



# **STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**Department of Adult Correction**

**Invitation for Bid #: 52-IFB-1389074511-SCP**

**HARRIS RHYTHM AND HARRIS MORAN SWEET CORN SEED**

**Date Issued: January 7, 2025**

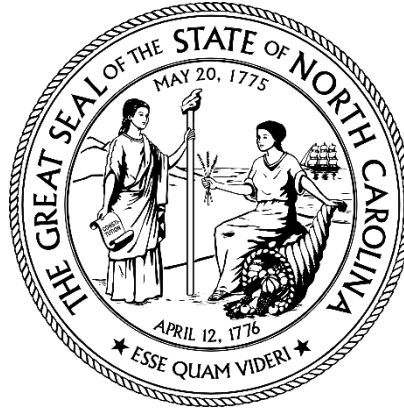
**Bid Opening Date: January 22, 2025**

**At 2:30 PM ET**

**Direct all inquiries concerning this IFB to:**

**Carolyn Stephenson**

**Procurement Specialist III**



## STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

### Invitation for Bids #

**52-IFB-1389074511-SCP**

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For internal State agency processing, including tabulation of bids, 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 bid.  
Failure to do so may subject your bid to rejection.**

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Vendor Name

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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>

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**Department of Adult Correction**

Refer <b><u>ALL</u></b> Inquiries regarding this IFB to: The procurement lead <b>through the Message Board in the Sourcing Tool</b> . See section 2.5 for details.	<b>Invitation for Bids # 52-IFB-1389074511-SCP</b>
	<b>Bids will be publicly opened: January 22, 2025 at 2:30 PM ET</b> Microsoft Teams <a href="#">Need help?</a> <a href="#">Join the meeting now</a> Meeting ID: 225 299 789 152 Passcode: nL7Cc3Dy  <b>Dial in by phone</b> <a href="#">+1 984-204-1487,,877132015#</a> United States, Raleigh <a href="#">Find a local number</a> Phone conference ID: 877 132 015# <b>Join on a video conferencing device</b> Tenant key: <a href="mailto:ncgov@m.webex.com">ncgov@m.webex.com</a> Video ID: 111 777 315 8
<b>Using Agency: NC Department of Adult Correction</b> <b>Requisition No.: RQ164211</b>	<b>Commodity No. and Description: 101515 Vegetable Seeds and Seedlings</b>

**EXECUTION**

In compliance with this Invitation for Bids (IFB), 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 bid, the undersigned Vendor understands that false certification is a Class I felony and certifies that:

- this bid is submitted competitively and without collusion (G.S. 143-54),
- that 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 bid, 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 IFB, 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 Contract; 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 bid response to the IFB, the undersigned certifies, for Vendor's entire organization and its employees or agents, that Vendor are not aware that any such gift has been offered, accepted, or promised by any employees or agents of Vendor's organization.

By executing this bid, Vendor certifies that it has read and agreed to the **INSTRUCTION TO VENDORS** and the **NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS incorporated below**. These documents can be accessed from the Ariba Sourcing Tool.

**Failure to execute/sign bid prior to submittal may render bid invalid and it MAY BE REJECTED. Late bids cannot be accepted.**

COMPLETE/FORMAL NAME OF VENDOR:		
STREET ADDRESS:	P.O. BOX:	ZIP:

Bid Number: 52-IFB-1389074511-SCP

Vendor: \_\_\_\_\_

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:	E-MAIL:	

**VALIDITY PERIOD**

Offer shall be valid for at least ninety 90 days from date of bid opening, unless otherwise stated here: \_\_\_\_\_ days, or if extended by mutual agreement in writing of the parties. Any withdrawal of this offer shall be made in writing, effective upon receipt by the agency issuing this IFB.

**BID ACCEPTANCE**

If your bid is accepted, all provisions of this IFB, 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 \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, as indicated  
on the attached certification, by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Authorized Representative of Department of Adult Correction)

<b>1.0</b>	<b>PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>GENERAL INFORMATION.....</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1	INVITATION FOR BID DOCUMENT.....	5
2.2	E-PROCUREMENT FEE .....	5
2.3	NOTICE TO VENDORS REGARDING IFB TERMS AND CONDITIONS.....	5
2.4	IFB SCHEDULE .....	6
2.5	BID QUESTIONS .....	6
2.6	BID SUBMITTAL .....	7
2.7	BID CONTENTS.....	7
<b>3.0</b>	<b>METHOD OF AWARD AND BID EVALUATION PROCESS.....</b>	<b>8</b>
3.1	METHOD OF AWARD.....	8
3.2	CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROHIBITED COMMUNICATIONS DURING EVALUATION.....	8
3.3	BID EVALUATION PROCESS.....	8
3.4	PERFORMANCE OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES .....	9
3.5	INTERPRETATION OF TERMS AND PHRASES .....	9
<b>4.0</b>	<b>REQUIREMENTS.....</b>	<b>10</b>
4.1	PRICING .....	10
4.2	PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION.....	10
4.3	TRANSPORTATION AND IDENTIFICATION .....	10
4.4	DELIVERY.....	10
4.5	QUALITY .....	11
4.6	AUTHORIZED RESELLER.....	11
4.7	OVERAGE.....	11
4.8	QUALITY ACCEPTANCE INSPECTION .....	11
4.9	HUB PARTICIPATION.....	11
4.10	REFERENCES .....	11
4.11	VENDOR'S REPRESENTATIONS .....	11
4.12	FINANCIAL STABILITY .....	12
4.13	AGENCY INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS MODIFICATION .....	12
<b>5.0</b>	<b>PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS .....</b>	<b>13</b>
5.1	SPECIFICATIONS.....	13
<b>6.0</b>	<b>CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION.....</b>	<b>14</b>
6.1	CONTRACT MANAGER AND CONTRACT CUSTOMER SERVICE .....	14
6.2	CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT .....	14
6.3	INVOICES .....	14
6.4	DISPUTE RESOLUTION.....	14
6.5	PRODUCT RECALL .....	15
6.6	CONTRACT CHANGES .....	15
6.7	ATTACHMENTS.....	15
6.8	DAC ADDITIONAL ATTACHMENTS .....	15
	<b>ATTACHMENT A: PRICING FORM .....</b>	<b>17</b>

<b>ATTACHMENT D: HUB SUPPLEMENTAL VENDOR INFORMATION.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>ATTACHMENT E: CUSTOMER REFERENCE TEMPLATE.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>ATTACHMENT F: LOCATION OF WORKERS UTILIZED BY VENDOR .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>ATTACHMENT G: CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL CONDITION .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>ATTACHMENT H: VENDOR REQUEST FOR EO50 PRICE MATCHING .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>ATTACHMENT I: ALCOHOL/DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE POLICY .....</b>	<b>25</b>

## 1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

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**Purpose:** The purpose of this Invitation for Bids (IFB) is to seek competitive bids from qualified Vendors to furnish and deliver **Harris Rhythm and Harris Moran Max IF Sweet Corn Seed** for the NC Department of Adult Correction, Correction Enterprise Roanoke River Farm. Manufacturer(s) name and product descriptions used in this solicitation are brand specific: Harris Moran Rhythm and Harris Moran Max IF Yellow SH2 Sweet Corn Seed. The items offered in response to this solicitation shall be by the manufacturer and the type specified. These specific products are needed due to compatibility and continuity of support.

**THIS IS A BRAND SPECIFIC SOLICITATION. SUBSTITUTIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

**Background:** The NC Department of Adult Correction-Correction Enterprise operates a Farm and Cannery that grows, harvests and processes sweet corn for use in meeting nutritional requirements of offenders housed in NC Correctional Facilities. This sweet corn seed will be used to grow and harvest product to meet those needs.

The intent of this solicitation is to award an Agency Contract.

## 2.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

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### 2.1 INVITATION FOR BID DOCUMENT

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

### 2.2 E-PROCUREMENT FEE

**ATTENTION: This is an NC eProcurement solicitation facilitated by the Ariba Network. The E-Procurement fee may apply to this solicitation. See paragraph entitled ELECTRONIC PROCUREMENT of the North Carolina General Terms and Conditions.**

General information on the E-Procurement Services can be found at: <http://eprocurement.nc.gov/>.

**What is the Ariba Network?**

The Ariba Network is a web-based platform that serves as a connection point for buyers and vendors. Vendors can log in to the Ariba Network to view purchase orders, respond to electronic requests for quotes, participate in Sourcing Events, and collaborate with buyers on contract documents.

For training on how to use the Sourcing Tool to view solicitations, submit questions, develop responses, upload documents, and submit offers to the State, Vendors should go to the following site:

<http://eprocurement.nc.gov/training/vendor-training>.

### 2.3 NOTICE TO VENDORS REGARDING IFB 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 IFB and comply with all requirements and specifications herein. Vendors also are responsible for obtaining and complying with all Addenda and other changes that may be issued in connection with this IFB.

If Vendors have questions, or issues regarding any component within this IFB, those must be submitted as questions in accordance with the instructions in the BID 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 IFB addendum. The State may also elect to leave open the possibility for later negotiation and amendment of specific provisions of the Contract that have been addressed during the question-and-answer period.

Other than through the process of negotiations 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 bid. This applies to any language appearing in or attached to the document as part of the Vendor's bid that purports to vary any terms and conditions or Vendors' instructions herein or to render the bid non-binding or subject to further negotiation. Vendor's bid 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 IFB 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 to during negotiations 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 bid as nonresponsive.

## 2.4 IFB SCHEDULE

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 IFB	State	January 7, 2025
Submit Written Questions	Vendor	January 10, 2025 at 5:00 PM ET
Provide Responses to Questions	State	January 14, 2025 at 5:00 PM ET
Submit Bids	Vendor	January 22, 2025 at 2:30 PM ET <b>Microsoft Teams Need help?</b> <b><u>Join the meeting now</u></b> Meeting ID: 225 299 789 152 Passcode: nL7Cc3Dy
		<b>Dial in by phone</b> <b><u>+1 984-204-1487,,877132015#</u></b> United States, Raleigh <b><u>Find a local number</u></b> Phone conference ID: 877 132 015# <b>Join on a video conferencing device</b> Tenant key: <a href="mailto:ncgov@m.webex.com">ncgov@m.webex.com</a> Video ID: 111 777 315 8
Contract Award	State	To Be Determined after Bid Opening and Evaluation

## 2.5 BID QUESTIONS

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

**Questions** related to the content of the solicitation, or the procurement process should be directed to the person on the title page of this document **via the Sourcing Tool's message board** by the date and time specified in the IFB SCHEDULE Section of this IFB. Vendors will enter "**52-IFB-1389074511-SCP – Questions**" as the subject of the message. Question submittals should include a reference to the applicable IFB section. **This is the only manner in which questions will be received.**

Questions or issues related to using the Sourcing Tool itself can be directed to the North Carolina eProcurement Help Desk at 888-211-7440, Option 2. Help Desk representatives are available Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM ET to 5:00 PM ET.

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 Sourcing Tool in the form of an addendum and shall become an Addendum to this IFB. 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 IFB, shall be considered authoritative or binding. Vendors shall rely *only* on written material contained in an Addendum to this IFB.



## 2.6 BID SUBMITTAL

**IMPORTANT NOTE: This is an absolute requirement.** Late bids, regardless of cause, will not be opened or considered, and will be automatically disqualified from further consideration. Vendor shall bear the sole risk of late submission due to unintended or unanticipated delay. It is the Vendor's sole responsibility to ensure its bid has been received as described in this IFB by the specified time and date of opening. Failure to submit a bid in strict accordance with instructions provided shall constitute sufficient cause to reject a Vendor's bid(s). Solicitation responses are subject to Sealed Bidding requirements.

Vendor's bids for this procurement must be submitted through the Sourcing Tool. For training on how to use the Sourcing Tool to view solicitations, submit questions, develop responses, upload documents, and submit offers to the State, Vendors should go to the following site: <https://eprocurement.nc.gov/training/vendor-training>

Questions or issues related to using the Sourcing Tool itself can be directed to the North Carolina eProcurement Help Desk at 888-211-7440, Option 2. Help Desk representatives are available Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM EST to 5:00 PM EST.

### Tips for Using the Sourcing Tool

1. Vendors should review available training and confirm that they are able to access the Sourcing Event, enter responses, and upload files well in advance of the date and time response are due to allow sufficient time to seek assistance from the North Carolina eProcurement Help Desk.
2. Vendors may submit their responses early to make sure there are no issues, and then submit a revised response any time prior to the response due date and time. The State will only review the most recent response.
3. Vendors should respond to all relevant sections of the Sourcing Event. Certain questions or items are required in order to submit a response and are denoted with an asterisk. The Sourcing Tool will not allow a response to be submitted unless all required items are completed. The Sourcing Tool will provide error messages to help identify any required information that is missing when response is submitted.
4. Simply saving your response in the Sourcing Tool is not the same as submitting your response to the State. Vendors should make sure they complete the submission process and receive a message that their response was successfully submitted.
5. **Only Bids submitted through the Content Section of the Ariba Sourcing Event will be considered. Bids submitted through the Message Board will not be accepted or considered for award.**

## 2.7 BID CONTENTS

Vendors shall provide responses to all questions and complete all attachments for this IFB that require the Vendor to provide information and upload them to the Sourcing Event in the Sourcing Tool. Vendor may not be able to submit its response in the Sourcing Tool unless all required items are addressed. Vendors shall provide authorized signatures where requested. Failure to provide all required items, or Vendor's submission of incomplete items, may result in the State rejecting Vendor's bid, in the State's sole discretion.

Vendors shall upload the following items and attachments in the Sourcing Tool:

- a) Title Page: Include the company name, address, phone number and authorized representative along with the Bid Number.
- b) Completed and signed version of EXECUTION PAGES, along with the body of the IFB.
- c) Signed receipt pages of any addenda released in conjunction with this IFB, if required to be returned.
- d) Vendor Response: Section 4.4 DELIVERY, Section 4.6 AUTHORIZED RESELLER (letter required upon request of Agency); Section 5.1 SPECIFICATIONS
- e) Completed version of **ATTACHMENT A: PRICING FORM**
- 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 and signed version of **ATTACHMENT H: VENDOR REQUEST FOR EO50 PRICE-MATCHING**
- k) **ATTACHMENT I: ALCOHOL/DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE POLICY**

### 3.0 METHOD OF AWARD AND BID EVALUATION PROCESS

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#### 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 responsive bids will be reviewed, and award or awards will be based on the responsive bid(s) offering the lowest price that meets the specifications provided herein, to include any required verifications set out herein such as but not limited to past performance, references, and financial documents.

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

If a Vendor selected for award is determined by the State to be a non-resident of North Carolina, all responsive bids will be reviewed to determine if any of them were submitted by a North Carolina resident Vendor who requested an opportunity to match the price of the winning bid, pursuant to Executive Order #50 and G.S. 143-59 (for more information, please refer to **ATTACHMENT H: VENDOR REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE ORDER #50 PRICE MATCHING**). If such bid(s) are identified, the State will then determine whether any such bid falls within the price-match range, and, if so, make a Contract award in accordance with the process that implements G.S. 143-59 and Executive Order #50.

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

#### 3.2 CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROHIBITED COMMUNICATIONS DURING EVALUATION

While this IFB 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 the Paragraph of the Instructions To Vendors entitled COMMUNICATIONS BY VENDORS.

Each Vendor submitting a bid to this IFB, 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 IFB or inquiries directed to the purchaser named in this IFB regarding requirements of the IFB (prior to proposal submission) or the status of the award (after submission) are excepted from this provision.

#### 3.3 BID EVALUATION PROCESS

Only responsive submissions will be evaluated.

**The State will conduct an evaluation of responsive Bids, as follows:**

Bids will be received according to the method stated in the Bid Submittal section above.

All bids must be received by the issuing agency not later than the date and time specified in the IFB 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 IFB SCHEDULE Section above, unless modified by Addendum, the bids from each responding Vendor will be opened publicly and all offers (except those that have been previously withdrawn, or voided bids) will be tabulated. The tabulation shall be made public at the time it is created. When 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 tabulated at the time of opening. Cost and price shall become available for public inspection at the time of the award... Interested parties are cautioned that these costs and their components are subject to further evaluation for completeness and correctness and therefore may not be an exact indicator of a Vendor's pricing 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 bid. Vendors are cautioned, however, that the evaluators are not required to request presentations or other clarification—and often do not. Therefore, all bids should be complete and reflect the most favorable terms available from the Vendor. Prices bid cannot be altered or modified as part of a clarification.

Bids will generally be evaluated, based on completeness, content, cost, and responsibility of the Vendor to supply the requested Goods and Services. Specific evaluation criteria are listed in Section 3.1 METHOD OF AWARD.

Upon completion of the evaluation process, the State will make Award(s) based on the evaluation and post the award(s) to **the electronic Vendor Portal (eVP)**, <https://evp.nc.gov>, under the IFB number for this solicitation. Award of a Contract to one Vendor does not mean that the other bids lacked merit, but that, all factors considered, the selected bid 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 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 IFB, 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

### **3.5 INTERPRETATION OF TERMS AND PHRASES**

This IFB 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 bids 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 IFB. Except as specifically stated in the IFB, 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 bid in its entirety.

## 4.0 REQUIREMENTS

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This Section lists the requirements related to this IFB. By submitting a bid, 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 IFB. If a Vendor is unclear about a requirement or specification or believes a change in a requirement would allow for the State to receive a better bid, the Vendor is encouraged to submit these items in the form of a question during the question and answer period in accordance with the Bid Questions Section above.

### 4.1 PRICING

Bid price shall constitute the total cost to the State for delivery fully assembled and ready for use, including all applicable charges for shipping, delivery, handling, administrative and other similar fees. Complete **ATTACHMENT A: PRICING FORM** and upload in the Sourcing Tool. The pricing provided in **ATTACHMENT A**, or resulting from any negotiations, is incorporated herein and shall become part of any resulting Contract.

### 4.2 PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

#### BRAND SPECIFIC

Manufacturer(s) name and product descriptions used in this solicitation are brand specific: Harris Moran RHYTHM and Harris Moran MAX IF Sweet Corn Seed. The items offered in response to this solicitation shall be by the manufacturer and the type specified. These specific products are needed due to compatibility and continuity of support. Failure to comply with this requirement shall be a sufficient basis for disqualifying a bid from further consideration.

### 4.3 TRANSPORTATION AND IDENTIFICATION

The Vendor shall deliver Free-On-Board (FOB) Destination to any requested location within the State of North Carolina with all transportation costs and fees included in the total bid price.

When an order is placed using a purchase order, the purchase order number shall be shown on all packages and shipping manifests to ensure proper identification and payment of invoices. If an order is placed without using a purchase order, such as via phone, the Buyer’s name shall be show on all packages. A complete packing list shall accompany each shipment. Vendors shall not ship any products until they have received an order.

### 4.4 DELIVERY

The Vendor shall deliver Free-On-Board (FOB) Destination to the following location(s):

NC Department of Adult Correction  
Enterprise Roanoke River Farm  
2787 Caledonia Drive  
Tillery, NC 27887  
Attn: Cheryl Ryder Phone: 252-826-3821

Delivery hours: Monday through Friday, 7:30 AM ET through 3:00 PM ET, except for State Holidays.

Vendor should complete delivery no later than April 1, 2025.

For completion by Vendor: Delivery will be made from \_\_\_\_\_ (city, state) within \_\_\_\_\_ consecutive calendar days after receipt of purchase order. Promptness of delivery may be used as a factor in the award criteria.

#### 4.5 QUALITY

Only first quality is acceptable. All contracts are signed by the Vendor and therefore, you are solely responsible for the delivery and quality of the product you supply (not your supplier). If defective material is found within a shipment, the State reserves the right to reject the entire shipment.

#### 4.6 AUTHORIZED RESELLER

The Vendor shall be authorized by the manufacturer to distribute or resell the products and/or maintenance offered in this IFB. **The Vendor shall provide a signed statement from the manufacturer confirming authorization upon request of Agency.** Failure to provide this statement upon request shall constitute sufficient grounds for rejection of Vendor's offer, at the discretion of the State.

Vendor is the: ☐ Manufacturer ☐ Dealer ☐ Reseller ☐ Distributor

Authorized: ☐ Yes ☐ No Attached Manufacturer's Authority: ☐ Yes ☐ No

#### 4.7 OVERAGE

Overages or over-shipments will not be accepted. Any quantity delivered that exceeds the total purchase order quantity will be considered an overage. **Vendors are cautioned that any quantity delivered that exceeds the total purchase order quantity is considered an overage and shall become the property of the State at no cost.**

#### 4.8 QUALITY ACCEPTANCE INSPECTION

It is the responsibility of the receiving agency to inspect all materials, supplies and equipment upon delivery to insure compliance with the contract requirements and specifications.

**INVOICES MAY NOT BE PAID BY THE USING AGENCY UNTIL AN INSPECTION HAS OCCURRED AND THE GOODS ACCEPTED.**

#### 4.9 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 IFB 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.**

#### 4.10 REFERENCES

Vendors shall upload to the Sourcing Tool at least three (3) references, using **ATTACHMENT E: CUSTOMER REFERENCE FORM**, for which your company has supplied the exact model of equipment offered. The State may contact these users to determine quality level of the offered equipment; as well as, but not limited to user satisfaction with Vendor performance. Information obtained may be considered in the evaluation of the bid.

#### 4.11 VENDOR'S REPRESENTATIONS

If Vendor's bid 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.

#### 4.12 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 the **ATTACHMENT G: CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL CONDITION**. The State is requiring this certification to minimize potential performance issues from Contracting with a Vendor that is financially unstable. This Certification shall be deemed continuing, and 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.

#### 4.13 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

**THE REMAINDER OF THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK**

## 5.0 PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

### 5.1 SPECIFICATIONS

Manufacturer(s) name and product descriptions used in this solicitation are brand specific: Harris Moran Rhythm and Harris Moran Max IF Yellow SH2 sweet corn seed. The items offered in response to this solicitation shall be the manufacturer and type specified. These specific products are needed due to compatibility and continuity of support. Failure to comply with this requirement shall be a sufficient basis for disqualifying a bid from further consideration.

<b>Item #1-Harris Moran Rhythm-Specifications</b>	<b>Product/Service Offered Meets Specification</b>
<i>Corn Seed, Harris Moran Sweet Corn, RHYTHM, Treated</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<i>Must be treated with Allegiance, Captan, Dividend Extreme and Cruiser</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<i>Must be Packed in 100M Seed Count Bags</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<i>Must be 87% of better germination from 2024 Crop Year</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

<b>Item #2-Harris Moran Max IF-Specifications</b>	<b>Product/Service Offered Meets Specification</b>
<i>Corn Seed, Harris Moran Sweet Corn, MAX IF, Treated</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<i>Must be treated with Allegiance, Captan, Dividend Extreme and Cruiser</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<i>Must be Packed in 100M Seed Count Bags</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<i>Must be 87% of better germination from 2024 Crop Year</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

## 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 CONTRACT CUSTOMER SERVICE

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.

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 CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

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

### 6.3 INVOICES

Vendor shall invoice the Purchasing Agency. The standard format for invoicing shall be Single Invoices meaning that the Vendor shall provide the Purchasing Agency with an invoice for each order. Invoices shall include detailed line item information to allow Purchasing Agency 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, Customer Account Number, NC Contract Number, Order Date, Buyer's Order Number, Manufacturer Part Numbers, Vendor Part Numbers, Item Descriptions, Price, Quantity, and Unit of Measure.

**INVOICES MAY NOT BE PAID UNTIL AN INSPECTION HAS OCCURRED AND THE GOODS ACCEPTED.**

### 6.4 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.

## 6.5 PRODUCT RECALL

Vendor expressly assumes full responsibility for prompt notification to the Buyer listed on the face of this IFB of any product recall in accordance with the applicable state or federal regulations. The Vendor shall support the State, as necessary, to promptly replace any such products, at no cost to the State.

## 6.6 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.

## 6.7 ATTACHMENTS

All attachments to this IFB are incorporated herein and shall be submitted by responding in the Sourcing Tool. These attachments can be found at the following Vendor Forms link for reference purposes only:

<https://ncadmin.nc.gov/documents/vendor-forms>

## 6.8 DAC ADDITIONAL ATTACHMENTS

1. **ALCOHOL/DRUG FREE WORK PLACE POLICY:** A copy of the Department's Alcohol/Drug Free Work Place Policy is attached to this solicitation. The contractor shall use reasonable and good faith efforts to ensure that employees/staff are aware of the Department's policy. The contractor understands that its employees/staff are required to abide by these standards. The contractor further understands that possession, use, manufacture, or distribution of illegal drugs or alcohol in violation of this policy, by employees/staff participating in the performance of this contract, may result in immediate termination of this contract for cause.
2. **PREA:** The NC Department of Adult Correction is committed to a standard of zero-tolerance pertaining to unduly familiar or sexually abusive behavior either by another juvenile or by staff, volunteer, vendor, contractor or party. Staff, volunteers, vendors, contractors or parties are strictly prohibited from engaging in personal dealings or any conduct of a sexual nature with any inmate or juvenile. Conversation and conduct with any inmate or juvenile must be professional at all times. Sexual acts between a juvenile or inmate and staff, volunteer, vendor, contractor or party may violate North Carolina law. Additionally, sexual acts between a juvenile or inmate and staff member will contradict the standards of the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA). Such acts also may be punishable, at a minimum, as a Class E felony in North Carolina. Under North Carolina, consent of the inmate or juvenile may not be available as a defense for an individual who is charged criminally based on sexual conduct with the inmate or juvenile. Also, pursuant to PREA standards, no juvenile or inmate can consent to engage in sexual activity with staff, volunteers, vendors, contractors or parties. Any contractual facility will comply with the national standards to prevent, detect, and respond to PREA (115.12, 212, 312) and permit the Department to monitor this aspect of the contract to ensure compliance with the PREA standards.

As a valued partner with DAC, it is important to remember that if you become aware of a report of any incidents of unduly familiar or sexually abusive behavior or sexual harassment, you have a duty to report this information immediately to your contact person with the Agency, by email to [prea@ncdps.gov](mailto:prea@ncdps.gov), or the DAC PREA office at (919) 825-2754.

Additionally, it may violate North Carolina law to sell or give an inmate or juvenile any alcoholic beverages, barbiturate or stimulant drug, or any narcotic, poison or poisonous substance, except upon the prescription of a physician; and it may

violate North Carolina law to give an inmate or juvenile any tobacco or tobacco products, alcohol, or cell phones. It may also violate NCDAC policy to convey to or take from any juvenile or inmate any letters, or verbal messages; to convey any weapon or instrument by which to effect an escape, or that will aid in an assault or insurrection; to trade with any inmate for clothing or stolen goods or to sell any inmate any article forbidden by NCDAC policy.

By signing this document, you acknowledge that you understand and will abide by this policy as outlined above.

**ATTACHMENT A: PRICING FORM**

**FURNISH AND DELIVER:** BRAND SPECIFIC: Harris Moran RHYTHM and Harris Moran MAX IF Sweet Corn Seed

ITEM #	QTY.	UOM	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	EXTENDED PRICE
1	4	BAGS	Corn Seed, Harris Moran RHYTHM, as per Specifications in Section 5.1	\$ _____	\$ _____
2	70	BAGS	Corn Seed, Harris Moran MAX IF, as per Specifications in Section 5.1	\$ _____	\$ _____

TOTAL EXTENDED PRICE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PRIOR AWARD INFORMATION**

**52-IFB-946671966-RJB** Awarded February 2024

**Awarded Vendor:** Clifton Seed

Harris Moran Max IF Corn Seed      \$849.00/bag      \$47,544.00

Harris Moran Rhythm Corn Seed      \$820.00/bag      \$3,280.00

\$50,824.00 Total Award

**ATTACHMENT D: HUB SUPPLEMENTAL VENDOR INFORMATION**

Solicitation #: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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) from one of these categories. Also included in this category are disabled business enterprises and non-profit work centers for the blind and severely disabled.

Pursuant to 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, the disabled, disabled business enterprises, and non-profit work centers for the blind and severely disabled. This includes utilizing individual(s) from these categories as subcontractors to perform the functions required in this Solicitation. The Vendor shall respond to questions below, as applicable.

**PART I: HUB CERTIFICATION**

Is Vendor a NC-certified HUB entity? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, provide Vendor #: \_\_\_\_\_

If no, does Vendor qualify for certification as HUB? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Vendors that check "yes" will be referred to the HUB Office for assistance in acquiring certification.

Company Name	Company Address	Website Address	Contact Name	Contact Email	Contact Phone	NC HUB certified?	Percent of total bid price

### PART III: PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES - SUBCONTRACTORS

For Services procurements, are you using Subcontractors to perform any of the services being procured under this solicitation?

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

If yes, then provide the following information:

Company Name	Company Address	Website Address	Contact Name	Contact Email	Contact Phone	NC HUB certified?	Percent of total bid price

Need more information?

Questions concerning NC HUB certification, contact the North Carolina Office of Historically Underutilized Businesses at 984-236-0130 or [huboffice.doa@doa.nc.gov](mailto:huboffice.doa@doa.nc.gov)

**ATTACHMENT E: CUSTOMER REFERENCE TEMPLATE**

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Solicitation #: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Instructions:** Vendor shall use this template to submit three (3) customer references with its offer.

Name of Customer Organization:	
Customer Reference Name:	
Customer Reference Address:	
Customer Reference Email:	
Start Date:	
End Date:	
Explanation of contract, service agreement, or type of products and quantity provided to the organization:	

Name of Customer Organization:	
Customer Reference Name:	
Customer Reference Address:	
Customer Reference Email:	
Start Date:	
End Date:	
Explanation of contract, service agreement, or type of products and quantity provided to the organization:	

Name of Customer Organization:	
Customer Reference Name:	
Customer Reference Address:	
Customer Reference Email:	
Start Date:	
End Date:	
Explanation of contract, service agreement, or type of products and quantity provided to the organization:	

## ATTACHMENT F: LOCATION OF WORKERS UTILIZED BY VENDOR

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Solicitation #: \_\_\_\_\_

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

In accordance with NC General Statute G.S. 143-59.4, Vendor shall detail the location(s) at which performance will occur, as well as the manner in which it intends to utilize resources or workers outside of the United States in the performance of The Contract.

Vendor shall complete items 1 and 2 below.

1. Will any work under this Contract be performed outside of the United States? ☐ YES - NO ☐

If "YES":

- a) List the location(s) outside of the United States where work under the Contract will be performed by the Vendor, any subcontractors, employees, or any other persons performing work under the Contract.
- b) Specify the manner in which the resources or workers will be utilized:

2. Where within the United States will work be performed?

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### NOTES:

1. The State will evaluate the additional risks, costs, and other factors associated with the utilization of workers outside of the United States prior to making an award.
2. Vendor shall provide notice in writing to the State of the relocation of the Vendor, employees of the Vendor, subcontractors of the Vendor, or other persons performing services under the Contract to a location outside of the United States.

All Vendor or subcontractor personnel providing call or contact center services to the State of North Carolina under the Contract **shall disclose** to inbound callers the location from which the call or contact center services are being provided.

## ATTACHMENT G: CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL CONDITION

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Solicitation #: \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_ (If no audit within past 18 months, explain reason below)

☐ 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 on 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 The Contract.

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

**Note:** This shall constitute a continuing certification and Vendor shall notify the Contract Lead within 30 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(s) in the space below. Failure to include an explanation may result in Vendor being deemed non-responsive and its submission rejected in its entirety.

---

Signature

---

Date

---

Printed Name

---

Title

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



## ATTACHMENT H: VENDOR REQUEST FOR EO50 PRICE MATCHING

Solicitation #: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Pursuant to G.S. 143-59 and Executive Order No. 50 (2010), a North Carolina resident Vendor may receive the opportunity to obtain a contract award by agreeing to match the final price(s) of the lowest Vendor, if the lowest price is offered by a non-resident Vendor. This opportunity arises when a North Carolina resident Vendor offers a price that is within five percent (5%) or \$10,000 (whichever is less) of the non-resident Vendor's overall lowest price. Requesting a price matching opportunity below does not require a resident Vendor to match the lowest price in the event the Vendor qualifies for the opportunity.

**The following sections shall be completed if a resident Vendor is requesting a price matching opportunity:**

**PART I – EO50: Resident Bidder Determination**

Vendor shall check the applicable boxes below. In order to be considered for the price-matching opportunity under Executive Order #50 and G.S. 143-59(c)(1), Vendor must meet the definition of a "Resident Bidder."

By submitting this form, the Vendor **certifies** that:

- ☐ it has paid unemployment taxes to the State of North Carolina for the most recent quarter or annually and has specifically done so for the last such payment period.
- ☐ it has paid income taxes to the State of North Carolina each calendar quarter, or otherwise annually, and has specifically done so for the last such payment period.

**PART II – EO50**

I certify that the Vendor's principal place of business is located in North Carolina. Principal place of business is defined as the principal place from which the trade or business of the Vendor is directed or managed.

A. Provide address of principal place of business:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address (no P.O. Box number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code

Is the above address the location of Vendor's overall headquarters? Yes ☐ No ☐

If Vendor has a public website, provide the link/address

- B. **ATTACH A COPY OF VENDOR’S MOST RECENT FILINGS WITH THE NORTH CAROLINA SECRETARY OF STATE** (such as Vendor’s Certificate of Authority, Annual Report or such other filing that discloses a North Carolina business address for the Vendor).

**OR (check the box below)**

- ☐ Vendor certifies that its business is **not** required to make filings with the North Carolina Secretary of State.

If the box is checked, state the reason why no filings are required:

\_\_\_\_\_.

**NOTICE:** The Price Matching Opportunity will only be given to a Vendor that fully completes this attachment (i.e., all information shall be provided, all supporting documents shall be attached, and signature from an authorized representative of the Vendor shall be provided) and demonstrates its qualification for the Price Matching Opportunity. A certification shall be submitted with each bid for which Vendor seeks a price matching opportunity.

Certification of \_\_\_\_\_ (name of resident Vendor).

The undersigned hereby certifies that he or she has read this certification, that all information provided in Part I and Part II above is true and accurate and that he or she is an officer, member, partner, owner, or other such managing employee of the Vendor (the “Authorized Representative”) that is authorized to execute this certification and to bind the Vendor to the certifications, statements, and agreements herein.

Name of Authorized Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTACHMENT I: ALCOHOL/DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE POLICY**

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POLICY

It is the policy of the Department of Adult Correction to provide a work environment free of alcohol and drugs in order to ensure the safety and well-being of employees, correctional clientele, and the general public. All employees of the Department of Adult Correction, including permanent full-time, trainee, and permanent part-time, permanent hourly, probationary, and temporary shall abide by this policy.

PURPOSE

This document is intended to advise managers and employees of the guidelines of an alcohol/drug free workplace, and to set out the penalties for violation(s) of the guidelines.

PROCEDURES/OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

All employees of the Department of Adult Correction are expected to be physically and mentally prepared and able to perform their assigned duties throughout the workday. No employee shall report to the work site impaired by or suffering from the effects of drugs or alcohol.

Individuals reporting for work under the influence or the effects of alcohol and/or drugs shall be issued discipline, up to and including dismissal, consistent with the policy governing personal conduct.

No employee shall manufacture, distribute, or dispense controlled substances (drugs/alcohol) at the work site or away from the work site. No employee shall use "across the counter" medication to the point of impairment while at the work site, or in any situation which may bring discredit to the Department. Use or abuse shall be viewed as personal misconduct and shall be cause for immediate disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

Possession of an illegal substance in any situation, at work or away from the work site shall be cause for discipline. Possession of controlled substances, i.e. Prescription medication or alcohol, must be in compliance with existing laws. Violations will result in discipline up to and including dismissal based on personal misconduct.

Employees who are arrested, detained, or served a warrant for any alcohol/drug related incident, at the work site or away from the work site have 24 hours to file a written report of the situation with the work unit supervisor/manager, i.e. Warden, Superintendent, Branch Manager. The work unit supervisor/manager shall make a recommendation for appropriate disciplinary action based on the facts of the case after conducting a thorough investigation.

If sufficient facts cannot be obtained due to pending litigation, the work unit supervisor/manager shall request, in writing, that any recommendation for disciplinary action be delayed until the court has disposed of the matter. Once the legal proceedings have been completed, the employee shall furnish a certified copy of the court disposition within 48 hours of the judgment. The recommendation for discipline shall be made at this time, if not previously addressed.

Any conviction of a drug or alcohol related offense, which occurred at the work site, shall be reported to the federal government by the Personnel Office; therefore, such offenses shall be reported to the Personnel Office by the appropriate manager so that the Personnel Office may comply with the requirement.

The Department of Adult Correction utilizes the State Employee Assistance Program (EAP) administered through the Office of State Personnel. The EAP provides employees with a comprehensive referral service to aid in coping with or overcoming personal problems, including drug and alcohol problems. Consultants with the State EAP will provide managerial/supervisory training and coordinate employee orientation.