



**BUREAU OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
500 WOODLANE AVE. SUITE 256
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72201**

063-RFQ-2301

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

**ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES
FOR
STATE CAPITOL TUNNEL PROJECT**

DATE

03-13-23

SUBMITTAL DEADLINE

03-28-23

<u>TABLE OF CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
I. Introduction_____	2
II. Scope of Services Requested_____	3
III. Proposed Schedule of Events_____	4
IV. Written Qualifications Submission Guidelines_____	6
V. Evaluation of Responses and Selection Criteria_____	10
VI. Selection of Consultants for Interviews_____	13
VII. Oral Presentations and Interview_____	14
VIII. Selection of Consultant for Negotiations_____	17

I. INTRODUCTION

A. General

The Bureau of Legislative Research, herein referred to as BLR, issuing the RFQ on behalf of the General Assembly and the Legislative Council, are soliciting qualifications from select firms to provide Architectural and Engineering Design Services for a tunnel connecting the Arkansas State Capitol to the One Capitol Mall (MAC) building in Little Rock Arkansas. Applicants must be properly registered with the appropriate professional boards in accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 17-15-101 et. seq. (Architectural), Ark. Code Ann. § 17-38-101 et. seq. (Landscape Architect), Ark. Code Ann. § 17-30-101 et. seq. (Engineering) and Ark. Code Ann. § 17-48-101 et. seq. (Land Surveyors). The qualifications for this RFQ are being solicited by the Division of Building Authority (DBA) on behalf of BLR.

B. Objective

BLR is seeking a qualified firm to provide professional Architectural and Engineering design services to produce studies, plans and specifications and contract administration for the construction of a tunnel from the Arkansas State Capitol to the One Capitol Mall (MAC) building including all vertical and horizontal access from one building to the other. This will include all mechanical, electrical, security and any additional services required by BLR. BLR intends to award this contract to a consultant having the capability to provide the required services in-house but shall consider awarding the contract to a consulting firm with outside sub-consultants. BLR reserves the right to award one or more contracts under this solicitation if deemed in the best interest of the State.

Submittal of a statement of qualifications (SOQ) in response to this request for qualifications (RFQ) does not constitute an offer to practice architecture or engineering nor does submittal of a SOQ represent a proposal to provide any particular level of services for any stipulated compensation. Responses to this RFQ will be used by BLR solely to determine if the respondent has the appropriate background, experience, licenses, and qualifications to be considered for project or solicitation. The best qualified respondent will be selected for negotiation of a professional services contract. During the contract negotiation phase, the selected firm and BLR will develop a detailed scope of services required to fulfill the needs of this solicitation and at that time the consultant will make a formal proposal to provide the requested services for a stipulated method of compensation.

C. Contemplated Projects

The following is a partial listing of projects over the past several years. It is provided to illustrate the types of projects and services the consultant may be asked to perform and shall not be construed as a commitment of work under this contract. Actual projects under this contract may or may not be similar in scope to the ones shown here. Each assignment will be issued individually in writing and the scope and fees shall be negotiated for each at that time.

1. Alterations and renovations of selected spaces.
2. Interior design improvements of selected spaces.
3. Mechanical replacements/upgrades.
4. Landscape repairs and improvements.
5. Road and parking lot repairs.
6. Waterproofing and repairs.
7. Subterranean construction.

D. Term

The term of the contract will be annual with the option for extension or renewal for up to a maximum of seven (7) consecutive years or until the project is completed whichever comes first.

E. Submittal of Statement of Qualifications

Responses to this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) shall be submitted to the evaluation committee facilitator identified under item IV.A. of this RFQ on or before the date stipulated.

Submittal of a statement of qualifications (SOQ) in response to this request for qualifications (RFQ) does not constitute an offer to practice architecture or engineering nor does submittal of a SOQ represent a proposal to provide any particular level of services for any stipulated compensation. Responses to this RFQ will be used by BLR solely to determine if the respondent has the appropriate background, experience, licenses, and qualifications to be considered for project or solicitation. The best qualified respondent will be selected for negotiation of a professional services contract. During the contract negotiation phase, the selected firm and BLR will develop a detailed scope of services required to fulfill the needs of this solicitation and at that time the consultant will make a formal proposal to provide the requested services for a stipulated method of compensation.

F. Clarifications

Prospective respondents may submit written questions or request for clarifications to the facilitator (DBA on behalf of BLR) on or before 4:00 PM CST on the date shown under item III of this RFQ.

G. Minority and Women's Business Participation

The State of Arkansas supports equal opportunity in the participation in all areas of capital improvements, therefore minority and women's business enterprises are encouraged to participate.

II. SCOPE OF SERVICES REQUESTED

- A. The selected firm shall provide professional services including but not limited to the following:

1. Review of BLR's program and budget for this project.
2. Code analysis to ensure the project complies with all applicable Federal and State codes as well as State rules and standards.
3. Review of the proposed site for compliance with Federal and State regulations and rules regarding floodplain development management.
4. Development of an estimate of the maximum probable cost of the project.
5. Development of a schematic design submittal (approximately 25% complete documents) and an estimate of the annual utility consumption and operating cost for review and approval by the State.
6. Development of a design development submittal (approximately 50% complete documents) and a revised estimate of construction cost for review and approval by BLR.
7. Development of a construction document submittal (100% complete documents), a revised estimate of construction cost, and a revised estimate of the annual utility consumption and operating cost for review and approval by BLR.
8. Submittal of the construction documents to all applicable regulatory review agencies on behalf of BLR.
9. Assistance with the preparation of bid advertisements, attendance at bid openings, evaluation of bids, and review of contract documents in conjunction with award of the bid.
10. Construction contract administration and project observation to include review of contractor submittals, progress of the work proposal request, progress payments, contract change order, substantial completion and project closeout.
11. Review of the project site at the end of the contractor's warranty period and development of a list of deficiencies for correction under the terms of the warranty.

III. PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- A. The following schedule of events is provided for preliminary planning and to convey BLR understands the time critical events and proposed milestones for the development of this project only. This schedule is in no way intended to establish an expectation or commitment for the execution or delivery of any or all of the events listed below. This schedule may be reviewed and revised at each step of the process up to and including the negotiation of the design services contract.

Approx. Date	Procurement Event or Project Activity
March 13, 2023	DBA issues RFQ to selected Design Professionals
March 21, 2023	Deadline for submittal of written questions or clarifications
March 24, 2023	DBA shall issue responses to all requests for clarifications (All questions will be answered and posted on the DBA's website as received.)
March 28, 2023	Deadline for submittal of qualifications to DBA.
April 11, 2023	BLR notifies all respondents of the consultants selected for oral presentations and interviews
April 27, 2023	Oral presentations and interviews held at DBA (Time and location to determined)
May 4, 2023	DBA notifies all interviewees of firm selected for negotiation and begins contract negotiations
Week of June 16, 2023	ALC Subcommittee Review of Design Professional Contract & Final approval by Arkansas Legislative Council
June 16, 2023	Contract Executed by BLR upon final approval by Arkansas Legislative Council
July 6, 2023	Design phase begins
August 25, 2023	Submit schematic design documents to DBA for review and approval.
September 1, 2023	DBA approves schematic design submittal.
October 13, 2023	Submit design development documents to DBA for review and approval.
October 20, 2023	DBA approves design development submittal.
November 17, 2023	Final 100% complete construction document submittal to DBA for review and approval.
December 8, 2023	Approval to bid issued by DBA.
January 5, 2024	Construction notice to proceed is issued (12-month construction period begins).
January 2, 2025	Construction complete (BLR move begins).

January 2025 BLR move-in complete.

- B. If release of final funding is delayed, it is the intent of BLR to renew the Design Professional contract annually until such time as funding is available or the project is determined to be no longer feasible.
- C. BLR intends to enter a professional services contract with the selected design firm upon completion of this RFQ process. The selected Design Professional will provide an initial scope of services to help BLR establish a design concept and provide a statement of maximum probable construction cost to aid BLR in securing appropriations and funding for the design and construction phase. The initial scope of services under this contract will include but not be limited to the following:
 - 1. Assist BLR in the development of a formal programing document to define each individual space required in terms of size, construction features, mechanical and electrical requirements, and special equipment or furniture needed to support the space function.
 - 2. Provide a floor plan and elevations as required to prove the concept of the programing documents.
- D. Upon acceptance of the concept plans and programming documents, the design professional will be authorized to begin development of the schematic design, design development, and construction documents.

IV. WRITTEN QUALIFICATIONS SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

A. Submittal Information

- 1. Provide five (5) copies of the statement of qualifications and one (1) in PDF file format on compact disc addressed to the DBA evaluation committee facilitator at:

Nathan Alderson, State Architect
501 Woodlane St. Suite G-01
Little Rock, AR 72201
501-682-5546
Nathan.Alderson@arkanas.gov

- 2. Submittals shall be received at the above address on or before 4:00 **PM on 03-28-23**. Failure to meet this requirement shall result in automatic disqualification for consideration under this RFQ.
- 3. Envelopes should state “Statement of Qualifications for [063-RFQ-2301 [ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES] for [BLR]”.

4. In accordance with the policies of the State and State of Arkansas concerning recycling of paper products, the statement of qualifications should be printed on recycled paper or on paper suitable for recycling. Color printing and photographs are acceptable provided they comply with the State recycling program. Do not include glossy paper in the submittal. Do not include plastic laminated sheets or covers.
5. The submittal should be bound by a plastic comb binder, tape binder, three-ring binder, or other similar method suitable for ease of removal for recycling.
6. The statement of qualifications should contain the information listed under contents below. Please note the submittal page limitations (maximum) as applicable. Unused pages in one section of the response may not be substituted for addition pages in another section.
7. A page shall consist of one typewritten, graphic, or photo representation on standard 8-1/2" x 11" stationery. Double sided print on standard 8-1/2" x 11" paper shall count as two pages. Maps, graphics or photos on one side of 11" x 17" paper shall count as two pages. Other paper sizes or blank filler pages are discouraged. It is not necessary to prepare your response to this solicitation using elaborate brochures and artwork, expensive paper and bindings or other expensive visual presentation aids.
8. Submittal brochures shall be indexed to correspond to the numbering and labeling shown under contents below.
9. No information concerning the statement of qualification, evaluation scores, nor the identity of the evaluators shall be released by BLR until all ratings have been summarized and approved by the evaluation committee.

B. Minimal Submittal Contents

1. Transmittal Letter (2-page maximum)

This is to serve only as the document covering transmittal of the statement of qualifications. The letter should provide the name, title, address, and telephone number of the official contact and an alternate. This individual(s) should be available to be contacted by telephone or attend meetings to provide clarification on the statement of qualifications as may be appropriate. A brief summary of the firm's qualifications may be provided with the body of the letter. The letter should be signed by a principal or corporate officer of the firm.

2. Proof of Registration (No page limit)

Submit evidence of proof of registration by the appropriate board having jurisdiction for each of the key personnel and the firms on the team. All individuals and firms must have a valid and current license and must be in good standing with the applicable board. Acceptable forms of proof from the Boards of Architects, of Engineers and Land Surveyors, and of Landscape Architects may be one of the following:

- (a) A copy of the Board issued wallet card showing the name of the individual or firm, the licenses number, and current expiration date. (Place multiple cards on a single page.)
- (b) A copy of the individual's or firm's license downloaded from the appropriate Board's official website.
- (c) A copy of the on-line verification of the individual or firm's license or certificate from the appropriate Board's official website. The copy should show the individual or firm's name, license or certificate number, and current expiration date.

3. Proof of Insurance (No page limit)

The primary design firm should submit proof of professional liability and general liability insurance. The consultant selected for award under this RFQ must maintain the insurance current and effective throughout the period stipulated in the MSC. The consultant may change insurance carriers subject to notification to the State. Any new carrier must be acceptable to BLR.

4. Equal Employment Opportunity Policy (EEO) (No page limit)

The firm should submit a copy of their EEO policy or statement which is currently on file with the Office of State Procurement (OSP) and the State. A respondent is not required to have a formal policy but is required to disclose whether they have one or not.

5. Office Size (2-page maximum)

Provide a description of the size (number of employees), and organizational structure of your firm/team. Include a detailed description of the staffing and resources for the office from which you intend to service this contract. Indicate if all anticipated design services will be provided by in-house personnel.

If the consultant intends to utilize outside consultants (such as engineering sub-consultants), provide a description of their primary office size and location, name, and services provided.

6. Office Location (1-page maximum)

Provide the physical address of the office from which the primary point of contact and response for this project will be located. Include the county in which this office is located.

If housed in multiple locations, provide a description of the staffing at each location

7. Key Personnel of the Design Team (10-page maximum)

Provide a description of the key personnel to be used on the design team, including consultants. Provide a brief description of the qualifications including education and licenses. You may include an organizational chart. The descriptions should detail the role each individual will play along with brief examples of similar projects where this individual served in the same or a similar capacity. Descriptions should also indicate how long the person has been with the current firm and where the individual has worked (if other than the current firm) in the past 5 years and in what capacity.

Include a listing of the name of the firm and the key person that will provide the following services on your team:

- Architectural design,
- Interior design,
- Landscape design,
- Geo-technical engineering,
- Civil design,
- Structural design,
- HVAC design,
- Fire sprinkler design,
- Plumbing design,
- Electrical design,
- Fire alarm/security design,
- Telecommunication cabling design, and
- Others as proposed by the respondent.

8. Experience – General (10-page maximum)

Provide detailed descriptions of projects of similar nature and scope that demonstrate your understanding of the requirements of this contract. Examples should be as closely matched to this type of contract as possible. Examples of other projects that demonstrate your ability to address key elements of this type of contract may be included provided the link between the key element and the anticipated application to this contract are clearly delineated.

9. Risk Management Plan (No page limit)

Provide a description of the prime design firms approach to managing risk on the project during all phases of the project beginning with the pre-design phase through the construction phase closeout. Include discussion of how the prime firm will incorporate each sub-consultant's risk management plan into an overall comprehensive plan for this project.

Provide a description of the major risk factors that you anticipate in this project and mitigation steps for each factor.

V. EVALUATION OF RESPONSES AND SELECTION CRITERIA

A. General

The following provides a general overview of the evaluation process and describes the scoring criteria to be used in this evaluation process. The statements of qualifications shall first be screened to determine that the submittal meets the guidelines and requirements of this RFQ. Submittals which do not fully comply with these requirements shall be disqualified from consideration by the committee.

All compliant submittals shall be distributed to the committee members for evaluation. After each committee member has completed their evaluation and scoring, the committee shall convene to discuss each submittal and total the scoring from all members.

The evaluation committee will be comprised of five (5) or more representatives (an odd number is required) as selected by DBA. Voting members will have subject matter expertise in the areas of contracting, design, construction, operations and maintenance, or management of the programs housed in this building. Approval of the final selection as submitted by the evaluation committee shall be given by the Executive Subcommittee of the Legislative Council.

B. Disqualification Requirements

Submittals received after the closing date at time shown on the cover of this RFQ and in paragraph IV.A.2 shall be disqualified from consideration under this RFQ solicitation.

Submittals which exceed the maximum page limits in one or more areas shown below shall be disqualified from consideration under this RFQ solicitation.

Incomplete submittals shall be disqualified from consideration under this RFQ solicitation.

Submittals not organized in the order prescribed in this RFQ will be disqualified from consideration under this RFQ solicitation.

Respondents who attempt to influence an evaluation team member in a manner that violates State or Federal laws or the ethical standards of the State, DFA/OSP, or the State shall be disqualified from consideration under this RFQ solicitation. Violations of this subparagraph shall disqualify the respondent from further consideration at any point in this selection process.

C. Evaluation Criteria and Scoring

Submittals meeting the minimum requirements defined above shall be considered for evaluation. Those submissions deemed compliant will then be evaluated and scored as stipulated in section "IV.B." of this RFQ and "V.C." below. The information provided under this subsection will be evaluated based on the criteria contained below and scored

based on the maximum points assigned to each category. The following information shall be bound in the submittal under the tab number indicated.

1. Transmittal Letter: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned.

This is to serve only as the document covering transmittal of the statement of qualifications. The letter should provide the name, title, address, and telephone number of the official contact and an alternate. This individual(s) should be available to be contacted by telephone or attend meetings to provide clarification on the statement of qualifications as may be appropriate. A brief summary of the firm's qualifications may be provided with the body of the letter. The letter should be signed by a principal or corporate officer of the firm.

2. Proof of Registration: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned.

Submit evidence of proof of registration by the appropriate board having jurisdiction for each of the key personnel and the firms on the team. All individuals and firms must have a valid and current license and must be in good standing with the applicable board. Acceptable forms of proof from the Boards of Architects, of Engineers and Land Surveyors, and of Landscape Architects may be one of the following:

- (a) A copy of the Board issued wallet card showing the name of the individual or firm, the licenses number, and current expiration date. (Place multiple cards on a single page.)
- (b) A copy of the individual's or firm's license downloaded from the appropriate Board's official website.
- (c) A copy of the on-line verification of the individual or firm's license or certificate from the appropriate Board's official website. The copy should show the individual or firm's name, license or certificate number, and current expiration date.

3. Proof of Insurance: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned.

The primary design firm should submit proof of professional liability and general liability insurance.

4. EEO Policy: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned.

The firm should submit a copy of their EEO policy or statement which is currently on file with the Office of State Procurement (OSP) and the State. A respondent is not required to have a formal policy but is required to disclose whether they have one or not.

5. Office Size: A maximum of ten (10) points shall be assigned.

Office size (number of employees) shall be evaluated based upon the anticipated needs for a project of this type, size and complexity. The number of discipline

specific designer and support staff should be adequate to staff the proposed design team and backup personnel.

6. Office Location: A maximum of ten (10) points shall be assigned.

Response and travel time by the selected consultant is determined to be an important factor in the overall success of the project. Consideration shall be given to the location of the primary consultant's office as well as all outside consultants relative to the project site. In state distance will be calculated based upon the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department's most current state highway map mileage chart between cities. No other source of distance will be evaluated.

7. Key Personnel: A maximum of twenty-five (25) points shall be assigned.

Key personnel shall be evaluated on their experience relative to the capacity they will serve in on the team. Experience on projects of the same or similar nature as this contract shall be the primary consideration. If a member is designated as a lead designer in a specific area, previous experience in lead roles is considered desirable. If this is the person's first project in a lead position, this shall not automatically disqualify that individual but the relative importance of that position to the overall success of the project shall be considered and points may be deducted for lack of adequate experience. The length of employment with the current firm shall be considered as well as employment history during the past 5 years. Individuals should have been employed by their current employer at least 6-months and should not have had more than 3 different employers during the past 5-years.

8. Experience-General: A maximum of twenty-five (25) points shall be assigned.

Experience shall be evaluated on its relevance to this specific contract's requirements. Experience with projects of the same or similar nature as this specific project shall be the primary consideration. Experience of a general nature demonstrating an understanding or problem-solving capability for discrete elements or functions related to this project's requirements may also be considered relevant.

9. Risk Management Plan: A maximum of ten (10) points shall be assigned.

Risk management plan shall be evaluated upon the consultant's overall understanding of the scope of the project and the factors that pose risk to the successful completion of the project. Consideration should be given to the types of risk identified and the consultant's mitigation strategies to control or manage these risk.

D. Scoring Summary for Written Statement of Qualifications

Category	Maximum Points
1. Transmittal Letter	5
2. Proof of Registration	5
3. Proof of Insurance	5
4. EEO Policy	5
5. Office Size	10
6. Office Location	10
8. Key Personnel	25
8. Experience	25
9. Risk Management Plan	<u>10</u>
TOTAL	100

E. Notification of Results

Within three (3) working days after the committee has completed this portion of the evaluation, BLR shall notify all respondents of the results. Only the names of the consultants selected for interviews will be released at this time. The scoring results and the ranking order of the consultants shall remain confidential. The time, date and location of the interviews shall be included in this notification.

VI. SELECTION OF CONSULTANTS FOR INTERVIEWS

- A. A minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) consultants shall be identified as the most responsively qualified and shall be selected for the oral presentation and interview phase. The total scores from all evaluators shall be averaged to arrive at a ranking for each submittal. The consultants having the highest average scores shall be selected for interviews. In the event of a tie score(s) for any position of ranking, the tie(s) shall be broken by coin toss elimination. The consultant winning the coin toss shall be placed in the ranking above the loser of the toss. The coin toss shall be conducted by the evaluation committee chair and witnessed by the facilitator. When ranking is to be decided by coin toss, the facilitator shall notify the affected consultants and extend an offer for the consultants to witness the coin toss decision. If the consultant declines to attend it shall be so noted in the meeting minutes.

- B. The order of the scheduled times for interviews shall be determined by random drawing. The names of the consultants selected for interview shall be placed in a container and the names drawn one at a time from the container by the evaluation committee facilitator. The order of the schedule shall be as follows; the first name drawn shall have the first time slot; the second name drawn the second slot and so forth until all names are drawn. All interviews may be scheduled for the same date and location.
- C. Should BLR receive only one response to this solicitation, BLR may waive the interview phase and proceed directly to the negotiation of a contract with the single respondent, or BLR may re-evaluate the services requested and re-advertise the solicitation. BLR shall complete the evaluation of the one respondent to ensure the consultant meets the minimum qualifications and expectations.

VII. ORAL PRESENTATIONS AND INTERVIEWS

A. General

1. Each consultant selected shall be notified in writing of their selection and scheduled for oral presentations and interviews. Consultant shall be given no less than 14 calendar days to prepare for this meeting. Consultant should be prepared to answer questions concerning the qualifications and capabilities of their proposed team and the presentation should be well prepared and concise. The consultant will be given approximately 30-45 minutes to discuss their unique qualifications and team structure and to present examples of their previous works. Approximately 15 minutes will be allocated for the committee to ask questions relevant to the proposed team and the project. After the question and answer period, approximately 2 minutes will be allocated for the consultant to make a brief closing statement regarding why he believes his firm/team is the best qualified for this project.
2. Interviews shall be conducted at the location shown in the letter of notification. The consultant may use photographic slides, power point presentations or poster board displays for visual aids during the presentation. It is the responsibility of the consultant to bring the necessary equipment including projectors, screens, stands or easels for this presentation.
3. The consultant may elect to provide paper copies of photographs or visual aids to the committee for later review. Copies shall be presented to the facilitator or committee chairperson at the time of the interviews. Materials should be bound in a folder labeled in a similar manner to that of the initial response to the request for qualifications. The consultant may use photographic quality matte paper, color paper and other non-recyclable paper for this portion only. This material shall be used by the committee as a reference only during the evaluation. It is not necessary to prepare elaborate exhibits, displays or presentations with high end audio or graphics. No points shall be awarded or deducted for handout materials whether presented or not.

B. Evaluation of the Oral Presentation

1. Experience-Specific

The consultant shall be evaluated on ability to provide the requested services for projects of this type and size. A maximum of twenty-five (25) points shall be assigned.

- a. The consultant should present an overview of previous project experiences specific to this RFQ that illustrates the capabilities and expertise of the proposed team's ability to deliver high quality, functional and aesthetically pleasing designs. The range and types of design challenges the firm has encountered on previous projects that might occur on this contract should be discussed as well as how the consultant overcame these challenges.
- b. The consultant may discuss or present examples of projects for which their team has received local, regional, or national recognition or awards in the past 5-years. Local awards may include society awards, industry association awards, or newspaper and periodical awards published annually. Regional and National awards may include association awards such as AIA, LEED, or ASHRAE or similar, and governmental awards such as GSA, DOD, EPA, DOE, Energy Star and similar. Awards include but are not limited to first, second, third place or honorable mention in a category or classification relevant to the subject project. For example, a project winning in the area of interior design or energy efficiency but not necessarily for overall project design may be applicable and appropriate for consideration.

Visual presentations of projects representing the consultant's style and creativity may be presented. To the maximum extent possible, these examples should reflect projects of similar size, function and complexity as those typically seen under type of contract.

2. Schedules

The consultant shall be evaluated on demonstrated ability to meet time critical schedules for similar renovation and maintenance projects of the type, size, and complexity. A maximum of ten (10) points shall be assigned.

The consultant's current workload shall be evaluated to determine that the team has sufficient capacity to meet BLR's needs. Staffing patterns, staff utilization, and staff productivity of the consultant shall be evaluated to determine if an adequate number of the key and support personnel are assigned or available to execute the project in a timely manner. The organization structure of the team shall be evaluated to ensure that the appropriate mix of talent and expertise is available for each phase of the project. The consultant's use of, and approach to the team concept as well as contingency planning shall be considered.

3. Cost Controls

The consultant shall be evaluated on demonstrated ability to meet established project budgets. Consultant's understanding of both hard cost (construction contract items) and soft cost (items outside of the general construction contract) shall be considered. A maximum of ten (10) points shall be assigned.

The construction cost estimating examples provided by the consultant should be from the projects referenced in the specific project experience described in item B.1 above. The consultant should discuss the firm's approach to developing estimates of probable construction costs for the construction phase of small projects of the type normally seen under this type of contract. Include a discussion of the accuracy of firm's estimates on all projects of similar size and complexity over the past 3-years and, if available, provide a discussion of the factors affecting estimates that exceeded plus or minus (+/-) 10 percent of original budget at the start of the design phase.

4. Management Plan

The consultant shall be evaluated on the firm's management approach for contracts of this nature and a demonstrated ability to acquire and disseminate the types of information required in a typical project assignment in an expedient and efficient manner to all members of the design team and BLR. A maximum of twenty-five (25) points shall be assigned.

The consultant should present an overview of the quality control methods used to document and track the project requirements to ensure compliance with the Owner's project requirements and all regulatory review State submittal and approval requirements.

- a. The consultant should discuss the firm's use of key personnel during the project for design and construction observation. Describe the primary licensed professionals' and non-licensed designers' roles with regards to budget reviews, code research, production of plans and specifications, attendance at design meetings with the State or other consultants, review of others work in peer reviews, review of contractor submittals, review of construction progress, review of proposed changes in scope of the work and review of pricing or payment requests, project observations, and project closeout.
- b. The consultant should identify the primary and secondary points of contact to be used by the State. These individuals should be present and make this portion of the presentation. The consultant should describe the proposed organization of team members and support staff as required to meet the design challenges and delivery times for projects under this contract. Emphasis should be placed on the roles and responsibilities of each member of the team. The consultant should describe contingency plans to address the loss of key personnel, delays in production of bid documents and extreme fluctuations in construction cost that may adversely affect the project schedule or budget.

5. Construction Observation and Contract Administration

The consultant shall be evaluated on demonstrated ability to meet the industry’s standard of care in this area. A maximum of twenty (20) points shall be assigned.

- a. The consultant’s use of the key members of the design team may be considered as well as the proposed frequency of site visits during the construction phase of the project and the proposed methodology for monitoring, documenting and controlling change orders during the construction phase shall be of primary consideration.
- b. The consultant’s approach to keeping BLR informed as to the progress of construction and major issues as well as the methodology used to track and resolve issues in a timely manner shall also be evaluated.

6. Clarification Questions

The evaluation committee may ask questions for clarification of information provided in the written statement of qualifications. Questions will be limited to information provided in the written qualifications only. Consultant’s responses should be limited to clarifying the information previously provided and should not contain new information that may have been omitted to add new qualification information not previously submitted. A maximum of ten (10) points will be assigned.

C. Summary of Oral Presentation Scoring.

Category	Maximum Points
1. Experience-Specific	25
2. Schedules	10
3. Cost Controls	10
4. Management Plan	25
5. Construction Observation/Admin.	20
6. Clarification Questions	<u>10</u>
TOTAL	100

VIII. SELECTION OF CONSULTANT FOR NEGOTIATIONS

- A. The interview scores from each evaluator shall be averaged to arrive at a ranking for each consultant. These average scores shall be numerically added to the average score for the same consultant’s statement of qualifications evaluations. The scores shall be

ranked from highest to lowest (i.e.: highest score receives the number 1 rank position and second highest the number 2 position, etc.). In the event of a tie score(s), the tie(s) shall be broken by coin toss elimination. The coin toss shall be conducted by the evaluation committee chair and witnessed by the facilitator. The consultant winning the coin toss shall be placed in the ranking above the loser of the toss. The consultant having the highest total score (ranking) shall be selected for negotiations. When ranking is to be decided by coin toss, the facilitator shall notify the affected consultant's and extend an offer for the consultant to witness the coin toss decision. If the consultant declines to attend it shall be so noted in the meeting minutes.

- B. All consultants interviewed shall be notified in writing of the rankings and the name of the consultant initially selected for negotiation.
- C. The consultant selected for negotiation will be instructed to submit a proposed scope of basic services to be provided for this contract along with a copy of all proposed attachments to the contract. Include a schedule of the proposed fees and anticipated reimbursable expenses. If services above and beyond the customary basic services are anticipated, submit a description of the proposed services and the proposed fees. Basic services, allowable reimbursable expenses and additional services shall be as defined by BLR. BLR will schedule a meeting as soon as possible with the selected consultant to discuss the details and requirements of the full scope of services and contract budget.
- D. The selected consultant may be required to present the proposed scope of basic services to the Executive Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council. Any negotiations beyond what is submitted will be at the discretion of the Executive Subcommittee, and the Executive Subcommittee must authorize the Bureau of Legislative Research to enter into negotiations for the contract.
- E. In the event that BLR cannot successfully negotiate a contract with the first consultant selected, BLR may terminate the negotiation process and undertake negotiations with the second highest ranked consultant. If the second negotiation is unsuccessful, BLR may terminate negotiation and move to the third ranked and so forth. If BLR is unable to successfully negotiate a contract with any of the consultants interviewed, the selection process shall be terminated. BLR may re-evaluate the scope of services required under this solicitation and begin the RFQ selection process over or may cancel this solicitation.
- F. The State of Arkansas nor any of its entities shall be financially obligated for any consultants' expenses associated with the negotiation process whether successful or not. Nothing within this document shall be construed to waive the sovereign immunity of the State of Arkansas or any of its entities including without limitation the Bureau of Legislative Research, Legislative Council, and the General Assembly.
- G. A Vendor/Consultant who is aggrieved in connection with the award of a contract may protest to the Legislative Council. The protest shall be submitted in writing within five (5) calendar days after the intent to award is announced. After reasonable notice to the protestor, the Legislative Council, or the Joint Budget Committee if the Arkansas General Assembly is in session, shall promptly meet to discuss and issue a decision in writing that states the reasons for the action taken. The Legislative Council's or the

Joint Budget Committee's decision is final and conclusive. In the event of a timely protest, the Bureau of Legislative Research shall not proceed further with the solicitation or with the award of the contract unless the co-chairs of the Arkansas Legislative Council or the Joint Budget Committee make a written determination that the award of the contract without delay is necessary to protect substantial interests of the state.

- H. The BLR and the Legislative Council will be responsible for award and administration of any resulting contract(s).
- I. By signing and submitting a response to this RFQ and by certifying online at <https://www.ark.org/dfa/immigrant/index.php/disclosure/submit/new>, the Consultant agrees and certifies that they do not employ or contract with illegal immigrants. If selected, the Consultant certifies that they will not employ or contract with illegal immigrants during the aggregate term of the contract.
- J. The selected Consultant will be required to sign a certification prior to contract execution stating that the Consultant agrees and certifies that they do not boycott Israel, and if selected, will not boycott Israel during the aggregate term of the contract.

END