

Invitation to Bid #16PSX0162

COMPRESSED GASES, MEDICAL COMPRESSED GASES AND REFRIGERANT GASES & CYLINDER RENTALS

Contract Specialist: **Arlene Watson-Paulin**

Date Issued: **14th September 2016**

Due Date: **30th September 2016 at 2:00 PM Eastern Time**

**Department of Administrative Services
Procurement Services**



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Invitation to Bid (ITB)

COMPRESSED GASES, MEDICAL COMPRESSED GASES AND REFRIGERANT GASES

Guide to Electronic Bid Submissions

1. Introduction To BizNet

It is now a requirement of Department of Administrative Services (DAS)/Procurement Services that all companies create a Business Network (BizNet) Account and add their company profiles to the State of Connecticut BizNet system. Companies are responsible for maintaining and updating company information in their BizNet Accounts as updates occur. Companies that have been certified through the Supplier Diversity or the Pre-Qualification Program, have already created a BizNet account.

The BizNet login is: <https://www.biznet.ct.gov/AccountMaint/Login.aspx>

New Companies: Create an account by clicking the BizNet login link above and then the button on the right labeled "Create New Account". Login and select Doing Business with the State and Company Information. Please be sure to complete information in all tabs (Company Information, Accounts, Address, etc...).

Existing Companies Needing to Update Their Information: Login to BizNet and select Doing Business with the State and Company Information.

Anyone having difficulty connecting to their account or downloading or uploading forms should call DAS/Procurement Services at 860-713-5095.

2. Business Friendly Legislation

As a result of Public Act 11-229, DAS/Procurement Services' goal is to make doing business with the State of Connecticut more business friendly. To eliminate redundancy, forms that were repetitively filled out with each invitation to bid are being automated in BizNet.

DAS/Procurement Services began the transition to on-line bidding by automating the submission of Affidavits and Non-Discrimination forms on October 1, 2011. Companies must submit forms electronically to their BizNet account if they haven't already done so. These forms must be updated on an annual basis, no later than 30 days after the effective date of any material change. Rather than completing them with each bid submittal, companies that have already filed these forms have the ability to view, verify and update their information prior to submitting a bid response.

Instructions for Uploading Affidavits and Non-Discrimination Forms:

Click on the following link for instructions on how to upload Affidavits and Non-Discrimination forms:
<http://das.ct.gov/images/1090/Upload%20Instructions.pdf>

(a) AFFIDAVITS

THE FOLLOWING FORMS MUST BE SIGNED, DATED, NOTARIZED, UPLOADED OR UPDATED ON BIZNET. TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THESE FORMS, YOU MUST LOGIN INTO BIZNET AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS LISTED ABOVE.

- (1) OPM Ethics Form 1 – Gift & Campaign Contribution Certification
- (2) OPM Ethics Form 5 – Consulting Agreement Affidavit
- (3) OPM Ethics Form 6 – Affirmation of Receipt of State Ethics Laws Summary
- (4) OPM Form 7 – Iran Certification

For information regarding these forms, please access the Office of Policy & Management’s website by clicking on the following link: <http://www.ct.gov/opm/cwp/view.asp?a=2982&q=386038>

(b) NON-DISCRIMINATION

CHOOSE ONE (1) FORM THAT APPLIES TO YOUR BUSINESS. COMPLETE AND UPLOAD OR UPDATE ON BIZNET ANNUALLY. TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THESE FORMS, YOU MUST LOGIN INTO BIZNET AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS LISTED ABOVE.

- (1) Form A – Representation by Individual (Regardless of Value)
- (2) Form B – Representation by Entity (Valued at \$50,000 or less)
- (3) Form C – Affidavit by Entity (RECOMMENDED) (Valued at \$50,000 or more)
- (4) Form D – New Resolution by Entity
- (5) Form E – Prior Resolution by Entity

For information regarding these forms and on which form your company should complete, please access the Office of Policy & Management’s website by clicking following link:

http://www.ct.gov/opm/cwp/view.asp?a=2982&q=390928&opmNav_GID=1806

3. New Revised Process – Online Bid Responses

Any bid posted by DAS/Procurement Services must be submitted electronically. The common forms listed below have also been automated in the BizNet system. In addition, specific forms are now web based and fillable, as noted below. To complete forms; download them from your BizNet account, complete your submittal response, and upload these documents (as well as any other required submittal documents) through BizNet prior to the date and time upon which the Bid is due pursuant to this ITB. Late submissions will not be accepted. Bid pricing will be available for public viewing for 24 hours after bid closing.

- Contractor Information/Electronic Signature Page – Web Based Form
- Employment Information Form (DAS-45) – Web Based Form
- Statement of Qualifications (DAS-14) – Fillable Form
- Connecticut Economic Impact Form (DAS-46) – Web Based Form
- Contract Exhibit B – Price Schedule (SP-16)
- Bid Addendum (SP-18) – if applicable

Additional forms such as those listed below must be reviewed carefully and accepted by the bidder prior to bid submittal:

- Standard Terms and Conditions (SP-19)
- Invitation to Bid Document (SP-22)

- Invitation to Bid Contract (SP-50)
- Contract Exhibit A – Description of Goods & Services and Additional Terms & Conditions
- Contract Exhibit C – SEEC Form 11

4. Insurance Accord Certificates

Contractors are responsible for maintaining their BizNet account with new and/or updated insurance information.

The following documentation will need to be uploaded to each company's BizNet account and evidencing that the State of Connecticut is an additional insured:

- (a) Certificate of Insurance (Accord Form)
- (b) The insurance policy declaration page
- (c) The additional insured endorsement to the policy

Training documentation relating to the completion of the above-reference forms is available through the DAS Website under "DAS Business Friendly Initiatives" at the following website: <http://das.ct.gov/cr1.aspx?page=371>

Bidders are cautioned that there may be additional documents, attachments or requirements depending on the complexity of the bid. Please read ALL bid documents carefully and provide all required information. Failure to do so may result in rejection of your bid.

Overview

The State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Services ("DAS") is issuing this Invitation to Bid to solicit bids for compressed gases, medical compressed gases and refrigerant gases for all using State agencies, political subdivisions and not-for-profit agencies.

Scope

The awarded Contractor(s) will deliver compressed gas, medical compressed gases, refrigerant gases, rental of cylinders at Client Agency request.

Bidder will submit pricing with applicable discount structure and/or special net prices to reflect discounts already figured into pricing for specialty type gases and mixtures/blends on Exhibit B – Price Schedule, section A.

1. Industrial type gases to include, but not be limited to, acetylene, oxygen, argon, stargon, carbon dioxide, nitrogen, etc.
2. Medical type gases to include – oxygen, nitrogen, liquid nitrogen, etc.
3. Specialty type gases to include – environmental monitoring gases, laboratory grade gases, etc.

Bidder will submit pricing on Exhibit B – Section B for refrigerant gases.

Bidder will submit pricing for reclaimed gases on Exhibit B – Price Schedule, section B.

Products offered under the resultant contract must be in compliance with all applicable EPA standards including, but not be limited to the Clean Air Act.

The resultant contract excludes any type of related equipment or consumable supply purchases, i.e. (welders, compressors, pumps, hoses and filters).

All pricings will include shipping and transportation charges Free on Board (FOB) destination.

Bidder must be a manufacturer or authorized distributor of the products they offer. Bidder must submit a copy of their authorized dealer letter with bid submittal. Letter must be on manufacturer's letterhead.

Bidder will indicate in their bid submittal any restriction for delivery (i.e., specific counties or days of the week).

The completeness or ability to offer multiple gases will be taken into consideration when awarding the resultant contract.

It is advantageous for Bidder to offer a cylinder tracking management program (value added service) with their bid submittal.

The program will include, but not be limited to: application of secure rugged inventory tags and a formal inventory tracking process to track and maintain contractor-owned cylinders at Client Agency locations. The inventory tracking will include an annual or bi-annual physical inventory performed by the contractor. Failure to submit a cylinder tracking management program with bid submittal will result in disqualification.

Bidders shall submit a 24-hour telephone number for a company representative for technical support who can be reached in case of a disaster (critical and catastrophic) and/or emergency situations. This information must be kept updated throughout the term of the contract.

Bidders must submit with their bid submittal the following documents with their bid submittal:

1. Validation or certification (copies of any applicable licensure) they are authorized to sell compressed gases and refrigerants
2. Evidence of their number of years in business
3. Documentation listing bidder's principal place of business and any other business locations (physical location of plant and facilities)
4. DOT ID# for any vehicles (over 18,000 GVWR)
5. Complete price list catalog, descriptive literature and specifications of Product

This contract replaces the following contract award(s) in part or in total: 13PSX0087

Instructions to Bidders

1. Bid Schedule

RELEASE OF ITB:	Date:	14th September 2016
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RECEIPT OF QUESTIONS:	Date:	23rd September 2016, by noon Eastern Time
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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSTED AS ADDENDUM:	Date:	28th September 2016
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BID DUE DATE:	Date:	30 th September 2016 at 2:00 PM Eastern Time
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2. Pre-Bid Meeting Requirements:

This bid contains no pre-bid meeting requirements.

3. Questions:

Questions for the purpose of clarifying this bid must be received no later than the date and time specified in Section I, "Bid Schedule" and must be directed to the Contract Specialist, Arlene Watson-Paulin via email: arlene.watson-paulin@ct.gov.

4. Communications

During the period from your organization's receipt of this Invitation to Bid, and until a contract is awarded, your organization shall not contact any employee of the State of Connecticut concerning this procurement except in writing directed to the Contract Specialist, Arlene Watson-Paulin via email: arlene.watson-paulin@ct.gov.

5. Public Bid Opening

Public bid openings are now conducted online. Bid pricing submitted will be available for public view through your BizNet Account and is available for 24 hours after the bid due date and time.

How to View Bid Results:

- Go to the DAS/Procurement website: das.ct.gov/Portal
- Click on the heading "Current Solicitations"
- Click radio button "Under Evaluation"
- Search for the bid
- Click on "Public Opening" under the bid due date and time

Bid Requirements

1. Motor Carrier Safety Review.

If the performance of the Contract requires the use and operation of any commercial motor vehicle, as defined in section 14-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes, or other motor vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 18,000 pounds or more, each bidder will be the subject of an evaluation, conducted by the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles (CTDMV) of its motor carrier safety fitness. The primary factor in the evaluation is the

current SAFESTAT score, calculated by the U.S. Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) in accordance with the provisions of Title 49, Section 385.1, et seq., of the Code of Federal Regulations.

To be deemed qualified, the bidder must have an overall SAFESTAT category rating of "D" or better, on the date of evaluation. In addition, the bidder's driver and vehicle out-of-service rates will be consulted. The rates are determined by the number of out-of-service violations cited to the motor carrier in the course of all official, reported vehicle and/or driver inspections conducted during the preceding thirty (30) months. To be deemed qualified, the bidder must not have either a vehicle or driver out-of-service rate, by percentage of out-of-service violations per the total number of inspections reported, that is more than twice the national average. In addition, the bidder must have a current federal safety management practices rating of "Satisfactory," as defined in 49 CFR Section 385.3, as amended.

Bidder must provide the company's Federal DOT ID number where specified in Exhibit B. Failure to provide this information may result in the rejection of your bid.

Further information concerning the motor carrier safety evaluation, to which a bidder is subject, may be obtained from CTDMMV, at <http://www.ct.gov/dmv/cwp/view.asp?a=798&q=413206&dmvPNavCtr=|#49068>. All official inspection and rating data that is used in the performance of each evaluation is available to any motor carrier through the federal SAFESTAT website, at <http://www.ai.volpe.dot.gov/>.

2. Quantities and/or Usages

Any quantities set forth in this ITB are estimated quantities and/or usages only and in no way represent a commitment and/or intent to purchase any particular amount. Actual quantities may vary and will be identified on individual purchase orders issued by the requesting entity.

3. Lowest Responsible Qualified Bidder; Micro Business Preference

The contract resulting from this ITB shall be awarded to the lowest responsible qualified bidder. The qualities of articles to be supplied, their conformity with the needed specifications, their suitability to the requirements of the state government and the delivery terms will be taken into consideration, and the life-cycle costs and trade-in or resale value of the articles may be considered where it appears to be in the best interest of the state. In determining the lowest responsible qualified bidder, a price preference of up to ten percent (10%) may be given for the purchase of the goods or services from micro businesses. Micro business means a business with gross revenues not exceeding three million dollars (\$3,000,000) in the most recently completed fiscal year. To be considered for this ten percent (10%) price preference, bidders shall provide, with their bid, a copy of their Federal Internal Revenue tax return form for the most recent fiscal year, confirming the amount of their gross revenues for that fiscal year. Failure to provide such tax return with the bid shall deny bidder consideration for price preference. For companies who have not yet filed their tax return for the most recently completed fiscal year, in lieu of a tax return, a letter from a Certified Public Accountant attesting to the company's gross estimated revenues for the most recently completed fiscal year will be accepted.

4. Stability of Bid Prices

Any price offerings from bidders must be valid for a period of 30 days from the due date of the bid.

5. Amendment or Cancellation of the ITB

DAS reserves the right to cancel, amend, modify or otherwise change this ITB at any time if it deems it to be in the best interest of the State to do so.

6. Bid Modifications

No additions or changes to any bid will be allowed after the bid due date, unless such modification is specifically requested by DAS. DAS, at its option, may seek bidder retraction and/or clarification of any discrepancy or contradiction found during its review of bids.

7. Bidder Presentation of Supporting Evidence

Bidders must be prepared to provide any evidence of experience, performance, ability, and/or financial surety that DAS deems to be necessary or appropriate to fully establish the performance capabilities represented in their bids.

8. Bidder Demonstration of Services and/or Products

At the discretion of DAS, bidders must be able to confirm their ability to provide all services bid. Any required confirmation must be provided at a site approved by DAS.

9. Erroneous Awards

DAS reserves the right to correct inaccurate awards.

10. Bid Expenses

Bidders are responsible for all costs and expenses incurred in the preparation of bids and for any subsequent work on the bid that is required by DAS.

11. Ownership of Bids

All bids shall become the sole property of the State and will not be returned.

12. Ownership of Subsequent Products

Any product, whether acceptable or unacceptable, developed under a contract awarded as a result of this ITB shall be the sole property of the State unless otherwise stated in the contract.

13. Oral Agreement or Arrangements

Any alleged oral agreements or arrangements made by bidders with any State agency or employee will be disregarded in any State bid evaluation or associated award.

Award Criteria

Pursuant to CGS 4a-59 and DAS Procurement Regulations 4a-52-8 and 4a-52-18, the award shall be made to the lowest, responsible qualified bidder. The following factors, in descending order of relative importance, will be considered in the evaluation to determine the lowest, responsible qualified bidder:

- (a) Pricing
- (b) The conformity of the supplies, materials, equipment or contractual services to the specifications
- (c) Value added service
- (d) Contractor's past performance
- (e) Contractor's financial responsibility
- (f) Delivery Terms
- (g) Life-cycle costs, trade-in or resale value of the supplies, materials or equipment

DAS may award by individual item, group of items, or the entirety of all items. DAS may also reject any and all bids in whole or in part, and waive minor irregularities and omissions if, in the judgment of DAS, the best interest of the state will be served.