

<b>STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA</b>	<b>INVITATION FOR BIDS NO. 68-SOMSR0425</b>	
	<b>Offers will be publicly opened:</b> April 30, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. EDT	
	<b>Issue Date:</b> April 15, 2025	
<b>Refer <u>ALL</u> inquiries regarding this IFB to:</b>  Bob Myers <a href="https://forms.gle/WN5pbwsoc1qdrXNM9">https://forms.gle/WN5pbwsoc1qdrXNM9</a> <a href="mailto:rbyers@northcarolina.edu">rbyers@northcarolina.edu</a>	<b>Commodity Number:</b> 432300	
	<b>Description:</b> Software: Microsoft Software Reseller	
	<b>Using Agency:</b> University of North Carolina	

**OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE**

The State seeks offers for the goods, software, and/or services described in this solicitation. The State's acceptance of any offer must be demonstrated by execution of the acceptance found below and any subsequent Request for Best and Final Offer, if issued. Acceptance shall create a contract having an order of precedence as follows: In cases of conflict between documents comprising the contract, the order of precedence shall be (1) Best and Final Offers, if any, (2) special terms and conditions specific to this IFB/RFQ, (3) specifications, (4) Department of Information Technology Terms and Conditions of this IFB/RFQ, and (5) the agreed portions of the awarded Vendor's offer. **No contract shall be binding on the State until an encumbrance of funds has been made for payment of the sums due under the contract.**

**EXECUTION**

In compliance with this Invitation for Bid / Request for Quote, and subject to all the conditions herein, the undersigned offers and agrees to furnish any or all Services or goods upon which prices are offered, at the price(s) offered herein, within the time specified herein. By executing this offer, I certify that this offer is submitted competitively and without collusion.

**Failure to execute/sign offer prior to submittal shall render offer invalid. Late offers are not acceptable.**

OFFEROR:		
STREET ADDRESS:	P.O. BOX:	ZIP:
CITY, STATE & ZIP:	TELEPHONE NUMBER:	TOLL FREE TEL. NO
PRINT NAME & TITLE OF PERSON SIGNING:	FAX NUMBER:	
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:	DATE:	E-MAIL:

Offer valid for thirty (30), days from date of offer opening unless otherwise stated here: \_\_\_\_ days

**ACCEPTANCE OF OFFER**

If any or all parts of this IFB are accepted, an authorized representative of the University of North Carolina shall affix their signature hereto. A copy of this acceptance will be forwarded to the successful vendor(s).

<b><u>FOR STATE USE ONLY</u></b>
Offer accepted and contract awarded this ____ day of _____, 20____, as indicated on attached certification, by _____ (Authorized representative of the University of North Carolina).

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## 1.0 INTENT, USE, DURATION AND SCOPE

The purpose of this Invitation for Bids is to establish an authorized Microsoft Certified Channel Reseller for procurement of Microsoft Volume Licensing Software (MVLS). This MVLS will be purchased through the Microsoft Framework; specifically, Campus and School Agreement (currently #90232473) entered into by The University of North Carolina and Microsoft Licensing, GP. Products and services will be provided according to the terms and conditions of this IFB, The Microsoft Campus and School Agreement, and any addenda thereto. The vendor awarded this contract will be required to offer a complete line of products to support all mandatory requirements listed in this IFB.

The Microsoft Campus and School Agreement allows an eligible education institution to license one or more products on a subscription basis for its institution. To license software on a subscription basis means that the right to run the product is non-perpetual and continues only during the license period. Submittal of a subscription enrollment is required by Microsoft for participation in this program. This program allows Constituent Institutions and Affiliates of the University of North Carolina to select between a one-year licensed period or a three-year licensed period. The State reserves the right to extend the contract for 3 (three) additional years, in one (1) year increments, and to further amend the contract’s intent of coverage.

Sales completed pursuant to this reseller contract will be assessed a fee of 1.5% of the entire billed cost of any work performed, payable by the vendor to the UNC System Office on an annual basis on the anniversary of the effective date of the contract.

Bids shall be submitted in accordance with the terms and conditions of this IFB and any addenda issued hereto.

The table below shows the *intended* schedule for this IFB. The State will make every effort to adhere to this schedule.

Event	Responsibility	Date and Time
Issue RFP	State	April 15, 2025
Submit Written Questions	Vendor	April 22, 2025, by noon EDT
Provide Response to Questions	State	April 24, 2025
Submit Bids	Vendor	April 30, 2025, by 10:00 a.m. EDT
Contract Award	State	May 9, 2025

## 2.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

### 2.1. VENDOR QUESTIONS

All inquiries regarding the solicitation specifications or requirements are to be addressed to the contact person listed on Page One of this solicitation via <https://forms.gle/WN5pbwsoc1qdrXNM9>. Vendor contact regarding this Solicitation with anyone other than the contact person listed on Page One of this Solicitation may be grounds for rejection of said Vendor’s offer.

Written questions concerning this Solicitation will be received via <https://forms.gle/WN5pbwsoc1qdrXNM9> until April 22, 2025, at noon Eastern Daylight Time. **NO PRHONE CALLS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** The questions must be submitted via <https://forms.gle/WN5pbwsoc1qdrXNM9>.

## 2.2. **ADDENDA**

The State may issue addenda if Vendor questions are permitted as described above, or if additional terms, specifications, or other changes are necessary for this procurement. It is important that all Vendors bidding on this IFB/RFQ periodically check IPS for any and all Addenda that may be issued prior to the offer opening date. All addenda shall become an Addendum to this IFB/RFQ. The University plans to issue an addendum with answers to properly submitted vendor questions no later than March 21, 2024.

## 2.3. **OFFER SUBMITTAL**

Due Date: April 30, 2025  
Time: 10:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Vendor shall bear the risk for late submission due to unintended or unanticipated delay. **Vendor must include all the pages of this solicitation in their response. It is the Vendor's sole responsibility to ensure its offer has been delivered to this Office by the specified time and date of opening.** Any bid-delivered after the bid deadline will be rejected.

### **Offer Submission Details:**

**Sealed offers**, subject to the conditions made a part hereof, will be received until 10:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time on April 30, 2025, and then opened, for furnishing and delivering the commodity as described herein. Offers must be submitted with the Execution page signed and dated by an official authorized to bind the Vendor's firm. Failure to return a signed offer shall result in disqualification.

**Attempts to submit a bid via facsimile (FAX) machine, telephone or email in response to this IFB shall NOT be accepted.**

a) All File names should start with the vendor's name first, in order to easily determine all the files to be included as part of the vendor's response. For example, files should be named as follows: Vendor Name-your file name.

b) File contents **SHALL NOT** be password protected, the file formats must be in .PDF, .jpeg, or png format, and shall be capable of being copied to other sources.

c) If the vendor's bid contains any confidential information (as defined in Attachment B, Paragraph #18), then the vendor must provide one (1) signed, original electronic offer and one (1) redacted electronic copy.

d) The University asks Vendors to combine or merge all of Vendor's documents into a single document for submission via eVP.

**All bid responses shall be submitted electronically via the electronic Vendor Portal (eVP). Additional information can be found at the eVP updates for Vendors link: <https://eprocurement.nc.gov/news-events/evp-updates-vendors>.**

## 2.5. **BASIS FOR REJECTION**

Pursuant to 9 NCAC 06B.0401, the State reserves the right to reject any and all offers, in whole or in part; by deeming the offer unsatisfactory as to quality or quantity, delivery, price or service offered; non-compliance with the specifications or intent of this solicitation; lack of competitiveness; error(s) in specifications or indications that revision would be advantageous to the State; cancellation or other changes in the intended project, or other determination that the proposed requirement is no longer needed; limitation or lack of available funds; circumstances that prevent determination of the

best offer; or any other determination that rejection would be in the best interest of the State. Vendor contact regarding this IFB/RFQ with anyone other than Bob Myers may be grounds for rejection of said Vendor's offer.

## **2.6. LATE OFFERS**

Regardless of cause, late offers will not be accepted and will automatically be disqualified from further consideration. It shall be the Vendor's sole risk to ensure delivery at the designated office by the designated time. Late offers will not be opened and may be returned to the Vendor at the expense of the Vendor or destroyed if requested.

## **2.7. NON-RESPONSIVE OFFERS**

Vendor offers will be deemed non-responsive by the State and will be rejected without further consideration or evaluation if statements such as the following are included:

- "This offer does not constitute a binding offer",
- "This offer will be valid only if this offer is selected as a finalist or in the competitive range",
- "Vendor does not commit or bind itself to any terms and conditions by this submission",
- "This document and all associated documents are non-binding and shall be used for discussion purposes only",
- "This offer will not be binding on either party until incorporated in a definitive agreement signed by authorized representatives of both parties", or
- A statement of similar intent.

## **2.8. NOTICE TO VENDORS**

**The State objects to and will not be required to evaluate or consider any additional terms and conditions not previously agreed to by the State and submitted with an Offeror's response. This applies to any language appearing in or attached to the document as part of the Offeror's response. By execution and delivery of this Invitation for Bids / Request for Quote and response(s), the Offeror agrees that any additional terms and conditions, whether submitted purposely or inadvertently, shall have no force or effect.**

## **2.9. E-PROCUREMENT SOLICITATION**

This is NOT an E-Procurement solicitation. Paragraphs #47 a) and #47 b) of the attached Department of Information Technology Terms and Conditions, do not apply to this solicitation.

The Terms and Conditions made part of this solicitation contain language necessary for the implementation of North Carolina's statewide E-Procurement initiative. It is the Vendor's responsibility to read these terms and conditions carefully and to consider them in preparing the offer. By signature vendor acknowledges acceptance of all terms and conditions including those related to E-Procurement.

- a) General information on the E-Procurement service can be found at <http://eprocurement.nc.gov/>
- b) Within two days after notification of award of a contract, vendor must register in NC E-Procurement @ Your Service at the following web site: <https://vendor.ncgov.com/vendor/login>
- c) As of the IFB/RFQ submittal date, the Vendor must be current on all e-Procurement fees. If the Vendor is not current on all E-Procurement fees, the State may disqualify the Vendor from participation in this IFB/RFQ.

## **2.10. DISTRIBUTORS AND RESELLERS**

"Resellers" as used herein, refers to businesses that routinely sell or distribute Vendor's Products, and may include "Distributors", "Value Added Resellers" (VARs), "Original Equipment Manufacturers" (OEMs), Channel Partners, or such other designations. These businesses must be

approved by the State prior to placement of any orders. Any contract established will be subject to this solicitation and any resulting Agreement(s), and to the terms and conditions of the State's competitive bidding process.

The Agency acknowledges that the Reseller has merely purchased the Third-Party Items for resale or license to the Agency, and that the proprietary and intellectual property rights to the Third Party Items are owned by parties other than the Reseller ("Third Parties"). The Agency further acknowledges that except for the payment to the Reseller for the Third-Party Items, all of its rights and obligations with respect thereto flow from and to the Third Parties. The Reseller shall provide the Agency with copies of all documentation and warranties for the Third-Party Items which are provided to the Reseller. The Reseller shall assign all applicable third-party warranties for Deliverables to the Agency.

## **2.11. POSSESSION AND REVIEW**

During the evaluation period and prior to award, possession of the bids and accompanying information is limited to personnel of the issuing agency, and to the committee responsible for participating in the evaluation. Vendors who attempt to gain this privileged information, or to influence the evaluation process (i.e. assist in evaluation) will be in violation of purchasing rules and their offer will not be further evaluated or considered.

**The University of North Carolina is a state agency of the State of North Carolina, accordingly, it receives public records requests for Vendor proposals and contracts. In order to respond to such requests as promptly as possible, Vendor is strongly encouraged to submit a redacted (Proprietary and Confidential Information Excluded) copy of Vendor's proposal(s) along with its proposal(s). Please note: pursuant to 01 NCAC 05B .0103(d), COST INFORMATION SHALL NOT BE CONFIDENTIAL. The University of North Carolina will provide Vendor notice of any public records request it receives for Vendor's redacted proposal. At all times Vendor shall be responsible for its redactions.**

After award of contract the complete bid file will be available to any interested persons with the exception of trade secrets, test information or similar proprietary information as provided by statute and rule. Any proprietary or confidential information, which conforms to exclusions from public records as provided by N.C.G.S. §132-1.2 **must be clearly marked as such in the offer when submitted.**

## **2.12. BEST AND FINAL OFFERS (BAFO)**

The State may establish a competitive range based upon evaluations of offers, and request BAFOs from the Vendor(s) within this range; e.g. "Finalist Vendor(s)". If negotiations or subsequent offers are solicited, the Vendor(s) shall provide BAFO(s) in response. Failure to deliver a BAFO when requested shall disqualify the non-responsive Vendor from further consideration. The State will evaluate BAFO(s), oral presentations, and product demonstrations as part of the Vendors' respective offers to determine the final rankings.

## **2.13. AWARD**

A trade-off/ranking method of source selection will be utilized in this procurement to allow the State to award this RFP to the Vendor providing the Best Value and recognizing that Best Value may result in award other than the lowest price or highest technically qualified offer. By using this method, the overall ranking may be adjusted up or down when considered with, or traded off against other non-price factors.

- a) Evaluation Process Explanation. State Agency employees will review all offers. All offers will be initially classified as being responsive or non-responsive. If an offer is found non-responsive, it will not be considered further. All responsive offers will be evaluated based on stated evaluation criteria. Any references in an answer to another location in the RFP materials or Offer shall have specific page numbers and sections stated in the reference.

- b) To be eligible for consideration, Vendor's offer must substantially conform to the intent of all specifications. Compliance with the intent of all specifications will be determined by the State. Offers that do not meet the full intent of all specifications listed in this RFP may be deemed deficient. Further, a serious deficiency in the offer to any one (1) factor may be grounds for rejection regardless of overall score.

Evaluation shall include best value, as the term is defined in N.C.G.S. § 143-135.9(a)(1), compliance with information technology project management policies as defined by N.C.G.S. §143B-1340, compliance with information technology security standards and policies, substantial conformity with the specifications, and other conditions set forth in the solicitation.

The evaluation criteria are:

- 1) Vendor Qualifications and Experience; and
- 2) Responsiveness to the IFB; and
- 3) Pricing.

A link to the Electronic Vendor Portal allows the public to retrieve contract award information electronically from the Internet web site: <https://evp.nc.gov/>. Results may be found by searching by IFB number or agency name. This information may not be available for several weeks dependent upon the complexity of the acquisition and the length of time to complete the evaluation process.

### **3.0 SPECIFICATIONS**

#### **3.1. VENDOR STANDARD AGREEMENT(S)**

The terms and conditions of Vendor's standard services, license, maintenance or other agreement(s) applicable to Services, Goods, Software and other Products acquired under this Agreement may apply to the extent such terms and conditions do not materially change the terms and conditions of this Agreement. In the event of any conflict between the terms and conditions of this Agreement and the Vendor's standard agreement(s), the terms and conditions of this Agreement relating to audit and records, jurisdiction, choice of law, the State's electronic procurement application of law or administrative rules, the remedy for intellectual property infringement and the exclusive remedies and limitation of liability in the DIT Terms and Conditions herein shall apply in all cases and supersede any provisions contained in Vendor's relevant standard agreement or any other agreement. The State shall not be obligated under any standard license and/or maintenance or other Vendor agreement(s) to indemnify or hold harmless the Vendor, its licensors, successors or assigns; nor arbitrate any dispute, nor pay late fees, legal fees or other similar costs.

#### **3.2. VENDOR UTILIZATION OF WORKERS OUTSIDE U.S.**

In accordance with N.C.G.S. §143B-1361(b), Vendor must detail in the IFB/RFQ response, the manner in which it intends to utilize resources or workers located outside the U.S. The State of North Carolina will evaluate the additional risks, costs, and other factors associated with such utilization prior to making an award for any such Vendor's offer. The Vendor shall provide the following for any offer or actual utilization or contract performance:

- a) The location of work performed under a state contract by the Vendor, any subcontractors, employees, or other persons performing the contract and whether any of this work will be performed outside the United States.
- b) The corporate structure and location of corporate employees and activities of the Vendors, its affiliates or any other subcontractors.
- c) Notice of the relocation of the Vendor, employees of the Vendor, subcontractors of the Vendor, or other persons performing Services under a state contract outside of the United States.

- d) Any Vendor or subcontractor providing call or contact center Services to the State of North Carolina shall disclose to inbound callers the location from which the call or contact center Services are being provided.

Will any work under this contract be performed outside the United States?  YES  NO

If Vendor answered "YES" above, list the location(s) outside the United States where work under this contract will be performed by Vendor, any sub-contractors, employees, or other persons performing work under the contract.

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### **3.3. E-VERIFY**

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143B-1350(k), the State shall not enter into a contract unless the awarded Vendor and each of its subcontractors comply with the E-Verify requirements of N.C.G.S. Chapter 64, Article 2. Vendors are directed to review the foregoing laws. Any awarded Vendor must submit a certification of compliance with E-Verify to the awarding agency, and on a periodic basis thereafter as may be required by the State.

### **3.4. PRODUCT MAKE AND MODEL**

Manufacturer(s) name and product descriptions used in this solicitation are product specific. The items offered in response to this solicitation must be the manufacturer and type specified. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in rejection of offer.

### **3.5. Reserved.**

### **3.6. Reserved.**

### **3.7. PRODUCT RECALL**

Vendor assumes full responsibility for prompt notification of both the contract administrator and purchaser of any product recall in accordance with the applicable state and federal regulations.

### **3.8. WARRANTY**

Manufacturer's standard warranty shall apply. Upon request by the State, Vendor shall provide a copy of the manufacturer's standard warranty within two (2) business days.

### **3.9. CONTRACT TERM**

A contract awarded pursuant to this IFB shall have an effective date as provided in the Notice of Award. The term shall be two (2) years and will expire upon the anniversary date of the effective date unless otherwise stated in the Notice of Award, or unless terminated earlier. At the end of the contract's current term, the State shall have the option, in its sole discretion, to renew the contract on the same terms and conditions for up to a total of three additional one-year terms. The State will give the Vendor written notice of its intent whether to exercise each option before the end of the contract's then-current term. In addition, the State reserves the right to extend a contract term for a period of up to 180 days in 90-day-or less increments.

## **4.0 REQUIREMENTS**

This section lists the requirements related to this IFB by submitting a bid, the Vendor agrees to meet all stated requirements in the section as well as any other specifications, requirements and terms and conditions stated in this IFB. If a Vendor is unclear about a requirement or specification or believes a change to a requirement would allow the State to receive a better bid, the Vendor is urged and cautioned to submit these items in the form of a question during the question and answer period in accordance with Section 2.3 Vendor Questions.

**4.1. PRICING**

**Bid price shall constitute the total cost to State for delivery fully assembled and ready for use, including all applicable charges for shipping, delivery, handling, administrative and other similar fees. Vendor shall not invoice for any amounts not specifically allowed for in this IFB. Complete ATTACHMENT A: PRICING FORM and include in bid.**

**There will be no restocking fee for returned software. Any shipping costs for returns to Vendor are the Constituent Institution’s and Affiliate’s responsibility.**

**4.2 AUTHORIZED RESELLER**

**The Vendor is required to be an authorized Microsoft Certified Channel Reseller. Bidder must attach a copy of document(s) to this IFB that support being an authorized Microsoft Certified Channel Reseller. Failure to provide documentation shall constitute sufficient grounds for rejection of vendor’s offer, in the discretion of the State. Is documentation attached to support being an authorized Microsoft Certified Channel Reseller?**

**Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_**

Bids will be accepted ONLY from authorized Microsoft Certified Channel Resellers with a minimum of three (3) years experience as a Certified Channel Reseller for Higher Education and have managed a minimum of two (2) Framework or Consortia Agreements within the past three (3) years.

**Does your company meet this requirement?**

**Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_**

**If yes: please specify dates to confirm minimum of three (3) years’ experience as a Microsoft Certified Channel Reseller for Higher Education:\_\_\_\_\_**

**4.3 REFERENCES**

**Reseller shall provide a minimum of three (3) Higher Education references including agency/campus, address, contact name and phone numbers. The University may contact these references to determine the Services provided are substantially similar in scope to those proposed herein and Vendor’s performance has been satisfactory. The information obtained may be considered in the evaluation of the bid.**

**Reseller is required to provide a minimum of three of the following:**

1. Agency/Campus: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Complete Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Name/Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Email and Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

- 2. Agency/Campus: \_\_\_\_\_  
Complete Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Name/Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Email and Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 3. Agency/Campus: \_\_\_\_\_  
Complete Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Name/Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Email and Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reseller shall provide a minimum of two (2) Framework or Consortia references including agency/campus, address, contact name and phone numbers.**

**Please provide a minimum of two of the following:**

- 1. Framework or Consortia Name and Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Campus and Complete Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Name/Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Email and Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 2. Framework or Consortia Name and Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Campus and Complete Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Name/Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Email and Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 3. Framework or Consortia Name and Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Campus and Complete Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Name/Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Email and Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

**4.4 VENDOR CONTACTS**

Vendor must list a primary and two secondary persons who are readily available for questions that may be asked by any Constituent Institution or Affiliate. They must be fully trained and experienced in Microsoft Framework or Consortia Agreements. If any of the listed contact person(s) change during the contract term, the Vendor must notify the contract administrator listed on the cover page of this IFB.

Primary Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mobile Number \_\_\_\_\_

1<sup>st</sup> Secondary Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mobile Number: \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Secondary Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mobile Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**The awarded Vendor must provide** local sales assistance at each of the University of North Carolina Constituent Institutions and Affiliates locations when requested. Such assistance shall consist of sales, product demonstrations, new product release information both technical and operational, product delivery facilitation, onsite product selection analysis, and such other assistance as requested, in person, by telephone, or online.

#### **4.5 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

Vendor shall meet the additional requirements (1 thru 5 below)

**Does Vendor meet all five of the following requirements listed below?**

**Please respond \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No**

**1. Reseller shall** work closely with each participating Constituent Institution or Affiliate to ensure required documentation is in place when needed. Constituent Institutions or Affiliates subscribe to a product baseline(i.e. M365 A3 or A5 SKU for Core CAL for faculty/staff) plus a variety of other products. Many of the constituent institutions and affiliates will take advantage of the Enterprise Server Platform Agreement (server site license) and an Azure Monetary commitment.

**2. Reseller is required** to work with Microsoft to schedule a series of virtual and in some cases, physical in-person meetings at the discretion of the Constituent Institutions and Affiliates, which usually occur no later than the first of April to ensure the contract/renewal process is completed in a timely and orderly manner. These meetings must include the Reseller, Microsoft representative(s), and representatives from each of the participating Constituent Institutions and Affiliates to discuss the renewal process, how to make changes to enrollments (if needed), to update and educate on new features or changes to the Microsoft Campus and School Agreement program, establish the dates when information needs to be submitted (e.g. Education Qualified User count), etc. This must happen in a timely manner to ensure institutions/affiliates receive required quotes and purchase orders are issued for the upcoming fiscal/contract year.

**3. Reseller shall be prepared** to provide active in-person participation at the UNC CAUSE conference. This allows for face-to-face interactions with UNC Constituent Institutions and Affiliates to discuss issues and learn about distribution programs.

**4. Reseller shall act as an intermediary with Microsoft** whenever a constituent institution or affiliate has a question or needs assistance; and, therefore, Reseller must be thoroughly trained and experienced in the requirements and processes related to Microsoft Framework and Consortia Agreements, academic licensing programs and related Software Assurance benefits.

**5. Reseller shall provide a written quote within 48 business hours after constituent institution or affiliate request.**

#### **4.6 FINANCIAL STABILITY**

Each vendor shall certify it is financially stable by completing the ATTACHMENT B: CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL CONDITION. The State is requiring this certification to minimize potential performance issues from contracting with a vendor that is financially unstable. From the date of the

certification to the expiration of the contract the vendor shall notify the State within thirty (30) days of any occurrence or condition that materially alters the truth of any statement made in this certification.

#### **4.7 ORDERING INFORMATION**

Vendor/Business Name \_\_\_\_\_  
PO Box \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

#### **4.8 CONTRACT UPDATES**

Requests for price changes will identify the Percentage Discount Less Microsoft Estimated Retail Price List (ERP) for the appropriate Microsoft product that is to be applied to the manufacturer's reference price to determine State prices under this contract. The quoted "percentage discount" applies to all Microsoft products whether they are listed at the time of award or not. Therefore, the percentage discount remains constant for the life of the contract.

Price decreases will become effective on the effective date of any/all Retail Price listings published by Microsoft.

#### **4.9 CONTRACT USAGE REPORTING**

The awarded vendor will be required to provide reports of sales, totals by product and by location to the University of North Carolina System Office, Attn: Maurice Ferrell at [maferrell@northcarolina.edu](mailto:maferrell@northcarolina.edu) on an annual basis, and to each of the UNC Constituent Institutions and Affiliates (as listed on Appendix A) on a request basis.

At a minimum, the report(s) must contain the following information:

- a. Manufacturer's catalog/part number
- b. Description of item
- c. State unit price
- d. List price
- e. Purchase order number
- f. Purchase order date
- g. Quantity
- h. Agency name
- i. Agency location

The vendor must submit one copy of usage report to Maurice Ferrell, Vice President for IT and CIO, at [maferrell@northcarolina.edu](mailto:maferrell@northcarolina.edu), and Lauren Connolly, Operations Manager at [lconnolly@northcarolina.edu](mailto:lconnolly@northcarolina.edu). Vendor must submit data in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet format. The

Contract Usage Report will be required within 30 days after the end of each renewal term. The Vendor must submit a report to any member of the UNC Constituent Institutions and Affiliates only when specifically requested by the specific institution/affiliate.

It is the Vendor's responsibility to ensure the preparation and submission of applicable reports in proper format to Microsoft to ensure that the UNC Constituent Institutions and Affiliates receive proper credit for all purchases of Microsoft software products against the Microsoft MVLA. The Vendor is responsible for the resolution of any report discrepancies with Microsoft to ensure that the UNC Constituent Institutions and Affiliates get appropriate credit for all Microsoft software product purchases.

#### **4.10 INVOICES**

**Vendor shall invoice the ordering entity. The standard format for invoicing shall be single invoices meaning that the Vendor shall provide the Buyer with an invoice for each order. Invoices shall include detailed line item information to allow Buyer to verify pricing at point of receipt matches the correct price from the original date of order. At a minimum, the following fields shall be included on all invoices:**

Vendor's Billing Address, NC Vendor ID Number, Customer Account Number, NC Contract Number, Order Date, Buyer's Order Number, Buyer's Campus and School Agreement Enrollment Number, Manufacturer Part Numbers, Item Descriptions, Price, Quantity, and Unit of Measure.

**Constituent institutions and affiliates must be compliant with Microsoft Licensing Agreements stating a payment will be made for renewal on or before the expiration of the current agreement. To that end, the Reseller will submit the order to Microsoft prior to June 30. However, Microsoft will not invoice the Reseller until the first date of the new agreement (July 1, 2020). Many constituent institutions and affiliates will need a true invoice prior to June 15 for payment with current fiscal year funding. Vendor must commit to invoice the participating Constituent Institutions and Affiliates prior to receiving an invoice from Microsoft. Will Vendor guarantee? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_**

#### **5.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

##### **5.1. HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESSES**

"Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs) consist of minority, women and disabled 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." <http://ncadmin.nc.gov/businesses/hub>

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. §§143B-1361(a), 143-48 and 143-128.4, the State invites and encourages participation in this procurement process by businesses owned by minorities, women, disabled, disabled business enterprises and non-profit work centers for the blind and severely disabled. This includes utilizing subcontractors to perform the required functions in this IFB/RFQ.

Is Vendor a Historically Underutilized Business?  YES  NO If "YES", specify classification. \_\_\_\_\_

#### **6.0 INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDORS**

**1) READ, REVIEW AND COMPLY: It shall be the Vendor's responsibility to read this entire document, review all enclosures and attachments, and comply with all requirements specified herein.**

2) **DEFINITIONS:**

- **NCDIT:** The North Carolina Department of Information Technology, formerly Office of Information Technology Services
- **NCDIT CONVENIENCE CONTRACT:** A contract that is used for the procurement of IT goods or Services. These contracts are in place for the convenience of the state and use of them is optional.
- **OPEN MARKET CONTRACT:** A contract for the purchase of goods or Services not covered by a term, technical, or convenience contract.
- **TERM CONTRACT:** A contract in which a source of supply is established for a specified period of time for specified Services or supplies; usually characterized by an estimated or definite minimum quantity, with the possibility of additional requirements beyond the minimum, all at a predetermined unit price
- **THE STATE:** Is the state of North Carolina and its agencies.
- **UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA:** The University of North Carolina, a North Carolina State Agency, including its constituent institutions and affiliated entities.
- **VENDOR:** Company, firm, corporation, partnership, individual, etc., submitting a response to a solicitation.

3) **PROMPT PAYMENT DISCOUNTS:** Vendors are urged to compute all discounts into the price offered. If a prompt payment discount is offered, it will not be considered in the award of the contract except as a factor to aid in resolving cases of identical prices.

4) **INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTIVE LITERATURE:** Vendor is to furnish all information requested and in the spaces provided in this document. Further, if required elsewhere in this IFB/RFQ, each Vendor must submit with their offer sketches, descriptive literature and/or complete specifications covering the products offered. **Only information that is received in response to this RFQ will be evaluated.** Reference to information previously submitted or Internet Website Addresses (URLs) will not satisfy this provision. Offers, which do not comply with these requirements, will be subject to rejection.

5) **RECYCLING AND SOURCE REDUCTION:** It is the policy of this State to encourage and promote the purchase of products with recycled content to the extent economically practicable, and to purchase items, which are reusable, refillable, repairable, more durable, and less toxic to the extent that the purchase or use is practicable and cost-effective. We also encourage and promote using minimal packaging and the use of recycled/recyclable products in the packaging of commodities purchased. However, no sacrifice in quality of packaging will be acceptable. The company remains responsible for providing packaging that will protect the commodity and contain it for its intended use. Companies are strongly urged to bring to the attention of the relevant purchasers in the State those products or packaging they offer which have recycled content and that are recyclable.

6) **CLARIFICATIONS/INTERPRETATIONS:** Any and all questions regarding this document must be addressed to the purchaser named on the cover sheet of this document. Do not contact the user directly. Any and all revisions to this document shall be made only by written addendum from NCDIT. The Vendor is cautioned that the requirements of this IFB/RFQ can be altered only by written addendum and that verbal communications from whatever source are of no effect.

7) **ACCEPTANCE AND REJECTION:** The State reserves the right to reject any and all offers, to waive any informality in offers and, unless otherwise specified by the Vendor, to accept any item in the offer. If either a unit price or an extended price is obviously in error and the other is obviously correct, the incorrect price will be disregarded.

8) **AWARD OF CONTRACT:** Responsive offers will be evaluated and acceptance may be made in accordance with Best Value procurement practices as defined by N.C.G.S. §143-135.9, and in accordance with N.C.G.S. §143B-1350(h), which provides that the offer must be in substantial conformity with the specifications herein, and 09 NCAC 06B.0302. Unless otherwise specified by the State or the Vendor, the State reserves the right to accept any item or group of items on a multi-item offer. In addition, on agency specific or term contracts, NCDIT reserves the right to make partial, progressive or multiple awards: where it is advantageous to award separately by items; or where

more than one supplier is needed to provide the contemplated requirements as to quantity, quality, delivery, service, geographical areas; other factors deemed by NCDIT to be pertinent or peculiar to the purchase in question.

- 9) **SAMPLES:** Sample of items, when required, must be furnished as stipulated herein, free of expense, and if not destroyed will, upon request be returned at the Vendor's expense. Written request for the return of samples must be made within 10 days following date of offer opening. Otherwise the samples will become the property of the State. Each individual sample must be labeled with the Vendor's name, offer number, and item number. A sample, on which an award is made, will be retained until the contract is completed, and then returned, if requested, as specified above.
- 10) **MISCELLANEOUS:** Masculine pronouns shall be read to include feminine pronouns and the singular of any word or phrase shall be read to include the plural and vice versa.
- 11) **PROTEST PROCEDURES:** When a Vendor wants to protest a Contract awarded by the UNC System Office, the University and Vendor shall comply with the following:
  1. The Vendor shall submit a written request for a protest meeting to the Director of Purchasing and Strategic Sourcing within 30 calendar days from the date of the Contract award. The Vendor's request shall contain reasons why it has a concern with the award and any supporting documentation. If the request does not contain this information, or if the System Office determines that the protest is meritless so that a meeting would serve no purpose, then the System Office may, within 10 calendar days from the date of receipt of the request, respond in writing to the Vendor and refuse the protest meeting request.
  2. If the protest meeting is granted, the System Office shall schedule the meeting within 30 calendar days after receipt of the request, unless mutually agreed otherwise. The meeting may be conducted in-person or virtually by video conference. Within 10 calendar days from the date of the protest meeting, the System Office shall respond to the Vendor in writing with the executive officer's decision and appeal rights under Article 4 of G.S. 150B.
- 12) **VENDOR REGISTRATION AND SOLICITATION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM:** Vendor Link NC allows Vendors to electronically register with the State to receive electronic notification of current procurement opportunities for goods and services available on the Interactive Purchasing System at the following web site: <https://www.ips.state.nc.us/ips>
- 13) **DIGITAL IMAGING:** The State will digitize the Vendor's response if not received electronically, and any awarded contract together with associated contract documents. This electronic copy shall be a preservation record, and serve as the official record of this solicitation with the same force and effect as the original written documents comprising such record. Any printout or other output readable by sight shown to reflect such record accurately is an "original."

## **7.0 UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

### **1) DEFINITIONS:** As used herein;

- a) Deliverable/Product Warranties shall mean and include the warranties provided for products or deliverables licensed to the State in Paragraphs 7 and 8, and included in Paragraph 29 c) of these Terms and Conditions unless superseded by a Vendor's Warranties pursuant to Vendor's License or Support Agreements.
- b) Purchasing State Agency or Agency shall mean the Agency purchasing the goods or Services.
- c) Services shall mean the duties and obligations accepted by the Vendor to carry out the requirements, and meet the specifications, of this procurement.
- d) State shall mean the State of North Carolina, the Department of Information Technology as an Agency or in its capacity as the Award Authority.

### **2) STANDARDS:** Manufactured items and/or fabricated assemblies comprising Deliverables shall meet all requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), and State and federal requirements relating to clean air and water pollution, if applicable. Vendor will provide and maintain a quality assurance system or program that includes any Deliverables and will tender to the State only those Deliverables that have been inspected and found to conform to the requirements of this Contract. All manufactured items and/or fabricated assemblies comprising Deliverables are subject to operation, certification or inspection, and accessibility requirements as required:

- by State or federal Regulation,
  - by the Chief Information Officer's (CIO) policy or regulation, or
  - acceptance with appropriate standards of operations or uses of said Deliverables as may be shown by identification markings or other means of the appropriate certifying standards organization.
- a) **Site Preparation:** Vendors shall provide the Purchasing State Agency complete site requirement specifications for the Deliverables, if any. These specifications shall ensure that the Deliverables to be installed shall operate properly and efficiently within the site environment. The Vendor shall advise the State of any site requirements for any Deliverables required by the State's specifications. Any alterations or modification in site preparation which are directly attributable to incomplete or erroneous specifications provided by the Vendor and which would involve additional expenses to the State, shall be made at the expense of the Vendor.
  - b) **Goods Return:** Deliverables and any other goods or materials furnished by the Vendor to fulfill technical requirements shall be in good working order and be maintained in good working order by Vendor for the duration of the Contract; unless otherwise provided in a separate maintenance agreement or in the Solicitation Documents. Deliverables failing to meet the State's technical requirements shall be considered non-conforming goods and subject to return to the Vendor for replacement at the State's option, and at the Vendor's expense. The State is responsible for the return costs related to the termination of a Contract, including deinstallation, and freight to destinations within the Continental United States; except in the case of default by the Vendor or delivery of non-conforming goods by Vendor. Shipping or freight charges, if any, paid by the State for non-conforming goods will be reimbursed to the State.
  - c) **Specifications:** The apparent silence of the specifications as to any detail, or the apparent omission of detailed description concerning any point, shall be regarded as meaning that only the best commercial practice is to prevail and only material and workmanship of the first quality may be used. Upon any notice of noncompliance provided by the State, Vendor shall supply proof of compliance with the specifications. Vendor must provide written notice of its intent to deliver alternate or substitute products, goods or Deliverables. Alternate or substitute products, goods or Deliverables may be accepted or rejected in the sole discretion of the State; and any such alternates or substitutes must be accompanied by Vendor's certification and evidence satisfactory to the State that the function, characteristics, performance and endurance will be equal or superior to the original Deliverables specified.

- 3) **WARRANTIES:** Vendor shall assign all applicable third party warranties for Deliverables to the Purchasing State Agency.
- 4) **PERSONNEL:** Vendor shall not substitute key personnel assigned to the performance of this Contract without prior written approval by the Agency Contract Administrator. Any desired substitution shall be noticed to the Agency's Contract Administrator accompanied by the names and references of Vendor's recommended substitute personnel. The Agency will approve or disapprove the requested substitution in a timely manner. The Agency may, in its sole discretion, terminate the Services of any person providing Services under this Contract. Upon such termination, the Agency may request acceptable substitute personnel or terminate the contract Services provided by such personnel.
  - a) Vendor personnel shall perform their duties on the premises of the State, during the State's regular work days and normal work hours, except as may be specifically agreed otherwise, established in the specification, or statement of work.
  - b) This Contract shall not prevent Vendor or any of its personnel supplied under this Contract from performing similar Services elsewhere or restrict Vendor from using the personnel provided to the State, provided that:
    - i) Such use does not conflict with the terms, specifications or any amendments to this Contract, or
    - ii) Such use does not conflict with any procurement law, regulation or policy, or
    - iii) Such use does not conflict with any non-disclosure agreement, or term thereof, by and between the State and Vendor or Vendor's personnel.
- 5) **SUBCONTRACTING:** The Vendor may subcontract the performance of required Services with other Vendors or third parties, or change subcontractors, only with the prior written consent of the contracting authority. Vendor shall provide the State with complete copies of any agreements made by and between Vendor and all subcontractors. The selected Vendor remains solely responsible for the performance of its subcontractors. Subcontractors, if any, shall adhere to the same standards required of the selected Vendor. Any contracts made by the Vendor with a subcontractor shall include an affirmative statement that the State is an intended third party beneficiary of the contract; that the subcontractor has no agreement with the State; and that the State shall be indemnified by the Vendor for any claim presented by the subcontractor. Notwithstanding any other term herein, Vendor shall timely exercise its contractual remedies against any non-performing subcontractor and, when appropriate, substitute another subcontractor.
- 6) **VENDOR'S REPRESENTATION:** Vendor warrants that qualified personnel will provide Services in a professional manner. "Professional manner" means that the personnel performing the Services will possess the skill and competence consistent with the prevailing business standards in the information technology industry. Vendor agrees that it will not enter any agreement with a third party that might abridge any rights of the State under this Contract. Vendor will serve as the prime Vendor under this Contract. Should the State approve any subcontractor(s), the Vendor shall be legally responsible for the performance and payment of the subcontractor(s). Names of any third party Vendors or subcontractors of Vendor may appear for purposes of convenience in Contract documents; and shall not limit Vendor's obligations hereunder. Third party subcontractors, if approved, may serve as subcontractors to Vendor. Vendor will retain executive representation for functional and technical expertise as needed in order to incorporate any work by third party subcontractor(s).
  - a) **Intellectual Property.** Vendor has the right to provide the Services and Deliverables without violating or infringing any law, rule, regulation, copyright, patent, trade secret or other proprietary right of any third party. Vendor represents that its Services and Deliverables are not the subject of any actual or threatened actions arising from, or alleged under, any intellectual property rights of any third party.
  - b) **Inherent Services.** If any Services, Deliverables, functions, or responsibilities not specifically described in this Contract are required for Vendor's proper performance, provision and delivery of the Service and Deliverables pursuant to this Contract, or are an inherent part of or necessary sub-task included within the Service, they will be deemed to be implied by and included within the scope of the Contract to the same extent and in the same manner as if specifically described in the Contract. Unless otherwise expressly provided in the Contract, Vendor will furnish all of its

own necessary management, supervision, labor, facilities, furniture, computer and telecommunications equipment, software, supplies and materials necessary for the Vendor to provide and deliver the Services and Deliverables.

- c) Vendor warrants that it has the financial capacity to perform and to continue perform its obligations under the Contract; that Vendor has no constructive or actual knowledge of an actual or potential legal proceeding being brought against Vendor that could materially adversely affect performance of this Contract; and that entering into this Contract is not prohibited by any contract, or order by any court of competent jurisdiction.
- d) **Warranty as to Equipment; Hardware.** Vendor warrants that the equipment and hardware that it provides pursuant to this Contract shall be free from defects in materials, in good working order and be maintained in good working order.

7) **SOFTWARE LICENSE** (for internal embedded software, firmware and unless otherwise provided in the State's solicitation document, or in an attachment hereto): Deliverables comprising goods, equipment or products (hardware) may contain software for internal operation, or as embedded software or firmware that is generally not sold or licensed as a severable software product. Software may be provided on separate media, such as floppy diskettes or CD-ROM, or may be included within the hardware at or prior to delivery. Such software is proprietary, copyrighted, and may also contain valuable trade secrets and may be protected by patents. Vendor grants the State a license to use the Code (or any replacement provided) on, or in conjunction with, only the Deliverables purchased, or with any system identified in the solicitation documents. The State shall have a worldwide, nonexclusive, non-sublicensable license to use such software and/or documentation for its internal use. The State may make and install copies of the software to support the authorized level of use. Provided, however that if the hardware is inoperable, the software may be copied for temporary use on other hardware. The State shall promptly affix to any such copy the same proprietary and copyright notices affixed to the original. The State may make one copy of the software for archival, back-up or disaster recovery purposes. The license set forth in this Paragraph shall terminate immediately upon the State's discontinuance of the use of the equipment on which the software is installed. The software may be transferred to another party only with the transfer of the hardware. If the hardware is transferred, the State shall i) destroy all software copies made by the State, ii) deliver the original or any replacement copies of the software to the transferee, and iii) notify the transferee that title and ownership of the software and the applicable patent, trademark, copyright, and other intellectual property rights shall remain with Vendor, or Vendor's licensors. The State shall not disassemble, decompile, reverse engineer, modify, or prepare derivative works of the embedded software, unless permitted under the solicitation documents.

8) **MAINTENANCE/SUPPORT SERVICES:** Unless otherwise mutually provided herein, for the first year after the expiration of any warranty coverage (and for all subsequent Contract years, for which Support is purchased), Vendor agrees to provide the following Support Services for the Hardware and any Software provided with the Deliverables for any years in which the applicable support fees are paid, which may be more particularly described, e.g., under part numbers, in the Furnish & Deliver Table, above:

**HARDWARE/EQUIPMENT:**

- a) **Basic Services.** The Vendor will provide at least normal and usual Hardware support and maintenance Services generally provided to customers in a similar program, position or setting consistent with and subject to the payment of the support and maintenance fees agreed upon in this Contract, all as indicated by part numbers in the Furnish and Deliver Table, above. The Vendor warrants to the State that all items furnished will be new (unless otherwise requested in this IFB/RFQ), of good material and workmanship, and agrees to repair or replace any items which fail to comply with the specifications by reason of defective material or workmanship under normal use, free of State's negligence or accident for one year from date of installation. Such repair or replacement shall include any transportation costs free of any charge to the State. This statement is not intended to limit any additional coverage, which may normally be associated with a product, such as any "hot switch" or similar replacement warranty program applicable as

indicated by the Vendor's support description in the Furnish & Deliver Table, above. Any available warranties applicable to replacement Hardware equipment or parts will be passed on to the using agency.

- b) **Telephone Assistance.** Vendor shall provide the State with telephone access to technical support engineers for assistance in the proper installation and use of the Software, and to report and resolve Support problems, during normal business hours, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time, Monday-Friday. Vendor shall respond to the telephone requests for Program maintenance service, within four hours, for calls made at any time.

**SOFTWARE:**

- a) **Error Correction.** Upon notice by State of a problem with the Software (which problem can be verified), Vendor shall use reasonable efforts to correct or provide a working solution for the problem. The State shall comply with all reasonable instructions or requests of Vendor in attempts to correct an error or defect in the Program. Vendor and the State shall act promptly and in a reasonably timely manner in communicating error or problem logs, other related information, proposed solutions or workarounds, and any action as may be necessary or proper to obtain or affect maintenance Services under this Paragraph.
- b) Vendor shall notify the State of any material errors or defects in the Deliverables known, or made known to Vendor from any source during the Contract term that could cause the production of inaccurate or otherwise materially incorrect, results. Vendor shall initiate actions as may be commercially necessary or proper to effect corrections of any such errors or defects.
- c) **Updates.** Vendor shall provide to the State, at no additional charge, all new releases and bug fixes (collectively referred to as "Changes") for any Software Deliverable developed or published by Vendor and made generally available to its other customers at no additional charge. All such Changes shall become a part of the Software and Documentation and, as such, will be governed by the provisions of this Contract.
- d) **Telephone Assistance.** Vendor shall provide the State with telephone access to technical support engineers for assistance in the proper installation and use of the Software, and to report and resolve Software problems, during normal business hours, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time, Monday-Friday. Vendor shall respond to the telephone requests for Program maintenance service, within four hours, for calls made at any time.
- 9) **TRAVEL EXPENSES: All travel expenses should be included in the Vendor's proposed costs. Separately stated travel expenses will not be reimbursed.** In the event that the Vendor may be eligible to be reimbursed for travel expenses arising under the performance of this Contract, reimbursement will be at the out-of-state rates set forth in N.C.G.S. §138-6; as amended from time to time. Vendor agrees to use the lowest available airfare not requiring a weekend stay and to use the lowest available rate for rental vehicles. All Vendor incurred travel expenses shall be billed on a monthly basis, shall be supported by receipt and shall be paid by the State within thirty (30) days after invoice approval. Travel expenses exceeding the foregoing rates shall not be paid by the State. The State will reimburse travel allowances only for days on which the Vendor is required to be in North Carolina performing Services under this Contract.
- 10) **GOVERNMENTAL RESTRICTIONS:** In the event any restrictions are imposed by governmental requirements that necessitate alteration of the material, quality, workmanship, or performance of the Deliverables offered prior to delivery thereof, the Vendor shall provide written notification of the necessary alteration(s) to the Agency Contract Administrator. The State reserves the right to accept any such alterations, including any price adjustments occasioned thereby, or to cancel the Contract. The State may advise Vendor of any restrictions or changes in specifications required by North Carolina legislation, rule or regulatory authority that require compliance by the State. In such event, Vendor shall use its best efforts to comply with the required restrictions or changes. If compliance cannot be achieved by the date specified by the State, the State may terminate this Contract and compensate Vendor for sums due under the Contract.
- 11) **PROHIBITION AGAINST CONTINGENT FEES AND GRATUITIES:** Vendor warrants that it has not paid, and agrees not to pay, any bonus, commission, fee, or gratuity to any employee or official of the State for the purpose of obtaining any contract or award issued by the State. Vendor further warrants

that no commission or other payment has been or will be received from or paid to any third party contingent on the award of any contract by the State, except as shall have been expressly communicated to the State Purchasing Agent in writing prior to acceptance of the Contract or award in question. Each individual signing below warrants that he or she is duly authorized by their respective Party to sign this Contract and bind the Party to the terms and conditions of this Contract. Vendor and their authorized signatory further warrant that no officer or employee of the State has any direct or indirect financial or personal beneficial interest, in the subject matter of this Contract; obligation or contract for future award of compensation as an inducement or consideration for making this Contract. Subsequent discovery by the State of non-compliance with these provisions shall constitute sufficient cause for immediate termination of all outstanding contracts. Violations of this provision may result in debarment of the Vendor(s) as permitted by 09 NCAC 06B.1206, or other provision of law.

- 12) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS:** Any and all payments to Vendor are expressly contingent upon and subject to the appropriation, allocation and availability of funds to the Agency for the purposes set forth in this Contract. If this Contract or any Purchase Order issued hereunder is funded in whole or in part by federal funds, the Agency's performance and payment shall be subject to and contingent upon the continuing availability of said federal funds for the purposes of the Contract or Purchase Order. If the term of this Contract extends into fiscal years subsequent to that in which it is approved such continuation of the Contract is expressly contingent upon the appropriation, allocation, and availability of funds by the N.C. Legislature for the purposes set forth in the Contract. If funds to effect payment are not available, the Agency will provide written notification to Vendor. If the Contract is terminated under this paragraph, Vendor agrees to take back any affected Deliverables and software not yet delivered under this Contract, terminate any Services supplied to the Agency under this Contract, and relieve the Agency of any further obligation thereof. The State shall remit payment for Deliverables and Services accepted prior to the date of the aforesaid notice in conformance with the payment terms.
- 13) PAYMENT TERMS:** Payment terms are Net 30 days after receipt of correct invoice or acceptance of the Deliverables, whichever is later; unless a period of more than 30 days is required by the Agency. The Purchasing State Agency is responsible for all payments under the Contract. No additional charges to the Agency will be permitted based upon, or arising from, the Agency's use of a Business Procurement Card. The State may exercise any and all rights of Set Off as permitted in Chapter 105A-1 et. seq. of the N.C. General Statutes and applicable Administrative Rules. Upon Vendor's written request of not less than 30 days and approval by the State or Agency, the Agency may:
- a) Forward the Vendor's payment check(s) directly to any person or entity designated by the Vendor, or
  - b) Include any person or entity designated in writing by Vendor as a joint payee on the Vendor's payment check(s), however
  - c) In no event shall such approval and action obligate the State to anyone other than the Vendor and the Vendor shall remain responsible for fulfillment of all Contract obligations.
- 14) ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA:** In the event acceptance of Deliverables is not described in additional Contract documents, the State shall have the obligation to notify Vendor, in writing ten calendar days following installation of any Deliverable described in the Contract if it is not acceptable. The notice shall specify in reasonable detail the reason(s) a deliverable is unacceptable. Acceptance by the State shall not be unreasonably withheld; but may be conditioned or delayed as required for installation and/or testing of Deliverables. Final acceptance is expressly conditioned upon completion of all applicable inspection and testing procedures. Should the Deliverables fail to meet any specifications or acceptance criteria the State may exercise any and all rights hereunder, including such rights provided by the Uniform Commercial Code as adopted in North Carolina. Deliverables discovered to be defective or failing to conform to the specifications may be rejected upon initial inspection or at any later time if the defects contained in the Deliverables or non-compliance with the specifications was not reasonably ascertainable upon initial inspection. If the Vendor fails to promptly cure the defect or replace the Deliverables, the State reserves the right to cancel the Purchase Order, contract with a different Vendor, and to invoice the original Vendor for any differential in price over

the original Contract price. When Deliverables are rejected, the Vendor must remove the rejected Deliverables from the premises of the State Agency within seven (7) calendar days of notification, unless otherwise agreed by the State Agency. Rejected items may be regarded as abandoned if not removed by Vendor as provided herein.

- 15) **EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:** Vendor shall comply with all Federal and State requirements concerning fair employment and employment of the disabled, and concerning the treatment of all employees without regard to discrimination by reason of race, color, religion, sex, national origin or physical disability.
- 16) **INSPECTION AT VENDOR'S SITE:** The State reserves the right to inspect, during Vendor's regular business hours at a reasonable time, upon notice of not less than two (2) weeks, and at its own expense, the prospective Deliverables comprising equipment or other tangible goods, or the plant or other physical facilities of a prospective Vendor prior to Contract award, and during the Contract term as necessary or proper to ensure conformance with the specifications/requirements and their adequacy and suitability for the proper and effective performance of the Contract.
- 17) **ADVERTISING/PRESS RELEASE:** The Vendor absolutely shall not publicly disseminate any information concerning the Contract without prior written approval from the State or its Agent. For the purpose of this provision of the Contract, the Agent is the Purchasing Agency Contract Administrator unless otherwise named in the solicitation documents.
- 18) **CONFIDENTIALITY:** In accordance with N.C.G.S. §§143B-1350(e), 143B-1375 and 09 NCAC 06B.0103 and 06B.1001 and to promote maximum competition in the State competitive bidding process, the State may maintain the confidentiality of certain types of information described in N.C.G.S. §132-1 et seq. Such information may include trade secrets defined by N.C.G.S. §66-152 and other information exempted from the Public Records Act pursuant to N.C.G.S. §132-1.2. Vendor may designate appropriate portions of its response as confidential, consistent with and to the extent permitted under the Statutes and Rules set forth above, by marking the top and bottom of pages containing confidential information with a legend in boldface type "**CONFIDENTIAL**". By so marking any page, the Vendor warrants that it has formed a good faith opinion, having received such necessary or proper review by counsel and other knowledgeable advisors that the portions marked confidential meet the requirements of the Rules and Statutes set forth above. **However, under no circumstances shall price information be designated as confidential.** The State may serve as custodian of Vendor's confidential information and not as an arbiter of claims against Vendor's assertion of confidentiality. If an action is brought pursuant to N.C.G.S. §132-9 to compel the State to disclose information marked confidential, the Vendor agrees that it will intervene in the action through its counsel and participate in defending the State, including any public official(s) or public employee(s). The Vendor agrees that it shall hold the State and any official(s) and individual(s) harmless from any and all damages, costs, and attorneys' fees awarded against the State in the action. The State agrees to promptly notify the Vendor in writing of any action seeking to compel the disclosure of Vendor's confidential information. The State shall have the right, at its option and expense, to participate in the defense of the action through its counsel. The State shall have no liability to Vendor with respect to the disclosure of Vendor's confidential information ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction pursuant to N.C.G.S. §132-9 or other applicable law.
  - a) Care of Information: Vendor agrees to use commercial best efforts to safeguard and protect any data, documents, files, and other materials received from the State or the Agency during performance of any contractual obligation from loss, destruction or erasure.
  - b) Vendor warrants that all its employees and any approved third party Vendors or subcontractors are subject to a non-disclosure and confidentiality agreement enforceable in North Carolina. Vendor will, upon request of the State, verify and produce true copies of any such agreements. Production of such agreements by Vendor may be made subject to applicable confidentiality, non-disclosure or privacy laws; provided that Vendor produces satisfactory evidence supporting exclusion of such agreements from disclosure under the N.C. Public Records laws in N.C.G.S. §132-1 et seq. The State may, in its sole discretion, provide a non-disclosure and confidentiality agreement satisfactory to the State for Vendor's execution. The State may exercise its rights under this subparagraph as necessary or proper, in its discretion, to comply with applicable

security regulations or statutes including, but not limited to 26 USC 6103 and IRS Publication 1075, (Tax Information Security Guidelines for Federal, State, and Local Agencies), HIPAA, 42 USC 1320(d) (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act), any implementing regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations, and any future regulations imposed upon the Department of Information Technology or the N.C. Department of Revenue pursuant to future statutory or regulatory requirements.

- c) Nondisclosure: Vendor agrees and specifically warrants that it, its officers, directors, principals and employees, and any subcontractors, shall hold all information received during performance of this Contract in the strictest confidence and shall not disclose the same to any third party without the express written approval of the State.

**19) DELIVERABLES:** Deliverables, as used herein, shall comprise all Services, project materials, including goods, software licenses, data, and documentation created during the performance or provision of Services hereunder. Deliverables are the property of the State of North Carolina, except where licensed or leased to the State. Proprietary Vendor materials licensed to the State shall be identified to the State by Vendor prior to use or provision of Services hereunder and shall remain the property of the Vendor. Embedded software or firmware shall not be a severable Deliverable. Deliverables include "Work Product" and means any expression of Licensor's findings, analyses, conclusions, opinions, recommendations, ideas, techniques, know-how, designs, programs, enhancements, and other technical information; but not source and object code or software. All Software source and object code is the property of Licensor and is licensed nonexclusively to the State, at no additional license fee, pursuant to the terms of the software license contained herein, and in the Supplemental Terms and Conditions for Software and Services or the License Agreement if incorporated in the Solicitation Documents.

**20) LATE DELIVERY, BACK ORDER:** Vendor shall advise the Agency contact person or office immediately upon determining that any Deliverable will not, or may not, be delivered at the time or place specified. Together with such notice, Vendor shall state the projected delivery time and date. In the event the delay projected by Vendor is unsatisfactory, the Agency shall so advise Vendor and may proceed to procure substitute Deliverables or Services.

**21) PATENT, COPYRIGHT, AND TRADE SECRET PROTECTION:**

- a) Vendor has created, acquired or otherwise has rights in, and may, in connection with the performance of Services for the State, employ, provide, create, acquire or otherwise obtain rights in various concepts, ideas, methods, methodologies, procedures, processes, know-how, techniques, models, templates and general purpose consulting and software tools, utilities and routines (collectively, the "Vendor Technology"). To the extent that any Vendor Technology is contained in any of the Deliverables including any derivative works, the Vendor hereby grants the State a royalty-free, fully paid, worldwide, perpetual, non-exclusive license to use such Vendor Technology in connection with the Deliverables for the State's purposes.
- b) Vendor shall not acquire any right, title, and interest in and to the copyrights for goods, any and all software, technical information, specifications, drawings, records, documentation, data or derivative works thereof, or other work products provided by the State to Vendor. The State hereby grants Vendor a royalty-free, fully paid, worldwide, perpetual, non-exclusive license for Vendor's internal use to non-confidential Deliverables first originated and prepared by the Vendor for delivery to the State.
- c) The Vendor, at its own expense, shall defend any action brought against the State to the extent that such action is based upon a claim that the Services or Deliverables supplied by the Vendor, or the operation of such Deliverables pursuant to a current version of Vendor-supplied software, infringes a patent, or copyright or violates a trade secret in the United States. The Vendor shall pay those costs and damages finally awarded against the State in any such action; damages shall be limited as provided in N.C.G.S. 143B-1350(h1). Such defense and payment shall be conditioned on the following:
  - i) That the Vendor shall be notified within a reasonable time in writing by the State of any such claim; and,

- ii) That the Vendor shall have the sole control of the defense of any action on such claim and all negotiations for its settlement or compromise provided, however, that the State shall have the option to participate in such action at its own expense.
- d) Should any Services or software supplied by Vendor, or the operation thereof become, or in the Vendor's opinion are likely to become, the subject of a claim of infringement of a patent, copyright, or a trade secret in the United States, the State shall permit the Vendor, at its option and expense, either to procure for the State the right to continue using the goods/hardware or software, or to replace or modify the same to become noninfringing and continue to meet procurement specifications in all material respects. If neither of these options can reasonably be taken, or if the use of such goods/hardware or software by the State shall be prevented by injunction, the Vendor agrees to take back such goods/hardware or software, and refund any sums the State has paid Vendor less any reasonable amount for use or damage and make every reasonable effort to assist the State in procuring substitute Deliverables. If, in the sole opinion of the State, the return of such infringing Deliverables makes the retention of other items of Deliverables acquired from the Vendor under this Contract impractical, the State shall then have the option of terminating the Contract, or applicable portions thereof, without penalty or termination charge. The Vendor agrees to take back such Deliverables and refund any sums the State has paid Vendor less any reasonable amount for use or damage.
- e) Vendor will not be required to defend or indemnify the State if any claim by a third party against the State for infringement or misappropriation (i) results from the State's alteration of any Vendor-branded product or Deliverable, or (ii) results from the continued use of the good(s) or Services and Deliverables after receiving notice they infringe a trade secret of a third party.
- f) Nothing stated herein, however, shall affect Vendor's ownership in or rights to its preexisting intellectual property and proprietary rights.

**22) ACCESS TO PERSONS AND RECORDS:** Pursuant to N.C.G.S. §147-64.7, the Agency, the State Auditor, appropriate federal officials, and their respective authorized employees or agents are authorized to examine all books, records, and accounts of the Vendor insofar as they relate to transactions with any department, board, officer, commission, institution, or other agency of the State of North Carolina pursuant to the performance of this Contract or to costs charged to this Contract. The Vendor shall retain any such books, records, and accounts for a minimum of three (3) years after the completion of this Contract. Additional audit or reporting requirements may be required by any Agency, if in the Agency's opinion, such requirement is imposed by federal or state law or regulation.

**23) ASSIGNMENT:** Vendor may not assign this Contract or its obligations hereunder except as permitted by 09 NCAC 06B.1003 and this Paragraph. Vendor shall provide reasonable notice of not less than thirty (30) days prior to any consolidation, acquisition, or merger. Any assignee shall affirm this Contract attorning to the terms and conditions agreed, and that Vendor shall affirm that the assignee is fully capable of performing all obligations of Vendor under this Contract. An assignment may be made, if at all, in writing by the Vendor, Assignee and the State setting forth the foregoing obligation of Vendor and Assignee.

**24) INSURANCE COVERAGE:** During the term of the Contract, the Vendor at its sole cost and expense shall provide commercial insurance of such type and with such terms and limits as may be reasonably associated with the Contract. As a minimum, the Vendor shall provide and maintain the following coverage and limits:

- a) **Worker's Compensation** - The Vendor shall provide and maintain Worker's Compensation Insurance, as required by the laws of North Carolina, as well as employer's liability coverage with minimum limits of \$100,000.00, covering all of Vendor's employees who are engaged in any work under the Contract. If any work is sublet, the Vendor shall require the subcontractor to provide the same coverage for any of his employees engaged in any work under the Contract; and
- b) **Commercial General Liability** - General Liability Coverage on a Comprehensive Broad Form on an occurrence basis in the minimum amount of \$2,000,000.00 Combined Single Limit (Defense cost shall be in excess of the limit of liability); and
- c) **Automobile** - Automobile Liability Insurance, to include liability coverage, covering all owned, hired and non-owned vehicles, used in connection with the Contract. The minimum combined

single limit shall be \$500,000.00 bodily injury and property damage; \$500,000.00 uninsured/under insured motorist; and \$5,000.00 medical payment; and

- d) Providing and maintaining adequate insurance coverage described herein is a material obligation of the Vendor and is of the essence of this Contract. All such insurance shall meet all laws of the State of North Carolina. Such insurance coverage shall be obtained from companies that are authorized to provide such coverage and that are authorized by the Commissioner of Insurance to do business in North Carolina. The Vendor shall at all times comply with the terms of such insurance policies, and all requirements of the insurer under any such insurance policies, except as they may conflict with existing North Carolina laws or this Contract. The limits of coverage under each insurance policy maintained by the Vendor shall not be interpreted as limiting the Vendor's liability and obligations under the Contract.

**25) DISPUTE RESOLUTION:** The parties agree that it is in their mutual interest to resolve disputes informally. A claim by the Vendor shall be submitted in writing to the Agency Contract Administrator for decision. A claim by the State shall be submitted in writing to the Vendor's Contract Administrator for decision. The Parties shall negotiate in good faith and use all reasonable efforts to resolve such dispute(s). During the time the Parties are attempting to resolve any dispute, each shall proceed diligently to perform their respective duties and responsibilities under this Contract. If a dispute cannot be resolved between the Parties within thirty (30) days after delivery of notice, either Party may elect to exercise any other remedies available under this Contract, or at law. This term shall not constitute an agreement by either party to mediate or arbitrate any dispute.

**26) DEFAULT:** In the event Services or other Deliverable furnished or performed by the Vendor during performance of any Contract term fail to conform to any material requirement(s) of the Contract specifications, notice of the failure is provided by the State and if the failure is not cured within ten (10) days, the State may cancel the contract. Default may be cause for debarment as provided in 09 NCAC 06B.1206. The rights and remedies of the State provided above shall not be exclusive and are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or under the Contract.

- a) If Vendor fails to deliver or provide correct Services or other Deliverables within the time required by this Contract, the State shall provide written notice of said failure to Vendor, and by such notice require performance assurance measures pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143B-1340(f). Vendor is responsible for the delays resulting from its failure to deliver or provide services or other Deliverables.
- b) Should the State fail to perform any of its obligations upon which Vendor's performance is conditioned, Vendor shall not be in default for any delay, cost increase or other consequences resulting from the State's failure. Vendor will use reasonable efforts to mitigate delays, costs or expenses arising from assumptions in the Vendor's offers that prove erroneous or are otherwise invalid. Any deadline that is affected by any such failure in assumptions or performance by the State shall be extended by an amount of time reasonably necessary to compensate for the effect of such failure.
- c) Vendor shall provide a plan to cure any delay or default if requested by the State. The plan shall state the nature of the delay or default, the time required for cure, any mitigating factors causing or tending to cause the delay or default, and such other information as the Vendor may deem necessary or proper to provide.

**27) WAIVER OF DEFAULT:** Waiver by either party of any default or breach by the other Party shall not be deemed a waiver of any subsequent default or breach and shall not be construed to be a modification or novation of the terms of this Contract, unless so stated in writing and signed by authorized representatives of the Agency and the Vendor, and made as an amendment to this Contract pursuant to Paragraph 40) herein below.

**28) TERMINATION:** Any notice or termination made under this Contract shall be transmitted via US Mail, Certified Return Receipt Requested. The period of notice for termination shall begin on the day the return receipt is signed and dated.

- a) The parties may mutually terminate this Contract by written agreement at any time.

- b) The State may terminate this Contract, in whole or in part, pursuant to Paragraph 26), or pursuant to the Special Terms and Conditions in the Solicitation Documents, if any, or for any of the following:
  - i) Termination for Cause: In the event any goods, software, or service furnished by the Vendor during performance of any Contract term fails to conform to any material requirement of the Contract, and the failure is not cured within the specified time after providing written notice thereof to Vendor, the State may cancel and procure the articles or Services from other sources; holding Vendor liable for any excess costs occasioned thereby, subject only to the limitations provided in Paragraphs 29) and 30) herein. The rights and remedies of the State provided above shall not be exclusive and are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or under the Contract. Vendor shall not be relieved of liability to the State for damages sustained by the State arising from Vendor's breach of this Contract; and the State may, in its discretion, withhold any payment due as a setoff until such time as the damages are finally determined or as agreed by the parties. Voluntary or involuntary Bankruptcy or receivership by Vendor shall be cause for termination.
  - ii) Termination For Convenience Without Cause: The State may terminate service and indefinite quantity contracts, in whole or in part by giving thirty (30) days prior notice in writing to the Vendor. Vendor shall be entitled to sums due as compensation for Deliverables provided and Services performed in conformance with the Contract. In the event the Contract is terminated for the convenience of the State the Agency will pay for all work performed and products delivered in conformance with the Contract up to the date of termination.

**29) LIMITATION OF VENDOR'S LIABILITY:**

- a) Where Deliverables are under the State's exclusive management and control, the Vendor shall not be liable for direct damages caused by the State's failure to fulfill any State responsibilities of assuring the proper use, management and supervision of the Deliverables and programs, audit controls, operating methods, office procedures, or for establishing all proper checkpoints necessary for the State's intended use of the Deliverables.
- b) The Vendor's liability for damages to the State arising under the contract shall be limited to two times the value of the Contract.
- c) The foregoing limitation of liability shall not apply to claims covered by other specific provisions including but not limited to Service Level Agreement or Deliverable/Product Warranty compliance, or to claims for injury to persons or damage to tangible personal property caused by Vendor's gross negligence or willful or wanton conduct. This limitation of liability does not apply to contributions among joint tortfeasors under N.C.G.S. 1B-1 et seq., the receipt of court costs or attorney's fees that might be awarded by a court in addition to damages after litigation based on this Contract. For avoidance of doubt, the Parties agree that the Service Level Agreement and Deliverable/Product Warranty Terms in the Contract are intended to provide the sole and exclusive remedies available to the State under the Contract for the Vendor's failure to comply with the requirements stated therein.

**30) VENDOR'S LIABILITY FOR INJURY TO PERSONS OR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY:**

- a) The Vendor shall be liable for damages arising out of personal injuries and/or damage to real or personal property of the State, employees of the State, persons designated by the State for training, or person(s) other than agents or employees of the Vendor, designated by the State for any purpose, prior to, during, or subsequent to delivery, installation, acceptance, and use of the Deliverables either at the Vendor's site or at the State's place of business, provided that the injury or damage was caused by the fault or negligence of the Vendor.
- b) The Vendor agrees to indemnify, defend and hold the Agency and the State and its Officers, employees, agents and assigns harmless from any liability relating to personal injury or injury to real or personal property of any kind, accruing or resulting to any other person, firm or corporation furnishing or supplying work, Services, materials or supplies in connection with the performance of this contract, whether tangible or intangible, arising out of the ordinary negligence, willful or wanton negligence, or intentional acts of the Vendor, its officers, employees, agents, assigns or subcontractors, in the performance of this Contract.

- c) Vendor shall not be liable for damages arising out of or caused by an alteration or an attachment not made or installed by the Vendor.
- 31) CHANGES:** This Contract and subsequent purchase order(s) is awarded subject to shipment of quantities, qualities, and prices indicated by the order or Contract, and all conditions and instructions of the Contract or offer on which it is based. Any changes made to this Contract or purchase order proposed by the Vendor are hereby rejected unless accepted in writing by the Agency or State Award Authority. The State shall not be responsible for Deliverables or Services delivered without a purchase order from the Agency or State Award Authority.
- 32) STOP WORK ORDER:** Reserved
- 33) PRICE ADJUSTMENTS FOR TERM CONTRACTS:** Reserved.
- 34) TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE:** Time is of the essence in the performance of this Contract.
- 35) DATE AND TIME WARRANTY:** The Vendor warrants that any Deliverable, whether hardware, firmware, middleware, custom or commercial software, or internal components, subroutines, and interface therein which performs any date and/or time data recognition function, calculation, or sequencing, will provide accurate date/time data and leap year calculations. This warranty shall survive termination or expiration of the Contract.
- 36) INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS:** Vendor and its employees, officers and executives, and subcontractors, if any, shall be independent Vendors and not employees or agents of the State. This Contract shall not operate as a joint venture, partnership, trust, agency or any other business relationship.
- 37) TRANSPORTATION:** Transportation of Deliverables shall be FOB Destination; unless otherwise specified in the solicitation document or purchase order. Freight, handling, hazardous material charges, and distribution and installation charges shall be included in the total price of each item. Any additional charges shall not be honored for payment unless authorized in writing by the Purchasing State Agency. In cases where parties, other than the Vendor ship materials against this order, the shipper must be instructed to show the purchase order number on all packages and shipping manifests to ensure proper identification and payment of invoices. A complete packing list must accompany each shipment.
- 38) NOTICES:** Any notices required under this Contract should be delivered to the Contract Administrator for each party. Unless otherwise specified in the Solicitation Documents, any notices shall be delivered in writing by U.S. Mail, Commercial Courier or by hand.
- 39) TITLES AND HEADINGS:** Titles and Headings in this Contract are used for convenience only and do not define, limit or proscribe the language of terms identified by such Titles and Headings.
- 40) AMENDMENT:** This Contract may not be amended orally or by performance. Any amendment must be made in written form and signed by duly authorized representatives of the State and Vendor in conformance with Paragraph 31) herein.
- 41) TAXES:** The State of North Carolina is exempt from Federal excise taxes and no payment will be made for any personal property taxes levied on the Vendor or for any taxes levied on employee wages. Agencies of the State may have additional exemptions or exclusions for federal or state taxes. Evidence of such additional exemptions or exclusions may be provided to Vendor by Agencies, as applicable, during the term of this Contract. Applicable State or local sales taxes shall be invoiced as a separate item.
- 42) GOVERNING LAWS, JURISDICTION, AND VENUE:**
- a) This Contract is made under and shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina. The place of this Contract or purchase order, its situs and forum, shall be Wake County, North Carolina, where all matters, whether sounding in contract or in tort, relating to its validity, construction, interpretation and enforcement shall be determined. Vendor agrees and submits, solely for matters relating to this Contract, to the jurisdiction of the courts of the State of North Carolina, and stipulates that Wake County shall be the proper venue for all matters.
- b) Except to the extent the provisions of the Contract are clearly inconsistent therewith, the applicable provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code as modified and adopted in North Carolina shall govern this Contract. To the extent the Contract entails both the supply of "goods" and

"Services," such shall be deemed "goods" within the meaning of the Uniform Commercial Code, except when deeming such Services as "goods" would result in a clearly unreasonable interpretation.

- 43) FORCE MAJEURE:** Neither party shall be deemed to be in default of its obligations hereunder if and so long as it is prevented from performing such obligations as a result of events beyond its reasonable control, including without limitation, fire, power failures, any act of war, hostile foreign action, nuclear explosion, riot, strikes or failures or refusals to perform under subcontracts, civil insurrection, earthquake, hurricane, tornado, or other catastrophic natural event or act of God.
- 44) COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS:** The Vendor shall comply with all laws, ordinances, codes, rules, regulations, and licensing requirements that are applicable to the conduct of its business, including those of federal, state, and local agencies having jurisdiction and/or authority.
- 45) SEVERABILITY:** In the event that a court of competent jurisdiction holds that a provision or requirement of this Contract violates any applicable law, each such provision or requirement shall be enforced only to the extent it is not in violation of law or is not otherwise unenforceable and all other provisions and requirements of this Contract shall remain in full force and effect. All promises, requirement, terms, conditions, provisions, representations, guarantees and warranties contained herein shall survive the expiration or termination date unless specifically provided otherwise herein, or unless superseded by applicable federal or State statute, including statutes of repose or limitation.
- 46) FEDERAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY BANKRUPTCY PROTECTION ACT:** The Parties agree that the Agency shall be entitled to all rights and benefits of the Federal Intellectual Property Bankruptcy Protection Act, Public Law 100-506, codified at 11 U.S.C. 365(n), and any amendments thereto.
- 47) ELECTRONIC PROCUREMENT (Applies to all contracts that include E-Procurement and are identified as such in the body of the solicitation document):** Purchasing shall be conducted through the Statewide E-Procurement Service. The State's third party agent shall serve as the Supplier Manager for this E-Procurement Service. The Vendor shall register for the Statewide E-Procurement Service within two (2) business days of notification of award in order to receive an electronic purchase order resulting from award of this contract.
- a) **The successful Vendor(s) shall pay a transaction fee of 1.5% (.015) on the total dollar amount (excluding sales taxes) of each purchase order issued through the Statewide E-Procurement Service.** This applies to all purchase orders, regardless of the quantity or dollar amount of the purchase order. The transaction fee shall neither be charged to nor paid by the State, or by any State approved users of the contract. The transaction fee shall not be stated or included as a separate item in the proposed contract or invoice. There are no additional fees or charges to the Vendor for the Services rendered by the Supplier Manager under this contract. Vendor will receive a credit for transaction fees they paid for the purchase of any item(s) if an item(s) is returned through no fault of the Vendor. Transaction fees are non-refundable when an item is rejected and returned, or declined, due to the Vendor's failure to perform or comply with specifications or requirements of the contract.
- b) Vendor, or its authorized Reseller, as applicable, will be invoiced monthly for the State's transaction fee by the Supplier Manager. The transaction fee shall be based on purchase orders issued for the prior month. Unless Supplier Manager receives written notice from the Vendor identifying with specificity any errors in an invoice within thirty (30) days of the receipt of invoice, such invoice shall be deemed to be correct and Vendor shall have waived its right to later dispute the accuracy and completeness of the invoice. Payment of the transaction fee by the Vendor is due to the account designated by the State within thirty (30) days after receipt of the correct invoice for the transaction fee, which includes payment of all portions of an invoice not in dispute. Within thirty (30) days of the receipt of invoice, Vendor may request in writing an extension of the invoice payment due date for that portion of the transaction fee invoice for which payment of the related goods by the governmental purchasing entity has not been received by the Vendor. If payment of the transaction fee invoice is not received by the State within this payment period, it shall be considered a material breach of contract. The Supplier Manager shall provide, whenever

reasonably requested by the Vendor in writing (including electronic documents), supporting documentation from the E-Procurement Service that accounts for the amount of the invoice.

- c) The Supplier Manager will capture the order from the State approved user, including the shipping and payment information, and submit the order in accordance with the E-Procurement Service. Subsequently, the Supplier Manager will send those orders to the appropriate Vendor on State Contract. The State or State approved user, not the Supplier Manager, shall be responsible for the solicitation, offers received, evaluation of offers received, award of contract, and the payment for goods delivered.
- d) Vendor agrees at all times to maintain the confidentiality of its user name and password for the Statewide E-Procurement Services. If a Vendor is a corporation, partnership or other legal entity, then the Vendor may authorize its employees to use its password. Vendor shall be responsible for all activity and all charges for such employees. Vendor agrees not to permit a third party to use the Statewide E-Procurement Services through its account. If there is a breach of security through the Vendor's account, Vendor shall immediately change its password and notify the Supplier Manager of the security breach by e-mail. Vendor shall cooperate with the state and the Supplier Manager to mitigate and correct any security breach.

**48) ELECTRONIC PROCUREMENT (Applies only to Statewide Term Contracts): Reserved.**

## **ATTACHMENT A: PRICING**

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**Vendors shall provide ONLY ONE percentage discount (or blanket discount) less currently published Microsoft Estimated Retail Prices for all Microsoft Application, Server and System Pool Software products. However, upon award vendor may offer a higher % off on selected items.**

The UNC System represents approximately 18 institutions' enrollments. We are entering an anniversary year of an existing term. Please contact Microsoft Commercial Executive, Chad Adams, at [chadadams@microsoft.com](mailto:chadadams@microsoft.com) to verify existing applicable price levels and discounts.

**\*\*VENDOR MUST PROVIDE % DISCOUNT BELOW\*\***

**The Vendor submitting this bid response will provide a \_\_\_\_\_% discount less currently published Microsoft Estimated Retail Prices for all Microsoft Application, Server and System Pool Software products.**

**Vendor shall provide currently published list (and provide the date of the list) at the time vendor submits bid.**

**This bid will be awarded to the responsive bidder that meets the bid requirements and provides the greatest percentage discount.**

**The University may consider discounts offered by Vendor on other products not listed in this invitation for bids.**

**Sales completed pursuant to this reseller contract will be assessed a fee of 1.5% of the entire billed cost of any work performed, payable by Vendor to the UNC System Office on an annual basis on the anniversary of the effective date of the contract.**

**ATTACHMENT B: CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL CONDITION**

Name of Vendor: \_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned hereby certifies that: [check all applicable boxes]

The Vendor is in sound financial condition and, if applicable, has received an unqualified audit opinion for the latest audit of its financial statements.

Date of latest audit: \_\_\_\_\_

The Vendor has no outstanding liabilities, including tax and judgment liens, to the Internal Revenue Service or any other government entity.

The Vendor is current in all amounts due for payments of federal and state taxes and required employment-related contributions and withholdings.

The Vendor is not the subject of any current litigation or findings of noncompliance under federal or state law.

The Vendor has not been the subject of any past or current litigation, findings in any past litigation, or findings of noncompliance under federal or state law that may impact in any way its ability to fulfill the requirements of this Contract.

He or she is authorized to make the foregoing statements on behalf of the Vendor.

**Note:** This is a continuing certification and Vendor shall notify the Contract Lead within 15 days of any material change to any of the representations made herein.

**If any one or more of the foregoing boxes is NOT checked, Vendor shall explain the reason in the space below:**

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name Title

**[This Certification must be signed by an individual authorized to sign for the Vendor]**

**APPENDIX A**

## University of North Carolina Constituent Institutions, Affiliates, and Associated Entities

Appalachian State University  
East Carolina University  
Elizabeth City State University  
Fayetteville State University  
North Carolina A&T State University  
North Carolina Central University  
North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics  
North Carolina State Educational Assistance Authority  
North Carolina State University  
The North Carolina Arboretum  
PBS North Carolina  
Project Kitty Hawk  
University of North Carolina at Asheville  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
University of North Carolina at Charlotte  
University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
University of North Carolina at Pembroke  
University of North Carolina at Wilmington  
University of North Carolina School of the Arts  
University of North Carolina Health Care System  
University of North Carolina Press  
University of North Carolina System Office  
Western Carolina University  
Winston-Salem State University