

**State of Nebraska Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SERVICES CONTRACT**

<b>CONTRACT NEED</b>	<b>RELEASE DATE</b>
Legal Research Service	July 1, 2026
<b>CLOSING DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>PROCUREMENT CONTACT</b>
July 31, 2026 5:00 p.m. Central Time	Craig Wacker

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!  
SCOPE OF SERVICE**

The State of Nebraska (State), Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation (AOC), is issuing this solicitation for a service contract for the purpose of selecting a qualified bidder to provide Legal Research for the Judicial Branch. A more detailed description can be found in Section V. The resulting contract may not be an exclusive contract as the State reserves the right to contract for the same or similar services from other sources now or in the future.

The term of the contract will be 3 (Three) years commencing upon notice to proceed. The Contract includes the option to renew for (two) (2) additional years upon mutual agreement of the Parties. The AOC reserves the right to extend the period of this contract beyond the termination date when mutually agreeable to the Parties.

In the event that a contract with the awarded bidder(s) is cancelled or in the event that the AOC needs additional Vendors to supply the solicited services, this solicitation may be used to procure the solicited services for up to eighteen (18) months from the date the Intent to Award is posted, provided that 1) the solicited goods or services will be provided by a bidder (or a successive owner) who submitted a response pursuant to this solicitation, 2) the bidder's solicitation response was evaluated, and 3) the bidder will honor the bidder's original solicitation response, including the proposed cost, allowing for any price increases that would have otherwise been allowed if the bidder would have received the initial award.

ALL INFORMATION PERTINENT TO THIS SOLICITATION CAN BE FOUND ON THE INTERNET AT:  
<https://nebraskajudicial.gov/contracting-opportunities>.

In addition, and in furtherance of the State's public records Statute (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-712 et seq.), all responses received regarding this Solicitation will be posted to the State Judicial Branch public website.

These postings will include the entire solicitation response. Bidder must request that proprietary information be excluded from the posting. The bidder must identify the proprietary information, mark the proprietary information according to state law, and submit the proprietary information in a separate file named conspicuously as "PROPRIETARY INFORMATION". The bidder should submit a detailed written document showing that the release of the proprietary information would give a business advantage to named business competitor(s) and explain how the named business competitor(s) will gain an actual business advantage by disclosure of information. The mere assertion that information is proprietary or that a speculative business advantage might be gained is not sufficient. (See Attorney General Opinion No. 92068, April 27, 1992). **THE BIDDER MAY NOT ASSERT THAT THE ENTIRE SOLICITATION IS PROPRIETARY. COST SHEETS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED PROPRIETARY AND ARE A PUBLIC RECORD IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA.** The AOC will determine, in its sole discretion, if the disclosure of the information designated by the Bidder as proprietary would 1) give advantage to business competitors and 2) serve no public purpose. The Bidder will be notified of the AOC's decision. Absent a determination by the AOC that the information may be withheld pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-712.05, the AOC will consider all information a public record subject to disclosure.

If the AOC determines it is required to release withheld proprietary information, the bidder will be informed. It will be the bidder's responsibility to defend the bidder's asserted interest in non-disclosure.

To facilitate such public postings, with the exception of proprietary information, the State of Nebraska reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable right to copy, reproduce, publish, post to a website, or otherwise use any contract, or solicitation response for any purpose, and to authorize others to use the documents. Any individual or entity awarded a contract, or who submits a solicitation response, specifically waives any copyright or other protection the contract, or solicitation response may have; and acknowledges that they have the ability and authority to enter into such waiver. This reservation and waiver are a prerequisite for submitting a solicitation response, and award of a contract. Failure to agree to the reservation and waiver will result in the solicitation response being found non-responsive and rejected.

Any entity awarded a contract or submitting a solicitation response agrees not to sue, file a claim, or make a demand of any kind, and will indemnify and hold harmless the AOC and its employees, volunteers, agents, and its elected and appointed officials from and against any and all claims, liens, demands, damages, liability, actions, causes of action, losses, judgments, costs, and expenses of every nature, including investigation costs and expenses, settlement costs, and attorney fees and expenses, sustained or asserted against the AOC, arising out of, resulting from, or attributable to the posting of the contract or solicitation response, awards, and other documents.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Acceptance Test Procedure:** Benchmarks and other performance criteria, developed by the State or other sources of testing standards, for measuring the effectiveness of products or goods and the means used for testing such performance

**Addendum:** A written correction or alteration to a document during the solicitation process (e.g., Questions and Answers, Revised Schedule of Events, Addendum to Contract Award)

**Agency:** All officers of the state, departments, bureaus, boards, commissions, councils, and institutions receiving legislative appropriations

**Agent/Representative:** A person authorized to act on behalf of another

**Amend:** To alter or change by adding, subtracting, or substituting

**Amendment:** A written correction or alteration to a document

**Appropriation:** Legislative authorization to expend public funds for a specific purpose; money set apart for a specific use

**Automated Clearing House (ACH):** Electronic network for financial transactions in the United States

**Award:** All purchases, leases, or contracts which are based on competitive solicitations will be awarded according to the provisions in the solicitation

**Best and Final Offer (BAFO):** In a competitive solicitation, the final offer submitted which contains Vendor's most favorable terms for price

**Bid:** See Solicitation Response

**Bidder:** A Vendor who submits a Solicitation Response

**Breach:** Violation of a contractual obligation by failing to perform or repudiation of one's own promise

**Business:** Any corporation, partnership, individual, sole proprietorship, joint-stock company, joint venture, or any other private legal entity

**Business Day:** Any weekday, except State-recognized holidays

**Calendar Day:** Every day shown on the calendar including Saturdays, Sundays, and State/Federal holidays

**Cancellation:** To call off or revoke a solicitation, purchase order, or contract without expectation of conducting or performing at a later time

**Catalog/Non-Core:** A printed or electronic list of products a Vendor may provide at a discounted rate or discount off list price to the State. Initial contract award(s) is not based on Catalog/Non-Core items

**Central Processing Unit (CPU):** Any computer or computer system that is used by the State to store, process, or retrieve data or perform other functions using Operating Systems and applications software

**Change Order:** Document that provides amendments to an executed purchase order or contract

**Collusion:** An agreement or cooperation between two or more persons or entities to accomplish a fraudulent, deceitful, or unlawful purpose

**Commodities:** Any equipment, material, supply, or goods; anything movable or tangible that is provided or sold

**Commodities Description:** Detailed descriptions of the items to be purchased; may include information necessary to obtain the desired quality, type, color, size, shape, or special characteristics necessary to perform the work intended to produce the desired results

**Competition:** The effort or action of two or more commercial interests to obtain the same business from third parties

**Confidential Information:** See Proprietary Information

**Contract:** An agreement between two or more parties creating obligations that are enforceable or otherwise recognizable at law; the writing that sets forth such an agreement

**Contract Administration:** The management of the contract which includes and is not limited to contract signing, contract amendments and any necessary legal actions

**Contract Award:** Document that officially awards a contract to a bidder(s) as the result of a competitive solicitation or a vendor(s) in a contract that qualifies for an exception or exemption from the competitive bidding requirements of the State Procurement Act

**Contract Management:** The management of day-to-day activities at the agency which includes but is not limited to ensuring deliverables are received, specifications are met, handling meetings and making payments to the Vendor

**Contract Period:** The duration of the contract

**Contractor:** See Vendor

**Cooperative Purchasing:** The combining of requirements of two or more political entities to obtain advantages of volume purchases, reduction in administrative expenses or other public benefits

**Copyright:** A property right in an original work of authorship fixed in any tangible medium of expression, giving the holder the exclusive right to reproduce, adapt and distribute the work

**Cost Sheet:** A required document that is completed by the vendor in the prescribed format to show the vendor's pricing to provide the commodities or perform the services requested.

**Critical Program Error:** Any Program Error, whether or not known to the State, which prohibits or significantly impairs use of the Licensed Software as set forth in the documentation and intended in the contract

**Customer Service:** The process of ensuring customer satisfaction by providing assistance and advice on those commodities or services provided by a Vendor

**Default:** The omission or failure to perform a contractual duty

**Deviation:** Any proposed change(s) or alteration(s) to either the terms and conditions or deliverables within the scope of the written solicitation or contract

**Evaluation:** The process of examining a solicitation response after closing to determine the bidder's responsibility, responsiveness to requirements, and to ascertain other characteristics of the solicitation response that relate to determination of the successful award

**Evaluation Committee:** Individual(s) identified by the agency that leads the solicitation to evaluate solicitation responses

**Extension:** Continuance of a contract for a specified duration upon the agreement of the parties beyond the original Contract Period; not to be confused with "Renewal Period"

**Free on Board (F.O.B.) Destination:** The delivery charges are included in the quoted price and prepaid by the Vendor. Vendor is responsible for all claims associated with damages during delivery of product.

**Free on Board (F.O.B.) Point of Origin:** The delivery charges are not included in the quoted price and are the responsibility of the agency. Agency is responsible for all claims associated with damages during delivery of product

**Foreign Corporation:** A foreign corporation that was organized and chartered under the laws of another state, government, or country

**Goods:** See Commodities

**Installation Date:** The date when the procedures described in "Installation by Vendor" and "Installation by State" as found in the solicitation or contract are completed

**Interested Party:** A person acting in their personal capacity or an entity entering into a contract or other agreement creating a legal interest therein

**Late Solicitation Response:** A solicitation response received after the Closing Date and Time

**Licensed Software Documentation:** The user manuals and any other materials in any form or medium customarily provided by the Vendor to the users of the Licensed Software which will provide the State with sufficient information to operate, diagnose, and maintain the Licensed Software properly, safely, and efficiently

**Mandatory:** Required, compulsory, or obligatory

**May:** Discretionary, permitted; used to express possibility

**Module (see System):** A collection of routines and data structures that perform a specific function of software

**Must:** See Shall

**National Institute for Governmental Purchasing (NIGP):** National Institute of Governmental Purchasing – Source used for assignment of universal commodity codes to goods and services

**Non-core:** See Catalog

**Non-Responsive Solicitation Response:** Any solicitation response that does not comply with the requirements of the solicitation or cannot be evaluated against the other solicitation responses

**Nonnegotiable:** These clauses are controlled by state law and are not subject to negotiation

**Operating System:** The control program in a computer that provides the interface to the computer hardware and peripheral devices, and the usage and allocation of memory resources, processor resources, input/output resources, and security resources

**Outsourcing:** The contracting out of a business process that an organization may have previously performed internally or for which an organization has a new need to an independent organization from which the process is purchased back

**Payroll & Financial Center (PFC):** Electronic procurement system of record

**Performance Bond:** An insurance agreement accompanied by a monetary commitment by which a third party (the surety) accepts liability and guarantees that the Vendor fulfills any and all obligations under the contract

**Personal Property:** See Commodities

**Platform:** A specific hardware and Operating System combination that is different from other hardware and Operating System combinations to the extent that a different version of the Licensed Software product is required to execute properly in the environment established by such hardware and Operating System combination

**Point of Contact (POC):** The person designated to receive communications and to communicate

**Product:** Something that is distributed commercially for use or consumption and that is usually (1) tangible personal property, (2) the result of fabrication or processing, and (3) an item that has passed through a chain of commercial distribution before ultimate use or consumption

**Program Error:** Code in Licensed Software that produces unintended results or actions or that produces results or actions other than those described in the specifications. A program error includes, without limitation, any Critical Program Error.

**Program Set:** The group of programs and products, including the Licensed Software specified in the solicitation, plus any additional programs and products licensed by the State under the contract for use by the State

**Project:** The total scheme, program, or method worked out for the accomplishment of an objective, including all documentation, commodities, and services to be provided under the contract

**Proposal:** See Solicitation Response

**Proprietary Information:** Trade secrets, academic and scientific research work that is in progress and unpublished or other information that if released would give advantage to business competitors and serve no public purpose. See Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-712.05(3). In accordance with Attorney General Opinions 92068 and 97033, proof that information is proprietary requires identification of specific named competitor(s) advantaged by release of the information and the demonstrated advantage the named competitor(s) would gain by the release of information.

**Protest/Grievance:**

A complaint about a governmental action or decision related to the solicitation or resultant contract under SPB's Protest Policy.

**Quote:** See Solicitation Response

**Recommended Hardware Configuration:** The data processing hardware (including all terminals, auxiliary storage, communication, and other peripheral devices) to the extent used by the State as recommended by the Vendor

**Release Date:** The date of public release of the solicitation

**Renewal Period:** Optional contract periods subsequent to the original Contract Period for a specified duration with previously agreed to terms and conditions; not to be confused with "Extension"

**Request for Proposal (RFP):** See Solicitation

**Responsible Bidder:** A Vendor who has the capability in all respects to perform fully and lawfully all requirements with integrity and reliability to assure good faith performance

**Responsive Bidder:** A Vendor who has submitted a solicitation response which conforms to all requirements of the solicitation

**Shall:** An order/command; mandatory

**Should:** Expected; suggested, but not necessarily mandatory

**Software License:** Legal instrument with or without printed material that governs the use or redistribution of licensed software

**Solicitation:** A formal invitation to receive quotes in the form of a Request for Proposal or Invitation to Bid

**Solicitation Bond:** An insurance agreement, accompanied by a monetary commitment, by which a third party (the surety) accepts liability and guarantees that the Vendor will not withdraw the solicitation response

**Solicitation Conference:** A meeting scheduled for the purpose of clarifying a written solicitation and related expectations

**Solicitation Response:** An offer, quote, bid, or proposal submitted by a Vendor in response to a Solicitation

**Specifications:** The detailed statement, especially of the measurements, quality, materials, and functional characteristics, or other items to be provided under a contract

**Subcontractor:** Individual or entity with whom the Vendor enters a contract to perform a portion of the work awarded to the Vendor

**System (see Module):** Any collection or aggregation of two (2) or more Modules that is designed to function, or is represented by the Vendor as functioning or being capable of functioning, as an entity

**Termination:**

Occurs when either Party, under a power created by agreement or law, puts an end to the contract prior to the stated expiration date; all obligations that are still executory on both sides are discharged but any right based on prior breach or performance survives

**Third-Party:** Any person or entity, including but not limited to fiduciaries, shareholders, owners, officers, managers, employees, legally disinterested persons, and subcontractors or agents, and their employees. It shall not include any entity or person who is an interested party to the contract or agreement

**Trade Secret:** Information, including but not limited to, a drawing, formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique, code, or process that (a) derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being known to, and not being ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use; and (b) is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy (see Neb. Rev. Stat. § 87-502(4))

**Trademark:** A word, phrase, logo, or other graphic symbol used by a manufacturer or Vendor to distinguish its product from those of others, registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

**Upgrade:** Any change that improves or alters the basic function of a product of service

**Vendor:** An individual or entity lawfully conducting business with the State, or licensed to do so, who seeks to provide and contract for goods or services under the terms of a Solicitation and/or Contract

**Vendor Performance Report:** A report completed by the using agency and submitted to State Purchasing Bureau documenting products or services delivered or performed which exceed or fail to meet the terms of the purchase order, contract, and/or solicitation specifications

**Will:** See Shall

**Work Day:** See Business Day

## ACRONYM LIST

**ACH** – Automated Clearing House

**AOCP** – Administrative Office of the Courts & Probation

**ARO** – After Receipt of Order

**BAFO** – Best and Final Offer

**COI** – Certificate of Insurance

**CPU** – Central Processing Unit

**DAS** – Department of Administrative Services

**F.O.B.** – Free on Board

**ICT** – Information and Communication Technology

**ITB** – Invitation to Bid

**NIGP** – National Institute for Governmental Purchasing

**PA** – Participating Addendum

**RFP** – Request for Proposal

**SPB** – State Purchasing Bureau

# I. PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE

## A. GENERAL INFORMATION

This solicitation is designed to solicit responses from qualified bidders who will be responsible for providing Legal Research for the Judicial Branch at a competitive and reasonable cost.

Solicitation responses shall conform to all instructions, conditions, and requirements included in the solicitation. Prospective bidders are expected to carefully examine all documents, schedules, and requirements in this solicitation, and respond to each requirement in the format prescribed. Solicitation responses may be found non-responsive if they do not conform to the solicitation.

## B. PROCURING OFFICE AND COMMUNICATION WITH STATE STAFF AND EVALUATORS

Procurement responsibilities related to this solicitation reside with the State of Nebraska Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation . The point of contact (POC) for the procurement is as follows:

Name: Craig Wacker Contracts and Grants manager  
Agency: Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation  
Address: 521 S. 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
Telephone: 402-471-4981  
E-Mail: [craig.wacker@nejudicial.gov](mailto:craig.wacker@nejudicial.gov)

From the date the solicitation is issued until the Intent to Award is issued, communication from the bidder is limited to the POC listed above. After the Intent to Award is issued, the bidder may communicate with individuals the AOCB has designated as responsible for negotiating the contract on behalf of the AOCB. No member of the State Government, employee of the State, or member of the Evaluation Committee is empowered to make binding statements regarding this solicitation. The POC will issue any answers, clarifications, or amendments regarding this solicitation in writing. Only AOCB can award a contract. Bidders shall not have any communication with or attempt to communicate or influence any evaluator involved in this solicitation.

The following exceptions to these restrictions are permitted:

1. Contact made pursuant to pre-existing contracts or obligations;
2. Contact required by the schedule of events or an event scheduled later by the POC; and
3. Contact required for negotiation and execution of the final contract.

*The State reserves the right to reject a bidder's solicitation response, withdraw an Intent to Award, or terminate a contract if the State determines there has been a violation of these procurement procedures.*

## C. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The AOCB expects to adhere to the procurement schedule shown below, but all dates are approximate and subject to change.

Schedule of Events		
ACTIVITY		DATE/TIME
1.	Release solicitation	6/29/2026
2.	Last day to submit written questions. email questions to nsc.contractingopportunities@nejudicial.gov	7/15/2026
3.	AOCP responds to written questions through solicitation "Addendum" to be posted to the Internet at: <a href="https://nebraskajudicial.gov/contracting-opportunities">https://nebraskajudicial.gov/contracting-opportunities</a>	7/17/2026
4.	Electronic Solicitation Closing  IT IS THE BIDDER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO EMAIL ELECTRONIC FILES BY CLOSING DATE AND TIME. EXCEPTIONS WILL NOT BE MADE FOR TECHNOLOGY ISSUES.  Email files to nsc.contractingopportunities@nejudicial.gov	7/31/2026 5:00pm
5.	Review for conformance to solicitation requirements	8/7/2026
6.	Evaluation period	8/7/2026-8/14/2026
7.	"Vendor Demonstrations" (if required)	8/17/2026-8/21/2026
8.	Post "Intent to Award" to the Internet at: <a href="https://nebraskajudicial.gov/contracting-opportunities">https://nebraskajudicial.gov/contracting-opportunities</a>	8/24/2026
9.	Contract finalization period	8/24/2026-8/28/2026
10.	Contract award	8/31/2026
11.	Contract start date	9/1/2026

**D. WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Questions regarding the meaning or interpretation of any solicitation provision must be submitted in writing to AOCP and clearly marked "Legal Research RFP Questions". The POC is not obligated to respond to questions that are received late per the Schedule of Events.

Bidders should submit questions for any items upon which assumptions may be made when preparing a response to the solicitation. Any solicitation response containing assumptions may be deemed non-responsive and may be rejected by the AOCP. Solicitation responses will be evaluated without consideration of any known or unknown assumptions of a bidder. The contract will not incorporate any known or unknown assumptions of a bidder.

Questions should be emailed to the address provided in the solicitation Schedule of Events, Section I.C. It is recommended that bidders submit questions using the following format:

RFP Section Reference	RFP Page Number	Question

Written answers will be posted at <https://nebraskajudicial.gov/contracting-opportunities> per the Schedule of Events.

**E. SECRETARY OF STATE/TAX COMMISSIONER REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS (Nonnegotiable)**

All bidders must be authorized to transact business in the State of Nebraska and comply with all Nebraska Secretary of State Registration requirements. The bidder who is the recipient of an Intent to Award may be required to certify that it has complied and produce a true and exact copy of its current (within ninety (90) calendar days of the intent to award) Certificate or Letter of Good Standing, or in the case of a sole proprietorship, provide written documentation of sole proprietorship and complete the United States Citizenship Attestation Form, available on the Department of Administrative Services website at: <https://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/docs/pdf/Individual%20or%20Sole%20Proprietor%20United%20States%20Attestation%20Form%20English%20and%20Spanish.pdf> This should be accomplished prior to execution of the contract.

**F. ETHICS IN PUBLIC CONTRACTING**

The AOCP reserves the right to reject solicitation responses, withdraw an intent to award or award, or terminate a contract if an ethical violation has been committed, which includes, but is not limited to:

1. Offering or giving, directly or indirectly, a bribe, fee, commission, compensation, gift, gratuity, or anything of value to any person or entity in an attempt to influence the bidding process;

2. Utilizing the services of lobbyists, attorneys, political activists, or consultants to influence or subvert the bidding process;
3. Being considered for, presently being, or becoming debarred, suspended, ineligible, or excluded from contracting with any state or federal entity;
4. Submitting a solicitation response on behalf of another Party or entity; and
5. Colluding with any person or entity to influence the bidding process, submit sham solicitation responses, preclude bidding, fix pricing or costs, create an unfair advantage, subvert the solicitation response, or prejudice the AOC.

The bidder shall include this clause in any subcontract entered into for the exclusive purpose of performing this contract.

Bidder shall have an affirmative duty to report any violations of this clause by the bidder throughout the bidding process and throughout the term of this contract for the awarded bidder and their subcontractors.

**G. DEVIATIONS FROM THE SOLICITATION**

The requirements contained in the solicitation (Sections II through VI) become a part of the terms and conditions of the contract resulting from this solicitation. Any deviations from the solicitation in Sections II through VI must be clearly defined by the bidder in its solicitation response and, if accepted by the AOC, will become part of the contract. Any specifically defined deviations must not be in conflict with the basic nature of the solicitation, requirements, or applicable state or federal laws or statutes. "Deviation", for the purposes of this solicitation, means any proposed changes or alterations to either the contractual language or deliverables within the scope of this solicitation. The AOC discourages deviations and reserves the right to reject proposed deviations.

**H. SUBMISSION OF SOLICITATION RESPONSES**

The AOC is only accepting email responses submitted in accordance with this solicitation. The AOC will not accept solicitation responses by mail, voice, or telephone, unless otherwise explicitly stated in writing by the AOC.

Pages may be consecutively numbered for the entire solicitation response or may be numbered consecutively within sections. Figures and tables should be numbered and referenced in the text by that number. They should be placed as close as possible to the referencing text.

The Technical Responses should not contain any reference to dollar amounts. However, information such as data concerning labor hours and categories, materials, subcontracts and so forth, shall be considered in the Technical Response so that the bidder's understanding of the scope of work may be evaluated. The Technical Response shall disclose the bidder's technical requirements in as much detail as possible, including, but not limited to, the information required by the Technical Response instructions.

It is the bidder's responsibility to ensure the solicitation response is received electronically by the date and time indicated in the Schedule of Events. Solicitation Responses must be submitted via email by the date and time of the closing per the Schedule of Events. No late solicitation responses will be accepted.

It is the responsibility of the bidder to check the website for all information relevant to this solicitation to include addenda and/or amendments issued prior to the closing date. The website can be found here: <https://nebraskajudicial.gov/contracting-opportunities>.

Emphasis should be concentrated on conformance to the solicitation instructions, responsiveness to requirements, completeness, and clarity of content. If the solicitation response is presented in such a fashion that makes evaluation difficult or overly time consuming the AOC reserves the right to reject the solicitation response as non-conforming.

The email address for Solicitation Response(s) is provided in the Schedule of Events, Section I.C.

**\*\*\*UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, DO NOT SUBMIT DOCUMENTS THAT CAN ONLY BE ACCESSED WITH A PASSWORD\*\*\***

**1. Bidders must submit responses via email using the solicitation address provided.**

- a. The Solicitation response and Proprietary information should be uploaded as separate and distinct files.
  - i. If duplicated responses are submitted, the AOC will retain only the most recently submitted response.
  - ii. If it is the bidder's intent to submit multiple responses, the bidder must clearly identify the separate submissions.
  - iii. It is the bidder's responsibility to allow time for electronic uploading. All file emails must be completed by the Closing date and time per the Schedule of Events. No late responses will be accepted.

**b. ELECTRONIC SOLICITATION RESPONSE FILE NAMES**

The bidder should clearly identify the emailed solicitation response files. To assist in identification the bidder should use the following naming convention:

- i.** Company Name  
If multiple files are submitted for one solicitation response, add number of files to file names:  
Company Name File 1 of 2  
Company Name File 2 of 2
- ii.** If multiple responses are submitted for the same solicitation, add the response number to the file names:  
Company Name Response 1 File 1 of 2

The "Contractual Agreement Form" must be signed manually in ink and returned by the closing date and time along with the bidder's solicitation response and any other requirements as stated in this solicitation in order for the bidder's solicitation response to be evaluated.

By signing this Contractual Agreement Form, the bidder guarantees compliance with the provisions stated in this solicitation and agrees to the terms and conditions unless otherwise indicated in writing.

**I. SOLICITATION PREPARATION COSTS**

The AOCP shall not incur any liability for any costs incurred by bidder's in replying to this solicitation, including any activity related to bidding on this solicitation.

**J. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH SOLICITATION**

Violation of the terms and conditions contained in this solicitation or any resultant contract, at any time before or after the award, shall be grounds for action by the AOCP which may include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Rejection of a bidder's solicitation response,
2. Withdrawal of the Intent to Award,
3. Withdrawal of the Award,
4. Negative documentation regarding Vendor Performance,
5. Termination of the resulting contract,
6. Legal action; and
7. Suspension or Debarment of the bidder from further bidding with the State for the period of time relative to the seriousness of the violation. Such period to be within the sole discretion of the State.

**K. SOLICITATION RESPONSE CORRECTIONS**

A bidder may correct a mistake in an emailed solicitation response prior to the time of closing by emailing a revised and completed solicitation response.

1. If a corrected emailed response is submitted, the file name(s) date/time stamped with latest date/time stamp will be accepted. The corrected solicitation response file name(s) should be identified as:
  - a. Corrected Legal Research RFP Company Name Response #1 File 1 of 2,
  - b. Corrected Legal Research RFP Company Name Response #2 File 2 of 2, etc.

Changing a solicitation response after closing may be permitted if the change is made to correct a minor error that does not affect price, quantity, quality, delivery, or contractual conditions. In case of a mathematical error in extension of price, unit price shall govern.

**L. LATE SOLICITATION RESPONSES**

Solicitation Responses received after the closing time and date will be considered late responses. Late responses will be considered non-responsive. The AOCP is not responsible for responses that are late or lost regardless of cause or fault.

**M. SOLICITATION REQUIREMENTS**

The solicitation responses will first be examined to determine if all requirements listed below have been addressed and whether further evaluation is warranted. Solicitation responses not meeting the requirements may be rejected as non-responsive. The requirements are as follows:

1. Original Contractual Agreement Form signed manually in ink;
2. Clarity and responsiveness;
3. Completed Corporate Overview;

4. Completed Sections II through IV;
5. Completed Technical Response; and
6. Completed Cost Sheet.

**N. EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

Solicitation Responses are evaluated by members of an Evaluation Committee(s). The Evaluation Committee(s) will consist of individuals selected at the discretion of the AOCP. Names of the members of the Evaluation Committee(s) will not be published prior to the intent to award.

Any contact, attempted contact, or attempt to influence an evaluator that is involved with this Solicitation may result in the rejection of this response and further administrative actions.

**O. EVALUATION OF SOLICITATION RESPONSES**

All solicitation responses that are deemed responsive to the solicitation will be evaluated. Each evaluation category will have a maximum point potential. The State will conduct a fair, impartial, and comprehensive evaluation of all responses in accordance with the criteria set forth below. Areas that will be addressed and scored during the evaluation include:

1. Corporate Overview may include, but is not limited to:
  - a. the ability, capacity, and skill of the bidder to deliver and implement the system or project that meets the requirements of the Solicitation;
  - b. the character, integrity, reputation, judgment, experience, and efficiency of the bidder;
  - c. the bidder's historical or current performance; and
  - d. such other information that may be secured and that has a bearing on the decision to award the contract.
2. Technical Response; and
3. Cost Sheet.

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 73-808 allows the State to consider a variety of factors, including, but not limited to, the quality of performance of previous contracts to be considered when evaluating responses to competitive solicitations in determining a responsible bidder. Information obtained from any Contract Compliance Request or any Contract Non-Compliance Notice (See Terms & Conditions, Section II.H) may be used in evaluating responses to solicitations for goods and services to determine the best value for the State.

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 73-107 allows for a preference for a resident disabled veteran or business located in a designated enterprise zone. When a state contract is to be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, a resident disabled veteran or a business located in a designated enterprise zone under the Enterprise Zone Act shall be allowed a preference over any other resident or nonresident bidder, if all other factors are equal.

Resident disabled veterans means any person (a) who resides in the State of Nebraska, who served in the United States Armed Forces, including any reserve component or the National Guard, who was discharged or otherwise separated with a characterization of honorable or general (under honorable conditions), and who possesses a disability rating letter issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs establishing a service-connected disability or a disability determination from the United States Department of Defense and (b)(i) who owns and controls a business or, in the case of a publicly owned business, more than fifty percent of the stock is owned by one or more persons described in (a) of this paragraph and (ii) the management and daily business operations of the business are controlled by one or more persons described in (a) of this paragraph. Any contract entered into without compliance with this section shall be null and void.

Therefore, if a resident disabled veteran or business located in a designated enterprise zone submits a solicitation response in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 73-107 and has so indicated on the Contractual Agreement Form under "Vendor must complete the following" requesting priority/preference to be considered in the award of this contract, the following will need to be submitted by the Vendor within ten (10) business days of request:

1. Documentation from the United States Armed Forces confirming service,
2. Documentation of discharge or otherwise separated characterization of honorable or general (under honorable conditions),
3. Disability rating letter issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs establishing a service-connected disability or a disability determination from the United States Department of Defense; and
4. Documentation which shows ownership and control of a business or, in the case of a publicly owned business, more than fifty percent of the stock is owned by one or more persons described in subdivision (a) of this

subsection; and the management and daily business operations of the business are controlled by one or more persons described in subdivision (a) of this subsection.

Failure to submit the requested documentation within ten (10) business days of notice will disqualify the bidder from consideration of the preference.

**P. BEST AND FINAL OFFER**

Each bidder should provide its best offer with their original solicitation response and should not expect the AOCPP to request a best and final offer (BAFO).

The AOCPP reserves the right to conduct more than one BAFO. If requested by the AOCPP, the BAFO must be submitted on the BAFO Cost Sheet and in accordance with the AOCPP's instructions. Failure to submit a requested BAFO or failure to submit a BAFO in accordance with the AOCPP's instructions may result in rejection of the bidder's entire solicitation response. BAFOs may be scored and ranked by the Evaluation Committee.

**Q. REFERENCE AND CREDIT CHECKS**

The AOCPP reserves the right to conduct and consider reference and credit checks. The AOCPP reserves the right to use third parties to conduct reference and credit checks. By submitting a solicitation response, the bidder grants to the AOCPP the right to contact or arrange a visit in person with any or all of the bidder's clients. Reference and credit checks may be grounds to reject a solicitation response, withdraw an intent to award, or rescind the award of a contract.

**R. AWARD**

The AOCPP reserves the right to evaluate solicitation responses and award contracts in a manner utilizing criteria selected at the AOCPP's discretion and in the AOCPP's best interest. After evaluation of the solicitation responses, or at any point in the Solicitation process, the AOCPP may take one or more of the following actions:

1. Amend the solicitation;
2. Extend the date and time of a solicitation;
3. Waive deviations or errors in the AOCPP's solicitation process and in bidder responses that are not material, do not compromise the solicitation process or a bidder's response, and do not improve a Vendor's competitive position;
4. Accept or reject a portion of or all of a solicitation response;
5. Accept or reject all responses;
6. Withdraw the solicitation;
7. Elect to re-release the solicitation;
8. Award single lines or multiple lines to one or more Vendors; or,
9. Award one or more all-inclusive contracts.

The solicitation does not commit the AOCPP to award a contract. Once intent to award decision has been determined, it will be posted to the Internet at: <https://nebraskajudicial.gov/contracting-opportunities>.

Any protests must be filed by a bidder within ten (10) business days after the intent to award decision is posted to the Internet.

**S. LUMP SUM OR "ALL OR NONE" SOLICITATION RESPONSES**

The AOCPP reserves the right to purchase item-by-item, by groups or as a total when the AOCPP may benefit by so doing. Bidders may submit a response on an "all or none" or "lump sum" basis but should also submit a response on an item-by-item basis. The term "all or none" means a conditional response which requires the purchase of all items on which responses are offered and bidder declines to accept award on individual items; a "lump sum" response is one in which the bidder offers a lower price than the sum of the individual responses if all items are purchased but agrees to deliver individual items at the prices quoted.

**"LUMP SUM" OR "ALL OR NONE" RESPONSES SHOULD BE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED ON THE FIRST PAGE OF THE SOLICITATION AND COST SHEET (IF APPLICABLE)**

**T. REJECTION OF SOLICITATION RESPONSES**

The AOCPP reserves the right to reject any or all responses, wholly or in part, in the best interest of the AOCPP.

**U. PRICES & COST CLARIFICATION**

Discount and Price provisions are discussed in Sections III.F. and III.G. The AOCPP reserves the right to review all aspects of cost for reasonableness and realism as those terms are defined in (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 73-810 (1) (a) and (b) The AOCPP may request clarification of any solicitation where the cost component indicates a significant and unsupported deviation from industry standards or in areas where detailed pricing is required. Under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 73-810 (2), the AOCPP may reject a bid if the price is not reasonable or realistic.

**V. VENDOR DEMONSTRATIONS**

The AOCPC may determine that oral interviews/presentations and/or demonstrations are required. Every bidder may not be given an opportunity to interview/present and/or give demonstrations; the AOCPC reserves the right, in its discretion, to select only the top scoring bidders to present/give oral interviews. The scores from the oral interviews/presentations and/or demonstrations will be added to the scores from the Corporate Overview, Technical Response, and Cost Sheets. The presentation process will allow the bidders to demonstrate their solicitation response offering, explaining and/or clarifying any unusual or significant elements related to their solicitation responses. Bidders' key personnel, identified in their solicitation response, may be requested to participate in a structured interview to determine their understanding of the requirements of this solicitation response, their authority and reporting relationships within their firm, and their management style and philosophy. Only representatives of the AOCPC and the presenting bidder will be permitted to attend the oral interviews/presentations and/or demonstrations. A written copy or summary of the presentation, and demonstrative information (such as briefing charts, et cetera) may be offered by the bidder, but the AOCPC reserves the right to refuse or not consider the offered materials. Bidders shall not be allowed to alter or amend their solicitation responses.

Once the oral interviews/presentations and/or demonstrations have been completed, the AOCPC reserves the right to make an award without any further discussion with the bidders regarding the solicitation responses received.

Any cost incidental to the oral interviews/presentations and/or demonstrations shall be borne entirely by the bidder and will not be compensated by the AOCPC.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

Bidder should read the Terms and Conditions within this section and must initial either "Accept All Terms and Conditions Within Section as Written" or "Exceptions Taken to Terms and Conditions Within Section as Written" in the table below. If exception is not taken to a provision, it is deemed accepted as stated. If the bidder takes any exceptions, they must provide the following within the "Exceptions" field of the table below (Bidder may provide responses in separate attachment if multiple exceptions are taken):

1. The specific clause, including section reference, to which an exception has been taken;
2. An explanation of why the bidder took exception to the clause; and
3. Provide alternative language to the specific clause within the solicitation response.

By signing the solicitation, bidder agrees to be legally bound by all the accepted terms and conditions, and any proposed alternative terms and conditions submitted with the solicitation response. The AOCPC reserves the right to negotiate rejected or proposed alternative language. If the AOCPC and bidder fail to agree on the final Terms and Conditions, the AOCPC reserves the right to reject the solicitation response. The AOCPC reserves the right to reject solicitation responses that attempt to substitute the bidder's commercial contracts and/or documents for this solicitation.

<b>Accept All Terms and Conditions Within Section as Written (Initial)</b>	<b>Exceptions Taken to Terms and Conditions Within Section as Written (Initial)</b>	<b>Exceptions:</b> (Bidder must note the specific clause, including section reference, to which an exception has been taken, an explanation of why the bidder took exception to the clause, and provide alternative language to the specific clause within the solicitation response.)

The bidders should submit with their solicitation response any license, user agreement, service level agreement, or similar documents that the bidder wants incorporated in the Contract. The AOCPC will not consider incorporation of any document not submitted with the solicitation response as the document will not have been included in the evaluation process. These documents shall be subject to negotiation and will be incorporated as addendums if agreed to by the Parties.

If a conflict or ambiguity arises after the Addendum to Contract Award has been negotiated and agreed to, the Addendum to Contract Award shall be interpreted as follows:

1. If only one (1) Party has a particular clause, then that clause shall control,
2. If both Parties have a similar clause, but the clauses do not conflict, the clauses shall be read together,
3. If both Parties have a similar clause, but the clauses conflict, the AOC's clause shall control.

**A. GENERAL**

1. The contract resulting from this Solicitation shall incorporate the following documents:
  - a. Solicitation, including any attachments and addenda;
  - b. Questions and Answers;
  - c. Bidder's properly submitted solicitation response, including any terms and conditions or agreements submitted by the bidder;
  - d. Addendum to Contract Award (if applicable); and
  - e. Amendments to the Contract. (if applicable)

These documents constitute the entirety of the contract.

Unless otherwise specifically stated in a future contract amendment, in case of any conflict between the incorporated documents, the documents shall govern in the following order of preference with number one (1) receiving preference over all other documents and with each lower numbered document having preference over any higher numbered document: 1) Amendment to the executed Contract with the most recent dated amendment having the highest priority, 2) Executed Contract and any attached Addenda 3) Addendums to the solicitation and any Questions and Answers, 4) the original solicitation document and any Addenda or attachments, and 5) the Vendor's submitted solicitation response, including any terms and conditions or agreements that are accepted by the AOC.

Unless otherwise specifically agreed to in writing by the AOC, the AOC's standard terms and conditions, as executed by the AOC, shall always control over any terms and conditions or agreements submitted or included by the Vendor.

Any ambiguity or conflict in the contract discovered after its execution, not otherwise addressed herein, shall be resolved in accordance with the rules of contract interpretation as established in the State of Nebraska.

**B. NOTIFICATION**

Bidder and AOC shall identify the contract manager who shall serve as the point of contact for the executed contract.

Communications regarding the executed contract shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been given if delivered personally; electronically, return receipt requested; or mailed, return receipt requested. All notices, requests, or communications shall be deemed effective upon receipt.

Either party may change its address for notification purposes by giving notice of the change and setting forth the new address and an effective date.

**C. BUYER'S REPRESENTATIVE**

The AOC reserves the right to appoint a Buyer's Representative to manage or assist the Buyer in managing the contract on behalf of the AOC. The Buyer's Representative will be appointed in writing, and the appointment document will specify the extent of the Buyer's Representative authority and responsibilities. If a Buyer's Representative is appointed, the bidder will be provided a copy of the appointment document and is expected to cooperate accordingly with the Buyer's Representative. The Buyer's Representative has no authority to bind the AOC to a contract, amendment, addendum, or other change or addition to the contract.

**D. GOVERNING LAW (Nonnegotiable)**

Notwithstanding any other provision of this contract, or any amendment or addendum(s) entered into contemporaneously or at a later time, the parties understand and agree that, (1) the State of Nebraska is a sovereign state and its authority to contract is therefore subject to limitation by the State's Constitution, statutes, common law, and regulation; (2) this contract will be interpreted and enforced under the laws of the State of Nebraska; (3) any action to enforce the provisions of this agreement must be brought in the State of Nebraska per state law; (4) the person signing this contract on behalf of the State of Nebraska does not have the authority to waive the State's sovereign immunity, statutes, common law, or regulations; (5) the indemnity, limitation of liability, remedy, and other similar provisions of the final contract, if any, are entered into subject to the State's Constitution, statutes, common law, regulations, and sovereign immunity; and, (6) all terms and conditions of the final contract, including but not limited to the clauses concerning third party use, licenses, warranties, limitations of liability, governing law and venue, usage verification, indemnity, liability, remedy or other similar provisions of the final contract are entered into specifically subject to the State's Constitution, statutes, common law, regulations, and sovereign immunity.

The Parties must comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws, ordinances, rules, orders, and regulations.

**E. BEGINNING OF WORK & SUSPENSION OF SERVICES**

The bidder shall not commence any billable work until a valid contract has been fully executed by the AOCPC and the successful Vendor. The Vendor will be notified in writing when work may begin.

The AOCPC may, at any time and without advance notice, require the Vendor to suspend any or all performance or deliverables provided under this Contract. In the event of such suspension, the Contract Manager or POC, or their designee, will issue a written order to stop work. The written order will specify which activities are to be immediately suspended and the reason(s) for the suspension. Upon receipt of such order, the Vendor shall immediately comply with its terms and take all necessary steps to mitigate and eliminate the incurrence of costs allocable to the work affected by the order during the period of suspension. The suspended performance or deliverables may only resume when the AOCPC provides the Vendor with written notice that such performance or deliverables may resume, in whole or in part.

**F. AMENDMENT**

This Contract may be amended in writing, within scope, upon the agreement of both parties.

**G. CHANGE ORDERS OR SUBSTITUTIONS**

The AOCPC and the Vendor, upon the written agreement, may make changes to the contract within the general scope of the solicitation. Changes may involve specifications, the quantity of work, or such other items as the AOCPC may find necessary or desirable. Corrections of any deliverable, service, or work required pursuant to the contract shall not be deemed a change. The Vendor may not claim forfeiture of the contract by reasons of such changes.

The Vendor shall prepare a written description of the work required due to the change and an itemized cost sheet for the change. Changes in work and the amount of compensation to be paid to the Vendor shall be determined in accordance with applicable unit prices if any, a pro-rated value, or through negotiations. The AOCPC shall not incur a price increase for changes that should have been included in the Vendor's solicitation response, were foreseeable, or result from difficulties with or failure of the Vendor's solicitation response or performance.

No change shall be implemented by the Vendor until approved by the AOCPC, and the Contract is amended to reflect the change and associated costs, if any. If there is a dispute regarding the cost, but both parties agree that immediate implementation is necessary, the change may be implemented, and cost negotiations may continue with both Parties retaining all remedies under the contract and law.

In the event any good or service is discontinued or replaced upon mutual consent during the contract period or prior to delivery, the AOCPC reserves the right to amend the contract to include the alternate product at the same price.

**\*\*\*Vendor will not substitute any item that has been awarded without prior written approval of AOCPC\*\*\***

**H. RECORD OF VENDOR PERFORMANCE**

The AOCPC may document the vendor's performance, which may include, but is not limited to, the customer service provided by the vendor, the ability of the vendor, the skill of the vendor, and any instance(s) of products or services delivered or performed which fail to meet the terms of the purchase order, contract, and/or specifications. In addition to other remedies and options available to the AOCPC, the AOCPC may issue one or more notices to the vendor outlining any issues the AOCPC has regarding the vendor's performance for a specific contract ("Contract Compliance Request"). The AOCPC may also document the Vendor's performance in a report, which may or may not be provided to the vendor ("Contract Non-Compliance Notice"). The Vendor shall respond to any Contract Compliance Request or Contract Non-Compliance Notice in accordance with such notice or request. At the sole discretion of the AOCPC, such Contract Compliance Requests and Contract Non-Compliance Notices may be placed in the AOCPC's records regarding the vendor and may be considered by the AOCPC and held against the vendor in any future contract or award opportunity. The record of vendor performance will be considered in any suspension or debarment action.

**I. NOTICE OF POTENTIAL VENDOR BREACH**

If Vendor breaches the contract or anticipates breaching the contract, the Vendor shall immediately give written notice to the AOCPC. The notice shall explain the breach or potential breach, a proposed cure, and may include a request for a waiver of the breach if so desired. The AOCPC may, in its discretion, temporarily or permanently waive the breach. By granting a waiver, the AOCPC does not forfeit any rights or remedies to which the AOCPC is entitled by law or equity, or pursuant to the provisions of the contract. Failure to give immediate notice, however, may be grounds for denial of any request for a waiver of a breach.

**J. BREACH**

Either Party may terminate the contract, in whole or in part, if the other Party breaches its duty to perform its obligations under the contract in a timely and proper manner. Termination requires written notice of default and a

thirty (30) calendar day (or longer at the non-breaching Party's discretion considering the gravity and nature of the default) cure period. Said notice shall be delivered by email, delivery receipt requested; certified mail, return receipt requested; or in person with proof of delivery. Allowing time to cure a failure or breach of contract does not waive the right to immediately terminate the contract for the same or different contract breach which may occur at a different time.

**K. NON-WAIVER OF BREACH**

The acceptance of late performance with or without objection or reservation by a Party shall not waive any rights of the Party nor constitute a waiver of the requirement of timely performance of any obligations remaining to be performed.

**L. SEVERABILITY**

If any term or condition of the contract is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be illegal or in conflict with any law, the validity of the remaining terms and conditions shall not be affected, and the rights and obligations of the parties shall be construed and enforced as if the contract did not contain the provision held to be invalid or illegal.

**M. INDEMNIFICATION**

**1. GENERAL**

The Vendor agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the AOCPC and its employees, volunteers, agents, and its elected and appointed officials ("the indemnified parties") from and against any and all third party claims, liens, demands, damages, liability, actions, causes of action, losses, judgments, costs, and expenses of every nature, including investigation costs and expenses, settlement costs, and attorney fees and expenses ("the claims"), sustained or asserted against the AOCPC for personal injury, death, or property loss or damage, arising out of, resulting from, or attributable to the willful misconduct, negligence, error, or omission of the Vendor, its employees, Subcontractors, consultants, representatives, and agents, resulting from this contract, except to the extent such Vendor liability is attenuated by any action of the AOCPC which directly and proximately contributed to the claims.

**2. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

The Vendor agrees it will, at its sole cost and expense, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the indemnified parties from and against any and all claims, to the extent such claims arise out of, result from, or are attributable to, the actual or alleged infringement or misappropriation of any patent, copyright, trade secret, trademark, or confidential information of any third party by the Vendor or its employees, Subcontractors, consultants, representatives, and agents; provided, however, the AOCPC gives the Vendor prompt notice in writing of the claim. The Vendor may not settle any infringement claim that will affect the AOCPC's use of the Licensed Software without the AOCPC's prior written consent, which consent may be withheld for any reason.

If a judgment or settlement is obtained or reasonably anticipated against the AOCPC's use of any intellectual property for which the Vendor has indemnified the AOCPC, the Vendor shall, at the Vendor's sole cost and expense, promptly modify the item or items which were determined to be infringing, acquire a license or licenses on the AOCPC's behalf to provide the necessary rights to the AOCPC to eliminate the infringement, or provide the AOCPC with a non-infringing substitute that provides the AOCPC the same functionality. At the AOCPC's election, the actual or anticipated judgment may be treated as a breach of warranty by the Vendor, and the AOCPC may receive the remedies provided under this Solicitation.

**3. PERSONNEL**

The Vendor shall, at its expense, indemnify and hold harmless the indemnified parties from and against any claim with respect to withholding taxes, worker's compensation, employee benefits, or any other claim, demand, liability, damage, or loss of any nature relating to any of the personnel, including subcontractor's and their employees, provided by the Vendor.

**4. SELF-INSURANCE**

The State of Nebraska is self-insured for any loss and purchases excess insurance coverage pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-8,239.01. If there is a presumed loss under the provisions of this agreement, Vendor may file a claim with the Office of Risk Management pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 81-8,239.01 to 81-8,306 for review by the State Claims Board. The AOCPC retains all rights and immunities under the State Miscellaneous (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-8,294), Tort (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-8,209), and Contract Claim Acts (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-8,302), as outlined in state law and accepts liability under this agreement only to the extent provided by law.

5. The Parties acknowledge that Attorney General for the State of Nebraska is required by statute to represent the legal interests of the State, and that any provision of this indemnity clause is subject to the statutory authority of the Attorney General.

**N. ASSIGNMENT, SALE, OR MERGER**

Either Party may assign the contract upon mutual written agreement of the other Party. Such agreement shall not be unreasonably withheld.

The Vendor retains the right to enter into a sale, merger, acquisition, internal reorganization, or similar transaction involving Vendor's business. Vendor agrees to cooperate with the AOCPC in executing amendments to the contract to allow for the transaction. If a third party or entity is involved in the transaction, the Vendor will remain responsible for performance of the contract until such time as the person or entity involved in the transaction agrees in writing to be contractually bound by this contract and perform all obligations of the contract.

**O. CONTRACTING WITH OTHER NEBRASKA POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THE STATE OR ANOTHER STATE**

The Vendor may, but shall not be required to, allow agencies, as defined in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-145(2), to use this contract. The terms and conditions, including price, of the contract may not be amended. The AOCPC shall not be contractually obligated or liable for any contract entered into pursuant to this clause. A listing of Nebraska political subdivisions may be found at the website of the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts.

The Vendor may, but shall not be required to, allow other states, agencies or divisions of other states, or political subdivisions of other states to use this contract. The terms and conditions, including price, of this contract shall apply to any such contract, but may be amended upon mutual consent of the Parties. The State of Nebraska shall not be contractually or otherwise obligated or liable under any contract entered into pursuant to this clause. The AOCPC shall be notified if a contract is executed based upon this contract.

**P. FORCE MAJEURE**

Neither Party shall be liable for any costs or damages, or for default resulting from its inability to perform any of its obligations under the contract due to a natural or manmade event outside the control and not the fault of the affected Party ("Force Majeure Event") that was not foreseeable at the time the Contract was executed. The Party so affected shall immediately make a written request for relief to the other Party and shall have the burden of proof to justify the request. The other Party may grant the relief requested; relief may not be unreasonably withheld. Labor disputes with the impacted Party's own employees will not be considered a Force Majeure Event.

**Q. CONFIDENTIALITY**

All materials and information provided by the Parties or acquired by a Party on behalf of the other Party shall be regarded as confidential information. All materials and information provided or acquired shall be handled in accordance with federal and state law, and ethical standards. Should said confidentiality be breached by a Party, the Party shall notify the other Party immediately of said breach and take immediate corrective action.

It is incumbent upon the Parties to inform their officers and employees of the penalties for improper disclosure imposed by the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a. Specifically, 5 U.S.C. 552a (i)(1), which is made applicable by 5 U.S.C. 552a (m)(1), provides that any officer or employee, who by virtue of his/her employment or official position has possession of or access to agency records which contain individually identifiable information, the disclosure of which is prohibited by the Privacy Act or regulations established thereunder, and who knowing that disclosure of the specific material is prohibited, willfully discloses the material in any manner to any person or agency not entitled to receive it, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not more than \$5,000.

**R. EARLY TERMINATION**

The contract may be terminated as follows:

1. The AOCPC and the Vendor, by mutual written agreement, may terminate the contract, in whole or in part, at any time.
2. The AOCPC, in its sole discretion, may terminate the contract, in whole or in part, for any reason upon thirty (30) calendar day's written notice shall be delivered by email, delivery receipt requested; certified mail, return receipt requested; or in person with proof of delivery to the Vendor. Such termination shall not relieve the Vendor of warranty or other service obligations incurred under the terms of the contract. In the event of termination, the Vendor shall be entitled to payment, determined on a pro rata basis, for products or services satisfactorily performed or provided.
3. The AOCPC may terminate the contract, in whole or in part, immediately for the following reasons:
  - a. if directed to do so by statute,
  - b. Vendor has made an assignment for the benefit of creditors, has admitted in writing its inability to pay debts as they mature, or has ceased operating in the normal course of business,
  - c. a trustee or receiver of the Vendor or of any substantial part of the Vendor's assets has been appointed by a court,
  - d. fraud, misappropriation, embezzlement, malfeasance, misfeasance, or illegal conduct pertaining to performance under the contract by its Vendor, its employees, officers, directors, or shareholders,

- e. an involuntary proceeding has been commenced by any Party against the Vendor under any one of the chapters of Title 11 of the United States Code and (i) the proceeding has been pending for at least sixty (60) calendar days; or (ii) the Vendor has consented, either expressly or by operation of law, to the entry of an order for relief; or (iii) the Vendor has been decreed or adjudged a debtor, a voluntary petition has been filed by the Vendor under any of the chapters of Title 11 of the United States Code,
- f. Vendor intentionally discloses confidential information,
- g. Vendor has or announces it will discontinue support of the deliverable; and,
- h. In the event funding is no longer available.
- i.

**S. CONTRACT CLOSEOUT**

Upon termination of the contract for any reason the Vendor shall within thirty (30) days, unless stated otherwise herein:

1. Transfer all completed or partially completed deliverables to the AOCPC,
2. Transfer ownership and title to all completed or partially completed deliverables to the AOCPC,
3. Return to the AOCPC all information and data unless the Vendor is permitted to keep the information or data by contract or rule of law. Vendor may retain one copy of any information or data as required to comply with applicable work product documentation standards or as are automatically retained in the course of Vendor's routine back up procedures,
4. Cooperate with any successor Vendor, person, or entity in the assumption of any or all of the obligations of this contract,
5. Cooperate with any successor Vendor, person, or entity with the transfer of information or data related to this contract,
6. Return or vacate any state owned real or personal property; and,
7. Return all data in a mutually acceptable format and manner.

Nothing in this section should be construed to require the Vendor to surrender intellectual property, real or personal property, or information or data owned by the Vendor for which the AOCPC has no legal claim.

**T. AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

Vendor shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12131–12134), as amended by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADA Amendments Act) (Pub.L. 110–325, 122 Stat. 3553 (2008)), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by public entities.

### III. VENDOR DUTIES

Bidder should read the Vendor Duties within this section and must initial either “Accept All Terms and Conditions Within Section as Written” or “Exceptions Taken to Vendor Duties Within Section as Written” in the table below. If exception is not taken to a provision, it is deemed accepted as stated. If the bidder takes any exceptions, they must provide the following within the “Exceptions” field of the table below (Bidder may provide responses in separate attachment if multiple exceptions are taken):

1. The specific clause, including section reference, to which an exception has been taken;
2. An explanation of why the bidder took exception to the clause; and
3. Provide alternative language to the specific clause within the solicitation response.

By signing the solicitation, bidder agrees to be legally bound by all the accepted terms and conditions, and any proposed alternative terms and conditions submitted with the solicitation response. The AOCP reserves the right to negotiate rejected or proposed alternative language. If the AOCP and bidder fail to agree on the final Terms and Conditions, the AOCP reserves the right to reject the solicitation response. The AOCP reserves the right to reject solicitation responses that attempt to substitute the bidder’s commercial contracts and/or documents for this solicitation.

Accept All Vendor Duties Within Section as Written (Initial)	Exceptions Taken to Vendor Duties Within Section as Written (Initial)	Exceptions: (Bidder must note the specific clause, including section reference, to which an exception has been taken, an explanation of why the bidder took exception to the clause, and provide alternative language to the specific clause within the solicitation response.)

**A. INDEPENDENT VENDOR / OBLIGATIONS**

It is agreed that the Vendor is an independent Vendor and that nothing contained herein is intended or should be construed as creating or establishing a relationship of employment, agency, or a partnership.

The Vendor is solely responsible for fulfilling the contract. The Vendor or the Vendor’s representative shall be the sole point of contact regarding all contractual matters.

The Vendor shall secure, at its own expense, all personnel required to perform the services under the contract. The personnel the Vendor uses to fulfill the contract shall have no contractual or other legal relationship with the AOCP; they shall not be considered employees of the AOCP and shall not be entitled to any compensation, rights or benefits from the AOCP, including but not limited to, tenure rights, medical and hospital care, sick and vacation leave, severance pay, or retirement benefits.

By-name personnel commitments made in the bidder’s solicitation response shall not be changed without the prior written approval of the AOCP. Replacement of these personnel, if approved by the AOCP, shall be with personnel of equal or greater ability and qualifications.

All personnel assigned by the Vendor to the contract shall be employees of the Vendor or a subcontractor and shall be fully qualified to perform the work required herein. Personnel employed by the Vendor or a subcontractor to fulfill the terms of the contract shall remain under the sole direction and control of the Vendor or the subcontractor respectively.

With respect to its employees, the Vendor agrees to be solely responsible for the following:

1. Any and all pay, benefits, and employment taxes and/or other payroll withholding,
2. Any and all vehicles used by the Vendor’s employees, including all insurance required by state law,
3. Damages incurred by Vendor’s employees within the scope of their duties under the contract,
4. Maintaining Workers’ Compensation and health insurance that complies with state and federal law and submitting any reports on such insurance to the extent required by governing law,
5. Determining the hours to be worked and the duties to be performed by the Vendor’s employees; and,
6. All claims on behalf of any person arising out of employment or alleged employment (including without limit claims of discrimination alleged against the Vendor, its officers, agents, or subcontractors or subcontractor’s employees).

If the Vendor intends to utilize any subcontractor, the subcontractor's level of effort, tasks, and time allocation should be clearly defined in the solicitation response. The Vendor shall agree that it will not utilize any subcontractors not specifically included in its solicitation response in the performance of the contract without the prior written authorization of the AOC. If the Vendor subcontracts any of the work, the Vendor agrees to pay any and all subcontractors in accordance with the Vendor's agreement with the respective subcontractor(s).

The AOC reserves the right to require the Vendor to reassign or remove from the project any Vendor or subcontractor employee.

Vendor shall insure that the terms and conditions contained in any contract with a subcontractor does not conflict with the terms and conditions of this contract.

The Vendor shall include a similar provision, for the protection of the AOC, in the contract with any Subcontractor engaged to perform work on this contract.

**B. FOREIGN ADVERSARY CONTRACTING PROHIBITION ACT CERTIFICATION (Nonnegotiable)**

The Vendor certifies that it is not a scrutinized company as defined under the Foreign Adversary Contracting Prohibition Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. § 73-903 (5); that it will not subcontract with any scrutinized company for any aspect of performance of the contemplated contract; and that any products or services to be provided do not originate with a scrutinized company.

**C. EMPLOYEE WORK ELIGIBILITY STATUS**

The Vendor is required and hereby agrees to use a federal immigration verification system to determine the work eligibility status of employees physically performing services within the State of Nebraska. A federal immigration verification system means the electronic verification of the work authorization program authorized by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, 8 U.S.C. 1324a, known as the E-Verify Program, or an equivalent federal program designated by the United States Department of Homeland Security or other federal agency authorized to verify the work eligibility status of an employee.

If the Vendor is an individual or sole proprietorship, the following applies:

1. The Vendor must complete the United States Citizenship Attestation Form, available on the Department of Administrative Services website at <https://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/docs/pdf/Individual%20or%20Sole%20Proprietor%20United%20States%20Attestation%20Form%20English%20and%20Spanish.pdf>
2. The completed United States Attestation Form should be submitted with the Solicitation response.
3. If the Vendor indicates on such attestation form that he or she is a qualified alien, the Vendor agrees to provide the US Citizenship and Immigration Services documentation required to verify the Vendor's lawful presence in the United States using the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program.
4. The Vendor understands and agrees that lawful presence in the United States is required, and the Vendor may be disqualified or the contract terminated if such lawful presence cannot be verified as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 4-108.

**D. COMPLIANCE WITH CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT / NONDISCRIMINATION (Nonnegotiable)**

The Vendor shall comply with all applicable local, state, and federal statutes and regulations regarding civil rights laws and equal opportunity employment. The Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act prohibits Vendors of the State of Nebraska, and their Subcontractors, from discriminating against any employee or applicant for employment, with respect to hire, tenure, terms, conditions, compensation, or privileges of employment because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, marital status, or national origin (Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 48-1101 to 48-1125). The Vendor guarantees compliance with the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act, and breach of this provision shall be regarded as a material breach of contract. The Vendor shall insert a similar provision in all Subcontracts for goods and services to be covered by any contract resulting from this Solicitation.

**E. COOPERATION WITH OTHER VENDORS**

Vendor may be required to work with or in close proximity to other Vendors or individuals that may be working on same or different projects. The Vendor shall agree to cooperate with such other Vendors or individuals and shall not commit or permit any act which may interfere with the performance of work by any other Vendor or individual. Vendor is not required to compromise Vendor's intellectual property or proprietary information unless expressly required to do so by this contract.

**F. DISCOUNTS**

Prices quoted shall be inclusive of ALL trade discounts. Cash discount terms of less than thirty (30) days will not be considered as part of the solicitation response. Cash discount periods will be computed from the date of receipt of a

properly executed claim voucher or the date of completion of delivery of all items in a satisfactory condition, whichever is later.

**G. PRICES**

Prices quoted shall be net, including transportation and delivery charges fully prepaid by the bidder, F.O.B. destination named in the Solicitation. No additional charges will be allowed for packing, packages, or partial delivery costs. When an arithmetic error has been made in the extended total, the unit price will govern.

All prices, costs, and terms and conditions submitted in the solicitation response shall remain fixed and valid commencing on the closing date of the solicitation until the contract terminates or expires.

**The AOCB reserves the right to deny any requested price increase. No price increases are to be billed to any State Agencies prior to written amendment of the contract by the parties.**

**The AOCB will be given full proportionate benefit of any decreases for the term of the contract.**

**H. PERMITS, REGULATIONS, LAWS**

The contract price shall include the cost of all royalties, licenses, permits, and approvals, whether arising from patents, trademarks, copyrights or otherwise, that are in any way involved in the contract. The Vendor shall obtain and pay for all royalties, licenses, and permits, and approvals necessary for the execution of the contract. The Vendor must guarantee that it has the full legal right to the materials, supplies, equipment, software, and other items used to execute this contract.

**I. OWNERSHIP OF INFORMATION AND DATA / DELIVERABLES**

The AOCB shall have the unlimited right to publish, duplicate, use, and disclose all information and data developed or obtained by the Vendor on behalf of the AOCB pursuant to this contract.

The AOCB shall own and hold exclusive title to any deliverable developed as a result of this contract. Vendor shall have no ownership interest or title, and shall not patent, license, or copyright, duplicate, transfer, sell, or exchange, the design, specifications, concept, or deliverable.

**J. INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS**

The Vendor shall throughout the term of the contract maintain insurance as specified herein and provide the AOCB a current Certificate of Insurance/Acord Form (COI) verifying the coverage. The Vendor shall not commence work on the contract until the insurance is in place. If Vendor subcontracts any portion of the Contract the Vendor must, throughout the term of the contract, either:

1. Provide equivalent insurance for each subcontractor and provide a COI verifying the coverage for the subcontractor,
2. Require each subcontractor to have equivalent insurance and provide written notice to the AOCB that the Vendor has verified that each subcontractor has the required coverage; or,
3. Provide the AOCB with copies of each subcontractor's Certificate of Insurance evidencing the required coverage.

The Vendor shall not allow any Subcontractor to commence work until the Subcontractor has equivalent insurance. The failure of the AOCB to require a COI, or the failure of the Vendor to provide a COI or require subcontractor insurance shall not limit, relieve, or decrease the liability of the Vendor hereunder.

In the event that any policy written on a claims-made basis terminates or is canceled during the term of the contract or within three (3) years of termination or expiration of the contract, the Vendor shall obtain an extended discovery or reporting period, or a new insurance policy, providing coverage required by this contract for the term of the contract and three (3) years following termination or expiration of the contract.

If by the terms of any insurance a mandatory deductible is required, or if the Vendor elects to increase the mandatory deductible amount, the Vendor shall be responsible for payment of the amount of the deductible in the event of a paid claim.

Notwithstanding any other clause in this Contract, the AOCB may recover up to the liability limits of the insurance policies required herein.

**1. WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE**

The Vendor shall take out and maintain during the life of this contract the statutory Workers' Compensation and Employer's Liability Insurance for all of the contactors' employees to be engaged in work on the project under this contract and, in case any such work is sublet, the Vendor shall require the Subcontractor similarly to provide Worker's Compensation and Employer's Liability Insurance for all of the Subcontractor's

employees to be engaged in such work. This policy shall be written to meet the statutory requirements for the state in which the work is to be performed, including Occupational Disease. **The policy shall include a waiver of subrogation in favor of the AOC. The COI shall contain the mandatory COI subrogation waiver language found hereinafter.** The amounts of such insurance shall not be less than the limits stated hereinafter. For employees working in the State of Nebraska, the policy must be written by an entity authorized by the State of Nebraska Department of Insurance to write Workers' Compensation and Employer's Liability Insurance for Nebraska employees.

## **2. COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE AND COMMERCIAL AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY INSURANCE**

The Vendor shall take out and maintain during the life of this contract such Commercial General Liability Insurance and Commercial Automobile Liability Insurance as shall protect Vendor and any Subcontractor performing work covered by this contract from claims for damages for bodily injury, including death, as well as from claims for property damage, which may arise from operations under this contract, whether such operation be by the Vendor or by any Subcontractor or by anyone directly or indirectly employed by either of them, and the amounts of such insurance shall not be less than limits stated hereinafter.

The Commercial General Liability Insurance shall be written on an **occurrence basis**, and provide Premises/Operations, Products/Completed Operations, Independent Vendors, Personal Injury, and Contractual Liability coverage. **The policy shall include the AOC, and others as required by the contract documents as Additional Insured(s). This policy shall be primary, and any insurance or self-insurance carried by the State shall be considered secondary and non-contributory. The COI shall contain the mandatory COI liability waiver language found hereinafter.** The Commercial Automobile Liability Insurance shall be written to cover all Owned, Non-owned, and Hired vehicles.

<b>REQUIRED INSURANCE COVERAGE</b>	
<b>COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY</b>	
General Aggregate	\$2,000,000
Products/Completed Operations Aggregate	\$2,000,000
Personal/Advertising Injury	\$1,000,000 per occurrence
Bodily Injury/Property Damage	\$1,000,000 per occurrence
Medical Payments	\$10,000 any one person
Damage to Rented Premises (Fire)	\$300,000 each occurrence
Contractual	Included
XCU Liability (Explosion, Collapse, and Underground Damage)	Included
Independent Vendors	Included
Abuse & Molestation	Included
<i>If higher limits are required, the Umbrella/Excess Liability limits are allowed to satisfy the higher limit.</i>	
<b>WORKER'S COMPENSATION</b>	
Employers Liability Limits	\$500K/\$500K/\$500K
Statutory Limits- All States	Statutory - State of Nebraska
Voluntary Compensation	Statutory
<b>COMMERCIAL AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY</b>	
Bodily Injury/Property Damage	\$1,000,000 combined single limit
Include All Owned, Hired & Non-Owned Automobile liability	Included
Motor Carrier Act Endorsement	Where Applicable
<b>UMBRELLA/EXCESS LIABILITY</b>	
Over Primary Insurance	\$5,000,000 per occurrence
<b>PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY</b>	
Professional liability (Medical Malpractice)	Limits consistent with Nebraska Medical Malpractice Cap
Qualification Under Nebraska Excess Fund	
All Other Professional Liability (Errors & Omissions)	\$1,000,000 Per Claim / Aggregate
<b>COMMERCIAL CRIME</b>	
Crime/Employee Dishonesty Including 3rd Party Fidelity	\$1,000,000
<b>CYBER LIABILITY</b>	
Breach of Privacy, Security Breach, Denial of Service, Remediation, Fines and Penalties	\$5,000,000
<b>VENDOR'S POLLUTION LIABILITY</b>	
Each Occurrence/Aggregate Limit	\$2,000,000
Includes Non-Owned Disposal Sites	
<b>MANDATORY COI SUBROGATION WAIVER LANGUAGE</b>	
"Workers' Compensation policy shall include a waiver of subrogation in favor of the State of Nebraska."	
<b>MANDATORY COI LIABILITY WAIVER LANGUAGE</b>	
"Commercial General Liability & Commercial Automobile Liability policies shall name the State of Nebraska as an Additional Insured and the policies shall be primary and any insurance or self-insurance carried by the AOCP shall be considered secondary and non-contributory as additionally insured."	

### 3. EVIDENCE OF COVERAGE

The Vendor shall furnish the Contract Manager, via email, with a certificate of insurance coverage complying with the above requirements prior to beginning work at:

Nebraska Judicial Branch  
 Craig Wacker  
 Contracts and Grants Manager  
 Craig.wacker@nejudicial.gov

These certificates or the cover sheet shall reference the solicitation number, and the certificates shall include the name of the company, policy numbers, effective dates, dates of expiration, and amounts and types of coverage afforded. If the AOCP is damaged by the failure of the Vendor to maintain such insurance, then the Vendor shall be responsible for all reasonable costs properly attributable thereto.

Reasonable notice of cancellation of any required insurance policy must be submitted to the contract manager as listed above when issued and a new coverage binder shall be submitted immediately to ensure no break in coverage.

#### **4. DEVIATIONS**

The insurance requirements are subject to limited negotiation. Negotiation typically includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the correct type of coverage, necessity for Workers' Compensation, and the type of automobile coverage carried by the Vendor.

#### **K. ANTITRUST**

The Vendor hereby assigns to the AOCPC any and all claims for overcharges as to goods and/or services provided in connection with this contract resulting from antitrust violations which arise under antitrust laws of the United States and the antitrust laws of the State.

#### **L. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

By submitting a solicitation response, vendor certifies that no relationship exists between the vendor and any person or entity which either is, or gives the appearance of, a conflict of interest related to this solicitation or project.

Vendor further certifies that vendor will not employ any individual known by vendor to have a conflict of interest nor shall vendor take any action or acquire any interest, either directly or indirectly, which will conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of its contractual obligations hereunder or which creates an actual or appearance of conflict of interest.

If there is an actual or perceived conflict of interest, vendor shall provide with its solicitation response a full disclosure of the facts describing such actual or perceived conflict of interest and a proposed mitigation plan for consideration. The AOCPC will then consider such disclosure and proposed mitigation plan and either approve or reject as part of the overall solicitation response evaluation.

#### **M. SITE RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The Vendor shall use its best efforts to ensure that its employees, agents, and Subcontractors comply with site rules and regulations while on State premises. If the Vendor must perform on-site work outside of the daily operational hours set forth by the AOCPC, it must make arrangements with the AOCPC to ensure access to the facility and the equipment has been arranged. No additional payment will be made by the AOCPC on the basis of lack of access, unless the AOCPC fails to provide access as agreed to in writing between the AOCPC and the Vendor.

#### **N. ADVERTISING**

The Vendor agrees not to refer to the contract award in advertising in such a manner as to state or imply that the company or its goods or services are endorsed or preferred by the AOCPC. Any publicity releases pertaining to the project shall not be issued without prior written approval from the AOCPC.

#### **O. NEBRASKA TECHNOLOGY ACCESS STANDARDS (Nonnegotiable)**

1. The State of Nebraska is committed to ensuring that all information and communication technology (ICT), developed, leased, or owned by the State of Nebraska, affords equivalent access to employees, program participants and members of the public with disabilities, as it affords to employees, program participants and members of the public who are not persons with disabilities.
2. By entering into this Contract, Vendor understands and agrees that if the Vendor is providing a product or service that contains ICT, as defined in subsection 3 below and such ICT is intended to be directly interacted with by the user or is public facing, such ICT must provide equivalent access, or be modified during implementation to afford equivalent access, to employees, program participants, and members of the public who have and who do not have disabilities. The Vendor may comply with this section by complying with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and its implementing standards adopted and promulgated by the U.S. Access Board.
3. ICT means information technology and other equipment, systems, technologies, or processes, for which the principal function is the creation, manipulation, storage, display, receipt, or transmission of electronic data and information, as well as any associated content. Vendor hereby agrees ICT includes computers and peripheral equipment, information kiosks and transaction machines, telecommunications equipment, customer premises equipment, multifunction office machines, software, applications, web sites, videos, and electronic documents. For the purposes of these assurances, ICT does not include ICT that is used exclusively by a Vendor.

#### **P. DISASTER RECOVERY/BACK UP PLAN**

The Vendor shall have a disaster recovery and back-up plan, of which a copy should be provided upon request to the AOCPC, which includes, but is not limited to equipment, personnel, facilities, and transportation, in order to continue delivery of goods and services as specified under the specifications in the contract in the event of a disaster.

#### **Q. DRUG POLICY**

Vendor certifies it maintains a drug free workplace environment to ensure worker safety and workplace integrity. Vendor agrees to provide a copy of its drug free workplace policy at any time upon request by the AOCPC.

**R. WARRANTY**

Despite any clause to the contrary, the Vendor represents and warrants that its services hereunder shall be performed by competent personnel and shall be of professional quality consistent with generally accepted industry standards for the performance of such services and shall comply in all respects with the requirements of this Agreement. For any breach of this warranty, the Vendor shall, for a period of ninety (90) days from performance of the service, perform the services again, at no cost to the AOC, or if Vendor is unable to perform the services as warranted, Vendor shall reimburse the AOC all fees paid to Vendor for the unsatisfactory services. The rights and remedies of the parties under this warranty are in addition to any other rights and remedies of the parties provided by law or equity, including, without limitation actual damages, and, as applicable and awarded under the law, to a prevailing party, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

**S. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE**

Time is of the essence with respect to Vendor's performance and deliverables pursuant to this Contract.

**PAYMENT**

Bidder should read the Payment clauses within this section and must initial either "Accept All Terms and Conditions Within Section as Written" or "Exceptions Taken to Payment clauses Within Section as Written" in the table below. If exception is not taken to a provision, it is deemed accepted as stated. If the bidder takes any exceptions, they must provide the following within the "Exceptions" field of the table below (Bidder may provide responses in separate attachment if multiple exceptions are taken):

1. The specific clause, including section reference, to which an exception has been taken;
2. An explanation of why the bidder took exception to the clause; and
3. Provide alternative language to the specific clause within the solicitation response.

By signing the solicitation, bidder agrees to be legally bound by all the accepted terms and conditions, and any proposed alternative terms and conditions submitted with the solicitation response. The AOC reserves the right to negotiate rejected or proposed alternative language. If the AOC and bidder fail to agree on the final Terms and Conditions, the AOC reserves the right to reject the solicitation response. The AOC reserves the right to reject solicitation responses that attempt to substitute the bidder's commercial contracts and/or documents for this solicitation.

Accept All Payment Clauses Within Section as Written (Initial)	Exceptions Taken to Payment Clauses Within Section as Written (Initial)	<b>Exceptions:</b> (Bidder must note the specific clause, including section reference, to which an exception has been taken, an explanation of why the bidder took exception to the clause, and provide alternative language to the specific clause within the solicitation response.)

**A. PROHIBITION AGAINST ADVANCE PAYMENT (Nonnegotiable)**

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-2403, "[n]o goods or services shall be deemed to be received by an agency until all such goods or services are completely delivered and finally accepted by the agency."

**B. TAXES (Nonnegotiable)**

The AOC is not required to pay taxes and assumes no such liability as a result of this Solicitation. The Vendor may request a copy of the Nebraska Department of Revenue, Nebraska Resale or Exempt Sale Certificate for Sales Tax Exemption, Form 13 for their records. Any property tax payable on the Vendor's equipment which may be installed in a state-owned facility is the responsibility of the Vendor.

**C. INVOICES**

Invoices for payments must be submitted by the Vendor to the agency requesting the services with sufficient detail to support payment. The terms and conditions included in the Vendor's invoice shall be deemed to be solely for the convenience of the parties. No terms or conditions of any such invoice shall be binding upon the AOC, and no action by the AOC, including without limitation the payment of any such invoice in whole or in part, shall be construed as binding or estopping the AOC with respect to any such term or condition, unless the invoice term or condition has

been previously agreed to by the AOCPC as an amendment to the contract. **The AOCPC shall have forty-five (45) calendar days to pay after a valid and accurate invoice is received by the AOCPC.**

**D. INSPECTION AND APPROVAL**

Final inspection and approval of all work required under the contract shall be performed by the designated AOCPC officials.

**E. PAYMENT (Nonnegotiable)**

Payment will be made by the responsible agency in compliance with the State of Nebraska Prompt Payment Act (See Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-2403). The AOCPC may require the Vendor to accept payment by electronic means such as ACH deposit. In no event shall the AOCPC be responsible or liable to pay for any goods and services provided by the Vendor prior to the Effective Date of the contract, and the Vendor hereby waives any claim or cause of action for any such goods or services.

**F. LATE PAYMENT (Nonnegotiable)**

The Vendor may charge the responsible agency interest for late payment in compliance with the State of Nebraska Prompt Payment Act (See Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 81-2401 through 81-2408).

**G. SUBJECT TO FUNDING / FUNDING OUT CLAUSE FOR LOSS OF APPROPRIATIONS (Nonnegotiable)**

The AOCPC's obligation to pay amounts due on the Contract for fiscal years following the current fiscal year is contingent upon legislative or federal appropriation of funds. Should said funds not be appropriated, the AOCPC may terminate the contract with respect to those payments for the fiscal year(s) for which such funds are not appropriated. The AOCPC will give the Vendor reasonable written notice prior to the effective date of termination. All obligations of the AOCPC to make payments after the termination date will cease. The Vendor shall be entitled to receive just and equitable compensation for any authorized work which has been satisfactorily completed as of the termination date. In no event shall the Vendor be paid for a loss of anticipated profit.

**H. RIGHT TO AUDIT (First Paragraph is Nonnegotiable)**

The AOCPC shall have the right to audit the Vendor's performance of this contract upon a thirty (30) days' written notice. Vendor shall utilize generally accepted accounting principles, and shall maintain the accounting records, and other records and information relevant to the contract (Information) to enable the AOCPC to audit the contract. (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-304 et seq.) The AOCPC may audit, and the Vendor shall maintain, the Information during the term of the contract and for a period of five (5) years after the completion of this contract or until all issues or litigation are resolved, whichever is later. The Vendor shall make the Information available to the AOCPC at Vendor's place of business or a location acceptable to both Parties during normal business hours. If this is not practical or the Vendor so elects, the Vendor may provide electronic or paper copies of the Information. The AOCPC reserves the right to examine, make copies of, and take notes on any Information relevant to this contract, regardless of the form or the Information, how it is stored, or who possesses the Information. Under no circumstance will the Vendor be required to create or maintain documents not kept in the ordinary course of Vendor's business operations, nor will Vendor be required to disclose any information, including but not limited to product cost data, which is confidential or proprietary to Vendor.

The Parties shall pay their own costs of the audit unless the audit finds a previously undisclosed overpayment by the AOCPC. If a previously undisclosed overpayment exceeds [one-half of one percent] (.5%) of the total contract billings, or if fraud, material misrepresentations, or non-performance is discovered on the part of the Vendor, the Vendor shall reimburse the AOCPC for the total costs of the audit. Overpayments and audit costs owed to the AOCPC shall be paid within ninety (90) days of written notice of the claim. The Vendor agrees to correct any material weaknesses or condition found as a result of the audit.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND SCOPE OF WORK

### 1. **Background Information.**

The Nebraska Judicial Branch (Branch) is requesting proposals for the purpose of selecting a qualified bidder to provide an online legal research platform for statewide use for trial and appellate judges, law clerks, appellate court staff attorneys, Reporter of Decisions, Office of Public Guardian, and other legal or administrative staff of the Branch.

The Branch decides Nebraska state cases from all areas of the law, from initial filing through the appellate decisions. The Judicial Branch is an equal but separate Branch of state government, and its inherent authority includes statewide trial and appellate court administration, court and administrative rules, admission to the practice of law, judicial and attorney discipline, and judicial and attorney ethics. The Legislature has placed under the Judicial Branch statewide adult and juvenile probation as well as the Office of Public Guardian.

This RFP is the sole and exclusive means for prospective providers to submit their qualifications and request selection as the qualified bidder.

### 2. **Description of Services and Deliverables.** This legal research platform must provide Artificial Intelligence to analyze uploaded documents or provide legal information to the users from within its system, provide a document drafting program, and contain a robust electronic legal research platform that has an interface that is user-friendly and allows natural language legal questions, or other efficient methods to search content on the platform.

#### a. **Content**

Vendors are encouraged to describe additional categories of content believed to be relevant to the duties and authority of the Branch outlined in section 1. Specifically, the proposal must demonstrate the platform can provide.

##### **a.1. State Resources**

- Judicial decisions of all U.S. states and territories highest and intermediate appellate courts, with timely access to newly released decisions.
- State administrative decisions
- Statutes and regulations and/or court rules of all states, including session laws and superseded statutes and rules
- State constitutions
- State Attorney General opinions for all states
- Please outline what the vendor can provide for specialized Nebraska content

##### **a.2. Federal**

- U.S. Constitution, with annotations
- Federal judicial and administrative decisions, with timely access to newly released decisions
- Federal statutes and regulations
- Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, and Appellate Procedure
- Federal legislation, legislative history, bill tracking

##### **a.3. Secondary Sources**

- Law reviews, legal and business journals and periodicals
- Legal indices and treatises, including comprehensive treatises comparable to CJS and ALR
- Restatements of the Law
- Online legal dictionary with Latin and English phrases
- An unabridged English dictionary

##### **a.4. Citation verification and research tools**

- Verification comparable to Shepard's Citations or KeyCite to verify and check history and treatment of cases and statutes, identify positive or negative treatment, and ability to identify depth of treatment.
- Pinpoint citations
- Topical headnotes for each relevant proposition in all state and federal cases with ability to be organized by subject matter
- Reporter publication status of all state and federal cases

**a.5. Practice area content; secondary sources**

Including but not limited to treatises, practice guides, and/or specialized collections on all major practice areas such as:

- |                                      |                             |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Administrative Law                 | • Family Law                |
| • Antitrust and Business Regulations | • Federal Habeas Corpus     |
| • Bankruptcy                         | • Insurance Law             |
| • Commercial Law                     | • Intellectual Property Law |
| • Communication Law                  | • Labor and Employment Law  |
| • Constitutional Law                 | • Public Contracts Law      |
| • Criminal Law and Procedure         | • Real Property Law         |
| • Energy Law                         | • Securities Law            |
| • Environmental Law                  | • Tax Law                   |
| • Ethics                             | • Technology Law            |
| • Evidence, State and Federal        |                             |

**b. Functionality**

Vendor responses should outline the functions and capabilities of their research platforms. Vendors are invited to describe additional functions relevant to the Branch's duties and authority which may not be included in the following lists. Functionality should include, but is not limited to:

**b.1. AI-Powered Legal Research and Related Tools**

- AI-assisted legal research
- AI legal drafting assistance
- AI assistance with transactional and contract drafting
- AI-powered pleading and order templates
- AI-powered legal writing and editing assistance

**b.2. Search Capabilities**

- Natural language search capability
- Terms and connectors search capability
- Ability to find by citation

- Ability to filter search results by court, jurisdiction, legal area, date, relevancy, or other factors

**b.3. Access, mobile use, tools**

- Mobile friendly interface and/or application for smartphones, tables, etc.
- Ability to download PDF version of judicial opinions as it appears in a reporter
- Compatible with Window operating system
- Compatible with Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, and Mozilla Firefox
- Compatible with Microsoft Office 365
- Ability to organize and save research within the platform

**b.4. Printing, downloading, emailing**

- Unlimited printing, downloading, and emailing of documents at no additional cost

**c. Training and customer service**

As part of the contract cost, the selected vendor shall be responsible for comprehensive training of the Branch on its platform. The vendor shall provide an initial training program for new/all users during the first month of the contract at intervals agreed to by the parties. Ongoing monthly training shall be included, which may include in-person and/or online or webinar training, as well as the options for different user groups to request online training based upon roles in the Branch, different experience levels, and user needs. The vendor must have a responsive telephone/email research assistance, customer service, and technical support team during general business hours of 7 am to 6 pm.

**d. Users and contract terms**

d.1. The awarded contract must allow at least 215 user ID's and provide for ability for internal staff maintenance of user IDs, including authority for adding and deleting users.

d.2. The awarded contract will be a three-year contract with the option of two one-year extensions, with no greater than a 3% increase in price each year.

d.3. The plan must allow unlimited user access with no hourly or transactional usage or ancillary charges. For services or materials outside of the plan, the user must be notified that the service or material is outside or not included in the contract.

## VI. SOLICITATION RESPONSE INSTRUCTIONS

This section documents the requirements that should be met by bidders in preparing the Corporate Overview and Technical Response portions of the solicitation response. The solicitation Cost Sheet template should be completed by bidders and submitted as a separate attachment with their solicitation response. Bidders should identify the subdivisions of "Project Description and Scope of Work" clearly in their solicitation response; failure to do so may result in disqualification. Failure to respond to a specific requirement may be the basis for elimination from consideration during the AOCP's comparative evaluation.

Solicitation responses are due by the date and time shown in the Schedule of Events. Content requirements for the Corporate Overview and Technical Response are presented separately in the following subdivisions:

### A. SOLICITATION RESPONSE SUBMISSION

#### 1. CORPORATE OVERVIEW

The Corporate Overview section of the solicitation response should consist of the following subdivisions:

##### a. BIDDER IDENTIFICATION AND INFORMATION

The bidder should provide the full company or corporate name, address of the company's headquarters, entity organization (corporation, partnership, proprietorship), state in which the bidder is incorporated or otherwise organized to do business, year in which the bidder first organized to do business and whether the name and form of organization has changed since first organized.

##### b. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The bidder should provide financial statements applicable to the firm. If publicly held, the bidder should provide a copy of the corporation's most recent audited financial reports and statements, and the name, address, and telephone number of the fiscally responsible representative of the bidder's financial or banking organization.

If the bidder is not a publicly held corporation, either the reports and statements required of a publicly held corporation, or a description of the organization, including size, longevity, client base, areas of specialization and expertise, and any other pertinent information, should be submitted in such a manner that solicitation evaluators may reasonably formulate a determination about the stability and financial strength of the organization. Additionally, a non-publicly held firm should provide a banking reference.

The bidder must disclose any and all judgments, pending or expected litigation, or other real or potential financial reversals, which might materially affect the viability or stability of the organization, or state that no such condition is known to exist.

The AOCP may elect to use a third party to conduct credit checks as part of the corporate overview evaluation.

##### c. CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP

If any change in ownership or control of the company is anticipated during the twelve (12) months following the solicitation response due date, the bidder should describe the circumstances of such change and indicate when the change will likely occur. Any change of ownership to an awarded bidder(s) will require notification to the AOCP.

##### d. OFFICE LOCATION

The bidder's office location responsible for performance pursuant to an award of a contract with the State of Nebraska should be identified.

##### e. RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE STATE

The bidder should describe any dealings with the State over the previous five (5) years. If the organization, its predecessor, or any Party named in the bidder's solicitation response has contracted with the State, the bidder should identify the contract number(s) and/or any other information available to identify such contract(s). If no such contracts exist, so declare.

##### f. BIDDER'S EMPLOYEE RELATIONS TO STATE

If any Party named in the bidder's solicitation response is or was an employee of the State within the past twelve (12) months, identify the individual(s) by name, State agency with whom employed, job title or position held with the State, and separation date. If no such relationship exists or has existed, so declare.

If any employee of any agency of the State of Nebraska is employed by the bidder or is a subcontractor to the bidder, as of the due date for solicitation response submission, identify all such persons by name, position held with the bidder, and position held with the State (including job title and agency). Describe the responsibilities of such persons within the proposing organization. If, after review of this information by the State, it is determined that a conflict of interest exists or may exist, the bidder may be disqualified from further consideration in this solicitation. If no such relationship exists, so declare.

**g. CONTRACT PERFORMANCE**

If the bidder or any proposed subcontractor has had a contract terminated for default during the past five (5) years, all such instances must be described as required below. Termination for default is defined as a notice to stop performance delivery due to the bidder's non-performance or poor performance, and the issue was either not litigated due to inaction on the part of the bidder or litigated and such litigation determined the bidder to be in default.

It is mandatory that the bidder submit full details of all termination for default experienced during the past (five) (5) years, including the other Party's name, address, and telephone number. The response to this section must present the bidder's position on the matter. The AOCPC will evaluate the facts and will score the bidder's solicitation response accordingly. If no such termination for default has been experienced by the bidder in the past (five) (5) years, so declare.

If at any time during the past (five) (5) years, the bidder has had a contract terminated for convenience, non-performance, non-allocation of funds, or any other reason, describe fully all circumstances surrounding such termination, including the name and address of the other contracting Party.

**h. SUMMARY OF BIDDER'S CORPORATE EXPERIENCE**

The bidder should provide a summary matrix listing the bidder's previous projects similar to this Solicitation in size, scope, and complexity. The AOCPC will use no more than three (3) narrative project descriptions submitted by the bidder during its evaluation of the solicitation response.

The bidder should address the following:

- i. Provide narrative descriptions to highlight the similarities between the bidder's experience and this Solicitation. These descriptions should include:
  - a) The time period of the project,
  - b) The scheduled and actual completion dates,
  - c) The bidder's responsibilities,
  - d) For reference purposes, a customer name (including the name of a contact person, a current telephone number, a facsimile number, and e-mail address); and
  - e) Each project description should identify whether the work was performed as the prime Vendor or as a subcontractor. If a bidder performed as the prime Vendor, the description should provide the originally scheduled completion date and budget, as well as the actual (or currently planned) completion date and actual (or currently planned) budget.
- ii. Bidder and Subcontractor(s) experience should be listed separately. Narrative descriptions submitted for Subcontractors should be specifically identified as subcontractor projects.
- iii. If the work was performed as a subcontractor, the narrative description should identify the same information as requested for the bidders above. In addition, subcontractors should identify what share of contract costs, project responsibilities, and time period were performed as a subcontractor.

**i. SUMMARY OF BIDDER'S PROPOSED PERSONNEL/MANAGEMENT APPROACH**

The bidder should present a detailed description of its proposed approach to the management of the project.

The bidder should identify the specific professionals who will work on the AOCPC's project if their company is awarded the contract resulting from this Solicitation. The names and titles of the team proposed for assignment to the AOCPC project should be identified in full, with a description of the

team leadership, interface, and support functions, and reporting relationships. The primary work assigned to each person should also be identified.

The bidder should provide resumes for all personnel proposed by the bidder to work on the project. The AOCP will consider the resumes as a key indicator of the bidder's understanding of the skill mixes required to carry out the requirements of the Solicitation in addition to assessing the experience of specific individuals.

Resumes should not be longer than three (3) pages. Resumes should include, at a minimum, academic background and degrees, professional certifications, understanding of the process, and at least three (3) references (name, address, and telephone number) who can attest to the competence and skill level of the individual. Any changes in proposed personnel shall only be implemented after written approval from the AOCP.

**j. SUBCONTRACTORS**

If the bidder intends to subcontract any part of its performance hereunder, the bidder should provide:

- i.** name, address, and telephone number of the subcontractor(s),
- ii.** specific tasks for each subcontractor(s),
- iii.** percentage of performance hours intended for each subcontract; and
- iv.** total percentage of subcontractor(s) performance hours.

**2. TECHNICAL RESPONSE**

The Technical Response section of the solicitation response should consist of the following subsections:

- a.** Understanding of the project requirements;
- b.** Technical requirements;
- c.** Deliverables and due dates.

## CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT FORM

### BIDDER MUST COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING

By signing this Contractual Agreement Form, the bidder guarantees compliance with the provisions stated in this solicitation and agrees to the terms and conditions unless otherwise indicated in writing and certifies that bidder is not owned by the Chinese Communist Party.

Per Nebraska’s Transparency in Government Procurement Act, Neb. Rev Stat § 73-603, DAS is required to collect statistical information regarding the number of contracts awarded to Nebraska Vendors. This information is for statistical purposes only and will not be considered for contract award purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_ NEBRASKA VENDOR AFFIDAVIT: Bidder hereby attests that bidder is a Nebraska Vendor. “Nebraska Vendor” shall mean any bidder who has maintained a bona fide place of business and at least one employee within this state for at least the six (6) months immediately preceding the posting date of this Solicitation. All vendors who are not a Nebraska Vendor are considered Foreign Vendors under Neb. Rev Stat § 73-603 (c).

\_\_\_\_\_ I hereby certify that I am a Resident disabled veteran or business located in a designated enterprise zone in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 73-107 and wish to have preference, if applicable, considered in the award of this contract.

\_\_\_\_\_ I hereby certify that I am a blind person licensed by the Commission for the Blind & Visually Impaired in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-8611 and wish to have preference considered in the award of this contract.

### THIS FORM MUST BE SIGNED MANUALLY IN INK

COMPANY:	
ADDRESS:	
PHONE:	
EMAIL:	
BIDDER NAME & TITLE:	
SIGNATURE:	
DATE:	

VENDOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE STATE CONTACT INFORMATION (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE)	
NAME:	
TITLE:	
PHONE:	
EMAIL:	