

NOTICE
INVITATION TO BID
TO
THE METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO
FOR

DIGESTER REHABILITATION AND GAS PIPING REPLACEMENT PHASE II
STICKNEY WATER RECLAMATION PLANT
STICKNEY, ILLINOIS
CONTRACT 18-148-3P

PROPOSALS ARE DUE TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

Sealed Proposals, endorsed as above, will be submitted back to the District via an electronic upload to the Bonfire Portal only, from the date of the Invitation to Bid, up to 11:00 A.M. (Central Daylight Time), on the bid opening date, and will be opened publicly by the Director of Procurement and Materials Management or her designee at 11:00 A.M. on Tuesday, September 26, 2023. The public cannot attend but can view the bid opening at <http://mwrld.org/bid-opening>.

NO BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 11:00 A.M. ON THE ABOVE SCHEDULED BID DATE. ALL BIDS FAXED, MAILED, EMAILED, OR HAND DELIVERED WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED AND WILL BE RETURNED TO THE BIDDER. THERE IS NO BID DEPOSITORY SAFE AVAILABLE FOR MAILING OR HAND DELIVERING BIDS. THE DISTRICT WILL ONLY ACCEPT BIDS ELECTRONICALLY UPLOADED TO THE BONFIRE PORTAL (<https://mwrld.bonfirehub.com/>). PLEASE SEE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO UPLOAD YOUR BID TO THE BONFIRE PORTAL IN THE BID DOCUMENT ENTITLED “SUBMISSION VIA THE BONFIRE PORTAL”.

Specifications, proposal forms and/or plans may be obtained from the Department of Procurement and Materials Management by downloading online from the District’s website at www.mwrld.org (Doing Business→Procurement and Materials Management→Contract Announcements). No fee is required for the Contract Documents. Any questions regarding the downloading of the Contract Document should be directed to the following email: contractdesk@mwrld.org or call (312) 751-6643.

Further the District assumes no liability or responsibility for the failure or inability of any Bidder to successfully download any and all contract documents, including but not limited to specifications, proposal forms and/or plans, as a result of any type of technological computer and/or software system failure or breakdown that restricts, prohibits or prevents successful downloading of any and all District contract documents by the Bidder, whether caused by the District or other parties, directly or indirectly.

Tenders are invited for the work consisting of furnishing all materials, labor, and equipment required to:

1. Rehabilitate Ten Biosolids Digestion Tanks (Digesters 1 through 10). Work includes pump out contents; spray down concrete walls and steel items; replace steel digester gas draw-off and sludge inlet pipes; provide new steel pipe supports; create concrete tank wall openings for new pipe sleeves; apply protective coatings to steel items and to the steel plates forming the top of the digester cover and all steel items above the digester covers; provide stainless sediment tanks and stainless pipe; and replace flow meters.
2. Rehabilitate Two Biosolids Digestion Tanks (Digesters 11 through 12). Work includes pump out contents; spray down concrete walls and steel items; and apply protective coatings to digester covers and all steel items above digester covers.
3. Reconfigure West Digesters Control Building (WDCB) West Digesters Chambers A, B and C, and tunnel connecting the WDCB to the Office, Shop, and Storage Building (OSS). Work includes but not limited to the following: modify buildings' interior and exterior as well as HVAC systems as required. Detailed work includes perform door expansions and repairs; modify interior CMU walls to be permanent gastight walls; reconfigure exterior brick walls; relocate and upgrade HVAC and plumbing; install wall sealants, new showers, and new flooring; install interlocking doors; replace the building roof, adjust the site grading; repair brick wall tuckpointing; construct sidewalks, awnings, and neutralize and demolish the 20" overhead abandoned steel gas pipe.
4. Replace or update all electrical equipment, conduits, and appurtenances per NFPA 820 Class 1, Division 1 requirements in work affected areas.

The site of the proposed construction is at the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant (SWRP), which is located at 6001 W. Pershing Road, Stickney, Illinois 60804.

The estimated cost of the work under Contract 18-148-3P is between \$34,156,300.00 and \$41,347,100.00.

The Voluntary Technical Pre-Bid meeting will be held online via a Zoom meeting on Thursday, 09/7/2023, at 9:00 a.m. CDT. The link to the Zoom meeting is attached in a separate Word document under the "Additional Documents" column on the District's website at mwrdd.org (Doing Business→Procurement and Materials Management→Contract Announcements→(Find correct project)→Bidding Documents). The purpose of the Voluntary Technical Pre-Bid meeting is to review the scope of work, to provide for identification and discussion of potential problems that might arise during the administration of this Contract and seek clarification of technical or procedural aspects of this Contract. There will be a Q&A session at the end of the meeting. Also, suppliers must give their contact information to register prior to entering the Zoom Pre-Bid meeting.

Bidders are **STRONGLY URGED** to inspect all areas of the work sites, prior to bidding, to familiarize themselves with the nature of the work and the method of accomplishing the same. An optional Pre-Bid Walk-Through will be held on Tuesday, 9/5/2023, at 8:30 a.m. CDT at the West Digester Complex, 6001 W Pershing Rd, Cicero, IL. Attendees are advised to bring a hard hat and

appropriate footwear for an industrial type of facility and a current business card. Attendees will also require to furnish the “Site Visit Release and Indemnity Agreement”, properly executed, which is included in Volume 1 of the bid documents package. Bidders are encouraged to give themselves enough time to clear security. Bidders are reminded that no questions will be taken during any site inspections. Bidders may obtain digester sludge sample with their own container and analyze at their own expense. The District’s website (www.mwrd.org) will be used for addressing any questions, as indicated in the Invitation to Bid documents for this Contract. The path is as follows: Doing Business→Procurement and Materials Management→Contract Announcements→(Find correct project)→Ask a Question.

THE BID DEPOSIT FOR THIS PROPOSAL IS \$600,000.00.

Each proposal must be accompanied by a bid deposit in the form of a bid bond in the amount of **SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$600,000.00)**. Each bid bond must be underwritten by a surety licensed to do business in the State of Illinois, listed in the latest copy of the Federal Register and approved by the Director of Procurement and Materials Management. The bid bond must contain signatures from the Bidder and Surety Company. Failure to provide signatures on the bid bond will result in the rejection of the bid. Photographic and/or stamped signatures are acceptable. Any proposal submitted without being accompanied by the required bid deposit, in the aforesaid form, will not be considered and will not be read after it is publicly opened.

Prior to award of the contract, the lowest responsible Bidder must demonstrate compliance with the MWRDGC Multi-Project Labor Agreement by submitting to the Director of Procurement and Materials Management a signed Certification of Compliance with Multi-Project Labor Agreement. The Agreement and Certificate of Compliance are contained in the Contract Documents.

The bid money value of all materials purchased directly by the Contractor, together with the bid money value of all work performed by personnel and facilities provided directly by the Contractor, shall not be less than 25% of the money value of all work performed under this Contract. Any bid money value of work performed by the Subcontractors for work on the job site utilizing Subcontractors’ materials, labor and facilities cannot be included in the percent of work to be completed by the Contractor.

Bidders on contracts in excess of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) will be required to comply with the President’s Executive Order No. 11246, as amended to date, regarding NON-DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT. The requirements for Bidders and contractors under this order are explained in Appendix C of the Contract Documents. The provisions of Appendix C also apply to each Subcontractor on contracts in excess of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00).

The Bidder agrees to fulfill the Special Training Provisions for Apprentices as specified in the Appendix K [attached] Affirmative Action requirements and to provide training opportunities throughout the life of the Contract. The requirements of the Special Training Provisions for Apprentices are 2,620 minority hours and 930 female hours for the purposes of this Contract.

The Bidder shall submit with the Proposal a signed and completed MBE, WBE Utilization Plan, which lists the firms intended to be used as MBE, WBE, the type of work or service each will perform, and the dollar amount to be allocated to each MBE, WBE.

1.) Each Bidder must submit with their proposals a signed and completed **MBE/WBE Utilization Plan** which lists each business intended to be used as a MBE and WBE on pages UP-2 and UP-3 and supplemental pages as necessary. **The Bidder must sign the Signature Section page on UP-4.** Failure to submit a signed MBE/WBE Utilization Plan will result in a bid being deemed non-responsive and the bid will be rejected. Also, if a Waiver is sought, the Bidder is required to sign pages UP-4 and UP-5, the Waiver Request Form; failure to do so will be viewed as non-responsive and the bid will be rejected.

2.) Each Bidder must submit **with their bid package** an original or facsimile copy of the **MBE/WBE Subcontractor's Letter of Intent, page UP-6** for each subcontractor listed on their MBE/WBE Utilization Plan. The submitted MBE/WBE Subcontractor's Letter of Intent must be completed and signed by the subcontractor and accompanied with a copy of the subcontractor's current Letter of Certification from a state, local government or agency or documentation demonstrating that the subcontractor is a MBE or WBE within the meaning of the **Affirmative Action Ordinance, Revised Appendix D**. Failure to submit the MBE/WBE Utilization Plan signed by the Bidder at the time of the bid opening and the MBE/WBE Subcontractor's Letter of Intent signed by each MBE and WBE will be viewed as non-responsive and the bid will be rejected.

3.) If the Bidder exceeds the allowable Supplier Utilization amount which is stated in the bid documents, the bid will be viewed as non-responsive. Therefore, the Bidder may not exceed the use of a MBE or WBE supplier for more than 50% of each respective MBE or WBE, goal, unless the Administrator has authorized a Supplier's Exception notated on page AU-1.

4.) Each Bidder must submit with their proposals a completed **VBE Commitment Form** which lists each business intended to be used as a VBE. The Bidder must make a "**Good Faith Effort**" to identify eligible Veteran Owned-Businesses by completing the VBE Commitment Form. If the Bidder is unable to identify qualified VBE subcontractors capable of providing goods or services required by the contract, the Bidder must write "**no participation**" on the VBE Commitment Form. Where a Bidder has failed to meet the VBE participation goal, the Administrator shall require the Contractor to submit a Veteran's Business Enterprise Good Faith Efforts Documentation Request Form and provide additional documentation of its good faith efforts in attempting to fulfill the VBE goal.

5.) **The Contractor agrees to use the District's online compliance monitoring system administered by the Diversity Section for payment and reporting purposes, in order to fulfill the Affirmative Action Program requirements.**

The Utilization Plan **MUST** be signed by the Bidder, even if the Bidder requests a waiver and/or offers itself to meet any of the Affirmative Action Ordinance Revised Appendix D goals. If the Bidder offers itself to satisfy any of the Affirmative Action Ordinance Revised Appendix D goals, then its name shall be shown in the appropriate space(s) on the Utilization Plan.

Where a Bidder is a business owned and controlled by a minority woman (M/WBE) or where the Bidder utilizes a M/WBE in a joint venture or as a subcontractor, the Bidder may count the M/WBE participation either toward the achievement of its MBE or WBE goal, but not both.

If a waiver from the Affirmative Action Ordinance Revised Appendix D requirements is sought, the bidder should include with the bid package documentation of good-faith efforts to meet the Affirmative Action Ordinance Revised Appendix D utilization goals. Subsequent to bid opening

and if it is determined by the Affirmative Action Administrator that a Contractor's Information Form is required from the apparent low bidder, the bidder must complete and submit the form within three (3) days of receiving the written request.

The work under this Contract is classified as "Mechanical". The associated goals are 20% Minority-owned Business Enterprises (MBE), 9% Women-owned Business Enterprises (WBE), and 3% VBE Veteran Business Enterprises. **The MBE, WBE, and VBE utilization goals do not apply to the work assigned to the portions of the DCS work included as part of the Negotiated Price Item with the DCS manufacturer Emerson. The associated estimated amount is \$943,604.00.**

The Bidder to whom the Contract is awarded must be prepared to comply with the requirements of the Affirmative Action Ordinance Revised Appendix D during the life of the Contract. Should you have questions concerning the utilization goals of this Contract, please contact the Diversity Office at (312) 751-4035.

Contractor shall not pay less than the prevailing rates of wages to all laborers, workmen, and mechanics performing work under this Contract, and shall comply with the requirements of the Illinois Wages of Employees on Public Works Act (820 ILCS 130/1-12).

Any contract or contracts awarded under this invitation for bids are expected to be funded in part by a loan from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). Neither the State of Illinois nor any of its departments, agencies, or employees is or will be a party to this invitation for bids or any resulting contract. The procurement will be subject to regulations contained in the Procedures for Issuing Loans from the Water Pollution Control Loan Program (35 IAC Part 365), the Davis-Bacon Act (40 USC 276a through 276a-5) as defined by the United States Department of Labor, the Employment of Illinois Workers on Public Works Act (30 ILCS 570), Illinois Works Jobs Program Act (30 ILCS 559/20-1), and the "Use of American Iron and Steel" requirements as contained in Section 436 of H.R. 3547, The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014. This procurement is also subject to the loan recipient's policy regarding the increased use of disadvantaged business enterprises. The loan recipient's policy requires all bidders to undertake specified affirmative efforts at least sixteen (16) days prior to bid opening. The policy is contained in the specifications. Bidders are also required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended. The requirements for bidders and contractors under this order are explained in 41 CFR 60-4.

Federal Regulations regarding labor standards, the Copeland Anti-Kickback Act, equal employment opportunity and access to work shall be in effect. These regulations appear in Appendices B and I in the Contract Documents and form a part thereof. The Bidder must execute Grant Forms Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 in the appropriate place in Appendix B as part of the Proposal. **Any Proposal submitted without being accompanied by the executed Grant Forms Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be rejected as non-responsive.** The Bidder shall specifically take note of Section 7, "Certification," of Appendix I regarding non-collusion requirements, and shall comply with same.

Bidding documents are only available online, and all addenda issued for this Contract will be available online at the District's website, www.mwrd.org. The path is as follows: Doing Business→Procurement and Materials Management→Contract Announcements. A copy of such addenda will also be emailed/faxed to each person which downloads a set of such contract documents.

Bidders should read page R-2, Paragraph 6, regarding questions on this Contract.

Any potential Bidder with questions regarding the meaning of any part of the specifications or other bidding documents should submit such inquiries online at the District's website, www.mwrd.org, **The path is as follows: Doing Business→Procurement and Materials Management→Contract Announcements**. The District will provide an online response to such inquiries, as the District deems appropriate. Strings of appropriate questions and answers regarding the bidding documents will be available online on the District's website until the bid opening date of the bidding documents. No questions will be accepted by telephone, fax, email, mail, or any other such form of delivery.

The District does not guarantee the timeliness of responses provided online, nor does the District guarantee that such responses will be provided in adequate time to affect the submission of bids. The District shall provide responses online ONLY if the responses do not interpret or otherwise change the bidding documents.

The District's responses online are NOT official responses and, therefore, are not binding to the bidding documents. Any official interpretation or change to the bidding documents will be made only by addenda duly emailed to all plan holders on record by the Director of Procurement and Materials Management.

The District will only respond to questions received online UP TO ONE WEEK prior to the bid opening date of the bidding documents. The District will not respond to questions received after this date.

The Project Manager for this Contract is Dr. Junli Bai. This Project Manager will provide online responses to online inquiries.

The Contact person for site visits is Mr. Brian Hines at HinesB@mwrd.org (Preferred) / (708) 588-3624 (Office) / (312) 402-4848 (Office Cell).

All Contracts for the Construction of Public Works are subject to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/.01 et.seq.).

The Contract will be awarded to the lowest responsible, responsive bidder, unless all bids are rejected.

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
of Greater Chicago

By _____
Darlene A. LoCascio
Director of Procurement and Materials Management

Chicago, Illinois
August 23, 2023