



University of
Kentucky[®]
Procurement Services

Request for Proposal

UK-2427-24

Proposal Due Date – April 25, 2024

**Development and Implementation of a Web-Based
Research Project Tracking System (RPTS) for State
Departments of Transportation Research Programs**



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

ATTENTION: This is not an order. Read all instructions, terms and conditions carefully.

PROPOSAL NO.: UK-2427-24

Issue Date: March 13, 2024

Title: Development and Implementation of a Web-Based Research Project Tracking System (RPTS) for State Departments of Transportation Research Programs

Purchasing Officer: Randy Bartley

Phone: 859-257-6759

Email:

RETURN ORIGINAL COPY OF PROPOSAL TO:

**UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
PROCUREMENT SERVICES
411 S LIMESTONE**

**ROOM 322 PETERSON SERVICE BLDG.
LEXINGTON, KY 40506-0005**

IMPORTANT: PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY: April 25, 2024 3 P.M. LEXINGTON, KY TIME.

NOTICE OF REQUIREMENTS

1. The University's General Terms and Conditions and Instructions to Bidders, viewable at <https://purchasing.uky.edu/bid-and-proposal-opportunities>, apply to this RFP. When the RFP includes construction services, the University's General Conditions and Special Conditions for Construction and Instructions to Bidders, viewable at <https://purchasing.uky.edu/bid-and-proposal-opportunities>, apply to the RFP.
2. Contracts resulting from this RFP must be governed by and in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
3. Any agreement or collusion among offerors or prospective offerors, which restrains, tends to restrain, or is reasonably calculated to restrain competition by agreement to bid at a fixed price or to refrain from offering, or otherwise, is prohibited.
4. Any person who violates any provisions of KRS 45A.325 shall be guilty of a felony and shall be punished by a fine of not less than five thousand dollars nor more than ten thousand dollars, or be imprisoned not less than one year nor more than five years, or both such fine and imprisonment. Any firm, corporation, or association who violates any of the provisions of KRS 45A.325 shall, upon conviction, be fined not less than ten thousand dollars or more than twenty thousand dollars.

AUTHENTICATION OF BID AND STATEMENT OF NON-COLLUSION AND NON-CONFLICT OF INTEREST

I hereby swear (or affirm) under the penalty for false swearing as provided by KRS 523.040:

1. That I am the offeror (if the offeror is an individual), a partner, (if the offeror is a partnership), or an officer or employee of the bidding corporation having authority to sign on its behalf (if the offeror is a corporation);
2. That the attached proposal has been arrived at by the offeror independently and has been submitted without collusion with, and without any agreement, understanding or planned common course of action with, any other Contractor of materials, supplies, equipment or services described in the RFP, designed to limit independent bidding or competition;
3. That the contents of the proposal have not been communicated by the offeror or its employees or agents to any person not an employee or agent of the offeror or its surety on any bond furnished with the proposal and will not be communicated to any such person prior to the official closing of the RFP;
4. That the offeror is legally entitled to enter into contracts with the University of Kentucky and is not in violation of any prohibited conflict of interest, including, but not limited to, those prohibited by the provisions of KRS 45A.330 to .340, and 164.390;
5. That the offeror, and its affiliates, are duly registered with the Kentucky Department of Revenue to collect and remit the sale and use tax imposed by Chapter 139 to the extent required by Kentucky law and will remain registered for the duration of any contract award;
6. That I have fully informed myself regarding the accuracy of the statement made above.

SWORN STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS

In accordance with KRS 45A.110 (2), the undersigned hereby swears under penalty of perjury that he/she has not knowingly violated any provision of the campaign finance laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and that the award of a contract to a bidder will not violate any provision of the campaign finance laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

CONTRACTOR REPORT OF PRIOR VIOLATIONS OF KRS CHAPTERS 136, 139, 141, 337, 338, 341 & 342

The contractor by signing and submitting a proposal agrees as required by 45A.485 to submit final determinations of any violations of the provisions of KRS Chapters 136, 139, 141, 337, 338, 341 and 342 that have occurred in the previous five (5) years prior to the award of a contract and agrees to remain in continuous compliance with the provisions of the statutes during the duration of any contract that may be established. Final determinations of violations of these statutes must be provided to the University by the successful contractor prior to the award of a contract.

CERTIFICATION OF NON-SEGREGATED FACILITIES

The contractor, by submitting a proposal, certifies that he/she is in compliance with the Code of Federal Regulations, No. 41 CFR 60-1.8(b) that prohibits the maintaining of segregated facilities.

SIGNATURE REQUIRED: This proposal cannot be considered valid unless signed and dated by an authorized agent of the offeror. Type or print the signatory's name, title, address, phone number and fax number in the spaces provided. Offers signed by an agent are to be accompanied by evidence of his/her authority unless such evidence has been previously furnished to the issuing office

DELIVERY TIME:	NAME OF COMPANY:	DUNS #
PROPOSAL FIRM THROUGH:	ADDRESS:	Phone/Fax:
PAYMENT TERMS:	CITY, STATE & ZIP CODE:	E-MAIL:
SHIPPING TERMS: F. O. B. DESTINATION PREPAID AND ALLOWED	TYPED OR PRINTED NAME:	WEB ADDRESS:
FEDERAL EMPLOYER ID NO.:	SIGNATURE:	DATE:

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1.0 DEFINITIONS

The term "addenda" means written or graphic instructions issued by the University of Kentucky prior to the receipt of proposals that modify or interpret the RFP documents by additions, deletions, clarifications and/or corrections.

The term "competitive negotiations" means the method authorized in the Kentucky Revised Statutes, Chapter 45A.085.

The terms "offer" or "proposal" mean the offeror's/offers' response to this RFP.

The term "offeror" means the entity or contractor group submitting the proposal.

The term "contractor" means the entity receiving a contract award.

The term "purchasing agency" means the University of Kentucky, Procurement Services, Room 322 Peterson Service Building, Lexington, KY 40506-0005.

The term "purchasing official" means the University of Kentucky's appointed contracting representative.

The term "responsible offeror" means a person, company or corporation that has the capability in all respects to perform fully the contract requirements and the integrity and reliability that will assure good faith performance. In determining whether an offeror is responsible, the University may evaluate various factors including (but not limited to): financial resources; experience; organization; technical qualifications; available resources; record of performance; integrity; judgment; ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of the contract; adversarial relationship between the offeror and the University that is so serious and compelling that it may negatively impact the work performed under this RFP; or any other cause determined to be so serious and compelling as to affect the responsibility of the offeror.

The term "solicitation" means RFP.

The term "University" means University of Kentucky.

2.0 GENERAL OVERVIEW

2.1 Intent and Scope

This Request for Proposal (RFP) is being issued by the University of Kentucky to obtain proposals from qualified, experienced, financially sound, and responsible firms. The purpose of this RFP is to solicit service providers to provide a proposal for development, implementation, hosting, and ongoing support of a web-based Research Project Tracking System (RPTS) to support the needs of multiple state Departments of Transportation (DOTs) in managing their respective research programs.

2.2 Background Information

Background

Each state in the U.S. has a transportation research program, typically managed by designated staff in the state DOT (or equivalent agency). While these programs vary substantially in size, complexity, staffing level, and resource availability, there are certain needs that are generally common to all programs. One of these needs is a tracking system for active and completed research projects. State DOTs that have such systems typically use them for such functions as monitoring and tracking of active research projects, generating reports on individual projects and/or the overall research program, tracking the implementation of research results, and many others.

In response to this need, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet is serving as lead agency for a Transportation Pooled Fund Project TPF-5(467), entitled "Research Project Tracking System." The goal of this project is to develop a web-based system that the partner states can use to more effectively manage their respective transportation research programs. By sharing the cost among multiple states, it is anticipated that the partners can develop a top-notch system without placing an undue financial burden on any individual state.

In Phase 1 of this project, the 14 partner states identified, discussed, reviewed, and ranked different capabilities and attributes that a Research Project Tracking System (RPTS) might have. Those discussions resulted in a stratified list of capabilities and attributes, and that list was incorporated into a Functional Requirements Document. In that document, each potential capability and attribute is classified as required, desired, or optional. The lines dividing these categories are not hard and fast. In many cases, the final decision on including or excluding a given capability or attribute will depend on the relative ease or difficulty (and the incremental cost) of providing it. Such decisions will be made through a cooperative process involving the selected RPTS Developer, the University, and the partner states. The Functional Requirements Document is included in this RFP as Appendix A.

Phase 2 of the pooled-fund project is now underway, with the goal of developing and implementing the RPTS. To date, 17 jurisdictions are participating in Phase 2. Additional jurisdictions may join the project as it progresses.

Role of RPTS Developer

The RPTS Developer will work cooperatively and interactively with the partner states to further develop and refine the functional requirements, providing essential input into decisions on which capabilities and attributes will be included in the final product. In cooperation with the project

partners, the RPTS Developer will establish a step-by-step process for moving the RPTS from concept to reality. Once that process is approved by the project partners, the RPTS Developer will proceed with development of the RPTS in accordance with the approved process.

Throughout the process, the RPTS Developer will maintain frequent, ongoing communications with project staff at the Kentucky Transportation Center. Periodic progress reports will be provided for the project partners at a frequency to be determined during the project kickoff. When decisions are required from the project partners, the RPTS Developer, under the direction of the project staff, will explain the available options and will provide system and user interface screenshots, mockups, beta versions, and other appropriate tools to assist the partner states with properly evaluating alternatives and identifying potential performance issues. Any issues or challenges encountered will be immediately reported to project staff, and responses to these issues will be determined in cooperation with the project partners.

The RPTS Developer will be responsible for developing, testing, implementing, documenting, hosting, and providing ongoing training and support for the RPTS. This will include providing appropriate system security and backups.

2.3 University Information

Upon his arrival in 2011, President Eli Capilouto set an ambitious agenda to extend and enhance our role as Kentucky's land-grant and flagship research university. By focusing on infrastructure growth and improvement; creating opportunities for innovative teaching, learning and academic excellence; fostering a robust research enterprise; providing life-saving subspecialty care; empowering communities through service and outreach; and encouraging a transparent and shared dialogue about institutional priorities; the University of Kentucky will help ensure a Kentucky tomorrow that is healthier, wealthier and wiser than it is today.

Our mission is to advance Kentucky.

Founded in 1865 as a land-grant institution adjacent to downtown Lexington, UK is nestled in the scenic heart of the beautiful Bluegrass region of Kentucky. From its early beginnings, with only 190 students and 10 professors, UK's campus now covers more than 900 acres. The university enrolled more than 32,000 students in Fall 2022 and has approximately 25,000 employees, including nearly 3,000 full-time faculty.

UK is one of a small number of universities in the United States that has programs in agriculture, engineering, law, fine arts and a full complement of health colleges including medicine and pharmacy, on a single campus alongside an academic health system, leading to groundbreaking discoveries and unique interdisciplinary collaboration.

The state's flagship university consists of 18 academic and professional colleges where students can choose from more than 200 majors and degree programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The colleges are Agriculture, Food and Environment; Arts and Sciences; Business and Economics; Communication and Information; Dentistry; Design; Education; Engineering; Fine Arts; Graduate School; Health Sciences; Honors; Law; Medicine; Nursing; Pharmacy; Public Health; and Social Work. These colleges are supported by a modern research library system.

Research at the University of Kentucky is a dynamic enterprise encompassing both traditional scholarship and emerging technologies. UK's research faculty, staff and students are establishing

UK as one of the nation's most prolific public research universities. UK researchers were awarded more than \$452.9 million in extramural grant and contract funding in fiscal year 2022. Fifty-six percent of this funding comes from agencies in the federal government (\$256 million) such as the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Department of Energy, Department of Defense and numerous other federal, state and industry sponsors. Expenditures from research and development (R&D) activities at the university generate more than \$772 million in economic development across the Commonwealth of Kentucky and support more than 4,395 jobs.

With more than 70 research centers and institutes, UK researchers are discovering new knowledge, providing a rich training ground for current students and the next generation of researchers and advancing the economic growth of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Several centers excel in the services offered to the public. The Gluck Equine Research Center is one of only three facilities of its kind in the world, conducting equine disease research.

The Center for Applied Energy Research (CAER) is internationally recognized for research in algae for carbon dioxide clean up, carbon materials, concrete and cement, emissions control in utilities, energy policy, fuels research, hydrogen, materials characterization and plant optimization.

Among the brightest examples of UK's investment in transformative research is the Markey Cancer Center. As a center of excellence and distinction at UK, Markey's robust research and clinical enterprise is the cornerstone of our commitment to Kentucky – fundamental to our success in uplifting lives through our endeavors and improving the general health and welfare of our state – burdened by the nation's highest rate of cancer deaths per 100,000 people. In 2013, Markey earned the prestigious National Cancer Institute-designation (NCI) – one of 68 nationally and the only one in Kentucky. The designation was renewed in 2018.

Both CAER and Markey are cornerstones of seven Research Priority Areas (RPAs) at the University of Kentucky. These areas — chosen based on local relevance, existing funding strength, sustainability and disciplinary scholarly diversity — focus UK's top research talent on the most pressing challenges confronting our state.

The University of Kentucky is the recipient of a Clinical Translational Sciences Award (CTSA) from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). As one of only 60 institutions with this research distinction, UK was awarded the CTSA for its potential in moving research and discovery in the lab into practical field and community applications. The CTSA and NCI are part of a trifecta of federal research grants that includes an Alzheimer's Disease Center. UK is one of only 29 universities in the country to hold all three premier grants from NIH.

Established in 1957, the medical center at UK is one of the nation's finest academic medical centers and includes the university's clinical enterprise, UK HealthCare. Licensed for 965 beds across UK Albert B. Chandler Hospital, Kentucky Children's Hospital and UK Good Samaritan Hospital, the system is supported by a growing faculty and staff providing the most advanced subspecialty care for the most critically injured and ill patients throughout the Commonwealth and beyond. Since 2014, the number of patients served by the medical enterprise has nearly doubled, with more than 38,000 discharges in 2022.

UK Chandler Hospital includes the only Level 1 Trauma Center for both adult and pediatric patients in Central and Eastern Kentucky. In addition, UK HealthCare recently opened one of the country's largest robotic hybrid operating rooms and the first of its kind in the region. While the new patient care pavilion is the leading health care facility for advanced medical procedures in the region, our talented physicians consult with and travel to our network of affiliate hospitals so Kentuckians can

receive the best health care available close to their home and never need to leave the Bluegrass for complex subspecialty care.

As of December 1, 2022, King's Daughters Medical Center, based in Ashland, Kentucky, officially became part of the University of Kentucky. King's Daughters Medical Center serves a 16-county region across Kentucky, Ohio and West Virginia. Its health system is composed of two acute-care hospitals totaling 465 licensed beds, more than 50 ambulatory centers and practice locations, a long-term care facility, medical transport company and six urgent care centers.

UK's agenda remains committed to accelerating the university's academic excellence in all areas and gaining worldwide recognition for its outstanding academic programs, its commitment to students, its investment in pioneering research and discovery, its success in building a diverse community and its engagement with the larger society. This commitment is all part of the university's mission as a 21st century flagship and land-grant research university. From its Nobel Laureates to cutting-edge work in addressing health disparities, and from the artistic wonders that stir souls to our scientific creativity that inspires minds, UK seeks a brighter future through the contributions of our faculty, staff, students and alumni.

We are the University of Kentucky. We are committed to advancing Kentucky in everything that we do.

SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is an institution-wide priority for the University of Kentucky. We strive to ensure that all activities are ecologically sound, socially just, and economically viable, and that they will continue to be so for future generations. This commitment also prioritizes the integration of these principles in curricula, research, athletics, health care, creative works, and outreach. This principled approach to operational practices and intellectual pursuits is intended to prepare students and empower the campus community to support sustainable development in the Commonwealth and beyond. The UK Sustainability Strategic Plan guides these efforts (<https://www.uky.edu/sustainability/sustainability-strategic-plan>).

2.4 Economic Inclusion and Procurement

The University of Kentucky is committed to serving as an advocate for diverse businesses and Kentucky located businesses. Diverse Business Enterprises (DBE) consist of minority, women, disabled, veteran and disabled veteran owned business firms that are at least fifty-one percent owned and operated by an individual(s) of the aforementioned categories. Also included in this category are disabled business enterprises and non-profit work centers for the blind and severely disabled. To be deemed a Kentucky located Business a company must have a physical facility located in the Commonwealth of Kentucky that is engaged in on-going business operations.

The University is committed to increasing the amount of goods and services acquired from businesses owned and controlled by diverse persons to 10% of all procurement expenditures. The University expects its suppliers to support and assist in this effort. The University is also dedicated to increasing the amount of goods and services acquired from Kentucky located companies to the greatest extent possible in support of our economic development efforts.

Among the University's goals for DBE participation in procurement are:

- To ensure the absence of barriers that reduce their participation.
- Educate vendors on "how to" do business with the University.
- Support diverse and Kentucky located vendors seeking to do business with the University in the areas of goods, services, construction, and other areas of procurement.
- Encourage participation of qualified diverse and Kentucky located vendors by directing them to agencies that can benefit from their product or service.
- Provide resources for diverse and Kentucky located vendors.
- Sponsor events to assist diverse and Kentucky located vendors in becoming active, responsible, and responsive participants in the University's purchasing opportunities.

For additional information regarding how diverse and Kentucky located suppliers may participate in this Request for Proposal, submit any questions to the Procurement Officer as indicated in Section 3.2 by the Deadline for Written Questions date.

3.0 PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Key Event Dates

Release of RFP	March 13, 2024
Deadline for Written Questions	3 p.m. Lexington Time on March 29, 2024
RFP Proposals Due	3 p.m. Lexington Time on April 25, 2024

*projected dates

3.2 Offeror Communication

To ensure that RFP documentation and subsequent information (modifications, clarifications, addenda, Written Questions and Answers, etc.) are directed to the appropriate persons within the offeror's firm, each offeror who intends to participate in this RFP is to provide the following information to the purchasing officer. Prompt, thorough compliance is in the best interest of the offeror. Failure to comply may result in incomplete or delayed communication of addenda or other vital information. Contact information is the responsibility of the offeror. Without the prompt information, any communication shortfall shall reside with the offeror.

- Name of primary contact
- Mailing address of primary contact
- Telephone number of primary contact
- E-mail address of primary contact
- Additional contact persons with same information provided as primary contact

This information shall be transmitted via fax or e-mail to:

Mr. Randy Bartley
Procurement Services
University of Kentucky
322 Peterson Service Building
Lexington, KY 40506-0005
Phone: (859) 257-6759
Fax: (859) 257-1951
E-mail: randy.bartley@uky.edu

All communication with the University regarding this RFP should only be directed to the purchasing officer listed above.

3.3 Offeror Presentations

All offerors whose proposals are judged acceptable for award may be required to make a presentation to the evaluation committee.

3.4 **Preparation of Offers**

The offeror is expected to follow all specifications, terms, conditions and instructions in this RFP.

The offeror will furnish all information required by this solicitation.

Proposals should be prepared simply and economically, providing a description of the offeror's capabilities to satisfy the requirements of the solicitation. Emphasis should be on completeness and clarity of content. All documentation submitted with the proposal should be bound in the single volume except as otherwise specified.

An electronic version of the RFP, in .PDF format only, is available through the University of Kentucky Procurement Services website at: <https://purchasing.uky.edu/bid-and-proposal-opportunities>.

3.5 **Proposed Deviations from the RFP**

The stated requirements appearing elsewhere in this RFP shall become a part of the terms and conditions of any resulting contract. Any deviations therefrom should be specifically defined in accordance with the transmittal letter, Section 4.3 (d). If accepted by the University, the deviations shall become part of the contract, but such deviations must not be in conflict with the basic nature of this RFP.

Note: Offerors should not submit their standard terms and conditions as exceptions to the University's General Terms and Conditions. Each exception to the University's General Terms and Conditions should be individually addressed.

3.6 **Proposal Submission and Deadline**

Offeror must provide the following materials prior to 3 p.m. (Lexington, KY time) on the date specified in Section 3.1 and addressed to the purchasing officer listed in Section 3.2:

- **Technical Proposal:** Two (2) copies on electronic storage devices (USB) (1 copy per storage device) each clearly marked with the proposal number and name, firm name and what is included (Technical Proposal) and two (2) printed original copies
- **Financial Proposal:** Two (2) copies on electronic storage devices (USB) (1 copy per storage device) each clearly marked with the proposal number and name, firm name and what is included (Financial Proposal) and two (2) printed original copies

Note: Proposals received after the closing date and time will not be considered. In addition, proposals received via fax or e-mail are not acceptable.

The University of Kentucky accepts deliveries of RFPs Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lexington, KY time. However, RFPs must be received by 3 p.m. Lexington, KY time on the date specified on the RFP in order to be considered.

Proposals should be enclosed in sealed envelopes to the above referenced address and should show on the face of the envelope: the closing time and date specified, the solicitation number and

the name and address of the offeror. The technical proposal should be submitted in a sealed envelope and the financial proposal should be submitted in a sealed envelope under separate cover. Both sealed envelopes should have identical information on the cover, with the addition that one will state "Technical Information," and the other, "Financial Proposal."

Note: In accordance with the Kentucky Revised Statute 45A.085, there will be no public opening.

3.7 Modification or Withdrawal of Offer

An offer and/or modification of offer received at the office designated in the solicitation after the exact hour and date specified for receipt will not be considered.

An offer may be modified or withdrawn by written notice before the exact hour and date specified for receipt of offers. An offer also may be withdrawn in person by an offeror or an authorized representative, provided the identity of the person is made known and the person signs a receipt for the offer, but only if the withdrawal is made prior to the exact hour and date set for receipt of offers.

3.8 Acceptance or Rejection and Award of Proposal

The University reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals (or parts of proposals), to waive any informalities or technicalities, to clarify any ambiguities in proposals and (unless otherwise specified) to accept any item in the proposal. In case of error in extension or prices or other errors in calculation, the unit price shall govern. Further, the University reserves the right to make a single award, split awards, multiple awards or no award, whichever is in the best interest of the University.

3.9 Rejection

Grounds for the rejection of proposals include (but not be limited to):

- Failure of a proposal to conform to the essential requirements of the RFP.
- Imposition of conditions that would significantly modify the terms and conditions of the solicitation or limit the offeror's liability to the University on the contract awarded on the basis of such solicitation.
- Failure of the offeror to sign the University RFP. This includes the Authentication of Proposal and Statement of Non-Collusion and Non-Conflict of Interest statements.
- Receipt of proposal after the closing date and time specified in the RFP.

3.10 Addenda

Any addenda or instructions issued by the purchasing agency prior to the time for receiving proposals shall become a part of this RFP. Such addenda should be acknowledged in the proposal.

No instructions or changes shall be binding unless documented by a proper and duly issued addendum.

3.11 Disclosure of Offeror's Response

The RFP specifies the format, required information and general content of proposals submitted in response to this RFP. The purchasing agency will not disclose any portions of the proposals prior to contract award to anyone outside Procurement Services, the University's administrative staff, representatives of the state or federal government (if required) and the members of the committee evaluating the proposals. After a contract is awarded in whole or in part, the University shall have the right to duplicate, use or disclose all proposal data submitted by offerors in response to this RFP as a matter of public record.

Any submitted proposal shall remain valid six (6) months after the proposal due date.

The University shall have the right to use all system ideas, or adaptations of those ideas, contained in any proposal received in response to this RFP. Selection or rejection of the proposal will not affect this right.

3.12 Restrictions on Communications with University Staff

From the issue date of this RFP until a contractor is selected and a contract award is made, offerors are not allowed to communicate about the subject of the RFP with any University administrator, faculty, staff or members of the board of trustees except: the purchasing office representative, any University purchasing official representing the University administration, others authorized in writing by the purchasing office and University representatives during offeror presentations. If violation of this provision occurs, the University reserves the right to reject the offeror's proposal.

3.13 Cost of Preparing Proposal

Costs for developing the proposals and any subsequent activities prior to contract award are solely the responsibility of the offerors. The University will provide no reimbursement for such costs.

3.14 Disposition of Proposals

All proposals become the property of the University. The successful proposal will be incorporated into the resulting contract by reference.

3.15 Alternate Proposals

Offerors may submit alternate proposals. If more than one proposal is submitted, all should be complete (separate) and comply with the instructions set forth within this document. Each proposal will be evaluated on its own merits.

3.16 Questions

All questions should be submitted by e-mail to the purchasing officer listed in Section 3.2 no later than the date listed in Section 3.1.

3.17 Section Titles in the RFP

Section titles used herein are for the purpose of facilitating ease of reference only and shall not be construed to infer the construction of contractual language.

3.18 No Contingent Fees

No person or selling agency shall be employed or retained or given anything of monetary value to solicit or secure this contract, except bona fide employees of the offeror or bona fide established commercial or selling agencies maintained by the offeror for the purpose of securing business. For breach or violation of this provision, the University shall have the right to reject the proposal, annul the contract without liability, or, at its discretion, deduct from the contract price or otherwise recover the full amount of such commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee or other benefit.

3.19 Proposal Addenda and Rules for Withdrawal

Prior to the date specified for receipt of offers, a submitted proposal may be withdrawn by submitting a written request for its withdrawal to the University purchasing office, signed by the offeror. Unless requested by the University, the University will not accept revisions or alterations to proposals after the proposal due date.

3.20 Requirement To Perform Vendor Onboarding and Registration

As a condition of award, and for any renewals performed during the life of the contract, successful Contractor agrees to register their company with PaymentWorks, Inc., the University's vendor onboarding application. Registration information will be provided by Procurement Services as part of the award process. During the vendor registration process, successful Contractor agrees to provide any applicable information pertaining to diversity demographics for their company. Further, should any company or diversity information change during the life of the contract, successful Contractor agrees to update this information in PaymentWorks as applicable.

4.0 PROPOSAL FORMAT AND CONTENT

4.1 Proposal Information and Criteria

The following list specifies the items to be addressed in the proposal. Offerors should read it carefully and address it completely and in the order listed to facilitate the University's review of the proposal.

Proposals should be organized into the sections identified below. The content of each section is detailed in the following pages. It is strongly suggested that offerors use the same numbers for the following content that are used in the RFP.

- Signed Authentication of Proposal and Statement of Non-Collusion and Non-Conflict of Interest Form
- Transmittal Letter
- Executive Summary and Proposal Overview
- Criteria 1 - Offeror Qualifications and Experience
- Criteria 2 - Offeror Approach and Schedule
- Criteria 3 - Financial Proposal
- Criteria 4 - Additional Information

4.2 Signed Authentication of Proposal and Statements of Non-Collusion and Non-Conflict of Interest Form

The Offeror will sign and return the proposal cover sheet and print or type their name, firm, address, telephone number and date. The person signing the offer should initial erasures or other changes. An offer signed by an agent is to be accompanied by evidence of their authority unless such evidence has been previously furnished to the purchasing agency. The signer shall further certify that the proposal is made without collusion with any other person, persons, company or parties submitting a proposal; that it is in all respects fair and in good faith without collusion or fraud; and that the signer is authorized to bind the principal offeror.

4.3 Transmittal Letter

The Transmittal Letter accompanying the RFP should be in the form of a standard business letter and should be signed by an individual authorized to legally bind the offeror. It should include:

- A statement referencing all addenda and written questions, the answers and any clarifications to this RFP issued by the University and received by the offeror (If no addenda have been received, a statement to that effect should be included.).
- A statement that the offeror's proposal shall remain valid for six (6) months after the closing date of the receipt of the proposals.
- A statement that the offeror will accept financial responsibility for all travel expenses incurred for oral presentations (if required) and candidate interviews.

- A statement that summarizes any deviations or exceptions to the RFP requirements and includes a detailed justification for the deviation or exception.
- A statement that identifies the confidential information as described in Section 6.23.

4.4 Executive Summary and Proposal Overview

The Executive Summary and Proposal Overview should condense and highlight the contents of the technical proposal in such a way as to provide the evaluation committee with a broad understanding of the entire proposal.

As part of the Executive Summary and Proposal Overview, Offeror should submit with their response a summarized profile describing the demographic nature of their company or organization:

1. When was your organization established and/or incorporated?
2. Indicate whether your organization is classified as local, regional, national, or international.
3. Describe the size of your company in terms of number of employees, gross sales, etc.
4. Is your company certified as small business, minority-owned, women-owned, veteran-owned, disabled-owned, or similar classification?
5. Include other demographic information that you feel may be applicable to the Request for Proposal submission.
6. Offeror should describe in detail their company's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion and maximizing business opportunities for Kentucky-located businesses.

Business Classification	Check All That Apply
Kentucky-Located	
Minority-Owned	
Woman-Owned	
Small Business	
Veteran-Owned	
LGBTQ-Owned	
Disability-Owned Business Entity (DOBE)	
Classification Not Indicated	

4.5 Criteria 1 - Offeror Qualifications and Experience

Our supply chains and business partnerships are an important aspect of this work. In your proposal, please (A) provide your company's mission and vision relative to sustainability, and (B) how your company, through services, products, and partnerships, will help the University of Kentucky advance specific elements of the Sustainability Strategic Plan.

The purpose of the Offeror Qualifications and Experience section is to determine the ability of the Offeror to conduct the work described in this Request for Proposal. Offerors should describe and offer evidence of their ability to meet the project objectives. Specifically, the following information should be provided.

- a) Provide a brief narrative describing the history of your firm. Include information on the firm's origins, purpose, ownership, organizational structure, and growth. If the company has ever filed for bankruptcy or been in loan default, or if there are any pending liens, claims, or lawsuits against the firm, provide a description here.
- b) Provide a description of the current financial and business status of your firm, including number of employees, business niche, resources available, and financial health. This should include certified, audited financial statements for the past three (3) fiscal years. If such statements are not available, the information should be provided to the fullest extent possible, with explanations for any missing information. The Offeror may choose to convey this information by enclosing the most recent annual report for the firm.
- c) Describe your firm's capabilities and experience in areas directly related to development, implementation, hosting, and ongoing support of a custom software system. Provide a description of specific projects where your firm has developed and implemented such a system. Describe the specific role that your firm played in each project. For each related project, provide the following information:
 - Name of project
 - Name of client (organization name)
 - Point of contact (i.e., reference) for client, with contact information
 - Beginning and ending dates of the project
 - Description of project and work performed
- d) Provide letters of reference from selected clients to document the following:
 - Overall quality of performance and level of client satisfaction
 - Your firm's capabilities and skills
 - Depth of experience directly related to custom software development and implementation
 - Ability to perform within schedule and deliver on-time
 - Ability to perform within available budget and deliver high value for funds invested
 - Positive working relationship with clients and other team members.
- e) Provide a project staffing plan that includes the following information:
 - Identify key personnel to be assigned to the project and the role each person will fill.

- Describe the supervisory and reporting relationships that will exist among the project team members. If appropriate, an organizational chart, with accompanying text, can be used to convey this information.

For each key person identified, provide information on education, background, experience, knowledge, and capabilities.

4.6 Criteria 2 – Offeror Approach and Schedule

In this section, the Offeror should write from the perspective of the RPTS Developer for the pooled-fund partner states and describe the recommended approach for accomplishing the project objectives. This discussion should include such items as:

- Project phasing and tasks
- Major project milestones and deliverables
- A recommended schedule for project completion. This schedule should show beginning and end dates for each task, dates for all milestones and deliverables, decision points, and key variables and dependencies.
- Significant questions to be answered and decisions to be made
- Significant challenges and issues to be encountered, both technical and non-technical
- Identification and discussion of pertinent standards, interfaces, and databases
- Resources required for on-time completion
- Recommended procedures for day-to-day project management, tracking, communications, progress reporting, etc.

As noted previously, the Functional Requirements Document for the RPTS (Appendix A) contains a stratified list of capabilities and attributes, and each potential capability and attribute is classified as required, desired, or optional. The lines dividing these categories are not hard and fast. In many cases, the final decision on including or excluding a given capability or attribute will depend on the relative ease or difficulty (and the incremental cost) of providing it. Thus, in responding to this RFP, each Offeror should conduct a preliminary assessment of the functional requirements and make an initial determination of which capabilities and attributes can reasonably be provided (i.e., without excessive incremental cost or negative impacts on the overall system performance). This section of the proposal provides an opportunity for each Offeror to demonstrate a healthy understanding of the system requirements and to lay out a recommended approach for firming up those requirements in cooperation with the project partners.

4.7 Criteria 3 – Financial Proposal

The Financial Summary Form should contain the complete financial offer made to the University using the format contained in Section 8.0. All financial information should be submitted in a sealed envelope under separate cover.

4.8 Criteria – Additional Information

Please provide any additional information that the offeror feels should be considered when evaluating their proposal.

The offeror may present any creative approaches that might be appropriate. The offeror may also provide supporting documentation that would be pertinent to this RFP.

5.0 EVALUATION CRITERIA PROCESS

A committee of University officials appointed by the Chief Procurement Officer will evaluate proposals and make a recommendation to the Chief Procurement Officer. The evaluation will be based upon the information provided in the proposal, additional information requested by the University for clarification, information obtained from references and independent sources and oral presentations (if requested).

The evaluation of responsive proposals shall then be completed by an evaluation team, which will determine the ranking of proposals. Proposals will be evaluated strictly in accordance with the requirements set forth in this solicitation, including any addenda that are issued. The University will award the contract to the responsible offeror whose proposal is determined to be the most advantageous to the University, taking into consideration the evaluation factors set forth in this RFP.

The evaluation of proposals will include consideration of responses to the list of criteria in Section 4.0. Offerors should specifically address all criteria in their response. Any deviations or exceptions to the specifications or requirements should be described and justified in a transmittal letter. Failure to list such exceptions or deviations in the transmittal letter may be considered sufficient reason to reject the proposal.

The relative importance of the criteria is defined below:

Primary Criteria

- Offeror Qualifications and Experience
- Offeror Approach and Schedule

Secondary Criteria

- Financial Proposal
- Additional Information

The University will evaluate proposals as submitted and may not notify offerors of deficiencies in their responses.

Proposals should contain responses to each of the criteria, listed in Section 4 even if the offeror's response cannot satisfy those criteria. A proposal may be rejected if it is conditional or incomplete in the judgment of the University.

6.0 SPECIAL CONDITIONS

6.1 Contract Term

The contract resulting from this RFP shall be effective when signed with an initial period of four (4) years and is renewable for up to three (3) additional two-year renewal periods. The total contract period will not exceed ten (10) years. Renewal shall be contingent upon available funding and the University's satisfaction with the services performed.

6.2 Effective Date

The effective date of the contract should be the date upon which the parties execute it and all appropriate approvals, including that of the Commonwealth of Kentucky Government Contracts Review Committee, have been received.

6.3 Competitive Negotiation

It is the intent of the RFP to enter into competitive negotiation as authorized by KRS 45A.085.

The University will review all proposals properly submitted. However, the University reserves the right to request necessary modifications, reject all proposals, reject any proposal that does not meet mandatory requirement(s) or cancel this RFP, according to the best interests of the University.

Offeror(s) selected to participate in negotiations may be given an opportunity to submit a Best and Final Offer to the purchasing agency. All information-received prior to the cut-off time will be considered part of the offeror's Best and Final Offer.

The University also reserves the right to waive minor technicalities or irregularities in proposals providing such action is in the best interest of the University. Such waiver should in no way modify the RFP requirements or excuse the offeror from full compliance with the RFP specifications and other contract requirements if the offeror is awarded the contract.

6.4 Appearance Before Committee

Any, all or no offerors may be requested to appear before the evaluation committee to explain their proposal and/or to respond to questions from the committee concerning the proposal. Offerors are prohibited from electronically recording these meetings. The committee reserves the right to request additional information.

6.5 Additions, Deletions or Contract Changes

The University reserves the right to add, delete, or change related items or services to the contract established from this RFP. No modification or change of any provision in the resulting contract shall be made unless such modification is mutually agreed to in writing by the contractor and the Chief Procurement Officer and incorporated as a written modification to the contract. Memoranda of understanding and correspondence should not be interpreted as a modification to the contract.

6.6 Contractor Cooperation in Related Efforts

The University reserves the right to undertake or award other contracts for additional or related work to other entities. The contractor shall fully cooperate with such other contractors and University employees and carefully fit its work to such additional work. The contractor shall not commit or permit any act which will interfere with the performance of work by any other contractor or by University employees. This clause shall be included in the contracts of all contractors with whom this contractor will be required to cooperate. The University shall equitably enforce this clause to all contractors to prevent the imposition of unreasonable burdens on any contractor.

6.7 Entire Agreement

The RFP should be incorporated into any resulting contract. The resulting contract, including the RFP and those portions of the offeror's response accepted by the University, should be the entire agreement between the parties.

6.8 Governing Law

The contractor shall conform to and observe all laws, ordinances, rules and regulations of the United States of America, Commonwealth of Kentucky and all other local governments, public authorities, boards or offices relating to the property or the improvements upon same (or the use thereof) and will not permit the same to be used for any illegal or immoral purposes, business or occupation. The resulting contract shall be governed by Kentucky law and any claim relating to this contract shall only be brought in the Franklin Circuit Court in accordance with KRS 45A.245.

6.9 Kentucky's Personal Information Security and Breach Investigation Procedures and Practices Act

To the extent Company receives Personal Information as defined by and in accordance with Kentucky's Personal Information Security and Breach Investigation Procedures and Practices Act, KRS 61.931, 61.932 and 61.933 (the "Act"), Company shall secure and protect the Personal Information by, without limitation: (i) complying with all requirements applicable to non-affiliated third parties set forth in the Act; (ii) utilizing security and breach investigation procedures that are appropriate to the nature of the Personal Information disclosed, at least as stringent as University's and reasonably designed to protect the Personal Information from unauthorized access, use, modification, disclosure, manipulation, or destruction; (iii) notifying University of a security breach relating to Personal Information in the possession of Company or its agents or subcontractors within seventy-two (72) hours of discovery of an actual or suspected breach unless the exception set forth in KRS 61.932(2)(b)2 applies and Company abides by the requirements set forth in that exception; (iv) cooperating with University in complying with the response, mitigation, correction, investigation, and notification requirements of the Act, (v) paying all costs of notification, investigation and mitigation in the event of a security breach of Personal Information suffered by Company; and (vi) at University's discretion and direction, handling all administrative functions associated with notification, investigation and mitigation.

6.10 Termination for Convenience

The University of Kentucky, Procurement Services, reserves the right to terminate the resulting contract without cause with a thirty (30) day written notice. Upon receipt by the contractor of a "notice of termination," the contractor shall discontinue all services with respect to the applicable contract. The cost of any agreed upon services provided by the contractor will be calculated at the agreed upon rate prior to a "notice of termination" and a fixed fee contract will be pro-rated (as appropriate).

6.11 Termination for Non-Performance**Default**

The University may terminate the resulting contract for non-performance, as determined by the University, for such causes as:

- Failing to provide satisfactory quality of service, including, failure to maintain adequate personnel, whether arising from labor disputes, or otherwise any substantial change in ownership or proprietorship of the Contractor, which in the opinion of the University is not in its best interest, or failure to comply with the terms of this contract;
- Failing to keep or perform, within the time period set forth herein, or violation of, any of the covenants, conditions, provisions or agreements herein contained;
- Adjudicating as a voluntarily bankrupt, making a transfer in fraud of its creditors, filing a petition under any section from time to time, or under any similar law or statute of the United States or any state thereof, or if an order for relief shall be entered against the Contractor in any proceeding filed by or against contractor thereunder. In the event of any such involuntary bankruptcy proceeding being instituted against the Contractor, the fact of such an involuntary petition being filed shall not be considered an event of default until sixty (60) days after filing of said petition in order that Contractor might during that sixty (60) day period have the opportunity to seek dismissal of the involuntary petition or otherwise cure said potential default; or
- Making a general assignment for the benefit of its creditors, or taking the benefit of any insolvency act, or if a permanent receiver or trustee in bankruptcy shall be appointed for the Contractor.

Demand for Assurances

In the event the University has reason to believe Contractor will be unable to perform under the Contract, it may make a demand for reasonable assurances that Contractor will be able to timely perform all obligations under the Contract. If Contractor is unable to provide such adequate assurances, then such failure may be an event of default and grounds for termination of the Contract.

Notification

The University will provide ten (10) calendar days written notice of default. Unless arrangements are made to correct the non-performance issues to the University's satisfaction within ten (10)

calendar days, the University may terminate the contract by giving forty-five (45) days notice, by registered or certified mail, of its intent to cancel this contract.

6.12 Funding Out

The University may terminate this contract if funds are not appropriated or are not otherwise available for the purpose of making payments without incurring any obligation for payment after the date of termination, regardless of the terms of the contract. The University shall provide the contractor thirty (30) calendar days' written notice of termination under this provision.

6.13 Prime Contractor Responsibility

Any contracts that may result from the RFP shall specify that the contractor(s) is/are solely responsible for fulfillment of the contract with the University.

6.14 Assignment and Subcontracting

The Contractor(s) may not assign or delegate its rights and obligations under any contract in whole or in part without the prior written consent of the University. Any attempted assignment or subcontracting shall be void.

6.15 Permits, Licenses, Taxes

The contractor shall procure all necessary permits and licenses and abide by all applicable laws, regulations and ordinances of all federal, state and local governments in which work under this contract is performed.

The contractor must furnish certification of authority to conduct business in the Commonwealth of Kentucky as a condition of contract award. Such registration is obtained from the Secretary of State, who will also provide the certification thereof. However, the contractor need not be registered as a prerequisite for responding to the RFP.

The contractor shall pay any sales, use, personal property and other tax arising out of this contract and the transaction contemplated hereby. Any other taxes levied upon this contract, the transaction or the equipment or services delivered pursuant hereto shall be the responsibility of the contractor.

The contractor will be required to accept liability for payment of all payroll taxes or deductions required by local and federal law including (but not limited to) old age pension, social security or annuities.

6.16 Attorneys' Fees

In the event that either party deems it necessary to take legal action to enforce any provision of the contract and in the event that the University prevails, the contractor agrees to pay all expenses of such action including attorneys' fees and costs at all stages of litigation.

6.17 Royalties, Patents, Copyrights and Trademarks

The Contractor shall pay all applicable royalties and license fees. If a particular process, products or device is specified in the contract documents and it is known to be subject to patent rights or copyrights, the existence of such rights shall be disclosed in the contract documents and the Contractor is responsible for payment of all associated royalties. To the fullest extent permitted by law the Contractor shall indemnify, hold the University harmless, and defend all suits, claims, losses, damages or liability resulting from any infringement of patent, copyright, and trademark rights resulting from the incorporation in the Work or device specified in the Contract Documents.

Unless provided otherwise in the contract, the Contractor shall not use the University's name nor any of its trademarks or copyrights, although it may state that it has a Contract with the University.

6.18 Indemnification

The contractor shall indemnify, hold and save harmless the University, its affiliates and subsidiaries and their officers, agents and employees from losses, claims, suits, actions, expenses, damages, costs (including court costs and attorneys' fees of the University's attorneys), all liability of any nature or kind arising out of or relating to the Contractor's response to this RFP or its performance or failure to perform under the contract awarded from this RFP. This clause shall survive termination for as long as necessary to protect the University.

6.19 Method of Award

It is the intent of the University to award a contract to the qualified offeror whose offer, conforming to the conditions and requirements of the RFP, is determined to be the most advantageous to the University, cost and other factors considered.

Notwithstanding the above, this RFP does not commit the University to award a contract from this solicitation. The University reserves the right to reject any or all offers and to waive formalities and minor irregularities in the proposal received.

6.20 Reciprocal Preference

In accordance with KRS 45A.494, a resident offeror of the Commonwealth of Kentucky shall be given a preference against a nonresident offeror. In evaluating proposals, the University will apply a reciprocal preference against an offeror submitting a proposal from a state that grants residency preference equal to the preference given by the state of the nonresident offeror. Residency and non-residency shall be defined in accordance with KRS 45A.494(2) and 45A.494(3), respectively. Any offeror claiming Kentucky residency status shall submit with its proposal a notarized affidavit affirming that it meets the criteria as set forth in the above reference statute.

6.21 Reports and Auditing

The Contractor (s) shall provide periodic status reports to the University. The frequency, format, and method of delivery of such reports shall be mutually determined by the University and the Contractor.

6.22 Confidentiality

The University recognizes an offeror's possible interest in preserving selected information and data included in the proposal; however, the University must treat such information and data as required by the Kentucky Open Records Act, KRS 61.870, et seq.

Information areas which normally might be considered proprietary, and therefore confidential, shall be limited to individual personnel data, customer references, formulae and company financial audits which, if disclosed, would permit an unfair advantage to competitors. If a proposal contains information in these areas and the offeror declares them to be proprietary in nature and not available for public disclosure, the offeror should declare in the Transmittal Letter the inclusion of proprietary information and shall noticeably label as confidential or proprietary each sheet containing such information. Proposals containing information declared by the offeror to be proprietary or confidential, either wholly or in part, outside the areas listed above may be deemed non-responsive and may be rejected.

The University's General Counsel shall review each offeror's information claimed to be confidential and, in consultation with the offeror (if needed), make a final determination as to whether or not the confidential or proprietary nature of the information or data complies with the Kentucky Open Records Act.

6.23 Conflict of Interest

This Request for Proposal and resulting Contract are subject to provisions of the Kentucky Revised Statutes regarding conflict of interest and the University of Kentucky's Ethical Principles and Code of Conduct (www.uky.edu/Legal/ethicscode.htm). When submitting and signing a proposal, an offeror is certifying that no actual, apparent or potential conflict of interest exists between the interests of the University and the interests of the offeror. A conflict of interest (whether contractual, financial, organizational or otherwise) exists when any individual, contractor or subcontractor has a direct or indirect interest because of a financial or pecuniary interest, gift or other activities or relationships with other persons (including business, familial or household relationships) and is thus unable to render or is impeded from rendering impartial assistance or advice, has impaired objectivity in performing the proposed work or has an unfair competitive advantage.

Questions concerning this section or interpretation of this section should be directed to the University purchasing officer identified in this RFP.

6.24 Personal Service Contract Policies

Pursuant to the Kentucky Model Procurement Code (Code), the Government Contract Review Committee (GCRC) of the Kentucky General Assembly may establish policies that govern personal service contracts. Under the Code, a personal service contract is an agreement whereby an individual, firm, partnership or corporation is to perform certain services requiring professional skill or professional judgment for a specified period of time at an agreed upon price.

A. Professional Service Rate Schedules:

The GCRC has established rate schedules for certain professional services and may impact any contract established under the Code. These rate schedules are located on the GCRC website at the following link: <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/moreinfo/contracts/homepage.html>. Access/click the dropdown menu within the web page for the rates information.

B. Invoicing of Personal Service Contracts:

The Kentucky Model Procurement Code was recently amended to establish conditions for invoicing for fees for personal service contracts. It states, "No payment shall be made on any personal service contract unless the individual, firm, partnership, or corporation awarded the personal service contract submits its invoice on a form established by the committee." The Government Contract Review Committee has adopted a personal service contract invoice form that must be submitted as a condition of payment. A copy of the form is located on the GCRC website at: <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/moreinfo/contracts/PSC%20INVOICE%20FORM.pdf>.

6.25 Copyright Ownership and Title to Designs and Copy

Contractor and University intend this RFP to result in a contract for services.

Intellectual property consists of copyrights, patents, and any other form of intellectual property rights covering any databases, software, inventions, training manuals, systems design or other proprietary information in any form or medium. For any intellectual property developed under this Contract, the Contractor may retain all intellectual property rights with the following limitations:

For any software specifically developed by the Contractor under this Contract, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and other participating state DOTs shall be provided with source code and shall be granted an unrestricted, perpetual, royalty-free license to use, copy, modify, and update the software.

Copyrights. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and other participating state DOTs each reserve a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable license to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use, and to authorize others to use, for Federal and/or State Government purposes:

- a. The copyright in any works developed under this Contract, or under a subcontract under this Contract; and
- b. Any rights of copyright to which the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, the other participating state DOTs, and/or the University purchase ownership with financial assistance provided by this Contract.

Patents. Rights to inventions made under this Contract shall be determined in accordance with 37 CFR Part 401.

6.27 University Brand Standards

The contractor must adhere to all University of Kentucky Brand Standards. University Brand Standards are maintained by the University Public Relations Office (UKPR) and can be viewed at

<http://www.uky.edu/prmarketing/brand-standards>. Non-adherence to the standards can have a penalty up to and including contract cancellation. Only the UKPR Director or designee can approve exceptions to the University standards.

Graphics standards for the UK HealthCare areas are governed by UK HealthCare Clinical Enterprise Graphic Standards, found at: <https://ukhealthcare.uky.edu/staff/brand-strategy>.

Contractor warrants that its products or services provided hereunder will be in compliance with all applicable Federal disabilities laws and regulations, including without limitation the accessibility requirements of Section 255 of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (47 U.S.C. § 255) and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 794d), and its implementing regulations set forth at Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1194. For purposes of clarity, updated regulations under Section 508 standards now incorporate WCAG 2.0, and for purposes of this agreement WCAG 2.0 Level AA compliance is expressly included. Contractor agrees to promptly respond to, resolve and remediate any complaint regarding accessibility of products or services in a timely manner and provide an updated version to University at no cost. If deficiencies are identified, University reserves the right to request from Contractor, a timeline by which accessibility standards will be incorporated into the products or services provided by Contractor and shall provide such a timeline within a commercially reasonable duration of time. Failure to comply with these requirements shall constitute a material breach of this Agreement and may be grounds for termination of this Agreement.

Where any customized web services are provided, Contractor represents that it has reviewed the University's Web Policy and all products or services will comply with its published standards.

Contractor will provide University with a current Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) for any deliverable(s). If none is available, Vendor will provide sufficient information to reasonably assure the University that the products or services are fully compliant with current requirements.

6.30 Payment Terms

The University adheres to a strategic approach regarding payables management based on risk minimization, processing costs, and industry best practices. As such, suppliers and individuals doing business with the University will be paid based on the following protocol:

1. The University utilizes Payment Plus (e-payables) as its primary default form of payment. By enrolling in Payment Plus, suppliers can receive payments immediately (all invoices will be paid immediately upon confirmation of goods receipt and invoice). The process is electronic and the supplier receives real-time payment notices. Additional information regarding Payment Plus (and enrollment form) can be found at: <https://www.uky.edu/ufs/payment-plus-supplier-enrollment-form>.
2. Payments by check. Payment terms for check payments are Net-30.
3. Individuals receiving payments from the University that require ACH direct payments will only be processed under special circumstances as approved by the Controller's office. Payment terms for ACH are Net-40.

7.0 SCOPE OF SERVICES

7.1 Detailed Services Defined – Initial System Development and Deployment

The University will designate a Project Manager to oversee the development of the Research Project Tracking System (RPTS). The Project Manager will designate a representative from each partner state to serve on the RPTS Steering Committee. The Project Manager will guide and monitor the work of the selected Contractor and will serve as the liaison between the selected Contractor and the Steering Committee.

The selected Contractor will work with the Project Manager and the RPTS Steering Committee to refine and finalize the RPTS functional requirements and to develop a step-by-step plan for system development. Upon approval of the finalized functional requirements and the system development plan, the selected Contractor will proceed to execute the plan and develop the RPTS. The development process will be carried out in close cooperation with the Steering Committee, with frequent opportunities for review of mockups, consideration of alternatives, testing of initial rollouts, and course corrections.

As the system is developed and becomes operational, the selected Contractor will host and maintain the system and will provide appropriate backups and security features. The selected Contractor will also provide system documentation and training for system users.

7.2 Additional Services – Ongoing Hosting, Maintenance, Training, and System Enhancement

Once the RPTS is operational, the selected Contractor will provide multiple years of system hosting and maintenance (starting when the system is fully up and running initially with options to extend as described in Sections 6.1 and 8.2). Ongoing maintenance of the system will include any upgrades necessary to keep the system current and up-to-date. In response to anticipated personnel turnover within the partner state DOTs, the selected Contractor will provide periodic training for new employees. As the system is used by the partner states, it is anticipated that potential enhancements will be identified. When such an enhancement is identified, and when requested by the Project Manager, the selected Contractor will assess the feasibility of the enhancement, develop a plan for implementing the enhancement (along with a corresponding cost estimate), and present the plan and estimate to the Project Manager. Upon approval by the Project Manager, the selected Contractor will execute the plan and implement the enhancement. As with the initial development, any enhancements to the system will be carried out in close cooperation with the Steering Committee.

Should a partner state elect, at some future date, to host the RPTS themselves (rather than continuing to use the Contractor-hosted system), the selected Contractor shall provide that state with all necessary source code and documentation to support that transition. In addition, at the state's request, the selected Contractor will work with that state to purge that state's data from the Contractor-hosted system.

8.0 FINANCIAL OFFER SUMMARY

Offerors are to provide a fixed price for the services offered.

8.1 Initial System Development and Deployment

The Offeror must propose a single, fixed price to complete the work described in Section 7.1 of this RFP. This price must correspond to the detailed description of work provided in the “Offeror Approach and Schedule” section (Criteria 2) of the Technical Proposal (see Section 4.2 of this RFP).

8.2 Ongoing Hosting, Maintenance, Training, & System Enhancement

The Offeror must propose a single, fixed price for three years of system hosting, maintenance, and periodic training as described in Section 7.2 of this RFP. In addition, the Offeror should propose an annual cost for system hosting and maintenance for each year after the initial three-year period, i.e., for year 4, year 5, year 6, year 7, year 8, and year 9. This cost may be provided as (1) a specified cost for each year or (2) as a cost for year 4 with a specified percentage increase for each subsequent year.

APPENDIX A

FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Overview

The goal of the Transportation Pooled Fund Project TPF-5(467), entitled “Research Project Tracking System,” is to develop a web-based system that the partner states can use to more effectively manage their respective transportation research programs. The jurisdictions desire the new system to have the following general capabilities and attributes. The system should:

- Provide a database of research projects;
- Provide report-generating capabilities;
- Enable tracking and reporting of financial data;
- Provide storage and access for project-level and program-level documents; and
- Be web-based, secure, and accessible from any approved device with Internet access.

The partner states have had multiple discussions of these capabilities and attributes, along with the specific functionality necessary to provide them. Through those discussions, the partners stratified the capabilities, attributes, and specific functions into three categories:

- Required
- Desired
- Optional

In many cases, the final decision on including or excluding a given capability or attribute will depend on the relative ease or difficulty (and the incremental cost) of providing it. The partners anticipate working cooperatively with the selected system developer in making such decisions. With that in mind, here is the stratified list developed by the project partners. For this document, the word “SHOULD” (upper case) indicates a required element, while the word “should” (lower case) indicates a desired element.

System Functionality

The database and system SHOULD have the following attributes and capabilities:

- The system SHOULD provide a database of proposed, pending, active, and completed research projects.
- The database SHOULD be searchable, sortable, and filterable.
- The system SHOULD support storing and tracking data on the extent and value of research implementation.
- The system SHOULD enable tracking of research projects beyond the project end date.
- For each research project, the system SHOULD enable tracking of individual tasks, milestones, and deliverables, including keeping track of due dates and recording actual completion dates.

- The system should provide the ability to generate automated notifications/alerts for specified events (upcoming due dates, missed deadlines, etc.).
- For each research project, the system SHOULD enable the user to easily access a quick “snapshot” of the project status.
- The system SHOULD enable the user to easily access a quick “snapshot” of the overall research program status.
- The system SHOULD enable tracking of selected subsets of projects (such as by fiscal year, project manager, division, department, etc.).
- The system SHOULD enable tracking and reporting of financial data, including spending versus budget and tracking of invoices and payments.
- For tracking/reporting of financial data, the system should show budget details (i.e., expense categories).
- For tracking/reporting of financial data, the system should show spending history.
- For tracking/reporting of financial data, the system should show the history of invoices and payments.
- The system should provide the ability to track “change orders” (changes to project schedule and/or budget).
- The system should store and track data related to program-level performance measures. This should include a capability for user-defined performance measures.
- The system SHOULD allow the user to add and rename fields in the database.
- For initial implementation of the system, state agencies should have the capability to import data from their existing databases (if any) into the new system.
- The system SHOULD provide the ability to generate reports on individual research projects and on the overall research program. In addition to “canned” reports, the system SHOULD allow the user to create customized, user-defined reports and to save those reports for future use.
- The system should allow creation of a customized project manager dashboard.
- The system should provide a place for storing and accessing key project-level documents. This should include project proposals, work plans, budgets, approvals, progress reports, meeting materials (agendas, minutes, presentations, etc.) and project deliverables (reports, videos, specifications, training materials, etc.). The system should provide a searchable document library.
- The system SHOULD be web-based and accessible from any device with internet access.
- The system SHOULD be accessible (with full functionality) via a variety of internet browsers.
- The system SHOULD be secure, with user access controlled via proper authentication (user ID and password, or equivalent).
- The system SHOULD allow for different levels of users with different levels of functionality.

- The system SHOULD allow the state DOT to add new users and provide them with appropriate levels of access.
- The system SHOULD allow the state DOT to download (and remove, if desired) all their content from the system if the state chooses to no longer use and/or support the system.
- The system SHOULD have a flexible, modular design that facilitates the addition of modules for extra features or capabilities.
- Data import/export functions of the system should support common data formats such as ASCII, CSV, etc.

Capabilities/Attributes of Lesser Value

The following capabilities and attributes did not make the cut for being “required” or “desired.” They are considered optional. Decisions regarding the inclusion of any of these capabilities or attributes will depend on the perceived value of the addition versus the anticipated incremental cost and potential downsides of providing it. All such decisions will be made by the partner states in cooperation with project staff and the selected system developer.

- Store and track information on participation in pooled-fund projects.
- Store and track information on project funding used as match for federal funds.
- Provide updates of national research databases (RiP, TRID, etc.).
- Provide automated email (and/or other electronic message) notifications.
- Provide ability to send editable emails (and/or other electronic messages) from the system to project managers, PIs, financial officers, etc.
- Provide automated reminders at specific times after project end date (e.g., 6 months, 12 months, 24 months, etc.).
- Provide storage and access for contract documents.
- Provide an online portal for submittal of research project ideas and for review, ranking, and selection of projects.
- Provide an online portal for submittal, review, and approval of project work plans and budgets.
- Provide an online portal for submittal and review of the annual State Planning and Research (SPR) Work Program.
- Where feasible, allow users to access the system using an existing user ID and password.
- Allow for creation of email distribution lists.
- Provide a master research calendar.
- Allow tracking of “research readiness level” or “technology readiness level.”
- Provide an area for equipment and supply tracking.
- Allow project managers and PIs to view and manage their projects easily without having to sort through all projects.

- Allow the system to interface with the agency's document storage system to access documents from the system and save documents to it.
- Allow the state DOT, if they choose, to host the system, modify it, and continue to use it without the need for a third party.