



**ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
5301 NORTSHORE DRIVE
NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR 72211**

930-RFQ-2601

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

**PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES
FOR
OFFICE OF LAND RESOURCES – REGULATED STORAGE TANKS**

ISSUE DATE

April 1, 2026

SUBMITTAL DEADLINE

4:30 pm CST

May 4, 2026

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. General

In accordance with Arkansas Code Ann. § 19-11-801 et. seq., §19-11-1001 et seq., the Arkansas Department of Shared Administrative Services (SAS), Division of Building Authority (DBA), Minimum Standards and Criteria (MSC) as codified in Title 22, Chapter XVII, Subchapter B of the Arkansas Code of Regulations (CAR) and the SAS Office of State Procurement (OSP) policies and guidelines, the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment, Division of Environmental Quality, hereinafter referred to as the Agency, is soliciting qualifications from qualified firms to provide on-call professional services, on behalf of the Office of Land Resources – Regulated Storage Tanks, related to State-Lead authorized releases from underground storage tanks and certain aboveground petroleum storage tanks, as defined in 40 CFR 280.

The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality is a cabinet-level agency headed by a director and staffed by a number of full-time personnel responsible for administering environmental programs under the jurisdiction of the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission. The Department is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Commission's regulations for a variety of environmental programs. The Agency's regulatory programs, including the offices of Water Quality, Air Quality and Land Resources, monitor ambient environmental conditions, issue permits for various regulated activities, monitor and inspect permitted activities and other activities related to the Department's programs, and take enforcement action for violations of state law, regulations, or permit conditions. The Department's regulatory offices have been delegated, by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other Federal agencies, authority to administer many federal environmental programs within Arkansas. These tanks are located primarily at retail gasoline and diesel sales facilities, but may also include bulk petroleum storage facilities, private fleet fueling facilities, and emergency generating stations.

The Professional Engineering services shall be procured in accordance with the SAS Division of Building Authority's Minimum Standards and Criteria. If required, specialized engineering design services (such as structural, geotechnical, etc.) and/or architectural design services may be subcontracted by the prime Design Professional.

Applicants must be properly licensed with the appropriate professional boards in accordance with Arkansas Code Ann. § 17-15-101 et. seq. (Architectural), Arkansas Code Ann. § 17-38-101 et. seq. (Landscape Architect), Arkansas Code Ann. § 17-30-101 et. seq. (Engineering) and Arkansas Code Ann. § 17-48-101 et. seq. (Land Surveyors). The MSC is available for review and can be downloaded at the following website link:

<https://sas.arkansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/MSCRules-25.05.30.pdf>

B. Objective

Agency is seeking a qualified firm to provide Professional Engineering design services to produce studies, plans and specifications and to provide on-call professional services,

on our behalf, related to releases from underground storage tanks and certain aboveground petroleum storage tanks; emergency containment and hazard mitigation; environmental investigation and remediation; the assessment of soil, groundwater, surface water, soil vapor, indoor and outdoor ambient air, and other media as necessary; research of public records; tank system removal; tank system tightness testing; pilot testing; engineering design, cost estimates and management of a remediation system; oversight and review of state petroleum storage tank trust fund projects; reporting. Other tasks include preparation of plans and specifications for contracting through Division of Building Authority, and preparation of Operational and Maintenance (O&M), Information for Bids (IFB) for contracting through the Office of State Procurement (OSP). Consultant(s) must have and maintain current registration with the Arkansas Boards for Professional Geologists and Engineers.

Agency intends to award this contract to a consultant having the capability to provide the required services in-house but shall consider awarding the contract to a consulting firm with outside sub-consultants. Agency reserves the right to award one or more contracts under this solicitation if deemed in the best interest of the State.

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

C. Contemplated Projects

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

1. Emergency response activities related to a confirmed release of refined petroleum product at the (former) William's Junction Grocery; William's Junction, Leaking Above Ground Storage Tank (LAST) case #53-0014.
2. Site assessment of the (former) Stop & Go; Rogers, confirmed Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) case #04-0196.
3. Site remediation of the (former) JMT One Stop; North Little Rock, confirmed LUST case #60-0942.
4. Free product removal to the maximum extent practicable at the (former) JMT One

- Stop; North Little Rock, confirmed LUST case #60-0942.
5. A Pilot Test Study at the (former) Rob's Mini Mart; Gosnell, confirmed LUST case #47-0061.
 6. Tank removal and the excavation, removal, and disposal of contaminated source material (soils and groundwater) at the (former) Pony Express #9 / Flash Market #123; North Little Rock, confirmed LUST case #60-0228 and #60-0760.
 7. Operation and Maintenance of fixed remediation systems at the Mena Short Stop; Mena, confirmed LUST case #57-0032.
 8. Various studies, evaluations, and reports to support the Agency with risk evaluation to sensitive human health and environmental receptors.

D. Term

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

E. Submittal of Statement of Qualifications

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

F. Clarifications

Prospective respondents may submit written questions or a request for clarifications to the Facilitator on or before the date shown under Item III of this RFQ.

G. Minority and Women's Business Participation

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

H. Vendor Performance Reporting

In accordance with Arkansas Code Ann. (ACA) § 19-61-406:

(a)

(1) A state agency shall report a vendor's performance under a contract executed under this chapter if the vendor fails to satisfy the performance-based standards in the contract in a manner that represents a material deviation.

(2) A state agency shall use the form prescribed by the State Procurement Director and approved by the Legislative Council or, if the General Assembly is in session, the Joint Budget Committee, to report a vendor's performance under this section.

(b) The report required under this section shall be:

(1) Filed with the Office of State Procurement and maintained for a minimum of three (3) years from the termination of the relevant contract, including any extensions and amendments; and

(2) Signed by the director of the state agency or his or her designee; and

(3) Filed monthly until the vendor has performed satisfactorily under the contract for a period of at least ninety (90) consecutive days.

(c) A state agency may report a vendor's performance in the manner prescribed under this section for any contract that would not require reporting of a vendor's performance under this section if the state agency encounters an issue with the vendor's performance of a contract.

(d) A state agency may use a vendor performance report submitted under this section to evaluate an offeror to the extent that the past performance of an offeror may be considered under the law and the rules adopted by the office.

II. SCOPE OF SERVICES REQUESTED

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

1. Review of the Agency's program and budget for this project.
2. Code analysis to ensure the project complies with all applicable Federal and State codes as well as State rules and standards.
3. Review of the proposed site for compliance with Federal and State regulations and rules regarding floodplain development management.
4. Development of an estimate of the maximum probable cost of the project.
5. Development of a schematic design submittal (approximately 25% complete documents) and an estimate of the annual utility consumption and operating cost for review and approval by the Agency.
6. Development of a design development submittal (approximately 50% complete documents) and a revised estimate of construction cost for review and approval by the Agency.
7. Development of a construction document submittal (100% complete documents), a revised estimate of construction cost, and a revised estimate of the annual utility consumption and operating cost for review and approval by the Agency.
8. Submittal of the construction documents to all applicable regulatory review agencies on behalf of the Agency.

9. Submittal of the final documents to DBA Design Review Section for approval.
10. Assistance with the preparation of bid advertisements and submittal to DBA Construction Section for approval, attendance at bid openings, evaluation of bids, and review of contract documents in conjunction with award of the bid.
11. Construction contract administration and project observation to include review of contractor submittals, progress of the work proposal request, progress payments, contract change order, substantial completion and project closeout.
12. Review of the project site at the end of the contractor's warranty period and development of a list of deficiencies for correction under the terms of the warranty.
13. Review of pertinent physical, geological and hydrogeological data from available sources.
14. Exploratory geotechnical and field investigation techniques according to industry methods and standards.
15. Sample collection and analysis according to a Department-approved QA/QC plan.
16. Management of professional subcontract services, such as drillers, tank testers, mobile dual-phase extraction and/or vacuum truck operators, surveyors, and remediation system operators.
17. Provision of the necessary professional oversight to achieve the above sections.
18. Develop written reports of field activities according to Department guidelines for site assessments, and in compliance with the requirements of 40 CFR § 280, Subpart F.
19. Develop plans for corrective action as the result of field investigation activities, at both the concept and detail engineering design stages; if required, provide sufficient contract documents that the plans may be let for bid by the Division of Building Authority.
20. Provide subcontract administration services needed to implement corrective action, if required, upon request in writing by the Department.
21. Provide third-party review of assessment and remediation documents according to Department needs.
22. All work will be conducted according to an approved work plan, with a cost and performance schedule negotiated with the contractor for each project, or phase of project, before beginning work unless an emergency is declared by the Department

III. PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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

<u>Approx. Date</u>	<u>Procurement Event or Project Activity</u>
April 5, 2026	Agency Advertises RFQ (first run)
April 12, 2026	Agency Advertises RFQ (second run)
April 20, 2026	Deadline for submittal of written questions or clarifications.
April 24, 2026	Agency shall issue responses to all requests for clarifications
May 4, 2026	Deadline for submittal of qualifications to the Agency.
May 6, 2026	Agency notifies all respondents of the consultants selected for oral presentations and interviews.
May 8, 2026	Oral presentations and interviews held at Agency (Time and location to be determined).
May 11, 2026	Agency notifies all interviewees of firm selected for negotiation.
May 22, 2026	Deadline of Agency preparation of contract.
May 29, 2026	Deadline for submittal of Contract to OSP.
June 16, 2026	Contract reviewed by PEER/REVIEW Committee.
June 19, 2026	Contract reviewed by Arkansas Legislative Council.
June 26, 2026	Contract approved by OSP.
July 1, 2026	Design Phase of project(s) may begin.

B. If release of final funding is delayed, it is the intent of the Agency to renew the Design Professional contract annually until such time as funding is available or the project is determined to be no longer feasible.

C. The Agency intends to initiate the development of a professional services contract with the selected design firm upon completion of this RFQ process.

The selected Design Professional will provide an initial scope of services to help the Agency establish a design concept and provide a statement of maximum probable construction cost to aid the Agency in securing appropriations and funding for the design and construction phase.

IV. WRITTEN QUALIFICATIONS SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

A. Submittal Information

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

Ms. Joshua Stevens, P.G., Geologist Supervisor
Office of Land Resources – Div. of Environmental Quality
Arkansas Dept. of Energy and Environment
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118
(501) 682-0991
josh.stevens@arkansas.gov

2. Submittals shall be received at the above address on or before 4:30pm CST, on May 4, 2026. Failure to meet this requirement shall result in automatic disqualification for consideration under this RFQ.
3. Envelopes should state “Statement of Qualifications for RFQ Number 930-RFQ-2601 PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT – DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY.
4. In accordance with the policies of the Agency and State of Arkansas concerning recycling of paper products, the statement of qualifications should be printed on recycled paper or on paper suitable for recycling. Color printing and photographs are acceptable provided they comply with the State recycling program. Do not include glossy paper in the submittal. Do not include plastic laminated sheets or covers.
5. The submittal should be bound by a plastic comb binder, tape binder, three- ring binder, or other similar method suitable for ease of removal for recycling.
6. The statement of qualifications should contain the information listed under contents below. Please note the submittal page limitations (maximum) as applicable. Unused pages in one section of the response may not be substituted for addition pages in another section.
7. A page shall consist of one typewritten, graphic, or photo representation on standard 8-1/2” x 11” stationery. Double sided print on standard 8-1/2” x 11” paper shall

count as two pages. Maps, graphics or photos on one side of 11" x 17" paper shall count as two pages. Other paper sizes or blank filler pages are discouraged. It is not necessary to prepare your response to this solicitation using elaborate brochures and artwork, expensive paper and bindings or other expensive visual presentation aids.

8. Submittal brochures shall be indexed to correspond to the numbering and labeling shown under contents below.
9. No information concerning the statement of qualification, evaluation scores, nor the identity of the evaluators shall be released by the Agency until all ratings have been summarized and approved by the appropriate procurement official of the Office of State Procurement or the Agency.

B. Minimal Submittal Contents

1. Transmittal Letter (2-page maximum)

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

2. Proof of Registration (No page limit)

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

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

3. Proof of Insurance (No page limit)

The primary design firm should submit proof of professional liability and general liability insurance in accordance with the requirements and limitations set forth in the MSC under 22 CAR 111-313 and 22 CAR 111-314. The consultant selected for award under this RFQ must maintain the insurance current and effective throughout the period stipulated in the MSC. The consultant may change insurance carriers subject to notification to the Agency. Any new carrier must be acceptable to the Agency.

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

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

5. Office Size (2-page maximum)

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

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

6. Office Location (1-page maximum)

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

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

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

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

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

- Geo-technical engineering,

- Assessment of study sites impacted by a release from a regulated storage tank,
- Remediation of a study site impacted by a release from a regulated storage tank,
- Civil design,
- Structural design,
- Laboratory Consultants
- Architectural design,
- Landscape design, and
- Others as proposed by the respondent.

8. Experience – General (10-page maximum)

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

9. Previously Awarded State of Arkansas Contracts (3-page maximum)

Provide a complete listing of all contracts that the primary firm has or had within the previous 24 months, including all current contracts. This listing should be limited to Arkansas State Agencies, Boards and Commissions, Higher Education Institutions, the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Commission, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and any Arkansas Constitutional Offices. Do not include public schools (K-12), county and municipal government units, or federal government contracts.

Listing should show the Agency with whom you had or have a contract, the type of contract (i.e. On-Call, or name of specific project), term of the contract (beginning and ending dates), amount of the contract, and the name, phone number and email address of the point of contact (person having operational knowledge of the contract) with the Agency.

Disclose all on-going legal controversies that you have with any Arkansas State Agency, Board, or Commission, including Higher Education Institutions, the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Commission, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, any Arkansas Constitutional Office and any public school district (K-12).

10. Risk Management Plan (No page limit)

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

Provide a description of the major risk factors that you anticipate in this project

and mitigation steps for each factor.

V. EVALUATION OF RESPONSES AND SELECTION CRITERIA

A. General

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

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

The evaluation committee will be comprised of three (3) or more representatives (an odd number is required) from the Agency. Voting members will have subject matter expertise in the areas of contracting, design, construction, operations and maintenance, or management of the programs housed in this building. A representative of the DBA Design Review Section may attend the meeting as an observer and adviser for auditing purposes.

B. Disqualification Requirements

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

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

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

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

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

C. Evaluation Criteria and Scoring

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

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

1. Transmittal Letter: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 2 (equivalent to 2%).

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

2. Proof of Registration: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 5 (equivalent to 5%).

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

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

3. Proof of Insurance: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 5 (equivalent to 5%).

The primary design firm should submit proof of professional liability and general liability insurance in accordance with the requirements and limitations set forth in the MSC under 22 CAR 111-313 and 22 CAR 111-314.

4. EEO Policy: A maximum of three (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 3 (equivalent to 3%).

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

5. Office Size: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 10 (equivalent to 10%).

Office size (number of employees) shall be evaluated based upon the anticipated needs for a project of this type, size and complexity. The number of discipline specific designer and support staff should be adequate to staff the proposed design team and backup personnel.

6. Office Location: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 10 (equivalent to 10%).

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

7. Key Personnel: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 25 (equivalent to 25%).

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

Individuals should have been employed by their current employer at least 6-months and should not have had more than 3 different employers during the past 5-years.

8. Experience-General: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 25 (equivalent to 25%).

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

9. Previously Awarded Arkansas Contracts: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 5 (equivalent to 5%).

The consultant's current and recent (previous 24-months) contracting history shall be evaluated to ensure that all qualified firms have an equitable opportunity for State

contracts.

10. Risk Management Plan: A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value is 10 (equivalent to 10%).

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

D. Scoring Summary for Written Statement of Qualifications

Category	Maximum Points	Weighted Value
1. Transmittal Letter	5	2%
2. Proof of Registration	5	5%
3. Proof of Insurance	5	5%
4. EEO Policy	5	3%
5. Office Size	5	10%
6. Office Location	5	10%
7. Key Personnel	5	25%
8. Experience-General	5	25%
9. Previous Arkansas Contracts	5	5%
10. Risk Management Plan	<u>5</u>	<u>10%</u>
TOTAL	50	100%

E. Notification of Results

In accordance with MSC 22 CAR 111-107, within three (3) working days after the committee has completed this portion of the evaluation, the Agency shall notify all respondents of the results. Only the names of the consultants selected for interviews will be released at this time. The scoring results and the ranking order of the consultants shall remain confidential. The time, date and location of the interviews shall be included in this notification.

VI. SELECTION OF CONSULTANTS FOR INTERVIEWS

- A. In accordance with MSC 22 CAR 111-107, a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) consultants shall be identified as the most responsively qualified and shall be selected for the oral presentation and interview phase. The total scores from all evaluators shall be averaged to arrive at a ranking for each submittal. The consultants having the highest average scores shall be selected for interviews. In the event of a tie score(s) for any position of ranking, the tie(s) shall be broken by coin toss elimination. The consultant winning the coin toss shall be placed in the ranking above the loser of the toss. The coin toss shall be conducted by the evaluation committee chair and witnessed by the Facilitator. When ranking is to be decided by coin toss, the Facilitator shall notify the affected consultant's and extend an offer for the consultant to witness the coin toss decision. If the consultant declines to attend it shall be so noted in the meeting minutes.
- B. The order of the scheduled times for interviews shall be determined by random drawing. The names of the consultants selected for interview shall be placed in a container and the names drawn one at a time from the container by the evaluation committee Facilitator. The order of the schedule shall be as follows; the first name drawn shall have the first time slot; the second name drawn shall have the second slot and so forth until all names are drawn. All interviews may be scheduled for the same date and location.
- C. Should the Agency receive only one response to this solicitation, the Agency may request the DBA Design Review Section to waive the interview phase and proceed directly to the negotiation of a contract with the single respondent or the Agency may re-evaluate the services requested and re-advertise the solicitation. If the Agency elects to request the waiver, the committee shall complete the evaluation of the one respondent to ensure the consultant meets the minimum qualifications and expectations.

VII. ORAL PRESENTATIONS AND INTERVIEWS

- A. General
 - 1. Each consultant selected shall be notified in writing of their selection and scheduled for oral presentations and interviews. Consultant shall be given no less than 14 calendar days to prepare for this meeting. Consultant should be prepared to answer questions concerning the qualifications and capabilities of their proposed team and the presentation should be well prepared and concise. The consultant will be given approximately 30-45 minutes to discuss their unique qualifications and team structure and to present examples of their previous works. Approximately 15 minutes will then be allocated for the committee to ask questions relevant to the proposed team and the project. After the question-and-answer period, approximately 2 minutes will be allocated for the consultant to make a brief closing statement regarding why he believes his firm/team is the best qualified for this project.
 - 2. Interviews shall be conducted at the location shown in the letter of notification. The consultant may use photographic slides, power point presentations or poster board displays for visual aids during the presentation. It is the responsibility of the consultant to bring the necessary equipment including projectors, screens, stands or

easels for this presentation.

3. The consultant may elect to provide paper copies of photographs or visual aids to the committee for later review. Copies shall be presented to the Facilitator or committee chairperson at the time of the interviews. Materials should be bound in a folder labeled in a similar manner to that of the initial response to the request for qualifications. The consultant may use photographic quality matte paper, color paper and other non-recyclable paper for this portion only. This material shall be used by the committee as a reference only during the evaluation. It is not necessary to prepare elaborate exhibits, displays or presentations with high end audio or graphics. No points shall be awarded or deducted for handout materials whether presented or not.
4. In accordance with MSC 22 CAR 111-107, preliminary designs or suggested designs for specific projects shall not be permitted. This includes renderings, sketches, site plans, space plans, or other graphic or pictorial representations developed for this specific project. Failure to adhere to this requirement shall be grounds for disqualifications. This prohibition is not intended to exclude examples of projects of similar functions that have been previously prepared for other clients. All visual presentation materials should contain an identification of the client for which that material was prepared.
5. The Oral Presentation shall clearly address each specific category in the order as stated above in this RFQ.

B. Evaluation of the Oral Presentation

1. Experience-Specific

The consultant shall be evaluated on ability to provide the requested services for projects of this type and size. A maximum of fifteen (15) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 30 (equivalent to 30%).

- a. The consultant should present an overview of previous project experiences specific to this RFQ that illustrates the capabilities and expertise of the proposed team's ability to deliver high quality, functional and aesthetically pleasing designs. The range and types of design challenges the firm has encountered on previous projects that might occur on this contract should be discussed as well as how the consultant overcame these challenges.
- b. The consultant shall present an overview of the total number of state agency projects submitted through DBA Design Review Section (DRS) over the past 5-years. Identify projects which were submitted for public bidding, alternative delivery, in-house construction, or other. Discuss the familiarity that your firm has with the current DBA processes. Do not include public school projects, university projects, or projects for other agencies not subject to DRS review.
- c. The consultant may discuss or present examples of projects for which their team has received local, regional, or national recognition or awards in the past 5-years.

Local awards may include society awards, industry association awards, or newspaper and periodical awards published annually. Regional and National awards may include association awards such as AIA, LEED, or ASHRAE or similar, and governmental awards such as GSA, DOD, EPA, DOE, Energy Star and similar. Awards include but are not limited to first, second, third place or honorable mention in a category or classification relevant to the subject project. For example, a project winning in the area of interior design or energy efficiency but not necessarily for overall project design may be applicable and appropriate for consideration.

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

2. Schedules

The consultant shall be evaluated on demonstrated ability to meet time critical schedules for similar renovation and maintenance projects of the type, size, and complexity. A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 20 (equivalent to 20%).

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

3. Cost Controls

The consultant shall be evaluated on demonstrated ability to meet established project budgets. Consultant's understanding of both hard cost (construction contract items) and soft cost (items outside of the general construction contract) shall be considered. A maximum of five (5) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 15 (equivalent to 15%).

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

4. Management Plan

The consultant shall be evaluated on the firm's management approach for contracts of this nature and a demonstrated ability to acquire and disseminate the types of information required in a typical project assignment in an expedient and efficient manner to all members of the design team and the Agency. A maximum of ten (10) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 15 (equivalent to 15%).

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

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

5. Construction Observation and Contract Administration

The consultant shall be evaluated on demonstrated ability to meet the industry's standard of care as well as the DBA established criteria in this area. A maximum of ten (10) points shall be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 15 (equivalent to 15%).

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

6. Clarification Questions

The evaluation committee may ask questions for clarification of information provided in the written statement of qualifications. Questions will be limited to information provided in the written qualifications only. Consultant's responses should be limited to clarifying the information previously provided and should not contain new information that may have been omitted to add new qualification information not previously submitted. A maximum of 5 points will be assigned. Weighted value assigned is 5 (equivalent to 5%).

C. Summary of Oral Presentation Scoring.

Category	Maximum Points	Weighted Value
1. Experience-Specific	15	30%
2. Schedules	5	20%
3. Cost Controls	5	15%
4. Management Plan	10	15%
5. Construction Observation/Admin.	10	15%
6. Clarification Questions	<u>5</u>	<u>5%</u>
TOTAL	50	100%

VIII. SELECTION OF CONSULTANT FOR NEGOTIATIONS

- A. The interview scores from each evaluator shall be averaged to arrive at a ranking for each consultant. These average scores shall be numerically added to the average score for the same consultant's statement of qualifications evaluations. The scores shall be ranked from highest to lowest (i.e.: highest score receives the number 1 rank position and second highest the number 2 position, etc.). In the event of a tie score(s), the tie(s) shall be broken by coin toss elimination. The coin toss shall be conducted by the evaluation committee chair and witnessed by the Facilitator. The consultant winning the coin toss shall be placed in the ranking above the loser of the toss. The consultant having the highest total score (ranking) shall be selected for negotiations. When ranking is to be decided by coin toss, the Facilitator shall notify the affected consultants and extend an offer for the consultant to witness the coin toss decision. If the consultant declines to attend it shall be so noted in the meeting minutes.
- B. All consultants interviewed shall be notified in writing of the rankings and the name of the consultant initially selected for negotiation.
- C. The consultant selected for negotiation will be instructed to submit a proposed scope of

basic services to be provided for this contract along with a copy of all proposed attachments to the contract. Include a schedule of the proposed fees and anticipated reimbursable expenses. If services above and beyond the customary basic services are anticipated, submit a description of the proposed services and the proposed fees. Basic services, allowable reimbursable expenses and additional services shall be as defined in the MSC. The Agency will schedule a meeting as soon as possible with the selected consultant to discuss the details and requirements of the full scope of services and contract budget. All contracts shall be on the forms approved by the Office of State Procurement and DBA. Attachments to this form are permissible and necessary to fully define the terms and conditions of the proposed contract. All attachments shall be edited as required to comply with Arkansas law, MSC, Office of State Procurement rules and guidelines governing professional service contracts and DBA policies.

- D. If the Agency cannot successfully negotiate a contract with the first consultant selected, the Agency may terminate the negotiation process and undertake negotiations with the second highest ranked consultant. If the second negotiation is unsuccessful, the Agency may terminate negotiation and move to the third ranked and so forth. If is unable to successfully negotiate a contract with any of the consultants interviewed, the selection process shall be terminated. The Agency may re-evaluate the scope of services required under this solicitation and begin the RFQ selection process over or may cancel this solicitation. Under no circumstances shall the Agency undertake negotiations with any of the consultants not selected for the oral presentation and interview phase of this solicitation.
- E. The State of Arkansas nor any of its entities shall be financially obligated for any consultants' expenses associated with the negotiation process whether successful or not. Nothing within this document shall be construed to waive the sovereign immunity of the State of Arkansas or any of its entities.

END OF DOCUMENT