CAMERON COUNTY
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
INVITATION TO RFP

RFP NUMBER
 # 1475 -2

RFP TITLE: LABORATORY DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

DATE DUE: February 26, 2007 **DUE NO LATER THAN 5:00 P.M.**

for opening and evaluation at the next Commissioner's Court meeting (Proposers are invited to attend), 2nd floor County Courthouse (Dancy Building) schedule for Tuesday each week at 5:30 pm (unless re-scheduled).

RFPs received later than the date and time above will not be considered.

Carefully read all instructions, requirements and specifications. Fill out all forms properly and completely. Submit your bid with all appropriate supplements and/or samples. Prior to returning your sealed bid response / submittal, all Addendums - if issued - should be reviewed and downloaded by entering the County Purchasing web site at www.co.cameron.tx.us/purchasing/specs.htm – Addendums Column (updated Addendums). These Addendums must be signed and returned with your bid in order to avoid disqualification.

Please return RFP in sealed envelope. Be sure that return envelope shows the RFP Number, Description and is marked "SEALED RFP".

RETURN RFP TO:

by U.S. mail at P. O. Box 3846, Brownsville, Texas 78523
or delivered to the office of the Director of Purchasing, **County Courthouse (Dancy Bldg.)**
1100 E. Monroe St, 3rd Floor, Room 345, Brownsville, Texas 78520.

For additional information or to request addendum contact: Mike Forbes or Estela Farias at (956) 544-0871, E-mail: mforbes@co.cameron.tx.us or purchasing@co.cameron.tx.us To ask specific questions on project requirements, please call: Dean Garza at (956) 554-6700

You must sign below in INK; failure to sign WILL disqualify the offer. All prices must be typewritten or written in ink.

Company Name: _____

Company Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Telephone No._____Fax No._____e-mail_____

Taxpayer Identification Number (T.I.N.):_____

Historically Underutilized Business (State of Texas) Certification VID Number:_____

Print Name:_____Signature:_____

Is Proposer's principal place of Business within Cameron County? Yes - No

(Your signature attests to your offer to provide the goods and/or services in this RFP according to the published provision of this RFP. When an award letter is issued, it becomes a part of this contract. Contract is not valid until contract is awarded by Commissioner's Court, (when applicable - signed by County Judge) and Purchase Order is issued.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING RFP'S

These General Instructions apply to all offers made to Cameron County, Texas (herein after referred to as "County") by all prospective vendors (herein after referred to as "Proposers") on behalf of Solicitations including, but not limited to, Invitations to RFP and Requests for Quotes.

Cameron County is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

Review this document in its entirety. Be sure your RFP is complete, and double check your RFP for accuracy.

GOVERNING FORMS: In the event of any conflict between the terms and provisions of these requirements and the specifications, the specifications shall govern. In the event of any conflict of interpretation of any part of this overall document, Cameron County's interpretation shall govern. Where substitutions are used, they must be of equivalent value or service, and specified by the bidder as such, in the columns to the right on the "Minimum Specifications' Forms". The County's specifications may be exceeded and should be noted by the Vendor as such. Any bid NOT MEETING the Minimum Requirements specified will be rejected.

GOVERNING LAW: This invitation to RFP is governed by the competitive RFP requirements of the County Purchasing Act, Texas Local Government Code, δ262.021 et seq., as amended. Offerors shall comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. Offeror is further advised that these requirements shall be fully governed by the laws of the State of Texas and that Cameron County may request and rely on advice, decisions and opinions of the Attorney General of Texas and the County Attorney concerning any portion of these requirements.

Questions requiring only clarification of instructions or specifications will be handled verbally. If any questions results in a change or addition to this RFP, the Change(s) and addition(s) will be forwarded to all vendors involved as quickly as possible in the form of a written addendum only.

Sign the Vendor's Affidavit Notice and return with your RFP.

PROPOSER SHALL SUBMIT RFP ON THE FORM PROVIDED, SIGN THE VENDOR AFFIDAVIT, AND RETURN ENTIRE RFP PACKET. In the event of inclement weather and County Offices are officially closed on a RFP deadline day, RFP's will be received unit 2:00 p.m. of the next business day, for opening at up coming Commissioner's Court meeting.

RFP's SUBMITTED AFTER THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE SHALL BE RETURNED UNOPENED AND WILL BE CONSIDERED VOID AND UNACCEPTABLE.

SUCCESSFUL VENDOR WILL BE NOTIFIED BY MAIL. All responding vendors will receive written notification regarding the outcome of the award.

OPEN RECORDS ACCESS TO ALL INFORMATION SUBMITTED. All information included will be open to the public, other bidders, media as per the Open Records Act and not be confidential in nature. If you deem any information as confidential, it should not be made part of your bid package.

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY

THIS IS THE ONLY APPROVED INSTRUCTION FOR USE ON YOUR RFP. ITEMS BELOW APPLY TO AND BECOME A PART OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF RFP. ANY EXCEPTIONS THERETO MUST BE IN WRITING.

1. **ORIGINAL AND SIX (6) COPIES OF RFP's MUST BE SUBMITTED** Each RFP shall be placed in a separate envelope completely and properly identified with the name and number of the RFP. RFP's must be in the Purchasing Department BEFORE the hour and date specified.

2. RFP's MUST give full firm name and address of the Proposer. Failure to manually sign RFP will disqualify it. Person signing RFP should show TITLE or AUTHORITY TO BIND THE FIRM IN A CONTRACT.

3. RFP's CANNOT be altered or amended after deadline time. Any alterations made before deadline time must be initiated by Proposer or his authorized agent. No RFP can be withdrawn after opening time without approval by the Commissioners Court based on a written acceptable reason.

4. The County is exempt from State Sales Tax and Federal Excise Tax. DO NOT INCLUDE TAX IN RFP. Cameron County claims exemption from all sales and/or use taxes under Texas Tax Code δ151.309, as amended. Texas Limited Sales Tax Exemption Certificates will be furnished upon written request to the Cameron County Purchasing Agent.

5. Any Catalog, brand name or manufacturer's reference used in a RFP invitation is descriptive-NOT restrictive-it is to indicate type and quality desired. RFP's on brand of like nature and quality will be considered. If RFP is based on other than reference specifications, proposal must show manufacturer, brand or trade name, lot number, etc., of article offered. If other than

brand(s) specified is offered, illustrations and complete descriptions should be made part of the RFP. If Proposer takes no exception to specifications or reference data, he will be required to furnish brand names, numbers, etc. as specified.

6. Samples, when requested, must be furnished free of expense to the County. If not destroyed in examination, they will be returned to the Proposer on request, at his expense. Each sample should be marked with Proposer's name, address, and County RFP number. DO NOT ENCLOSE OR ATTACH SAMPLE TO RFP.

7. Written and verbal inquires pertaining to RFP's must give RFP Number and Company.

8. NO substitutions or cancellations permitted without written approval of Director of Purchasing.

9. The County reserves the right to accept or reject all or any part of any RFP, waiver minor technicalities. The County of Cameron reserves the right to award by item category or by total RFP. Prices should be itemized. County also reserves the right to award either with or without trade-in, if applicable.

10. RFP unit price on quantity specified – extend and show total. In case or errors in extension, UNIT prices shall govern. RFP's subject to unlimited price increase will not be considered.

11. This is a RFP inquiry only and implies no obligation on the part of Cameron County.

12. Acceptance of and final payment for the item will be contingent upon satisfactory performance of the product received by Cameron County.

13. Partial RFP's will not be accepted unless awarded by complete category or line item. **To be awarded by total RFP.**

14. It is expected that the Proposer will meet all state and federal safety standards and laws in effect on the date of the RFP for the item(s) being specified, and the particular use for which they are meant.

15. It is the responsibility of the bidder or proposer to ask any and all questions the bidder or proposer feels to be pertinent to the bid or proposal. Cameron County shall not be required to attempt to anticipate such questions for bidders or proposers. Cameron County will endeavor to respond promptly to all questions asked.

PURCHASE ORDER AND DELIVERY: The successful offeror shall not deliver products or provide services without a Cameron County Purchase Order, signed by an authorized agent of the Cameron County Purchasing Department.

INVOICES AND PAYMENTS: (a) Seller shall submit separate invoices, in duplicate, on each purchase order after each delivery. Invoices shall indicate the purchase order number, shall be itemized and transportation charges, if any, shall be listed separately. A copy of the bill of lading and the freight weigh bill when applicable, should be attached to the invoice. Mail to: Cameron County, ATTN: Auditor's Office, P. O. Box 3846, Brownsville, Texas 78523. Payment shall not be due until the above instruments are submitted after delivery. Suppliers should keep the Finance Department advised of any changes in your remittance addresses. (b) Buyer's obligation is payable only and solely from funds available for the purpose of the purchase. Lack of funds shall render this contract null and void to the extend funds are not available and any delivered buy unpaid for goods will be returned to Seller by Buyer. (c) Do not include Federal Excise, State or City Sales Tax. County shall furnish tax exemption certificate if required.

Any invoice, which cannot be verified by the contract price and/or is otherwise incorrect, will be returned to the offeror for correction. Under term contracts, when multiple deliveries and/or services are required, the offeror may invoice following each delivery and the County will pay on invoice. Contracts providing for a monthly charge will be billed and paid on a monthly basis only. Prior to any and all payments made for good and/or services provided under this contract, the offeror should provide his Taxpayer Identification Number or social security number as applicable. This information must be on file with the Cameron County Auditor's office. Failure to provide this information may result in a delay in payment and/or back-up withholding as required by the Internal Revenue Services.

Proposer shall submit two (2) copies of an itemized invoice showing RFP number and purchase order number to:

CAMERON COUNTY AUDITOR
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
P. O. BOX 3846
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS 78523

Please note that any payment due under this RFP award will be applied towards any debt, including but not limited to delinquent taxes that is owed to Cameron County.

PAYMENT DISCOUNT: Indicate the payment discount (s) available depending on the when invoices are paid. For example, 1/30 means a 1% discount if paid within 30 days, 2/15 means a 2% discount if paid within 15 days, etc.

Payment in full will be made within thirty (30) days of delivery, inspection, and receipt of invoice.

All costs quotations must include all the various features needed to satisfy the requirements. Note: No amounts will be paid for the items in this RFP in excess of the amounts quoted.

CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
ANNUAL RFP #1475
LABORATORY DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

I. GENERAL

Cameron County Commissioners Court is requesting Proposals from firms that can adequately demonstrate that they have the resources, experience and qualifications necessary to provide laboratory diagnostic (LD) services to: provide (LD) services in a timely fashion; ensure that (LD) service meet county and state jail standards; ensure quality, yet be cost effective, (LD) service delivery system; maintain adequate records on (LD) services ordered as well as patient profiles; audit (LD) services' delivery system.

GOAL: In order to ensure that the inmates of the Cameron County Jail Facilities have quality health care, laboratory services will be available to perform diagnostic tests upon physician request; diagnostic tests will be performed in an expedient manner; method of specimen delivery that is least disruptive to jail staff time shall be utilized.

The term of contract will be: **3 years** w/ optional two (2) year renewal subject to Comm. Court approval.

The Request for qualifications will be evaluated using a point system (100) on the following categories:

A. Responsiveness to the Request for Technical Qualifications (15)
   1. Requested information included and thoroughness of response to the forms included in attachments (if any).
   2. Understanding of the project
   3. Creativity of proposed approach to solving the problem
   4. Clarity and brevity of the response

B. Staffing Plan (15)
   1. Provision for the required disciplines and skills
   2. Provision for participation by Firm's key personnel
   3. Qualifications for key personnel adequate for requirement
   4. Qualifications of proposed consulting team

C. Firm's capability to provide the services (15)
   1. Background of the firm
   2. Relevant experience of the Firm
   3. Specific experience on active government services
   4. Methodology proposed to meet objective's services
   5. Location in the general geographical area of the services and knowledge of the locality of the services
   6. References

D. Track record of services completed on time and within budget (25)

E. Pricing to Cameron County (30)

Once Qualification Statements are reviewed, a short list will be complied. Interviews may be conducted with the firms determined to be most qualified. Additional information may be required at that time. Negotiations will begin with the firm determined to be most qualified for the project. Commissioners Court will make the final selection and approve the proposed contract.

Negotiations will include selection of specific services as in the best interest of Cameron County. The selected firm must be prepared to enter negotiations with each service/project individually represented by costs and necessity to the overall analysis. Cameron County may elect to contract for any, or all, of the proposed services after negotiations.

II. SCOPE OF SERVICES

The intent of this solicitation is to obtain the professional laboratory diagnostic services of a laboratory with demonstrated relevant experience:

CONSIDERATIONS:

- For tests requiring blood samples, the nursing staff will draw the specimen, if after three (3) attempts the sample cannot be drawn, the inmate will be sent to the diagnostic laboratory.
- For tests that require the physical presence of the patient, the laboratory services must ensure that the patient is seen within one (1) hour of coming to the site.
- Laboratory must provide a waiting area for inmates that meet Jail specifications.
- STAT requests must be performed and results returned within twenty-four (24) hours.
- Tests other than "stat" must be performed & results returned within seventy-two (72) hours (exceptions being those tests which require a longer incubation period – these test would mandate that the results be returned within forty-eight (48) hours after the completion of the incubation period).
- Laboratory service must have an established mechanism (i.e. courier service) by which to retrieve specimens from the Jail Health Facilities.
- Laboratory/Diagnostic facility must be state certified and meet all state and federal laws.
- Laboratory/Diagnostic facility must maintain a level of liability insurance that is comparable with other diagnostic facilities in South Texas.
- Laboratory/Diagnostic facility must submit copies of medical certification of all staff.
- Laboratory will not be reimbursed for travel.
- Provide all materials needed for blood collection.
- Pick up specimens by 1:00 p.m. daily at all jail facilities and as needed.
- Report all lab work on a printer installed at the lab's expense with a dedicated phone line in the medical office in all (3) Jail Facilities.
- Provide all printer paper for lab reports.
- Identify reports with patient name, date of birth and identification number.

III. QUALIFICATIONS' STATEMENTS

Response to this RFP should be limited to the following maximum page limitations and specified format in order to simplify evaluation. Pages should be 8 ½ x 11 inches in a point type that is legible and easily read. All sections should be properly identified.
Respond to the following:

A. Executive summary to include name, address, and telephone number of the firm submitting the RFP, a summary of the firm's interest in this project, and the name of one or more individuals authorized to represent the consultant in its dealings on a contractual basis. The Executive Summary should

also include a statement that indicates if current workload allows for project to be completed on an accelerated schedule (maximum 2 pages).

B. Names and qualifications of principals and individuals employed by the firm that will participate in these services and their individual responsibilities (maximum 10 pages).

C. Verifiable experience on similar size and complexity of projects concentrating on the type of services specified herein. Experience should be specific by indicating level of involvement of services completed by you responding to this RFP and description of services contributed (maximum 2 pages).

D. Verifiable experience with services for other entities and examples of services to include Name/Location, Owner Representative, Phone Number, and level of involvement by you (maximum 2 pages).

E. Reference to include contact person, address and phone number (2 pages).

F. A narrative outline describing the methodology to be taken by the consultant firm discussing any concerns which must be addressed in a project of this nature. The methodology should be specific in firm's ability to stay within budget, and what methods of cost containment are utilized (maximum 2 pages).

Methodology should be specific in approach to:

1. cost containment
2. review of plans and providing Cameron County with continuous, update on costs;
3. measuring performance against quality, time and cost during design, and implementation phase of the services;
4. assist in preparation of contract/documents;
5. recommend changes that will result in cost effective solutions;
6. assist in proposing phase;
7. coordination of services phase;
8. understanding of Guaranteed Maximum Price services to comply with the State of Texas Local Government Code Proposal Requirements and how liabilities, bonds, and insurance are relevant to the scenario in relation to Owner, laboratory diagnostic;
9. What opportunities of economics of scale will be beneficial to Cameron County through coordination of separate projects and the parameters or restrictions involved in taking advantage of this benefit?

G. A disclosure statement which shall disclose all, potential conflicts of interest related to this project. The disclosure statement must be addressed specifically in your response, even if no conflict exists (maximum 1 page).

H. You shall disclose any outstanding claims against you (pages as needed).

I. You shall include a list of all, current insurance applicable to these services (pages as needed).

J. You shall include a sample contract (absent of proposed fees) to demonstrate the contractual relationship between the owner and laboratory diagnostic service provider (pages as needed).

K. Other Specifics:

1. Must undergo police screening
2. Not reimbursed for travel
3. Must sign in at the site where services are provided
4. Must submit reports in a timely fashion.

ANNUAL RFP #1475

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS – LABORATORY DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES (Prices must include all Laboratory Diagnostic Services and Fees)

ITEM #	DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURE	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF REQUESTS		SPECIFY PRICE PER TEST REQUEST		TOTAL PRICE
01	Blood levels for Dilantin, Tegretol, Phenobarbital	30 per month	x	_____	=	_____
02	CBC	30 per month	x	_____	=	_____
03	Chem 6	15 per month	x	_____	=	_____
04	Chem 12	10 per month	x	_____	=	_____
05	Chem 18	10 per month	x	_____	=	_____
06	Chlamydial/Gonorhea (Gyn-Probe)	15 per month	x	_____	=	_____
07	Febrile Agglutinin	1 per month	x	_____	=	_____
08	Hemoglobin A & C	80 per month	x	_____	=	_____
09	Hepatitis A, B, C	5 per month	x	_____	=	_____
10	Hepatitis Titer	5 per month	x	_____	=	_____
11	Herpes Simplex	1 per month	x	_____	=	_____
12	HIV testing	10 per month	x	_____	=	_____
13	Lithium	10 per month	x	_____	=	_____
14	Liver Profile	20 per month	x	_____	=	_____
15	Maternal Serum Triple Marker (Alpha-fetoprotein)	5 per month	x	_____	=	_____
16	Occult Blood	20 per month	x	_____	=	_____
17	Ova and Parasites	10 per month	x	_____	=	_____
18	Prothrombin time	2 per month	x	_____	=	_____

ANNUAL RFP #1475 (Continued)

ITEM #	DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURE	NUMBER OF REQUESTS		ESTIMATED SPECIFY PRICE PER TEST REQUEST		TOTAL PRICE
19	RPR	10 per month	x	_____	=	_____
20	SGOT	20 per month	x	_____	=	_____
21	SGPT	20 per month	x	_____	=	_____
22	SMA	30 per month	x	_____	=	_____
23	Sedimentation Rate	3 per month	x	_____	=	_____
24	Thyroid Profile	5 per month	x	_____	=	_____
25	Uric Acid	5 per month	x	_____	=	_____
26	Urinalsis	50 per month	x	_____	=	_____
27	Urine Culture	30 per month	x	_____	=	_____
				MONTHLY GRAND TOTAL PRICE ALL		_____

Alternate pricing for Drug Test: a) include drawing and test at lab $_____(ea) b) test only sent to lab $_____

On all other miscellaneous (currently in your catalog) lab test, **not listed**, Cameron County will receive_____% off our catalog list price.

On all new (not in the catalog as yet) miscellaneous lab tests, **not listed,** Cameron County will receive _____% over your cost price.

All prices and %'s must include all laboratory services and related fees, as well as all pick-up fees.

Bidder _____
Address _____
_____
(City/State/Zip)

Signature _____

Telephone _____ Date _____

Attachment A

REFERENCES

Please list three (3) references of current customers who can verify the quality of service your company provides. The County prefers customers of similar size and scope of work to this RFP/RFQ.
THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFP/RFQ.

REFERENCE ONE

Government/Company Name:_____

Address:_____

Contact Person and Title:_____

Phone:_____ Fax:_____

Contract Period:_____ Scope of Work_____

REFERENCE TWO

Government/Company Name:_____

Address:_____

Contact Person and Title:_____

Phone:_____ Fax:_____

Contract Period:_____ Scope of Work_____

REFERENCE THREE

Government/Company Name:_____

Address:_____

Contact Person and Title:_____

Phone:_____ Fax:_____

Contract Period:_____ Scope of Work_____

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF CAMERON

AFFIDAVIT

The undersigned certifies that the RFP/RFQ prices contained in this RFP/RFQ have been carefully checked and are submitted as correct and final and if RFP/RFQ is accepted (within 60 days), agrees to furnish any and/or all items upon which prices are offered, at the price(s) and upon the conditions contained in the Specifications.

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, A Notary Public in and for the State of _____, on this day personally appeared

_____

who, after having first been duly sworn, upon oath did depose and say;

That the foregoing RFP/RFQ submitted by_____ hereinafter called "Proposer" is the duly authorized agent of said company and that the person signing said proposal has been duly authorized to execute the same. Proposer affirms that they are duly authorized to execute this contract, that this company, corporation, firm, partnership or individual has not prepared this RFP/RFQ in collusion with any other Proposer. The Proposer is not a member of any trust, pool, or combination to control the price of products or services RFP/RFQ on, or to influence any person to RFP/RFQ or not to RFP/RFQ thereon. I further affirm that the Proposer has not given, offered to give, nor intends to give, at any time hereafter, any economic opportunity, future employment, gift, loan, gratuity, special discounts, trip, favor, or service to a public servant in connection with the submitted RFP/RFQ. The contents of this RFP/RFQ as to prices, terms or conditions of said RFP/RFQ have not been communicated by the undersigned nor by any employee or agent to any other person engaged in this type of business prior to the official opening of this RFP/RFQ.

Name and Address of Proposer :

_____

_____

_____

Telephone number_____

Fax number_____

_____
Signature
Name:_____

Title:_____

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBE BEFORE ME THIS_____day of_____20_____.

_____ _____ _____
Notary Public in and for County State

Attachment C

RESIDENCE CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to Texas Government Code δ2252.001 *et seq*., as amended, Cameron County requests Residence Certification. δ2252.001 *et seq.* of the Government Code provides some restrictions on the awarding of governmental contracts; pertinent provisions of δ2252.001 are stated below:

(3) "Nonresident Proposer " refers to a person who is not a resident.

(4) "Resident Proposer " refers to a person whose principal place of business is in this state, including a contractor whose ultimate parent company or majority owner has its principal place of business in this state.

☐ I certify that _____is a Resident
(Company Name)
Proposer of Texas as defined in Government Code δ2252.001.

☐ I certify that _____ is a Nonresident
(Company Name)
Proposer as defined in Government Code δ2252.001 and our principal place of business is _____.
(City and State)

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

ADDENDA: When specifications are revised, the Cameron County Purchasing Department ill issue an addendum addressing the nature of the change. Offerors must **sign and include it in the returned RFP/RFQ package.**

ADVERTISING: Seller shall not advertise or publish, without Buyer's Prior consent, the fact that Buyer has entered into this contract, except to the extent necessary to comply with proper request for information from an authorized representative of the federal, state or local government.

AWARD: Cameron County may hold all Rfp/Rfq's for a period of sixty (60) days. Cameron County reserves the right to delete any item it considers too expensive. Rfp/Rfq prices are to be F.O.B. Cameron County. All discounts will be considered in determining the lowest, responsible Proposer. Cameron County reserves the right to award this contract on the basis of EVALUATION CRITERIA (AS STATED IN RFP/RFQ) in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, to waive any formality or irregularity, to make awards to more than one offeror, to reject any or all Rfp/Rfq's.

BONDS: If this Rfp/Rfq requires submission of Rfp/Rfq guarantee and performance bond, there will be a separate page explaining those requirements. Rfp/Rfq's submitted without the required RFP/RFQ bond or cashier's check are not acceptable.

CANCELLATION AND TERMINATION: Buyer shall have the right to cancel for default all or any part of the undelivered portion of this order if Seller breaches any of the terms hereof, including warranties of Seller or if the Seller becomes insolvent or commits acts of bankruptcy. Such right of cancellation is in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other remedies which Buyer may have in law or equity.

TERMINATION: The performance of work under this order may be terminated in whole, or in part, by the Buyer in accordance with this provision. Termination of work hereunder shall be effected by the delivery to the Seller of a "Notice of Termination" specifying the extent to which performance of work under the order is terminated and the date upon which such termination becomes effective. Such right of termination is in addition to, and not in lieu of, rights of Buyer set forth. Cameron County reserves the right to terminate the contract for default if offeror breaches any of the terms therein, including warranties of offeror or if the offeror becomes insolvent or commits acts of bankruptcy. Such right of termination is in addition to and not in lieu of any other remedies which Cameron County may have in law or equity. Default may be construed as, but not limited to, failure to deliver the proper goods and/or services within the proper amount of time, and/or to properly perform any and all services required to Cameron County's satisfaction and/or to meet all other obligations and requirements. Cameron County may terminate the contract without cause upon thirty (30) days written notice.

CONTRACT RENEWALS: Renewals may be made ONLY by written agreement between Cameron County and the offeror. Any price escalations are limited to those stated by the offeror in the original RFP/RFQ. Annual RFP/RFQ renewal – Price Increases: All Annual RFP/RFQ's with a one (1) year renewal option requires that the awarded Proposer must notify Cameron County of any anticipated price increases to the current Annual RFP/RFQ (in writing) at least two months prior to the annual renewal award date unless otherwise specified within the specific provisions of the RFP/RFQ. This allows the County sufficient time to plan for re-Proposing due to a vendor required price increase. If Vendor fails to notify the County it shall be assumed that there will be no price increase for the following year's award period if renewed. This procedure doe not apply to any Annual RFP/RFQ's which allow for Open Market Price increases or Cost allowance increases during the RFP/RFQ award period (as so specified in the RFP/RFQ documents).

DISCRIMINATION: In order to comply with the provisions of fair employment practices, the contractor agrees as follows: 1.) the contractor will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, sex, color, age, religion, handicap, or national origin; 2) in all solicitations or advertisements for employees, the contractor will state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, sex, age, religion, handicap or national origin; 3) the contractor will furnish such relevant information and reports as requested by the County for the purpose of determining compliance with these regulations; and 4) failure of the contractor to comply with these laws will be deemed a breach of contract and it may be cancelled, terminated or suspended in whole or in part.

DISQUALIFICATION OF OFFEROR: Upon signing this RFP/RFQ document, an offeror offering to sell supplies, materials, services, or equipment to Cameron County certifies that the offeror has not violated the antitrust laws of this state codified in Texas Business and Commerce Code δ15.01, et seq., as amended, or the federal antitrust laws, and has not communicated directly or indirectly the RFP/RFQ made to any competitor or any other person engaged in such line of business. Any or all RFP/RFQ's may be rejected if the County believes that collusion exists among the offerors. RFP/RFQs in which the prices are obviously unbalanced may be rejected. If multiples are submitted by an offeror and after the RFP/RFQ's are opened, one of the RFP/RFQ's are withdrawn, the result will be that all of the RFP/RFQs submitted by that offeror will be withdrawn; however, nothing herein prohibits a vendor from submitting multiples for different products or services.

EVALUATION: All proposals will be evaluated in accordance with law and reviewed to assure they are in the best interest of Cameron County. Evaluations shall be based on criteria, bearing on price, and performance of the items/services in the user environment. Any specific criteria section or sections identified elsewhere in this request for proposals may be evaluated by one or more evaluators once the basis and details of this process has been approved by the Purchasing Officer and acknowledged by the Evaluation Committee. Detailed information pertaining to this selective evaluation process is available to offerors and the Commissioners Court upon request. Evaluation sheets and summary of all RFP/RFQ's are subject to review by the Cameron County Purchasing Department and Evaluation Committee's recommendation to Cameron County Commissioners Court. Compliance with all RFP/RFQ requirements, delivery and needs of the using department are considerations in evaluating RFP/RFQ's. **Pricing is NOT the only criterion for making a recommendation (see criteria and relative importance of price and other evaluation factors, if any, specified elsewhere in this request for proposals.).** The Cameron County Purchasing Department reserves the right to contact any offeror, at any time, to clarify, verify or request information with regard to any RFP/RFQ. The Cameron County Purchasing Department further reserves the right to hold negotiation discussions with any responsible offeror submitting proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award in accordance with law.

PROTEST PROCEDURES: Procedure - This protest procedure is available to vendors responding to this RFP requesting a debriefing conference.
Debriefing Conference – A debriefing conference must be requested in writing to the Purchasing Department within five (5) business days from the date of the RFP/RFQ award by the Cameron County Commissioners' Court.

Protests are made - 1. To the Purchasing Department after the debriefing conference. Vendor protests shall be received, in writing, by the Purchasing Department within five (5) business days after the vendor debriefing conference. 2.To County Auditor only after protesting first to the Purchasing Department and its resolution is not satisfactory to the protesting party. Protests to County Auditor shall be received, in writing, within five (5) business days after the vendor has received notification of a decision on the protest from the Purchasing Department. 3. To the Commissioners Court, only after the protest to the County Auditor and Purchasing Department was not resolved satisfactory to the protestor. Protests to the Commissioners Court shall be made within five (5) business days after the vendor has received notification of the County Auditor's decision.

Grounds for protest – 1. Errors were made in computing the score. 2. The County failed to follow procedures established in the RFP, the Purchasing policy: Acquisition or applicable state or federal laws or regulations. 3. Bias, discrimination or conflict of interest on the part of an evaluator. Protests not based on these criteria shall not be considered.
Format and Content - Protesting vendors shall include, in their written protest to the Cameron County Purchasing Department, all facts and arguments upon which they rely. Vendors shall, at a minimum, provide: 1. Information about the protesting vendor; name of firm, mailing address, phone number and name of individual responsible for submission of the protest. 2. Information about the acquisition and the acquisition method. 3. Specific and complete statement of the County's action(s) protested. 4. Specific reference to the grounds for the protest. 5. Description of the relief or corrective action requested. 6. For protests to County Auditor or the Commissioners Court, a copy of the Purchasing Department's written decision on the protest.
Review Process – 1. Upon receipt of a vendor protest, the Purchasing Department shall postpone further steps in the acquisition process until the vendor protest has been resolved. 2. The Department's internal protest review procedures consist of the following: a) The Purchasing Department shall perform an objective review of the protest by individuals not involved in the acquisition protested. The review shall be based on the written protest material submitted by the vendor. b) A written decision will be delivered to the vendor within five business days after receipt of the protest, unless more time is needed. The protesting vendor shall be notified if additional time is necessary.
County Auditor Review Process - 1. The vendor may protest to County Auditor in writing within five business days after the vendor has received notification of the agency decision. 2. County Auditor shall consider all the available facts and issue a decision in writing within five business days after receipt of the protest, unless more time is needed. The protesting vendor shall be notified if additional time is necessary. The County Auditor's decision constitutes the final step of the protest process, except protests which may be reviewed by the Comissioner's Court. County Auditor may choose to convene a Protest Review Board (Board). The Board shall be advisory to the County Auditor and its scope of review shall be limited to procedural issues raised by the protesting vendor.
Final Determination - The final determination shall 1. Find the protest lacking in merit and uphold the agency's action; or 2. Find only technical or harmless errors in the agency's acquisition process conduct, determine the agency to be in substantial compliance, and reject the protest; or 3. Find merit in the protest and provide the agency options which may include a) Correct its errors and reevaluate all proposals, and/or
b)Reissue the vendor solicitation document; or c) Make other findings and determine other courses of action as appropriate.
Commissioners Court Review Process - Protests to the Commissioners Court may be made only for Commissioners Court approved acquisitions, and only after review by County Auditor. Protests of the decisions of County Auditor shall be made by letter to the County Judge, Commissioners Court, who may establish procedures to resolve the protest. Protests shall be received by the County Judge, Commissioners Court, within five business days after the decision of County Auditor in order to be considered. The resulting decision is final, with no further administrative appeal available.

FISCAL FUNDING: A multi-year lease or lease/purchase arrangement (if requested by the Special Requirements/Instructions), or any contract continuing as a result of an extension option, must include fiscal funding out. If, for any reason, funds are not appropriated to continue the lease or contract, said lease or contract shall become null and void on the last day of the current appropriation of funds. After expiration of the lease, leased equipment shall be removed by the offeror from the using department without penalty of any kind or form to Cameron County. All charges and physical activity related to delivery, installation, removal and redelivery shall be the responsibility of the offeror.

GRATUITIES AND PROHIBITION AGAINST PERSONAL INTEREST IN CONTRACTS: Any elected or appointed official who has any substantial interest, either direct or indirect, in any business entity seeking to contract with the County, shall, before any vote or decision on any matter involving the business entity, file an affidavit stating the nature and extent of interest and shall abstain from any participation in the matter. This is not required if the vote or decision will not have any special effect on the entity other than its effect on the public. However, if a majority of the governing body is also required to file, and do file similar affidavits, than the member is not required to abstain from further participation. Attached and included is a disclosure of all of this Company's business or pecuniary financial relationships with officers or employees of Cameron County or County entities (if any such relationships exists) must be attached and included with RFP/RFQ submitted. The Buyer may, by written notice to the Seller, cancel this contract without liability to Seller if it is determined by Buyer that gratuities, in the form of entertainment, gifts, or otherwise, were offered or given by the Seller, or any agent, or representative of the Seller, to any officer or employee of Cameron County with a view toward securing a contract or securing favorable treatment with respect to the awarding or amending or the making or any determinations with respect to the performing of such a contract. In the event this contract is cancelled by Buyer pursuant to this provision , Buyer shall be entitled, in addition to any other rights and remedies, to recover or withhold the amount of the cost incurred by Seller in providing such gratuities. Consistent and continued tie RFP's/RFQ's could cause rejection of RFP/RFQ's by the County and/or investigation for Anti-Trust violations. Proposer guarantees that he has not retained a person to solicit or secure this contract upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies maintained by the contractor for the purpose of securing business.

HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESS (HUB) CERTIFICATION : If Proposer is a Certified Historically Underutilized Business (HUB), please include a copy of your HUB Certificate with your Proposal. This information will assist Cameron County in the percentage tracking of HUB utilization.

MAINTENANCE: Maintenance required for equipment RFP/RFQ should be available in Cameron County by a manufacturer authorized maintenance facility. Costs for this service shall be shown on the Pricing/Delivery Information form. If Cameron County opts to include maintenance, it shall be so stated in the purchase order and said cost will be included. Service will commence only upon expiration of applicable warranties and should be priced accordingly.

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEETS: Under the "Hazardous Communication Act", commonly known as the "Texas Right To Know Act", an offeror must provide to the County with each delivery, material safety data sheets which are applicable to hazardous substances defined in the Act. Failure of the offeror to furnish this documentation will be cause to reject any RFP/RFQ applying thereto.

NAME BRANDS: Specifications may reference name brands and model numbers. It is not the intent of Cameron County to restrict these RFP/RFQs in such cases, but to establish a desired quality level of merchandise or to meet a pre-established standard due to like existing items. Offerors may offer items of equal stature and the burden of proof of such stature rests with offerors. Cameron County shall act as sole judge in determining equality and acceptability of products offered.

PRICING: Prices for all goods and/or services shall be firm for the duration of this contract and shall be stated on the Pricing/Delivery Information form. **Prices shall be all inclusive: No price changes, additions, or subsequent qualifications will be honored during the course of the contract.** All prices must be written in ink or typewritten. Pricing on all transportation, freight, drayage and other charges are to be prepaid by the contractor and included in the RFP/RFQ prices. If there are any additional charges of any kind, other than those mentioned above, specified or unspecified, offeror MUST indicate the items required and attendant costs or forfeit the right to payment for such items. Where unit pricing and extended pricing differ, unit pricing prevails.

RECYCLED MATERIALS: Cameron County encourages the use of products made of recycled materials and shall give preference in purchasing to products made of recycled materials if the products meet applicable specifications as to quantity and quality. County will be the sole judge in determining product preference application.

SCANNED RE-TYPED RESPONSE – FLOPPY DISK: If in its RFP/RFQ response, offeror either electronically scans, re-types, or in some way reproduces the County's published RFP/RFQ package, then in event of any conflict between the terms and provisions of the County's published RFP/RFQ specifications, or any portion thereof, and the terms and provisions of the RFP/RFQ response made by offeror, the County's RFP/RFQ specifications **as published** shall control.

Furthermore, if an alteration of any kind to the County's published RFP/RFQ specifications is only discovered after the contract is executed and is or is not being performed, the contract is subject to immediate cancellation.

FLOPPY DISK: If offeror obtained the RFP/RFQ specifications on a floppy disk in order to prepare a response, **the RFP/RFQ must be submitted in hard copy** according to the instructions contained in this RFP/RFQ package. If, in its RFP/RFQ response, offeror makes any changes whatsoever to the County's published RFP/RFQ specifications, the County's RFP/RFQ specifications **as published** shall control. Furthermore, if an alteration of any kind to the County's published RFP/RFQ specifications is only discovered after the contract is executed and is or is not being performed, the contract is subject to immediate cancellation.

SILENCE OF SPECIFICATIONS: The apparent silence of specifications as to any detail, or the apparent omission from it of a detailed description concerning any point, shall be regarded as meaning that only the best commercial practice is to prevail and that only material and workmanship of the finest quality are to be used. All interpretations of specifications shall be made on the basis of this statement. The items furnished under this contract shall be new, unused of the latest product in production to commercial trade and shall be of the highest quality as to materials used and workmanship. Manufacturer furnishing these items shall be experienced in design and construction of such items and shall be an established supplier of the item RFP/RFQ. **Substitute items will not be accepted unless approved (in advance).**

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS: Offerors are responsible for including all pertinent product data in the returned RFP/RFQ package. Literature, brochures, data sheets, specification information, completed forms requested as part of the RFP/RFQ package and any other facts which may affect the evaluation and subsequent contract award should be included. Materials such as legal documents and contractual agreements, which the offeror wishes to include as a condition of the RFP/RFQ, must also be in the returned RFP/RFQ package. Failure to include all necessary and proper supplemental materials may be cause to reject the entire RFP/RFQ.

TITLE TRANSFER: Title and Risk of Loss of goods shall not pass to Cameron Count until Cameron County actually receives and takes possession of the goods at the point or points of delivery. Receiving times may vary with the using department. Generally, deliveries may be made between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Offerors are advised to consult the using department for instructions. The place of delivery shall be shown under the "Special Requirements/Instructions" section of this RFP/RFQ package and/or on the Purchase Order as a "Deliver To:" address.

USAGE REPORTS: Cameron County reserves the right to request, and receive at no additional cost, up to two (2) times during the contract period, a usage report detailing the products and/or services furnished to date under a contract resulting from this ITB. The reports must be furnished no later than five (5) working days after written request and itemize all purchases to date by Cameron County department, description of each item purchased, including manufacturer, quantity of each item purchased, per unit and extended price of each item purchased, and total amount and price of all items purchased.

WARRANTY PRICE: (a) The price to be paid by the Buyer shall be that contained in Seller's RFP/RFQ which Seller warrants to be no higher than Seller's current prices on orders by others for products of the kind and specification covered by this agreement for similar quantities under similar or like conditions and methods of purchase. In the event Seller breaches this warranty, the prices of the items shall be reduced to the Seller's current prices on orders by others, or in the alternative, Buyer may cancel this contract without liability to Seller for breach or Seller's actual expense. (b) The Seller warrants that no person or selling agency has been employed or retained to solicit or secure this contract upon an agreement or understanding for commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee excepting bona fide employees of bona fide established commercial or selling agencies maintained by the Seller for the purpose of securing business. For breach or violation of this warranty, the Buyer shall have the right in addition to any other right or rights to cancel this contract without liability and to deduct from the contract price, or otherwise recover the full amount of such commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee. Offerors shall furnish all data pertinent to warranties or guarantees which may apply to items in the RFP/RFQ. Offerors may not limit or exclude any implied warranties. Offeror warrants that product sold to the County shall conform to the standards established by the U.S. Department of Labor under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. In the event product does not conform to OSHA Standards, where applicable, Cameron County may return the product for correction or replacement at the offeror's expense. If offeror fails to make the appropriate correction within a reasonable time, Cameron County may correct at the offeror's expense.

WARRANTY PRODUCTS: Seller shall not limit or exclude any implied warranties and any attempt to do so shall render this contract voidable at the option of the Buyer. Seller warrants that the goods furnished will conform to the specifications, drawings and descriptions listed in the RFP/RFQ invitation and to the sample(s) furnished by Seller, if any. In the event of a conflict between the specifications, drawings and descriptions, the specifications shall govern.

SAFETY WARRANTY: Seller warrants that the product sold to Buyer shall conform to the standards promulgated by the U.S. Department of Labor under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. In the event the product does not conform to OSHA standards, Buyer may return the product for correction or replacement at the Seller's expense. In the event Seller fails to make the appropriate correction within a reasonable time, correction made by Buyer will be at Seller's expense. Have you attached the required warranty information to the RFP/RFQ (if applicable)? □ Yes, □ No.

YEAR 2000 COMPLIANCE: All Products and/or services furnished as part of this contract must be year 2000 compliant. This applies to all computers including hardware and software as well as all other commodities with date sensitive embedded chips.

APPLICABLE LAW

This agreement shall be governed by the Uniform Commercial Code. Wherever the term "Uniform Commercial Code" is used, it shall be construed as meaning "the Uniform Commercial Code" as adopted in the State of Texas as effective and in force on the date of this agreement.

ASSIGNMENT DELEGATION: No right or interest in this contract shall be assigned or delegation of any obligation made by Seller without the written permission of the Buyer. Any attempted assignment or delegation by Seller shall be wholly void and totally ineffective for all purposes unless made in conformity with this paragraph. Any contract entered into pursuant to this request is not assignable, nor the duties thereunder, by either party, without the written consent of the other party in the contract County Judge and County Auditor.

CONTRACT OBLIGATION: Cameron County Commissioners Court must award the contract and the County Judge or other person authorized by the Cameron County must sign the contract before it becomes binding on Cameron County or the offerors. Department heads are NOT authorized to sign agreements for Cameron County. Binding agreements shall remain in effect until all products and/or services covered by this purchase have been satisfactorily delivered and accepted.

ERRORS AND OMISSIONS: Errors and Omissions in the RFP / RFQ of any provision herein described will not be construed as to relieve the Vendor of any responsibility or obligation, requisite to the complete and satisfactory implementation, operation, and support of any and all equipment, systems or services.

FORCE MAJEURE: If, by reason of Force Majeure, either party hereto shall be rendered unable wholly, or in part, to carry out its obligations under this agreement, then such party shall give notice and full particulars of Force Majeure in writing to the other party within a reasonable time after occurrence of the event or cause relied upon, and the obligation of the party giving such notice, so far as it is affected by such Force Majeure, shall be suspended during the continuance of the inability then claimed, except as hereinafter provided, but for no longer period, and such party shall endeavor to remove or overcome such inability with all

reasonable dispatch. The term "Force Majeure" as employed herein, shall mean acts of God, strikes, lockouts, or other industrial disturbances, act of public enemy, orders of any kind of government of the United States or the State of Texas or any civil or military authority, insurrections, riots, epidemics, landslides, lightening, earthquakes, fires, hurricanes, storms, floods, washouts, droughts, arrests, restraint of government and people, civil disturbances, explosions, breakage or accidents to machinery, pipelines or canals, or other causes not reasonably within the control of the party claiming such inability. It is understood and agreed that the settlement of strikes and lockouts shall be entirely with the discretion of the party having the difficulty, and that the above requirement that any Force Majeure shall be remedied with all reasonable dispatch shall not require the settlement of strikes and lockouts by acceding to the demands of the opposing party or parties when such settlement is unfavorable in the judgement of the party having the difficulty.

HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT: Contractor, the successful offeror, shall indemnify and hold Cameron County harmless from all claims for personal injury, death and/or property damage resulting directly or indirectly from contractor's performance. Contractor shall procure and maintain, with respect to the subject matter of this RFP/RFQ, appropriate insurance coverage including, as a minimum, public liability and property damage with adequate limits to cover contractor's liability as may arise directly or indirectly from work performed under terms of this RFP/RFQ. Certification of such coverage must be provided to the County upon request.

INFRINGEMENTS: There will be no warranty by buyer against infringements. As part of this contract for sales, Seller agrees to ascertain whether goods manufactured in accordance with the specifications attached to this agreement will give rise to the rightful claim of any third person by way of infringement or the like. Buyer makes no warranty that the production of goods according to the specification will not give rise to such a claim, and in no event shall Buyer be liable to Seller for indemnification in the event that Seller is sued on the grounds of infringement or the like. If Seller is of the opinion that an infringement or the like will result, he will notify Buyer to this effect in writing within two (2) weeks after the signing of this agreement. If Buyer does not receive notice and is subsequently held liable for the infringement or the like, Seller will hold Buyer harmless. If Seller in good faith ascertains that production of the goods in accordance with the specifications will result in infringement or the like, this contract shall be null and void, except that Buyer will pay Seller the reasonable cost of his/her search as to infringement. The contractor agrees to protect the County from claims involving infringement of patents or copyrights.

INTERPRETATION PAROLE EVIDENCE: This writing is intended by the parties as a final expression of their agreement and is intended also as a complete and exclusive statement of the terms of their agreement. No course of prior dealings between the parties and no usage of the trade shall be relevant to supplement or explain any term used in the agreement. Acceptance or acquiescence in a course of performance rendered under this agreement shall not be relevant to determine the meaning of this agreement, even though the accepting or acquiescing party has knowledge of the performance and opportunity for objection. Whenever a term defined by the Uniform Commercial Code is used in this agreement, the definition contained in the Code is to Control.

MODIFICATIONS: This contract can be modified or rescinded only by a writing signed by both of the parties or their duly authorized agents.
O.S.H.A: Offeror must meet all Federal and State OSHA requirements.

RIGHT TO ASSURANCE: Whenever one (1) party to this contract in good faith has reason to question the other party's intent to perform, he/she may demand that the other party give written assurance of their intent to perform. In the event that a demand is made, and no assurance is given within five (5) days the demanding party may treat this failure as an anticipatory repudiation of the contract.

SEVERABILITY: If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase or word of these requirements or the specifications shall be held invalid, such holding shall not affect the remaining portions of these requirements and the specifications and it is hereby declared that such remaining portions would have been included in these requirements and the specifications as though the invalid portion had been omitted.

VENUE: Both parties agree that venue for any litigation arising from this contract shall lie in Cameron County, Texas.

WAIVER OF SUBROGATION: Offeror and offeror's insurance carrier waive any and all rights whatsoever with regard to subrogation against Cameron County as an indirect party to any suit arising out of personal or property damages resulting from offeror's performance under this agreement. No claim or right arising out of a breach of this contract can be discharged in whole, or in part, by a waiver or renunciation of the claim or right unless the waiver or renunciation is supported by consideration and is in writing, signed by the aggrieved.