



RFP No: 4350

INVITATION: Proposals, subject to the attached conditions, will be received at this office until December 21, 2023 @ 3:00 p.m. Central Time for the acquisition of the products/services described below for Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services.

Security Risk Assessment Services

VENDOR WEB CONFERENCE: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.
Central Time

The Vendor must submit proposals and direct inquiries to:

Solicitations Team
Information Technology Services
3771 Eastwood Drive
Jackson, MS 39211
RFP@its.ms.gov

To prevent opening by unauthorized individuals, the proposal must be sealed in an envelope/package. The following must be clearly typed on a label affixed to the package in a clearly visible location:

PROPOSAL, SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO
RFP No. 4350
December 21, 2023 @ 3:00 p.m. Central Time
ATTENTION: Solicitations Team

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Johnson".

David C. Johnson
Executive Director, ITS

ITS RFP Response Checklist

RFP Response Checklist: These items should be included in your response to RFP No. 4350.

- 1) One USB flash drive that includes the Vendor's complete proposal. Label the USB with the Vendor name and RFP number. Include the items listed below on the USB.
- 2) *Submission Cover Sheet*, signed and dated (Section I)
- 3) *Proposal Bond*, if applicable (Section I)
- 4) *Proposal Exception Summary*, if applicable (Section V)
- 5) Vendor response to *RFP Questionnaire* (Section VI)
- 6) Point-by-point response to *Technical Specifications* (Section VII)
- 7) Vendor response to *Cost Information Submission* (Section VIII)
- 8) *References* (Section IX)
- 9) Point-by-point response to Functional and Technical Specifications (Attachment A)
- 10) Point-by-point response to Attachments AI, AII, AIII, or AIV (Technical Specifications – Requirements Matrix, Cost Submission, and Scoring Methodology tabs. AIV – include Appendix A tab.)

Table of Contents

SECTION I.....	4
SUBMISSION COVER SHEET & CONFIGURATION SUMMARY	4
SECTION II.....	6
PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS.....	6
SECTION III.....	9
VENDOR INFORMATION.....	9
SECTION IV	13
LEGAL AND CONTRACTUAL INFORMATION.....	13
SECTION V	23
PROPOSAL EXCEPTIONS.....	23
SECTION VI	26
RFP QUESTIONNAIRE	26
SECTION VII	29
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS	29
SECTION VIII	36
COST INFORMATION SUBMISSION	36
SECTION IX	37
REFERENCES	37
REFERENCE FORM	39
SUBCONTRACTOR REFERENCE FORM	40
EXHIBIT A	41
STANDARD CONTRACT.....	41
EXHIBIT B	58
CERTIFICATION OF DESTRUCTION.....	58
EXHIBIT C.....	59
Federal Terms and Conditions:.....	59
ATTACHMENT A.....	71
REQUIREMENTS MATRICES.....	71

**SECTION I
SUBMISSION COVER SHEET & CONFIGURATION SUMMARY**

Provide the following information regarding the person responsible for the completion of your proposal. This person should also be the person the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services, (ITS), should contact for questions and/or clarifications.

Name	_____	Phone #	_____
Address	_____	Fax #	_____
	_____	Email	_____

Subject to acceptance by ITS, the Vendor acknowledges that by submitting a proposal AND signing in the space indicated below, the Vendor is contractually obligated to comply with all items in this Request for Proposal (RFP), including the Standard Contract in Exhibit A if included herein, except those listed as exceptions on the Proposal Exception Summary Form. If no *Proposal Exception Summary Form* is included, the Vendor is indicating that he takes no exceptions. This acknowledgement also contractually obligates any and all subcontractors that may be proposed. Vendors who sign below may not later take exception to any point during contract negotiations. The Vendor further certifies that the company represented here is an authorized dealer in good standing of the products/services included in this proposal.

Original Signature of Officer in Bind of Company Date

Name (typed or printed) _____
Title _____
Company name _____
Physical address _____

State of Incorporation _____

CONFIGURATION SUMMARY

The Vendor must provide a summary of the main components of products/services offered in this proposal using 100 words or less.

PROPOSAL BONDS

A Proposal Bond is not required for this procurement.

SECTION II PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The objective of the Proposal Submission Requirements section is to provide Vendors with the information required to submit a response to this Request for Proposal (RFP). A Vendor who has responded to previous RFPs issued by ITS should not assume that the requirements are the same, as changes may have been made.

1. Failure to follow any instruction within this RFP may, at the State's sole discretion, result in the disqualification of the Vendor's proposal.
2. The State has no obligation to locate or acknowledge any information in the Vendor's proposal that is not presented under the appropriate outline according to these instructions and in the proper location.
3. The Vendor's proposal must be received, in writing, by the office of ITS by the date and time specified. ITS is not responsible for any delays in delivery or expenses for the development or delivery of proposals. Any proposal received after proposal opening time will be returned unopened. Any proposal received with insufficient postage will be returned unopened.
4. Proposals or alterations by fax, e-mail, or phone will not be accepted.
5. Original signatures in blue ink are required on the Submission Cover Sheet and Configuration Summary. The Vendor must include the Proposal Bond within the proposal package, (if explicitly required in Section IV).
6. ITS reserves the right to reject any proposals, including those with exceptions, prior to and at any time during negotiations.
7. ITS reserves the right to waive any defect or irregularity in any proposal procedure.
8. The Vendor may intersperse their response following each RFP specification but must not otherwise alter or rekey any of the original text of this RFP. If the State determines that the Vendor has altered any language in the original RFP, the State may, in its sole discretion, disqualify the Vendor from further consideration. The RFP issued by ITS is the official version and will supersede any conflicting RFP language submitted by the Vendor.
9. The Vendor must conform to the following standards in the preparation of the Vendor's proposal:
 - 9.1 The Vendor is required to submit one response of the complete proposal, including all sections and exhibits, on a USB flash drive. Vendor's documents must be submitted in Microsoft Office 2010 or higher format and/or PDF format, as appropriate. If PDF format is submitted, the file must be searchable.
 - 9.2 To prevent opening by unauthorized individuals, the proposal must be sealed in a package/envelope. A label containing the information on the RFP cover page must be clearly typed and affixed to the package in a clearly visible location.

- 9.3 Number each page of the proposal.
 - 9.4 Respond to the sections and exhibits in the same order as this RFP.
 - 9.5 Label the file names of each section and exhibit, using the corresponding headings from the RFP.
 - 9.6 If the Vendor does not agree with any item in any section, then the Vendor must list the item on the *Proposal Exception Summary Form*. (See Section V for additional instructions regarding Vendor exceptions.)
 - 9.7 Occasionally, an outline point in an attachment requests information which is not applicable to the products/services proposed. If the Vendor is certain the point does not apply to the given RFP, the Vendor should respond with "NOT APPLICABLE."
 - 9.8 Where an outline point asks a question or requests information, the Vendor must respond with the specific answer or information requested.
 - 9.9 When an outline point/attachment is a statement provided for the Vendor's information only, the Vendor need only read that point. The Vendor acknowledges having read and accepting, or taking exception to, all sections by signing the *Submission Cover Sheet* and providing a *Proposal Exception Summary Form*.
 - 9.10 Where a minimum requirement has been identified, respond by stating the item (e.g., device name/model number, guaranteed response time) proposed and how it will meet the specifications.
 - 9.11 The Vendor must fully respond to each requirement within the *Technical Specifications* by fully describing the manner and degree by which the proposal meets or exceeds said requirements.
10. It is the responsibility of the Vendor to clearly identify all costs associated with any item or series of items in this RFP. The Vendor must include and complete all parts of the cost proposal in a clear and accurate manner. **Omissions, errors, misrepresentations, or inadequate details in the Vendor's cost proposal may be grounds for rejection of the Vendor's proposal. Costs that are not clearly identified will be borne by the Vendor.** The Vendor must complete the *Cost Information Submission* in this RFP, which outlines the minimum requirements for providing cost information. The Vendor should supply supporting details as described in the *Cost Information Submission*.
 11. ITS reserves the right to request additional information or clarification of a Vendor's proposal. The Vendor's cooperation during the evaluation process in providing ITS staff with adequate responses to requests for clarification will be considered a factor in the evaluation of the Vendor's overall responsiveness. Lack of such cooperation or failure to provide the information in the manner required may, at the State's discretion, result in the disqualification of the Vendor's proposal.
 12. Unsolicited clarifications and updates submitted after the deadline for proposals will be accepted or rejected at the sole discretion of ITS.

13. Unsolicited clarifications in the evaluation and selection of lowest and best proposal will be considered only if all the following conditions are met:
 - 13.1 A clarification to a proposal that includes a newly announced product line or service with equal or additional capability to be provided at or less than the proposed price will be considered.
 - 13.2 Information provided must be in effect nationally and have been formally and publicly announced through a news medium that the Vendor normally uses to convey customer information.
 - 13.3 Clarifications must be received early enough in the evaluation process to allow adequate time for re-evaluation.
 - 13.4 The Vendor must follow procedures outlined herein for submitting updates and clarifications.
 - 13.5 The Vendor must submit a statement outlining the circumstances for the clarification.
 - 13.6 The Vendor must submit unsolicited clarifications via USB in the same manner as detailed in Item 9 above.
 - 13.7 The Vendor must be specific about which part of the original proposal is being changed by the clarification (i.e., must include exact RFP reference to section and outline point).
14. **Communications with State**

From the issue date of this RFP until a Vendor is selected and the selection is announced, responding Vendors or their representatives may not communicate, either orally or in writing regarding this RFP with any statewide elected official, state officer or employee, member of the legislature or legislative employee except as noted herein. To ensure equal treatment for each responding Vendor, all questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to the State's contact person for the selection process, and not later than the last date for accepting responding Vendor questions provided in this RFP. All such questions will be answered officially by the State in writing. All such questions and answers will become addenda to this RFP, and they will be posted to the ITS web site. Vendors failing to comply with this requirement will be subject to disqualification.

 - 14.1 The State's contact for the selection process is: Solicitations Team, 3771 Eastwood Drive, Jackson, MS 39211, RFP@its.ms.gov.
 - 14.2 Vendor may consult with State representatives as designated by the State's contact person identified in 14.1 above in response to State-initiated inquiries. Vendor may consult with State representatives during scheduled oral presentations and demonstrations excluding site visits.

SECTION III VENDOR INFORMATION

The objective of the Vendor Information section of this RFP is to provide Vendors with information required to respond to the RFP successfully.

1. **Interchangeable Designations**

The terms "Vendor" and "Contractor" are referenced throughout this RFP. Generally, references to the "Vendor" are used in conjunction with the proposing organization and procurement process leading up to the final RFP selection and award. The term "Contractor" denotes the role assumed, post-award, by the winning Vendor. Additionally, the terms "State of Mississippi," "State" or "ITS" may be used interchangeably throughout this RFP to denote the political entity issuing the RFP and requesting responses from Vendors throughout these specifications. References to a specific agency, institution or other political entity represent the client or customer on whose behalf ITS is issuing the RFP.

2. **Vendor's Responsibility to Examine RFP**

Vendors must examine all documents, forms, specifications, standard provisions, and instructions.

3. **Proposal as Property of State**

All written proposal material becomes the property of the State of Mississippi.

4. **Written Amendment to RFP**

Any interpretation of an ITS RFP will be made by written amendment only. The State will not be responsible for any other explanation of this RFP. A copy of any amendment will be posted on the ITS website, together with the associated RFP specification. Vendors are required to check the ITS website periodically for RFP amendments before the proposal opening date at:

<https://www.its.ms.gov/procurement/rfps-and-sole-sources>

Any and all amendments will be posted no later than noon, seven days prior to the proposal opening date listed on the cover page of this RFP. If you are unable to access the ITS website, you may contact the ITS technology consultant listed on page one of this RFP and request a copy.

5. **Oral Communications Not Binding**

Only transactions which are in writing from ITS may be considered official. No negotiations, decisions, or actions shall be executed by any Vendor as a result of any discussions with any State employee.

6. **Vendor's Responsibility for Delivery**

Vendors must ensure, through reasonable and sufficient follow-up, proper compliance with, and fulfillment of all schedules and deliverables specified within the body of this RFP. The State will not be responsible for the failure of any delivery medium for submission of information to or from the Vendor, including but not limited to, public and private carriers, U.S. mail, Internet Service Providers, facsimile, or e-mail.

7. **Evaluation Criteria**
The State's intent in issuing this RFP is to award a contract to the lowest and best responsive Vendor who meets specifications, considering price and other factors. The Vendor's past performance, cooperation, and ability to provide service and training are general factors that will be weighed in the selection process. More specific information concerning evaluation criteria is presented in *Technical Specifications*.
8. **Multiple Awards**
ITS reserves the right to make multiple awards.
9. **Right to Award in Whole or Part**
ITS reserves the right to approve an award by individual items or in total, whichever is deemed to be in the best interest of the State of Mississippi.
10. **Right to Use Proposals in Future Projects**
The State reserves the right to evaluate the awarded proposal from this RFP, including all products and services proposed therein, along with the resulting contractual terms, for possible use in future projects if (a) it is deemed to be in the best interest of the State to do so; and (b) the Vendor is willing to extend a cost less than or equal to that specified in the awarded proposal and resulting contract. A decision concerning the utilization of a Vendor's proposal for future projects is solely at the discretion of the State and requires the agreement of the proposing Vendor. The State's decision to reuse an awarded proposal will be based upon such criteria as: (1) the customer's business requirements; (2) elapsed time since the award of the original project; and/or (3) research on changes in the Vendor, market, and technical environments since the initial award.
11. **Right to Use Proposals in Future Projects by Entities Outside Mississippi**
The State reserves the right to offer the awarded proposal from this RFP, including all products and services proposed therein, along with the resulting contractual terms, for possible use in future projects by governmental entities outside Mississippi (i.e., "piggyback option"), if (a) it is deemed to be in the best interest of the governmental entity desiring to do so; and (b) the Vendor is willing to extend a cost less than or equal to that specified in the awarded proposal and resulting contract. A decision concerning the utilization of a Vendor's proposal for future projects outside Mississippi is solely at the discretion of the State, and requires the desire of the governmental entity outside Mississippi and the agreement of the proposing Vendor. The State's decision to consent to the reuse of an awarded proposal outside Mississippi will be based upon such criteria as: (1) the governmental entity's business requirements; (2) elapsed time since the award of the original project; and/or (3) research on changes in the Vendor, market, and technical environments since the initial award.
12. **Price Changes During Award or Renewal Period**
A price increase will not be accepted during the award period or the renewal period, unless stipulated in the contract. However, the State will always take advantage of price decreases.
13. **Right to Request Information**
The State reserves the right to request information relative to a Vendor's references and financial status and to visit a Vendor's facilities during normal working hours. The State also reserves the right to request a current financial statement, prepared and certified by

an independent auditing firm, and reserves the right to require that Vendors document their financial ability to provide the products and services proposed up to the total dollar amount of the Vendor's cost proposal. The State reserves the right to request information about the Vendor from any previous customer of the Vendor of whom the State is aware, even if that customer is not included in the Vendor's list of references.

14. **Vendor Personnel**

For RFPs including professional services specifications, the Vendor will be required to provide and/or certify the following for each individual included in the Vendor's proposal:

- 14.1 A direct telephone number at which the individual may be contacted for a telephone interview. The State will pay toll charges in the continental United States. The Vendor must arrange a toll-free number for all other calls.
- 14.2 That, if onsite interviews are required, the individual can be at the specified location in Mississippi within the timeframe specified. All costs associated with onsite interviews will be the responsibility of the Vendor.
- 14.3 That the individual is proficient in spoken and written English.
- 14.4 That the individual is a U.S. citizen or that the individual meets and will maintain employment eligibility requirements in compliance with all United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) regulations. The Vendor must provide evidence of identification and employment eligibility prior to the award of a contract that includes any personnel who are not U. S. citizens.
- 14.5 That the personnel assigned to a project will remain a part of the project throughout the duration of the contract as long as the personnel are employed by the Vendor, unless replaced by the Vendor at the request of the State. This requirement includes the responsibility for ensuring all non-citizens maintain current USCIS eligibility throughout the duration of the contract.

15. **Vendor Imposed Constraints**

The Vendor must specifically document what limitations, if any, exist in working with any other Contractor acting in the capacity of the State's business partner, subcontractor or agent who may be managing any present or future projects; performing quality assurance; integrating the Vendor's software; and/or providing web-hosting, hardware, networking or other processing services on the State's behalf. The project relationship may be based on roles as either equal peers; supervisory – subordinate; or subordinate – supervisory, as determined by the State. The State recognizes that the Vendor may have trade secrets, intellectual property and/or business relationships that may be subject to its corporate policies or agreements. The State must understand these issues in order to decide to what degree they may impact the State's ability to conduct business for this project. These considerations will be incorporated accordingly into the proposal evaluation and selection process. The understanding reached between the Vendor and the State with regard to this business relationship precludes the Vendor from imposing any subsequent limitations of this type in future project undertakings by the State.

16. **Best and Final Offer**

The State reserves the right to solicit Best and Final Offers (BAFOs) from Vendors, principally in situations in which proposal costs eclipse available funding or the State believes none of the competing proposals presents a Best Value (lowest and best proposal) opportunity. Because of the time and expense incurred by both the Vendor community and the State, BAFOs are not routinely conducted. Vendors should offer their best pricing with the initial solicitation. Situations warranting solicitation of a BAFO will be considered an exceptional practice for any procurement. Vendors that remain in a competitive range within an evaluation may be requested to tender Best and Final Offers, at the sole discretion of the State. All such Vendors will be provided an equal opportunity to respond with a Best and Final Offer under a procedure to be defined by the State that encompasses the specific, refined needs of a project, as part of the BAFO solicitation. The State may re-evaluate and amend the original project specifications should it be deemed necessary in order to improve the opportunity for attaining Best Value scenarios from among the remaining competing Vendors. All BAFO proceedings will be uniformly conducted, in writing and subject to solicitation by the State and receipt from the Vendors under a precise schedule.

17. **Restriction on Advertising**

The Vendor must receive written approval from the State before advertising or referencing the award of the contract or the services being provided. The Vendor must agree not to refer to awards in commercial advertising in such a manner as to state or imply that the firm or its services are endorsed or preferred by the State of Mississippi.

18. **Rights Reserved to Use Existing Product Contracts**

The State reserves the right on turnkey projects to secure certain products from other existing ITS contracts if it is in its best interest to do so. If this option is exercised, then the awarded Vendor must be willing to integrate the acquisition and implementation of such products within the schedule and system under contract.

19. **Additional Information to be Included**

In addition to answering each specification within this RFP, the Vendor must include complete product/service information, including product pictorials and technical/descriptive literature relative to any product/service offered with the proposal. Information submitted must be sufficiently detailed to substantiate that the products/services offered meet or exceed specifications.

20. **Valid Contract Required to Begin Work**

The successful Vendor should not commence any billable work until a valid contract has been executed. Any work done by the successful Vendor prior to the execution of the contract is done at the Vendor's sole risk. The State is under no obligation to pay for work done prior to the execution of a contract.

SECTION IV LEGAL AND CONTRACTUAL INFORMATION

The objective of the *Legal and Contractual Information* section is to provide Vendors with information required to complete a contract or agreement with ITS successfully.

1. **Acknowledgment Precludes Later Exception**

By signing the *Submission Cover Sheet*, the Vendor is contractually obligated to comply with all items in this RFP, including the *Standard Contract* in Exhibit A if included herein, except those specifically listed as exceptions on the *Proposal Exception Summary Form*. If no *Proposal Exception Summary Form* is included, the Vendor is indicating that he takes no exceptions. Vendors who respond to this RFP by signing the *Submission Cover Sheet* may not later take exception to any item in the RFP during contract negotiations. This acknowledgement also contractually obligates any and all subcontractors that may be proposed. No exceptions by subcontractors or separate terms and conditions will be entertained after the fact.
2. **Failure to Respond as Prescribed**

Failure to respond as described in Section II: *Proposal Submission Requirements* to any item in the sections and exhibits of this RFP, including the *Standard Contract* attached as Exhibit A, if applicable, shall contractually obligate the Vendor to comply with that item.
3. **Contract Documents**

ITS will be responsible for all document creation and editorial control over all contractual documentation related to each procurement project. The following documents will normally be included in all contracts between ITS and the Vendor:

 - 3.1 The Proposal Exception Summary Form as accepted by ITS;
 - 3.2 Contracts which have been signed by the Vendor and ITS;
 - 3.3 ITS' Request for Proposal, including all addenda;
 - 3.4 Official written correspondence from ITS to the Vendor;
 - 3.5 Official written correspondence from the Vendor to ITS when clarifying the Vendor's proposal; and
 - 3.6 The Vendor's proposal response to the ITS RFP.
4. **Order of Precedence**

When a conflict arises regarding contract intent due to conflicting statements in documents included in the contract, the order of precedence of each document is as listed above unless modification of order is negotiated and agreed upon by both ITS and the winning Vendor.
5. **Additional Contract Provisions**

The contract will also include such additional provisions, which are not inconsistent or incompatible with the material terms of this RFP, as may be agreed upon by the parties. All of the foregoing shall be in such form and substance as prescribed by the State.

6. Contracting Agent by Law

The Executive Director of ITS is, by law, the purchasing and contracting agent for the State of Mississippi in the negotiation and execution of all contracts for the acquisition of computer and telecommunications equipment, systems, software, and services (Section 25-53-1, et seq., of the Mississippi Code Annotated). ITS is issuing this RFP on behalf of the procuring agency or institution. ITS and the procuring agency or institution are sometimes collectively referred to within this RFP as "State".

7. Legal Provisions

7.1 The State of Mississippi is self-insured; all requirements for the purchase of casualty or liability insurance are deleted.

7.2 Any provisions disclaiming implied warranties shall be null and void. See Mississippi Code Annotated Sections 11-7-18 and 75-2-719(4). The Vendor shall not disclaim the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose.

7.3 Pursuant to Mississippi Code Annotated Section 25-53-21(e), the Executive Director of ITS may negotiate a limitation on the liability to the State of prospective contractors provided such limitations afford the State reasonable protection and the limitation is approved by the State entity for whom the acquisition is being made. A Vendor who wishes to negotiate a limitation to their liability to the State under this RFP must provide a proposed limitation of liability in their response at the time of submission for the State's consideration. However, the Vendor shall have no limitation on liability for claims related to the following items:

7.3.1 Infringement issues;

7.3.2 Bodily injury;

7.3.3 Death;

7.3.4 Physical damage to tangible personal and/or real property; and/or

7.3.5 The intentional and willful misconduct or negligent acts of the Vendor and/or Vendor's employees or subcontractors.

7.4 All requirements that the State pay interest (other than in connection with lease-purchase contracts not exceeding five years) are deleted.

7.5 Any contract negotiated under this RFP will be governed by and construed according to the laws of the State of Mississippi. Venue for the resolution of any dispute shall be Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi.

7.6 Any contract negotiated under this RFP is cancelable in the event the funding authority does not appropriate funds. Notice requirements to Vendor cannot exceed sixty (60) days.

7.7 The State of Mississippi does not waive its sovereign immunities or defenses as provided by law by entering into this contract with the Vendor, Vendor agents, subcontractors, or assignees.

- 7.8 The State will deliver payments to the Vendor within forty-five (45) days after receipt of invoice and receipt, inspection, and approval of Vendor's products/services. No late charges will exceed 1.5% per month on any unpaid balance from the expiration of said period until payment is delivered. See Section 31-7-305 of the Mississippi Code Annotated. Seller understands and agrees that Purchaser is exempt from the payment of taxes.
- 7.9 The State shall not pay any attorney's fees, prejudgment interest or the cost of legal action to or for the Vendor.
- 7.10 The State shall not propose any prohibited technology as defined in the law (a) "Prohibited technology" means any information technology deemed to pose an unacceptable risk to the security of the United States and/or the State of Mississippi by Mississippi and/or federal law, regulation, or guidance.
8. **Approved Contract**
- 8.1 Award of Contract - A contract is considered to be awarded to a proposer once the proposer's offering has been approved as lowest and best proposal through:
- 8.1.1 Written notification made to proposers on ITS letterhead, or
 - 8.1.2 Notification posted to the ITS website for the project, or
 - 8.1.3 CP-1 authorization executed for the project, or
 - 8.1.4 The ITS Board's approval of same during an open session of the Board.
- 8.2 ITS statute specifies whether ITS Director approval or ITS Board approval is applicable for a given project, depending on the total lifecycle cost of the contract.
- 8.3 A contract is not deemed final until five (5) working days after either the award of contract or post procurement review, as stipulated in the ITS Protest Procedure and Policy. In the event of a valid protest, the State may, at its sole discretion, continue the procurement or stay the procurement in accordance with the ITS Protest Procedure and Policy. If the procurement is stayed, the contract is not deemed final until the protest is resolved.
9. **Contract Validity**
All contracts are valid only if signed by the Executive Director of ITS.
10. **Order of Contract Execution**
Vendors will be required to sign contracts and to initial all contract changes before the Executive Director of ITS signs.
11. **Availability of Funds**
All contracts are subject to availability of funds of the acquiring State entity and are contingent upon receipt by the winning Vendor of a purchase order from the acquiring State entity.

12. **CP-1 Requirement**

All purchase orders issued for goods and services acquired from the awarded Vendor under this RFP must be encoded by the Customer agency with a CP-1 approval number assigned by ITS. This requirement does not apply to acquisitions that by policy have been delegated to State entities.

13. **Requirement for Electronic Payment and Invoicing**

13.1 Payments to the awarded Vendor for all goods and services acquired under this RFP by state agencies that make payments through the Mississippi State Government's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution ("MAGIC") will be made electronically, via deposit to the bank account of the Vendor's choice. The awarded Vendor must enroll and be activated in PayMode™, the State's current vehicle for sending and receiving electronic payments, prior to receiving any payments from state agencies. There is no charge for a Vendor to enroll or receive payments via PayMode. For additional information on PayMode, including registration instructions, Vendors should visit the following website: <http://portal.paymode.com/ms/>. Vendors may also request assistance from the Mississippi Management and Reporting System (MMRS) Call Center regarding PayMode registration by contacting mash@dfa.ms.gov.

13.2 For state agencies that make payments through MAGIC, the awarded Vendor is required to submit electronically all invoices for goods and services acquired under this RFP, along with appropriate supporting documentation, as directed by the State.

13.3 Items 13.1 and 13.2 only apply to state agencies that make payments through MAGIC. Payments and invoices for all other entities will conform to their standard methods of payment to contractors.

14. **Time For Negotiations**

14.1 All contractual issues must be successfully negotiated within fifteen (15) working days from the Vendor's initial receipt of the project contract from ITS, unless ITS consents to extend the period. Failure to complete negotiations within the stated time period constitutes grounds for rejection of the Vendor's response to this RFP. ITS may withdraw the proposal award and begin negotiations with the next ranked Vendor immediately or pursue any other option.

14.2 Negotiations shall be limited to items to which the Vendor has noted as exceptions on their *Proposal Exception Summary Form*, as well as any new items that the State may require. All contract changes requested by the Vendor related to such exceptions noted in Vendor's proposal shall be submitted three (3) working days prior to scheduled negotiations, unless ITS consents to a different period.

15. **Prime Contractor**

The selected Vendor will be designated the prime contractor in the proposal, and as such, shall be solely responsible for all products/services offered in the proposal and for the fulfillment of the contract with the State.

16. **Sole Point of Contact**

ITS will consider the selected Vendor to be the sole point of contact with regard to contractual matters, including payment of any and all charges resulting from the contract.

16.1 The Vendor must acknowledge and agree that in matters of proposals, clarifications, negotiations, contracts, and resolution of issues and/or disputes, the Vendor represents all contractors, third parties and/or subcontractors the Vendor has assembled for this project. The Vendor's commitments are binding on all such parties and consequently the State is only required to negotiate with the Vendor.

16.2 Furthermore, the Vendor acknowledges and agrees to pass all rights and/or services related to all general consulting, services leasing, software licensing, warranties, hardware maintenance and/or software support to the State from any contractor, third party or subcontractor without the State having to negotiate separately or individually with any such parties for these terms or conditions.

16.3 Should a proposing Vendor wish to assign payment of any or all charges resulting from this contract to a third party, Vendor must disclose that fact in his/her proposal, along with the third party's name, address, nature of business, and relationship to the proposing Vendor, the reason for and purpose of the assignment, and all conditions of the assignment, including but not limited to a copy of an assignment document to be executed by the State, the Vendor, and the third party. Such assignments will be accepted or rejected at the sole discretion of the State. Vendor must clearly and definitively state in his/her proposal whether the proposal is contingent upon the requested assignment of payments. Whenever any assignment of payment is requested, the proposal, contract, and assignment document must include language specifically guaranteeing that the proposing Vendor is solely and fully liable and responsible for the performance of its obligations under the subject contract. No assignment of payment will be considered at the time of purchase unless such assignment was fully disclosed in the Vendor's proposal and subsequently accepted by the State.

17. **ITS Approval of Subcontractor Required**

Unless provided in the contract, the Vendor shall not contract with any other party for furnishing any of the contracted work or services without the consent, guidance, and written approval of the State. ITS reserves the right of refusal and the right to request replacement of a subcontractor due to unacceptable work or conduct. This provision should not be interpreted as requiring the approval of individual contracts of employment between the Vendor and personnel assigned for services under the contract.

18. **Inclusion of Subcontract Agreements**

Copies of any agreements to be executed between the Vendor and any subcontractors must be included in the Vendor's proposal.

19. **Negotiations with Subcontractor**

In order to protect the State's interest, ITS reserves the right to attempt to resolve the contractual disagreements that may arise between the Vendor and its subcontractor after award of the contract.

20. **References to Vendor to Include Subcontractor**
All references in the RFP to "Vendor" shall be construed to encompass both the Vendor and its subcontractors.
21. **Outstanding Vendor Obligations**
- 21.1 Any Vendor who presently owes the State of Mississippi money pursuant to any contract for which ITS is the contracting agent and who has received written notification from ITS regarding the monies owed, must submit, with the proposal, a certified check in the amount due and owing in order for the proposal in response to this RFP to be considered. For a Vendor currently in bankruptcy as of the RFP submission date, this requirement is met, if and only if, ITS has an active petition before the appropriate bankruptcy court for recovery of the full dollar amount presently owed to the State of Mississippi by that Vendor. If the Vendor has emerged from bankruptcy by the RFP submission date, the Vendor must pay in full any amount due and owing to the State, as directed in the court-approved reorganization plan, prior to any proposal being considered.
- 21.2 Any Vendor who is presently in default on existing contracts for which ITS is the contracting agent, or who otherwise is delinquent in the performance of any such contracted obligations, is in the sole judgment of the State required to make arrangement for fulfilling outstanding obligations to the satisfaction of the State in order for the proposal to be considered.
- 21.3 The State, at its sole discretion, may reject the proposal of a Vendor with any significant outstanding financial or other obligations to the State or who is in bankruptcy at the time of proposal submission.
22. **Equipment Condition**
For all RFPs requiring equipment, the Vendor must furnish only new equipment in response to ITS specifications, unless an explicit requirement for used equipment is otherwise specified.
23. **Delivery Intervals**
The Vendor's proposal must specify, in the *Cost Information Submission* and in response to any specific instructions in the *Technical Specifications*, delivery and installation intervals after receipt of order.
24. **Pricing Guarantee**
The Vendor must explicitly state, in the *Cost Information Submission* and in response to any specific instructions in the *Technical Specifications*, how long the proposal will remain valid. Unless stated to the contrary in the *Technical Specifications*, pricing must be guaranteed for a minimum of ninety (90) days.
25. **Shipping Charges**
For all RFPs requiring shipment of any product or component, all products must be delivered FOB destination to any location within the geographic boundaries of the State with all transportation charges prepaid and included in the RFP proposal or LOC quotation. Destination is the point of use.

26. **Amortization Schedule**
For all RFPs requiring equipment, contracts involving the payment of interest must include an amortization schedule clearly documenting the amount of interest payable over the term of the contract.
27. **Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance for Web Development and Portal Related Services**
All Web and Portal development work must be designed and implemented in compliance with the Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Standards associated with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act and with the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) of the W3C.
28. **Ownership of Developed Software**
- 28.1 When specifications require the Vendor to develop software for the State, the Vendor must acknowledge and agree that the State is the sole owner of such developed software with exclusive rights to use, alter, or distribute the software without restriction. This requirement applies to source code, object code, and documentation.
- 28.2 The State may be willing to grant the Vendor a nonexclusive license to use the State's software subject to devising acceptable terms and license fees. This requirement is a matter of State Law, and not negotiable.
29. **Ownership of Custom-Tailored Software**
In installations where the Vendor's intellectual property is modified and custom-tailored to meet the needs of the State, the Vendor must offer the State an application license entitling the State to use, and/or alter the software without restriction. These requirements apply to source code, object code and documentation.
30. **Terms of Software License**
The Vendor acknowledges and agrees that the term of all software licenses provided to the State shall be perpetual unless stated otherwise in the Vendor's proposal.
31. **The State is Licensee of Record**
The Vendor must not bypass the software contracting phase of a project by licensing project software intended for State use in its company name. Upon award of a project, the Vendor must ensure that the State is properly licensed for all software that is proposed for use in a project.
32. **Compliance with Enterprise Security Policy**
Any solution or service proposed in response to this RFP must be in compliance with the State of Mississippi's Enterprise Security Policy. The Enterprise Security Policy is based on industry-standard best practices, policy, and guidelines and is established to safeguard the State's information technology (IT) assets from unauthorized use, access, disclosure, modification, or destruction. Given that information security is an evolving technology practice, the State reserves the right to introduce new policy during the term of the contract resulting from this RFP and require the Vendor to ensure the solution or service complies with same in the event the industry introduces more secure, robust solutions or practices that facilitate a more secure posture for the State of Mississippi. Vendors wanting to view

the Enterprise Security Policy should contact the Technology Consultant listed on the cover page of this RFP.

33. **Compliance with Enterprise Cloud and Offsite Hosting Security Policy**

Any cloud or vendor-hosted solution proposed in response to this RFP must be in compliance with the State of Mississippi's Enterprise Cloud and Offsite Hosting Security Policy. The Enterprise Cloud and Offsite Hosting Security Policy is based on industry-standard best practices, policy, and guidelines and augments the Enterprise Security Policy. Given that information security is an evolving technology practice, the State reserves the right to introduce new policy during the term of the contract resulting from this RFP and require the Vendor to ensure the cloud or vendor-hosted solution complies with same in the event the industry introduces more secure, robust solutions or practices that facilitate a more secure posture for the State of Mississippi. Vendors wanting to view the Enterprise Cloud and Offsite Hosting Security Policy should contact the Technology Consultant listed on the cover page of this RFP.

34. **Negotiating with Next Ranked Vendor**

Should the State cease doing business with any Vendor selected via this RFP process, for any reason, the State reserves the right to initiate negotiations with the next ranked Vendor.

35. **Disclosure of Proposal Information**

Vendors should be aware that any information in a proposal may be subject to disclosure or reproduction under the Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983, defined in Section 25-61-1 et seq. of the Mississippi Code Annotated. All disclosures of proposal information will be made in compliance with the ITS Public Records Procedures established in accordance with the Mississippi Public Records Act. The ITS Public Records Procedures are available in Section 019-010 of the ITS Procurement Handbook, on the ITS Internet site at:

<https://www.its.ms.gov/sites/default/files/ProcurementPDFs/ISS%20Procurement%20Manual.pdf> or from ITS upon request.

As outlined in the Third Party Information section of the ITS Public Records Procedures, ITS will give written notice to any affected Vendor of a request to view or reproduce the Vendor's proposal or portion thereof. ITS will not, however, give such notice with respect to summary information prepared in connection with the State's review or evaluation of a Vendor's proposal, including, but not limited to, written presentations to the ITS Board or other approving bodies, and/or similar written documentation prepared for the project file. In addition, ITS will not provide third-party notice for requests for any contract executed as a result of this RFP.

Summary information and contract terms, as defined above, become the property of ITS, who has the right to reproduce or distribute this information without notification.

Vendors should further be aware that requests for disclosure of proposal information are sometimes received by ITS significantly after the proposal opening date. ITS will notify the signatory "Officer in Bind of Company" provided in Section I of this RFP for Notification of Public Records Requests in the event information is requested that your company might wish to consider protecting as a trade secret or as confidential commercial or financial

information. If the "Officer in Bind of Company" should not be used for notification of public records requests, Vendor should provide the alternative contact information in response to this RFP item.

36. **Risk Factors to be Assessed**

The State will assess risk factors that may initially exist within a given procurement and that may develop over the course of a procurement process as facts become known. The State, at its sole discretion, may employ the following mechanisms in mitigating these risks: proposal bonding, performance bonding, progress payment plan with retainage, inclusion of liquidated damages, and withholding payment for all portions of the products/services acquired until final acceptance. The Vendor must agree to incorporate any or all of the above terms and conditions into the customer agreement.

37. **Proposal Bond**

The Vendor is not required to include a proposal bond with its RFP proposal.

38. **Performance Bond/Irrevocable Bank Letter of Credit**

The Vendor is not required to include the price of a performance bond or irrevocable bank letter of credit with its RFP proposal.

39. **Responsibility for Behavior of Vendor Employees/Subcontractors**

The Vendor will be responsible for the behavior of all its employees and subcontractors while on the premises of any State agency or institution. Any Vendor employee or subcontractor acting in a manner determined by the administration of any State agency or institution to be detrimental, abusive, or offensive to any of the staff or student body of any State agency or institution will be asked to leave the premises and can be suspended from further work on the premises.

40. **Protests**

The Executive Director of ITS and/or the Board Members of ITS or their designees shall have the authority to resolve Vendor protests in connection with the selection for award of a contract. Copies of the protest procedures are available on the ITS Internet site - ITS Protest Procedure and Policy, Section 019-020, ITS Procurement Handbook at: <https://www.its.ms.gov/sites/default/files/ProcurementPDFs/ISS%20Procurement%20Manual.pdf> or from ITS upon request.

41. **Protest Bond**

Potential Vendors may protest any of the specifications of this RFP on the belief that the specification is unlawful, unduly restrictive, or unjustifiably restraining to competition. Any such protest must be in writing and submitted to the ITS Executive Director along with the appropriate protest bond within five (5) working days of the Official Release of the RFP, as defined in the ITS Protest Procedure and Policy. The outside of the envelope must be marked "Protest" and must specify RFP Number 4350.

As a condition precedent to filing any protest related to this procurement, the Vendor must procure, submit to the ITS Executive Director with its written protest, and maintain in effect at all times during the course of the protest or appeal thereof, a protest bond in the full amount of the total estimated project lifecycle cost or \$250,000.00, whichever is less. The total estimated project lifecycle cost will be the amount used by ITS in the computation of cost points, as the low cost in the denominator of the cost evaluation formula. The bond

shall be accompanied by a duly authenticated or certified document evidencing that the person executing the bond is a licensed Mississippi agent for the bonding company. This certified document shall identify the name and address of the person or entity holding the protest bond and shall identify a contact person to be notified in the event that the State is required to take action against the bond. The protest bond shall not be released to the protesting Vendor until the protest is finally resolved and the time for appealing said protest has expired. The protest bond shall be procured at the protesting Vendor's expense and be payable to the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services. Prior to approval of the protest bond, ITS reserves the right to review the protest bond and require the protesting Vendor to substitute an acceptable bond in such form as the State may reasonably require. The premiums on such bond shall be paid by the protesting Vendor. The State may claim against the protest bond as specified in Section 25-53-5 (n) of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended during the 1998 Mississippi legislative session, in addition to all other rights and remedies the State may have at law or in equity.

Should the written protest submitted by the Vendor fail to comply with the content requirements of ITS' protest procedure and policy, fail to be submitted within the prescribed time limits, or fail to have the appropriate protest bond accompany it, the protest will be summarily dismissed by the ITS Executive Director.

42. **Mississippi Employment Protection Act**

Effective July 1, 2008, Vendor acknowledges that if awarded, it will ensure its compliance with the Mississippi Employment Protection Act, Section 71-11-1, et seq. of the Mississippi Code Annotated (Supp2008), and will register and participate in the status verification system for all newly hired employees. The term "employee" as used herein means any person that is hired to perform work within the State of Mississippi. As used herein, "status verification system" means the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996 that is operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security, also known as the E-Verify Program, or any other successor electronic verification system replacing the E-Verify Program. Vendor will agree to maintain records of such compliance and, upon request of the State and approval of the Social Security Administration or Department of Homeland Security, where required, to provide a copy of each such verification to the State.

Vendor acknowledges and certifies that any person assigned to perform services hereunder meets the employment eligibility requirements of all immigration laws of the State of Mississippi.

Vendor acknowledges that violating the E-Verify Program (or successor thereto) requirements subjects Vendor to the following: (a) cancellation of any state or public contract and ineligibility for any state or public contract for up to three (3) years, with notice of such cancellation being made public, or (b) the loss of any license, permit, certification or other document granted to Vendor by an agency, department or governmental entity for the right to do business in Mississippi for up to one (1) year, or (c) both. Vendor would also be liable for any additional costs incurred by the State due to contract cancellation or loss of license or permit.

SECTION V PROPOSAL EXCEPTIONS

Please return the *Proposal Exception Summary Form* at the end of this section with all exceptions to items in any Section of this RFP listed and clearly explained or state "No Exceptions Taken." If no *Proposal Exception Summary Form* is included, the Vendor is indicating that he takes no exceptions to any item in this RFP document.

1. Unless specifically disallowed on any specification herein, the Vendor may take exception to any point within this RFP, including a specification denoted with "shall" or "must," as long as the following are true:
 - 1.1 The specification is not a matter of State law;
 - 1.2 The proposal still meets the intent of the RFP;
 - 1.3 A *Proposal Exception Summary Form* is included with Vendor's proposal; and
 - 1.4 The exception is clearly explained, along with any alternative or substitution the Vendor proposes to address the intent of the specification, on the *Proposal Exception Summary Form*.
2. The Vendor has no liability to provide items to which an exception has been taken. ITS has no obligation to accept any exception. During the proposal evaluation and/or contract negotiation process, the Vendor and ITS will discuss each exception and take one of the following actions:
 - 2.1 The Vendor will withdraw the exception and meet the specification in the manner prescribed;
 - 2.2 ITS will determine that the exception neither poses significant risk to the project nor undermines the intent of the RFP and will accept the exception;
 - 2.3 ITS and the Vendor will agree on compromise language dealing with the exception and will insert same into the contract; or
 - 2.4 None of the above actions is possible, and ITS either disqualifies the Vendor's proposal or withdraws the award and proceeds to the next ranked Vendor.
3. Should ITS and the Vendor reach a successful agreement, ITS will sign adjacent to each exception which is being accepted or submit a formal written response to the *Proposal Exception Summary* responding to each of the Vendor's exceptions. The *Proposal Exception Summary*, with those exceptions approved by ITS, will become a part of any contract on acquisitions made under this RFP.
4. An exception will be accepted or rejected at the sole discretion of the State.
5. The State desires to award this RFP to a Vendor or Vendors with whom there is a high probability of establishing a mutually agreeable contract, substantially within the standard terms and conditions of the State's RFP, including the *Standard Contract* in Exhibit A, if

included herein. As such, Vendors whose proposals, in the sole opinion of the State, reflect a substantial number of material exceptions to this RFP, may place themselves at a comparative disadvantage in the evaluation process or risk disqualification of their proposals.

6. For Vendors who have successfully negotiated a contract with ITS in the past, ITS requests that, prior to taking any exceptions to this RFP, the individual(s) preparing this proposal first confer with other individuals who have previously submitted proposals to ITS or participated in contract negotiations with ITS on behalf of their company, to ensure the Vendor is consistent in the items to which it takes exception.
7. For Vendors responding to Categories I, II, and/or III, Vendor may not take exception to the Exhibit A, *Master Security Consulting Services Agreement*.

PROPOSAL EXCEPTION SUMMARY FORM

List and clearly explain any exceptions, for all RFP Sections and Exhibits, in the table below.

ITS RFP Reference	Vendor Proposal Reference	Brief Explanation of Exception	ITS Acceptance
(Reference specific outline point to which exception is taken)	(Page, section, items in Vendor's proposal where exception is explained)	(Short description of exception being made)	(Sign here only if accepted)
1)			
2)			
3)			
4)			
5)			
6)			
7)			

SECTION VI RFP QUESTIONNAIRE

Please answer each question or provide the information as requested in this section.

1. **Mississippi's Accountability System for Government Information and Collaboration (MAGIC) Information for State of Mississippi Vendor File**

- 1.1 **MAGIC Vendor Code:** Any Vendor who has not previously done business with the State and has not been assigned a MAGIC Vendor code should visit the following link to register:

<https://www.dfa.ms.gov/vendors>

Vendors who have previously done business with the State may obtain their MAGIC Vendor code and all Vendors may access additional Vendor information at the link above.

All Vendors must furnish ITS with their 10-digit MAGIC Vendor code (begins with the number 3).

MAGIC Vendor Code: _____

- 1.2 **Vendor Self-Certification Form:** The State of Mississippi, in an effort to capture participation by minority Vendors, asks that each Vendor review the State of Mississippi Minority Vendor Self Certification Form. This information is for tracking/reporting purposes only, and will not be used in determining which Vendor will be chosen for the project. Any Vendor who can claim status as a Minority Business Enterprise or a Woman Business Enterprise in accordance with the definitions on this form and who has not previously submitted a form to the State of Mississippi should submit the completed form with the proposal. A copy of the Minority Vendor Self-Certification Form can be obtained at:

<https://mississippi.org/services/minority/>

Please direct any questions about minority certification in Mississippi to the Minority Business Enterprise Division of the Mississippi Development Authority by telephone at (601) 359-3448 or via email at minority@mississippi.org.

If Vendor is claiming status as a Minority Business Enterprise or Woman Business Enterprise, the Vendor must include a copy of their Minority Vendor Self-Certification Form with their RFP response.

2. **Certification of Authority to Sell**

The Vendor must certify Vendor is a seller in good standing, authorized to sell and able to deliver all items and related services proposed in the State of Mississippi in the time frame specified. Does the Vendor make these certifications? (A yes or no answer is required.)

Vendors must provide proof, in its response to this procurement, from the Office of the Secretary of State of the State of Mississippi demonstrating that Vendor is in good

standing to do business in Mississippi. Failure to comply with this requirement may subject the vendor's response being deemed non-responsive and subject to disqualification.

3. **Compliance with National Defense Authorization Act**

The Vendor must state if Vendor equipment being provided is in compliance with the National Defense Authorization Act, Section 889. (A yes or no answer is required.)

4. **Certification of No Conflict of Interest**

Mississippi law clearly forbids a direct or indirect conflict of interest of a company or its employees in selling to the State. The Vendor must answer and/or provide the following:

4.1 Does there exist any possible conflict of interest in the sale of items to any institution within ITS jurisdiction or to any governing authority? (A yes or no answer is required.)

4.2 If the possibility of a conflict does exist, provide a list of those institutions and the nature of the conflict on a separate page and include it in your proposal. The Vendor may be precluded from selling to those institutions where a conflict of interest may exist.

5. **Pending Legal Actions**

5.1 Are there any lawsuits or other legal proceedings against the Vendor that pertain to any of the software, hardware, or other materials and/or services which are a part of the Vendor's proposal? (A yes or no answer is required.)

5.2 Are there any criminal or civil proceedings (federal or state) pending against the Vendor or its principals or employees that pertain to any public procurement within the State of Mississippi or elsewhere? (A yes or no answer is required.)

5.3 If your answer to either of the above is "yes", provide a copy of same and state with specificity the current status of the proceedings.

5.4 The State, at its sole discretion, may reject the proposal of a Vendor who (a) has criminal or civil proceedings pending that pertain to a public procurement within Mississippi or elsewhere, or (b) has lawsuits or other legal proceedings pending that pertain to any of the products or services which are part of the Vendor's proposal.

6. **Non-Disclosure of Social Security Numbers**

Does the Vendor agree that any information system proposed, developed, or modified under this RFP that disseminates, in any form or manner, information or material that contains the Social Security Number of an individual, has mechanisms in place to prevent the inadvertent disclosure of the individual's Social Security Number to members of the general public or to persons other than those persons who, in the performance of their duties and responsibilities, have a lawful and legitimate need to know the individual's Social Security Number? This agreement is required by Section 25-1-111 of the Mississippi Code Annotated.

7. **Web Amendments**

As stated in Section III, ITS will use the ITS website to post amendments regarding RFPs before the proposal opening at:

<https://www.its.ms.gov/procurement/rfps-and-sole-sources>

ITS may post clarifications until noon seven days prior to the proposal opening date listed on the cover page of this RFP or the posted extension date, if applicable.

Vendors may list any questions or items needing clarification discovered in the week prior to the proposal opening in a written format at the beginning of the proposal binder or in the comment section for the individual offering.

Does the Vendor certify that they have reviewed a copy of the ITS amendments for RFPs as above stated? (A yes or no answer is required.)

8. **Order and Remit Address**

The Vendor must specify both an order and a remit address:

Order Address:

Remit Address (if different):

9. **Taxpayer Identification Number**

Vendor must specify their taxpayer identification number.

10. **Certification of Liability Insurance**

Vendor must provide a copy of their Certificate of Liability Insurance with their RFP response.

11. **E-Verify Registration Documentation**

Vendor must ensure its compliance with the Mississippi Employment Protection Act, Section 71-11-1, et seq. of the Mississippi Code Annotated (Supp2008). Vendor must provide documentation of their E-Verify compliance with their RFP response. See Section IV, Item 42 for additional information.

12. **System for Award Management (SAM) Registration Documentation**

Vendor must include a copy of their registration with the Federal Government's System for Award Management (SAM) with their RFP response.

**SECTION VII
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

1. Procurement Project Schedule

Task	Date
First Advertisement Date for RFP	10/17/2023
Second Advertisement Date for RFP	10/24/2023
Vendor Web Conference	11:00 a.m. Central Time on 10/31/2023
Deadline for Vendor's Written Questions	3:00 p.m. Central Time on 11/03/2023
Deadline for Questions Answered and Posted to ITS Web Site	11/14/2023
Open Proposals	12/21/2023
Evaluation of Proposals	12/21/2023
ITS Board Presentation, If necessary	01/18/2024
Contract Negotiation	December 2023 – January 2024
Proposed Project Implementation Start-up	02/05/2024
Project Go-Live Deadline	TBD

2. Statement of Understanding

- 2.1 Attendance at the Vendor Web Conference on Tuesday, October 31, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. Central Time is optional for any Vendor who intends to submit an RFP response.
 - 2.1.1 To access their conference, Vendors must contact Solicitations Team via e-mail no later than Monday, October 30, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. to receive dial-in instructions.
- 2.2 Vendors may request additional information or clarifications to this RFP using the following procedure:
 - 2.2.1 Vendor must deliver a written document to RFP@its.ms.gov by Friday, November 3, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. Central Time. This document may be delivered by hand, mail, email, or fax. Address information is given on page one of this RFP. The fax number is (601) 713-6380. **ITS WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DELAYS IN THE DELIVERY OF QUESTION DOCUMENTS.** It is solely the responsibility of the vendor that the clarification document reaches ITS on time. Vendors may contact Solicitations Team to verify the receipt of their document. Documents received after the deadline will be rejected.
- 2.3 All questions will be compiled and answered, and a written document containing all questions submitted and corresponding answers will be posted on the ITS web site by close of business on Tuesday, November 14, 2023.

- 2.4 The resulting contracts from this RFP will be valid for a 5-year period and allow for a term mutually agreeable by all parties.
- 2.5 The State desires to establish a pool of vendors to provide security risk assessment services for Categories AI, AII, & AIII of the RFP. Category AIV will be awarded to a single vendor.
 - 2.5.1 It should be understood that Vendors are not required to respond to every category. Vendors should respond only to the categories desired.
 - 2.5.2 Vendors awarded contracts under this RFP are not guaranteed any amount of work pursuant to the RFP.
- 2.6 An Instructions for Use document will be published on the ITS website for Mississippi State Agencies and Vendors to explain the procedures for using the services awarded in Categories I, II, and III of the RFP. Agencies will solicit quotes from awarded Vendors according to the rules set forth in the Instructions for Use document. Agencies will award the Vendor with the lowest cost and execute a Statement of Work.
- 2.7 Cost is being captured for a not-to-exceed price along with a change order rate for Categories I, II, and III. Granular details needed for cost evaluations will be done through each solicitation of the Vendor pool. State Agencies and entities will evaluate cost when they request quotes from the RFP 4350 Vendor pool.
 - 2.7.1 Vendors are required to provide not-to-exceed amounts for the items listed in the Cost Information Submissions with their proposal response, listing any assumptions made.
3. **Additional Requirements**
 - 3.1 ITS acknowledges that the specifications within this RFP are not exhaustive. Rather, they reflect the known requirements that must be met to be deemed Responsive and Responsible for further consideration.
4. **Scoring Methodology**
 - 4.1 An Evaluation Team composed of ITS staff will review and evaluate all proposals. All information provided by the Vendors, as well as any other information available to the evaluation team, will be used to evaluate the proposals.
 - 4.1.1 Each functional category included in the scoring mechanism is assigned a weight between one and 100.
 - 4.1.2 The sum of all non-cost categories in functional categories AI, AII, and AIII equals 100 possible points. Costs will not be evaluated in functional categories AI, AII, or AIII.

- 4.1.3 The sum of non-cost and cost categories in functional category AIV equals 100 possible points. Costs will be evaluated in functional category AIV.
- 4.1.4 For the evaluation of this RFP, the Evaluation Team will use the following functional categories and possible points:

Category AI - Cloud Compliance Services

Category	Possible Points
Non-Cost Categories:	
Cloud Compliance Services	20
Cloud Compliance Assessment Planning	10
Cloud Compliance Assessment Setup	10
Cloud Compliance Assessment Execution	20
Cloud Compliance Assessment Completion	8
Project Management	20
Project Plan	4
Deliverables Presentation/Submission Requirements	4
Statement of Work (SOW)	4
Total Non-Cost Points	100
Cost Categories:	
Total Cost Points	Not Evaluated
Maximum Possible Points	100

Category AII - Penetration Testing

Category	Possible Points
Non-Cost Categories:	
Penetration Testing Services	54
Penetration Testing Planning	9
Penetration Testing Setup	3
Penetration Testing Execution	9
Penetration Testing Completion	3
Project Management	9
Project Plan	3
Requirements	7
Statement of Work (SOW)	3
Total Non-Cost Points	100
Cost Categories:	
Total Cost Points	Not Evaluated
Maximum Possible Points	100

Category AIII – Security Risk Assessment

Category	Possible Points
Non-Cost Categories:	
Security Risk Assessment Services	54
Security Risk Assessment Planning	9
Security Risk Assessment Setup	3
Security Risk Assessment Execution	9
Security Risk Assessment Completion	3
Project Management	9
Project Plan	3
Deliverables Presentation/Submission Requirements	7
Statement of Work (SOW)	3
Total Non-Cost Points	100
Cost Categories:	
Total Cost Points	Not Evaluated
Maximum Possible Points	100

Category AIV – Security Program Assessment

Category	Possible Points
Non-Cost Categories:	
Security Program Assessment Services	45
Project Management	9
Project Plan	2
Deliverables Presentation/Submission Requirements	7
Statement of Work (SOW)	2
Total Non-Cost Points	65
Cost Categories:	
Total Cost Points	35
Maximum Possible Points	100

4.2 The evaluation will be conducted in four stages as follows:

4.2.1 Stage 1 – Selection of Responsive/Valid Proposals – Each proposal will be reviewed to determine if it is sufficiently responsive to the RFP requirements to permit a complete evaluation. A responsive proposal must comply with the instructions stated in this RFP with regard to content, organization/format, Vendor experience, number of copies, timely delivery, and must be responsive to all mandatory requirements. No evaluation points will be awarded in this stage. Failure to submit a complete proposal may result in rejection of the proposal.

4.2.2 Stage 2 – Non-cost Evaluation (all requirements excluding cost)

4.2.2.1 Non-cost categories and possible point values are as follows:

Category I – Cloud Compliance Services

Category	Possible Points
Non-Cost Categories:	
Cloud Compliance Services	20
Cloud Compliance Assessment Planning	10
Cloud Compliance Assessment Setup	10
Cloud Compliance Assessment Execution	20
Cloud Compliance Assessment Completion	8
Project Management	20
Project Plan	4
Deliverables Presentation/Submission Requirements	4
Statement of Work (SOW)	4
Total Non-Cost Points	100

Category II – Penetration Testing

Category	Possible Points
Non-Cost Categories:	
Penetration Testing Services	54
Penetration Testing Planning	9
Penetration Testing Setup	3
Penetration Testing Execution	9
Penetration Testing Completion	3
Project Management	9
Project Plan	3
Requirements	7
Statement of Work (SOW)	3
Total Non-Cost Points	100

Category III – Security Program Assessment

Category	Possible Points
Non-Cost Categories:	
Security Risk Assessment Services	54
Security Risk Assessment Planning	9
Security Risk Assessment Setup	3
Security Risk Assessment Execution	9
Security Risk Assessment Completion	3

Project Management	9
Project Plan	3
Deliverables Presentation/Submission Requirements	7
Statement of Work (SOW)	3
Total Non-Cost Points	100

Category IV – Security Program Assessment

Category	Possible Points
Non-Cost Categories:	
Security Program Assessment Services	45
Project Management	9
Project Plan	2
Deliverables Presentation/Submission Requirements	7
Statement of Work (SOW)	2
Total Non-Cost Points	65

4.2.3 Stage 3 – Cost Evaluation

4.2.3.1 Costs for Categories AI-AIII will not be evaluated.

4.2.3.2 Points for Category AIV will be assigned using the following formula:

$$(1 - ((B-A)/A))^n$$

Where:

A = Total lifecycle cost of lowest valid proposal

B = Total lifecycle cost of proposal being scored

n = Maximum number of points allocated to cost for acquisition

4.2.3.3 Cost categories and maximum point values for Category IV are as follows:

Category IV – Security Program Assessment (ONLY)

Cost Category	Possible Points
Lifecycle Cost	35
Maximum Possible Points	35

4.2.4 Stage 4 – Selection of the successful Vendor

4.2.4.1 Demonstrations and Interviews

- 4.2.4.1.1 At the discretion of the State, evaluators may request interviews, presentations, demonstrations, or discussions with any and all Vendors for the purpose of system overview and/or clarification or amplification of information presented in any part of the proposal.
 - 4.2.4.1.2 If requested, Vendors must be prepared to make demonstrations of system functionality and/or proposal clarifications to the evaluation team and its affiliates within seven calendar days of notification. Each presentation must be made by the project manager being proposed by the Vendor to oversee implementation of this project.
 - 4.2.4.1.3 Proposed key team members must be present at the demonstration. The evaluation team reserves the right to interview the proposed key team members during this visit/demonstration.
 - 4.2.4.1.4 Although demonstrations may be requested, the demonstration will not be allowed in lieu of a written proposal.
 - 4.2.4.1.5 Demonstrations will be restricted to a two (2) hour time limit.
- 4.3 Final Quantitative Evaluation - Following any requested presentations and demonstrations, the Evaluation Team will re-evaluate any technical/functional scores as necessary. The technical/functional and cost scores will then be combined to determine the Vendor's final score.

**SECTION VIII
COST INFORMATION SUBMISSION**

The Vendor is to include all requested information on the Attachment AI, AII, AIII, or AIV Cost Submission Tab and submit it as a MS Excel file as part of the proposal. No additional charges for overhead, travel, or other expenses shall be allowed after Contract award.

All Vendors must submit a comprehensive and complete Cost Proposal that meets all the requirements specified within this RFP.

As stated in the Attachment A document, Vendor must complete and return the Attachment A spreadsheet (which includes the Cost Submission Tab) for the categories in which they wish to respond. It should be understood that Vendors are not required to respond to every category listed below. Vendors should respond only to the categories desired. Vendors must list which category they are proposing on the Cost Information Submission form.

- a) Attachment AI, Category I – Cloud Compliance
- b) Attachment AII, Category II – Penetration Testing
- c) Attachment AIII, Category III – Security Risk Assessment
- d) Attachment AIV, Category IV – Security Program Assessment

SECTION IX REFERENCES

Please return the following Reference Forms, and if applicable, Subcontractor Reference Forms.

1. References

- 1.1 The Vendor must provide at least five (5) references consisting of Vendor accounts that the State may contact. Required information includes customer contact name, address, telephone number, email address, and engagement starting and ending dates. Forms for providing reference information are included later in this RFP section. The Vendor must make arrangements in advance with the account references so that they may be contacted at the Project team's convenience without further clearance or Vendor intercession.
- 1.2 Any of the following may subject the Vendor's proposal to being rated unfavorably relative to these criteria or removed from further consideration, at the State's sole discretion:
 - 1.2.1 Failure to provide reference information in the manner described;
 - 1.2.2 Inability of the State to substantiate minimum experience or other requirements from the references provided;
 - 1.2.3 Non-responsiveness of references to the State's attempts to contact them; or
 - 1.2.4 Unfavorable references that raise serious concerns about material risks to the State in contracting with the Vendor for the proposed products or services.
- 1.3 References should be based on the following profiles and be able to substantiate the following information from both management and technical viewpoints:
 - 1.3.1 The reference installation must be for a project similar in scope and size to the project for which this RFP is issued;
 - 1.3.2 The reference installation must have been operational for at least six (6) months.
- 1.4 The State reserves the right to request information about the Vendor from any previous customer of the Vendor of whom the State is aware, including the procuring agency and/or other agencies or institutions of the State, even if that customer is not included in the Vendor's list of references, and to utilize such information in the evaluation of the Vendor's proposal.
- 1.5 Unless otherwise indicated in the Scoring Methodology in Section VII, reference information available to the State will be used as follows:

- 1.5.1 As documentation supporting experience requirements for companies, products, and/or individuals, as required in this RFP;
- 1.5.2 To confirm the capabilities and quality of a Vendor, product, or individual for the proposal deemed lowest and best, prior to finalizing the award.
- 1.6 The State reserves the right to forego reference checking when, at the State's sole discretion, the evaluation team determines that the capabilities of the recommended Vendor are known to the State.

2. **Subcontractors**

The Vendor's proposal must identify any subcontractor that will be used and include the name of the company, telephone number, contact person, type of work subcontractor will perform, number of certified employees to perform said work, and five (5) references for whom the subcontractor has performed work that the State may contact. Forms for providing subcontractor information and references are included at the end of this section.

Unless otherwise noted, the requirements found in the References section may be met through a combination of Vendor and subcontractor references and experience. Vendor's proposal should clearly indicate any experience requirements met by subcontractors. **NOTE:** The State reserves the right to eliminate from further consideration proposals in which the prime Vendor does not, in the State's sole opinion, provide substantive value or investment in the total solution proposed. (i.e. the State does not typically accept proposals in which the prime Vendor is only a brokering agent.)

REFERENCE FORM

COMPLETE FIVE (5) REFERENCE FORMS.

Contact Name:

Company Name:

Address:

Phone #:

E-Mail:

Project Start Date:

Project End Date:

Description of product/services/project, including start and end dates:

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SUBCONTRACTOR REFERENCE FORM

COMPLETE FIVE (5) REFERENCE FORMS FOR EACH SUBCONTRACTOR.

Contact Name:
Company Name:
Address:
Phone #:
E-Mail:
Project Start Date:
Project End Date:

Description of product/services/project, including start and end dates:

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**EXHIBIT A
STANDARD CONTRACT**

A properly executed contract is a requirement of this RFP. After an award has been made, it will be necessary for the winning Vendor to execute a contract with ITS. The inclusion of this contract does not preclude ITS from, at its sole discretion, negotiating additional terms and conditions with the selected Vendor(s) specific to the projects covered by this RFP.

If Vendor cannot comply with any term or condition of this Standard Contract, Vendor must list and explain each specific exception on the *Proposal Exception Summary Form* included in Section V.

**CONTRACT NUMBER 4350-X
PROJECT NUMBER 43562
MASTER SECURITY CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
VENDOR NAME
AND
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES
AS CONTRACTING AGENT FOR THE
AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**

This Master Security Consulting Services Agreement (hereinafter referred to as "Master Agreement") is entered into by and between VENDOR NAME, a STATE OF INCORPORATION corporation having its principal place of business at STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE ZIP (hereinafter referred to as "Contractor"), and Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services having its principal place of business at 3771 Eastwood Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39211 (hereinafter referred to as "ITS"), as contracting agent for the governmental agencies and educational institutions of the State of Mississippi (hereinafter referred to as "Customer"). ITS and Customer are sometimes collectively referred to herein as "State".

WHEREAS, ITS, pursuant to Request for Proposals ("RFP") Number 4350 requested proposals for the acquisition of a master contract containing the terms and conditions which will govern any orders placed by Customer during the term of this Master Agreement for security consulting services used by Customer ("Services"); and

WHEREAS, the Contractor was the successful respondent in an open, fair and competitive procurement process to provide the above mentioned Services;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual understandings, promises, consideration and agreements set forth, the parties hereto agree as follows:

ARTICLE 1 TERM OF AGREEMENT

Unless terminated as prescribed elsewhere herein, this Master Agreement will become effective on the date it is signed by all parties (the "Effective Date") and will continue in effect for five (5) years thereafter, or until all warranties provided by Contractor to Customer have expired, whichever occurs last. At the end of the initial term, the Master Agreement may, upon the written agreement of ITS and Contractor, be renewed for a term mutually agreed to by the parties. Contractor will notify ITS sixty (60) days in advance prior to the expiration of the initial or any renewal term and ITS shall have thirty (30) days in which to notify Contractor of its intention to

either renew or cancel this Master Agreement.

ARTICLE 2 DEFINITIONS

The following terms as used herein shall have the following meanings:

2.1 “Contractor” means VENDOR NAME and its successors and assigns.

2.2 “Customer” means, in each instance, the governmental agency, educational institution or other governing authority of the state of Mississippi who engages Contractor to perform the security consulting Services pursuant to this Master Agreement, and who shall be bound by the terms and conditions of this Master Agreement.

2.3 “Purchase Order” means the document pursuant to which, among other things, Customer orders the Services from Contractor.

2.4 “Services” means the security consulting services specified in RFP No. 4350 and Contractor’s Proposal, as accepted by ITS, in response thereto, as well as the Statement of Work for each individual project.

2.5 “Statement of Work” means the document prepared by the Contractor and submitted to the Customer that must include but is not limited to, the objectives, requirements, deliverables, timetable, and costs for the particular project.

ARTICLE 3 MODIFICATION OR RENEGOTIATION

This Master Agreement may be modified only by written agreement signed by the parties hereto, and any attempt at oral modification shall be void and of no effect. The parties agree to renegotiate the Master Agreement in the event that federal and/or state revisions of any applicable laws or regulations make changes in this Master Agreement necessary.

ARTICLE 4 INCLUDED PARTIES AND PRICING

Contractor will accept orders from and furnish the Services under this Master Agreement to Customers at or below Contractor’s pricing submitted in its proposal in response to RFP No. 4350 and attached hereto as Exhibit A and distributed to the various Customers. At the end of the initial term of this Master Agreement, ITS and Contractor may mutually agree in writing to modify, amend or replace the pricing specified in Exhibit A.

ARTICLE 5 ORDERS

5.1 The State does not guarantee that it will purchase any certain amount under this Master Agreement.

5.2 When a Customer decides to procure any Services from Contractor, the Customer, after following applicable state procurement rules and regulations, may issue a Purchase Order to Contractor. The Purchase Order shall reference this Master Agreement and shall set forth the Services to be procured; the prices for same; the specific details of the transaction, the Customer’s designated contact, and any additional terms and conditions that apply to the specific Purchase Order as agreed to in writing by the parties. Any additional terms and conditions contained in any Purchase Order shall apply solely to the Services being procured therein. All Purchase Orders and Contractor’s Statement of Work or other terms and conditions shall be governed by, and incorporate by reference, the terms and conditions of this Master Agreement. Contractor will provide Customer with a Statement of Work as specified in RFP No. 4350. Such Statement of

Work shall become effective when signed by both parties. Excluding better pricing and/or discounts which may be specified in a Purchase Order or Statement of Work, in the event of a conflict between the other terms and conditions in a Purchase Order or Statement of Work and this Master Agreement, the terms and conditions of this Master Agreement shall prevail. The parties agree that the Customer has the right to adjust the quantities of purchases based upon the availability of funding or as determined necessary by the Customer.

5.3 Contractor guarantees the pricing stated in the attached Exhibit A for the initial five (5) year term of this Master Agreement. The costs for any renewal term shall not increase more than 5% per year or an increase consistent with the percent increase in the consumer price index, all Urban Consumer US City Average (C.P.I.-u) for the preceding year ("inflation increase"), whichever is less. In the event Contractor announces or implements a national price decrease for the Services bid during that time, Contractor agrees to extend the new, lower pricing to Customer.

ARTICLE 6 METHOD AND TIME OF PAYMENT

6.1 As consideration for the performance of any Purchase Order, Customer shall pay Contractor at prices not to exceed the pricing specified in the attached Exhibit A for the actual Services rendered as specified in the applicable Statement of Work. Contractor shall keep daily records of the actual number of hours worked and of the tasks performed and shall immediately supply such records to Customer upon request.

6.2 Contractor shall submit invoices and supporting documentation electronically to Customer monthly for any month in which Services are rendered, using the processes and procedures identified by the State. Contractor shall certify that the billing is true and correct. Customer agrees to pay Contractor in accordance with Mississippi law on "Timely Payments for Purchases by Public Bodies," Sections 31-7-301, et seq. of the 1972 Mississippi Code Annotated, as amended, which generally provides for payment of undisputed amounts by the State within forty-five (45) days of receipt of the invoice. All payments shall be in United States currency. Contractor understands and agrees that Customer is exempt from the payment of taxes. Payments by state agencies using Mississippi's Accountability System for Government Information and Collaboration (MAGIC) shall be made and remittance information provided electronically as directed by the State. The payments by these agencies shall be deposited into the bank account of the Contractor's choice. No payment, including final payment, shall be construed as acceptance of incomplete work, and Contractor shall remain responsible and liable for full performance in strict compliance with the contract documents specified in the Article herein titled "Entire Agreement."

6.3 If payment of undisputed amounts is not made to Contractor within forty-five (45) days of Customer's receipt of the invoice, Customer shall be liable to Contractor for interest at a rate of one and one-half percent (1 ½%) per month (or such lesser rate as may be the maximum permissible rate under the law) on the unpaid balance from the expiration of such forty-five (45) day period until such time as payment is made. This provision for late payments shall apply only to undisputed amounts for which payment has been authorized.

6.4 Acceptance by Contractor of the last payment from the Customer under a Purchase Order shall operate as a release of all claims against the State by Contractor and any subcontractors or other persons supplying labor or materials used in the performance of any work under a Purchase Order.

ARTICLE 7 SCOPE OF SERVICES

Contractor agrees to provide, at the pricing specified in the attached Exhibit A, the security consulting Services as specified in RFP No. 4350 and Contractor's Proposal, as accepted by ITS, in response thereto, which are both incorporated herein by reference. Contractor shall sign a "Certification of Destruction" document and submit same to Customer at the conclusion of their consulting engagement, whereby Contractor certifies that all copies (hard and electronic) of any security reports and information gathered by Contractor during the engagement have been properly shredded, deleted or otherwise destroyed. A copy of the Certification of Destruction form to be used is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

ARTICLE 8 WARRANTIES

8.1 Contractor represents and warrants that the Services provided by Contractor to Customer shall meet or exceed the minimum specifications set forth in RFP No. 4350 and Contractor's Proposal in response thereto.

8.2 Contractor represents and warrants that its Services 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 Master Agreement. For any breach of this warranty, the Contractor shall, for a period of ninety (90) days from performance of the Services, perform the Services again, at no cost to Customer, or if Contractor is unable to perform the Services as warranted, Contractor shall reimburse Customer the fees paid to Contractor for the unsatisfactory Services.

8.3 Contractor represents and warrants that, to the extent applicable, it will ensure its compliance with the Mississippi Employment Protection Act, Miss. Code Ann. §71-11-1, et seq. and any breach of Mississippi Employment Protection Act may subject Contractor to the consequences set forth under Miss. Code Ann. §71-11-3.

8.4 Contractor represents and warrants that no official or employee of Customer or of ITS, and no other public official of the State of Mississippi who exercises any functions or responsibilities in the review or approval of the undertaking or carrying out of any project shall, prior to the completion of said project, voluntarily acquire any personal interest, direct or indirect, in the Purchase Order or this Master Agreement.

8.5 The Contractor represents and warrants that no elected or appointed officer or other employee of the State of Mississippi, nor any member of or delegate to Congress has or shall benefit financially or materially from this Master Agreement. No individual employed by the State of Mississippi shall be admitted to any share or part of the Master Agreement or to any benefit that may arise therefrom. The State of Mississippi may, by written notice to the Contractor, terminate the right of the Contractor to proceed under this Master Agreement if it is found, after notice and hearing by the ITS Executive Director or his/her designee, that gratuities in the form of entertainment, gifts, jobs, or otherwise were offered or given by the Contractor to any officer or employee of the State of Mississippi with a view toward securing this Master Agreement or securing favorable treatment with respect to the award, or amending or making of any determinations with respect to the performing of such contract, provided that the existence of the facts upon which the ITS Executive Director makes such findings shall be in issue and may be reviewed in any competent court. In the event this Master Agreement is terminated under this article, the State of Mississippi shall be entitled to pursue the same remedies against the Contractor as it would pursue in the event of a breach of contract by the Contractor, including

punitive damages, in addition to any other damages to which it may be entitled at law or in equity.

ARTICLE 9 EMPLOYMENT STATUS

9.1 Contractor shall, during the entire term of this Master Agreement, be construed to be an independent contractor. Nothing in this Master Agreement is intended to nor shall it be construed to create an employer-employee relationship, partnership, agency, or joint venture relationship.

9.2 Contractor represents that it has, or will secure, if needed, at its own expense, applicable personnel who shall be qualified to perform the required duties identified in a Purchase Order. Such personnel shall not be deemed in any way directly or indirectly, expressly or by implication, to be employees of Customer. Contractor shall pay when due, all salaries and wages of its employees and it accepts exclusive responsibility for the payment of federal income tax, state income tax, social security, unemployment compensation and any other withholdings that may be required. Neither Contractor nor employees of Contractor are entitled to state retirement or leave benefits.

9.3 Any person assigned by Contractor to perform the Services hereunder shall be the employee of Contractor, who shall have the sole right to hire and discharge its employee. Customer may, however, direct Contractor to replace any of its employees performing services under this Master Agreement.

ARTICLE 10 BEHAVIOR OF EMPLOYEES/SUBCONTRACTORS

Contractor will be responsible for the behavior of all its employees and subcontractors while on the premises of any Customer location. Any Contractor employee or subcontractor acting in a manner determined by the administration of that location to be detrimental, abusive or offensive to any of Customer's staff and/or student body, will be asked to leave the premises and may be suspended from further work on the premises. All Contractor employees and subcontractors who will be working at such locations to provide Services shall be covered by Contractor's comprehensive general liability insurance policy.

ARTICLE 11 AUTHORITY, ASSIGNMENT AND SUBCONTRACTS

11.1 In matters of proposals, negotiations, contracts, and resolution of issues and/or disputes, the parties agree that Contractor represents all contractors, third parties, and/or subcontractors Contractor has assembled for any given Customer project. The Customer is required to negotiate only with Contractor, as Contractor's commitments are binding on all proposed contractors, third parties, and subcontractors.

11.2 Neither Customer nor Contractor may assign or otherwise transfer the Purchase Order and this Master Agreement or its obligations hereunder without the prior written consent of the other party, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. Any attempted assignment or transfer of its obligations without such consent shall be null and void. The Purchase Order and this Master Agreement shall be binding upon the parties' respective successors and assigns.

11.3 Contractor must obtain the written approval of Customer before subcontracting any portion of the Purchase Order and this Master Agreement. No such approval by Customer of any subcontract shall be deemed in any way to provide for the incurrence of any obligation of Customer in addition to the total fixed price agreed upon in the Purchase Order. All subcontracts shall incorporate the terms of the applicable Purchase Order and this Master Agreement and shall be subject to the terms and conditions of same and to any conditions of approval that Customer

may deem necessary.

11.4 Contractor represents and warrants that any subcontract agreement Contractor enters into shall contain a provision advising the subcontractor that the subcontractor shall have no lien and no legal right to assert control over any funds held by the Customer, and that the subcontractor acknowledges that no privity of contract exists between the Customer and the subcontractor and that Contractor is solely liable for any and all payments which may be due to the subcontractor pursuant to its subcontract agreement with Contractor. Contractor shall indemnify and hold harmless the State from and against any and all claims, demands, liabilities, suits, actions, damages, losses, costs and expenses of every kind and nature whatsoever arising as a result of Contractor's failure to pay any and all amounts due by Contractor to any subcontractor, materialman, laborer or the like.

11.5 All subcontractors shall be bound by any negotiation, arbitration, appeal, adjudication or settlement of any dispute between Contractor and the Customer, where such dispute affects the subcontract.

ARTICLE 12 AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

It is expressly understood and agreed that the obligation of Customer to proceed under this Master Agreement and the Purchase Order is conditioned upon the appropriation of funds by the Mississippi State Legislature and the receipt of state and/or federal funds for the performances required under this Master Agreement. If the funds anticipated for the fulfillment of this Master Agreement and the Purchase Order are, at any time, not forthcoming, or are insufficient, either through the failure of the federal government to provide funds or of the State of Mississippi to appropriate funds, or if there is a discontinuance or material alteration of the program under which funds were available to Customer for the payments or performance due under this Master Agreement, Customer shall have the right to immediately terminate the Purchase Order and this Master Agreement as to itself only, without damage, penalty, cost or expense to Customer of any kind whatsoever. The effective date of termination shall be as specified in the notice of termination. Customer shall have the sole right to determine whether funds are available for the payments or performances due under the Purchase Order and this Master Agreement. In the event of termination due to unavailability of funds, Contractor shall be entitled to receive just and equitable compensation for satisfactory work completed by Contractor in connection with this Master Agreement and accepted by Customer prior to the date of receipt of notification of termination.

ARTICLE 13 TERMINATION

13.1 Termination Upon Mutual Agreement: A Statement of Work may be terminated in whole or in part upon the mutual written agreement of Contractor and the Customer.

13.2 Termination Due To Bankruptcy: Should Contractor become the subject of bankruptcy or receivership proceedings, whether voluntary or involuntary, or execute an assignment for the benefit of its creditors, the Customer may, upon the giving of thirty (30) days prior written notice, terminate a Purchase Order and this Master Agreement without the assessment of penalties, solely as between those two parties.

13.3 Termination Other Than For Cause: A Customer may terminate a Purchase Order and this Master Agreement as to itself only, in whole or in part and without the assessment of penalties, for any reason by giving thirty (30) calendar days written notice specifying the

effective date thereof to Contractor.

13.4 Termination For Cause: If either party fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the Purchase Order or this Master Agreement and that breach continues for thirty (30) days after the defaulting party receives written notice from the other party, then the non-defaulting party has the right to terminate the Purchase Order and this Master Agreement solely as between those two parties. The non-defaulting party may also pursue any remedy available to it in law or in equity.

13.5 Termination of Master Agreement: ITS may terminate this Master Agreement without the assessment of penalties for any reason after giving thirty (30) calendar days written notice specifying the effective date thereof to Contractor but any Purchase Order entered into prior to the termination date of this Master Agreement shall survive the termination of the Master Agreement. The terms of this Master Agreement shall survive its termination/expiration with respect to any un-expired Purchase Orders.

13.6 In the event a Purchase Order is terminated, Contractor shall be paid for Services completed by Contractor and accepted by Customer prior to the termination. Such compensation shall be based upon and shall not exceed the amounts set forth in the particular Purchase Order.

ARTICLE 14 GOVERNING LAW

This Master Agreement and each Purchase Order shall be construed and governed in accordance with the laws of the State of Mississippi and venue for the resolution of any dispute shall be Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi. Contractor expressly agrees that under no circumstances shall Customer or ITS be obligated to pay an attorneys fee, prejudgment interest or the cost of legal action to Contractor. Further, nothing in this Master Agreement shall affect any statutory rights Contractor and Customer may have that cannot be waived or limited by contract.

ARTICLE 15 WAIVER

Failure of either party hereto to insist upon strict compliance with any of the terms, covenants and conditions hereof shall not be deemed a waiver or relinquishment of any similar right or power hereunder at any subsequent time or of any other provision hereof, nor shall it be construed to be a modification of the terms of this Master Agreement. A waiver by the State to be effective, must be in writing, must set out the specifics of what is being waived, and must be signed by an authorized representative of the State.

ARTICLE 16 SEVERABILITY

If any term or provision of a Purchase Order or this Master Agreement is prohibited by the laws of the State of Mississippi or declared invalid or void by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Purchase Order or this Master Agreement shall be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law provided that the Customer's purpose for entering into the Purchase Order can be fully achieved by the remaining portions of the Purchase Order that have not been severed.

ARTICLE 17 CAPTIONS

The captions or headings in this Master Agreement are for convenience only, and in no way define, limit or describe the scope or intent of any provision or section of this Master Agreement.

ARTICLE 18 HOLD HARMLESS

To the fullest extent allowed by law, Contractor shall indemnify, defend, save and hold harmless, protect and exonerate Customer, ITS and the State, its Board Members, officers, employees, agents and representatives from and against any and all claims, demands, liabilities, suits, actions, damages, losses, costs and expenses of every kind and nature whatsoever, including without limitation, court costs, investigative fees and expenses, attorney fees and claims for damages arising out of or caused by Contractor and/or its partners, principals, agents, employees or subcontractors in the performance of or failure to perform the Purchase Order and this Master Agreement.

ARTICLE 19 THIRD PARTY ACTION NOTIFICATION

Contractor shall notify Customer in writing within five (5) business days of Contractor filing bankruptcy, reorganization, liquidation or receivership proceedings or within five (5) business days of its receipt of notification of any action or suit being filed or any claim being made against Contractor or Customer by any entity that may result in litigation related in any way to the Purchase Order or this Master Agreement and/or which may affect the Contractor's performance under the Purchase Order or this Master Agreement. Failure of the Contractor to provide such written notice to Customer shall be considered a material breach of this Master Agreement and the Customer may, at its sole discretion, pursue its rights as set forth in the Termination Article herein and any other rights and remedies it may have at law or in equity.

ARTICLE 20 AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT

Contractor warrants that it is a validly organized business with valid authority to enter into this Master Agreement; that entry into and performance under this Master Agreement is not restricted or prohibited by any loan, security, financing, contractual or other agreement of any kind, and notwithstanding any other provision of this Master Agreement to the contrary, that there are no existing legal proceedings, or prospective legal proceedings, either voluntary or otherwise, which may adversely affect its ability to perform its obligations under a Purchase Order and this Master Agreement.

ARTICLE 21 NOTICE

Any notice required or permitted to be given under this Master Agreement shall be in writing and personally delivered or sent by electronic means provided that the original of such notice is sent by certified United States mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, or overnight courier with signed receipt, to the party to whom the notice should be given at their usual business address. ITS' address for notice is: David C. Johnson, Executive Director, Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services, 3771 Eastwood Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39211. Contractor's address for notice is: **VENDOR NOTICE NAME, TITLE, VENDOR NAME, ADDRESS, CITY, STATE ZIP**. Customer's address for notice will be set forth in the applicable Statement of Work. Notice shall be deemed given when actually received or when refused. The parties agree to promptly notify each other in writing of any change of address or points of contact.

ARTICLE 22 RECORD RETENTION AND ACCESS TO RECORDS

Contractor shall establish and maintain financial records, supporting documents, statistical records and such other records as may be necessary to reflect its performance of the provisions of this Master Agreement and the Purchase Order. The Customer, ITS, any state or federal agency authorized to audit Customer, and/or any of their duly authorized representatives, accountants or attorneys, shall have unimpeded, prompt access to the Purchase Order, this Master Agreement, and to any of Contractor's proposals, books, documents, papers and/or

records that are pertinent to the Purchase Order and this Master Agreement to make audits, copies, examinations, excerpts and transcriptions at the State's or Contractor's office as applicable where such records are kept during normal business hours. All records relating to this Master Agreement and the Purchase Order shall be retained by Contractor for three (3) years from the date of receipt of final payment under this Master Agreement and the Purchase Order. However, if any litigation or other legal action, by or for the state or federal government has begun that is not completed at the end of the three (3) year period, or if an audit finding, litigation or other legal action has not been resolved at the end of the three (3) year period, the records shall be retained until resolution.

ARTICLE 23 INSURANCE

Contractor represents that it will maintain workers' compensation insurance as prescribed by law which shall inure to the benefit of Contractor's personnel, as well as comprehensive general liability and employee fidelity bond insurance. Contractor will, upon request, furnish Customer with a certificate of conformity providing the aforesaid coverage.

ARTICLE 24 DISPUTES

24.1 Should disputes arise with respect to a Statement of Work or this Master Agreement, Contractor and Customer agree to act immediately to resolve such disputes. Time is of the essence in the resolution of disputes. Contractor agrees that, the existence of a dispute notwithstanding, it will continue without delay to carry out all of its responsibilities under the Purchase Order and/or this Master Agreement. Should Contractor fail to continue without delay to perform its responsibilities under the Purchase Order and/or this Master Agreement in the accomplishment of all work, any additional costs incurred by Contractor or Customer as a result of such failure to proceed shall be borne by Contractor and Contractor shall make no claim against Customer for such costs.

24.2 If Contractor and Customer cannot resolve a dispute within ten (10) calendar days following written notification by either party of the existence of said dispute, then the following procedure shall apply:

A. The parties agree to resolve such matters through submission of their dispute to the Executive Director of ITS, who shall reduce his/her decision to writing and mail or otherwise furnish a copy thereof to the parties within ten (10) calendar days after presentation of such dispute for his/her decision.

B. Customer may withhold payments on disputed items pending resolution of the dispute. The withholding of such disputed payments shall not constitute cause for termination or suspension of the Purchase Order and/or this Master Agreement by Contractor.

C. The Executive Director's decision shall not be a final determination of the parties' rights and obligations under the terms of this Master Agreement. Such disagreeing party shall be entitled to seek such other rights and remedies available it may have at law or in equity.

ARTICLE 25 COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

25.1 Contractor shall comply with, and all activities under a Statement of Work and this Master Agreement shall be subject to all Customer policies and procedures of which Contractor has knowledge, and all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations as now existing and as may be amended or modified. Specifically, but not limited to, Contractor shall not discriminate against any employee nor shall any party be subject to discrimination in the performance of the Purchase Order and this Master Agreement because of race, creed, color, sex, age, national

origin or disability.

25.2 Contractor represents and warrants that it will comply with the state's data breach notification laws codified at Section 75-24-29 of the Mississippi Code Annotated (Supp. 2012). Further, to the extent applicable, Contractor represents and warrants that it will comply with the applicable provisions of the HIPAA Privacy Rule and Security Regulations (45 CFR Parts 160, 162 and 164) ("Privacy Rule" and "Security Regulations", individually; or "Privacy and Security Regulations", collectively); and the provisions of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act, Title XIII of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. No. 111-5 (the "HITECH Act").

ARTICLE 26 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Contractor shall notify Customer of any potential conflict of interest resulting from the representation of or service to other clients. If such conflict cannot be resolved to Customer's satisfaction, Customer reserves the right to terminate the Purchase Order and this Master Agreement as to itself only. It is understood by the parties that the Contractor cannot perform security assessment services for customers in situations where the Customer and the Contractor have a pre-existing network business relationship.

ARTICLE 27 SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

By entering into this Master Agreement with Contractor, the State of Mississippi does in no way waive its sovereign immunities or defenses as provided by law.

ARTICLE 28 CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

28.1 Contractor shall treat all Customer data and information to which it has access by its performance under the Purchase Order and this Master Agreement as confidential and shall not disclose such data or information to a third party without specific written consent of Customer. In the event that Contractor receives notice that a third party requests divulgence of confidential or otherwise protected information and/or has served upon it a subpoena or other validly issued administrative or judicial process ordering divulgence of such information, Contractor shall promptly inform Customer and thereafter respond in conformity with such subpoena to the extent mandated by state and/or federal laws, rules and regulations. This Article shall survive the termination or completion of the Purchase Order or this Master Agreement and shall continue in full force and effect and shall be binding upon the Contractor and its agents, employees, successors, assigns, subcontractors or any party or entity claiming an interest in the Purchase Order or this Master Agreement on behalf of, or under the rights of the Contractor following any termination or completion of the Purchase Order or this Master Agreement.

28.2 With the exception of any attached exhibits which are labeled as "confidential", the parties understand and agree that the Purchase Order and this Master Agreement do not constitute confidential information, and may be reproduced and distributed by the State without notification to Contractor. ITS will provide third party notice to Contractor of any requests received by ITS for any such confidential exhibits so as to allow Contractor the opportunity to protect the information by court order as outlined in ITS Public Records Procedures.

28.3 The parties understand and agree that pursuant to §25-61-9(7) of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, the contract provisions specifying the commodities purchased or the services provided; the price to be paid; and the term of this Agreement shall not be deemed confidential information.

ARTICLE 29 EFFECT OF SIGNATURE

Each person signing a Purchase Order or this Master Agreement represents that he or she has read the Purchase Order and this Master Agreement in its entirety, understands its terms, is duly authorized to execute the Purchase Order or this Master Agreement on behalf of the parties and agrees to be bound by the terms contained herein. Accordingly, the Purchase Order and this Master Agreement shall not be construed or interpreted in favor of or against the State or the Contractor on the basis of draftsmanship or preparation hereof.

ARTICLE 30 STATE PROPERTY

Contractor shall be responsible for the proper custody of any Customer-owned property furnished for Contractor's use in connection with work performed pursuant to any Purchase Order. Contractor shall reimburse the Customer for any loss or damage, normal wear and tear excepted.

ARTICLE 31 NEWS RELEASES

News releases pertaining to a Purchase Order or this Master Agreement or the products, study, data, or project to which it relates will not be made without Customer's prior written approval, and then only in accordance with the explicit written instructions from Customer.

ARTICLE 32 SURVIVAL

Articles 8, 14, 18, 22, 27, 28, 33, 36, and all other articles which, by their express terms so survive or which should so reasonably survive, shall survive any termination or expiration of the Purchase Order or this Master Agreement.

ARTICLE 33 OWNERSHIP OF DOCUMENTS AND WORK PRODUCTS

The Customer shall own all files, work papers, documentation, and/or other material, electronic or otherwise, collected and created in connection with work performed under a Purchase Order, whether completed or in progress, except for: (a) Contractor's internal administrative and quality assurance files and internal project correspondence; (b) documents, objects or things owned by Contractor and pre-existing the work performed under the Purchase Order, and (c) documents, objects or things in which Contractor has no right to transfer ownership. As to such documents, objects and things, Contractor shall convey such right or interest to the extent allowed by law. Contractor shall deliver such documents and work papers to Customer upon termination or completion of the Purchase Order.

ARTICLE 34 ENTIRE AGREEMENT

34.1 This Master Agreement constitutes the entire agreement of the parties with respect to the subject matter contained herein and supersedes and replaces any and all prior negotiations, understandings and agreements, written or oral, between the parties relating hereto, including all terms of any unsigned or "shrink-wrap" license included in any package, media or electronic version of Contractor-furnished software, or any "click-wrap" or "browse-wrap" license presenting in connection with a purchase via the internet. The Purchase Order, RFP No. 4350, and Contractor's Proposal submitted in response thereto are hereby incorporated into and made a part of this Master Agreement as far as the individual Customer is concerned.

34.2 The Master Agreement made by and between the parties hereto shall consist of, and precedence is hereby established by the order of the following:

A. This Master Agreement signed by Contractor and ITS;

- B. Any Exhibits attached to this Master Agreement;
- C. The Purchase Order signed by Customer and Contractor, as applicable;
- D. RFP No. 4350 and all written clarifications/addenda;
- E. The mutually agreed upon Statement of Work, and
- F. Contractor's Proposal, as accepted by ITS, in response to RFP No. 4350.

34.3 The intent of the above listed documents is to include all items necessary for the proper execution and completion of the services by Contractor. The documents are complementary, and what is required by one shall be binding as if required by all. A higher order document shall supersede a lower order document to the extent necessary to resolve any conflict or inconsistency arising under the various provisions thereof; provided, however, that in the event an issue is addressed in one of the above mentioned documents but is not addressed in another of such documents, no conflict or inconsistency shall be deemed to occur by reason thereof. The documents listed above are shown in descending order of priority, that is, the highest document begins with the first listed document ("A. This Master Agreement") and the lowest document is listed last ("F. Contractor's Proposal").

ARTICLE 35 DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION CERTIFICATION

Contractor certifies that neither it nor its principals: (a) are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any federal department or agency; (b) have, within a three (3) year period preceding this Master Agreement, been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain or performing a public (federal, state or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of federal or state anti-trust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements or receiving stolen property; (c) are presently indicted of or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with the commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain or performing a public (federal, state or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of federal or state anti-trust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements or receiving stolen property, and (d) have, within a three (3) year period preceding this Master Agreement, had one or more public transaction (federal, state or local) terminated for cause or default.

ARTICLE 36 NON-SOLICITATION OF EMPLOYEES

Contractor agrees not to employ or to solicit for employment, directly or indirectly, any of Customer's employees until at least one (1) year after the expiration/termination of the Purchase Order unless mutually agreed to the contrary in writing by the Customer and Contractor and provided that such an agreement between these two entities is not a violation of the laws of the State of Mississippi or the federal government.

ARTICLE 37 COMPLIANCE WITH ENTERPRISE SECURITY POLICY

Contractor and Customer understand and agree that all products and services provided by Contractor under this Master Agreement must allow Customer to be and remain in compliance with the State of Mississippi's Enterprise Security Policy. The parties understand and agree that the State's Enterprise Security Policy is based on industry-standard best practices, policy, and guidelines at the time of contract execution. The State reserves the right to introduce a new policy during the term of this Agreement and require the Contractor to comply with same in the event the industry introduces more secure, robust solutions or practices that facilitate a more secure

posture for the State of Mississippi.

ARTICLE 38 COMPLIANCE WITH ENTERPRISE CLOUD AND OFFSITE HOSTING SECURITY

If applicable, Contractor and Customer understand and agree that all products and services provided by the Contractor under this Master Agreement must allow Customer to be and remain in compliance with the State of Mississippi's Enterprise Cloud and Offsite Hosting Security Policy. The parties understand and agree that the State's Enterprise Cloud and Offsite Hosting Security Policy is based on industry-standard best practices, policy, and guidelines at the time of contract execution and augments the Enterprise Security Policy. The State reserves the right to introduce a new policy during the term of this Master Agreement and require the Contractor to comply with same in the event the industry introduces more secure, robust solutions or practices that facilitate a more secure posture for the State of Mississippi.

ARTICLE 39 PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENT GUARANTEE

Contractor guarantees that the personnel identified in the Contractor's Statement of Work will remain available to and participate in the security consulting service project throughout the duration of the Statement of Work as long as the personnel are employed by the Contractor and are not replaced by Contractor pursuant to the third paragraph of the Article herein titled "Employment Status." Contractor further agrees that the assigned personnel will function in the capacity for which their services were acquired throughout the life of this Master Agreement, and any failure by Contractor to so provide these persons shall entitle the Customer to terminate this Master Agreement for cause. Contractor agrees to pay the Customer fifty percent (50%) of the total contract amount of any applicable Statement of Work if any of the assigned personnel is removed from the pool of personnel available to the security consulting service project prior to the ending date of the Statement of Work for reasons other than departure from Contractor's employment or replacement by Contractor pursuant to the third paragraph of the Article herein titled "Employment Status." Subject to the Customer's written approval, the Contractor may substitute qualified persons in the event of the separation of the incumbents therein from employment with Contractor or for other compelling reasons that are acceptable to the Customer, and may assign additional staff to provide technical support to Customer. The replacement personnel shall have equal or greater ability, experience and qualifications than the departing personnel, and shall be subject to the prior written approval of the Customer. The Contractor shall not permanently divert any staff member from meeting work schedules developed and approved under the project unless approved in writing by the Customer. In the event of Contractor personnel loss or redirection, the services performed by the Contractor shall be uninterrupted and the Contractor shall report in required status reports its efforts and progress in finding replacements and the effect of the absence of those personnel.

ARTICLE 40 CHANGE ORDER RATE AND PROCEDURE

40.1 It is understood that the Customer may, at any time by a written order, make changes in the scope of the project. No changes in scope are to be conducted or performed by the Contractor except by the express written approval of the Customer. The Contractor shall be obligated to perform all changes requested by the Customer which have no price or schedule effect.

40.2 The Contractor shall have no obligation to proceed with any change that has a price or schedule effect until the parties have mutually agreed in writing thereto. Neither the Customer nor the Contractor shall be obligated to execute such a change order; and if no such change order is executed, the Contractor shall not be obliged or authorized to perform services beyond the

scope of the initial project and the contract documents. All executed change orders shall be incorporated into previously defined deliverables.

40.3 With respect to any change orders issued in accordance with this Article, the Contractor shall be compensated for work performed under a change order according to the hourly change order rates specified in the attached Exhibit A, which is incorporated herein. If there is a service that is not defined in the change order rate, the Contractor and the Customer will negotiate the rate. The Contractor agrees that each change order rate shall be a "fully loaded" rate, that is, it includes the cost of all materials, travel expenses, per diem, and all other expenses and incidentals incurred by the Contractor in the performance of the change order. The Contractor shall invoice the Customer upon acceptance by the Customer of all work documented in the change order, and the Customer shall pay invoice amounts on the terms set forth in this Master Agreement.

40.4 Upon agreement of the parties to enter into a change order, the parties will execute such a change order setting forth in reasonable detail the work to be performed thereunder, the revisions necessary to the specifications or performance schedules of any affected project work plan, and the estimated number of professional services hours that will be necessary to implement the work contemplated therein. The price of the work to be performed under any change order will be determined based upon the change order rate; however, the change order will be issued for a total fixed dollar amount and may not be exceeded regardless of the number of hours actually expended by the Contractor to complete the work required by that change order. The project work plan will be revised as necessary.

40.5 The Contractor will include in the progress reports delivered under the project, the status of work performed under all then current change orders.

40.6 In the event the Contractor and the Customer enter into a change order which increases or decreases the time required for the performance of any part of the work under the project, the Contractor shall submit to the Customer a revised version of the project work plan, clearly indicating all changes, at least five (5) working days prior to implementing any such changes.

40.7 The Customer shall promptly review all revised project work plans submitted, and shall notify the Contractor of its approval or disapproval, in whole or in part, of the proposed revisions, stating with particularity all grounds for any disapproval, within ten (10) working days of receiving the revisions from the Contractor unless a longer period of time is mutually agreed upon.

ARTICLE 41 TRANSPARENCY

In accordance with the Mississippi Accountability and Transparency Act of 2008, §27-104-151, et seq., of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as Amended, the American Accountability and Transparency Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-5), where applicable, and §31-7-13 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, where applicable, a fully executed copy of this Agreement and any subsequent amendments and change orders shall be posted to the State of Mississippi's accountability website at: <https://www.transparency.ms.gov>.

ARTICLE 42 FORCE MAJEURE

Each party shall be excused from performance for any period and to the extent that it is prevented from performing any obligation or service, in whole or in part, as a result of causes beyond the reasonable control and without the fault or negligence of such party and/or its subcontractors.

Such acts shall include without limitation acts of God, strikes, lockouts, riots, acts of war or terrorism, epidemics, governmental regulations superimposed after the fact, fire, earthquakes, floods, or other natural disasters (the "Force Majeure Events"). When such a cause arises, the Contractor shall notify the Customer immediately in writing of the cause of its inability to perform; how it affects its performance, and the anticipated duration of the inability to perform. Delays in delivery or in meeting completion dates due to Force Majeure Events shall automatically extend such dates for a period equal to the duration of the delay caused by such events, unless the State determines it to be in its best interest to terminate this Agreement.

ARTICLE 43 FEDERAL CONTRACT PROVISIONS

This contract is funded in whole or in part federal funds. Therefore, the Contractor, and subcontractor(s) at any tier, must comply with applicable federal laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, the federal contract provisions provided in Exhibit C, Federal Terms and Conditions, attached hereto and expressly incorporated herein.

For the faithful performance of the terms of this Master Agreement, the parties have caused this Master Agreement to be executed by their undersigned representatives.

**State of Mississippi, Department of
Information Technology Services, on behalf
of the agencies and institutions
of the State of Mississippi**

INSERT VENDOR NAME

By: _____
Authorized Signature

By: _____
Authorized Signature

Printed Name: David C. Johnson

Printed Name: _____

Title: Executive Director

Title: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

EXHIBIT A

EXHIBIT B

CERTIFICATION OF DESTRUCTION



Letter of Certification of Destruction
of Security Related Reports

Vendors must certify that the required security reports and information gathered by their company during the process of providing security risk and assessment services has been delivered in both hard copy and electronic form to the customer. The Vendor must certify that within 30 days of the delivery of said reports and information, all subsequent copies, both hard copies and electronic copies have been properly shredded, otherwise destroyed, or deleted using procedures consistent with the State of Mississippi Enterprise Security Policy and NIST Special Publication 800-88.

I hereby certify that the reports and information gathered by our company in the execution of our responsibilities under contract no. _____ for {AGENCY} have been properly shredded, otherwise destroyed, or deleted in accordance with the requirements stated above.

Company Name:

Destruction/Sanitization Method Used (Degauss / Overwrite / Block Erase / Crypto Erase):

Destruction/Sanitization Method Details:

Company Representative Name (Print Name):

Company Representative Title (Print Title):

Company Signature:

Date Submitted:

EXHIBIT C

Federal Terms and Conditions:

Terms and conditions pertain not only to Recipients, but grant funded Sub-Recipients, as well. The following list of terms and conditions should be reviewed and followed. The FY2022 Department of Homeland Security Standard Terms and Conditions, can be found at: https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2022-01/fy_2022_dhs_terms_and_conditions_version_2_dated_jan_24_2022_508.pdf.

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 DHS Standard Terms and Conditions apply to all new federal financial assistance awards funded in FY 2022. These terms and conditions flow down to subrecipients unless an award term or condition specifically indicates otherwise. The United States has the right to seek judicial enforcement of these obligations

A. Assurances, Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, Representations and Certifications

I. DHS financial assistance recipients must complete either the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Standard Form 424B Assurances – Non-Construction Programs, or OMB Standard Form 424D Assurances – Construction Programs, as applicable. Certain assurances in these documents may not be applicable to your program, and the DHS financial assistance office (DHS FAO) may require applicants to certify additional assurances. Applicants are required to fill out the assurances as instructed by the awarding agency.

II. DHS financial assistance recipients are required to follow the applicable provisions of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards located at Title 2, Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Part 200 and adopted by DHS at 2 C.F.R. Part 3002.

III. By accepting this agreement, recipients, and their executives, as defined in 2 C.F.R. § 170.315, certify that their policies are in accordance with OMB's guidance located at 2 C.F.R. Part 200, all applicable federal laws, and relevant Executive guidance.

B. General Acknowledgements and Assurances

All recipients, subrecipients, successors, transferees, and assignees must acknowledge and agree to comply with applicable provisions governing DHS access to records, accounts, documents, information, facilities, and staff.

I. Recipients must cooperate with any DHS compliance reviews or compliance investigations conducted by DHS.

II. Recipients must give DHS access to examine and copy records, accounts, and other documents and sources of information related to the federal financial assistance award and permit access to facilities or personnel.

III. Recipients must submit timely, complete, and accurate reports to the appropriate DHS officials and maintain appropriate backup documentation to support the reports.

IV. Recipients must comply with all other special reporting, data collection, and evaluation requirements, as prescribed by law, or detailed in program guidance.

V. Recipients (as defined in 2 C.F.R. Part 200 and including recipients acting as pass-through entities) of federal financial assistance from DHS or one of its awarding component agencies must complete the DHS Civil Rights Evaluation Tool within thirty (30) days of receipt of the Notice of Award for the first award under which this term applies. Recipients of multiple awards of DHS financial assistance should only submit one completed tool for their organization, not per award. After the initial submission, recipients are required to complete the tool once every two (2) years if they have an active award, not every time an award is made. Recipients should submit the

completed tool, including supporting materials, to CivilRightsEvaluation@hq.dhs.gov. This tool clarifies the civil rights obligations and related reporting requirements contained in the DHS Standard Terms and Conditions. Subrecipients are not required to complete and submit this tool to DHS. The evaluation tool can be found at <https://www.dhs.gov/publication/dhs-civil-rights-evaluation-tool>.

The DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties will consider, in its discretion, granting an extension if the recipient identifies steps and a timeline for completing the tool. Recipients should request extensions by emailing the request to CivilRightsEvaluation@hq.dhs.gov prior to expiration of the 30-day deadline

C. Standard Terms & Conditions

I. Acknowledgement of Federal Funding from DHS

Recipients must acknowledge their use of federal funding when issuing statements, press releases, requests for proposal, bid invitations, and other documents describing projects or programs funded in whole or in part with federal funds.

II. Activities Conducted Abroad

Recipients must ensure that project activities performed outside the United States are coordinated as necessary with appropriate government authorities and that appropriate licenses, permits, or approvals are obtained.

III. Age Discrimination Act of 1975

Recipients must comply with the requirements of the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Public Law 94-135 (1975) (codified as amended at Title 42, U.S. Code, § 6101 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

IV. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

Recipients must comply with the requirements of Titles I, II, and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Pub. L. 101-336 (1990) (codified as amended at 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101– 12213), which prohibits recipients from discriminating on the basis of disability in the operation of public entities, public and private transportation systems, places of public accommodation, and certain testing entities.

V. Best Practices for Collection and Use of Personally Identifiable Information

Recipients who collect personally identifiable information (PII) are required to have a publicly available privacy policy that describes standards on the usage and maintenance of the PII they collect. DHS defines PII as any information that permits the identity of an individual to be directly or indirectly inferred, including any information that is linked or linkable to that individual. Recipients may also find the DHS Privacy Impact Assessments: Privacy Guidance and Privacy Template as useful resources respectively.

VI. Civil Rights Act of 1964 – Title VI

Recipients must comply with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (codified as amended at 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq.), which provides that no person in United States will, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. DHS implementing regulations for the Act are found at 6 C.F.R. Part 21 and 44 C.F.R. Part 7.

VII. Civil Rights Act of 1968

Recipients must comply with Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, Pub. L. 90-284, as amended through Pub. L. 113-4, which prohibits recipients from discriminating in the sale, rental, financing, and advertising of dwellings, or in the provision of services in connection therewith, on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, familial status, and sex (see 42 U.S.C. § 3601 et seq.), as implemented by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development at 24 C.F.R. Part 100. The prohibition on disability discrimination includes the requirement that new multifamily housing with four or more dwelling units— i.e., the public and common use

areas and individual apartment units (all units in buildings with elevators and ground-floor units in buildings without elevators)—be designed and constructed with certain accessible features. (See 24 C.F.R. Part 100, Subpart D.)

VIII. Copyright

Recipients must affix the applicable copyright notices of 17 U.S.C. §§ 401 or 402 and an acknowledgement of U.S. Government sponsorship (including the award number) to any work first produced under federal financial assistance awards.

IX. Debarment and Suspension

Recipients are subject to the non-procurement debarment and suspension regulations implementing Executive Orders (E.O.) 12549 and 12689, which are at 2 C.F.R. Part 180 as adopted by DHS at 2 C.F.R. Part 3002. These regulations restrict federal financial assistance awards, subawards, and contracts with certain parties that are debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in federal assistance programs or activities.

X. Drug-Free Workplace Regulation

Recipients must comply with drug-free workplace requirements in Subpart B (or Subpart C, if the recipient is an individual) of 2 C.F.R. Part 3001, which adopts the Government-wide implementation (2 C.F.R. Part 182) of Sec. 5152-5158 of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (41 U.S.C. §§ 8101-8106).

XI. Duplication of Benefits

Any cost allocable to a particular federal financial assistance award provided for in 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart E may not be charged to other federal financial assistance awards to overcome fund deficiencies; to avoid restrictions imposed by federal statutes, regulations, or federal financial assistance award terms and conditions; or for other reasons. However, these prohibitions would not preclude recipients from shifting costs that are allowable under two or more awards in accordance with existing federal statutes, regulations, or the federal financial assistance award terms and conditions may not be charged to other federal financial assistance awards to overcome fund deficiencies; to avoid restrictions imposed by federal statutes, regulations, or federal financial assistance award terms and conditions; or for other reasons.

XII. Education Amendments of 1972 (Equal Opportunity in Education Act) – Title IX

Recipients must comply with the requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Pub. L. 92-318 (1972) (codified as amended at 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.), which provide that no person in the United States will, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. DHS implementing regulations are codified at 6 C.F.R. Part 17 and 44 C.F.R. Part 19.

XIII. Energy Policy and Conservation Act

Recipients must comply with the requirements of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, Pub. L. 94- 163 (1975) (codified as amended at 42 U.S.C. § 6201 et seq.), which contain policies relating to energy efficiency that are defined in the state energy conservation plan issued in compliance with this Act.

XIV. Ensuring the Future is Made in All of America by All of America's Workers

Recipients must comply with the "Build America, Buy America" provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and E.O. 14005 which provide that, as appropriate and to the extent consistent with law, the recipient must use all practicable means within their authority under a federal award to provide a preference for the purchase, acquisition, or use of goods, products, or materials produced in the United States (including but not limited to iron, aluminum, steel, cement, and other manufactured products.)

XV. False Claims Act and Program Fraud Civil Remedies

Recipients must comply with the requirements of the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. §§3729- 3733, which prohibit

the submission of false or fraudulent claims for payment to the Federal Government. (See 31 U.S.C. §§ 3801-3812, which details the administrative remedies for false claims and statements made.)

XVI. Federal Debt Status

All recipients are required to be non-delinquent in their repayment of any federal debt. Examples of relevant debt include delinquent payroll and other taxes, audit disallowances, and benefit overpayments. (See OMB Circular A-129.)

XVII. Federal Leadership on Reducing Text Messaging while Driving

Recipients are encouraged to adopt and enforce policies that ban text messaging while driving as described in E.O. 13513, including conducting initiatives described in Section 3(a) of the Order when on official government business or when performing any work for or on behalf of the Federal Government.

XVIII. Fly America Act of 1974

Recipients must comply with Preference for U.S. Flag Air Carriers (air carriers holding certificates under 49 U.S.C.) for international air transportation of people and property to the extent that such service is available, in accordance with the International Air Transportation Fair Competitive Practices Act of 1974, 49 U.S.C. § 40118, and the interpretative guidelines issued by the Comptroller General of the United States in the March 31, 1981, amendment to Comptroller General Decision B-138942.

XIX. Hotel and Motel Fire Safety Act of 1990

Recipients must ensure that all conference, meeting, convention, or training space funded in whole or in part with federal funds complies with the fire prevention and control guidelines of Section 6 of the Hotel and Motel Fire Safety Act of 1990, 15 U.S.C. § 2225a

XX. John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2019

Recipients, subrecipients, and their contractors and subcontractors are subject to the prohibitions described in section 889 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, Pub. L. No. 115-232 (2018) and 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.216, 200.327, 200.471, and Appendix II to 2 C.F.R. Part 200. Beginning August 13, 2020, the statute – as it applies to DHS recipients, subrecipients, and their contractors and subcontractors – prohibits obligating or expending federal award funds on certain telecommunications and video surveillance products and contracting with certain entities for national security reasons.

XXI. Limited English Proficiency (Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VI)

Recipients must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, (42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq.) prohibition against discrimination on the basis of national origin, which requires that recipients of federal financial assistance take reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to persons with limited English proficiency (LEP) to their programs and services. For additional assistance and information regarding language access obligations, please refer to the DHS Recipient Guidance: <https://www.dhs.gov/guidance-published-help-department-supported-organizations-provide-meaningful-access-people-limited> and additional resources on <http://www.lep.gov>.

XXII. Lobbying Prohibitions

Recipients must comply with 31 U.S.C. § 1352, which provides that none of the funds provided under a federal financial assistance award may be expended by the recipient to pay any person to influence, or attempt to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with any federal action related to a federal award or contract, including any extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification.

XXIII. National Environmental Policy Act

Recipients must comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, (NEPA) Pub. L. 91-190 (1970) (codified as amended at 42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq. and the Council on Environmental Quality

(CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA, which require recipients to use all practicable means within their authority, and consistent with other essential considerations of national policy, to create and maintain conditions under which people and nature can exist in productive harmony and fulfill the social, economic, and other needs of present and future generations of Americans.

XXIV. Nondiscrimination in Matters Pertaining to Faith-Based Organizations

It is DHS policy to ensure the equal treatment of faith-based organizations in social service programs administered or supported by DHS or its component agencies, enabling those organizations to participate in providing important social services to beneficiaries. Recipients must comply with the equal treatment policies and requirements contained in 6 C.F.R. Part 19 and other applicable statutes, regulations, and guidance governing the participations of faith-based organizations in individual DHS programs.

XXV. Non-Supplanting Requirement

Recipients receiving federal financial assistance awards made under programs that prohibit supplanting by law must ensure that federal funds do not replace (supplant) funds that have been budgeted for the same purpose through non-federal sources.

XXVI. Notice of Funding Opportunity Requirements

All the instructions, guidance, limitations, and other conditions set forth in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for this program are incorporated here by reference in the award terms and conditions. All recipients must comply with any such requirements set forth in the program NOFO.

XXVII. Patents and Intellectual Property Rights

Recipients are subject to the Bayh-Dole Act, 35 U.S.C. § 200 et seq, unless otherwise provided by law. Recipients are subject to the specific requirements governing the development, reporting, and disposition of rights to inventions and patents resulting from federal financial assistance awards located at 37 C.F.R. Part 401 and the standard patent rights clause located at 37 C.F.R. § 401.14.

XXVIII. Procurement of Recovered Materials

States, political subdivisions of states, and their contractors must comply with Section 6002 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, Pub. L. 89-272 (1965), (codified as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6962.) The requirements of Section 6002 include procuring only items designated in guidelines of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at 40 C.F.R. Part 247 that contain the highest percentage of recovered materials practicable, consistent with maintaining a satisfactory level of competition.

XXIX. Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Recipients must comply with the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Pub. L. 93-112 (1973), (codified as amended at 29 U.S.C. § 794,) which provides that no otherwise qualified handicapped individuals in the United States will, solely by reason of the handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

XXX. Reporting of Matters Related to Recipient Integrity and Performance

General Reporting Requirements: If the total value of any currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from all federal awarding agencies exceeds \$10,000,000 for any period of time during the period of performance of this federal award, then the recipients must comply with the requirements set forth in the government-wide Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters located at 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix XII, the full text of which is incorporated here by reference in the award terms and conditions.

XXXI. Reporting Subawards and Executive Compensation Reporting of first tier subawards.

Recipients are required to comply with the requirements set forth in the government-wide award term on Reporting Subawards and Executive Compensation located at 2 C.F.R. Part FY 170, Appendix A, the full text of which is incorporated here by reference in the award terms and conditions.

XXXII. SAFECOM

Recipients receiving federal financial assistance awards made under programs that provide emergency communication equipment and its related activities must comply with the SAFECOM Guidance for Emergency Communication Grants, including provisions on technical standards that ensure and enhance interoperable communications.

XXXIII. Terrorist Financing

Recipients must comply with E.O. 13224 and U.S. laws that prohibit transactions with, and the provisions of resources and support to, individuals and organizations associated with terrorism. Recipients are legally responsible to ensure compliance with the Order and laws.

XXXIV. Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA)

Trafficking in Persons.

Recipients must comply with the requirements of the government-wide financial assistance award term which implements Section 106 (g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), codified as amended at 22 U.S.C. § 7104. The award term is located at 2 C.F.R. § 175.15, the full text of which is incorporated here by reference.

XXXV. Universal Identifier and System of Award Management Requirements for System for Award Management and Unique Entity Identifier

Recipients are required to comply with the requirements set forth in the government-wide financial assistance award term regarding the System for Award Management and Universal Identifier Requirements located at 2 C.F.R. Part 25, Appendix A, the full text of which is incorporated here by reference.

XXXVI. USA PATRIOT Act of 2001

Recipients must comply with requirements of Section 817 of the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001 (USA PATRIOT Act), which amends 18 U.S.C. §§ 175–175c.

XXXVII. Use of DHS Seal, Logo and Flags

Recipients must obtain permission from their DHS FAO prior to using the DHS seal(s), logos, crests or reproductions of flags or likenesses of DHS agency officials, including use of the United States Coast Guard seal, logo, crests or reproductions of flags or likenesses of Coast Guard officials.

XXXVIII. Whistleblower Protection Act

Recipients must comply with the statutory requirements for whistleblower protections (if applicable) at 10 U.S.C. § 2409, 41 U.S.C. § 4712, and 10 U.S.C. § 2324, 41 U.S.C. §§ 4304 and 4310

Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements; Procurement; Organizational and Financial Requirement; following Sub-Recipient Procedures: Disclosures: Disclosure of Information and Conflict of Interest

Sub-Recipients should refer to the regulations cited below to determine the certification to which they are required to attest. Sub-Recipients should also review the instructions for certification included in the regulations before completing this form. Signature of this agreement provides for compliance with certification requirements under 10 CFR Part 601 "New Restrictions on Lobbying," and 10 CFR Part 1036 "Government wide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) and Government wide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants)." The certifications shall be treated as a material representation of fact upon which reliance will be placed when the State determines to award the covered transaction, grant, or other agreement.

1. Lobbying

As required by section 1352, Title 31 of the U.S. Code, and implemented at 44 CFR Part 18, for persons entering into a grant or cooperating agreement over \$ 100,000, as defined at 44 CFR Part 18, the applicant certifies that:

(a) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the making of any Federal grant, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal grant or cooperative agreement.

(b) If any other funds than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any other person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, an officer or an employee of Congress, or employee of a member of Congress in connection with this Federal Grant or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Stand Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions

(c) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subgrants, contracts under grants and cooperative agreements, and subcontracts) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

2. Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters

1. The prospective primary participant certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its principals:

(a) Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency.

(b) Have not within a three-year period preceding this proposal been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;

(c) Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1)(b) of this certification; and

(d) Have not within a three-year period preceding this application/proposal had one or more public transactions (Federal, State or local) terminated for cause or default.

2. Where the prospective primary participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

3. Applicable CFR's and Federal Executive Orders 12549 and 12689 prohibit non-federal entities from contracting with or making sub-awards under covered transactions to parties that are suspended or debarred or whose principals are suspended or debarred. Covered transactions include procurement contracts for goods or services equal to or in excess of \$25,000 and non-procurement transactions such as grants or cooperative agreements. By signing this Agreement, the Subgrantee agrees it will verify the status of potential vendors prior to any federal funds being obligated to prevent any debarred or suspended agencies or vendors from receiving federal funds. The Subrecipient can confirm the status of potential vendors by conducting a search on the System for Award Management (SAM) website (<https://www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM/>). At this time, DPS does not require Subrecipients to submit proof of verification with any reimbursement request; however, the Subrecipient must maintain this information, in the form of a screen print, with other grant documentation. This documentation shall be available for review per Attachment C.

3. Drug-Free Workplace

This certification is required by the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (Pub.L. 100-690, Title V, Subtitle D) and is implemented through additions to the Debarment and Suspension regulations, published in the Federal Register on January 31, 1989, and May 25, 1990.

The Subrecipient will or will continue to provide a drug-free workplace by:

1. Maintaining a Zero Tolerance Drug Policy.
2. Posting in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, sale, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of a controlled substance or marijuana is prohibited in the Subrecipient's workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violations of such prohibition.
3. Stating in all solicitations or advertisements for employees or subcontractors placed by or on behalf of the Subrecipient that the Subrecipient maintains a drug-free workplace.
4. Establishing an ongoing drug-free awareness program to inform employees about:
 - (a) The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace.
 - (b) The Subrecipient's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace.
 - (c) Any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs; and
 - (d) The penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations occurring in the workplace.
 - (e) Including the provisions of the foregoing clauses in all third-party contracts, subcontracts, and purchase orders that exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00), so that the provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor.

4. Procurement:

The Subrecipient agrees to abide by their respective procurement rules, policies, and/or procedures as outlined in 2 CFR §§ 200.317 to 200.326.

1. Subrecipient must comply with proper competitive bidding procedures as required by the applicable federal and state rules.

2. The subrecipient entity must maintain written standards of conduct covering conflict of interest and governing the actions of its employees and engaged in selection, award, and administration of contracts.
3. The subrecipient must take all necessary affirmative steps to assure that minority business, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms re used when possible. Please see 2 CFR § 200.321 for the affirmative steps that must be taken.

5. Organizational and Financial Requirement

1. All Subrecipients are required to establish and maintain accounting systems and financial records to accurately account for funds awarded to them. Determining allowability of costs claimed will be consistent with the requirements of the grant award and its applicable regulations.
 - a. Subrecipients have the responsibility to employ the organizational and management techniques necessary to assure proper administration and cost allocation, including accounting, budgeting, reporting, auditing and other review controls.
 - b. All Subrecipients will accept responsibility for expending and accounting for funds in a manner consistent with an approved project, plan and or program as evidenced by their acceptance of an Agreement award by the Department of Public Safety; Policies, procedures, reporting requirements or other special conditions established by the appropriate Federal agency, if applicable, and the Department of Public Safety.
2. Subrecipients must have an adequate system of internal controls which:
 - a. Presents, classifies and retains all detailed financial records related to the Agreement award. Financial records must be retained by the Subrecipient and be available for review for a period of three (3) years after the expiration of the grant period except those records must be retained until completion or resolution of all issues arising from audit, litigation or claims started before the expiration of the three-year period, whichever is later.
 - b. Provides reasonable assurance that Federal awards are managed in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and 42 CFR § 200.318(c)(1) conditions. These internal controls should be in compliance with the guidance in "Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government" issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the "Internal Control Integrated Framework," issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).
 - c. Provides information for planning, control and evaluation of direct and indirect costs.
 - d. Provides cost and property control to ensure optimal use of the grant funds; Controls funds and other resources to ensure that the expenditure of grant funds and use of any property acquired under the grant are in conformance with established guidelines and policies.
3. Notification of Organizational Changes Required:
 - a. The recipient shall provide DPS written notification within 30 days should any of the following events occur:
 - i. having new or substantially changed systems
 - ii. having new compliance personnel
 - iii. loss of license or accreditation to operate program
 - iv. organizational restructuring

6. Following Subrecipient Procedures:

The undersigned certifies that the Subrecipient organization has in place standard policies and procedures that govern the Subrecipient's payroll, purchasing, contracting and inventory control in accordance with 2 CFR 225, Appendix A, Section C 1.e or 2 CFR 200.302. The undersigned further certifies that the Subrecipient organization will use those policies and procedures for any approved expenditure under this Agreement and for any equipment purchased with Agreement funds. The undersigned also agrees to make the policies and procedures available for examination by any authorized representatives of the State or Federal Government. This does not relieve the Subrecipient from requirements of federal financial management, requirements in:

- (a) 2 CFR 200 § 302 Financial Management

7. Disclosure of Information:

Any confidential or personally identifiable information (PII) acquired by subrecipient during the course of the subgrant shall not be disclosed by subrecipient to any person, firm, corporation, association, or other entity for any reason or purpose whatsoever without the prior written consent of the Department of Public Safety either during the term of the Agreement or in the event of termination of the Agreement for any reason whatsoever. Subrecipient agrees to abide by applicable federal regulations regarding confidential information and research standards, as appropriate, for federally supported projects.

8. Conflict of Interest

Subgrantee/Contractor covenants that, to the best of its knowledge, no person under its employ, including subcontractors, who presently exercises any functions or responsibilities in connection with Board, Department, or projects or programs funded by Board or Department, has any personal financial interest, direct or indirect, in this Subgrant Agreement /Contract.

1. Subgrantee/Contractor further covenants that in the performance of Subgrant Agreement/Contract, no person having such conflicting interest shall knowingly be employed by Subgrantee/Contractor.
2. Any such interest, on the part of Subgrantee /Contractor or its employees, when known, must be disclosed in writing to Department.

9. Prohibition on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment

- (a) Recipients and subrecipients are prohibited from obligating or expending loan or grant funds to:
 - (1) Procure or obtain.
 - (2) Extend or renew a contract to procure or obtain; or
 - (3) Enter into a contract (or extend or renew a contract) to procure or obtain equipment, services, or systems that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system. As described in Public Law 115-232, section 889, covered telecommunications equipment is telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).
- (i) For the purpose of public safety, security of government facilities, physical security surveillance of critical infrastructure, and other national security purposes, video surveillance and telecommunications equipment produced by Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, or Dahua Technology Company (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).

(ii) Telecommunications or video surveillance services provided by such entities or using such equipment.

(iii) Telecommunications or video surveillance equipment or services produced or provided by an entity that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of the National Intelligence or the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, reasonably believes to be an entity owned or controlled by, or otherwise connected to, the government of a covered foreign country.

(b) In implementing the prohibition under Public Law 115-232, section 889, subsection (f), paragraph (1), heads of executive agencies administering loan, grant, or subsidy programs shall prioritize available funding and technical support to assist affected businesses, institutions and organizations as is reasonably necessary for those affected entities to transition from covered communications equipment and services, to procure replacement equipment and services, and to ensure that communications service to users and customers is sustained.

(c) See Public Law 115-232, section 889 for additional information. (d) See also §200.471.

FEMA Standard Terms and Conditions

FISCAL YEAR 2023 FEMA STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

[<https://www.fema.gov/fact-sheet/fiscal-year-2023-fema-standard-terms-and-conditions>]

Release Date: Mar 8, 2023

FEMA standard terms and conditions are updated each fiscal year (FY). This Fact Sheet displays the FEMA standard terms and conditions for FY 2023. These standard terms and conditions apply to all non-disaster financial assistance awards funded in FY 2023.

1. Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (EHP) Review

DHS/FEMA funded activities that may require an Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (EHP) review are subject to the FEMA EHP review process. This review does not address all federal, state, and local requirements. Acceptance of federal funding requires the recipient to comply with all federal, state and local laws.

DHS/FEMA is required to consider the potential impacts to natural and cultural resources of all projects funded by DHS/FEMA grant funds, through its EHP review process, as mandated by: the National Environmental Policy Act; National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; National Flood Insurance Program regulations; and any other applicable laws and executive orders. General guidance for FEMA's EHP process is available on the DHS/FEMA Website [<https://www.fema.gov/grants/guidance-tools/environmental-historic>]. Specific applicant guidance on how to submit information for EHP review depends on the individual grant program and applicants should contact their grant Program Officer to be put into contact with EHP staff responsible for assisting their specific grant program. The EHP review process must be completed before funds are released to carry out the proposed project; otherwise, DHS/FEMA may not be able to fund the project due to noncompliance with EHP laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies.

If ground disturbing activities occur during construction, applicant will monitor ground disturbance, and if any potential archaeological resources are discovered the applicant will immediately cease work in that area and notify the pass-through entity, if applicable, and DHS/FEMA.

2. Applicability of DHS Standard Terms and Conditions to Tribes

The DHS Standard Terms and Conditions are a restatement of general requirements imposed upon recipients and flow down to sub-recipients as a matter of law, regulation, or executive order. If the requirement does not apply to Indian tribes or there is a federal law or regulation exempting its application to Indian tribes, then the

acceptance by Tribes of, or acquiescence to, DHS Standard Terms and Conditions does not change or alter its inapplicability to an Indian tribe. The execution of grant documents is not intended to change, alter, amend, or impose additional liability or responsibility upon the Tribe where it does not already exist.

3. Acceptance of Post Award Changes

In the event FEMA determines that changes are necessary to the award document after an award has been made, including changes to period of performance or terms and conditions, recipients will be notified of the changes in writing. Once notification has been made, any subsequent request for funds will indicate recipient acceptance of the changes to the award. Please call the FEMA/ GMD Call Center at (866) 927-5646 or via e-mail to: ASK-GMD@fema.dhs.gov if you have any questions.

4. Disposition of Equipment Acquired Under the Federal Award

For purposes of original or replacement equipment acquired under this award by a non-state recipient or non-state sub-recipients, when that equipment is no longer needed for the original project or program or for other activities currently or previously supported by a federal awarding agency, you must request instructions from FEMA to make proper disposition of the equipment pursuant to 2 C.F.R. section 200.313. State recipients and state sub-recipients must follow the disposition requirements in accordance with state laws and procedures.

5. Prior Approval for Modification of Approved Budget

Before making any change to the FEMA approved budget for this award, you must request prior written approval from FEMA where required by 2 C.F.R. section 200.308 [<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-D/section-200.308>].

For purposes of non-construction projects, FEMA is utilizing its discretion to impose an additional restriction under 2 C.F.R. section 200.308(f) [<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-D/section-200.308>] regarding the transfer of funds among direct cost categories, programs, functions, or activities. Therefore, for awards with an approved budget where the federal share is greater than the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$250,000), you may not transfer funds among direct cost categories, programs, functions, or activities without prior written approval from FEMA where the cumulative amount of such transfers exceeds or is expected to exceed ten percent (10%) of the total budget FEMA last approved.

For purposes of awards that support both construction and non-construction work, FEMA is utilizing its discretion under 2 C.F.R. section 200.308(h)(5) [<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-D/section-200.308>] to require the recipient to obtain prior written approval from FEMA before making any fund or budget transfers between the two types of work.

You must report any deviations from your FEMA approved budget in the first Federal Financial Report (SF-425) [<https://www.grants.gov/forms/post-award-reporting-forms.html>] you submit following any budget deviation, regardless of whether the budget deviation requires prior written approval.

6. Indirect Cost Rate

2 C.F.R. section 200.211(b)(15) [<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-C/section-200.211>] requires the terms of the award to include the indirect cost rate for the federal award. If applicable, the indirect cost rate for this award is stated in the budget documents or other materials approved by FEMA and included in the award file.

**ATTACHMENT A
REQUIREMENTS MATRICES**

Please refer to the Excel Spreadsheets at the following links:

http://rfps.its.ms.gov/Procurement/rfps/4350/4350attachment_al.xls
http://rfps.its.ms.gov/Procurement/rfps/4350/4350attachment_all.xls
http://rfps.its.ms.gov/Procurement/rfps/4350/4350attachment_alll.xls
http://rfps.its.ms.gov/Procurement/rfps/4350/4350attachment_alV.xls