



Request for Proposal 10-X-20992

For: Feed: Fish Food, Trout Grower

Pequest State Fish Hatchery

Event	Date	Time
Bidder's Electronic Question Due Date (Refer to RFP Section 1.3.1 for more information.)	05/29/09	5:00 PM
Mandatory Pre-bid Conference	N/A	
Mandatory Site Visit	N/A	
Bid Submission Due Date (Refer to RFP Section 1.3.2 for more information.)	06/12/09	2:00 PM

Dates are subject to change. All changes will be reflected in Addenda to the RFP posted on the Division of Purchase and Property website.

Small Business Set-Aside (Status <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	Category <input type="checkbox"/> I
	<input type="checkbox"/> Entire Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> II
	<input type="checkbox"/> Partial Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> III
	<input type="checkbox"/> Subcontracting Only	

RFP Issued By

State of New Jersey
Department of the Treasury
Division of Purchase and Property

Using Agency/Agencies

Department of Environmental Protection
Pequest State Trout Hatchery
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0230

Date: 5/13/09

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**IMPORTANT NOTICE -
NEW "PAY-TO-PLAY" RESTRICTIONS TO TAKE EFFECT NOVEMBER 15, 2008**

Note: This is for informational purposes only. Certification is to be completed upon award.

Governor Jon S. Corzine recently signed Executive Order No. 117, which is designed to enhance New Jersey's efforts to protect the integrity of government contractual decisions and increase the public's confidence in government. The Executive Order builds on the provisions of P.L. 2005, c. 51 ("Chapter 51"), which limits contributions to certain political candidates and committees by for-profit business entities that are, or seek to become, State government vendors.

Executive Order No. 117 extends the provisions of Chapter 51 in two ways:

1. The definition of "business entity" is revised and expanded so that contributions by the following individuals also are considered contributions attributable to the business entity:
 - Officers of corporations and professional services corporations, with the term "officer" being defined in the same manner as in the regulations of the Election Law Enforcement Commission regarding vendor disclosure requirements (N.J.A.C. 19:25-26.1), with the exception of officers of non-profit entities;
 - Partners of general partnerships, limited partnerships, and limited liability partnerships and members of limited liability companies (LLCs), with the term "partner" being defined in the same manner as in the regulations of the Election Law Enforcement Commission regarding vendor disclosure requirements (N.J.A.C. 19:25-26.1); and
 - Spouses, civil union partners, and resident children of officers, partners, LLC members and persons owning or controlling 10% or more of a corporation's stock are included within the new definition, except for contributions by spouses, civil union partners, or resident children to a candidate for whom the contributor is eligible to vote or to a political party committee within whose jurisdiction the contributor resides.
2. Reportable contributions (those over \$300.00 in the aggregate) to legislative leadership committees, municipal political party committees, and candidate committees or election funds for Lieutenant Governor are disqualifying contributions in the same manner as reportable contributions to State and county political party committees and candidate committees or election funds for Governor have been disqualifying contributions under Chapter 51.

Executive Order No. 117 applies only to contributions made on or after November 15, 2008, and to contracts executed on or after November 15, 2008.

Updated forms and materials are currently being developed and will be made available on the website as soon as they are available. In the meantime, beginning November 15, 2008, prospective vendors will be required to submit, in addition to the currently required Chapter 51 and Chapter 271 forms, the Certification of Compliance with Executive Order No. 117. The Contractor Certification and Disclosure of Political Contributions form and instructions are available at: <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/forms.htm#eo134>.

1.0 INFORMATION FOR BIDDERS

1.1 PURPOSE AND INTENT

This Request for Proposal (RFP) is issued by the Purchase Bureau, Division of Purchase and Property, Department of the Treasury on behalf of Department of Environmental Protection, Pequest State Trout Hatchery. The purpose of this RFP is to solicit bid proposals for Feed: Fish Food.

The intent of this RFP is to award a contract to that responsible bidder whose bid proposals, conforming to this RFP is most advantageous to the State, price and other factors considered. The State, however, reserves the right to separately procure individual requirements that are the subject of the contract during the contract term, when deemed by the Director to be in the State's best interest.

The NJ Standard Terms and Conditions version 07/27/07 will apply to all contracts or purchase agreements made with the State of New Jersey. These terms are in addition to the terms and conditions set forth in this RFP and should be read in conjunction with them unless the RFP specifically indicates otherwise.

1.2 BACKGROUND

This is a reprourement of the **Feed: Fish Food, Trout Grower Pequest State Fish Hatchery** term contract, presently due to expire on **June 30, 2009**. Bidders interested in the current contract specifications and pricing information may review the current contract T-1486 at <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/contracts.htm>.

1.3 KEY EVENTS

1.3.1 ELECTRONIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

The Purchase Bureau will electronically accept questions and inquiries from all potential bidders via the web at <http://ebid.nj.gov/QA.aspx>.

Questions should be directly tied to the RFP and asked in consecutive order, from beginning to end, following the organization of the RFP. Each question should begin by referencing the RFP page number and section number to which it relates.

Bidders must not contact the Using Agency directly, in person, by telephone or by email, concerning this RFP.

The cut-off date for electronic questions and inquiries relating to this RFP is indicated on the cover sheet. Addenda to this RFP, if any, will be posted on the Purchase Bureau website after the cut-off date. (See RFP Section 1.4.1 for further information.)

1.3.2 SUBMISSION OF BID PROPOSAL

In order to be considered for award, the bid proposal must be received by the Purchase Bureau of the Division of Purchase and Property at the appropriate location by the required time. **ANY BID PROPOSAL NOT RECEIVED ON TIME AT THE LOCATION INDICATED BELOW WILL BE REJECTED. THE DATE AND TIME IS INDICATED ON THE COVER SHEET. THE LOCATION IS AS FOLLOWS:**

BID RECEIVING ROOM - 9TH FLOOR
PURCHASE BUREAU

DIVISION OF PURCHASE AND PROPERTY
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
33 WEST STATE STREET, P.O. BOX 230
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0230

Directions to the Purchase Bureau are available on the web at <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/directions.htm>.

Note: Bidders using U.S. Postal Service regular or express mail services should allow additional time since the U.S. Postal Service does not deliver directly to the Purchase Bureau.

Procedural inquiries concerning this RFP may be directed to RFP.procedures@treas.state.nj.us. This e-mail address may also be used to submit requests to review bid documents. The State will not respond to substantive questions related to the RFP or any other contract via this e-mail address.

To submit an RFP or contract related question, go to the Current Bidding Opportunities webpage or to <http://ebid.nj.gov/QA.aspx>.

1.4 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1.4.1 ADDENDA: REVISIONS TO THIS RFP

In the event that it becomes necessary to clarify or revise this RFP, such clarification or revision will be by addendum. Any addendum to this RFP will become part of this RFP and part of any contract awarded as a result of this RFP.

ALL RFP ADDENDA WILL BE ISSUED ON THE DIVISION OF PURCHASE AND PROPERTY WEB SITE. TO ACCESS ADDENDA, THE BIDDER MUST SELECT THE BID NUMBER ON THE WEB PAGE AT <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/bid/summary/bid.shtml>.

There are no designated dates for release of addenda. Therefore interested bidders should check the Purchase Bureau "Bidding Opportunities" website on a daily basis from time of RFP issuance through bid opening.

It is the sole responsibility of the bidder to be knowledgeable of all addenda related to this procurement.

1.4.2 BIDDER RESPONSIBILITY

The bidder assumes sole responsibility for the complete effort required in submitting a bid proposal in response to this RFP. No special consideration will be given after bid proposals are opened because of a bidder's failure to be knowledgeable as to all of the requirements of this RFP.

1.4.3 COST LIABILITY

The State assumes no responsibility and bears no liability for costs incurred by a bidder in the preparation and submittal of a bid proposal in response to this RFP.

1.4.4 CONTENTS OF BID PROPOSAL

If no negotiations are contemplated, after bid opening, all information submitted by bidders in response to the bid solicitation is considered public information, except as may be exempted from public disclosure by the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq., and the

common law. Should the State, in advance of bid opening, determine to enter into negotiations with bidder(s), bid proposals will not be made public until the Letter of Intent to Award is issued.

A bidder may designate specific information as not subject to disclosure when the bidder has a good faith legal/factual basis for such assertion. The State reserves the right to make the determination and will advise the bidder accordingly. The location in the bid proposal of any such designation should be clearly stated in a cover letter. **The State will not honor any attempt by a bidder either to designate its entire bid proposal as proprietary and/or to claim copyright protection for its entire proposal.** In the event of any challenge to the bidder's designation of confidential/proprietary materials, the bidder shall be solely responsible for defending its designation and the State shall have no responsibility therefor.

By signing the cover sheet of this RFP, the bidder waives any claims of copyright protection set forth within the manufacturer's price list and/or catalogs. The price lists and/or catalogs must be accessible to State using agencies and cooperative purchasing partners and thus have to be made public to allow all eligible purchasing entities access to the pricing information.

All bid proposals, with the exception of information determined by the State or the Court to be proprietary, are available for public inspection after the Letter of Intent to Award is issued. At such time, interested parties can make an appointment with the Purchase Bureau to inspect bid proposals received in response to this RFP.

1.4.5 BID OPENING

On the date and time bid proposals are due under the RFP, all information concerning the bid proposals submitted may be publicly announced and those bid proposals, except for information appropriately designated as confidential, shall be available for inspection and copying. In those cases where negotiation is contemplated, only the names and addresses of the bidders submitting bid proposals will be announced and the contents of the bid proposals shall remain confidential until the Notice of Intent to Award is issued by the Director.

1.4.6 PRICE ALTERATION

Bid prices must be typed or written in ink. Any price change (including "white-outs") must be initialed. Failure to initial price changes shall preclude a contract award from being made to the bidder.

1.4.7 BID ERRORS

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 17:12-1.22, "Bid Errors," a bidder may withdraw its bid as follows:

A bidder may request that its bid be withdrawn prior to bid opening. Such request must be made, in writing, to the Supervisor of the Business Unit. If the request is granted, the bidder may submit a revised bid as long as the bid is received prior to the announced date and time for bid opening and at the place specified.

If, after bid opening but before contract award, a bidder discovers an error in its proposal, the bidder may make written request to the Supervisor of the Bid Review Unit for authorization to withdraw its proposal from consideration for award. Evidence of the bidder's good faith in making this request shall be used in making the determination. The factors that will be considered are that the mistake is so significant that to enforce the contract resulting from the proposal would be unconscionable; that the mistake relates to a material feature of the contract; that the mistake occurred notwithstanding the bidder's exercise of reasonable care; and that the State will not be significantly prejudiced by granting the withdrawal of the proposal. Note: a PB-36 complaint form may be filed and forwarded to the Division's Contract Compliance and Audit

Unit (CCAU) for handling. A record of the complaint will also be maintained in the Division's vendor performance file for evaluation of future bids submitted.

All bid withdrawal requests must include the bid identification number and the final bid opening date and sent to the following address:

Department of the Treasury
Purchase Bureau, PO Box 230
33 West State Street – 9th Floor
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0230
Attention: Supervisor, Bid Review Unit

If during a bid evaluation process, an obvious pricing error made by a potential contract awardee is found, the Director shall issue written notice to the bidder. The bidder will have five (5) days after receipt of the notice to confirm its pricing. If the vendor fails to respond, its bid shall be considered withdrawn, and no further consideration shall be given it.

If it is discovered that there is an arithmetic disparity between the unit price and the total extended price, the unit price shall prevail. If there is any other ambiguity in the pricing other than a disparity between the unit price and extended price and the bidder's intention is not readily discernible from other parts of the bid proposal, the Director may seek clarification from the bidder to ascertain the true intent of the bid.

1.4.8 JOINT VENTURE

If a joint venture is submitting a bid proposal, the agreement between the parties relating to such joint venture should be submitted with the joint venture's bid proposal. Authorized signatories from each party comprising the joint venture must sign the bid proposal. A separate Ownership Disclosure Form, Disclosure of Investigations and Actions Involving Bidder, Affirmative Action Employee Information Report, MacBride Principles Certification, and Business Registration or Interim Registration must be supplied for each party to a joint venture.

1.5 PRICE LIST AND/OR CATALOG PRICING

Not Applicable to this RFP.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

2.1 GENERAL DEFINITIONS

The following definitions will be part of any contract awarded or order placed as result of this RFP.

Addendum - Written clarification or revision to this RFP issued by the Purchase Bureau.

Amendment - A change in the scope of work to be performed by the contractor after contract award. An amendment is not effective until signed by the Director, Division of Purchase and Property or his/her designee.

Bidder – A vendor submitting a bid proposal in response to this RFP.

Contract - This RFP, any addendum to this RFP, the bidder's bid proposal submitted in response to this RFP and the Division's Notice of Acceptance.

Contractor - The contractor is the bidder awarded a contract.

Director - Director, Division of Purchase and Property, Department of the Treasury. By statutory authority, the Director is the chief contracting officer for the State of New Jersey.

Division - The Division of Purchase and Property.

Joint Venture – A business undertaking by two or more entities to share risk and responsibility for a specific project.

May - Denotes that which is permissible, but not mandatory.

Request for Proposal (RFP) - This document, which establishes the bidding and contract requirements and solicits bid proposals to meet the purchase needs of [the] Using Agency[ies], as identified herein.

Shall or Must - Denotes that which is a mandatory requirement.

Should - Denotes that which is recommended, but not mandatory.

State - State of New Jersey

State Contract Manager – The individual responsible for the approval of all deliverables, i.e., tasks, sub-tasks or other work elements in the Scope of Work, as set forth in Sections 8.1, 8.1.1 and 8.1.2.

Subcontractor – An entity having an arrangement with a State contractor, where the State contractor uses the products and/or services of that entity to fulfill some of its obligations under its State contract, while retaining full responsibility for the performance of all of its [the contractor's] obligations under the contract, including payment to the subcontractor. The subcontractor has no legal relationship with the State, only with the contractor.

Using Agency[ies]- The entity[ies] for which the Division has issued this RFP.

3.0 COMMODITY DESCRIPTION/SCOPE OF WORK

3.0 COMMODITY DESCRIPTION/SCOPE OF WORK

3.1 SPECIFICATIONS

3.1.1 ALL FEEDS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING FORMULA SPECIFICATIONS.

(A) Grower Diets (Appendix A)

(B) Vitamin Premix No. 30 (Appendix B)

(C) Trace Mineral Premix No. 3 (Appendix C)

No substitutions or deviations from the quality or quantities of the various ingredients specified in the above formulations will be permitted.

3.1.2 The State reserves the right to inspect all feeds before and/or after delivery. Payment for feed will be governed by acceptance after inspection.

3.1.3 The State reserves the right to return any rejected feed at the contractor's expense and report the matter to the Division of Purchase & Property's Contract Compliance & Administration Unit (CCUA).

3.1.4 All feed must be palatable and delivered sweet and cool.

3.1.5 Sizes - excessive fines (over 1%) or oversize pellets or granules or lack of dimensional uniformity may be cause for rejection of any lot of feed.

3.2 ADDITIONAL SPECIFICATIONS AND CONDITIONS

3.2.1 Good manufacturing practices: The contractor's mill equipment and manufacturing procedures must comply with and manufactured under an ISO-9001 Quality Management System.

3.2.2 WEIGHING AND MIXING

The weighing systems must be of suitable size and accuracy for their purposes. Proper weighing techniques must be used in weighing ingredients into the mix. Production run records must be maintained and information for the following requirements should be provided to the agency:

- A. Batch Size
- B. Mix date and batch number

The feed mixer may be of any conventional type with proper clean-out features. The mixing time shall be controlled for thorough mixing. Fish meal and other bagged ingredients shall be preblended from bags taken at random from car or warehouse.

3.2.3 GRINDING

Ingredients shall be carefully and thoroughly mixed and pulverized. Starter Diet mixture to pass 100% through a US screen size 20, and 90% through US screen size 30. All other mixtures to pass 100% through a US screen size 16 and 90% through a US screen size 20.

3.2.4 PELLETING

3.2.4.1 The feed mixture is to be processed into extruded pellets using the extruded slow sinking process. The extruded pellets must be firm enough to hold together in packaging, transporting, storage, and when placed in water.

3.2.4.2 Dust content of undersized pellets is not to exceed 1% at the manufacturer's plant (dust defined as particles passing through a screen with opening of 3.36 mm. #12 US series standard).

3.2.4.3 STANDARD PELLET SIZES: SLOW SINKING

5.0 mm (3/16)	5.0 mm diameter x 5 mm
3.0 mm (1/8)	3.0 mm diameter x 3 mm
2.5 mm (3/32)	2.5 mm diameter x 2.5 mm
2.0 mm (#4)	2.0 mm diameter x 2.0 mm
1.5 mm (#3)	1.5 mm diameter x 1.5 mm
#2 crumbles	.841-1.19 mm
#1 crumbles	.595 - .841 mm
Meal	.42 - .595 mm

3.2.5 MINI PELLETS

3.2.5.1 Mini pellets to be produced by the extruded process. All pellets will be made slow sinking. #3 will be 1.5mm diameter x 1.5 mm long. #4 will be 2.0 mm diameter x 2 mm long.

3.2.5.2 STANDARD GRANULE SIZES:

Granular Size		US Screen	Size
Starter	To pass through	595 microns	30
	To pass over	420 microns	40
No. 1 Granules	To pass through	841 microns	20
	To pass over	595 microns	30
No. 2 Granules	To pass through	1.19 mm	16
	To pass over	841 microns	20
No. 3 Extruded Pellets	To pass through	2.00 mm	10
	To pass over	1.19 mm	16
No. 4 Extruded Pellets	To pass through	3.36 mm	6
	To pass over	2.00 mm	10

3.2.5.3 The feed must be rescreened through a coarse screen to remove lumps.

3.2.5.4 The pellets shall be sized to contain 95% correct sized granules prior to top dressing with oil. Dust contact (dust defined as particles passing through 595 micron screen) not be exceed 1% at the manufacturer's plant and upon delivery.

3.2.5.5 Standard Pellets (3/32" (2.5 mm), 1/8" (3.0 mm), and 3/16" (5.0 mm) shall be sized to contain 95% correct size pellets prior to top dressing with oil.

Pellet Size	US Screen	Size
1/8" (3.0 mm)	To pass through	4.00 mm
	To pass over	2.80
3/16" (5.0 mm)	To pass through	5.60 mm
	To pass over	4.00 mm

3.2.6 BAGGING AND LOADING

The pellets are not to be bagged or loaded for bulk delivery until cooled to 10 degrees F above ambient air temperature and dried to a moisture content of 10% or less. The pellets shall be bagged in new multiwall 50 pounds capacity plain paper bags. Oil-coated pellets shall be packed to prevent leakage of oil. After being filled, bags shall be sewn closed and the net weight of the feed in each bag shall be 50 pounds. Each bag shall be labeled with a tag which is color coded as to pellet size as follows:

Starter	Purple/Buff	No. 4 mini pellets	Light Blue
No. 1 Granules	Red	1/8" pellets	Yellow
No. 2 Granules	Pink-Salmon	3/16" pellets	White
No. 3 Mini Pellets	Dark Blue/Navy	1/4" pellets	Green

The tags shall be printed to show pellet size, diet identification, and date manufactured, in uncoded format. Feed shall be shipped bulk or in bags as indicated in the bidding schedule and purchase orders.

3.2.7 PLANT INSPECTION PRIOR TO AWARD

The State reserves the right to inspect the bidder's plant and production facilities prior to award of the contract and to reject those bidders whose plant facilities do not comply with the FDA's , "Good Manufacturing Practices."

3.2.8 TESTING INGREDIENTS

If requested, the contractor shall supply representative samples of all ingredients to be used in a given production to the Pequest Trout Hatchery, a minimum of 14 calendar days prior to date of feed manufacture. Ingredients must be labeled as to type of ingredients, car and lot number, and date of manufacture. The Pequest Trout Hatchery will conduct analysis of the ingredients and manufacturer feeds to determine if it meets the RFP specifications. This analysis shall be conducted according to the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO). The analysis as made by the Pequest Trout Hatchery will be the basis of such rejection.

3.2.9 CONTAMINATION

The ingredients and finished feed shall be wholesome and clean materials free from noxious chemicals and foreign matter.

3.2.10 CHANGES IN FORMULA

The quality control program for feeds under this contract will be maintained by Pequest Trout Hatchery. Any technical problems requiring alteration of process or formulation shall be subject to review and advance approval by Pequest Trout Hatchery.

3.2.11 INSPECTION DURING PERIOD OF CONTRACT

3.2.11.1 The NJDEP Quality Control Inspector, or his deputy or the authorized food inspector has the authority to inspect the contractor's plant facilities, inventories of ingredients, and invoices from suppliers during the contract period.

3.2.11.2 Upon request, the contractor shall supply representative samples and the appropriate label(s) of all ingredients to be used in the feed.

3.2.11.3 The contractor shall be notified immediately of contract violations by the agency, followed by written confirmation. Rejections by the state will be issued in writing based on such violations as reported by the Agency's Quality Control Officer.

3.3 ALTERNATES

Bid proposals on alternate feeds offered as approved equals to the specified formulations must be accompanied by detailed specifications which clearly shows the alternate feed formulation to be equal to or superior to the feed specified in this RFP.

3.4 DELIVERY

3.4.1 Delivery to commence July 1, 2009 or as requested by advance notification from the hatchery superintendent.

3.4.2 Deliveries will be made on an as needed basis to either the Pequest State Trout Hatchery or the Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery locations, at the same prices. Deliveries should be arranged so that orders for the two hatcheries can be kept separate.

3.4.3 Delivery will be required within 14 calendar days after notification from Pequest Trout Hatchery to the contractor. The contractor must notify Pequest Trout Hatchery seventy-two hours before delivery. The contractor must arrange his shipment schedule to avoid deliveries on Saturdays, Sundays, or State holidays. Shipments shall be scheduled to arrive no later than 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Feed trucks arriving after 3:00 p.m. will not be unloaded until the following work day.

3.4.4 All deliveries of fish food made under this contract shall be made by authorized carriers or contractor-owned trucks holding permits or certificates from appropriate regulatory bodies.

3.4.5 Bulk feed orders are to be delivered in standard bulk trucks into the bulk bin loading system as noted on the pricing lines. Bag deliveries cannot be made to fill an order for bulk feed.

3.4.6 All pelleted feed (bulk or bagged) shall be loaded on suitable trucks at the feed mill and delivered direct to the Hatchery as noted on the pricing lines. This requirement does not apply to granules.

3.4.7 Only feed from current production is to be delivered to the hatcheries. Feed stored from a previous production will not be accepted.

3.4.8 Pelleted feeds must not contain in excess of 1% dust upon delivery.

3.4.9 No feed shall contain in excess of 10% moisture upon delivery.

3.4.10 Segregation - The delivery conveyance must be equipped to maintain separation of the various sizes and kinds of pellets and/or granules while in transit.

3.4.11 Unloading - The delivery conveyance must be equipped to mechanically blow pellets and/or granules into the bulk feed hoppers at the hatcheries which are above ground level. An auger or conveyer is to be used in loading the delivery conveyance at the shipping point. Pellets must not be flown in an aircraft prior to their arrival at the hatchery.

3.4.12 Weighing - For each truckload of feed delivered in bulk, the contractor must supply the hatchery with a weight slip showing the gross, tare, and net weight of feed delivered.

3.4.13 The contractor is responsible for protecting the feed from damage or contamination during manufacture, transit, and delivery. Damaged or contaminated feed will be removed promptly by the contractor, for which no payment will be made by the Agency.

3.4.14 When carrying feed for other destinations in addition to the Pequest Hatchery, the feed for Pequest is to be off-loaded first. All deliveries will be made to the Pequest Hatchery prior to delivering to any other State or private hatchery in the area.

3.5 APPENDIXES

Appendix A – Formulation Specifications for Grower Diets.

Analysis for Trout Grower starter meal; #1, #2 crumbles

Protein, %	55 minimum
Fat, %	15 minimum
Fiber, %	2 maximum
Moisture, %	12 maximum
Ash, %	8 maximum

Ingredients: Fish Meal, Dehulled Soybean Meal, Corn Gluten Meal, Fish Oil, Wheat Flour, Blood Meal, Brewers Dried Yeast, Soy Lecithin, Yeast Culture, Vitamin A Acetate, Vitamin D3 Supplement, dl-Alpha Tocopheryl Acetate (Vitamin E Supplement) Vitamin B12 Supplement, Riboflavin Supplement, Niacin, Calcium Pantothenate, Menadione Sodium Bisulfite Complex (source of Vitamin K Activity), Folic Acid, Thiamine Mononitrate, Pyridoxine Hydrochloride, Biotin, Choline Chloride, Manganese Proteinate, Zinc Proteinate, Copper Proteinate, Calcium Iodate, Iron Proteinate, Cobalt Proteinate, Calcium Carbonate, Sodium Selenite, L-Ascorby1-2-Polyphosphate (source of Vitamin C), Ethoxyquin.

Analysis for Trout Grower #3(1.5mm), #4(2.0mm) mini pellets slow sinking

Protein, %	50 minimum
Fat, %	15 minimum
Fiber, &	2 maximum
Moisture, %	12 maximum
Ash, %	8 maximum

Ingredients: Fish Meal, Dehulled Soybean Meal, Corn Gluten Meal, Fish Oil, Wheat Flour, Blood Meal, Brewers Dried Yeast, Soy Lechithin, Yeast Culture, Vitamin A Acetate, Vitamin D3 Supplement, dl-Alpha Tocopheryl Acetate (Vitamin E Supplement), Vitamin B12 Supplement, Riboflavin Supplement, Niacin, Calcium Pantothenate, Menadione Sodium Bisulfite Complex (source of Vitamin K Activity), Folic Acid, Thiamine Mononitrate, Pyridoxine Hydrochloride, Biotin, Choline Chloride, Manganese Proteinate, Copper Proteinate, Calcium Iodate, Iron Proteinate, Cobalt Proteinate, Calcium Carbonate, Sodium Selenite, L-Ascorby1-2-Polyphosphate (source of Vitamin C), Ethoxyquin.

Analysis for 5.0 mm (3/16), 3.0 mm (1/8), 2.5 mm (3/32) slow sinking

Protein, %	42 minimum
Fat, %	16 minimum
Fiber, &	4 maximum
Moisture, %	12 maximum
Ash, %	8 maximum

Ingredients: Fish Meal, Wheat, Hydrolyzed Feather Meal, Fish Oil, Wheat Middlings, Dehulled Soybean Meal, Blood Meal, Ground Extruded Whole Soybeans, Corn Gluten Meal, Dicalcium Phosphate, Soy Lecithin, Yeast Culture, dl-Methionine, Choline Chloride, Vitamin A Acetate, Vitamin D3 Supplement, dl-Alpha Tocopheryl Acetate (Vitamin E Supplement), Vitamin B12 Supplement, Riboflavin Supplement, Niacin, Calcium Pantothenate, Menadione Sodium Bisulfite Complex (source of Vitamin K Activity), Folic Acid, Thiamine Mononitrate, Pyridoxine Hydrochloride, Biotin, Manganese Proteinate, Zinc Proteinate, Copper Proteinate, Calcium Iodate, Iron Proteinate, Cobalt Proteinate, Calcium Carbonate, Sodium Selenite, L-Ascorby1-2-Polyphosphate (source of Vitamin C).

All ingredients must be selected based on true finfish digestibility testing. Phosphorus levels must be measured at less than 1.3% on the final product. PCB levels must be tested periodically by an analytical lab and must always be found within regulatory limits.

All Pellets to be produced will be manufactured by the extruded process. All pellets will be made slow sinking.

Potential bidders must be in the trout feed producing business for at least five years and have supplied one or more fish hatcheries that annually produce over 50,000 pounds of trout, using their diets.

Appendix B - Specifications for Vitamin Premix No. 30 used must meet or exceed these standards

Vitamin	Guaranteed Potency Per Pound of Premix (Grams unless otherwise listed)
D Calcium Panthothenate	26.5
Pridoxine (Pyridoxine HCl)	7.7
Roboflavin	13.2
Niacinamide	55.1
Folic Acid	2.2
Thiamine (Thiamine Mononitrate)	8.8
Biotin	88.2 mg
Vitamin B12	5.5 mg
Menadione Sodium Bisulfite Complex	2.76
Vitamin E (Dor DL Alpha-Tocopherol Acetate)	88,200 IU
Vitamin D3 Stabilized	110,250 IU
Vitamin A (Vitamin A Palmitate or Acetate)	1,653,750 IU

Choline Chloride, Ascorbic Acid, and the Vitamin Premix No. 30 are to be stored separately and never mixed one with another before being added to the feed mixture.

The certified vitamin premix is to be supplied by a recognized manufacturer and must show the date of preparation. The vitamin premix to be used is not to be held in storage longer than 4 months after date of preparation.

Appendix C - Specifications for Trace Mineral Premix No. 3

	Guaranteed Analysis Of Element (G/KG Mineral Mix)
Zinc Sulfate (ZN - 185.2 g/kg of mineral mix)	75.0
Manganous Sulfate (MNSO - 55.1 g/kg of mineral mix)	20.1
Cupric Sulfate (CUSO - 3.9 g/kg of mineral mix)	1.5
Potassium Iodate (KI03 - 16.9 g/kg of mineral mix)	
Or	
Ethylenediamine Dihydrochloride (C2H8N22HI – 14.9 g/kg of mineral mix)	10.0

An inert carrier can be used to make up the mixture to the kilogram.

The mineral mixture is to be added at 1.0 pound per ton to starter diets and 2.0 pounds per ton to finishing feeds.

4.0 BID PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION

4.1 GENERAL

The bidder is advised to thoroughly read and follow all instructions contained in this RFP, including the instructions on the RFP's signatory page, in preparing and submitting its bid proposal.

Note: Bid proposals shall not contain URLs (Uniform Resource Locators, i.e., the global address of documents and other resources on the world wide web) or web addresses. Inasmuch as the web contains dynamically changing content, inclusion of a URL or web address in a bid response is indicative of potentially changing information. Inclusion of a URL or web address in a bid response implies that the bid's content changes as the referenced web pages change.

The forms discussed herein and required for submission of a bid proposal in response to this RFP are available on the web at <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/bid/summary/10x20992.shtml> unless noted otherwise.

4.2 BID PROPOSAL DELIVERY AND IDENTIFICATION

In order to be considered, a bid proposal must arrive at the Purchase Bureau in accordance with the instructions on the RFP signatory page accompanying this RFP. Bidders are cautioned to allow adequate delivery time to ensure timely delivery of bid proposals. **State regulation mandates that late bid proposals are ineligible for consideration. THE EXTERIOR OF ALL BID PROPOSAL PACKAGES ARE TO BE LABELED WITH THE BID IDENTIFICATION NUMBER AND THE FINAL BID OPENING DATE OR RISK NOT BEING RECEIVED IN TIME.**

4.3 NUMBER OF BID PROPOSAL COPIES

The bidder must submit **one (1) complete ORIGINAL bid proposal**, clearly marked as the "ORIGINAL" bid proposal.

The bidder should submit **one (1) full, complete and exact copy(ies)**, clearly marked "COPY" of the original.

Copies are necessary in the evaluation of the bid proposal and for record retention purposes. A bidder failing to provide the requested number of copies will be charged the cost incurred by the State in producing the requested number of copies. It is suggested that the bidder make and retain a copy of its bid proposal.

4.4 BID PROPOSAL CONTENT

4.4.1 FORMS/PROOF OF REGISTRATION REQUIRED WITH BID PROPOSAL

4.4.1.1 SIGNATORY PAGE

The bidder shall complete, including signature of an authorized representative of the bidder, and submit the Signatory Page accompanying this RFP. If the bidder is a limited partnership, the Signatory Page must be signed by a general partner. If the bidder is a joint venture, the

Signatory Page must be signed by a principal of each party to the joint venture. Failure to comply will result in rejection of the bid proposal.

4.4.1.2 OWNERSHIP DISCLOSURE FORM

In the event the bidder is a corporation, partnership or sole proprietorship, the bidder must complete the attached Ownership Disclosure Form. A current completed Ownership Disclosure Form must be received prior to or accompany the bid proposal. Failure to do so will preclude the award of a contract.

4.4.1.3 DISCLOSURE OF INVESTIGATIONS/ACTIONS INVOLVING BIDDER

The bidder shall provide a detailed description of any investigation, litigation, including administrative complaints or other administrative proceedings, involving any public sector clients during the past five (5) years including the nature and status of the investigation, and, for any litigation, the caption of the action, a brief description of the action, the date of inception, current status, and, if applicable, disposition. The bidder shall use the Disclosure of Investigations and Actions Involving Bidder form for this purpose.

4.4.1.4 BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE FROM THE DIVISION OF REVENUE

FAILURE BY THE BIDDER TO SUBMIT A COPY OF ITS BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE (OR INTERIM REGISTRATION) FROM THE DIVISION OF REVENUE WITH THE BID PROPOSAL MAY BE CAUSE FOR REJECTION OF THE BID PROPOSAL.

The bidder may go to www.nj.gov/nibgs to register with the New Jersey Division of Revenue or to obtain a copy of an existing Business Registration Certificate. Further information is provided in Section 1.1 of the NJ Standard Terms and Conditions version 07/27/07 accompanying this RFP.

4.4.1.5 SMALL BUSINESS SET-ASIDE CONTRACTS

Not Applicable to this procurement.

4.4.2 FORMS REQUIRED BEFORE CONTRACT AWARD AND THAT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID PROPOSAL

4.4.2.1 MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES CERTIFICATION

The bidder is required to complete the attached MacBride Principles Certification evidencing compliance with the MacBride Principles. The requirement is a precondition to entering into a State contract.

4.4.2.2 AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

The bidder is required to submit a copy of Certificate of Employee Information or a copy of Federal Letter of Approval verifying that the bidder is operating under a federally approved or sanctioned Affirmative Action program. If the bidder has neither document of Affirmative Action evidence, then the bidder must complete the attached Affirmative Action Employee Information Report (AA-302). This requirement is a precondition to entering into a State contract.

4.4.2.3 SERVICES SOURCE DISCLOSURE FORM

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:34-13.2, the bidder is required to submit with its bid proposal a completed source disclosure form. Refer to RFP Section 7.1.2 for further explanatory information concerning this requirement.

4.4.3 SUBMITTALS

4.4.3.1 BIDDER EXPERIENCE - DATA SHEETS

The bidder must provide all of the information requested in the Bidder's Data Packet accompanying this RFP.

4.4.3.3 SAMPLES/SAMPLE TESTING

4.4.3.2 SAMPLES/SAMPLE TESTING

The samples submitted must meet the specification requirements set forth in the RFP and must be representative of the product bid. Bid samples **for pricing lines 00001 through 00006** for evaluation and testing purposes are to be made available at no charge and delivered to **Pequest State Fish Hatchery**, at the bidder's expense. The bidder must, within **ten (10)** working days following a request from the State, submit bid samples to the **Pequest State Fish Hatchery**. Bid samples will not be returned. The Pequest State Hatchery will conduct laboratory tests to assure that the bid samples submitted **for pricing lines 00001 through 00006** conform to this RFP. The State reserves the right to perform any tests necessary to assure that the bid samples conform to this RFP **for pricing lines 00001 through 00006**. The testing results of the State are final.

4.4.4 FINANCIAL CAPABILITY OF THE BIDDER

Upon request, In order to provide the State with the ability to judge the bidder's financial capacity and capabilities to undertake and successfully complete the contract, the bidder should submit two years of certified financial statements that include a balance sheet, income statement and statement of cash flow, and all applicable notes for the most recent calendar year or the bidder's most recent fiscal year. If certified financial statements are not available, the bidder should provide either a reviewed or compiled statement from an independent accountant setting forth the same information required for the certified financial statements, together with a certification from the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, that the financial statements and other information included in the statements fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the bidder as of, and for, the periods presented in the statements. In addition, the bidder should submit a bank reference.

If the information is not supplied with the bid proposal, the State may still require the bidder to submit it. If the bidder fails to comply with the request within seven (7) business days, the State may deem the proposal non-responsive.

The bidder may designate specific financial information as not subject to disclosure when the bidder has a good faith legal/factual basis for such assertion. The bidder may submit specific financial documents in a separate, sealed package clearly marked "Confidential-Financial Information" along with its Bid Proposal.

The State reserves the right to make the determination whether to accept the bidder's assertion of confidentiality and will advise the bidder accordingly.

4.4.5 PRICING

4.4.6 METHOD OF BIDDING

The bidder must submit its prices on the attached price sheet. Failure of a bidder to submit prices for all grouped line items will be cause for rejection of its bid proposal.

5.0 SPECIAL CONTRACTUAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

5.1 PRECEDENCE OF SPECIAL CONTRACTUAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The contract awarded as a result of this RFP shall consist of this RFP, addendum to this RFP, the contractor's bid proposal and the Division's Notice of Award.

Unless specifically stated within this RFP, the Special Contractual Terms and Conditions of the RFP take precedence over the NJ Standard Terms and Conditions version 07/27/07 accompanying this RFP.

In the event of a conflict between the provisions of this RFP, including the Special Contractual Terms and Conditions and the NJ Standard Terms and Conditions version 07/27/07, and any addendum to this RFP, the addendum shall govern.

In the event of a conflict between the provisions of this RFP, including any addendum to this RFP, and the bidder's bid proposal, the RFP and/or the addendum shall govern.

5.2 CONTRACT TERM AND EXTENSION OPTION

The term of the contract shall be for a period of **six (6) months**. The anticipated "Contract Effective Date" is provided on the signatory page accompanying this RFP. If delays in the procurement process result in a change to the anticipated Contract Effective Date, the bidder agrees to accept a contract for the full term of the contract. The contract may be extended for all or part of **one (1)** one-year periods, by the mutual written consent of the contractor and the Director. **Purchase orders may be placed against the contract up to and including the end of business on the last day of the contract, for delivery no more than 45 days after contract expiration.**

5.3 CONTRACT TRANSITION

In the event that a new contract has not been awarded prior to the contract expiration date, as may be extended herein, it shall be incumbent upon the contractor to continue the contract under the same terms and conditions until a new contract can be completely operational. At no time shall this transition period extend more than **ninety (90)** days beyond the expiration date of the contract.

5.4 CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Any changes or modifications to the terms of the contract shall be valid only when they have been reduced to writing and signed by the contractor and the Director.

5.5 CONTRACTOR'S WARRANTY

- a) The Contractor is responsible for the quality, technical accuracy, timely completion and delivery of all deliverables and other services to be furnished by the Contractor under the Contract. The Contractor agrees to perform in a good, skillful and timely manner all services set forth in the Contract.
- b) The Contractor shall, without additional compensation, correct or revise any errors, omissions, or other deficiencies in its services and deliverables furnished under the

Contract. The approval of interim deliverables furnished under the Contract shall not in any way relieve the Contractor of fulfilling all of its obligations under the Contract. The acceptance or payment for any of the services rendered under the Contract shall not be construed as a waiver by the State or Agency, of any rights under the agreement or of any cause of action arising out of the Contractor's performance of the Contract.

- c) The acceptance of, approval of or payment for any of the services performed by the Contractor under the Contract shall not constitute a release or waiver of any claim the State or Agency, has or may have for latent defects or errors or other breaches of warranty or negligence.

5.6 ITEMS ORDERED AND DELIVERED

The **Using Agency[ies] is[are]** authorized to order and **the contractor/contractors is/are** authorized to ship only those items covered by the contracts resulting from this RFP. If a review of orders placed by the Using Agency [Agencies] reveals [reveal] that material other than that covered by the contract has been ordered and delivered, such delivery shall be a violation of the terms of the contract and may be considered by the Director as a basis to terminate the contract and/or as a basis not to award the contractor a subsequent contract. The Director may take such steps as are necessary to have the items returned by the Agency, regardless of the time between the date of delivery and discovery of the violation. In such event, the contractor shall reimburse the State the full purchase price.

The contract involves items which are necessary for the continuation of ongoing critical State services. Any delay in delivery of these items would disrupt State services and would force the State to immediately seek alternative sources of supply on an emergency basis. Timely delivery is critical to meeting the State's ongoing needs.

5.7 REMEDIES FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH MATERIAL CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

In the event that the contractor fails to comply with any material contract requirements, the Director may take steps to terminate the contract in accordance with the State administrative code and/or authorize the delivery of contract items by any available means, with the difference between the price paid and the defaulting contractor's price either being deducted from any monies due the defaulting contractor or being an obligation owed the State by the defaulting contractor.

5.8 MANUFACTURING/PACKAGING REQUIREMENTS

5.8.1 All products must conform in every respect to the standards and regulations established by Federal and New Jersey State laws.

5.8.2 All products shall be manufactured and packaged under modern sanitary conditions in accordance with federal and state law and standard industry practice.

5.8.3 All products are to be packaged in sizes as specified in this RFP and shall be packaged in such a manner as to ensure delivery in first class condition and properly marked for identification. All shipments must be comprised of original cartons associated with the commercial industry represented by the actual product contained within each carton. Deliveries containing re-used, re-labeled, re-worked or alternate cartons are subject to rejection by the Using Agency at the contractor's expense.

5.9 CLAIMS

All claims asserted against the State by the contractor shall be subject to the New Jersey Tort Claims Act, N.J.S.A. 59:1-1.1, et seq., and/or the New Jersey Contractual Liability Act, N.J.S.A. 59:13-1, et seq.

5.10 CONTRACT PRICE INCREASE (PREVAILING WAGE)

If the Prevailing Wage Act (N.J.S.A. 34:11-56 et seq.) is applicable to the contract, the contractor may apply to the Director, on the anniversary of the effective date of the contract, for a contract price increase. The contract price increase will be available only for an increase in the prevailing wages of trades and occupations covered under this contract during the prior year. The contractor must substantiate with documentation the need for the increase and submit it to the Director for review and determination of the amount, if any, of the requested increase, which shall be available for the upcoming contract year. No retroactive increases will be approved by the Director.

5.11 PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACT-ADDITIONAL AFFIRMATIVE ACTION REQUIREMENT

N.J.S.A. 10:5-33 requires that:

During the performance of this contract, the contractor agrees as follows:

- a) The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex. Except with respect to affectional or sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, the contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that such applicants are recruited and employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex. Such action shall include, but not be limited to the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the contracting officer setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause;
- b) The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex;
- c) The contractor or subcontractor where applicable, will send to each labor union or representative of workers with which he has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice, to be provided by the agency contracting officer, advising the labor union or workers' representative of the contractor's commitments under this act and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.

5.12 CONTRACT ACTIVITY REPORT

As required by paragraph 3.19 of the NJ Standard Terms and Conditions version 07/27/07 accompanying this RFP, contractor(s) must provide, on a calendar quarter basis, to the assigned Purchase Bureau representative, a record of all purchases made under the contract resulting from this RFP. This reporting requirement includes sales to State using agencies, political subdivisions thereof and, if permitted under the terms of the contract, sales to counties, municipalities, school districts, volunteer fire departments, first aid squads and rescue squads, independent institutions of higher education, state and county colleges and quasi-state agencies. Quasi-state agencies include any agency, commission, board, authority or other such governmental entity which is established and is allocated to a State department or any bi-state governmental entity of which the State of New Jersey is a member.

This information must be provided in a tabular format such that an analysis can be made to determine the following:

- Contractor's total sales volume to each purchaser under the contract, subtotaled by product, including, if applicable, catalog number and description, price list with appropriate page reference and/or contract discount applied.
- Total dollars paid to subcontractors.

Submission of purchase orders, confirmations, and/or invoices do not fulfill this contract requirement for information.

Contractors must submit the required information in Microsoft Excel format.

Failure to report this mandated information will be a factor in future award decisions.

5.13 DISCLOSURE OF PRODUCT COMPOSITION

If requested by the State during the term of the contract, the contractor must furnish MSDS or manufacturer's equivalent information sheets on the products and/or chemicals used in performing the services specified in the contract to the Using Agency. These sheets must list complete chemical ingredients including the percentage composition of each ingredient in the mixture down to 0.1%, and the chemical abstract services numbers for those substances listing any potentially hazardous products, which may produce gas during or following application.

5.14 STATE'S OPTION TO REDUCE SCOPE OF WORK

The State has the option, in its sole discretion, to reduce the scope of work for any task or subtask called for under this contract. In such an event, the Director shall provide advance written notice to the contractor.

Upon receipt of such written notice, the contractor will submit, within five (5) working days to the Director and the State Contract Manager, an itemization of the work effort already completed by task or subtask. The contractor shall be compensated for such work effort according to the applicable portions of its price schedule.

5.15 SUSPENSION OF WORK

The State Contract Manager may, for valid reason, issue a stop order directing the contractor to suspend work under the contract for a specific time. The contractor shall be paid until the effective date of the stop order. The contractor shall resume work upon the date specified in the

stop order, or upon such other date as the State Contract Manager may thereafter direct in writing. The period of suspension shall be deemed added to the contractor's approved schedule of performance. The Director and the contractor shall negotiate an equitable adjustment, if any, to the contract price.

5.16 SUBSTITUTION OR ADDITION OF SUBCONTRACTOR(S)

This Subsection serves to supplement but not to supersede Section 3.11 of the NJ Standard Terms and Conditions version 07/27/07 accompanying this RFP.

If it becomes necessary for the contractor to substitute a subcontractor, add a subcontractor or substitute its own staff for a subcontractor, the contractor will identify the proposed new subcontractor or staff member(s) and the work to be performed. The contractor must provide detailed justification documenting the necessity for the substitution or addition.

The contractor must provide detailed resumes of its proposed replacement staff or of the proposed subcontractor's management, supervisory and other key personnel that demonstrate knowledge, ability and experience relevant to that part of the work which the subcontractor is to undertake.

The qualifications and experience of the replacement(s) must equal or exceed those of similar personnel proposed by the contractor in its bid proposal.

The contractor shall forward a written request to substitute or add a subcontractor or to substitute its own staff for a subcontractor to the State Contract Manager for consideration. If the State Contract Manager approves the request, the State Contract Manager will forward the request to the Director for final approval.

No substituted or additional subcontractors are authorized to begin work until the contractor has received written approval from the Director.

6.0 PROPOSAL EVALUATION

6.1 EVALUATION CRITERIA

The following criteria will be used to evaluate all bid proposals that meet the requirements of this RFP. The criteria are not necessarily listed in order of importance:

6.1.1 Price

6.1.2 Experience of the bidder

6.1.3 The bidder's past performance under similar contracts, including if applicable, the Division's vendor performance database.

6.2 ORAL PRESENTATION AND/OR CLARIFICATION OF BID PROPOSAL

After the submission of bid proposals, unless requested by the State as noted below, vendor contact with the State is still not permitted.

After reviewing bid proposals, the Buyer or the Evaluation Committee (generically, the "evaluation committee") may ask one, some or all of the bidders to clarify certain aspects of their proposals. A request for clarification may be made in order to resolve minor ambiguities, irregularities, informalities or clerical errors. Clarifications cannot correct any deficiencies or material omissions or revise or modify a proposal, except to the extent that correction of apparent clerical mistakes results in a modification.

The bidder may be required to give an oral presentation to the State concerning its bid proposal.

Bidders may not attend the oral presentations of their competitors.

It is within the State's discretion whether to require the bidder to give an oral presentation or require the bidder to submit written responses to questions regarding its bid proposal. Action by the State in this regard should not be construed to imply acceptance or rejection of a bid proposal. The Purchase Bureau buyer will be the sole point of contact regarding any request for an oral presentation or clarification.

6.2.1 EVALUATION OF THE BID PROPOSALS

After the Evaluation Committee completes its evaluation, it recommends to the Director for award the responsible bidder(s) whose bid proposal, conforming to this RFP, is most advantageous to the State, price and other factors considered. The Evaluation Committee considers and assesses price, technical criteria, and other factors during the evaluation process and makes a recommendation to the Director. The Director may accept, reject or modify the recommendation of the Evaluation Committee. Whether or not there has been a negotiation process as outlined in 6.4 below, the Director reserves the right to negotiate price reductions with the selected vendor.

6.3 BID DISCREPANCIES

In evaluating bids:

- Discrepancies between words and figures will be resolved in favor of words.
- Discrepancies between unit prices and totals of unit prices will be resolved in favor of unit prices.
- Discrepancies in the multiplication of units of work and unit prices will be resolved in favor of the unit prices.
- Discrepancies between the indicated total of multiplied unit prices and units of work and the actual total will be resolved in favor of the actual total.
- Discrepancies between the indicated sum of any column of figures and the correct sum thereof will be resolved in favor of the corrected sum of the column of figures.

6.4 NEGOTIATION AND BEST AND FINAL OFFER (BAFO)

After evaluating bid proposals, the evaluation committee may enter into negotiations with each bidder in the competitive range, unless there are too many highly rated proposals to evaluate efficiently. In this situation, the State may limit the competitive range to the number of proposals that will permit efficient competition among the most highly rated proposals. The primary purpose of negotiations is to maximize the State's ability to get the best value, based on the requirements and evaluation criteria set forth in the RFP. Negotiations may involve the identification of significant proposal weaknesses, ambiguities and other deficiencies that could limit a bidder's award potential, including price. More rounds of negotiations may be held with one bidder in the competitive range than with another. Negotiations will be structured to safeguard information and ensure that all bidders in the competitive range are treated fairly.

When the evaluation committee determines to conclude negotiations, all bidders in the competitive range will be so notified and advised of the time and place for submission of best and final offers. The best and final offer can modify any aspect of the bid proposal, provided mandatory RFP requirements are satisfied and further provided that the revised price proposal is not higher than the original price proposal. Any revised price proposal that is not equal to or lower in price than the original price proposal will be rejected as non-responsive.

Evaluation of the best and final offers will be on the basis of price and the evaluation criteria set forth in the RFP. If, after review of the best and final offers, clarification is required, it may be sought from the bidders. If further negotiation is desired after evaluation of the revised proposals, it will be followed by another BAFO opportunity. The State reserves the right to reassess the competitive range before proceeding with a subsequent round of negotiations and BAFO submissions and to remove from the competitive range any proposal that is no longer considered to be a leading contender for award.

After evaluation of the final BAFO submissions, the evaluation committee will recommend to the Director for award the responsible bidder(s) whose bid proposal(s), conforming to the RFP, is most advantageous to the State, price and other factors considered. The Director may accept, reject or modify the recommendation of the Evaluation Committee. The Director may negotiate further reductions in price with the selected bidder.

Negotiations will only be conducted in those circumstances where they are deemed by the State to be in the State's best interests and to maximize the State's ability to get the best value. Therefore, bidders are advised to submit their best technical and price proposals in response to this RFP, because the State may, after evaluation, make a contract award based on the content of these initial submissions, without further negotiation with any bidder.

All contacts, records of initial evaluations, any correspondence with bidders related to any request for clarification, negotiation or BAFO, any revised technical and/or price proposals, the Evaluation Committee Report and the Award Recommendation, will remain confidential until a Notice of Intent to Award a contract is issued.

7.0 CONTRACT AWARD

7.1 DOCUMENTS REQUIRED BEFORE CONTRACT AWARD

7.1.1 REQUIREMENTS OF N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.13-25 (FORMERLY EXECUTIVE ORDER 134)

In order to safeguard the integrity of State government procurement by imposing restrictions to insulate the negotiation and award of State contracts from political contributions that pose the risk of improper influence, purchase of access, or the appearance thereof, the Legislature enacted N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.13 – 25 on March 22, 2005 the "Legislation"), retroactive to October 15, 2004, superseding the terms of Executive Order 134. Pursuant to the requirements of the Legislation, the terms and conditions set forth in this section are material terms of any contract resulting from this RFP:

7.1.1.1 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this section, the following shall be defined as follows:

a) Contribution – means a contribution reportable as a recipient under "The New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act." P.L. 1973, c. 83 (C.19:44A-1 et seq.), and implementing regulations set forth at N.J.A.C. 19:25-7 and N.J.A.C. 19:25-10.1 et seq. Through December 31, 2004, contributions in excess of \$400 during a reporting period were deemed "reportable" under these laws. As of January 1, 2005, that threshold was reduced to contributions in excess of \$300.

b) Business Entity – means any natural or legal person, business corporation, professional services corporation, Limited Liability Company, partnership, limited partnership, business trust, association or any other legal commercial entity organized under the laws of New Jersey or any other state or foreign jurisdiction. The definition of a business entity includes (i) all principals who own or control more than 10 percent of the profits or assets of a business entity or 10

percent of the stock in the case of a business entity that is a corporation for profit, as appropriate; (ii) any subsidiaries directly or indirectly controlled by the business entity; (iii) any political organization organized under section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code that is directly or indirectly controlled by the business entity, other than a candidate committee, election fund, or political party committee; and (iv) if a business entity is a natural person, that person's spouse or child, residing in the same household.

7.1.1.2 BREACH OF TERMS OF THE LEGISLATION

It shall be a breach of the terms of the contract for the Business Entity to (i) make or solicit a contribution in violation of the Legislation, (ii) knowingly conceal or misrepresent a contribution given or received; (iii) make or solicit contributions through intermediaries for the purpose of concealing or misrepresenting the source of the contribution; (iv) make or solicit any contribution on the condition or with the agreement that it will be contributed to a campaign committee or any candidate of holder of the public office of Governor, or to any State or county party committee; (v) engage or employ a lobbyist or consultant with the intent or understanding that such lobbyist or consultant would make or solicit any contribution, which if made or solicited by the business entity itself, would subject that entity to the restrictions of the Legislation; (vi) fund contributions made by third parties, including consultants, attorneys, family members, and employees; (vii) engage in any exchange of contributions to circumvent the intent of the Legislation; or (viii) directly or indirectly through or by any other person or means, do any act which would subject that entity to the restrictions of the Legislation.

7.1.1.3 CERTIFICATION AND DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

a) The State shall not enter into a contract to procure from any Business Entity services or any material, supplies or equipment, or to acquire, sell or lease any land or building, where the value of the transaction exceeds \$17,500, if that Business Entity has solicited or made any contribution of money, or pledge of contribution, including in-kind contributions to a candidate committee and/or election fund of any candidate for or holder of the public office of Governor, or to any State or county political party committee during certain specified time periods

b) Prior to awarding any contract or agreement to any Business Entity, the Business Entity proposed as the intended awardee of the contract shall submit the Certification and Disclosure form, certifying that no contributions prohibited by the Legislation have been made by the Business Entity and reporting all contributions the Business Entity made during the preceding four years to any political organization organized under 26 U.S.C.527 of the Internal Revenue Code that also meets the definition of a "continuing political committee" within the mean of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-3(n) and N.J.A.C. 19:25-1.7. The required form and instructions, available for review on the Purchase Bureau website at

<http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/forms.htm#eo134>, shall be provided to the intended awardee for completion and submission to the Purchase Bureau with the Notice of Intent to Award. Upon receipt of a Notice of Intent to Award a Contract, the intended awardee shall submit to the Division, in care of the Purchase Bureau Buyer, the Certification and Disclosure(s) within five (5) business days of the State's request. Failure to submit the required forms will preclude award of a contract under this RFP, as well as future contract opportunities.

c) Further, the Contractor is required, on a continuing basis, to report any contributions it makes during the term of the contract, and any extension(s) thereof, at the time any such contribution is made. The required form and instructions, available for review on the Purchase Bureau website at <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/forms.htm#eo134>, shall be provided to the intended awardee with the Notice of Intent to Award.

7.1.1.4 STATE TREASURER REVIEW

The State Treasurer or his designee shall review the Disclosures submitted pursuant to this section, as well as any other pertinent information concerning the contributions or reports thereof by the intended awardee, prior to award, or during the term of the contract, by the contractor. If the State Treasurer determines that any contribution or action by the contractor constitutes a breach of contract that poses a conflict of interest in the awarding of the contract under this solicitation, the State Treasurer shall disqualify the Business Entity from award of such contract.

7.1.1.5 ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENT OF P.L. 2005, C. 271

Contractor is advised of its responsibility to file an annual disclosure statement on political contributions with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC), pursuant to P.L. 2005, c. 271, section 3 if the contractor receives contracts in excess of \$50,000 from a public entity in a calendar year. It is the contractor's responsibility to determine if filing is necessary. Failure to so file can result in the imposition of financial penalties by ELEC. Additional information about this requirement is available from ELEC at 888-313-3532 or at www.elec.state.nj.us.

7.1.2 SOURCE DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

No Applicable to this procurement.

7.1.2.1 REQUIREMENTS OF N.J.S.A. 52:34-13.2

Under the referenced statute, effective August 3, 2005, all contracts primarily for services awarded by the Director shall be performed within the United States, except when the Director certifies in writing a finding that a required service cannot be provided by a contractor or subcontractor within the United States and the certification is approved by the State Treasurer.

7.1.2.2 SOURCE DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

Pursuant to the statutory requirements, the intended awardee of a contract primarily for services with the State of New Jersey must disclose the location by country where services under the contract, including subcontracted services, will be performed. The Source Disclosure Certification form accompanies this RFP.

FAILURE TO SUBMIT SOURCING INFORMATION WHEN REQUESTED BY THE STATE SHALL PRECLUDE AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO THE BIDDER.

If any of the services cannot be performed within the United States, the bidder shall state with specificity the reasons why the services cannot be so performed. The Director shall determine whether sufficient justification has been provided by the bidder to form the basis of his certification that the services cannot be performed in the United States and whether to seek the approval of the Treasurer.

7.1.2.3 BREACH OF CONTRACT OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 129

A SHIFT TO PROVISION OF SERVICES OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES DURING THE TERM OF THE CONTRACT SHALL BE DEEMED A BREACH OF CONTRACT.

If, during the term of the contract, the contractor or subcontractor, who had on contract award declared that services would be performed in the United States, proceeds to shift the performance of any of the services outside the United States, the contractor shall be deemed to be in breach of its contract, which contract shall be subject to termination for cause pursuant to

Section 3.5b.1 of the Standard Terms and Conditions version 07/27/07 of the RFP, unless previously approved by the Director and the Treasurer.

7.2 FINAL CONTRACT AWARD

One contract award for grouped line items 00001 through 00006 shall be made with reasonable promptness by written notice to that responsible bidder, whose bid proposal, conforming to this RFP, is most advantageous to the State, price, and other factors considered. Any or all bid proposals may be rejected when the State Treasurer or the Director determines that it is in the public interest to do so.

7.3 INSURANCE CERTIFICATES

The contractor shall provide the State with current certificates of insurance for all coverages required by the terms of this contract, naming the State as an Additional Insured.

7.4 PERFORMANCE BOND

Not Applicable to this Procurement

8.0 CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

8.1 CONTRACT MANAGER

The State Contract Manager is the State employee responsible for the overall management and administration of the contract.

The State Contract Manager for this project will be identified at the time of execution of contract. At that time, the contractor will be provided with the State Contract Manager's name, department, division, agency, address, telephone number, fax phone number, and email address.

8.1.1 STATE CONTRACT MANAGER RESPONSIBILITIES

For an agency contract where only one State office uses the contract, the State Contract Manager will be responsible for engaging the contractor, assuring that Purchase Orders are issued to the contractor, directing the contractor to perform the work of the contract, approving the deliverables and approving payment vouchers. The State Contract Manager is the person that the contractor will contact **after the contract is executed** for answers to any questions and concerns about any aspect of the contract. The State Contract Manager is responsible for coordinating the use and resolving minor disputes between the contractor and any component part of the State Contract Manager's Department.

If the contract has multiple users, then the State Contract Manager shall be the central coordinator of the use of the contract for all Using Agencies, while other State employees engage and pay the contractor. All persons and agencies that use the contract must notify and coordinate the use of the contract with the State Contract Manager.

8.1.2 COORDINATION WITH THE STATE CONTRACT MANAGER

Any contract user that is unable to resolve disputes with a contractor shall refer those disputes to the State Contract Manager for resolution. Any questions related to performance of the work of the contract by contract users shall be directed to the State Contract Manager. The contractor may contact the State Contract Manager if the contractor can not resolve a dispute with contract users.