

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
MICHIGAN STRATEGIC FUND
INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTERS
RFP-CASE-236443

REMINDER

Please check your proposal to make sure you have included all of the specifications in the Request for Proposals. In addition, please submit an electronic version of each of the following:

- Technical Proposals (Section ii-A);
- Price Proposal (Section II-B);
- Signed Independent Price Determination Certificate (Attachment B); and
- Conflicts of Interest Disclosure (if applicable) (Section II-G).

BIDDERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSURING THAT THE FOLLOWING IDENTIFYING INFORMATION APPEARS IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF YOUR EMAIL: “RFP-CASE-236443 Technical Proposal” and “RFP-CASE-236443 Price Proposal” with *Company Name*, and “message 1 of 3” as appropriate if the bid consists of multiple emails.

The Michigan Strategic Fund (the “MSF”) will not respond to telephone inquiries, or visitation by Bidders or their representatives. Bidder’s sole point of contact concerning the RFP is below and any communication outside of this process may result in disqualification.

Contracts and Procurement Services
Michigan Strategic Fund
300 North Washington Square, 3rd Floor
Lansing, Michigan 48913
contractsandgrants@michigan.org

IMPORTANT DUE DATES

- **MAY 1, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. EDT:** Questions from potential Bidders are due via email to contractsandgrants@michigan.org. Please note: The MSF will not respond to questions that are not received by the above date and time. In addition, questions that are phoned, faxed or sent through regular mail will not be accepted.
- **MAY 7, 2018, by 5:00 p.m. EDT:** Responses to all qualifying questions will be posted on the MSF’s website, www.michiganbusiness.org/rfp-236443.
- **MAY 31, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. EDT:** Electronic versions sent separately of each of your Technical Proposal and Price Proposals due to the MSF via email to contractsandgrants@michigan.org. **Proposals will not be accepted via U.S. Mail or any other delivery method.**

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTERS
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This Request for Proposals (the “RFP”) is issued by the Michigan Strategic Fund (the “MSF”), Contracts and Procurement Services unit (the “C&P”). The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (the “MEDC”) provides administrative services associated with the programs and activities of the Michigan Strategic Fund Act on behalf of the MSF. C&P is the sole point of contact with regard to all bidding and contractual matters relating to the services described in this RFP. C&P is the only office authorized to change, modify, amend, alter, clarify, etc. the specifications, terms and conditions of this RFP and any contract(s) awarded as a result of this RFP (the “Contract”). C&P will remain the SOLE POINT OF CONTACT throughout the bidding process. ***The MSF will not respond to telephone inquiries, or visitation by Bidders or their representatives. Bidder’s sole point of contact concerning the RFP is below and any communication outside of this process may result in disqualification.***

Contracts and Procurement Services
Michigan Strategic Fund
300 North Washington Square
Lansing, Michigan 48913
contractsandgrants@michigan.org

SECTION I STATEMENT OF WORK

A) PURPOSE

MSF is seeking contractors to provide trade promotion services to Michigan based companies seeking export sales in the following target markets and regions: Brazil, China, Canada, Mexico, Europe, Middle East (to cover Qatar, Kuwait, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Oman).

B) BACKGROUND STATEMENT AND OBJECTIVES

Background:

The International Trade program assists Michigan based companies to expand their customer base through a variety of international trade services that lead to international market expansion. The program focus is on small and medium-sized enterprises, which by the United States Small Business Association's Size Standards, defined by industry, but will also assist larger companies if the assistance will have a clear and identifiable economic impact. The International Trade program will enter into a fixed fee contract for trade promotion services at a non-negotiable amount to be determined. The contract amount per country will be determined annually and the total amount will be finalized pending confirmation of final awards. Operating costs, including staff salaries, office space/rent, office equipment, office supplies, postage, banking fees, printing, telephones, local transportation and all other costs unless otherwise noted, will be the sole responsibility of the Contractor and derived from the contract fee.

The term of the initial contract shall be from October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019, and shall be renewable subject to mutual agreement on an annual basis.

Objectives:

The International Trade program is designed to spur job creation by empowering Michigan based companies to export their products. The program has three primary objectives:

- Increase export sales by Michigan companies
- Increase number of new-to-export companies
- Increase entry into new markets by companies already exporting

C) REQUIREMENTS

Minimum of five years providing international trade assistance.

- Contractor or its subcontractor must have an existing office in each target market that is included in the proposal as a primary business location.
- Contractor or its subcontractor must have the ability to obtain a US Visa for traveling to the United States at least once a year.
- Contractor or its subcontractor must be fully bilingual with the ability to read, write and compose business correspondence in English and official language in each

target market that is included in the proposal.

- Contractor or its subcontractor and staff must be familiar with the business practices and culture of the US and in each target market that is included in the proposal.
- Contractor or its subcontractor must have an established business and at least five years of experience in consulting, marketing, sales or other areas that provide services to international, preferably US, companies.
- Contractor or its subcontractor must have experience working with small-to-medium sized companies (average annual sales less than US\$50 million).
- Exceptional research, writing, and interpersonal skills.
- Lead Staff members with at least a bachelor's degree. A Master's, legal or specialized degree in a relevant field is preferred, but not required.

D) DELIVERABLES

Services to be Provided:

The Contractor or its subcontractor shall serve as an authorized representative for the State of Michigan in target market(s) subject to the limitations in the agreement. MSF shall retain the Contractor or its subcontractor for the purpose of increasing the export of products and services from small-to-medium sized companies in Michigan's defined target market(s). This contract is on a non-exclusive basis and the Contractor or its subcontractor may have other clients and/or provide work for other US States or foreign governments/legislatures where no conflict of interest exists.

Trade development services to be provided by the Contractor or its subcontractor, in addition to those described below, will be determined by specific parameters submitted by MSF. Minimum services required are as follows:

(1.) Agent/Distributor Searches and Matchmaking

At MSF's request, the Contractor or its subcontractor shall conduct agent/distributor searches for participating small-to-medium sized Michigan companies. The agent/distributor searches shall include investigating the products or services made by the companies, identifying and/or qualifying agents and distributors to represent products or services, interviewing prospective representatives and distributors, arranging appointments with agents and distributors, arranging for translators, conducting pre- and post-briefings and follow-up activities. The Contractor or its subcontractor may also be required to conduct market research and viability studies, as well as end user searches.

(2.) Trade Events

At MSF's request, the Contractor or its subcontractor shall recommend trade events for its participation. The Contractor or its subcontractor shall serve as the primary coordinator for participation in trade events. Examples of these events include trade fairs/exhibitions and catalogue shows. The Contractor or its subcontractor will be responsible for all pre- and post-event activities including but not limited to publicity, information distribution, interpreters, participant briefings, participation on behalf of the State of Michigan, and post-event evaluation.

The Contractor or its subcontractor will not be responsible for direct costs including exhibition space, interpreter fees, shipment of exhibition displays, preparation of printed materials, etc.

(3.) Referrals

At MSF's request, the Contractor or its subcontractor shall provide qualified referrals to Michigan firms, including but not limited to referrals for legal, translation, advertising, local employment practices, credit and other professional services. It is required to include the MSF staff, International Trade Manager, on all communications with the Michigan firm.

(4.) Database of Trade Contacts

The Contractor or its subcontractor shall maintain a database of agents, distributors, manufacturers, retail outlets, international trade service providers including translating companies, advertising companies, law firms, government offices and government officials, and other organizations and individuals as necessary to perform duties as Contractor or subcontractor.

(5.) Development of Trade Contacts and Leads

The Contractor or its subcontractor shall obtain, maintain, and strengthen contacts with businesses throughout the target market(s) in order to create additional trade leads for the MSF.

(6.) Business Appointments and Assistance

At MSF's request, the Contractor or its subcontractor shall assist in arranging business appointments and itineraries for visiting business executives from the State of Michigan.

(7.) Annual State Trip

At MSF's request, the Principal Officer of the Contractor or its subcontractor shall visit Michigan annually for up to one week to attend and/or participate in conferences, programs, training sessions or pre-scheduled company meetings arranged by the MSF. Travel expenses shall be pre-authorized by the MSF in advance

(8.) Trade Missions

At MSF's request, the Contractor or its subcontractor shall help organize and participate in official Michigan trade delegations to target market(s), including governor-led missions.

- i. Business Matchmaking – The Contractor or its subcontractor will arrange customized one-on-one business appointments with prospective agents, distributors, or buyers. Participants average one to four business appointments each day depending on the company's products, services and objectives in addition to the distance between meetings.
- ii. Market Research – Customized market research, industry information and analysis should be provided to the participating companies prior to the visit.

- iii. In-Country Business Briefings – The Contractor or its subcontractor will be required to coordinate an in-country briefing for participating companies within 36 hours of arrival to the market. This includes coordinating space, speakers and topics such as: economic outlook, leading sectors, legal considerations, business cultural tips, distribution and sales channels and other approved topics. Speakers may include contractor or subcontractor staff, U.S. Commercial Service specialists, industry experts, associations, local businesses and/or government officials.
- iv. In-Country Staff Support – The Contractor or its subcontractor will assist companies with preparation for missions, accompany the delegation, and provide post-mission follow-up.
 - Director or approved delegate is required to travel with the delegation to manage the in-country service delivery.
- v. Ground Transportation – The Contractor or its subcontractor will arrange group ground transportation to and from the airport and hotel; assist companies with coordinating and paying transportation for in-country meetings.
- vi. Group-rate Accommodations – The Contractor or its subcontractor will provide hotel suggestions and negotiated group hotel rates for the delegation.
- vii. Other services – Recommendations for suitable drivers, interpreters and business services should be available upon request.

(9.) Information

The Contractor or its subcontractor shall maintain an in-depth knowledge of Michigan's economic structure, business interests/practices and culture. The Contractor or its subcontractor should report any country-specific news, policy changes and current events that may affect the business relationship with the MSF or Michigan's exporters. The Contractor shall be required to track progress and complete reporting requirements, as instructed by the MSF.

(10.) General Conduct

The Contractor or subcontractor shall set clear and realistic expectations for each project with Michigan companies along with a detailed timeline for deliverables. All conference calls with Michigan companies should be conducted during standard business hours in the U.S. unless otherwise agreed upon by both parties.

(11.) Monthly/Annual Reports

Expenses incurred at the request of the MSF that are outside of the contract, if any, should be sent via email to the MSF Contract Manager, with a corresponding request for reimbursement.

The Contractor or its subcontractor shall submit a monthly report to the MSF detailing content and results of work related to points (1) through (10).

- i. Summary of conference calls – Record written confirmation of initial contact with company, notes and project scope of work.
- ii. Summary of meetings with companies during annual trip to Michigan.
- iii. Contracted Projects – Record start/end date of project, type of activity, country, number of meetings, notes and final deliverable.
- iv. Final reports – The Contractor shall also prepare and provide the MSF with an annual report summarizing all business development and other activities engaged in by the Contractor or its subcontractor in the target market(s).

SECTION II PROPOSAL FORMAT

To be considered, each Bidder must submit a COMPLETE proposal in response to this RFP using the format specified. Bidder's proposal must be submitted in the format outlined below. There should be no attachments, enclosures, or exhibits other than those required in the RFP or considered by the Bidder to be essential to a complete understanding of the proposal. Each section of the proposal should be clearly identified with appropriate headings:

A) TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

1. Business Organization and History – State the full name, address, and phone and facsimile number of your organization and, if applicable, the branch office or other subordinate element that will perform, or assist in performing, the work hereunder. Indicate whether it operates as an individual, partnership, or corporation; if as a corporation, include the state in which it is incorporated. If appropriate, the proposal must state whether the organization is licensed to operate in the State of Michigan.
2. Statement of the Problem – State in succinct terms your understanding of the problem(s) presented by this RFP.
3. Narrative – Include a narrative summary description of the proposed effort and of the services(s)/products(s) that will be delivered.
4. Technical Work Plans – Provide a detailed research outline and timelines for accomplishing the work.
5. Prior Experience – Describe the prior experience of your organization which you consider relevant to the successful accomplishment of the project defined in this RFP. Include sufficient detail to demonstrate the relevance of such experience. Proposals submitted should include, in this Section, descriptions of qualifying experience to include project descriptions, costs, and starting and completion dates of projects successfully completed; also include the name, address, and phone number of the responsible official of the client organization who may be contacted.

The MSF may evaluate the Bidder's prior performance with the MSF, and prior performance information may be a factor in the award decision.

6. Project Staffing – The Bidder must be able to staff a project team which possesses talent and expertise in the field of the requirements of this RFP. Identify a Project Manager and staff assigned by name and title. Include biographies, experience and any other appropriate information regarding the work team's qualification for this initiative. Indicate staff turnover rates. Show where the project team will be physically located during the time they are engaged in the work. Indicate which of these individuals you consider key to the successful completion of the work. Indicate the amount of dedicated management time for the Bidder's Project Manager and other key individuals. Do not include any financials for the contemplated work within the Technical Proposal. Resumes of qualifications should be supplied for proposed project personnel.

Please Note: The MSF further reserves the right to interview the key personnel assigned by the Contractor to this project and to recommend reassignment of personnel deemed unsatisfactory.

7. Subcontractors – List here all subcontractors that will be engaged to accomplish the project described in this RFP; include firm name and address, contact person and complete description of work to be subcontracted. Include descriptive information concerning subcontractor's organization and abilities. Also, the information provided in response to A-5, above, should include detailed information about each potential subcontractor.

8. Bidder's Authorized Expediter – Include the name and telephone number of person(s) in your organization authorized to expedite any proposed contract with the MSF.

9. Additional Information and Comments – Include any other information that is believed to be pertinent, but not specifically asked for elsewhere.

B) PRICE PROPOSAL

Provide the cost/rate/price information for all firms/persons named in your Price Proposal to demonstrate the reasonableness of your Price Proposal. Attach a schedule of all expenses covering each of the services and activities identified in your proposal.

The MSF is exempt from federal excise tax, and state and local sales taxes. The Price Proposal should not include taxes.

THE PRICE PROPOSAL MUST BE IDENTIFIED AND SENT SEPARATELY FROM THE TECHNICAL PORTION OF YOUR PROPOSAL ACCORDING TO THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THIS RFP. Separately sealed price proposals will remain sealed until the JEC has completed evaluation of the technical proposals.

Bidders Please Note: Rates quoted in response to this RFP are firm for the duration of the Contract; no price increase will be permitted.

C) PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL

Submit separately marked electronic versions of each of your Technical Proposal and Price Proposal to the MSF via email to contractsandgrants@michigan.org not later than **5:00 p.m. EDT on MAY 31, 2018**. The MSF has no obligation to consider any proposal that is not timely received. **Proposals will not be accepted via U.S. Mail or any other delivery method.**

BIDDERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSURING THAT THE FOLLOWING IDENTIFYING INFORMATION APPEARS IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF YOUR EMAIL: "*RFP-CASE-236443 Technical Proposal*" and "*RFP-CASE-236443 Price Proposal*" with *Company Name*, and "*message 1 of 3*" as appropriate if the bid consists of multiple emails.

**SECTION III
RFP PROCESS AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

A) PRE-BID MEETING/QUESTIONS

A pre-bid meeting will not be held. Questions from Bidders concerning the specifications in this RFP must be received via e-mail no later than **5:00 p.m. EDT on MAY 1, 2018**. Questions must be submitted to:

Contracts & Procurement Services
contractsandgrants@michigan.org

B) PROPOSALS

To be considered, Bidders must submit a complete response to this RFP, using the format provided in Section II of this RFP, by **5:00 p.m. EDT on May 31, 2018**. No other distribution of proposals is to be made by the Bidder.

The Technical Proposal must be **signed physically or electronically** by an official of the Bidder authorized to bind the Bidder to its provisions. The proposal must include a statement as to the period during which it remains valid; this period must be at least ninety (90) days from [May 31, 2018]. The rates quoted in the Price Proposal must remain firm for the period indicated in Section II.

C) ECONOMY OF PREPARATION

Each proposal should be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of the Bidder's ability to meet the requirements of the RFP. Emphasis should be on completeness and clarity of content.

D) SELECTION CRITERIA

Responses to this RFP will be evaluated based upon a three-step selection process. The proposal must address the requirements described in Section II of this RFP.

The first step is an evaluation of which proposals satisfactorily meet the requirements of this RFP as stated in Section II.

1) Step I – Initial evaluation for compliance

a) *Proposal Content* – Contracts & Procurement Services will screen the proposals for technical compliance to include but not be limited to:

- Timely submission of the proposal.
- Technical Proposal and Price Proposal clearly identified and sent separately.
- Proposal signed physically or electronically by an official of the Bidder authorized to bind the Bidder to its provisions.
- Proposals satisfy the form and content requirements of this RFP.

2) Step II – Criteria for Satisfactory Technical Proposals

- a.) During the second step of the selection process, proposals will be considered by a Joint Evaluation Committee (the “JEC”) comprised of individuals selected by the MSF. Only those proposals that satisfy the requirements described in this RFP, as determined in the sole discretion of the JEC, will be considered for evaluation in Step II. The JEC reserves the right to request additional information from any Bidder.
- b.) *Competence, Experience and Staffing Capacity* – The proposal should indicate the ability of the Bidder to meet the requirements of this RFP, especially the time constraints, quality, and recent projects similar to that described in this RFP. The proposal should indicate the competence of the personnel whom the Bidder intends to assign to the project, including education and experience, with particular reference to experience on projects similar to that described in this RFP and qualifications of Bidder’s Project Manager and the Project Manager’s dedicated management time, as well as that of other key personnel working on this project.

		Weight
1.	Bidder Information	5
2.	Understanding RFP	10
3.	Statement of Work	20
4.	Prior Experience	20
5.	Track Record of Performance	25
6.	Staffing Capacity	20
TOTAL		100

- c.) During the JEC’s review, Bidders may be required to make oral presentations of their proposals to the JEC. These presentations provide an opportunity for the Bidders to clarify the proposals. The MSF will schedule these presentations, if required by the JEC.
- d.) Only those proposals receiving a score of **80 points or more** in the technical proposal evaluation will have their pricing evaluated to be considered for award.

3) Step III – Criteria for Satisfactory Price Proposal

- a.) Based on what is in the best interest of the MSF, the MSF will award the Contract considering value, quality, and the ability to meet the objectives of this RFP, of proposals that were approved as a result of this two-step evaluation process.
- b.) The MSF reserves the right to consider economic impact on the State of Michigan when evaluating proposal pricing. This includes, but is not limited to: job creation, job retention, tax revenue implications, and other economic considerations.
- c.) The award recommendation will be made to the responsive and responsible Bidder who offers the best value to the MSF and the State of Michigan. Best

value will be determined by the Bidder meeting the minimum point threshold and offering the *best proposal that meets the objectives of the RFP*.

- d.) The MSF reserves the right to award to another “best value” contractor in case the original Awardee does not accept the award.

E) BIDDERS COSTS

The MSF is not liable for any costs incurred by any Bidder prior to signing of the Contract by all parties.

F) TAXES

The MSF may refuse to award a contract to any Bidder who has failed to pay any applicable taxes or if the Bidder has an outstanding debt to the State of Michigan or the MSF.

Except as otherwise disclosed in an exhibit to the Proposal, Bidder certifies that all applicable taxes are paid as of the date the Bidder’s Proposal was submitted to the MSF and the Bidder owes no outstanding debt to the State of Michigan or the MSF.

G) CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Bidder must disclose, in an exhibit to the proposal, any possible conflicts of interest that may result from the award of the Contract or the services provided under the Contract.

Except as otherwise disclosed in the proposal, the Bidder affirms that to the best of its knowledge there exists no actual or potential conflict between the Bidder, the Bidder’s project manager(s) or its family’s business or financial interests (“Interests”) and the services provided under the Contract. In the event of any change in either Interests or the services provided under the Contract, the Bidder will inform the MSF regarding possible conflicts of interest which may arise as a result of such change and agrees that all conflicts shall be resolved to the MSF’s satisfaction or the Bidder may be disqualified from consideration under this RFP. As used in this Section, “conflict of interest” shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 1) Giving or offering a gratuity, kickback, money, gift, or anything of value to a MSF official, officer, or employee with the intent of receiving a contract from the MSF or favorable treatment under a contract;
- 2) Having or acquiring at any point during the RFP process or during the term of the Contract, any contractual, financial, business or other interest, direct or indirect, that would conflict in any manner or degree with Bidder’s performance of its duties and responsibilities to the MSF under the Contract or otherwise create the appearance of impropriety with respect to the award or performance of the Contract; or
- 3) Currently in possession of or accepting during the RFP process or the term of the Contract anything of value based on an understanding that the actions of the Bidder or its affiliates or Interests on behalf of the MSF will be influenced.

H) BREACH OF CONTRACT

Except as otherwise disclosed in an exhibit to Bidder's proposal, Bidder is not in material default or breach of any contract or agreement that it may have with the State of Michigan or any of its departments, commissions, boards or agencies, or any other public body in the State of Michigan. Further, Bidder represents and warrants that it has not been a party to any contract with the State of Michigan or any public body that was terminated within the previous five (5) years because the Bidder failed to perform or otherwise breached an obligation of such contract.

I) DISCLOSURE OF LITIGATION

Except as otherwise disclosed in an exhibit to Bidder's proposal, there is no criminal litigation, investigations or proceedings involving the Bidder (and each subcontractor, if subcontractors will be used to provide the goods/services requested under this RFP) or any of the Bidder's officers or directors or any litigation or proceedings under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. In addition, Bidders must disclose in the exhibit requested under this Section of the RFP any civil litigation, arbitration or proceeding to which the Bidder (or, to the extent Bidder is aware, any subcontractor) is a party and which involves: (1) disputes that might reasonably be expected to adversely affect the viability or financial stability of the Bidder (or subcontractor); or (2) a claim or written allegation of fraud or breach of contract against Bidder (or, to the extent Bidder is aware, subcontractor), by a governmental or public entity arising out of their business dealings with governmental or public entities. Details of any settlements which Bidder is prevented from disclosing under the terms of the settlement may be annotated as such. Bidders must also disclose any investigations by the Internal Revenue Service or any other federal or state taxing body or court.

J) FALSE INFORMATION

If the MSF determines that a Bidder purposefully or willfully submitted false information in response to this RFP, the Bidder will not be considered for an award and any resulting Contract that may have been executed may be terminated.

K) ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURE

All Bidders should be aware that proposals submitted to the MSF in response to this RFP may be subject to disclosure under the provisions of Public Act 442 of 1976, as amended, known as the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"). Accordingly, confidential information should be excluded from Bidders' proposals. Bidders, however, are encouraged to provide sufficient information to enable the MSF to determine the Bidder's qualifications and to understand or identify areas where confidential information exists and could be provided. The FOIA also provides for the complete disclosure of the Contract and any attachments or exhibits thereto.

L) PRICES HELD FIRM

LENGTH OF TIME PRICES ARE TO BE HELD FIRM: All rates quoted in Bidder's response to this RFP will be firm for the duration of the Contract. No price changes will be permitted. IN THE EVENT THAT PROPOSED CHANGES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE MSF, THE CONTRACT SHALL BE TERMINATED AND THE MODIFIED CONTRACT SHALL BE SUBJECT TO COMPETITIVE BIDDING.

M) BEST AND FINAL OFFER

At any time during the evaluation process, the JEC may request a Best and Final Offer ("BAFO") from any Bidder. This will be the final opportunity for a Bidder to provide a revised proposal. The scope of the changes allowed in the BAFO will be published as part of the issuance of the BAFO request.

Bidders are cautioned to propose the best possible offer at the outset of the process, as there is no guarantee that any Bidder will be allowed an opportunity to engage in Pricing Negotiations or requested to submit a Best and Final Offer.

N) CLARIFICATION/CHANGES IN THE RFP

Changes made to the RFP as the result of responses made to qualifying questions or concerns will be posted on www.michiganbusiness.org/rfp-236443. Applicants are encouraged to regularly check this site for changes or other information related to the RFP.

O) ELECTRONIC BID RECEIPT

ELECTRONIC VERSIONS OF EACH OF YOUR TECHNICAL AND PRICE PROPOSALS SENT SEPARATELY MUST BE RECEIVED AND TIME-STAMPED BY THE MSF TO contractsandgrants@michigan.org, ON OR BEFORE **5:00 p.m. EDT on MAY 31, 2018**. Bidders are responsible for timely submission of their proposal. THE MSF HAS NO OBLIGATION TO CONSIDER ANY PROPOSAL THAT IS NOT RECEIVED BY THE APPOINTED TIME.

P) RESERVATION OF MSF DISCRETION

Notwithstanding any other statement in this RFP, the MSF reserves the right to:

- 1) reject any and all proposals;
- 2) waive any errors or irregularities in the bidding process or in any proposal;
- 3) rebid the project;
- 4) negotiate with any Bidder for a reduced price, or for an increased price to include any alternates that the Bidder may propose;
- 5) reduce the scope of the project, and rebid or negotiate with any Bidder regarding the revised project; or
- 6) defer or abandon the project.

The MSF's decision is final and not subject to appeal. Any attempt by an applicant, collaborating entity, or other party of interest to the project to influence the awards process, to appeal, and/or

take any action, including, but not limited to, legal action, regarding the proposal or awards process in general may result in the applicant's disqualification and elimination from the award process.

Q) JURISDICTION

Any legal action arising from or concerning this RFP shall be brought in the Michigan Court of Claims or, as appropriate, the Ingham County Circuit Court in Ingham County, Michigan. Nothing in this RFP shall be construed to limit the rights and remedies of the MSF that are otherwise available.

R) ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to Public Act 517 of 2012, an Iran linked business is not eligible to submit a bid on a request for proposal, with a public entity.

Bidders must include the following certification in the technical proposal:

“Bidder certifies that it is not an Iran-linked business as defined in MCL 129.312.”

Failure to submit this certification will result in disqualification from consideration.

**SECTION IV
CONTRACTUAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

A) CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 1) The Contract – The proposal selected will be subject to the terms and conditions of the MSF's Professional Services Contract (the "Contract") in substantially the same form as attached to this RFP as Attachment A. The MEDC reserves the right to modify any provisions of the Contract.
- 2) Term of Work – It is estimated that the activities in the proposed Contract will cover the period October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019. The MSF, in its sole discretion, may extend the Term and allocate additional resources, subject to available funding.
- 3) Modification of Service – The MSF reserves the right to modify the requested services during the course of the Contract. Such modifications must be made in writing and may include the addition or deletion of tasks or any other modifications deemed necessary. Any changes in pricing proposed by the bidder resulting from the requested changes are subject to acceptance by the MSF. Changes may be increases or decreases.

In the event changes are not acceptable to the MSF, the Contract shall be subject to competitive bidding based upon the new specifications.

- 4) Subcontracting – The MSF reserves the right to approve any subcontractors for the Contract and to require the bidder, upon award of the Contract, to replace subcontractors that the MSF finds to be unacceptable.
- 5) Award of Contract – The MSF reserves the right to award all or any part of this RFP and, based on what is in the best interest of the MSF, the MSF will award the Contract considering price, value and quality of the bids.

B) CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The selected Bidder will be required to assume responsibility for all contractual activities offered in this RFP whether or not the Bidder performs them. Further, the MSF will consider the selected Bidder to be the sole point of contact with regard to contractual matters, including payment of any and all charges resulting from the Contract.

C) ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL CONTENT

If awarded a Contract, the contents of this RFP will become contractual obligations. The following constitute the complete and exclusive statement of the agreement between the parties as it relates to this transaction:

- 1) This RFP (including subsequent written clarification provided in response to questions raised by email) and any Addenda thereto; and
- 2) Final executed Contract.

In the event of any discrepancies between the above documents, the final executed Contract shall control. Failure of the successful Bidder to accept these obligations may result in cancellation of the award.

D) PROJECT CONTROL AND REPORTS

1) Project Control

- a) The selected Bidder (the "Contractor") will carry out this project under the direction and control of the Business Support Unit of the MSF.
- b) The MSF will appoint a Contract Manager for this project. Although there will be continuous liaison with the Contractor team, the Contract Manager will meet with the Contractor's project manager for the purpose of reviewing progress and providing necessary guidance to the Contractor in solving problems which arise.
- c) The Contractor will submit monthly reports of progress which outline the work accomplished during the reporting period; work to be accomplished during the subsequent reporting period; problems, real or anticipated which should be brought to the attention of the Contract Manager and notification of any significant deviation from previously agreed upon work plans.
- d) Within five (5) working days of the execution of the Contract, the Contractor will submit a work plan to the Contract Manager for final approval. This work plan must be in agreement with Section III-A of this RFP as proposed by the Bidder and accepted by the MSF for contract, and must include the following:
 - (i) The Contractor's project organizational structure.
 - (ii) The Contractor's staffing table with names and titles of personnel assigned to the project. This must be in agreement with staffing of the accepted proposal. Necessary substitutions due to change of employment status and other unforeseen circumstances may only be made with prior approval of the MSF.
 - (iii) The project breakdown showing sub-projects, activities and tasks, and resources required and allocated to each.
 - (iv) The time-phased plan in the form of a graphic display, showing each event, task, and decision point in your work plan.

ATTACHMENT A

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT
TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Michigan Strategic Fund (the "MSF") enters into a binding agreement for professional services (the "Agreement") with CONTRACTOR (the "Contractor"). The MSF and Contractor shall sometimes be referred in this Agreement individually as a "Party" or collectively as "Parties".

Contractor: Name
 Address
 Address

I. NATURE OF SERVICES

Contracts & Procurement Services to fill in a description of the Nature of Services based upon the information in the CASE.

II. PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Starting Date: MONTH XX, 20XX

Ending Date: MONTH XX, 20XX

The term of this Agreement (the "Term") shall begin on the Starting Date and end on the Ending Date, unless terminated earlier, as permitted under Section V(J) of this Agreement.

III. COMPENSATION INFORMATION

- A) The MSF agrees to pay Contractor an amount not to exceed \$XXX during the Term. An initial payment in the amount of \$XXX shall be made by the MEDC to the Contractor within thirty days of the execution of this Agreement by both Parties (the "Initial Payment"). This amount includes all embedded expenses.

- B) Subsequent payment(s) Payment under this Agreement shall be made by the MSF to Contractor upon receipt and approval by the Contract Manager of Contractor's billing statement(s) stating that the work for which payment is requested has been appropriately performed. Contractor shall provide Contractor's billing statement(s) to Contract Manager or at Contract Manager's direction on a monthly basis. Contract Manager shall provide Contractor with appropriate submission instructions of Contractor's billing statement(s).

- C) All billing statement(s) must reflect actual work done. The specific details of billing statement(s) and payments will be agreed upon between the Contract Manager and the Contractor after the Agreement has been signed and accepted by both the Contractor and the MSF.

- D) Public Act 533 of 2004 requires that payments under this Agreement be processed by electronic funds transfer (EFT). Contractor is required to register to receive payments by EFT at the State Integrated Governmental Management Applications (SIGMA) Vendor Self Service (VSS) website (www.michigan.gov/VSSLogin).
- E) Changes in the budget will be allowed only upon prior review and written approval by the Contract Manager.
- F) Contractor's billing statement(s) may be subject to a final audit prior to the release of final payment.

IV. MSF CONTRACT MANAGER

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (the "MEDC") provides administrative services to the MSF. Contractor should communicate with the following MEDC representative or designee regarding this Agreement:

[Name] (the "Contract Manager")
Michigan Economic Development Corporation
300 North Washington Square
Lansing, Michigan 48913
xxx@michigan.org

V. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

A) Contractor Duties

Contractor agrees to undertake, perform, and complete the services described in Exhibit A, which is incorporated herein by reference. In the event of any inconsistency between the provisions of Exhibit A and this Agreement, the provisions of this Agreement shall control.

B) Independent Contractor

Contractor will act as an independent contractor under this Agreement, and neither Contractor nor any employee or agent or contract personnel of Contractor is, or shall be deemed to be, an employee of the MSF due to this Agreement and the relationship between Contractor and MSF. In its capacity as an independent contractor, Contractor agrees to and represents the following:

- 1) Contractor will provide the services under this Agreement free from the direction or control of the MSF or the MEDC as to means, manners, and methods of performance;
- 2) Contractor has the right and does fully intend to perform services for third parties during the Term;

- 3) Contractor acknowledges that any work product developed by Contractor in performance of this Agreement shall be the sole property of the MSF and the MSF shall have the right to copyright or otherwise protect its rights in and ownership of the work product;
- 4) The services required by this Agreement shall be performed by Contractor, or Contractor's employees or contract personnel, and the MSF or the MEDC shall not hire, supervise, or pay any assistants to help Contractor;
- 5) Neither Contractor nor Contractor's employees or contract personnel shall receive any training from the MSF or the MEDC in the professional skills necessary to perform the services required by this Agreement;
- 6) Neither Contractor nor Contractor's employees or contract personnel shall be required by the MSF or the MEDC to devote full time to the performance of the services required by this Agreement; and
- 7) Contractor does not receive the majority of its annual compensation from the MSF or the MEDC.

The Parties acknowledge and agree that the MSF is entering into this Agreement with reliance on the representations made by Contractor relative to its independent contractor status.

C) Permits and Licenses

Contractor declares that Contractor has complied with all federal, state and local laws requiring any business permits, certificates or licenses required to carry out the services to be performed under this Agreement, and Contractor will maintain those permits, certificates and/or licenses throughout the Term.

D) Materials

Contractor will furnish all materials, equipment and supplies used to provide the services required by this Agreement.

E) State and Federal Taxes

The MSF and the MEDC will not:

- 1) Withhold FICA (Social Security and Medicare taxes) from Contractor's payments or make FICA payments on Contractor's behalf; or
- 2) Make state or federal unemployment compensation contributions on Contractor's behalf, or withhold state, federal or local income tax from Contractor's payments.

Contractor shall pay all taxes incurred while performing services under this Agreement, including, but not limited to all applicable income taxes. If requested by the MSF or the MEDC, Contractor shall provide proof that such payments have been made.

F) **Fringe Benefits**

Contractor understands that neither Contractor nor Contractor's employees or contract personnel are eligible to participate in any employee pension, health, vacation pay, sick pay, or other fringe benefit plan of the MSF or the MEDC.

G) **Workers' Compensation**

The MSF or the MEDC shall not obtain workers' compensation insurance on behalf of Contractor or Contractor's employees. If Contractor hires employees to perform any work under this Agreement, Contractor shall cover them with workers' compensation insurance and shall maintain such insurance during the Term. The MSF or the MEDC may, in its discretion, require Contractor to provide evidence of such coverage.

H) **Unemployment Compensation**

The MSF or the MEDC shall make no state or federal unemployment compensation payments on behalf of Contractor or Contractor's employees or personnel. Contractor will not be entitled to these benefits in connection with work performed under this Agreement. If Contractor files a petition for and receives unemployment compensation, the total amount of unemployment compensation awarded to and received by Contractor shall be deducted from and be an offset against the amount of compensation due and payable to Contractor by the MSF under this Agreement.

I) **Access to Records**

During the Term, and for seven (7) years after the Ending Date, Contractor shall maintain reasonable records, including evidence that the requested services actually were performed and the identity of all individuals paid for such services, and shall allow access to those records by the MSF, the MEDC or their authorized representative at any time during this period.

J) **Termination**

Either Party may terminate its obligations under this Agreement by giving the other Party thirty (30) calendar days prior written notice of such termination.

The MSF may immediately terminate this Agreement upon written notice to Contractor if Contractor materially breaches its obligations under this Agreement or engages in any conduct which the MSF, in its sole discretion, determines has or could have an adverse impact on the State of Michigan's (the "State") or the MSF's reputation or interests. In addition, the MSF may immediately terminate this Agreement upon written notice to Contractor, without further liability to the MSF or the State, its departments, agencies, and employees, if Contractor, an officer of Contractor, or an owner of a 25% or greater share of Contractor is convicted of a criminal offense relating to a State, public, or private contract or subcontract; or convicted of a criminal offense including, but not limited to, any of the following: embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, receiving stolen property, attempting to influence a public employee to breach the ethical conduct standards for State employees; convicted under state or federal antitrust statutes; or convicted of any other criminal offense which, in the sole discretion of the MSF, reflects on Contractor's business integrity.

Contractor acknowledges that MSF's performance of its payment obligation is dependent upon the continued approval of funding and/or the MSF's continued receipt of State funding. In the event that the State Legislature, the State Government or any State official, public body corporate, commission, authority, body or employees, including the MSF: (a) takes any action which fails to provide, terminates or reduces the funding that is related to the source of funding for this Agreement; or (b) takes any action that is unrelated to the source of funding for this Agreement, but affects the MSF's ability to perform obligations under this Agreement, the MSF may terminate this Agreement by providing thirty (30) calendar days notice prior to the effective date of cancellation. In the event, however, that the action of the State Legislature, the State of Michigan or MSF results in an immediate absence or termination of funding, this Agreement may be terminated effective immediately upon delivery of notice to the Contractor. In the event of immediate termination of funding, the MSF will make payment through the effective date of termination for any undisputed services rendered and expenses incurred.

The MSF shall have no obligation to Contractor for any fees or other payments incurred in connection with this Agreement after the effective date of termination. Upon termination, all work product prepared or produced by Contractor pursuant to this Agreement shall be immediately delivered to the MSF. Payment for any undisputed services rendered and expenses incurred through the effective date of termination will then promptly be made by the MSF. Any Initial Payment made to the Contractor is subject to reimbursement in an amount determined by the Contract Manager in the event the Contractor terminates the Agreement prior to the Ending Date.

K) MEDC and MSF Employees

Contractor will not hire any employee of the MEDC or MSF to perform any services covered by this Agreement without prior written approval from the Chief Executive Officer of the MEDC or President of the MSF.

L) Confidential Information

Except as required by law, Contractor shall not use or disclose, either before, during or after the Term, any proprietary or confidential information, including, but not limited to, applications, business bids, business plans, economic development analyses, computer programs, databases and all materials furnished to Contractor by the MSF or the MEDC (collectively, "Confidential Information") without the prior written consent of the MSF or the MEDC, except to the extent necessary to perform services on the MSF or MEDC's behalf. Confidential Information does not include information obtained by Contractor from third party sources; that is already in the possession of, or is independently developed by, Contractor; that becomes publicly available other than through breach of this Paragraph; or, is released with the prior written consent of the governmental entity or entities that provided the Confidential Information to Contractor. Contractor acknowledges that all information provided by the MSF or the MEDC in connection with Contractor's duties under this Agreement shall be treated as Confidential Information unless otherwise stated in this subsection.

M) Conflict of Interest

Except as has been disclosed to the MSF or the MEDC, Contractor affirms that neither the Contractor, nor its Affiliates or their employees has, shall have, or shall acquire any contractual, financial business or other interest, direct or indirect, that would conflict in any manner with Contractor's performance of its obligations under this Agreement or otherwise create the appearance of impropriety with respect to this Agreement.

Contractor further affirms that neither Contractor nor any affiliates or their employees has accepted or shall accept anything of value based on an understanding that the actions of the Contractor or its affiliates or either's employees on behalf of the MSF or the MEDC would be influenced. Contractor shall not attempt to influence any MEDC or MSF employee by the direct or indirect offer of anything of value. Contractor also affirms that neither Contractor, nor its Affiliates or their employees has paid or agreed to pay any person, other than bona fide employees and consultants working solely for Contractor or its Affiliate, any fee, commission, percentage, brokerage fee, gift or any other consideration contingent upon or resulting from the execution of this Agreement.

In the event of change in either the interests or services under this Agreement, Contractor will inform the MSF or the MEDC regarding possible conflicts of interest which may arise as a result of such change. Contractor agrees that conflicts of interest shall be resolved to the MSF's or the MEDC's satisfaction or the MSF may terminate this Agreement. As used in this Paragraph, "conflict of interest" shall include, but not be limited to, conflicts of interest that are defined under the laws of the State of Michigan.

N) Representations of Contractor

Contractor affirms to the best of its knowledge that it or its owners:

- 1) Do not have any criminal convictions.
- 2) Are not subjects of any pending criminal investigation.
- 3) Are not subjects of any past, present or pending investigations by the Internal Revenue Service or any other federal or state taxing body or court.
- 4) Are not subjects of any past, pending or present litigation regarding its conduct.
- 5) Are not in material default or breach of any contract or agreement that it may have with the State of Michigan, the MSF or any other public body. Contractor further represents and warrants that it has not been a party to any contract with the State, the MSF or other public body that was terminated within the previous five (5) years due to the Contractor's failure to perform or otherwise breached an obligation of such contract.

O) State of Michigan Competitors

Any information or knowledge Contractor gains during the course of this Agreement concerning the economic development efforts of the State of Michigan, the MSF, the MEDC or the business conditions or business community in Michigan shall not be disclosed to any public or private party, sovereign authority or foreign government, during the Term and for a period of two (2) years after the later of the Ending Date, the effective date of termination of

this Agreement or so long as any information remains confidential pursuant to any contract, law, treaty, resolution or other enforceable promise.

P) Irreparable Injury

Contractor acknowledges that if it breaches any of its obligations under Paragraphs L and O above, it will cause damages of an irreparable and continuing nature to the MSF, for which money damages alone will not provide adequate relief. Therefore, in addition to all appropriate monetary damages, the MSF is entitled to obtain injunctive relief, including, but not limited to, a temporary restraining order to prohibit the Contractor's continuing breach. The MSF shall have the right to obtain such relief without having to post any bond or other surety.

Q) Indemnification and Contractor Liability Insurance

Contractor shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the MSF, its Board and its employees, and the MEDC, its Executive Committee, its Corporate Board of Directors, and its employees (the "Indemnified Parties") from any and all liability arising out of or in any way related to Contractor's performance under this Agreement, including any liability resulting from any acts of Contractor's employees or agents.

Contractor shall purchase and maintain such insurance to protect the Indemnified Parties from claims that might arise out of or as a result of Contractor's operations. Contractor will provide and maintain its own errors and omissions liability insurance for Contractor's indemnification obligation under this Agreement. The insurance shall be written for not less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) of coverage, but Contractor's indemnification obligation is not limited to this amount.

R) Total Agreement

This Agreement, together with Exhibit A, contains the entire agreement between the Parties superseding any prior or concurrent agreements as to the services being provided, and no oral or written terms or conditions which are not contained in this Agreement shall be binding. This Agreement may not be changed except by written agreement signed by the Parties.

S) Assignment/Transfer/Subcontracting

Contractor shall not assign, transfer, convey, subcontract, or otherwise dispose of any duties or rights under this Agreement without the prior specific written consent of the MSF. Contractor agrees that any of Contractor's future successors or subcontractors will be bound by the provisions of this Agreement, unless the MSF otherwise agrees in a specific written consent. The MSF reserves the right to approve subcontractors for this Agreement and to require Contractor to replace subcontractors who are found to be unacceptable to the MSF or the MEDC.

T) Non-Discrimination and Unfair Labor Practices

In connection with this Agreement, Contractor shall comply with the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, 1976 PA 453, MCL 37.2101 *et seq.*, the Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act, 1976 PA 220, MCL 37.1101 *et seq.*, and all other federal, state and local fair

employment practices and equal opportunity laws and covenants that it shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment with respect to his or her hire, tenure, terms, conditions, privileges of employment, or any matter directly or indirectly related to employment because of his or her race, religion, color, national origin, age, gender, height, weight, marital status, or physical or mental disability unrelated to the individual's ability to perform the duties of a particular job or position. Contractor further agrees that every subcontract entered into in connection with this Agreement will contain a provision requiring nondiscrimination in employment, as required in this Agreement, binding upon each subcontractor.

Pursuant to 1980 PA 278 (the "Act"), MCL 423.321 *et seq.*, the State shall not award a contract or subcontract to an employer whose name appears in the current register of employers failing to correct an unfair labor practice compiled by the United States National Labor Relations Board. Contractor, in relation to this Agreement, shall not enter into a contract with a subcontractor, manufacturer, or supplier whose name appears on this register. Pursuant to section 4 of the Act, the MSF may void this Agreement if, after the Starting Date, the name of the Contractor as an employer or the name of the subcontractor, manufacturer or supplier of Contractor appears on the register.

A breach of this Paragraph constitutes a material breach of this Agreement.

U) **Jurisdiction**

The laws of the State of Michigan shall govern this Agreement. The Parties shall make a good faith effort to resolve any controversies that arise regarding this Agreement. If a controversy cannot be resolved, the Parties agree that any legal actions concerning this Agreement shall be brought in the Michigan Court of Claims or, as appropriate, the Ingham County Circuit Court in Ingham County, Michigan. By signing this Agreement, Contractor acknowledges that it is subject to the jurisdiction of this court and agrees to service by first class or express delivery wherever Contractor resides, in or outside of the United States.

V) **Compliance with Laws**

Contractor shall comply with all applicable state, federal and local laws and ordinances in providing the services under this Agreement.

W) **No Partnership or Agency Relationship**

This Agreement does not create a partnership relationship. Further, neither Contractor nor Contractor's employees or other representatives shall hold themselves out to third parties as an agent or representative of the State of Michigan, the MSF or the MEDC, nor shall they have any authority to take any action or enter into any agreement on behalf of the State of Michigan, the MSF or the MEDC.

X) **No Third Party Beneficiaries**

There are no expressed or implied third party beneficiaries to this Agreement.

Y) **Counterparts**

This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts and by facsimile, each of which shall constitute an original, and all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

Z) **Reimbursement**

If this Agreement is terminated as a result of the misuse of funds as reasonably determined by the MSF, MSF shall have no further obligation to make any payments to Contractor. Furthermore, Contractor shall reimburse MSF for payments which were expended for purposes other than those described in this Agreement, as well as any funds which were previously disbursed under this Agreement but not yet expended by Contractor.

AA) **Survival**

The terms and conditions of sections III, V(B), V(E), V(F), V(G), V(H), V(I), V(L), V(O), V(P), V(Q), V(S), V(U), V(W), V(X) and V(Z) shall survive termination of this Agreement.

BB) **Publicity**

At the request and expense of the MSF or the MEDC, the Contractor will cooperate with the MSF or the MEDC to promote the Scope of Work through one or more of the placement of a sign, plaque, media coverage or other public presentation at the project or other location acceptable to the Parties.

The signatories below warrant that they are empowered to enter into this Agreement.

CONTRACTOR ACCEPTANCE:

CONTRACTOR

Dated: _____

Authorized Signer
Title

MSF ACCEPTANCE:

Michigan Strategic Fund

Dated: _____

Authorized Signer
Title

ATTACHMENT B

**INDEPENDENT PRICE DETERMINATION AND
PRICES HELD FIRM CERTIFICATION**

INDEPENDENT PRICE DETERMINATION

By submission of a proposal, the Bidder certifies, and in the case of a joint proposal, each party thereto certifies as to its own organization, that in connection with this proposal:

1. The prices in the proposal have been arrived at independently, without consultation, communication, or agreement, for the purpose of restricting competition as to any matter relating to such prices with any other Bidder or with any competitor;
2. Unless otherwise required by law, the prices which have been quoted in the proposal have not been knowingly disclosed by the Bidder and will not knowingly be disclosed by the Bidder prior to award directly or indirectly to any other Bidder or to any competitor; and
3. No attempt has been made or will be made by the Bidder to induce any other person or firm to submit or not submit a proposal for the purpose of restricting competition.

Each person signing the proposal certifies that she/he:

- A) Is the person in the Bidder's organization responsible within that organization for the decision as to the prices being offered in the proposal and has not participated (and will not participate) in any action contrary to 1, 2, and 3 above; or
- B) Is not the person in the Bidder's organization responsible within that organization for the decision as to the prices being offered in the proposal but has been authorized, in writing, to act as agent for the persons responsible for such decision in certifying that such persons have not participated (and will not participate) in any action contrary to 1, 2, and 3 above.

A proposal will not be considered for award if this Attachment B has been altered so as to delete or modify 1 or 3, above. If 2, above, has been modified or deleted, the proposal will not be considered for award unless the Bidder provides, with this Attachment B, a signed statement which sets forth, in detail, the circumstances of the disclosure and the MEDC determines that such disclosure was not made for the purpose of restricting competition.

PRICES HELD FIRM

LENGTH OF TIME PRICES ARE TO BE HELD FIRM: All rates quoted in bidder's response to this RFP will be firm for the duration of the Contract. No price changes will be permitted.

Signed _____

Date _____