



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Request for Proposal #:66-24062 WH

Assessment Software Platform

Date of Issue: Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Proposal Due Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024

At 2:00 PM ET

Direct all inquiries concerning this RFP to:

Wendy Helton

Senior Buyer

Email: whelton2@charlotte.edu



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Request for Proposal #

66-24062 WH

For internal State agency processing, including tabulation of proposals, provide your company's eVP (Electronic Vendor Portal) Number. Pursuant to G.S. 132-1.10(b) this identification number shall not be released to the public. **This page will be removed and shredded, or otherwise kept confidential**, before the procurement file is made available for public inspection.

**This page shall be filled out and returned with your proposal.
Failure to do so may subject your proposal to rejection.**

Vendor Name

Vendor eVP#

Note: For a contract to be awarded to you, your company (you) must be a North Carolina registered vendor in good standing. You must enter the vendor number assigned through eVP (Electronic Vendor Portal). If you do not have a vendor number, register at <https://vendor.ncgov.com/vendor/login>

Electronic responses ONLY will be accepted for this solicitation.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Refer ALL Inquiries regarding this RFP to:

Wendy Helton

whelton2@charlotte.edu

Request for Proposal #: 66-24062 WH

Proposals will be received until: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 @ 2:00 PM ET

EXECUTION

In compliance with this Request for Proposals (RFP), and subject to all the conditions herein, the undersigned Vendor offers and agrees to furnish and deliver any or all items upon which prices are bid, at the prices set opposite each item within the time specified herein.

By executing this proposal, the undersigned Vendor understands that false certification is a Class I felony and certifies that:

- this proposal is submitted competitively and without collusion (G.S. 143-54),
- none of its officers, directors, or owners of an unincorporated business entity has been convicted of any violations of Chapter 78A of the General Statutes, the Securities Act of 1933, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (G.S. 143-59.2), and
- it is not an ineligible Vendor as set forth in G.S. 143-59.1.

Furthermore, by executing this proposal, the undersigned certifies to the best of Vendor's knowledge and belief, that:

- it and its principals are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal or State department or agency.

As required by G.S. 143-48.5, the undersigned Vendor certifies that it, and each of its sub-Contractors for any Contract awarded as a result of this RFP, complies with the requirements of Article 2 of Chapter 64 of the NC General Statutes, including the requirement for each employer with more than 25 employees in North Carolina to verify the work authorization of its employees through the federal E-Verify system.

As required by Executive Order 24 (2017), the undersigned vendor certifies will comply with all Federal and State requirements concerning fair employment and that it does not and will not discriminate, harass, or retaliate against any employee in connection with performance of any Contract arising from this solicitation.

G.S. 133-32 and Executive Order 24 (2009) prohibit the offer to, or acceptance by, any State Employee associated with the preparing plans, specifications, estimates for public contracts; or awarding or administering public contracts; or inspecting or supervising delivery of the public contract of any gift from anyone with a contract with the State, or from any person seeking to do business with the State. By execution of this response to the RFP, the undersigned certifies, for Vendor's entire organization and its employees or agents, that Vendor is not aware that any such gift has been offered, accepted, or promised by any employees of your organization.

By executing this proposal, Vendor certifies that it has read and agreed to the **INSTRUCTION TO VENDORS** and the **NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS incorporated herein**. These documents can be accessed from the ATTACHMENTS page within this document.

**Failure to execute/sign proposal prior to submittal may render proposal invalid and it MAY BE REJECTED.
Late proposals CANNOT and will NOT be accepted.**

COMPLETE/FORMAL NAME OF VENDOR:		
STREET ADDRESS:	P.O. BOX:	ZIP:
CITY & STATE & ZIP:	TELEPHONE NUMBER:	TOLL FREE TEL. NO:
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE (SEE INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDORS ITEM #21):		
PRINT NAME & TITLE OF PERSON SIGNING ON BEHALF OF VENDOR:	FAX NUMBER:	
VENDOR'S AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE*:	DATE:	EMAIL:

INFORMATION FOR CUTOMER AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE)		
STREET ADDRESS:	P.O. BOX:	ZIP:
CITY & STATE & ZIP:	TELEPHONE NUMBER:	TOLL FREE TEL. NO:

VALIDITY PERIOD

Offer shall be valid for at least sixty 60 days from date of bid opening, unless otherwise stated here: _____ days, or if extended by mutual agreement of the parties in writing. Any withdrawal of this offer shall be made in writing, effective upon receipt by the agency issuing this RFP.

ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL

If your proposal is accepted, all provisions of this RFP, along with the written results of any negotiations, shall constitute the written agreement between the parties ("Contract"). The NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS are incorporated herein and shall apply. Depending upon the Goods or Services being offered, other terms and conditions may apply, as mutually agreed.

FOR STATE USE ONLY: Offer accepted and Contract awarded this _____ day of _____, 2024, as indicated on

The attached certification, by _____.

(Authorized Representative of UNC Charlotte)

Contents

1.0	PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND	6
1.1	CONTRACT TERM	6
2.0	GENERAL INFORMATION.....	6
2.1	REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL DOCUMENT	6
2.2	E-PROCUREMENT	6
2.3	NOTICE TO VENDORS REGARDING RFP TERMS AND CONDITIONS	7
2.4	RFP SCHEDULE.....	7
2.5	RESERVED.....	7
2.6	PROPOSAL QUESTIONS.....	7
2.7	PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL	8
2.8	PROPOSAL CONTENTS	9
2.9	ALTERNATE PROPOSALS.....	9
2.10	DEFINITIONS, ACRONYMS, AND ABBREVIATIONS.....	10
3.0	METHOD OF AWARD AND PROPOSAL EVALUATION PROCESS	10
3.1	METHOD OF AWARD.....	10
3.2	CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROHIBITED COMMUNICATIONS DURING EVALUATION	10
3.3	PROPOSAL EVALUATION PROCESS	11
3.4	EVALUATION CRITERIA.....	11
3.5	PERFORMANCE OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES	13
3.6	INTERPRETATION OF TERMS AND PHRASES	13
4.0	REQUIREMENTS	13
4.1	FINANCIAL PROPOSAL.....	14
4.2	RESERVED.....	14
4.3	FINANCIAL STABILITY	14
4.4	HUB PARTICIPATION	14
4.5	VENDOR EXPERIENCE.....	15
4.6	REFERENCES	15
4.7	BACKGROUND CHECK	15

4.8	PERSONNEL.....	15
4.9	VENDOR’S REPRESENTATIONS	16
4.10	RESERVED	16
4.11	AGENCY INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS MODIFICATION	16
4.12	RESERVED	16
5.0	SPECIFICATIONS AND SCOPE OF WORK	16
5.1	GENERAL	16
5.2	RESERVED	17
5.3	TRAINING	17
5.4	PROJECT ORGANIZATION.....	17
5.5	TECHNICAL APPROACH	17
5.6	RESERVED	18
6.0	CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION.....	18
6.1	CONTRACT MANAGER AND CUSTOMER SERVICE	18
6.2	POST AWARD PROJECT REVIEW MEETINGS	19
6.3	CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT	19
6.4	RESERVED.....	19
6.5	ACCEPTANCE OF WORK.....	19
6.6	RESERVED.....	20
6.7	TRANSITION ASSISTANCE	20
6.8	DISPUTE RESOLUTION	20
6.9	CONTRACT CHANGES.....	20
7.0	ATTACHMENTS	21
	ATTACHMENT A: FINANCIAL PROPOSAL	21
	ATTACHMENT B: INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDORS	21
	ATTACHMENT C: NORTH CAROLINA IT GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS.....	21
	ATTACHMENT D: HUB SUPPLEMENTAL VENDOR INFORMATION.....	21
	ATTACHMENT E: CUSTOMER REFERENCE FORM	21

ATTACHMENT F: LOCATION OF WORKERS UTILIZED BY VENDOR21

ATTACHMENT G: CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL CONDITION21

ATTACHMENT H: VENDOR SELF ASSESSMENT21

ATTACHMENT I: PROSPECTIVE VENDOR TECHNICAL QUESTIONNAIRE22

ATTACHMENT J: DATA PROTECTION AGREEMENT22

1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte was established in 1965 by the North Carolina General Assembly which transformed Charlotte College, with beginnings in 1946, into a campus of The University of North Carolina. It is organized into the following eight colleges: College of Arts & Architecture; College of Science; College of Humanities & Earth and Social Science; College of Business; College of Education; College of Engineering; College of Health and Human Services; and the College of Computing and Informatics. It offers a broad array of degree programs at the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral levels and also in graduate certificate programs.

Enrollment is approximately 30,000 with 19 percent of the students pursuing graduate degrees. The University is expected to experience continued growth for the foreseeable future.

The intent of this solicitation is to procure a cloud based software tool or package with multiple components and functionalities for accreditation, planning, and assessment. Preferred elements of the software are an enterprise site license so the software could be made available to authorized faculty and staff on campus, robust and configurable integrated modules for strategic planning and assessment, and the automated inclusion and updating of all institutional accreditation requirements to eliminate the need input them manually. It would be especially useful for the software to also include the specialized accreditation requirements for individual schools and programs of study for maximum use and applicability throughout the University.

The software is intended to be used for strategic planning, performance assessments, a repository for documents and artifacts for accreditation, and a generator of reports that show performance progress as well as those needed by accrediting bodies. This tool and any customization necessary will be under the authority of UNC Charlotte's Office of Assessment and Accreditation.

1.1 CONTRACT TERM

The Contract shall have an initial term of three (3) years, beginning on the date of final Contract execution (the "Effective Date").

At the end of the Contract's initial term, the State shall have the option, in its sole discretion, to renew the Contract on the same terms and conditions for up to two (2) additional one-year terms. The State will give the Vendor written notice of its intent to exercise each option before the end of the Contract's then-current term. In addition to any optional renewal terms, and with the Vendor's concurrence, the State reserves the right to extend the Contract after the last active term.

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

2.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1 REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL DOCUMENT

This RFP is comprised of the base RFP document, any attachments, and any addenda released before Contract award, which are incorporated herein by reference.

2.2 E-PROCUREMENT

ATTENTION: NC E-Procurement does NOT apply to this solicitation and the paragraph entitled ELECTRONIC PROCUREMENT of the North Carolina General Terms and Conditions does NOT apply.

2.3 NOTICE TO VENDORS REGARDING RFP TERMS AND CONDITIONS

It shall be the Vendor's responsibility to read the Instructions to Vendors, the North Carolina General Terms and Conditions, all relevant exhibits and attachments, and any other components made a part of this RFP and comply with all requirements and specifications herein. Vendors are also responsible for obtaining and complying with all Addenda and other changes that may be issued in connection with this RFP.

If Vendors have questions or issues regarding any component of this RFP, those must be submitted as questions in accordance with the instructions in the PROPOSAL QUESTIONS Section. If the State determines that any changes will be made as a result of the questions asked, then such decisions will be communicated in the form of an RFP addendum. The State may also elect to leave open the possibility for later negotiation of specific provisions of the Contract that have been addressed during the question-and-answer period, prior to contract award.

Other than through the process of negotiation under 01 NCAC 05B.0503, the State rejects and will not be required to evaluate or consider any additional or modified terms and conditions submitted with Vendor's proposal or otherwise. This applies to any language appearing in or attached to the document as part of the Vendor's proposal that purports to vary any terms and conditions or Vendors' instructions herein or to render the proposal non-binding or subject to further negotiation. Vendor's proposal shall constitute a firm offer that shall be held open for the period required herein ("Validity Period" above).

The State may exercise its discretion to consider Vendor proposed modifications. By execution and delivery of this RFP Response, the Vendor agrees that any additional or modified terms and conditions, whether submitted purposely or inadvertently, shall have no force or effect, and will be disregarded unless expressly agreed upon through negotiation and incorporated by way of a Best and Final Offer (BAFO). Noncompliance with, or any attempt to alter or delete, this paragraph shall constitute sufficient grounds to reject Vendor's proposal as nonresponsive.

2.4 RFP SCHEDULE

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

Event	Responsibility	Date and Time
Issue RFP	State	Tuesday, March 19, 2024
Submit Written Questions	Vendor	Thursday, March 28, 2024 by 12:00 PM ET
Provide Response to Questions	State	Tuesday, April 2, 2024
Submit Proposals	Vendor	Tuesday, April 16, 2024 by 2:00 PM ET
Contract Award	State	TBD

2.5 RESERVED

2.6 PROPOSAL QUESTIONS

Upon review of the RFP documents, Vendors may have questions to clarify or interpret the RFP in order to submit the best proposal possible. To accommodate the Proposal Questions process, Vendors shall submit any such questions by the "Submit Written Questions" date and time provided in the RFP SCHEDULE Section above, unless modified by Addendum.

Written questions shall be emailed to whelton2@charlotte.edu by the date and time specified above. Vendors should enter "RFP #66-24062 WH: Questions" as the subject for the email. Question submittals should include a reference to the applicable RFP section.

Questions received prior to the submission deadline date, the State's response, and any additional terms deemed necessary by the State will be posted in the form of an addendum to **the electronic Vendor Portal (eVP)**, <https://evp.nc.gov>, and shall become an Addendum to this RFP. No information, instruction or advice provided orally or informally by any State personnel, whether made in response to a question or otherwise in connection with this RFP, shall be considered authoritative or binding. Vendors shall rely *only* on written material contained in the RFP and an addendum to this RFP.

2.7 PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL

IMPORTANT NOTE: This is an absolute requirement. Vendor shall bear the risk of late submission due to unintended or unanticipated delay, or technical issue. It is the Vendor's sole responsibility to ensure its proposal has been received via the eVP as described in this RFP by the specified time and date of opening. The date and time of receipt will be electronically time stamped by the system when received. Any proposal or portion thereof received or attempted to be submitted after the proposal submission deadline will be rejected.

All proposal 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>.

Attempts to submit a proposal via mail, courier, facsimile (FAX) machine, telephone or email in response to this RFP shall NOT be accepted.

This will be a One-Step proposal process:

Vendor's proposal may contain both the Technical and Financial Proposal (ATTACHMENT A) submitted for evaluation in a single file.

If confidential and proprietary information is included in the proposal, also submit one (1) signed, REDACTED copy of the proposal. Such information may include trade secrets defined by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 66-152 and other information exempted from the Public Records Act pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §132- 1.2. Vendor may designate information, Products, Services or appropriate portions of its response as confidential, consistent with and to the extent permitted under the statutes and rules set forth above. By so redacting any page, or portion of a 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 determined to be confidential and proprietary and redacted as such, meet the requirements of the Rules and Statutes set forth above. However, under no circumstances shall price information be designated as confidential.

If the Vendor does not provide a redacted version of the proposal with its proposal submission, the University may release an unredacted version if a record request is received.

Failure to submit a proposal in strict accordance with these instructions shall constitute sufficient cause to reject a Vendor's proposal(s). Vendors are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to upload proposals.

Critical updated information may be included in Addenda to this RFP. It is important that all Vendors responding to this RFP periodically check the State's eVP website for any Addenda that may be issued prior to the bid opening date. All Vendors shall be deemed to have read and understood all information in this RFP and all Addenda thereto.

2.8 PROPOSAL CONTENTS

Vendors shall populate all attachments of this RFP that require the Vendor to provide information and include an authorized signature where requested. Failure to provide all required items, or Vendor's submission of incomplete items, may result in the State rejecting Vendor's proposal, in the State's sole discretion.

Vendor RFP responses shall include the following items and attachments:

- a) Cover Letter, which must contain the following: (i) a statement that confirms that the proposer has read the RFP in its entirety, including all links, and all Addenda released in conjunction with the RFP, (ii) a statement that the Vendor agrees to perform in accordance with the scope of work, requirements, and specifications contained herein; (iii) Vendor's agreement to comply with all instructions, terms and conditions, and attachments; and (iv) contact information for Vendor's representative responsible for this RFP.
- b) Completed and signed version of all EXECUTION PAGES, and completed version of any pages requiring vendor input.
- c) Signed receipt pages of any addenda released in conjunction with this RFP, if required to be returned.
- d) Vendor's Proposal addressing all Specifications of this RFP.
- e) Completed version of ATTACHMENT A: FINANCIAL PROPOSAL
- f) Completed version of ATTACHMENT D: HUB SUPPLEMENTAL VENDOR INFORMATION
- g) Completed version of ATTACHMENT E: CUSTOMER REFERENCE FORM
- h) Completed version of ATTACHMENT F: LOCATION OF WORKERS UTILIZED BY VENDOR
- i) Completed and signed version of ATTACHMENT G: CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL CONDITION
- j) Completed version of ATTACHMENT H: Vendor Self Assessment
- k) Completed version of ATTACHMENT I: Prospective Vendor Technical Questionnaire
- l) Completed version of ATTACHMENT J: Data Protection Agreement
- m) The Vendor's standard software maintenance and support agreement for review

2.9 ALTERNATE PROPOSALS

Unless provided otherwise in this RFP, Vendor may submit alternate proposals for comparable Goods, various methods or levels of Service(s), or that propose different options. Alternate proposals must specifically identify the RFP requirements and advantage(s) addressed by the alternate proposal. Any alternate proposal, in addition to the marking described above, must be clearly marked with the legend: "Alternate Proposal #___ [for 'name of Vendor']". Each proposal must be for a specific set of Goods and Services and must include specific pricing. If a Vendor chooses to respond with various offerings, each must be offered with a separate price and be contained in a separate proposal document. Each proposal must be complete and independent of other proposals offered.

2.10 DEFINITIONS, ACRONYMS, AND ABBREVIATIONS

Relevant definitions for this RFP are provided in 01 NCAC 05A .0112 and in the Instructions to Vendors found below which are incorporated herein by this reference.

3.0 METHOD OF AWARD AND PROPOSAL EVALUATION PROCESS

3.1 METHOD OF AWARD

North Carolina G.S. 143-52 provides a general list of criteria the State shall use to award contracts, as supplemented by the additional criteria herein. The Goods or Services being procured shall dictate the application and order of criteria; however, all award decisions shall be in the State's best interest. All qualified proposals will be evaluated, and awards will be made to the Vendor(s) meeting the specific RFP Specifications and achieving the highest and best final evaluation, based on the criteria described below.

While the intent of this RFP is to award a Contract(s) to a single Vendor, the State reserves the right to make separate awards to different Vendors for one or more portions, to not award one or more portions or to cancel this RFP in its entirety without awarding a Contract, if it is considered to be most advantageous to the State to do so.

The State reserves the right to waive any minor informality or technicality in proposals received.

3.2 CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROHIBITED COMMUNICATIONS DURING EVALUATION

While this RFP is under evaluation, the responding Vendor, including any subcontractors and suppliers, is prohibited from engaging in conversations intended to influence the outcome of the evaluation. See Paragraph 29 of the Instructions to Vendors entitled COMMUNICATIONS BY VENDORS.

Each Vendor submitting a proposal to this RFP, including its employees, agents, subcontractors, suppliers, subsidiaries and affiliates, is prohibited from having any communications with any person inside or outside the using agency; issuing agency; other government agency office or body (including the purchaser named above, any department secretary, agency head, members of the General Assembly and Governor's office); or private entity, if the communication refers to the content of Vendor's proposal or qualifications, the content of another Vendor's proposal, another Vendor's qualifications or ability to perform a resulting contract, and/or the transmittal of any other communication of information that could be reasonably considered to have the effect of directly or indirectly influencing the evaluation of proposals, the award of a contract, or both.

Any Vendor not in compliance with this provision shall be disqualified from evaluation and award. A Vendor's proposal may be disqualified if its subcontractor and/or supplier engage in any of the foregoing communications during the time that the procurement is active (*i.e.*, the issuance date of the procurement until the date of contract award or cancellation of the procurement). Only those discussions, communications or transmittals of information authorized or initiated by the issuing agency for this RFP or inquiries directed to the purchaser named in this RFP regarding requirements of the RFP (prior to proposal submission) or the status of the award (after submission) are excepted from this provision.

3.3 PROPOSAL EVALUATION PROCESS

Only responsive submissions will be evaluated.

The State will conduct a One-Step evaluation of Proposals:

Proposals will be received according to the method stated in the Proposal Submittal Section above.

All proposals must be received by the issuing agency not later than the date and time specified in the RFP SCHEDULE Section above, unless modified by Addendum. Vendors are cautioned that this is a request for offers, not an offer or request to contract, and the State reserves the unqualified right to reject any and all offers at any time if such rejection is deemed to be in the best interest of the State.

At the date and time provided in the RFP SCHEDULE Section above, unless modified by Addendum, the proposal from each responding Vendor will be accessed via the eVP and all offers (except those that have been previously withdrawn, or voided bids) will be noted. Since negotiations after receipt of bids is authorized pursuant to G.S. 143-49 and 01 NCAC 05B.0503, only the names of offerors and the Goods and Services offered shall be noted at the time of opening. Interested parties are cautioned that proposals and their components are subject to further evaluation for completeness and correctness and therefore may not be an exact indicator of a Vendor's final position.

At their option, the evaluators may request oral presentations or discussions with any or all Vendors for clarification or to amplify the materials presented in any part of the proposal. Vendors are cautioned, however, that the evaluators are not required to request presentations or other clarification—and often do not. Therefore, all proposals should be complete and reflect the most favorable terms available from the Vendor.

Upon completion of the evaluation process, the State will make award(s) based on the evaluation and post the award(s) to the eVP website under the RFP number for this solicitation. Award of a Contract to one Vendor does not mean that the other proposals lacked merit, but that, all factors considered, the selected proposal was deemed most advantageous and represented the best value to the State.

The State reserves the right to negotiate with one or more vendors, or to reject all original offers and negotiate with one or more sources of supply that may be capable of satisfying the requirement, and in either case to require Vendor to submit a Best and Final Offer (BAFO) based on discussions and negotiations with the State.

3.4 EVALUATION CRITERIA

In addition to the general criteria in G.S. 143-52 which may or may not be relevant to this RFP, all qualified proposals will be evaluated, and award made based on considering the following criteria, to result in an award most advantageous to the State:

Company Background/Experience

5%

- Years in business including mergers/acquisitions (prefer 5 years minimum)
- Size of organization with details on available resources including financials
- Staffing plan including individuals' qualifications/credentials (resumes)

- Appropriate reference information gathered from customers for whom the vendor has provided similar products and services (minimum of three (3) references required), to include sufficient detail to allow for adequate evaluation by the University.

Functional Aspects **30%**

- **Content Management**
 - General functionality
 - Institutional planning, assessment, and SLO
 - Ability to define and track content and artifacts
 - Project management tools
 - Document library
 - Access by contributors and reviewers
 - Samples/Examples
- **Workflow and Planning Life-Cycle Management**
 - Collaboration mechanisms
 - Configurable workflow process mappings
 - Configurable approval and security
 - Planning cycle milestones and reminders
 - Workflow status of tasks
- **Reporting**
 - Aggregation of relational data
 - Customizable reporting
 - Graphical dashboards

Technical Aspects **30%**

- Training and documentation
- Designating Project Manager and technical support team
- Implementation process and data-transfer capability
- Integration with existing UNC Charlotte systems
- System walkthroughs
- Outage, maintenance, and incident notification/repair processes
- Accessibility and security guidelines
- Communication and messaging capabilities
- Method and timeline for full implementation of the software including training
- Plan for ongoing customer service and support needs

Financial Proposal **35%**

- Costs relative to other proposals received

The State will determine low cost by normalizing the scores as follows:

The proposal with the lowest cost will receive a score of XX. All other competing proposals will be assigned a portion of the maximum score using the formula:

$$\frac{\text{Financial Proposal Points Available (XX)}}{\text{the cost of the lowest cost proposal}} \times \frac{\text{the cost of the cost proposal being evaluated}}{\text{the cost of the cost proposal being evaluated}}$$

3.5 PERFORMANCE OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

Vendor shall complete ATTACHMENT F: LOCATION OF WORKERS UTILIZED BY VENDOR. In addition to any other evaluation criteria identified in this RFP, the State may also consider, for purposes of evaluating proposed or actual contract performance outside of the United States, how that performance may affect the following factors to ensure that any award will be in the best interest of the State:

- a) Total cost to the State
- b) Level of quality provided by the Vendor
- c) Process and performance capability across multiple jurisdictions
- d) Protection of the State's information and intellectual property
- e) Availability of pertinent skills
- f) Ability to understand the State's business requirements and internal operational culture
- g) Particular risk factors such as the security of the State's information technology
- h) Relations with citizens and employees
- i) Contract enforcement jurisdictional issues

3.6 INTERPRETATION OF TERMS AND PHRASES

This RFP serves two functions: (1) to advise potential Vendors of the parameters of the solution being sought by the State; and (2) to provide (together with other specified documents) the terms of the Contract resulting from this procurement. The use of phrases such as "shall," "must," and "requirements" are intended to create enforceable contract conditions. In determining whether proposals should be evaluated or rejected, the State will take into consideration the degree to which Vendors have proposed or failed to propose solutions that will satisfy the State's needs as described in the RFP. Except as specifically stated in the RFP, no one requirement shall automatically disqualify a Vendor from consideration. However, failure to comply with any single requirement may result in the State exercising its discretion to reject a proposal in its entirety.

4.0 REQUIREMENTS

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

4.1 FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

Proposal price shall constitute the total cost to the State for complete performance in accordance with the requirements and specifications herein, including all applicable charges for handling, transportation, administrative and other similar fees. Provide ATTACHMENT A: FINANCIAL PROPOSAL and include in Vendor's proposal. The pricing provided in ATTACHMENT A, or resulting from any negotiations, is incorporated herein and shall become part of any resulting Contract.

Financial proposal must include the following:

1. A summarized price schedule that clearly describes each of the software, professional services, training, support and maintenance, and hardware components we will be required to purchase/lease to obtain a complete solution. Please include anticipated annual costs over a three-year period.
2. A detailed schedule of all software costs for this project.
3. A detailed schedule of all professional services requirements needed to complete this project.
4. A detailed schedule of all training costs.
5. A detailed schedule of all software maintenance and support costs whether one-time or annual, including any tiered costing scenarios related to volume and throughput of hosted or leased solutions.
6. A detailed schedule of all hardware costs required for this project. Where appropriate, please include relevant specifications such as storage capacity or scanner performance information.
7. A clear definition of user license type (enterprise, concurrent, etc.), the licensing cost schedule and potential costs over time as use of the system increases. Please also include a link to the Vendor's end-user license agreement (EULA). The University is seeking an enterprise license that will cover all applicable members of the University community. Please include the pricing structure for such a license, including applicable fees for renewal of the license in subsequent years.
8. Any other miscellaneous costs associated with installation and/or training, including travel, etc.

NOTE: If applicable, the vendor may provide detailed cost schedules for all possible solution deliveries (e.g., in-house purchased vs. in-house leased, etc.).

4.2 RESERVED

4.3 FINANCIAL STABILITY

As a condition of contract award, the Vendor must certify that it has the financial capacity to perform and to continue to 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.

Each Vendor shall certify it is financially stable by completing ATTACHMENT G: CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL CONDITION. The State is requiring this certification to minimize potential 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. The Contract Manager may require annual recertification of the Vendor's financial stability.

4.4 HUB PARTICIPATION

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute G.S. 143-48, it is State policy to encourage and promote the use of small, minority, physically handicapped, and women contractors in purchasing Goods and Services. As such, this RFP will serve to identify those Vendors that are minority owned or have a strategic plan to support the State's Historically Underutilized Business program by

meeting or exceeding the goal of 10% utilization of diverse firms as 1st or 2nd tier subcontractors. Vendor shall complete ATTACHMENT D: HUB SUPPLEMENTAL VENDOR INFORMATION.

4.5 VENDOR EXPERIENCE

In its Proposal, Vendor shall include proof of having been in business for a minimum of five (5) years. All responding companies are also required to show proof of experience in higher education and information technology. It is preferable that the Vendor's higher education IT experience be with institutions that are similar in demographics and mission to UNC Charlotte. Examples of documentation include, but are not limited to, data repositories, updated accreditation requirements, planning templates, and report examples from previously completed successful projects similar in size and scope. Vendor shall provide information as to the qualifications and experience of all executive, managerial, legal, and professional personnel to be assigned to this project, including resumes citing experience with similar projects and the responsibilities to be assigned to each person.

4.6 REFERENCES

Vendor shall provide three (3) references, using ATTACHMENT E: CUSTOMER REFERENCE FORM, for which it has provided Services of similar size and scope to those proposed herein. References from projects in doctoral and research institutions of higher education are strongly preferred. The State may contact these users to determine whether the Services provided are substantially similar in scope to those proposed herein and whether Vendor's performance has been satisfactory. The information obtained may be considered in the evaluation of the Proposal.

4.7 BACKGROUND CHECK

Any personnel or agent of Vendor performing Services under any Contract arising from this RFP may be required to undergo a background check at the expense of the Vendor, if so requested by the State.

4.8 PERSONNEL

Vendor warrants that qualified personnel shall provide Services under this Contract 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 industry. Vendor will serve as the prime contractor under this Contract and shall be responsible for the performance and payment of all subcontractor(s) that may be approved by the State. 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. Vendor will retain executive representation for functional and technical expertise as needed in order to incorporate any work by third party subcontractor(s).

Should the Vendor's proposal result in an award, the Vendor shall be required to agree that it will not substitute key personnel assigned to the performance of the Contract without prior written approval by the Contract Lead. Vendor shall further agree that it will notify the Contract Lead of any desired substitution, including the name(s) and references of Vendor's recommended substitute personnel. The State will approve or disapprove the requested substitution in a timely manner. The State may, in its sole discretion, terminate the Services of any person providing Services under this Contract. Upon such termination, the State may request acceptable substitute personnel or terminate the contract Services provided by such personnel.

4.9 VENDOR'S REPRESENTATIONS

If Vendor's Proposal results in an award, Vendor agrees that it will not enter any agreement with a third party that may abridge any rights of the State under the Contract. If any Services, deliverables, functions, or responsibilities not specifically described in this solicitation are required for Vendor's proper performance, provision and delivery of the Service and deliverables under a resulting Contract, or are an inherent part of or necessary sub-task included within such 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 herein, 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/or other Deliverables.

4.10 RESERVED

4.11 AGENCY INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS MODIFICATION

A. Default Insurance Coverage from the General Terms and Conditions applicable to this Solicitation:

- ☐ Small Purchases
- ☒ Contract value in excess of the Small Purchase threshold, but up to \$1,000,000.00
- ☐ Contract value in excess of \$1,000,000.00

4.12 RESERVED

5.0 SPECIFICATIONS AND SCOPE OF WORK

5.1 GENERAL

The University seeks information through this RFP to define the methodology, time, resources, tools, etc., used by vendors, contractors, consulting firms (collectively referred to hereinafter as "Respondent(s)," "Vendor(s)," or "consultant(s)"), to provide a comprehensive and integrated cloud based software product to address the university's planning, assessment, and accreditation needs to include:

- Student Learning Outcomes Assessment (SLOAs)
- Comprehensive and Integrated Strategic Planning and Assessment
- Institutional Accreditation Requirements
- User Functionality
- Data Analytics
- Year-over-Year Performance Assessment
- Content Management
- Workflow and Planning Life Cycle Management
- Annual Reporting

It is important for the University to have a unified reporting system that also produces dashboards and data analyses across successive periods of time, thereby providing better planning, forecasting, and process controls. Currently, each division uses spreadsheets and other intermediary tools to manipulate and analyze their data in ways that can't be seamlessly integrated with the existing software platform. The resulting cutting and pasting of charts and graphs is an unacceptably repetitive manual effort that lacks continuity across units. The ultimate goal, while outside the scope of this RFP, is to have a solution that can meet each division's needs so that the entire university can use the same tool for all planning, assessment, and accreditation activities. The focus of this RFP is a software tool that is designed for planning, assessment, and accreditation for a doctoral, research institution of higher education that best meets the requirements and specifications outlined in the Scope section of this RFP.

Solutions offered by the Vendor must meet or exceed the listed Specifications to be considered for award.

5.2 RESERVED

5.3 TRAINING

The University would like to have approximately twenty to twenty-five (20-25) people initially trained on the software. This group will contain representatives of each applicable department on campus, with the expectation that once trained they will be able to train the other users in their respective departments. Please include method, timeframe, location, etc. for training this group.

5.4 PROJECT ORGANIZATION

Vendor shall describe the organizational and operational structure it proposes to utilize for the work described in this RFP and identify the responsibilities to be assigned to each person Vendor proposes to staff the work.

5.5 TECHNICAL APPROACH

The table in Attachment H, Vendor Self-Assessment, provides technical requirements, features and preferences to be assessed for the Assessment Software Platform. This attachment must be completed and provided as part of the Vendor's proposal.

The following requirement categories are used:

Priority

- Must: These requirements are a must have.
- Should: These requirements are also high-priority requirements. However, there might be workarounds that satisfy these requirements, or they may not be as time critical.
- Could: These desirable requirements are of lesser priority and are nice to have capabilities in the solution.

Respondents are required to self-assess how their proposed solution meets or does not meet the requirements.

- Full: The requirement is met through out-of-the-box (OOB) functionality (configurations or set-ups only, no custom programming).
- Partial: The requirement can be met with some custom development.
- Does not Meet: The requirement is not supported.

PLEASE NOTE: Proposals without a completed Vendor Self-Assessment Attachment H will not be considered for award.

All vendors must also complete the vendor portion of the Technical Questionnaire that is included as ATTACHMENT I. The portion that respondents are responsible for completing begins with section 5.3 on page #6.

The University's standard Data Protection Agreement (DPA) is included as ATTACHMENT J and must be returned with vendor's proposal.

ATTACHMENTS H, I, and J can be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TFqZkYHbwUXrK6VHwfDD1-BIqs2pn6vI?usp=sharing> (copy link into browser)

Along with the completed Vendor Self-Assessment in ATTACHMENT H and the Prospective Vendor Technical Questionnaire in ATTACHMENT I, the proposal shall also include the following.

1. **Software Functionality, Applicability to Stated Requirements, and Timeframe for Implementation:** A detailed and comprehensive presentation of the company's software, how it addresses each listed requirement, which requirements (if any) the software does not address, and timeframe for full implementation for the software as described in the RFP. Also include any innovations or other helpful information that could enhance the successful use of the software even if such details are not mentioned or required in the RFP. Please be sure to clearly indicate if the software solution being presented will be hosted and maintained by the company or will it need on-site hosting. Also, please address whether or not the company will update the software with any changes that may be made to accreditation requirements.
2. **Compatibility:** Include a list of all software that is compatible with this tool.

5.6 RESERVED

6.0 CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

All Contract Administration requirements are conditioned on an award resulting from this solicitation. This information is provided for the Vendor's planning purposes.

6.1 CONTRACT MANAGER AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

Please provide the names, qualifications, experience, and a resume for each individual that the company proposes to assign to UNC Charlotte to provide technical support and customer service should the company's proposal be accepted.

The Vendor shall be required to designate and make available to the State a contract manager. The contract manager shall be the State's point of contact for Contract related issues and issues concerning performance, progress review, scheduling, and service.

If the company's proposal is accepted, the Points of Contact (including their credentials, qualifications, and experience) shall be considered part of the proposal. If changes occur to the group of professionals with which we will be working due to unforeseen or extenuating circumstances, new professionals must have equal or greater qualifications as the person(s) replaced. All changes to the Points of Contact must be approved by authorized representatives of UNC Charlotte. Please identify whether these are employees of your company or 1099 contractors.

Contract Manager Point of Contact	
Name:	
Office Phone #:	
Mobile Phone #:	
Email:	

The Vendor shall be required to designate and make available to the State for customer service. The customer service point of contact shall be the State's point of contact for customer service-related issues (define roles and responsibilities).

Customer Service Point of Contact	
Name:	
Office Phone #:	
Mobile Phone #:	
Email:	

6.2 POST AWARD PROJECT REVIEW MEETINGS

The Vendor, at the request of the State, shall be required to meet periodically with the State for Project Review meetings. The purpose of these meetings will be to review project progress reports, discuss Vendor and State performance, address outstanding issues, review problem resolution, provide direction, evaluate continuous improvement and cost saving ideas, and discuss any other pertinent topics.

6.3 CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The State encourages the Vendor to identify opportunities to reduce the total cost the State. A continuous improvement effort consists of various ways to enhance business efficiencies as performance progresses.

6.4 RESERVED

6.5 ACCEPTANCE OF WORK

Performance of the work and/or delivery of Goods shall be conducted and completed at least in accordance with the Contract requirements and recognized and customarily accepted industry practices. Performance shall be considered complete when the

Services or Goods are approved as acceptable by the Contract Administrator.

The State shall have the obligation to notify Vendor, in writing ten (10) calendar days following completion of such work or delivery of a deliverable described in the Contract that it is not acceptable. The notice shall specify in reasonable detail the reason(s) it is unacceptable. Acceptance by the State shall not be unreasonably withheld; but may be conditioned or delayed as required for reasonable review, evaluation, installation, or testing, as applicable to the work or deliverable. Final acceptance is expressly conditioned upon completion of all applicable assessment procedures. Should the work or deliverables fail to meet any specifications, acceptance criteria or otherwise fail to conform to the Contract, the State may exercise any and all rights hereunder, including, for Goods deliverables, such rights provided by the Uniform Commercial Code, as adopted in North Carolina.

6.6 RESERVED

6.7 TRANSITION ASSISTANCE

If a Contract results from this solicitation, and the Contract is not renewed at the end of the last active term, or is canceled prior to its expiration, for any reason, Vendor shall provide transition assistance to the State, at the option of the State, for up to three (3) months to allow for the expired or canceled portion of the Services to continue without interruption or adverse effect, and to facilitate the orderly transfer of such Services to the State or its designees. If the State exercises this option, the Parties agree that such transition assistance shall be governed by the terms and conditions of the Contract (notwithstanding this expiration or cancellation), except for those Contract terms or conditions that do not reasonably apply to such transition assistance. The State shall agree to pay Vendor for any resources utilized in performing such transition assistance at the most current rates provided by the Contract for performance of the Services or other resources utilized.

6.8 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

During the performance of the Contract, the parties agree that it is in their mutual interest to resolve disputes informally. Any claims by the Vendor shall be submitted in writing to the State's Contract Manager for resolution. Any claims by the State shall be submitted in writing to the Vendor's Project Manager for resolution. The Parties shall agree to 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. The Parties will agree on a reasonable amount of time to resolve a dispute. If a dispute cannot be resolved between the Parties within the agreed upon period, either Party may elect to exercise any other remedies available under the Contract, or at law. This provision, when agreed in the Contract, shall not constitute an agreement by either party to mediate or arbitrate any dispute.

6.9 CONTRACT CHANGES

Contract changes, if any, over the life of the Contract shall be implemented by contract amendments agreed to in writing by the State and Vendor. Amendments to the contract can only be through the contract administrator.

7.0 ATTACHMENTS

****IMPORTANT NOTICE****

RETURN THE REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS WITH YOUR RESPONSE

FOLLOW THE LINKS TO ACCESS EACH ATTACHMENT

ATTACHMENT A: FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

Complete and return the Pricing associated with this RFP, and clearly label it as 'ATTACHMENT A: Financial Proposal.'

ATTACHMENT B: INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDORS

The Instructions to Vendors, which are incorporated herein by this reference, may be found here:

<https://ncadmin.nc.gov/formnorth-carolina-instructions-vendors032023/download?attachment>

ATTACHMENT C: NORTH CAROLINA IT GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS

The North Carolina IT General Terms and Conditions, which are incorporated herein by this reference, may be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TFqZkYHbwUXrK6VHwfDD1-BIqs2pn6vI?usp=sharing> (copy link into browser)

ATTACHMENT D: HUB SUPPLEMENTAL VENDOR INFORMATION

Complete and return the Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) Vendor Information form, which can be found at the following link:

https://files.nc.gov/ncdoa/pandc/OnlineForms/Form_HUB-Supplemental-Vendor-Information_9.2021.pdf

ATTACHMENT E: CUSTOMER REFERENCE FORM

Complete and return the Customer Reference Form, which can be found at the following link:

https://files.nc.gov/ncdoa/pandc/OnlineForms/Form_Customer_Reference_Template_09.2021.pdf

ATTACHMENT F: LOCATION OF WORKERS UTILIZED BY VENDOR

Complete and return the Location of Workers Utilized by Vendor, which can be found at the following link:

https://files.nc.gov/ncdoa/pandc/OnlineForms/Form_Location-of-Workers_09.2021.pdf

ATTACHMENT G: CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL CONDITION

Complete, sign, and return the Certification of Financial Condition, which can be found at the following link:

https://files.nc.gov/ncdoa/pandc/OnlineForms/Form_Certification-of-Financial-Condition_09.2021.pdf

ATTACHMENT H: VENDOR SELF ASSESSMENT

Complete, sign, and return with proposal. Available at the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TFqZkYHbwUXrK6VHwfDD1-BIqs2pn6vI?usp=sharing> (copy link into browser)

ATTACHMENT I: PROSPECTIVE VENDOR TECHNICAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Complete, sign, and return with proposal. Available at the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TFqZkYHbwUXrK6VHwfDD1-BIqs2pn6vI?usp=sharing> (copy link into browser)

ATTACHMENT J: DATA PROTECTION AGREEMENT

Complete, sign, and return with proposal. Available at the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TFqZkYHbwUXrK6VHwfDD1-BIqs2pn6vI?usp=sharing> (copy link into browser)

***** Failure to Return the Required Attachments May Eliminate
Your Response from Further Consideration *****