

INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

- 1) Use of Separate Bid Forms These contract documents include a complete set of bidding and contract forms which are for the convenience of bidders and are not to be detached from the contract document, filled out, or executed. **Separate copies of bid forms are furnished for that purpose.**
- 2) Interpretations or Addenda No oral interpretation will be made to any bidder as to the meaning of the contract documents or any part thereof. Every request for such an interpretation shall be made in writing to the City of Duluth. Any inquiry received seven or more days prior to the date fixed for opening of bids will be given consideration. Every interpretation made to a bidder will be in the form of an addendum to the contract documents, and when issued, will be on file in the offices of the Purchasing Manager and City Engineer at least five days before bids are opened. In addition, all addenda will be mailed to each person holding contract documents, but it shall be the bidder's responsibility to make inquiry as to the addenda issued. All such addenda shall become part of the contract, and all bidders shall be bound by such addenda, whether or not received by the bidders.
- 3) Inspection of Site Each bidder should visit the site of the proposed work and fully acquaint himself with the existing conditions there relating to construction and labor, and should fully inform himself as to the facilities involved, the difficulties, and the restrictions attending the performance of the contract. The bidder should thoroughly examine and familiarize himself with the drawings, technical specifications, and all other contract documents. The contractor, by the execution of the contract, shall in no way be relieved of any obligation under it due to his failure to receive or examine any form or legal instrument or to visit the site and acquaint himself with the conditions there existing; and the City of Duluth will be justified in rejecting any claim based on facts regarding which he should have been on notice as a result thereof.
- 4) Alternative Bids No alternative bids will be considered unless alternative bids are specifically requested by the technical specifications.
- 5) Bids
 - a) All bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the city of Duluth Purchasing Manager and shall be subject to all requirements of the contract documents, including the drawings, and these **Instructions to Bidders**. All bids must be regular in every respect; and no interlineations, excisions, or special conditions shall be made or included in the bid form by the bidder.
 - b) Bid documents including the bid and the bid guaranty shall be enclosed in an envelope which shall be sealed and clearly labeled with the project number, if any, name of bidder, and date and time of bid opening, in order to guard against premature opening of the bid. If proposal is mailed, this envelope shall be placed in another envelope which shall be sealed and labeled with project number, if any, name of bidder, and date and time of bid opening -- and addressed to city of Duluth Purchasing Manager, 100 City Hall, Duluth, Minnesota 55802.
 - c) The city of Duluth may consider as irregular any bid on which there is an alteration of or departure from the bid form hereto attached, and at its option may reject the same.
 - d) If the project is awarded, it will be awarded by the city of Duluth to the lowest responsible bidder assuming that the bids are within funds available based on the lowest base bid and or in combination with selected alternates (if any). The alternates will be accepted in descending order. By the award of the contract, it is assumed that the work will be completed within the time-frame as specified within the contract documents.
 - e) Each bidder shall include in his bid the following information:
 - Principals – names, social security numbers, home addresses, including city, state, and zip code
 - Firm – name, treasury number, address, city, state, and zip code
 - Mechanical & Electrical Subcontractors -- names of firms that will do the mechanical and electrical work and the amounts of the mechanical and electrical sub-bids, if applicable and when (where indicated on Bid Proposal form).
- 6) Bid Guaranty
 - a) The bid must be accompanied by a bid guaranty which shall not be less than five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid. At the option of the bidder, the guaranty may be a certified check, bank draft, negotiable U.S. Government bond (at par value), or a bid bond. No bid will be considered unless it is accompanied by the required guaranty. Certified check or bank draft must be made payable to the order of the city of Duluth, Minnesota. Cash deposits will not be accepted. The bid guaranty shall insure the execution of the agreement and the furnishing of the surety bond or bonds by the successful bidder, all as required by the contract documents.
 - b) Revised bids submitted before the opening of bids, whether forwarded by mail or fax, if representing an increase in excess of two percent (2%) of the original bid, must have bid guaranty adjusted accordingly; otherwise, the bid will not be considered.

- c) Certified checks or bank drafts, or the amount thereof, bid bonds, and negotiable U.S. Government bonds of unsuccessful bidders, will be returned as soon as practical after the opening of bids.

7) Collusive Agreements

- a) The successful bidder on each city of Duluth construction project shall be required to execute a city of Duluth non-collusive affidavit to the effect that he has not entered into a collusive agreement with any other person, firm, or corporation in regard to any bid submitted.
- b) Before executing any subcontract, the successful bidder shall submit the name of any proposed subcontractor for prior approval, and an affidavit substantially in the form provided in Section 103 of General Conditions hereof.

8) Unit Prices The unit price for each of the several items in the proposal of each bidder shall include its prorata share of overhead so that the sum of the products obtained by multiplying the quantity shown for each item by the unit price bid represents the total bid. Any bid not conforming to this requirement may be rejected as informal. The special attention of all bidders is called to this provision; for should conditions make it necessary to revise the quantities, no limit will be fixed for such increased or decreased quantities nor extra compensation allowed, provided the net monetary value of all such additive and subtractive changes in quantities of such items of work (i.e., difference in cost) shall not increase or decrease the original contract price by more than twenty-five percent (25%), except for work not covered in the drawings and technical specifications as provided for in Section 109 hereof.

9) Corrections Erasures or other changes in the bids must be explained or noted over the signature of the bidder.

10) Time for Receiving Bids

- a) Bids received prior to the advertised hour of opening will be securely kept, sealed. The officer whose duty it is to open them will decide when the specified time has arrived, and no bid received thereafter will be considered; except that when a bid arrives by mail after the time fixed for opening, but before the reading of all other bids is completed, and it is shown to the satisfaction of the City Purchasing office that the non-arrival on time was due solely to delay in the mails for which the bidder was not responsible, such bid will be received and considered.
- b) Bidders are cautioned that, while telegraphic modifications of bids may be received as provided above, such modifications, if not explicit and if in any sense subject to misinterpretation, shall make the bid so modified or amended, subject to rejection.

11) Opening of Bids At the time and place fixed for the opening of bids, the city Purchasing Manager will cause to be opened and publicly read aloud every bid received within the time set for receiving bids, irrespective of any irregularities therein. Bidders and other persons properly interested may be present, in person or by representative.

12) Withdrawal of Bids Bids may be withdrawn on written or faxed request dispatched by the bidder in time for delivery in the normal course of business to the time fixed for opening; provided, that written confirmation of any faxed withdrawal over the signature of the bidder is placed in the mail and postmarked prior to the time set for bid opening. The bid guaranty of any bidder withdrawing his bid in accordance with the foregoing conditions will be returned promptly.

13) Award of Contract: Rejection of Bids

- a) The contract will be awarded to the responsible bidder submitting the lowest bid complying with the conditions of the Invitation to Bid. The bidder to whom the award is made will be notified at the earliest possible date. The city of Duluth, however, reserves the right to reject any and all such bids and to waive any informality in bids received whenever such rejection or waiver is in its interest.
- b) The city of Duluth reserves the right to consider as unqualified to do the work of general construction, any bidder who does not habitually perform with his own forces the major portions of the work involved in construction of the improvements embraced in the contract documents.

14) Execution of Agreement: Performance and Payment Bond.

- a) Subsequent to the award and within ten (10) days after the prescribed forms are presented for signature, the successful bidder shall execute and deliver to the city of Duluth an agreement in the form as furnished by the City, in such number of copies as the city of Duluth may require.
- b) Having satisfied all conditions of award as set forth elsewhere in these documents, the successful bidder shall, within the period specified in paragraph "a" above, furnish:
 - 1) A performance bond for the use and benefit of the city of Duluth to complete the contract according to its terms, and conditioned on saving the city of Duluth harmless from all costs and charges that may accrue on account

of completing the specified work; and

- 2) A payment bond for the use and benefit of all persons furnishing labor and materials for the performance of the contract conditioned upon the payment, as they become due, of all just claims for labor and materials.

Both the performance bond and the payment bond shall be in a penal sum of not less than the amount of the contract awarded. Such bonds shall be in the same form as that included in the contract documents and shall bear the same date as, or a date subsequent to, that of the agreement. A current power of attorney for the person who signs for any surety company shall be attached to such bonds.

- c) The failure of the successful bidder to execute such agreement to supply the required bond or bonds within ten (10) days after the prescribed forms are presented for signature, or within such extended period as the city of Duluth may grant, based on reasons determined sufficient by the city of Duluth, shall constitute a default, and the city of Duluth may either award the contract to the next lowest responsible bidder or re-advertise for bids, and may charge against the bidder the difference between the amount of the bid and the amount for which a contract for the work is subsequently executed, irrespective of whether the amount thus due exceeds the amount of the bid bond. If a more favorable bid is received by re-advertising, the defaulting bidder shall have no claim against the city of Duluth for a refund.

15) Wages and Salaries

- a) Attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirements concerning the payment of not less than the prevailing wage and salary rates specified in the contract documents and the conditions of employment with respect to certain categories and classifications of employees.
- b) The rates of pay set forth in prevailing wage schedule(s) are *potentially* the minimums to be paid during the life of the contract. Project funding sources, bid opening date, contract award date, and the contract start date may be factors resulting in a change of prevailing wage schedules. It is, therefore, the responsibility of bidders to inform themselves as to local labor conditions, such as the length of work day hours in conjunction with the project's funding sources, overtime compensations, health and welfare contributions, labor supply, and prospective changes or adjustments of rates.

- 16) Equal Employment Opportunity Attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirement for ensuring that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. (See Supplementary General Conditions, Part II, Section 11).

- 17) Employment and Business Attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirement that, to the greatest extent feasible, opportunities for training and employment made possible by this project shall be given to lower income residents of the city of Duluth. Additionally, efforts should be made, if any work is subcontracted, to award subcontracts to concerns located in or owned in substantial part by persons residing in the city of Duluth.

- 18) Sales and Use Taxes It is assumed that, in the preparation of his proposal, the bidder has taken into consideration his liability from any sales, use, or excise tax that might be assessed in the purchase of, storage, use, or consumption of any materials, services, or supplies for performance of the contract work. Any such tax paid by the contractor will be considered as his expense, for which no direct compensation will be made by the city to the contractor over and above the accepted bid.

19) Pre-Bid/Pre-Construction Meetings

- a) Seven (7) days prior to bid date, a pre-bid meeting will be held (see **Bid Form** for time and place). All prime bidders are requested to attend. All bidders will be allowed to make inquiries regarding the contract documents. All formal decisions will be documented by addendum. Failure of any prime bidders to attend this meeting could jeopardize the contract award.
- b) Approximately seven (7) days after city council approval of contract award, the successful bidder is required to attend a pre-construction meeting. At this meeting, the successful bidder will present his construction schedule, cost breakdown, required submittals, etc.

20) Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Affirmative Action Policy Statement and Compliance Certificate.

- a) The successful bidder on each city of Duluth construction project shall be required to execute a certificate substantially in the form herein provided.
- b) Before executing any subcontract in excess of \$2,500, the successful bidder shall require the subcontractor to execute a form similar in nature to the form herein provided.