

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

for

**Network and Information Technology Infrastructure Support
Maintenance and Staff Augmentation**



RFP #: 3000015925

Proposal Due Date/Time: November 9, 2020 by 3:00 PM CST

**State of Louisiana
Department of Insurance**

October 9, 2020

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**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
FOR
Network and Information Technology Infrastructure Support Maintenance and
Staff Augmentation**

PART 1: ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to obtain competitive proposals from qualified Proposers who are interested in providing the LDI with information systems maintenance and service support for existing computer information system hardware and software.

1.2 Background

The Louisiana Department of Insurance (herein referred to as LDI) runs a 24x7 server based network system to serve the citizens of the State and the LDI's regulated entities. In an effort to provide these services on a continuous basis, LDI has developed redundant server farms located at the Poydras Building and The Department of Public Safety Computer Operation Center, as well as a special disaster site located at England Air Force Base in Alexandria. The Contractor will aid LDI and its IT staff in the administration, maintenance, and implementation of new infrastructure, servers, network appliances and desktop systems for LDI.

LDI's operations have increased in the past decade while the IT staff size has decreased, and more contracted services are managed by LDI IT staff than in the past. New and emerging technologies are implemented by IT staff and Contractors on a monthly basis to meet the ever-growing internal demands of network resources by LDI staff and external IT infrastructure for the citizens and regulated entities. LDI is proud of past achievements but realizes that the progress cannot continue if appropriate IT resources are not available to the Department through the use of staff augmentation.

1.3 Goals and Objectives

The LDI desires to receive information systems maintenance and service support for existing network infrastructure, switches, routers, servers, storage area networks, desktops, help desk, and other systems and appliances that form the LDI information system infrastructure.

The Contractor will provide 24-hour maintenance and service support seven days a week during the contract period. Response time for maintenance and service support shall be one hour or less.

The Contractor will provide staff for a minimum of 364 hours per month, including onsite support staff Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:30 P.M., except for office closures during LDI business hours.

1.4 Term of Contract

The term of any contract resulting from this RFP shall begin on or about July 1, 2021 and is anticipated to end on June 30 2022. The State shall have the right to contract for up to thirty-six (36) months with the concurrence of the Contractor and all appropriate approvals.

1.5 Definitions

- A. Agency – any department, council, board, office, bureau, committee, institution, agency, government, corporation or other establishment of the executive branch of this state authorized to participate in any contract resulting from this solicitation.
- B. Can – denotes an advisory or permissible action.
- C. Contractor – any person having a contract with a governmental body; the selected proposer.
- D. Discussions – for the purposes of this RFP, a formal, structured means of conducting written or oral communications/presentations with responsible Proposers who submit proposals in response to this RFP.
- E. DOA – Division of Administration.
- F. LDI – The Louisiana Department of Insurance.
- G. May – denotes an advisory or permissible action.
- H. Must – denotes mandatory requirements.
- I. OSP – Office of State Procurement.
- J. Proposer – a firm or individual who responds to this RFP.
- K. RFP – Request for Proposal.
- L. Shall – denotes mandatory requirements.
- M. Should – denotes a desirable action.
- N. State – the State of Louisiana.
- O. Will – denotes mandatory requirements.

1.6 Schedule of Events

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
RFP advertised in newspapers and post to LaPac	October 9, 2020
Deadline for receipt of written inquiries	October 16, 2020 by 3:00 pm CST
Deadline to answer written inquiries	October 30, 2020 by 3:00 pm CST
Deadline for receipt of proposals. All proposals shall remain sealed until the date and time listed	November 9, 2020 by 11:59 pm CST
Notice of Intent to award announcement, and 14-day protest period begins, on or about	November 20, 2020
Contract execution, on or about	July 1, 2021

NOTE: The State of Louisiana reserves the right to revise this schedule. Revisions, if any, before the Proposal Submission Deadline will be formalized by the issuance of an addendum to the RFP.

1.7 Proposal Submittal

Firms or individuals who are interested in providing services requested under this RFP must submit an electronic proposal containing the mandatory information specified. The proposal must be uploaded to <https://stateofla.app.box.com/f/a141519b3354405e87a0dbb66a099b12> before the date and time specified in the Schedule of Events. Uploaded submissions are the only acceptable method of delivery. E-mail, fax, mail, and courier delivery shall not be acceptable. Proposers uploading their proposals should allow sufficient time to ensure successful upload of their proposal by the time specified. Proposers are strongly encouraged to upload their proposal well in advance of the Deadline for receipt of electronic proposals as internet connectivity and file size will affect proposal submission upload timeframes.

The State assumes no liability for assuring accurate/complete uploads. The responsibility solely lies with each Proposer to ensure their proposal is uploaded prior to the deadline for submission. Corrupted files and incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Proposers needing assistance regarding proposal uploads should visit:

<https://www.doa.la.gov/osp/PC/agencies/UploadingRFPproposal-viaBoxSubmissionLink.pdf>.

1.8 Qualification for Proposer

1.8.1 Mandatory Qualifications:

Proposer must offer staff in its proposal that meet the following minimum qualifications and areas of expertise, prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals:

- As a resource may possess multiple areas of expertise, Proposers must indicate in a separate spreadsheet, in resumes or in other documents, the qualifications of each proposed resource and the work each person would be performing. Additionally, each network staff resource

- assigned must be able to pass the State Police Background check to gain access to DOI servers located in the secured computer room at the Department of Public Safety Operation Center.
- Each proposed staff resource must have Microsoft Windows 10 experience of twenty-four (24) months.
 - Each proposed network staff resource must have Microsoft Server 2016 experience of twenty four (24) months
 - Each proposed network staff resource must have twenty-four (24) months of experience working with Active Directory.
 - Each proposed network staff resource must have twenty four (24) months of experience on VMware Esxi.
 - Specific experience: Each proposed Juniper expert must have twenty-four (24) months experience with Juniper EX Series Routers and Switches.
 - Each proposed Server/SAN expert must have twenty-four (24) months experience with Pure Storage. Proposer shall indicate the organization where the expert worked with the units.
 - Each proposed Veeam expert must have twelve (12) months of experience with Veeam Backup and Recovery software.
 - Each proposed VMware expert must have twelve (12) months of experience with VMware ESXi software.
 - Each proposed Palo Alto Next gen firewall solution expert must have twenty four (24) months of experience.
 - Each proposed Cisco Phone expert must have twenty four (24) months of experience.

1.8.2 Desirable Qualifications:

Proposer should give a brief description of their company including:

- A brief history
- Corporate or organization structure
- Number of years in business
- Copies of its latest financial statement, preferably audited

It is desirable that Proposer's staff resources assigned to the contract should have the following certifications, , or the latest equivalent ,prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals.

As a resource may possess multiple areas of expertise, proposer should indicate in a separate spreadsheet, in resumes or in other documents, the qualifications of each proposed resource and the work each would be performing. If working on certification, list courses passed.

- MSCE:Windows 2012/2016
- MCP 2.0
- MSCE:Security
- MCSA:Messaging
- MCTS:Windows 7 or greater
- Cisco CCNA or greater
- Juniper JNCIA or greater

1.9 Proposal Response Format

Proposals submitted for consideration should follow the format and order of presentation described below:

1.9.1 Cover Letter

A cover letter should be submitted on the Proposer's official business letterhead explaining the intent of the Proposer.

The cover letter should exhibit the Proposer's understanding and approach to the project. It should contain a summary of Proposer's ability to perform the services described in the RFP and confirm that Proposer is willing to perform those services and enter into a contract with the State.

- By signing the letter and/or the proposal, the Proposer certifies compliance with the signature authority required.
- **The cover letter should also:**
 - Identify the submitting Proposer;
 - Identify the name, title, address, telephone number, fax number, and email address of each person authorized by the Proposer to contractually obligate the Proposer;
 - Identify the name, address, telephone number, fax number, and email address of the contact person for technical and contractual clarifications throughout the evaluation period.

1.9.2 Table of Contents

The proposal should be organized in the order contained below.

1.9.3 Executive Summary

This section serves to introduce the scope of the proposal. It shall include administrative information including Proposer contact name and phone number, and the stipulation that the proposal is valid for a time period of at least ninety (90) calendar days from the date of submission. This section should also include a summary of the Proposer's qualifications and ability to meet the State agency's overall requirements in the timeframes set by the agency.

The executive summary should include a positive statement of compliance with the contract terms, see Sample Contract, Attachment V. If the Proposer cannot comply with any of the contract terms, an explanation of each exception should be supplied. The Proposer should address the specific language in the Sample Contract, Attachment V and submit whatever exceptions or exact contract modifications that its firm may seek. While final wording will be resolved during contract negotiations, the intent of the provisions will not be substantially altered.

1.9.4 Company Background and Experience

The Proposers should give a brief description of their company including brief history, corporate or organization structure, number of years in business, and copies of its latest financial statement, preferably audited.

This section should provide a detailed discussion of the Proposer's prior experience in working on projects similar in size, scope, and function to the proposed contract. Proposers should describe their experience in other states or in corporate and governmental entities of comparable size and diversity with references from previous clients including names and telephone numbers.

Proposers should clearly describe their ability to exceed the qualifications described in the Mandatory Qualifications for Proposer section 1.8.1

Proposers should clearly describe their ability to exceed the desired qualifications described in the Desirable Qualifications for Proposer section 1.8.2.

1.9.5 Approach and Methodology

Proposals should include enough information to satisfy evaluators that the Proposer has the appropriate experience, knowledge and qualifications to perform the scope of services as described herein. Proposers should respond to all requested areas.

The Proposer shall:

- Describe their approach to Project Management.
- Describe their approach to Quality Control.
- Describe their approach to Quality Assurance.
- Describe their approach to Incident Management.
- Describe their approach to defining system and data security.

The Proposer should:

- Provide a sample project plan lasting between one to three months with assigned staff, work breakdown structure, lists of risks and risk mitigation plan.
- Describe a common high risk event or action that must take place for routine maintenance purposes and identify the full scope and nature of the risk and the procedures to mitigate said risk. Example: updating firmware on a router, blade chassis or software patching on a Domain Controller or Threat Management Gateway.
- Present innovative concepts for consideration.

1.9.6 Proposed Staff Qualifications

The Proposer should provide detailed information about the experience and qualifications of the Proposer's assigned personnel considered key to the success of the project.

This information should include education, training, technical experience, functional experience, specific dates and names of employers, relevant and related experience, past and present projects with dates and responsibilities and any applicable certifications. This should also specifically include the role and responsibilities of each person on this project, their planned level of effort, their anticipated duration of involvement, and their on-site availability. Customer references (name, title, company name, address, and telephone number) should be provided for the cited projects in the individual resumes.

Proposers should clearly describe their ability to exceed the qualifications described in the Mandatory Qualifications for Proposer section.

1.9.7 Veteran and Hudson Initiative Programs Participation

The State of Louisiana Veteran and Hudson Initiatives are designed to provide additional opportunities for Louisiana-based small entrepreneurship (sometimes referred to as LaVet's and SE's respectively) to participate in contracting and procurement with the State. A certified Veteran-Owned and Service-Connected Disabled Veteran-Owned small entrepreneurship (LaVet) and a Louisiana Initiative for Small Entrepreneurships (Hudson Initiative) small entrepreneurship are businesses that have been certified by the Louisiana Department of Economic Development. All eligible vendors are encouraged to become certified. Qualification requirements and online certification are available at: <https://smallbiz.louisianaeconomicdevelopment.com>.

If a Proposer is not a certified small entrepreneurship as described herein, but plans to use certified small entrepreneurship(s), Proposer shall include in their proposal the names of their certified Veteran Initiative or Hudson Initiative small entrepreneurship subcontractor(s), a description of the work each will perform, and the dollar value of each subcontract.

During the term of the contract and at expiration, the Contractor will also be required to report Veteran-Owned and Service-Connected Disabled Veteran-Owned and Hudson Initiative small entrepreneurship subcontractor or distributor participation and the dollar amount of each.

In RFP's requiring the compliance of a good faith subcontracting plan, the State may require Proposers to submit information on their business relationships and arrangements with certified LaVet or Hudson Initiative subcontractors at the time of proposal review. Agreements between a Proposer and a certified LaVet or Hudson Initiative subcontractor in which the certified LaVet or Hudson Initiative subcontractor promises not to provide subcontracting quotations to other Proposers shall be prohibited.

If performing its evaluation of proposals, the State reserves the right to require a non-certified Proposer to provide documentation and information supporting a good faith subcontracting plan. Such proof may include contracts between Proposer and certified Veteran Initiative and/or Hudson Initiative subcontractor(s).

If a contract is awarded to a Proposer who proposed a good faith subcontracting plan, the using agency, the Louisiana Department of Economic Development (LED), or the Office of State Procurement (OSP) may audit Contractor to determine whether Contractor has complied in good faith with its subcontracting plan.

The Contractor must be able to provide supporting documentation (i.e., phone logs, fax transmittals, letter, e-mails) to demonstrate its good faith subcontracting plan was followed. If it is determined at any time by the using agency, LED, or the OSP Director that the Contractor did not in fact perform in good faith its subcontracting plan, the contract award or the existing contract may be terminated.

The statutes (La. R.S. 39:2171 *et. seq.*) concerning the Veteran Initiative may be viewed at:

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/Law.aspx?d=671504>.

The statutes (La. R.S. 39:2001 *et. seq.*) concerning the Hudson Initiative may be viewed at:

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/Law.aspx?d=96265>.

The rules for the Veteran Initiative (LAC 19:VII. Chapters 11 and 15) and for the Hudson Initiative (LAC 19:VIII Chapters 11 and 13) may be viewed at:

<http://www.doa.la.gov/pages/osp/se/secv.aspx>.

A current list of certified Veteran-Owned and Service-Connected Disabled Veteran-Owned and Hudson Initiative small entrepreneurship may be obtained from the Louisiana Economic Development Certification System at: <https://smallbiz.louisianaeconomicdevelopment.com>

Additionally, a list of Hudson and Veteran Initiative small entrepreneurship, which have been certified by the Louisiana Department of Economic Development and who have opted to register in the State of Louisiana LaGov Supplier Portal:

https://lagoverpvendor.doa.louisiana.gov/iri/portal/anonymous?guest_user=self_reg.

This may be accessed from the State of Louisiana Procurement and Contract (LaPAC) Network:

<https://wwwcfprd.doa.louisiana.gov/OSP/LaPAC/vendor/VndPubMain.cfm>.

When using this site, determine the search criteria (i.e. alphabetized list of all certified vendors, by commodities, etc.) and select SmallE, VSE, or DVSE.

1.9.8 Cost Proposal

Proposer's fees and other costs, if any, shall be submitted in accordance with **Attachment IV Cost Summary** of this RFP. The Proposer shall provide the monthly as well as yearly total cost, including but not limited to travel and project expenses, for providing all services described in the RFP.

For informational purposes only, the Proposer should provide for the project's proposed staff: the total estimated number of hours by job classification, the billing rate by classification, hourly rate or unit cost and an estimated percentage of the effort that will be completed by a subcontractor (if applicable).

1.9.9 Certification Statement

The Proposer must sign electronically or submit a scanned signature on Attachment I, the Certification Statement.

1.9.10 Outsourcing of Key Internal Controls:

Not applicable to this RFP.

1.10 Number of Copies of Proposals

The State requests that one (1) copy of the entire proposal be submitted. The proposal shall contain electronic signatures or scans of original signatures of those company officials or agents who are duly authorized to sign proposals or contracts on behalf of the organization. An electronic signature as provided by LAC 4:I.701 et seq. is considered an original signature. A certified copy of a board resolution granting such authority should be submitted if the Proposer is a corporation. The proposal will be retained for incorporation into any contract resulting from this RFP.

1.11 Technical and Cost Proposals

The State requests the following:

- One (1) technical proposal provided as a single file in PDF and Microsoft Word formats. The file shall be named: RFP# 3000015925 Technical Proposal - [Proposer Name].
- One (1) cost proposal in PDF and Microsoft Excel formats. The file shall be named: RFP# 3000015925 Cost Proposal - [Proposer Name].
- One (1) redacted technical proposal, if applicable, provided as a single file in PDF and Microsoft Word formats. The file shall be named: RFP# 3000015925 Redacted Technical Proposal - [Proposer Name].

1.12 Legibility/Clarity

Responses to the requirements of this RFP in the formats requested are desirable with all questions answered in as much detail as practicable. The Proposer's response should demonstrate an understanding of the requirements. Proposals prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of the Proposer's ability to meet the requirements of the RFP are also desired. Each Proposer shall be solely responsible for the accuracy and completeness of its proposal.

1.13 Confidential Information, Trade Secrets, and Proprietary Information

All financial, statistical, personal, technical and other data and information relating to the State's operation which are designated confidential by the State and made available to the Contractor in order to carry out the contract, or which become available to the Contractor in carrying out the contract, shall be protected by the Contractor from unauthorized use and disclosure through the observance of the same or more effective procedural requirements as are applicable to the State. The identification of all such confidential data and information as well as the State's procedural requirements for protection of such data and information from unauthorized use and disclosure shall be provided by the State in writing to the Contractor. If the methods and procedures employed by the Contractor for the protection of the Contractor's data and information are deemed by the State to be adequate for the protection of the

State's confidential information, such methods and procedures may be used, with the written consent of the State, to carry out the intent of this paragraph. The Contractor shall not be required under the provisions of the paragraph to keep confidential any data or information which is or becomes publicly available, is already rightfully in the Contractor's possession, is independently developed by the Contractor outside the scope of the contract, or is rightfully obtained from third parties.

Under no circumstance shall the Contractor discuss and/or release information to the media concerning this project without prior express written approval of the LDI.

Only information which is in the nature of legitimate trade secrets or non-published financial data shall be deemed proprietary or confidential. Any material within a proposal identified as such must be clearly marked in the proposal and will be handled in accordance with the Louisiana Public Records Act, R.S. 44: 1-44 and applicable rules and regulations. Any proposal marked as confidential or proprietary in its entirety shall be rejected without further consideration or recourse.

1.14 Proposal Clarifications Prior to Submittal

1.14.1 Pre-proposal Conference

Not required for this RFP.

1.14.2 Proposer Inquiries

Written questions regarding RFP requirements or Scope of Services must be emailed to the RFP Coordinator listed below.

Shannon Gilchrist, RFP Coordinator

PHONE: (225) 219-1701

E-Mail: Shannon.Gilchrist@ldi.la.gov

The State will consider inquiries and requests for clarification of the content of this RFP received from potential Proposers. Emailed inquiries must be received by the **3:00 P.M.** CST on the date specified in the Schedule of Events. The State shall reserve the right to modify the RFP should a change be identified that is in the best interest of the State.

Official responses to all questions submitted by potential proposers will be posted by **October 30, 2020** at <http://wwwprd1.doa.louisiana.gov/OSP/LaPAC/pubMain.cfm> as well as LDI website www.ldi.la.gov under the Request for Proposals tab.

Only Shannon Gilchrist, or her designee, has the authority to officially respond to a Proposer's questions on behalf of the State. Any communications from any other individuals shall not be binding to the State.

Note: LaPAC is the State's online electronic bid posting and notification system resident on the Office of State Procurement website <http://www.doa.la.gov/Pages/osp/Index.aspx>. In that LaPAC provides an immediate e-mail notification to subscribing Bidders/Proposers that a solicitation and any subsequent addenda have been let and posted, notice and receipt thereof is considered formally given as of their

respective dates of posting. To receive the e-mail notification, Vendors/Proposers must register in the LaGov portal. Registration is intuitive at the following link:

https://lagoverpvendor.doa.louisiana.gov/iri/portal/anonymous?guest_user=self_reg.

Help scripts are available on OSP website under vendor center at:

<http://www.doa.la.gov/Pages/osp/vendorcenter/regnhelp/index.aspx>.

1.14.3 Blackout Period

The blackout period is a specified period of time during a competitive sealed procurement process in which any Proposer, bidder, or its agent or representative, is prohibited from communicating with any state employee or contractor of the State involved in any step in the procurement process about the affected procurement. The blackout period applies not only to state employees, but also to any contractor of the State. "Involvement" in the procurement process includes but may not be limited to project management, design, development, implementation, procurement management, development of specifications, and evaluation of proposals for a particular procurement. All solicitations for competitive sealed procurements will identify a designated contact person, as per Proposer Inquiries section of this RFP. All communications to and from potential Proposers, bidders, vendors and/or their representatives during the blackout period must be in accordance with this solicitation's defined method of communication with the designated contact person. The blackout period will begin upon posting of the solicitation. The blackout period will end when the contract is awarded.

In those instances in which a prospective Proposer is also an incumbent contractor, the State and the incumbent contractor may contact each other with respect to the existing contract only. Under no circumstances may the State and the incumbent contractor and/or its representative(s) discuss the blacked-out procurement.

Any bidder, Proposer, or state contractor who violates the blackout period may be liable to the State in damages and/or subject to any other remedy allowed by law.

Any costs associated with cancellation or termination will be the responsibility of the Proposer or bidder.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the blackout period shall not apply to:

- A protest to a solicitation submitted pursuant to La. R.S. 39:1671;
- Duly noticed site visits and/or conferences for bidders or Proposers;
- Oral presentations during the evaluation process
- Communications regarding a particular solicitation between any person and staff of the procuring agency provided the communication is limited strictly to matters of procedure. Procedural matters include deadlines for decisions or submission of proposals and the proper means of communicating regarding the procurement, but shall not include any substantive matter related to the particular procurement or requirements of the RFP

1.15 Error and Omissions in Proposal

The State reserves the right to seek clarification of any proposal for the purpose of identifying and eliminating minor irregularities or informalities.

1.16 Changes, Addenda, Withdrawals

The State reserves the right to change the schedule of events or revise any part of the RFP by issuing an addendum to the RFP at any time. Addenda, if any, will be posted at <https://wwwcfprd.doa.louisiana.gov/osp/lapac/pubMain.cfm>.

It shall be the responsibility of the Proposer to check the website for addenda to the RFP.

1.17 Withdrawal of Proposal

A Proposer may withdraw a proposal that has been submitted at any time up to the date and time the proposal is due. To withdraw a proposal, a written request signed by the authorized representative of the Proposer must be uploaded to <https://stateofla.app.box.com/f/a141519b3354405e87a0dbb66a099b12>.

1.18 Waiver of Administrative Informalities

The State shall reserve the right, at its sole discretion, to waive minor administrative informalities contained in any proposal.

1.19 Proposal Rejection/RFP Cancellation

Issuance of this RFP in no way shall constitute a commitment by the State to award a contract. The State shall reserve the right to accept or reject, in whole or part, all proposals submitted and/or cancel this RFP if it is determined to be in the State's best interest.

1.20 Ownership of Proposal

All materials submitted in response to this RFP shall become the property of the State. Selection or rejection of a proposal shall not affect this right.

1.21 Cost of Offer Preparation

The State shall not be liable for any costs incurred by Proposers prior to issuance of or entering into a contract. Costs associated with developing the proposal, preparing for oral presentations, and any other expenses incurred by the Proposer in responding to this RFP shall be entirely the responsibility of the Proposer and shall not be reimbursed in any manner by the State.

1.22 Taxes

Contractor shall be responsible for payment of all applicable taxes from the funds to be received under contract awarded from this RFP.

In accordance with R.S. 39:1624(A)(10), the Louisiana Department of Revenue must determine that the prospective contractor is current in the filing of all applicable tax returns and reports and in payment of all taxes, interest, penalties, and fees owed to the state and collected by the Department of Revenue prior to the approval of the contract by the Office of State Procurement. The prospective contractor shall attest to its current and/or prospective compliance by signing the Certification Statement, Attachment I, submitted with its proposal, and also agrees to provide its seven-digit LDR Account Number to the contracting agency so that the prospective contractor's tax payment compliance status may be verified. The prospective contractor further acknowledges understanding that issuance of a tax clearance certificate by the Louisiana Department of Revenue is a necessary precondition to the approval and effectiveness of the contract by the Office of State Procurement. The contracting agency reserves the right to withdraw its consent to the contract without penalty and proceed with alternate arrangements should the vendor fail to resolve any identified apparent outstanding tax compliance discrepancies with the Louisiana Department of Revenue within seven (7) days of such notification.

1.23 Determination of Responsibility

Determination of the Proposer's responsibility relating to this RFP shall be made according to the standards set forth in LAC 34:2536. The State must find that the selected Proposer:

- Has adequate financial resources for performance, or has the ability to obtain such resources as required during performance;
- Has the necessary experience, organization, technical qualifications, skills, and facilities, or has the ability to obtain them;
- Is able to comply with the proposed or required time of delivery or performance schedule;
- Has a satisfactory record of integrity, judgment, and performance; and
- Is otherwise qualified and eligible to receive an award under applicable laws and regulations.

Proposers should ensure that their proposals contain sufficient information for the State to make its determination by presenting acceptable evidence of the above to perform the contracted services.

1.24 Use of Subcontractors

The State shall have a single prime Contractor as the result of any contract negotiation, and that prime Contractor shall be responsible for all deliverables specified in the RFP and proposal. This general requirement notwithstanding, Proposers may enter into subcontractor arrangements, however, shall acknowledge in their proposals total responsibility for the entire contract.

If the Proposer intends to subcontract for portions of the work, the Proposer shall identify any subcontractor relationships and include specific designations of the tasks to be performed by the subcontractor. Information required of the Proposer under the terms of this RFP shall also be required for

each subcontractor, upon request of the State. The prime Contractor shall be the single point of contact for all subcontract work.

Unless provided for in the contract with the State, the prime Contractor shall not contract with any other party for any of the services herein contracted without the express prior written approval of the State.

1.25 Written or Oral Discussions/Presentations

The State, at its sole discretion, may require all Proposers reasonably susceptible of being selected for the award to provide an oral presentation of how they propose to meet the agency's program objectives. Commitments made by the Proposer at the oral presentation, if any, will be considered binding.

1.26 Acceptance of Proposal Content

All proposals will be reviewed to determine compliance with administrative and mandatory requirements as specified in the RFP. Proposals that are not in compliance will be rejected from further consideration.

1.27 Evaluation and Selection

The evaluation of proposals will be accomplished by an evaluation team, to be designated by the state, which will determine the proposal most advantageous to the state, taking into consideration price and the other evaluation factors set forth in the RFP.

The evaluation team may consult subject matter expert(s) to serve in an advisory capacity regarding any Proposer or proposal. Such input may include, but not be limited to, analysis of Proposer financial statements, review of technical requirements, or preparation of cost score data.

1.28 Best and Final Offers (BAFO)

The State reserves the right to conduct a BAFO with one or more Proposers identified by the evaluation committee to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for an award. If conducted, the Proposers selected will receive written notification of their selection, a list of specific items to address in the BAFO, and instructions for submittal. The BAFO negotiation may be used to assist the State in clarifying the scope of work or to obtain the most cost effective pricing available.

The written invitation to participate in BAFO will not obligate the State to a commitment to enter into a contract.

1.29 Contract Award and Execution

The State reserves the right to enter into a contract based on the initial offers received without further discussion of the proposals submitted. The State reserves the right to contract for all or a partial list of services offered in the proposals.

The RFP, including any addenda added, and the selected proposal shall become part of the contract initiated by the State.

The selected Proposer shall be expected to enter into a contract that is substantially the same as the Sample Contract, Attachment V. A Proposer shall not submit its own standard contract terms and conditions as a response to this RFP. The Proposer should submit in its proposal any exceptions or contract deviations that its firm wishes to negotiate. Negotiations may coincide with the announcement of the selected Proposer.

If the contract negotiation period exceeds (7) business days, or if the selected Proposer fails to sign the final contract within (7) business days of delivery, the State may elect to cancel the award and award the contract to the next-highest-ranked Proposer.

1.30 Notice of Intent to Award

The Evaluation Team shall compile the scores and make a recommendation to the head of the agency on the basis of the responsive and responsible Proposer(s) with the highest score(s).

The State will notify the successful Proposer(s) and proceed to negotiate terms for final contract(s). Unsuccessful Proposers will be notified in writing accordingly.

The proposals received (except for that information appropriately designated as confidential in accordance with R.S. 44.1 et seq), scores of each proposal considered along with a summary of scores, and a narrative justifying selection shall be made available, upon request, to all interested parties after the "Notice of Intent to Award" letter has been issued.

Any person aggrieved by the proposed award has the right to submit a protest in writing to the Chief Procurement Officer within fourteen (14) calendar days after the agency issues a Notice of Intent to award a contract.

The award of a contract shall be subject to the approval of the Division of Administration, Office of State Procurement.

1.31 Right to Prohibit Award

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 39:2192, any public entity shall be authorized to reject a proposal from, or not award a contract to, a business in which any individual with an ownership interest of five percent or more, has been convicted of, or has entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to any state felony or equivalent federal felony crime committed in the solicitation or execution of a contract or RFP awarded under the laws governing public contracts under the provisions of Chapter 10 of Title 38 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, and all contracts under Title 39, Chapter 17 of the Louisiana Procurement Code, including contracts for professional, personal, consulting, and social services.

1.32 Insurance Requirements for Contractors

Insurance shall be placed with insurers with an A.M. Best's rating of no less than A-: VI. This rating requirement shall be waived for Worker's Compensation coverage only.

1.32.1 Contractor's Insurance

The Contractor shall purchase and maintain for the duration of the contract insurance against claims for injuries to persons or damages to property which may arise from or in connection with the performance of the work hereunder by the Contractor, its agents, representatives, employees or subcontractors. The cost of such insurance shall be included in the total contract amount.

1.32.2 Minimum Scope and Limits of Insurance

1.32.2.1 Workers Compensation

Workers Compensation insurance shall be in compliance with the Workers Compensation law of the State of the Contractor's headquarters. Employers Liability is included with a minimum limit of \$1,000,000 per accident/per disease/per employee. If work is to be performed over water and involves maritime exposure, applicable LHWCA, Jones Act, or other maritime law coverage shall be included. A.M. Best's insurance company rating requirement may be waived for workers compensation coverage only.

1.32.2.2 Commercial General Liability

Commercial General Liability insurance, including Personal and Advertising Injury Liability and Products and Completed Operations, shall have a minimum limit per occurrence of \$1,000,000 and a minimum general annual aggregate of \$2,000,000. The Insurance Services Office (ISO) Commercial General Liability occurrence coverage form CG 00 01 (current form approved for use in Louisiana), or equivalent, is to be used in the policy. Claims-made form is unacceptable.

1.32.2.3 Professional Liability (Errors and Omissions)

Professional Liability (Error & Omissions) insurance, which covers the professional errors, acts, or omissions of the Contractor, shall have a minimum limit of \$1,000,000. Claims-made coverage is acceptable. The date of the inception of the policy must be no later than the first date of the anticipated work under the contract. It shall provide coverage for the duration of the contract and shall have an expiration date no earlier than 30 days after the anticipated completion of the contract. The policy shall provide an extended reporting period of not less than 36 months from the expiration date of the policy, if the policy is not renewed.

1.32.2.4 Automobile Liability

Automobile Liability Insurance shall have a minimum combined single limit per accident of \$1,000,000. ISO form number CA 00 01 (current form approved for use in Louisiana), or equivalent, is to be used in the policy. This insurance shall include third-party bodily injury and property damage liability for owned, hired and non-owned automobiles.

1.32.2.5 Cyber Liability

Cyber liability insurance, including first-party costs, due to an electronic breach that compromises the State's confidential data shall have a minimum limit per occurrence of \$1,000,000. Claims-made coverage is acceptable. The date of the inception of the policy must be no later than the first date of the anticipated work under the contract. It shall provide coverage for the duration of the contract and shall have an expiration date no earlier than 30 days after the anticipated completion of the contract. The policy shall provide an extended reporting period of not less than 36 months from the expiration date of the policy, if the policy is not renewed. The policy shall not be cancelled for any reason, except non-payment of premium.

1.32.3 Deductibles and Self-Insured Retentions

Any deductibles or self-insured retentions must be declared to and accepted by the Agency. The Contractor shall be responsible for all deductibles and self-insured retentions.

1.32.4 Other Insurance Provisions

The policies are to contain, or be endorsed to contain, the following provisions:

1.32.4.1 Commercial General Liability, Automobile Liability, and Cyber Liability Coverages

The Agency, its officers, agents, employees and volunteers shall be named as an additional insured as regards negligence by the Contractor. ISO Forms CG 20 10 (for ongoing work) AND CG 20 37 (for completed work) (current forms approved for use in Louisiana), or equivalents, are to be used when applicable. The coverage shall contain no special limitations on the scope of protection afforded to the Agency.

The Contractor's insurance shall be primary as respects the Agency, its officers, agents, employees and volunteers for any and all losses that occur under the contract. Any insurance or self-insurance maintained by the Agency shall be excess and non-contributory of the Contractor's insurance.

1.32.4.2 Workers Compensation and Employers Liability Coverage

To the fullest extent allowed by law, the insurer shall agree to waive all rights of subrogation against the Agency, its officers, agents, employees and volunteers for losses arising from work performed by the Contractor for the Agency.

1.32.4.3 All Coverages

All policies must be endorsed to require 30 days written notice of cancellation to the Agency. Ten-day written notice of cancellation is acceptable for non-payment of premium. Notifications shall comply with the standard cancellation provisions in the Contractor's policy. In addition, Contractor is required to notify Agency of policy cancellations or reductions in limits.

The acceptance of the completed work, payment, failure of the Agency to require proof of compliance, or Agency's acceptance of a non-compliant certificate of insurance shall release the Contractor from the obligations of the insurance requirements or indemnification agreement.

The insurance companies issuing the policies shall have no recourse against the Agency for payment of premiums or for assessments under any form of the policies.

Any failure of the Contractor to comply with reporting provisions of the policy shall not affect coverage provided to the Agency, its officers, agents, employees and volunteers.

1.32.5 Acceptability of Insurers

All required insurance shall be provided by a company or companies lawfully authorized to do business in the jurisdiction in which the Project is located. Insurance shall be placed with insurers with an A.M. Best's rating of **A-:VI or higher**. This rating requirement may be waived for workers compensation coverage only.

If at any time an insurer issuing any such policy does not meet the minimum A.M. Best rating, the Contractor shall obtain a policy with an insurer that meets the A.M. Best rating and shall submit another Certificate of Insurance within 30 days.

1.32.6 Verification of Coverage

Contractor shall furnish the Agency with Certificates of Insurance reflecting proof of required coverage. The Certificates for each insurance policy are to be signed by a person authorized by that insurer to bind coverage on its behalf. The Certificates are to be received and approved by the Agency before work commences and upon any contract renewal or insurance policy renewal thereafter.

The Certificate Holder shall be listed as follows:

State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Insurance, Its Officers, Agents, Employees and Volunteers

P.O. Box 94214, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9214

Network and Information Technology Infrastructure Support Maintenance and Staff Augmentation

In addition to the Certificates, Contractor shall submit the declarations page and the cancellation provision for each insurance policy. The Agency reserves the right to request complete certified copies of all required insurance policies at any time.

Upon failure of the Contractor to furnish, deliver and maintain required insurance, the contract, at the election of the Agency, may be suspended, discontinued or terminated. Failure of the Contractor to purchase and/or maintain any required insurance shall not relieve the Contractor from any liability or indemnification under the contract.

1.32.7 Subcontractors

Contractor shall include all subcontractors as insureds under its policies OR shall be responsible for verifying and maintaining the Certificates provided by each subcontractor. Subcontractors shall be subject to all of the requirements stated herein. The Agency reserves the right to request copies of subcontractor's Certificates at any time.

1.32.8 Workers Compensation Indemnity

In the event Contractor is not required to provide or elects not to provide workers compensation coverage, the parties hereby agree that Contractor, its owners, agents and employees will have no cause of action against, and will not assert a claim against, the State of Louisiana, its departments, agencies, agents and employees as an employer, whether pursuant to the Louisiana Workers Compensation Act or otherwise, under any circumstance. The parties also hereby agree that the State of Louisiana, its departments, agencies, agents and employees shall in no circumstance be, or considered as, the employer or statutory employer of Contractor, its owners, agents and employees. The parties further agree that Contractor is a wholly independent contractor and is exclusively responsible for its employees, owners, and agents. Contractor hereby agrees to protect, defend, indemnify and hold the State of Louisiana, its departments, agencies, agents and employees harmless from any such assertion or claim that may arise from the performance of the contract.

1.33 Indemnification and Limitation of Liability

Neither party shall be liable for any delay or failure in performance beyond its control resulting from acts of God or force majeure. The parties shall use reasonable efforts to eliminate or minimize the effect of such events upon performance of their respective duties under Contract.

Contractor shall be fully liable for the actions of its agents, employees, partners or subcontractors and shall fully indemnify and hold harmless the State and its Authorized Users from suits, actions, damages and costs of every name and description relating to personal injury and damage to property caused by Contractor, its agents, employees, partners or subcontractors, without limitation; provided, however, that the Contractor shall not indemnify for that portion of any claim, loss or damage arising hereunder due to the negligent act or failure to act of the State. If applicable, Contractor will indemnify, defend and hold the State and its Authorized Users harmless, without limitation, from and against any and all damages, expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees), claims, judgments, liabilities and costs which may be finally assessed against the State in any action for infringement of a United States Letter Patent with respect to the Products furnished, or of any copyright, trademark, trade secret or intellectual property right, provided that the State shall give the Contractor: (i) prompt written notice of any action, claim or threat of infringement suit, or other suit, (ii) the opportunity to take over, settle or defend such action,

claim or suit at Contractor's sole expense, and (iii) assistance in the defense of any such action at the expense of Contractor. Where a dispute or claim arises relative to a real or anticipated infringement, the State or its Authorized Users may require Contractor, at its sole expense, to submit such information and documentation, including formal patent attorney opinions, as the Commissioner of Administration shall require.

The Contractor shall not be obligated to indemnify that portion of a claim or dispute based upon: i) Authorized User's unauthorized modification or alteration of a Product, Material or Service; ii) Authorized User's use of the Product in combination with other products not furnished by Contractor; iii) Authorized User's use in other than the specified operating conditions and environment.

In addition to the foregoing, if the use of any item(s) or part(s) thereof shall be enjoined for any reason or if Contractor believes that it may be enjoined, Contractor shall have the right, at its own expense and sole discretion as the Authorized User's exclusive remedy to take action in the following order of precedence: (i) to procure for the State the right to continue using such item(s) or part (s) thereof, as applicable; (ii) to modify the component so that it becomes non-infringing equipment of at least equal quality and performance; or (iii) to replace said item(s) or part(s) thereof, as applicable, with non-infringing components of at least equal quality and performance, or (iv) if none of the foregoing is commercially reasonable, then provide monetary compensation to the State up to the dollar amount of the Contract.

For all other claims against the Contractor where liability is not otherwise set forth in the Contract as being "without limitation", and regardless of the basis on which the claim is made, Contractor's liability for direct damages, shall be the greater of \$100,000, the dollar amount of the Contract, or two (2) times the charges rendered by the Contractor under the Contract. Unless otherwise specifically enumerated herein or in the work order mutually agreed between the parties, neither party shall be liable to the other for special, indirect or consequential damages, including lost data or records (unless the Contractor is required to back-up the data or records as part of the work plan), even if the party has been advised of the possibility of such damages. Neither party shall be liable for lost profits, lost revenue or lost institutional operating savings.

The State and Authorized User may, in addition to other remedies available to them at law or equity and upon notice to the Contractor, retain such monies from amounts due Contractor, or may proceed against the performance and payment bond, if any, as may be necessary to satisfy any claim for damages, penalties, costs and the like asserted by or against them.

1.34 Payment

Payments are predicated upon written approval by the State based on the Pricing Schedule set forth in the Cost Summary – Attachment IV. The Contractor will invoice the agency monthly at the billing address designated by the agency. Payments will be made to the Contractor after the State approves, in writing, the work performed and the submitted invoice. Payment will be made only after Toby Guillory, State Project Manager, approves the invoice for payment. The State will make every reasonable effort to make payments within 30 calendar days of an approved invoice that falls under a valid contract.

1.34.1 Electronic Vendor Payment Solutions

The State desires to make payment to the awarded Proposer(s) electronically. The method of payment may be via EFT, a method in which payment is sent directly from the State's bank to the payee's bank. Please see Attachment II for additional information regarding electronic payment methods and registration.

1.35 Termination

1.35.1 Termination of the Contract for Cause

State may terminate the Contract for cause based upon the failure of the Contractor to comply with the terms and/or conditions of the Contract; provided the State shall give the Contractor written notice specifying the Contractor's failure. If within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of such notice, the Contractor shall not have either corrected such failure or, in the case of failure which cannot be corrected in thirty (30) calendar days, begun in good faith to correct said failure and thereafter proceeded diligently to complete such correction, then the State may, at its option, place the Contractor in default and the Contract shall terminate on the date specified in such notice. Failure to perform within the time agreed upon in the contract may constitute default and may cause cancellation of the contract.

Contractor may exercise any rights available to it under Louisiana law to terminate for cause upon the failure of the State to comply with the terms and conditions of the contract provided that the Contractor shall give the State written notice specifying the State agency's failure and a reasonable opportunity for the State to cure the defect.

1.35.2 Termination of the Contract for Convenience

The State may terminate the Contract at any time without penalty by giving thirty (30) calendar days' written notice to the Contractor of such termination or negotiating with the Contractor an effective date. Contractor shall be entitled to payment for deliverables in progress, to the extent work has been performed satisfactorily.

1.35.3 Termination for Non-Appropriation of Funds

The continuation of the contract shall be contingent upon the appropriation of funds by the legislature to fulfill the requirements of the contract by the legislature. If the legislature fails to appropriate sufficient monies to provide for the continuation of the contract, or if such appropriation is reduced by the veto of the Governor or by any means provided in the appropriations act of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 to prevent the total appropriation for the year from exceeding revenues for that year, or for any other lawful purpose, and the effect of such reduction is to provide insufficient monies for the continuation of the contract, the contract shall terminate on the date of the beginning of the first fiscal year for which funds have not been appropriated.

1.36 Assignment

No Contractor shall assign any interest in the contract by assignment, transfer, or novation, without prior written consent of the State. This provision shall not be construed to prohibit the Contractor from assigning to a bank, trust company, or other financial institution any money due or to become due from approved contracts without such prior written consent. Notice of any such assignment or transfer shall be furnished promptly to the State.

1.37 Right to Audit

The State legislative auditor, federal auditors and internal auditors of the Department of Insurance, Division of Administration, or others so designated by the DOA, shall have the option to audit all accounts directly pertaining to the resulting contract for a period of five (5) years from the date of final payment or as required by applicable State and Federal law. Records shall be made available during normal working hours for this purpose.

1.38 Civil Rights Compliance

The Contractor agrees to abide by the requirements of the following as applicable: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended by the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, Federal Executive Order 11246 as amended, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Vietnam Era Veteran's Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended, and Contractor agrees to abide by the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Contractor agrees not to discriminate in its employment practices, and will render services under the contract without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, veteran status, political affiliation, disability, or age in any matter relating to employment. Any act of discrimination committed by Contractor, or failure to comply with these statutory obligations when applicable shall be grounds for termination of the contract.

1.39 Record Ownership

All records, reports, documents, or other material related to any contract resulting from this RFP and/or obtained or prepared by the Contractor in connection with the performance of the services contracted for herein shall become the property of the State and shall, upon request, be returned by the Contractor to the State, at the Contractor's expense, at termination or expiration of the contract.

1.40 Entire Agreement/ Order of Precedence

The contract, together with the RFP and addenda issued thereto by the State, the proposal submitted by the Contractor in response to the State's RFP, and any exhibits specifically incorporated herein by reference, shall constitute the entire agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter.

In the event of any inconsistent or incompatible provisions, this signed agreement (excluding the RFP and the Contractor's proposal) shall take precedence, followed by the provisions of the RFP, and then by the terms of the Contractor's proposal.

1.41 Contract Modifications

No amendment or variation of the terms of the contract shall be valid unless made in writing, signed by the parties and approved as required by law. No oral understanding or agreement not incorporated in the contract shall be binding on any of the parties.

1.42 Substitution of Personnel

The Contractor's personnel assigned to the Contract shall not be replaced without the prior written consent of the State. Such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed provided an equally qualified replacement is offered. In the event that any State or Contractor personnel become unavailable due to resignation, illness, or other factors, excluding assignment to a project outside the contract, outside of the State's or Contractor's reasonable control, as the case may be, the State or the Contractor shall be responsible for providing an equally qualified replacement in time to avoid delays in completing tasks. The Contractor will make every reasonable attempt to assign the personnel listed in his proposal.

1.43 Governing Law

The contract shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Louisiana. Venue of any action brought with regard to the contract shall be in the Nineteenth Judicial District Court, Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana.

1.44 Claims or Controversies

Any claim or controversy arising out of the contract shall be resolved by the provisions of Louisiana Revised Statutes 39:1672.2-1672.4.

1.45 Code of Ethics

Proposers shall be responsible for determining that there will be no conflict or violation of the Louisiana Ethics Code if their company is awarded the contract. The Louisiana Board of Ethics shall be the only entity which can officially rule on ethics issues.

1.46 Corporate Requirements

If the Contractor is a corporation not incorporated under the laws of the State of Louisiana, the Contractor shall have obtained a certificate of authority pursuant to R. S. 12:301-302 from the Louisiana's Secretary of State. If the Contractor is a for-profit corporation whose stock is not publicly traded, the Contractor

shall ensure that a disclosure of ownership form has been properly filed with the Louisiana's Secretary of State.

1.47 Prohibition of Discriminatory Boycotts of Israel

In preparing its response, the Proposer has considered all proposals submitted from qualified, potential subcontractors and suppliers, and has not, in the solicitation, selection, or commercial treatment of any subcontractor or supplier, refused to transact or terminated business activities, or taken other actions intended to limit commercial relations, with a person or entity that is engaging in commercial transactions in Israel or Israeli-controlled territories, with the specific intent to accomplish a boycott or divestment of Israel. Proposer also has not retaliated against any person or other entity for reporting such refusal, termination, or commercially limiting actions. The State reserves the right to reject the response of the Proposer if this certification is subsequently determined to be false, and to terminate any contract awarded based on such a false response.

PART 2: SCOPE OF WORK/SERVICES

2.1 Scope of Work

The Contractor will provide hardware maintenance, system software maintenance, analysis debugging, trouble shooting and programming service support for the Department computer information system infrastructure including support for firewalls, bridges, routers, switches and other computer information system hardware currently in use or implemented during contract duration.

2.2 Task and Services

Provide maintenance and service support for the following:

Hardware:

- Firewall
- Pure Storage
- Flash Blade
- Aruba Wireless
- Cisco Session Border Controller
- APC UPS
- ASA
- Cisco Router and Switches
- Cisco Phone System
- Juniper EX Series Switches
- Dell Force 10 Switches
- Dell PowerEdge Servers
- Lexmark MFPs

LDI has approximately:

- One Hundred Ten (110) VMware server instances
- Two Hundred and fifty (250) VMware View Desktops
- Two (2) Cisco ASA
- Ninety (90) network printers and copiers, and
- Four (4) Storage Appliances.
- Thirty (30) Juniper and Force10 Network Switches
- Four (4) Palo Alto Firewalls

Servers and Appliances can have a combination of the following software:

- Windows 2019
- Windows 2016
- Windows 2012/R2 Server
- Microsoft SCCM
- Fresh Service Ticket System
- Splunk

- Exchange Server 2016
- Veeam Backup and Recovery
- Dell Open Management Applications
- SolarWinds Network Monitoring Software
- RealPlayer Helix Server
- Microsoft Terminal Server 2008 R2
- Cisco Secure ACS
- Microsoft Windows Remote Installation Server
- Microsoft Windows Routing & Remote Access Server
- VMware ESXi
- VMware vCenter
- Campaign Enterprise Mailblast Software
- DokuWiki

Cloud Infrastructure:

- Azure
- AWS
- Microsoft Office 365
- Security

Contractor shall provide the following services and will have full access to staff and any resources as required for the fulfillment of the project:

Provide maintenance and service support for desktops for the following:

Hardware:

- Dell OptiPlex desktops
- Dell Latitude laptops
- Dell Precision Workstations
- Apple iPad
- Apple iPhone and Android cell phones – email support only

Approximately 300 desktops and laptops that have a combination of the following software on the desktop application level:

- Windows 10 Enterprise
- Microsoft Office 2016
- Microsoft Office 365
- Microsoft Visio 2016
- Microsoft Project 2016
- Microsoft Teams
- WordPerfect X3
- Endpoint Protection
- Teammate
- WSFTP

- OneDrive
- Adobe Acrobat DC
- Adobe Creative Cloud and video editing software
- VMware Workstation
- Java Client
- APC Client
- Maptitude
- ZOOM

- A. Provide network assistance to IT contractors in the area of network and server resources.
- B. Assist the Department in the maintenance of the Business Continuity Plan and the Disaster Recovery Plan.
- C. Assist the Department in determining feasibility and prospective resources required for new projects involving new functions or modification of existing systems.

2.3 Deliverables

The Contractor will present an invoice at month's end reflecting the hours worked by each Contractor's personnel by date and identification number of the work assignments. Hours not attached to a work assignment should be documented as to the purpose of the work. The work sheets may be submitted electronically to the State Project Manager, Mr. Toby Guillory, or his designee(s). The invoice will be one twelfth (1/12) of the total yearly cost and the timesheet must support that the minimum number of hours were met.

Any work assignment that requires documentation for the procedure to be used to complete the work by other personnel in the future should be placed in the shared folders indicated by the IT staff.

A weekly status report shall be sent to Mr. John Greco and Mr. Bruce Matlock. All IT requests completed in the week and the status of on-going work and the person responsible for the IT request. This report will be sent electronically and stored on a network share.

Acceptance of Deliverables

1. *General.* Except where the contract provides different criteria, work will be accepted if it has been performed in accordance with the applicable task completion criteria specified in the Statement of Work.

2. *Submittal and Review.* Upon written notification by Contractor that a Deliverable is completed and available for review and acceptance, LDI will review the Deliverable within 10 business days after the Deliverable is presented to the LDI Project Manager and feedback will be given to the Contractor. Invoices and work sheets will be promptly reviewed by the Contract Supervisor and if acceptable, approved and submitted for payment. Any discrepancies will be communicated back to the Contractor when discovered to resolve the problem.

3. *Notification of Acceptance or Rejection.* If LDI disapproves a Deliverable, LDI will notify Contractor in writing of such disapproval, and will specify those items which, if modified or added, will cause the Deliverable to be approved. The payment by the LDI for completed tasks is contingent upon correction of all such deficiencies and acceptance by LDI. Electronic notification to the Contractor or the onsite staff will suffice for written communication.

2.4 Technical Requirements

The Contractor will provide consulting, analysis, and configuring services for changes to the above systems as mandated by legislation and/or regulation.

Staff are required to work a minimum of 364 hours a month. Physical presence at LDI must be available between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:30 P.M. It is anticipated that the following resources should be available to provide network/appliance support.

- 1 Juniper Switch and router expert
- 1 VoIP expert
- 1 Veeam expert
- 1-2 VMware expert(s)
- 1-2 Dell Blade Chassis expert(s)
- 1-2 Storage expert(s)
- 1-2 Windows Server expert(s)
- 1-2 Full-time or Part-time Support staff to meet the minimum required hours.

2.5 Project Requirements

Project Managers may be required to work up to 50 hours a month. The Project Manager will be fully dedicated to the duty of Project Management upon request. When the individual is acting in the capacity of the Project Manager role that individual will not perform other job duties with the hours and times billed as required for the Project Manager.

- A. *Provide Project Work Plan* - Contractor shall develop and maintain a Project Work Plan which breaks down the work to be performed into manageable phases, activities and tasks as appropriate. The work plan will identify: activities/tasks to be performed, project personnel requirements (both State and Contractor), estimated workdays/personnel hours to complete, expected start and completion dates. Scheduled completion dates for each deliverable shall specifically be included. Written concurrence of both parties will be required to amend the Work Plan. The Project Work Plan shall be approved by the State before project payments are made.
- B. *Provide Project Progress Reports* - Contractor shall submit monthly progress reports signed by the Contractor's Project Manager to the State, no later than 10 days after the close of each calendar month. Each progress report shall describe the status of the Contractor's performance since the preceding report, including the products delivered, descriptions of problems encountered with a plan for resolving them, the work to be accomplished in the coming reporting period, and identifying issues requiring management attention, particularly those which may affect the scope

of services, the project budget, or the deliverables to be provided by the Contractor. Each report shall identify activities by reference to the Project Work plan.

- C. *Provide Time Sheets* - Accompanying each Progress Report, the Contractor shall submit time sheets to the State Project Director indicating effort expended and work performed by each member of its, or its Subcontractors' staff, participating in this contract. Time sheets shall, at a minimum, identify the name of the individual performing the work and the number of hours worked during the period by Work Plan task.
- D. *Provide Issue Control* - Contractor will develop and implement with State approval, procedures and forms to monitor the identification and resolution of key project issues and problems.

PART 3: EVALUATION

Proposals that pass the preliminary screening and mandatory requirements review will be evaluated based on information provided in the proposal. The evaluation will be conducted according to the following.

The Evaluation Team will evaluate and score the proposals using the criteria and scoring as follows:

Criteria	Maximum Score
Company Background and Experience	20
Approach and Methodology	20
Proposed Staff Qualifications	23
Louisiana Veteran and/or Hudson Initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Up to 10 points available for Hudson-certified Proposers;</i> • <i>Up to 12 points available for Veteran-certified Proposers;</i> • <i>If no Veteran-certified Proposers, those two points are not awarded.</i> <i>See Section 3.2 for details.</i>	12
Cost	25
TOTAL SCORE	100

Proposer must receive a minimum score of 31.5 points (50%) of the total available points in the technical categories of Company Background and Experience, Approach and Methodology and Proposed Staff Qualifications to be considered responsive to the RFP. **Proposals not meeting the minimum score shall be rejected and not proceed to further Cost or Louisiana Veteran and/or Hudson Initiative evaluation.**

3.1 Cost Evaluation

The Proposer with the lowest total cost shall receive 25 points. Other Proposers shall receive cost points based upon the following formula.

$$CCS = (LPC/TCP \times 25)$$

Where: CCS = Computed Cost Score (points) for Proposer being evaluated
 LPC = Lowest Proposed Cost of all Proposers
 TCP = Total Cost of Proposer being evaluated

3.2 Veteran-Owned and Service-Connected Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Entrepreneurships (Veteran Initiative) and Louisiana Initiative for Small Entrepreneurships (Hudson Initiative) Programs Participation

A. Twelve percent (12%) of the total evaluation points in this RFP are reserved for Proposers who are certified small entrepreneurships, or who will engage the participation of one or more certified small entrepreneurships as subcontractors. Reserved points shall be added to the applicable Proposers' evaluation score as follows:

B. Proposer Status and Allotment of Reserved Points

- i. If the Proposer is a certified Veterans Initiative small entrepreneurship, the Proposer shall receive points equal to twelve percent (12%) of the total evaluation points in this RFP.
- ii. If the Proposer is a certified Hudson Initiative small entrepreneurship, the Proposer shall receive points equal to ten percent (10%) of the total evaluation points in this RFP.
- iii. If the Proposer demonstrates its intent to use certified small entrepreneurship(s) in the performance of contract work resulting from this solicitation, the Proposer shall receive points equal to the net percentage of contract work which is projected to be performed by or through certified small entrepreneurship subcontractors, multiplied by the appropriate number of evaluation points.
- iv. The total number of points awarded pursuant to this Section shall not exceed twelve percent (12%) of the total number of evaluation points in this RFP.

If the Proposer is a certified Veterans Initiative or Hudson Initiative small entrepreneurship, the Proposer must note this in its proposal in order to receive the full amount of applicable reserved points.

If the Proposer is not a certified small entrepreneurship, but has engaged one (1) or more Veterans Initiative or Hudson Initiative certified small entrepreneurship(s) to participate as subcontractors, the Proposer shall provide the following information for each certified small entrepreneurship subcontractor in order to obtain any applicable Veterans Initiative or Hudson Initiative points:

- i. Subcontractor's name;
- ii. Subcontractor's Veterans Initiative and/or the Hudson Initiative certification;
- iii. A detailed description of the work to be performed; and
- iv. The anticipated dollar value of the subcontract for the three-year contract term.

Note – *it is not mandatory to have a Veterans Initiative or Hudson Initiative certified small entrepreneurship subcontractor. However, it is mandatory to include this information in order to receive any allotted points when applicable.*

If multiple Veterans Initiative or Hudson Initiative subcontractors will be used, the above required information should be listed for each subcontractor. The Proposer should provide a sufficiently detailed description of each subcontractor's work so the Department is able to determine if there is duplication or overlap, or if the subcontractor's services constitute a distinct scope of work from each other subcontractor(s).

PART 4: PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

4.1 Performance Requirements

It is expected that the maintenance work will be performed onsite at the Poydras Building, 1702 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802 or offsite via the LDI Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) or the Virtual Private Network (VPN) when approved by the State Project Manager or designee. Office furniture and required equipment for the Contractor will be provided by LDI, if available. The Contractor and contract personnel will report to, and take direction from, the LDI Project Manager and/or designee(s).

The Department is closed on certain holidays and the Contractor should not expect to have the LDI staff available during these times unless the staff person is contacted in advance, the person's supervisor is notified and agrees, the Contract Supervisor is notified and agrees. In the case of a natural or man-made disaster, the Contractor and Contract Supervisor will communicate to determine the level of service that is required from the Contractor in this period and if the Poydras Building is not available, the Contractor's staff will be able to work from a location that is agreeable to both parties.

4.2 Performance Measurement/Evaluation/Monitoring Plan

4.2.1 Performance Measures/Evaluation:

Performance evaluation will be based upon the Contractor completing the assigned tasks and requests in a timely manner as determined by the State Project Manager, Mr. Toby Guillory or John Greco, IT Technical Support Specialist.

The Contractor will follow the requirements of the department's Software Development Standards and discuss and present any changes that are required to aid the development or implementation of the maintenance and enhancements to the network.

The Contractor will present required documentation and deliverables in a timely fashion to meet requirements dictated by the Louisiana Department of Insurance's Software Development Standards.

<http://ldi.la.gov/docs/default-source/documents/publicaffairs/softwaredevelopmentstandards.pdf>

4.2.2 Monitoring Plan:

Mr. Guillory and Mr. Greco will monitor the services provided by the Contractor and the expenditure of funds under this contract. Mr. Greco, IT Technical Support Specialist, will be primarily responsible for the day-to-day contact with the Contractor and day-to-day monitoring of the Contractor's performance. The monitoring plan is the following:

- All application maintenance service requests will be inputted in the Department's request tracking system. Mr. Greco will be notified of the IT request by the tracking system and if any approval is

required, Mr. Greco will provide them. Mr. Greco will be notified by the tracking system of the end of the IT request when it is closed.

- Mr. Guillory, Mr. Greco and Mr. Lance Herrin, Deputy Undersecretary of the Office of Management & Finance will be notified of any updates, upgrades, and changes to the system and with their approval, the modification of the specific system will commence.
- A weekly project and maintenance “Project List” describing the work, the person(s) assigned to the work, and a timeline of expected completion will be made available to the LDI IT staff.
- The Contractor will notify Mr. Guillory and Mr. Greco via e-mail, text or phone call of all maintenance and emergency work performed between the hours of 6 p.m. and 6 a.m.
- Mr. Guillory and Mr. Greco will review the monthly invoice and timesheet that contains the IT request worked upon for the month for accuracy and initial and date the pages for payment for the Fiscal Office’s review.

4.3 Veteran and Hudson Initiative Programs Reporting Requirements

During the term of the contract and at expiration, the Contractor will be required to report Veteran-Owned and Service-Connected Disabled Veteran-Owned and Hudson Initiative small entrepreneurship subcontractor participation and the dollar amount of each.

If a contract is awarded to a Proposer who proposed a good faith subcontracting plan, the using agency, the Louisiana Department of Economic Development (LED), or the Office of State Procurement (OSP) may audit Contractor to determine whether Contractor has complied in good faith with its subcontracting plan. The Contractor must be able to provide supporting documentation (i.e., phone logs, fax transmittals, letter, e-mails) to demonstrate its good faith subcontracting plan was followed. If it is determined at any time by the using agency, LED, or the OSP Director that the Contractor did not in fact perform in good faith its subcontracting plan, the contract award or the existing contract may be terminated.

ATTACHMENT I: CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

The undersigned hereby acknowledges she/he has read and understands all requirements and specifications of the Request for Proposals (RFP), including attachments.

OFFICIAL CONTACT. The State requests that the Proposer designate one person to receive all documents and the method in which the documents are best delivered. The Proposer should identify the Contact name and fill in the information below: (Print Clearly)

- A. Official Contact Name: _____
- B. E-mail Address: _____
- C. Facsimile Number with area code: () _____
- D. US Mail Address: _____

Proposer shall certify that the above information is true and shall grant permission to the State or Agencies to contact the above named person or otherwise verify the information provided.

By its submission of this proposal and authorized signature below, Proposer shall certify that:

1. The information contained in its response to this RFP is accurate;
2. Proposer shall comply with each of the mandatory requirements listed in the RFP and will meet or exceed the functional and technical requirements specified therein;
3. Proposer shall accept the procedures, evaluation criteria, mandatory contract terms and conditions, and all other administrative requirements set forth in this RFP.
4. Proposer's quote shall be valid for at least 90 calendar days from the date of proposal's signature below;
5. Proposer understands that if selected as the successful Proposer, he/she will have (7) business days from the date of delivery of final contract in which to complete contract negotiations, if any, and execute the final contract document.
6. Proposer shall certify, by signing and submitting a proposal for \$25,000 or more, that their company, any subcontractors, or principals are not suspended or debarred by the General Services Administration (GSA) in accordance with the requirements in 2 CFR §200 Subpart F. (A list of parties who have been suspended or debarred can be viewed via the internet at <https://www.sam.gov>.)
7. Proposer understands that, if selected as a contractor, the Louisiana Department of Revenue must determine that it is current in the filing of all applicable tax returns and reports and in payment of all taxes, interest, penalties, and fees owed to the state and collected by the LDR. Proposer shall comply with R.S. 39:1624(A)(10) by providing its seven-digit LDR account number in order for tax payment compliance status to be verified.
8. Proposer further acknowledges its understanding that issuance of a tax clearance certificate by LDR is a necessary precondition to the approval of any contract by the Office of State Procurement. The

contracting agency reserves the right to withdraw its consent to any contract without penalty and proceed with alternate arrangements, should a prospective contractor fail to resolve any identified outstanding tax compliance discrepancies with the LDR within seven (7) days of such notification.

9. Proposer certifies and agrees that the following information is correct: In preparing its response, the Proposer has considered all proposals submitted from qualified, potential subcontractors and suppliers, and has not, in the solicitation, selection, or commercial treatment of any subcontractor or supplier, refused to transact or terminated business activities, or taken other actions intended to limit commercial relations, with a person or entity that is engaging in commercial transactions in Israel or Israeli-controlled territories, with the specific intent to accomplish a boycott or divestment of Israel. Proposer also has not retaliated against any person or other entity for reporting such refusal, termination, or commercially limiting actions. The State reserves the right to reject the response of the Proposer if this certification is subsequently determined to be false, and to terminate any contract awarded based on such a false response.
10. Proposer certifies that the cost submitted was independently arrived at without collusion.

Signature of Proposer or
Authorized Representative

Typed or Printed Name:

Date:

Title:

Company Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

ATTACHMENT II: ELECTRONIC VENDOR PAYMENT SOLUTION

In an effort to increase efficiencies and effectiveness as well as be strategic in utilizing technology and resources for the State and Contractor, the State intends to make all payments to Contractors electronically. The LaCarte Procurement Card will be used for purchases of \$5,000 and under, and where feasible, over \$5,000. Contractors will have a choice of receiving electronic payment for all other payments by selecting the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). If you receive an award and do not currently accept the LaCarte card or have not already enrolled in EFT, you will be asked to comply with this request by choosing either the LaCarte Procurement Card and/or EFT. You may indicate your acceptance below.

The **LaCarte** Procurement Card uses a Visa card platform. Contractors receive payment from state agencies using the card in the same manner as other Visa card purchases. Contractors cannot process payment transactions through the credit card clearinghouse until the purchased products have been shipped or received or the services performed.

For all statewide and agency term contracts:

- Under the LaCarte program, purchase orders are not necessary. Orders must be placed against the net discounted products of the contract. All contract terms and conditions apply to purchases made with LaCarte.
- If a purchase order is not used, the Contractor must keep on file a record of all LaCarte purchases issued against this contract during the contract period. The file must contain the particular item number, quantity, line total and order total. Records of these purchases must be provided to the Office of State Procurement on request.

EFT payments are sent from the State’s bank directly to the payee’s bank each weekday. The only requirement is that you have an active checking or savings account at a financial institution that can accept Automated Clearing House (ACH) credit files and remittance information electronically. Additional information and an enrollment form is available by contacting the Office of Statewide Reporting & Accounting at DOA-OSRAP-EFT@la.gov.

To facilitate this payment process, you will need to complete and return the EFT enrollment form contained in the link above.

If an award is made to your company, please check which option you will accept or indicate if you are already enrolled.

<u>Payment Type</u>	<u>Will Accept</u>	<u>Already Enrolled</u>
LaCarte	_____	_____
EFT	_____	_____

Printed Name of Individual Authorized

Authorized Signature for payment type chosen

Date

Email address and phone number of authorized individual

ATTACHMENT III: LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING

***Louisiana Department of Insurance
Network and Information Technology Infrastructure Support Maintenance
and Staff Augmentation***

The letter of understanding presented on the next page must be on the letterhead of the company and signed by the appropriate level of management that will oversee the Louisiana Department of Insurance Network and Information Technology Infrastructure Support Maintenance and Staff Augmentation. A copy of the Louisiana Department of Insurance's Software Development Standards can be found at:

<http://ldi.la.gov/docs/default-source/documents/publicaffairs/softwaredevelopmentstandards.pdf> .

Letter of Understanding

Louisiana Department of Insurance

*Network and Information Technology Infrastructure Support Maintenance
and Staff Augmentation*

(Company Name)

(Company's Physical Address)

It is understood that (Company Name), staff, and subcontractors have no intellectual property rights including the right to resell any portion of the underlying source code, programs, web pages, or any documentation that is developed for the State of Louisiana and the Louisiana Department of Insurance if {Company Name}'s proposal is awarded the contract for the Louisiana Department of Insurance's Network and Information Technology Infrastructure Support Maintenance and Staff Augmentation.

We have read the Louisiana Department of Insurance's Software Development Standards and will require LDI staff and any subcontractors to abide by the Standards as promulgated by the Louisiana Department of Insurance in the development of the project.

This letter of understanding covers the Network and Information Technology Infrastructure Support Maintenance and Staff Augmentation for the Louisiana Department of Insurance and cannot be assumed or determined to cover any current or subsequent project that (Company Name) may bid upon with the State of Louisiana and the Louisiana Department of Insurance.

(Signature of management)

(Printed name of Signer)

(Position with Company)

(Date)

ATTACHMENT IV: COST SUMMARY

NETWORK AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT
MAINTENANCE & STAFF AUGMENTATION

COST SUMMARY TO SHOW FLAT MONTHLY & YEARLY COST
Proposer must provide 364 hours minimum per month

Name of Resource	Role	Hours	Rate	Cost for Month
Resource – Name -- XXXX		XXX		\$XXXXX
Resource – Name -- XXXX		XXX		\$XXXXX
Resource – Name -- XXXX		XXX		\$XXXXX
Resource – Name -- XXXX		XXX		\$XXXXX
Resource – Name -- XXXX		XXX		\$XXXXX
Resource – Name -- XXXX		XXX		\$XXXXX
	Total Hours:	XXX		

TOTAL MONTHLY COST: _____

TOTAL YEARLY COST: _____

- * Hourly rate and number of hours to be provided by each resource is for informational purposes only.
- * **Total number of hours to be provided by the proposer shall be a minimum of 364 hours per month.** Proposer may offer additional hours.
- * Total yearly cost will be evaluated.
- * Resulting contract will be a fixed-fee contract.

ATTACHMENT V: SAMPLE CONTRACT

STATE OF LOUISIANA

CONTRACT

On this ____ day of _____, 20__, the (Agency Name), hereinafter sometimes referred to as the "State", and (Contractor's name and legal address including zip code), hereinafter sometimes referred to as the "Contractor", do hereby enter into a contract under the following terms and conditions.

1.0 SCOPE OF SERVICES

Contractor hereby agrees to furnish services to State as specified in Section 3.0.

1.1 CONCISE DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

[Provide the concise description of the data processing consulting services to be acquired]

1.2 COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

A full description of the scope of services is contained in the following Attachments which are made a part of this contract:

Attachment I - Statement of Work
Attachment II - Hardware/Software Environment
Attachment III - Contractor Personnel and Other Resources
Attachment IV - State Furnished Resources
Attachment V – Insurance Requirements for Contractors

2.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

2.1 TERM OF CONTRACT

This contract shall begin on _____ and shall end on _____. State has the right to extend this contract up to a total of three years with the concurrence of the Contractor.

2.2 WARRANTIES

Contractor shall indemnify State against any loss or expense arising out of any breach of any specified Warranty.

A. *Period of Coverage.* The Warranty period for software and system components covered under this Contract will begin on the date of acceptance or date of first productive use, whichever occurs later, and will terminate (**spell-out**) (*n*) months thereafter.

B. *Free from Defects.* Contractor warrants that the system developed hereunder shall be free from defect in design and implementation and will continue to meet the specifications agreed to during system design and Contractor will, without additional charge to the State, correct any such defect and make such additions, modifications, or adjustments to the system as may be necessary to operate as specified in the Technical Deliverables accepted by the State.

C. *Software Standards Compliance.* Contractor warrants that all software and other products delivered hereunder will comply with State standards and/or guidelines for resource names, programming languages, and documentation as referenced in Attachment II.

D. *Software Performance.* Specific operating performance characteristics of the software developed and/or installed hereunder are warranted by the Contractor as stated in Attachment I.

E. *Original Development.* Contractor warrants that all materials produced hereunder will be of original development by Contractor, and will be specifically developed for the fulfillment of this contract. In the event the Contractor elects to use or incorporate in the materials to be produced any components of a system already existing, Contractor shall first notify the State, which after whatever investigation the State may elect to make, may direct the Contractor not to use or incorporate any such components. If the State does not object, Contractor may use or incorporate such components at Contractor's expense and shall furnish written consent of the party owning the same to the State in all events. Such components shall be warranted as set forth herein (except for originality) by the Contractor and the Contractor will arrange to transfer title or the perpetual license for the use of such components to the State for purposes of the contract.

F. *No Surreptitious Code Warranty.* Contractor warrants that software provided hereunder will be free from any "Self-Help Code". "Self-Help Code" means any back door, time bomb, or drop dead device or other routine designed to disable a computer program with the passage of time or under the positive control of a person or party other than the State. Excluded from this prohibition are identified and State-authorized features designed for purposes of maintenance or technical support. "Unauthorized Code" means any virus, Trojan horse, worm or other software routine or component designed to permit unauthorized access to disable, erase, or otherwise harm software, equipment, or data, or to perform any other such actions. "Unauthorized Code" does not include "Self-Help Code".

2.3 INDEMNIFICATION AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

Neither party shall be liable for any delay or failure in performance beyond its control resulting from acts of God or force majeure. The parties shall use reasonable efforts to eliminate or minimize the effect of such events upon performance of their respective duties under Contract.

Contractor shall be fully liable for the actions of its agents, employees, partners or subcontractors and shall fully indemnify and hold harmless the State and its Authorized Users from suits, actions, damages and costs of every name and description relating to personal injury and damage to real or personal tangible property caused by Contractor, its agents, employees, partners or subcontractors, without limitation; provided, however, that the Contractor shall not indemnify for that portion of any claim, loss or damage arising hereunder due to the negligent

act or failure to act of the State. If applicable, Contractor will indemnify, defend and hold the State and its Authorized Users harmless, without limitation, from and against any and all damages, expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees), claims, judgments, liabilities and costs which may be finally assessed against the State in any action for infringement of a United States Letter Patent with respect to the Products furnished, or of any copyright, trademark, trade secret or intellectual property right, provided that the State shall give the Contractor: (i) prompt written notice of any action, claim or threat of infringement suit, or other suit, (ii) the opportunity to take over, settle or defend such action, claim or suit at Contractor's sole expense, and (iii) assistance in the defense of any such action at the expense of Contractor. Where a dispute or claim arises relative to a real or anticipated infringement, the State or its Authorized Users may require Contractor, at its sole expense, to submit such information and documentation, including formal patent attorney opinions, as the Commissioner of Administration shall require.

The Contractor shall not be obligated to indemnify that portion of a claim or dispute based upon: i) Authorized User's unauthorized modification or alteration of a Product, Material or Service; ii) Authorized User's use of the Product in combination with other products not furnished by Contractor; iii) Authorized User's use in other than the specified operating conditions and environment.

In addition to the foregoing, if the use of any item(s) or part(s) thereof shall be enjoined for any reason or if Contractor believes that it may be enjoined, Contractor shall have the right, at its own expense and sole discretion as the Authorized User's exclusive remedy to take action in the following order of precedence: (i) to procure for the State the right to continue using such item(s) or part (s) thereof, as applicable; (ii) to modify the component so that it becomes non-infringing equipment of at least equal quality and performance; or (iii) to replace said item(s) or part(s) thereof, as applicable, with non-infringing components of at least equal quality and performance, or (iv) if none of the foregoing is commercially reasonable, then provide monetary compensation to the State up to the dollar amount of the Contract.

For all other claims against the Contractor where liability is not otherwise set forth in the Contract as being "without limitation", and regardless of the basis on which the claim is made, Contractor's liability for direct damages, shall be the greater of \$100,000, the dollar amount of the Contract, or two (2) times the charges rendered by the Contractor under the Contract. Unless otherwise specifically enumerated herein or in the work order mutually agreed between the parties, neither party shall be liable to the other for special, indirect or consequential damages, including lost data or records (unless the Contractor is required to back-up the data or records as part of the work plan), even if the party has been advised of the possibility of such damages. Neither party shall be liable for lost profits, lost revenue or lost institutional operating savings.

The State and Authorized User may, in addition to other remedies available to them at law or equity and upon notice to the Contractor, retain such monies from amounts due Contractor, or may proceed against the performance and payment bond, if any, as may be necessary to satisfy any claim for damages, penalties, costs and the like asserted by or against them.

2.4 STAFF INSURANCE

Contractor shall procure and maintain for the duration of the contract insurance against claims for injuries to persons or damages to property which may arise from or in connection with the performance of the work hereunder by the Contractor, his agents, representatives, employees or subcontractors. The cost of such insurance shall be included in the total contract amount included in Section 5.0. For insurance requirements, refer to Attachment V.

2.5 LICENSES AND PERMITS

Contractor shall secure and maintain all licenses and permits, and pay inspection fees required to do the work required to complete this contract.

2.6 SECURITY

Contractor's personnel will always comply with all security regulations in effect at the State's premises, and externally for materials belonging to the State or to the project. Contractor is responsible for reporting any breach of security to the State promptly.

2.7 TAXES

Contractor is responsible for payment of all applicable taxes from the funds to be received under this contract. Contractor's federal tax identification number is _____. Contractor's seven-digit LDR account number is _____.

In accordance with R.S. 39:1624(A)(10), the Louisiana Department of Revenue must determine that the prospective contractor is current in the filing of all applicable tax returns and reports and in payment of all taxes, interest, penalties, and fees owed to the state and collected by the Department of Revenue prior to the approval of this contract by the Office of State Procurement. The prospective contractor hereby attests to its current and/or prospective compliance, and agrees to provide its seven-digit LDR Account Number to the contracting agency so that the prospective contractor's tax payment compliance status may be verified. The prospective contractor further acknowledges understanding that issuance of a tax clearance certificate by the Louisiana Department of Revenue is a necessary precondition to the approval and effectiveness of this contract by the Office of State Procurement. The contracting agency reserves the right to withdraw its consent to this contract without penalty and proceed with alternate arrangements should the vendor fail to resolve any identified apparent outstanding tax compliance discrepancies with the Louisiana Department of Revenue within seven (7) days of such notification.

2.8 CONFIDENTIALITY

All financial, statistical, personal, technical and other data and information relating to the State's operations which are designated confidential by the State and made available to the Contractor in order to carry out this Contract, or which becomes available to the Contractor in carrying out this contract, shall be protected by the Contractor from unauthorized use and disclosure through the observance of the same or more effective procedural requirements as are applicable to the State. Contractor shall not be required to keep confidential any data or

information which is or becomes publicly available, is already rightfully in the Contractor's possession, is independently developed by the Contractor outside the scope of this Contract, or is rightfully obtained from third parties.

3.0 TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

3.1 STATEMENT OF WORK

Contractor will perform services according to the terms of this Contract and according to the Statement of Work (SOW) in Attachment I.

3.2 CONFIGURATION REQUIREMENTS

The software system being installed shall be designed and configured by the Contractor to operate within the State's hardware, software, and networking environments as specified in Attachment II.

3.3 PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Contractor shall provide, at a minimum, the following project management functions:

A. Provide Project Management - Contractor will provide day-to-day project management using best management practices for all tasks and activities necessary to complete the Statement of Work.

B. Provide Project Work Plan - Contractor shall develop and maintain a Project Work Plan which breaks down the work to be performed into manageable phases, activities and tasks as appropriate. The work plan will identify: activities/tasks to be performed, project personnel requirements (both State and Contractor), estimated workdays/personnel hours to complete, expected start and completion dates. Scheduled completion dates for each deliverable shall specifically be included. Written concurrence of both parties will be required to amend the Work Plan. The Project Work Plan shall be approved by the State before project payments are made.

C. Provide Project Progress Reports - Contractor shall submit monthly progress reports signed by the Contractor's Project Manager to the State, no later than 10 days after the close of each calendar month. Each progress report shall describe the status of the Contractor's performance since the preceding report, including the products delivered, descriptions of problems encountered with a plan for resolving them, the work to be accomplished in the coming reporting period, and identifying issues requiring management attention, particularly those which may affect the scope of services, the project budget, or the deliverables to be provided by the Contractor. Each report shall identify activities by reference to the Project Work plan.

D. Provide Time Sheets - Accompanying each Progress Report, the Contractor shall submit time sheets to the State Project Director indicating effort expended and work performed by each member of its, or its subcontractors' staff, participating in this contract. Time sheets shall, at a minimum, identify the name of the individual performing the work and the number of hours worked during the period by Work Plan task.

E. *Provide Issue Control.* Contractor will develop and implement with State approval, procedures and forms to monitor the identification and resolution of key project issues and problems.

3.4 QUALITY ASSURANCE REVIEWS

State reserves the right to conduct Quality Assurance Reviews at appropriate checkpoints throughout the project. Contractor will facilitate the review process by making staff and information available as requested by the reviewers at no additional cost to the State.

3.5 CONTRACTOR RESOURCES

Contractor agrees to provide the following Contract related resources:

A. *Project Manager.* Contractor shall provide a project manager to provide day-to-day management of project tasks and activities, coordination of Contractor support and administrative activities, and for supervision of Contractor employees. The project manager shall possess the technical and functional skills and knowledge to direct all aspects of the project.

B. *Key Personnel.* Contractor shall assign staff who possess the knowledge, skills, and abilities to successfully perform assigned tasks. Individuals to be assigned by the Contractor are listed in Attachment III.

C. *Personnel Changes.* Contractor's Project Manager and other key personnel assigned to this Contract shall not be replaced without the written consent of the State. Such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed provided an equally qualified replacement is offered. In the event that any State or Contractor personnel become unavailable due to resignation, illness or other factors, excluding assignment to project outside this contract, outside of the State's or Contractor's reasonable control, as the case may be, the State or the Contractor, as the case may be, shall be responsible for providing an equally qualified replacement in time to avoid delays to the work plan.

D. *Other Resources.* Contractor will provide other resources as specified in Attachment III.

3.6 STATE PROJECT DIRECTOR

State shall appoint a Project Director for this Contract who will provide oversight of the activities conducted hereunder. The Project Director is identified in Attachment IV. Notwithstanding the Contractor's responsibility for total management during the performance of this Contract, the assigned State Project Director shall be the principal point of contact on behalf of the State and will be the principal point of contact for Contractor concerning Contractor's performance under this Contract.

3.7 STATE FURNISHED RESOURCES

State will make available to the Contractor for use in fulfillment of this contract those resources described in Attachment IV.

3.8 STATE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Contractor shall comply with State standards and guidelines related to systems development, installation, software distribution, security, networking, and usage of State resources described in Attachment II.

3.9 ELECTRONICALLY FORMATTED INFORMATION

Where applicable, State shall be provided all documents in electronic format, as well as hard-copy. Electronic media prepared by the Contractor for use by the State will be compatible with the State's comparable desktop application (e.g., spreadsheets, word processing documents). Conversion of files, if necessary, will be Contractor's responsibility. Conversely, as required, Contractor must accept and be able to process electronic documents and files created by the State's current desktop applications as described in Attachment II.

4.0 ACCEPTANCE OF DELIVERABLES

Contract deliverables will be submitted, reviewed, and accepted according to the following procedure:

A. *General.* Except where this Contract provides different criteria, work will be accepted if it has been performed in accordance with the applicable specifications for Contractor's work in the Statement of Work, the Request for Proposals, the Contractor's Proposal, and/or as subsequently modified in State- approved design documents developed within this Project, and in the accepted final documentation.

B. *Submittal and Initial Review.* Upon written notification by Contractor that a Deliverable is completed and available for review and acceptance, the State Project Director will use best efforts to review the Deliverable within five (5) business days after the Deliverable is presented to the State Project Director, but in no event later than ten (10) business days after the Deliverable is presented to the State Project Director. Within the applicable period, the State Project Director will direct the appropriate review process, coordinate any review outside the Project team, and present results to any user committees and/or Steering Committee for approval, as needed. The initial review process will be comprehensive with a view toward identifying all items which must be modified or added to enable a Deliverable to be approved. A failure to deliver all or any essential part of a Deliverable shall be cause for non-acceptance.

C. *Notification of Acceptance or Rejection.* If no notification is delivered to Contractor within the applicable period, the Deliverable will be considered approved. If State disapproves a Deliverable, State will notify Contractor in writing of such disapproval, and will specify those items which, if modified or added, will cause the Deliverable to be approved.

D. *Resubmitting Corrected Deliverables.* With respect to such Deliverables, Contractor will resubmit the Deliverable with requested modifications and the State Project Director will review such modifications within five (5) business days. If no notification is delivered to Contractor within those five (5) business days, the Deliverable is considered approved. If the State disapproves that Deliverable, the State will notify Contractor in writing of any additional deficiencies which result from such modifications and Contractor will resubmit the Deliverable with the requested modifications. The parties agree to repeat this process as required until all such identified deficiencies are corrected or a determination of breach or default is made. The payment by the State for each activity is contingent upon correction of all such deficiencies and acceptance by the State.

5.0 COMPENSATION AND MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF CONTRACT

In consideration of the services required by this contract, State hereby agrees to pay to Contractor a maximum fee of \$___. Contractor will comply with the Division of Administration State General Travel Regulations, as set forth in Division of Administration Policy and Procedure Memorandum No. 49. Payment will be made only on approval of Toby Guillory, IT Director 2.

Payment will be based on a fixed monthly rate. The Contractor, at a minimum, shall work ___ hours per month, as in Attachment III – Contractor Personnel. The invoice for service will be submitted after the last calendar day of the month and shall not exceed & _____ for the month. Payments cannot exceed the maximum contract amount.

Prohibition Against Advance Payments. No compensation or payment of any nature will be made in advance of services actually performed and/or supplies furnished.

6.0 TERMINATION

6.1 TERMINATION FOR CAUSE

State may terminate this Contract for cause based upon the failure of Contractor to comply with the terms and/or conditions of the Contract; provided that the State shall give the Contractor written notice specifying the Contractor's failure. If within thirty (30) days after receipt of such notice, the Contractor shall not have either corrected such failure or, in the case of failure which cannot be corrected in thirty (30) days, begun in good faith to correct said failure and thereafter proceeded diligently to complete such correction, then the State may, at its option, place the Contractor in default and the Contract shall terminate on the date specified in such notice. Contractor may exercise any rights available to it under Louisiana law to terminate for cause upon the failure of the State to comply with the terms and conditions of this contract; provided that the Contractor shall give the State written notice specifying the State's failure and a reasonable opportunity for the state to cure the defect.

6.2 TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE

State may terminate the Contract at any time without penalty by giving thirty (30) days written notice to the Contractor of such termination or negotiating with the Contractor an effective date thereof. Contractor shall be entitled to payment for deliverables in progress, to the extent work has been performed satisfactorily.

7.0 REMEDIES FOR DEFAULT

Any claim or controversy arising out of the contract shall be resolved by the provisions of LSA - R.S. 39:1672.2-1672.4

8.0 AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

The continuation of this contract is contingent upon the appropriation of funds by the legislature to fulfill the requirements of the contract. If the legislature fails to appropriate sufficient monies to provide for the

continuation of the contract, or if such appropriation is reduced by the veto of the Governor or by any means provided in the appropriations act to prevent the total appropriation for the year from exceeding revenues for that year, or for any other lawful purpose, and the effect of such reduction is to provide insufficient monies for the continuation of the contract, the contract shall terminate on the date of the beginning of the first fiscal year for which funds have not been appropriated. Such termination shall be without penalty or expense to the State except for payments which have been earned prior to the termination.

9.0 OWNERSHIP OF PRODUCT

Upon completion of this contract, or if terminated earlier, all software, data files, documentation, records, worksheets, or any other materials related to this contract shall become the property of State. All such software, records, worksheets, or materials shall be delivered to the State within thirty days of the completion or termination of this contract.

10.0 NONASSIGNABILITY

No contractor shall assign any interest in this contract by assignment, transfer, or novation, without prior written consent of the State. This provision shall not be construed to prohibit the contractor from assigning his bank, trust company, or other financial institution any money due or to become due from approved contracts without such prior written consent. Notice of any such assignment or transfer shall be furnished promptly to the State.

11.0 RIGHT TO AUDIT

Contractor grants to the Office of the Legislative Auditor, Inspector General's Office, the Federal Government, and any other duly authorized agencies of the State where appropriate the right to inspect and review all books and records pertaining to services rendered under this contract. Contractor shall comply with federal and/or state laws authorizing an audit of Contractor's operation as a whole, or of specific program activities.

12.0 RECORD RETENTION

Contractor agrees to retain all books, records, and other documents relevant to this contract and the funds expended hereunder for at least three years after final payment, or as required by applicable Federal law, if Federal funds are used to fund this contract.

13.0 AMENDMENTS IN WRITING

Any alteration, variation, modification, or waiver of provisions of this contract shall be valid only when they have been reduced to writing, duly signed. No amendment shall be valid until it has been executed by all parties and approved by the Director of the Office of State Procurement, Division of Administration.

14.0 FUND USE

Contractor agrees not to use funds received for services rendered under this Contract to urge any elector to vote for or against any candidate or proposition on an election ballot nor shall such funds be used to lobby for or against

any proposition or matter having the effect of law being considered by the Louisiana Legislature or any local governing authority. This provision shall not prevent the normal dissemination of factual information relative to a proposition on any election ballot or a proposition or matter having the effect of law being considered by the Louisiana Legislature or any local governing authority.

15.0 NON-DISCRIMINATION

Contractor agrees to abide by the requirements of the following as applicable: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended by the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, Federal Executive Order 11246 as amended, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Vietnam Era Veteran's Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended, and Contractor agrees to abide by the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Contractor agrees not to discriminate in its employment practices, and will render services under this contract without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, veteran status, political affiliation, disability, or age in any matter relating to employment. Any act of discrimination committed by Contractor, or failure to comply with these statutory obligations when applicable shall be grounds for termination of this contract.

16.0 HEADINGS

Descriptive headings in this contract are for convenience only and shall not affect the construction or meaning of contractual language.

17.0 ENTIRE AGREEMENT AND ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

This contract, (together with the Request for Proposals and addenda issued thereto by the State, the proposal submitted by the Contractor in response to the State's Request for Proposals, and any exhibits specifically incorporated herein by reference) constitutes the entire agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter.

This contract shall, to the extent possible, be construed to give effect to all provisions contained therein: however, where provisions are in conflict, first priority shall be given to the provisions of the contract, excluding the Request for Proposals and the Proposal; second priority shall be given to the provisions of the Request for Proposals and amendments thereto; and third priority shall be given to the provisions of the Proposal.

18.0 PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATORY BOYCOTTS OF ISRAEL

In accordance with La. R.S. 39:1602.1, for any contract for \$100,000 or more and for any contractor with five or more employees, Contractor, or any Subcontractor, shall certify it is not engaging in a boycott of Israel, and shall, for the duration of this contract, refrain from a boycott of Israel.

The State reserves the right to terminate this contract if the Contractor, or any Subcontractor, engages in a boycott of Israel during the term of the contract.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED on the date(s) noted below

CONTRACTOR'S SIGNATURE

DATE

STATE'S SIGNATURE

DATE

**ATTACHMENT I
STATEMENT OF WORK**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

[State here a brief description of project and a general description of its scope and objectives. Other topics which may be appropriate to include are: background, relationship of project to department plans and programs, purpose of system being implemented, problems system is intended to address, etc.]

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES/TASKS

[Describe here tasks or services to be performed by Contractor in terms of scope and expected outcomes or results. This may involve description of major project phases or subsystems.]

3.0 SCHEDULE REQUIREMENTS

[Describe here major schedule milestones, such as: project start, when work plan will be finalized and approved, project phases, dates for contract deliverables, implementation target date, etc.]

4.0 PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND MONITORING PLAN

[Describe the performance measures to be taken during the project and monitoring plan.]

5.0 DELIVERABLES

Contractor agrees to provide the following deliverables within the time frames specified herein:

[List the project deliverables with a description of each deliverable. More information can be placed in a separate attachment or included by reference to the specific Request for Proposals and/or the proposal provisions.]

Examples are as follows:

o The Contractor will present an invoice at month's end reflecting the hours worked by each Contractor's personnel by date and identification number of the work assignments. Hours not attached to a work assignment should be documented as to the purpose of the work. The work sheets may be submitted electronically to the State Project Manager, Mr. Toby Guillory, or his designee(s). The invoice will be one twelfth (1/12) of the total yearly cost and the timesheet must support that the minimum number of hours were met.

o Any work assignment that requires documentation for the procedure to be used to complete the work by other personnel in the future should be placed in the shared folders indicated by the IT staff.

o A weekly status report shall be sent to Mr. Toby Guillory and his designated staff, consisting of IT requests completed in the week, the status of on-going work, and the person responsible for the IT request. This report will be sent electronically and stored on a network share.

6.0 STANDARD OF PERFORMANCE

As stipulated in the warranty provisions of this Contract, the following standards of performance for the products delivered hereunder will be warranted as described below:

[Describe here any unique operating characteristics of the software or system that must be warranted to a specified level of performance.]

**ATTACHMENT II
HARDWARE/SOFTWARE ENVIRONMENT**

The system to be installed must be able to operate on the State data processing facility and configuration as follows:

1.0 HARDWARE AND OPERATING SYSTEM SOFTWARE

The production of servers are running VMware ESXI 6.5 with PureStorage running Windows 2016. LDI uses Juniper routers, Dell and Juniper switches, including a Cisco ASA and VPN Concentrator.

2.0 SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

NONE

3.0 STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

The Contractor agrees to abide by the Office of Technology Service's standards and policies that have been adopted by the Louisiana Department of Insurance.

**ATTACHMENT III
CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL AND OTHER RESOURCES**

1.0 CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL

The following individuals are assigned to the project, on a full time basis (unless otherwise indicated), and in the capacities set forth below:

Name/Company Responsibilities/Classification Rate Expected Duration

...
...
...
...

[List here all personnel, including subcontractors, who will be assigned to the project. Personnel who will be assigned at a future date may be listed by job classification. Contract may also specify qualifications for each unnamed person.]

2.0 PC WORKSTATIONS

Contractor will provide its own workstations, any workstation resident software and maintenance thereof.

3.0 NETWORK CONNECTIVITY

Any Contractor-provided workstations or devices to be connected to the State's network, must comply with State network and security standards. Contractor must provide the hardware components, operating system, and software licenses necessary to function as part of the State network. All hardware and software must be reviewed before it is used on the Local Area Network, and may be made operable on the Local Area Network with written approval of the State.

**ATTACHMENT IV
STATE FURNISHED RESOURCES**

Any resources of the State furnished to the Contractor shall be used only for the performance of this Contract. State will make available to the Contractor, for Contractor's use in fulfillment of this contract, resources as described below:

1.0 PROJECT DIRECTOR

The Project Director appointed by the State as described in Section 3.6 is _____ who is the principal point of contract for this contract on behalf of the State.

2.0 TECHNICAL STAFF

State will provide xxx (#) technical employees to be manpower loaded at no more than ##% of normal work hours. The level of effort required and time frames will be documented in a memorandum based upon the work plan. Reasonable access to other technical specialists on a limited basis will be coordinated through the State Project Director.

3.0 FUNCTIONAL STAFF

State will provide xxx (#) functional employees to be manpower loaded at no more than ##% of normal work hours. The level of effort required and time frames will be documented in a memorandum based upon the work plan. Reasonable access to other functional personnel on a limited basis will be coordinated through the State Project Director.

4.0 OFFICE FACILITIES

State will provide reasonable and normal office space, clerical support, local telephone service, and limited usage of copiers.

5.0 COMPUTER FACILITIES

State will make available use of computer facilities at reasonable times and in reasonable time increments to support system development, test, and installation activities. Special facility requirements, such as stress testing or conversion, shall be addressed in the appropriate planning documents or documented by the Contractor in a memorandum.

**ATTACHMENT V
INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRACTORS**

1.0 MINIMUM SCOPE OF INSURANCE

Coverage shall be at least as broad as:

1. Insurance Services Office form number GL 0002 (Ed. 1/73) covering Comprehensive General Liability and Insurance Services Office form number GL 0404 covering Broad Form Comprehensive General Liability; or Insurance Services Office Commercial General Liability coverage ("occurrence" form CG 001). "Claims Made" form is unacceptable. The "occurrence form" shall not have a "sunset clause".
2. Insurance Services Office form number CA 0001 (Ed 1/78) covering Automobile Liability and endorsement CA 0025 or CA 0001 12 90. The policy shall provide coverage for owned, hired, and non-owned coverage. If an automobile is to be utilized in the execution of this contract, and the contractor does not own a vehicle, then proof of hired and non-owned coverage is sufficient.
3. Workers' Compensation insurance as required by the Labor Code of the State of Louisiana, including Employers Liability insurance.

2.0 MINIMUM LIMITS OF INSURANCE

Contractor shall maintain limits no less than:

1. Commercial General Liability: \$1,000,000 combined single limit per occurrence for bodily injury, personal injury and property damage.
2. Automobile Liability: \$1,000,000 combined single limit per accident, for bodily injury and property damage.
3. Workers Compensation and Employers Liability: Workers' Compensation limits as required by the Labor Code of the State of Louisiana and Employers Liability coverage. Exception: Employers liability limit is to be \$1,000,000 when work is to be over water and involves maritime exposure.

3.0 DEDUCTIBLES AND SELF-INSURED RETENTIONS

Any deductibles or self-insured retentions must be declared to and approved by the Agency. At the option of the Agency, either: the insurer shall reduce or eliminate such deductibles or self-insured retentions as respects the Agency, its officers, officials, employees and volunteers; or the Contractor shall procure a bond guaranteeing payment of losses and related investigations, claim administration and defense expenses.

4.0 OTHER INSURANCE PROVISIONS

The policies are to contain, or be endorsed to contain, the following provisions:

1. General Liability and Automobile Liability Coverages

a. The Agency, its officials, employees, Boards and Commissions and volunteers are to be added as "additional insureds" as respects liability arising out of activities performed by or on behalf of the Contractor; products and completed operations of the Contractor, premises owned, occupied or used by the Contractor. The coverage shall contain no special limitations on the scope of protection afforded to the Agency, its officers, officials, employees or volunteers. It is understood that the business auto policy under "Who is an Insured" automatically provides liability coverage in favor of the State of Louisiana.

b. Any failure to comply with reporting provision of the policy shall not affect coverage provided to the Agency, its officers, officials, employees Boards and Commissions or volunteers.

c. The Contractor's insurance shall apply separately to each insured against whom claim is made or suit is brought, except with respect to the limits of the insurer's liability.

2. Workers' Compensation and Employers Liability Coverage

The insurer shall agree to waive all rights of subrogation against the Agency, its officers, officials, employees and volunteers for losses arising from work performed by the Contractor for the Agency.

3. All Coverages

Each insurance policy required by this clause shall be endorsed to state that coverage shall not be suspended, voided, canceled by either party, or reduced in coverage or in limits except after thirty (30) days' prior written notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, has been given to the Agency.

5.0 ACCEPTABILITY OF INSURERS

Insurance is to be placed with insurers with a Best's rating of A-:VI or higher. This rating requirement may be waived for workers' compensation coverage only.

6.0 VERIFICATION OF COVERAGE

Contractor shall furnish the Agency with certificates of insurance affecting coverage required by this clause. The certificates for each insurance policy are to be signed by a person authorized by that insurer to bind coverage on its behalf. The certificates are to be received and approved by the Agency before work commences. The Agency reserves the right to require complete, certified copies of all required insurance policies, at any time.

7.0 SUBCONTRACTORS

Contractor shall include all subcontractors as insureds under its policies or shall furnish separate certificates for each subcontractor. All coverages for subcontractors shall be subject to all of the requirements state herein.