



Purchasing Division
Finance Department
Room 120
411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

218-730-5340
purchasing@duluthmn.gov

INVITATION TO BID

Scope 1: Coal Burner to Natural Gas and Fuel Oil Burner: Balance of Plant and Fuel Oil System

BID NUMBER: 25-0431

BIDS DUE: Thursday, July 17, 2025 by 2:00PM

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Duluth Energy Systems (DES), located in Duluth, MN, is converting from coal-fired to natural gas and fuel oil-fired boilers.

This project includes the installation of a fuel oil storage tank, fuel oil piping system, steam and condensate piping, air atomization piping, instrument air piping, natural gas piping, and all necessary appurtenances to provide a fully operational system up to the burner skids. Please note that the burner skids and their installation will be covered under a separate contract, requiring coordination between the awarded contractors

ANTICIPATED START DATE: Construction operations shall be started within ten (10) calendar days after the date of the Notice to Proceed.

SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION: Boiler 1 & 4 – June 15, 2026. Boiler 2 & 3 – September 15, 2026.

FINAL COMPLETION: November 1, 2026

PRE-BID MEETING: A **mandatory** pre-bid meeting will be held at 11:00AM on Thursday, June 12, 2025 at the Duluth Energy Systems Plant, 1 Lake Place Drive, Duluth, MN. All interested bidders **MUST** attend.

QUESTIONS: Please submit any questions regarding this project via e-mail to purchasing@duluthmn.gov. Responses will be issued as an addendum to this solicitation. Deadline to submit questions is DATE.

The selected contractor will be issued a construction contract (draft included in the Standard City Contracting Forms in the BidExpress solicitation). Notice to Proceed will be issued once the agreement is fully executed.

Specifications may be viewed and downloaded at no cost at www.bidexpress.com. Bidders must create a free account with Bid Express®; and login to search for city projects (search by “City of Duluth” or bid number). Bid Express® does charge a nominal fee for bid submission. More information can be found at <https://www.infotechinc.com/bidding>.

Proposal forms, contract documents, plans and specifications may also be on file at the following offices: Minnesota Builder's Exchange, and Builder's Exchange of Wisconsin.



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INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

Bids must be submitted electronically through Bid Express® at www.bidexpress.com. Bid surety in the amount of 5% of the total bid must be submitted with each bid. Bid bonds may be submitted electronically, either through Surety2000 or Tinubu within the Bid Express solicitation, or emailed to purchasing@duluthmn.gov. Paper bid bonds, certified checks or bank drafts payable to the City of Duluth may be mailed or dropped off at City Hall, 411 W. 1st Street, Room 120, Duluth, MN 55802. Regardless of the method of submission, bid surety must be received by Purchasing prior to the bid opening.

The City Purchasing Agent or her designee will conduct a public bid opening immediately after the deadline for receiving bids. Bidders may view the opening by going to the Purchasing web page (<https://www.duluthmn.gov/purchasing/bids-request-for-proposals/>) and selecting the appropriate link.

No alternatives to the specification will be considered unless specifically requested. Erasures or other changes to the bid must be initialed and dated, however no special conditions shall be made or included in the bid form by the bidder

The City of Duluth reserves the right to split the award where there is a substantial savings to the City, to waive informalities and to reject any and all bids. Price may not be the only consideration for bid award. Bids must be firm for a minimum of 60 days.

Please note that the following requirements also apply to this project, and any additional required documents must be submitted prior to award/contract execution.

1. **Insurance** – Contractor must provide proof of Public Liability and Automobile Liability Insurance with limits not less than \$1,500,000 Single Limit prior to the commencement of work. The City of Duluth must be named as an additional insured. Please refer to the draft Contract, Section 8.
2. **Performance & Payment Bonds** – The awarded contractor will be required to submit performance and payments bonds in the full amount of the project cost prior to award.
3. **Project Labor Agreement (PLA)** - A PLA will be required for any bid that is over or could virtually go over \$150,000. A copy of the City standard PLA is included in this package.
4. **Community Benefits Provisions** - A Community Benefits Best Efforts Plan will be required for any project that includes a PLA. The required form is included in the bid package, as well as a link to additional community benefits information, including the program specifications and a process flowchart.
5. **Out of State Contractor** - Unless a State of Minnesota Certificate of Exemption is provided, any out-of-state bidder receiving a bid award will have 8% retained from invoice payments on any contracts over \$50,000. Submit a signed copy of the signed exemption form when submitting Payment and Performance Bonds. This form may be found at: <https://www.minnstate.edu/system/finance/facilities/design->



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[construction/pm_emanual/doc/DIV00%204547%20SDE%20Form%20Exhibit%20B%204-12-19.pdf](#)

6. **Prevailing Wage** - Not less than the minimum salaries and prevailing wages as set forth in the contract documents must be paid on this project.

The City of Duluth is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Contractor shall comply with all applicable Equal Employment Opportunity laws and regulations.

CITY OF DULUTH

Patrice Stalvig
Purchasing Agent