

**ATTACHMENT 1
ADMINISTRATIVE RULES GOVERNING RFPS
(IT GOODS AND SERVICES)**

1. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COURT OR AOC REGARDING THE RFP

Except as specifically addressed elsewhere in the RFP, Proposers must send any communications regarding the RFP to Solicitations@jud.ca.gov (the “Solicitations Mailbox”). Proposers must include the RFP Number in the subject line of any communication.

2. QUESTIONS REGARDING THE RFP

- A. If a Proposer’s question relates to a proprietary aspect of its proposal and the question would expose proprietary information if disclosed to competitors, the Proposer may submit the question via email to the Solicitations Mailbox, conspicuously marking it as "CONFIDENTIAL." With the question, the Proposer must submit a statement explaining why the question is sensitive. If the AOC concurs that the disclosure of the question or answer would expose proprietary information, the question will be answered, and both the question and answer will be kept in confidence. If the AOC does not concur regarding the proprietary nature of the question, the question will not be answered in this manner and the Proposer will be notified.
- B. Proposers interested in responding to the RFP may submit questions via email to the Solicitations Mailbox on procedural matters related to the RFP or requests for clarification or modification of the RFP no later than the deadline for questions listed in the timeline of the RFP. If the Proposer is requesting a change, the request must set forth the recommended change and the Proposer’s reasons for proposing the change. Questions or requests submitted after the deadline for questions will not be answered. Without disclosing the source of the question or request, a copy of the questions and the AOC’s responses will be made available.

3. ERRORS IN THE RFP

- A. If, before the proposal due date and time listed in the timeline of the RFP, a Proposer discovers any ambiguity, conflict, discrepancy, omission, or error in the RFP, the Proposer must immediately notify the AOC via email to the Solicitations Mailbox and request modification or clarification of the RFP. Without disclosing the source of the request, the AOC may modify the RFP before the proposal due date and time by releasing an addendum to the solicitation.
- B. If a Proposer fails to notify the AOC of an error in the RFP known to Proposer, or an error that reasonably should have been known to Proposer, before the proposal due date and time listed in the timeline of the RFP, Proposer shall propose at its own risk. Furthermore, if Proposer is awarded the agreement, Proposer shall not

be entitled to additional compensation or time by reason of the error or its later correction.

4. ADDENDA

- A. The AOC may modify the RFP before the proposal due date and time listed in the timeline of the RFP by issuing an addendum. It is each Proposer's responsibility to inform itself of any addendum prior to its submission of a proposal.
- B. If any Proposer determines that an addendum unnecessarily restricts its ability to propose, the Proposer shall immediately notify the AOC via email to the Solicitations Mailbox no later than one day following issuance of the addendum.

5. WITHDRAWAL AND RESUBMISSION/MODIFICATION OF PROPOSALS

A Proposer may withdraw its proposal at any time before the deadline for submitting proposals by notifying the AOC in writing of its withdrawal. The notice must be signed by the Proposer. The Proposer may thereafter submit a new or modified proposal, provided that it is received at the AOC no later than the proposal due date and time listed in the timeline of the RFP. Modifications offered in any other manner, oral or written, will not be considered. Proposals cannot be changed or withdrawn after the proposal due date and time listed in the timeline of the RFP.

6. ERRORS IN THE PROPOSAL

If errors are found in a proposal, the Court may reject the proposal; however, the Court may, at its sole option, correct arithmetic or transposition errors or both on the basis that the lowest level of detail will prevail in any discrepancy. If these corrections result in significant changes in the amount of money to be paid to the Proposer (if selected for the award of the agreement), the Proposer will be informed of the errors and corrections thereof and will be given the option to abide by the corrected amount or withdraw the proposal.

7. RIGHT TO REJECT PROPOSALS

- A. Before the proposal due date and time listed in the timeline of the RFP, the Court may cancel the RFP for any or no reason. After the proposal due date and time listed in the timeline of the RFP, the Court may reject all proposals and cancel the RFP if the Court determines that: (i) the proposals received do not reflect effective competition; (ii) awarding the contract is not in the best interest of the Court.
- B. The Court may or may not waive an immaterial deviation or defect in a proposal. The Court's waiver of an immaterial deviation or defect shall in no way modify the RFP or excuse a Proposer from full compliance with RFP specifications. Until a contract resulting from this RFP is signed, the Court reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the items in the proposal, to award the contract in whole or in part and/or negotiate any or all items with individual Proposers if it is deemed

in the Court's best interest. A notice of selection to award does not constitute a contract, and confers no right of contract on any Proposer.

- C. The AOC and Court reserves the right to issue similar RFPs in the future. The RFP is in no way an agreement, obligation, or contract and in no way is the AOC, Court or the State of California responsible for the cost of preparing the proposal.
- D. Proposers are specifically directed **NOT** to contact any AOC or Court personnel or consultants for meetings, conferences, or discussions that are related to the RFP at any time between release of the RFP and any award and execution of a contract. Unauthorized contact with any AOC or Court personnel or consultants may be cause for rejection of the Proposer's proposal.

8. EVALUATION PROCESS

- A. The AOC and Court will follow the following process in evaluating proposals.
 - 1. The AOC will first open the non-cost portion of each proposal received by the appropriate deadline to confirm that it meets the format requirements specified in the RFP.
 - 2. The Court will complete its evaluation of the non-cost portions of all such proposals using the methods specified in the RFP.
 - 3. The results of the completed non-cost evaluation will be posted at the following location: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/rfps.htm>.
- B. Proposals that contain false or misleading statements may be rejected if in the AOC or Court's opinion the information was intended to mislead the evaluation team regarding a requirement of the RFP.
- C. During the evaluation process, the Court may require a Proposer's representative to answer questions with regard to the Proposer's proposal. Failure of a Proposer to demonstrate that the claims made in its proposal are in fact true may be sufficient cause for deeming a proposal non-responsive.
- E. In the event of a tie, the contract will be awarded to the winner of a single coin toss. The coin toss will be witnessed by two Court employees. The Court will provide notice of the date and time of the coin toss to the affected Proposers, who may attend the coin toss at their own expense.

9. DISPOSITION OF MATERIALS

All materials submitted in response to the RFP will become the property of the Court and will be returned only at the Court's option and at the expense of the Proposer submitting the proposal.

10. AWARD AND EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT

- A. Award of contract, if made, will be in accordance with the RFP to a responsible Proposer submitting a proposal compliant with all the requirements of the RFP and any addenda thereto (including any administrative or technical requirements), except for such immaterial defects as may be waived by the Court.
- B. A Proposer submitting a proposal must be prepared to use a standard Court contract form rather than its own contract form.
- C. The Court will make a reasonable effort to execute any contract based on the RFP within sixty (60) days of selecting a proposal that best meets its requirements. However, exceptions taken by a Proposer may delay execution of a contract.
- D. Upon award of the agreement, the agreement shall be signed by the Proposer in two original contract counterparts and returned, along with the required attachments, to the Court no later than ten (10) business days of receipt of agreement form or prior to the end of June if award is at fiscal year-end. Agreements are not effective until executed by both parties and approved by the appropriate Court officials. Any work performed before receipt of a fully-executed agreement shall be at Proposer's own risk.

11. FAILURE TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT

The period for execution set forth in Section 11 (“Award and Execution of Agreement”) may only be changed by mutual agreement of the parties. Failure to execute the agreement within the time frame identified above constitutes sufficient cause for voiding the award. Failure to comply with other requirements within the set time constitutes failure to execute the agreement. If the successful Proposer refuses or fails to execute the agreement, the Court may award the agreement to the next qualified Proposer.

12. NEWS RELEASES

News releases or other publicity pertaining to the award of a contract may not be issued without prior written approval of Justice Terence Bruiniers, First District Court of Appeal.

13. ANTI-TRUST CLAIMS

- A. In submitting a proposal, the Proposer offers and agrees that if the proposal is accepted, Proposer will assign to the Court all rights, title, and interest in and to all causes of action it may have under Section 4 of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. Sec. 15) or under the Cartwright Act Chapter 2, commencing with Section 16700, of Part 2 of Division 7 of the Business and Professions Code), arising from purchases of goods, materials, or services by the Proposer for sale to the Court pursuant to the proposal. Such assignment shall be made and become effective at the time the Court tenders final payment to the Proposer. (See Government Code section 4552.)
- B. If the Court receives, either through judgment or settlement, a monetary recovery for a cause of action assigned under this section, the Proposer shall be entitled to receive reimbursement for actual legal costs incurred and may, upon demand, recover from the Court any portion of the recovery, including treble damages, attributable to overcharges that were paid.
- C. Upon demand in writing by the Proposer, the Court shall, within one year from such demand, reassign the cause of action assigned under this section if the Proposer has been or may have been injured by the violation of law for which the cause of action arose and (a) the Court has not been injured thereby, or (b) the Court declines to file a court action for the cause of action. (See Government Code section 4554.)

14. AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The Court complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and similar California statutes. Requests for accommodation of disabilities by Proposers should be directed to Solicitations@jud.ca.gov.

15. FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND ACQUISITION RECOMMENDATIONS

Proposals in response to procurements for assistance in the preparation of feasibility studies or the development of recommendations for the acquisition of IT goods and services must disclose any financial interests (e.g., service contracts, original equipment manufacturer (OEM) agreements, remarketing agreements) that may foreseeably allow the Proposer to benefit materially from the Court's adoption of a course of action recommended in the feasibility study or of the acquisition recommendations.

16. PROTEST PROCEDURE

- A. General

(i) Failure of a proposer to comply with the protest procedures set forth in this Section 16 will render a protest inadequate and non-responsive, and will result in rejection of the protest.

B. Prior to Submission of Proposal

(i) An interested party that is an actual or prospective proposer with a direct economic interest in the procurement may file a protest based on allegedly restrictive or defective specifications or other improprieties in the solicitation process that are apparent, or should have been reasonably discovered prior to the submission of a proposal. Such protest must be received by the due date for Vendor Solicitation Specification Deadline set forth in the RFP. The protestor shall have exhausted all administrative remedies discussed in this Attachment 1 prior to submitting the protest. Failure to do so may be grounds for denying the protest.

C. After Notice of Selection/No Selection

(i) A proposer submitting a proposal may protest the AOC's Notice of Selection based upon allegations of improprieties occurring during the proposal evaluation or selection period if it meets all of the following conditions:

- a. The proposer has submitted a proposal that it believes to be responsive to the solicitation document;
- b. The proposer believes that its proposal meets the administrative and technical requirements of the solicitation, proposes services of proven quality and performance, and offers a competitive cost recovery model; and,
- c. The proposer believes that the AOC has incorrectly selected another proposer.

(ii) Protests must be received no later than five (5) business days after the Notice of Selection has been posted on our website.

D. Form of Protest

(i) A proposer who is qualified to protest should submit the protest to the individual addressed under Submission of Proposals, who will forward the matter to the appropriate Contracting Officer.

- a. The protest must be in writing and sent by certified, or registered mail, or overnight delivery service (with proof of delivery), or delivered personally to the address noted in the RFP under

Submission of Proposals. If the protest is hand-delivered, a receipt must be requested.

- b. The protest shall include the name, proposer, address, telephone and facsimile numbers, and email address of the party protesting or their representative.
- c. The title and number of the solicitation document under which the protest is submitted shall be identified.
- d. A detailed description of the specific legal and factual grounds of protest and any supporting documentation shall be included.
- e. The specific ruling or relief requested must be stated.

(ii) The AOC, at its discretion, may make a decision regarding the protest without requesting further information or documents from the protestor. Therefore, the initial protest submittal must include all grounds for the protest and all evidence available at the time the protest is submitted. If the protestor later raises new grounds or evidence that was not included in the initial protest but which could have been raised at that time, the AOC will not consider such new grounds or new evidence.

E. Determination of Protest Submitted Prior to Submission of Proposal

(i) Upon receipt of a timely and proper protest based on allegedly restrictive or defective specifications or other improprieties in the solicitation process that are apparent, or should have been reasonably discovered prior to the submission of a proposal, the AOC will provide a written determination to the protestor prior to the date and time for submittal of proposals, as set forth in the RFP. If required, the AOC may extend such proposal due date and time to allow for a reasonable time to review the protest. If the protesting party elects to appeal the decision, the protesting party will follow the appeals process outlined below and the AOC, at its sole discretion, may elect to withhold a contract award until the protest is resolved or denied.

F. Determination of Protest Submitted After Submission of Proposal

(i) Upon receipt of a timely and proper protest, the AOC will investigate the protest and will provide a written response to the proposer within a reasonable time. If the AOC requires additional time to review the protest and is not able to provide a response within ten (10) business days, the AOC will notify the proposer. If the protesting party elects to appeal the decision, the protesting party will follow the appeals process outlined below. The AOC, at its sole

discretion, may elect to withhold the contract award until the protest is resolved or denied or proceed with the award and implementation of the agreement.

G. Appeals Process

(i) The Contracting Officer's decision shall be considered the final action by the AOC unless the protesting party thereafter seeks an appeal of the decision by filing a request for appeal with the AOC's Business Services Manager, at the same address set forth under Submission of Proposal on the RFP cover memo, within five (5) business days of the issuance of the Contracting Officer's decision.

(ii) The justification for appeal is specifically limited to:

- a. Facts and/or information related to the protest, as previously submitted, that were not available at the time the protest was originally submitted;
- b. Contracting Officer's decision contained errors of fact, and that such errors of fact were significant and material factors in the Contracting Officer's decision; or
- c. Decision of the Contracting Officer was in error of law or regulation.

(iii) The proposer's request for appeal shall include:

- a. Name, proposer, address, telephone and facsimile numbers, and email address of the proposer filing the appeal or their representative;
- b. Copy of the Contracting Officer's decision;
- c. Legal and factual basis for the appeal; and
- d. Ruling or relief requested. Issues that could have been raised earlier will not be considered on appeal.

(iv) Upon receipt of a request for appeal, the AOC's Business Services Manager will review the request and the decision of the Contracting Officer and shall

issue a final determination. The decision of the AOC's Business Services Manager shall constitute the final action of the AOC.

H. Protest Remedies

(i) If the protest is upheld, the AOC will consider all circumstances surrounding the procurement in its decision for a fair and reasonable remedy, including the seriousness of the procurement deficiency, the degree of prejudice to the protesting party or to the integrity of the competitive procurement system, the good faith efforts of the parties, the extent of performance, the cost to the AOC, the urgency of the procurement, and the impact of the recommendation(s) on the AOC. The AOC may recommend any combination of the following remedies:

- a. Terminate the contract for convenience;
- b. Re-solicit the requirement;
- c. Issue a new solicitation;
- d. Refrain from exercising options to extend the term under the contract, if applicable;
- e. Award a contract consistent with statute or regulation; or
- f. Other such remedies as may be required to promote compliance.