INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

LINCOLN/LANCASTER COUNTY PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION

PURCHASING DIVISION

E-Bid

1. BIDDING PROCEDURE

1.1 Sealed bid, (formal and informal), subject to Instructions and General Conditions and any special conditions set forth herein, will be received in the office of the Purchasing Division, 440 So. 8th St., Lincoln, NE 68508, until the bid closing date and time indicated for furnishing the Lincoln-Lancaster County Public Building Commission, hereafter referred to as "Commission", the materials, supplies, equipment or services shown in the electronic bid request.

1.2 Bidders shall use the electronic bid system for submitting bids and must complete all required fields. If you do not care to bid, please respond to the bid request and note your reason.

1.3 Identify the item you will furnish by brand or manufacturer's name and catalog numbers. Also furnish specifications and descriptive literature if not bidding the specific manufacturer or model as listed in the specifications.

1.4 Any person submitting a bid for a firm, corporation, or other organization must show evidence of his authority so to bind such firm, corporation, or organization.

1.5 Bids received after the time and date established for receiving bids will be rejected.

1.6 The Bidders and Public are invited, but not required, to attend the formal opening of bids. At the opening, prices will be displayed electronically and/or read aloud to the public. The pricing is also available for immediate viewing on-line. No decisions related to an award of a contract or purchase order will be made at the opening.

2. BID SECURITY

2.1 Bid security, as a guarantee of good faith, in the form of a certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond, may be required to be submitted with this bid document, as indicated on the bid.

2.1.1 Bid security, if required, shall be in the amount specified on the bid. The bid security must be scanned and attached to the "Response Attachments" section of your response or it can be faxed to the Purchasing Office at 402-441-6513. The original bid security should then be sent or delivered to the office of the Purchasing Division, 440 S. 8th St., Ste. 200, Lincoln, NE 68508 within three (3) days of bid closing.

2.1.2 If bid security is not received in the office of the Purchasing Division as stated above, the vendor may be determined to be non-responsive.

2.2 If alternate bids are submitted, only one bid security will be required, provided the bid security is based on the amount of the highest gross bid.

2.3 Such bid security will be returned to the unsuccessful Bidders when the award of bid is made.

2.4 Bid security will be returned to the successful Bidder(s) as follows:

2.4.1 For single order bids with specified quantities: upon the delivery of all equipment or merchandise, and upon final acceptance by the Commission.

2.4.2 For all other contracts: upon approval by the Commission of the executed contract and bonds.

2.5 Commission shall have the right to retain the bid security of Bidders to whom an award is being considered until either:

2.5.1 A contract has been executed and bonds have been furnished.

2.5.2 The specified time has elapsed so that the bids may be withdrawn.

2.5.3 All bids have been rejected.

2.6 Bid security will be forfeited to the Commission as full liquidated damages, but not as a penalty, for any of the following reasons, as pertains to this bidding document:

2.6.1 If the Bidder fails or refuses to enter into a contract on forms provided by the Commission, and/or if the Bidder fails to provide sufficient bonds or insurance within the time period as established in this bidding document.

3. BIDDER'S REPRESENTATION

3.1 Each Bidder by electronic signature and submitting a bid, represents that the Bidder has read and understands the bidding documents, and the bid has been submitted in accordance therewith.

3.2 Each Bidder for services further represents that the Bidder has examined and is familiar with the local conditions under which the work is to be done and has correlated the observations with the requirements of the bid documents.

4. INDEPENDENT PRICE DETERMINATION

4.1 By submitting this bid, the Bidder certifies that the prices in this bid have been arrived at independently, without consultation, communication or agreement, for the purpose of restricting competition, as to any matter relating to such prices with any other Bidder or with any competitor; unless otherwise required by law, the prices which have been quoted in this bid have not been knowingly disclosed by the Bidder prior to bid opening directly or indirectly to any other Bidder or to any competitor; no attempt has been made, or will be made, by the Bidder to induce any person or firm to submit, or not to submit, a bid for the purpose of restricting competition.

5. CLARIFICATION OF BIDDING DOCUMENTS

5.1 Bidders shall promptly notify the Purchasing Agent or designee of any ambiguity, inconsistency or error which they may discover upon examination of the bidding documents.

5.2 Bidders desiring clarification or interpretation of the bidding documents for formal bids shall make a written request which must reach the Purchasing Agent or designee at least five (5) calendar days prior to the date and time for receipt of formal bids.

5.3 Changes made to the bidding documents will be issued electronically. All vendors registered for that bid will be notified of the addendum. Subsequent Bidders will only receive the bid with the addendum included.

5.4 Oral interpretations or changes to the bidding documents made in any manner other than written form will not be binding on the Commission; and Bidders shall not rely upon such interpretations or changes.

6. ADDENDA

6.1 Addenda are instruments issued by the Commission prior to the date for receipt of bids which modify or interpret the bidding document by addition, deletion, clarification or correction.

6.2 Addenda notification will be made available to all registered vendors immediately via e-mail for inspection on-line.

6.3 No formal bid addendums will be issued later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the date and time for receipt of formal bids, except an addendum withdrawing the invitation to bid, or an addendum which includes postponement of the bid.

7. ANTI-LOBBYING PROVISION

7.1 During the period between the advertised date and the contract award, Bidders, including their agents and representatives, shall not directly discuss or promote their bid with any member of the Commission's board or staff except in the course of Commission sponsored inquiries, briefings, interviews, or presentations, unless requested by the Commission.

8. BRAND NAMES

8.1 Wherever in the specifications or bid that brand names, manufacturer, trade name, or catalog numbers are specified, it is for the purpose of establishing a grade or quality of material only; and the term "or equal" is deemed to follow.

8.2 It is the Bidder's responsibility to identify any alternate items offered in the bid, and prove to the satisfaction of the Commission that said item is equal to, or better than, the product specified.

8.3 Bids for alternate items shall be stated in the appropriate space on the E-Bid form. Bidder's MUST attach to its bid document in the Vendor Attachment Section of the E-Bid, a statement identifying the manufacturer and brand name of each proposed alternate, plus a complete description of the alternate items including illustrations, performance test data and any other information necessary for an evaluation.

8.4 The Bidder must indicate any variances and explain by item number from the bidding document no matter how slight.

8.5 If variations are not stated in the bid, it will be assumed that the item being bid fully complies with the Commission's bidding documents.

9. DEMONSTRATIONS/SAMPLES

9.1 Bidders shall demonstrate the exact item(s) proposed within seven (7) calendar days from receipt of such request from the Commission.

9.2 Such demonstration can be at the Commission delivery location or a surrounding community.

9.3 If items are small and mailable, and the Bidder is proposing an alternate product, the Bidder shall supply a sample of the exact item. Samples will be returned at Bidder's expense after receipt by the Commission of acceptable goods. The Bidder must indicate how samples are to be returned.

10. DELIVERY (Non-Construction)

10.1 Each Bidder shall state on the bid the date upon which it can make delivery of all equipment or merchandise. Time required for delivery is hereby made an essential element of the bid.

10.2 The Commission reserves the right to cancel orders, or any part thereof, without obligation, if delivery is not made within the time(s) specified on the bid.

10.3 All bids shall be based upon **inside** delivery of the equipment or merchandise F.O.B. to the Commission at the location specified by the Commission, with all transportation charges paid.

10.4 At the time of delivery, a designated Commission employee will sign the invoice/packing slip. The signature will only indicate that the order has been received and the items actually delivered agree with the delivery invoice. This signature does not indicate all items meet specifications, were received in good condition and/or that there is not possible hidden damage or shortages.

11. WARRANTIES, GUARANTEES AND MAINTENANCE

11.1 Copies of the following documents, if requested, shall accompany the bid proposal for all items being bid:

11.1.1 Manufacturer's warranties and/or guarantees.

11.1.2 Bidder's maintenance policies and associated costs.

11.2 As a minimum requirement of the Commission, the Bidder will guarantee in writing that any defective components discovered within a one (1) year period after the date of acceptance shall be replaced at no expense to the Commission. Replacement parts of defective components shall be shipped at no cost to the Commission. Shipping costs for defective parts required to be returned to the Bidder shall be paid by the Bidder.

12. ACCEPTANCE OF MATERIAL

12.1 All components used in the manufacture or construction of materials, supplies and equipment, and all finished materials, shall be new, the latest make/model, of the best quality, and the highest grade workmanship.

12.2 Material delivered under this bid shall remain the property of the Bidder until:

12.2.1 A physical inspection and actual usage of the material is made and found to be acceptable to the Commission; and

12.2.2 Material is determined to be in full compliance with the bidding documents and accepted bid.

12.3 In the event the delivered material is found to be defective or does not conform to the bidding documents and accepted bid, the Commission reserves the right to cancel the order upon written notice to the Bidder and return materials to the Bidder at Bidder's expense.

12.4 Awarded Bidder shall be required to furnish title to the material, free and clear of all liens and encumbrances, issued in the name of the Commission, as required by the bidding documents or purchase orders.

12.5 Awarded Bidder's advertising decals, stickers or other signs shall not be affixed to equipment. Vehicle mud flaps shall be installed blank side out with no advertisements. Manufacturer's standard production forgings, stampings, nameplates and logos are acceptable.

13. BID EVALUATION AND AWARD

13.1 The electronic signature shall be considered an offer on the part of the Bidder. Such offer shall be deemed accepted upon issuance by the Commission of purchase orders, contract award notifications, or other contract documents appropriate to the work.

13.2 No bid shall be modified or withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) calendar days after the time and date established for receiving bids, and each Bidder so agrees in submitting the bid.

13.3 In case of a discrepancy between the unit prices and their extensions, the unit prices shall govern.

13.4 The bid will be awarded to the lowest responsive, responsible Bidder whose bid will be most advantageous to the Commission, and as the Commission deems will best serve the requirements and interests of the Commission.

13.5 The Commission reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids; to request rebids; to award bids item-by-item, with or without alternates, by groups, or "lump sum"; to waive irregularities and technicalities in bids; such as shall best serve the requirements and interests of the Commission.

13.6 In order to determine if the Bidder has the experience, qualification, resources and necessary attributes to provide the quality workmanship, materials and management required by the plans and specifications, the Bidder may be required to complete and submit additional information as deemed necessary by the Commission. Failure to provide the information requested to make this determination may be grounds for a declaration of non-responsive with respect to the Bidder.

13.7 The Commission reserves the right to reject irregular bids that contain unauthorized additions, conditions, alternate bids, or irregularities that make the bid incomplete, indefinite or ambiguous.

13.8 Any governmental agency may piggyback on any contract entered into from this bid.

14. INDEMNIFICATION

14.1 The Bidder shall indemnify and hold harmless, to the fullest extent allowed by law, the Commission, its agents, officers, employees and representatives from and against all claims, demands, suits, actions, payments, liability, judgements and expenses (including court-ordered attorney's fees), arising out of or resulting from the performance of the contract that results in bodily injury, sickness, disease, death, civil rights liability, or injury to or destruction of tangible property, including the loss of use resulting therefrom, and that are caused in whole or in part by the Bidder, its employees, agents, any subcontractor, anyone directly or indirectly employed by them, or anyone for whose acts any of them may be liable. This section will not require the Bidder to indemnify or hold harmless the Commission for any losses, claims, damages and expenses arising out of or resulting from the sole negligence of the Commission, its agents, employees, or representatives.

14.2 In any and all claims against the Commission or any of its members, officers or employees by an employee of the Bidder, any subcontractor, anyone directly or indirectly employed by any of them or by anyone for whose acts made by any of them may be liable, the indemnification obligation under paragraph 14.1 shall not be limited in any way by any limitation of the amount or type of damages, compensation or benefits payable by or for the Bidder or any subcontractor under workers' compensation acts, disability benefit acts or other employee benefit acts.

15. TERMS OF PAYMENT

15.1 Unless stated otherwise, the Commission will begin processing payment within thirty (30) calendar days after all labor has been performed and all equipment or other merchandise has been delivered, and all such labor and equipment and other materials have met all contract specifications.

16. LAWS

16.1 The laws of the State of Nebraska shall govern the rights, obligations, and remedies of the parties under this bid and any contract reached as a result of this process.

16.2 Bidder agrees to abide by all applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations concerning the handling and disclosure of private and confidential information concerning individuals and corporations as to inventions, copyrights, patents and patent rights.

16.3 The Bidder agrees to hold the Commission harmless from any claims resulting from the Bidder's unlawful disclosure or use of private or confidential information.

17. EQUIPMENT TAX ASSESSMENT

17.1 Any bid for public improvement shall comply with Nebraska Revised Statutes Sections 77-1323 and 77-1324. Indicating; every person, partnership, limited liability company, association or corporation furnishing labor or material in the repair, alteration, improvement, erection, or construction of any public improvement shall sign a certified statement which will accompany the contract. The certified statement shall state that all equipment to be used on the project, except that acquired since the assessment date, has been assessed for taxation for the current year, giving the County where assessed.

18. AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

18.1 Each Bidder agrees that it will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, or marital status.

18.2 The successful Bidders will be required to comply with the provisions of the Lancaster County's Affirmative Action Policy.

18.3 The Equal Opportunity Officer will determine compliance or non-compliance with the Lancaster County's Affirmative Action Policy upon a complete and substantial review of successful Bidder's equal opportunity policies, procedures and practices.

18.4 The Commission provides equal opportunity for all Bidders and encourages minority businesses, women's businesses and locally owned business enterprises to participate in our bidding process.

19. INSURANCE

19.1 All Bidders shall take special notice of the insurance provisions required for all Commission contracts (see *Insurance Clause for All Building Commission Contracts*).

20. EXECUTION OF CONTRACT

20.1 Depending on the type of service provided, one of the following methods will be employed. The method applicable to this contract will be checked below:

____ a. **PURCHASE ORDER**, unless otherwise noted.

1. A copy of the Bidder's bid response (or referenced bid number) attached and that the same, in all particulars, becomes the contract between the parties hereto: that both parties thereby accept and agree to the terms and conditions of said bid documents.

__X__ b. **CONTRACT,** unless otherwise noted.

1. Commission Board will furnish copies of the Contract to the successful Bidder who shall prepare attachments as required. Insurance as evidenced by a Certificate of Insurance (as required), surety bonds properly executed (as required), and the Contract signed and dated.
2. The prepared documents shall be delivered to the Commission Board within 10 days (unless otherwise noted).
3. The Commission Board will sign and date the Contract.
4. Upon approval, the Commission Board will return one copy to the successful Bidder.

21. TAXES AND TAX EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

21.1 The Commission is generally exempt from any taxes imposed by the state or federal government. A Tax Exemption Certificate will be provided as applicable.

22. E-VERIFY

22.1 In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. 4-108 through 4-114, the contractor agrees to register with and use a federal immigration verification system, to determine the work eligibility status of new employees performing services within the state of Nebraska. A federal immigration verification system means the electronic verification of the work authorization program of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, 8 U.S.C. 1324 a, otherwise known as the E-Verify Program, or an equivalent federal program designated by the United States Department of Homeland Security or other federal agency authorized to verify the work eligibility status of a newly hired employee pursuant to the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. The Contractor shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment to be employed in the performance of this section pursuant to the requirements of state law and 8 U.S.C.A 1324b. The contractor shall require any subcontractor to comply with the provisions of this section. For information on the E-Verify Program, go to www.uscis.gov/everify.