

## Request for Quote: Technical or Professional, Non-personal Services

This Request for Quote (RFQ) is issued by the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution (SI), for technical professional, non-personal services to provide administrative support for the Education and Outreach Department's liaison program in accordance with the Statement of Work (SOW).

### I. SUBMITTING YOUR QUOTE

Price quotes may be submitted by *email*. Quotes are **due by 5:00 pm EST, on January 10, 2022** at:

Smithsonian Institution  
Office of Education and Outreach

Subject: **Education Contract Submission**  
Email to: **Jennifer Collins - collinsje@si.edu**

### II. DESCRIPTION OF REQUIRED SERVICES

The National Museum of Natural History has a requirement for administrative and evaluative services in support of science education at the museum. The award will be for 12 months – with four 12-month options.

### III. EVALUATION

The SI plans to award based on best value to the SI considering the following factors. The SI plans to award without discussions, however, does reserve the right to conduct discussions if later determined by the Contracting Officer to be necessary.

All of the following factors are of equal importance. Evaluation factors are:

#### A. Relevant Experience/Past Performance

1. Relevant experience is that obtained within the past 3 years providing or performing services of similar size, scope, complexity and type of client that indicates your suitability for this project.
  - a. Training or learning in ocean science, including content related to climate
  - b. Training or learning in education or communication
  - c. Experience designing and facilitating activities and programs for informal
  - d. Experience designing and facilitating training resources and programs for

- e. Experience tracking, reporting and evaluating multiple programs and
  - f. Experience communicating and collaborating with STEM professionals
2. Past Performance should be indicated by a list of 3 current or previous employers and/or contracts with names of points of contact and their current telephone numbers who can answer specific questions on performance as it relates to this solicitation.

**B. Qualifications/Technical Competence**

- 1. **Technical Information** –Technical information should include a narrative discussion addressing the technical competence, the capabilities, qualifications, and approach to satisfy the requirements of the SOW.
- 2. Minimum of a Bachelors Degree including coursework or experience in science, education, communication, or related field.

**C. Résumé** (*See Section VII for legislative and administrative requirements that may apply to successful bidders' employees.*)

**D. Price** The price evaluation will cover pricing submitted for the base 12 months plus all additional option years, with the intent to evaluate based on all years.

**E. Meetings** It is the intention of the Smithsonian to meet with offerors who meet the evaluation factors listed above; however, it is possible that meetings may not occur. Consequently, it is important that all responses to this request be complete and include all necessary information.

**IV. INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS**

Prospective contractors are required to have General Liability Insurance coverage in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000 per occurrence for liabilities arising out of the contractor's activities pertaining to this contract. The SI must be listed as additional insured for the General Liability insurance. Proof of insurance must be submitted with quotes.

**V. DUNS NUMBER**

A DUNS number is a unique nine digit identification number available for each physical location of your business and is needed to register in the System for Award Management (SAM), formerly the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) system (see Section VI of this RFQ). DUNS numbers are provided through Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) at no charge when you contact D&B via toll free telephone call to 1-866-705-5711, or on the internet at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>. Non-U.S. (international) vendors may also contact D&B via email at [help@dnb.com](mailto:help@dnb.com). Indicate that you are requesting a DUNS number to assist with eligibility for U.S. Government contracts. New DUNS numbers for U.S. vendors will be active and available for SAM registration within 1-2 business days of request; international vendors DUNS will be active and available normally within 2-5 days of request.

## **VI. SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT (SAM) REGISTRATION (formerly CCR)**

It is a requirement that current and prospective recipients of contract and purchase orders awarded by the SI must complete registration and maintain an active record in the System for Award Management (SAM). The SAM requires a one-time business registration, with annual updates, and allows vendors to control the accuracy of the business information they enter. The financial data you enter, which includes the electronic funds transfer (EFT) data collected by SAM, will assist the SI in paying your invoices and complying with the Federal Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996. You may complete or update your information in SAM online at <https://sam.gov>. Questions regarding the process may be directed to the Federal Service Desk online at [www.fsd.gov](http://www.fsd.gov) or via toll free call to 1-888-606-8220. There is no charge for registering in SAM.

For vendors who were registered in CCR prior to July 30, 2012, this means:

- All information in CCR was transferred to SAM and available for viewing and updating on July 30, 2012;
- Vendors will not have to re-register in SAM if their CCR was active and valid on July 30, 2012, however,
  - They will have to set up a SAM user ID. Once this is done, the vendors will have access to all their information and may edit it as needed,
  - They may set up an ID when they are notified by the SAM that it is time to renew registration.
- Vendors who attempted to access their information by going to the current CCR website on and after July 30, 2012, should have been automatically redirected to SAM.

For vendors who were not registered in CCR prior to July 30, 2012, this means:

- Vendors will need to obtain a DUNs number (see Part V. above) in order to register in SAM.
- Beginning on July 30, 2012, they must be directed to <https://sam.gov> to complete registration in SAM.
- The registration process via SAM has been changed for SAM, and is reported to be streamlined and much easier than the CCR process.

If yours is the acceptable price quote and you are selected for award, your organization's valid and active registration with SAM must be verifiable by SI staff administering this procurement prior to contract or purchase order award, and at the time any modifications or amendments to awards might be required.

## **VII. LEGISLATIVE AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

### **A. Service Contract Act of 1965, as amended**

If services to be performed are covered by the Service Contract Act (SCA), as amended, the SCA shall apply to all work performed under the contract, purchase order, or GSA schedule task order to be issued. Individuals and companies submitting quotes are encouraged to verify the wages and fringe benefits determined by the U.S. Department of Labor to be payable for the Labor Category and in within the location that work performance will occur as cited in the Statement of Work. The SCA wages and fringe benefits payable shall be part of the order award.

Individuals and companies awarded a contract, purchase order or GSA schedule contract task order for SCA covered services are responsible, and required by law, to deliver to its employee(s) or post a notice of the required compensation in a prominent place at the worksite. The SCA provides authority to contracting agencies to withhold contract funds to reimburse underpaid employees, terminate the contract, hold the contractor liable for associated costs to the government, and debar from future government contracts for a period of three (3) years any persons or firms who have violated the SCA. The contracting officer awarding this order, or the Smithsonian Inspector General, may periodically require contractors to provide information that verifies compliance with the SCA for services provided under the awarded contracts, purchase orders or GSA schedule contract task orders.

## **B. E-Verify**

If at award, or anytime during contract performance, the dollar amount of the contract award exceeds \$150,000 or \$5,000,000 under GSA Schedule, with a period of performance over 120 days, the successful bidder is required to register in the E-Verify System and verify that all individuals to be hired under the contract award are eligible for employment within the U.S. This requirement is not applicable to work that will be performed outside the U.S. or for Commercial Off the Shelf (COTS) items.

E-Verify is an Internet-based system operated by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). It allows employers to verify the employment eligibility of their employees, regardless of citizenship. For more information on e-verify and when, why and how to register and use the system please go to the USCIS site on the World Wide Web at:

<https://www.e-verify.gov/>

*Executive Order 13465 and Homeland Security Policy Directive 12 (HSPD-12)*

## **C. Background Investigations**

If a contractor employee assigned to the SI under this contract will have an association with SI that will be greater than thirty (30) days, determined either at time of contract award or anytime during contract performance, and will need access to staff-only areas

of SI controlled facilities and leased spaces, the employee shall be required to receive an SI Credential. Contractor employees who require an SI Credential shall be required to undergo and pass an appropriate background investigation and complete security awareness training before an SI Credential is issued. Employees whose associations with the SI will be less than 30 days shall not receive a background investigation or SI Credential, however, they must be escorted by Credentialed personnel at all times when in staff-only areas of SI facilities. If relevant to this RFQ, a form OCon 520, Background Investigations and Credentials for Contractors' Personnel, is included. The following actions shall be required to be completed by the SI Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR) and successful vendor:

1. The COTR shall provide an OF-306, Declaration for Federal Employment form, for each of the Contractor's employees who will be assigned to the SI for 30 days or longer. The OF-306 forms must be completed by each person and returned by the Contractor to the COTR, or other designated SI employee, within ten (10) workdays from receipt of the forms by the Contractor.
2. For contractors to SI organizations outside the Washington DC and New York City areas, forms SF-87, Fingerprint Cards, shall be provided to the Contractor by the COTR or other designated SI employee. Each form SF-87 must be returned to the COTR, or other designated SI employee, within ten (10) workdays from receipt of the forms by the Contractor. When necessary, the forms SF-87 shall be submitted by the Contractor with the OF-306.

*Homeland Security Policy Directive 12 (HSPD-12)*

## **VIII. INFORMATION TO BE SUBMITTED WITH QUOTES**

Quotes submitted must include the following information to be deemed responsive to this Request for Quote and accepted by the SI:

- Please submit **as one PDF named "LAST NAME\_ Education Contract"**
  - 1) letter of interest that highlights your qualifications aligned with the tasks and deliverables described in the SOW, 2
  - ) current resume,
  - 3) three references,
  - 4) DUNS number and evidence of SAM registration. If you do not have a DUNS number and are not registered in SAM, you can start the process using the information provided in the RFQ. This is not required, but will expedite the process should your bid be selected.
- In a **separate PDF named "LAST NAME\_PRICE QUOTE"**, please submit a price quote for the Base Year (first year) and four additional years. Both an hourly rate and annual total must be included.
- Please email these materials to [CollinsJE@SI.edu](mailto:CollinsJE@SI.edu) using the subject "Education Contract Submission" **by 5pm EST on January 10, 2022.**

- G.** Provide résumés of personnel that may be assigned to perform work under the anticipated award.
- H.** Cite the date through which pricing submitted is valid.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Statement of Work for Ocean Educator , 12/9/21
- Form SI-147A, Smithsonian Institution Purchase Order Terms and Conditions