

Invitation for Bid
April 10, 2018 3PM
(BUS) 17180410-1

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CER 2. Request for Pre-Offer Change or Approved Equal

This form must be used for requested clarifications, changes, substitutes or approval of items equal to items specified with a brand name and must be submitted as far in advance of the Due Date, as specified in "Questions, Clarifications and Omissions."

Spartanburg Area Regional Transit Agency
17180410-1 3 Low Floor Heavy Duty Diesel Buses

Grande West Transportation is pleased to submit the following Requests and Approved Equals.

The proposed 35' bus is in concept a 5' longer 30' bus, whereas many of the IFB specifications indicate a scaled down 40' bus. We submit that the proposed bus meets the functional and performance requirements and provides a lighter and more fuel efficient bus at a competitive cost for both procurement and long term maintenance. The bus proposed, with many lighter and smaller components, is still heavy-duty bus design. The best in class Altoona results demonstrate the heavy duty, yet lightweight design of the bus.

CER 2. Requests:

1. Physical Size
2. Ramp Clearances
3. Engine Model
4. Transmission Model
5. Fuel Tank
6. Tire Size
7. Steering Axle
8. Brakes
9. Air Dryer
10. Batteries
11. Window Mounting
12. HVAC Model
13. Passenger Seating
14. Passenger Doors
15. Front Ramp
16. Passenger Stop Requests
17. Warranty
18. Documentation
19. Performance Bond

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Spartanburg Area Regional Transit Agency
17180410-1 3 Low Floor Heavy Duty Diesel Buses

Request #: 1

Bidder: Grande West Transportation

IFB Section: TS 6.

Page: 59

Questions/clarification or approved equal:

The proposed bus has an interior height of 92", and 72.75" at the rear riser.

We are requesting consideration for these heights. The main bus interior at 7'8" is sufficient height for passengers. The rear riser area has room for approximately 4 standees.

Agency action: ☒ Approved ☐ Denied
☐ See addendum ☐ See response below

Agency response:

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Spartanburg Area Regional Transit Agency
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Request #: 2

Bidder: Grande West Transportation

IFB Section: TS 6.2

Page: 60

Questions/clarification or approved equal:

We are requesting approval to meet clearance angles as follows:

The 35' bus has the stock clearance angles in column 3. The air bag suspension can be easily raised 2" by activating a standard dash switch. It is recommended to use the raised mode temporarily at slow speeds.

Angle	IFB Bus Specs	Proposed 35' Bus	35' Bus Raised
Approach	8.5 degrees (min.)	8.0	9.3 - meets spec
Front Breakover	8 degrees (min.)	10.8 - meets spec	11.8 - meets spec
Departure	8.7 degrees (min.)	8.1	9.1 - meets spec

Agency action: ☒ Approved ☐ Denied
☐ See addendum ☐ See response below

Agency response:

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Spartanburg Area Regional Transit Agency
17180410-1 3 Low Floor Heavy Duty Diesel Buses

Request #: 3

Bidder: Grande West Transportation

IFB Section: TS 9. Engine

Page: 62

Questions/clarification or approved equal:

IFB: The heavy-duty diesel engine shall be a Cummins L9 or approved equal designed to provide sufficient power to meet the bus performance requirements of the Contract, and operate for not less than 300,000 miles without major failure or significant deterioration.

Grande West: We are proposing a Cummins ISB 6.7 ltr 250 Hp engine. This engine in the proposed bus meets the bus performance requirements. The proposed bus is significantly lighter than the maximum specified. The ISB engine also reduces weight and provides excellent fuel economy. Complete performance, weight, and fuel economy data will be submitted with the final bid.

Agency action:

☐ Approved

☒ Denied

☐ See addendum

☒ See response below

Agency response:

Agency requires L9 engine

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Spartanburg Area Regional Transit Agency
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Request #: 4

Bidder: Grande West Transportation

IFB Section: TS 11. Transmission

Page: 64

Questions/clarification or approved equal:

IFB: Allison B400R or approved equal.

Grande West: We are proposing an Allison B300R transmission that meets the performance requirements. The Allison B300R is better matched to the ISB engine for torque and horsepower ratings. It is lighter and contributes to better fuel economy.

Agency action:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Denied
	<input type="checkbox"/> See addendum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See response below

Agency response:

Agency requires B400R transmission

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Spartanburg Area Regional Transit Agency
17180410-1 3 Low Floor Heavy Duty Diesel Buses

Request #: 5

Bidder: Grande West Transportation

IFB Section: 17.2.1 Fuel Tank

Page: 68

Questions/clarification or approved equal:

IFB: The fuel tank (s) shall have a minimum of 80 gallon capacity. The fuel filler shall be located 7 to 32 feet behind the centerline of the front door on the curbside of the bus.

Grande West: The proposed bus comes with a 71 US gallon (270L) capacity stainless steel fuel tank. This capacity is sufficient for the 350 mile specified range.

The fuel filler is located 4 feet behind the centerline of the front door on the curbside. These are inherent in the bus design.

Agency action:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied
	<input type="checkbox"/> See addendum	<input type="checkbox"/> See response below

Agency response:

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Spartanburg Area Regional Transit Agency
17180410-1 3 Low Floor Heavy Duty Diesel Buses

Request #: 6

Bidder: Grande West Transportation

IFB Section: 31.2 Tires

Page: 76

Questions/clarification or approved equal:

IFB: Tires shall be 305/85/22.5 suitable for the conditions of transit service and sustained operation at the maximum speed capability of the bus. Load on any tire at GVWR shall not exceed the tire Supplier's rating.

Grande West: The proposed bus is equipped with 275/70R22.5 size tires. This size of tire is suitable for conditions of transit service and meets GVWR loads.

Agency action: ☒ Approved ☐ Denied
☐ See addendum ☐ See response below

Agency response:

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Request #: 7

Bidder: Grande West Transportation

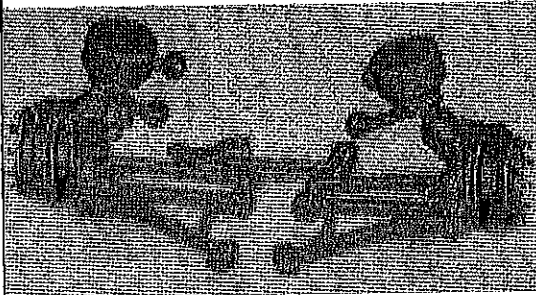
IFB Section: 32.1 Steering Axle

Page: 76

Questions/clarification or approved equal:

IFB: The front axle shall be of an I-beam suspension design, non-driving, with a load rating sufficient for the bus loaded to GVWR and shall be equipped with grease type front wheel bearings and seals.

Grande West: The proposed front axle is a "double wishbone independent suspension". Hub bearings are sealed. This design is lighter weight, heavy duty low maintenance design, and provides excellent handling and ride characteristics.



Agency action:

☐ Approved

☒ Denied

☐ See addendum

☒ See response below

Agency response:

Agency requires front axle I-beam suspension

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Request #: 8 Bidder: Grande West Transportation IFB Section: 35.4 Hubs and Drums Page: 78	
Questions/clarification or approved equal: IFB: The bus shall be equipped with drum brakes on all axles. Grande West: The proposed bus is equipped with air disk brakes on all axles. The disk brakes provide excellent brake lining life, low maintenance, and stopping performance.	
Agency action:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> See addendum
	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied <input type="checkbox"/> See response below
Agency response:	

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Spartanburg Area Regional Transit Agency
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Request #: 9

Bidder: Grande West Transportation

IFB Section: 37.5 Air Dryer

Page: 80

Questions/clarification or approved equal:

IFB: SKF Turbo 2000 or approved equal.

Grande West: The proposed bus standard air dryer is a Bendix AD-IS.

Agency action:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Denied
	<input type="checkbox"/> See addendum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See response below

Agency response:

Agency finds the Bendix AD-IS is an inferior product for what is required

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Spartanburg Area Regional Transit Agency
17180410-1 3 Low Floor Heavy Duty Diesel Buses

Request #: 10

Bidder: Grande West Transportation

IFB Section: 40.1.1 Low-voltage Batteries

Page: 82

Questions/clarification or approved equal:

IFB: The Agency requires the use of two (2) Type 8D, deep-cycling, maintenance-free batteries. Each battery shall have a minimum of 1,300 cold-cranking amps.

The battery tray shall be stainless steel, shall pull out or swing out easily and properly support the batteries during servicing.

Grande West: The Vicinity bus uses two (2) East Penn Group 31 925 CCA AGM batteries, and an optional "Maxwell ESM" supercapacitor starting aid.

The batteries are located in the engine bay between the bumper and the engine in a protective sulphuric acid resistant box that is ventilated and covered with a metal heat shield which is held in place with four (4) nuts. The batteries are accessed through the rear engine bay door and can easily be reached or removed.

The 2 x Group 31 batteries are sufficient for the smaller ISB engine and LED bus lighting, and other normal bus loads. Customers with IT equipment that draws amperage when the bus is parked may choose the optional the ESM starting battery, to save the bus "house" loads for the group 31 batteries.

Agency action:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Denied
	<input type="checkbox"/> See addendum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See response below

Agency response:

Agency requires type 8D batteries

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Spartanburg Area Regional Transit Agency
17180410-1 3 Low Floor Heavy Duty Diesel Buses

Request #: 11

Bidder: Grande West Transportation

IFB Section: TS 48. Windows

Page: 99

Questions/clarification or approved equal:

IFB: The windshield shall be easily replaceable by removing zip-locks from the windshield retaining moldings. Bonded-in-place windshields shall not be used. Winglets may be bonded. The windshield shall be the 2 piece design.

The upper portion of the windshield above the driver's field of view shall have a dark, shaded band.

The operator's side window shall not be bonded in place and shall be easily replaceable.

Side windows shall not be bonded in place.

Grande West: The proposed bus uses a bonded windshield which is clear, single piece, with no shaded band. The driver's side window and side windows are bonded in place. This is inherent with the bus design and allows for a smooth, aesthetic, rattle free installation. Window replacement requires slicing the urethane sealant, cleaning sealant, and re-bonding with a glass adhesive.

Agency action:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied
	<input type="checkbox"/> See addendum	<input type="checkbox"/> See response below

Agency response:

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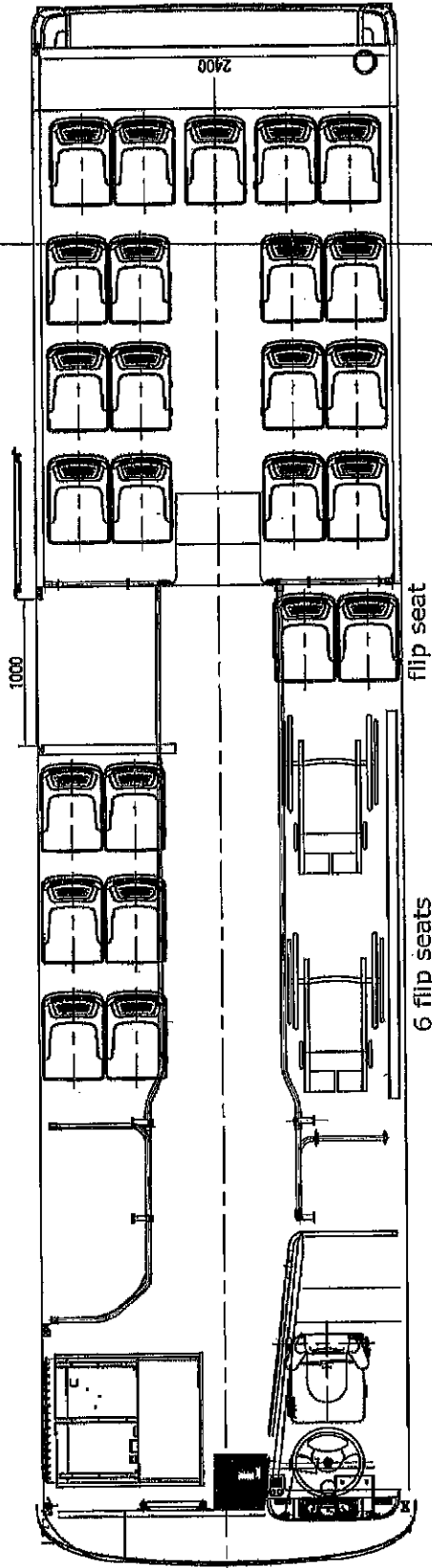
Request #: 12 Bidder: Grande West Transportation IFB Section: TS 52. HVAC Page: 101	
Questions/clarification or approved equal: IFB: The bus HVAC system shall be a rear bulkhead mounted Thermo King T-14 series system with Thermo King Intelligaire controls and an X426 or X430 compressor or approved equal. Grande West: The proposed bus is equipped with a Spheros RG400 climate control system with full electronic controls and diagnostics. The roof top unit has both an air conditioning unit and a heating unit rated at A/C 133,073 Btu/hr heater 136,486 Btu/hr. The RG400 capacity is 35-55% higher than the TK T-14 unit. In addition we have two 34,000 Btu/hr passenger compartment heaters. A total of 204,486 Btu/hr of body heating, plus separate driver's heat and defrosting control, and AC vents.	
Agency action:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> See addendum
	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied <input type="checkbox"/> See response below
Agency response:	

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17180410-1 3 Low Floor Heavy Duty Diesel Buses

Request #: 13 Bidder: Grande West Transportation IFB Section: TS 72. Passenger Seating Page: 115	
Questions/clarification or approved equal: IFB: Passenger seating capacity with this arrangement shall be no less than 34 passengers. The transverse seat structure shall be fully cantilevered. Grande West: The proposed bus has a seating capacity of 31, with 2 Mobility Aid positions on the street side. The transverse seats are pedestal mounted. Refer to the following sample seating layout.	
Agency action:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> See addendum
	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied <input type="checkbox"/> See response below
Agency response:	



- 2 doors, 31 seated passengers
- 24 standees
- 2 fwd facing wheelchair positions

DRAFT

GRANDWEST TRANSPORTATION	
31 Seats 24 Standees 2 Fwd Facing Wheelchair Positions	2400 1000 1000
2 Doors 2 Fwd Facing Wheelchair Positions	2400 1000 1000

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Request #: 14

Bidder: Grande West Transportation

IFB Section: TS 75. Passenger Doors

Page: 122

Questions/clarification or approved equal:

IFB: When open the doors shall leave and opening no less than 75.3 in. in height. Doors shall be operated by push-button controls.

Grande West: The proposed bus door heights are 74 in. Front door width between panels is 35 in. and rear door width between panels is 36 in. Doors are Vapor pneumatic slide glide. The door control is a Vapor 5 position rotating handle controller.

Agency action:

☒ Approved

☐ Denied

☐ See addendum

☐ See response below

Agency response:

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Spartanburg Area Regional Transit Agency
17180410-1 3 Low Floor Heavy Duty Diesel Buses

Request #: 15 Bidder: Grande West Transportation IFB Section: TS 76.1 Loading Systems Page: 1242	
Questions/clarification or approved equal: IFB: The loading system shall be a Lift u LU-18 ramp. Grande West: The proposed bus front loading ramp is a Ricon 621SA 6:1 slope with 1,000 lb capacity, electro-mechanical powered.	
Agency action:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied <input type="checkbox"/> See addendum <input type="checkbox"/> See response below
Agency response:	

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Spartanburg Area Regional Transit Agency
17180410-1 3 Low Floor Heavy Duty Diesel Buses

Request #: 16

Bidder: Grande West Transportation

IFB Section: TS 79. Passenger Stop Request

Page: 126

Questions/clarification or approved equal:

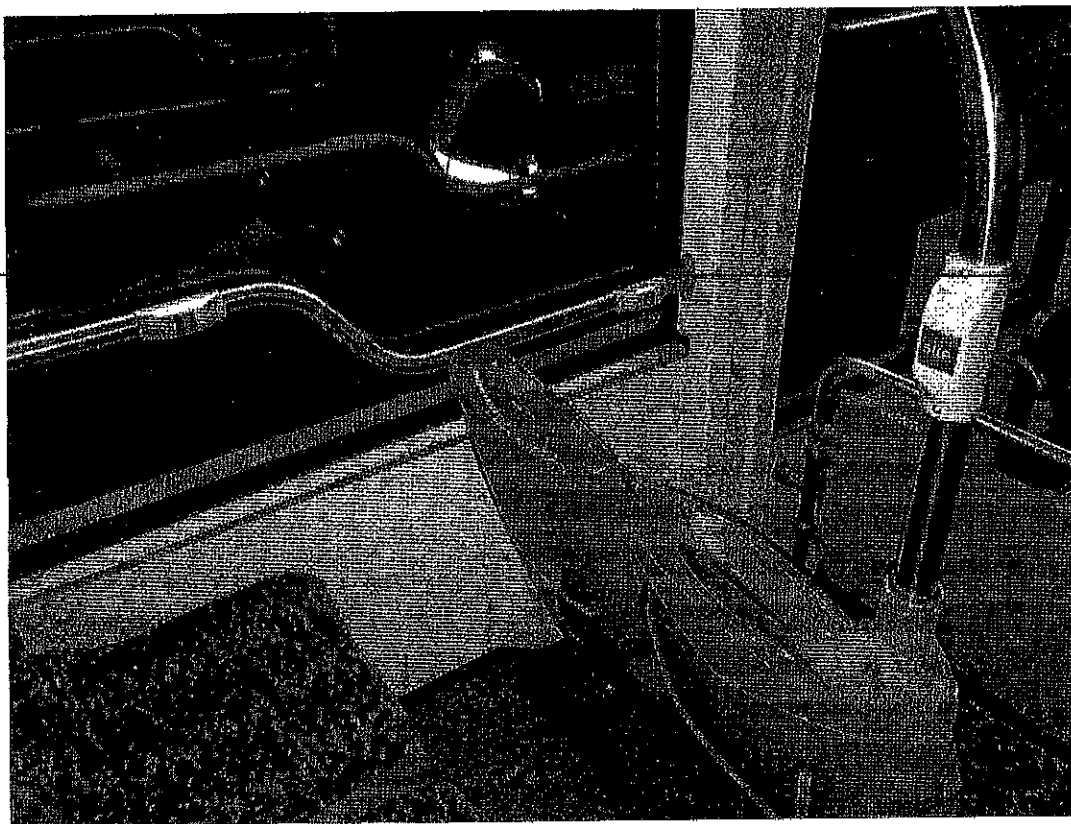
IFB: Pull cord passenger signal

Grande West: The Vicinity bus is equipped with minimum 10 "Stop Request" buttons located at convenient locations throughout the passenger seating area. We find the stop request buttons are very convenient, aesthetic, and lower maintenance, compared to pull cords.

See photos following.

Agency action:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied
	<input type="checkbox"/> See addendum	<input type="checkbox"/> See response below

Agency response:



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Spartanburg Area Regional Transit Agency
17180410-1 3 Low Floor Heavy Duty Diesel Buses

Request #: 17

Bidder: Grande West Transportation

IFB Section: 7: Warranty Provisions

Page: 129

Questions/clarification or approved equal:

Grande West is requesting approval for the following warranty durations:

Extended warranties and costs can be discussed.

IFB Reference	IFB Requirement	Grande West Request	Notes
WR 1.1.1 Structure	12 yr / 500,000 mi	10 yr / 400,000 mi	GW standard
WR 1.1.5 Emission Control System	5 yr / 100,000 mi	1 yr / 40,000 mi	Cummins standard warranty
HVAC – rooftop unit & compressor	2 yr / 100,000 mi	1 yr / unlimited	Spheros standard
Air Dryer	2 yr / 100,000 mi	1 yr / 100,000 mi	Bendix standard
Alternator	2 yr / 100,000 mi	1 yr / unlimited	Neihoff standard

WR 2. Repair Procedures

The Contractor is responsible for all warranty-covered repair Work.

The Contractor shall provide at its own expense all spare parts, tools and space required to complete repairs.

Grande West:

Where practical, we would prefer the Agency to perform warranty work, and reimburse for parts and labor. GW is always available for service support by phone or email. A service support representative may attend for complex or fleet defect issues.

With an initial fleet of 3 buses we may not have a local facility available to perform warranty repairs. We request that warranty repairs will be done on the Purchaser's premises.

Agency action: ☐ Approved ☒ Denied
☐ See addendum ☒ See response below

Agency response:

Agency requires Warranty provisions in the IFB

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Spartanburg Area Regional Transit Agency
17180410-1 3 Low Floor Heavy Duty Diesel Buses

Request #: 18
Bidder: Alliance Bus Group, Inc.
IFB Section: SP 6.2 Documentation
Page: 43

Questions/clarification or approved equal:]

IFB: "The Contractor shall provide 3 current maintenance manual(s) to include..."

ABG: Is the City looking for these manuals to be included in the bid submission or at delivery of buses?

Agency action:

☐ Approved

☐ Denied

☐ See addendum

☒ See response below

Agency response:

Delivery of buses

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Spartanburg Area Regional Transit Agency
17180410-1 3 Low Floor Heavy Duty Diesel Buses

Request #: 18

Bidder: Alliance Bus Group, Inc.

IFB Section: SP 6.2 Documentation

Page: 43

Questions/clarification or approved equal:]

How many bid submissions (copies) does the City require?

Agency action:

☐ Approved

☐ Denied

☐ See addendum

☒ See response below

Agency response:

6.2 Speaks to manuals for the buses,
not bid submissions

CER 2. Request for Pre-Offer Change or Approved Equal

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Spartanburg Area Regional Transit Agency
17180410-1 3 Low Floor Heavy Duty Diesel Buses

Request #: 19
Bidder: Alliance Bus Group, Inc.
IFB Section: Faithful Performance Bond
Page: 180

Questions/clarification or approved equal:]

During the pre-bid meeting it was mentioned that there were no bonds (performance or bid) required for this procurement. The IFB has a separate page dedicated to a performance bond request.

Please clarify if a performance bond is required for ITB# 17180410-1

Agency action: ☐ Approved ☐ Denied
☐ See addendum ☒ See response below

Agency response:

Performance bond not required