

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

by

The University of Texas at Arlington

for

**Selection of a Vendor to Provide
IT Security Audit Services**

RFP No. UTA2023-024

Submittal Deadline: June 23, 2023

Issued: May 25, 2023

1218838-07-1-26

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

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SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION**1.1 Description of University**

Founded in 1895, The University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) is a Carnegie Research-1 “Very High Research Activity” institution with more than 100 years of academic excellence and tradition.

It is a comprehensive research, teaching, and public service university whose mission is the advancement of knowledge and the pursuit of excellence.

With a global enrollment of more than 60,000, UT Arlington is the largest university in North Texas. It also has one of the most diverse campus populations in the country. Students come from every state and more than 100 countries, contributing to *U.S. News & World Report* ranking it with the fifth-highest undergraduate ethnic diversity index in the country. UT Arlington is a Hispanic-Serving Institution and is ranked No. 1 in the U.S. for veterans and their families by *Military Times*.

The University has research centers in every discipline and state-of-the-art facilities in Arlington and Fort Worth that enable our faculty and students to help solve the world’s most urgent challenges. Of its 220,000-plus alumni, approximately 65% percent live in North Texas. Their presence helps the University create an annual economic impact of almost \$17.1 billion in the region.

1.2 Background and Special Circumstances

At UTA, we have a centralized computing environment that is managed by our Information Technology team. Like most in higher education, we also operate in a decentralized Information Technology environment where some computers and data are primarily managed by individual departments or academic researchers.

Many higher ed institutions have been successfully hacked/attacked in recent years. The ability and timing needed to restore operations and data at these institutions often took longer than anticipated. At UTA, we believe we have learned from these and other incidents. With that said, we would like to perform an audit to help identify preparedness and other opportunities that we could use to strengthen our back-up and recovery procedures, controls, processes and practices.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is being released under the non-exclusive services master agreements currently on file for Audit Services with the University of Texas System. The University of Texas at Arlington will hold the primary agreement resulting from this solicitation.

The University of Texas at Arlington is soliciting statements of work and qualifications from Professionals to provide IT Security Audit Services for UT Arlington. Services to be provided in accordance with the terms, conditions, and requirements set forth in this Request for Proposals.

1.3 Objective of Request for Proposal

The University of Texas at Arlington (**University**) is soliciting proposals from qualified vendors to perform work (**Work**) more specifically described in **Scope of Work** Document of this Request for Proposals (**RFP**).

UTA Audit is soliciting proposals in response to select a vendor currently contracted under a Master Services Agreement (MSA) to provide services under a fixed fee contract, inclusive of travel and other expenses, to perform an internal audit of Backup Operations and Recovery Planning for UTA as a service to our internal audit department. Ideally services would begin in July should be completed by September 1, 2023.

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1.4 Term of the Agreement

Ideally services would begin in July should be completed by September 1, 2023.

1.5 Transition Period

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1.6 Group Purchase Authority

Texas law authorizes institutions of higher education (defined by [§61.003, Education Code](#)) to use the group purchasing procurement method (ref. §§[51.9335](#), [73.115](#), and [74.008](#), *Education Code*). Additional Texas institutions of higher education may therefore elect to enter into a contract with the successful Proposer under this RFP. In particular, Proposer should note that University is part of The University of Texas System (**UT System**), which is comprised of fourteen institutions described at <http://www.utsystem.edu/institutions>. UT System institutions routinely evaluate whether a contract resulting from a procurement conducted by one of the institutions might be suitable for use by another, and if so, this RFP could give rise to additional purchase volumes. As a result, in submitting its proposal, Proposer should consider proposing a pricing model and other commercial terms that take into account the higher volumes and other expanded opportunities that could result from the eventual inclusion of other institutions in the purchase contemplated by this RFP. Any purchases made by other institutions based on this RFP will be the sole responsibility of those institutions.

1.7 Addenda and Additional RFP Documents

Any addenda or other subsequently released RFP documents will be posted to the University's online solicitation website www.bidnetdirect.com//arlington (BidNet). They will not be sent directly to potential proposers. It is the Proposer's responsibility to periodically check the BidNet website www.bidnetdirect.com//arlington for additional RFP documents.

1.8 Parking

To be aware of the requirements and options available for parking, employees of companies who park their personal vehicle in UTA parking facilities, or any property owned or controlled by UTA, to perform their duties are encouraged to visit the University's Parking and Transportation Services website at <https://www.uta.edu/pats/parking/visitor-parking.php>.

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SECTION 2

NOTICE TO PROPOSER**2.1 Submittal Deadline**

University will accept proposals until **3:00 p.m.** Central Daylight Time (CDT), on June 23, 2023 (**Submittal Deadline**).

2.2 RFP Contact Information and Questions

Proposers and other Interested parties must direct all questions or concerns regarding this RFP to the following University contact (the "**University Contact**"). Any direct contact with the end user or other University personnel related to this RFP outside of a Procurement-lead meeting or discussion may be grounds for disqualification of proposal:

Nancy Czarowitz
Contract Specialist
Email: czarowitz@uta.edu
RFP No. UTA2023-024

The University instructs interested parties to restrict all contact and questions regarding this RFP to written communications delivered (i) in accordance with this Section on or before June 14, 2023 (**Question Deadline**

University will provide responses as soon as practicable following the Question Deadline. University intends to respond to all timely submitted questions. However, University reserves the right to decline to respond to any question.

2.3 Criteria for Selection

The successful Proposer, if any, selected by University through this RFP will be the Proposer that submits a proposal on or before the Submittal Deadline that is the most advantageous to University. **Contractor** means the successful Proposer under this RFP.

Proposer is encouraged to propose terms and conditions offering the maximum benefit to University in terms of (1) service, (2) total overall cost, and (3) project management expertise.

The evaluation of proposals and the selection of Contractor will be based on the information provided in the proposal. University may consider additional information if University determines the information is relevant.

Criteria to be considered by University in evaluating proposals and selecting Contractor, will be these factors:

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- 2.3.1 **Threshold Criteria Not Scored**
Ability of University to comply with laws regarding purchases from persons with disabilities.
- 2.3.2 **Scored Criteria**
- 2.3.2.1 Cost of goods and services (20%);
 - 2.3.2.2 Reputation of the Proposer and of the Proposer's goods or services (20%);
 - 2.3.2.3 Quality of the Proposer's goods or services (30%);
 - 2.3.2.4 Extent to which the goods or services meet the University's needs (20%);
 - 2.3.2.5 Proposer's past relationship with the University (2%);
 - 2.3.2.6 Total long-term cost to the University of acquiring the Proposer's goods or services (0%); and
 - 2.3.2.7 Any other relevant factors that a private business entity would consider in selecting a vendor (8%)

2.4 **Key Events Schedule**

Date RFP Issued	May 25, 2023
Non-Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference (ref. Section 2.6)	June 9, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. CDT
Question Deadline (ref. Section 2.2)	June 14, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. CDT
Submittal Deadline (ref. Section 2.1)	June 23, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. CDT

2.5 **Historically Underutilized Businesses**

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2.6 **Pre-Proposal Conference**

University will hold a non-mandatory pre-proposal conference at 2:00 p.m on June 9, 2023. The pre-proposal conference will be held via Microsoft Teams using the hyperlink and contact information below. The pre-proposal conference will allow all Proposers an opportunity to ask University's representatives relevant questions and clarify provisions of this RFP.

The vendors who wish to join the meeting via Microsoft Teams need to click on the **Join Microsoft Teams Meeting** hyperlink below. You are encouraged to test the link and your connectivity prior to the meeting. Those that wish to call-in may do so by dialing the phone number provided below and using the Conference ID when prompted.

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Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 234 411 160 921

Passcode: rfGPqa

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 817-502-2418,,536608020#](#) United States, Fort Worth

Phone Conference ID: 536 608 020#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

The University of Texas at Arlington is not responsible if you are not able to connect to the call for any reason.

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SECTION 3

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL**3.1 Number of Copies**

Proposer must submit a complete copy of its entire proposal according to the instructions provided in this RFP. A signature by an authorized officer of Proposer must appear on the Execution of Offer (ref. **Section 2** of **APPENDIX ONE**) of the submitted proposal.

3.2 Submission

University will not accept proposals submitted by email or fax. All proposals and required documents must be submitted through the University's online portal at www.bidnetdirect.com//arlington.

3.3 Proposal Validity Period

Each proposal must state that it will remain valid for University's acceptance for a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) days after the Submittal Deadline, to allow time for evaluation, selection, and any unforeseen delays.

3.4 Terms and Conditions

3.4.1 Proposer must comply with the requirements and specifications contained in this RFP, including the Terms and Conditions (ref. **Section 4** and **APPENDIX TWO**), the Notice to Proposer (ref. **Section 2**), Proposal Requirements (ref. **APPENDIX ONE**) and the Specifications and Additional Questions (ref. **Section 5**). If there is a conflict among the provisions in this RFP, the provision requiring Proposer to supply the better quality or greater quantity of services will prevail, or if such conflict does not involve quality or quantity, then interpretation will be in the following order of precedence:

- 3.4.1.1. Specifications and Additional Questions (ref. **Section 5**);
- 3.4.1.2. Terms and Conditions (ref. **Section 4** and **APPENDIX TWO**);
- 3.4.1.3. Proposal Requirements (ref. **APPENDIX ONE**);
- 3.4.1.4. Notice to Proposers (ref. **Section 2**).

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3.5 Submittal Checklist

Proposer is instructed to complete, sign, and return the following documents as a part of its proposal. If Proposer fails to return each of the following items with its proposal, then University may reject the proposal:

- 3.5.1 Signed and Completed Execution of Offer (ref. **Section 2** of **APPENDIX ONE**)
- 3.5.2 Signed and Completed Pricing and Delivery Schedule (ref. **Section 6**)
- 3.5.3 Responses to Proposer's General Questionnaire (ref. **Section 3** of **APPENDIX ONE**)
- 3.5.4 Signed and Completed Addenda Checklist (ref. **Section 4** of **APPENDIX ONE**)
- 3.5.5 Responses to questions and requests for information in the Specifications and Additional Questions Section (ref. **Section 5**)
- 3.5.6 Copy of current University of Texas System executed Auditing Services contract with technical response to this RFP

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SECTION 4

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Terms and Conditions agreed upon in the previously executed Non-Exclusive Services Agreement for Audit Services between The University of Texas System and awarded vendor, will apply.

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SECTION 5**SPECIFICATIONS AND ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS****5.1 General**

Minimum requirements and specifications for Work, as well as certain requests for information to be provided by Proposer as part of its proposal, are set forth below. As indicated in **Section 2.3, Contractor** means the successful Proposer.

5.2 Minimum Requirements

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5.3 Additional Questions Specific to this RFP

Proposer must submit the following information as part of Proposer's proposal:

- 5.3.1 If Proposer takes exception to any terms or conditions set forth in **APPENDIX TWO**), Proposer must submit a list of the exceptions.
- 5.3.2 Proposal must include the following information:
 - 1. Project team members (by name), including staffing levels and qualifications.
 - 2. Examples of prior projects that are similar in size and scope.
 - 3. Methodology and techniques to be used to identify and test key controls.
 - 4. Proposed project timing and schedule (preference will be given to firms with resources available to meet the desired timeline as indicated).

5.4 Scope of Work

- 6 Proposers should include a copy of their current University of Texas System executed Auditing Services contract with their technical response to this RFP.

Contractor will provide the following services to University:

- 5.4.1 We are currently looking for a third-party provider to provide us with a Senior Auditor level associate to perform this work.
- 5.4.2 Assess the design and test the effectiveness of backup operations and recovery planning for select systems, services and infrastructure managed by UTA
- 5.4.3 Evaluate compliance with any applicable Federal and State regulations and UT System policies including, but not limited to, Texas Administrative Code §202 Security Control Standards, UT Systemwide Policy 165: Information Resources Use and Security Standards, and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Security Rule standards. Specifically, the scope will include a review of the policies and procedures in place regarding data backup and recovery activities. Additionally, the audit scope will cover our backup systems and storage resources to help ensure they are performing adequately and correctly. We plan to include testwork to determine whether UTA is following relevant backup and recovery controls. Finally, we'd like to assess whether we have similar back and recovery functions in place for key decentralized computing environments. In summary, the

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overall audit objective is to determine whether UTA is prepared to restore appropriate files and computing capabilities in the event of a cyber security or ransomware attack.

- 5.4.4 Perform Audit Process Planning
- 5.4.5 Complete Audit Fieldwork including covering findings with relevant UTA employees
- 5.4.6 Provide DRAFT written audit report for review using UTA's audit format. The report will include the opportunity, audit recommendation as well as management's response for addressing the recommendation.
- 5.4.7 Before beginning and upon completion of each of these three steps, the assigned auditor will discuss approach and results with UTA's Chief Auditor. The workpaper review process will be performed by the third-party vendor. However, adequate summary back-up supporting all findings will be provided to UTA's Chief Auditor.

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SECTION 6**PRICING AND DELIVERY SCHEDULE**

Proposal of: _____
(Proposer Name)

To: University of Texas at Arlington

RFP No.: UTA2023-024

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Having examined specifications and requirements of this RFP (including attachments), the undersigned proposes to furnish Work upon the pricing terms quoted below:

6.1 Pricing for Work and Expenses

Pricing needs to be submitted separately from the technical response and according to the instructions and submittal steps in the BidNet system.

Vendors should follow the submission information provided with this solicitation for proposed pricing for work and expenses.

The University is interested in, and will consider in our evaluation, creative ideas from Proposers regarding opportunities for sponsorships, donations or other revenue generating / cost reduction initiatives and/or no cost benefits. Please describe any initiatives you would be willing to negotiate.

6.2.1 Travel Expenses**AIR TRAVEL AND RENTAL CAR**

At this time, Contractor may not book air travel or rental car directly with travel vendors and obtain the State rates. If the UT institution books air travel and rental car for Contractor and pays the travel vendor directly (direct bill to UT), then the UT institution will receive the State rate for Contractor's airfare and rental car.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

State Hotel Rates: A hotel under contract with the State may, at the hotel's discretion, offer the State rate for Contractor travel. The hotel, at the hotel's discretion, may permit the Contractor to book and pay the reservation or may require the UT institution to book and pay the reservation (direct bill to UT). The UT institution should contact the hotel to ask if (1) the hotel honors the State rate for Contractor travel, and (2) the hotel requires UT to book and pay the reservation (direct bill to UT).

UT Negotiated Hotel Rates: The UT institution may obtain the UT negotiated hotel rates (when available) for Contractor travel. The UT institution should contact the hotel to confirm the reservation and ask if the hotel requires UT to pay for the reservation (direct bill to UT).

CANCELLATION CHARGES***1218838-07-13-26***

Be aware that if UT institutions book travel for Contractor, then any cancellation charges will be charged to the UT institution.

University will reimburse, without mark-up, reasonable expenses (including meals, rental car or mileage, coach class airfare, and lodging) validly incurred by Contractor directly and solely in support of Work and *approved by University in advance*. Contractor will be subject to the then-current Travel Reimbursement Rates promulgated by the Comptroller of Public Accounts for the State of Texas at <https://fm.xcpa.state.tx.us/fm/travel/travelrates.php> with regard to all travel expenses. Contractor will not be reimbursed by University for expenses that are prohibited or that exceed the allowable amounts provided in the then current Travel Reimbursement Rates. As a condition precedent to receiving reimbursement for expenses, Contractor must submit to University receipts, invoices, and other documentation requested by University.

Reimbursement for expenses and disbursements will not exceed a maximum expense cap (to be mutually agreed by Contractor and Respondent and provided in the Agreement), without the prior written approval of University.

6.3 Discounts

Describe all discounts that may be available to University, including educational, federal, state and local discounts.

6.4 Schedule for Completion of Tasks and Submittal of Deliverables

Vendor should provide a proposed schedule for completion of tasks and submitted deliverables in accordance with the Scope of Work (ref. Section 5.4) and as requested with this solicitation.

6.5 Payment Terms

University's standard payment terms are "net 30 days" as mandated by the *Texas Prompt Payment Act* (ref. [Chapter 2251, Government Code](#)).

Indicate below the prompt payment discount that Proposer offers:

Prompt Payment Discount: _____% _____days/net 30 days.

[Section 51.012, Education Code](#), authorizes University to make payments through electronic funds transfer methods. Respondent agrees to accept payments from University through those methods, including the automated clearing house system (ACH). Respondent agrees to provide Respondent's banking information to University in writing on Respondent letterhead signed by an authorized representative of Respondent. Prior to the first payment, University will confirm Respondent's banking information. Changes to Respondent's bank information must be communicated to University in writing at least thirty (30) days before the effective date of the change and must include an [IRS Form W-9](#) signed by an authorized representative of Respondent.

University, an agency of the State of Texas, is exempt from Texas Sales & Use Tax on goods and services in accordance with [§151.309, Tax Code](#), and [Title 34 TAC §3.322](#). Pursuant to [34 TAC §3.322\(c\)\(4\)](#), University is not required to provide a tax exemption certificate to establish its tax exempt status.

Respectfully submitted,

Proposer: _____

Name: _____

By: _____
(Authorized Signature for Proposer)

Title: _____

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Date: _____

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APPENDIX ONE
PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

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- SECTION 2: EXECUTION OF OFFER**
- SECTION 3: PROPOSER'S GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE**
- SECTION 4: ADDENDA CHECKLIST**

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SECTION 1**GENERAL INFORMATION****1.1 Purpose**

University is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from Proposers having suitable qualifications and experience providing services in accordance with the terms, conditions and requirements set forth in this RFP. This RFP provides sufficient information for interested parties to prepare and submit proposals for consideration by University.

By submitting a proposal, Proposer certifies that it understands this RFP and has full knowledge of the scope, nature, quality, and quantity of services to be performed, the detailed requirements of services to be provided, and the conditions under which services are to be performed. Proposer also certifies that it understands that all costs relating to preparing a response to this RFP will be the sole responsibility of the Proposer.

PROPOSER IS CAUTIONED TO READ THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS RFP CAREFULLY AND TO SUBMIT A COMPLETE RESPONSE TO ALL REQUIREMENTS AND QUESTIONS AS DIRECTED.

1.2 Inquiries and Interpretations

University may in its sole discretion respond in writing to written inquiries concerning this RFP and mail its response as an Addendum to all parties recorded by University as having received a copy of this RFP. Only University's responses that are made by formal written Addenda will be binding on University. Any verbal responses, written interpretations or clarifications other than Addenda to this RFP will be without legal effect. All Addenda issued by University prior to the Submittal Deadline will be and are hereby incorporated as a part of this RFP for all purposes.

Proposers are required to acknowledge receipt of each Addendum as specified in this Section. The Proposer must acknowledge all Addenda by completing, signing and returning the Addenda Checklist (ref. **Section 4 of APPENDIX ONE**). The Addenda Checklist must be received by University prior to the Submittal Deadline and should accompany the Proposer's proposal.

Any interested party that receives this RFP by means other than directly from University is responsible for notifying University that it has received an RFP package, and should provide its name, address, telephone and facsimile (**FAX**) numbers, and email address, to University, so that if University issues Addenda to this RFP or provides written answers to questions, that information can be provided to that party.

1.3 Public Information

Proposer is hereby notified that University strictly adheres to all statutes, court decisions and the opinions of the Texas Attorney General with respect to disclosure of public information.

University may seek to protect from disclosure all information submitted in response to this RFP until such time as a final agreement is executed.

Upon execution of a final agreement, University will consider all information, documentation, and other materials requested to be submitted in response to this RFP, to be of a non-confidential and non-proprietary nature and, therefore, subject to public disclosure under the *Texas Public Information Act* (ref. [Chapter 552, Government Code](#)). Proposer will be advised of a request for public information that implicates their materials and will have the opportunity to raise any objections to disclosure to the Texas Attorney General. Certain information may be protected from release under §§[552.101](#), [552.104](#), [552.110](#), [552.113](#), and [552.131](#), *Government Code*.

1.4 Type of Agreement

Contractor, if any, will be required to enter into a contract with University in a form that (i) includes terms and conditions substantially similar to the terms and conditions set forth in **APPENDIX TWO**, and (ii) is otherwise acceptable to University in all respects (**Agreement**).

1.5 Proposal Evaluation Process

University will select Contractor by using the competitive sealed proposal process described in this Section. Any proposals that are not submitted by the Submittal Deadline or that are not accompanied by required number of completed and signed originals of the HSP will be rejected by University as non-responsive due to material failure to comply with this RFP (ref. **Section 2.5.4**). Upon completion of the initial review and evaluation of proposals, University may invite one or more selected Proposers to participate in oral presentations. University will use commercially reasonable efforts to avoid public disclosure of the contents of a proposal prior to selection of Contractor.

University may make the selection of Contractor on the basis of the proposals initially submitted, without discussion, clarification or modification. In the alternative, University may make the selection of Contractor on the basis of negotiation with any of the Proposers. In conducting negotiations, University will use commercially reasonable efforts to avoid disclosing the contents of competing proposals.

University may discuss and negotiate all elements of proposals submitted by Proposers within a specified competitive range. For purposes of negotiation, University may establish, after an initial review of the proposals, a competitive range of acceptable or potentially acceptable proposals composed of the highest rated proposal(s). In that event, University may defer further action on proposals not included within the

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competitive range pending the selection of Contractor; provided, however, University reserves the right to include additional proposals in the competitive range if deemed to be in the best interest of University.

After the Submittal Deadline but before final selection of Contractor, University may permit Proposer to revise its proposal in order to obtain the Proposer's best and final offer. In that event, representations made by Proposer in its revised proposal, including price and fee quotes, will be binding on Proposer. University will provide each Proposer within the competitive range with an equal opportunity for discussion and revision of its proposal. University is not obligated to select the Proposer offering the most attractive economic terms if that Proposer is not the most advantageous to University overall, as determined by University.

University reserves the right to (a) enter into an agreement for all or any portion of the requirements and specifications set forth in this RFP with one or more Proposers, (b) reject any and all proposals and re-solicit proposals, or (c) reject any and all proposals and temporarily or permanently abandon this selection process, if deemed to be in the best interests of University. Proposer is hereby notified that University will maintain in its files concerning this RFP a written record of the basis upon which a selection, if any, is made by University.

1.6 Proposer's Acceptance of RFP Terms

Proposer (1) accepts [a] Proposal Evaluation Process (ref. **Section 1.5 of APPENDIX ONE**), [b] Criteria for Selection (ref. **Section 2.3**), [c] Specifications and Additional Questions (ref. **Section 5**), [d] terms and conditions of the Agreement (ref. **APPENDIX TWO**), and [e] all other requirements and specifications set forth in this RFP; and (2) acknowledges that some subjective judgments must be made by University during this RFP process.

1.7 Solicitation for Proposal and Proposal Preparation Costs

Proposer understands and agrees that (1) this RFP is a solicitation for proposals and University has made no representation written or oral that one or more agreements with University will be awarded under this RFP; (2) University issues this RFP predicated on University's anticipated requirements for Work, and University has made no representation, written or oral, that any particular scope of work will actually be required by University; and (3) Proposer will bear, as its sole risk and responsibility, any cost that arises from Proposer's preparation of a proposal in response to this RFP.

1.8 Proposal Requirements and General Instructions

- 1.8.1 Proposer should carefully read the information contained herein and submit a complete proposal in response to all requirements and questions as directed.
- 1.8.2 Proposals and any other information submitted by Proposer in response to this RFP will become the property of University.
- 1.8.3 University will not provide compensation to Proposer for any expenses incurred by the Proposer for proposal preparation or for demonstrations or oral presentations that may be made by Proposer. Proposer submits its proposal at its own risk and expense.
- 1.8.4 Proposals that (i) are qualified with conditional clauses; (ii) alter, modify, or revise this RFP in any way; or (iii) contain irregularities of any kind, are subject to disqualification by University, at University's sole discretion.
- 1.8.5 Proposals should be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of Proposer's ability to meet the requirements and specifications of this RFP. Emphasis should be on completeness, clarity of content, and responsiveness to the requirements and specifications of this RFP.
- 1.8.6 University makes no warranty or guarantee that an award will be made as a result of this RFP. University reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, waive any formalities, procedural requirements, or minor technical inconsistencies, and delete any requirement or specification from this RFP or the Agreement when deemed to be in University's best interest. University reserves the right to seek clarification from any Proposer concerning any item contained in its proposal prior to final selection. Such clarification may be provided by telephone conference or personal meeting with or writing to University, at University's sole discretion. Representations made by Proposer within its proposal will be binding on Proposer.
- 1.8.7 Any proposal that fails to comply with the requirements contained in this RFP may be rejected by University, in University's sole discretion.

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1.9 Preparation and Submittal Instructions**1.9.1 Specifications and Additional Questions**

Proposals must include responses to the questions in Specifications and Additional Questions (ref. **Section 5**). Proposer should reference the item number and repeat the question in its response. In cases where a question does not apply or if unable to respond, Proposer should refer to the item number, repeat the question, and indicate N/A (Not Applicable) or N/R (No Response), as appropriate. Proposer should explain the reason when responding N/A or N/R.

1.9.2 Execution of Offer

Proposer must complete, sign and return the attached Execution of Offer (ref. **Section 2** of **APPENDIX ONE**) as part of its proposal. The Execution of Offer must be signed by a representative of Proposer duly authorized to bind the Proposer to its proposal. Any proposal received without a completed and signed Execution of Offer may be rejected by University, in its sole discretion.

1.9.3 Pricing and Delivery Schedule

Proposer must complete and return the Pricing and Delivery Schedule (ref. **Section 6**), as part of its proposal. In the Pricing and Delivery Schedule, the Proposer should describe in detail (a) the total fees for the entire scope of Work; and (b) the method by which the fees are calculated. The fees must be inclusive of all associated costs for delivery, labor, insurance, taxes, overhead, and profit.

University will not recognize or accept any charges or fees to perform Work that are not specifically stated in the Pricing and Delivery Schedule.

In the Pricing and Delivery Schedule, Proposer should describe each significant phase in the process of providing Work to University, and the time period within which Proposer proposes to be able to complete each such phase.

1.9.4 Proposer's General Questionnaire

Proposals must include responses to the questions in Proposer's General Questionnaire (ref. **Section 3** of **APPENDIX ONE**). Proposer should reference the item number and repeat the question in its response. In cases where a question does not apply or if unable to respond, Proposer should refer to the item number, repeat the question, and indicate N/A (Not Applicable) or N/R (No Response), as appropriate. Proposer should explain the reason when responding N/A or N/R.

1.9.5 Addenda Checklist

Proposer should acknowledge all Addenda to this RFP (if any) by completing, signing and returning the Addenda Checklist (ref. **Section 4** of **APPENDIX ONE**) as part of its proposal. Any proposal received without a completed and signed Addenda Checklist may be rejected by University, in its sole discretion.

1.9.6 Submission

Proposer should submit all proposal materials through the University's online portal at www.bidnetdirect.com/arlington.

University will not under any circumstances consider a proposal that is received after the Submittal Deadline or which is not accompanied by the HSP as required by **Section 2.5**. University will not accept proposals submitted by telephone, email or FAX transmission.

Except as otherwise provided in this RFP, no proposal may be changed, amended, or modified after it has been submitted to University. However, a proposal may be withdrawn and resubmitted at any time prior to the Submittal Deadline. No proposal may be withdrawn after the Submittal Deadline without University's consent, which will be based on Proposer's written request explaining and documenting the reason for withdrawal, which is acceptable to University.

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SECTION 2

EXECUTION OF OFFER

THIS EXECUTION OF OFFER MUST BE COMPLETED, SIGNED AND RETURNED WITH PROPOSER'S PROPOSAL. FAILURE TO COMPLETE, SIGN AND RETURN THIS EXECUTION OF OFFER WITH THE PROPOSER'S PROPOSAL MAY RESULT IN THE REJECTION OF THE PROPOSAL.

- 2.1 Representations and Warranties.** Proposer represents, warrants, certifies, acknowledges, and agrees as follows:
- 2.1.1 Proposer will furnish Work to University and comply with all terms, conditions, requirements and specifications set forth in this RFP and any resulting Agreement.
 - 2.1.2 This RFP is a solicitation for a proposal and is not a contract or an offer to contract. Submission of a proposal by Proposer in response to this RFP will not create a contract between University and Proposer. University has made no representation or warranty, written or oral, that one or more contracts with University will be awarded under this RFP. Proposer will bear, as its sole risk and responsibility, any cost arising from Proposer's preparation of a response to this RFP.
 - 2.1.3 Proposer is a reputable company that is lawfully and regularly engaged in providing Work.
 - 2.1.4 Proposer has the necessary experience, knowledge, abilities, skills, and resources to perform Work.
 - 2.1.5 Proposer is aware of, is fully informed about, and is in full compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations and ordinances relating to performance of Work.
 - 2.1.6 Proposer understands (i) the requirements and specifications set forth in this RFP and (ii) the terms and conditions set forth in the Agreement under which Proposer will be required to operate.
 - 2.1.7 Proposer will not delegate any of its duties or responsibilities under this RFP or the Agreement to any sub-contractor, except as expressly provided in the Agreement.
 - 2.1.8 Proposer will maintain any insurance coverage required by the Agreement during the entire term.
 - 2.1.9 All statements, information and representations prepared and submitted in response to this RFP are current, complete, true and accurate. University will rely on such statements, information and representations in selecting Contractor. If selected by University, Proposer will notify University immediately of any material change in any matters with regard to which Proposer has made a statement or representation or provided information.
 - 2.1.10 PROPOSER WILL DEFEND WITH COUNSEL APPROVED BY UNIVERSITY, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS UNIVERSITY, UT SYSTEM, THE STATE OF TEXAS, AND ALL OF THEIR REGENTS, OFFICERS, AGENTS AND EMPLOYEES, FROM AND AGAINST ALL ACTIONS, SUITS, DEMANDS, COSTS, DAMAGES, LIABILITIES AND OTHER CLAIMS OF ANY NATURE, KIND OR DESCRIPTION, INCLUDING REASONABLE ATTORNEYS' FEES INCURRED IN INVESTIGATING, DEFENDING OR SETTLING ANY OF THE FOREGOING, ARISING OUT OF, CONNECTED WITH, OR RESULTING FROM ANY NEGLIGENT ACTS OR OMISSIONS OR WILLFUL MISCONDUCT OF PROPOSER OR ANY AGENT, EMPLOYEE, SUBCONTRACTOR, OR SUPPLIER OF PROPOSER IN THE EXECUTION OR PERFORMANCE OF ANY CONTRACT OR AGREEMENT RESULTING FROM THIS RFP.
 - 2.1.11 Pursuant to §§[2107.008](#) and [2252.903](#), *Government Code*, any payments owing to Proposer under the Agreement may be applied directly to any debt or delinquency that Proposer owes the State of Texas or any agency of the State of Texas, regardless of when it arises, until such debt or delinquency is paid in full.
 - 2.1.12 Any terms, conditions, or documents attached to or referenced in Proposer's proposal are applicable to this procurement only to the extent that they (a) do not conflict with the laws of the State of Texas or this RFP, and (b) do not place any requirements on University that are not set forth in this RFP. Submission of a proposal is Proposer's good faith intent to enter into the Agreement with University as specified in this RFP and that Proposer's intent is not contingent upon University's acceptance or execution of any terms, conditions, or other documents attached to or referenced in Proposer's proposal.
 - 2.1.13 Pursuant to [Chapter 2271, Texas Government Code](#), Contractor certifies Contractor (1) does not currently boycott Israel; and (2) will not boycott Israel during the Term of this Agreement. Contractor acknowledges this Agreement may be terminated and payment withheld if this certification is inaccurate.
 - 2.1.14 Pursuant to [Subchapter F, Chapter 2252, Texas Government Code](#), Proposer certifies it is not engaged in business with Iran, Sudan, or a foreign terrorist organization. Proposer acknowledges any contract or agreement resulting from this RFP may be terminated and payment withheld if this certification is inaccurate.
 - 2.1.15 Pursuant to Chapter 2274, *Texas Government Code (enacted by SB 19, 87th Texas Legislature, Regular Session (2021))*, Proposer verifies (1) it does not have a practice, policy, guidance, or directive that discriminates against a firearm entity or firearm trade association and (2) it will not discriminate during the term of any contract or agreement resulting from this RFP against a firearm entity or firearm trade

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association. Proposer acknowledges any contract or agreement resulting from this RFP may be terminated and payment withheld if this verification is inaccurate.

- 2.1.16 Pursuant to Chapter 2274, *Texas Government Code* (enacted by [SB 13, 87th Texas Legislature, Regular Session \(2021\)](#)), Proposer verifies (1) it does not boycott energy companies and (2) it will not boycott energy companies during the term of any contract or agreement resulting from this RFP. Proposer acknowledges any contract or agreement resulting from this RFP may be terminated and payment withheld if this verification is inaccurate.
- 2.1.17 Pursuant to Section 161.0085, *Texas Health and Safety Code* (enacted by [SB 968, 87th Texas Legislature, Regular Session \(2021\)](#)), Proposer certifies that it does not require a customer to provide any documentation certifying the customer's COVID-19 vaccination or post-transmission recovery on entry to, to gain access to, or to receive service from Proposer's business. Proposer acknowledges any contract or agreement resulting from this RFP may be terminated and payment withheld if this certification is inaccurate.
- 2.2 No Benefit to Public Servants.** Proposer has not given or offered to give, nor does Proposer intend to give at any time hereafter, any economic opportunity, future employment, gift, loan, gratuity, special discount, trip, favor or service to a public servant in connection with its proposal. Failure to sign this Execution of Offer, or signing with a false statement, may void the submitted proposal or any resulting Agreement, and Proposer may be removed from all proposer lists at University.
- 2.3 Tax Certification.** Proposer is not currently delinquent in the payment of any taxes due under [Chapter 171, Tax Code](#), or Proposer is exempt from the payment of those taxes, or Proposer is an out-of-state taxable entity that is not subject to those taxes, whichever is applicable. A false certification will be deemed a material breach of any resulting contract or agreement and, at University's option, may result in termination of any resulting Agreement.
- 2.4 Antitrust Certification.** Neither Proposer nor any firm, corporation, partnership or institution represented by Proposer, nor anyone acting for such firm, corporation or institution, has violated the antitrust laws of the State of Texas, codified in [§15.01 et seq., Business and Commerce Code](#), or the Federal antitrust laws, nor communicated directly or indirectly the proposal made to any competitor or any other person engaged in such line of business.
- 2.5 Authority Certification.** The individual signing this document and the documents made a part of this RFP, is authorized to sign the documents on behalf of Proposer and to bind Proposer under any resulting Agreement.
- 2.6 Child Support Certification.** Under [§231.006, Family Code](#), relating to child support, the individual or business entity named in Proposer's proposal is not ineligible to receive award of the Agreement, and any Agreements resulting from this RFP may be terminated if this certification is inaccurate.
- 2.7 Relationship Certifications.**
- No relationship, whether by blood, marriage, business association, capital funding agreement or by any other such kinship or connection exists between the owner of any Proposer that is a sole proprietorship, the officers or directors of any Proposer that is a corporation, the partners of any Proposer that is a partnership, the joint venturers of any Proposer that is a joint venture, or the members or managers of any Proposer that is a limited liability company, on one hand, and an employee of any member institution of UT System, on the other hand, other than the relationships which have been previously disclosed to University in writing.
 - Proposer has not been an employee of any member institution of UT System within the immediate twelve (12) months prior to the Submittal Deadline.
 - No person who, in the past four (4) years served as an executive of a state agency was involved with or has any interest in Proposer's proposal or any contract resulting from this RFP (ref. [§669.003, Government Code](#)).
 - All disclosures by Proposer in connection with this certification will be subject to administrative review and approval before University enters into any Agreement resulting from this RFP with Proposer.
- 2.8 Compliance with Equal Employment Opportunity Laws.** Proposer is in compliance with all federal laws and regulations pertaining to Equal Employment Opportunities and Affirmative Action.
- 2.9 Compliance with Safety Standards.** All products and services offered by Proposer to University in response to this RFP meet or exceed the safety standards established and promulgated under the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Law ([Public Law 91-596](#)) and the *Texas Hazard Communication Act*, [Chapter 502, Health and Safety Code](#), and all related regulations in effect or proposed as of the date of this RFP.
- 2.10 Exceptions to Certifications.** Proposer will and has disclosed, as part of its proposal, any exceptions to the information stated in this Execution of Offer. All information will be subject to administrative review and approval prior to the time University makes an award or enters into any Agreement with Proposer.
- 2.11 Manufacturer Responsibility and Consumer Convenience Computer Equipment Collection and Recovery Act Certification.** If Proposer will sell or lease computer equipment to University under any Agreement resulting from this RFP then, pursuant to [§361.965\(c\), Health & Safety Code](#), Proposer is in compliance with the Manufacturer Responsibility and Consumer Convenience Computer Equipment Collection and Recovery Act set forth in [Chapter 361, Subchapter Y, Health & Safety Code](#), and the rules adopted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality under that Act as set forth in [30 TAC Chapter 328, §361.952\(2\), Health & Safety Code](#), states that, for purposes of the Manufacturer

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Responsibility and Consumer Convenience Computer Equipment Collection and Recovery Act, the term "computer equipment" means a desktop or notebook computer and includes a computer monitor or other display device that does not contain a tuner.

2.12 Conflict of Interest Certification.

- Proposer is not a debarred vendor or the principal of a debarred vendor (i.e. owner, proprietor, sole or majority shareholder, director, president, managing partner, etc.) either at the state or federal level.
- Proposer's provision of services or other performance under any Agreement resulting from this RFP will not constitute an actual or potential conflict of interest.
- Proposer has disclosed any personnel who are related to any current or former employees of University.
- Proposer has not given, nor does Proposer intend to give, at any time hereafter, any economic opportunity, future employment, gift, loan, gratuity, special discount, trip, favor or service to an officer or employee of University in connection with this RFP.

2.16 Proposer should complete the following information:

If Proposer is a Corporation, then State of Incorporation: _____

If Proposer is a Corporation then Proposer's Corporate Charter Number: _____

RFP No.: UTA2023-024

NOTICE: WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, INDIVIDUALS ARE ENTITLED ON REQUEST TO BE INFORMED ABOUT THE INFORMATION THAT GOVERNMENTAL BODIES OF THE STATE OF TEXAS COLLECT ABOUT SUCH INDIVIDUALS. UNDER §§[552.021](#) AND [552.023](#), GOVERNMENT CODE, INDIVIDUALS ARE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE AND REVIEW SUCH INFORMATION. UNDER [§559.004, GOVERNMENT CODE](#), INDIVIDUALS ARE ENTITLED TO HAVE GOVERNMENTAL BODIES OF THE STATE OF TEXAS CORRECT INFORMATION ABOUT SUCH INDIVIDUALS THAT IS INCORRECT.

Submitted and Certified By:

(Proposer Institution's Name)

(Signature of Duly Authorized Representative)

(Printed Name/Title)

(Date Signed)

(Proposer's Street Address)

(City, State, Zip Code)

(Telephone Number)

(FAX Number)

(Email Address)

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SECTION 3

PROPOSER'S GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE

NOTICE: WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, INDIVIDUALS ARE ENTITLED ON REQUEST TO BE INFORMED ABOUT THE INFORMATION THAT GOVERNMENTAL BODIES OF THE STATE OF TEXAS COLLECT ABOUT SUCH INDIVIDUALS. UNDER §§[552.021](#) AND [552.023](#), *GOVERNMENT CODE*, INDIVIDUALS ARE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE AND REVIEW SUCH INFORMATION. UNDER [559.004](#), *GOVERNMENT CODE*, INDIVIDUALS ARE ENTITLED TO HAVE GOVERNMENTAL BODIES OF THE STATE OF TEXAS CORRECT INFORMATION ABOUT SUCH INDIVIDUALS THAT IS INCORRECT.

Proposals must include responses to the questions contained in this Proposer's General Questionnaire. Proposer should reference the item number and repeat the question in its response. In cases where a question does not apply or if unable to respond, Proposer should refer to the item number, repeat the question, and indicate N/A (Not Applicable) or N/R (No Response), as appropriate. Proposer will explain the reason when responding N/A or N/R.

3.1 Proposer Profile

3.1.1 Legal name of Proposer company:

Address of principal place of business:

Address of office that would be providing service under the Agreement:

Number of years in Business: _____

State of incorporation: _____

Number of Employees: _____

Annual Revenues Volume: _____

Name of Parent Corporation, if any _____

NOTE: If Proposer is a subsidiary, University prefers to enter into a contract or agreement with the Parent Corporation or to receive assurances of performance from the Parent Corporation.

- 3.1.2 State whether Proposer will provide a copy of its financial statements for the past two (2) years, if requested by University.
- 3.1.3 Proposer will provide a financial rating of the Proposer entity and any related documentation (such as a Dunn and Bradstreet analysis) that indicates the financial stability of Proposer.
- 3.1.4 Is Proposer currently for sale or involved in any transaction to expand or to become acquired by another business entity? If yes, Proposer will explain the expected impact, both in organizational and directional terms.
- 3.1.5 Proposer will provide any details of all past or pending litigation or claims filed against Proposer that would affect its performance under the Agreement with University (if any).
- 3.1.6 Is Proposer currently in default on any loan agreement or financing agreement with any bank, financial institution, or other entity? If yes, Proposer will specify the pertinent date(s), details, circumstances, and describe the current prospects for resolution.
- 3.1.7 Proposer will provide a customer reference list of no less than three (3) organizations with which Proposer currently has contracts and/or to which Proposer has previously provided services (within the past five (5) years) of a type and scope similar to those required

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by University's RFP. Proposer will include in its customer reference list the customer's company name, contact person, telephone number, project description, length of business relationship, and background of services provided by Proposer.

- 3.1.8 Does any relationship exist (whether by family kinship, business association, capital funding agreement, or any other such relationship) between Proposer and any employee of University? If yes, Proposer will explain.
- 3.1.9 Proposer will provide the name and Social Security Number for each person having at least 25% ownership interest in Proposer. This disclosure is mandatory pursuant to [§231.006, Family Code](#), and will be used for the purpose of determining whether an owner of Proposer with an ownership interest of at least 25% is more than 30 days delinquent in paying child support. Further disclosure of this information is governed by the *Texas Public Information Act* (ref. [Chapter 552, Government Code](#)), and other applicable law.

3.2 Approach to Work

- 3.2.1 Proposer will provide a statement of the Proposer's service approach and will describe any unique benefits to University from doing business with Proposer. Proposer will briefly describe its approach for each of the required services identified in **Section 5.4** Scope of Work of this RFP.
- 3.2.2 Proposer will provide an estimate of the earliest starting date for services following execution of the Agreement.
- 3.2.3 Proposer will submit a work plan with key dates and milestones. The work plan should include:
- 3.2.3.1 Identification of tasks to be performed;
 - 3.2.3.2 Time frames to perform the identified tasks;
 - 3.2.3.3 Project management methodology;
 - 3.2.3.4 Implementation strategy; and
 - 3.2.3.5 The expected time frame in which the services would be implemented.
- 3.2.4 Proposer will describe the types of reports or other written documents Proposer will provide (if any) and the frequency of reporting, if more frequent than required in this RFP. Proposer will include samples of reports and documents if appropriate.

3.3 General Requirements

- 3.3.1 Proposer will provide summary resumes for its proposed key personnel who will be providing services under the Agreement with University, including their specific experiences with similar service projects, and number of years of employment with Proposer.
- 3.3.2 Proposer will describe any difficulties it anticipates in performing its duties under the Agreement with University and how Proposer plans to manage these difficulties. Proposer will describe the assistance it will require from University.

3.4 Service Support

Proposer will describe its service support philosophy, how it is implemented, and how Proposer measures its success in maintaining this philosophy.

3.5 Quality Assurance

Proposer will describe its quality assurance program, its quality requirements, and how they are measured.

3.6 Miscellaneous

- 3.6.1 Proposer will provide a list of any additional services or benefits not otherwise identified in this RFP that Proposer would propose to provide to University. Additional services or benefits must be directly related to the goods and services solicited under this RFP.
- 3.6.2 Proposer will provide details describing any unique or special services or benefits offered or advantages to be gained by University from doing business with Proposer. Additional services or benefits must be directly related to the goods and services solicited under this RFP.
- 3.6.3 Does Proposer have a contingency plan or disaster recovery plan in the event of a disaster? If so, then Proposer will provide a copy of the plan.

SECTION 4
ADDENDA CHECKLIST

Proposal of: _____
(Proposer Name)

To: University of Texas at Arlington

RFP No.: UTA2023-024

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The undersigned Proposer hereby acknowledges receipt of the following Addenda to the captioned RFP (*initial blanks for any Addenda issued*).

No. 1 _____ No. 2 _____ No. 3 _____ No. 4 _____ No. 5 _____

Respectfully submitted,

Proposer: _____

By: _____
(Authorized Signature for Proposer)

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

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APPENDIX TWO
TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Terms and Conditions agreed upon in the previously executed Non-Exclusive Services Agreement for Audit Services between The University of Texas System and awarded vendor, will apply.

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