



7145 West Tidwell Road ~ Houston, Texas 77092

(713)-462-7708

www.esc4.net

NOTICE TO OFFEROR

Solicitation Number 22-08

Request for Proposal (“RFP”)

by

Region 4 Education Service Center (“ESC”)

for

Total Cloud Solutions and Services

SUBMITTAL DEADLINE: Tuesday, April 26, 2022, 10:00 AM CENTRAL TIME

Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Crystal Wallace, Business Operations Specialist, at questions@esc4.net no later than March 23, 2022. All questions and answers will be posted to <https://www.esc4.net/services/purchasing/region-4-omnia-solicitations>. Offerors are responsible for viewing the website to review all questions and answers prior to submitting proposals. Oral communications concerning this RFP shall not be binding and shall in no way excuse an Offeror of the obligations set forth in this proposal.

Proposals must be sealed, prominently marked with the RFP solicitation number, RFP title, RFP opening time/date and name of Offeror. Submissions must be received by the Region 4 ESC office at: 7145 West Tidwell Road, Houston, TX 77092 no later than 2:00 p.m. central time. Proposals received prior to the submittal deadline will be time-stamped upon receipt and kept secure and unopened. At the submittal deadline, Region 4 ESC will collect all proposals received before the deadline in the room designated for the proposal opening. Proposals will be opened and recorded publicly. Any proposal received later than the specified time, whether delivered in person, courier or mailed, will not be considered. Late proposals will be returned to sender unopened. **Due to continuing Covid-19 protocols, Region 4 ESC remains closed to the public. The bid opening will be conducted via Zoom. Join at: <https://esc4.zoom.us/j/86377527918>; or (346) 248-7799; Meeting ID: 863 7752 7918**

NON-MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE

Offerors are strongly encouraged, but not required to participate in a pre-proposal conference with the Business Operations Specialist, which will be held on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 10:00_am CST

Join Zoom Meeting at <https://esc4.zoom.us/j/86377527918>; or (346) 248-7799; Meeting ID: 863 7752 7918 The purpose of this conference is to clarify the contents of this RFP in order to prevent any misunderstanding of Region 4 ESC’s position. Any doubt as to the requirements of this RFP or any apparent omission or discrepancy should be presented to Region 4 ESC at this conference. Region 4 ESC will then determine the appropriate action necessary, if any, and may issue a written addendum to the RFP. Oral statements or instructions will not constitute an addendum to this RFP.

Publication Date: March 9, 2022

I. SCOPE OF WORK

Region 4 Education Service Center (“Region 4 ESC”) requests proposals from qualified suppliers with the intent to enter into a Contract for Total Cloud Solutions and Services. Region 4 ESC is seeking a provider that has the depth, breadth and quality of resources necessary to complete all phases of the Contract. Awarded Offeror(s) shall deliver products and services under the terms of this agreement. While this solicitation specifically covers Total Cloud Solutions and Services, each awarded Offeror may offer their complete product and service offering, or balance of line. Region 4 ESC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all balance of line items offered.

Region 4 ESC is an education service center established by the Texas Legislature in 1967 to assist school districts and charter schools in improving efficiencies. Region 4 serves a seven-county area comprised of 47 public school districts and 40 open-enrollment charter schools, representing more than 1.2 million students, 105,000 educators and 1,500 campuses. Through cooperative contracts Region 4 ESC extends the opportunity to operate more efficiently and economically to agencies nationwide through OMNIA Partners (see below).

The Contract is based on the need to provide the economic benefits of volume purchasing and reduction in administrative costs through cooperative purchasing to schools and other members. Although the awarded Offeror(s) may restrict sales to certain public units (for example, state agencies or local government units), any proposal that prohibits sales from being made to public school districts may not be considered. Sales without restriction are preferred. These types of contracts are commonly referred to as being “piggybackable.”

NATIONAL CONTRACT

The Region 4 Education Service Center, as the Principal Procurement Agency, defined in APPENDIX D, has partnered with OMNIA Partners, Public Sector (“OMNIA Partners”) to make the resultant contract (also known as the “Master Agreement” in materials distributed by OMNIA Partners) from this solicitation available to other public agencies nationally, including state and local governmental entities, public and private primary, secondary and higher education entities, non-profit entities, and agencies for the public benefit (“Public Agencies”), through OMNIA Partners’ cooperative purchasing program. The Region 4 Education Service Center is acting as the contracting agency for any other Public Agency that elects to utilize the resulting Master Agreement. Use of the Master Agreement by any Public Agency is preceded by their registration with OMNIA Partners (a “Participating Public Agency”) and by using the Master Agreement, any such Participating Public Agency agrees that it is registered with OMNIA Partners, whether pursuant to the terms of a Master Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing Agreement, a form of which is attached hereto on APPENDIX A, or as otherwise agreed to. APPENDIX A contains additional information about OMNIA Partners and the cooperative purchasing program.

OMNIA Partners is the largest and most experienced purchasing organization for public and private sector procurement. Through the economies of scale created by OMNIA Partners public sector subsidiaries and affiliates, National IPA and U.S. Communities, our participants now have access to more competitively solicited and publicly awarded cooperative agreements. The lead agency contracting process continues to be the foundation on which we are founded. OMNIA Partners is proud to offer more value and resources to state and local government, higher education, K-12 education and non-profits.

OMNIA Partners provides shared services and supply chain optimization to government, education and the private sector. With corporate, pricing and sales commitments from the Contractor, OMNIA Partners provides marketing and administrative support for the Contractor that directly promotes the Contractor's products and services to Participating Public Agencies through multiple channels, each designed to promote specific products and services to Public Agencies on a national basis. Participating Public Agencies benefit from pricing based on aggregate spend and the convenience of a contract that has already been advertised and publicly competed. The Contractor benefits from a contract that generally allows Participating Public Agencies to directly purchase goods and services without the Contractor's need to respond to additional competitive solicitations. As such, the Contractor must be able to accommodate a nationwide demand for services and to fulfill obligations as a nationwide Contractor and respond to the OMNIA Partners documents (APPENDIX D).

While no minimum volume is guaranteed to the Contractor, the estimated annual volume of Total Cloud Solutions purchased under the Master Agreement through OMNIA Partners is approximately \$100 million. This projection is based on the current annual volumes among Region 4 ESC, other Participating Public Agencies anticipated to utilize the resulting Master Agreement to be made available to them through OMNIA Partners, and volume growth into other Public Agencies through a coordinated marketing approach between the Contractor and OMNIA Partners.

Customer Support

Contractor shall provide timely and accurate technical advice and sales support to Region 4 ESC staff and Participating Agencies. Contractor shall respond to such requests within one (1) working day after receipt of the request.

Contractor Requirements

The intent of this solicitation is to establish a contract for a comprehensive product offering with the ability to provide eligible public agencies with multiple solutions to meet their needs. Therefore, we are requesting Respondents to offer product/services and meet the specified requirements as defined in this RFP.

II. CALENDAR OF EVENTS (ALL DATES ARE TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE):

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Issue RFP	March 9, 2022
Pre-proposal Conference	March 22, 2022
Deadline for receipt of questions via email	March 23, 2022
Issue Addenda (if required)	TBD
Proposal Due Date	April 26, 2022
Approval from Region 4 ESC	June 28, 2022
Contract Effective Date	October 1, 2022

III. INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFERORS

1. Key Definitions

Contract: The legal agreement executed between Region 4 ESC and the awarded Offeror. A draft of the Contract is provided as Appendix A.

Contractor: Any provider or seller of goods or services who, as a result of the competitive solicitation process, is awarded a Contract by Region 4 ESC.

Days: calendar days

Offeror: A supplier submitting a proposal in response to a solicitation.

2. Inquiries and Discrepancies: Questions regarding this solicitation must be submitted in writing to Crystal Wallace, Business Operations Specialist, at questions@esc4.net no later than March 23, 2022. All questions and answers will be posted to <https://www.esc4.net/services/purchasing/region-4-omnia-solicitations>. Offerors are responsible for viewing the website to review all questions and answers prior to submitting proposals. Oral communications concerning this RFP shall not be binding and shall in no way excuse an Offeror of the obligations set forth in this proposal.

3. Restricted and Prohibited Communications with Region 4 ESC: During the period between the date Region 4 ESC issues this RFP and the selection of the Contractor by Region 4 ESC, if any, Offerors shall restrict all contact with Region 4 ESC and direct all questions regarding this RFP, including questions regarding terms and conditions, only to the individual identified above in section "Inquiries and Discrepancies" in the specified manner. Do not contact members of the Board of Directors, other employees of Region 4 ESC or any of Region 4 ESC's agents or administrators. Contact with any of these prohibited individuals after issuance of this RFP and before selection is made, may result in disqualification of the Offeror.

The communications prohibition shall terminate when the Contract is recommended by the administration, considered by the Board of Directors at a noticed public meeting, and the Contract has been awarded. In the event the Board of Directors refers the recommendation back to staff for reconsideration, the communications prohibition shall continue. Additionally, during the time period between the award of the Contract by the Board of Directors and the execution of the Contract, Offerors shall not engage in any prohibited communications as described in this section.

Prohibited communications includes direct contact, discussion, or promotion of any Offeror's response with any member of Region 4 ESC's Board of Directors or employees except for communications with Region 4 ESC's designated representative as set forth in this RFP and only in the course of inquiries, briefings, interviews, or presentations. This prohibition is intended to create a level playing field for all potential Offerors, assure that decisions are made in public, and to protect the integrity of the RFP process. Except as provided in the above stated exceptions, the following communications regarding this RFP are prohibited:

- Communications between a potential Offeror, Offeror, their lobbyist or consultant and any member of Region 4 ESC's Board of Directors;
- Communications between any Region 4 ESC Director and any member of a selection or evaluation committee; and
- Communications between any Region 4 ESC Director and administrator or employee.

The communications prohibition shall not apply to the following:

- Communications with Region 4 ESC's purchasing staff specifically named and authorized to conduct and receive such communications under this RFP or upon the request of Region 4 ESC, with Region 4 ESC's legal counsel; and
- Presentations made to the Board of Directors during any duly noticed public meeting.

Nothing contained herein shall prohibit any person or entity from publicly addressing Region 4 ESC's Board of Directors during any duly noticed public meeting, in accordance with applicable Board policies, on a matter other than this RFP or in connection with a presentation requested by Region 4 ESC's representatives.

4. Current products: Proposals shall be for new materials and equipment in current production and marketed to the general public, education and government agencies at the time the proposal is submitted.
5. Proposal Format: Proposals must contain two (2) bound and signed original copies of the solicitation, and two (2) electronic copies on flash drives shall be provided. Offeror must also submit two (2) electronic proposals free of proprietary information to be posted, if awarded a Contract.

Only sealed responses will be accepted. Faxed or electronically transmitted responses will not be accepted. Sealed responses may be submitted on any or all items, unless stated otherwise.

Responses must be provided in a three-ring binder or report cover using 8.5 x 11 paper clearly identified with the name of the Offeror's company and the solicitation name and number on both the outside front cover and vertical spine. Please note: due to COVID-19, revised instructions will be addressed during the preproposal conference

Tabs should be used to separate the proposal into sections. The following items identified must be included behind the tabs listed below. Each section should contain both the section of the RFP referenced and the Offeror's response to that section. Offerors failing to organize in the manner listed may be considered non-responsive and may not be evaluated.

6. **Binder Tabs:**

Tab 1 – Draft Contract and Offer and Contract Signature Form (Appendix A)

- a. Terms and Conditions Acceptance Form (Appendix B)

Tab 2 – Products/Pricing

Tab 3 – Performance Capability

- a. OMNIA Partners documents (Appendix D)

Tab 4 – Qualification and Experience

- a. References

Tab 5 – Value Add

Tab 6 – Additional Required Documents (Appendix C)

- a. Acknowledgment and Acceptance of Region 4 ESC's Open Records Policy (Appendix C, Doc #1)
 - b. Antitrust Certification Statement (Tex. Government Code § 2155.005) (Appendix C, Doc #2)
 - c. Implementation of House Bill 1295 Certificate of Interested Parties (Form 1295) (Appendix C, Doc #3)
 - d. Texas Government Code 2270 Verification Form (Appendix C, Doc #4)
 - e. Any additional agreements Offeror will require Participating Agencies to sign
7. Additional Agreements: If an Offeror requires additional agreements, i.e., master service agreement, end user licensing agreement, etc. a copy of the proposed agreement must be included with the proposal. Any additional agreements provided by the Offeror are complimentary to the terms and conditions stated herein or for the use of Participating Public Agencies and shall not replace Appendix A
8. Open Records Policy: Proposals submitted in response to this RFP become a matter of public record subject to release after Contracts are executed. If an Offeror believes its response, or parts of its response, may be exempt from disclosure, the Offeror must specify page-by-page and line-by-line the parts of the response, which it believes, are exempt. In addition, the Offeror must specify which exception(s) are applicable and provide detailed reasons to substantiate the exception(s). Offeror must provide this information on the "Acknowledgement and Acceptance of Region 4 ESC's Open Records Policy" (Appendix C, Doc #1). Any unmarked information will be considered public information and released, if requested under the Public Information Act. Price is not confidential and will not be withheld.

The determination of whether information is confidential and not subject to disclosure is the duty of the Office of Attorney General (OAG). Region 4 ESC must provide the OAG sufficient information to render an opinion and therefore, vague and general claims to confidentiality by the Offeror are not acceptable. Region 4 ESC must comply with the opinions of the OAG. Region 4 ESC assumes no responsibility for asserting legal arguments on behalf of any Offeror or Contractor. Offeror is advised to consult with their legal counsel concerning disclosure issues resulting from this procurement process and to take precautions to safeguard trade secrets and other proprietary information. After completion of award, these documents will be available for public inspection.

9. Disclosures: By signing the Offer and Contract Signature Form, Offeror affirms:
- a) Offeror has not given, offered to give, nor intends to give at any time hereafter any economic opportunity, future employment, gift, loan, gratuity, special discount, trip, favor or service to a public servant in connection with this proposal and any subsequent Contract.

Offerors must include a complete description of any and all relationships that might be considered a conflict of interest in doing business with Region 4 ESC.
 - b) To the best of Offeror's knowledge, the proposal has been arrived at independently, and is submitted without collusion with anyone to obtain information or gain any favoritism that

would in any way limit competition or give an unfair advantage over other Offerors or potential Offerors in the award of a Contract resulting from this RFP.

c) Offeror is not currently delinquent in the payment of any franchise taxes.

d) The individual signing the submittal is an authorized agent for the Offeror and has the authority to bind the Offeror to the Contract.

10. Waiver: By submitting a proposal, Offeror expressly agrees to waive any claim it has or may have against Region 4 ESC, its directors, officers, its trustees, or agents arising out of or in connection with (1) the administration, evaluation, recommendation of any proposal; (2) any requirements under the solicitation, proposal package, or related documents; (3) the rejection of any proposal or any part of any proposal; and/or (4) the award of a Contract, if any.

Region 4 ESC shall not be responsible or liable for any costs incurred by Offerors or the successful Offeror in connection with responding to the RFP, preparing for oral presentations, preparing and submitting a proposal, entering or negotiating the terms of a Contract, or any other expenses incurred by an Offeror. The Offeror is wholly responsible for any such costs and expenses and shall not be reimbursed in any manner by Region 4 ESC.

11. Conditions of Submitting Proposal: Submission of a proposal confers no right on an Offeror to an award or Contract. Region 4 ESC, in its sole discretion and for any reason or no reason, reserves the rights to reject any or all proposals, accept only a part of any proposal, accept the proposal deemed most advantageous to Region 4 ESC, and waive any technicalities. The issuance of this RFP does not obligate Region 4 ESC to make an award or negotiate or execute a Contract. Prior to submission due date and time, Region 4 ESC reserves the right to amend the terms and provisions of the RFP, extend the deadline for submission of proposals, or withdraw the RFP entirely for any reason solely at Region 4 ESC's discretion. A proposal may be rejected if it fails to meet any requirement of this RFP.

12. Mailing of Proposals: All proposals submitted in response to the solicitation must be clearly identified as listed below with the solicitation number, title, name and address of the company responding. All packages must be clearly identified as listed below, sealed and delivered to the Region 4 ESC office no later than the submittal deadline assigned for this solicitation.

From _____

Company _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Solicitation Name and Number _____ Due Date and Time _____

13. Amendment of Proposal: A proposal may be amended prior to the time of opening by submitting a sealed letter to the location indicated on the front page of this solicitation.

14. Withdrawal of Proposals: Withdrawal of proposals prior to the opening date will be permitted by a written letter or electronic mail from the Offeror. Telephonic or oral withdrawals shall not be considered. After the opening date consideration may be given in cases where Offeror advises that it made a clerical error that is substantially lower than it intended. In such case,

Offeror must provide written notice of their desire to withdraw, along with supporting documents, within 3 business days of receiving the acceptance letter or of being requested by Region 4 ESC for clarification of the proposal, whichever is later. Any Contract entered into prior to Region 4 ESC receiving notice must be honored. No Offeror should assume their withdrawal request has been accepted unless, and until, they receive written acknowledgment and acceptance of their proposal withdrawal.

15. Offer and Acceptance Period: In order to allow for an adequate evaluation, Region 4 ESC requires a proposal in response to this RFP to be valid and irrevocable for one-hundred twenty (120) days after the proposal due date and time.
16. Non-Responsive Proposals: All proposals will be reviewed for responsiveness to the material requirements of the solicitation. A proposal that is not materially responsive shall not be eligible for further consideration for award of the Contract, and the Offeror shall receive notice of the non-award of its proposal.
17. Discussions: Region 4 ESC reserves the right to conduct discussion with Offerors for the purpose of eliminating minor irregularities, informalities, or apparent clerical mistakes in the proposal in order to clarify a proposal and assure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, the RFP requirements.
18. Negotiations: In the event Region 4 ESC decides to conduct negotiations, exclusive or concurrent negotiations may be conducted with Offerors reasonably susceptible for award. During the course of negotiations, no Offeror's proposal, including pricing, shall be revealed to any other Offeror or to any other person who is not involved with the evaluation process. Exclusive or concurrent negotiations shall not constitute a Contract award, nor shall it confer any property rights to the successful Offeror. In the event Region 4 ESC deems negotiations are not progressing, Region 4 ESC may formally terminate these negotiations and may enter into subsequent exclusive or concurrent negotiations with the next most qualified Offeror(s).
19. Best and Final Offer: Region 4 ESC, in its sole discretion, may request Offerors reasonably susceptible for award to submit a Best and Final Offer. Offerors must submit their Best and Final Offers in writing. If an Offeror does not respond to the request for a Best and Final Offer, that Offeror's most recent prior submission will be considered its Best and Final Offer.
20. Specifications: When a solicitation contains a specification that states no substitutions, no deviation from this requirement will be permitted. Offeror must comply with the true intent of the specifications and drawings and not take advantage of any unintentional error or omission. In cases where no type and kind of product is specified, specifications have been developed to indicate minimal standards as to the usage, materials, and contents based on the needs of the members. References to manufacturer's specifications ("Design Guides"), when used by Region 4 ESC, are to be considered informative to give the Offeror information as to the general style, type and kind requested. Responses proposing goods, materials or equipment regularly produced by a reputable manufacturer shall be evaluated by Region 4 ESC which will, in its sole discretion, determine whether such proposed goods, materials or equipment are substantially equivalent to the Design Guides, considering quality, workmanship, economy of operation, and suitability for the purpose intended. Offerors should include all documentation required to evaluate whether or not their proposed goods, materials or equipment are substantially equivalent to the Design Guides.
21. Quality of Materials or Services: Offeror shall state the brand name and number of the materials being provided. If none is indicated, it is understood that the Offeror is proposing the

exact brand name and number specified or mentioned in the solicitation. However, unless specifically stated otherwise, comparable substitutions will be permitted in cases where the material is equal to that specified, considering quality, workmanship, economy of operation and suitability for the purpose intended.

22. Samples: Upon request, samples shall be furnished, free of cost, within seven (7) days after receiving notice of such request. By submitting the proposal Offeror certifies that all materials conform to all applicable requirements of this solicitation and of those required by law. Offeror agrees to bear the costs for laboratory testing, if results show the sample does not comply with solicitation requirements. Submissions may no longer be considered for failing to submit samples as requested.
23. Formation of Contract: A response to this solicitation is an offer to contract with Region 4 ESC based upon the terms, conditions, scope of work, and specifications contained in this request. A solicitation does not become a Contract until it is awarded by Region 4 ESC. A Contract is formed when Region 4 ESC's board signs the Offer and Contract Signature Form. The signed Offer and Contract Signature Form provided with the RFP response eliminates the need for a formal signing process.
24. Multiple Awards: Region 4 ESC reserves the right to award Contract(s) to multiple Offerors. The decision to award multiple Contracts, award only one Contract, or to make no awards rests solely with Region 4 ESC.
25. Non-Exclusive: Any Contract resulting from this solicitation shall be awarded with the understanding and agreement it is for the sole convenience and benefit of Region 4 ESC. Region 4 ESC reserves the right to obtain like goods and services from other sources.
26. Protest Procedure: Any protest of an award or proposed award must be filed in writing within ten (10) days from the date of the official award notification and must be received by 5:00 pm Central Time. No protest shall lie for a claim that the selected Offeror is not a responsible Offeror. Protests shall be filed with Robert Zingelmann, Chief Financial Officer, Finance and Operations Services, and sent to the Region 4 ESC office at: 7145 West Tidwell Road, Houston, TX 77092. Protests shall include the following:
 - a) Name, address and telephone number of protester;
 - b) Original signature of protester or its representative;
 - c) Identification of the solicitation by RFP number;
 - d) Detailed statement of legal and factual grounds including copies of relevant documents;
and
 - e) the form of relief requested.

Any protest review and action shall be considered final with no further formalities being considered.

IV. EVALUATION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

1. A committee will review and evaluate all responses and make a recommendation for award of Contract(s). The recommendation for Contract awards will be based on the predetermined criteria factors outlined in this section, where each factor is assigned a point value based on its importance. In evaluating the responses, the following predetermined criteria is considered:
 - a) Products/Pricing (40 Points)
 - b) Performance Capability (30 Points)
 - c) Qualification and Experience (20 Points)
 - d) Value Add (10 Points)

2. Offeror's proposal should, at a minimum, include the following for Region 4 ESC's evaluation:

a) Products and Services /Pricing

- i. Offerors shall provide pricing based on a discount or discount range from a manufacturer's price list or catalog, or fixed price, or a combination of both with indefinite quantities. Prices listed will be used to establish the extent of a manufacturer's product lines, services, warranties, etc. that are available from Offeror and the pricing per item. Multiple percentage discounts are acceptable if, where different percentage discounts apply, they different percentages are specified. Additional pricing and/or discounts may be included. Products and services proposed are to be priced separately with all ineligible items identified. For services, Offerors shall describe how professional services and technical solutions are priced, i.e., hourly, by project, etc. Offerors may elect to limit their proposals to any category or categories.
- ii. Include an electronic copy of the catalog from which discount, or fixed price, is calculated. Electronic price lists must contain the following: *(if applicable)*

- Manufacturer part #
- Offeror's Part # (if different from manufacturer part #)
- Description
- Manufacturers Suggested List Price and Net Price
- Net price to Region 4 ESC

Media submitted for price list must include the Offerors' company name, name of the solicitation, and date on a Flash Drive (i.e., Pin or Jump Drives).

- iii. **Public Cloud Service Providers (CSPs)** – For each CSP your company is authorized to resell please:
 - a) Specify the Service Model(s) and Deployment Model(s) supported as defined by SP 800, The NIST Definition of Cloud Computing.
 - b) Provide proof of your company's authorization to resell
 - For CSPs primarily engaged in delivery IaaS/PaaS, proof of authorization to resell must come for CSP

- For CSPs primarily engaged in delivering SaaS, proof of authorization to resell may come from either the CSP or an authorized distribution channel

c) Copy of (or link) any current CSP Service Level Agreement (SLA)

d) Copy of (or link) for any other relevant terms and conditions that may be required by the CSP

e) CSA STAR Self-Assessment

- All proposed public CSPs must achieve a LEVEL ONE: CSA STAR Self- Assessment by completing a Consensus Assessments Initiative Questionnaire (CAIQ) or submitting a report documenting compliance with Cloud Controls Matrix (CCM) that is current and publicly available at the CSA Star Registry.

Private Cloud Infrastructure - Describe your capability and approach to providing private cloud environments to your Customers. For each CIP your company is authorized to sell, please:

a) Specify how its solutions are relevant to private cloud infrastructure

b) Provide proof of your company's authorization to resell

- Proof of authorization to resell may come from either the CIP or an authorized distribution channel

Cloud Application – Describe your capability and approach to:

a) Modernizing and migrating legacy applications to run on Customer clouds

b) Developing and deploying new applications to run on Customer clouds

Managed Cloud Services – Describe your capability and approach to managing cloud services to Customer running solutions on public and/or private clouds

Services – Describe any additional cloud services

- iv. Is pricing available for all products and services?
- v. Describe your unique offerings or attributes of your company and/or cloud solutions offering as compared to your competition and how its differentiators provide additional value to Region 4 and OMNIA Partners members
- vi. .
- vii. Provide pricing for warranties on all products and services.
- viii. Describe any additional discounts or rebates available. Additional discounts or rebates may be offered for large quantity orders, single ship to location, growth, annual spend, guaranteed quantity, etc.
- ix. Describe how customers verify they are receiving Contract pricing.
- x. Describe payment methods offered.
- xi. Propose the frequency of updates to the Offeror's pricing structure. Describe any proposed indices to guide price adjustments. If offering a catalog contract with discounts by category, while changes in individual pricing may change, the category discounts should not change over the term of the Contract.

- xii. Describe how future product introductions will be priced and align with Contract pricing proposed.
- xiii. Provide any additional information relevant to this section.

Not to Exceed Pricing. Region 4 ESC requests pricing be submitted as not to exceed pricing. Unlike fixed pricing, the Contractor can adjust submitted pricing lower if needed but, cannot exceed original pricing submitted. Contractor must allow for lower pricing to be available for similar product and service purchases. Cost plus pricing as a primary pricing structure is not acceptable.

b) Performance Capability

- i. Include a detailed response to Appendix D, Exhibit A, OMNIA Partners Response for National Cooperative Contract. Responses should highlight experience, demonstrate a strong national presence, describe how Offeror will educate its national sales force about the Contract, describe how products and services will be distributed nationwide, include a plan for marketing the products and services nationwide, and describe how volume will be tracked and reported to OMNIA Partners.
- ii. The successful Offeror will be required to sign Appendix D, Exhibit B, OMNIA Partners Administration Agreement prior to Contract award. Offerors should have any reviews required to sign the document prior to submitting a response. Offeror's response should include any proposed exceptions to OMNIA Partners Administration Agreement on Appendix B, Terms and Conditions Acceptance Form.
- iii. Include completed Appendix D, Exhibits F. Federal Funds Certifications and G. New Jersey Business Compliance.
- iv. Describe how Offeror responds to emergency orders.
- v. What is Offeror's average Fill Rate?
- vi. What is Offeror's average on time delivery rate? Describe Offeror's history of meeting the shipping and delivery timelines.
- vii. Describe Offeror's return and restocking policy.
- viii. Describe Offeror's ability to meet service and warranty needs.
- ix. Describe Offeror's customer service/problem resolution process. Include hours of operation, number of services, etc.
- x. Describe Offeror's invoicing process. Include payment terms and acceptable methods of payments. Offerors shall describe any associated fees pertaining to credit cards/p-cards.
- xi. Describe Offeror's contract implementation/customer transition plan.
- xii. Describe the financial condition of Offeror.
- xiii. Provide a website link in order to review website ease of use, availability, and capabilities related to ordering, returns and reporting. Describe the website's capabilities and functionality.
- xiv. Describe the Offeror's safety record.
- xv. Provide any additional information relevant to this section.

c) Qualification and Experience

- i. Provide a brief history of the Offeror, including year it was established and corporate office location.
- ii. Describe Offeror's reputation in the marketplace.
- iii. Describe Offeror's reputation of products and services in the marketplace.
- iv. Describe the experience and qualification of key employees.
- v. Describe Offeror's experience working with the government sector.
- vi. Describe how your company will assist in educating customers on the distinct difference of IaaS, PaaS and SaaS offerings and responsibilities.
- vii. Describe past litigation, bankruptcy, reorganization, state investigations of entity or current officers and directors.
- viii. Provide a minimum of 5 customer references relating to the products and services within this RFP within the past three (3) years. References should include at least one customer who is:
 - a) Using a Microsoft Azure Solution
 - b) Using an Amazon Web Solution (AWS) Solution
 - c) Academic/education leveraging a cloud solution
 - d) Using a PaaS solution
 - e) Has purchased an IaaS solution
 - f) Provide any other significant information about your company that is relevant to demonstrating your experience in the cloud marketplace
Include entity name, contact name and title, contact phone and email, city, state, years serviced, description of services and annual volume.
- ix. Provide any additional information relevant to this section.

d) Value Add

- i. Provide any additional information related to products and services Offeror proposes to enhance and add value to the Contract.
3. Competitive Range: It may be necessary to establish a competitive range. Factors from the predetermined criteria will be used to make this determination. Responses not in the competitive range will not receive further award consideration. Region 4 ESC may determine establishing a competitive range is not necessary.
 4. Past Performance: An Offeror's past performance and actions are relevant in determining whether or not the Offeror is likely to provide quality goods and services; the administrative aspects of performance; the Offeror's history of reasonable and cooperative behavior and commitment to customer satisfaction; and generally, the Offeror's businesslike concern for the interests of the customer may be taken into consideration when evaluating proposals, although not specifically mentioned in the RFP.
 5. Additional Investigations: Region 4 ESC reserves the right to make such additional investigations as it deems necessary to establish the capability of any Offeror.

APPENDIX A

DRAFT CONTRACT

This Contract ("Contract") is made as of _____, 2022 by and between _____ ("Contractor") and Region 4 Education Service Center ("Region 4 ESC") for the purchase of Total Cloud Solutions and Services ("the products and services").

RECITALS

WHEREAS, Region 4 ESC issued Request for Proposals Number 22-08 ("RFP"), to which Contractor provided a response ("Proposal"); and

WHEREAS, Region 4 ESC selected Contractor's Proposal and wishes to engage Contractor in providing the services/materials described in the RFP and Proposal;

WHEREAS, both parties agree and understand the following pages will constitute the Contract between the Contractor and Region 4 ESC, having its principal place of business at 7145 West Tidwell Road, Houston, TX 77092.

WHEREAS, Contractor included, in writing, any required exceptions or deviations from these terms, conditions, and specifications; and it is further understood that, if agreed to by Region 4 ESC, said exceptions or deviations are incorporated into the Contract.

WHEREAS, this Contract consists of the provisions set forth below, including provisions of all attachments referenced herein. In the event of a conflict between the provisions set forth below and those contained in any attachment, the provisions set forth below shall control.

WHEREAS, the Contract will provide that any state and local governmental entities, public and private primary, secondary and higher education entities, non-profit entities, and agencies for the public benefit ("Public Agencies") may purchase products and services at prices indicated in the Contract upon the Public Agency's registration with OMNIA Partners.

- 1) Term of agreement. The term of the Contract is for a period of three (3) years unless terminated, canceled or extended as otherwise provided herein. Region 4 ESC shall have the right to renew the Contract for two (2) additional one-year periods or portions thereof. Region 4 ESC shall review the Contract prior to the renewal date and notify the Contractor of Region 4 ESC's intent renew the Contract. Contractor may elect not to renew by providing three hundred sixty-five days' (365) notice to Region 4 ESC. Notwithstanding the expiration of the initial term or any subsequent term or all renewal options, Region 4 ESC and Contractor may mutually agree to extend the term of this Agreement. Contractor acknowledges and understands Region 4 ESC is under no obligation whatsoever to extend the term of this Agreement.
- 2) Scope: Contractor shall perform all duties, responsibilities and obligations, set forth in this agreement, and described in the RFP, incorporated herein by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 3) Form of Contract. The form of Contract shall be the RFP, the Offeror's proposal and Best and Final Offer(s).

- 4) Order of Precedence. In the event of a conflict in the provisions of the Contract as accepted by Region 4 ESC, the following order of precedence shall prevail:
 - i. This Contract
 - ii. Offeror's Best and Final Offer
 - iii. Offeror's proposal
 - iv. RFP and any addenda
- 5) Commencement of Work. The Contractor is cautioned not to commence any billable work or provide any material or service under this Contract until Contractor receives a purchase order for such work or is otherwise directed to do so in writing by Region 4 ESC.
- 6) Entire Agreement (Parol evidence). The Contract, as specified above, represents the final written expression of agreement. All agreements are contained herein and no other agreements or representations that materially alter it are acceptable.
- 7) Assignment of Contract. No assignment of Contract may be made without the prior written approval of Region 4 ESC. Contractor is required to notify Region 4 ESC when any material change in operations is made (i.e. bankruptcy, change of ownership, merger, etc.).
- 8) Novation. If Contractor sells or transfers all assets or the entire portion of the assets used to perform this Contract, a successor in interest must guarantee to perform all obligations under this Contract. Region 4 ESC reserves the right to accept or reject any new party. A change of name agreement will not change the contractual obligations of Contractor.
- 9) Contract Alterations. No alterations to the terms of this Contract shall be valid or binding unless authorized and signed by Region 4 ESC.
- 10) Adding Authorized Distributors/Dealers. Contractor is prohibited from authorizing additional distributors or dealers, other than those identified at the time of submitting their proposal, to sell under the Contract without notification and prior written approval from Region 4 ESC. Contractor must notify Region 4 ESC each time it wishes to add an authorized distributor or dealer. Purchase orders and payment can only be made to the Contractor unless otherwise approved by Region 4 ESC. Pricing provided to members by added distributors or dealers must also be less than or equal to the Contractor's pricing.
- 11) TERMINATION OF CONTRACT
 - a) Cancellation for Non-Performance or Contractor Deficiency. Region 4 ESC may terminate the Contract if purchase volume is determined to be low volume in any 12-month period. Region 4 ESC reserves the right to cancel the whole or any part of this Contract due to failure by Contractor to carry out any obligation, term or condition of the contract. Region 4 ESC may issue a written deficiency notice to Contractor for acting or failing to act in any of the following:
 - i. Providing material that does not meet the specifications of the Contract;
 - ii. Providing work or material was not awarded under the Contract;
 - iii. Failing to adequately perform the services set forth in the scope of work and specifications;
 - iv. Failing to complete required work or furnish required materials within a reasonable amount of time;

- v. Failing to make progress in performance of the Contract or giving Region 4 ESC reason to believe Contractor will not or cannot perform the requirements of the Contract; or
- vi. Performing work or providing services under the Contract prior to receiving an authorized purchase order.

Upon receipt of a written deficiency notice, Contractor shall have ten (10) days to provide a satisfactory response to Region 4 ESC. Failure to adequately address all issues of concern may result in Contract cancellation. Upon cancellation under this paragraph, all goods, materials, work, documents, data and reports prepared by Contractor under the Contract shall immediately become the property of Region 4 ESC.

- b) Termination for Cause. If, for any reason, Contractor fails to fulfill its obligation in a timely manner, or Contractor violates any of the covenants, agreements, or stipulations of this Contract Region 4 ESC reserves the right to terminate the Contract immediately and pursue all other applicable remedies afforded by law. Such termination shall be effective by delivery of notice, to the Contractor, specifying the effective date of termination. In such event, all documents, data, studies, surveys, drawings, maps, models and reports prepared by Contractor will become the property of the Region 4 ESC. If such event does occur, Contractor will be entitled to receive just and equitable compensation for the satisfactory work completed on such documents.
- c) Delivery/Service Failures. Failure to deliver goods or services within the time specified, or within a reasonable time period as interpreted by the purchasing agent or failure to make replacements or corrections of rejected articles/services when so requested shall constitute grounds for the Contract to be terminated. In the event Region 4 ESC must purchase in an open market, Contractor agrees to reimburse Region 4 ESC, within a reasonable time period, for all expenses incurred.
- d) 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; lighting; earthquake; 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 within 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 judgment of the party having the difficulty.

- e) Standard Cancellation. Region 4 ESC may cancel this Contract in whole or in part by providing written notice. The cancellation will take effect 30 business days after the other party receives the notice of cancellation. After the 30th business day all work will cease following completion of final purchase order.

- 12) Licenses. Contractor shall maintain in current status all federal, state and local licenses, bonds and permits required for the operation of the business conducted by Contractor. Contractor

shall remain fully informed of and in compliance with all ordinances and regulations pertaining to the lawful provision of services under the Contract. Region 4 ESC reserves the right to stop work and/or cancel the Contract if Contractor's license(s) expire, lapse, are suspended or terminated.

- 13) Survival Clause. All applicable software license agreements, warranties or service agreements that are entered into between Contractor and Region 4 ESC under the terms and conditions of the Contract shall survive the expiration or termination of the Contract. All Purchase Orders issued and accepted by Contractor shall survive expiration or termination of the Contract.
- 14) Delivery. Conforming product shall be shipped within 7 days of receipt of Purchase Order. If delivery is not or cannot be made within this time period, the Contractor must receive authorization for the delayed delivery. The order may be canceled if the estimated shipping time is not acceptable. All deliveries shall be freight prepaid, F.O.B. Destination and shall be included in all pricing offered unless otherwise clearly stated in writing.
- 15) Inspection & Acceptance. If defective or incorrect material is delivered, Region 4 ESC may make the determination to return the material to the Contractor at no cost to Region 4 ESC. The Contractor agrees to pay all shipping costs for the return shipment. Contractor shall be responsible for arranging the return of the defective or incorrect material.
- 16) Payments. Payment shall be made after satisfactory performance, in accordance with all provisions thereof, and upon receipt of a properly completed invoice.
- 17) Price Adjustments. Should it become necessary or proper during the term of this Contract to make any change in design or any alterations that will increase price, Region 4 ESC must be notified immediately. Price increases must be approved by Region 4 ESC and no payment for additional materials or services, beyond the amount stipulated in the Contract shall be paid without prior approval. All price increases must be supported by manufacturer documentation, or a formal cost justification letter. Contractor must honor previous prices for thirty (30) days after approval and written notification from Region 4 ESC. It is the Contractor's responsibility to keep all pricing up to date and on file with Region 4 ESC. All price changes must be provided to Region 4 ESC, using the same format as was provided and accepted in the Contractor's proposal.

Price reductions may be offered at any time during Contract. Special, time-limited reductions are permissible under the following conditions: 1) reduction is available to all users equally; 2) reduction is for a specific period, normally not less than thirty (30) days; and 3) original price is not exceeded after the time-limit. Contractor shall offer Region 4 ESC any published price reduction during the Contract term.

- 18) Audit Rights. Contractor shall, at its sole expense, maintain appropriate due diligence of all purchases made by Region 4 ESC and any entity that utilizes this Contract. Region 4 ESC reserves the right to audit the accounting for a period of three (3) years from the time such purchases are made. This audit right shall survive termination of this Agreement for a period of one (1) year from the effective date of termination. Region 4 ESC shall have the authority to conduct random audits of Contractor's pricing at Region 4 ESC's sole cost and expense. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event that Region 4 ESC is made aware of any pricing being offered that is materially inconsistent with the pricing under this agreement, Region 4 ESC shall have the ability to conduct an extensive audit of Contractor's pricing at Contractor's

sole cost and expense. Region 4 ESC may conduct the audit internally or may engage a third-party auditing firm. In the event of an audit, the requested materials shall be provided in the format and at the location designated by Region 4 ESC.

- 19) Discontinued Products. If a product or model is discontinued by the manufacturer, Contractor may substitute a new product or model if the replacement product meets or exceeds the specifications and performance of the discontinued model and if the discount is the same or greater than the discontinued model.
- 20) New Products/Services. New products and/or services that meet the scope of work may be added to the Contract. Pricing shall be equivalent to the percentage discount for other products. Contractor may replace or add product lines if the line is replacing or supplementing products, is equal or superior to the original products, is discounted similarly or greater than the original discount, and if the products meet the requirements of the Contract. No products and/or services may be added to avoid competitive procurement requirements. Region 4 ESC may require additions to be submitted with documentation from Members demonstrating an interest in, or a potential requirement for, the new product or service. Region 4 ESC may reject any additions without cause.
- 21) Options. Optional equipment for products under Contract may be added to the Contract at the time they become available under the following conditions: 1) the option is priced at a discount similar to other options; 2) the option is an enhancement to the unit that improves performance or reliability.
- 22) Warranty Conditions. All supplies, equipment and services shall include manufacturer's minimum standard warranty and one (1) year labor warranty unless otherwise agreed to in writing.
- 23) Site Cleanup. Contractor shall clean up and remove all debris and rubbish resulting from their work as required or directed. Upon completion of the work, the premises shall be left in good repair and an orderly, neat, clean, safe and unobstructed condition.
- 24) Site Preparation. Contractor shall not begin a project for which the site has not been prepared, unless Contractor does the preparation work at no cost, or until Region 4 ESC includes the cost of site preparation in a purchase order. Site preparation includes, but is not limited to: moving furniture, installing wiring for networks or power, and similar pre-installation requirements.
- 25) Registered Sex Offender Restrictions. For work to be performed at schools, Contractor agrees no employee or employee of a subcontractor who has been adjudicated to be a registered sex offender will perform work at any time when students are or are reasonably expected to be present. Contractor agrees a violation of this condition shall be considered a material breach and may result in the cancellation of the purchase order at Region 4 ESC's discretion. Contractor must identify any additional costs associated with compliance of this term. If no costs are specified, compliance with this term will be provided at no additional charge.
- 26) Safety measures. Contractor shall take all reasonable precautions for the safety of employees on the worksite and shall erect and properly maintain all necessary safeguards for protection of workers and the public. Contractor shall post warning signs against all hazards created by its operation and work in progress. Proper precautions shall be taken pursuant to state law

and standard practices to protect workers, general public and existing structures from injury or damage.

- 27) Smoking. Persons working under the Contract shall adhere to local smoking policies. Smoking will only be permitted in posted areas or off premises.
- 28) Stored materials. Upon prior written agreement between the Contractor and Region 4 ESC, payment may be made for materials not incorporated in the work but delivered and suitably stored at the site or some other location, for installation at a later date. An inventory of the stored materials must be provided to Region 4 ESC prior to payment. Such materials must be stored and protected in a secure location and be insured for their full value by the Contractor against loss and damage. Contractor agrees to provide proof of coverage and additionally insured upon request. Additionally, if stored offsite, the materials must also be clearly identified as property of Region 4 ESC and be separated from other materials. Region 4 ESC must be allowed reasonable opportunity to inspect and take inventory of stored materials, on or offsite, as necessary. Until final acceptance by Region 4 ESC, it shall be the Contractor's responsibility to protect all materials and equipment. Contractor warrants and guarantees that title for all work, materials and equipment shall pass to Region 4 ESC upon final acceptance.
- 29) Funding Out Clause. A Contract for the acquisition, including lease, of real or personal property is a commitment of Region 4 ESC's current revenue only. Region 4 ESC retains the right to terminate the Contract at the expiration of each budget period during the term of the Contract and is conditioned on a best effort attempt by Region 4 ESC to obtain appropriate funds for payment of the contract.
- 30) Indemnity. Contractor shall protect, indemnify, and hold harmless both Region 4 ESC and its administrators, employees and agents against all claims, damages, losses and expenses arising out of or resulting from the actions of the Contractor, Contractor employees or subcontractors in the preparation of the solicitation and the later execution of the Contract. Any litigation involving either Region 4 ESC, its administrators and employees and agents will be in Harris County, Texas.
- 31) Marketing. Contractor agrees to allow Region 4 ESC to use their name and logo within website, marketing materials and advertisement. Any use of Region 4 ESC name and logo or any form of publicity, inclusive of press releases, regarding this Contract by Contractor must have prior approval from Region 4 ESC.
- 32) Certificates of Insurance. Certificates of insurance shall be delivered to the Region 4 ESC prior to commencement of work. The Contractor shall give Region 4 ESC a minimum of ten (10) days' notice prior to any modifications or cancellation of policies. The Contractor shall require all subcontractors performing any work to maintain coverage as specified.
- 33) Legal Obligations. It is Contractor's responsibility to be aware of and comply with all local, state, and federal laws governing the sale of products/services and shall comply with all laws while fulfilling the Contract. Applicable laws and regulation must be followed even if not specifically identified herein.

OFFER AND CONTRACT SIGNATURE FORM

The undersigned hereby offers and, if awarded, agrees to furnish goods and/or services in strict compliance with the terms, specifications and conditions at the prices proposed within response unless noted in writing.

Company Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone No. _____

Email Address _____

Printed Name _____

Title _____

Authorized signature _____

Accepted by Region 4 ESC:

Contract No. _____

Initial Contract Term _____ to _____

Region 4 ESC Authorized Board Member

Date

Print Name

Region 4 ESC Authorized Board Member

Date

Print Name

Appendix C
ADDITIONAL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- DOC #1 Acknowledgment and Acceptance of Region 4 ESC's Open Records Policy
- DOC #2 Antitrust Certification Statements (Tex. Government Code § 2155.005)
- DOC #3 Implementation of House Bill 1295 Certificate of Interested Parties (Form 1295)
- DOC #4 Texas Government Code 2270 Verification Form

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND ACCEPTANCE
OF REGION 4 ESC's OPEN RECORDS POLICY

OPEN RECORDS POLICY

All proposals, information and documents submitted are subject to the Public Information Act requirements governed by the State of Texas once a Contract(s) is executed. If an Offeror believes its response, or parts of its response, may be exempted from disclosure, the Offeror must specify page-by-page and line-by-line the parts of the response, which it believes, are exempt and include detailed reasons to substantiate the exemption. Price is not confidential and will not be withheld. Any unmarked information will be considered public information and released, if requested under the Public Information Act.

The determination of whether information is confidential and not subject to disclosure is the duty of the Office of Attorney General (OAG). Region 4 ESC must provide the OAG sufficient information to render an opinion and therefore, vague and general claims to confidentiality by the Offeror are not acceptable. Region 4 ESC must comply with the opinions of the OAG. Region 4 ESC assumes no responsibility for asserting legal arguments on behalf of any Offeror. Offeror is advised to consult with their legal counsel concerning disclosure issues resulting from this procurement process and to take precautions to safeguard trade secrets and other proprietary information.

Signature below certifies complete acceptance of Region 4 ESC's Open Records Policy, except as noted below (additional pages may be attached, if necessary).

Check one of the following responses to the Acknowledgment and Acceptance of Region 4 ESC's Open Records Policy below:

- We acknowledge Region 4 ESC's Open Records Policy and declare that no information submitted with this proposal, or any part of our proposal, is exempt from disclosure under the Public Information Act.
- We declare the following information to be a trade secret or proprietary and exempt from disclosure under the Public Information Act.

(Note: Offeror must specify page-by-page and line-by-line the parts of the response, which it believes, are exempt. In addition, Offeror must include detailed reasons to substantiate the exemption(s). Price is not confidential and will not be withheld. All information believed to be a trade secret or proprietary must be listed. It is further understood that failure to identify such information, in strict accordance with the instructions, will result in that information being considered public information and released, if requested under the Public Information Act.)

Date

Authorized Signature & Title

ANTITRUST CERTIFICATION STATEMENTS
(Tex. Government Code § 2155.005)
Attorney General Form

I affirm under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of Texas that:

1. I am duly authorized to execute this Contract on my own behalf or on behalf of the company, corporation, firm, partnership or individual (Company) listed below;
2. In connection with this proposal, neither I nor any representative of the Company has violated any provision of the Texas Free Enterprise and Antitrust Act, Tex. Bus. & Comm. Code Chapter 15;
3. In connection with this proposal, neither I nor any representative of the Company has violated any federal antitrust law; and
4. Neither I nor any representative of the Company has directly or indirectly communicated any of the contents of this proposal to a competitor of the Company or any other company, corporation, firm, partnership or individual engaged in the same line of business as the Company.

Company

Contact

Signature

Printed Name

Address

Position with Company

**Official
Authorizing
Proposal**

Signature

Printed Name

Phone

Position with Company

Fax

Implementation of House Bill 1295

Certificate of Interested Parties (Form 1295)

DO NOT RETURN THIS FORM; MUST FILE APPLICATION (IF APPLICABLE)

In 2015, the Texas Legislature adopted House Bill 1295, which added section 2252.908 of the Government Code. The law states that a governmental entity or state agency may not enter into certain contracts with a business entity unless the business entity submits a disclosure of interested parties to the governmental entity or state agency at the time the business entity submits the signed contract to the governmental entity or state agency. The law applies only to a contract of a governmental entity or state agency that either (1) requires an action or vote by the governing body of the entity or agency before the contract may be signed or (2) has a value of at least \$1 million. The disclosure requirement applies to a contract entered into on or after January 1, 2016.

The Texas Ethics Commission was required to adopt rules necessary to implement that law, prescribe the disclosure of interested parties form, and post a copy of the form on the commission's website. The commission adopted the Certificate of Interested Parties form (Form 1295) on October 5, 2015. The commission also adopted new rules (Chapter 46) on November 30, 2015, to implement the law. The commission does not have any additional authority to enforce or interpret House Bill 1295.

Filing Process:

Starting on January 1, 2016, the commission made available on its website a new filing application that must be used to file Form 1295. A business entity must use the application to enter the required information on Form 1295 and print a copy of the completed form, which will include a certification of filing that will contain a unique certification number. An authorized agent of the business entity must sign the printed copy of the form. The completed Form 1295 with the certification of filing must be filed with the governmental body or state agency with which the business entity is entering into the contract.

The governmental entity or state agency must notify the commission, using the commission's filing application, of the receipt of the filed Form 1295 with the certification of filing not later than the 30th day after the date the contract binds all parties to the contract. This process is known as acknowledging the certificate. The commission will post the acknowledged Form 1295 to its website within seven business days after receiving notice from the governmental entity or state agency. The posted acknowledged form does not contain the declaration of signature information provided by the business.

A certificate will stay in the pending state until it is acknowledged by the governmental agency. Only acknowledged certificates are posted to the commission's website.

Electronic Filing Application: https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/elf_info_form1295.htm

Frequently Asked Questions:

https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/resources/FAQs/FAQ_Form1295.php

Changes to Form 1295: <https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/data/filinginfo/1295Changes.pdf>

Texas Government Code 2270 Verification Form

House Bill 89 (85R Legislative Session), which adds Chapter 2270 to the Texas Government Code, provides that a governmental entity may not enter into a contract with a company without verification that the contracting vendor does not and will not boycott Israel during the term of the contract.

Furthermore, Senate Bill 252 (85R Legislative Session), which amends Chapter 2252 of the Texas Government Code to add Subchapter F, prohibits contracting with a company engaged in business with Iran, Sudan or a foreign terrorist organization identified on a list prepared by the Texas Comptroller.

I, _____, as an authorized representative of

_____, a contractor engaged by

Insert Name of Company

Region 4 Education Service Center, 7145 West Tidwell Road, Houston, TX 77092, verify by this writing that the above-named company affirms that it (1) does not boycott Israel; and (2) will not boycott Israel during the term of this contract, or any contract with the above-named Texas governmental entity in the future.

Also, our company is not listed on and we do not do business with companies that are on the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts list of Designated Foreign Terrorists Organizations found at <https://comptroller.texas.gov/purchasing/docs/foreign-terrorist.pdf>.

I further affirm that if our company's position on this issue is reversed and this affirmation is no longer valid, that the above-named Texas governmental entity will be notified in writing within one (1) business day and we understand that our company's failure to affirm and comply with the requirements of Texas Government Code 2270 et seq. shall be grounds for immediate contract termination without penalty to the above-named Texas governmental entity.

I swear and affirm that the above is true and correct.

Signature of Named Authorized Company Representative

Date