



Jones County School System

Facility: Transportation

Electronic Request for Quote (“eRFQ”)

Event Name: 21-57

eRFQ (Event) Number: PHASE 1 BUS PARKING AND BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

NIGP Codes: 98832
98863

1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of Procurement

Pursuant to the State Purchasing Act (Official Code of Georgia Annotated §§50-5-50 et seq.), this electronic Request for Quotes (“eRFQ”) is being issued to establish a contract with a qualified supplier who will provide construction services for bus parking and building improvements to Jones County School System (hereinafter, “JCSS”) as further described in this eRFQ.

Jones County Schools seeks responsible and responsive contractors to complete Phase 1 of the Bus Parking and Building Improvement project. This phase will include storm drainage work, grading, clearing and construction of a retainage wall.

1.2. Electronic Records and Signatures

This eRFQ is being sourced through an electronic sourcing tool all suppliers’ responses must be submitted electronically in accordance with the instructions contained in Section 2 “Instructions to Suppliers” of this eRFQ. Electronic competitive sealed proposals will be administered pursuant to the Georgia Electronic Records and Signature Act. Please note electronic competitive sealed bids meet the sealed bidding requirements of the State of Georgia, an electronic record meets any requirements for writing, and an electronic signature meets any requirements for an original signature.

1.3. Overview of the eRFQ Process

The objective of the eRFQ is to select a qualified supplier to provide the goods and/or services outlined in this eRFQ to JCSS. This eRFQ process will be conducted to gather and evaluate responses from suppliers for potential award. All qualified suppliers are invited to participate by submitting responses, as further defined below. After evaluating all suppliers’ responses received prior to the closing date of this eRFQ and following negotiations (if any) and resolution of any contract exceptions, the preliminary results of the eRFQ process will be publicly announced, including the names of all participating suppliers and the evaluation results. Subject to the protest process, final contract award(s) will be publicly announced thereafter.

NOTE TO SUPPLIERS: The general instructions and provisions of this document have been drafted with the expectation that JCSS will make a single award; however, please refer to Section 6.6 “Selection and Award” of this eRFQ for information concerning JCSS’s actual award strategy (single, multiple, split awards, etc).

1.4. Schedule of Events

The schedule of events set out herein represents JCSS’s best estimate of the schedule that will be followed. However, delays to the procurement process may occur which may necessitate adjustments to the proposed schedule. If a component of this schedule, such as the close date, is delayed, the rest of the

schedule may be shifted as appropriate. Any changes to the dates up to the closing date of the eRFQ will be publicly posted prior to the closing date of this eRFQ. After the close of the eRFQ, JCSS reserves the right to adjust the remainder of the proposed dates, including the dates for evaluation, negotiations, award and the contract term on an as needed basis with or without notice.

Description	Date	Time
Release of eRFQ	3/31/2021	N/A
Deadline for written questions sent via email to the Issuing Officer referenced in Section 1.5.	04/14/2021	5:00 p.m. ET
Bidders/Offerors' Conference Location: 273 Railroad Street, Gray, GA 31032 Attendance is: Mandatory	4/9/2021	8:00 a.m. ET
Responses to Written Questions	04/16/2021	5:00 p.m. ET
Bids Due/Close Date and Time	5/3/2021	1:00 p.m. ET
Bid evaluations completed (on or about)	5/11/2021	N/A
Notice of Intent to Award* [NOIA] (on or about)	5/12/2021	N/A
Notice of Award [NOA] (on or about)	10 calendar days after NOIA	N/A

*In the event the estimated value of the contract is less than \$100,000, Jones County Schools reserves the right to proceed directly to contract award without posting a Notice of Intent to Award.

1.5. Official Issuing Officer (Buyer)

Carol Miller, GCPM
carolmiller@jones.k12.ga.us

1.6. Definition of Terms

Please review the following terms:

Supplier(s) – companies desiring to do business with the Jones County School System.

JCSS – the governmental entity identified in Section 1.1 “Purpose of Procurement” of this eRFP.

RFQ- request for quotes also known as bid

Any special terms or words which are not identified in this JCSS eRFQ Document may be identified separately in one or more attachments to the eRFQ. Please download, save and carefully review all documents in accordance with the instructions provided in Section 2 “Instructions to Suppliers” of this eRFQ.

1.7. Contract Term

The initial term of the contract(s) is for period required by completion of the project. Award of Phase 1 does not automatically reflect a guarantee of award for other Phases of this project.

2. Instructions to Suppliers

By submitting a response to the eRFQ, the supplier is acknowledging that the supplier:

1. Has read the information and instructions,
2. Agrees to comply with the information and instructions contained herein.

2.1. General Information and Instructions

2.1.1. Restrictions on Communicating with Staff

From the issue date of this eRFQ until the final award is announced (or the eRFQ is officially cancelled), suppliers are not allowed to communicate for any reason with any JCSS staff except through the Issuing Officer named herein, or during the Bidders/Offerors' conference (if any), or as defined in this eRFQ or as provided by existing work agreement(s). Prohibited communication includes all contact or interaction, including but not limited to telephonic communications, emails, faxes, letters, or personal meetings, such as lunch, entertainment, or otherwise. JCSS reserves the right to reject the response of any supplier violating this provision.

2.1.3. Submitting Questions

All questions concerning this eRFQ must be submitted in writing via email to the Issuing Officer identified in Section 1.5 "Issuing Officer" of this eRFQ. No questions other than written will be accepted. No response other than written will be binding upon JCSS. All suppliers must submit questions by the deadline identified in the Schedule of Events for submitting questions. Suppliers are cautioned that JCSS may or may not elect to entertain late questions or questions submitted by any other method than as directed by this section. All questions about this eRFQ must be submitted in the following format:

Company Name

Question #1 Question, *Citation of relevant section of the eRFQ*

Question #2 Question, *Citation of relevant section of the eRFQ*

Do not use the comments section of the Sourcing Event to submit questions to the issuing officer.

2.1.4. Attending Bidders/Offerors' Conference

The Bidders/Offerors' Conference or any other information session (if indicated in the schedule of events) will be held at the offices referred to in Section 1.4 "Schedule of Events" of this eRFQ. Attendance is **MANDATORY**. A representative of the supplier must attend the conference in its entirety to be considered eligible for contract award. The supplier is strongly encouraged to allow ample travel time to ensure arrival in the conference meeting room prior to the beginning of any mandatory conference. JCSS reserves the right to consider any representative arriving late to be "not in attendance." Therefore, all suppliers are strongly encouraged to arrive early to allow for unexpected travel contingencies.

2.1.5. JCSS's Right to Request Additional Information – Supplier's Responsibility

Prior to contract award, JCSS must be assured that the selected supplier has all of the resources to successfully perform under the contract. This includes, but is not limited to, adequate number of personnel with required skills, availability of appropriate equipment in sufficient quantity to meet the on-going needs of JCSS, financial resources sufficient to complete performance under the contract, and experience in similar endeavors. If, during the evaluation process, JCSS is unable to assure itself of the supplier's ability to perform, if awarded, JCSS has the option of requesting from the supplier any information deemed necessary to determine the supplier's responsibility. If such information is required, the supplier will be so notified and will be permitted approximately seven business days to submit the information requested.

2.1.6. Failing to Comply with Submission Instructions

Responses received after the identified due date and time or submitted by any other means than those expressly permitted by the eRFQ **will not** be considered. Suppliers' responses must be complete in all respects, as required in each section of this eRFQ.

2.1.7. Rejection of Proposals; JCSS's Right to Waive Immaterial Deviation

JCSS reserves the right to reject any or all responses, to waive any irregularity or informality in a supplier's response, and to accept or reject any item or combination of items, when to do so would be to the advantage of the State of Georgia and Jones County School System. It is also within the right of JCSS to reject responses **that do not contain all elements and information requested in**

this eRFP. A supplier's response will be rejected if the response contains any defect or irregularity and such defect or irregularity constitutes a material deviation from the eRFQ requirements, which determination will be made by JCSS on a case-by-case basis.

2.1.8. JCSS's Right to Amend and/or Cancel the eRFQ

JCSS reserves the right to amend this eRFQ. Any revisions must be made in writing prior to the eRFP closing date and time. By submitting a response, the supplier shall be deemed to have accepted all terms and agreed to all requirements of the eRFQ (including any revisions/additions made in writing prior to the close of the eRFQ whether or not such revision occurred prior to the time the supplier submitted its response) unless expressly stated otherwise in the supplier's response. **THEREFORE, EACH SUPPLIER IS INDIVIDUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR REVIEWING THE REVISED eRFQ AND MAKING ANY NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE CHANGES AND/OR ADDITIONS TO THE SUPPLIER'S RESPONSE PRIOR TO THE CLOSE OF THE eRFQ.**

Suppliers are encouraged to frequently check the eRFP for additional information. Finally, JCSS reserves the right to cancel this eRFP at any time.

2.1.9. Protest Process

Suppliers should familiarize themselves with the procedures set forth in *Jones County School System Procurement Manual* available on the system website.

2.1.10. Costs for Preparing Responses

Each supplier's response should be prepared simply and economically, avoiding the use of elaborate promotional materials beyond those sufficient to provide a complete presentation. The cost for developing the response and participating in the procurement process (including the protest process) is the sole responsibility of the supplier. JCSS will not provide reimbursement for such costs.

2.1.11. ADA Guidelines

JCSS adheres to the guidelines set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act. Suppliers should contact the Issuing Officer at least one day in advance if they require special arrangements when attending the Bidders/Offerors' Conference (if any). The Georgia Relay Center at 1-800-255-0056 (TDD Only) or 1-800-255-0135 (Voice) will relay messages, in strict confidence, for the speech and hearing impaired.

2.1.12. Public Access to Procurement Records

Solicitation opportunities will be publicly advertised as required by law and the provisions of the Georgia Procurement Manual. The State Purchasing Act delays the release of certain procurement records in the event the public disclosure of those records prior to JCSS's public announcements of the results of a solicitation would undermine the public purpose of obtaining the best value for the System such as cost estimates, proposals/bids, evaluation criteria, supplier evaluations, negotiation documents, offers and counter-offers, and certain records revealing preparation for the procurement. After issuance of the Notice of Intent to Award (or the Notice of Award in the event JCSS does not issue the Notice of Intent to Award), or after a solicitation has been cancelled following evaluation, without intent to rebid, requests for access to public records, shall be subject to the disclosure provisions of Georgia's Open Records Act. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-18-71(a), JCSS must make all public records, including but not limited to, cost estimates, proposals/bids, evaluation criteria, supplier proposals, evaluation documents, negotiation documents, offers and counter offers, and records revealing preparation to the procurement, open for personal inspection and copying, except those records which by order of a court of this state or by law are specifically exempted from disclosure. JCSS is allowed to assess a charge for search, retrieval, redaction, and to defray the cost of reproducing documents as permitted under O.C.G.A. § 50-18-71(c)(1).

2.1.12.1. Marking Submissions as "Confidential", "Proprietary", or "Trade Secret"

If a Supplier considers any portion of the documents, data, or records submitted in response to this solicitation to be exempt from disclosure under Georgia law, the Supplier must clearly mark each such submission, or portions of the submission, considered to be exempt from disclosure as “Confidential,” “Proprietary,” or “Trade Secret” and specify the statutory exemption. All markings must be conspicuous; use color, bold, underlining, or some other method in order to conspicuously distinguish the mark from the other text. Wholesale designation of a response or substantial parts of a response as “Confidential” will not be accepted by JCSS. If only portions of a page are subject to some protection, Supplier should not mark the entire page. PLEASE NOTE: Even though information (financial or other information) submitted by a supplier may be marked as "confidential", "proprietary", etc., JCSS will make its own determination regarding what information may or may not be withheld from disclosure.

2.1.12.2. Submission of Redacted Copies

If Supplier considers any portion of its bid/proposal to the solicitation to be trade secret or otherwise not subject to public disclosure under the Georgia Open Records Act, Supplier must, in addition to the required original documents, provide a separate redacted electronic copy of its bid/proposal, in PDF format, and briefly describe in a separate writing, as to each item redacted, the grounds for claiming exemption from the public records law, including citation to the appropriate exemption from disclosure requirements provided under Georgia law. This redacted copy should be clearly marked “Redacted Copy-Available for Public Review.” In addition, the electronic file name should include the words “**Redacted Copy**” at the **beginning of the file name**. The redacted copy shall be submitted at the same time Supplier submits its bid/proposal and must only exclude or redact those specific portions that are claimed not subject to disclosure. The redacted copy should reflect the same pagination as the original and show the location from which information was redacted. Except for the redacted information, the redacted electronic copy must be identical to the original bid/proposal. The redacted copy will be open to public inspection under the Georgia Open Records Act without further notice to the Supplier. If Supplier fails to submit a redacted copy with its bid/proposal, JCSS is authorized to produce the Supplier’s bid/proposal with the exception of audited financial statements in answer to any public records request under the Georgia Open Records Act. Even though information submitted by a Supplier may be marked as "confidential", "proprietary", “trade secret” etc., JCSS in consultation of Georgia Department of Administrative Services will make its own determination regarding what information may or may not be withheld from disclosure. If the State of Georgia deems redacted information to be subject to disclosure under the Georgia Open Records Act, the Supplier will be contacted prior to the release of this information.

2.1.12.3. Trade Secret

In addition, if the Supplier claims that certain information in its bid/proposal may be withheld as trade secret pursuant to O.C.G.A. 50-18-72(a)(34), the Supplier shall include **with its bid/proposal submission, an affidavit indicating the specific information** that the Supplier identifies as trade secret, affirmatively declaring that such information is trade secret. A sample affidavit template is provided as an attachment to this solicitation; however, use of the sample affidavit template does not guarantee that all requirements of the Open Records Act have been met. Along with the affidavit, the Supplier shall provide a justification regarding how and why each redaction request constitutes a trade secret pursuant to Georgia law. Designation of a “trade secret” shall not be binding on JCSS, but JCSS will review and consider the designation. Wholesale designation of a response or substantial parts of a response as “trade secrets” will not be accepted by JCSS. In general, JCSS does not consider pricing information to be trade secret. *See State Rd. & Tollway Auth. V. Elec. Transaction Consultants Corp. 306 Ga. App. 487; 702 S.E. 2d 486 (2010).*

2.1.13. Registered Lobbyists

By submitting a response to this eRFQ, the supplier hereby certifies that the supplier and its lobbyists are in compliance with the Lobbyist Registration Requirements in accordance with the *Georgia Procurement Manual*.

2.1.14. Supplier Debriefing Process

For all solicitations issued on or after November 1, 2020 that result in a contract award of \$250,000 or more, unsuccessful suppliers may request a supplier debriefing from JCSS in accordance with the *Georgia Procurement Manual*, Section 6.6. The purpose of a supplier debriefing is to share information about the evaluation and award process. Unsuccessful suppliers can benefit from supplier debriefings by enhancing their understanding of the procurement process and gaining insights to improve the competitiveness of their responses to future solicitations. The supplier debriefing is not an adversarial proceeding and may not be used to challenge JCSS's selection. For more information, including the process and deadline for requesting a supplier debriefing, please review the *Georgia Procurement Manual*, Section 6.6.

2.2. Submittal Instructions

Submittal Instructions for Vendor Registry

Listed below are key action items related to this eRFQ. The Schedule of Events in Section 1.4 identifies the dates and time for these key action items. This portion of the eRFQ provides high-level instructions regarding the process for reviewing the eRFQ, preparing a response to the eRFQ and submitting a response to the eRFQ. Suppliers are required to access, print and utilize the training materials identified in Attachment "How to respond to an online bid-Vendor Registry."

2.2.1. eRFQ Released

The release of the eRFQ is formally communicated through the posting of this eRFQ as an event in Vendor Registry and by a public announcement posted to the Georgia Procurement Registry and Vendor Registry, which is accessible online.

This eRFQ is being conducted through Vendor Registry, an online, electronic tool, which allows a supplier to register, logon, select answers and type text in response to questions, and upload any necessary documents. Each supplier interested in competing to win a contract award must complete and submit a response to this eRFQ using Vendor Registry. Therefore, each supplier should contact Vendor Registry with any training or concerns regarding the program at 884-802-9202.

2.2.2. eRFQ Review

The eRFQ (or "Sourcing Event") consists of the following: this document, entitled "JCSS eRFQ Document", and any and all information included in the Sourcing Event, as posted online on Vendor Registry, including any and all documents provided by JCSS as attachments to the Sourcing Event or links contained within the Sourcing Event or its attached documents.

Please carefully review all information contained in the Event, including all documents available as attachments or available through links. Any difficulty accessing the Event or opening provided links or documents should be reported immediately to the Issuing Officer (See Section 1.5) A list of all documents can be found at the of the eRFQ document.

2.2.3. Preparing a Response

As noted earlier, Vendor Registry allows the supplier to answer questions by entering text and numeric responses. When preparing a response, the supplier must consider the following instructions:

1. Use the provided worksheets to prepare your response. Enter your responses directly into the worksheet. Unless otherwise directed, do not insert “see attached file” (or similar statements) in the worksheet to reference separate documents.
2. Answer each question in sufficient detail for evaluation while using judgment with regards to the length of response.
3. Proofread your response and make sure it is accurate and readily understandable.
4. Label any and all uploaded files using the corresponding section numbers or document title of the eRFP or any other logical name so that JCSS can easily organize and navigate the supplier’s response.
5. Use caution in creating electronic files to be uploaded. If JCSS is unable to open an electronic file due to a virus or because the file has become corrupted, the supplier’s response may be considered incomplete and disqualified from further consideration.
6. Use commonly accepted software programs to create electronic files. JCSS has the capability of viewing documents submitted in the following format: Microsoft Word or WordPad, Microsoft Excel, portable document format file (PDF), and plain text files with the file extension noted in parentheses (.txt). Unless the eRFP specifically requests the use of another type of software or file format than those listed above, please contact the Issuing Officer prior to utilizing another type of software and/or file format. In the event JCSS is unable to open an electronic file because JCSS does not have ready access to the software utilized by the supplier, the supplier’s response may be considered incomplete and disqualified from further consideration.

2.2.4. Uploading Forms

Once the supplier is ready to upload electronic files (completed forms or worksheets, product sheets, etc.), please following the directions within the eRFQ to upload these documents in the proper location.

2.2.5. Reviewing the Response Prior to Submission

Each supplier is responsible for ensuring all questions have been answered appropriately and that all necessary documents have been uploaded. Prior to final submission of your response, please review the following checklist:

1. Please review and confirm that the supplier has answered all questions appropriately. If questions require a “yes” or “no” response. Please ensure that the correct response has been selected.
2. Please review and confirm that the most competitive response has been provided.
3. Please confirm that all necessary files have been uploaded.

2.2.6. Submitting the Completed Response/Bid

Once the completed response has been reviewed by the supplier, click the "Submit Bid" button at the top of the page under the “Event Details” section of the Event. Any information entered by a supplier into Vendor Registry but not submitted prior to the submission deadline will not be released to JCSS and will not be considered for award. Only after the supplier selects the “Submit Bid” button, will the response to the eRFQ be sent electronically, time stamping the supplier’s response and sending a confirmation email to the email address of the supplier. Please note that submission is not instantaneous; therefore, each supplier must **allow ample time for its response to be submitted prior to the deadline.** closing date and time, the supplier must submit a request in writing to the Issuing Officer.

2.2.7. Help Desk Support

For technical questions related to the use of Vendor Registry, suppliers have access to phone support through the Customer Service Help Desk at 404-657-6000, Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM excluding State Holidays or any other day state offices are closed such as furlough days or closings in response to inclement weather.

3. General Business Requirements

This section contains general business requirements. By submitting a response, the supplier is certifying its agreement to comply with all of the identified requirements of this section and that all costs for complying with these general business requirements are included in the supplier's submitted pricing.

3.1. Standard Insurance Requirements

If awarded a contract, the supplier shall procure and maintain insurance which shall protect the supplier and the Jones County School System (as an additional insured) from any claims for bodily injury, property damage, or personal injury covered by the indemnification obligations set forth in the contract attached to this solicitation throughout the duration of the contract. The supplier shall procure and maintain the insurance policies described below at the supplier's own expense and shall furnish JCSS an insurance certificate listing Jones County School System as certificate holder and as an additional insured. The insurance certificate must document that the Commercial General Liability insurance coverage purchased by the supplier includes contractual liability coverage applicable to the contract. In addition, the insurance certificate must provide the following information: the name and address of the insured; name, address, telephone number and signature of the authorized agent; name of the insurance company (authorized to operate in Georgia); a description of coverage in detailed standard terminology (including policy period, policy number, limits of liability, exclusions and endorsements); and an acknowledgment of notice of cancellation to JCSS.

The supplier is required to maintain the following insurance coverage's during the term of the contract:

- 1) Workers Compensation Insurance (Occurrence) in the amounts of the statutory limits established by the General Assembly of the State of Georgia (A self-insurer must submit a certificate from the Georgia Board of Workers Compensation stating that the supplier qualifies to pay its own workers compensation claims.) In addition, the supplier shall require all subcontractors occupying the premises or performing work under the contract to obtain an insurance certificate showing proof of Workers Compensation Coverage with the following minimum coverage:

Bodily injury by accident - per employee	\$100,000;
Bodily injury by disease - per employee	\$100,000;
Bodily injury by disease – policy limit	\$500,000.
- 2) Commercial General Liability Policy with the following minimum coverage:

Each Occurrence Limit	\$1,000,000
Personal & Advertising Injury Limit	\$1,000,000
General Aggregate Limit	\$ 2,000,000
Products/Completed Ops. Aggregate Limit	\$ 2,000,000
- 3) Automobile Liability

Combined Single Limit	\$1,000,000
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The foregoing policies shall contain a provision that coverage afforded under the policies will not be canceled, or not renewed or allowed to lapse for any reason until at least thirty (30) days prior written notice has been given to JCSS. Certificates of Insurance showing such coverage to be in force shall be filed with JCSS prior to commencement of any work under the contract. The foregoing policies shall be obtained from insurance companies licensed to do business in Georgia and shall be with companies acceptable to JCSS, which must have a minimum A.M. Best rating of A-. All such coverage shall remain in full force and

effect during the term and any renewal or extension thereof.

Within ten (10) business days of award, the awarded supplier must procure the required insurance and provide JCSS with one (1) Certificates of Insurance. Certificates must reference the contract number. The supplier's submitted pricing must include the cost of the required insurance. No contract performance shall occur unless and until the required insurance certificates are provided.

3.2. Bonds and/or Letter of Credit

Bid Bond

Prior to closing date of this solicitation, the supplier must submit a Bid Bond (Bond only; certified checks or other forms are not acceptable) in a sealed envelope to:

Carol Miller
125 Stewart Ave.
Gray, GA 31032

The Bid Bond must be in the amount equal to 5% of the amount listed on Bid Form as "Total Base Bid", payable to Jones County School System and issued by a Surety authorized to do business in the State of Georgia, in order to guarantee that the supplier will enter into a contract to deliver the products and/or services outlined in this solicitation, strictly within the terms and conditions stated in the contract.

Performance Bond/Letter of Credit

The awarded supplier shall be required to furnish a performance bond or an irrevocable letter of credit to Jones County School System for the faithful performance on the contract in an amount equal to the contract price. The bond shall be issued by a Corporate Surety authorized to do business with the State of Georgia. The performance bond/letter of credit must be submitted to Jones County School System within ten (10) calendar days of the date the contract is awarded, but in any event, prior to the beginning of any contract performance by the awarded supplier.

Payment Bond

The awarded supplier(s) shall be required to furnish a bond to secure payment of all claims for materials furnished and/or labor performed by a subcontractor in the event one or more subcontractors are utilized by the awarded supplier in performance of the project. The payment bond shall be in amount equal to the contract price for the portion of work and/or materials to be performed/provided by the subcontractor(s). The awarded supplier(s) must (1) receive prior approval from Jones County School System prior to utilizing the subcontractor and (2) submit the payment bond(s) to Jones County Schools prior to permitting the approved subcontractor(s) to begin work.

3.3 Proposal Certification

By responding to this solicitation, the supplier understands and agrees to the following:

1. That this electronically submitted proposal constitutes an offer, which when accepted in writing by JCSS, and subject to the terms and conditions of such acceptance, will constitute a valid and binding contract between the supplier and JCSS; and
2. That the supplier guarantees and certifies that all items included in the supplier's response meet or exceed any and all of the solicitation's identified specifications and requirements except as expressly stated otherwise in the supplier's response; and
3. That the response submitted by the supplier shall be valid and held open for a period of **one hundred and twenty (120) days** from the final solicitation closing date and that the supplier's offer may be held open for a lengthier period of time subject to the supplier's consent; and
4. That the supplier's response is made without prior understanding, agreement, or connection with any corporation, firm, or person submitting a response for the same materials, supplies, equipment, or services and is in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud. Supplier

- understands and agrees that collusive bidding is a violation of state and federal law and can result in fines, prison sentences, and civil damage awards; and
5. That the provisions of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Sections 45-10-20 et seq. have not been violated and will not be violated in any respect.

4. eRFQ (Bid) Factors

This section contains the detailed technical requirements and related services for this Sourcing Event. Suppliers are required to download, complete and then upload required documents and "Bid Form" found as attachments in the Sourcing Event if they are listed in the documents included section.

Unless requested otherwise, all responses must be provided within the worksheets provided and not as a separately individualized document. Except as otherwise indicated, all requested forms and documents must be submitted electronically via the sourcing tool as an uploaded document to the supplier's response. These worksheets together with any and all other documents submitted in response to Section 4 of this eRFQ will be considered the supplier's technical proposal.

JCSS has determined that it is best to define its own needs, desired operating objectives, and desired operating environment. JCSS will not tailor these needs to fit particular solutions suppliers may have available; rather, the suppliers shall propose to meet JCSS's needs as defined in this eRFQ. All claims shall be subject to demonstration. Suppliers are cautioned that conditional proposals, based upon assumptions, may be deemed non-responsive.

4.1. Supplier General Information

Each supplier must complete all of the requested information in the electronic purchasing system entitled **Supplier's General Information Worksheet** for inclusion with their bid response.

DO NOT INCLUDE ANY COST/PRICING INFORMATION IN YOUR RESPONSE TO THIS WORKSHEET.

4.2. Mandatory Requirements

As specified with each requirement listed in the **Mandatory Response Checklist**, the supplier must provide the request documentation uploaded into solicitation. Issuing Officer will indicate whether its proposal meets the individual requirements by marking either a "YES" or "NO" in the response block provided. Typically, these are business level documents that will be needed by Vendors. A Pass/Fail evaluation will be utilized for all mandatory requirements. Ordinarily, to be considered responsive, responsible and eligible for award, all questions identified as mandatory must be marked "YES" to pass. There may be rare instances in which a response of "NO" is the correct and logical response in order to meet the mandatory requirement (e.g. responding "NO" that the supplier does not possess any conflicts of interest). Otherwise, any mandatory questions marked "NO" will fail the technical requirements and will result in disqualification of the proposal.

DO NOT INCLUDE ANY COST/PRICING INFORMATION IN YOUR RESPONSE TO THIS WORKSHEET.

5. Cost Proposal

5.1. Cost Proposal

By submitting a response, the supplier agrees that it has read, understood, and will abide by the following instructions/rules:

1. The submitted pricing must include all costs of performing pursuant to the resulting contract; and
2. Bids containing a minimum order/ship quantity or dollar value, unless otherwise called for in the eRFQ, will be treated as non-responsive and may not be considered for award; and
3. The supplier is required to provide net prices. In the event there is discrepancy between a supplier's unit price and extended price, the unit price shall govern;

4. In the event there is a discrepancy between (1) the supplier's pricing as quoted on an uploaded, detailed cost sheet such as an Excel Worksheet (if any) and (2) the supplier's pricing as quoted by the supplier in one or more single line entries directly into the Sourcing Event screen, the former shall govern; and
5. The prices quoted and listed in the response shall be firm throughout the term of the resulting contract, unless otherwise noted in the eRFQ or contract; and
6. Any cash discount offered to Jones County School System must be clearly identified in the supplier's response. In the event Jones County Schools is entitled to a cash discount, the period of computation will commence on the date of delivery, or receipt of a correctly computed invoice indicating the discount, whichever occurs later; and
7. Unless otherwise specified in any terms and conditions attached to the eRFQ, all product deliveries will be F.O.B. destination and all shipping charges must be included in the quoted cost; and
8. Unless expressly permitted by the eRFQ, responses containing provisions for late or interest charges cannot be awarded a contract. Suppliers must "strike through" any such provisions in printed forms and initial such revisions prior to submitting a response to Jones County Schools; and
9. Responses containing prepayment and/or progress payment requirements may be determined non-responsive unless otherwise permitted by the eRFQ; and
10. Unless permitted by the eRFQ, responses requiring payment from Jones County Schools in less than thirty (30) days will be considered non-responsive; and
11. Jones County School System is exempt from certain taxes and no provision for such taxes should be included in the supplier's response.

5.2. Cost Structure and Additional Instructions

JCSS's intent is to structure the cost format in order to facilitate comparison among all suppliers and foster competition to obtain the best market pricing. Consequently, JCSS requires that each supplier's cost be in the format outlined below. Additional alternative cost structures will not be considered. Each supplier is cautioned that failure to comply with the instructions listed below, submission of an incomplete offer, or submission of an offer in a different format than the one requested may result in the rejection of the supplier's proposal.

Enter all information directly into the cost sheet(s). Enter numbers on each cost sheet in "number" (two-place decimal), not "currency" or other format unless otherwise stated. That is, omit dollar signs, commas, and any other non-essential symbols. (e.g., \$7.90 should be entered as 7.90) Prices must be in US Dollars. Enter "n/a" to indicate not available or "0" if there is no charge. Cells left blank will be interpreted as "no offer".

Download the bid form, complete the form and then upload the worksheet by following the instructions in the third bullet of Section 2.2.4 "Uploading Forms" of this eRFQ.

6. Proposal Evaluation, Negotiations and Award

All timely responses will be evaluated in accordance with the following steps. The objective of the evaluation process is to identify the most competitive bid. Once the evaluation process has been completed, the apparent successful supplier(s) will be required to enter into discussions with Jones County Schools to resolve any exceptions to JCSS's contract. The Jones County Schools will announce the results of the eRFQ as described further in Section 6.8 "Public Award Announcement."

6.1. Administrative/Preliminary Review

First, the responses will be reviewed by the Issuing Officer to determine compliance with the following requirements:

1. Response was submitted by deadline via in accordance with Section 2

2. Response is complete and contains all required documents

6.2. Evaluating Bid Factors (Section 4)

If the supplier's response passes the Administrative/Preliminary Review, the supplier's responses to Section 4 "eRFQ Bid Factors" will be evaluated. Responses to mandatory requirements will be evaluated on a pass/fail basis. If a response fails to meet a mandatory requirement, Jones County Schools will determine if the deviation is material. A material deviation will be cause for rejection of the response. An immaterial deviation will be processed as if no deviation had occurred.

6.3. Evaluating Cost

Jones County School System may utilize lowest cost, lowest total cost, and total cost of ownership (TCO) or greatest savings to determine the most competitive pricing. Submitted pricing may be evaluated/scored on an overall basis or at the category/subcategory/line level (as applicable) relative to other responses/bids.

6.5. Georgia Based Business/Reciprocal Preference Law O.C.G.A. §50-5-60(b)

For the purposes of evaluation only, suppliers resident in the State of Georgia will be granted the same preference over suppliers resident in another state in the same manner, on the same basis, and to the same extent that preference is granted in awarding bids for the same goods or services by such other state to suppliers resident therein over suppliers resident in the State of Georgia. NOTE: For the purposes of this law, the definition of a resident supplier is a supplier who is domiciled in the State of Georgia.

6.6. Selection and Award

JCSS reserves the right to: (a) waive minor irregularities, variances or non-material defects in a response; (b) reject any and all responses, in whole or in part; (c) request clarifications from suppliers; (d) request resubmissions from all suppliers; and (e) take any other action as permitted by law.

The primary intent of this eRFQ is to identify a single source (lowest priced, responsive and responsible supplier) to provide all of the needed goods and/or services; however, Jones County Schools reserves the right to make an additional contract award to the next best ranked supplier as a secondary (back-up) source of supply.

6.7. Site Visits and Oral Presentations

Jones County Schools reserves the right to conduct site visits, request product/work samples, or to invite suppliers to present their product/service solution to the evaluation team.

6.9. Public Award Announcement

The preliminary results of the evaluation will be announced through the public posting of a Notice of Intent to Award (in the event the value of the contract(s) is estimated to be \$100,000 or more in the first year) to the Georgia Procurement Registry. The Notice of Intent to Award ("NOIA") is not notice of an actual contract award; instead, the NOIA is notice of JCSS' expected contract award(s) pending resolution of the protest process. The NOIA (if any) will identify the apparent successful supplier(s), unsuccessful supplier(s), and the reasons why any unsuccessful suppliers were not selected for contract award. NO SUPPLIER SHOULD ASSUME PERSONAL NOTICE OF THE NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD ("NOIA") WILL BE PROVIDED BY JCSS. INSTEAD, ALL SUPPLIERS SHOULD FREQUENTLY CHECK THE GEORGIA PROCUREMENT REGISTRY FOR NOTICE OF THE NOIA.

The Notice of Award ("NOA") is JCSS' public notice of actual contract award(s). The NOA will be publicly posted to the Georgia Procurement Registry.

7. Contract Terms and Conditions

The contract that JCSS expects to award as a result of this eRFQ will be based upon the eRFQ, the successful supplier's final response as accepted by JCSS and the contract terms and conditions, which terms and conditions can be downloaded from the Sourcing Event. The "successful supplier's final response as accepted by JCSS" shall mean: the final cost and technical proposals submitted by the awarded supplier and any subsequent

revisions to the awarded supplier's cost and technical proposals and the contract terms and conditions due to negotiations, written clarifications or changes made in accordance with the provisions of the eRFQ, and any other terms deemed necessary by JCSS, except that no objection or amendment by the supplier to the eRFQ requirements or the contract terms and conditions shall be incorporated by reference into the contract unless JCSS has explicitly accepted the supplier's objection or amendment in writing.

Please review JCSS contract terms and conditions prior to submitting a response to this eRFQ. Suppliers should plan on the contract terms and conditions contained in this eRFQ being included in any award as a result of this eRFQ. Therefore, all costs associated with complying with these requirements should be included in any pricing quoted by the suppliers. The contract terms and conditions may be supplemented or revised before contract execution and are provided to enable suppliers to better evaluate the costs associated with the eRFQ and the potential resulting contract.

Exception to Contract

By submitting a proposal, each supplier acknowledges its acceptance of the eRFQ specifications and the contract terms and conditions without change except as otherwise expressly stated in the submitted proposal. If a supplier takes exception to a contract provision, the supplier must state the reason for the exception and state the specific contract language it proposes to include in place of the provision. Any exceptions to the contract must be redlined with comments explaining the rationale for the proposed revision, uploaded and submitted as an attachment to the supplier's response. Proposed exceptions must not conflict with or attempt to preempt mandatory requirements specified in the eRFQ. Proposed exceptions should be in compliance with Georgia law.

In the event the supplier is selected for potential award, the supplier will be required to enter into discussions with JCSS to resolve any contractual differences before an award is made. These discussions are to be finalized and all exceptions resolved within the period of time identified in the schedule of events. Failure to resolve any contractual issues will lead to rejection of the supplier. JCSS reserves the right to proceed to discussions with the next best ranked supplier.

JCSS reserves the right to modify the contract to be consistent with the apparent successful offer, and to negotiate other modifications with the apparent successful supplier. Exceptions that materially change the terms or the requirements of the eRFQ may be deemed non-responsive by JCSS, in its sole discretion, and rejected. Contract exceptions which grant the supplier an impermissible competitive advantage, as determined by JCSS, in its sole discretion, will be rejected. If there is any question whether a particular contract exception would be permissible, the supplier is strongly encouraged to inquire via written question submitted to the Issuing Officer prior to the deadline for submitting written questions as defined by the Schedule of Events.

8. List of eRFP Attachments

The following documents make up this eRFP. Please see Section 2.2.2 "eRFP Review" for instructions about how to access the following documents. Any difficulty locating or accessing the following documents should be immediately reported to the Issuing Officer.

- A. 21-57 eRFQ (this document)
- B. Standard Terms and Conditions
- C. Department of Audits Immigration and Security Form
- D. Mandatory Response Worksheet from Section 4.3 of this eRFQ
- E. Bid Form from Section 5 "Cost Proposal" of this eRFQ
- F. Contract from Section 7 "Contract Terms and Conditions" of this eRFQ
- G. Project plans as known as scope of work from Ingram & Associates