

**UNSEALED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**URFP#: TRRC-15-003**

**Issue Date:** October 1, 2015

**Title:** Public Outreach Consulting Services

**Commodity Code:** 91500 Communications and Media Related Services  
91800 Consulting Services

**Issuing Agency:** Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission  
701 E. Franklin Street, Suite 501  
Richmond, VA 23219

**Location where work will be performed:** Richmond, VA

**Period of Contract:** **Estimated to start November 2, 2015, for a four month period** (no renewals)

Unsealed Proposals will be received until **1:00 p.m. EST on October 15, 2015** by the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission located at 701 East Franklin Street, Suite 501, Richmond, Virginia, 23219. To be considered, all proposals must be received at this specific location on or before the date and hour stipulated. Proposals received after the date and hour designated are automatically disqualified and will not be considered.

**Pre-Proposal Conference - None**

All inquiries should be directed to Stephanie Kim at (804) 786-2508, fax (804) 786-3210, or [Stephanie.kim@tic.virginia.gov](mailto:Stephanie.kim@tic.virginia.gov).

In Compliance With This Request For Unsealed Proposals, And To All The Conditions Imposed Herein And Hereby Incorporated By Reference, The Undersigned Firm Hereby Offers And Agrees To Furnish All Goods/Services In Accordance With The Attached Signed Proposal Or As Mutually Agreed Upon By Subsequent Negotiation, And The Undersigned Firm Hereby Certifies That All Information Provided Below And In Any Schedule Attached Hereto Is True, Correct, And Complete.

Name and Address of Firm:

_____	Date: _____
_____	By: _____
_____	<i>(Signature in Ink)</i>
_____ Zip Code: _____	Name: _____
eVA Vendor ID or DUNS#: _____	<i>(Please Print)</i>
Fax Number: ( ) _____	Title: _____
email address: _____	Telephone Number: ( ) _____

**Note: This public body does not discriminate against faith-based organizations in accordance with the Code of Virginia, § 2.2-4343.1 or against a bidder or offeror because of race, religion, color, sex, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by state law relating to discrimination in employment.**

## **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Unsealed Request for Proposals (URFP) is to establish a contract through competitive negotiations with a qualified advertising, marketing or public relations firm that will advise and assist the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission (“Commission”) in the development and initial management of a comprehensive external communications strategy. This strategy would be focused on proactively generating earned media surrounding the Commission’s work and strengthening the Commission’s profile both within its region and statewide.

## **II. BACKGROUND**

The Commission was established as a body corporate and political subdivision of the Commonwealth in 1999 by the Virginia General Assembly in response to the Master Settlement Agreement between tobacco companies and 46 states. The main purpose of the Commission is to revitalize tobacco dependent communities of the Commonwealth. This is accomplished through eight programs with grant awards made to local governments, government entities, and non-profit organizations.

## **III. STATEMENT OF NEEDS**

The Commission is seeking a Contractor to serve as an integrated communications and public relations consultant to work with Commission staff to plan, execute, and measure effective and efficient communications initiatives and awareness campaigns. These campaigns will highlight different aspects of the Commission’s work, through outreach to targeted audiences. The Commission seeks Offerors to provide proposals that address the need for full-service communications support that can assist with the development of a positive communications campaign that will support the overall work of the Commission as well as designated initiatives of the Commission.

The selected Contractor, at a minimum, shall deliver the following recommendations:

1. A communications plan. This plan shall include:
  - a. Recommended messaging language to be included in all Commission work
  - b. A timeline for outreach detailing when and to whom outgoing communications should be addressed
  - c. Recommendations or ideas for media outreach around each of the Commission’s programs
  - d. Plans for achieving ongoing earned media within the Commission’s region as well as periodic coverage statewide/in major media markets
2. Recommendations for templates that can be duplicated or adapted by Commission staff with relative ease. These templates should include, but need not be limited to:
  - a. News releases supporting each of the several categories of the Commission’s work
  - b. Event plans supporting each of the several categories of the Commission’s work
  - c. Social media posts supporting each of the several categories of the Commission’s work
  - d. General talking points to be reiterated by Commission staff and Commissioners at public appearances to ensure consistency in messaging
3. Draft Op-Eds that should:
  - a. Contain messages to be distributed on behalf of Commission members
  - b. Be written for various audiences from the smallest local weekly publication to major outlets
  - c. Serve to address misconceptions initially then transition to positive descriptions of commission work
4. Tailored distribution lists for media and stakeholders. These lists should be:
  - a. Easily managed and designated by program area and geographic scope
  - b. Include versions that are purely media and versions that include local and regional leaders and stakeholders
5. Recommendations/Concepts/Ideas for improved website design including:
  - a. A complete overhaul of current online architecture
  - b. Integration with the Commission’s grant database to allow visitors to easily determine background on the Commission’s work in given localities
  - c. New text and descriptions of programs
  - d. A focus on highlighting the Commission’s positive work and message

6. Ideas or recommendations for social media support including:
  - a. Account creation across various platforms
  - b. Template posts to be adapted for specific events and awards
  - c. A posting schedule
  - d. An oversight structure prioritizing avoidance of errors over timeliness of posts.
7. Clear accounting and billing that will include:
  - a. Furnishing, in advance to the Commission, a written detailed cost estimate of all expenditures in connection with all aspects of work with the Commission
  - b. A plan to deliver an invoice monthly that details expenses for the prior month and cumulative expenses for the project
    - i. These invoices shall be itemized, sorted by project area, and shall be accompanied by supporting materials for each expenditure including employee time statements
    - ii. Any overages shall include written explanation

#### **IV. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

##### **A. URFP RESPONSE**

In order to be considered for selection, Offerors must submit a complete response to this URFP. One (1) original (so marked) and **one (1)** copy of each proposal shall be submitted in accordance with instructions on the first page of this URFP. Proposals shall be submitted to:

Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission  
Attn: Stephanie Kim  
701 E. Franklin St., Suite 501  
Richmond, VA 23219

##### **B. PROPOSAL PREPARATION**

1. Proposals shall be signed by an authorized representative of the Offeror. All information requested should be addressed and submitted. Failure to submit all information requested may result in the purchasing agency requiring prompt submission of missing information and/or giving a lowered evaluation of the proposal. Proposals which are substantially incomplete or lack key information may be rejected by the purchasing agency. Mandatory requirements are those required by law or regulation or are such that they cannot be waived and are not subject to negotiation.
2. Proposals should be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of services proposed and capabilities to satisfy the requirements of the URFP. Emphasis should be placed on completeness and clarity of content.
3. Proposals should be organized in the order in which the requirements are presented in the URFP. All pages of the proposal should be numbered. Each paragraph in the proposal should reference the paragraph number of the corresponding section of the URFP. Cite the paragraph number, subletter, and repeat the text of the requirement as it appears in the URFP. If a response covers more than one page, the paragraph number and sub-letter should be repeated at the top of the next page. The proposal should contain a table of contents which cross-references the URFP requirements. Information which the offeror desires to present that does not fall within any of the requirements of the URFP should be inserted at an appropriate place or be attached at the end of the proposal and designated as additional material. Proposals that are not organized in this manner risk elimination from consideration if the evaluators are unable to find where the URFP requirements are specifically addressed.
4. As used in this URFP, the terms "must", "shall", "should" and "may" identify the criticality of requirements. "Must" and "shall" identify requirements whose absence will have a major negative impact on the suitability

of the proposed solution. Items labeled as "should" or "may" are highly desirable, although their absence will not have a large impact and would be useful, but are not necessary. Depending on the overall response to the URFP, some individual "must" and "shall" items may not be fully satisfied, but it is the intent to satisfy most, if not all, "must" and "shall" requirements. The inability of an Offeror to satisfy a "must" or "shall" requirement does not automatically remove that Offeror from consideration; however, it may seriously affect the overall rating of the Offerors' proposal.

5. Ownership of all data, materials, and documentation originated and prepared for the Commission pursuant to the URFP shall belong exclusively to the Commission and be subject to public inspection in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. Trade secrets or proprietary information submitted by an Offeror shall not be subject to public disclosure under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; however, the Offeror must invoke the protections of § 2.2-4342F of the Code of Virginia, in writing, either before or at the time the data or other material is submitted. The written notice must specifically identify the data or materials to be protected and state the reasons why protection is necessary. The proprietary or trade secret material submitted must be identified by some distinct method such as highlighting or underlining and must indicate only the specific words, figures, or paragraphs that constitute trade secret or proprietary information. The classification of an entire proposal document, line item prices, and/or total proposal prices as proprietary or trade secrets is not acceptable and will result in rejection of the proposal.

### C. ORAL PRESENTATION

Offerors who submit a proposal in response to this URFP may be required to give an oral presentation of their proposal to the Commission. At the Commission's sole discretion, these may be via telephone conference call. This will provide an opportunity for the Offeror to clarify or elaborate on the proposal but will in no way change the original proposal. Oral presentations are an option of the Commission and may not be conducted.

No Offeror is guaranteed an opportunity to explain, supplement, or amend its initial proposal. Offerors must not submit a proposal assuming that there will be an opportunity to negotiate, amend, or clarify any aspect of their submitted proposals. Therefore, each Offeror is encouraged to ensure that its initial proposal contains and represents its best offering.

### D. SPECIFIC PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

Proposals should be as thorough and detailed as possible so that the Commission may properly evaluate capabilities of the Offerors to provide the required services. Offerors are required to submit the following items as a complete proposal:

1. The return of the original URFP Cover Sheet (page 1) and addenda, if any, signed and filled out as required.
2. A written narrative to include:
  - a) Descriptions of offeror's experience and expertise related to marketing/public relations and ability to successfully execute the requirements of this proposal to include previous projects produced by the firm. Project narrative should include resume/CV for the specific individual(s) the firm intends to assign as the project leader/team.
  - b) At least three references, including complete contact information (to include e-mail addresses) of customers for which the vendor has performed the same/similar service.
  - c) A detailed and comprehensive project plan to include those items identified in Section III, numbers 1-6 on pages 2-3 along with a project timeline for the various components included in your proposal showing that the project will be completed no later than February 1, 2016.
  - d) Proposed detailed budget, budget justification, and timeline. Budget must include details on how your organization proposes to execute this project on an estimated hourly basis, with a fixed price total cost of the project.
  - e) Information relevant to other points listed throughout Section III above.

## V. EVALUATION AND AWARD CRITERIA

### A. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals shall be evaluated by the Commission using the following criteria:

Evaluation Criteria	Weight
1. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERTISE a) Length of time in business; qualifications and expertise to deliver services relevant to the Statement of Needs b) Qualifications and proficiency of personnel to be assigned to this project c) Experience developing and implementing similar projects	50
2. WORK PLAN QUALITY a) Methodology b) Soundness of detailed comprehensive project plan	30
3. COST	20
Total	100

### B. AWARD OF CONTRACT

Selection shall be made of two or more offerors deemed to be fully qualified and best suited among those submitting proposals on the basis of the evaluation factors included in the Request for Proposals, including price, if so stated in the Request for Proposals. Negotiations shall be conducted with the offerors so selected. Price shall be considered, but need not be the sole determining factor. After negotiations have been conducted with each offeror so selected, the agency shall select the offeror which, in its opinion, has made the best proposal, and shall award the contract to that offeror. The Commonwealth may cancel this Request for Proposals or reject proposals at any time prior to an award, and is not required to furnish a statement of the reasons why a particular proposal was not deemed to be the most advantageous (Code of Virginia, § 2.2-4359D). Should the Commonwealth determine in writing and in its sole discretion that only one offeror is fully qualified, or that one offeror is clearly more highly qualified than the others under consideration, a contract may be negotiated and awarded to that offeror. The award document will be a contract incorporating by reference all the requirements, terms and conditions of the solicitation and the contractor's proposal as negotiated.

## VI. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- A. **VENDORS MANUAL:** This solicitation is subject to the provisions of the Commonwealth of Virginia *Vendors Manual* and any changes or revisions thereto, which are hereby incorporated into this contract in their entirety. The procedure for filing contractual claims is in section 7.19 of the *Vendors Manual*. A copy of the manual is normally available for review at the purchasing office and is accessible on the Internet at [www.eva.virginia.gov](http://www.eva.virginia.gov) under "Vendors Manual" on the vendors tab.
- B. **APPLICABLE LAWS AND COURTS:** This solicitation and any resulting contract shall be governed in all respects by the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia and any litigation with respect thereto shall be brought in the courts of the Commonwealth. The agency and the contractor are encouraged to resolve any issues in controversy arising from the award of the contract or any contractual dispute using Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) procedures (*Code of Virginia*, § 2.2-4366). ADR procedures are described in Chapter 9 of the *Vendors Manual*. The contractor shall comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations.
- C. **ANTI-DISCRIMINATION:** By submitting their proposals, offerors certify to the Commonwealth that they will conform to the provisions of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, as well as the Virginia Fair Employment Contracting Act of 1975, as amended, where applicable, the Virginians With Disabilities Act, the Americans With Disabilities Act and § 2.2-4311 of the *Virginia Public Procurement Act (VPPA)*. If the award is made to a faith-based organization, the organization shall not discriminate against any recipient of goods, services, or disbursements made pursuant to the contract on the basis of the recipient's religion, religious belief, refusal to participate in a religious practice, or on the basis of race, age, color, gender or national origin and shall be subject to the same rules as other organizations that contract with public bodies to account for the use of the funds provided; however, if the faith-based organization segregates public funds into separate accounts, only the accounts and programs funded with public funds shall be subject to audit by the public body. (*Code of Virginia*, § 2.2-4343.1E).

In every contract over \$10,000 the provisions in 1. and 2. below apply:

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

- a. The contractor will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, color, sex, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by state law relating to discrimination in employment, except where there is a bona fide occupational qualification reasonably necessary to the normal operation of the contractor. The contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.
- b. The contractor, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor, will state that such contractor is an equal opportunity employer.
- c. Notices, advertisements and solicitations placed in accordance with federal law, rule or regulation shall be deemed sufficient for the purpose of meeting these requirements.

2. The contractor will include the provisions of 1. above in every subcontract or purchase order over \$10,000, so that the provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor.

- D. **ETHICS IN PUBLIC CONTRACTING:** By submitting their proposals, offerors certify that their proposals are made without collusion or fraud and that they have not offered or received any kickbacks or inducements from any other offeror, supplier, manufacturer or subcontractor in connection with their proposal, and that they have not conferred on any public employee having official responsibility for this procurement transaction any payment, loan, subscription, advance, deposit of money, services or anything of more than nominal value, present or promised, unless consideration of substantially equal or greater value was exchanged.
- E. **IMMIGRATION REFORM AND CONTROL ACT OF 1986:** By entering into a written contract with the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Contractor certifies that the Contractor does not, and shall not during the

performance of the contract for goods and services in the Commonwealth, knowingly employ an unauthorized alien as defined in the federal Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986.

- F. **DEBARMENT STATUS:** By participating in this procurement, the vendor certifies that they are not currently debarred by the Commonwealth of Virginia from submitting a response for the type of goods and/or services covered by this solicitation. Vendor further certifies that they are not debarred from filling any order or accepting any resulting order, or that they are an agent of any person or entity that is currently debarred by the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- G. **ANTITRUST:** By entering into a contract, the contractor conveys, sells, assigns, and transfers to the Commonwealth of Virginia all rights, title and interest in and to all causes of action it may now have or hereafter acquire under the antitrust laws of the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia, relating to the particular goods or services purchased or acquired by the Commonwealth of Virginia under said contract.
- H. **MANDATORY USE OF STATE FORM AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR RFPs:** Failure to submit a proposal on the official state form provided for that purpose may be a cause for rejection of the proposal. Modification of or additions to the General Terms and Conditions of the solicitation may be cause for rejection of the proposal; however, the Commonwealth reserves the right to decide, on a case by case basis, in its sole discretion, whether to reject such a proposal.
- I. **CLARIFICATION OF TERMS:** If any prospective offeror has questions about the specifications or other solicitation documents, the prospective offeror should contact the buyer whose name appears on the face of the solicitation no later than five working days before the due date. Any revisions to the solicitation will be made only by addendum issued by the buyer.
- J. **PAYMENT:**
1. To Prime Contractor:
    - a. Invoices for items ordered, delivered and accepted shall be submitted by the contractor directly to the payment address shown on the purchase order/contract. All invoices shall show the state contract number and/or purchase order number; social security number (for individual contractors) or the federal employer identification number (for proprietorships, partnerships, and corporations).
    - b. Any payment terms requiring payment in less than 30 days will be regarded as requiring payment 30 days after invoice or delivery, whichever occurs last. This shall not affect offers of discounts for payment in less than 30 days, however.
    - c. All goods or services provided under this contract or purchase order, that are to be paid for with public funds, shall be billed by the contractor at the contract price, regardless of which public agency is being billed.
    - d. The following shall be deemed to be the date of payment: the date of postmark in all cases where payment is made by mail, or the date of offset when offset proceedings have been instituted as authorized under the Virginia Debt Collection Act.
    - e. **Unreasonable Charges.** Under certain emergency procurements and for most time and material purchases, final job costs cannot be accurately determined at the time orders are placed. In such cases, contractors should be put on notice that final payment in full is contingent on a determination of reasonableness with respect to all invoiced charges. Charges which appear to be unreasonable will be researched and challenged, and that portion of the invoice held in abeyance until a settlement can be reached. Upon determining that invoiced charges are not reasonable, the Commonwealth shall promptly notify the contractor, in writing, as to those charges which it considers unreasonable and the basis for the determination. A contractor may not institute legal action unless a settlement cannot be reached within thirty (30) days of notification. The provisions of this section do not relieve an agency of its prompt payment obligations with respect to those charges which are not in dispute (*Code of Virginia*, § 2.2-4363).

2. To Subcontractors:

a. A contractor awarded a contract under this solicitation is hereby obligated:

(1) To pay the subcontractor(s) within seven (7) days of the contractor's receipt of payment from the Commonwealth for the proportionate share of the payment received for work performed by the subcontractor(s) under the contract; or

(2) To notify the agency and the subcontractor(s), in writing, of the contractor's intention to withhold payment and the reason.

b. The contractor is obligated to pay the subcontractor(s) interest at the rate of one percent per month (unless otherwise provided under the terms of the contract) on all amounts owed by the contractor that remain unpaid seven (7) days following receipt of payment from the Commonwealth, except for amounts withheld as stated in (2) above. The date of mailing of any payment by U. S. Mail is deemed to be payment to the addressee. These provisions apply to each sub-tier contractor performing under the primary contract. A contractor's obligation to pay an interest charge to a subcontractor may not be construed to be an obligation of the Commonwealth.

3. Each prime contractor who wins an award in which provision of a SWaM procurement plan is a condition to the award, shall deliver to the contracting agency or institution, on or before request for final payment, evidence and certification of compliance (subject only to insubstantial shortfalls and to shortfalls arising from subcontractor default) with the SWaM procurement plan. Final payment under the contract in question may be withheld until such certification is delivered and, if necessary, confirmed by the agency or institution, or other appropriate penalties may be assessed in lieu of withholding such payment.

4. The Commonwealth of Virginia encourages contractors and subcontractors to accept electronic and credit card payments.

- K. **PRECEDENCE OF TERMS:** The following General Terms and Conditions *VENDORS MANUAL*, *APPLICABLE LAWS AND COURTS*, *ANTI-DISCRIMINATION*, *ETHICS IN PUBLIC CONTRACTING*, *IMMIGRATION REFORM AND CONTROL ACT OF 1986*, *DEBARMENT STATUS*, *ANTITRUST*, *MANDATORY USE OF STATE FORM AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS*, *CLARIFICATION OF TERMS*, *PAYMENT* shall apply in all instances. In the event there is a conflict between any of the other General Terms and Conditions and any Special Terms and Conditions in this solicitation, the Special Terms and Conditions shall apply.
- L. **QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFERORS:** The Commonwealth may make such reasonable investigations as deemed proper and necessary to determine the ability of the offeror to perform the services/furnish the goods and the offeror shall furnish to the Commonwealth all such information and data for this purpose as may be requested. The Commonwealth reserves the right to inspect offeror's physical facilities prior to award to satisfy questions regarding the offeror's capabilities. The Commonwealth further reserves the right to reject any proposal if the evidence submitted by, or investigations of, such offeror fails to satisfy the Commonwealth that such offeror is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the contract and to provide the services and/or furnish the goods contemplated therein.
- M. **TESTING AND INSPECTION:** The Commonwealth reserves the right to conduct any test/inspection it may deem advisable to assure goods and services conform to the specifications.
- N. **ASSIGNMENT OF CONTRACT:** A contract shall not be assignable by the contractor in whole or in part without the written consent of the Commonwealth.
- O. **CHANGES TO THE CONTRACT:** Changes can be made to the contract in any of the following ways:
1. The parties may agree in writing to modify the terms, conditions, or scope of the contract. Any additional goods or services to be provided shall be of a sort that is ancillary to the contract goods or services, or within the same broad product or service categories as were included in the contract award. Any increase or decrease in the price



of the contract resulting from such modification shall be agreed to by the parties as a part of their written agreement to modify the scope of the contract.

2. The Purchasing Agency may order changes within the general scope of the contract at any time by written notice to the contractor. Changes within the scope of the contract include, but are not limited to, things such as services to be performed, the method of packing or shipment, and the place of delivery or installation. The contractor shall comply with the notice upon receipt, unless the contractor intends to claim an adjustment to compensation, schedule, or other contractual impact that would be caused by complying with such notice, in which case the contractor shall, in writing, promptly notify the Purchasing Agency of the adjustment to be sought, and before proceeding to comply with the notice, shall await the Purchasing Agency's written decision affirming, modifying, or revoking the prior written notice. If the Purchasing Agency decides to issue a notice that requires an adjustment to compensation, the contractor shall be compensated for any additional costs incurred as the result of such order and shall give the Purchasing Agency a credit for any savings. Said compensation shall be determined by one of the following methods:

a. By mutual agreement between the parties in writing; or

b. By agreeing upon a unit price or using a unit price set forth in the contract, if the work to be done can be expressed in units, and the contractor accounts for the number of units of work performed, subject to the Purchasing Agency's right to audit the contractor's records and/or to determine the correct number of units independently; or

c. By ordering the contractor to proceed with the work and keep a record of all costs incurred and savings realized. A markup for overhead and profit may be allowed if provided by the contract. The same markup shall be used for determining a decrease in price as the result of savings realized. The contractor shall present the Purchasing Agency with all vouchers and records of expenses incurred and savings realized. The Purchasing Agency shall have the right to audit the records of the contractor as it deems necessary to determine costs or savings. Any claim for an adjustment in price under this provision must be asserted by written notice to the Purchasing Agency within thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of the written order from the Purchasing Agency. If the parties fail to agree on an amount of adjustment, the question of an increase or decrease in the contract price or time for performance shall be resolved in accordance with the procedures for resolving disputes provided by the Disputes Clause of this contract or, if there is none, in accordance with the disputes provisions of the Commonwealth of Virginia *Vendors Manual*. Neither the existence of a claim nor a dispute resolution process, litigation or any other provision of this contract shall excuse the contractor from promptly complying with the changes ordered by the Purchasing Agency or with the performance of the contract generally.

P. **DEFAULT:** In case of failure to deliver goods or services in accordance with the contract terms and conditions, the Commonwealth, after due oral or written notice, may procure them from other sources and hold the contractor responsible for any resulting additional purchase and administrative costs. This remedy shall be in addition to any other remedies which the Commonwealth may have.

Q. **TAXES:** Sales to the Commonwealth of Virginia are normally exempt from State sales tax. State sales and use tax certificates of exemption, Form ST-12, will be issued upon request. Deliveries against this contract shall usually be free of Federal excise and transportation taxes. The Commonwealth's excise tax exemption registration number is 54-73-0076K.

R. **INSURANCE:** By signing and submitting a proposal under this solicitation, the offeror certifies that if awarded the contract, it will have the following insurance coverage at the time the contract is awarded. For construction contracts, if any subcontractors are involved, the subcontractor will have workers' compensation insurance in accordance with §§ 2.2-4332 and 65.2-800 et seq. of the *Code of Virginia*. The bidder or offeror further certifies that the contractor and any subcontractors will maintain these insurance coverage during the entire term of the contract and that all insurance coverage will be provided by insurance companies authorized to sell insurance in Virginia by the Virginia State Corporation Commission.

MINIMUM INSURANCE COVERAGES AND LIMITS REQUIRED FOR MOST CONTRACTS:

1. Workers' Compensation - Statutory requirements and benefits. Coverage is compulsory for employers of three or more employees, to include the employer. Contractors who fail to notify the Commonwealth of increases in the number of employees that change their workers' compensation requirements under the *Code of Virginia* during the course of the contract shall be in noncompliance with the contract.

2. Employer's Liability - \$100,000.

3. Commercial General Liability - \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 in the aggregate. Commercial General Liability is to include bodily injury and property damage, personal injury and advertising injury, products and completed operations coverage. The Commonwealth of Virginia must be named as an additional insured and so endorsed on the policy.

4. Automobile Liability - \$1,000,000 combined single limit. (Required only if a motor vehicle not owned by the Commonwealth is to be used in the contract. Contractor must assure that the required coverage is maintained by the Contractor (or third party owner of such motor vehicle.)

- S. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARD:** Upon the award or the announcement of the decision to award a contract as a result of this solicitation, the purchasing agency will publicly post such notice on the DGS/DPS eVA VBO ([www.eva.virginia.gov](http://www.eva.virginia.gov)) for a minimum of 10 days.
- T. **DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE:** During the performance of this contract, the contractor agrees to (i) provide a drug-free workplace for the contractor's employees; (ii) post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, sale, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of a controlled substance or marijuana is prohibited in the contractor's workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violations of such prohibition; (iii) state in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor that the contractor maintains a drug-free workplace; and (iv) include the provisions of the foregoing clauses in every subcontract or purchase order of over \$10,000, so that the provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor.

For the purposes of this section, "*drug-free workplace*" means a site for the performance of work done in connection with a specific contract awarded to a contractor, the employees of whom are prohibited from engaging in the unlawful manufacture, sale, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of any controlled substance or marijuana during the performance of the contract.

- U. **NONDISCRIMINATION OF CONTRACTORS:** A bidder, offeror, or contractor shall not be discriminated against in the solicitation or award of this contract because of race, religion, color, sex, national origin, age, disability, faith-based organizational status, any other basis prohibited by state law relating to discrimination in employment or because the bidder or offeror employs ex-offenders unless the state agency, department or institution has made a written determination that employing ex-offenders on the specific contract is not in its best interest. If the award of this contract is made to a faith-based organization and an individual, who applies for or receives goods, services, or disbursements provided pursuant to this contract objects to the religious character of the faith-based organization from which the individual receives or would receive the goods, services, or disbursements, the public body shall offer the individual, within a reasonable period of time after the date of his objection, access to equivalent goods, services, or disbursements from an alternative provider.
- V. **eVA BUSINESS-TO-GOVERNMENT VENDOR REGISTRATION, CONTRACTS, AND ORDERS:** The eVA Internet electronic procurement solution, web site portal [www.eVA.virginia.gov](http://www.eVA.virginia.gov), streamlines and automates government purchasing activities in the Commonwealth. The eVA portal is the gateway for vendors to conduct business with state agencies and public bodies. All vendors desiring to provide goods and/or services to the Commonwealth shall participate in the eVA Internet e-procurement solution by completing the free eVA Vendor Registration. All bidders or offerors must register in eVA and pay the Vendor Transaction Fees specified below; failure to register will result in the bid/proposal being rejected.

Vendor transaction fees are determined by the date the original purchase order is issued and the current fees are as follows:

a. For orders issued July 1, 2014, and after, the Vendor Transaction Fee is:

(i) DSBSD-certified Small Businesses: 1%, capped at \$500 per order.

(ii) Businesses that are not DSBSD-certified Small Businesses: 1%, capped at \$1,500 per order.

b. Refer to Special Term and Condition “eVA Orders and Contracts” to identify the number of purchase orders that will be issued as a result of this solicitation/contract with the eVA transaction fee specified above assessed for each order.

The specified vendor transaction fee will be invoiced by the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of General Services typically within 60 days of the order issue date. Any adjustments (increases/decreases) will be handled through purchase order changes.

W. **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS:** It is understood and agreed between the parties herein that the agency shall be bound hereunder only to the extent of the funds available or which may hereafter become available for the purpose of this agreement.

X. **SET-ASIDES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SMALL BUSINESS ENHANCEMENT AWARD PRIORITY:** This solicitation is set-aside for award priority to DSBSD-certified micro businesses or small businesses when designated as “Micro Business Set-Aside Award Priority” or “Small Business Set-Aside Award Priority” accordingly in the solicitation. DSBSD-certified micro businesses or small businesses also includes DSBSD-certified women-owned and minority-owned businesses when they have received the DSBSD small business certification. For purposes of award, bidders/offerors shall be deemed micro businesses or small businesses if and only if they are certified as such by DSBSD on the due date for receipt of bids/proposals.

Y. **BID PRICE CURRENCY:** Unless stated otherwise in the solicitation, offerors shall state offer prices in US dollars.

Z. **AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT BUSINESS IN THE COMMONWEALTH:** A contractor organized as a stock or nonstock corporation, limited liability company, business trust, or limited partnership or registered as a registered limited liability partnership shall be authorized to transact business in the Commonwealth as a domestic or foreign business entity if so required by Title 13.1 or Title 50 of the *Code of Virginia* or as otherwise required by law. Any business entity described above that enters into a contract with a public body pursuant to the *Virginia Public Procurement Act* shall not allow its existence to lapse or its certificate of authority or registration to transact business in the Commonwealth, if so required under Title 13.1 or Title 50, to be revoked or cancelled at any time during the term of the contract. A public body may void any contract with a business entity if the business entity fails to remain in compliance with the provisions of this section.

## VII. SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

A. **AUDIT:** The contractor shall retain all books, records, and other documents relative to this contract for five (5) years after final payment, or until audited by the Commonwealth of Virginia, whichever is sooner. The agency, its authorized agents, and/or state auditors shall have full access to and the right to examine any of said materials during said period.

B. **CANCELLATION OF CONTRACT:** The purchasing agency reserves the right to cancel and terminate any resulting contract, in part or in whole, without penalty, upon 60 days written notice to the contractor. In the event the initial contract period is for more than 12 months, the resulting contract may be terminated by either party, without penalty, after the initial 12 months of the contract period upon 60 days written notice to the other party. Any contract cancellation notice shall not relieve the contractor of the obligation to deliver and/or perform on all outstanding orders issued prior to the effective date of cancellation.

C. **eVA ORDERS AND CONTRACTS:** The solicitation/contract will result in one purchase order with the applicable eVA transaction fee assessed for each order.

Vendors desiring to provide goods and/or services to the Commonwealth shall participate in the eVA Internet e-procurement solution and agree to comply with the following: If this solicitation is for a term contract, failure to provide an electronic catalog (price list) or index page catalog for items awarded will be just cause for the Commonwealth to reject your bid/offer or terminate this contract for default. The format of this electronic catalog shall conform to the eVA Catalog Interchange Format (CIF) Specification that can be accessed and downloaded from [www.eVA.virginia.gov](http://www.eVA.virginia.gov). Contractors should email Catalog or Index Page information to [eVA-catalog-manager@dgs.virginia.gov](mailto:eVA-catalog-manager@dgs.virginia.gov).

D. **PRIME CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES:** The contractor shall be responsible for completely supervising and directing the work under this contract and all subcontractors that he may utilize, using his best skill and attention. Subcontractors who perform work under this contract shall be responsible to the prime contractor. The contractor agrees that he is as fully responsible for the acts and omissions of his subcontractors and of persons employed by them as he is for the acts and omissions of his own employees.

52. **SUBCONTRACTS:** No portion of the work shall be subcontracted without prior written consent of the purchasing agency. In the event that the contractor desires to subcontract some part of the work specified herein, the contractor shall furnish the purchasing agency the names, qualifications and experience of their proposed subcontractors. The contractor shall, however, remain fully liable and responsible for the work to be done by its subcontractor(s) and shall assure compliance with all requirements of the contract.

E. **STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:** Pursuant to Code of Virginia, §2.2-4311.2 subsection B, a bidder or offeror organized or authorized to transact business in the Commonwealth pursuant to Title 13.1 or Title 50 is required to include in its bid or proposal the identification number issued to it by the State Corporation Commission (SCC). Any bidder or offeror that is not required to be authorized to transact business in the Commonwealth as a foreign business entity under Title 13.1 or Title 50 or as otherwise required by law is required to include in its bid or proposal a statement describing why the bidder or offeror is not required to be so authorized. Indicate the above information on the SCC Form provided. Contractor agrees that the process by which compliance with Titles 13.1 and 50 is checked during the solicitation stage (including without limitation the SCC Form provided) is streamlined and not definitive, and the Commonwealth's use and acceptance of such form, or its acceptance of Contractor's statement describing why the bidder or offeror was not legally required to be authorized to transact business in the Commonwealth, shall not be conclusive of the issue and shall not be relied upon by the Contractor as demonstrating compliance.