**University of Arkansas System**

**Request for Proposal (RFP)**

**RFP No. 677329**

**Investment Advisory Services**

 **PROPOSAL RELEASE DATE: May 9, 2018**

 **PROPOSAL DUE DATE: June 1, 2018**

 **PROPOSAL DUE TIME: 2:30 PM CDT**

 **SUBMIT ALL PROPOSALS TO: University of Arkansas**

**Purchasing Division**

 **Administration Bldg., Rm 321**

 **1125 W. Maple St.**

 **Fayetteville, AR 72701**

**Signature Required For Response**

Respondent complies with all articles of the Standard Terms and Conditions documents as counterpart to this RFP document, and with all articles within the RFP document. If Respondent receives the System’s purchase order, Respondent agrees to furnish the items and/or services listed herein at the prices and/or under the conditions as indicated in the RFP.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Vendor Name:** |  |
| **Mailing Address:** |  |
| **City, State, Zip:** |  |
| **Telephone:** |  |
| **Email:** |  |

**Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Typed/Printed Name of Signor: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**1.** **DESCRIPTION AND OVERVIEW OF RFP**

The Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas, acting on behalf of the University of Arkansas System (System) is seeking proposals from qualified and reputable firms to establish a term contract to provide investment advisory services pursuant to the specifications, terms and conditions stated in this RFP (“Proposal”).

 The System is seeking to award investment advisory services to the firm that can provide the best overall value. This value will be determined by the System based on the overall competence, compliance, and format and presentation of each RFP response.

The data, specifications, and administrative requirements outlined herein are intended to serve as a general guideline for each proposal. Each firm is expected to submit a fully detailed proposal which adequately describes the advantages and benefits which the System would realize by accepting its proposal.

The System expects to achieve the following goals (at minimum) through the selected firm:

1. Advise the System on all matters pertaining to the investment management of operating funds.
2. Review and evaluate operating fund performance consistent with Board and System performance objectives and criteria.
3. Review and evaluate operating fund money market and other cash investment accounts for policy compliance, quality and diversification, management experience and risk controls, and competitive yield in relation to expense ratios and service capabilities.
4. Provide assistance in the area of operating fund investments, risk assessment, or evaluation of alternatives being considered.
5. Achieve cost containment by carrying out a risk-based approach that finds the proper balance in service and cost.

**2.** **SCOPE OF WORK**

The System is issuing this Request for Proposal (“RFP”) to solicit proposals for investment advisory services provided by a qualified firm to assist the System in the development of a short-term operating fund investment and management program.

**3. COSTS/PRICING**

 Please provide a description of how the fee structure is set up and how various items are priced,

 as listed on the Official Bid Price Sheet provided within this RFP document **(see Appendix II).**

* **Advisory Services:** Please detail the pricing structure for how advisory services are

 provided.

Any additional pricing lists should remain attached to the Official Price Sheet for purposes of accurate evaluation. Pricing must be valid for 120 days following the bid response due date and time. The University will not be obligated to pay any costs not identified on the Official Price Sheet. The respondent must certify that any costs not identified by the respondent, but subsequently incurred in order to achieve successful operation of the service, will be borne by the respondent. Failure to do so may result in rejection of the bid.

**4. REFERENCES**

Respondents must provide a minimum of three (3) references, preferably in higher education, (including the organization’s name, address, persons to contact, telephone numbers, and email addresses) located in the continental United States currently served by respondent. References are to be parties who can attest to the qualifications relevant to providing services requested. The System reserves the right to contact any references provided to evaluate the level of performance and customer satisfaction. **See Appendix I for format.**

**5. RESPONDENTS RESPONSIBILITY TO READ RFP**

 It is the Respondent's responsibility to thoroughly examine and read the entire RFP document, including any and all appendices. Failure of Respondents to fully acquaint themselves with existing conditions or the amount of goods and work involved will not be a basis for requesting extra compensation after the award of a Contract.

**6. PROJECTED TIMETABLE OF ACTIVITIES**

 The following schedule will apply to this RFP, but may change in accordance with the University's needs:

 05/09/18: RFP released to prospective respondents

05/21/18: 5:00 PM CST - Last date/time the System will accept questions

05/22/18: Last date the System will issue an addendum

06/01/18: Proposal submission deadline 2:30 PM CST

 06/15/18: Notice of Intent to Award

Upon Award: Contract Negotiations Begin (upon intent to award)

 Upon Contract Approval: Service to Commence

**7. CONTRACT TERM AND TERMINATION**

The term (“Term”) of this contract will be for a period beginning from the date of commencement of contract. If mutually agreed upon in writing by the contractor and the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas, the term shall be for an initial period of five (5) years, with an optional two (2) year extension. The Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas may terminate this Agreement without cause, at any time during the Term (including any renewal periods), by giving the other party thirty (30) days advance written notice of termination. Additionally, in the event of non-appropriation of funds necessary to fulfill the terms and conditions of this Agreement during any biennium period of the Term (including any renewal periods), the parties agree that this Agreement shall automatically terminate without notice.

 **a)** If at any time the services become unsatisfactory, the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas will give thirty (30) days written notice to the contractor. If at the end of the thirty (30) day period the services are still deemed unsatisfactory, the contract shall be cancelled by the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas, Office of Business Affairs. Additionally, the agreement may be terminated, without penalty, by the System without cause by giving thirty (30) days written notice of such termination to the seller.

 **b)** Upon award, the agreement is subject to cancellation, without penalty, either in whole or in part, if funds are not appropriated.

 **c)** In no event shall such termination by the System as provided for under this Section give rise to any liability on the part of the System including, but not limited to, claims of Proposer for compensation for anticipated profits, unabsorbed overhead, or on borrowing. The System’s sole obligation hereunder is to pay Proposer for services ordered and received prior to the date of termination.

 The terms, conditions, representations, and warranties contained in the agreement shall survive the termination of this contract.

**8. GENERAL INFORMATION FOR BIDDERS**

**8.1 Distributing Organization**

This Request for Proposal (RFP) is issued by the University of Arkansas System Office through the Office of Business Affairs, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

**Bidder Questions and Addenda:** Bidder questions concerning all matters of this RFP should be sent via email to:

 Ellen Ferguson, Procurement Coordinator

 Office of Business Services

 ellenf@uark.edu

 Questions received via email will be directly addressed via email, and compilation of *all* questions and answers (Q&A), as well as any revision, update and/or addenda specific to this RFP solicitation will be made available on HogBid, the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville bid solicitation website: <http://hogbid.uark.edu/index.php>. During the time between the bid opening and contract award(s), with the exception of bidder questions during this process, any contact concerning this RFP will be initiated by the issuing agency and not the respondent. Specifically, the persons named herein will initiate all contact.

 Respondents shall not rely on any other interpretations, changes, or corrections. It is the Respondent's responsibility to thoroughly examine and read the entire RFP document and any Q&A or addenda to this RFP. Failure of Respondents to fully acquaint themselves with existing conditions or information provided will not be a basis for requesting extra compensation after the award of a Contract.

**8.2 Agency Employees and Agents**

The Company shall be responsible for the acts of its employees and agents while performing services pursuant to the Agreement. Accordingly, the Company agrees to take all necessary measures to prevent injury and loss to persons or property while on the System premises. The Company shall be responsible for all damages to persons or property on and off campus caused solely or partially by the Company or any of its agents or employees. Company employees shall conduct themselves in a professional manner and shall not use the System’s facilities for any activity or operation other than the operation and performance of services as herein stated. The System reserves the right to deny access to any individual. The following conduct is unacceptable for the Company’s employees and agents: foul language, offensive or distasteful comments related to age, race, ethnic background or sex, evidence of alcohol influence or influence of drugs, refusal to provide services requested, refusal to make arrangements for additional services needed and general rudeness. The Company shall require standard criminal background checks on all employees of the Company in advance of the performance of any on-campus duties. Employees whose background checks reveal felony convictions of any type are to be either removed from all support activities on the System’s campus or reported to the University for review and approval in advance of the performance of any on-campus duties.

**8.3 Tobacco Free Campus**

Smoking and the use of tobacco products (including cigarettes, cigars, pipes, smokeless tobacco, and other tobacco products), as well as the use of electronic cigarettes, by students, faculty, staff, contractors, and visitors, are prohibited at all times on and within all property, including buildings, grounds, and Athletic facilities, owned or operated by the System and on and within all vehicles on System property, and on and within all System vehicles at any location.

**8.4 Disputes**

The successful vendor and the System agree that they will attempt to resolve any disputes in good faith. The vendor and the System agree that the State of Arkansas shall be the sole and exclusive venue for any litigation or proceeding that may arise out of or in connection with this contract. The vendor acknowledges, understands and agrees that any actions for damages against the System may only be initiated and pursued in the Arkansas Claims Commission. Under no circumstances does the System agree to binding arbitration of any disputes or to the payment of attorney fees, court costs or litigation expenses.

**8.5 Conditions of Contract**

The successful bidder shall at all times observe and comply with federal and Arkansas State laws, local laws, ordinances, orders, and regulations existing at the time of or enacted subsequent to the execution of this contract which in any manner affect the completion of work. The successful bidder shall indemnify and save harmless the System and all its officers, representatives, agents, and employees against any claim or liability arising from or based upon the violation of any such law, ordinance, regulation, order or decree by an employee, representative, or subcontractor of the successful bidder.

**8.6 Contract Information**

 Respondents should note the following regarding the State’s contracting authority, and amend any documents accordingly. Failure to conform to these standards may result in rejection of agency response:

 A. The State of Arkansas may not contract with another party:

1. To pay any penalties or charges for late payment or any penalties or charges which in fact are penalties for any reason.

2. To indemnify and defend that party for liability and damages. Under Arkansas law the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas may not enter into a covenant or agreement to hold a party harmless or to indemnify a party from prospective damages. However, with respect to loss, expense, damage, liability, claims or demands either at law or in equity for actual or alleged injuries to persons or property arising out of any negligent act or omission by the System and its employees or agents in the performance of this Agreement, the System agrees with the successful party that: (a) it will cooperate with the successful party in the defense of any action or claim brought against the successful party seeking the foregoing damages or relief; (b) it will in good faith cooperate with the successful party should the successful party present any claims of the foregoing nature against the System to the Claims Commission of the State of Arkansas; (c) it will not take any action to frustrate or delay the prompt hearing on claims of the foregoing nature by the said Claims Commission and will make reasonable efforts to expedite said hearing; provided, however, the System reserves its right to assert in good faith all claims and defenses available to it in any proceedings in said Claims Commission or other appropriate forum. The obligations of this paragraph shall survive the expiration or termination of this agreement.

3. Upon default, to pay all sums that become due under a contract.

4. To pay damages, legal expenses, or other costs and expenses of any party.

5. To conduct litigation in a place other than Pulaski County, Arkansas.

6. To agree to any provision of a contract that violates the laws or constitution of the State of Arkansas.

B. A party wishing to contract with the System should:

1. Remove any language from its contract which grants to it any remedies other than:

* The right to possession.
* The right to accrued payment.
* The right to expenses of de-installation.

2. Include in its contract that the laws of the State of Arkansas govern the contract.

3. Acknowledge in its contract that contracts become effective when awarded by the University Purchasing Official.

**8.7 Reservation**

This RFP does not commit the System to award a contract, to pay costs incurred in the preparation of a response to this request, or to procure or contract for services or supplies. The System reserves the right to accept or reject (in its entirety), any response received as a result of this RFP, if it is in the best interest of the System to do so. In responding to this RFP, respondents recognize that the System may make an award to a primary vendor; however, the System reserves the right to purchase like and similar services from other agencies as necessary to meet operation requirements.

**8.8 Qualifications of Bidder**

The System may make such investigations as it deems necessary to determine the ability of the bidder to meet all requirements as stated within this bid request, and the bidder shall furnish to the System all such information and data for this purpose that the System may request. The System reserves the right to reject any bid if the evidence submitted by, or investigations of, such bidder fails to satisfy the System that such bidder is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the Agreement.

**8.9 Default**

In the event that the contractor fails to carry out or comply with any of the Terms and Conditions of the contract with the System, the System may notify the Contractor of such failure or default in writing and demand that the failure or default be remedied within ten (10) working days, and in the event the Proposer fails to remedy such failure or default within the ten (10) working day period, the System shall have the right to cancel the contract upon thirty (30) days written notice. The cancellation of the contract, under any circumstances whatsoever, shall not effect or relieve contractor from any obligation or liability that may have been incurred or will be incurred pursuant to the contract and such cancellation by the System shall not limit any other right or remedy available to the System by law or inequity.

**8.10 Non Waiver of Defaults**

Any failure of the System at any time, to enforce or require the strict keeping and performance of any of the terms and conditions of this agreement shall not constitute a waiver of such terms, conditions, or rights, and shall not affect or impair same, or the right of the System at any time to avail itself of same.

**8.11 Independent Parties**

Vendor acknowledges that under this contract it is an independent vendor and is not operating in any fashion as the agent of the System. The relationship of the vendor and System is that of independent contractors, and nothing in this contract should be construed to create any agency, joint venture, or partnership relationship between the parties.

**8.12 Governing Law**

The parties agree that this contract, including all amendments thereto, shall be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas, without regard to choice of law principles. Consistent with the foregoing, this contract shall be subject to the Uniform Commercial Code as enacted in Arkansas.

**8.13 Proprietary Information**

Proprietary information submitted in response to this bid will be processed in accordance with applicable University of Arkansas procurement procedures. All material submitted in response to this bid becomes the public property of the State of Arkansas and will be a matter of public record and open to public inspection subsequent to bid opening as defined by the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act. The Respondent is hereby cautioned that any part of its bid that is considered confidential, proprietary, or trade secret, must be labeled as such and submitted in a separate envelope along with the bid, and can only be protected to the extent permitted by Arkansas law.

**8.14 Disclosure**

Disclosure is a condition of this contract and the University of Arkansas cannot enter into any contract for which disclosure is not made. Arkansas’s Executive Order 98-04 requires all potential contractors disclose whether the individual or anyone who owns or controls the business is a member of the Arkansas General Assembly, constitutional officer, state board or commission member, state employee, or the spouse or family member of any of these. If this applies to the bidder’s business, the bidder must state so in writing.

**8.15 Proposal Modification**

Proposals submitted prior to the Proposal opening date may be modified or withdrawn only by written notice to the University of Arkansas. Such notice must be received by the University Purchasing Official prior to the time designated for opening of the Proposal. Respondent may change or withdraw the Proposal at any time prior to Proposal opening; however, no oral modifications will be allowed. Only letters or other formal written requests for modifications or corrections of a previously submitted Proposal that are addressed in the same manner as the Proposal and that are received prior to the scheduled Proposal opening time will be accepted. The Proposal, when opened, will then be corrected in accordance with such written requests, provided that the written request is contained in a sealed envelope that is clearly marked with the RFP number and “Modification of Proposal”. No modifications of the Proposal will be accepted at any time after the Proposal due date and time.

**8.16 Prime Contractor Responsibility**

Single and joint vendor bids and multiple bids by vendors are acceptable. However, the selected bidder(s) will be required to assume prime contractor responsibility for the contract and will be the sole point of contact with regard to the award of this RFP.

**8.17 Period of Firm Proposal**

Prices for the proposed services must be kept firm for **at least 120 days** after the Proposal Due Date specified on the cover sheet of this RFP. Firm Proposals for periods of less than this number of days may be considered non-responsive. The Respondent may specify a longer period of firm price than indicated here. If no period is indicated by the Respondent in the Proposal, the price will be firm for 120 days or until written notice to the contrary is received from the Respondent, whichever is longer.

**8.18 Errors and Omissions**

The Respondent is expected to comply with the true intent of this RFP taken as a whole and shall not avail itself of any errors or omissions to the detriment of the services. Should the Respondent suspect any error, omission, or discrepancy in the specifications or instructions, the Respondent shall immediately notify the University Purchasing Official, in writing, and the University of Arkansas shall issue written instructions to be followed. The Respondent is responsible for the contents of its Proposal and for satisfying the requirements set forth in the RFP.

**8.19 Award Responsibility**

The University Purchasing Official will be responsible for award and administration of any resulting contract(s). The System reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or any portion thereof, to re-advertise if deemed necessary, and to investigate any or all bids and request additional information as necessary in order to substantiate the professional, financial and/or technical qualifications of the Bidders.

 Contract(s) will be awarded to the Bidder(s) whose proposal adheres to the conditions set forth in the RFP, and in the sole judgment of the System, best meets the overall goals and financial objectives of the System. A resultant contract will not be assignable without prior written consent of both parties.

**8.20 Confidentiality and Publicity**

 From the date of issuance of the RFP until the opening date, the Respondent must not make available or discuss its Proposal, or any part thereof, with any employee or agent of the System. The Respondent is hereby warned that any part of its Proposal or any other material marked as confidential, proprietary, or trade secret, can only be protected to the extent permitted by law. All material submitted in response to this RFP becomes the property of the System.

 News release(s) by a vendor pertaining to this RFP or any portion of the project shall not be made without prior written approval of the University Purchasing Official. Failure to comply with this requirement is deemed to be a valid reason for disqualification of the respondent's bid. The University Purchasing Official will not initiate any publicity relating to this procurement action before the contract award is completed.

 Employees of the company awarded the contract may have access to records and information about System processes, employees, including proprietary information, trade secrets, and intellectual property to which the System holds rights. The company agrees to keep all such information strictly confidential and to refrain from discussing this information with anyone else without proper authority.

**8.21 Respondent Presentations**

The System reserves the right to, but is not obligated to, request and require that final contenders determined by the Evaluation Committee provide a formal presentation of their Proposal at a date and time to be determined by the Evaluation Committee. Respondents are required to participate in such a request if the System chooses to engage such opportunity.

**8.22 Excused Performance**

In the event that the performance of any terms or provisions of this agreement shall be delayed or

prevented because of compliance with any law, decree, or order of any governmental agency or authority, either local, state, or federal, or because of riots, war, acts of terrorism, public disturbances, unavailability of materials meeting the required standards, strikes, lockouts, differences with workmen, fires, floods, Acts of God, or any other reason whatsoever which is not within the control of the party whose performance is interfered with and which, by the exercise of reasonable diligence, such party is unable to prevent (the foregoing collectively referred to as "Excused Performance"), the party so interfered with may at its option suspend, without liability, the performance of its obligations during the period such cause continues, and extend any due date or deadline for performance by the period of such delay, but in no event shall such delay exceed six (6) months.

**8.23 Funding Out Clause**

If, in the sole discretion of the System, funds are not allocated to continue this agreement, or any activities related herewith, in any future period, then the System will not be obligated to pay any further charges for services, beyond the end of the then current period. The Company will be notified of such non-allocation at the earliest possible time. No penalty shall accrue in the event this section is exercised. This section shall not be construed so as to permit the System to terminate the agreement in order to acquire similar service from a third party.

**8.24 Indicia**

 The respondents and the Company acknowledges and agrees that the System owns the rights to its name and its other names, symbols, designs, and colors, including without limitation, the trademarks, service marks, designs, team names, nicknames, abbreviations, city/state names in the appropriate context, slogans, logo graphics, mascots, seals, color schemes, trade dress, and other symbols associated with or referring to the University of Arkansas that are adopted and used or approved for use by the System (collectively the “Indicia”) and that each of the Indicia is valid. Neither any respondent nor Company shall have any right to use any of the Indicia or any similar mark as, or a part of, a trademark, service mark, trade name, fictitious name, domain name, company or corporate name, a commercial or business activity, or advertising or endorsements anywhere in the world without the express prior written consent of the System. Any domain name, trademark or service mark registration obtained or applied for that contains the Indicia or any similar mark upon request shall be assigned or transferred to the System without compensation.

**8.25 RFP Interpretation**

Interpretation of the wording of this document shall be the responsibility of the System and that interpretation shall be final.

**8.26 Time is of the Essence**

Vendor and the System agree that time is of the essence in all respects concerning this contract and performance herein.

**8.27 Formation of the Agreement/Contract**

At its option, the System may take either one of the following actions in order to create the agreement between the System and the selected vendor:

1. Accept a proposal as written by issuing a written notice to the selected vendor, which refers to the Request for Proposal and accept the proposal submitted in response to it.
2. Enter negotiations with one or more firms in an effort to reach a mutually satisfactory written agreement, which will be executed by both parties and will be based upon this Request for Proposal, the proposal submitted by the firm and negotiations concerning these.

Because the System may use alternative (A) above, each Proposer should include in its proposal all requirements, terms or conditions it may have, and should not assume that an opportunity will exist to add such matters after the proposal is submitted. The contents of this RFP will be incorporated into the final contract documents, which will include a standard University agreement.

**NOTE: The successful bidder will enter into a State Professional Services/Consultants Contract that will require approval prior to any work conducted.**

**9. INSTRUCTION TO BIDDERS**

**9.1** Respondents must comply with all articles of the Standard Terms and Conditions documents posted on our Hogbid website as counterpart to the RFP document, and any associated appendices, as well as all articles within the RFP document. The University of Arkansas is not responsible for any misinterpretation or misunderstanding of these instructions on the part of the Bidders.

**9.2** Respondents must address each section of the RFP. An interactive version of the RFP document will be posted on our Hogbid website. Bidders can insert responses into the document provided, or create their own response document making sure to remain consistent with the numbering and chronological order as listed in our RFP document. Ultimately, bidders must ‘acknowledge’ each section of our document in their bid response.

In the event that a detailed response is not necessary, the respondent shall state ACKNOWLEDGED as the response to indicate that the respondent acknowledges, understands, and fully complies with the specification. If a description is requested, please insert detailed response accordingly. Bidder’s required responses should contain sufficient information and detail for the System to further evaluate the merit of the vendor’s response. Failure to respond in this format may result in bid disqualification.

**9.3**Any exceptions to any of the terms, conditions, specifications, protocols, and/or other requirements listed in this RFP must be clearly noted by reference to the page number, section, or other identifying reference in this RFP. All information regarding such exceptions to content or requirements must be noted in the same sequence as its appearance in this RFP.

**9.4** Proposals will be publicly opened in the Purchasing Office, Room 321 Administration Building, The University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas, 72701, at 2:30 p.m. CST, on the proposal due date. All responses must be submitted in a sealed envelope with the response number clearly visible on the OUTSIDE of the envelope/package. No responsibility will be attached to any person for the premature opening of a response not properly identified.

**Respondents must submit one (1) signed original, one (1) signed copy, and two (2) soft copies of their Proposal (i.e. CD-ROM or USB Flash drive)** labeled with the Respondent’s name and the Bid Number, readable by the System, with the documents in Microsoft Windows versions of Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Visio, Microsoft PowerPoint, or Adobe PDF formats; other formats are acceptable as long as that format’s viewer is also included or a pointer is provided for downloading it from the Internet. Responses must be received at the following location prior to the time and date specified within the timeline of this RFP:

 University of Arkansas

 Business Affairs, Purchasing Division

 Administration Building, Room 321

 1125 W. Maple St

 Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701

One (1) copy of referenced or otherwise appropriate descriptive literature must accompany a submitted bid.Responses shall be publicly opened and announced at that time.

 **NOTE: No award will be made at bid opening. Only names of respondents and a preliminary determination of proposal responsiveness will be made at this time.**

Respondents may deliver their responses either by hand or through U.S. Mail or other available courier services to the address shown above. **Include the RFP name and number on the outside of each package and/or correspondence related to this RFP.** No call-in, emailed, or faxed responses will be accepted. The Respondent remains solely responsible for insuring that its response is received at the time, date, and location specified. The University of Arkansas assumes no responsibility for any response not so received, regardless of whether the delay is caused by the U.S. Postal Service, University Postal Delivery System, or some other act or circumstance. Responses received after the time specified in this RFP will not be considered. **All responses received after the specified time will be returned unopened**.

**Additional Redacted Copy REQUIRED**

Proprietary information submitted in response to this RFP will be processed in accordance with applicable State of Arkansas procurement law. Documents pertaining to the RFP become the property of the System and shall be open to public inspection **after** a notice of intent to award is formally announced.

It is the responsibility of the Respondent to identify all proprietary information included in their bid Proposal. The Respondent shall submit one (1) separate electronic copy of the proposal from which any proprietary information has been removed, i.e., a redacted copy (marked “REDACTED COPY”).  The redacted copy should reflect the same pagination as the original, show the empty space from which information was redacted, and should be submitted on a CD or flash drive, preferably in a PDF format. Except for the redacted information, the redacted copy must be identical to the original hard copy submitted for the bid Proposal to be considered.  The Respondent is responsible for ensuring the redacted copy on CD/flash drive is protected against restoration of redacted data.  The redacted copy may be open to public inspection under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”) without further notice to the Respondent **after** a notice of intent to award is formally announced. If during a subsequent review process the System determines that specific information redacted by the respondent is subject to disclosure under FOIA, the respondent will be contacted prior to release of the information.

**9.5** For a proposal to be considered, an official authorized to bind the respondent to a resultant contract must include signature in the blank provided on the RFP cover sheet. Failure to sign the response as required will eliminate it from consideration.

**9.6** All official documents, including responses to this RFP, and correspondence shall be included as part of the resultant contract.

**9.7** The University Purchasing Official reserves the right to award a contract or reject a bid for any or all line items of a bid received as a result of this RFP, if it is in the best interest of the System to do so. Bids may be rejected for one or more reasons not limited to the following:

* + - * 1. Failure of the vendor to submit the bid (s) and bid copies as required in this RFP on or before

the deadline established by the issuing agency.

* + - * 1. Failure of the vendor to respond to a requirement for oral/written clarification, presentation, or demonstration.
				2. Failure to provide the bid security or performance security if required.
				3. Failure to supply vendor references if required.
				4. Failure to sign an Official Bid Document.
				5. Failure to complete the Official Bid Price Sheet.
				6. Any wording by the respondent in their response to this RFP, or in subsequent correspondence, which conflicts with or takes exception to a bid requirement in this RFP.

**9.8** If the respondent submits standard terms and conditions with the bid, and if any section of those terms is in conflict with the laws of the State of Arkansas, the State laws shall govern. Standard terms and conditions submitted may need to be altered to adequately reflect all of the conditions of this RFP, the bidder's responses and Arkansas State law.

**10. INDEMNIFICATION AND INSURANCE**

The successful Respondent or Contractor shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the System, its trustees, officers, directors, employees, agents and volunteers from and against any and all losses, costs, expenses, damages, and liabilities resulting from or relating to: (a) any breach by Contractor or Contractor’s members, officers, employees, subcontractors, vendors, and agents of any representation, warranty, or other provision of this RFP, any resulting Contract or any document delivered by Contractor in connection with the products and services contemplated by this RFP; (b) any damage to property or bodily injury, including, but not limited to illness, paralysis, dismemberment and death, arising from or relating to any products or services provided by the Contractor or uses of the System campus by Contractor, its officers, employees, agents, volunteers, customers, subcontractors or guests under this RFP or any resulting Contract, or any other activities conducted on the System campus (whether such activity is authorized or unauthorized by System); (c) any use of or damage to System property and any defect in any building and improvement thereon, including, but not limited to, any damage to any parking lots arising from or relating to any permitted uses under this RFP or any resulting Contract; (d) any act or omission of Contractor or any of its officers, agents, employees, invitees, or subcontractor’s employees and invitees; and (e) any violation by Contractor of any applicable NCAA rules or regulations or state, federal or local laws.

The obligation to indemnify the System shall include, but shall not be limited to, the obligation to pay any and all losses, costs, expenses, attorneys' fees, damages, and liabilities incurred, as well as any attorneys’ fees and court costs (including, but not limited to, any appellate or appellate-related proceedings). At no cost or expense to the System, System’s in-house counsel may participate in any proceedings. The indemnification obligations under this RFP or any resulting Contract shall survive the expiration or termination of such RFP or resulting Contract.

The successful bidder shall purchase and maintain at bidder’s expense, the following minimum insurance coverage for the period of the contract. Certificates evidencing the effective dates and amounts of such insurance must be provided to the System.

* Workers Compensation: As required by the State of Arkansas.
* Comprehensive General Liability, with no less than $1,000,000 each occurrence/$2,000,000 aggregate for bodily injury, products liability, contractual liability, and property damage liability.
* Comprehensive Automobile Liability, with no less than combined coverage for bodily injury and property damage of $1,000,000 each occurrence. Policies shall be issued by an insurance company authorized to do business in the State of Arkansas and shall provide that policy may not be canceled except upon thirty (30) days prior written notice to the System.

Any policy shall cover any vehicle being used in the management, operation, or delivery deriving from Contractor’s operations on the System’s campus. Contractor shall also be responsible for payment of workers’ compensation insurance for all Contractor’s employees as required by the State of Arkansas.

Contractor shall furnish the System with a certificate (s) of insurance effecting coverage required herein. Failure to file certificates or acceptance by the System of certificates which do not indicate the specific required coverages shall in no way relieve the Contractor from any liability under the agreement, nor shall the insurance requirements be construed to conflict with the obligations of Contractor concerning indemnification. Proof of Insurance must be included in bid response.

Contractor shall, at their sole expense, procure and keep in effect all necessary permits and licenses required for its performance under this agreement, and shall post or display in a prominent place such permits and/or notices as are required by law.

11. **CONTRACTOR OVERVIEW**

The Contractor shall provide a general overview of its business including the following information:

* Foundation date
* Description of core activities
* Major company and distributor locations
* Total number of clients
* Total number of clients in higher education
* Current financial status and revenues – Overview only

**12. BEST AND FINAL OFFER**

The System reserves the right to request an official “Best and Final Offer” from bid Respondents if it deems such an approach in the best interest of the institution.  In general, the “Best and Final Offer” will consist of an updated cost proposal in addition to an opportunity for the vendor to submit a final response to specific questions or opportunities identified in subsequent discussions related to the original proposal response submitted to the university. If the System chooses to invoke a “Best and Final Offer” option, all responses will be re-evaluated by incorporating the information as requested in the official “Best and Final Offer” document, including costs and answers to specific questions presented in the document. The specific format for the official “Best and Final Offer” request will be determined during evaluation discussions.  The official request for a “Best and Final Offer” will be issued by the University Procurement Department.

**13. SPECIFICATIONS / SCOPE OF SERVICES REQUESTED**

 While the overall format of the proposal is at the discretion of the respondents, each proposal should contain the following information at a minimum:

* Provide an overview of the firm’s history in the investment advisory profession.
* Describe the organization of the firm and the range of services it provides, its underlying philosophy or mission statement as investment advisory consultant, and any organizational aspects that uniquely qualify the firm for this assignment.
* Is your firm, its parent, or affiliate a registered investment advisor with the SEC under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940? If not, what is your fiduciary classification?
* Within the last five years, has your organization or an officer or principal been involved in any business litigation or other legal proceedings relating to your consulting activities? If so, provide an explanation and indicate the current status or disposition.
* How many analysts, responsible solely for investment manager research are employed by your organization? How many analysts are responsible for the performance valuations, performance attribution analyses, manager searches, etc?
* List personnel who would be assigned to work with the System, including name, title, and resume. In addition, please provide e-mail and telephone/fax number of the principal contact.
* Describe relevant investment advisory service experience with higher education, the public sector, and the State of Arkansas.
* Describe in detail the type and frequency of research that would be provided by your firm and the media utilized.
* Describe the risk assessment capabilities and experience of your firm.
* Describe the process that would be used to evaluate investment performance.
* Indicate specifically if there are any costs to be borne by the System outside the basic fee structure.
* Enter the number of institutional retainer clients by asset size in each of the following categories:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Size ($ Millions) | Corporate Funds | Endowments/Foundations | Public Pension Funds | Other |
| $0 - $50 |   |   |   |   |
| 51 – 500 |   |   |   |   |
| 501 - 1,000 |   |   |   |   |
| 1,001 - 5,000 |   |   |   |   |
| Over $5,000 |   |   |   |   |

Include any other relevant information the System should consider in evaluating the investment advisor’s qualifications.

**NOTE:** The System’s Operating Funds Investment Policy is attached as **Appendix III**. Please read and review the Policy thoroughly in advance of preparing your bidder response.

**14. EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCESS**

It is the intent of the System to award an Agreement to the respondent(s) deemed to be the most qualified and responsible firm(s), who submits the best overall proposal based on an evaluation of all responses. Selection shall be based on the assessment of the agency’s ability to provide adequate service, as determined by the evaluation committee selected to evaluate proposals. The System reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals or any part thereof, to waive informalities, and to accept the Proposal or Proposals deemed most favorable to the System. Where contract negotiations with a respondent do not proceed to an executed contract within a time deemed reasonable by the System (for whatever reasons), the System may reconsider the proposals of other respondents and, if appropriate, enter into contract negotiations with one or more of the other respondents. Proposals shall remain valid and current for the period of 120 days after the due date and time for submission of proposals. Each response will receive a complete evaluation and will be assigned a score of up to 100 points possible based on the following items:

1. **Ability to Provide Full Range of Services as Indicated in the RFP Above (50 Points)**

Respondent with the highest rating shall receive fifty (50) points. Points shall be assigned based on factors within this category, to include but are not limited to:

* Scope of Services Offered
* Respondent Presentations
* Adherence to Requirements

1. **Vendor History and Past Performance (30 Points)**

Respondent with highest rating shall receive thirty (30) points. Points shall be assigned based on factors within this category, to include but are not limited to:

* Profile of organization and history
* Number of years in business
* History of similar engagements
* Higher Education References
1. **Cost (20 Points)**

Points shall be assigned for the cost of the specific categories of services, which comprise the overall system, including annual maintenance cost, as follows:

* Cost points will be assigned on the specific component basis as reflected on the Official Price Sheet, for comparison and evaluation purposes.
* The bid with the lowest estimated cost of the overall system will receive the maximum points possible for this section.
* Remaining bids will receive points in accordance with the following formula:

**(a/b)(c) = d**

 a = lowest cost bid in dollars

 b = second (third, fourth, etc.) lowest cost bid

 c = maximum points for Cost category (20)

 d = number of points allocated to bid

Failure of the Respondent to provide in his/her proposal any information requested in this RFP may result in disqualification of his/her proposal and shall be the responsibility of the respondent.

**14. SERVICE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Service Criteria** | **Acceptable Performance**  | **Compensation / Damages** |
| Adherence to Requirements | Reference section 1 & 2 of RFP. | **Termination of Contract:** Reference section 7 of RFP. This termination clause will apply for insufficient performance of services by vendor at the sole discretion of the University of Arkansas System. |
| Adherence to Operating Funds Investment Policy  | Reference Appendix III. | **Termination of Contract:** Reference section 7 of RFP. This termination clause will apply for insufficient performance of services by vendor at the sole discretion of the University of Arkansas System. |
| Scope of Services  | Reference section 1 & 2 of RFP. | **Termination of Contract:** Reference section 7 of RFP. This termination clause will apply for insufficient performance of services by vendor at the sole discretion of the University of Arkansas System. |

**APPENDIX I: Bidder Information/Reference**

Bidder must provide the following information as part of this proposal:

1. Respondent Representative

 Contact Name

 Telephone

 Email Address

 Address

2. References of your current customer(s) as specified in **Section 4** of this RFP document:

 a. Company/Organization Name:

 Contact Name

 Telephone

 Email Address

 Address

 b. Company/Organization Name:

 Contact Name

 Telephone

 Email Address

 Address

 c. Company/Organization Name:

 Contact Name

 Telephone

 Email Address

 Address

**APPENDIX II: Official Price Sheet**

**Reference Section 3-Costs** for further instruction, and the corresponding Bid Price Sheet provided below. Please complete the Price Sheet as provided and submit within your proposal. If pricing is dependent on any assumptions that are not specifically stated on the Official Price Sheet, please list those assumptions accordingly on a separate spreadsheet and show detailed pricing. Any additional pricing lists should remain attached to the Official Price Sheet for purposes of accurate evaluation. **Pricing must be valid for 120 days following the bid response due date and time.**

The System will not be obligated to pay any costs not identified accordingly. The respondent must certify that any costs not identified by the respondent, but subsequently incurred in order to achieve successful operation of the service, will be borne by the respondent. Failure to do so may result in rejection of the bid.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ITEM** | **QTY** | **DESCRIPTION** | **PRICE EACH** | **TOTAL** |  |
| 1 |   | Advisory Services | $ | $ |  |
| 2 |   | Other  | $ | $ |  |
| 3 |   | Not-to-exceed budgets for reimbursable expenses such as travel, communications, supplies, printing, etc. | $ | $ |  |
| ***Grand Total*** |  | **$** |  |

**APPENDIX III: Investment Policy - Operating Funds**

Refer to this link:

The full policy is provided as a separate component to this RFP on our Hogbid website,

titled “Appendix III”