affidavit**

All Offerors are advised that if a Contract is awarded as a result of this solicitation, the successful Offeror will be required to complete a Contract Affidavit. A copy of this Affidavit is included for informational purposes as Attachment C of this RFP. This Affidavit must be provided within five (5) Business Days of notification of recommended award. For purposes of completing Section “B” of this Affidavit (Certification of Registration or Qualification with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation), note that a business entity that is organized outside of the State of Maryland is considered to be a “foreign” business.

**1.27 Compliance with Laws/Arrearages**

- 1.27.1 By submitting a Proposal in response to this RFP, the Offeror, if selected for award, agrees that it will comply with all federal, State, and local laws applicable to its activities and obligations under the Contract.
- 1.27.2 By submitting a response to this solicitation, the Offeror also represents that it is not in arrears in the payment of any obligations due to the State of Maryland, including the payment of taxes and employee benefits, and that it shall not become so in arrears during the term of the Contract if selected for award.

**1.28 Verification of Registration and Tax Payment**

- 1.28.1 Before a business entity can do business in the State of Maryland it must be registered with the Department of Assessments and Taxation, State Office Building, Room 803, 301 West Preston Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201. The SDAT website is <http://sdatcert3.resiusa.org/ucc-charter/>.
- 1.28.2 It is strongly recommended that any potential Offeror complete registration prior to the due date for receipt of Proposals. An Offeror’s failure to complete registration with the Department of Assessments and Taxation may disqualify an otherwise successful Offeror from final consideration and recommendation for award.

**1.29 False Statements**

Offerors are advised that Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, § 11-205.1 provides as follows:

1.29.1 In connection with a procurement contract a person may not willfully:

- a. Falsify, conceal, or suppress a material fact by any scheme or device.
- b. Make a false or fraudulent statement or representation of a material fact.
- c. Use a false writing or document that contains a false or fraudulent statement or entry of a material fact.

1.29.2 A person may not aid or conspire with another person to commit an act under subsection (1.29.1) of this section.

1.29.3 A person who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a felony and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or imprisonment not exceeding five years or both.

**1.30 Payments by Electronic Funds Transfer**

By submitting a response to this solicitation, the Offeror agrees to accept payments by electronic funds transfer (EFT) unless the State Comptroller's Office grants an exemption. Payment by EFT is mandatory for contracts exceeding \$200,000. The successful Offeror shall register using the COT/GAD X-10 Vendor Electronic Funds (EFT) Registration Request Form.

Any request for exemption must be submitted to the State Comptroller's Office for approval at the address specified on the COT/GAD X-10 form and must include the business identification information as stated on the form and include the reason for the exemption. The COT/GAD X-10 form can be downloaded at:

[http://comptroller.marylandtaxes.com/Government\\_Services/State\\_Accounting\\_Information/Static\\_Files/APM/gadx-10.pdf](http://comptroller.marylandtaxes.com/Government_Services/State_Accounting_Information/Static_Files/APM/gadx-10.pdf).

**1.31 Prompt Payment Policy**

This procurement and the Contract to be awarded pursuant to this solicitation are subject to the Prompt Payment Policy Directive issued by the Governor's Office of Minority Affairs (GOMA) and dated August 1, 2008. Promulgated pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, §§ 11-201, 13-205(a), and Title 14, Subtitle 3, and COMAR 21.01.01.03 and 21.11.03.01, the Directive seeks to ensure the prompt payment of all subcontractors on non-construction procurement contracts. The Contractor must comply with the prompt payment requirements outlined in the Contract, Sections 8 "Prompt Pay Requirements" and 20.14.3 "MBE Prompt Pay Requirements" (see Attachment A), should an MBE goal apply to this RFP. Additional information is available on GOMA's website at: <http://goma.maryland.gov/Pages/Legislation-and-Policy.aspx>.

**1.32 Electronic Procurements Authorized**

1.32.1 Under COMAR 21.03.05, unless otherwise prohibited by law, a primary procurement unit may conduct procurement transactions by electronic means, including the solicitation, bidding, award, execution, and administration of a contract, as provided in Md. Code Ann., Maryland Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, Commercial Law Article, Title 21.

- 1.32.2 Participation in the solicitation process on a procurement contract for which electronic means has been authorized shall constitute consent by the Offeror to conduct by electronic means all elements of the procurement of that Contract which are specifically authorized under the solicitation or the Contract.
- 1.32.3 “Electronic means” refers to exchanges or communications using electronic, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or other means of electronically conducting transactions. Electronic means includes facsimile, e-mail, internet-based communications, electronic funds transfer, specific electronic bidding platforms (e.g., <https://emaryland.buyspeed.com/bs/>), and electronic data interchange.
- 1.32.4 In addition to specific electronic transactions specifically authorized in other sections of this solicitation (e.g., § 1.30 “Payments by Electronic Funds Transfer”) and subject to the exclusions noted in section 1.32.5 of this subsection, the following transactions are authorized to be conducted by electronic means on the terms as authorized in COMAR21.03.05:
1. The Procurement Officer may conduct the procurement using eMM, e-mail, or facsimile to issue:
    - a. the solicitation (e.g., the RFP)
    - b. any amendments
    - c. pre-Proposal conference documents
    - d. questions and responses
    - e. communications regarding the solicitation or Proposal to any Offeror or potential Offeror
    - f. notices of award selection or non-selection
    - g. the Procurement Officer’s decision on any solicitation protest or Contract claim
  2. An Offeror or potential Offeror may use e-mail to:
    - a. ask questions regarding the solicitation
    - b. reply to any material received from the Procurement Officer by electronic means that includes a Procurement Officer’s request or direction to reply by e-mail or facsimile, but only on the terms specifically approved and directed by the Procurement Officer
    - c. submit a "No Bid/Proposal Response" to the solicitation
  3. The Procurement Officer, the Contract Manager, and the Contractor may conduct day-to-day Contract administration, except as outlined in Section 1.32.5 of this subsection, utilizing e-mail, facsimile, or other electronic means if authorized by the Procurement Officer or Contract Manager.
- 1.32.5 The following transactions related to this procurement and any Contract awarded pursuant to it are *not authorized* to be conducted by electronic means:
- a. filing of protests;
  - b. filing of Contract claims;
  - c. submission of documents determined by the Department to require original signatures (e.g., Contract execution, Contract modifications); or

- d. any transaction, submission, or communication where the Procurement Officer has specifically directed that a response from the Contractor or Offeror be provided in writing or hard copy.

1.32.6 Any facsimile or e-mail transmission is only authorized to the facsimile numbers or e-mail addresses for the identified person as provided in the solicitation, the Contract, or in the direction from the Procurement Officer or Contract Manager.

### **1.33 Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Participation Goal**

There is no MBE subcontractor participation goal for this procurement.

### **1.34 Living Wage Requirements**

1.34.1 Maryland law requires that contractors meeting certain conditions pay a living wage to covered employees on State service contracts over \$100,000. Maryland Code Ann, State Finance and Procurement Article, § 18-101 et al. The Commissioner of Labor and Industry at the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation requires that a contractor subject to the Living Wage law submit payroll records for covered employees and a signed statement indicating that it paid a living wage to covered employees; or receive a waiver from Living Wage reporting requirements. See COMAR 21.11.10.05.

1.34.2 If subject to the Living Wage law, Contractor agrees that it will abide by all Living Wage law requirements, including but not limited to reporting requirements in COMAR 21.11.10.05. Contractor understands that failure of Contractor to provide such documents is a material breach of the terms and conditions and may result in Contract termination, disqualification by the State from participating in State contracts, and other sanctions. Information pertaining to reporting obligations may be found by going to the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) website <http://www.dllr.state.md.us/labor/prev/livingwage.shtml>

1.34.3 Additional information regarding the State's living wage requirement is contained in Attachment G. Offerors must complete and submit the Maryland Living Wage Requirements Affidavit of Agreement (Attachment G-1) with their Proposals. If an Offeror fails to complete and submit the required documentation, the State may determine the Offeror to not be responsible under State law.

1.34.4 Contractors and Subcontractors subject to the Living Wage Law shall pay each covered employee at least the minimum amount set by law for the applicable Tier area. The specific living wage rate is determined by whether a majority of services take place in a Tier 1 Area or a Tier 2 Area of the State. The specific Living Wage rate is determined by whether a majority of services take place in a Tier 1 Area or Tier 2 Area of the State. If the Contractor provides more than 50% of the services from an out-of-State location, the State agency determines the wage tier based on where the majority of the service recipients are located. See COMAR 21.11.10.07.

1.34.1 The Offeror shall identify in the Proposal the location from which services will be provided.

NOTE: Whereas the Living Wage may change annually, the Contract price will not change because of a Living Wage change.

**1.35 Federal Funding Acknowledgement**

The Contract does not contain federal funds.

**1.36 Conflict of Interest Affidavit and Disclosure**

- 1.36.1 Offerors shall complete and sign the Conflict of Interest Affidavit and Disclosure (Attachment I) and submit it with their Proposal. All Offerors are advised that if a Contract is awarded as a result of this solicitation, the Contractor's personnel who perform or control work under this Contract and each of the participating subcontractor personnel who perform or control work under this Contract shall be required to complete agreements substantially similar to Attachment I Conflict of Interest Affidavit and Disclosure.
- 1.36.2 Additionally, contractors have an ongoing obligation to ensure that any necessary personnel or subcontractor personnel have completed such agreements prior to providing services under individual Task Orders issued under the Contract. For policies and procedures applying specifically to Conflict of Interests, the Contract is governed by COMAR 21.05.08.08.
- 1.36.3 Contractors should be aware that the State Ethics Law, Md. Code Ann., General Provisions Article, Title 5, might limit the selected Contractor's ability to participate in future related procurements, depending upon specific circumstances.
- 1.36.4 By submitting a Conflict of Interest Affidavit and Disclosure, the Contractor shall be construed as certifying all personnel and subcontractors are also without a conflict of interest as defined in COMAR 21.05.08.08A.

**1.37 Non-Disclosure Agreement**

All Offerors are advised that this solicitation and any resultant Contract(s) are subject to the terms of the Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) contained in this solicitation as Attachment J. This Agreement must be provided within five (5) Business Days of notification of recommended award; however, to expedite processing, it is suggested that this document be completed and submitted with the Proposal.

**1.38 HIPAA - Business Associate Agreement**

A HIPAA Business Associate Agreement is not required for this procurement.

**1.39 Non-Visual Access**

- 1.39.1 By submitting a Proposal, the Offeror warrants that the Information Technology offered under the Proposal: (1) provides equivalent access for effective use by both visual and non-visual means; (2) will present information, including prompts used for interactive communications, in formats intended for both visual and non-visual use; (3) if intended for use in a network, can be integrated into networks for obtaining, retrieving, and disseminating information used by individuals who are not blind or visually impaired; and (4) is available, whenever possible, without modification for compatibility with software and hardware for non-visual access. The Offeror further warrants that the cost, if any, of modifying the Information Technology for compatibility with software and hardware used for non-visual access will not increase the cost of the Information Technology by more than five percent (5%). For purposes of this solicitation, the phrase "equivalent access" means the ability to receive, use and manipulate

information and operate controls necessary to access and use Information Technology by non-visual means. Examples of equivalent access include keyboard controls used for input and synthesized speech, Braille, or other audible or tactile means used for output.

1.39.2 The Non-visual Access Clause noted in COMAR 21.05.08.05 and referenced in this solicitation is the basis for the standards that have been incorporated into the Maryland regulations, which can be found at: [www.doit.maryland.gov](http://www.doit.maryland.gov), keyword: NVA.

#### **1.40 Mercury and Products That Contain Mercury**

This solicitation does not include the procurement of products known to likely include mercury as a component.

#### **1.41 Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprise Goals**

There is no Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprise (VSBE) subcontractor participation goal for this procurement.

#### **1.42 Location of the Performance of Services Disclosure**

This solicitation does not require a Location of the Performance of Services Disclosure.

#### **1.43 Department of Human Resources (DHR) Hiring Agreement**

This solicitation does not require a DHR Hiring Agreement.

#### **1.44 Purchasing and Recycling Electronic Products**

This section does not apply to this solicitation.

#### **1.45 Contract Extended To Include Other Non-State Governments or Agencies**

For the purposes of an Information Technology or telecommunications procurement, pursuant to sections 3A-401(b) and 13-110 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, county, municipal, State entities that are not subject to DoIT's authority, including State non-executive branch entities, and non-State governments or agencies may purchase from the Contractor goods or services covered by this Contract at the same maximum prices to which the State would be subject under the resulting Contract. All such purchases:

- (1) shall constitute Contracts between the Contractor and that government, agency or organization;
  - (2) For non-State entities, shall not constitute purchases by the State or State agencies under this Contract;
  - (3) For non-State entities, shall not be binding or enforceable against the State; and
  - (4) may be subject to other terms and conditions agreed to by the Contractor and the purchaser.
- The Contractor bears the risk of determining whether or not a government, agency or organization with which the Contractor is dealing is a State entity.

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## 2 COMPANY AND PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS

### 2.1 Offeror Minimum Qualifications

To be considered reasonably susceptible for award, an Offeror must provide proof with its Proposal that the following Minimum Qualifications have been met:

- 2.1.1 The Offeror shall have at minimum, three (3) years of experience in the design, development, implementation and maintenance of digital communication management services. As proof of meeting this requirement, the Offeror shall provide with its Proposal three (3) references, each within the past five (5) years. One of the examples provided must be for a federal, State or local government entity.
- 2.1.2 The Offeror shall provide a current security assessment of Offeror's proposed digital communication services and supporting systems. This can include either:
- A. A current FedRAMP certification; or
  - B. A SOC 2 Type II Audit completed within one year of Proposal date.

**Note: Subcontractor experience may not be used by Offeror to meet Minimum Qualifications. The minimum qualifications must be met by the Offeror/Contractor.**

### 2.2 Offeror Preferred Qualifications

The following are strongly preferred qualifications that will be evaluated higher during the Technical Proposal evaluation:

- 2.2.1 Offerors that possess or who are in the process of obtaining Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP) certification will be evaluated higher during the Technical Proposal evaluation. If FedRAMP certification is currently being pursued, identify the target date for attaining certification and what actions the Offeror still needs to complete. Offerors are expected to submit the FedRAMP package, which should also include all their Plan of Action & Milestones (POAMs).

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## 3 SCOPE OF WORK

### 3.1 Background and Purpose

DoIT is issuing this solicitation to obtain digital communication services which will enable State agencies to distribute information in the form of messages including e-mails, SMS/text messages, social media and RSS feeds to subscribers when, for example, contents of their website have been updated or when the agency seeks broad distribution of its message.

The service will be web-based and will allow unlimited digital distribution of information in real-time to enrolled subscribers.

State agencies will utilize this service to issue, among other things, notification of updates and emergency messages when the State declares an emergency. By implementing a digital communication service, State agencies will expand their outreach to consumers and regulated entities.

The awarded Offeror shall be able to perform all requirements as detailed in Section 3 of the RFP. Offerors shall be required to furnish satisfactory evidence that they meet or exceed all minimum qualifications listed in Section 2 of this RFP.

### 3.2 Agency / Project Background

DoIT is a cabinet-level agency that has responsibility for information technology matters across State agencies including policy, procurement and consolidation of information technology functions.

DoIT will make available to other State agencies, as appropriate, access to the digital communications service furnished under this Contract.

### 3.3 General Requirements

#### 3.3.1 Required Project Policies, Guidelines and Methodologies

The Contractor shall be required to comply with all applicable laws, regulations, policies, standards and guidelines affecting information technology projects, which may be created or changed periodically. It is the responsibility of the Contractor to ensure adherence and to remain abreast of new or revised laws, regulations, policies, standards and guidelines affecting project execution. These may include, but are not limited to:

- A. The State of Maryland System Development Life Cycle (SDLC) methodology at: [www.DoIT.maryland.gov](http://www.DoIT.maryland.gov) - keyword: SDLC;
- B. The State of Maryland Information Technology Security Policy and Standards at: [www.DoIT.maryland.gov](http://www.DoIT.maryland.gov) - keyword: Security Policy;
- C. The State of Maryland Information Technology Non-Visual Standards at: <http://doit.maryland.gov/policies/Pages/ContractPolicies.aspx>

3.3.2 Any IT services personnel provided under this RFP shall maintain any required professional certifications for the duration of the resulting Contract.

#### 3.3.3 Transition-In Requirements

3.3.3.1 The Contractor shall perform the initial setup of the service, including providing coding for subscription topics for each user account, such as State agency branding, and shall provide web-based training for any interested parties to enable State agency staff to perform maintenance and updates to the State agency's digital communications account as necessary.

3.3.3.2 Billing for annual services shall not commence until setup for the agencies listed in Section 3.3.3.1 is complete.

### 3.3.4 Transition-Out Requirements

The Contractor shall furnish any State-owned materials prior to Contract termination.

### 3.3.5 Export, Backup, Disaster Recovery (DR)

Contingency and disaster recovery plans shall be available for the Department to inspect and to practically test at any reasonable time, and shall be subject to regular updating, revision, and testing throughout the term of the Contract.

#### 3.3.5.1 Backup

A. The Contractor shall back up the Department's data on a daily basis and shall ensure that such backup data is stored in a location different from the primary hosting site.

#### 3.3.5.2 Disaster Recovery

The Contractor must maintain or cause to be maintained disaster avoidance procedures designed to safeguard State data and confidential information, Contractor's processing capability and the availability of hosted services. Contractor shall meet the following requirements

A. System shall come back online within 24 hours.

B. System shall be restored with less than 24 hours loss of data.

C. Contractor shall describe in its Proposal its disaster recovery approach, including an explanation how the data will be recoverable.

D. The Contractor shall establish and implement an emergency contingency plan to ensure the preservation of the States' data, and provide restoration of services, including data recreation if necessary, in full within twenty-four (24) hours of a disruption caused by a State of Emergency declared by the Governor of Maryland, a natural catastrophe, fire or some other unforeseen event.

3.3.5.3 The Contractor shall provide the ability for the State to export all current subscriber lists and templates.

### 3.3.6 Contractor-supplied Hardware, Software, and Materials

3.3.6.1 SaaS applications shall be accessible from various client devices through a thin client interface such as a Web browser (e.g., Web-based e-mail) or a program interface.

3.3.6.2 The State shall be permitted limited user-specific application configuration settings.

3.3.6.3 The Contractor is responsible for the acquisition and operation of all hardware, software and network support related to the services being provided, and shall keep all software current.

3.3.6.4 All Upgrades and updates shall be provided at no additional cost.

### 3.3.7 Data

3.3.7.1 Data, databases and derived data products created, collected, manipulated, or directly purchased as part of a RFP shall become the property of the State. The purchasing State agency is considered the custodian of the data and shall determine the use, access, distribution and other conditions based on appropriate State statutes and regulations.

3.3.7.2 Licensed and/or copyrighted data shall be governed by the terms and conditions identified in the Contract or the license.

3.3.7.3 The Contractor shall maintain the electronic security of any data entered, stored or transmitted via the digital communications service in accordance with all of the agency and state computer security standards, including Maryland's DoIT's security policy, as updated from time to time, as well as any relevant federal and State laws. The data must be transmitted and encrypted securely by "https://".

3.3.7.4 Additionally, the Contractor shall implement procedures and processes to ensure the security and integrity of the agency's data which will be stored on the Contractor's system.

3.3.7.5 All data entered and stored, including but not limited to the database of information associated with the account, as well as content sent via the Contractors' service shall remain the exclusive property of the agency.

### 3.3.8 Travel Reimbursement

3.3.8.1 There shall be no reimbursement for Routine Travel. Contractor shall not be reimbursed for Non-routine Travel without prior Contract Manager approval.

3.3.8.2 Routine Travel is defined as travel within a 50-mile radius of the Department's base location, as identified in the RFP, or the Contractor's facility, whichever is closer to the consulting site. There will be no payment for labor hours for travel time or reimbursement for any travel expenses for work performed within these radiuses or at the Contractor's facility.

3.3.8.3 Non-routine Travel is defined as travel beyond the 50-mile radius of Department's base location, as identified in the RFP, or the Contractor's facility, whichever is closer to the consulting site. Non-routine travel will be reimbursed according to the State's travel regulations and reimbursement rates, which can be found at: [www.DBM.maryland.gov](http://www.DBM.maryland.gov) - search: Fleet Management. If non-routine travel is conducted by automobile, the first 50 miles of such travel will be treated as routine travel and as described in section 3.3.8.1 of this definition, and will not be reimbursed. The Contractor may bill for labor hours expended in non-routine traveling beyond the identified 50-mile radius, only if so specified in the RFP.

### 3.3.9 CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.3.9.1 The Contractor shall provide a web-based service that will allow digital distribution of information in real-time to enrolled subscribers. This information will be in the form of messages (e.g. – e-mails, SMS/text, RSS feeds).
- 3.3.9.2 For each State agency using this service the Contractor shall:
- A. Provide access to analytical data about each State agency’s use of the service (which may include one or more websites).
  - B. Provide unlimited, ongoing training regarding administration tools telephonically or by webinar, as mutually determined appropriate by DoIT and the Contractor.
  - C. Make the Contractor’s POC available to respond to questions, concerns or requests.
  - D. Design, develop, implement, and maintain the template used to distribute e-mails and newsletters for that agency.
- 3.3.9.3 The Contractor shall provide unlimited phone and e-mail technical support between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.
- 3.3.9.4 The Contractor shall provide digital communication services twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week.
- 3.3.9.5 The Contractor shall furnish a help desk ticketing system, and shall record reported issues in this ticketing system at time of notification of the problem regardless of notification method used (i.e., whether by phone, by e-mail, or direct entry into the ticketing system).
- 3.3.9.6 If the Contractor is FedRAMP certified or pursuing FedRAMP certification, starting from the earlier of the beginning of the Contract or the attainment of FedRAMP certification, the Contractor shall maintain in good standing FedRAMP certification for the duration of the Contract period of performance.
- A. Within a month of the date FedRAMP certification is re-affirmed, the Contractor shall furnish in writing evidence of such affirmation to the Contract Manager.

### 3.3.10 FUNCTIONAL / BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS

Functional requirements relate to what business processes shall be provided or supported under the RFP.

- 3.3.10.1 The service shall allow for an unlimited number of messages that State agencies may generate or send each month, by e-mail, by SMS/text, or by other available means offered by the digital communication service.
- 3.3.10.2 The web-based service shall utilize multiple channels for message distribution, including at a minimum e-mail. Other potential channels include but are not limited to: text messaging, social media platforms and Really Simple Syndication (RSS) platforms, Twitter, Facebook, and Google+.
- 3.3.10.3 The service shall provide integration of messages with social media platforms.
- 3.3.10.4 The service shall have the ability to send SMS messages to subscribers.

- 3.3.10.5 The service shall have the capability to allow individuals to sign up for a subscription to the service by registering a valid e-mail address and any other information the State agencies determine necessary.
- 3.3.10.6 The service shall allow authorized State agency staff to create individual subscriptions through batch-upload an existing distribution list.
- 3.3.10.7 The service shall allow for the ongoing addition of new subscribers.
- 3.3.10.8 The service shall have no limits on the number of subscribers.
- 3.3.10.9 Subscribers to the service must be able to self-select an unlimited number of web pages on the State agency's website for which they want updates.
- 3.3.10.10 The service shall allow State agency staff to revise and upload e-mail and Short Message Service (SMS) distribution lists.
- 3.3.10.11 The service shall maintain a successful message delivery rate at or above 99 percent.
- 3.3.11 The service shall allow State agency staff to access, utilize and manage the service from any location that has internet service, utilizing user authentication and passwords.
- 3.3.12 Administrative user authentications and passwords shall meet the minimum security standards set forth in Section 7.2.1 of the State of Maryland's Department of Information Technology Information Security Policy (See Section 3.3.1 and Section 3.4).
- 3.3.13 The service shall be designed to issue the following warning whenever a State agency staff member with a valid password accesses the system:
- “Access to this system is restricted to authorized users only and limited to approved business purposes. By using this system, you expressly consent to the monitoring of all activities. Any unauthorized access or use of this system is prohibited and could be subject to criminal and civil penalties. All records, reports, e-mail, software, and other data generated by or residing upon this system are the property of State of Maryland and may be used by the State of Maryland for any purpose.”
- 3.3.14 The service shall be designed to time out sessions or initiate a re-authentication process after thirty (30) minutes of inactivity.
- 3.3.15 All work, including testing, may be performed on-site or off-site, as mutually agreed between the Contractor and DoIT.
- 3.3.16 The service shall provide a central web console for administration of State agency users (who may be from multiple State agencies).
- 3.3.17 The service shall maintain whitelist status with major Internet Service Providers (ISPs) which shall be a list of e-mail addresses or IP addresses that are considered spam free.
- 3.3.18 The service shall maintain clean e-mail address lists by determining and deleting undeliverable e-mail addresses.

- 3.3.19 The service shall adhere to federally mandated Controlling the Assault of Non-solicited Pornography And Marketing Act of 2003 (CAN-SPAM) e-mail compliance standards.
- 3.3.20 The service shall have the option to create one message and send it out via multiple channels.
- 3.3.21 The service shall allow subscribers the ability to choose and subscribe to an extensive list of specific topics or sub-topics provided by State agencies that are directly related to their interests. Options shall include general types of content such as newsletters and press releases as well as updates on specific topics and programs (e.g., health care, public safety, education).
- 3.3.22 The service shall have the ability to set permissions and institute a work flow process to ensure that messages are distributed under the correct department name, additionally ensuring accuracy of information with proper State agency branding.
- 3.3.23 The service shall allow images to be stored in the system for use in newsletters and e-mails.
- 3.3.24 The service shall have no limits on the number of images stored in the system.
- 3.3.25 The service shall provide for an unlimited number of contacts for messaging (note: a contact is a recipient of a message who is not a subscriber).
- 3.3.26 The service shall provide the ability to create and design custom templates for standard e-mail and newsletters as well as choose from system templates.
- 3.3.27 The service shall provide for scheduled sending of messages.
- 3.3.28 The service shall have the ability to automatically deliver updated Web 2.0 and social media content from social media sites to existing e-mail subscribers and automatically post bulletins to social media.
- 3.3.29 The Contractor shall provide web browser-based code that a State agency can embed in its website to allow recipients (either subscribers or contacts) to easily post message content on popular social networking and blogging sites. For example: 
- 3.3.30 The service shall provide advanced analytics and reporting.
- 3.3.31 The service shall provide access to online reporting tools showing subscription numbers by topic, e-mail clicks, e-mail opens, and delivery information designed to help Maryland track and optimize stakeholder outreach.
- 3.3.32 Additional purchases for this service after the initial order shall be pro-rated to terminate on the same day.

## 3.4 Security Requirements

### 3.4.1 Information Technology

- 3.4.1.1 The Contractor agrees that it and Contractor Personnel shall (i) abide by all applicable federal, State and local laws, rules and regulations concerning Security of Information Systems and Information Technology security and (ii) comply with and adhere to the State IT Security Policy and Standards as each may be amended or revised from time to

time. Updated and revised versions of the State IT Policy and Standards are available online at: [www.doit.maryland.gov](http://www.doit.maryland.gov) – keyword: Security Policy.

3.4.2 The State shall, at its discretion, have the right to review and assess the Contractor's compliance to the security requirements and standards defined in the Contract.

### 3.4.3 Data Protection and Controls

Contractor shall ensure satisfaction of the following requirements:

3.4.3.1 Administrative, physical and technical safeguards shall be implemented to protect State data that are no less rigorous than accepted industry practices for information security such as those listed below (see 3.4.3.2), and all such safeguards, including the manner in which State data is collected, accessed, used, stored, processed, disposed of and disclosed shall comply with applicable data protection and privacy laws as well as the terms and conditions of this Contract.

3.4.3.2 To ensure appropriate data protection safeguards are in place, at minimum, the Contractor shall implement and maintain the following controls at all times throughout the term of the Contract (the Contractor may augment this list with additional controls):

1. Establish separate production, test, and training environments for systems supporting the services provided under this Contract and ensure that production data is not replicated in test and/or training environment(s) unless it has been previously anonymized or otherwise modified to protect the confidentiality of Sensitive Data elements. The Contractor shall ensure the appropriate separation of production and non-production environments by applying the data protection and control requirements listed in Section 3.4.3.
2. Apply hardware and software hardening procedures as recommended by Center for Internet Security (CIS) guides, Security Technical Implementation Guides (STIG), or similar industry best practices to reduce the surface of vulnerability, eliminating as many security risks as possible and document what is not feasible and/or not performed according to best practices. Any hardening practices not implemented shall be documented with a plan of action and milestones including any compensating control. These procedures may include but are not limited to removal of unnecessary software, disabling or removing unnecessary services, removal of unnecessary usernames or logins, and the deactivation of unneeded features in the system configuration files.
3. Ensure that State data is not comingled with non-State data through the proper application of compartmentalization security measures.
4. Apply data encryption to protect Sensitive Data at all times, including but not limited to when at rest and also when archived for backup purposes. For all State data the Contractor manages or controls, data encryption shall be applied to such data in transit over untrusted networks. Encryption algorithms which are utilized for this purpose must comply with current Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS), "Security Requirements for Cryptographic Modules", FIPS PUB 140-2:

<http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/fips/fips140-2/fips1402.pdf>

<http://csrc.nist.gov/groups/STM/cmvp/documents/140-1/1401vend.htm>

5. Enable appropriate logging parameters to monitor user access activities, authorized and failed access attempts, system exceptions, and critical information security events as recommended by the operating system and application manufacturers and information security standards, including Maryland Department of Information Technology's Information Security Policy.
6. Retain the aforementioned logs and review them at least daily to identify suspicious or questionable activity for investigation and documentation as to their cause and remediation, if required. The Department shall have the right to inspect these policies and procedures and the Contractor's performance to confirm the effectiveness of these measures for the services being provided under this Contract.
7. The Contractor shall:
  - i. Ensure system and network environments are separated by properly configured and updated firewalls.
  - ii. Restrict network connections between trusted and untrusted networks by physically and/or logically isolating systems from unsolicited and unauthenticated network traffic.
  - iii. By default "deny all" and only allow access by exception.
  - iv. Review at regular intervals (no less than yearly) the aforementioned network connections, documenting and confirming the business justification for the use of all service, protocols, and ports allowed, including the rationale or compensating controls implemented for those protocols considered insecure but necessary.
8. Perform regular vulnerability testing of operating system, application, and network devices. Such testing is expected to identify outdated software versions; missing software patches; device or software misconfigurations; and to validate compliance with or deviations from the security policy applicable to this Contract, as identified in 3.4.3.2 item 2. Contractor shall evaluate all identified vulnerabilities for potential adverse effect on security and integrity and remediate the vulnerability no later than 30 days following the earlier of vulnerability's identification or public disclosure, or document why remediation action is unnecessary or unsuitable. The Department shall have the right to inspect the Contractor's policies and procedures and the results of vulnerability testing to confirm the effectiveness of these measures for the services being provided under this Contract.
9. Enforce strong user authentication and password control measures to minimize the opportunity for unauthorized access through compromise of the user access controls. At a minimum, the implemented measures should be consistent with the most current State of Maryland Department of Information Technology's Information Security Policy (<http://doit.maryland.gov/support/Pages/SecurityPolicies.aspx>), including specific requirements for password length, complexity, history, and account lockout.
10. Ensure Sensitive Data under this service is not processed, transferred, or stored outside of the United States.

11. Ensure Contractor's Personnel shall not connect any of its own equipment to a State LAN/WAN without prior written approval by the State, which may be revoked at any time for any reason. The Contractor shall complete any necessary paperwork as directed and coordinated with the Contract Manager to obtain approval by the State to connect Contractor-owned equipment to a State LAN/WAN.
  12. Ensure that anti-virus and anti-malware software is installed and maintained on all systems supporting the services provided under this Contract; that the anti-virus and anti-malware software is automatically updated; and that the software is configured to actively scan and detect threats to the system for remediation. The Contractor shall perform routine vulnerability scans and take corrective actions for any findings.
- 3.4.4 Where website hosting or Internet access is the service provided or part of the service provided, the Contractor and/or Subcontractor shall conduct regular external vulnerability testing. External vulnerability testing is an assessment designed to examine the Contractor and/or Subcontractor's security profile from the Internet without benefit of access to internal systems and networks behind the external security perimeter. The Contractor and/or Subcontractor shall evaluate all identified vulnerabilities on Internet-facing devices for potential adverse effect on the system's security and/or integrity and remediate the vulnerability promptly or document why remediation action is unnecessary or unsuitable. The Department shall have the right to inspect these policies and procedures and the performance of vulnerability testing to confirm the effectiveness of these measures for the services being provided under this Contract.
- 3.4.5 If the service offered is a cloud solution, the following requirements and capabilities shall additionally apply:
- 3.4.5.1 Automatic accounts disabling after 90 days of non-use;
  - 3.4.5.2 Capability to deny login from mobile devices to the service;
  - 3.4.5.3 The ability to implement two-factor authentication. (Note that the State uses SAML2);
  - 3.4.5.4 Utilize digital certificates to validate the authenticity of the site prior user log-in;
  - 3.4.5.5 Allow for configuration so that older browsers using insecure methods of communications are denied access to the site/service; and
  - 3.4.5.6 The ability to limit or disable access to the service from the internet based on mission criteria (e.g., geo-location).

### **3.5 Labor Categories and Qualifications**

THIS SECTION IS NOT APPLICABLE TO THIS RFP.

### **3.6 Performance and Personnel**

#### 3.6.1 Work Hours

- A. The successful Offeror shall ensure that its personnel is available during the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday, on any day which the State is open for business, to conduct meetings, testing, and any other project-related

activities that require the participation of State personnel or use of the State agency's facilities and equipment.

### **3.7 Problem Escalation Procedure**

- 3.7.1 The Contractor must provide and maintain a Problem Escalation Procedure (PEP) for both routine and emergency situations. The PEP must state how the Contractor will address problem situations as they occur during the performance of the Contract, especially problems that are not resolved to the satisfaction of the State within appropriate timeframes.
- 3.7.2 The Contractor shall provide contact information to the Contract Manager, as well as to other State personnel, as directed should the Contract Manager not be available.
- 3.7.3 The Contractor must provide the PEP no later than ten (10) Business Days after notice of recommended award. The PEP, including any revisions thereto, must also be provided within ten (10) Business Days after the start of each Contract year and within ten (10) Business Days after any change in circumstance which changes the PEP. The PEP shall detail how problems with work under the Contract will be escalated in order to resolve any issues in a timely manner. The PEP shall include:
- A. The process for establishing the existence of a problem;
  - B. The maximum duration that a problem may remain unresolved at each level in the Contractor's organization before automatically escalating the problem to a higher level for resolution;
  - C. Circumstances in which the escalation will occur in less than the normal timeframe;
  - D. The nature of feedback on resolution progress, including the frequency of feedback to be provided to the State;
  - E. Identification of, and contact information for, progressively higher levels of personnel in the Contractor's organization who would become involved in resolving a problem;
  - F. Contact information for persons responsible for resolving issues after normal business hours (e.g., evenings, weekends, holidays) and on an emergency basis; and
  - G. A process for updating and notifying the Contract Manager of any changes to the PEP.
- 3.7.4 Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit any rights of the Contract Manager or the State which may be allowed by the Contract or applicable law.

### **3.8 Service Level Agreement (SLA)**

#### **3.8.1 Problem Response Definitions and Times**

- A. The Contractor shall as described in Section 4, furnish service level targets offered for this contract how the targets are measured, any credits should the service level measures not be met, and how the State can verify the service level.
- B. The Contractor shall describe how service level performance is reported to the State.

### 3.9 Deliverables

ID #	Deliverable Description	Acceptance Criteria	Due Date / Frequency
1	Disaster Recovery Plan	Emergency contingency plan that describes the preservation of the State's data and disaster recovery procedures.	Initial Delivery: NTP+ 30 days Updates: annually

### 3.10 Work Order Process

THIS SECTION IS NOT APPLICABLE TO THIS RFP.

### 3.11 Insurance Requirements

3.11.1 Any insurance furnished as a condition of this Contract shall be issued by a company authorized to business in this State.

3.11.2 Insurance shall be provided as specified in the Contract (Attachment A).

3.11.3 The recommended awardee must provide a certificate(s) of insurance with the prescribed coverages, limits and requirements set forth in this Section 3.11 "Insurance Requirements," within five (5) Business Days from notice of recommended award. During the period of performance for multi-year contracts the TO Contractor shall update certificates of insurance annually, or as otherwise directed by the TO Contract Manager.

3.11.4 The following type(s) of insurance and minimum amount(s) of coverage are required:

3.11.4.1 General Liability - The Contractor shall maintain Commercial General Liability Insurance with limits sufficient to cover losses resulting from, or arising out of, Contractor action or inaction in the performance of the Contract by the Contractor, its agents, servants, employees, or subcontractors, but no less than a Combined Single Limit for Bodily Injury, Property Damage, and Personal and Advertising Injury Liability of \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$3,000,000 aggregate.

3.11.4.2 Errors and Omissions/Professional Liability - The Contractor shall maintain Errors and Omissions/Professional Liability insurance with minimum limits of \$1,000,000 per occurrence.

3.11.4.3 Worker's Compensation - The Contractor shall maintain such insurance as necessary and/or as required under Workers' Compensation Acts, the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, and the Federal Employers' Liability Act.

3.11.5 State Inclusion on Insurance

The State shall be listed as an additional insured on all policies with the exception of Worker's Compensation Insurance and Professional Liability Insurance. All insurance policies shall be endorsed to include a clause that requires that the insurance carrier provide the Contract Manager, by certified mail, not less than 45 days' advance notice of any non-renewal, cancellation, or expiration. In the event the Contract Manager receives a notice of non-renewal,

the Contractor shall provide the Contract Manager with an insurance policy from another carrier at least 30 days prior to the expiration of the insurance policy then in effect. All insurance policies shall be with a company licensed by the State to do business and to provide such policies.

### 3.11.6 Subcontractor Insurance

The Contractor shall require that any subcontractors providing products/services under this Contract obtain and maintain similar levels of insurance and shall provide the Contract Manager with the same documentation as is required of the Contractor.

## 3.12 Invoicing

3.12.1 All invoices shall be submitted by the Contractor annually upon delivery of products/services and shall include, at the minimum, the following information:

- a. Name and address of the Department being billed
- b. Contractor name
- c. Products(s) and/or service(s) purchased listed separately including the amount for each individual charge (i.e., 5 – ABC Hardware @ \$2,000 Total \$10,000.00, 2 - CD Training @ \$100.00 Total \$200.00, Installation one-time cost \$300.00)
- d. Supporting Documentation
- e. E-mail address/phone number of Contractor's POC
- f. Remittance address
- g. Federal taxpayer identification or (if owned by an individual) Contractor's social security number
- h. Invoice period, invoice date, invoice number and amount due; and
- i. Purchase Order # being billed

3.12.2 Invoices submitted without the required information will not be processed for payment until the Contractor provides the required information.

3.12.3 The State is generally exempt from federal excise taxes, Maryland sales and use taxes, District of Columbia sales taxes and transportation taxes. The Contractor; however, is not exempt from such sales and use taxes and may be liable for the same.

3.12.4 Invoicing shall be submitted annually.

### 3.12.5 FIXED PRICE INVOICE SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

- A. This procedure consists of the following requirements and steps:
- B. Invoices for final payment shall be clearly marked as "FINAL" and submitted when all work requirements have been completed and no further charges are to be incurred under the Contract. In no event shall any invoice be submitted later than 60 calendar days from the Contract termination date. Any final monthly invoice shall include all charges for data retention.

3.12.6 For the purposes of this Contract an amount will not be deemed due and payable if:

- A. The amount invoiced is inconsistent with the Contract.
- B. The proper invoice has not been received by the party or office specified in the Contract.
- C. The invoice or performance is in dispute or the Contractor has failed to otherwise comply with the provisions of the Contract.
- D. The item or services have not been accepted.
- E. The quantity of items delivered is less than the quantity ordered.
- F. The items or services do not meet the quality requirements of the Contract
- G. If the Contract provides for progress payments, the proper invoice for the progress payment has not been submitted pursuant to the schedule.
- H. If the Contract provides for withholding a retainage and the invoice is for the retainage, all stipulated conditions for release of the retainage have not been met.
- I. The Contractor has not submitted satisfactory documentation or other evidence reasonably required by the Procurement Officer or by the contract concerning performance under the contract and compliance with its provisions.

### **3.13 SOC 2 Type II Audit Report**

3.13.1 This clause applies to the Contractor and Subcontractors who host the implemented digital communication services for the State.

3.13.2 The Contractor and/or Subcontractors who provide services that handle Sensitive Data (see Handle definition in 1.2) for the digital communication services must also comply with this clause, assuming the Contractor and/or Subcontractor receives copies of any data for use in providing services, including any system and/or user acceptance testing of the digital communication services and any provided data that contains Sensitive Data.

3.13.3 The Contractor shall have an annual audit performed by an independent audit firm of the Contractor and/or Subcontractors' handling Sensitive Data and/or the digital communication services and shall address all areas relating to Information Technology security and operational processes. These services provided by the Contractor and/or Subcontractors that shall be covered by the audit will collectively be referred to as the "Information Functions and/or Processes." Such audits shall be performed in accordance with audit guidance: *Reporting on Controls at a Service Organization Relevant to Security, Availability, Processing Integrity, Confidentiality, or Privacy (SOC 2)* as published by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and as updated from time to time, or according to the most current audit guidance promulgated by the AICPA or similarly-recognized professional organization, as agreed to by the Department, to assess the security of outsourced client functions or data (collectively, the "Guidance") as follows:

3.13.3.1 The type of audit to be performed in accordance with the Guidance is a SOC 2 Type 2 Audit (referred to as the "SOC 2 Report"). The initial SOC 2 Report audit shall be scheduled and completed within a timeframe to be specified by the State and submitted to the Contract Manager. All subsequent SOC 2 audits that are arranged after this initial audit shall be performed on an annual basis and shall be submitted to the Contract Manager by the anniversary of the Contract Effective Date for the preceding calendar year.

- 3.13.3.2 The SOC 2 Report shall report on the description of the Contractor and/or Subcontractors' system and controls and the suitability of the design and operating effectiveness of controls over the Information Functions and/or Processes relevant to the following trust principles: Security and Availability as defined in the aforementioned Guidance. The SOC 2 Report should also report on the suitability of the design and operating effectiveness of controls of the Information Functions and/or Processes to meet the requirements of the contract, specifically the security requirements identified in Section 3.4.
- 3.13.3.3 The audit scope of each year's SOC 2 Report may need to be adjusted (including the inclusion or omission of the relevant trust services principles of Security, Availability, Confidentiality, Processing Integrity, and Privacy) to accommodate any changes to the Contractor's and/or Subcontractors' environment since the last SOC 2 Report. Such changes may include but are not limited to the addition of Information Functions and/or Processes through change orders or Work Orders under the Contract; or, due to changes in Information Technology or operational infrastructure implemented by the Contractor and/or Subcontractors. The Contractor and/or Subcontractors shall ensure that the audit scope of each year's SOC 2 Report engagement shall accommodate these changes by including in SOC 2 Report all appropriate controls related to the current environment supporting the Information Functions and/or Processes, including those controls required by the Contract.
- 3.13.3.4 The scope of the SOC 2 Report shall include work performed by any Subcontractors that provide essential support to the Contractor and/or essential support to the Information Functions and/or Processes provided to the Department under the Contract. The Contractor shall ensure the audit includes all of these Subcontractor(s) in the performance of the SOC 2 Report.
- 3.13.3.5 All SOC 2 Reports, including those of the Contractor and/or Subcontractor, shall be performed at no additional expense to the Department.
- 3.13.3.6 The Contractor and/or Subcontractors shall promptly provide a complete copy of the final SOC 2 Report to the Contract Manager upon completion of each annual SOC 2 Report engagement.
- 3.13.3.7 The Contractor shall provide to the Contract Manager, within 30 calendar days of the issuance of each annual final SOC 2 Report, a documented corrective action plan which addresses each audit finding or exception contained in the SOC 2 Report. The corrective action plan shall identify in detail the remedial action to be taken by the Contractor and/or Subcontractors along with the date(s) when each remedial action is to be implemented.
- 3.13.3.8 If the Contractor and/or Subcontractors currently have an annual information security assessment performed that includes the operations, systems, and repositories of the products/services being provided to the Department under the Contract, and if that assessment generally conforms to the content and objective of the Guidance, the Department will determine in consultation with appropriate State government technology and audit authorities whether the Contractor and/or Subcontractors' current information security assessments are acceptable in lieu of the SOC 2 Report.

3.13.3.9 If the Contractor and/or Subcontractors fail during the Contract term to obtain an annual SOC 2 Report by the date specified in 3.13.3.1, the Department shall have the right to retain an independent audit firm to perform an audit engagement of a SOC 2 Report of the Information Functions and/or Processes being provided by the Contractor and/or Subcontractors. The Contractor and/or Subcontractors agree to allow the independent audit firm to access its facility/ies for purposes of conducting this audit engagement(s), and will provide the support and cooperation to the independent audit firm that is required to perform the SOC 2 Report. The Department will invoice the Contractor for the expense of the SOC 2 Report(s), or deduct the cost from future payments to the Contractor.

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## 4 PROPOSAL FORMAT

### 4.1 Two-Part Submission

Offerors shall submit Proposals in separate volumes:

- a) Volume I – TECHNICAL PROPOSAL
- b) Volume II – FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

### 4.2 Volume I – Technical Proposal

**Note: Provide no pricing information in the Technical Proposal (Volume I). Include pricing information only in the Financial Proposal (Volume II).**

#### 4.2.1 Format of Technical Proposal

The Technical Proposal will include all items detailed below. In addition to the following instructions, responses in the Offeror's Technical Proposal must reference the RFP's organization and section numbering (ex. "Section 3.2.1 Response"). This proposal organization will allow direct mapping between Offeror responses and RFP requirements by Section number and will aid in the evaluation process.

4.2.2 The Technical Proposal shall include the following documents and information in the order specified as follows. Each section of the Technical Proposal shall be separated by a TAB as detailed below:

##### 4.2.2.1 Title Page and Table of Contents (Submit under TAB A)

The Technical Proposal should begin with a Title Page bearing the name and address of the Offeror and the name and number of this RFP. A Table of Contents shall follow the Title Page for the Technical Proposal, organized by section, subsection, and page number.

##### 4.2.2.2 Claim of Confidentiality (If applicable, submit under TAB A-1)

Any information which is claimed to be confidential is to be noted by reference and included after the Title Page and before the Table of Contents, and if applicable, also in the Offeror's Financial Proposal. The entire Proposal cannot be given a blanket confidentiality designation - any confidentiality designation must apply to specific sections, pages, or portions of pages of the Proposal and an explanation for each claim shall be included (see Section 1.14 "Public Information Act Notice").

##### 4.2.2.3 Transmittal Letter (Submit under TAB B)

A Transmittal Letter shall accompany the Technical Proposal. The purpose of this letter is to transmit the Proposal and acknowledge the receipt of any addenda. The Transmittal Letter should be brief and signed by an individual who is authorized to commit the Offeror to its Proposal and the requirements as stated in this RFP. The Transmittal Letter should include the following:

- A. Name and address of the Offeror;
- B. Name, title, e-mail address, and telephone number of primary contact for the Offeror;
- C. Solicitation Title and Solicitation Number that the Proposal is in response to;

- D. Signature, typed name, and title of an individual authorized to commit the Offeror to its Proposal;
- E. Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) of the Offeror, or if a single individual, that individual's Social Security Number (SSN);
- F. Offeror's eMM number;
- G. Offeror's MBE certification number (if applicable);
- H. Acceptance of all State RFP and Contract terms and conditions (see Section 1.24); if any exceptions are taken, they are to be noted in the Executive Summary (see Section 4.2.2.4); and
- I. Acknowledgement of all addenda to this RFP issued before the Proposal due date.

#### 4.2.2.4 Executive Summary (Submit under TAB C)

The Offeror shall condense and highlight the contents of the Technical Proposal in a separate section titled "Executive Summary." The Summary should identify the Service Category(ies) and Region(s) for which the Offeror is proposing to provide products/services (if applicable). The Summary shall also identify any exceptions the Offeror has taken to the requirements of this RFP, the Contract (Attachment A), or any other attachments. Exceptions to terms and conditions may result in having the Proposal deemed unacceptable or classified as not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award.

If the Offeror has taken no exceptions to the requirements of this RFP, the Executive Summary shall so state. Acceptance or rejection of exceptions is within the sole discretion of the State. If there are no assumptions, the Offeror shall so state.

#### 4.2.2.5 Minimum Qualifications Documentation (If applicable, Submit under TAB D)

The Offeror shall submit any Minimum Qualifications documentation that may be required, as set forth in Section 2 "Offeror Minimum Qualifications."

#### 4.2.2.6 Offeror Technical Response to RFP Requirements and Proposed Work Plan (Submit under TAB E)

- A. The Offeror shall address each Scope of Work requirement (Section 3) in its Technical Proposal and describe how its proposed products/services, including the products/services of any proposed subcontractor(s), will meet or exceed the requirement(s). If the State is seeking Offeror agreement to any requirement(s), the Offeror shall state its agreement or disagreement. Any paragraph in the Technical Proposal that responds to a Scope of Work requirement shall include an explanation of how the work will be performed. Any exception to a requirement, term, or condition may result in having the Proposal classified as not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award or the Offeror deemed not responsible. The response shall address each requirement in Section 3 of this RFP in order, and shall contain a cross reference to the RFP requirement.
- B. The Offeror shall give a definitive description of the proposed plan to meet the requirements of the RFP, i.e., a Work Plan. The Work Plan shall include the specific methodology and techniques to be used by the Offeror in providing the required products/services as outlined in RFP Section 3, Scope of Work. The description shall include an outline of the overall management concepts employed by the Offeror and a

project management plan, including project control mechanisms and overall timelines. Project deadlines considered contract deliverables must be recognized in the Work Plan.

- C. The Offeror shall identify the location(s) from which it proposes to provide the services, including, if applicable, any current facilities that it operates, and any required construction to satisfy the State's requirements as outlined in this RFP.
- D. Contractor shall describe in its Proposal its disaster recovery approach, including an explanation how State data will be recoverable.
- E. The Offeror shall provide a draft Problem Escalation Procedure (PEP) that includes, at a minimum, titles of individuals to be contacted by the Contract Manager should problems arise under the Contract and explain how problems with work under the Contract will be escalated in order to resolve any issues in a timely manner. Final procedures must be submitted as indicated in RFP Section Experience and Qualifications of Proposed Staff (Submit under TAB F).
- F. Furnish service level targets offered for this contract how the targets are measured, any credits should the service level measures not be met, and how the State can verify the service level performance.

#### 4.2.2.7 Experience and Qualifications of Proposed Staff (Submit under TAB F)

This Section is not applicable to this RFP

#### 4.2.2.8 Offeror Qualifications and Capabilities (Submit under TAB G)

The Offeror shall include information on past experience with similar projects and/or services. The Offeror shall describe how its organization can meet the requirements of this RFP and shall also include the following information:

- A. The number of years the Offeror has provided the similar services;
- B. The number of clients/customers and geographic locations that the Offeror currently serves;
- C. The names and titles of headquarters or regional management personnel who may be involved with supervising the services to be performed under this Contract;
- D. The Offeror's process for resolving billing errors; and
- E. An organizational chart that identifies the complete structure of the Offeror including any parent company, headquarters, regional offices, and subsidiaries of the Offeror.

#### 4.2.2.9 References (Submit under TAB H)

At least three (3) references are requested from customers who are capable of documenting the Offeror's ability to provide the products/services specified in this RFP. References used to meet any Offeror Minimum Qualifications (see Section 2) may be used to meet this request. Each reference shall be from a client for whom the Offeror has provided products/services within the past five (5) years and shall include the following information:

- A. Name of client organization;
- B. Name, title, telephone number, and e-mail address, if available, of point of contact for client organization; and

C. Value, type, duration, and description of products/services provided.

The Department reserves the right to request additional references or utilize references not provided by an Offeror. Points of contact must be accessible and knowledgeable regarding Offeror performance.

4.2.2.10 List of Current or Prior State Contracts (Submit under TAB I)

Provide a list of all contracts with any entity of the State of Maryland for which the Offeror is currently performing products/services or for which services have been completed within the last five (5) years. For each identified contract, the Offeror is to provide:

- A. The State contracting entity;
- B. A brief description of the products/services provided;
- C. The dollar value of the contract;
- D. The term of the contract;
- E. The State employee contact person (name, title, telephone number, and, if possible, e-mail address); and
- F. Whether the contract was terminated before the end of the term specified in the original contract, including whether any available renewal option was not exercised.

Information obtained regarding the Offeror's level of performance on State contracts will be used by the Procurement Officer to determine the responsibility of the Offeror and considered as part of the experience and past performance evaluation criteria of the RFP.

4.2.2.11 Financial Capability (Submit under TAB J)

Financial Statements are not required for this RFP.

4.2.2.12 Certificate of Insurance (Submit under TAB K)

The Offeror shall provide a copy of its current certificate of insurance showing the types and limits of insurance in effect as of the Proposal submission date. The current insurance types and limits do not have to be the same as described in Section 3.11. See Section 3.11.11 for the required insurance certificate submission for the apparent awardee.

4.2.2.13 Subcontractors (Submit under TAB L)

The Offeror shall provide a complete list of all subcontractors that will work on the Contract if the Offeror receives an award, including those utilized in meeting the MBE and/or VSBE subcontracting goal, if applicable. This list shall include a full description of the duties each subcontractor will perform and why/how each subcontractor was deemed the most qualified for this project. See Section 4.2.2.7 for additional Offeror requirements related to subcontractors.

4.2.2.14 Legal Action Summary (Submit under TAB M)

This summary shall include:

- A. A statement as to whether there are any outstanding legal actions or potential claims against the Offeror and a brief description of any action;
- B. A brief description of any settled or closed legal actions or claims against the Offeror over the past five (5) years;

- C. A description of any judgments against the Offeror within the past five (5) years, including the court, case name, complaint number, and a brief description of the final ruling or determination; and
- D. In instances where litigation is on-going and the Offeror has been directed not to disclose information by the court, provide the name of the judge and location of the court.

#### 4.2.2.15 Economic Benefit Factors (Submit under TAB N)

This section is not required for this RFP.

#### 4.2.3 Additional Required Technical Submissions (Submit under TAB O)

The following documents shall be completed, signed, and included in the Technical Proposal, under TAB O that follows the material submitted in response to Section 4.2.2.

For e-mail submissions, submit one (1) copy of each with original signatures. For paper submissions, submit two (2) copies of each with original signatures. All signatures must be clearly visible.

- A. Completed Bid/Proposal Affidavit (Attachment B).
- B. Completed Maryland Living Wage Requirements Affidavit of Agreement (Attachment G-1).
- C. Completed Conflict of Interest Affidavit and Disclosure (Attachment I).

#### 4.2.4 Additional Required Submissions (Submit under Tab P)

**IMPORTANT!** Offerors shall furnish any and all agreements the Offeror expects the State to sign in order to use the Offeror's or Subcontractor(s) services under this Contract. This includes physical copies of all agreements referenced and incorporated in primary documents, including:

- 4.2.4.1 Copy of any software licensing agreement for any software proposed to be licensed to the State under this Contract (e.g., EULA, Enterprise License Agreements, Professional Service agreement, Master Agreement),
- 4.2.4.2 Copy of the AUP for each organization, including subcontractors, proposed to perform services under this Contract.
- 4.2.4.3 If claiming current or in-progress FedRAMP certification, Offeror shall include its FedRAMP package, which should also include all Plan of Action & Milestones (POAMs).
- 4.2.4.4 If not claiming current FedRAMP certification, Offeror shall include a SOC 2 Type II Audit completed within one year from the date Proposals are due.

### **4.3 Volume II – Financial Proposal**

The Financial Proposal shall contain all price information in the format specified in Attachment F. The Offeror shall complete the Price Sheet only as provided in the Price Sheet Instructions and the Price Sheet itself.

#### 4.4 Proposal Packaging

*DoIT strongly desires e-mail delivery of Proposals.*

- 4.4.1 Separate e-mails will be submitted for the Technical and Financial proposals. The subject lines of the e-mails shall be: Volume I - Technical Proposal for 060B6400030 - Digital Communications Management and Volume II - Financial Proposal for 060B6400030 - Digital Communications Management respectively. Each e-mail shall contain the submission documents detailed in section 4.
- 4.4.2 The Technical Proposal e-mail(s) shall be in Microsoft Word format (version 2007 or greater). Provide no pricing information in the Technical Proposal (Volume I). Include pricing information only in the Financial Proposal (Volume II). A second version of Volume I in searchable Adobe .pdf format shall be submitted to support Public Information Act (PIA) requests. This copy shall be redacted so that confidential and/or proprietary information has been removed (see Section 1.14 “Public Information Act Notice”).
- 4.4.3 The Financial Proposal e-mail shall include one file attachment containing all submission documents detailed in section 4.3, with password protection. DoIT will contact Offerors for the password to open each file. Each file shall be encrypted with the same password. A second electronic version of Volume II in searchable Adobe .pdf format shall be submitted to support Public Information Act (PIA) requests. This copy shall be redacted so that confidential and/or proprietary information has been removed (see Section 1.14 “Public Information Act Notice”). Each .pdf format shall be packaged with the appropriate Volume.
- 4.4.4 DoIT can only accept e-mails that are less than or equal to a certain size. If a submission exceeds this size, split the submission into two or more parts and include the appropriate part number in the subject (e.g., part 1 of 2) after the subject line information above.
- 4.4.5 An Offeror wishing to deliver a hard copy (paper) Proposal shall contact the Procurement Officer for instructions.

#### 4.5 Proposal Delivery

- 4.5.1 Offerors may submit proposals by electronic means as described below to the address provided in the Key Information Summary Sheet.
- A. Electronic means includes e-mail, as requested by the Procurement Officer. If the Proposal is to be submitted electronically, it must be submitted in MS Word and PDF formats. Any single e-mail must be no more than 25 Mb in size (See Sections 4.4 for additional labeling and packaging instructions).
- 4.5.2 The Procurement Officer must receive all Technical and Financial Proposal material by the RFP due date and time specified in the Key Information Summary Sheet. If submitted via e-mail, the date and time of submission is determined by the date and time of arrival in the Procurement Officer’s e-mail box. Requests for extension of this date or time will not be granted. Except as provided in COMAR 21.05.03.02F, Proposals received by the Procurement Officer after the due date will not be considered.

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## 5 EVALUATION CRITERIA AND PROCEDURE

### 5.1 Evaluation Committee

Evaluation of Proposals will be performed in accordance with COMAR 21.05.03 by a committee established for that purpose and based on the evaluation criteria set forth below. The Evaluation Committee will review Proposals, participate in Offeror oral presentations and discussions, and provide input to the Procurement Officer. The Department reserves the right to utilize the services of individuals outside of the established Evaluation Committee for advice and assistance, as deemed appropriate.

### 5.2 Technical Proposal Evaluation Criteria

The criteria to be used to evaluate each Technical Proposal are listed below in descending order of importance. Unless stated otherwise, any sub-criteria within each criterion have equal weight.

#### 5.2.1 Offeror's Technical Response to RFP Requirements and Work Plan (See RFP § 4.2.2.6)

The State prefers an Offeror's response to work requirements in the RFP that illustrates a comprehensive understanding of work requirements and mastery of the subject matter, including an explanation of how the work will be performed. Proposals which include limited responses to work requirements such as "concur" or "will comply" will receive a lower ranking than those proposals that demonstrate an understanding of the work requirements and include plans to meet or exceed them.

#### 5.2.2 Offeror Qualifications and Capabilities, including proposed subcontractors (See RFP § 4.2.2.8 – 4.4.2.14)

### 5.3 Financial Proposal Evaluation Criteria

5.3.1 All Qualified Offerors (see Section 5.5.2.4) will be ranked from the lowest (most advantageous) to the highest (least advantageous) price based on the Total Evaluated Price within the stated guidelines set forth in this RFP and as submitted on Attachment F - Price Sheet.

5.3.2 For proposals submitted via e-mail, DoIT will contact Offerors for the password to access financial proposal data. DoIT will only contact those Offerors with proposals that are reasonably susceptible for award. Offerors that are unable to provide a password that opens the financial submission will be deemed not susceptible for award; subsequent submissions of content will not be allowed.

### 5.4 Reciprocal Preference

5.4.1 Although Maryland law does not authorize procuring agencies to favor resident Offerors in awarding procurement contracts, many other states do grant their resident businesses preferences over Maryland contractors. COMAR 21.05.01.04 requires that procuring units apply a reciprocal preference under the following conditions:

5.4.1.1 The most advantageous offer is from a responsible Offeror whose headquarters, principal base of operations, or principal site that will primarily provide the products/services required under this RFP is in another state.

- 5.4.1.2 The other state gives a preference to its resident businesses through law, policy, or practice; and
  - 5.4.1.3 The preference does not conflict with a Federal law or grant affecting the procurement Contract.
- 5.4.2 The preference given shall be identical to the preference that the other state, through law, policy, or practice gives to its resident businesses.

## 5.5 Selection Procedures

### 5.5.1 General

- 5.5.1.1 The Contract will be awarded in accordance with the Competitive Sealed Proposals (CSP) method found at COMAR 21.05.03. The CSP method allows for the conducting of discussions and the revision of Proposals during these discussions. Therefore, the State may conduct discussions with all Offerors that have submitted Proposals that are determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for contract award or potentially so. However, the State reserves the right to make an award without holding discussions.
- 5.5.1.2 In either case (i.e., with or without discussions), the State may determine an Offeror to be not responsible and/or an Offeror's Proposal to be not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award at any time after the initial closing date for receipt of Proposals and prior to Contract award. If the State finds an Offeror to be not responsible and/or an Offeror's Technical Proposal to be not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award, that Offeror's Financial Proposal will be returned if the Financial Proposal is unopened at the time of the determination.

### 5.5.2 Selection Process Sequence

- 5.5.2.1 A determination is made that the MDOT Certified MBE Utilization and Fair Solicitation Affidavit (Attachment D-1A) is included and is properly completed, if there is a MBE goal. In addition, a determination is made that the Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprise (VSBE) Utilization Affidavit and Subcontractor Participation Schedule (Attachment M-1) is included and is properly completed, if there is a VSBE goal.
- 5.5.2.2 Technical Proposals are evaluated for technical merit and ranked. During this review, oral presentations and discussions may be held. The purpose of such discussions will be to assure a full understanding of the State's requirements and the Offeror's ability to perform the services, as well as to facilitate arrival at a Contract that is most advantageous to the State. Offerors will be contacted by the State as soon as any discussions are scheduled.
- 5.5.2.3 Offerors must confirm in writing any substantive oral clarifications of their Technical Proposals made in the course of discussions. Any such written clarifications then become part of the Offeror's Technical Proposal. Technical Proposals are given a final review and ranked.

5.5.2.4 The Financial Proposal of each Qualified Offeror (a responsible Offeror determined to have submitted an acceptable Proposal) will be evaluated and ranked separately from the Technical evaluation. After a review of the Financial Proposals of Qualified Offerors, the Evaluation Committee or Procurement Officer may again conduct discussions to further evaluate the Offeror's entire Proposal.

5.5.2.5 When in the best interest of the State, the Procurement Officer may permit Qualified Offerors to revise their initial Proposals and submit, in writing, Best and Final Offers (BAFOs). The State may make an award without issuing a request for a BAFO.

### 5.5.3 Award Determination

Upon completion of the Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal evaluations and rankings, each Offeror will receive an overall ranking. The Procurement Officer will recommend award of the Contract to the responsible Offeror that submitted the Proposal determined to be the most advantageous to the State. In making this most advantageous Proposal determination, technical factors will receive greater weight than financial factors.

## 5.6 Documents Required upon Notice of Recommended Award

Upon receipt of notice of recommended award, the following documents shall be completed, signed if applicable with original signatures, and submitted by the recommended awardee within five (5) Business Days, unless noted otherwise. Submit three (3) copies of each of the following documents:

- A. Contract (Attachment A),
- B. Contract Affidavit (Attachment C),
- C. Non-Disclosure Agreement (Attachment J),
- D. Evidence of meeting insurance certificate requirements (See Section 3.11)
- E. PEP (See Section 3.7), within ten (10) Working Days

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## **RFP ATTACHMENTS**

### **ATTACHMENT A – Contract**

This is the sample contract used by the Department. It is provided with the RFP for informational purposes and is not required to be submitted at Proposal submission time. Upon notification of recommended award, a completed contract will be sent to the recommended awardee for signature. The recommended awardee must return to the Procurement Officer three (3) executed copies of the Contract within five (5) Business Days after receipt. Upon mutual Contract execution, a fully-executed copy will be sent to the Contractor.

### **ATTACHMENT B – Bid/Proposal Affidavit**

This Attachment must be completed and submitted with the Technical Proposal.

### **ATTACHMENT C – Contract Affidavit**

This Attachment must be completed and submitted by the recommended awardee to the Procurement Officer within five (5) Business Days of receiving notification of recommended award.

### **ATTACHMENT D – Minority Business Enterprise Forms**

If required (see Section 1.33), these Attachments include the MBE subcontracting goal statement, instructions, and MBE Attachments D1-A through D-5. Attachment D-1A must be properly completed and submitted with the Offeror's Technical Proposal or the Proposal will be deemed non-responsive and rejected. Within 10 Working Days of receiving notification of recommended award, the Offeror must submit Attachments D-2, D-3A, D-3B and, if the Offeror has requested a waiver of the MBE goal, usually Attachment D-1C.

### **ATTACHMENT E – Pre-Proposal Conference Response Form**

It is requested that this form be completed and submitted as described in Section 1.7 by those potential Offerors that plan on attending the Pre-Proposal Conference.

### **ATTACHMENT F – Financial Proposal Instructions and Price Sheet**

The Price Sheet must be completed and submitted with the Financial Proposal.

### **ATTACHMENT G – Maryland Living Wage Requirements for Service Contracts and Affidavit of Agreement**

Attachment G-1 Living Wage Affidavit of Agreement must be completed and submitted with the Technical Proposal.

### **ATTACHMENT H – Federal Funds Attachment**

If required (see Section 1.35), these Attachments must be completed and submitted with the Technical Proposal as instructed in the Attachments.

### **ATTACHMENT I – Conflict of Interest Affidavit and Disclosure**

If required (see Section 1.36), this Attachment must be completed and submitted with the Technical Proposal.

**ATTACHMENT J – Non-Disclosure Agreement**

If required (see Section 1.37), this Attachment must be completed and submitted within five (5) Business Days of receiving notification of recommended award. However, to expedite processing, it is suggested that this document be completed and submitted with the Technical Proposal.

**ATTACHMENT K – HIPAA Business Associate Agreement**

If required (Section 1.38), this Attachment is to be completed and submitted within five (5) Business Days of receiving notification of recommended award. However, to expedite processing, it is suggested that this document be completed and submitted with the Technical Proposal.

**ATTACHMENT L – Mercury Affidavit**

If required (see Section 1.40), this Attachment must be completed and submitted with the Technical Proposal.

**ATTACHMENT M – Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprise Forms**

If required (see Section 1.41), these Attachments include the VSBE Attachments M-1 through M-4. Attachment M-1 must be completed and submitted with the Technical Proposal. Attachment M-2 is required to be submitted within ten (10) Business Days of receiving notification of recommended award.

**ATTACHMENT N – Location of the Performance of Services Disclosure**

If required (see Section 1.42), this Attachment must be completed and submitted with the Technical Proposal.

**ATTACHMENT O – Department of Human Resources (DHR) Hiring Agreement**

If required (see Section 1.43), this Attachment is to be completed and submitted within five (5) Business Days of receiving notification of recommended award.

**ATTACHMENT A - CONTRACT**

Department of Information Technology (DoIT)

“Digital Communications Management”

060B6400030

THIS CONTRACT (the “Contract”) is made this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ by and between \_\_\_\_\_ and, on behalf of the STATE OF MARYLAND, the MARYLAND Department of Information Technology (DoIT).

IN CONSIDERATION of the following, the parties agree as follows:

**1. Definitions**

In this Contract, the following words have the meanings indicated.

- 1.1. “COMAR” means the Code of Maryland Regulations.
- 1.2. “Contract” means this contract for Digital Communications Management.
- 1.3. “Contract Manager” means the individual identified in Section 1.6 of the Request for Proposals (RFP), or a successor designated by the Department.
- 1.4. “Contractor” means \_\_\_\_\_, whose principal business address is: \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.5. “Department” means the Department of Information Technology (DoIT).
- 1.6. “eMM” means eMaryland Marketplace.
- 1.7. “Financial Proposal” means the Contractor’s financial proposal dated \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.8. “Minority Business Enterprise” (MBE) means an entity meeting the definition at COMAR 21.0 1.02.01B(54), which is certified by the Maryland Department of Transportation under COMAR 21.11.03.
- 1.9. “Procurement Officer” means the person identified in Section 1.5 of the RFP or a successor designated by the Department.
- 1.10. “Proposal” means, as appropriate, either or both an Offeror’s Technical or Financial Proposal.
- 1.11. “RFP” means the Request for Proposals for Digital Communications Management, Solicitation # 060B6400030 and any amendments, addenda, and attachments thereto issued in writing by the State.
- 1.12. “Software” means the object code version of computer programs licensed pursuant to this Contract. Embedded code, firmware, internal code, microcode, and any other term referring to software that is necessary for proper operation is included in this definition of Software. Software includes all prior, current, and future versions of the Software and all maintenance updates and error corrections. Software also includes any upgrades, updates, bug fixes or modified versions or backup copies of the Software licensed to the State by Contractor or an authorized distributor.
- 1.13. Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) as used in this document is defined as the right provided to the State to access and use Software running on equipment operated by Contractor or its

suppliers or Subcontractors, including network, servers, operating systems, and storage (“Cloud Infrastructure”). The Software is accessible from various client devices through a thin client interface such as a web browser (e.g., web-based e-mail) or a program interface. The State does not manage or control the underlying Cloud Infrastructure, but may be permitted limited user-specific application configuration settings. The Contractor is responsible for the acquisition and operation of all equipment or hardware, Software and associated network services as it pertains to the services being provided and shall keep all Software current to at least the previously released version (e.g., version “n-1”). The Contractor is responsible for any network service needed for it or its authorized users to access the Cloud Infrastructure via the internet. Under SaaS, the technical and professional activities required for establishing, managing, and maintaining the Cloud Infrastructure and Software are the responsibilities of the Contractor.

- 1.14. “State” means the State of Maryland, including all departments, and agencies thereof.
- 1.15. “Third-Party Software” means Software and supporting documentation that:
- Are owned by a third party, not by the State, the Contractor, or a subcontractor,
  - Are included in, or necessary or helpful to the operation, maintenance, support or modification of the services provided under this Contract, and
  - Were specifically identified and listed as Third-Party Software in the Proposal.
- 1.16. “Technical Proposal” means the Contractor’s technical proposal dated \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.17. “Veteran-owned Small Business Enterprise” (VSBE) means a business that is verified by the Center for Veterans Enterprise of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as a veteran-owned small business. See Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 21.11.13.
- 1.18. Capitalized terms not defined herein shall be ascribed the meaning given to them in the RFP.

## **2. Scope of Contract**

- 2.1. The Contractor shall provide digital communication services as set forth in the RFP.
- 2.2. These products and services shall be provided in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Contract and the following Exhibits, which are attached and incorporated herein by reference. If there are any inconsistencies between this Contract and Exhibits A through D, the terms of this Contract shall control. If there is any conflict among the exhibits, the following order of precedence shall determine the prevailing provision.

Exhibit A – The RFP

Exhibit B – The Contract Affidavit dated \_\_\_\_\_.

Exhibit C – The Technical Proposal

Exhibit D – The Financial Proposal

- 2.3. Except as otherwise provided, any reference to the Contract shall be deemed to include reference to a Purchase Order.

## **3. Period of Performance**

- 3.1. The Contract shall start as of the date first set forth above (“Effective Date”) and shall continue until \_\_\_\_\_ (“Initial Term”). In its sole discretion, the Department shall have the right to extend the Contract for five (5) one-year renewal options (each a “Renewal Term”). “Term” means the Initial Term and any Renewal Term(s).

- 3.2. The Contractor's performance under the Contract shall commence as of the date provided in a written NTP.
- 3.3. The Contractor's obligation to pay invoices to subcontractors providing products/services in connection with this Contract, as well as the audit, confidentiality, document retention, patents, copyrights & intellectual property (see §5), warranty, payment and indemnification obligations, and limitations of liability under this Contract, and any other obligations specifically identified, shall survive expiration or termination of the Contract.

#### **4. Consideration and Payment**

- 4.1. The total payment for products and services provided under a fixed price contract or the fixed price element of a combined fixed price – time and materials contract shall be the firm fixed price submitted by the Contractor in its Financial Proposal. For time and materials contracts, or contracts which include both fixed price and time and materials elements, total payments to the Contractor pursuant to this Contract for the time and materials portion may not exceed \$\_\_\_\_\_ (the "NTE Amount"), which includes \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the base period and \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the option period(s).

The Contractor shall notify the Contract Manager, in writing, at least 60 days before time and material obligations are expected to reach the NTE Amount. The Contractor shall have no obligation to perform the time and materials requirements under this Contract after payments reach the NTE Amount. The cessation of the Contractor's obligation to perform under this paragraph 4.2 is expressly conditioned on the following: that prior to the NTE Amount being reached, the Contractor shall: (i) give the notice required under this paragraph 4.1; (ii) promptly consult with the Department and cooperate in good faith with the Department to establish a plan of action to assure that every reasonable effort is undertaken by the Contractor to complete critical work in progress prior to the date the NTE Amount will be reached; and (iii) secure databases, systems, platforms and/or applications on which the Contractor is working in an industry standard manner designed to prevent damage or vulnerabilities to any of the same.

- 4.2. The Contractor shall submit invoices as required in the RFP. Invoices that contain both fixed price and time and material items must clearly identify the items as either fixed price or time and material billing. Invoices for Third-Party Software support and maintenance will be paid on an annual basis. Each invoice must include the Contractor's Federal Tax Identification Number: \_\_\_\_\_. The Contractor's eMM identification number is \_\_\_\_\_. Payments to the Contractor pursuant to this Contract shall be made no later than 30 days after the Department's receipt of a proper invoice from the Contractor. Charges for late payment of invoices other than as prescribed by Title 15, Subtitle 1, of the State Finance and Procurement Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, as from time-to-time amended, are prohibited. Invoices shall be submitted to the Contract Manager. The final payment under this Contract will not be made until after certification is received from the Comptroller of the State that all taxes have been paid.
- 4.3. In addition to any other available remedies, if, in the opinion of the Procurement Officer, the Contractor fails to perform in a satisfactory and timely manner, the Procurement Officer may refuse or limit approval of any invoice for payment, and may cause payments to the Contractor to be reduced or withheld until such time as the Contractor meets performance standards as established by the Procurement Officer.
- 4.4. Payment of an invoice by the Department is not evidence that services were rendered as

required under this Contract.

## 5. Patents, Copyrights, Intellectual Property

- 5.1. All copyrights, patents, trademarks, trade secrets, and any other intellectual property rights existing prior to the Effective Date of this Contract shall belong to the party that owned such rights immediately prior to the Effective Date (“Pre-Existing Intellectual Property”). “Contractor Materials” means all Pre-Existing Intellectual Property of Contractor and all other intellectual property acquired or developed by Contractor other than in connection with this Contract, and any modifications and derivatives thereof. If Pre-Existing Intellectual Property or Contractor Material includes any design, device, material, process, or other item, which is protected covered by a patent or copyright or which is proprietary to or a trade secret of another, the Contractor shall obtain the necessary permission or license to permit the State to use such item or items pursuant to its rights granted under the Contract.
- 5.2. Except for (1) information created or otherwise owned by the Department or licensed by the Department from third-parties, including all information provided by the Department to Contractor, (2) Software and other deliverables created by Contractor or its subcontractor(s) specifically for the State under the Contract (“Deliverables”), except for any Contractor Materials included therein, and (3) the license rights granted to the State, all right, title, and interest in the intellectual property embodied in the solution, including the know-how and methods by which the solution is provided and the processes that make up the solution, will belong solely and exclusively to Contractor and its licensors, and the Department will have no rights to the same except as expressly granted in this Contract. Any SaaS Software developed by Contractor during the performance of the Contract will belong solely and exclusively to Contractor and its licensors. For all Software provided by the Contractor under the Contract, Contractor hereby grants to the State a nonexclusive, irrevocable, unlimited, perpetual, non-cancelable, and non-terminable right to use and make copies of the Software and any modifications to the Software. For all Contractor Materials embedded in any Deliverables, subject to the terms and conditions herein, Contractor grants to the State the right to use such Contractor Materials in connection with its permitted use of such Deliverable. The rights granted to the State under this Section 5.2 are contingent upon the State’s payment for the applicable Deliverables. During the period between delivery of a Deliverable by Contractor and the date of payment therefor by the State in accordance with this Contract (including throughout the duration of any payment dispute discussions), subject to the terms and conditions contained herein, Contractor grants the State a royalty-free, non-exclusive, limited license to use such Deliverable and to use any Contractor Materials contained therein in accordance with this Contract.
- 5.3. Subject to the terms of Section 6, Contractor shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the State and its agents, officers, and employees, from and against any and all claims, costs, losses, damages, liabilities, judgments and expenses (including without limitation reasonable attorneys’ fees) arising out of or in connection with any third party claim that products the Contractor provided to the State under this Contract infringes, misappropriates or otherwise violates any third-party intellectual property rights. Contractor shall not enter into any settlement involving third party claims that contains any admission of or stipulation to any guilt, fault, liability or wrongdoing by the State or that adversely affects the State’s rights or interests, without the State’s prior written consent.
- 5.4. To the extent permitted by law, Contractor shall be entitled to control the defense or settlement of such claim provided that the State will, upon requesting indemnification hereunder: (a)

provide reasonable cooperation to Contractor in connection with the defense or settlement of any such claim, at Contractor's expense; and (b) be entitled to participate in the defense of any such claim at its own expense.

- 5.5 Except if Contractor has pre-existing knowledge of such infringement, Contractor's obligations under this section will not apply to the extent any third-party intellectual property infringes, misappropriates or otherwise violates any third party intellectual rights as a result of (i) modifications made by the State, in violation of the license granted to the State pursuant to section 5.2 or which were not approved in writing by Contractor, (ii) the failure of the State to use any corrections or modifications made available by Contractor, (iii) the combination, operation or use of the solution or Deliverable in connection with a third-party product, platform, network, data or service not provided by the Contractor (the combination of which causes the infringement); or (iv) Contractor's compliance with the written specifications or directions of the State to incorporate third party Software or other materials which causes infringement.
- 5.6. Without limiting Contractor's obligations under Section 5.3, if all or any part of any Deliverable or solution is held, or Contractor reasonably determines that it could be held, to infringe, misappropriate or otherwise violate any third party intellectual property right, Contractor (after consultation with the State and at no cost to the State) shall: (a) procure for the State the right to continue using the Deliverable or solution in accordance with its rights under this Contract; (b) replace the Deliverable or solution with an item that (i) does not infringe, misappropriate or otherwise violate any third party intellectual property rights and (ii) complies with the item's specifications, and all rights of use and/or ownership set forth in this Contract; or (c) modify the Deliverable or solution so that it no longer infringes, misappropriates or otherwise violates any third party intellectual property right and remains compliant with the Deliverable or solution's specifications and all rights of use and/or ownership set forth in this Contract or (d) refund any pre-paid fees for the allegedly infringing services that have not been performed or provide a reasonable pro-rata refund for the allegedly infringing Deliverable or solution.
- 5.7. Except for any Pre-Existing Intellectual Property and third-party intellectual property, Contractor shall not acquire any right, title or interest (including any intellectual property rights subsisting therein) in or to any goods, Software, technical information, specifications, drawings, records, documentation, data or any other materials (including any derivative works thereof) provided by the State to the Contractor. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, the State may, in its sole and absolute discretion, grant the Contractor a license to such materials, subject to the terms of a separate writing executed by the Contractor and an authorized representative of the State. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the State agrees to secure all necessary rights, licenses and/or permissions to allow Contractor to access and use any goods, Software, technical information, specifications, drawings, records, documentation, data or any other materials the State provides to the Contractor in Contractor's performance of the services or production of the Deliverables.
- 5.8. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, neither Contractor nor any of its subcontractors shall use any Software or technology in a manner that will cause any patents, copyrights or other intellectual property which are owned or controlled by the State or any of its affiliates (or for which the State or any of its subcontractors has received license rights) to become subject to any encumbrance or terms and conditions of any third-party or open source license (including, without limitation, any open source license listed on

<http://www.opensource.org/licenses/alphabetical>) (each an “Open Source License”). These restrictions, limitations, exclusions and conditions shall apply even if the State or any of its subcontractors becomes aware of or fails to act in a manner to address any violation or failure to comply therewith. No act by the State or any of its subcontractors that is undertaken under this Contract as to any Software or technology shall be construed as intending to cause any patents, copyrights or other intellectual property that are owned or controlled by the State (or for which the State has received license rights) to become subject to any encumbrance or terms and conditions of any Open Source License.

- 5.9. The Contractor shall report to the Department, promptly and in written detail, each notice or claim of copyright infringement received by the Contractor with respect to all Deliverables delivered under this Contract.
- 5.10 The Contractor shall not affix (or permit any third party to affix), without the Department’s consent, any restrictive markings upon any deliverables that are owned by the State, and if such markings are affixed, the Department shall have the right at any time to modify, remove, obliterate, or ignore such warnings.

## **6. Indemnification**

- 6.1. At its sole cost and expense, Contractor shall indemnify, defend, and hold the State, its directors, officers, employees and agents harmless from and against any and all claims, demands, actions, suits, damages, liabilities, losses, settlements, judgments, costs and expenses (including but not limited to reasonable attorney’s fees and costs), whether or not involving a third party claim, which arise out of or relate to the performance of this Contract. Contractor shall not enter into any settlement involving third party claims that contains any admission of or stipulation to any guilt, fault, liability or wrongdoing by the State or that adversely affects the State’s rights or interests, without the State’s prior written consent.
- 6.2. The State has no obligation to provide legal counsel or defense to the Contractor or its subcontractors in the event that a suit, claim or action of any character is brought by any person not party to this Contract against the Contractor or its subcontractors as a result of or relating to the Contractor's obligations under this Contract.
- 6.3. The State has no indemnity obligation for the payment of any judgments or the settlement of any claims against the Contractor or its subcontractors as a result of or relating to the Contractor's obligations under this Contract.
- 6.4. The Contractor shall (i) immediately notify the Procurement Officer of any claim or suit made or filed against the Contractor or its subcontractors regarding any matter resulting from or relating to the performance under the Contract and (ii) without limiting its obligations under Section 6.1, cooperate, assist, and consult with the State in the defense or investigation of any claim, suit, or action made or filed by a third party against the State as a result of or relating to the Contractor's performance under this Contract.

## **7. Limitations of Liability**

- 7.1. To the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, the Contractor’s liability under this Contract for loss or damages (i) caused by use of any defective or deficient supplies, products, equipment and/or services delivered under this Contract or (ii) related to the Contractor’s performance under this Contract shall not exceed one times the total value of the Contract or \$1,000,000, whichever is greater. The above limitation of liability is per incident. The foregoing limitation will not apply, however, to liability arising from: (a) personal injury or

death; (b) defect or deficiency caused by willful misconduct or negligence on the part of the Contractor; or (c) circumstances where the contract expressly provides a right to damages, indemnification or reimbursement. Contractor's indemnification obligations for Third-party claims arising under Section 6 ("Indemnification") of this Contract are included in this limitation of liability only if the State is immune from liability. Contractor's indemnification liability for third-party claims arising under Section 6 of this Contract shall be unlimited if the State is not immune from liability for claims arising under Section 6.

7.1.1. In no event shall the existence of a subcontract operate to release or reduce the liability of Contractor hereunder. For purposes of this Contract, Contractor agrees that it is responsible for performance of the services and compliance with the relevant obligations hereunder by its Subcontractors.

## **8. Prompt Pay Requirements**

- 8.1. If the Contractor withholds payment of an undisputed amount to its subcontractor, the State, at its option and in its sole discretion, may take one or more of the following actions:
- (a) Not process further payments to the Contractor until payment to the subcontractor is verified;
  - (b) Suspend all or some of the Contract work without affecting the completion date(s) for the Contract work;
  - (c) Pay or cause payment of the undisputed amount to the subcontractor from monies otherwise due or that may become due to the Contractor;
  - (d) Place a payment for an undisputed amount in an interest-bearing escrow account; or
  - (e) Default Contractor for failing to perform in accordance with the requirement to promptly pay sub-contractors.
  - (f) Take other or further actions as appropriate to resolve the withheld payment.
- 8.2. An "undisputed amount" means an amount owed by the Contractor to a subcontractor for which there is no good faith dispute. Such "undisputed amounts" include (a) retainage which had been withheld and is, by the terms of the agreement between the Contractor and subcontractor, due to be distributed to the subcontractor and (b) an amount withheld because of issues arising out of an agreement or occurrence unrelated to the agreement under which the amount is withheld.
- 8.3. An act, failure to act, or decision of a Procurement Officer or a representative of the Department concerning a withheld payment between the Contractor and subcontractor under this Contract, may not:
- (a) Affect the rights of the contracting parties under any other provision of law;
  - (b) Be used as evidence on the merits of a dispute between the Department and the Contractor in any other proceeding; or
  - (c) Result in liability against or prejudice the rights of the Department.
- 8.4. The remedies enumerated above are in addition to those provided under COMAR 21.11.03.13 with respect to subcontractors that have contracted pursuant to the Minority Business Enterprise program.

## **9. Risk of Loss; Transfer of Title**

Risk of loss for conforming supplies, equipment and materials specified as Deliverables to the State hereunder shall remain with the Contractor until such supplies, equipment, materials and other Deliverables are received and accepted by the State, following which, title shall pass to the State.

## **10. Confidentiality**

Subject to the Maryland Public Information Act and any other applicable laws, all confidential or proprietary information and documentation relating to either party (including without limitation, any information or data stored within the Contractor's computer systems and/or cloud infrastructure, if applicable) shall be held in confidence by the other party, using a reasonable degree of care, but in no event less than that applied to the party's own such confidential or proprietary information. Each party shall, however, be permitted to disclose relevant confidential information to its officers, agents and employees to the extent that such disclosure is necessary for the performance of their duties under this Contract, provided the data may be collected, used, disclosed, stored and disseminated only as provided by and consistent with the law. Each officer, employee and/or subcontractor to whom any of the Department's confidential information is to be disclosed shall be advised by Contractor of and bound by confidentiality and intellectual property terms substantially equivalent to those of this Contract. The provisions of this section shall not apply to information that (a) is lawfully in the public domain; (b) has been independently developed by the other party without violation of this Contract; (c) was already rightfully in the possession of such party; (d) was supplied to such party by a third party lawfully in possession thereof and legally permitted to further disclose the information; or (e) which such party is required to disclose by law.

## **11. Exclusive Use and Ownership**

Except as may otherwise be set forth in this Contract, Contractor shall not use, sell, sub-lease, assign, give, or otherwise transfer to any third party any other information or material provided to Contractor by the Department or developed by Contractor relating to the Contract, except that Contractor may provide said information to any of its officers, employees and subcontractors who Contractor requires to have said information for fulfillment of Contractor's obligations hereunder.

## **12. Source Code Escrow**

Source code escrow does not apply to this Contract.

## **13. Notification of Legal Requests**

The Contractor shall contact the State upon receipt of any electronic discovery, litigation holds, discovery searches and expert testimonies related to the State's data under this Contract, or which in any way might reasonably require access to the State's data, unless prohibited by law from providing such notice. The Contractor shall not respond to subpoenas, service of process and other legal requests related to the State without first notifying the State, unless prohibited by law from providing such notice.

## **14. Termination and Suspension of Service**

- 14.1. Upon termination or the end of the Term of this Contract, the Contractor must provide transition assistance requested by the State to facilitate the orderly transfer of services to the State or a follow-on contractor for the State as follows: (a) return to the State all State data in either the form it was provided to the Contractor or in a mutually agreed format; (b) provide the schema necessary for reading of such returned data; (c) preserve, maintain, and protect all

State data for a period of up to ninety (90) days after the termination or expiration date, so that the State can ensure that all returned data is readable; (d) not delete State data until the earlier of ninety (90) days or the date the State directs such deletion; (e) after the retention period, the Contractor shall securely dispose of all State data in all of its forms, such as disk, CD/DVD, backup tape and paper; State data shall be permanently deleted and shall not be recoverable, according to NIST-approved methods; and certificates of destruction shall be provided to the State; and (f) prepare an accurate accounting from which the State and Contractor may reconcile all outstanding accounts. The final monthly invoice for the services provided hereunder shall include all charges for the ninety-day data retention period.

14.2 The Contractor shall, unless legally prohibited from doing so, securely dispose of all State data in its systems or otherwise in its possession or under its control, in all of its forms, such as disk, CD/DVD, backup tape and paper, when requested by the State. Data shall be permanently deleted and shall not be recoverable, according to NIST-approved methods. Certificates of destruction shall be provided to the State.

14.3 During any period of service suspension, the Contractor shall not erase any State data.

14.4 The State shall be entitled to any post-termination assistance generally made available with respect to the services.

#### 15. **Data Center Audit**

A SOC 2 Audit applies to this Contract.

#### 16. **Change Control and Advance Notice**

Unless otherwise specified in an applicable Service Level Agreement, the Contractor shall give seven (7) days advance notice to the State of any upgrades or modifications that may impact service availability and performance.

Contractor may not modify the functionality or features of any SaaS provided hereunder if such modification materially degrades the functionality of the SaaS.

#### 17. **Redundancy, Data Backup and Disaster Recovery**

Unless specified otherwise in the RFP, the Contractor must maintain or cause to be maintained disaster avoidance procedures designed to safeguard State data and other confidential information, Contractor's processing capability and the availability of hosted services, in each case throughout the Term. Any force majeure provisions of this Contract do not limit the Contractor's obligations under this "Redundancy, Data Backup and Disaster Recovery" Contract provision.

#### 18. **Effect of Contractor Bankruptcy**

All rights and licenses granted by the Contractor under this Contract are and shall be deemed to be rights and licenses to "intellectual property," and the subject matter of this Contract, including services, is and shall be deemed to be "embodiments of intellectual property" for purposes of and as such terms are used and interpreted under § 365(n) of the United States Bankruptcy Code ("Code") (11 U.S.C. § 365(n) (2010)). The State has the right to exercise all rights and elections under the Code and all other applicable bankruptcy, insolvency and similar laws with respect to this Contract (including all executory statement of works). Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, if the Contractor or its estate becomes subject to any bankruptcy or similar proceeding: (a) subject to the State's rights of election, all rights and licenses granted to the State under this Contract shall continue subject to the respective terms and conditions of this Contract; and (b) the

State shall be entitled to a complete duplicate of (or complete access to, as appropriate) all such intellectual property and embodiments of intellectual property, and the same, if not already in the State's possession, shall be promptly delivered to the State, unless the Contractor elects to and does in fact continue to perform all of its obligations under this Contract.

#### **19. Parent Company Guarantee (If Applicable)**

[Corporate name of Parent Company] hereby guarantees absolutely the full, prompt and complete performance by "[Contractor]" of all the terms, conditions and obligations contained in this Contract, as it may be amended from time to time, including any and all exhibits that are now or may become incorporated hereunto, and other obligations of every nature and kind that now or may in the future arise out of or in connection with this Contract, including any and all financial commitments, obligations and liabilities. "[Corporate name of Parent Company]" may not transfer this absolute guaranty to any other person or entity without the prior express written approval of the State, which approval the State may grant, withhold, or qualify in its sole and absolute discretion. "[Corporate name of Parent Company]" further agrees that if the State brings any claim, action, suit or proceeding against "[Contractor]", "[Corporate name of Parent Company]" may be named as a party, in its capacity as Absolute Guarantor.

#### **R20. General Terms and Conditions**

##### **R20.1. Pre-Existing Regulations**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 11-206 of the State Finance and Procurement Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, the regulations set forth in Title 21 of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR 21) in effect on the date of execution of this Contract are applicable to this Contract.

##### **R20.2. Maryland Law Prevails**

This Contract shall be construed, interpreted, and enforced according to the laws of the State of Maryland. The Maryland Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act (Commercial Law Article, Title 22 of the Annotated Code of Maryland) does not apply to this Contract, the Software, or any Software license acquired hereunder. Any and all references to the Annotated Code of Maryland contained in this Contract shall be construed to refer to such Code sections as from time to time amended.

##### **R20.3. Multi-year Contracts contingent upon Appropriations**

If the General Assembly fails to appropriate funds or if funds are not otherwise made available for continued performance for any fiscal period of this Contract succeeding the first fiscal period, this Contract shall be canceled automatically as of the beginning of the fiscal year for which funds were not appropriated or otherwise made available; provided, however, that this will not affect either the State's rights or the Contractor's rights under any termination clause in this Contract. The effect of termination of the Contract hereunder will be to discharge both the Contractor and the State of Maryland from future performance of the Contract, but not from their rights and obligations existing at the time of termination. The Contractor shall be reimbursed for the reasonable value of any nonrecurring costs incurred but not amortized in the price of the Contract. The State shall notify the Contractor as soon as it has knowledge that funds may not be available for the continuation of this Contract for each succeeding fiscal period beyond the first.

##### **R20.4. Cost and Price Certification**

- R20.4.1. The Contractor, by submitting cost or price information certifies that, to the best of its knowledge, the information submitted is accurate, complete, and current as of a mutually determined specified date prior to the conclusion of any price discussions or negotiations for:
- (1) A negotiated contract, if the total contract price is expected to exceed \$100,000, or a smaller amount set by the Procurement Officer; or
  - (2) A change order or contract modification, expected to exceed \$100,000, or a smaller amount set by the Procurement Officer.
- R20.4.2. The price under this Contract and any change order or modification hereunder, including profit or fee, shall be adjusted to exclude any significant price increases occurring because the Contractor furnished cost or price information which, as of the date agreed upon between the parties, was inaccurate, incomplete, or not current.

### **R20.5. Contract Modifications**

The Procurement Officer may, at any time, by written order, make changes in the work within the general scope of the Contract. No other order, statement or conduct of the Procurement Officer or any other person shall be treated as a change or entitle the Contractor to an equitable adjustment under this section. Except as otherwise provided in this Contract, if any change under this section causes an increase or decrease in the Contractor's cost of, or the time required for, the performance of any part of the work, an equitable adjustment in the Contract price and/or schedule shall be made and the Contract modified in writing accordingly. Pursuant to COMAR 21.10.04, the Contractor must assert in writing its right to an adjustment under this section and shall include a written statement setting forth the nature and cost of such claim. No claim by the Contractor shall be allowed if asserted after final payment under this Contract. Failure to agree to an adjustment under this section shall be a dispute under Section 20.8, Disputes. Nothing in this section shall excuse the Contractor from proceeding with the Contract as changed.

### **R20.6. Termination for Default**

If the Contractor fails to fulfill its obligations under this Contract properly and on time, or otherwise violates any provision of the Contract, the State may terminate the Contract by written notice to the Contractor. The notice shall specify the acts or omissions relied upon as cause for termination. All finished or unfinished work provided by the Contractor shall, at the State's option, become the State's property. The State of Maryland shall pay the Contractor fair and equitable compensation for satisfactory performance prior to receipt of notice of termination, less the amount of damages caused by the Contractor's breach. If the damages are more than the compensation payable to the Contractor, the Contractor will remain liable after termination and the State can affirmatively collect damages. Termination hereunder, including the termination of the rights and obligations of the parties, shall be governed by the provisions of COMAR 21.07.01.11B.

### **R20.7. Termination for Convenience**

The performance of work under this Contract may be terminated by the State in accordance with this clause in whole, or from time to time in part, whenever the State shall determine that such termination is in the best interest of the State. The State will pay all reasonable costs associated with this Contract that the Contractor has incurred up to the date of termination, and all reasonable costs associated with termination of the Contract. However,

the Contractor shall not be reimbursed for any anticipatory profits that have not been earned up to the date of termination. Termination hereunder, including the determination of the rights and obligations of the parties, shall be governed by the provisions of COMAR 21.07.01.12 (A)(2).

#### **R20.8. Disputes**

This Contract shall be subject to the provisions of Title 15, Subtitle 2, of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as from time to time amended, and COMAR 21.10 (Administrative and Civil Remedies). Pending resolution of a claim, the Contractor shall proceed diligently with the performance of the Contract in accordance with the Procurement Officer's decision. Unless a lesser period is provided by applicable statute, regulation, or the Contract, the Contractor must file a written notice of claim with the Procurement Officer within 30 days after the basis for the claim is known or should have been known, whichever is earlier. Contemporaneously with or within 30 days of the filing of a notice of claim, but no later than the date of final payment under the Contract, the Contractor must submit to the Procurement Officer its written claim containing the information specified in COMAR 21.10.04.02.

#### **R20.9. Living Wage**

If a Contractor subject to the Living Wage law fails to submit all records required under COMAR 21.11.10.05 to the Commissioner of Labor and Industry at the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, the Department may withhold payment of any invoice or retainage. The Department may require certification from the Commissioner on a quarterly basis that such records were properly submitted.

#### **R20.10. Non-Hiring of Employees**

No official or employee of the State of Maryland, as defined under General Provisions Article, §5-101, Annotated Code of Maryland, whose duties as such official or employee include matters relating to or affecting the subject matter of this Contract, shall during the pendency and Term of this Contract and while serving as an official or employee of the State become or be an employee of the Contractor or any entity that is a subcontractor on this Contract.

#### **R20.11. Nondiscrimination in Employment**

The Contractor agrees: (a) not to discriminate in any manner against an employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, creed, age, sex, marital status, national origin, sexual orientation, sexual identity, ancestry, or disability of a qualified person with a disability, sexual orientation, or any otherwise unlawful use of characteristics; (b) to include a provision similar to that contained in subsection (a), above, in any underlying subcontract except a subcontract for standard commercial supplies or raw materials; and (c) to post and to cause subcontractors to post in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment, notices setting forth the substance of this clause.

#### **R20.12. Commercial Non-Discrimination**

R20.12.1. As a condition of entering into this Contract, Contractor represents and warrants that it will comply with the State's Commercial Nondiscrimination Policy, as described under Title 19 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code

of Maryland. As part of such compliance, Contractor may not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, sexual identity, disability, or other unlawful forms of discrimination in the solicitation, selection, hiring, or commercial treatment of subcontractors, vendors, suppliers, or commercial customers, nor shall Contractor retaliate against any person for reporting instances of such discrimination. Contractor shall provide equal opportunity for subcontractors, vendors, and suppliers to participate in all of its public sector and private sector subcontracting and supply opportunities, provided that this clause does not prohibit or limit lawful efforts to remedy the effects of marketplace discrimination that have occurred or are occurring in the marketplace. Contractor understands that a material violation of this clause shall be considered a material breach of this Agreement and may result in termination of this Contract, disqualification of Contractor from participating in State contracts, or other sanctions. This clause is not enforceable by or for the benefit of, and creates no obligation to, any third party.

R20.12.2. As a condition of entering into this Contract, upon the request of the Commission on Civil Rights, and only after the filing of a complaint against Contractor under Title 19 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended from time to time, Contractor agrees to provide within 60 days after the request a complete list of the names of all subcontractors, vendors, and suppliers that Contractor has used in the past four (4) years on any of its contracts that were undertaken within the State of Maryland, including the total dollar amount paid by Contractor on each subcontract or supply contract. Contractor further agrees to cooperate in any investigation conducted by the State pursuant to the State's Commercial Nondiscrimination Policy as set forth under Title 19 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and to provide any documents relevant to any investigation that are requested by the State. Contractor understands that violation of this clause is a material breach of this Contract and may result in Contract termination, disqualification by the State from participating in State contracts, and other sanctions.

**R20.13. Subcontracting and Assignment**

The Contractor may not subcontract any of its obligations under this Contract without obtaining the prior written approval of the Procurement Officer, nor may the Contractor assign this Contract or any of its rights or obligations hereunder, without the prior written approval of the State, each at the State's sole and absolute discretion. Any such subcontract or assignment shall include the terms of this Contract and any other terms and conditions that the State deems necessary to protect its interests. The State shall not be responsible for the fulfillment of the Contractor's obligations to any subcontractors.

**R20.14. Minority Business Enterprise Participation**

There is no Minority Business Enterprise subcontractor participation goal for this Contract.

**R20.15. Insurance Requirements**

The Contractor shall maintain workers' compensation coverage, property and casualty insurance, cyber liability insurance, and any other insurance as required in the RFP. The

minimum limits of such policies must meet any minimum requirements established by law and the limits of insurance required by the RFP, and shall cover losses resulting from or arising out of Contractor action or inaction in the performance of services under the Contract by the Contractor, its agents, servants, employees or subcontractors. Effective no later than the date of execution of the Contract, and continuing for the duration of the Term, and any applicable transition periods, the Contractor shall maintain such insurance coverage and shall report such insurance annually or upon Contract renewal, whichever is earlier, to the Procurement Officer. The Contractor is required to notify the Procurement Officer in writing, if policies are cancelled or not renewed within five (5) days of learning of such cancellation and/or nonrenewal. Certificates of insurance evidencing this coverage shall be provided within five (5) days of notice of recommended award. All insurance policies shall be issued by a company properly authorized to do business in the State of Maryland. The State shall be included as an additional named insured on the property and casualty policy and as required in the RFP.

**R20.16. Veteran Owned Small Business Enterprise Participation**

There is no VSBE subcontractor participation goal for this procurement.

**R20.17. Security Requirements and Incident Response**

- R20.17.1. The Contractor agrees to abide by all applicable federal, State and local laws concerning information security and comply with current State and Department of Information Technology information security policy, currently found at <http://doit.maryland.gov/Publications/DoITSecurityPolicy.pdf>. Contractor shall limit access to and possession of Sensitive Data to only employees whose responsibilities reasonably require such access or possession and shall train such employees on the Confidentiality obligations set forth herein.
- R20.17.2. The Contractor agrees to notify the Department in accordance with Section R20.17.3 when any Contractor system that may access, process, or store Sensitive Data or State systems is subject to an unintended access or attack. Unintended access or attack means a compromise by a computer malware, malicious search engine, credential compromise or unauthorized access by an individual or automated program due to a failure to secure Contractor's a system in accordance with the terms of this Contract or adhere to security procedures required by this Contract.
- R20.17.3. The Contractor shall notify the Department within twenty-four (24) hours of the discovery of an unintended access or attack by providing notice via written or electronic correspondence to the Contract Manager, Department chief information officer and Department chief information security officer.
- R20.17.4. The Contractor agrees to notify the Department within two (2) hours if there is a threat to Contractor's product as it pertains to the use, disclosure, and security of the Department or Agency State data.
- R20.17.5. If an unauthorized use or disclosure of any Sensitive Data occurs, the Contractor must provide written notice to the Department within one (1) business day after Contractor's discovery of such use or disclosure and thereafter all information the State (or Department) requests concerning such unauthorized use or disclosure.
- R20.17.6. The Contractor, within one day of discovery, shall report to the Department any

improper or non-authorized use or disclosure of Sensitive Data. Contractor's report shall identify:

- (a) the nature of the unauthorized use or disclosure;
- (b) the Sensitive Data used or disclosed,
- (c) who made the unauthorized use or received the unauthorized disclosure;
- (d) what the Contractor has done or shall do to mitigate any deleterious effect of the unauthorized use or disclosure; and
- (e) what corrective action the Contractor has taken or shall take to prevent future similar unauthorized use or disclosure.
- (f) The Contractor shall provide such other information, including a written report, as reasonably requested by the State.

R20.17.7. The Contractor shall protect Sensitive Data according to a written security policy no less rigorous than that of the State, and shall supply a copy of such policy to the State for validation. The Contractor agrees to comply with all applicable laws that require the notification of individuals in the event of unauthorized release of Sensitive Data or other event requiring notification. In the event of a breach of any of the Contractor's security obligations or other event requiring notification under applicable law, the Contractor agrees to assume responsibility for informing all such individuals in accordance with applicable law and to indemnify, hold harmless and defend the State (or Department) and its officials and employees from and against any claims, damages, or other harm related to such security obligation breach or other event requiring the notification.

R20.17.8 The Contractor shall disclose all of its non-proprietary security processes and technical limitations to the State.

R20.17.9. This Section shall survive expiration or termination of this Contract.

#### **R20.18. Security Incident or Data Breach Notification**

The Contractor shall inform the State of any Security Incident or data breach.

R20.18.1. Incident Response: The Contractor may need to communicate with outside parties regarding a Security Incident, which may include contacting law enforcement, fielding media inquiries and seeking external expertise as mutually agreed upon, defined by law or contained in the Contract. Discussing Security Incidents with the State should be handled on an urgent as-needed basis, as part of Contractor communication and mitigation processes as mutually agreed upon, defined by law or contained in the Contract.

R20.18.2. Security Incident Reporting Requirements: The Contractor shall report a Security Incident to the appropriate State-identified contact immediately.

R20.18.3. Breach Reporting Requirements: If the Contractor has actual knowledge of a confirmed data breach that affects the security of any State content that is subject to applicable data breach notification law, the Contractor shall (1) promptly notify the appropriate State-identified contact within 24 hours or sooner, unless shorter time is required by applicable law, and (2) take commercially reasonable measures to address the data breach in a timely manner.

**R20.19 Data Breach Responsibilities**

This section only applies when a data breach occurs with respect to Sensitive Data within the possession or control of the Contractor.

- R20.19.1. The Contractor, unless stipulated otherwise, shall immediately notify the appropriate State-identified contact by telephone in accordance with the agreed upon security plan or security procedures if it reasonably believes there has been a Security Incident.
- R20.19.2. The Contractor, unless stipulated otherwise, shall promptly notify the appropriate State-identified contact within 24 hours or sooner by telephone, unless shorter time is required by applicable law, if it confirms that there is, or reasonably believes that there has been, a data breach. The Contractor shall (1) cooperate with the State to investigate and resolve the data breach, (2) promptly implement necessary remedial measures, if necessary, and (3) document responsive actions taken related to the data breach, including any post-incident review of events and actions taken to make changes in business practices in providing the services, if necessary.
- R20.19.3. Unless otherwise stipulated, if a data breach is a direct result of the Contractor's breach of its Contract obligation to encrypt Sensitive Data or otherwise prevent its release, the Contractor shall bear the costs associated with (1) the investigation and resolution of the data breach; (2) notifications to individuals, regulators or others required by State law; (3) a credit monitoring service required by State or federal law; (4) a website or a toll-free number and call center for affected individuals required by State law; and (5) complete all corrective actions as reasonably determined by Contractor based on root cause; all [(1) through (5)] subject to this Contract's limitation of liability.

**R21 Data Protection****R21.1 Data Ownership**

The State will own all right, title and interest in its data that is related to the services provided pursuant to this Contract. The Contractor and/or Subcontractor(s) shall not access public jurisdiction user accounts or public jurisdiction data, except (1) in the course of data center operations, (2) in response to service or technical issues, (3) as required by the express terms of this Contract, including as necessary to perform the services hereunder or (4) at the State's written request.

**R21.2 Loss of Data**

In the event of loss of any State data or records where such loss is due to the act, omission, or negligence of the Contractor or any of its subcontractors or agents, the Contractor shall be responsible for restoring such lost data in accordance with the Service Level Agreement. The Contractor shall ensure that all data is backed up and is recoverable by the Contractor. In accordance with prevailing federal or state law or regulations, the Contractor shall report the loss of non-public data as directed in Section 20.17.

Protection of data and personal privacy (as further described and defined in section 20.17) shall be an integral part of the business activities of the Contractor to ensure there is no inappropriate or unauthorized use of State information at any time. To this end, the Contractor shall safeguard the confidentiality, integrity and availability of State information and comply with the following

conditions:

- R21.2.1 The Contractor shall implement and maintain appropriate administrative, technical and organizational security measures to safeguard against unauthorized access, disclosure or theft of Sensitive Data and non-public data. Such security measures shall be in accordance with recognized industry practice and not less stringent than the measures the Contractor applies to its own Sensitive Data and non-public data of similar kind.
- R21.2.2 All data collected or created in the performance of this contract shall become and remain property of the State.
- R21.2.3 All Sensitive Data shall be encrypted at rest and in transit with controlled access, including back-ups. Unless otherwise stipulated, the Contractor is responsible for the encryption of the Sensitive Data.
- R21.2.4 Unless otherwise stipulated, the Contractor shall encrypt all non-public data at rest and in transit. The State shall identify data it deems as non-public data to the Contractor. The level of protection and encryption for all non-public data shall be identified and made a part of this Contract.
- R21.2.5 At no time shall any data or processes – that either belong to or are intended for the use of the State or its officers, agents or employees – be copied, disclosed or retained by the Contractor or any party related to the Contractor for subsequent use in any transaction that does not include the State.
- R21.2.6 The Contractor shall not use any information collected in connection with the service issued under this Contract for any purpose other than fulfilling the service.

## **R22 Other Mandatory Items**

### **R22.1 Data Location**

The Contractor shall provide its services to the State and its end users solely from data centers in the United States (“U.S.”). Storage of State data at rest shall be located solely in data centers in the U.S. The Contractor shall not allow its personnel or contractors to store State data on portable devices, including personal computers, except for devices that are used and kept only at its U.S. data centers. The Contractor shall permit its personnel and contractors to access State data remotely only as required to provide technical support. If requested by the State, the Contractor shall provide technical user support on a 24/7 basis.

### **R22.2 Import and Export of Data**

The State shall have the ability to import or export data in piecemeal or in entirety at its discretion without interference from the Contractor. This includes the ability for the State to import or export data to/from third parties.

### **R22.3 Encryption of Data at Rest**

The Contractor shall ensure hard drive encryption consistent with validated cryptography standards as referenced in FIPS 140-2, Security Requirements for Cryptographic Modules for all Sensitive Data, unless the State approves the storage of Sensitive Data on a Contractor portable device in order to accomplish Contract work. A minimum of AES-256 or better is acceptable to the State.

### **R22.4 Compliance with federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and State Confidentiality Law**

HIPAA clauses do not apply to this Contract.

### **R22.5. Suspension of Work**

The Procurement Officer unilaterally may order the Contractor in writing to suspend, delay, or interrupt all or any part of its performance for such period of time as the Procurement Officer may determine to be appropriate for the convenience of the State. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary elsewhere in this Contract or the RFP, (i) Contractor shall not be obligated to retain any personnel on this engagement during the suspension period, and (ii) upon recommencement of the services following any such suspension, Contractor may use personnel other than those performing the services immediately prior to the start of the suspension period. In the event of such a written order, the Procurement Officer may grant Contractor's request for a no cost extension of the Implementation Date.

### **R22.6. Delays and Extensions of Time**

The Contractor agrees to perform this Contract continuously and diligently. No charges or claims for damages shall be made by the Contractor for any delays or hindrances from any cause whatsoever during the progress of any portion of the work specified in this Contract. Time extensions will be granted only for excusable delays that arise from unforeseeable causes beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of the Contractor, including but not restricted to acts of God, acts of the public enemy, acts of the State in either its sovereign or contractual capacity, acts of another contractor in the performance of a contract with the State, fires, floods, epidemics, quarantine restrictions, strikes, freight embargoes, or delays of subcontractors or suppliers arising from unforeseeable causes beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of either the Contractor or the subcontractors or suppliers.

### **R22.7. Nonvisual Accessibility Warranty**

R22.7.1. The Contractor warrants that the information technology to be provided under the Contract.

- (a) provides equivalent access for effective use by both visual and non-visual means;
- (b) will present information, including prompts used for interactive communications, in formats intended for both visual and non-visual use;
- (c) if intended for use in a network, can be integrated into networks for obtaining, retrieving, and disseminating information used by individuals who are not blind or visually impaired; and
- (d) is available, whenever possible, without modification for compatibility with Software and hardware for non-visual access.

R22.7.2. The Contractor further warrants that the cost, if any, of modifying the information technology for compatibility with Software and hardware used for non-visual access does not increase the cost of the information technology by more than five percent. For purposes of this Contract, the phrase "equivalent access" means the ability to receive, use and manipulate information and operate controls necessary to access and use information technology by non-visual means. Examples of equivalent access include keyboard controls used for input and synthesized speech, Braille, or other audible or tactile means used for output.

**R22.8. Compliance with Laws/Arrearages**

The Contractor hereby represents and warrants that:

- R22.8.1 It is qualified to do business in the State of Maryland and that it will take such action as, from time to time hereafter, may be necessary to remain so qualified;
- R22.8.2. It is not in arrears with respect to the payment of any monies due and owing the State of Maryland, or any department or unit thereof, including but not limited to the payment of taxes and employee benefits, and that it shall not become so in arrears during the Term;
- R22.8.3. It shall comply with all federal, State and local laws, regulations, and ordinances applicable to its activities and obligations under this Contract; and,
- R22.8.4. It shall obtain, at its expense, all licenses, permits, insurance, and governmental approvals, if any, necessary to the performance of its obligations under this Contract.

**R22.9 Contingent Fee Prohibition**

The Contractor warrants that it has not employed or retained any person, partnership, corporation, or other entity, other than a bona fide employee or bona fide agent working for the Contractor, to solicit or secure this Contract, and that it has not paid or agreed to pay any person, partnership, corporation or other entity, other than a bona fide employee or bona fide agent, any fee or other consideration contingent on the making of this Contract.

**R22.10. Financial Disclosure**

The Contractor shall comply with the provisions of §13-221 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, which requires that every business that enters into contracts, leases, or other agreements with the State of Maryland or its agencies during a calendar year under which the business is to receive in the aggregate \$100,000 or more, shall, within 30 days of the time when the aggregate value of these contracts, leases or other agreements reaches \$100,000, file with the Secretary of State of Maryland certain specified information to include disclosure of beneficial ownership of the business.

**R22.11 Political Contribution Disclosure**

The Contractor shall comply with Md. Code Ann., Election Law Article, Title 14, which requires that every person that enters into a contract for a procurement with the State, a county, or a municipal corporation, or other political subdivision of the State, during a calendar year in which the person receives a contract with a governmental entity in the amount of \$200,000 or more, shall file with the State Board of Elections statements disclosing: (a) any contributions made during the reporting period to a candidate for elective office in any primary or general election; and (b) the name of each candidate to whom one or more contributions in a cumulative amount of \$500 or more were made during the reporting period. The statement shall be filed with the State Board of Elections: (a) before execution of a contract by the State, a county, a municipal corporation, or other political subdivision of the State, and shall cover the 24 months prior to when a contract was awarded; and (b) if the contribution is made after the execution of a contract, then twice a year, throughout the Term, on or before: (i) May 31, to cover the six (6) month period ending April 30; and (ii) November 30, to cover the six (6) month period ending

October 31. Additional information is available on the State Board of Elections website: [http://www.elections.state.md.us/campaign\\_finance/index.html](http://www.elections.state.md.us/campaign_finance/index.html).

### **R22.12 Retention of Records**

R22.112.1. The Contractor and Subcontractors shall retain and maintain all records and documents in any way relating to this Contract for three (3) years after final payment by the State under this Contract, or any applicable statute of limitations, prevailing federal or State law or regulation, or condition of award, whichever is longer, and shall make them available for inspection and audit by authorized representatives of the State, including the Procurement Officer or the Procurement Officer's designee, at all reasonable times. The Contractor shall, upon request by the Department, surrender all and every copy of documents needed by the State, including, but not limited to itemized billing documentation containing the dates, hours spent and work performed by the Contractor and its subcontractors under the Contract. The Contractor agrees to cooperate fully in any audit conducted by or on behalf of the State, including, by way of example only, making records and employees available as, where, and to the extent requested by the State and by assisting the auditors in reconciling any audit variances. Contractor shall not be compensated for providing any such cooperation and assistance. All records related in any way to the Contract are to be retained for the entire time provided under this section.

R22.12.2. This provision shall survive expiration of this Contract.

### **R23. Right to Audit**

R23.1 The State reserves the right, at its sole discretion and at any time, to perform an audit of the Contractor's and/or Subcontractors' performance under this Contract. In this agreement, an audit is defined as a planned and documented independent activity performed by qualified personnel, including but not limited to State and federal auditors, to determine by investigation, examination, or evaluation of objective evidence from data, statements, records, operations and performance practices (financial or otherwise) the Contractor's compliance with the Contract, including but not limited to the adequacy and compliance with established procedures and internal controls over the services being performed for the State.

R23.2 Upon three (3) business days' notice, Contractor and/or Subcontractors shall provide the State reasonable access during normal business hours to their records to verify conformance to the terms of this Contract. The State shall be permitted to conduct these audits with any or all of its own internal resources or by securing the services of a third party accounting/audit firm, solely at the State's election. The State shall have the right to copy, at its own expense, any record related to the services performed pursuant to this Contract.

R23.3 Contractor and/or Subcontractors shall cooperate with the State or the designated auditor and shall provide the necessary assistance for the State or the designated auditor to conduct the audit.

R23.4 The right to audit shall include subcontractors in which goods or services are subcontracted by Contractor and/or Subcontractors and that provide essential support to the services provided to the State under this Contract. Contractor and/or

Subcontractors shall ensure the State has the right to audit with any lower tier subcontractor.

**24. Administrative Information**

**24.1. Procurement Officer and Contract Manager**

The day-to-day work to be accomplished under this Contract shall be performed under the direction of the Contract Manager and, as appropriate, the Procurement Officer. All matters relating to the interpretation of this Contract shall be referred to the Procurement Officer for determination.

**24.2. Notices**

All notices hereunder shall be in writing and either delivered personally or sent by certified or registered mail, postage prepaid as follows:

If to the State:

Susan Lyon  
Department of Information Technology (DoIT)  
100 Community Place, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Crownsville, MD 21032  
Phone Number: 410-697-9356  
E-Mail: susan.lyon@maryland.gov

With a copy to:

Alicia Baltimore  
Department of Information Technology (DoIT)  
100 Community Place, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Crownsville, MD 21032  
Phone Number: 410-697-9673  
E-Mail: Alicia.baltimore@maryland.gov

If to the Contractor:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Attn: \_\_\_\_\_

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the parties have executed this Contract as of the date hereinabove set forth.

CONTRACTOR

STATE OF MARYLAND

Department of Information Technology (DoIT)

\_\_\_\_\_  
By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
By: Department Head

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Or designee:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Approved for form and legal sufficiency  
this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Attorney General

APPROVED BY BPW: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(BPW Item #)

**ATTACHMENT B - BID/PROPOSAL AFFIDAVIT****A. AUTHORITY**

I hereby affirm that I, \_\_\_\_\_ (name of affiant) am the \_\_\_\_\_ (title) and duly authorized representative of \_\_\_\_\_ (name of business entity) and that I possess the legal authority to make this affidavit on behalf of the business for which I am acting.

**B. CERTIFICATION REGARDING COMMERCIAL NONDISCRIMINATION**

The undersigned Bidder/Offeror hereby certifies and agrees that the following information is correct: In preparing its Bid/Proposal on this project, the Bidder/Offeror has considered all quotes submitted from qualified, potential subcontractors and suppliers, and has not engaged in "discrimination" as defined in § 19-103 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. "Discrimination" means any disadvantage, difference, distinction, or preference in the solicitation, selection, hiring, or commercial treatment of a vendor, subcontractor, or commercial customer on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, or national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or on the basis of disability or any otherwise unlawful use of characteristics regarding the vendor's, supplier's, or commercial customer's employees or owners. "Discrimination" also includes retaliating against any person or other entity for reporting any incident of "discrimination". Without limiting any other provision of the solicitation on this project, it is understood that, if the certification is false, such false certification constitutes grounds for the State to reject the Bid/Proposal submitted by the Bidder/Offeror on this project, and terminate any contract awarded based on the Bid/Proposal. As part of its Bid/Proposal, the Bidder/Offeror herewith submits a list of all instances within the past 4 years where there has been a final adjudicated determination in a legal or administrative proceeding in the State of Maryland that the Bidder/Offeror discriminated against subcontractors, vendors, suppliers, or commercial customers, and a description of the status or resolution of that determination, including any remedial action taken. Bidder/Offeror agrees to comply in all respects with the State's Commercial Nondiscrimination Policy as described under Title 19 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

**B-1. CERTIFICATION REGARDING MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES.**

The undersigned Bidder/Offeror hereby certifies and agrees that it has fully complied with the State Minority Business Enterprise Law, State Finance and Procurement Article, § 14-308(a)(2), Annotated Code of Maryland, which provides that, except as otherwise provided by law, a contractor may not identify a certified minority business enterprise in a Bid/Proposal and:

- (1) Fail to request, receive, or otherwise obtain authorization from the certified minority business enterprise to identify the certified minority proposal;
- (2) Fail to notify the certified minority business enterprise before execution of the contract of its inclusion in the Bid/Proposal;
- (3) Fail to use the certified minority business enterprise in the performance of the contract; or
- (4) Pay the certified minority business enterprise solely for the use of its name in the Bid/Proposal.

Without limiting any other provision of the solicitation on this project, it is understood that if the certification is false, such false certification constitutes grounds for the State to reject the Bid/Proposal submitted by the Bidder/Offeror on this project, and terminate any contract awarded based on the Bid/Proposal.

**B-2. CERTIFICATION REGARDING VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISES.**

The undersigned Bidder/Offeror hereby certifies and agrees that it has fully complied with the State veteran-owned small business enterprise law, State Finance and Procurement Article, § 14-605, Annotated Code of Maryland, which provides that a person may not:

- (1) Knowingly and with intent to defraud, fraudulently obtain, attempt to obtain, or aid another person in fraudulently obtaining or attempting to obtain public money, procurement contracts, or funds expended under a procurement contract to which the person is not entitled under this title;
- (2) Knowingly and with intent to defraud, fraudulently represent participation of a veteran-owned small business enterprise in order to obtain or retain a Bid/Proposal preference or a procurement contract;
- (3) Willfully and knowingly make or subscribe to any statement, declaration, or other document that is fraudulent or false as to any material matter, whether or not that falsity or fraud is committed with the knowledge or consent of the person authorized or required to present the declaration, statement, or document;
- (4) Willfully and knowingly aid, assist in, procure, counsel, or advise the preparation or presentation of a declaration, statement, or other document that is fraudulent or false as to any material matter, regardless of whether that falsity or fraud is committed with the knowledge or consent of the person authorized or required to present the declaration, statement, or document;
- (5) Willfully and knowingly fail to file any declaration or notice with the unit that is required by COMAR 21.11.12; or
- (6) Establish, knowingly aid in the establishment of, or exercise control over a business found to have violated a provision of § B-2(1)-(5) of this regulation.

**C. AFFIRMATION REGARDING BRIBERY CONVICTIONS**

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

Neither I, nor to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the above business (as is defined in Section 16-101(b) of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland), or any of its officers, directors, partners, controlling stockholders, or any of its employees directly involved in the business's contracting activities including obtaining or performing contracts with public bodies has been convicted of, or has had probation before judgment imposed pursuant to Criminal Procedure Article, § 6-220, Annotated Code of Maryland, or has pleaded nolo contendere to a charge of, bribery, attempted bribery, or conspiracy to bribe in violation of Maryland law, or of the law of any other state or federal law, except as follows (indicate the reasons why the affirmation cannot be given and list any conviction, plea, or imposition of probation before judgment with the date, court, official or administrative body, the sentence or disposition, the name(s) of person(s) involved, and their current positions and responsibilities with the business):

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**D. AFFIRMATION REGARDING OTHER CONVICTIONS**

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

Neither I, nor to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the above business, or any of its officers, directors, partners, controlling stockholders, or any of its employees directly involved in the business's contracting activities including obtaining or performing contracts with public bodies, has:

- (1) Been convicted under state or federal statute of:
  - (a) A criminal offense incident to obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public or private contract; or
  - (b) Fraud, embezzlement, theft, forgery, falsification or destruction of records or receiving stolen property;
- (2) Been convicted of any criminal violation of a state or federal antitrust statute;
- (3) Been convicted under the provisions of Title 18 of the United States Code for violation of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act, 18 U.S.C. § 1961 et seq., or the Mail Fraud Act, 18 U.S.C. § 1341 et seq., for acts in connection with the submission of Bids/Proposals for a public or private contract;
- (4) Been convicted of a violation of the State Minority Business Enterprise Law, § 14-308 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland;
- (5) Been convicted of a violation of § 11-205.1 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland;
- (6) Been convicted of conspiracy to commit any act or omission that would constitute grounds for conviction or liability under any law or statute described in subsections (1)—(5) above;
- (7) Been found civilly liable under a state or federal antitrust statute for acts or omissions in connection with the submission of Bids/Proposals for a public or private contract;
- (8) Been found in a final adjudicated decision to have violated the Commercial Nondiscrimination Policy under Title 19 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland with regard to a public or private contract;
- (9) Been convicted of a violation of one or more of the following provisions of the Internal Revenue Code:
  - (a) §7201, Attempt to Evade or Defeat Tax;
  - (b) §7203, Willful Failure to File Return, Supply Information, or Pay Tax,
  - (c) §7205, Fraudulent Withholding Exemption Certificate or Failure to Supply Information;
  - (d) §7206, Fraud and False Statements, or
  - (e) §7207 Fraudulent Returns, Statements, or Other Documents;
- (10) Been convicted of a violation of 18 U.S.C. §286 Conspiracy to Defraud the Government with Respect to Claims, 18 U.S.C. §287, False, Fictitious, or Fraudulent Claims, or 18 U.S.C. §371, Conspiracy to Defraud the United States;
- (11) Been convicted of a violation of the Tax-General Article, Title 13, Subtitle 7 or Subtitle 10, Annotated Code of Maryland;
- (12) Been found to have willfully or knowingly violated State Prevailing Wage Laws as provided in the State Finance and Procurement Article, Title 17, Subtitle 2, Annotated Code of Maryland, if:
  - (a) A court:

- (i) Made the finding; and
- (ii) Decision became final; or

(b) The finding was:

- (i) Made in a contested case under the Maryland Administrative Procedure act; and
- (ii) Not overturned on judicial review;

(13) Been found to have willfully or knowingly violated State Living Wage Laws as provided in the State Finance and Procurement Article, Title 18, Annotated Code of Maryland, if:

(a) A court:

- (i) Made the finding; and
- (ii) Decision became final; or

(b) The finding was:

- (i) Made in a contested case under the Maryland Administrative Procedure act; and
- (ii) Not overturned on judicial review;

(14) Been found to have willfully or knowingly violated the Labor and Employment Article, Title 3, Subtitles 3, 4, or 5, or Title 5, Annotated Code of Maryland, if:

(a) A court:

- (i) Made the finding; and
- (ii) Decision became final; or

(b) The finding was:

- (i) Made in a contested case under the Maryland Administrative Procedure act; and
- (ii) Not overturned on judicial review; or

(15) Admitted in writing or under oath, during the course of an official investigation or other proceedings, acts or omissions that would constitute grounds for conviction or liability under any law or statute described in §§ B and C and subsections D(1)—(14 above, except as follows (indicate reasons why the affirmations cannot be given, and list any conviction, plea, or imposition of probation before judgment with the date, court, official or administrative body, the sentence or disposition, the name(s) of the person(s) involved and their current positions and responsibilities with the business, and the status of any debarment):

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**E. AFFIRMATION REGARDING DEBARMENT**

**I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:**

Neither I, nor to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the above business, or any of its officers, directors, partners, controlling stockholders, or any of its employees directly involved in the business's contracting activities, including obtaining or performing contracts with public bodies, has ever been suspended or debarred (including being issued a limited denial of participation) by any

public entity, except as follows (list each debarment or suspension providing the dates of the suspension or debarment, the name of the public entity and the status of the proceedings, the name(s) of the person(s) involved and their current positions and responsibilities with the business, the grounds of the debarment or suspension, and the details of each person's involvement in any activity that formed the grounds of the debarment or suspension).

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**F. AFFIRMATION REGARDING DEBARMENT OF RELATED ENTITIES**

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

(1) The business was not established and it does not operate in a manner designed to evade the application of or defeat the purpose of debarment pursuant to Sections 16-101, et seq., of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland; and

(2) The business is not a successor, assignee, subsidiary, or affiliate of a suspended or debarred business, except as follows (you must indicate the reasons why the affirmations cannot be given without qualification):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**G. SUBCONTRACT AFFIRMATION**

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

Neither I, nor to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the above business, has knowingly entered into a contract with a public body under which a person debarred or suspended under Title 16 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland will provide, directly or indirectly, supplies, services, architectural services, construction related services, leases of real property, or construction.

**H. AFFIRMATION REGARDING COLLUSION**

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

Neither I, nor to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the above business has:

(1) Agreed, conspired, connived, or colluded to produce a deceptive show of competition in the compilation of the accompanying Bid/Proposal that is being submitted;

(2) In any manner, directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement of any kind to fix the Bid/Proposal price of the Bidder/Offeror or of any competitor, or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competitive bidding in connection with the contract for which the accompanying Bid/Proposal is submitted.

**I. CERTIFICATION OF TAX PAYMENT**

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

Except as validly contested, the business has paid, or has arranged for payment of, all taxes due the State of Maryland and has filed all required returns and reports with the Comptroller of the Treasury,

the State Department of Assessments and Taxation, and the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, as applicable, and will have paid all withholding taxes due the State of Maryland prior to final settlement.

**J. CONTINGENT FEES**

**I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:**

The business has not employed or retained any person, partnership, corporation, or other entity, other than a bona fide employee, bona fide agent, bona fide salesperson, or commercial selling agency working for the business, to solicit or secure the Contract, and that the business has not paid or agreed to pay any person, partnership, corporation, or other entity, other than a bona fide employee, bona fide agent, bona fide salesperson, or commercial selling agency, any fee or any other consideration contingent on the making of the Contract.

**K. CERTIFICATION REGARDING INVESTMENTS IN IRAN**

(1) The undersigned certifies that, in accordance with State Finance and Procurement Article, §17-705, Annotated Code of Maryland:

(a) It is not identified on the list created by the Board of Public Works as a person engaging in investment activities in Iran as described in State Finance and Procurement Article, §17-702, Annotated Code of Maryland; and

(b) It is not engaging in investment activities in Iran as described in State Finance and Procurement Article, §17-702, Annotated Code of Maryland.

2. The undersigned is unable to make the above certification regarding its investment activities in Iran due to the following activities: \_\_\_\_\_

**L. CONFLICT MINERALS ORIGINATED IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (FOR SUPPLIES AND SERVICES CONTRACTS)**

**I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:**

The business has complied with the provisions of State Finance and Procurement Article, §14-413, Annotated Code of Maryland governing proper disclosure of certain information regarding conflict minerals originating in the Democratic Republic of Congo or its neighboring countries as required by federal law.

**M. I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:**

Any claims of environmental attributes made relating to a product or service included in the bid or proposal are consistent with the Federal Trade Commission’s Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims as provided in 16 CFR §260, that apply to claims about the environmental attributes of a product, package or service in connection with the marketing, offering for sale, or sale of such item or service.

**N. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT** this Affidavit is to be furnished to the Procurement Officer and may be distributed to units of: (1) the State of Maryland; (2) counties or other subdivisions of the State of Maryland; (3) other states; and (4) the federal government. I further acknowledge that this Affidavit is subject to applicable laws of the United States and the State of Maryland, both criminal and civil, and that nothing in this Affidavit or any contract resulting from the submission of this Bid/Proposal shall be construed to supersede, amend, modify or waive, on behalf of the State of Maryland, or any unit of

the State of Maryland having jurisdiction, the exercise of any statutory right or remedy conferred by the Constitution and the laws of Maryland with respect to any misrepresentation made or any violation of the obligations, terms and covenants undertaken by the above business with respect to (1) this Affidavit, (2) the contract, and (3) other Affidavits comprising part of the contract.

I DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE AND AFFIRM UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY THAT THE CONTENTS OF THIS AFFIDAVIT ARE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION, AND BELIEF.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_ (print name of Authorized Representative and Affiant)

\_\_\_\_\_ (signature of Authorized Representative and Affiant)

**ATTACHMENT C - CONTRACT AFFIDAVIT**

**A. AUTHORITY**

I hereby affirm that I, \_\_\_\_\_ (name of affiant) am the \_\_\_\_\_ (title) and duly authorized representative of \_\_\_\_\_ (name of business entity) and that I possess the legal authority to make this affidavit on behalf of the business for which I am acting.

**B. CERTIFICATION OF REGISTRATION OR QUALIFICATION WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS AND TAXATION**

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

The business named above is a (check applicable box):

- (1) Corporation —  domestic or  foreign;
- (2) Limited Liability Company —  domestic or  foreign;
- (3) Partnership —  domestic or  foreign;
- (4) Statutory Trust —  domestic or  foreign;
- (5)  Sole Proprietorship.

and is registered or qualified as required under Maryland Law. I further affirm that the above business is in good standing both in Maryland and (IF APPLICABLE) in the jurisdiction where it is presently organized, and has filed all of its annual reports, together with filing fees, with the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation. The name and address of its resident agent (IF APPLICABLE) filed with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation is:

Name and Department ID  
Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

and that if it does business under a trade name, it has filed a certificate with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation that correctly identifies that true name and address of the principal or owner as:

Name and Department ID  
Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**C. FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE AFFIRMATION**

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

I am aware of, and the above business will comply with, the provisions of State Finance and Procurement Article, §13 221, Annotated Code of Maryland, which require that every business that enters into contracts, leases, or other agreements with the State of Maryland or its agencies during a calendar year under which the business is to receive in the aggregate \$100,000 or more shall, within 30 days of the time when the aggregate value of the contracts, leases, or other agreements reaches \$100,000, file with the Secretary of State of Maryland certain specified information to include disclosure of beneficial ownership of the business.

**D. POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE AFFIRMATION**

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

I am aware of, and the above business will comply with, Election Law Article, Title 14, Annotated Code of Maryland, which requires that every person that enters into a contract for a procurement with the State, a county, or a municipal corporation, or other political subdivision of the State, during a calendar year in which the person receives a contract with a governmental entity in the amount of \$200,000 or more, shall file with the State Board of Elections statements disclosing: (a) any contributions made during the reporting period to a candidate for elective office in any primary or general election; and (b) the name of each candidate to whom one or more contributions in a cumulative amount of \$500 or more were made during the reporting period. The statement shall be filed with the State Board of Elections: (a) before execution of a contract by the State, a county, a municipal corporation, or other political subdivision of the State, and shall cover the 24 months prior to when a contract was awarded; and (b) if the contribution is made after the execution of a contract, then twice a year, throughout the contract term, on or before: (i) May 31, to cover the six (6) month period ending April 30; and (ii) November 30, to cover the six (6) month period ending October 31.

#### E. DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE WORKPLACE

(Applicable to all contracts unless the contract is for a law enforcement agency and the agency head or the agency head's designee has determined that application of COMAR 21.11.08 and this certification would be inappropriate in connection with the law enforcement agency's undercover operations.)

#### I CERTIFY THAT:

- (1) Terms defined in COMAR 21.11.08 shall have the same meanings when used in this certification.
- (2) By submission of its Bid/Proposal, the business, if other than an individual, certifies and agrees that, with respect to its employees to be employed under a contract resulting from this solicitation, the business shall:
  - (a) Maintain a workplace free of drug and alcohol abuse during the term of the contract;
  - (b) Publish a statement notifying its employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of drugs, and the abuse of drugs or alcohol is prohibited in the business' workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violation of these prohibitions;
  - (c) Prohibit its employees from working under the influence of drugs or alcohol;
  - (d) Not hire or assign to work on the contract anyone who the business knows, or in the exercise of due diligence should know, currently abuses drugs or alcohol and is not actively engaged in a bona fide drug or alcohol abuse assistance or rehabilitation program;
  - (e) Promptly inform the appropriate law enforcement agency of every drug-related crime that occurs in its workplace if the business has observed the violation or otherwise has reliable information that a violation has occurred;
  - (f) Establish drug and alcohol abuse awareness programs to inform its employees about:
    - The dangers of drug and alcohol abuse in the workplace;
    - The business's policy of maintaining a drug and alcohol free workplace;
    - Any available drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs; and
    - The penalties that may be imposed upon employees who abuse drugs and alcohol in the workplace;

(g) Provide all employees engaged in the performance of the contract with a copy of the statement required by §E(2)(b), above;

(h) Notify its employees in the statement required by §E(2)(b), above, that as a condition of continued employment on the contract, the employee shall:

Abide by the terms of the statement; and

Notify the employer of any criminal drug or alcohol abuse conviction for an offense occurring in the workplace not later than 5 days after a conviction;

(i) Notify the procurement officer within 10 days after receiving notice under §E(2)(h)(ii), above, or otherwise receiving actual notice of a conviction;

(j) Within 30 days after receiving notice under §E(2)(h)(ii), above, or otherwise receiving actual notice of a conviction, impose either of the following sanctions or remedial measures on any employee who is convicted of a drug or alcohol abuse offense occurring in the workplace:

Take appropriate personnel action against an employee, up to and including termination; or

Require an employee to satisfactorily participate in a bona fide drug or alcohol abuse assistance or rehabilitation program; and

(k) Make a good faith effort to maintain a drug and alcohol free workplace through implementation of §E(2)(a)—(j), above.

(3) If the business is an individual, the individual shall certify and agree as set forth in §E(4), below, that the individual shall not engage in the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of drugs or the abuse of drugs or alcohol in the performance of the contract.

(4) I acknowledge and agree that:

The award of the contract is conditional upon compliance with COMAR 21.11.08 and this certification;

(b) The violation of the provisions of COMAR 21.11.08 or this certification shall be cause to suspend payments under, or terminate the contract for default under COMAR 21.07.01.11 or 21.07.03.15, as applicable; and

(c) The violation of the provisions of COMAR 21.11.08 or this certification in connection with the contract may, in the exercise of the discretion of the Board of Public Works, result in suspension and debarment of the business under COMAR 21.08.03.

**F. CERTAIN AFFIRMATIONS VALID**

**I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:**

To the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, each of the affirmations, certifications, or acknowledgements contained in that certain Bid/Proposal Affidavit dated \_\_\_\_\_, 201\_\_\_\_, and executed by me for the purpose of obtaining the contract to which this Exhibit is attached remains true and correct in all respects as if made as of the date of this Contract Affidavit and as if fully set forth herein.

**I DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE AND AFFIRM UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY THAT THE CONTENTS OF THIS AFFIDAVIT ARE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION, AND BELIEF.**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_ (printed name of Authorized Representative and Affiant)

\_\_\_\_\_ (signature of Authorized Representative and Affiant)

**ATTACHMENT D - MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE FORMS**

The Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) subcontractor participation goal for this solicitation is 0%.

**ATTACHMENT E - PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE RESPONSE FORM**

A Pre-proposal conference will be not held.

**ATTACHMENT F - FINANCIAL PROPOSAL PRICING INSTRUCTIONS**

In order to assist Offerors in the preparation of their Financial Proposal and to comply with the requirements of this solicitation, Price Sheet Instructions and a Price Sheet have been prepared. Offerors shall submit their Financial Proposal on the Price Sheet in accordance with the instructions on the Price Sheet and as specified herein. Do not alter the Price Sheet or the Proposal may be determined to be not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award. The Price Sheet is to be signed and dated, where requested, by an individual who is authorized to bind the Offeror to the prices entered on the Price Sheet.

The Price Sheet is used to calculate the Offeror's TOTAL EVALUATED PRICE. Follow these instructions carefully when completing your Price Sheet:

- A) All Unit and Extended Prices must be clearly entered in dollars and cents, e.g., \$24.15. Make your decimal points clear and distinct.
- B) All Unit Prices must be the actual price per unit the State will pay for the specific item or service identified in this RFP and may not be contingent on any other factor or condition in any manner.
- C) All calculations shall be rounded to the nearest cent, i.e., .344 shall be .34 and .345 shall be .35.
- D) Any goods or services required through this RFP and proposed by the vendor at No Cost to the State must be clearly entered in the Unit Price, if appropriate, and Extended Price with \$0.00.
- E) Every blank in every Price Sheet shall be filled in. Any changes or corrections made to the Price Sheet by the Offeror prior to submission shall be initialed and dated.
- F) Except as instructed on the Price Sheet, nothing shall be entered on or attached to the Price Sheet that alters or proposes conditions or contingencies on the prices. Alterations and/or conditions may render the Proposal not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award.
- G) It is imperative that the prices included on the Price Sheet have been entered correctly and calculated accurately by the Offeror and that the respective total prices agree with the entries on the Price Sheet. Any incorrect entries or inaccurate calculations by the Offeror will be treated as provided in COMAR 21.05.03.03E and 21.05.02.12, and may cause the Proposal to be rejected.
- H) If option years are included, Offerors must submit pricing for each option year. Any option to renew will be exercised at the sole discretion of the State and will comply with all terms and conditions in force at the time the option is exercised. If exercised, the option period shall be for a period identified in the RFP at the prices entered in the Price Sheet.
- I) All Financial Proposal prices entered below are to be fully loaded prices that include all costs/expenses associated with the provision of services as required by the RFP. The Financial Proposal price shall include, but is not limited to: all labor, profit/overhead, general operating, administrative, and all other expenses and costs necessary to perform the work set forth in the solicitation. No other amounts will be paid to the Contractor. If labor rates are requested, those amounts shall be fully-loaded rates; no overtime amounts will be paid.
- J) Unless indicated elsewhere in the RFP, sample amounts used for calculations on the Price Sheet are typically estimates for evaluation purposes only. Unless stated otherwise in the RFP, the Department does not guarantee a minimum or maximum number of units or usage in the performance of this Contract.

K) Failure to adhere to any of these instructions may result in the Proposal being determined not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award.

**ATTACHMENT F – PRICE SHEET**

PRICE SHEET (FIXED PRICE) FOR RFP # 060B6400030

<b>Identification</b>	<b>Services</b>	<b>Proposed Price</b>
Year 1	Digital Communications Management Annual Services	
Year 2	Digital Communications Management Annual Services	
Year 3	Digital Communications Management Annual Services	
Year 4	Digital Communications Management Annual Services	
Year 5	Digital Communications Management Annual Services	
Option Year 1	Digital Communications Management Annual Services	
Option Year 2	Digital Communications Management Annual Services	
Option Year 3	Digital Communications Management Annual Services	
Option Year 4	Digital Communications Management Annual Services	
Option Year 5	Digital Communications Management Annual Services	
<b>Total Evaluated Price</b>		

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Individual Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Company Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Company Tax ID #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**ATTACHMENT G - LIVING WAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICE CONTRACTS**

## Living Wage Requirements for Service Contracts

- A. This contract is subject to the Living Wage requirements under Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, Title 18, and the regulations proposed by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry (Commissioner). The Living Wage generally applies to a Contractor or Subcontractor who performs work on a State contract for services that is valued at \$100,000 or more. An employee is subject to the Living Wage if he/she is at least 18 years old or will turn 18 during the duration of the contract; works at least 13 consecutive weeks on the State Contract and spends at least one-half of the employee's time during any work week on the State Contract.
- B. The Living Wage Law does not apply to:
- (1) A Contractor who:
    - (a) Has a State contract for services valued at less than \$100,000, or
    - (b) Employs 10 or fewer employees and has a State contract for services valued at less than \$500,000.
  - (2) A Subcontractor who:
    - (a) Performs work on a State contract for services valued at less than \$100,000,
    - (b) Employs 10 or fewer employees and performs work on a State contract for services valued at less than \$500,000, or
    - (c) Performs work for a Contractor not covered by the Living Wage Law as defined in B(1)(b) above, or B(3) or C below.
  - (3) Service contracts for the following:
    - (a) Services with a Public Service Company;
    - (b) Services with a nonprofit organization;
    - (c) Services with an officer or other entity that is in the Executive Branch of the State government and is authorized by law to enter into a procurement ("Unit"); or
    - (d) Services between a Unit and a County or Baltimore City.
- C. If the Unit responsible for the State contract for services determines that application of the Living Wage would conflict with any applicable Federal program, the Living Wage does not apply to the contract or program.
- D. A Contractor must not split or subdivide a State contract for services, pay an employee through a third party, or treat an employee as an independent Contractor or assign work to employees to avoid the imposition of any of the requirements of Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, Title 18.
- E. Each Contractor/Subcontractor, subject to the Living Wage Law, shall post in a prominent and easily accessible place at the work site(s) of covered employees a notice of the Living Wage Rates, employee rights under the law, and the name, address, and telephone number of the Commissioner.
- F. The Commissioner shall adjust the wage rates by the annual average increase or decrease, if any, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers for the Washington/Baltimore metropolitan

area, or any successor index, for the previous calendar year, not later than 90 days after the start of each fiscal year. The Commissioner shall publish any adjustments to the wage rates on the Division of Labor and Industry's website. An employer subject to the Living Wage Law must comply with the rate requirements during the initial term of the contract and all subsequent renewal periods, including any increases in the wage rate, required by the Commissioner, automatically upon the effective date of the revised wage rate.

G. A Contractor/Subcontractor who reduces the wages paid to an employee based on the employer's share of the health insurance premium, as provided in Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, §18-103(c), shall not lower an employee's wage rate below the minimum wage as set in Md. Code Ann., Labor and Employment Article, §3-413. A Contractor/Subcontractor who reduces the wages paid to an employee based on the employer's share of health insurance premium shall comply with any record reporting requirements established by the Commissioner.

H. A Contractor/Subcontractor may reduce the wage rates paid under Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, §18-103(a), by no more than 50 cents of the hourly cost of the employer's contribution to an employee's deferred compensation plan. A Contractor/Subcontractor who reduces the wages paid to an employee based on the employer's contribution to an employee's deferred compensation plan shall not lower the employee's wage rate below the minimum wage as set in Md. Code Ann., Labor and Employment Article, §3-413.

I. Under Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement Article, Title 18, if the Commissioner determines that the Contractor/Subcontractor violated a provision of this title or regulations of the Commissioner, the Contractor/Subcontractor shall pay restitution to each affected employee, and the State may assess liquidated damages of \$20 per day for each employee paid less than the Living Wage.

J. Information pertaining to reporting obligations may be found by going to the Division of Labor and Industry website <http://www.dllr.state.md.us/labor/> and clicking on Living Wage for State Service Contracts.

**ATTACHMENT G-1 Maryland Living Wage Requirements Affidavit of Agreement**

Contract No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Contractor \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**If the Contract Is Exempt from the Living Wage Law**

The Undersigned, being an authorized representative of the above named Contractor, hereby affirms that the Contract is exempt from Maryland’s Living Wage Law for the following reasons (check all that apply):

\_\_\_ Bidder/Offeror is a nonprofit organization

\_\_\_ Bidder/Offeror is a public service company

\_\_\_ Bidder/Offeror employs 10 or fewer employees and the proposed contract value is less than \$500,000

\_\_\_ Bidder/Offeror employs more than 10 employees and the proposed contract value is less than \$100,000

**If the Contract Is a Living Wage Contract**

A. The Undersigned, being an authorized representative of the above-named Contractor, hereby affirms its commitment to comply with Title 18, State Finance and Procurement Article, Annotated Code of Maryland and, if required, to submit all payroll reports to the Commissioner of Labor and Industry with regard to the above stated contract. The Bidder/Offeror agrees to pay covered employees who are subject to living wage at least the living wage rate in effect at the time service is provided for hours spent on State contract activities, and to ensure that its subcontractors who are not exempt also pay the required living wage rate to their covered employees who are subject to the living wage for hours spent on a State contract for services. The Contractor agrees to comply with, and ensure its subcontractors comply with, the rate requirements during the initial term of the contract and all subsequent renewal periods, including any increases in the wage rate established by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry, automatically upon the effective date of the revised wage rate.

B. \_\_\_\_\_(initial here if applicable) The Bidder/Offeror affirms it has no covered employees for the following reasons: (check all that apply):

\_\_\_ The employee(s) proposed to work on the contract will spend less than one-half of the employee’s time during any work week on the contract

\_\_\_ The employee(s) proposed to work on the contract is 17 years of age or younger during the duration of the contract; or

\_\_\_ The employee(s) proposed to work on the contract will work less than 13 consecutive weeks on the State contract.

The Commissioner of Labor and Industry reserves the right to request payroll records and other data that the Commissioner deems sufficient to confirm these affirmations at any time.

Name of Authorized Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Authorized Representative Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Name (Typed or Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Signature Date

**(submit with Bid/Proposal)**

**ATTACHMENT H - FEDERAL FUNDS ATTACHMENT**

This solicitation does not include a Federal Funds Attachment.

**ATTACHMENT I - CONFLICT OF INTEREST AFFIDAVIT AND DISCLOSURE**

Reference COMAR 21.05.08.08

**(submit with Bid/Proposal)**

A. "Conflict of interest" means that because of other activities or relationships with other persons, a person is unable or potentially unable to render impartial assistance or advice to the State, or the person's objectivity in performing the contract work is or might be otherwise impaired, or a person has an unfair competitive advantage.

B. "Person" has the meaning stated in COMAR 21.01.02.01B(64) and includes a Bidder/Offeror, Contractor, consultant, or subcontractor or sub-consultant at any tier, and also includes an employee or agent of any of them if the employee or agent has or will have the authority to control or supervise all or a portion of the work for which a Bid/Proposal is made.

C. The Bidder/Offeror warrants that, except as disclosed in §D, below, there are no relevant facts or circumstances now giving rise or which could, in the future, give rise to a conflict of interest.

D. The following facts or circumstances give rise or could in the future give rise to a conflict of interest (explain in detail—attach additional sheets if necessary):

E. The Bidder/Offeror agrees that if an actual or potential conflict of interest arises after the date of this affidavit, the Bidder/Offeror shall immediately make a full disclosure in writing to the procurement officer of all relevant facts and circumstances. This disclosure shall include a description of actions which the Bidder/Offeror has taken and proposes to take to avoid, mitigate, or neutralize the actual or potential conflict of interest. If the contract has been awarded and performance of the contract has begun, the Contractor shall continue performance until notified by the procurement officer of any contrary action to be taken.

I DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE AND AFFIRM UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY THAT THE CONTENTS OF THIS AFFIDAVIT ARE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION, AND BELIEF.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ By: \_\_\_\_\_

(Authorized Representative and Affiant)

**ATTACHMENT J - NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT (CONTRACTOR)**

THIS NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT (“Agreement”) is made by and between the State of Maryland (the “State”), acting by and through (Department of Information Technology) (the “Department”), and \_\_\_\_\_ ( the “Contractor”).

**RECITALS**

WHEREAS, the Contractor has been awarded a contract (the “Contract”) following the solicitation for Digital Communications Management Solicitation # 060B6400030; and

WHEREAS, in order for the Contractor to perform the work required under the Contract, it will be necessary for the State at times to provide the Contractor and the Contractor’s employees, agents, and subcontractors (collectively the “Contractor’s Personnel”) with access to certain information the State deems confidential information (the “Confidential Information”).

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of being given access to the Confidential Information in connection with the solicitation and the Contract, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which the parties acknowledge, the parties do hereby agree as follows:

1. Regardless of the form, format, or media on or in which the Confidential Information is provided and regardless of whether any such Confidential Information is marked as such, Confidential Information means (1) any and all information provided by or made available by the State to the Contractor in connection with the Contract and (2) any and all personally identifiable information (PII) (including but not limited to personal information as defined in Md. Ann. Code, State Govt. § 10-1301(c)) and protected health information (PHI) that is provided by a person or entity to the Contractor in connection with this Contract. Confidential Information includes, by way of example only, information that the Contractor views, takes notes from, copies (if the State agrees in writing to permit copying), possesses or is otherwise provided access to and use of by the State in relation to the Contract.
2. Contractor shall not, without the State’s prior written consent, copy, disclose, publish, release, transfer, disseminate, use, or allow access for any purpose or in any form, any Confidential Information except for the sole and exclusive purpose of performing under the Contract. Contractor shall limit access to the Confidential Information to the Contractor’s Personnel who have a demonstrable need to know such Confidential Information in order to perform under the Contract and who have agreed in writing to be bound by the disclosure and use limitations pertaining to the Confidential Information. The names of the Contractor’s Personnel are attached hereto and made a part hereof as ATTACHMENT J-1. Contractor shall update ATTACHMENT J-1 by adding additional names (whether Contractor’s personnel or a subcontractor’s personnel) as needed, from time to time.
3. If the Contractor intends to disseminate any portion of the Confidential Information to non-employee agents who are assisting in the Contractor’s performance of the Contract or who will otherwise have a role in performing any aspect of the Contract, the Contractor shall first obtain the written consent of the State to any such dissemination. The State may grant, deny, or condition any such consent, as it may deem appropriate in its sole and absolute subjective discretion.
4. Contractor hereby agrees to hold the Confidential Information in trust and in strictest confidence, to adopt or establish operating procedures and physical security measures, and to take all other measures necessary to protect the Confidential Information from inadvertent release or disclosure to unauthorized third parties and to prevent all or any portion of the Confidential Information from

falling into the public domain or into the possession of persons not bound to maintain the confidentiality of the Confidential Information.

5. Contractor shall promptly advise the State in writing if it learns of any unauthorized use, misappropriation, or disclosure of the Confidential Information by any of the Contractor's Personnel or the Contractor's former Personnel. Contractor shall, at its own expense, cooperate with the State in seeking injunctive or other equitable relief against any such person(s).
6. Contractor shall, at its own expense, return to the Department all Confidential Information in its care, custody, control or possession upon request of the Department or on termination of the Contract.
7. A breach of this Agreement by the Contractor or by the Contractor's Personnel shall constitute a breach of the Contract between the Contractor and the State.
8. Contractor acknowledges that any failure by the Contractor or the Contractor's Personnel to abide by the terms and conditions of use of the Confidential Information may cause irreparable harm to the State and that monetary damages may be inadequate to compensate the State for such breach. Accordingly, the Contractor agrees that the State may obtain an injunction to prevent the disclosure, copying or improper use of the Confidential Information. The Contractor consents to personal jurisdiction in the Maryland State Courts. The State's rights and remedies hereunder are cumulative and the State expressly reserves any and all rights, remedies, claims and actions that it may have now or in the future to protect the Confidential Information and to seek damages from the Contractor and the Contractor's Personnel for a failure to comply with the requirements of this Agreement. In the event the State suffers any losses, damages, liabilities, expenses, or costs (including, by way of example only, attorneys' fees and disbursements) that are attributable, in whole or in part to any failure by the Contractor or any of the Contractor's Personnel to comply with the requirements of this Agreement, the Contractor shall hold harmless and indemnify the State from and against any such losses, damages, liabilities, expenses, and costs.
9. Contractor and each of the Contractor's Personnel who receive or have access to any Confidential Information shall execute a copy of an agreement substantially similar to this Agreement, in no event less restrictive than as set forth in this Agreement, and the Contractor shall provide originals of such executed Agreements to the State.
10. The parties further agree that:
  - a. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Maryland;
  - b. The rights and obligations of the Contractor under this Agreement may not be assigned or delegated, by operation of law or otherwise, without the prior written consent of the State;
  - c. The State makes no representations or warranties as to the accuracy or completeness of any Confidential Information;
  - d. The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of this Agreement shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision of this Agreement;
  - e. Signatures exchanged by facsimile are effective for all purposes hereunder to the same extent as original signatures;
  - f. The Recitals are not merely prefatory but are an integral part hereof; and
  - g. The effective date of this Agreement shall be the same as the effective date of the Contract entered into by the parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have, by their duly authorized representatives, executed this Agreement as of the day and year first above written.

Contractor: \_\_\_\_\_

DoIT

By: \_\_\_\_\_ (SEAL)

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT – ATTACHMENT J-2**

**CERTIFICATION TO ACCOMPANY RETURN OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

I AFFIRM THAT:

To the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, and upon due inquiry, I hereby certify that: (i) all Confidential Information which is the subject matter of that certain Non-Disclosure Agreement by and between the State of Maryland and

\_\_\_\_\_ (“Contractor”) dated \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ (“Agreement”) is attached hereto and is hereby returned to the State in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Agreement; and (ii) I am legally authorized to bind the Contractor to this affirmation.

**I DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE AND AFFIRM UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY THAT THE CONTENTS OF THIS AFFIDAVIT ARE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION, AND BELIEF, HAVING MADE DUE INQUIRY.**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF CONTRACTOR: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature)

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

(Authorized Representative and Affiant)

**ATTACHMENT K - HIPAA BUSINESS ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT**

This solicitation does not require a HIPAA Business Associate Agreement.

**ATTACHMENT L - MERCURY AFFIDAVIT**

This solicitation does not include the procurement of products known to likely include mercury as a component.

**ATTACHMENT M - VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE**

The Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprise (VSBE) subcontractor participation goal for this solicitation is 0%.

**ATTACHMENT N - LOCATION OF THE PERFORMANCE OF SERVICES DISCLOSURE**

This solicitation does not require a Location of the Performance of Services Disclosure.

**ATTACHMENT O - DHR HIRING AGREEMENT**

This solicitation does not require a DHR Hiring Agreement.