

United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue,
S.W. # Room 3522
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Room 3522-S, STOP 0239
Washington, DC 20036

Information

Description: **12-3J14-17-S-0031**
Bid invitation number: **2000004427**
Purchasing Group: **AMS-Fruit and Veg**

SOLICITATION

Domestic Commodity Invitation

Bid invitation Overview

Bid Timezone: Central Time
Start Date: 11/18/2016 12:15:00
Offer Due Date : 11/29/2016 13:00:00

Opening date: 11/29/2016 13:00:00

Invitation Type : Definite Delivery

Additional requested information:

Tendering text - Header :

Bulk Sweet Potatoes for Processing, SOLICITATION NO: 2000004427

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) invites offers to sell bulk potatoes for further processing pursuant to the AMS Master Solicitation for use in the National School Lunch Program and other Federal Food and Nutrition Assistance Programs. Acceptances will be announced by midnight, December 13, 2016. Deliveries are to be made between January 1, 2017 and April 30, 2017.

Offerors who intend to use more than one processing plant and shipping point for contracts awarded under this solicitation, other than the processing plant and shipping point entered in their bids, may submit a list of their approved processing plants and shipping points on a separate sheet of paper to be uploaded in WBSCM, and to be submitted with their bids.

Vendors or subcontractors who are supplying fresh vegetables are required to undergo and pass the USDA AMS SCP Specialty Crop Inspection Division (SCID) Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Handling Practices (GHP) verification audits, and must score at least 80% on each of the following scopes for each product being offered:

GAP - Farm Review ; Field Harvesting & Field Packing Activities
GHP - House Packing Facility; and Storage & Transportation

All these requirements shall be met PRIOR to the bid opening date.

Brokers are exempt from the GAP/GHP requirements themselves, however its suppliers/subcontractors performing under the contract shall have the applicable USDA GAP/GHP certification(s).

Verification audits shall be performed by the USDA, AMS, SCP-SCID representatives only.

In order to verify that the contractor and/or its subcontractors/suppliers are in compliance with GAP/GHP certification, offerors are required to submit GAP/GHP certificates for all scopes of the contract being performed and for all commodities being offered. Certificates must be uploaded in WBSCM as part of their bids. Bids received without copies of GAP/GHP certificates, or missing one of the scopes specified above for GAP/GHP will be deemed nonresponsive.

Offerors who do not intend to perform the contracts awarded under this solicitation must submit a list of their approved subcontractors/suppliers on separate sheet of paper to be uploaded into WBSCM with their GAP/GHP certificates, and to be submitted with their bids.

Offerors may contact USDA/AMS after contract award to submit a waiver request for additional suppliers to be added to the approved list on the contract and include copies of their GAP/GHP certificates to the waiver request. The Fresh Produce Audit Verification Program can be accessed at the following website:

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<https://www.ams.usda.gov/gapghp.htm>

If USDA/AMS finds that suppliers used by the contractor are not in compliance with AMS GAP/GHP certification requirements after the product is delivered, the following courses of action will apply:

1. The first time non compliance occurs AMS will deduct a 50% discount from the invoice for all noncompliant deliveries
2. The second time non compliance occurs:
 - a. USDA/AMS will deduct a 50% discount from the invoice for all noncompliant deliveries;
 - b. The contract will be terminated for default; and
 - c. The contractor will be suspended from participating in all future USDA/AMS fresh fruit and vegetable solicitations for a period of one (1) year from the date of contract termination.

Purchases will be made on an f.o.b. destination basis to cities on this Solicitation. Destination quantities listed are estimates and subject to adjustment based on offerings, changes in recipient needs, market conditions, and program operations.

All prime vendors are reminded that they are prohibited from subcontracting with companies or individuals that have been suspended or debarred.

Offers must be submitted electronically via the Web-Based Supply Chain Management System (WBSCM). Offers submitted by any means other than WBSCM will be deemed nonresponsive. Offerors must be active in WBSCM and have the required bidder roles in order to submit offers under this Solicitation. Once connected, follow the online procedures. A "HELP" button provides detailed instructions or call (202) 720-4517 for assistance.

Offerors are cautioned to bid only quantities they can reasonably expect to produce and deliver. Inquiries about the Master Solicitation dated April 2015; the Master Solicitation, Amendment No1 dated June 2015 and Amendment No 2 dated May 2016; the Commodity Specification for Bulk Products for Further Processing, dated August 2012, as amended; or this Solicitation should be directed to the Contracting Officer; USDA, AMS, Room 3522-South; 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.; Washington, D.C. 20250-0239. Telephone: (202) 720-4517. FAX: (202) 720-2782.

The USDA prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or

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employment activities.) To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users)

See attached documents:

- 1 . BULK PRODUCTS AMENDMENT NO 2 MAY 2013
- 2 . BULK PRODUCTS AMENDMENT NO1 JUNE 2012
- 3 . BULK PRODUCTS FOR FURTHER PROCESSING AUG 2012
- 4 . AMS Master Solicitation dated April 2015
- 5 . AMS Master Solicitation Amendment No 2 dated May 2016
- 6 . AMS Master Solicitation Amendment No 1 Dated June 2015

Attributes :

OFFEROR CERTIFIES THAT THE OFFER IS MADE SUBJECT TO THE MASTER SOLICITATION; COMMODITY SUPPLEMENT AND/OR SPECIFICATION(S); THIS SOLICITATION; THE AGRICULTURE ACQUISITION REGULATIONS (AGAR) AND THE FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATIONS (FAR).

Timely performance: Offeror and any subcontractor have completed required performance of any USDA contract prior to this bid opening.

- Permitted values:
- Have been delivered
 - Have not been delivered
 - Have not been delivered, but the Offeror has notified the Contracting Officer
 - There are no existing contracts/purchase orders

OFFEROR REQUESTS HUBZONE SMALL BUSINESS PRICE EVALUATION PREFERENCE. APPLIES ONLY TO FIRMS CERTIFIED IN THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S HUBZONE PROGRAM (FAR SUBPART 19.13). MUST BE THE MANUFACTURER/PRODUCER OF THE PRODUCT TO RECEIVE A PRICE PREFERENCE

Furnish name, title, phone number, fax number, and e-mail address of person submitting this bid (must be an officer of the company or a person authorized to execute contracts/purchase orders on behalf of the bidder).

IS THE OFFEROR AN ENTITY THAT HAS FILED ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION IN ONE OF THE FIFTY STATES, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, OR THE VARIOUS TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED STATES? YOU MUST ANSWER THE NEXT 3 QUESTIONS IF THE ANSWER FOR THIS QUESTION IS YES.

HAS THE OFFEROR BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY CRIMINAL VIOLATION UNDER FEDERAL OR STATE

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LAW IN THE 24 MONTHS PRECEDING THE DATE OF OFFER?

HAS THE OFFEROR HAD ANY OFFICER OR AGENT OF OFFEROR CONVICTED OF A FELONY CRIMINAL VIOLATION FOR ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF OFFEROR UNDER FEDERAL OR STATE LAW IN THE 24 MONTHS PRECEDING THE DATE OF OFFER?

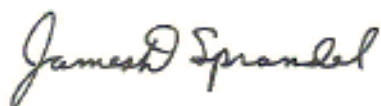
DOES THE OFFEROR HAVE ANY UNPAID FEDERAL TAX LIABILITY ASSESSED, WHICH ALL JUDICIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTED/LAPSED, THAT IS NOT BEING PAID IN A TIMELY MANNER PURSUANT TO AGREEMENT WITH THE AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE FOR COLLECTING IT?

Offeror acknowledges receipt of the amendment(s) to the solicitation. Select N/A if no amendment was issued to the solicitation.

Permitted values: - Yes
 - No
 - N/A

Bid invitation Item details

Item	Material	Description	Required by	ZipCode	Quantity	
350 VEGETABLE, FRESH						
360 SWEET POTATO BULK FRESH PROC						
370 DELHI LA						
380	100980	SWEET POTATO BULK FRESH PROC	01/13/2017-01/15/2017	71232	280,000	LB
390	100980	SWEET POTATO BULK FRESH PROC	01/29/2017-01/31/2017	71232	40,000	LB
400	100980	SWEET POTATO BULK FRESH PROC	02/13/2017-02/15/2017	71232	40,000	LB
410	100980	SWEET POTATO BULK FRESH PROC	02/26/2017-02/28/2017	71232	40,000	LB
420	100980	SWEET POTATO BULK FRESH PROC	03/13/2017-03/15/2017	71232	40,000	LB
430	100980	SWEET POTATO BULK FRESH PROC	03/29/2017-03/31/2017	71232	40,000	LB
440	100980	SWEET POTATO BULK FRESH PROC	04/13/2017-04/15/2017	71232	40,000	LB
450 GRAND FORKS ND						
460	100980	SWEET POTATO BULK FRESH PROC	02/13/2017-02/15/2017	58203	478,300	LB
470 WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI						
480	100980	SWEET POTATO BULK FRESH PROC	01/29/2017-01/31/2017	54494	3,291,747	LB
490	100980	SWEET POTATO BULK FRESH PROC	02/26/2017-02/28/2017	54494	4,120,000	LB
500	100980	SWEET POTATO BULK FRESH PROC	03/29/2017-03/31/2017	54494	2,592,620	LB
510	100980	SWEET POTATO BULK FRESH PROC	04/28/2017-04/30/2017	54494	936,531	LB
Total Quantity for SWEET POTATO BULK FRESH PROC					11,939,198	LB
Total Quantity for Invitation					11,939,198	LB



Contracting Officer
 Commodity Procurement Division
 United States Department of Agriculture