

## INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

1. **BIDDERS REPRESENTATIONS:** The bidder, by making a bid, represents that: (a) the bidder has read and understands the bidding documents, terms and conditions, and the bid is made in accordance therewith; and (b) the bid is based upon the materials, equipment, systems, printing and/or services specified.
2. **QUALITY STANDARDS:** Brand names, when identified, include the standard of quality, performance or use desired. Unless otherwise noted, bids by bidders on equivalents may be considered, provided the bidder furnishes descriptive literature and other proof required by the Institution. Samples, when required, must be furnished free of charge, including freight. In the event the Institution elects to contract for a brand purported to be an equivalent by the bidder, the acceptance of the item will be conditioned on the Institution's inspection and testing after receipt. If, in the sole judgment of the Institution, the item is determined not to be equivalent, the item will be returned at the Seller's expense and the contract terminated.
3. **SUBMISSION OF BIDS:** The bid, the bid security, if any, and other documents required to be submitted with the bid shall be enclosed in a sealed opaque envelope. The envelope shall be addressed to the party receiving the bids and shall be identified as a "Sealed Bid, and shall include the bid number, the bid opening time, and the bid opening date. Bids shall be delivered and deposited at the designated location prior to the time and date for receipt of bids. Bids received after the time and date for the bid opening will be returned unopened. The bidder shall assume full responsibility for timely delivery at the location designated for receipt of bids. Oral, telephonic, facsimile or telegraphic bids are invalid and will not receive consideration.
4. **MODIFICATION OR WITHDRAWAL OF BIDS:** Prior to the time and date designated for receipt of bids, a bid submitted may be modified or withdrawn by notice to the party receiving bids at the place designated for receipt of bids. Such notice shall be in writing over the signature of the bidder and shall be received prior to the designated time and date for receipt of bids. A modification shall be worded so as not to reveal the amount of the original bid. A withdrawal may be made by facsimile or electronic transmission. A modification may also be made by facsimile or electronic transmission if the final bid result is not revealed prior to the bid opening.
5. **OPENING OF BIDS:** Bids shall be publicly opened and read aloud at the designated location for receipt of bids shortly after the time and date bids are due.
6. **REJECTION OF BIDS:** The Institution shall have the right to reject any and all bids, in whole or part; to reject a bid not accompanied by a required bid security or other data required by the bidding documents; or reject a bid which is in any way incomplete or irregular.
7. **ACCEPTANCE OF BID (AWARD):** It is the intent of the Institution to award a contract to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder provided the bid does not exceed the funds available. The Institution shall have the right to waive informalities or irregularities in a bid received and to accept the bid, which in the Institution's judgment, is in the Institution's own best interests. All bids are governed by the West Virginia Code and the Procedural Rules of the Commission.
8. **VENDOR REGISTRATION:** Prior to any award for purchases exceeding \$25,000, the apparent successful bidder must be properly registered with the W. Va. Department of Administration, Purchasing Division, and have paid the required vendor registration fee.
9. **NON-FUNDING:** All services performed or goods delivered under State Purchase Orders/Contracts are to be continued for the term of the Purchase Order/Contract, contingent upon funds being appropriated by the Legislature or otherwise being made available. In the event funds are not appropriated or otherwise available for these services or goods, this Purchase Order/Contract becomes void and of no effect after June 30.
10. **PAYMENTS AND INTEREST ON LATE PAYMENTS:** Payment may only be made after the delivery and acceptance of goods or services. Interest may be paid for late payment in accordance with the West Virginia Code.
11. **RESIDENT VENDOR PREFERENCE:** A resident vendor preference will be granted upon written request in accordance with the West Virginia Code.
12. **TAX EXEMPTION:** The State of West Virginia, the Commission, Governing Board and its institutions are exempt from federal and state taxes and will not pay or reimburse such taxes.