

**New Mexico Educational Retirement Board**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)**

**Internal Audit Services**



**RFP# 26-352-0428-02623**

RFP Release Date: April 28, 2026

Proposal Due Date: May 28, 2026

**ELECTRONIC-ONLY PROPOSAL SUBMISSION**

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# **I. INTRODUCTION**

## **A. PURPOSE OF THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

The purpose of the Request for Proposal (RFP) is to solicit sealed proposals to establish a contract through competitive negotiations for the procurement of Internal Audit Services.

## **B. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Educational Retirement Act (ERA) established a retirement system (the “Educational Retirement Fund” or the “Retirement Fund”) for employees of the public schools, colleges, universities, and selected state agencies in the State of New Mexico. The system was established in 1957 and operates under the authority of New Mexico Statutes, Sections 22-11-1 et seq. NMSA 1978, as amended. The Act is administered by the Educational Retirement Board and its staff (collectively “NMERB”). As of June 30, 2025, the plan has approximately 64,274 active members, 52,852 inactive members and 56,764 retirees. The monthly benefits paid out in fiscal year 2025 were \$1.437 billion. Assets of the Educational Retirement Fund under management are valued at approximately \$18.9 billion as of June 30, 2025.

## **C. SCOPE OF PROCUREMENT**

The New Mexico Educational Retirement Board (NMERB or Agency) is issuing this RFP to identify the highest qualified organization to provide internal audit services.

This Request for Proposal may be cancelled and any or all proposals rejected in whole or in part by NMERB. Amendments to this Request for Proposal shall only be made by NMERB in writing and in accordance with Procurement Code Regulations found at 1.4.1 NMAC. NMERB shall not be responsible for any costs incurred by an Offeror in the preparation or submission of a proposal or an amendment to a proposal.

The objectives of these internal audit services are to provide independent assurance to the NMERB Audit Committee, management and the citizens of New Mexico that NMERB’s assets are safeguarded with appropriate internal controls, that operating efficiency is enhanced, that reporting by managers, custodians, consultants and NMERB is accurate, well designed, appropriately informative and under adequate controls, and compliance is maintained with prescribed laws, and Board and management policies. These objectives include independent assessment of NMERB’s risk awareness and management, reliability and integrity of the organization’s data and achievement of NMERB’s goals and objectives.

This RFP will result in a single award.

This procurement will result in a contractual agreement between two parties; the procurement may ONLY be used by those two parties exclusively.

## D. PROCUREMENT MANAGER

NMERB has assigned a Procurement Manager who is responsible for the conduct of this procurement whose name, address, telephone number and e-mail address are listed below:

Name: Felicia Sena, Procurement Manager  
Telephone: (505) 531-6751  
Email: Felicia.Sena@erb.nm.gov

1. **Any inquiries or requests** regarding this procurement must be submitted, in writing, to the Procurement Manager. Offerors may contact **ONLY** the Procurement Manager regarding this procurement. Other state employees or Evaluation Committee members do not have the authority to respond on behalf of the NMERB.
2. **Protests of the solicitation or award must be submitted in writing to the Protest Manager identified in Section II.B.12.** As a Protest Manager has been named in this Request for Proposals, pursuant to §13-1-172 NMSA 1978 and 1.4.1.82 NMAC, **ONLY** protests delivered directly to the Protest Manager in writing and in a timely fashion will be considered to have been submitted properly and in accordance with statute, rule and this Request for Proposals. Protests submitted or delivered to the Procurement Manager will **NOT** be considered properly submitted.

## E. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

*Proposals in response to this RFP must be submitted via email to the Procurement Manager. If your submission is too large to send via email, please contact the procurement manager to inquire about other means to submit your proposal. If a submission is password protected, the password must be submitted via email to the Procurement Manager prior to the submission deadline indicated in Section II.A, Sequence of Events.*

## F. DEFINITION OF TERMINOLOGY

This section contains definitions of terms used throughout this procurement document, including appropriate abbreviations:

1. “**Agency**” means the New Mexico Educational Retirement Board.
2. “**Award**” means the final execution of the contract document.
3. “**Business Hours**” means weekdays (Monday – Friday) 8:00 AM thru 5:00 PM MST/MDT, whichever is in effect on the date given.
4. “**Close of Business**” means weekdays (Monday – Friday) 5:00 PM MST/MDT, whichever is in effect on the date given.

5. “**Confidential**” means confidential financial information concerning Offeror’s organization and data that qualifies as a trade secret in accordance with the Uniform Trade Secrets Act §§57-3-A-1 through 57-3A-7 NMSA 1978,. See also NMAC 1.4.1.45. The following items may **not** be labelled as confidential: Offeror’s submitted Cost response, Staff/Personnel Resumes/Bios (excluding personal information such as personal telephone numbers and/or home addresses), and other submitted data that is **not** confidential financial information or that qualifies under the Uniform Trade Secrets Act.
6. “**Contract**” means any agreement for the procurement of items of tangible personal property, services or construction.
7. “**Contractor**” means any business having a contract with a state agency or local public body.
8. “**Determination**” means the written documentation of a decision of a procurement officer including findings of fact required to support a decision. A determination becomes part of the procurement file to which it pertains.
9. “**Desirable**” – the terms ”may,” ”can,” ”should,” ”preferably,” or ”prefers” identify a desirable or discretionary item or factor.
10. “**Electronic Submission**” means a successful submittal of Offeror’s proposal to the procurement manager.
11. “**Electronic Version/Copy**” means a digital format consisting of text, images or both, readable on computers or other electronic devices, which includes all content that the Original document contains.
12. “**Evaluation Committee**” means a body appointed to perform the evaluation of Offerors’ proposals.
13. “**Evaluation Committee Report**” means a report prepared by the Procurement Manager and the Evaluation Committee to support the Committee’s recommendation for contract award. It will contain scores and written evaluations of all responsive Offeror proposals.
14. “**Final Award**” means, in the context of this Request for Proposals and all its attendant documents, that point at which the final required signature on the contract(s) resulting from the procurement has been affixed to the contract(s) thus making it fully executed.
15. “**Finalist**” means an Offeror who meets all the mandatory specifications of this Request for Proposals and whose score on evaluation factors is sufficiently high to merit further consideration by the Evaluation Committee, as explained in Section II.B.8.
16. “**Hourly Rate**” means the proposed fully loaded maximum hourly rates that include travel, per diem, fringe benefits and any overhead costs for contractor personnel, as well as subcontractor personnel if appropriate.

17. **“IT”** means Information Technology.
18. **“Mandatory”** – the terms ”must,” ”shall” ”will,” ”is required,” or ”are required,” identify a mandatory item or factor. Failure to meet a mandatory item or factor may result in the rejection of the Offeror’s proposal.
19. **“Minor Irregularities”** means anything in the proposal that does not affect the price, quality and/or quantity, or any other mandatory requirement.
20. **“Multiple Source Award”** means an award of a contract for one or more items of tangible personal property, services or construction to more than one Offeror.
21. **“Offeror”** is any person, corporation, or partnership who chooses to submit a proposal.
22. **“Price Agreement”** means a definite quantity contract or indefinite quantity contract which requires the contractor to furnish items of tangible personal property, services or construction to a state agency or a local public body which issues a purchase order, if the purchase order is within the quantity limitations of the contract, if any.
23. **“Procurement Manager”** means any person or designee authorized by a state agency or local public body with the responsibility, authority, and resources to conduct the RFP procurement, make written determinations regarding the RFP procurement, and/or enter into or administer contracts as a result of the RFP procurement.
24. **“Procuring Agency”** means all State of New Mexico agencies, commissions, institutions, political subdivisions and local public bodies allowed by law to procure items of tangible personal property, services or construction from the agreement(s) awarded as a result of this RFP.
25. **“Project”** means a temporary process undertaken to solve a well-defined goal or objective with clearly defined start and end times, a set of clearly defined tasks, and a budget. The project terminates once the project scope is achieved and project acceptance is given by the project executive sponsor.
26. **“Redacted”** means a version/copy of the Offeror’s proposal with the information considered proprietary or confidential (as defined by §§57-3A-1 to 57-3A-7 NMSA 1978 and NMAC 1.4.1.45 and summarized herein and outlined in Section II.C.8 of this RFP) blacked-out BUT NOT omitted or removed.
27. **“Request for Proposals (RFP)”** means all documents, including those attached or incorporated by reference, used for soliciting proposals.
28. **“Responsible Offeror”** means an Offeror who submits a responsive proposal and who has furnished, when required, information and data to prove that his financial resources, production or service facilities, personnel, service reputation and experience are adequate

to make satisfactory delivery of the services, or items of tangible personal property described in the proposal.

29. “**Responsive Offer**” or means an offer which conforms in all material respects to the requirements set forth in the request for proposals. Material respects of a request for proposals include, but are not limited to price, quality, quantity or delivery requirements.
30. “**Sealed**” means, in terms of electronic submission, an Offeror’s proposal and all accompanying documents has been completely and successfully emailed to the procurement manager prior to the submission deadline stated in the RFP.
31. “**Single Source Award**” means an award of contract for items of tangible personal property, services or construction to only one Offeror.
32. “**SPD**” means State Purchasing Division of the New Mexico State General Services Department.
33. “**Staff**” means any individual who is a full-time, part-time, or an independently contracted employee with the Offerors’ company.
34. “**State (the State)**” means the State of New Mexico.
35. “**State Agency**” means any department, commission, council, board, committee, institution, legislative body, agency, government corporation, educational institution or official of the executive, legislative or judicial branch of the government of this state. “State agency” includes the Purchasing Division of the General Services Department and the State Purchasing Agent but does not include local public bodies.
36. “**State Purchasing Agent**” means the Director of the Purchasing Division of the General Services Department.
37. “**Statement of Concurrence**” means an affirmative statement from the Offeror indicating its response to a required Section IV specification agreeing to comply and concur with the stated requirement(s). This statement shall be included in Offerors proposal, pursuant to Section III.C.1. (E.g. “We concur,” “Understands and Complies,” “Comply,” “Will Comply if Applicable,” etc.)
38. “**Unredacted**” means a version/copy of the proposal containing all complete information; including any that the Offeror would otherwise consider confidential, such copy for use only for the purposes of evaluation.
39. “**Written**” means typed in standard 8 ½ x 11 inch document format, by common electronic means (such as Microsoft Word, Adobe PDF, etc.). A larger size document is permissible for charts, spreadsheets, etc.

## **G. PROCUREMENT LIBRARY**

A procurement library has been established at <https://www.erb.nm.gov/requests-for-proposals/>. Offerors are encouraged to review the material contained in the Procurement Library by selecting the link provided in this document through your own internet connection. The library contains information listed below:

[Procurement Regulations 1.4.1 NMAC](#)

[Educational Retirement Act, NMSA 1978, §§ 22-11-1 to -55.](#)

## II. CONDITIONS GOVERNING THE PROCUREMENT

This section of the RFP contains the schedule of events, the descriptions of each event, and the conditions governing this procurement.

### A. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

The Procurement Manager will make every effort to adhere to the following schedule:

Action	Responsible Party	Due Dates
1. Issue RFP	Agency	April 28, 2026
2. Acknowledgement of Receipt Form	Potential Offerors	May 12, 2026
3. Deadline to submit Written Questions	Potential Offerors	May 14, 2026
4. Response to Written Questions	Procurement Manager	May 18, 2026
<b>5. <i>Submission of Proposal</i></b>	<b><i>Potential Offerors</i></b>	<b><i>May 28, 2026</i></b>
6.* Proposal Evaluation	Evaluation Committee	June 1-5, 2026
7.* Selection of Finalists	Evaluation Committee	June 8, 2026
8* Oral Presentation(s)	Finalist Offerors	June 15, 2026
9.* Best and Final Offers	Finalist Offerors	June 18, 2026
10.* Finalize Contractual Agreements	Agency/Finalist Offerors	June 22-23, 2026
11.* Contract Awards	Agency/ Finalist Offerors	June 24, 2026
12.* Protest Deadline	Offerors	July 9, 2026

\* Dates indicated in Events 6 through 12 are estimates only and may be subject to change without necessitating an amendment to the RFP.

### B. EXPLANATION OF EVENTS

The following paragraphs describe the activities listed in the Sequence of Events shown in Section II.A., above.

#### 1. Issue RFP

This RFP is being issued on behalf of the New Mexico Educational Retirement Board on the date indicated in Section II.A, Sequence of Events.

#### 2. Acknowledgement of Receipt Form

Potential Offerors may e-mail the Acknowledgement of Receipt Form (APPENDIX A), to the Procurement Manager, Felicia Sena at Felicia.Sena@erb.nm.gov, to have their organization placed on the procurement Distribution List. The form must be returned to

the Procurement Manager by 3:00 PM MST/ MDT on the date indicated in Section II.A, Sequence of Events

The procurement distribution list will be used for the distribution of written responses to questions, and/or any amendments to the RFP. Failure to return the Acknowledgement of Receipt Form does not prohibit potential Offerors from submitting a response to this RFP. However, by not returning the Acknowledgement of Receipt Form, the potential Offeror's representative shall not be included on the distribution list and will be solely responsible for obtaining from the Procurement Library (Section I.G.) responses to written questions and any amendments to the RFP.

### **3. Deadline to Submit Written Questions**

Potential Offerors may submit written questions to the Procurement Manager as to the intent or clarity of this RFP until 5:00 pm MST/MDT as indicated in Section II.A, Sequence of Events. All written questions must be addressed to the Procurement Manager as declared in Section I.D. Questions shall be clearly labeled and shall cite the Section(s) in the RFP or other document which form the basis of the question.

### **4. Response to Written Questions**

Written responses to the written questions will be provided via e-mail, on or before the date indicated in Section II.A, Sequence of Events, to all potential Offerors who timely submitted an Acknowledgement of Receipt Form (Section II.B.2 and APPENDIX A).

The Questions and Answers will be posted to: <https://www.erb.nm.gov/requests-for-proposals/>

### **5. Submission of Proposal**

Only **electronic** proposal submission is allowed. **Do not** submit hard copies.

**ALL PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE PROCUREMENT MANAGER OR DESIGNEE NO LATER THAN 3:00 PM MST/MDT ON THE DATE INDICATED IN SECTION II.A, SEQUENCE OF EVENTS. NO LATE PROPOSAL CAN BE ACCEPTED.** The date and time of receipt will be recorded on each proposal. Such electronic submissions will be considered sealed in accordance with statute.

**Proposals must be submitted electronically via email to the Procurement Manager. Multiple emails may be sent if a file is too large to send in one email. The Procurement Manager will acknowledge receipt of the RFP through email. If you do not receive an email acknowledgement of receipt or if your file is too large to send via email, contact the Procurement Manager for further guidance. If a submission is password protected, the password must be submitted via email to the Procurement Manager prior to the submission deadline indicated in Section II.A, Sequence of Events.** Proposals submitted by facsimile, or other electronic means will not be accepted.

Proposals will be opened and reviewed to verify the submission met the minimum requirements by the Procurement Manager and a witness within 24 hours of the deadline.

A log will be kept of the names of all Offeror organizations that submitted proposals. Pursuant to §13-1-116 NMSA 1978, the contents of proposals shall not be disclosed to competing potential Offerors during the negotiation process. The negotiation process is deemed to be in effect until the contract is awarded pursuant to this Request for Proposals. Awarded in this context means the final required state agency signature on the contract(s) resulting from the procurement has been obtained.

## **6. Proposal Evaluation**

An Evaluation Committee will perform the evaluation of proposals. This process will take place as indicated in Section II.A, Sequence of Events, depending upon the number of proposals received. During this time, the Procurement Manager may initiate discussions with Offerors who submit responsive or potentially responsive proposals for the purpose of clarifying aspects of the proposals. However, proposals may be accepted and evaluated without such discussion. Discussions SHALL NOT be initiated by the Offerors.

## **7. Selection of Finalists**

The Evaluation Committee will select and the Procurement Manager will notify the finalist Offerors as per schedule Section II.A, Sequence of Events or as soon as possible thereafter. A schedule for Oral Presentation, if any, will be determined at this time. Finalists will be comprised of up to three (3) Offerors receiving the highest cumulative scores in the following Sections: Section IV.B.1 Organizational Experience, Section IV.B.2 Organizational References, and Section IV.B.4 Desirable Specifications.

## **8. Oral Presentations**

Finalist Offerors, as selected per Section II.B.7 above, may be required to conduct an oral presentation at a venue to be determined as per schedule Section II.A., Sequence of Events, or as soon as possible thereafter. If Oral Presentations are held, Finalist Offerors may be required to make their presentations through electronic means (Microsoft Teams, Zoom, etc.). The Agency will provide Finalist Offerors with an agenda and applicable details (such as, scheduled presentation date and time, time limits, etc.); including an invitation to the event. Whether or not Oral Presentations will be held is at the sole discretion of the Evaluation Committee.

## **9. Best and Final Offers**

Finalist Offerors may be asked to submit revisions to their proposals for the purpose of obtaining best and final offers by as per schedule Section II. A., Sequence of Events or as soon as possible. The most advantageous proposal may or may not have received the most points. Best and final offers may also be clarified and amended at finalist Offeror's oral presentation.

## **10. Finalize Contractual Agreements**

After approval of the Evaluation Committee Report, any contractual agreement(s) resulting from this RFP will be finalized with the most advantageous Offeror(s), taking into

consideration the evaluation factors set forth in this RFP, as per Section II.A., Sequence of Events, or as soon as possible thereafter. The most advantageous proposal may or may not have received the most points. In the event mutually agreeable terms cannot be reached with the apparent most advantageous Offeror in the timeframe specified, the State reserves the right to finalize a contractual agreement with the next most advantageous Offeror(s) without undertaking a new procurement process.

## **11. Contract Awards**

The award is subject to appropriate Department and State approval. Upon receipt of the signed contractual agreement, the Agency Procurement office will award as per Section II.A., Sequence of Events, or as soon as possible thereafter.

## **12. Protest Deadline**

Any protest by an Offeror must be timely submitted and in conformance with §13-1-172 NMSA 1978 and applicable procurement regulations. As a Protest Manager has been named in this Request for Proposals, pursuant to §13-1-172 NMSA 1978 and 1.4.1.82 NMAC, ONLY protests delivered directly to the Protest Manager in writing and in a timely fashion will be considered to have been submitted properly and in accordance with statute, rule and this Request for Proposals. The 15 calendar day protest period shall begin on the day following the notice of award of contract(s) and will end at 5:00 pm MST/MDT on the 15<sup>th</sup> day. Protests must be written and must include the name and address of the protestor and the request for proposal number. It must also contain a statement of the grounds for protest including appropriate supporting exhibits and it must specify the ruling requested from the party listed below. The protest must be directed to:

Jacob Maule  
[Jacob.Maule@erb.nm.gov](mailto:Jacob.Maule@erb.nm.gov)

**PROTESTS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

## **C. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **1. Acceptance of Conditions Governing the Procurement**

Offerors must indicate their acceptance to be bound by the Conditions Governing the Procurement, Section II.C, and Evaluation, Section V, by completing and signing the Letter of Transmittal form, pursuant to the requirements in Section II.C.30, located in APPENDIX E.

### **2. Incurring Cost**

Any cost incurred by the potential Offeror in preparation, transmittal, and/or presentation of any proposal or material submitted in response to this RFP shall be borne solely by the Offeror. Any cost incurred by the Offeror for set up and demonstration of the proposed equipment and/or system shall be borne solely by the Offeror.

### **3. Prime Contractor Responsibility**

Any contractual agreement that may result from this RFP shall specify that the prime contractor is solely responsible for fulfillment of all requirements of the contractual agreement with a State Agency which may derive from this RFP. The State Agency entering into a contractual agreement with a vendor will make payments to only the prime contractor.

### **4. Subcontractors/Consent**

The use of subcontractors is not allowed. The prime contractor shall be wholly responsible for the entire performance of the contractual agreement whether or not subcontractors are used. Additionally, the prime contractor must receive approval, in writing, from the agency awarding any resultant contract, before any subcontractor is used during the term of this agreement.

### **5. Amended Proposals**

An Offeror may submit an amended proposal before the proposal due date. Such amended proposals must be complete replacements for a previously submitted proposal and must be clearly identified as such in the transmittal letter. **Agency personnel will not merge, collate, or assemble proposal materials.**

### **6. Offeror's Rights to Withdraw Proposal**

Offerors will be allowed to withdraw their proposals at any time prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals. The Offeror must submit a written withdrawal request addressed to the Procurement Manager and signed by the Offeror's duly authorized representative.

The approval or denial of withdrawal requests received after the deadline for receipt of the proposals is governed by the applicable procurement regulations, 1.4.1.5 & 1.4.1.36 NMAC.

### **7. Proposal Offer Firm**

Responses to this RFP, including proposal prices for services, will be considered firm for one-hundred twenty (120) days after the due date for receipt of proposals or ninety (90) days after the due date for the receipt of a best and final offer, if the Offeror is invited or required to submit one.

### **8. Disclosure of Proposal Contents**

The contents of all submitted proposals will be kept confidential until the final award has been completed by the Agency. At that time, all proposals and documents pertaining to the proposals will be available for public inspection, *except* for proprietary or confidential material as follows:

a. ***Proprietary and Confidential information is restricted to:***

1. confidential financial information concerning the Offeror's organization; and
2. information that qualifies as a trade secret in accordance with the Uniform Trade Secrets Act, §§57-3A-1 through 57-3A-7 NMSA 1978.

- b. An additional but separate redacted version of Offeror's proposal, as outlined and identified in Section III.B.1.a, shall be submitted containing the blacked-out proprietary or confidential information, in order to facilitate eventual public inspection of the non-confidential version of Offeror's proposal.

**IMPORTANT**: The price of products offered or the cost of services proposed **SHALL NOT** be designated as proprietary or confidential information.

If a request is received for disclosure of proprietary or confidential materials, the Agency shall examine the request and make a written determination that specifies which portions of the proposal should be disclosed. Unless the Offeror takes legal action to prevent the disclosure, the proposal will be so disclosed. The proposal shall be open to public inspection subject to any continuing prohibition on the disclosure of proprietary or confidential information.

## **9. No Obligation**

This RFP in no manner obligates the State of New Mexico or any of its Agencies to the use of any Offeror's services until a valid written contract is awarded and approved by appropriate authorities.

## **10. Termination**

This RFP may be canceled at any time and any and all proposals may be rejected in whole or in part when the Agency determines such action to be in the best interest of the State of New Mexico.

## **11. Sufficient Appropriation**

Any contract awarded as a result of this RFP process may be terminated if sufficient appropriations or authorizations do not exist. Such terminations will be affected by sending written notice to the contractor. The Agency's decision as to whether sufficient appropriations and authorizations are available will be accepted by the contractor as final.

## **12. Legal Review**

The Agency requires that all Offerors agree to be bound by the General Requirements contained in this RFP. Any Offeror's concerns must be promptly submitted in writing to the attention of the Procurement Manager.

## **13. Governing Law**

This RFP and any agreement with an Offeror which may result from this procurement shall be governed by the laws of the State of New Mexico.

## **14. Basis for Proposal**

Only information supplied in writing by the Procurement Manager or contained in this RFP shall be used as the basis for the preparation of Offeror proposals.

## 15. Contract Terms and Conditions

The contract between an agency and a contractor will follow the format specified by the Agency and contain the terms and conditions set forth in the Draft Contract (APPENDIX C). However, the contracting agency reserves the right to negotiate provisions in addition to those contained in this RFP Draft Contract (APPENDIX C) with any Offeror. The contents of this RFP, as revised and/or supplemented, and the successful Offeror's proposal will be incorporated into and become part of any resultant contract.

The Agency discourages exceptions from the contract terms and conditions as set forth in the RFP Draft Contract (APPENDIX C). Such exceptions may cause a proposal to be rejected as nonresponsive when, in the sole judgment of the Agency (and the Evaluation Committee), the proposal appears to be conditioned on the exception, or correction of what is deemed to be a deficiency, or an unacceptable exception is proposed which would require a substantial proposal rewrite to correct.

Should an Offeror object to any of the terms and conditions as set forth in the RFP Draft Contract (APPENDIX C) strongly enough to propose alternate terms and conditions in spite of the above, the Offeror must propose **specific** alternative language. The Agency may or may not accept the alternative language. General references to the Offeror's terms and conditions or attempts at complete substitutions of the Draft Contract are not acceptable to the Agency and will result in disqualification of the Offeror's proposal.

Offerors must provide a brief discussion of the purpose and impact, if any, of each proposed change followed by the specific proposed alternate wording.

If an Offeror fails to propose any alternate terms and conditions during the procurement process (the RFP process prior to selection as successful Offeror), no proposed alternate terms and conditions will be considered later during the negotiation process. **Failure to propose alternate terms and conditions during the procurement process (the RFP process prior to selection as successful Offeror) is an explicit agreement by the Offeror that the contractual terms and conditions contained herein are accepted by the Offeror.**

## 16. Offeror's Terms and Conditions

Offerors must submit with the proposal a complete set of any additional terms and conditions they expect to have included in a contract negotiated with the Agency. See Section II.C.15 for requirements.

## 17. Contract Deviations

Any additional terms and conditions, which may be the subject of negotiation (such terms and conditions having been proposed during the procurement process, that is, the RFP process prior to selection as successful Offeror), will be discussed only between the Agency and the Offeror selected and shall not be deemed an opportunity to amend the Offeror's proposal.

## **18. Offeror Qualifications**

The Evaluation Committee may make such investigations as necessary to determine the ability of the potential Offeror to adhere to the requirements specified within this RFP. The Evaluation Committee will reject the proposal of any potential Offeror who is not a Responsible Offeror or fails to submit a Responsive Offer as defined in §13-1-83 and §13-1-85 NMSA 1978.

## **19. Right to Waive Minor Irregularities**

The Evaluation Committee reserves the right to waive minor irregularities, as defined in Section I.F.19. The Evaluation Committee also reserves the right to waive mandatory requirements, provided that **all** of the otherwise responsive proposals failed to meet the same mandatory requirements and the failure to do so does not otherwise materially affect the procurement. This right is at the sole discretion of the Evaluation Committee.

## **20. Change in Contractor Representatives**

The Agency reserves the right to require a change in contractor representatives if the assigned representative(s) is (are) not, in the opinion of the Agency, adequately meeting the needs of the Agency.

## **21. Notice of Penalties**

The Procurement Code, §§13-1-28 through 13-1-199 NMSA 1978, imposes civil, and misdemeanor and felony criminal penalties for its violation. In addition, the New Mexico criminal statutes impose felony penalties for bribes, gratuities and kickbacks.

## **22. Agency Rights**

The Agency in agreement with the Evaluation Committee reserves the right to accept all or a portion of a potential Offeror's proposal.

## **23. Right to Publish**

Throughout the duration of this procurement process and contract term, Offerors and contractors must secure from the agency written approval prior to the release of any information that pertains to the potential work or activities covered by this procurement and/or agency contracts deriving from this procurement. Failure to adhere to this requirement may result in disqualification of the Offeror's proposal or removal from the contract.

## **24. Ownership of Proposals**

All documents submitted in response to the RFP shall become property of the State of New Mexico. If the RFP is cancelled, all responses received shall be destroyed by the Agency or SPD.

## **25. Confidentiality**

Any confidential information provided to, or developed by, the contractor in the performance of the contract resulting from this RFP shall be kept confidential and shall not

be made available to any individual or organization by the contractor without the prior written approval of the Agency.

The Contractor(s) agrees to protect the confidentiality of all confidential information and not to publish or disclose such information to any third party without the procuring Agency's written permission.

## **26. Electronic mail address required**

A large part of the communication regarding this procurement will be conducted by electronic mail (e-mail). Offeror must have a valid e-mail address to receive this correspondence. (See also Section II.B.4, Response to Written Questions).

## **27. Use of Electronic Versions of this RFP**

This RFP is being made available by electronic means. In the event of conflict between a version of the RFP in the Offeror's possession and the version maintained by the agency, the Offeror acknowledges that the version maintained by the agency shall govern. Please refer to: <https://www.erb.nm.gov/requests-for-proposals/>

## **28. New Mexico Employees Health Coverage**

- A. If the Offeror has, or grows to, six (6) or more employees who work, or who are expected to work, an average of at least 20 hours per week over a six (6) month period during the term of the contract, Offeror must agree to have in place, and agree to maintain for the term of the contract, health insurance for those employees if the expected annual value in the aggregate of any and all contracts between Contractor and the State exceed \$250,000 dollars.
- B. Offeror must agree to maintain a record of the number of employees who have (a) accepted health insurance; (b) decline health insurance due to other health insurance coverage already in place; or (c) decline health insurance for other reasons. These records are subject to review and audit by a representative of the state.
- C. Offeror must agree to advise all employees of the availability of State publicly financed health care coverage programs by providing each employee with, as a minimum, the following web site link to additional information: <https://bewellnm.com>.
- D. For Indefinite Quantity, Indefinite Delivery contracts (price agreements without specific limitations on quantity and providing for an indeterminate number of orders to be placed against it); these requirements shall apply the first day of the second month after the Offeror reports combined sales (from state and, if applicable, from local public bodies if from a state price agreement) of \$250,000.

## **29. Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form**

Offeror must complete, sign, and return the Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form (APPENDIX B) as a part of their proposal. This requirement applies regardless whether a covered contribution was made or not made for the positions of Governor and Lieutenant

Governor or other identified official. **Failure to complete and return the signed, unaltered form will result in Offeror's disqualification.**

### **30. Letter of Transmittal**

Offeror's proposal must be accompanied by the Letter of Transmittal Form located in APPENDIX E, which must be **signed** by the individual authorized to contractually obligate the company, identified in #2 below.

Provide the following information:

1. Identify the submitting business entity; Name, Mailing Address, Phone Number, Federal Tax ID Number (TIN), and New Mexico Business Tax ID Number(BTIN, formerly CRS);
2. Identify the Name, Title, Telephone, and E-mail address of the person authorized by the Offeror's organization to (A) contractually obligate the business entity providing the Offer, (B) negotiate a contract on behalf of the organization; and/or (C) provide clarifications or answer questions regarding the Offeror's proposal content (*A response to B and/or C is only necessary if the responses differs from the individual identified in A*);
3. Identify any subcontractor/s that may be utilized in the performance of any resultant contract award;
4. Identify any other entity/-ies (such as State Agency, reseller, etc., that is not a subcontractor identified in #3) that may be used in the performance of this awarded contract; and
5. The individual identified in #2 above, must sign and date the form, attesting to the veracity of the information provided, and acknowledging (a) the organization's acceptance of the Conditions Governing the Procurement stated in Section II.C.1, (b) the organizations acceptance of the Section V Evaluation Factors, and (c) receipt of any and all amendments to the RFP.

**Failure to submit the signed Letter of Transmittal Form located in Appendix E will result in Offeror's disqualification.**

### **31. Disclosure Regarding Responsibility**

- A. Any prospective Contractor and any of its Principals who enter into a contract greater than sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000.00) with any state agency or local public body for professional services, tangible personal property, services or construction agrees to disclose whether the Contractor, or any principal of the Contractor's company:
1. is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, or declared ineligible for award of contract by any federal entity, state agency or local public body;
  2. has within a three-year period preceding this offer, been convicted in a criminal matter or had a civil judgment rendered against them for:
    - a. the commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state or local) contract or subcontract;
    - b. violation of Federal or state antitrust statutes related to the submission of offers;or

- c. the commission in any federal or state jurisdiction of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, violation of Federal criminal tax law, or receiving stolen property;
  3. is presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by any (federal state or local) government entity with the commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph A of this disclosure;
  4. has, preceding this offer, been notified of any delinquent Federal or state taxes in an amount that exceeds \$3,000.00 of which the liability remains unsatisfied. Taxes are considered delinquent if the following criteria apply.
    - a. The tax liability is finally determined. The liability is finally determined if it has been assessed. A liability is not finally determined if there is a pending administrative or judicial challenge. In the case of a judicial challenge of the liability, the liability is not finally determined until all judicial appeal rights have been exhausted.
    - b. The taxpayer is delinquent in making payment. A taxpayer is delinquent if the taxpayer has failed to pay the tax liability when full payment was due and required. A taxpayer is not delinquent in cases where enforced collection action is precluded.
    - c. Have within a three-year period preceding this offer, had one or more contracts terminated for default by any federal or state agency or local public body.)
- B. Principal, for the purpose of this disclosure, means an officer, director, owner, partner, or a person having primary management or supervisory responsibilities within a business entity or related entities.
- C. The Contractor shall provide immediate written notice to the State Purchasing Agent or other party to this Agreement if, at any time during the term of this Agreement, the Contractor learns that the Contractor's disclosure was at any time erroneous or became erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.
- D. A disclosure that any of the items in this requirement exist will not necessarily result in termination of this Agreement. However, the disclosure will be considered in the determination of the Contractor's responsibility and ability to perform under this Agreement. Failure of the Contractor to furnish a disclosure or provide additional information as requested will render the Offeror nonresponsive.
- E. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render, in good faith, the disclosure required by this document. The knowledge and information of a Contractor is not required to exceed that which is the normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.
- F. The disclosure requirement provided is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when making an award and is a continuing material representation of the facts during the term of this Agreement. If during the performance of the contract, the Contractor is indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by any

government entity (federal, state or local) with commission of any offenses named in this document the Contractor must provide immediate written notice to the State Purchasing Agent or other party to this Agreement. If it is later determined that the Contractor knowingly rendered an erroneous disclosure, in addition to other remedies available to the Government, the State Purchasing Agent or Central Purchasing Officer may terminate the involved contract for cause. Still further the State Purchasing Agent or Central Purchasing Officer may suspend or debar the Contractor from eligibility for future solicitations until such time as the matter is resolved to the satisfaction of the State Purchasing Agent or Central Purchasing Officer.

### **32. New Mexico/Native American Resident Preferences**

To ensure adequate consideration and application of §13-1-21 NMSA 1978 (as amended), **Offeror must submit a copy of its valid New Mexico/Native American Resident Preference Certificate or its valid New Mexico/Native American Resident Veteran Preference with its proposal.** Certificates for preferences must be obtained through the New Mexico Department of Taxation & Revenue <http://www.tax.newmexico.gov/Businesses/in-state-veteran-preference-certification.aspx>.

**In accordance with §13-1-21(H) NMSA 1978, an agency shall not award any combination of New Mexico/Native American Resident Preferences.**

**In accordance with §13-1-21(J) NMSA 1978, the New Mexico/Native American Resident Preferences shall not apply if the expenditures for this RFP includes federal funds.**

### III. RESPONSE FORMAT AND ORGANIZATION

#### A. NUMBER OF RESPONSES

Offerors shall submit only one proposal in response to this RFP.

#### B. ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

##### ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION ONLY Responses

Any proposal that does not adhere to the requirements of this **Section II.B** and **Section III.C Proposal Content and Organization** may be deemed non-responsive and rejected on that basis.

**Proposals in response to this RFP must be submitted via email to the Procurement Manager:**

The Offeror need only submit one single electronic copy of each portion of its proposal (Technical and Cost) as outlined below.

*If a submission is password protected, the password must be submitted via email to the Procurement Manager prior to the submission deadline indicated in Section II.A, Sequence of Events.*

Proposals must be submitted in the manner outlined below. Technical and Cost portions of Offerors proposal **must** be submitted in separate documents as indicated below in this section and **must** be prominently identified as “Technical Proposal” or “Cost Proposal”.

1. **Technical Proposals** – One (1) ELECTRONIC document must be organized in accordance with **Section III.C. Proposal Content and Organization**. All information for the Technical Proposal **must be combined into a single file/document**. The Technical Proposals **SHALL NOT** contain any cost information.
  - a. **Confidential Information:** If Offeror’s proposal contains confidential information, as defined in Section I.F.5 and detailed in Section II.C.8, Offeror **must** submit **two (2) separate ELECTRONIC technical documents:**
    - i. One (1) ELECTRONIC version of the requisite proposals identified in Section III.B.1.a above as **unredacted** (def. Section I.F.38) versions for evaluation purposes; and
    - ii. One (1) **redacted** (def. Section I.F.26) ELECTRONIC for the public file, in order to facilitate eventual public inspection of the non-confidential version of Offeror’s proposal. Redacted versions **must** be clearly marked as

“REDACTED” or “CONFIDENTIAL” on the first page of the electronic file;

2. **Cost Proposals** – One (1) ELECTRONIC document of the proposal containing **ONLY** the Cost Proposal. All information for the cost proposal **must be combined into a single file/document.**

The ELECTRONIC proposal submission **must be emailed** by the submission deadline in Section II.B.5.

*It is the Offeror’s responsibility to ensure all documents are submitted electronically via email to the Procurement Manager by the deadline set forth in this RFP. A submission that is not both: (1) fully complete; and (2) received, via email to the Procurement Manager by the deadline, will be deemed late. If a submission is password protected, the password must be submitted via email to the Procurement Manager prior to the submission deadline indicated in Section II.A, Sequence of Events or it will be deemed late. In accordance with statute and rule, **NO LATE OFFER CAN BE ACCEPTED.***

Any proposal that does not adhere to the requirements of this Section and **Section III.C. Proposal Content and Organization** may be deemed non-responsive and rejected on that basis.

## **C. PROPOSAL CONTENT AND ORGANIZATION**

All proposals must be submitted as follows:

Direct reference to pre-prepared or promotional material may be used if referenced and clearly marked. Promotional material must be minimal. Within each section of the proposal, Offerors must organize and address the RFP requirements in the order indicated below. All forms provided in this RFP must be thoroughly completed and included in the appropriate section of Offeror’s proposal. **Any and all discussion of proposed costs, rates or expenses must occur ONLY in the Cost Proposal.**

### **Technical Proposal – DO NOT INCLUDE ANY COST INFORMATION IN THE TECHNICAL PROPOSAL.**

1. Signed Letter of Transmittal
2. Signed Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form
3. Table of Contents
4. Proposal Summary (Optional)
5. Response to Contract Terms and Conditions (from Section II.C.15)
6. Offeror’s Additional Terms and Conditions (from Section II.C.16 )
7. Response to Specifications (**except Cost information which shall be included ONLY in Cost Proposal**)
  - a. Organizational Experience
  - b. Organizational References (Optional: Offeror may include a list of its references)
  - c. Mandatory Specification
  - d. Desirable Specification

- e. Financial Stability –(Financial information considered confidential, as defined in Section I.F. and detailed in Section II.C.8, should be placed in the **Confidential Information** file, per Section III.B.1.a, as applicable)
  - f. New Mexico/Native American Resident Preferences (if applicable)
8. Other Supporting Material (if applicable)

**Cost Proposal:**

1. Completed Cost Response Form (APPENDIX D)

Within each section of the proposal, Offerors should address the items in the order indicated above. All forms provided in this RFP must be thoroughly completed and included in the appropriate section of the proposal. **Any and all discussion of proposed costs, rates or expenses must occur ONLY in the Cost Proposal.**

A Proposal Summary may be included in Offeror's Technical Proposal, to provide the Evaluation Committee with an overview of the proposal; however, this material will not be used in the evaluation process unless specifically referenced from other portions of the Offeror's proposal. **DO NOT INCLUDE COST INFORMATION IN THE PROPOSAL SUMMARY.**

## IV. SPECIFICATIONS

### A. DETAILED SCOPE OF WORK

Offeror shall provide to NMERB independent, objective internal audit services designed to add value and improve the Agency's operations. These services will assist the Agency in accomplishing its objectives by contributing to the evaluation and improvement of the effectiveness of risk management, internal control, and governance processes.

The awarded Offeror shall perform the following work:

1. Initiate, develop, and finalize an internal audit plan and timetable after the initial surveys and reviews of the Agency. The internal audit plan shall be designed to:
  - a. Provide a wide range of quality, independent internal auditing services for the Agency and the Board of Trustees Audit Committee.
  - b. Perform independent assessments on the systems of risk management, internal controls, and operating efficiency guided by professional standards.
  - c. Support the Agency's efforts to achieve its objectives through independent internal auditing services.

### B. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

#### 1. Organizational Experience

Offeror **must**:

- a) provide a detailed description of relevant corporate experience with state government and private sector internal audit services. The narrative **must** thoroughly describe how the Offeror has supplied expertise for similar contracts and must include the extent of their experience, expertise and knowledge as a provider of state government internal auditing services. All such services and experience provided to private sector will also be considered;
- b) provide a brief resume/bio of all key personnel Offeror proposes to use in performance of the resulting contract, should Offeror be awarded. Key personnel are identified as the professional staff (principal supervisory and management staff, engagement partners, managers, and other supervisors and specialists) who will be involved with the services of this account. Offeror must include key personnel education, work experience, and relevant/applicable certifications/licenses. Significant experience is sought in the following areas: government accounting standards, generally accepted government auditing standards; knowledge of governmental finance administration; principles and practices of governmental finance administration; principles and practices of governmental accounting systems and controls, investments, budgeting, and procurement; integrated computer based accounting systems; statutes and regulations; and best practices of internal and administrative controls.

- c) describe at least two project successes and two challenges involving internal audit services. Include how each experience improved the Offeror's services.
- d) submit suggested, pro-forma or ideal internal audit work plans/schedules covering a three-year rotational approach. The proposal shall set forth a draft work plan, including timing, and an explanation of the methodologies to be followed, to perform the services required. The plan shall include the start and end date and an estimate of time to complete major segments (planning, interim field work, fieldwork and reporting). The responding offeror may be rated higher if their proposal demonstrates a solid understanding of NMERB's industry and business processes, risks or needs.
- e) describe internal audit services procedures, including technical plans and related time estimates, staffing plan and approach for planning and conducting work efforts. Include in this description how offeror ensures efforts and related test work during the internal audit process are not duplicated in the external audit.
- f) provide a copy of the latest external quality control review, if applicable, including a copy of the corresponding management letter. The external quality control review must include the date the review was performed and the names of the reviewers.

## 2. Organizational References

Three (3) external references from similar projects/programs, performed for private, state, or large local government clients within the last three (3) years should be received by the designee identified on APPENDIX F, Organizational Reference Questionnaire ("Questionnaire"). Any submitted references must be received by the deadline stated on APPENDIX F.

The references to whom the Offeror provides the Questionnaire **must submit the Questionnaire directly to the designee identified on APPENDIX F. The references must not return the completed Questionnaire to the Offeror.** It is the Offeror's responsibility to ensure the completed Questionnaires are submitted **on or before the deadline stated on APPENDIX F. NO LATE QUESTIONNAIRES CAN BE ACCEPTED.**

Offerors are encouraged to request that their chosen references provide detailed and informative comments.

The Offeror, itself, does not need to submit anything for this Specification in its proposal. The Offeror may, if it chooses, include a list of all organizations to whom Offeror sent the Organizational Reference Questionnaire (APPENDIX F).

### **3. Mandatory Specification**

A. Offeror must have experience assisting at least three (3) separate government agencies of similar or larger size to NMERB within the last five (5) years.

**A statement of concurrence to this specification regarding experience is required and must be included in the Offeror's proposal.**

B. Offeror must provide a copy of an internal audit report that it prepared for a similar government client.

C. Offeror must include a statement as to its independence with respect to the Agency.

### **4. Desirable Specification**

Offeror should provide responses to the following:

#### **A. COMPANY BACKGROUND AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

1. Provide a brief history of the firm including:
  - a. the year organized
  - b. the year the firm began offering internal audit services
2. Describe the ownership of the firm, including but not limited to:
  - a. ownership structure
  - b. affiliated companies or joint ventures
  - c. if an affiliate, specify the percentage of parent firm's total revenue generated by your organization
  - d. if the firm is a joint venture partner, identify the percentage of ownership and revenues recognized by each association partner
3. Provide an organizational chart diagramming the relationships between the professional staff as well as the parent, subsidiary, affiliate, or joint venture entities.
4. List the total number of persons employed by discipline and provide a separate breakdown of the number of persons involved in consulting services.
5. Indicate revenue (including the sources of all revenue), expenses and net income for 2023, 2024, and 2025.
6. Describe any material developments in your organization (changes in ownership, personnel, business, etc.) over the past three years. Do you anticipate any such material developments in the near future? If so, explain in specific detail.
7. Over the past five years, has your organization or any of its affiliates or parent, or any officer or principal been involved in any business litigation, regulatory or legal proceedings? If so, provide an explanation and indicate the current status.

8. Describe any potential conflicts of interest your firm may have in the handling of this account.
9. Have any senior personnel left or joined the firm in the last three years? If so, please indicate when and why. In which division and position were they involved?
10. Describe your firm's backup procedures in the event the key consultant professional assigned to this account should leave the firm or be transferred to other accounts or duties.
11. Please describe your hiring and internal retention procedures for client consultants and research analysts.
12. Please identify the total number of public pension clients your firm services or has provided internal audit services for in the past five years.
13. Please provide a list of clients who have terminated a consulting relationship with your firm within the last three years. Indicate number of years of relationship, date, and reason for termination.
14. Please discuss the processes your firm takes to ensure the security of clients' confidential information in your possession or control.
15. Describe your firm's security of its information systems and IT hardware.

**B. INTERNAL AUDIT PHILOSOPHY, POLICY AND PROCESS.**

1. Please describe your internal audit philosophy. Include the approach to the development of internal audit plans. Please address the decision-making process and the titles and responsibilities of the various individuals involved at each stage of the process.
2. How does your firm implement this philosophy?
3. How large is your client universe, and how was it created? Please discuss the makeup of this universe, i.e., public entities, private corporation, etc.

**C. CLIENT SERVICE**

1. Which of your firm's offices would provide services to NMERB? Which office(s) would specifically provide what services?
2. Who will be the lead consultant? How often will this person be available for client meetings?

3. What other communication is provided to clients, including description and/or samples of reports, etc.?

#### **D. DUE DILIGENCE QUESTIONS**

Questions regarding data protection and due diligence, Agency will require answers to data protection and due diligence questions on a semi-annual basis:

1. Describe your firm's disaster recovery plan as it relates to the equipment, software, data, and personnel that would be used in providing the services required by NMERB.
2. Does the organization routinely perform penetration tests utilizing a qualified third-party vendor, and if so, how often are tests performed, when was the last test performed, and who performed the last test? Please provide an executive summary of the last test.
3. What technical prevention measures are in place to secure and monitor your network?
4. Is multi-factor authentication utilized for network remote access? If so, what type of authentication?
5. How is data protected in transit between the vendor and NMERB? Additionally, how is data at rest protected on servers and backup media?
6. Is there a formal security incident response program in place, and if so, how often is the incident response program tested?
7. Describe employee training programs of your organization including software, security, and technology training that would be used in providing the services required by NMERB.
8. Does your organization have a written code of conduct or set of standards for professional behavior? If so, how are they monitored and enforced?
9. Do you anticipate any significant changes in your organizational ownership, staffing, or products and services offered? If so, describe these anticipated changes and their impact on NMERB.
10. Describe your organization's risk management process including how issues are identified and how responses are executed.
11. Have you had a SOC 2 audit conducted, and are you willing to share that report with NMERB?

## C. BUSINESS SPECIFICATIONS

### 1. Financial Stability

Offerors must submit copies of the most recent years independently audited financial statements and the most current 10K, as well as financial statements for the preceding three years, if they exist. The submission must include the audit opinion, the balance sheet, and statements of income, retained earnings, cash flows, and the notes to the financial statements. **If independently audited financial statements do not exist, Offeror must state the reason and, instead, submit sufficient information (e.g., D & B report). Failure to submit audited financial statements as described herein results in Offeror's disqualification.**

### 2. Letter of Transmittal Form

The Offeror's proposal **must** be accompanied by the Letter of Transmittal Form located in APPENDIX E. The form **must** be completed and must be signed by the person authorized to obligate the company. **Failure to submit a signed form will result in Offeror's disqualification.**

### 3. Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form

The Offeror must complete an unaltered Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form and submit a signed copy with the Offeror's proposal. This must be accomplished whether or not an applicable contribution has been made. (See APPENDIX B). **Failure to complete and return the signed, unaltered form will result in Offeror's disqualification.**

### 4. Oral Presentation

If oral presentations are held, finalist Offeror(s) may be required to explain, demonstrate, detail, and/or clarify any aspect of its submitted proposal, to which the Evaluation Committee may ask questions and/or seek clarifications. Pursuant to Section II.B.8, Oral Presentations may held at the sole discretion of the Evaluation Committee.

### 5. Cost

Offerors must complete the Cost Response Form in APPENDIX D and the proposal shall include the Offeror's hourly composite rate. The Offeror shall quote a composite hourly rate based on a minimum of 500 hours and a maximum of 1,500 hours for a 12-month time frame. This rate shall include the applicable gross receipts tax and any out-of-pocket expenses. The hourly composite rate shall include personnel services, fringe benefits and overhead costs for contractor personnel. All out-of-pocket audit-related expenses, including travel, must also be included in the composite rate.

## **6. New Mexico/Native American Resident Preferences**

To ensure application of § 13-1-21 NMSA 1978 (as amended), an Offeror **MUST** submit a copy, in this section, of its valid New Mexico/Native Resident Preference Certificate or its valid New Mexico/Native American Resident Veteran Preference Certificate, as issued by the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department.

## V. EVALUATION

### A. EVALUATION POINT SUMMARY

The following is a summary of evaluation factors with point values assigned to each. These weighted factors will be used in the evaluation of individual potential Offeror proposals.

<b>Evaluation Factors</b> <i>(Correspond to Sections IV.B and IV.C)</i>	<b>Points Available</b>
<b>B. Technical Specifications</b>	
B. 1. Organizational Experience	325
B. 2. Organizational References	75
B. 3. Mandatory Specification	Pass/Fail
B. 4. Desirable Specification	300
<b>C. Business Specifications</b>	
C.1. Financial Stability	Pass/Fail
C.2. Letter Of Transmittal	Pass/Fail
C.3. Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form	Pass/Fail
C.4. Oral Presentations	100
C.5. Cost	200
<b>TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE</b>	<b>1,000</b>
C.6. New Mexico / Native American Resident Preference	<b>80</b>
C.6. New Mexico / Native American Resident Veteran Preference	<b>100</b>

Table 1: Evaluation Point Summary

### B. EVALUATION FACTORS

#### 1. B.1 Organizational Experience (See Table 1)

Points will be awarded based on the thoroughness and clarity of Offeror's response in this Section. The Evaluation Committee will also weigh the relevancy and extent of Offeror's experience, expertise and knowledge; and of personnel education, experience and certifications/licenses. In addition, points will be awarded based on Offeror's candid and well-thought-out response to successes and challenges, as well as the ability of the Offeror to learn from its challenges and grow from its successes.

#### 2. B.2 Organizational References (See Table 1)

Points will be awarded based upon an evaluation of the responses to the questions provided on the Questionnaire (APPENDIX F). Offeror will be evaluated on references that show positive service history, successful execution of services and evidence of satisfaction by each reference. References indicating significantly similar services/scopes of work and

comments provided by a submitted reference will add weight and value to a recommendation during the evaluation process. Points will be awarded for each individual response up to 1/3 of the total points for this category. References not received by the stated deadline on APPENDIX F will earn zero (0) points. For example: if two (2) references are received, the Offeror would only be eligible for a maximum of two-thirds (2/3) the total available points.

The Evaluation Committee may contact any or all business references for validation of information submitted. If this step is taken, the Procurement Manager and the Evaluation Committee must all be together on a conference call with the submitted reference so that the Procurement Manager and all members of the Evaluation Committee receive the same information at the same time.

### **3. B.3 Mandatory Specifications**

The Mandatory Specification found in Section IV.B. are pass/fail. No points assigned.

### **4. B.4 Desirable Specifications**

Evaluation of Desirable Specification will be based on full consideration of all information provided in response to Section IV.B.

### **5. C.1 Financial Stability (See Table 1)**

Pass/Fail only. No points assigned.

If the required response is met by the submission, the evaluation committee will perform a review of the financial statements providing a financial opinion on the stability of the Offeror. If a review of the Offeror's financial statements clearly demonstrates that an Offeror is in bankruptcy proceedings to include any bankruptcy filings, the Offeror is not a Responsible Offeror under Section 13-1-83 NMSA 1978 and will not be considered for an award.

### **6. C.2 Letter of Transmittal (See Table 1)**

Pass/Fail only. No points assigned.

### **7. C.3 Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form (See Table 1)**

Pass/Fail only. No points assigned.

### **8. C.4 Oral Presentation (See Table 1)**

Points will be awarded based on the quality, organization and effectiveness of communication of the information presented, as well as the professionalism of the presenters and technical knowledge of the proposed staff. Prior to Oral Presentation, Agency will provide the Offeror a presentation agenda. (If no Oral Presentations are held all Offerors will receive the maximum amount of total points for this Evaluation Factor).

**9. C.5 Cost (See Table 1)**

The evaluation of each Offeror’s cost proposal will be conducted using the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Lowest Responsive Offeror’s Cost}}{\text{Each Offeror’s Cost}} \times \text{Available Award Points}$$

**10. C.6. New Mexico/Native American Resident Preferences**

Percentages will be determined based upon the point-based system outlined in § 13-1-21 NMSA 1978 (as amended).

**A. New Mexico Resident Business Preference / Native American Resident Preference**

If an Offeror has provided a copy of its New Mexico Resident Preference Certificate or Native American Resident Preference Certificate, the points awarded will be calculated as 8% of the total points available in this RFP.

**B. New Mexico/Native American Resident Veteran Preference**

If an Offeror has provided a copy of its New Mexico Resident Veteran Preference Certificate or Native American Resident Veteran Preference Certificate the points awarded will be calculated as 10% of the total points available in this RFP.

**C. EVALUATION PROCESS**

1. All Offeror proposals will be reviewed for compliance with the requirements and specifications stated within the RFP. Proposals deemed non-responsive will be eliminated from further consideration.
2. The Procurement Manager may contact the Offeror for clarification of the response as specified in Section II. B.6.
3. Responsive proposals will be evaluated on the factors in Section IV, which have been assigned a point value in Section V. The responsible Offerors with the highest scores may be selected as finalist Offerors, based upon the proposals submitted. In accordance with §13-1-117 NMSA 1978, the responsible Offerors whose proposals are most advantageous to the State taking into consideration the Evaluation Factors in Section V will be recommended for award (as specified in Section II.B.11). Please note, however, that a serious deficiency in the response to any one factor may be grounds for rejection regardless of overall score.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT FORM**

## APPENDIX A

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NMERB Request for Internal Audit Services  
26-352-0428-02623

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT FORM

This optional Acknowledgement of Receipt Form establishes a distribution list to be used for the distribution of written responses to questions, and/or any amendments to the RFP. Failure to return the Acknowledgement of Receipt Form does not prohibit potential Offerors from submitting a response to this RFP. However, by not returning the Acknowledgement of Receipt Form, the potential Offeror's representative shall not be included on the distribution list, and will be solely responsible for obtaining from the Procurement Library (Section I.G.) responses to written questions and any amendments to the RFP.

The information below will be used for all correspondence related to the Request for Proposal. Only one contact per Offeror is permitted.

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit Acknowledgement of Receipt Form to:**

To: Felicia Sena

E-mail: Felicia.Sena@erb.nm.gov

Subject Line: NMERB Internal Audit Services, RFP# 26-352-0428-02623

## APPENDIX B

### CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE FORM

Pursuant to the Procurement Code, Sections 13-1-28, *et seq.* NMSA 1978 and § 13-1-191.1 NMSA 1978 (2006), as amended by Laws of 2007, Chapter 234, a prospective contractor subject to this section shall disclose all campaign contributions given by the prospective contractor or a family member or representative of the prospective contractor to an applicable public official of the state or a local public body during the two years prior to the date on which a proposal is submitted or, in the case of a sole source or small purchase contract, the two years prior to the date on which the contractor signs the contract, if the aggregate total of contributions given by the prospective contractor or a family member or representative of the prospective contractor to the public official exceeds two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) over the two-year period. A prospective contractor submitting a disclosure statement pursuant to this section who has not contributed to an applicable public official, whose family members have not contributed to an applicable public official or whose representatives have not contributed to an applicable public official shall make a statement that no contribution was made.

A prospective contractor or a family member or representative of the prospective contractor shall not give a campaign contribution or other thing of value to an applicable public official or the applicable public official's employees during the pendency of the procurement process or during the pendency of negotiations for a sole source or small purchase contract.

Furthermore, a solicitation or proposed award for a proposed contract may be canceled pursuant to Section [13-1-181](#) NMSA 1978 or a contract that is executed may be ratified or terminated pursuant to Section [13-1-182](#) NMSA 1978 if a prospective contractor fails to submit a fully completed disclosure statement pursuant to this section; or a prospective contractor or family member or representative of the prospective contractor gives a campaign contribution or other thing of value to an applicable public official or the applicable public official's employees during the pendency of the procurement process.

The state agency or local public body that procures the services or items of tangible personal property shall indicate on the form the name or names of every applicable public official, if any, for which disclosure is required by a prospective contractor.

THIS FORM MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AND MUST BE FILED BY ANY PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR WHETHER OR NOT THEY, THEIR FAMILY MEMBER, OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVE HAS MADE ANY CONTRIBUTIONS SUBJECT TO DISCLOSURE.

The following definitions apply:

“**Applicable public official**” means a person elected to an office or a person appointed to complete a term of an elected office, who has the authority to award or influence the award of the contract for which the prospective contractor is submitting a competitive sealed proposal or who has the

authority to negotiate a sole source or small purchase contract that may be awarded without submission of a sealed competitive proposal.

**“Campaign Contribution”** means a gift, subscription, loan, advance or deposit of money or other thing of value, including the estimated value of an in-kind contribution, that is made to or received by an applicable public official or any person authorized to raise, collect or expend contributions on that official’s behalf for the purpose of electing the official to statewide or local office. “Campaign Contribution” includes the payment of a debt incurred in an election campaign, but does not include the value of services provided without compensation or unreimbursed travel or other personal expenses of individuals who volunteer a portion or all of their time on behalf of a candidate or political committee, nor does it include the administrative or solicitation expenses of a political committee that are paid by an organization that sponsors the committee.

**“Family member”** means a spouse, father, mother, child, father-in-law, mother-in-law, daughter-in-law or son-in-law of (a) a prospective contractor, if the prospective contractor is a natural person; or (b) an owner of a prospective contractor;

**“Pendency of the procurement process”** means the time period commencing with the public notice of the request for proposals and ending with the award of the contract or the cancellation of the request for proposals.

**“Prospective contractor”** means a person or business that is subject to the competitive sealed proposal process set forth in the Procurement Code [Sections [13-1-28](#) through [13-1-199](#) NMSA 1978] or is not required to submit a competitive sealed proposal because that person or business qualifies for a sole source or small purchase contract.

**“Representative of a prospective contractor”** means an officer or director of a corporation, a member or manager of a limited liability corporation, a partner of a partnership or a trustee of a trust of the prospective contractor.

**Name(s) of Applicable Public Official(s) if any:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DISCLOSURE OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR:**

Contribution Made By: \_\_\_\_\_

Relation to Prospective Contractor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Contribution(s) Made: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Amount(s) of Contribution(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Nature of Contribution(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Purpose of Contribution(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Attach extra pages if necessary)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title (position)

**--OR--**

**NO CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE AGGREGATE TOTAL OVER TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250) WERE MADE** to an applicable public official by me, a family member or representative.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title (Position)

## **APPENDIX C**

### **DRAFT CONTRACT**

**The Agreement included in this Appendix C represents the contract the Agency intends to use to make an award. The State of New Mexico and the Agency reserve the right to modify the Agreement prior to, or during, the award process, as necessary.**

The contract template can be found at the following website under Contract and Amendment Templates titled Contract Boilerplate Form.

<https://www.generalservices.state.nm.us/state-purchasing/contracts-review-bureau/>

## APPENDIX D

### COST RESPONSE FORM

Use the format designated below to provide cost response:

The Offeror shall quote a composite hourly rate based on a minimum of 500 hours and a maximum of 1,500 hours for a 12-month time frame. This rate shall include the applicable gross receipts tax and any out-of-pocket expenses. The hourly composite rate shall include personnel services, fringe benefits and overhead costs for contractor personnel. All out-of-pocket audit-related expenses, including travel, must also be included in the composite rate.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Composite Hourly Rate – 12 months				
Gross Receipts Tax				
Total Fee				

Year 1: (xx/xx/xxxx thru xx/xx/xxxx) Not to Exceed Cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Includes all labor, materials, equipment, transportation, configuration, installation, training, taxes, and profit to provide the Services described in Section IV, (as amended by any current RFP amendments for the period specified above)

Option Year 2: (xx/xx/xxxx thru xx/xx/xxxx) Not to Exceed Cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Includes all labor, materials, equipment, transportation, configuration, installation, training, taxes, and profit to provide the Services described in Section IV, (as amended by any current RFP amendments for the period specified above)

Option Year 3: (xx/xx/xxxx thru xx/xx/xxxx) Not to Exceed Cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Includes all labor, materials, equipment, transportation, configuration, installation, training, taxes, and profit to provide the Services described in Section IV, (as amended by any current RFP amendments for the period specified above)

Option Year 4: (xx/xx/xxxx thru xx/xx/xxxx) Not to Exceed Cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Includes all labor, materials, equipment, transportation, configuration, installation, training, taxes, and profit to provide the Services described in Section IV, (as amended by any current RFP amendments for the period specified above)

## **APPENDIX E**

### **LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL FORM**

## **APPENDIX E**

### **Letter of Transmittal Form**

Please complete this form in its entirety. Failure to **sign and/or submit** this form will result in the disqualification of Offeror's proposal.

**RFP#: 26-352-0428-02623**

**1. Identify the following information for the submitting organization:**

<b>Offeror Name</b>	
<b>Mailing Address</b>	
<b>Telephone</b>	
<b>FED TIN#</b>	
<b>NM BTIN#</b>	

**2. Identify the individual(s) authorized by the organization to (A) contractually obligate, (B) negotiate, and/or (C) clarify/respond to queries on behalf of this Offeror:**

	<b>A Contractually Obligate</b>	<b>B Negotiate*</b>	<b>C Clarify/Respond to Queries*</b>
<b>Name</b>			
<b>Title</b>			
<b>E-mail</b>			
<b>Telephone</b>			

\* If the individual identified in Column A also performs the functions identified in Columns B & C, then no response is required for those Columns. If separate individuals perform the functions in Columns B and/or C, they must be identified.

**3. Will any subcontractor/s be used in the performance of any resultant contract? (Select one):**

No.  
 Yes. Identify subcontractor/s: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Will any other entity/-ies (such as a State Agency, reseller, etc., that is not a subcontractor identified in #3 above) be used in the performance of any resultant contract? (Select one)**

No.  
 Yes. Identify entity/-ies: \_\_\_\_\_

**By signing the form below, the Authorized Signatory attests to the accuracy and veracity of the information provided on this form, and explicitly acknowledges the following:**

- On behalf of the submitting-organization identified in item #1, above, I accept the Conditions Governing the Procurement, as required in Section II.C.1. of this RFP;
- I concur that submission of our proposal constitutes acceptance of the Evaluation Factors contained in Section V of this RFP; and
- I acknowledge receipt of any and all amendments to this RFP, if any.

Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Must be signed by the individual identified in item #2.A, above.)*

## **APPENDIX F**

### **ORGANIZATIONAL REFERENCE QUESTIONNAIRE**

The State of New Mexico, as a part of the RFP process, requires Offerors to list a minimum of three (3) organizational references in their proposals. The purpose of these references is to document Offeror's experience relevant to the Section IV.A, Detailed Scope of Work in an effort to evaluate Offeror's ability to provide goods and/or services, performance under similar contracts, and ability to provide knowledgeable and experienced staffing.

Offeror is required to send the following Organizational Reference Questionnaire to each business reference listed in its proposal, as per Section IV.B.2. The business reference, if it chooses to respond, is required to submit its response to the Organizational Reference Questionnaire directly to: Felicia Sena at Felicia.Sena@erb.nm.gov no later than 3:00 p.m. MST on May 28, 2026, for inclusion in the evaluation process. The Questionnaire and information provided will become a part of the submitted proposal. Businesses/Organizations providing references may be contacted for validation of content provided therein.

**RFP # 26-352-0428-02623**  
**ORGANIZATIONAL REFERENCE QUESTIONNAIRE**  
**FOR:**

Offeror, your name goes here
------------------------------

This form is being submitted to your company for completion as a reference for the organization listed above. Submit this Questionnaire to the New Mexico Educational Retirement Board via e-mail to:

Name: Felicia Sena, Procurement Manager  
 Email: Felicia.Sena@erb.nm.gov

Forms must be submitted no later than 3:00 p.m. MST on May 28, 2026 and **must not** be returned to the organization requesting the reference. References are **strongly encouraged** to provide thorough comments in response to the questions asked. The comments you provide will help the State of New Mexico evaluate the above-referenced Offeror’s service history, successful execution of services, and evidence of customer/client satisfaction.

**For questions or concerns regarding this form**, please contact the State of New Mexico **Procurement Manager** at 505-531-6751 or Felicia.Sena@erb.nm.gov. When contacting the Procurement Manager, include the Request for Proposal number provided at the top of this page.

<b>Organization providing reference</b>	
<b>Contact name and title/position</b>	
<b>Contact telephone number(s)</b>	
<b>Contact e-mail address</b>	
<b>Project/Service description</b>	
<b>Project/Service dates (start and end dates)</b>	
<b>Technical environment for the project your providing a reference</b> (i.e., Software applications, Internet capabilities, Data communications, Network, Hardware);	

## QUESTIONS:

1. In what capacity have you worked with [Offeror name] in the past?
2. How would you describe [Offeror name]'s knowledge and expertise?
3. How would you describe [Offeror name] flexibility relative to changes in the project scope and timelines?
4. How satisfied are you with the materials/documentation produced by [Offeror name]?
5. How would you describe the dynamics/interaction between [Offeror name]'s personnel and your staff?
6. By name, please identify who are/were [Offeror name]'s principal representatives involved in your project. How would you describe your satisfaction with each representative, individually? Please provide a brief comment on the skills, knowledge, behaviors, or other factors on which you based your satisfaction.
7. How satisfied are/were you with the services rendered and/or products developed by [Offeror name]? Please provide a brief explanation as to why you were or were not satisfied.
8. With which aspect(s) of [Offeror name]'s services are/were you most satisfied? Please provide a brief explanation as to why you were satisfied.
9. With which aspect(s) of [Offeror name]'s services are/were you least satisfied? Please provide a brief explanation as to why you were dissatisfied.
10. Would you recommend [Offeror name]'s services to your organization again? Why or why not?
11. Is there any other information you wish to share regarding [Offeror name]?