



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GLOBAL CAMPUS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL 92317 BRANDED MERCHANDISE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

ISSUE DATE: JULY 7, 2026

UPDATED

SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES	TIME	DATE
Last Day for Questions	11:00 AM ET	07/16/2026
Technical Proposal Due Date	11:00 AM ET	07/29/2026
Oral Presentation/Discussion Date	TBD	<i>Anticipated 08/18–21/2026</i>
Price Proposal Due Date	11:00 AM ET	<i>Anticipated 08/28/2026</i>

NOTICE: Prospective Offerors who have received this document from a source other than the Issuing Office should immediately contact the Primary Procurement Officer and provide their name and email address in order to ensure that amendments to the Request for Proposal or other communications can be sent to them. Any Prospective Offeror who fails to provide the Issuing Office with this information assumes complete responsibility in the event that they do not receive communications from the Issuing Office prior to the closing date. It is the responsibility of the Prospective Offeror to monitor eMMA for updates to advertised Solicitations.

University of Maryland Global Campus
3501 University Boulevard East
Adelphi, Maryland 20783
<https://www.umgc.edu/>

eMaryland Marketplace Advantage (eMMA)
<https://emma.maryland.gov/>

SOLICITATION SCHEDULE

RFP 92317

Issue Date:	July 7, 2026
Last Day for Questions:	July 16, 2026, 11:00 AM ET
Technical Proposal Due Date:	July 29, 2026, 11:00 AM ET
Oral Presentation/Discussion Session(s):	August 18–21, 2026*
Price Proposal Due Date:	August 28, 2026*, 11:00 AM ET
Contractor(s) Selection Anticipated to be Finalized:	September 16 – 30, 2026*
Agreement Executed by Selected Contractor(s):	September 30, 2026*
Contract Commencement:	October 1, 2026*
	<i>*Anticipated.</i>

**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GLOBAL CAMPUS
RFP 92317**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
	Solicitation Schedule
Section I	General Information (Instructions to Offerors)
Section II	Scope of Work
Section III	Procurement Phases and Evaluation Process
APPENDIX A	Technical Proposal Forms
1.	Firm References
2.	Proposal Affidavit
3.	Acknowledgement of Receipt of Addenda
APPENDIX B	Price Proposal Forms
1.	Price Proposal Forms
2.	Living Wage Requirements, and Living Wage Affidavit
APPENDIX C	Contract Forms
1.	Sample Contract
2.	Contract Affidavit
APPENDIX D	Electronic Fund Transfer Schedule
APPENDIX M	Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Information and Forms
APPENDIX S	Solicitation Terms and Conditions

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR BRANDED MERCHANDISE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

SECTION I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Summary.

- 1.1. Solicitation:** The intent of this Request for Proposals (“RFP” or “Solicitation”) is to provide branded merchandise management firms an opportunity to present their qualifications, experience, and conceptual approach to providing the scope of services in relation to the needs of UMGC. Proposals that concisely present the information requested in the order and manner requested will be considered more favorably than a Proposal (“Proposal” or “Offer”) from an Offeror of commensurate qualifications that displays a lack of organization, conciseness, or attention to detail.
- 1.2. Procurement Regulations:** This RFP shall be conducted in accordance with USM Procurement Policies and Procedures. The procurement method is Competitive Sealed Proposals. The text of the Policies and Procedures is available at <http://www.usmd.edu/regents/bylaws/SectionVIII/VIII300.html>.
- 1.3. Background:** Go to <http://www.umgc.edu/visitors/about/> for a profile of the University.

2. Issuing Office.

2.1. Issuing Office:

University of Maryland Global Campus
Office of Procurement Services
3501 University Blvd. East
Adelphi, MD 20783

Primary Procurement Officer:

Lisa Dillard, Assistant Director, Goods & Services Procurement
lisa.dillard@umgc.edu

Secondary Procurement Officer:

Eric Pfister, Director, Procurement
eric.pfister@umgc.edu

- 2.2.** The Procurement Officer(s) shall be the point(s) of contact with the University for purposes of the preparation and submittal of proposals in response to this solicitation.

3. Questions and Inquiries.

All questions and inquiries regarding this procurement must be directed to the individual(s) referenced with the Issuing Office above. Questions must be submitted in writing via email to lisa.dillard@umgc.edu and eric.pfister@umgc.edu. Inquiries will receive a written reply. Copies of replies will be sent to all other Offerors, but without identification of the Inquirer. All such questions and inquiries must be received by the date and time as listed on the Cover and the Solicitation Schedule of this RFP.

4. Pre-Proposal Meeting.

N/A.

5. Proposal Closing Date/Due Date and Time.

- 5.1. Technical Proposal:** Technical Proposals must be uploaded electronically at the UMGC Bid Locker link provided below no later than the date and time indicated in the Solicitation Schedule. **File names for the Technical Proposal documents are to include the RFP number and the Proposer's name. NO PRICING INFORMATION** is to be provided in the Technical Proposal.

Bid Locker link for Technical Proposal upload:
https://bidlocker.us/details/6268_Umgc_Rfp_92317_Branded_Merchandise_Management_Services

Proposers must be registered on Bid Locker prior to uploading proposals.

To register* for a Bid Locker account, go to:

<https://bidlocker.us/Account/Signup/UMGC>.

Should you encounter any issues during account set-up or require additional assistance with Bid Locker, please reach out to Bid Locker directly at help@bidlocker.us or 267-225-1407. (*DO NOT wait until the due date for Proposals to sign up for an account; sign up as soon as possible.)

The University advises Proposers to allocate an adequate amount of time to create a Bid Locker account prior to any submission due date. It is also advisable to familiarize yourself with the Bid Locker site and the upload features and functionality related to uploading documents.

Proposers shall allow sufficient time in uploading the Technical Proposal to ensure timely receipt by the Issuing Office via the Bid Locker site. **Upon successful submission, Proposers may download a submission receipt on Bid Locker. Proposers will also receive an email confirmation within a few minutes from Bid Locker.** Proposers that do not receive confirmation should immediately notify the Issuing Office, and contact Bid Locker at help@bidlocker.us or 267-225-1407 to confirm that their Proposal has been received. **Proposers will not be able to upload Proposals after the due date and time, and late Proposals will not be considered.**

If any pricing information is included in the Technical Proposal, the Proposal may be deemed non-responsive by the Issuing Office. Hyperlinks to software products

that indicate that the Technical Proposal is posted by the Proposer on an electronic site may be rejected or be considered non-responsive if a "Click-Through Agreement" is required to be accepted by UMGC in order to download the Technical Proposal.

By providing the Technical Proposal electronically to UMGC, the Proposer grants UMGC an unlimited right to generate additional electronic and/or paper copies for distribution solely for the purpose of evaluation and review.

5.2. Price Proposal: Price Proposals will be requested at the appropriate time via addendum to all applicable shortlisted firms.

5.3. Proposals should be provided in accordance with the Solicitation Schedule. Late Proposal submissions will not be accepted.

5.4. Neither Technical nor Price Proposals will be opened publicly. The identity of Offerors will not be disclosed prior to the Contract Award.

5.5. The Technical Proposal and/or Price Proposal, either individually or collectively, is considered by UMGC to be an Offer.

6. Minority Business Enterprises.

Minority participation is important to UMGC and the State of Maryland. State-certified Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) are strongly encouraged to respond to this solicitation notice. If not certified by the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), MBEs are encouraged to initiate certification as soon as possible. For more information on the State's MBE program or questions related to certification, please contact MDOT's Office of Minority Business Enterprise/Equal Opportunity, telephone 800-544-6055 or view the MDOT website: <http://www.mdot.state.md.us/mbe/index.html>.

An MBE subcontracting goal of no less than 3% of the total overall contract(s) value is established for this solicitation. This subcontracting goal will become part of the contract. It is imperative that awarded firms follow the MBE guidelines for subcontracting requirements. If an MBE prime is awarded the contract, this MBE subcontracting goal will still apply. MBE Attachment A-2 – MBE Utilization and Fair Solicitation Affidavit (attached in Appendix M to the RFP) MUST be completed and included in the Initial Technical Proposal. Per Maryland law, if MBE Attachment A-2 is NOT provided, the Procurement Officer SHALL deem the proposal not susceptible of the award. This is non-curable.

At the time Price Proposals are received from the shortlisted firms, Attachment A-3 – MBE Participation Schedule forms will be required to be submitted. See Appendix B – Price Proposal Forms and Appendix M – MBE Regulations, Compliance, and Forms for further information.

7. Acceptance of Terms and Conditions.

By submitting a Proposal, an Offeror shall be deemed to have accepted the terms, conditions, and requirements set forth in this RFP. The RFP including all addenda in total shall be incorporated into the Contract by reference.

8. Contractual Agreement and Term.

Any Contract arising from this RFP action shall commence on the date the Contract is executed on behalf of UMGC, or such other date as UMGC and the Contractor shall agree. The Contract shall be in effect for one year, with an anticipated start date on or about September 1, 2026, unless otherwise extended, expired, or terminated pursuant to this Contract. There are five (5), one-year renewal options at UMGC's sole option.

9. Confidentiality of UMGC's and Offeror's Information.

Refer to Appendix S for the terms of confidentiality of UMGC's and Offeror's information.

10. Post-Award Confidentiality.

Refer to Appendix C for the confidentiality obligations of awardees and UMGC.

SECTION II. SCOPE OF WORK

1. Purpose / Description.

The University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) seeks qualified firms to provide Branded Merchandise Management Services in support of the Office of Marketing. Services include the end-to-end management of branded merchandise programs, including product sourcing, e-commerce site ("Gear Site") management, fulfillment, and on-site retail operations during commencement events ("Grad Walk").

UMGC is seeking a partner(s) capable of delivering a cohesive, customer-focused merchandise program that enhances the overall brand experience for students, alumni, faculty, and staff. The selected contractor(s) will be responsible for providing well-defined, scalable solutions that support both ongoing merchandise needs and event-based sales.

Offerors are expected to demonstrate clear and detailed approaches to program execution.

UMGC may issue multiple awards under this solicitation. Awards may be made for one or both programs. UMGc prefers solutions that provide a cohesive, end-to-end approach across both programs to ensure a consistent user experience, operational efficiency, and overall program value.

2. Programs.

UMGC is seeking an Offeror that provides a cohesive, end-to-end approach across both programs to ensure consistent user experience, operational efficiency, and overall program value. Offeror shall respond to both programs as part of their Technical Proposal:

1. **Branded Merchandise** (Faculty and Staff Ordering)
2. **Gear Site & Grad Walk Pop-Up Operations**

UMGC reserves the right to issue one, multiple, or no award, as deemed in its own best interest.

Single-Link Requirement

Contractor(s) must support a single internet link that routes users to two buying paths:

- an internal ordering experience for UMGc faculty and staff (SSO enabled), and
- a public-facing storefront for students, alumni, and external customers.

3. General Program Management Requirements (All Programs).

Contractor(s) shall provide end-to-end management and support for the program(s) awarded, including program oversight, customer service, product sourcing, fulfillment, and reporting.

Contractor(s) shall serve as the primary point of accountability for program execution and must demonstrate the ability to manage all aspects of the merchandise lifecycle from product selection through delivery and post-sale support.

In order to accomplish these objectives, the selected partner(s) may be requested to:

- Provide high quality, cost-effective products supported by responsive customer service;
- Support agreed-upon turnaround times while maintaining ethical labor standards;
- Coordinate delivery and distribution of materials, including artwork, proofs, and finished products, as needed; and
- Provide e-commerce capabilities, including hosted and integrated ordering solutions.

At a minimum, Contractor(s) shall:

- Provide dedicated program management and responsive customer service support;
- Manage product sourcing, vendor coordination, and quality control;
- Ensure compliance with UMGC brand standards, logo usage, and approval processes as defined in Attachment A (Logo) and Attachment B (Brand Identity Guide);
- Support ordering processes and user experience across applicable platforms;
- Manage fulfillment, shipping/logistics, returns, and issue resolution;
- Provide accurate, timely, and actionable reporting on program performance;
- Support implementation, onboarding, and ongoing operational coordination;
- Propose and manage a scalable inventory strategy, as applicable; and
- Coordinate with UMGC stakeholders to support consistent program execution.

Offerors must demonstrate the ability to support these requirements throughout the contract term.

4. Program 1 – Branded Merchandise (Faculty and Staff Ordering)

4.1. Overview

Contractor(s) shall fulfill approved branded apparel and promotional product orders for UMGC faculty and staff. Some items may require inventory, while others may be produced on demand. Contractor(s) shall support ordering through UMGC-designated platforms and workflows.

Historical sales for faculty and staff ordering were approximately:

- \$291,277 in 2024,
- \$408,205 in 2025, and
- \$227,008 through May 2026.

These figures are provided for planning purposes only and do not represent any guarantee future of sales volumes.

4.2. Contractor Responsibilities

In addition to the General Program Management Requirements, Contractor responsibilities specific to the Branded Merchandise program include:

- Managing inventory for bulk-purchased branded merchandise;
- Overseeing minimum-order requirements;
- Coordinating UMGC brand/logo approval processes;
- Maintaining preferred ordering workflows for faculty and staff;
- Ensuring accurate and timely fulfillment of internal orders; and

- Providing any additional support necessary for a consistent, UMGC-approved branded merchandise program.

5. Program 2 – Gear Site & Grad Walk Pop-Up Operations

5.1. Overview

Contractor(s) shall manage the UMGC Gear Site (public-facing e-commerce site) and on-site retail operations during Grad Walk. The Gear Site will serve both external customers and internal users through the single-link requirement.

Contractor(s) shall be responsible for delivering a cohesive and engaging retail experience across both digital and on-site environments, transforming branded merchandise from a transactional purchase into a meaningful extension of the UMGC brand experience.

Contractor(s) shall be responsible for providing a PCI-compliant process that fully adheres to Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) standards as applicable.

For reference, UMGC's current Gear Site can be accessed at: <https://gear.umgc.edu/>. This is provided for informational purposes only and does not limit or define the expected solution.

Historical sales for the Gear Site were approximately:

- \$124,423 in 2024,
- \$134,000 in 2025, and
- \$73,293 through May 2026.

Historical sales for Grad Walk were approximately:

- \$94,010 in 2024,
- \$109,967 in 2025, and
- \$57,083 in May 2026.

Historical Grad Walk attendance were as follows:

- 2024
 - Spring: 2,067 graduates, 13,283 guests, and 262 faculty/staff
 - Winter: 2,368 graduates, 15,197 guests, and 194 staff
- 2025
 - Spring: 2,419 graduates, 22,985 guests, and 339 faculty/staff
 - Winter: 2,680 graduates, 15,960 guests, and 223 faculty/staff

These figures are provided to illustrate the overall scale of the combined retail program across both digital and event-based channels. The noted figures do not guarantee future sales volumes.

5.2. Gear Site Responsibilities

In addition to the General Program Management Requirements, Contractor responsibilities specific to the Gear Site include:

- Hosting, managing, and maintaining the Gear Site;

- Delivering a best-in-class user experience including user-friendly and visually engaging online shopping experience, intuitive navigation, product merchandising, and streamlined checkout;
- Providing a fully functional, contemporary retail-quality e-commerce experience;
- Managing customer service for students, alumni, faculty, staff, and external customers;
- Coordinating order fulfillment, shipping, returns, and issue resolution;
- Providing visibility into product availability, versioning (colors, sizes, branding, etc.,) pricing that remains competitive with market standards, and delivery timelines;
- Supporting integration with UMGC systems, including SSO for internal users;
- Providing analytics reporting on site performance, sales activity, and product trends; and
- Providing a wide range of stylish, in-demand products at competitive price points to ensure increased sales volume in meeting the growing needs of UMGC constituents.

5.3. Grad Walk Pop-Up Store

Contractor(s) shall have primary responsibility for end-to-end on-site retail operations during Grad Walk.

Contractor(s) shall manage all aspects of pre-event planning and on-site execution, ensuring a well-organized, efficient, and engaging customer experience during focused high-volume event periods.

Responsibilities include:

- Planning, sourcing, and managing inventory to support both online and on-site sales;
- Creating an on-site interactive shopping experience that reflects UMGC brand standards, incorporates competitive pricing, and drives patron engagement and increased sales;
- Preparing merchandise for sale, including labeling, packaging, and organization to support efficient shopping and transactions;
- Designing and executing merchandising and layout strategies that support customer flow, product visibility, and an intuitive shopping experience;
- Providing and managing point-of-sale (POS) systems capable of supporting cash and electronic payment methods;
- Managing on-site operations, including set-up, active sales support, and breakdown;
- Staffing and overseeing retail operations, including training UMGC staff and ensuring consistent execution;
- Monitoring inventory levels throughout the event and replenishing as needed; and
- Performing post-event reconciliation, including inventory counts and sales reporting.

5.3.1. Event Planning Information – Winter 2026 Grad Walk

The first event requiring pop-up store support under this contract is the Winter 2026 Grad Walk, scheduled at the College Park Marriott & Conference Center, Adelphi, Maryland, and will typically include an approximately 640-square-foot retail footprint, on the following dates and approximate hours:

- Thursday, December 10, 2026 – 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM
- Friday, December 11, 2026 – 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM
- Saturday, December 12, 2026 – 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM
- Sunday, December 13, 2026 – 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM

These dates and times are provided for planning and proposal purposes only. UMGC will confirm final schedules for all future Grad Walk events annually. Dates and times are subject to change.

5.4. Financial Responsibility (Grad Walk)

Contractor(s) shall be financially responsible for procuring merchandise, transporting inventory, and staffing and operating on-site sales.

Revenue from online and Grad Walk sales shall be shared between UMGC and the Contractor, with UMGC receiving a percentage of gross sales (i.e., total sales revenue before deduction of costs of goods, shipping, fees, or other expenses). The specific revenue-share percentage and payment structure (including payment frequency and reporting requirements) shall be proposed by the Offeror as part of its pricing and business model and are subject to UMGC approval prior to award, including any performance-based pricing models, such as fee waivers tied to sales volume or revenue thresholds.

5.5. Inventory Commitment (Gear Site and Grad Walk)

UMGC may consider limited inventory investment or other financial support mechanisms as part of final contract negotiations, based on the proposed pricing, service model, and overall value to the University.

5.6. Inventory vs. On-Demand Production

UMGC prefers most products be produced on demand for cost efficiency; however, certain items may require inventory due to production minimums or event demand. Contractor(s) shall propose and maintain an inventory strategy that balances service levels, lead times, and cost efficiency.

5.7. Representative Best-Selling Items

Offerors shall propose recommended product assortments based on their experience and comparable programs, identifying key items expected to perform well.

6. Deliverables & Reporting (All Programs)

Contractor(s) shall provide deliverables and reporting to support ongoing program visibility, performance tracking, and operational effectiveness.

At a minimum, Contractor(s) shall:

- Provide an implementation plan and timeline for program onboarding and launch;

- Provide documented processes for ordering, fulfillment, and customer support;
- Provide an inventory strategy outlining on-demand and stocked approaches, as applicable;
- Provide a proposed schedule for on demand product delivery by category;
- Provide an event operations plan for Grad Walk pop-up operations;
- Provide schematic design for the proposed Grad Walk pop-up experience;
- Provide regular reporting on sales performance, inventory levels, and order activity;
- Provide reporting on product performance, including top-selling items and trends;
- Provide reporting on order accuracy, fulfillment timelines, returns, and issue resolution; and
- Propose and provide key performance indicators (KPIs) aligned to program objectives.

7. Standards & Compliance

Contractor(s) shall comply with all applicable UMGC policies, standards, and requirements in the performance of services under this solicitation.

At a minimum, Contractor(s) shall:

- Comply with UMGC brand standards as defined in Attachment A (Logo) and Attachment B (Brand Identity Guide);
- Ensure compatibility with UMGC systems and requirements, including support for single sign-on (SSO) where applicable;
- Comply with UMGC data protection, privacy, and information security requirements for any hosted systems;
- Provide a completed Higher Education Community Vendor Assessment Tool (HECVAT) upon request and, if available, a current SOC 2 Type II report (or equivalent third-party security certification); and
- Ensure the Gear Site complies with applicable accessibility requirements, including Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act and WCAG 2.1 AA standards (or latest version).

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SECTION III. PROCUREMENT PHASES AND EVALUATION PROCESS

ARTICLE 1. TECHNICAL PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

1. General Requirements.

- 1.1. Transmittal Letter:** A transmittal letter from the Offeror must accompany the Technical Proposal. The letter should be an executive summary that clearly and concisely summarizes the content of the Technical Proposal. The letter must be signed by an individual who is authorized to bind the firm to all statements, including services and financial statements, contained in the Proposal. (See 1.2 below.) Include the Offeror's official business address and state in which it is incorporated or organized (if Offeror is not an individual). An appropriate contact name, title, phone number, and email address should also be provided for UMGC's use during the procurement process. Do not include price information in the transmittal letter.
- 1.2. Signing of Forms:** A Proposal, if submitted by an individual, shall be signed by the individual. If submitted by a partnership, a Proposal shall be signed by such member(s) of the partnership with authority to bind the partnership. If submitted by a corporation, a Proposal shall be signed by an officer, and attested by the corporate secretary or an assistant corporate secretary; if not signed by an officer, there must be attached a copy of a board resolution or that portion of the by-laws, duly certified by the corporate secretary, showing the authority of the person so signing on behalf of the corporation.
- 1.3. Confidentiality of Proposal Submissions:** Offerors shall provide only materials that can be shared without a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) as part of their Proposal submission. If certain materials require an NDA, Offerors must clearly identify such materials and provide alternative, non-confidential examples or descriptions suitable for evaluation purposes. Technical Proposals should be sufficiently detailed and self-contained to permit a complete evaluation by UMGC.

UMGC does not anticipate executing NDAs during the Proposal submission and evaluation phase of this Solicitation; however, UMGC may, at its discretion, determine whether additional confidentiality protections are appropriate at a later stage of the procurement process.

2. Initial Technical Criteria.

Clear, concise, yet detailed responses to the technical criteria below are to be provided in the Technical Proposal. In addition, the Bid/Proposal Affidavit and Acknowledgement of Receipt of Addenda (if applicable) must be included. Standard sales material may be provided but must be attached as an appendix rather than included within the body of the Proposal. Offerors must paginate the Technical Proposal and are requested to separate their responses to each of the technical criteria.

The following information must be furnished in the Technical Proposal per this solicitation, as more fully described below in items 2.1 through 2.10. Failure to include any of the

items listed below may disqualify your firm's response. The Technical Criteria, items 2.1 through 2.10, are listed below in order of importance. Offerors are requested to compile their Proposals in the same order. It is the Offeror's responsibility to tailor its response to demonstrate its qualifications to perform the scope of work specifically for UMGC.

Technical Proposal Requirements:

2.1. Proposed Program(s):

UMGC is seeking Offeror(s) capable of providing a cohesive, end-to-end approach across both programs to ensure a consistent user experience, operational efficiency, and overall program value.

Offerors shall clearly indicate which program(s) they are proposing to support:

- Program 1 – Branded Merchandise (Faculty and Staff Ordering)
- Program 2 – Gear Site & Grad Walk Pop-Up Operations

Offerors are encouraged to propose solutions that support both programs.

Responses to the Technical Proposal Requirements that follow shall align with the program(s) proposed.

2.2. Products/Services:

Describe the Offeror's ability to provide Branded Merchandise Management Services as outlined in Section II. Scope of Work. The response must clearly demonstrate the Offeror's ability to deliver a fully functional, end-to-end solution consistent with the Scope of Work, and shall include:

2.2.1 Merchandise & Sourcing

The Offeror's capabilities in sourcing, producing, and delivering branded merchandise—including, but not limited to, apparel, drinkware, bags, office items, and promotional products—consistent with UMGC brand requirements as defined in Attachment A (Logo) and Attachment B (Brand Identity Guide);

2.2.2 Inventory & Fulfillment

- A. The Offeror's ability to support both inventoried and on-demand production models and to manage minimum-order requirements, as applicable;
- B. The Offeror's ability to support ship-to-home orders, perform order fulfillment, and manage shipping logistics as outlined in the Scope of Work;

2.2.3 Digital Commerce (Gear Site)

Capabilities in managing a public-facing, retail-quality e-commerce Gear Site, including catalog presentation, product information, navigation, order tracking, secure checkout, customer service, and ongoing maintenance;

2.2.4 Event-Based Retail

Experience supporting event-based retail operations or multi-day pop-up environments of similar scale and complexity;

2.2.5 Program Management & Support

Capabilities in providing program management and customer service support for internal UMGC users, students, alumni, and external customers;

2.2.6 Experience & Case Studies

Provide at least two (2) relevant case studies within the past five (5) years demonstrating experience delivering similar programs aligned to the program(s) proposed.

Each case study shall include:

- A. A brief overview of the client and duration of the relationship;
- B. The scope and objectives of the program;
- C. A description of the solution implemented, including e-commerce, merchandising, and/or event-based retail operations, as applicable;
- D. Operational approach, including inventory, fulfillment, and/or on-site execution;
- E. Scale of the program (e.g., sales volume, SKU count, event size, or user base); and
- F. Outcomes or performance results, including any available metrics or KPIs;

2.2.7 Compliance

The selected Contractor(s) shall provide a completed HECVAT and, if available, SOC 2 Type 2 report upon request during the award process.

2.3. Methodologies/Approach:

Describe the Offeror's methodology and approach to delivering the Branded Merchandise Management Services described in Section II. Scope of Work. The response shall address:

2.3.1 Operational Approach

- A. The Offeror's process for managing merchandise sourcing, product approval workflows, quality assurance, and brand-compliance checks;
- B. Proposed inventory strategy, including the balance between on-demand production and stocked inventory, and how minimum production requirements will be managed;
- C. Fulfillment processes, including order accuracy, shipping timelines, customer communication, and returns handling;

2.3.2 Digital Experience (Gear Site)

- A. Implementation and onboarding approach, including the timeline for launch of the Gear Site and internal ordering workflows;
- B. The Offeror's approach to maintaining the Gear Site, including catalog updates, asset management, storefront usability, and ADA-aligned presentation;
- C. Approach to supporting the single-link requirement, SSO routing, and integration with internal systems for faculty and staff ordering;

- D. The Offeror's capability to support punchout catalog integration with enterprise systems (e.g., Workday), if available;
- E. Marketing support for promoting the Gear Site and branded merchandise in coordination with UMGC Communications;

2.3.3 Grad Walk

- A. Operational approach for Grad Walk pop-up retail operations, including inventory forecasting, staffing, merchandising, POS setup, daily operations, and reconciliation;
- B. The Offeror's plan to support Grad Walk events as outlined in Section II;
- C. Details on the proposed merchandising and operational approach, including inventory assortment, estimated SKU count and quantities, and overall approach to supporting high-volume retail environments;

2.3.4 Reporting & Risk Management

- A. Reporting approach, including sales reports, inventory status, analytics, and clearly defined Key Performance Indicators (KPIs);
- B. Sample reports or dashboards demonstrating sales analytics, inventory tracking, and program performance (if available);
- C. Contingency plans for inventory shortages, supply chain disruptions, system outages, or event-day operational issues;

Responses must include sufficient detail to demonstrate how the proposed approach will be implemented in practice; high-level or conceptual responses may be evaluated as non-responsive.

2.4. Staffing Organization and Proposed Key Personnel Qualifications:

Provide evidence of adequate and appropriate staffing resources available to service UMGC's account if awarded a Contract under this Solicitation. Resumes detailing Key Personnel who may be assigned to UMGC shall be provided. Resumes shall include employment history with the Offeror and previous employment in branded merchandise management, retail operations, e-commerce services, or similar programs.

Resumes shall be provided for:

- A. An Account Representative who will be the primary contact for the University;
- B. A Management Supervisor who is responsible for the overall performance of the firm and the first point of escalation; and
- C. Key Personnel that will be assigned to managing the on-site Grad Walk pop-up experience bi-annually in May and December.

2.5. Firm References:

Provide a minimum of three (3) client references for whom the Offeror has provided branded merchandise management, public-facing online storefront operations, or event-based retail services similar in scope and scale to those described in the Scope of Work within the past five (5) years. References shall be provided using the form in Appendix A. UMGC may use itself as a reference.

2.6. Special/Unique Qualifications:

Describe any special or unique qualifications, capabilities, or value-added services that distinguish your firm's ability to provide branded merchandise management services to UMGC.

2.7. Proposal Affidavit:

Complete and sign the Proposal Affidavit enclosed in Appendix A and enclose it with the Technical Proposal.

2.8. Insurance:

Provide an electronic copy of a Certificate of Insurance verifying your firm's Coverage for Commercial General Liability, Workmen's Compensation, and Professional Liability. Amounts should match the Sample Contract in Appendix C.

2.9. Acknowledgement of Receipt of Addenda Form:

If any addenda to the RFP documents are issued prior to the due date and time for Proposals, this form (found in Appendix A) must be completed, signed, and included in the Offeror's Technical Proposal.

2.10. Acknowledgement of Review of Contract:

The UMGC Contract for this Procurement will contain the provisions in Appendix C as well as any additional terms required by the University of the State of Maryland. By submitting a Proposal, the Offeror warrants that they have reviewed Appendix C and will execute a contract: a) in substantially the same form; and b) with these terms and conditions upon request by UMGC. For accounting purposes only, UMGC will also issue a purchase order to the awarded Contractor.

2.11. MBE Utilization and Fair Solicitation Affidavit:

Complete and sign Attachment D-1A (Part 2) – MBE Utilization and Fair Solicitation Affidavit enclosed in Appendix M and enclose with the Technical Proposal.

3. Modifications of Technical Proposal.

Offerors may modify their Technical Proposals and submit them to the Technical Proposal Bid Locker address provided in the solicitation at any time prior to the due date and time. Offerors must email written confirmation of the modification, including the signature of the Offeror, to the Issuing Office prior to the Proposal due date and time. Technical Proposals may not be modified, supplemented, cured, or changed in any way after the due date and time, unless specifically requested by the University.

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SECTION III. PROCUREMENT PHASES AND EVALUATION PROCESS

ARTICLE 2. TECHNICAL EVALUATION PROCESS

1. Qualifying Proposals.

- 1.1. Procurement Officer Review.** The Procurement Officer shall first review each Technical Proposal for compliance with the mandatory requirements of this RFP (i.e., susceptibility of award). Failure to comply with any mandatory requirement will normally disqualify a Proposal. The University reserves the right to waive a mandatory requirement when it is in its best interest to do so and when permitted by law.
- 1.2. Evaluation and Selection Committee.** All Qualifying Proposals will be reviewed by a UMGC Evaluation and Selection Committee (the “Committee”) established by the Procurement Officer. As the procurement progresses, the Committee may seek input from other appropriate UMGC staff or request additional technical assistance from any other source.

2. Technical Evaluation of Qualifying Proposals.

- 2.1. Initial Technical Evaluation.** Following the Procurement Officer’s qualifying review, the Committee shall conduct its evaluation of the technical merit of the Proposals in accordance with the Evaluation Criteria listed in Article 1, § 2, above. Minor irregularities contained in Proposals, which are immaterial or inconsequential in nature, may be waived wherever it is determined to be in the University’s best interest and when permitted by law. The decision for progressing in the procurement process will be made based on the strengths, weaknesses, advantages, and deficiencies that the Technical Proposals represent.
- 2.2. Shortlisting.** In accordance with the Evaluation Criteria set forth in Article 1, § 2, a shortlist may be developed based on the Initial Technical Evaluation results. All Offerors will be notified of the results as they pertain to their respective Technical Proposal.

3. Oral Presentations/Discussion Sessions.

- 3.1. Purpose.** Based on the Evaluation Committee’s Initial Technical Evaluation, the University may invite, without cost to itself, the shortlisted Offerors to an virtual presentation/discussion session (“Discussion Session”). The purposes of the Discussion Session are as follows:
- (i) To provide the Offeror the opportunity to demonstrate its product;
 - (ii) To discuss/clarify any and all aspects of the Technical Proposal, in particular the proposed product, cost model options, approach/methodologies, implementation process, schedule, staffing of the contract, and ongoing support of the product and other applicable professional services;

- (iii) To allow the University to meet the Offeror's key personnel and for these personnel to convey directly their experience and expertise in the proposed product and its implementation; and
- (iv) To provide an opportunity to clarify the scope of services for the intended contract and discuss any items addressed in the Technical Proposal that may require additional clarification.

3.2. Format. The Discussion Session will be informal, as the University is not interested in a sales presentation by executives and business development staff. It is important that those key personnel who are proposed to be assigned to the University fully participate in the presentation and discussion. Ample time will be available for the University and the Offeror to ask questions and discuss issues and concerns related to the services, the scope of the services, and the Offeror's capabilities and qualifications. We anticipate that the Discussion Session will be approximately 60 minutes in length.

Each shortlisted Offeror will be required to have key personnel attend the virtual session. Following the Discussion Session, additional follow-up and/or clarification documentation may be requested of each Offeror.

3.3. Date. The times and dates for the Discussion Session(s) will be set upon completion of the Initial Technical Evaluation; however, it is anticipated that the Discussion Session(s) will be conducted on the times and dates listed per the Solicitation Schedule, as well as on the cover of this RFP. Offerors are therefore advised to set this(ese) date(s) aside in its (their) entirety on the calendars of the appropriate key personnel.

4. Second Phase Technical Evaluation.

4.1. Criteria. Following the Discussion Session held with shortlisted Offerors, a Second Phase Technical Evaluation will be conducted. The Evaluation Committee will re-evaluate all criteria of the Technical Proposals of shortlisted Offerors, incorporating assessments of the Discussion Session and outcomes of reference checks. The University reserves the right to make a determination that an Offeror is not shortlisted prior to completing reference checks. The order of Evaluation Criteria remains the same.

4.2. Process. Further shortlists may result as the procurement progresses. At each phase of the process, those firms that do not remain shortlisted will not progress in the procurement. All Offerors will be notified of the results of the Technical Evaluation as they pertain to their respective Technical Proposals. It is UMGC's intent to incorporate references prior to establishing the final shortlist of proposals. Once a final shortlist of proposals is established, the Committee will rank the remaining Technical Proposals from highest to lowest.

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SECTION III PROCUREMENT PHASES AND EVALUATION PROCESS

ARTICLE 3. PRICE PROPOSALS

1. Submission.

Price Proposals will be requested at the appropriate time via addendum to all applicable shortlisted firms.

2. Content.

Refer to Appendix B for Price Proposal Information.

If applicable, hourly rates will be requested for the assigned personnel and other professional services positions. These quoted hourly rates must be good for the first year of the Contract. The University will consider adjustments to labor rates only based upon federal minimum wage increases, increases in Maryland Living Wage, and increases in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), as published by the Bureau of Labor Standards in February of the appropriate year (*i.e.*, for 7/1/24 renewal the University will look at the CPI published for February 2024, and so on). Requested increases above a 5% cap will not be considered. In order to receive consideration for a price increase, the Contractor must submit a request in writing to the UMGC Procurement Office sixty (60) days prior to the end of the initial term. The request must specify any change in the hourly labor rate wage to be paid to employees during the renewal term. The University will not consider late requests for adjustments to the hourly rate. Increases that are cumulative for prior years will not be considered; for example, if the Contractor does not request an increase for the first renewal year and then requests an increase for the second renewal year, the Contractor cannot include a cumulative amount which includes the first renewal year.

Upon approval by the University, any such modified hourly rate will constitute the labor cost figure for the contract renewal period. The University reserves the right to terminate the Contract at any time upon giving thirty (30) days written notice.

There are no reimbursables associated with this Contract. All expenses, including domestic travel, must be included in the Offeror's price for the implementation as well as in the hourly rates of the assigned personnel. (Or, if reimbursables are allowed [such as travel, printing of documents, etc.], describe them here.)

3. Evaluation.

Price Proposals will be evaluated based on the total cost of the products and/or services requested above. The University may elect to request Best and Final Price Proposals (BAFO's).

SECTION III PROCUREMENT PHASES AND EVALUATION PROCESS

ARTICLE 4. FINAL EVALUATION, RANKING AND SELECTION

1. Recommendation of Award or Further Discussions.

The Committee may recommend an Offeror for contract award(s) based upon the Offeror's Technical Proposal and Price Proposal without further discussion. However, should the Committee find that further discussion would benefit the University and the State of Maryland, the Committee may recommend such discussions to the Procurement Officer. Should the Procurement Officer determine that further discussion would be in the best interest of the University and the State, the Procurement Officer shall establish procedures and schedules for conducting discussions and will notify responsible Offerors.

2. Final Ranking and Selection.

2.1. Process. Following evaluation of the Technical Proposals and the Price Proposals (and Best and Final Offers, if applicable), the Evaluation and Selection Committee will make an initial overall ranking of the Proposals and recommend to the Procurement Officer the award of the contract(s) to the Offeror whose Proposal(s) is (are) determined to be the most advantageous to the University and the State of Maryland. The decision of the award(s) of the Contract will be made at the discretion of the Procurement Officer and will depend on the facts and circumstances of the procurement. All Offerors will be notified of the award(s) selection.

2.2. Basis for Award. Technical merit will have a greater weight than cost in the final ranking. Award may be made to the Offeror with a higher technical ranking even if its Price Proposal is not the lowest. The Procurement Officer retains the discretion to examine all factors to determine the award of the contract. The goal is to contract with the Offeror(s) that would best meet the needs of the University as set forth in the RFP.

2.3. Negotiations. The University may select for award one or more Offeror(s) to negotiate the terms and conditions of the Contract. The University reserves the right to make an award with or without negotiation.

3. Debriefing.

3.1. Request. Unsuccessful Offerors may request a debriefing. A request must be submitted in writing to the Procurement Officer within ten (10) days after the date on which Offeror knows, or should have known, that its Proposal was unsuccessful. Debriefings shall be conducted at the earliest feasible time.

3.2. Discussion. Debriefings shall be limited to discussion of the Offeror's Proposal only and shall not include a discussion of a competing Offeror's Proposal. The debriefing may include information on areas in which the unsuccessful Offeror's Proposal was deemed weak or insufficient. The debriefing may not include

discussion or dissemination of the thoughts, notes, or ranking from an individual Evaluation Committee Member.

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APPENDIX A

TECHNICAL PROPOSAL FORMS

NOTE: Refer to Section III, Article 1, for all required contents of the Technical Proposal. Completion of these forms in this Appendix A is NOT the complete contents required.

- 1. Firm References**
- 2. Proposal Affidavit**
- 3. Acknowledgement of Receipt of Addenda Form**

APPENDIX A

1. FIRM REFERENCES

Provide names, contacts, and telephone numbers of at least three (3) organizations/clients that you have had business with and is similar to UMGC's requirements **within the past five years**. These may be used for reference checks as well as evaluating experience. The University may use itself as a reference.

Reference 1	
Company Name:	
Contact Name:	
Contact Email:	
Contact Phone:	
Dates of Service (MM/YYYY – MM/YYYY):	
Description of Services Provided:	
If applicable, provide a link to an e-commerce storefront similar in scope to UMGC's Gear Site:	

Reference 2	
Company Name:	
Contact Name:	
Contact Email:	
Contact Phone:	
Dates of Service (MM/YYYY – MM/YYYY):	
Description of Services Provided:	
If applicable, provide a link to an e-commerce storefront similar in scope to UMGC's Gear Site:	

Reference 3	
Company Name:	
Contact Name:	
Contact Email:	
Contact Phone:	
Dates of Service (MM/YYYY – MM/YYYY):	
Description of Services Provided:	
If applicable, provide a link to an e-commerce storefront similar in scope to UMGC's Gear Site:	

APPENDIX A

2. PROPOSAL AFFIDAVIT

A. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

I HEREBY AFFIRM THAT: I am the (title) _____ and the duly authorized representative of (business) _____ and that I possess the legal authority to make this Affidavit on behalf of myself and the business for which I am acting.

B. NOT USED

B-1. CERTIFICATION REGARDING MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES (*applicable if an MBE goal is set*)

The undersigned bidder hereby certifies and agrees that it has fully complied with the State Minority Business Enterprise Law, State Finance and Procurement Article, §14-308(a)(2), Annotated Code of Maryland, which provides that, except as otherwise provided by law, a contractor may not identify a certified minority business enterprise in a bid or proposal and:

- (1) Fail to request, receive, or otherwise obtain authorization from the certified minority business enterprise to identify the certified minority proposal;
- (2) Fail to notify the certified minority business enterprise before execution of the contract of its inclusion in the bid or proposal;
- (3) Fail to use the certified minority business enterprise in the performance of the contract; or
- (4) Pay the certified minority business enterprise solely for the use of its name in the bid or proposal.

Without limiting any other provision of the solicitation on this project, it is understood that if the certification is false, such false certification constitutes grounds for the State to reject the bid submitted by the bidder on this project, and terminate any contract awarded based on the bid.

B-2. CERTIFICATION REGARDING VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISES (*if applicable to the solicitation*)

The undersigned bidder hereby certifies and agrees that it has fully complied with the State veteran-owned small business enterprise law, State Finance and Procurement Article, §14-605, Annotated Code of Maryland, which provides that a person may not:

- (1) Knowingly and with intent to defraud, fraudulently obtain, attempt to obtain, or aid another person in fraudulently obtaining or attempting to obtain public money, procurement contracts, or funds expended under a procurement contract to which the person is not entitled under this title;
- (2) Knowingly and with intent to defraud, fraudulently represent participation of a veteran-owned small business enterprise in order to obtain or retain a bid preference or a procurement contract;
- (3) Willfully and knowingly make or subscribe to any statement, declaration, or other document that is fraudulent or false as to any material matter, whether or not that falsity or fraud is committed with the knowledge or consent of the person authorized or required to present the declaration, statement, or document;
- (4) Willfully and knowingly aid, assist in, procure, counsel, or advise the preparation or presentation of a declaration, statement, or other document that is fraudulent or false as to any material matter, regardless of whether that falsity or fraud is committed with the knowledge or consent of the person authorized or required to present the declaration, statement, or document;
- (5) Willfully and knowingly fail to file any declaration or notice with the unit that is required by COMAR 21.11.12; or
- (6) Establish, knowingly aid in the establishment of, or exercise control over a business found to have violated a provision of §B-2(1)—(5) of this regulation.

C. AFFIRMATION REGARDING BRIBERY CONVICTIONS

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT: Neither I, nor to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the above business (as is defined in Section 16-101(b) of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland), or any of its officers, directors, partners, or any of its employees directly involved in obtaining or performing contracts with public bodies (as is defined in Section 16-101(f) of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland), has been convicted of, or has had probation before judgment imposed pursuant to Article 27, Section 641 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, or has pleaded *nolo contendere* to a charge of bribery, attempted bribery, or conspiracy to bribe in violation of Maryland law, or of the law of any other state or federal law, except as follows (indicate the reasons why the affirmation cannot be given and list any conviction, plea, or imposition of probation

before judgment with the date, court, official or administrative body, the sentence or disposition, the name(s) of person(s) involved, and their current positions and responsibilities with the business):

D. AFFIRMATION REGARDING OTHER CONVICTIONS

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT: Neither I, nor to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the above business, or any of its officers, directors, partners, or any of its employees directly involved in obtaining or performing contracts with public bodies, has:

- (1) Been convicted under state or federal statute of a criminal offense incident to obtaining or attempting to obtain, or performing a public or private contract, fraud, embezzlement, theft, forgery, falsification or destruction of records, or receiving stolen property;
 - (2) Been convicted of any criminal violation of a state or federal antitrust statute;
 - (3) Been convicted under the provisions of Title 18 of the United States Code for violation of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, 18 U.S.C. §1961, et seq., or the Mail Fraud Act, 18 U.S.C. §1341 et seq., for acts arising out of the submission of bids or proposals for a public or private contract;
 - (4) Been convicted of a violation of the State Minority Business Enterprise Law, Section 14-308 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland;
 - (5) Been convicted of a violation of §11-205.1 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland;
 - (6) Been convicted of conspiracy to commit any act or omission that would constitute grounds for conviction or liability under any law or statute described in subsection (1), (2), (3), (4) or (5), above;
 - (7) Been found civilly liable under a state or federal antitrust statutes for acts or omissions in connection with the submission of bids or proposals for a public or private contract;
 - (8) Admitted in writing or under oath, during the course of an official investigation or other proceedings, acts or omissions that would constitute grounds for conviction or liability under any law or statute described above, except as follows (indicate reasons why the affirmations cannot be given, and list any conviction, plea, or imposition of probation before judgment with the date, court, official or administrative body, the sentence or disposition, the name(s) of the person(s) involved and their current positions and responsibilities with the business, and the status of any debarment):
-

E. AFFIRMATION REGARDING DEBARMENT

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT: Neither I, nor to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the above business, or any of its officers, directors, partners, or any of its employees directly involved in obtaining or performing contracts with public bodies, has ever been suspended or debarred (including being issued a limited denial of participation) by any public entity, except as follows (list each debarment or suspension providing the dates of the suspension or debarment, the name of the public entity and the status of the proceedings, the name(s) of the person(s) involved and their current positions and responsibilities with the business, the grounds of the debarment or suspension, and the details of each person's involvement in any activity that formed the grounds of the debarment or suspension):

F. AFFIRMATION REGARDING DEBARMENT OF RELATED ENTITIES

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

- (1) The business was not established and it does not operate in a manner designed to evade the application of or defeat the purpose of debarment pursuant to Sections 16-101, et seq., of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland; and
- (2) The business is not a successor, assignee, subsidiary, or affiliate of a suspended or debarred business, except as follows (you must indicate the reasons why the affirmations cannot be given without qualification):

G. SUB-CONTRACT AFFIRMATION

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT: Neither I, nor to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the above business, has knowingly entered into a contract with a public body under which a person debarred or suspended under Title 16 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated code of Maryland will provide, directly or indirectly, supplies, services, architectural services, leases of real property, or construction.

H. AFFIRMATION REGARDING COLLUSION

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT: Neither I, nor to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the above business, has:

- (1) Agreed, conspired, connived, or colluded to produce a deceptive show of competition in the compilation of the accompanying bid or offer that is being submitted;
- (2) In any manner, directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement of any kind to fix the bid price or price proposal of the bidder or Offeror or of any competitor, or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competitive bidding in connection with the contract for which the accompanying bid or offer is submitted.

I. FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE AFFIRMATION

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT: I am aware of, and the above business will comply with the provisions of Section 13-221 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, which require that every business that enters into contracts, leases, or other agreements with the State of Maryland or its agencies during a calendar year under which the business is to receive in the aggregate \$100,000 or more shall, within 30 days of the time when the aggregate value of these contracts, leases or other agreements reaches \$100,000, file with the Secretary of State of Maryland certain specified information to include disclosure of beneficial ownership of the business.

J. POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE AFFIRMATION

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT: I am aware of and that the above business will comply with the provisions of Article 33, Sections 30-1 through 30-4 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, which require that every person that enters into contracts, leases, or other agreements with the State of Maryland, including its agencies or a political subdivision of the State, during a calendar year under which the person receives in the aggregate \$10,000 or more shall, on or before February 1, of the following year, file with the Secretary of State of Maryland certain specified information to include disclosure of political contribution in excess of \$100 to a candidate in any primary or general election.

K. DRUG AND ALCOHOL-FREE WORKPLACE

(Applicable to all contracts unless the contract is for a law enforcement agency and the agency head or the agency head's designee has determined that application of COMAR 21.11.08 and this certification would be inappropriate in connection with the law enforcement agency's undercover operations.)

I CERTIFY THAT:

- (1) Terms defined in COMAR 21.11.08 shall have the same meaning when used in this certification.
- (2) By submission of its bid or offer, the business, if other than an individual, certifies and agrees that, with respect to its employees to be employed under a contract resulting from this solicitation, the business shall:
 - (a) Maintain a workplace free of drug and alcohol abuse during the term of the contract;
 - (b) Publish a statement notifying its employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of drugs, and the abuse of drugs or alcohol is prohibited in the business' workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violation of these prohibitions;
 - (c) Prohibit its employees from working under the influence of drugs and alcohol;
 - (d) Not hire or assign to work on the contract anyone whom the business knows, or in the exercise of due diligence should know, currently abuses drugs or alcohol and is not actively engaged in a bona fide drug or alcohol abuse assistance or rehabilitation program;
 - (e) Promptly inform the appropriate law enforcement agency of every drug-related crime that occurs in its workplace if the business has observed the violation or otherwise has reliable information that a violation has occurred;

- (f) Establish drug and alcohol abuse awareness programs to inform its employees about:
 - (i) The dangers of drug and alcohol abuse in the workplace,
 - (ii) The business' policy of maintaining a drug and alcohol-free workplace,
 - (iii) Any available drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs; and
 - (iv) The penalties that may be imposed upon employees who abuse drugs and alcohol in the workplace;
 - (g) Provide all employees engaged in the performance of the contract with a copy of the statement required by K(2)(b), above;
 - (h) Notify its employees in the statement required by §K(2)(b) above, that as a condition of continued employment on the contract, the employee shall:
 - (i) Abide by the terms of the statement, and
 - (ii) Notify the employer of any criminal drug or alcohol abuse conviction for an offense occurring in the workplace not later than five (5) days after a conviction;
 - (i) Notify the procurement officer within 10 days after receiving notice under §K(2)(h)(ii), above, or otherwise receiving actual notice of a conviction;
 - (j) Within 30 days after receiving notice under §K(2)(h)(ii), above, or otherwise receiving actual notice of a conviction, impose either of the following sanctions or remedial measures on any employee who is convicted of a drug or alcohol abuse offense occurring in the workplace:
 - (i) Take appropriate personnel action against an employee, up to and including termination, or
 - (ii) Require an employee to satisfactorily participate in a *bona fide* drug or alcohol abuse assistance or rehabilitation program; and,
 - (k) Make a good faith effort to maintain a drug and alcohol-free workplace through implementation of §K(2)(a)-(j), above.
- (3) If the business is an individual, the individual shall certify and agree, as set forth in K(4), below, that the individual shall not engage in the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of drugs or the abuse of drugs or alcohol in the performance of the contract.
- (4) I acknowledge and agree that:
- (a) The award of contract is conditional upon compliance with COMAR 21.11.08 and this certification;
 - (b) The violation of the provisions of COMAR 21.11.08 or this certification shall be cause to suspend payments under, or terminate the contract for default under COMAR 21.07.01.11 or 21.07.03.15, as applicable; and
 - (c) The violation of the provisions of COMAR 21.11.08 or this certification in connection with the contract may, in the exercise of the discretion of the Board of Public Works, result in suspension and debarment of the business under COMAR 21.08.03.

L. CERTIFICATION OF CORPORATION REGISTRATION AND TAX PAYMENT

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

- (1) The business named above is a (domestic _____)(foreign _____) [check one] corporation registered in accordance with the Corporations and Associations Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and that it is in good standing and has filed all of its annual reports, together with filing fees, with the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation, and that the name and address of its resident agent filed with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation is:

Name: _____

Address: _____

(If not applicable, so state.)

- (2) Except as validly contested, the business has paid, or has arranged for payment of, all taxes due the State of Maryland and has filed all required returns and reports with the Comptroller of the Treasury, the State Department of Assessments and Taxation, and the Employment Security Administration, as applicable, and will have paid all withholding taxes due the State of Maryland prior to final settlement.

M. CONTINGENT FEES

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT: The business has not employed or retained any person, partnership, corporation, or other entity, other than a *bona fide* employee or agent working for the business, to solicit or secure the Contract, and that the business has not paid or agreed to pay any person, partnership, corporation, or other entity, other than a *bona fide* employee or agent, any fee or any other consideration contingent on the making of the Contract.

N. CONFLICT OF INTEREST AFFIDAVIT AND DISCLOSURE

- A. "Conflict of interest" means that because of other activities or relationships with other persons, a person is unable or potentially unable to render impartial assistance or advice to the State, or the person's objectivity in performing the contract work is or might be otherwise impaired, or a person has an unfair competitive advantage.
- B. "Person" has the meaning stated in COMAR 21.01.02.01B(64) and includes a bidder, offeror, contractor, consultant, or subcontractor or subconsultant at any tier, and also includes an employee or agent of any of them if the employee or agent has or will have the authority to control or supervise all or a portion of the work for which a bid or offer is made.
- C. The bidder or offeror warrants that, except as disclosed in §D, below, there are no relevant facts or circumstances now giving rise or which could, in the future, give rise to a conflict of interest.
- D. The following facts or circumstances give rise or could in the future give rise to a conflict of interest (explain detail—attach additional sheets if necessary):
-
-

- E. The bidder or offeror agrees that if an actual or potential conflict of interest arises after the date of this affidavit, the bidder or offeror shall immediately make a full disclosure in writing to the procurement officer of all relevant facts and circumstances. This disclosure shall include a description of actions which the bidder or offeror has taken and proposes to take to avoid, mitigate, or neutralize the actual or potential conflict of interest. If the contract has been awarded and performance of the contract has begun, the contractor shall continue performance until notified by the procurement officer of any contrary action to be taken.

O. CERTIFICATION REGARDING INVESTMENTS IN IRAN

- (1) The undersigned bidder or offeror certifies that, in accordance with State Finance & Procurement Article, §17-705:
- (i) it is not identified on the list created by the Board of Public Works as a person engaging in investment activities in Iran as described in §17-702 of State Finance & Procurement; and
 - (ii) it is not engaging in investment activities in Iran as described in State Finance & Procurement Article, §17-702.
- (2) The undersigned bidder or offeror is unable to make the above certification regarding its investment activities in Iran due to the following activities:
-
-

P. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT this Affidavit is to be furnished to the Procurement Officer and may be distributed to units of: (1) the State of Maryland; (2) counties or other subdivisions of the State of Maryland; (3) other states; and, (4) the federal government. I further acknowledge that this Affidavit is subject to applicable laws of the United States and the State of Maryland, both criminal and civil, and that nothing in this Affidavit or any contract resulting from submission of this bid or proposal shall be construed to supersede, amend, modify or waive, on behalf of the State of Maryland or any unit of the State of Maryland having jurisdiction, the exercise of any right or remedy conferred by the Constitution and the laws of Maryland in respect to any misrepresentation made or any violation of the obligations, terms and covenants undertaken by the above business in respect to (1) this Affidavit, (2) the contract, and (3) other Affidavits comprising part of the contract.

I DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE AND AFFIRM UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY THAT THE CONTENTS OF THIS AFFIDAVIT ARE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION, AND BELIEF.

Date: _____ By: _____
(Authorized Representative and Affiant)

Company Name: _____
FEIN No: _____

APPENDIX A

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF ADDENDA FORM

RFP NO.: 92317
TECHNICAL PROPOSAL DUE DATE: July 29, 2026, no later than 11:00 AM ET
RFP FOR: Branded Merchandise Management Services
NAME OF OFFEROR: _____

The undersigned, hereby acknowledges the receipt of the following addenda:

Addendum No. _____	Dated _____
Addendum No. _____	Dated _____
Addendum No. _____	Dated _____
Addendum No. _____	Dated _____
Addendum No. _____	Dated _____

As stated in the RFP documents, this form is included in our Technical Proposal.

Signature

Printed Name

Title

APPENDIX B

PRICE PROPOSAL FORMS

- 1. Price Proposal Forms**
- 2. Living Wage Requirements, and Living Wage Affidavit**

APPENDIX B

1. PRICE PROPOSAL FORMS

DO NOT SUBMIT WITH TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

PROPOSAL NO.: RFP 92317
PRICE PROPOSAL DUE DATE: *Anticipated.* August 28, 2026, no later than 11:00 AM ET
PROPOSAL FOR: Branded Merchandise Management Services

PROPOSER: _____

Federal Identification Number: _____

DATE: _____

Lisa Dillard and Eric Pfister
University of Maryland Global Campus
Office of Procurement Services
3501 University Blvd. East
Adelphi, MD 20783

Dear Ms. Dillard and Mr. Pfister:

The undersigned hereby submits the Financial Proposal as set forth in RFP 92317 dated _____, and the following subsequent addenda:

Addendum No. _____ Dated _____

Addendum No. _____ Dated _____

Addendum No. _____ Dated _____

Addendum No. _____ Dated _____

Addendum No. _____ Dated _____

We confirm that this Price Proposal is based on the Requirements per the RFP and any subsequent addenda as noted above.

Having received clarification on all matters upon which any doubt arose, the undersigned proposes to provide services as described in this RFP and subsequent Addenda as noted above. By signing and submitting this response, undersigned hereby agrees to all the terms and conditions of this RFP including any issued addenda. Proposers are cautioned to verify their final proposals prior to submission, as UMGC cannot be responsible for Proposer's errors or omissions. Any price proposal that has been accepted by UMGC may not be withdrawn by the contractor.

We understand that by submitting a proposal we are agreeing to the terms and conditions included in the RFP documents, and that the Bid/Proposal Affidavit submitted as part of the technical proposal remains in effect.

The evaluation and subsequent final ranking of proposals will be in accordance with the RFP documents. We understand that technical weighs greater than pricing.

We understand that the University reserves the right to award a contract (or contracts) for all items, or any parts thereof, as set forth in detail under the information furnished in the RFP document.

(Signatures should be placed on following pages.)

APPENDIX B

1. PRICE PROPOSAL FORMS *(continued)*

The offeror represents, and it is a condition precedent to acceptance of this proposal, that the offeror has not been a party to any agreement to submit a fixed or uniform price. Sign where applicable below.

A. INDIVIDUAL PRINCIPAL

In Presence of Witness: _____

FIRM NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NO. _____

SIGNED _____

PRINTED NAME _____

TITLE _____

B. CO-PARTNERSHIP PRINCIPAL

(Name of Co - Partnership)

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NO. _____

In Presence of Witness:

Printed Name: _____

_____ as to

BY _____
(Partner)

Printed Name: _____

_____ as to

BY _____

C. CORPORATION

Name of Corporation

ADDRESS: _____

Attest:

TELEPHONE NO. _____

[Printed Name of Corporate (or Assistant Corporate) Secretary]

[Corporate (or Assistant Corporate) Secretary Signature for Identification]

By:

Signature of Officer

Printed Name

Title

APPENDIX B

2. LIVING WAGE REQUIREMENTS

A solicitation for services under a state contract valued at \$100,000 or more may be subject to Title 18, State Finance and Procurement Article, Annotated Code of Maryland. Additional information regarding the State's Living Wage requirement is contained in the following section entitled Living Wage Requirements for Service Contracts. If the Offeror fails to complete and submit the required Living Wage documentation, the State may determine an Offeror to be not responsible.

As of 9/29/2025, Contractors and Subcontractors subject to the Living Wage Law shall pay each covered employee at least \$17.17 per hour, if State contract services valued at 50% or more of the total value of the contract are performed in the Tier 1 Area. As of 9/29/2025, if State contract services valued at 50% or more of the total contract value are performed in the Tier 2 Area, an Offeror shall pay each covered employee at least \$15.00 per hour. The specific Living Wage rate is determined by whether a majority of services take place in a Tier 1 Area or Tier 2 Area of the State. The Tier 1 Area includes Montgomery, Prince George's, Howard, Anne Arundel, and Baltimore Counties, and Baltimore City. The Tier 2 Area includes any county in the State not included in the Tier 1 Area. If the employees who perform the services are not located in the State, the head of the unit responsible for a State contract pursuant to §18-102 (d) shall assign the tier based upon where the recipients of the services are located.

The contract resulting from this solicitation will be deemed to be a Tier 1 contract or a Tier 2 contract depending on the location(s) from which the contractor provides 50% or more of the services. If the contractor provides 50% or more of the services from a location(s) in a Tier 1 jurisdiction(s) the contract will be a Tier 1 contract. If the contractor provides 50% or more of the services from a location(s) in a Tier 2 jurisdiction(s), the contract will be a Tier 2 contract. If the contractor provides more than 50% of the services from an out-of-State location, then the contract will be deemed to be a Tier 1 contract. An Offeror must identify in its Proposal the location(s) from which services will be provided.

The contract resulting from this solicitation has been determined to be a Tier 1 contract.

(Continued onto the next page)

APPENDIX B

2. LIVING WAGE AFFIDAVIT Maryland Living Wage Requirements-Service Contracts

Contract No. _____
Name of Contractor _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

If the Contract is Exempt from the Living Wage Law

The Undersigned, being an authorized representative of the above named Contractor, hereby affirms that the Contract is exempt from Maryland's Living Wage Law for the following reasons: (check all that apply)

- ☐ Bidder/Offeror is a nonprofit organization
- ☐ Bidder/Offeror is a public service company
- ☐ Bidder/Offeror employs 10 or fewer employees and the proposed contract value is less than \$500,000
- ☐ Bidder/Offeror employs more than 10 employees and the proposed contract value is less than \$100,000

If the Contract is a Living Wage Contract

- A. The Undersigned, being an authorized representative of the above-named Contractor, hereby affirms our commitment to comply with Title 18, State Finance and Procurement Article, Annotated Code of Maryland and, if required, to submit all payroll reports to the Commissioner of Labor and Industry with regard to the above stated contract. The Bidder/Offeror agrees to pay covered employees who are subject to living wage at least the living wage rate in effect at the time service is provided for hours spent on State contract activities, and to ensure that its Subcontractors who are not exempt also pay the required living wage rate to their covered employees who are subject to the living wage for hours spent on a State contract for services. The Contractor agrees to comply with, and ensure its Subcontractors comply with, the rate requirements during the initial term of the contract and all subsequent renewal periods, including any increases in the wage rate established by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry, automatically upon the effective date of the revised wage rate. **The living wage rate effective September 29, 2025 is \$17.17 per hour in Tier 1 areas except for Montgomery County. In Montgomery County, the living wage rate is \$17.65 per hour for large employers (51 or more employees). In non-Tier 1 areas, the rate is \$15.00 per hour (the current State minimum wage rate).** This living wage rate changes each year and is published on the Department of Labor website 90 days from the end of the University's fiscal year at <https://www.dllr.state.md.us/labor/prev/livingwage.shtml>. The University's fiscal year is July 1st through June 30th.
- B. Contractor further agrees that UMGC has the right to conduct an independent audit by University internal auditors or State of Maryland auditors of the Contractor's payroll records to confirm this affirmation at any time. Contractor also agrees to cooperate with UMGC to supply required documentation in the event that it is requested as support for this affidavit by the State of Maryland or an agency of the State of Maryland. Any information that is supplied by contractor under this Affidavit to UMGC, the State of Maryland or an agency of the State of Maryland will be subject to the terms of the Maryland Public Information Act.
- C. _____ (initial here if applicable) The Bidder/Offeror affirms it has no covered employees for the following reasons: (check all that apply)

- All employee(s) proposed to work on the State contract will spend less than one-half of the employee's time during every work week on the State contract;
- All employee(s) proposed to work on the State contract will be 17 years of age or younger during the duration of the State contract; or
- All employee(s) proposed to work on the State contract will work less than 13 consecutive weeks on the State contract.

The Commissioner of Labor and Industry reserves the right to request payroll records and other data that the Commissioner deems sufficient to confirm these affirmations at any time.

Name of Authorized Representative: _____

Signature of Authorized Representative Date

Title

Witness Name (Typed or Printed)

Witness Signature Date

APPENDIX C

CONTRACT FORMS

- 1. Sample Contract**
- 2. Contract Affidavit**

APPENDIX C

1. SAMPLE CONTRACT DO NOT COMPLETE

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GLOBAL CAMPUS
CONTRACT _____

_____, 2026

CONTRACTOR:

Federal Employer ID:

Address:

Contact Person:

Contact Phone:

Contact Email:

UMGC Ordering Office:

Project Coordinator:

Coordinator Phone:

Coordinator Email:

UMGC Procurement Officer:

Procurement Officer Email:

THIS CONTRACT ("Contract") is made as of this ____ day of _____, 20__ by and between _____, a corporation organized under the laws of the State of _____, with offices at _____, _____, _____, hereinafter referred to as "Contractor," and the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC), a constituent institution of the University System of Maryland, an agency of the State of Maryland, with offices at 3501 University Boulevard East, Adelphi, MD 20783, hereinafter referred to as the "University," and collectively, the "Parties."

RECITALS

The University issued solicitation documents (Reference _____) _____ on _____, _____, 20__, or, absent a solicitation document, requested in writing, as amended from time to time (the "Solicitation"), to solicit a provider of _____ services. Contractor submitted a technical proposal dated _____ 20__ and price proposal dated _____, 20__, and accepted by the University ("collectively Proposal") in response to the Solicitation, and the University subsequently selected the Contractor as the/an awardee of this non-exclusive Contract.

THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. SCOPE, CONTRACT DOCUMENTS, AND TERM

- 1.1 Contractor shall provide to the University _____ professional services (the "Services"), as from time to time ordered by the University, in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Contract. This Contract is subject to Section 2-901, Md. State Fin and Proc. Code Ann
- 1.2 This Contract consists of multiple documents as follows in order of precedence:
 - This Contract Form (pages 1 through ____);
 - If applicable, The Solicitation # _____ and all amendments to the solicitation, or absent a Solicitation, the UMGC request for submittal of a Proposal;
 - Contractor's Technical Proposal dated _____ and Price Proposal dated _____; and,
 - Statements of work, if any, issued from time to time, pursuant to this Contract (each of which is incorporated in this Contract whether or not physically attached hereto).
- 1.3 This Contract shall be in effect from _____, 20__ through _____, 20__ unless otherwise extended, expired, or terminated pursuant to this Contract. If applicable, there are ____ 12-month renewal options at UMGC's sole option.

2. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- 2.1 The Contractor shall perform the Project as described in Exhibit A to this Agreement. Services shall be performed in accordance with the schedule included in Exhibit A, or, if no such schedule is included, in accordance with a schedule agreed upon in writing by the Parties at a future date and adopted as an amendment to Exhibit A. The Contractor shall perform the Project as expeditiously as is consistent with good professional skill and care and the orderly progress of the Project.

- 2.2 The maximum fee for the Contractor's professional services is _____. The Contractor's fees for services required to complete the Project shall not exceed the maximum fee. There shall be no minimum amount of work guaranteed under the Contract.
- 2.3 The UMGC Office of _____ will designate a staff member to act as coordinator ("Project Coordinator") between UMGC and the Contractor. Throughout the period of the Project, copies of all correspondence, work products, specifications, estimates, and other materials prepared by the Contractor should be directed to the Project Coordinator and also to any other UMGC personnel designated by the Project Coordinator. Direct contact or communication by the Contractor with other UMGC offices or any other entity concerning the Project shall be made only with the prior knowledge and concurrence of the Project Coordinator.
- 2.4 The professional services team for the Project shall be the same team identified in the Contractor's submittal responding to UMGC's solicitation unless (a) a change is requested by the Contractor and approved in writing by the Project Coordinator; or (b) a change is requested in writing by the Project Coordinator for good cause, in which case the Contractor shall make an appropriate substitution, subject to UMGC's approval, and notify UMGC in writing. Major changes in the Contractor's organization or personnel (other than the Contractor's Team) shall be reported to UMGC in writing as they occur.
- 2.5 All terms and conditions of UMGC's solicitation, and any amendments thereto, are made a part of this Agreement unless expressly contradicted by a term or condition of this Agreement. Proposals or suggestions of the Contractor for changes in the solicitation or the terms and conditions of the contract are not binding upon UMGC and are not a part of this Agreement unless set forth in an amendment of the solicitation or in this Agreement and agreed to in writing by UMGC.

3. FEES AND PAYMENT

- 3.1 Contractor's fees shall not exceed the rates set forth in the Contract per the Contractor's price proposal dated _____.
- 3.2 As compensation for satisfactory performance of Services, the University will pay Contractor no later than thirty (30) days after the University's receipt of a proper invoice from Contractor. Charges for late payment of invoices will be only as prescribed by Title 15, Subtitle 1 of the State Finance and Procurement Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, as from time to time amended.
- 3.2.1 Payment requests (invoices) shall reference the purchase order and submitted electronically to the Accounts Payable Department, University of Maryland Global Campus, 3501 University Boulevard East, Adelphi, MD 20783-8002 at accountspayable@umgc.edu. Invoices must include a breakdown of the services purchased.
- 3.3 All fees are exclusive of applicable federal, state, local, and foreign sales, use, excise, utility, gross receipts, value added and other taxes, tax-like charges, and tax-related surcharges. The University is generally exempt from such taxes, and Contractor agrees not to charge the University for such taxes in accordance with applicable law. The University will provide exemption certificates upon request.

- 3.4 Electronic funds may be used by the State to pay Contractor for this Contract and any other State payments due Contractor unless the State Comptroller's Office grants Contractor an exemption. Charges for late payment of invoices, other than as prescribed by Title 15, Subtitle 1, of the State Finance and Procurement Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, or by the Public Service Commission of Maryland with respect to regulated public utilities, as applicable, are prohibited.

4. WORK PRODUCT

- 4.1 Contractor shall complete all reports and presentations required by the University and other reports set forth in the relevant Task Order.
- 4.2 Contractor agrees that all research, notes, data, computations, estimates, reports or other documents or work product obtained by or produced by Contractor under this Contract (the "Work") shall be the sole and exclusive property of the University. Upon the University's request or upon the expiration or termination of this Contract, Contractor shall deliver or return all copies of the Work to the University. The Contractor is permitted, subject to its obligations of confidentiality, to retain one copy of the Work for archival purposes and to defend its work product.
- 4.3 Notwithstanding the terms of Paragraph 4.2, Contractor is permitted to retain all rights to the intellectual capital (including without limitation, ideas, methodologies, processes, inventions, and tools) developed or possessed by the Contractor prior to, or acquired during, the performance of the Services under this Contract.
- 4.4 Contractor and University intend this Contract to be a contract for services and each considers the Work to be a work made for hire. If for any reasons the Work would not be considered a work made for hire under applicable law, Contractor does hereby sell, assign and transfer to University, its successors, assigns, the entire right, title and interest in and to the copyright and any registrations and copyright applications relating thereto and renewals and extensions thereof, and in and to all works based upon, derived from or incorporating the Work, and in and to all income, royalties damages, claims and payments now or hereafter due or payable with respect thereto, and in and to all causes of action, either in law or equity for past, present, or future infringement based on the copyrights, and in and to all rights corresponding to the foregoing throughout the world.
- 4.5 Contractor agrees to execute all documents and to perform such other proper acts as University may deem necessary to secure for University the rights in the Work.
- 4.6 In the event of loss of any data or records necessary for the performance of this Contract where such loss is due to the error or negligence of the Contractor, the Contractor shall be responsible, irrespective of cost to the Contractor, for recreating such lost data or records.

5. EVALUATION AND ACCEPTANCE PROCEDURE

- 5.1 Upon completion and delivery of each deliverable by Contractor, UMGC will begin the evaluation and acceptance process, which shall include, but not be limited to, the steps described below. Payments, in accordance with Section 3 of this Contract will be based on the completion/delivery of a deliverable by Contractor and acceptance by UMGC of

each deliverable. Contractor will demonstrate to UMGC that the deliverable has been completed or has occurred and will provide UMGC with written notice of the same.

- 5.2 Within the time period specified in the Contract including any Contract Amendments, or if not specified, then within thirty (30) business days of receipt by UMGC of a scheduled deliverable from Contractor, UMGC shall determine whether such deliverable Materially Conforms to the specifications defined in the Contract. As used herein, the term "Materially Conforms" means that the deliverable is ready to be used in production and meets or exceeds its intended functionality and performance. If the deliverable Materially Conforms to the specifications, then UMGC will provide written confirmation to Contractor that the deliverable is accepted.
- 5.3 If the deliverable does not Materially Conform, UMGC shall immediately return it to Contractor with a written list of deficiencies. Contractor, at no additional cost to UMGC, shall thereafter make all appropriate and necessary fixes to the deliverable and return it to UMGC within the time period specified, or if not specified, then within ten (10) business days for further testing by UMGC. If the deliverable again fails to Materially Conform, then this same process will be repeated one more time. If the deliverable fails to Materially Conform to the specifications after delivery for the second time, then UMGC may, at its sole discretion, (a) further extend the timeframe for cure and (b) extend the warranty period, if applicable, or (c) begin the termination process as defined in Section 10.1 of this Contract. If UMGC does not elect to terminate this Contract after the second failure, it has not automatically waived its right to do so following any additional failed attempt at correction by Contractor to which the Parties may agree.
- 5.4 If either party fails to meet the testing period described above, or any other periods of time as mutually agreed to, the other party may declare the Contract in material breach and begin the termination process as defined in Section 10.1 of this Contract.

6. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- 6.1 Neither party may use the other party's name, trademarks, or other proprietary identifying symbols without the prior written approval of the other party.
- 6.2 Contractor agrees to defend upon request and indemnify and hold harmless UMGC, its officers, agents, and employees with respect to any claim, action, cost or judgment for patent infringement, or trademark or copyright violation arising out of purchase or use of materials, software, supplies, equipment or services under this Contract.

7. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

- 7.1 Contractor acknowledges and understands that in connection with this Contract, the performance of the Services and otherwise, Contractor has had or shall have access to, has obtained or shall obtain, or has been or shall be given the University's Confidential Information (as defined herein). For purposes of this Contract, "Confidential Information" means all information provided by the University to Contractor, including without limitation information concerning the University's business strategies, political and legislative affairs, students, employees, vendors, contractors, student records, customer lists, finances, properties, methods of operation, computer and telecommunications systems, and software and documentation. Confidential Information includes information in any and all

formats and media, including without limitation oral, and includes the originals and any and all copies and derivatives of such information.

- 7.2 Contractor shall use the Confidential Information only if and when required for the performance of the Services, and for no other purpose whatsoever, and only by Contractor employees engaged in that performance.
- 7.3 Contractor shall not, in any manner whatsoever, disclose, permit access to, or allow use of Confidential Information to any person or entity except as specifically permitted or required under this Contract.
- 7.4 Contractor acknowledges and understands that UMGC is required to protect certain Confidential Information from disclosure under applicable law, including but not limited to, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), the Gramm Leach Bliley Act ("GLBA"), or the Maryland Public Information Act ("PIA"), including regulations promulgated there under, as the laws and regulations may be amended from time to time (collectively the "Privacy Laws"). The Confidential Information that is protected under FERPA was provided to the Contractor as it is handling an institution service or function that would ordinarily be performed by UMGC's employees. The Contractor agrees that it shall be obligated to protect the Confidential Information in its possession or control in accordance with the Privacy Laws to the same extent as UMGC would be obligated if the Confidential Information was in the possession or control of UMGC. The Contractor further agrees that it is subject to the requirements governing the use and re-disclosure of personally identifiable information from education records as provided in FERPA.
- 7.5 Contractor may disclose Confidential Information as required by legal process. If Contractor is required by legal process to disclose Confidential Information, Contractor shall immediately notify the University, and before disclosing such information shall allow UMGC reasonable time to take appropriate legal action to prevent disclosure of the Confidential Information.
- 7.6 Contractor's obligations with respect to Confidential Information shall survive the expiration or the termination of this Contract.
- 7.7 Contractor acknowledges that Contractor's failure to comply fully with the restrictions placed upon use, disclosure and access to Confidential Information may cause the University grievous irreparable harm and injury. Therefore, any failure to comply with the requirements of this Article 7 shall be a material breach of this Contract.
- 7.8 Contractor agrees and acknowledges that it is not the custodian of any Confidential Information that may be in Contractor's possession or control. Contractor shall forward any request for disclosure of Confidential Information to:

Office of Legal Affairs
University of Maryland Global Campus
3501 University Boulevard East
Adelphi, MD 20783

- 7.9 Except to the extent otherwise required by applicable law or professional standards, the obligations under this section do not apply to information that (a) is or becomes generally known to the public, other than as a result of disclosure by Contractor, (b) had been

previously possessed by Contractor without restriction against disclosure at the time of receipt by Contractor, (c) was independently developed by Contractor without violation of this Contract, or (d) Contractor and the University agree in writing to disclose. Contractor shall be deemed to have met its nondisclosure obligations under this section as long as it exercises the same level of care to protect the Confidential Information as it exercises to protect its own confidential information, except to the extent that applicable law or professional standards impose a higher requirement.

- 7.10 All Confidential Information received by Contractor shall be returned to the University or destroyed upon completion or termination of this Contract.

8. RELATIONSHIP OF THE PARTIES

- 8.1 Nothing in this Contract shall be construed to establish a relationship of servant, employee, partnership, association, or joint venture between the Parties. Neither party shall bind or attempt to bind the other to any contract, warranty, covenant or undertaking of any nature whatsoever unless previously specifically authorized in writing in each instance. Nothing in this Contract is intended to create a joint employment relationship.
- 8.2 It is understood and agreed that Contractor is an independent contractor of the University, and not an employee. Except as set forth in this Contract, the University will not withhold income taxes, social security or any other sums from the payments made to Contractor hereunder. All employees or contractors of Contractor shall in no way be considered employees of the University, but rather they shall be employees or contractors of Contractor, and Contractor shall bear full responsibility for compensating those persons and for the performance of the Services by way of them.
- 8.3 Each party reserves the right to review all press releases or other public communications of the other party that may affect the party's public image, programs or operations.

9. DISTRIBUTION OF RISK

- 9.1 Contractor shall maintain in full force and effect adequate insurance coverage to protect against the risks associated with the performance of Services under this Contract. Contractor shall also maintain in full force and effect workers' compensation insurance as required by the laws of the jurisdiction in which the Services are performed. Upon request, Contractor shall provide the University with evidence of such insurance.
- 9.2 Contractor shall indemnify and hold harmless the University and the State of Maryland, their officers, employees, and agents, from any and all costs (including without limitation reasonable attorneys' costs and cost of suit), liabilities, claims, or demands arising out of or related to Contractor's performance under this Contract. The University agrees to notify Contractor promptly of any known liabilities, claims, or demands against the University for which Contractor is responsible hereunder, and Contractor agrees to at UMGC's request defend the University or settle any such liabilities, claims, or demands.
- 9.3 Neither party shall be liable to the other for indirect, consequential, incidental, punitive, exemplary, or special damages, or losses, including without limitation lost profits and opportunity costs.

10. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 10.1 Termination for Default. If the Contractor fails to fulfill its obligation under this Contract properly and on time, or otherwise violates any provision of the Contract, the University may terminate the Contract by written notice to the Contractor. The notice shall specify the acts or omissions relied upon as cause for termination. The University will provide Contractor a reasonable opportunity, not to exceed 10 business days, to cure the act or omission, provided such opportunity to cure does not extend the deadline for any deliverables and does not cause the University further damage. All finished or unfinished work provided by the Contractor, to which the University is entitled pursuant to this Contract shall become the University's property. The University shall pay the Contractor fair and equitable compensation for satisfactory performance prior to receipt of notice of termination, less the dollar amount of damages caused by Contractor's breach. If the damages are more than the compensation payable to the Contractor, the Contractor will remain liable after termination and the University can affirmatively collect damages. Termination hereunder, including the determination of the rights and obligations of the Parties, shall be governed by the provisions of USM Procurement Policies and Procedures.
- 10.2 Termination for Convenience. The performance of work under this Contract may be terminated by the University in accordance with this clause in whole, or from time to time in part, whenever the University shall determine that such termination is in the best interest of the University. The University will pay all reasonable costs associated with this Contract that the Contractor has incurred up to the date of termination and all reasonable costs associated with termination of the Contract. However, the Contractor shall not be reimbursed for any anticipatory profits that have not been earned up to the date of termination. Termination hereunder, including the determination of the rights and obligations of the Parties, shall be governed by the provisions of the USM Procurement Policies and Procedures.
- 10.3 Delays and Extension of Time. The Contractor agrees to prosecute the work continuously and diligently and no charges or claims for damages shall be made by it for any delays or hindrances from any cause whatsoever during the progress of any portion of the work specified in this Contract. Time extensions will be granted only for excusable delays that arise from unforeseeable causes beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of the Contractor, including but not restricted to, acts of God, acts of public enemy, acts of the State in either its sovereign or contractual capacity, acts of another Contractor in the performance of a contract with the State or the University, changes in law or regulation, action by government or other competent authority, fires, earthquakes, floods, epidemics, quarantine restrictions, strikes, freight embargoes, malicious or criminal acts of third Parties, or delays of subcontractors or suppliers arising from unforeseeable causes beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of either the Contractor or the subcontractors or suppliers.
- 10.4 Suspension of Work. The Procurement Officer unilaterally may order the Contractor in writing to suspend, delay, or interrupt all or any part of its performance for such period of time as the Procurement Officer may determine to be appropriate for the convenience of the University.
- 10.5 Subcontracting and Assignment.

10.5.1 The Contractor may not subcontract any portion of the Services provided under

this Contract without obtaining the prior written approval of the University nor may the Contractor assign this Contract or any of its rights or obligations hereunder, without the prior written approval of UMGC. The University shall not be responsible for the fulfillment of the Contractor's obligations to subcontractors. Any such subcontract shall be subject to any terms and conditions that UMGC deems necessary to protect its interests. Contractor shall remain responsible for performance of all Services under this Contract and shall be subject to liability to the University for acts and omissions of subcontractors.

10.5.2 Neither party may assign this Contract without the prior written consent of the other party, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld, except that Contractor may assign this Contract to any parent, subsidiary, affiliate, or purchaser of all or substantially all its assets with notice to the University. Contractor may designate a third party to receive payment without the University's prior written consent unless in conflict with Maryland or federal law but shall provide the University with notification thereof.

10.5.3 Minority Business Enterprise Subcontracting Goal and Associated Liquidated Damages. UMGC has established a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) subcontracting goal of 3% of the total cumulative contract dollar amount under RFP #92317 for the Initial Term and all Renewal Terms of the Contract. Refer to Appendix M of RFP #92317 for requirements of the MBE Program. For ease of reference, this appendix is attached to this contract as Exhibit B.

Liquidated Damages. This contract requires the contractor to make good faith efforts to comply with the Minority Business Enterprise ("MBE") Program and contract provisions. The State and the Contractor acknowledge and agree that the State will incur damages, including but not limited to loss of goodwill, detrimental impact on economic development, and diversion of internal staff resources, if the Contractor does not make good faith efforts to comply with the requirements of the MBE Program and MBE contract provisions. The parties further acknowledge and agree that the damages the State might reasonably be anticipated to accrue as a result of such lack of compliance are difficult to ascertain with precision. Therefore, upon a determination by the State that the Contractor failed to make good faith efforts to comply with one or more of the specified MBE Program requirements or contract provisions, the Contractor agrees to pay liquidated damages to the State at the rates set forth below. The Contractor expressly agrees that the State may withhold payment on any invoices as a set-off against liquidated damages owed. The contractor further agrees that for each specified violation, the agreed upon liquidated damages are reasonably proximate to the loss the State is anticipated to incur as a result of such violation.

- a. Failure to submit each monthly payment report in full compliance with COMAR 21.11.03.13B(3): \$25.00 per day until the monthly report is submitted as required.

- b. Failure to include in its agreements with MBE subcontractors a provision requiring submission of payment reports in full compliance with COMAR 21.11.03.13B(4): \$100 per MBE subcontractor.
- c. Failure to comply with COMAR 21.11.03.12 in terminating, canceling, or changing the scope of work/value of a contract with an MBE subcontractor and/or amendment of the MBE participation schedule: the difference between the dollar value of the MBE participation commitment on the MBE participation schedule for that specific MBE firm and the dollar value of the work performed by that MBE firm for the contract.
- d. Failure to meet the Contractor's total MBE participation goal and the subgoal commitments: the difference between the dollar value of the total MBE participation commitment on the MBE participation schedule and the MBE participation actually achieved.
- e. Failure to promptly pay all undisputed amounts to an MBE subcontractor in full compliance with the prompt payment provisions of this contract: \$100 per day until the undisputed amount due to the MBE subcontractor is paid.

Notwithstanding the use of liquidated damages, the State reserves the right to terminate the contract and exercise all other rights and remedies provided in the contract or by law.

- 10.6 Maryland Law Prevails. This Contract, and all claims arising out of or relating to this Contract, shall be governed in all respects by the laws of the State of Maryland, without reference to its conflicts of laws rules.
- 10.7 Contract Integration and Modification. This Contract and the documents incorporated herein form the entire agreement of the Parties with respect to the subject matter of this procurement, and supersede all prior negotiations, agreements, and understandings with respect thereto. This Contract may be amended with the written consent of both Parties. Amendments may not significantly change the scope of the Contract.
- 10.8 No Third-Party Beneficiaries. This Agreement is only for the benefit of the undersigned Parties and their permitted successors and assigns. No one shall be deemed to be a third-party beneficiary of this Agreement.
- 10.9 Notices. Notices under this Contract will be written and will be considered effective upon delivery to the person addressed or five (5) calendar days after deposit in any U.S. mailbox, first class (registered or certified) and addressed to the other party as follows:

For the University:

University of Maryland Global Campus
Procurement Department
Attn: Procurement Officer
3501 University Blvd East
Adelphi, MD 20783-8044

For the Contractor:

- 10.10 Disputes. This Contract shall be subject to the USM Procurement Policies and Procedures. Pending resolution of a claim, the Contractor shall proceed diligently with the performance of the Contract in accordance with the procurement officer's decision.
- 10.11 Retention of Records. Contractor shall retain and maintain all records and documents relating to this Contract for three years after final payment by the State and will make them available for inspection and audit by authorized representatives of the State, including the Procurement Officer or designee, at all reasonable times.
- 10.12 Non-Hiring of Employees. No employee of the State of Maryland or any unit thereof, whose duties as such employee include matters relating to or affecting the subject matter of this Contract, shall, while so employed, become or be an employee of the party or Parties hereby contracting with the State of Maryland or any unit thereof.
- 10.13 Non-Discrimination in Employment. The Contractor agrees: (a) not to discriminate in any manner against an employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, creed, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identification, marital status, national origin, ancestry, or physical or mental disability unrelated in nature and extent so as reasonably to preclude the performance of such employment; (b) to include a provision similar to that contained in subsection (a), above, in any subcontract except a subcontract for standard commercial supplies or raw materials; and (c) to post and to cause subcontractors to post in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment, notices setting forth the substance of this clause.
- 10.14 Contingent Fee Prohibition. The Contractor warrants that it has not employed or retained any person, partnership, corporation, or other entity, other than a bona fide employee or agent working for the Contractor, to solicit or secure this Contract, and that it has not paid or agreed to pay any person, partnership, corporation, or other entity, other than a bona fide employee or agent, any fee or any other consideration contingent on the making of this Contract.
- 10.15 Financial Disclosure. The Contractor shall comply with the provisions of Section 13-221 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, which requires that every business that enters into contracts, leases, or other agreements with the State of Maryland or its agencies during a calendar year under which the business is to receive in the aggregate \$100,000 or more, shall, within 30 days of the time when the aggregate value of these contracts, leases or other agreements reaches \$100,000, file with the Secretary of State of Maryland certain specified information to include disclosure of beneficial ownership of the business.
- 10.16 Political Contribution Disclosure. Contractor shall comply with Election Law Article Sections 14-101 through 14-108 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, which requires that every person making contracts with one or more governmental entities during any 12-month period of time involving cumulative consideration in the aggregate of \$100,000 or

more to file with the State Board of Elections a statement disclosing certain campaign or election contributions.

- 10.17 Anti-Bribery. The Contractor warrants that neither it nor any of its officers, directors or partners, nor any employees who are directly involved in obtaining or performing contracts with any public body has been convicted of bribery, attempted bribery or conspiracy to bribe under the laws of any state or the federal government.
- 10.18 Ethics. This Contract is cancelable in the event of a violation of the Maryland Public Ethics Law by the Contractor or any UMGC employee in connection with this procurement.
- 10.19 Compliance with Laws. The Contractor hereby represents and warrants that:
- 10.19.1 It is qualified to do business in the State of Maryland and that it will take such action as, from time-to-time hereafter, may be necessary to remain so qualified;
 - 10.19.2 It is not in arrears with respect to the payment of any monies due and owing the State of Maryland, or any department or unit thereof, including but not limited to, the payment of taxes and employee benefits, and that it shall not become so in arrears during the term of this Contract;
 - 10.19.3 It shall comply with all international, federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances applicable to its activities and obligations under this Contract; and
 - 10.19.4 To the extent that personal data is disclosed, it shall comply with all international, federal, state, and local data privacy laws, regulations, and ordinances including but not limited to the European Union General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 (hereinafter referred to as "GDPR"). Compliance with Article 26 of GDPR may require Contractor to agree to the standard contractual clauses adopted by the EU Commission; and
 - 10.19.5 It shall obtain, at its expense, all licenses, permits, insurance, and governmental approvals, if any, necessary to the performance of its obligations under this Contract; and
- 10.20 Indemnification. UMGC shall not assume any obligation to indemnify, hold harmless, or pay attorneys' fees that may arise from or in any way be associated with the performance or operation of this Contract; and
- 10.21 Multi-Year Contracts Contingent Upon Appropriations. If the General Assembly fails to appropriate funds or if funds are not otherwise made available for continued performance for any fiscal period of this Contract succeeding the first fiscal period, this Contract shall be canceled automatically as of the beginning of the fiscal year for which funds were not appropriated or otherwise made available; provided, however, that this will not affect either the University's rights or the Contractor's rights under any termination clause in this Contract. The effect of termination of the Contract hereunder will be to discharge both the Contractor and the University from future performance of the Contract, but not from their rights and obligations existing at the time of termination.

The Contractor shall be reimbursed for the reasonable value of any non-recurring costs incurred but not amortized in the price of the Contract. The University shall notify the Contractor as soon as it has knowledge that funds may not be available for the continuation of this Contract for each succeeding fiscal period beyond the first.

- 10.22 Pre-Existing Regulations. In accordance with the provisions of Section 11-206 of the State Finance and Procurement Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, the regulations set forth in USM Procurement Policies and Procedures in effect on the date of execution of this Contract are applicable to this Contract.

10.23 Insurance

- 10.23.1 The Contractor shall secure, and shall require that subcontractor's secure, pay the premiums for and keep in force until the expiration of this contract, and any renewal thereof, adequate insurance as provided below, such insurance to specifically include liability assumed by the Contractor under this Contract inclusive of the requirements in the solicitation documents:

Commercial General Liability Insurance including all extensions:

Not less than \$2,000,000 each occurrence;

Not less than \$2,000,000 personal injury;

Not less than \$2,000,000 products/completed operations aggregate; and

Not less than \$2,000,000 general aggregate.

Workmen's compensation per statutory requirements.

If applicable, Fiduciary Bonding of Workers with access to credit card information.

Professional liability insurance in an amount not less than \$2,000,000.

- 10.23.2 All insurance certificates shall be emailed to the Procurement Officer in electronic format. Insurance certificates for general and/or excess liability protection, bodily injury or property damage and fiduciary Bonding must specifically name on its face the University as an additional insured as respects to operations under the contract and premises occupied by the Contractor. Provided, however, that with respect to the Contractor's liability for bodily injury or property damages above, such insurance shall cover and not exclude Contractor's liability for injury to the property of the University and to the persons or property of employees, student, faculty members, agents, officers, regents, invitees, or guests of the University. Current electronic insurance certificates must be provided initially with the Technical Proposal. If Contractor is awarded a multi-year contract, then upon renewal of Contractor's insurance policies, current electronic insurance certificates shall be provided annually upon request.
- 10.23.3 Notices of policy changes shall be furnished to the Procurement Officer. All required insurance coverages must be acquired from insurers allowed to do business in the State of Maryland. The insurers must have a policy holder's rating of "A-" or better.

11. LIVING WAGE

- 11.1 This contract is subject to the Living Wage requirements under Title 18, State Finance and Procurement Article, Annotated Code of Maryland and the regulations proposed by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry. The Living Wage generally applies to a Contractor or Subcontractor who performs work on a State contract for services that is valued at \$100,000 or more. An employee is subject to the Living Wage if he/she is at least 18 years old or will turn 18 during the duration of the contract; works at least 13 consecutive weeks on the State Contract and spends at least one-half of the employee's time during any work week on the State Contract.
- 11.2 The Living Wage Law does not apply to:
- (1) A Contractor who:
 - (A) has a State contract for services valued at less than \$100,000, or
 - (B) employs 10 or fewer employees and has a State contract for services valued at less than \$500,000.
 - (2) A Subcontractor who:
 - (A) performs work on a State contract for services valued at less than \$100,000,
 - (B) employs 10 or fewer employees and performs work on a State contract for services valued at less than \$500,000, or
 - (C) performs work for a contractor not covered by the Living Wage Law as defined in Section 11.2(1)(B), in Section 11.2(3), or in Section 11.3.
 - (3) Service contracts for the following:
 - (A) services with a Public Service Company;
 - (B) services with a nonprofit organization;
 - (C) services with an officer or other entity that is in the Executive Branch of the State government and is authorized by law to enter into a procurement ("Unit"); or
 - (D) services between a Unit and a County or Baltimore City.
- 11.3 If the Unit responsible for the State contract for services determines that application of the Living Wage would conflict with any applicable Federal program, the Living Wage does not apply to the contract or program.
- 11.4 A Contractor must not split or subdivide a State contract for services, pay an employee through a third party, or treat an employee as an independent contractor or assign work to employees to avoid the imposition of any of the requirements of Title 18, State Finance and Procurement, Annotated Code of Maryland.
- 11.5 Each Contractor/Subcontractor, subject to the Living Wage Law, shall post in a prominent and easily accessible place at the work site(s) of covered employees a notice of the Living Wage Rates, employee rights under the law, and the name, address, and telephone number of the Commissioner.
- 11.6 The Commissioner of Labor and Industry shall adjust the wage rates by the annual average increase or decrease, if any, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers for the Washington/Baltimore metropolitan area, or any successor index, for the previous calendar year, not later than 90 days after the start of each fiscal year. The Commissioner

shall publish any adjustments to the wage rates on the Division of Labor and Industry's Website. An employer subject to the Living Wage Law must comply with the rate requirements during the initial term of the contract and all subsequent renewal periods, including any increases in the wage rate, required by the Commissioner, automatically upon the effective date of the revised wage rate.

- 11.7 A Contractor/Subcontractor who reduces the wages paid to an employee based on the employer's share of the health insurance premium, as provided in §18-103(c), State Finance and Procurement Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, shall not lower an employee's wage rate below the minimum wage as set in §3-413, Labor and Employment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland. A Contractor/Subcontractor who reduces the wages paid to an employee based on the employer's share of health insurance premium shall comply with any record reporting requirements established by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry.
- 11.8 A Contractor/Subcontractor may reduce the wage rates paid under §18-103(a), State Finance and Procurement, Annotated Code of Maryland, by no more than 50 cents of the hourly cost of the employer's contribution to an employee's deferred compensation plan. A Contractor/Subcontractor who reduces the wages paid to an employee based on the employer's contribution to an employee's deferred compensation plan shall not lower the employee's wage rate below the minimum wage as set in §3-413, Labor and Employment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland.
- 11.9 Under Title 18, State and Finance Procurement Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, if the Commissioner determines that the Contractor/Subcontractor violated a provision of this title or regulations of the Commissioner, the Contractor/Subcontractor shall pay restitution to each affected employee, and the State may assess liquidated damages of \$20 per day for each employee paid less than the Living Wage.
- 11.10 Information pertaining to reporting obligations may be found by going to the DLLR Website <http://www.dllr.state.md.us/labor/> and clicking on Living Wage.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties, by their authorized representatives have executed this Contract.

University of Maryland Global Campus

Contractor

By: _____

By: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

EXHIBIT A

THIS Exhibit A to CONTRACT ("Contract") _____ is made as of this ____ day of _____, 20__ by and between _____, a corporation organized under the laws of the State of _____, with offices at _____, _____, hereinafter referred to as "Contractor," and the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC), a constituent institution of the University System of Maryland, an agency of the State of Maryland, with offices at 3501 University Boulevard East, Adelphi, MD 20783, hereinafter referred to as the "University," and collectively, the "Parties."

Description of Scope of Work:

APPENDIX C

2. CONTRACT AFFIDAVIT

DO NOT COMPLETE

This affidavit is a mandatory contract addendum in accordance with USM Procurement Policies and Procedures, but it is only required from the successful Contractor.

A. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

I HEREBY AFFIRM THAT:

I am the (title) _____ and the duly authorized representative of (business) _____ and that I possess the legal authority to make this Affidavit on behalf of myself and the contractor for which I am acting.

B. CERTIFICATION OF CORPORATION REGISTRATION AND TAX PAYMENT

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

- (1) The business named above is a (domestic____) (foreign____) [check one] corporation registered in accordance with the Corporations and Associations Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and that it is in good standing and has filed all its annual reports, together with filing fees, with the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation, and that the name and address of its resident agent filed with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation is:

Name: _____

Address: _____

- (2) Except as validly contested, the Contractor has paid, or has arranged for payment of, all taxes due the State of Maryland and has filed all required returns and reports with the Comptroller of the Treasury, the State Department of Assessments and Taxation, and the Employment Security Administration, as applicable, and will have paid all withholding taxes due to the State of Maryland prior to final settlement.

C. CERTIFICATION REGARDING INVESTMENTS IN IRAN

- (1) The undersigned bidder or offeror certifies that, in accordance with State Finance & Procurement Article, §17-705:
 - (i) it is not identified on the list created by the Board of Public Works as a person engaging in investment activities in Iran as described in §17-702 of State Finance & Procurement; and
 - (ii) it is not engaging in investment activities in Iran as described in State Finance & Procurement Article, §17-702.
- (2) The undersigned bidder or offeror is unable to make the above certification regarding its investment activities in Iran due to the following activities:

D. CERTAIN AFFIRMATIONS VALID

I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT:

To the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, each of the affirmations, certifications, or acknowledgments contained in that certain Proposal Affidavit dated _____, and executed by me for the purpose of obtaining the contract to which this Exhibit is attached remains true and correct in all respects as if made as of the date of this Contract Affidavit and as if fully set forth herein.

I DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE AND AFFIRM UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY THAT THE CONTENTS OF THIS AFFIDAVIT ARE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION, AND BELIEF.

Date: _____ By: _____

APPENDIX D

ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER SCHEDULE

Payments to Contractors by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)

If the annual dollar value of this contract will exceed \$500,000.00, the Bidder/Offeror is hereby advised that electronic funds transfer (EFT) will be used by the State to pay the Contractor for this Contract and any other State payments due Contractor unless the State Comptroller's Office grants the Contractor an exemption.

By submitting a response to this solicitation, the Bidder/Offeror agrees to accept payments by EFT. The selected Bidder/Offeror shall register using Form GADX10 - Authorization for Vendor Payments. Any request for exemption must be submitted to the State Comptroller's Office for approval at the address specified on the GADX10 form and must include the business identification information as stated on the form and include the reason for the exemption.

The form is available as a PDF file on the web site of the General Accounting Division of the Comptroller of Maryland, located at:

<https://www.marylandtaxes.gov/forms/state-accounting/static-files/GADX10Form.pdf>

APPENDIX M

MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (MBE) INFORMATION AND FORMS

An MBE subcontracting goal of no less than 3% of the total Contract value is established for the Services under this solicitation.

1. Minority Business Enterprise Participation

2. Attachment D-1A (Parts 1 – 3):

Part 1 – Instructions

Part 2 – MBE Utilization and Fair Solicitation Affidavit

Part 3 – MBE Participation Schedule

Note: If an Offeror fails to submit “Attachment D-1A (Part 2) – MBE Utilization and Fair Solicitation Affidavit” with its bid or Technical Proposal as required by the solicitation, the Procurement Officer shall deem the bid non-responsive or shall determine that the Offer is not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award. **This is non-curable.**

Note: If an Offeror fails to submit “Attachment D-1A (Part 3) – MBE Participation Schedule” with its bid or Price Proposal as required by the solicitation, the Procurement Officer shall deem the bid non-responsive or shall determine that the Offer is not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award. **This is non-curable.**

3. Attachment D-2: MBE Outreach Efforts Compliance Statement
4. Attachment D-3A: Certified MBE Subcontractor Participation Certification
5. Attachment D-3B: MBE Prime Project Participation Certification
6. Attachment D-4A: MBE Participation Prime Contractor Paid/Unpaid MBE Invoice Report
7. Attachment D-4B: MBE Prime Contractor Report
8. Attachment D-5: MBE Subcontractor Paid/Unpaid MBE Invoice Report
9. MBE Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

APPENDIX M

1. MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PARTICIPATION

I. PURPOSE

Contractor shall structure its procedures for the performance of the work required in this contract to attempt to achieve the minority business enterprise (MBE) goal stated in the Invitation for Bids or Request for Proposals. MBE performance must be in accordance with this Exhibit, as authorized by Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 21.11.03. Contractor agrees to exercise all good faith efforts to carry out the requirements set forth in this Exhibit.

II. MBE Goals and Subgoals

☐ An overall MBE subcontract participation goal of **3%** of the total contract dollar amount has been established for this procurement.

☐ A prime contractor — **including an MBE prime contractor** — must accomplish an amount of work not less than the MBE subcontract goal with certified MBE subcontractors.

☐ A prime contractor comprising a joint venture that includes MBE partner(s) must accomplish the MBE subcontract goal with certified MBE subcontractors.

III. TECHNICAL PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

A bidder or offeror **must** include with its TECHNICAL PROPOSAL a completed and signed ***MBE Utilization and Fair Solicitation Affidavit (Attachment D-1A (Part 2))*** whereby the bidder or offeror acknowledges the certified MBE participation goal or requests a waiver, commits to make a good faith effort to achieve the goal, and affirms that MBE subcontractors were treated fairly in the solicitation process.

If a bidder or offeror fails to submit the completed Attachment D-1A (Part 2) with the bid or offer as required, the Procurement Officer shall deem the bid non-responsive or shall determine that the offer is not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award. THIS IS NON-CURABLE.

IV. PRICE PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

A bidder or offeror **must** include with its Price Proposal, a completed and signed ***MBE Participation Schedule (Attachment D-1A (Part 3))*** whereby the bidder or offeror responds to the expected degree of Minority Business Enterprise participation as stated in the solicitation, by identifying the specific commitment of certified MBEs at the time of submission of the Price Proposal. The bidder or offeror shall specify the percentage of the contract value or dollar amount and the items of work associated with each MBE subcontractor identified on the MBE Participation Schedule.

If a bidder or offeror fails to submit the completed and signed Attachment D-1A (Part 3) with its Price Proposal as required, the Procurement Officer shall deem the bid non-responsive or shall determine that the offer is not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award. THIS IS NON-CURABLE.

V. **NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD:** Within 10 working days from notification that it is the apparent awardee or from the date of the actual award, whichever is earlier, the apparent awardee must provide the following documentation to the Procurement Officer.

- (1) **MBE Outreach Efforts Compliance Statement** (Attachment D-2)
- (2) **MBE Subcontractor Participation Statement** (Attachment D-3A)
- (3) **MBE Prime Contractor Project Participation Statement** (Attachment D-3B), if applicable.
- (4) If the apparent awardee believes a waiver (in whole or in part) of the overall MBE goal or of any subgoal is necessary, it must submit a fully documented waiver request that complies with COMAR 21.11.03.11.
- (5) Any other documentation required by the Procurement Officer to ascertain bidder or offeror responsibility in connection with the certified MBE participation goal.

If the apparent awardee fails to return each completed document within the required time, the Procurement Officer may determine that the apparent awardee is not responsible and therefore not eligible for contract award. If the contract has already been awarded, the award is voidable.

VI. CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Contractor shall:

1. Submit each month via email to the MBE Liaison, Pamela Welzenbach (Pamela.Welzenbach@umgc.edu) the fully completed **Attachment D-4A – MBE Participation Prime Contractor Paid/Unpaid MBE Invoice Report** listing any unpaid invoices, over 30 days old, received from any certified MBE subcontractor, the amount of each invoice and the reason payment has not been made. If the Contractor is an MBE Prime Contractor, also submit monthly reports to the MBE Liaison identifying the invoices and value of the work being self-performed for purposes of meeting the MBE participation goal/subgoals. NOTE: If the apparent awardee is an MDOT-certified MBE firm, then the Contractor must also submit Attachment D-4B: Minority Business Enterprise MBE Prime Contractor Report. This only applies if the apparent awardee is an MBE Prime Contractor.
2. Include in its agreements with its certified MBE subcontractors a requirement that those subcontractors submit each month to the MBE Liaison, Pamela Welzenbach (Pamela.Welzenbach@umgc.edu) the fully completed Attachment D-5: Minority Business Enterprise Subcontractor Paid/Unpaid MBE Invoice Report that identifies the prime contract and lists all payments received from Contractor in the preceding 30 days, as well as any outstanding invoices, and the amount of those invoices.
3. Maintain such records as are necessary to confirm compliance with its MBE participation obligations. These records must indicate the identity of certified minority and non-minority subcontractors employed on the contract, the type of work performed by each, and the actual dollar value of work performed. Subcontract agreements documenting the work performed by all MBE participants must be retained by the Contractor and furnished to the Procurement Officer on request.
4. Consent to provide such documentation as reasonably requested and to provide right-of-entry at reasonable times for purposes of the State's representatives verifying compliance with the MBE participation obligations. Contractor must retain all records concerning MBE participation and make them available for State inspection for three years after final completion of the contract.

5. At the option of the procurement agency, upon completion of the contract and before final payment and/or release of retainage, submit a final report in affidavit form and under penalty of perjury, of all payments made to, or withheld from MBE subcontractors.

APPENDIX M

2. ATTACHMENT D-1A Part 1 – Instructions

PLEASE READ BEFORE COMPLETING THIS DOCUMENT

This form includes Instructions and the MBE Utilization and Fair Solicitation Affidavit and MBE Participation Schedule which must be submitted with the bid/proposal. If the bidder/offeror fails to accurately complete and submit this Affidavit and Schedule with the bid or proposal, the Procurement Officer shall deem the bid non-responsive or shall determine that the proposal is not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award unless the inaccuracy is determined to be the result of a minor irregularity that is waived or cured in accordance with COMAR 21.06.02.04.

1. Contractor shall structure its procedures for the performance of the work required in this Contract to attempt to achieve the minority business enterprise (MBE) subcontractor participation goal stated in the Invitation for Bids or Request for Proposals. Contractor agrees to exercise good faith efforts to carry out the requirements set forth in these Instructions, as authorized by the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 21.11.03.
2. MBE Goals and Subgoals: Please review the solicitation for information regarding the Contract's MBE overall participation goals and subgoals. After satisfying the requirements for any established subgoals, the Contractor is encouraged to use a diverse group of subcontractors and suppliers from the various MBE classifications to meet the remainder of the overall MBE participation goal.
3. MBE means a minority business enterprise that is certified by the Maryland Department of Transportation ("MDOT"). Only MBEs certified by MDOT may be counted for purposes of achieving the MBE participation goals. In order to be counted for purposes of achieving the MBE participation goals, the MBE firm, including a MBE prime, must be MDOT-certified for the services, materials or supplies that it is committed to perform on the MBE Participation Schedule. A firm whose MBE certification application is pending may not be counted.
4. Please refer to the MDOT MBE Directory at <https://mbe.mdot.maryland.gov/directory/> to determine if a firm is certified with the appropriate North American Industry Classification System ("NAICS") Code **and** the product/services description (specific product that a firm is certified to provide or specific areas of work that a firm is certified to perform). For more general information about NAICS codes, please visit <https://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/>. Only those specific products and/or services for which a firm is certified in the MDOT Directory can be used for purposes of achieving the MBE participation goals. **CAUTION:** If the firm's NAICS Code is in graduated status, such services/products may not be counted for purposes of achieving the MBE participation goals. A NAICS Code is in the graduated status if the term "Graduated" follows the Code in the MDOT MBE Directory.
5. **Guidelines Regarding MBE Prime Self-Performance.** Please note that when a certified MBE firm participates as a prime contractor on a Contract, a procurement agency may count the distinct, clearly defined portion of the work of the Contract that the certified MBE

firm performs with its own workforce toward fulfilling up to, but no more than, fifty-percent (50%) of the overall MBE participation goal, including up to one hundred percent (100%) of not more than one of the MBE participation subgoals, if any, established for the Contract.

- ✓ In order to receive credit for self-performance, an MBE prime must be certified in the appropriate NAICS code to do the work and must list its firm in the MBE Participation Schedule, including the certification category under which the MBE prime is self-performing and include information regarding the work it will self-perform.
- ✓ For the remaining portion of the overall goal and the remaining subgoals, the MBE prime must also identify on the MBE Participation Schedule the other certified MBE subcontractors used to meet those goals or request a waiver.
- ✓ These guidelines apply to the work performed by the MBE Prime that can be counted for purposes of meeting the MBE participation goals. These requirements do not affect the MBE Prime's ability to self-perform a greater portion of the work in excess of what is counted for purposes of meeting the MBE participation goals.
- ✓ Please note that the requirements to meet the MBE participation overall goal and subgoals are distinct and separate. If the contract has subgoals, regardless of MBE Prime's ability to self-perform up to 50% of the overall goal (including up to 100% of any subgoal), the MBE Prime must either commit to use other MBEs for each of any remaining subgoals or request a waiver. As set forth in Attachment 1-B Waiver Guidance, the MBE Prime's ability to self-perform certain portions of the work of the Contract will not be deemed a substitute for the good faith efforts to meet any remaining subgoal or the balance of the overall goal.
- ✓ In certain instances where the percentages allocated to MBE participation subgoals add up to more than 50% of the overall goal, the portion of self-performed work that an MBE Prime may count toward the overall goal may be limited to less than 50%. Please refer to the Governor's Office of Small Minority & Women Business Affairs' website for the MBE Prime Regulations Q&A for illustrative examples.
http://www.goMDsmallbiz.maryland.gov/Documents/MBE_Toolkit/MBEPrimeRegulation_QA.pdf

6. Subject to items 1 through 5 above, when a certified MBE performs as a participant in a joint venture, a procurement agency may count a portion of the total dollar value of the Contract equal to the distinct, clearly-defined portion of the work of the Contract that the certified MBE performs with its own forces toward fulfilling the Contract goal, and not more than one of the Contract subgoals, if any.
7. The work performed by a certified MBE firm, including an MBE prime, can only be counted towards the MBE participation goal(s) if the MBE firm is performing a commercially useful function on the Contract. Please refer to COMAR 21.11.03.12-1 for more information regarding these requirements.
8. **Materials and Supplies: New Guidelines Regarding MBE Participation.**
 - ✓ Regular Dealer (generally identified as a wholesaler or supplier in the MDOT Directory): Up to 60% of the costs of materials and supplies provided by a certified MBE may be counted towards the MBE participation goal(s) if such MBE is a Regular Dealer of such materials and supplies. Regular Dealer is defined as a firm

that owns, operates, or maintains a store, a warehouse, or any other establishment in which the materials, supplies, articles, or equipment are of the general character described by the specifications required under the contract and are bought, kept in stock, or regularly sold or leased to the public in the usual course of business; and does not include a packager, a broker, a manufacturer's representative, or any other person that arranges or expedites transactions.

Example for illustrative purposes of applying the 60% rule:

Overall contract value: \$2,000,000

Total value of supplies: \$100,000

Calculate Percentage of Supplies to overall contract value: \$100,000 divided by \$2,000,000 = 5%

***Apply 60% Rule - Total percentage of Supplies/Products $5\% \times 60\% = 3\%$
 3% would be counted towards achieving the MBE Participation Goal and Subgoal, if any, for the MBE supplier in this example.***

- ✓ **Manufacturer:** A certified MBE firm's participation may be counted in full if the MBE is certified in the appropriate NAICS code(s) to provide products and services as a manufacturer.
- ✓ **Broker:** With respect to materials or supplies purchased from a certified MBE that is neither a manufacturer nor a regular dealer, a unit may apply the entire amount of fees or commissions charged for assistance in the procurement of the materials and supplies, fees, or transportation charges for the delivery of materials and supplies required on a procurement toward the MBE contract goals, provided a unit determines the fees to be reasonable and not excessive as compared with fees customarily allowed for similar services. A unit may not apply any portion of the costs of the materials and supplies toward MBE goals.
- ✓ **Furnish and Install and other Services:** The participation of a certified MBE supplier, wholesaler, and/or regular dealer certified in the proper NAICS code(s) to furnish and install materials necessary for successful contract completion may be counted in full. Includes the participation of other MBE service providers in the proper NAICS code(s) may be counted in full.

9. **Dually certified firms.** An MBE that is certified in more than one subgroup category may only be counted toward goal fulfillment of ONE of those categories with regard to a particular contract.

Example: A woman-owned Hispanic American (dually certified) firm may be used to fulfill the women-owned OR Hispanic American subgoal, but not both on the same contract.

10. **CAUTION:** The percentage of MBE participation, computed using the percentage amounts determined for all of the MBE firms listed in PART 3, MUST meet or exceed the MBE participation goal and subgoals (if applicable) as set forth in PART 2- for this solicitation. If a bidder/offeror is unable to meet the MBE participation goal or any subgoals (if applicable), then the bidder/offeror must request a waiver in PART 2 or the bid will be deemed not responsive, or the proposal not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award. You may wish to use the attached Goal/Subgoal Worksheet to assist in calculating the percentages and confirming that your commitment meets or exceeds the applicable

MBE participation goal and subgoals (if any).

11. If you have any questions as to whether a firm is certified to perform the specific services or provide specific products, please contact MDOT's Office of Minority Business Enterprise at 1-800-544-6056 or via email to mbe@mdot.state.md.us sufficiently prior to the submission due date.

Overall Goal

Total MBE Participation (include all categories):	3%
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APPENDIX M

2. ATTACHMENT D-1A

Part 2 – MBE Utilization and Fair Solicitation Affidavit

This MBE Utilization and Fair Solicitation Affidavit must be completed in its entirety and included with the Technical Bid/Proposal. If the bidder/offeror fails to accurately complete and submit this Affidavit with the bid or proposal as required, the Procurement Officer shall deem the bid non-responsive or shall determine that the proposal is not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award. **THIS IS NON-CURABLE.**

In connection with the bid/proposal submitted in response to Solicitation No. 92317, I affirm the following:

MBE Participation (PLEASE CHECK ONLY ONE)

- ☐ I acknowledge and intend to meet IN FULL both the overall certified Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) participation goal of 3 percent and all of the following subgoals:

SUBGOALS NOT APPLICABLE

<u> n/a </u>	percent for African American-owned MBE firms
<u> n/a </u>	percent for Hispanic American-owned MBE firms
<u> n/a </u>	percent for Asian American-owned MBE firms
<u> n/a </u>	percent for Women-owned MBE firms

Therefore, I am not seeking a waiver pursuant to COMAR 21.11.03.11. I acknowledge that by checking the above box and agreeing to meet the stated goal and subgoal(s), if any, I must complete and sign Attachment D-1A (Part 3) – MBE Participation Schedule in order to be considered for award.

OR

- ☐ After making good faith outreach efforts prior to making this submission, I conclude that I am unable to achieve the MBE participation goal and/or subgoals. I hereby request a waiver, in whole or in part, of the overall goal and/or subgoals I acknowledge that by checking this box and requesting a partial waiver of the stated goal and/or one or more of the stated subgoal(s) if any, I must complete and sign Attachment D-1A (Part 3) – MBE Participation Schedule for the portion of the goal and/or subgoal(s) if any, for which I am not seeking a waiver, in order to be considered for award.

Additional MBE Documentation

I understand that if I am notified that I am the apparent awardee or as requested by the Procurement Officer, I must submit the following documentation within 10 working days of receiving notice of the potential award or from the date of conditional award (per COMAR 21.11.03.10), whichever is earlier:

- Outreach Efforts Compliance Statement (Attachment D-2);
- MBE Subcontractor/MBE Prime Project Participation Statement (Attachments D-3A and 3B);
- Any other documentation, including additional waiver documentation if applicable, required by the Procurement Officer to ascertain bidder or offeror responsibility in connection with the certified MBE participation goal and subgoals, if any.

I understand that if I fail to return each completed document within the required time, the Procurement Officer may determine that I am not responsible and therefore not eligible for contract award. If the contract has already been awarded, the award is voidable.

Information provided to MBE firms

In the solicitation of subcontract quotations or offers, MBE firms were provided not less than the same information and amount of time to respond as were non-MBE firms.

To complete Attachment D-1-A – Part 2 – MBE Utilization and Fair Solicitation Affidavit, Bidder/Offeror must sign below:

I solemnly affirm under the penalties of perjury that: (i) I have reviewed the instructions for the MBE Utilization and Fair Solicitation Affidavit, and (ii) the information contained in the MBE Utilization and Fair Solicitation Affidavit is true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Bidder/Offeror Name
(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

Signature of Authorized Representative

Address

Printed Name and Title

City, State and Zip Code

Date

Submit this with Technical Proposal

APPENDIX M

2. ATTACHMENT D-1A Part 3 – MBE Participation Schedule

This MBE Participation Schedule must be completed in its entirety and included with the Price Bid/Proposal. If the bidder/offeror fails to accurately complete and submit this Affidavit with the bid or proposal as required, the Procurement Officer shall deem the bid non-responsive or shall determine that the proposal is not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award. **THIS IS NON-CURABLE.**

Set forth below are the (i) certified MBEs I intend to use, (ii) the percentage of the total Contract value allocated to each MBE for this project and, (iii) the items of work each MBE will provide under the Contract. I have confirmed with the MDOT database that the MBE firms identified below (including any self-performing MBE prime firms) are performing work activities for which they are MDOT-certified.

Prime Contractor	Project Description	PROJECT/CONTRACT NUMBER

LIST INFORMATION FOR EACH CERTIFIED MBE FIRM YOU AGREE TO USE TO ACHIEVE THE MBE PARTICIPATION GOAL AND SUBGOALS, IF ANY. MBE PRIMES: PLEASE COMPLETE BOTH SECTIONS A AND B BELOW.

SECTION A: For MBE Prime Contractors ONLY (including MBE Primes in a Joint Venture).
NOTE: Only firms that are MDOT-certified MBEs should complete Section A. Otherwise, move to next section.

MBE Prime Firm Name: _____ MBE Certification Number: _____ (If dually certified, check only one box.) ☐ African American-Owned ☐ Hispanic American- Owned ☐ Asian American-Owned ☐ Women-Owned ☐ Other MBE Classification NAICS code: _____	Percentage of total Contract Value to be performed with own forces and counted towards the MBE overall participation goal (up to 50% of the overall goal): _____% Please refer to Item #8 in Part 1- Instructions of this document for new MBE participation guidelines regarding materials and supplies. Percentage of total Contract Value to be performed with own forces and counted towards the subgoal, if any, for my MBE classification (up to 100% of not more than one subgoal): _____% ☐ Supplier, wholesaler and/or regular dealer (count 60%) ☐ Manufacturer (count 100%) ☐ Broker (count reasonable fee/commission only) ☐ Furnish and Install and other Services (count 100%) Complete the applicable prompt (select only one) from prompts A-C below that applies to the type of work your firm is self-performing to calculate amount to be counted towards achieving the MBE Participation Goal and Subgoal, if any. A. Percentage amount of subcontract where the MBE Prime firm is being used for manufacturer, furnish and install, and/or <u>services</u> (excluding products / services from suppliers, wholesalers, regular dealers and brokers) _____% B. Percentage amount for items of work where the MBE Prime firm is being used as supplier, wholesaler, and/or regular dealer (60% Rule). Total percentage of Supplies/Products _____% x 60% = _____% C. Percentage amount of fee where the MBE Prime firm is being used as broker (count reasonable fee/commission only) _____% Description of the Work to be performed with MBE prime's own forces: _____ _____
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SECTION B: For all Contractors (including MBE Primes and MBE Primes in a Joint Venture)

MBE Firm Name: _____ MBE Certification Number: _____ (If dually certified, check only one box.) ☐ African American-Owned ☐ Hispanic American- Owned ☐ Asian American-Owned ☐ Women-Owned ☐ Other MBE Classification NAICS code: _____	Please refer to Item #8 in Part 1- Instructions of this document for new MBE participation guidelines regarding materials and supplies. ☐ Supplier, wholesaler and/or regular dealer (count 60%) ☐ Manufacturer (count 100%) ☐ Broker (count reasonable fee/commission only) ☐ Furnish and Install and other Services (count 100%) Complete the applicable prompt (select only one) from prompts A-C below that applies to the type of work that the MBE firm named to the left will be performing to calculate the amount to be counted towards achieving the MBE Participation Goal and Subgoal, if any. A. Percentage amount of subcontract where the MBE firm is being used for manufacturer, furnish and install, and/or <u>services</u> (excluding products/services from suppliers, wholesalers, regular dealers and brokers) _____% B. Percentage amount for items of work where the MBE firm is being used as supplier, wholesaler, and/or regular dealer (60% Rule)). Total percentage of Supplies/Products _____% x 60% = _____% C. Percentage amount of fee where the MBE firm is being used as broker (count reasonable fee/commission only) _____ % Description of the Work to be Performed: _____ _____
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MBE Firm Name: _____ MBE Certification Number: _____ (If dually certified, check only one box.) ☐ African American-Owned ☐ Hispanic American- Owned ☐ Asian American-Owned ☐ Women-Owned ☐ Other MBE Classification NAICS code: _____	Please refer to Item #8 in Part 1- Instructions of this document for new MBE participation guidelines regarding materials and supplies. ☐ Supplier, wholesaler and/or regular dealer (count 60%) ☐ Manufacturer (count 100%) ☐ Broker (count reasonable fee/commission only) ☐ Furnish and Install and other Services (count 100%) Complete the applicable prompt (select only one) from prompts A-C below that applies to the type of work that the MBE firm named to the left will be performing to calculate the amount to be counted towards achieving the MBE Participation Goal and Subgoal, if any. A. Percentage amount of subcontract where the MBE firm is being used for manufacturer, furnish and install, and/or services (excluding products/services from suppliers, wholesalers, regular dealers and brokers) _____% B. Percentage amount for items of work where the MBE firm is being used as supplier, wholesaler, and/or regular dealer (60% Rule)). Total percentage of Supplies/Products _____% x 60% = _____% C. Percentage amount of fee where the MBE firm is being used as broker (count reasonable fee/commission only) _____% Description of the Work to be Performed: _____ _____
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MBE Firm Name: _____ MBE Certification Number: _____ (If dually certified, check only one box.) ☐ African American-Owned ☐ Hispanic American- Owned ☐ Asian American-Owned ☐ Women-Owned ☐ Other MBE Classification NAICS code: _____	Please refer to Item #8 in Part 1- Instructions of this document for new MBE participation guidelines regarding materials and supplies. ☐ Supplier, wholesaler and/or regular dealer (count 60%) ☐ Manufacturer (count 100%) ☐ Broker (count reasonable fee/commission only) ☐ Furnish and Install and other Services (count 100%) Complete the applicable prompt (select only one) from prompts A-C below that applies to the type of work that the MBE firm named to the left will be performing to calculate the amount to be counted towards achieving the MBE Participation Goal and Subgoal, if any. A. Percentage amount of subcontract where the MBE firm is being used for manufacturer, furnish and install, and/or services (excluding products/services from suppliers, wholesalers, regular dealers and brokers) _____% B. Percentage amount for items of work where the MBE firm is being used as supplier, wholesaler, and/or regular dealer (60% Rule)). Total percentage of Supplies/Products _____% x 60% = _____% C. Percentage amount of fee where the MBE firm is being used as broker (count reasonable fee/commission only) _____% Description of the Work to be Performed: _____ _____
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MBE Firm Name: _____ MBE Certification Number: _____ (If dually certified, check only one box.) ☐ African American-Owned ☐ Hispanic American- Owned ☐ Asian American-Owned ☐ Women-Owned ☐ Other MBE Classification NAICS code: _____	Please refer to Item #8 in Part 1- Instructions of this document for new MBE participation guidelines regarding materials and supplies. ☐ Supplier, wholesaler and/or regular dealer (count 60%) ☐ Manufacturer (count 100%) ☐ Broker (count reasonable fee/commission only) ☐ Furnish and Install and other Services (count 100%) Complete the applicable prompt (select only one) from prompts A-C below that applies to the type of work that the MBE firm named to the left will be performing to calculate the amount to be counted towards achieving the MBE Participation Goal and Subgoal, if any. A. Percentage amount of subcontract where the MBE firm is being used for manufacturer, furnish and install, and/or services (excluding products/services from suppliers, wholesalers, regular dealers and brokers) _____% B. Percentage amount for items of work where the MBE firm is being used as supplier, wholesaler, and/or regular dealer (60% Rule)). Total percentage of Supplies/Products _____% x 60% = _____% C. Percentage amount of fee where the MBE firm is being used as broker (count reasonable fee/commission only) _____% Description of the Work to be Performed: _____ _____
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Continue on separate page if needed

I solemnly affirm under the penalties of perjury that: (i) I have reviewed the instructions for the MBE Schedule, and (ii) the information contained in the MBE Schedule is true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Bidder/Offeror Name
(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

Signature of Authorized Representative

Address

Printed Name and Title

City, State and Zip Code

Date

SUBMIT THIS SCHEDULE WITH PRICE PROPOSAL

NOTE:

MBE Forms D-2, D-3A, and D-3B from Appendix M are to be submitted **ONLY** if the firm is notified that is the apparent awardee.

APPENDIX M

3. ATTACHMENT D-2 MBE Outreach Efforts Compliance Statement

To be completed and submitted by the apparent awardee within 10 Business Days of notification of apparent award or actual award, whichever is earlier.

In conjunction with the Proposal submitted in response to Solicitation No. 92317, I state the following:

1. Offeror identified subcontracting opportunities in these specific work categories:

2. Attached to this form are copies of written solicitations (with Proposal instructions) or copies of emails or evidence of phone conversations used to solicit certified MBE firms for these subcontract opportunities.

3. Offeror made the following attempts to personally contact the solicited MDOT-certified MBE firms:

4. **Please Check One:**
☒ This project does not involve bonding requirements.
☐ Offeror assisted MDOT-certified MBE firms to fulfill or seek waiver of bonding requirements. (DESCRIBE EFFORTS):

5. **Please Check One:**
☐ Offeror did attend the pre-Proposal conference.
☒ No pre-proposal meeting/conference was held.
☐ Offeror did not attend the pre-proposal conference.

Company Name: _____

By: _____
Signature of Authorized Representative

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Company Address: _____

APPENDIX M

4. ATTACHMENT D-3A Certified MBE Subcontractor Participation Certification

INSTRUCTIONS:

PRIME CONTRACTOR: After completing SECTIONS A, B, and D, provide this form to **each** certified Minority Business Enterprise subcontractor (MBE) listed on the MBE Participation Schedule (Attachment D-1A) allowing sufficient time for the MBE to respond within the required timeframe.

CERTIFIED MBE SUBCONTRACTOR: Complete SECTION C to acknowledge and certify the information in SECTION A. Return the completed form directly to the Procurement Officer identified in SECTION D within 10 days after notice from the Prime Contractor of the State's intent to award the Contract. Provide a copy to the Prime Contractor.

IF THIS FORM IS NOT RETURNED WITHIN THE REQUIRED TIME, THE PROCUREMENT OFFICER MAY DETERMINE THAT THE PRIME CONTRACTOR IS NOT RESPONSIBLE AND THEREFORE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR CONTRACT AWARD.

SECTION A

Provided that (Prime Contractor) _____ is awarded the State contract in conjunction with Solicitation Number _____, (Prime Contractor) _____ intends to enter into a subcontract with (Certified MBE Subcontractor) _____ with MDOT Certification Number _____ committing to participation by (Certified MBE Subcontractor) _____ of at least \$ _____ which equals % of the Total Contract Value for the following products/services:

NAICS CODE	WORK ITEM, SPECIFICATION NUMBER, LINE ITEMS OR WORK CATEGORIES (IF APPLICABLE)	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIFIC PRODUCTS AND/OR SERVICES

The Contractor and certified MBE each acknowledge that, for purposes of determining the accuracy of the information provided herein, the Procurement Officer may request additional information, including, without limitation, copies of the subcontract agreements and quotes. The Contractor and certified MBE each solemnly affirms under the penalties of perjury that: (i) the information provided in this Certified MBE Subcontractor Participation Certification is true to the best of its knowledge, information and belief, and (ii) it has fully complied with the State Minority Business Enterprise law, State Finance and Procurement Article §14-308(a)(2), Annotated Code of Maryland which provides that, except as otherwise provided by law, a Contractor may not

identify a certified MBE in a Bid/Proposal and:

- (1) fail to request, receive, or otherwise obtain authorization from the MBE to identify the MBE in its Bid/Proposal;
- (2) fail to notify the MBE before execution of the Contract of its inclusion of the Bid/Proposal;
- (3) fail to use the MBE in the performance of the Contract; or
- (4) pay the MBE solely for the use of its name in the Bid/Proposal.

SECTION B – Prime Contractor	SECTION C – Certified MBE Subcontractor
Signature of Representative: _____	Signature of Representative: _____
Printed Name and Title: _____	Printed Name and Title: _____
Prime Firm's Name: _____	Prime Firm's Name: _____
Federal Identification Number: _____	Federal Identification Number: _____
Street Address, City, State, & Zip Code: _____ _____	Street Address, City, State, & Zip Code: _____ _____
Phone: _____	Phone: _____
Date: _____	Date: _____

SECTION D	
This completed form is due to the Procurement Officer on or before: _____	
Solicitation #: _____	Solicitation Title: _____
Agency/Dept.: USM UMGC	Procurement Officer: _____
Phone: _____	Email: _____
Street Address, City, State, & Zip Code: _____ _____	

APPENDIX M

5. ATTACHMENT D-3B MBE Prime Project Participation Certification

Please complete and submit this form to attest to each specific item of work that the MBE Prime firm has listed on the MBE Participation Schedule (Attachment D-1A) for purposes of meeting the MBE participation goals. This form must be submitted **within 10 Business Days of notification of apparent award (if applicable)**. If the Offeror fails to return this affidavit within the required time, the Procurement Officer may determine that Proposal is not susceptible of being selected for Contract award.

Provided that _____ (MBE Prime Contractor's Name) with Certification Number _____ is awarded the State contract in conjunction with Solicitation No. _____, such MBE Prime Contractor intends to perform with its own forces at least \$ _____ which equals to _____% of the Total Contract Amount for performing the following goods and services for the Contract:

NAICS CODE	WORK ITEM, SPECIFICATION NUMBER, LINE ITEMS OR WORK CATEGORIES (IF APPLICABLE) For Construction Projects, General Conditions must be listed separately	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIFIC PRODUCTS AND/OR SERVICES	VALUE OF THE WORK

MBE Prime Contractor

Company Name: _____

FEIN: _____

Company Address: _____

Phone: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

By: _____

Date: _____

NOTE:

MBE Forms D-4A, D-4B, and D-5 from Appendix M
are to be used to report payments/non-payments

APPENDIX M

6. ATTACHMENT D-4A MBE Participation Prime Contractor Paid/Unpaid MBE Invoice Report

Report #:	Contract #:
Reporting Period (Month/Year):	Contracting Unit:
Prime Contractor: Report is due to the MBE Liaison by the 15th of the month following the month the services were provided. Note: Please number reports in sequence	Contract Amount:
	MBE Subcontract Amt:
	Project Begin Date:
	Project End Date:
	Services Provided:

Prime Contractor:		Contact Person:	
Address:			
City:		State:	ZIP:
Phone:	FAX:	E-mail:	
MBE Subcontractor Name:		Contact Person:	
Phone:	FAX:	E-mail:	
Subcontractor Services Provided:			
List all payments made to MBE subcontractor named above during this reporting period:		List dates and amounts of any outstanding invoices:	
	Invoice #	Amount	
1.			1.
2.			2.
3.			3.
4.			4.
Total Dollars Paid: \$		Total Dollars Unpaid: \$	

If more than one MBE subcontractor is used for this contract, you must use separate **Attachment D-4A** forms. Information regarding payments that the MBE Prime (if applicable) will use for purposes of meeting the MBE participation goals must be reported separately in **Attachment D-4B**.

Return one electronic copy of this form to the following address:

Pamela A. Welzenbach
 Compliance Manager and MBE/SBR Liaison
 Office of Procurement and Business Affairs
 University of Maryland Global Campus
pamela.welzenbach@umgc.edu

 Signature

 Date

APPENDIX M

7. ATTACHMENT D-4B MBE Prime Contractor Report

MBE Prime Contractor:	Contract #:
Certification Number:	Contracting Unit:
Report #:	Contract Amount:
Reporting Period (Month/Year):	Total Value of the Work to the Self-Performed for purposes of Meeting the MBE participation goal/subgoals:
MBE Prime Contractor: Report is due to the MBE Liaison by the 15th of the month following the month the services were provided. Note: Please number reports in sequence	Project Begin Date:
	Project End Date:

Contact Person:			
Address:			
City:		State:	ZIP:
Phone:	Fax:	E-mail:	

Invoice Number	Value of the Work	NAICS Code	Description of Specific Products and/or Services

Return one electronic copy of this form to the following address:

Pamela A. Welzenbach
 Compliance Manager and MBE/SBR Liaison
 Office of Procurement and Business Affairs
 University of Maryland Global Campus
pamela.welzenbach@umgc.edu

 Signature

 Date

APPENDIX M

8. ATTACHMENT D-5 MBE Subcontractor Paid/Unpaid MBE Invoice Report

Report #:	Contract #:
Reporting Period (Month/Year):	Contracting Unit:
Report is due to the MBE Liaison by the 15th of the month following the month the services were performed.	MBE Subcontract Amt:
	Project Begin Date:
	Project End Date:
	Services Provided:

MBE Subcontractor Name:					
MDOT Certification #:					
Contact Person:					
Address:					
City:			State:		ZIP:
Phone:		Fax:		E-mail:	
Subcontractor Services Provided:					
List all payments received from Prime Contractor during reporting period indicated above.			List dates and amounts of any unpaid invoices over 30 days old.		
	Invoice Amount	Date		Invoice Amount	Date
1.			1.		
2.			2.		
3.			3.		
4.			4.		
Total Dollars Paid: \$			Total Dollars Unpaid: \$		
Prime Contractor:			Contract Person:		

Return one electronic copy of this form to the following address:

Pamela A. Welzenbach
 Compliance Manager and MBE/SBR Liaison
 Office of Procurement and Business Affairs
 University of Maryland Global Campus
pamela.welzenbach@umgc.edu

 Signature

 Date

APPENDIX M

9. MBE Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

What is the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) program?

The MBE program is a Maryland state procurement program developed to encourage minority-owned firms to participate in the state procurement process. The program creates contracting opportunities specifically for certified Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs).

What is a certified Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)?

A certified MBE is a company that has obtained its MBE certification through the Maryland Department of Transportation's Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE). For more information on MBE certification, visit mdot.maryland.gov/certify.

What is the difference between a Prime Contractor and an MBE Prime Contractor?

The Proposer who is awarded the contract is known as the Prime Contractor. If that Proposer is also an MDOT-certified MBE firm, then the Proposer/Awardee will be known as an MBE Prime Contractor.

How are goals set on contracts?

The Procurement Review Group (PRG) Administrator sets goals based on the type of work being requested and the availability of certified MBE companies to perform the work. Prior to setting the goal, the PRG Administrator uses the official database of certified MBEs on the MDOT website to confirm that there are a sufficient number of companies that are certified with the proper NAICS codes to perform the work being requested.

Does an MBE goal apply to the initial scope of work as well as any change orders?

Yes. The MBE goal applies to the total of all dollars paid to the prime contractor. This would include the initial work order and any subsequent change orders.

If my company is certified as a Federal MBE or if my company is certified as an MBE in another state, will this count as the required MBE certification for this contract?

No. A company MUST be certified as an MBE by the State of Maryland in order for the certification to be recognized and counted towards the MBE goal. Maryland does not offer reciprocity at this time.

Does my business have to be certified as an MBE to participate on a state contract as a subcontractor?

No. Certification is not required to participate on a contract as a prime contractor or as a subcontractor; however, a non-certified subcontractor will not count towards satisfying any MBE goal on a contract.

How do I register my business with the State of Maryland?

Go to <https://egov.maryland.gov/businessexpress>. Click “Register – a New Business, Trade Name or Tax Account.” Log in or create a user account to proceed with registration. You will need to select your Maryland business type from the drop-down menu. Also select your Foreign (Non-Maryland) business type. If your company was formed in another state, i.e., not in Maryland, then your company is considered “Foreign.” If your company was formed in Maryland, then your company is “Domestic.”

How do I find a Resident Agent?

You can perform a search on your browser for “Resident Agents.” UMGC cannot recommend a specific firm. However, several companies that provide Resident Agent services, include Northwest Registered Agents, Harbor Compliance, CT Corporation, Universal Registered Agents, and URS Agents LLC. Please note that UMGC has NOT vetted any of these firms.

How do I become a subcontractor on a state contract?

Prime contractors are responsible for identifying qualified subcontractors to work on projects; however, the state does provide resources to help prime contractors identify potential subcontractors:

1. MBE Directory – As certified MBEs, businesses will be listed in the public directory of certified MBEs. Prime contractors are encouraged to use this directory to identify certified MBEs.
2. Pre-Bid Meetings (if applicable to the RFP) – All prime contractors and subcontractors are encouraged to attend all pre-bid meetings to discuss upcoming projects. Pre-bid meetings provide opportunities for prime contractors to meet MBE companies.

Who is required to submit MBE documentation?

MBE documentation must be submitted by all Offerors at the time of proposal submission. Following award of the project, the Prime Contractor MBE Unpaid Invoice Report (Form M-4A), is to be provided by the prime contractor to the MBE Liaison on a monthly basis. In addition, all MBE subcontractors are required to provide the Subcontractor MBE Unpaid Invoice Report (Form M-5) on a monthly basis to the MBE Liaison.

Please specify what and when the required MBE documentation is due.

The following MBE documentation is required:

- **MBE Attachment D-1A Part 2 – MBE Utilization and Fair Solicitation Affidavit** is due with submission of the Technical Proposal. If an Offeror fails to submit the completed and executed A-2 MBE form as required by the solicitation, the Procurement Officer shall deem the proposal non-responsive or shall determine that the Offer is not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award. **This is non-curable.** The D-1A Part 2 MBE form can be found under Appendix A - Technical Proposal Forms, as well as in Appendix M – Minority Business Enterprise Information and Forms.
- **MBE Attachment D-A1 Part 3 – MBE Participation Schedule** is due with submission of the Price Proposal. If an Offeror fails to submit the completed and executed D-1A Part 3 MBE form as required by the solicitation, the Procurement Officer shall deem the proposal non-responsive or shall determine that the Offer is not reasonably susceptible of being selected for award. **This is non-curable.** The D-1A Part 3 MBE form can be found under Appendix B -

Price Proposal Forms, as well as in Appendix M – Minority Business Enterprise Information and Forms.

- **MBE Attachment D-2 – Outreach Efforts Compliance Statement** is due within 10 working days from notification that the Offeror is the apparent awardee or from the date of the actual award, whichever is earlier. This MBE Attachment D-2 form must be completed, executed and submitted to the Procurement Officer. The Attachment D-2 form can be found under Appendix M – Information and Forms.
- **MBE Attachment D-3A – Subcontractor Project Participation Statement** is due within 10 working days from notification that the Offeror is the apparent awardee or from the date of the actual award, whichever is earlier. This MBE Attachment D-3A form must be completed, executed, and submitted to the Procurement Officer for each MDOT-certified MBE listed on Attachment D-3A. The Attachment D-3A form can be found under Appendix M – Information and Forms.
- **MBE Attachment D-3B – MBE Prime Project Participation Certification** *(if applicable)* is due within 10 working days of notification that the Offeror is the apparent awardee or from the date of actual award, whichever is earlier. **NOTE:** This MBE Attachment D-3B form only applies if the apparent awardee is an MDOT-certified MBE Prime Contractor. If the Offeror is not an MBE Prime Contractor, this form should not be submitted. The Attachment D-3B form can be found under Appendix M – Information and Forms.

The MBE Liaison will provide the awarded firm with the following required **MBE Reporting Forms** as well as instructions for completion prior to the start of the contract. The Prime Contractor/MBE Prime Contractor Reporting Forms are due to start with the beginning of the prime contract, and the MBE Subcontractor Reporting Forms are due to start with the beginning of the subcontract issued under the prime contract.

- **MBE Attachment D-4A – Prime Contractor Paid/Unpaid MBE Invoice Report.** After the start of an awarded contract, the Prime Contractor or MBE Prime Contractor will complete this report each month to reflect its subcontractors' services provided during the prior month (for example, will report October data in November, etc.). The completed form is due to the **MBE Liaison by the 15th of each month** and should be sent to the **MBE Liaison EVERY** month regardless of whether or not there was subcontracting activity. If there was no subcontracting activity, simply write "NO ACTIVITY" on the report, then sign, date, and send to the MBE Liaison at pamela.welzenbach@umgc.edu. This Attachment D-4A form can also be found under Appendix M – Information and Forms.
- **MBE Attachment D-4B – MBE Prime Contractor Report** *(if applicable)*. After the start of an awarded contract, if the awardee is an MBE firm, then the awardee is considered an MBE Prime Contractor. In addition to completing the Attachment D-3B form above, the MBE Prime Contractor must also complete this Attachment D-4B report each month to reflect all services performed by the MBE Prime with its own forces. The form shall reflect services performed during the prior month (for example, will report October data in November, etc.). The completed form is due to the **MBE Liaison by the 15th of each month** and should be sent to the **MBE Liaison EVERY** month regardless of whether or not there was activity. If no activity, simply write "NO ACTIVITY" on the report, then sign, date, and send to the MBE Liaison at pamela.welzenbach@umgc.edu. This Attachment D-4B form is only required if the awardee is an MBE Prime Contractor. This form can also be found under Appendix M – Information and Forms.
- **MBE Attachment D-5 – MBE Subcontractor Paid/Unpaid MBE Invoice Report.** ***THIS FORM IS NOT DUE UNTIL AFTER AN AWARDED SUBCONTRACT STARTS.*** The MBE Subcontractor will complete this report each month to reflect its services provided to the Prime Contractor or MBE Prime Contractor during the prior month (for example, the MBE Subcontractor will send October data in November, etc.). The completed form is due to the **MBE Liaison by the 15th of each month** and should be sent to the **MBE Liaison EVERY**

month regardless of whether or not there was activity. If no activity, simply write "NO ACTIVITY" on the report, then sign, date, and send to the MBE Liaison at pamela.welzenbach@umgc.edu. This Attachment D-5 form can also be found under Appendix M – Information and Forms.

Where do I find an MBE subcontractor's classification?

The MBE classification [ex: African-American, Asian, Hispanic, Women-owned, etc.] is listed on the MBE firm's profile page available in the MDOT Directory of Certified Firms.

On D-1A Part 3 MBE Participation Schedule, how do we determine if an MBE subcontractor is "Supplier, wholesaler and/or regular dealer," "Manufacturer," Broker," or "Furnish and Install and Other Services?"

Proposers should select the most appropriate of the four categories listed based on the services the MBE subcontractor will be providing.

What is the process by which an Awarded Proposer would contract with and pay an MBE subcontractor?

Any awarded vendor under an RFP would be considered a Prime Contractor. The Prime Contractor needs to have a subcontract with any/all MBE subcontractor(s) they contract to work with to provide services to UMGC. The MBE subcontractor will never invoice UMGC directly for services. All services provided by the MBE subcontractor should be invoiced to the Prime Contractor, and the Prime Contractor should invoice UMGC.

Can an MBE be the prime contractor on a contract with MBE goals?

Yes. However, an MBE prime is still responsible for identifying MBE subcontractors to fulfill some or all of the established MBE goal.

Can an MBE prime contractor satisfy all of the MBE goals on a contract?

No. An MBE prime contractor may satisfy up to Fifty Percent (50%) of the established MBE goal. The remainder of the goal must be satisfied by certified MBE subcontractors.

Where can I find laws and regulations regarding the MBE program?

Annotated Code of Maryland

[State Finance and Procurement Article, Division II, Title 14, Subtitle 3 – Minority Business Participation](#)

Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 21.11.03

[Title 21 – State Procurement Regulations, Subtitle 11, Chapter 3 – Minority Business Enterprise Policies](#)

What is expected of the MBE subcontractor once a contract is awarded?

All firms are expected to meet performance standards established by contract specifications. This relates to the quality of work done, the submission of reports and written information to the MBE Liaison

in a timely manner, and the firm's compliance with applicable regulations and laws. Once an MBE has been awarded a subcontract, the MBE is responsible for submitting verification of all payments received to the MBE Liaison at the contracting agency. This includes the payment amount and date received.

What are the prime contractor's responsibilities?

The prime contractor must first meet the MBE goals established on the contract by seeking out and using certified MBEs. Once work begins, the prime contractor is responsible for all project activities, including those of subcontractors.

Regular monitoring assures that contractual items are performed in accordance with specifications. Monthly reports must be submitted by the prime contractor. When changes are needed, the prime contractor must get approval from the agency procurement officer. Any changes in MBE participation must be approved.

Can an MBE goal be waived?

While waivers are permitted in the regulations, they will only be considered and can only be granted after the prime contractor/offeree has submitted the required documentation. There is a complete list of this required documentation found at COMAR 21.11.03.11.

A waiver of a certified MBE contract goal may be granted only upon a reasonable demonstration by the prime contractor/offeree that certified MBE subcontract participation was unable to be obtained or was unable to be obtained at a reasonable price or in the appropriate MBE classifications, and if UMGC determines that the public interest is served by a waiver. In making a determination, UMGC may consider engineering estimates, catalogue prices, general market availability and availability of certified MBEs in the area in which the work is to be performed, other bids or offers and subcontract bids or offers substantiating significant variances between certified MBE and non-MBE cost of participation, and their impact on the overall cost of the contract to the State and any other relevant factor.

UMGC will only assign an MBE goal if UMGC has performed sufficient research to confirm that there are sufficient certified MBEs that can provide subcontracting services in accordance with the contract's scope of work. If needed, UMGC's MBE Liaison will work with prime contractors/offerees who need assistance identifying one or more MBE subcontractors for the contract. The MBE Liaison can be reached at: pamela.welzenbach@umgc.edu.

APPENDIX S

SOLICITATION TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This solicitation and any subsequent award are further subject to:

1. Contractor's/Offeror's Responsibility.

Offerors are advised to read the requirements very carefully to ensure that each requirement is understood. If in doubt, develop and submit applicable questions in writing to the contact at the Issuing Office. An Offeror's misinterpretation of requirements shall not relieve the Offeror of the responsibility to address accurately the requirements of the RFP or to perform the Contract, if awarded. UMGC will enter into a contractual agreement with the selected Contractor(s) only. The selected Contractor(s) shall be solely responsible for all services as required by this RFP. Subcontractors, if any, will be the responsibility of the Contractor(s) and the role of subcontractors must be clearly identified in the proposal. The use of a subcontractor(s) does not relieve the Contractor(s) of liability under a Contract.

2. Rejection or Acceptance of Proposals.

The University reserves the right to: (i) accept or reject any and all proposals, in whole or in part; (ii) to waive minor irregularities; and (iii) to negotiate in any manner necessary to best serve the interests of the University. Further, the University reserves the right to make a whole award, multiple awards, a partial award, or no award at all. Offerors judged by the Procurement Officer not to be responsible or Offerors whose Proposals are classified as not reasonably susceptible to being selected for award shall be so notified. The University reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantities of any materials, equipment, supplies or services.

3. Cancellation of the RFP.

UMGC may cancel this RFP, in whole or in part, at any time.

4. Incurred Expenses.

Neither UMGC nor the State of Maryland is responsible for any expenses that Offerors may incur in preparing and submitting Proposals or in making oral presentations of their Proposals, if required.

5. Payment.

The State of Maryland usually provides payments on a net 30 day basis for UMGC approved invoices. Payment provisions shall be in arrears, with late payment and interest calculated as provided by Maryland law. For purposes of determining whether a prompt-payment discount, if applicable, may be taken by UMGC, the starting date of such reckoning period shall be the later of the date of a properly executed invoice or the date of completion of service and/or delivery of product.

6. Electronic Funds Transfer ("EFT").

By submitting a Proposal, the Offeror agrees to accept payment by electronic funds transfer unless the State Comptroller's Office grants an exemption. The selected Contractor shall register using the form referenced in Appendix D, the GADX10 Authorization for Vendor Payments. This form is to be submitted directly to the State Comptroller's Office at the address specified on the GADX10 form and must include the

business identification information as stated on the form and include the reason for the exemption.

7. Confidentiality.

7.1. UMGC's Information during the Procurement Process: The selected Contractor may have access to, may obtain, or be given confidential information, including without limitation information concerning the University's business strategies, political and legislative affairs, students, faculty, employees, vendors, contractors, customer lists, finances, properties, methods of operation, computer and telecommunication systems, and software and documentation. Certain confidential information may be protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, and the Maryland Public Information Act. The selected Contractor must have administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to protect the security, confidentiality, and integrity of the University's confidential information. UMGC may conduct discussions with Offerors in order to evaluate their abilities and responsiveness to the RFP. In order to facilitate the discussions and to allow Offerors to propose responsive solutions to UMGC's needs and requirements, UMGC is willing to disclose certain confidential information to Offerors, including without limitation information concerning UMGC's business strategies, political and legislative affairs, students, employees, vendors, contractors, customer lists, finances, properties, methods of operation, computer and telecommunications systems, and software and documentation ("Confidential Information"). By submitting a proposal in response to this RFP, Offerors agree: (i) to use Confidential Information solely for purposes of responding to and discussing the RFP; and (ii) not to disclose, permit or cause use of, or provide access to Confidential Information to any third person or entity. Upon request by UMGC, Offerors may be required to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement.

7.2. Offeror's Information: Offerors should give specific attention to the identification of those portions of the Proposal that the Offeror deems to be confidential, proprietary information, or trade secrets and provide any justification why such materials, upon request, should not be disclosed by the State under the Access to Public Records Act, State Government Article, Title 10, Subtitle 6, Annotated Code of Maryland. Offerors are advised that, upon request for this information from a third party, the Procurement Officer is required to make an independent determination as to whether the information may or may not be disclosed to the requesting party. That decision will take into consideration the Offeror's position regarding its Proposal. A blanket statement by a Offeror that its entire Proposal is confidential or proprietary will not be upheld.

8. Multiple Proposals.

Contractors may not submit more than one Proposal.

9. Alternate Solution Proposals.

Contractors may not submit an alternate to the solution given in this RFP.

10. Contractor Responsibilities and Use of Subcontractors.

The University shall enter into contractual agreement with the selected Contractor(s) only. The Contractor(s) shall be responsible for all products and/or services required by this RFP. UMGC will not consider Proposals that reflect primary and secondary service providers or a prime/subcontractor relationship. There should be proof of ability of the primary to manage a subcontractor and successfully coordinate the delivery of quality

service and support in a timely manner. Subcontractors, if any, shall be identified and a complete description of their role relative to the proposal shall be included. UMGC's intent is not to direct the use of any particular subcontractor, however, the Contractor may not contract with any such proposed person or entity to whom UMGC has a reasonable objection. Notification of such objection will be made by UMGC within fifteen (15) days of Contract. The Contractor shall be fully responsible for the acts and omissions of its subcontractors and of persons directly or indirectly employed by them. The use of subcontractors does not relieve the Contractor of liability.

11. Access to Contractor Records for Quality Assurance and Auditing Purposes.

The Contractor and its principal subcontractors must provide access to pertinent records by University personnel or its representatives (including internal auditors, external auditors, representatives, and agents) to provide quality assurance and auditing.

12. Arrearages.

By submitting a Proposal, an Offeror shall be deemed to represent that it is not in arrears in the payment of any obligation due and owing the State of Maryland, including the payment of taxes and employee benefits and that it shall not become so in arrears during the term of the Contract if selected for Contract Award.

13. Taxes.

UMGC is exempt from Federal Excise Taxes, Maryland Sales and Use Taxes, and District of Columbia Sales Taxes and Transportation Taxes, except as noted in applicable sections of COMAR. Exemption Certificates shall be provided upon request. In the instance a Contractor is required to furnish and install material in the construction or improvement of real property in performance of a Contract, the Contractor shall pay the Maryland Sales Tax and the exemption will not apply.

14. RFP Response Materials.

All written materials submitted in response to this RFP become the property of UMGC and may be appended to any formal documentation that would further define or expand the contractual relationship between UMGC and the Contractor(s).

15. Maryland Public Ethics Law, Title 15.

The Maryland Public Ethics Law prohibits, among other things, State employees or officials (and in some cases, former employees) and businesses in which such an individual is employed or holds a financial interest from: (i) submitting a bid or proposal; (ii) negotiating a contract; and (iii) entering into a contract with the governmental unit with which the individual is affiliated per the Maryland Code Annotated, State Government Article, § 15-502.

If the Offeror has any questions concerning application of the State Ethics law to the Offeror's participation in this procurement, it is incumbent upon the Offeror to seek advice from the State Ethics Commission: The Office of The Executive Director, State Ethics Commission, 9 State Circle, Suite 200, Annapolis, Maryland 21401. For questions regarding the applicability of this provision of the Public Ethics Law, call the State Ethics Commission's toll-free phone number, 877-669-6085, or see the website, <https://ethics.maryland.gov/public-ethics-law/>. The Procurement Officer may refer any issue raised by a Proposal to the State Ethics Commission. The Procurement Officer may require the Offeror to obtain advice from the State Ethics Commission and may reject a Proposal that would result in a violation of the Ethics law.

A resulting Contract is cancelable in the event of a violation of the Maryland Public Ethics Law by a Contractor or any State of Maryland employee in connection with this procurement.

16. Assistance in Drafting.

Under the State Government Article, § 15-508 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, an individual or person who employs an individual who assists an executive unit in drafting specifications, an invitation for bids, a request for proposals for a procurement, or the selection or award made in response to an invitation for bids or request for proposals may not submit a bid or proposal for that procurement or assist or represent another person, directly or indirectly, who is submitting a bid or proposal for that procurement. For questions regarding the applicability of this provision of the Public Ethics Law, call the State Ethics Commission's toll-free phone number, 877-669-6085, or see the website, <https://ethics.maryland.gov/public-ethics-law/>.

17. Addenda Acknowledgment.

Offerors must acknowledge in writing the receipt of any and all addenda, amendments, and/or changes issued. Such acknowledgement must be included in the Technical Proposal.

18. Duration of Offers.

Proposals (consisting of a Technical Proposal and, if applicable, a Price Proposal) shall remain irrevocable for 120 days following the closing date of the Price Proposal due date. This period may be extended by mutual agreement between the Offeror and the University.

19. Minority Business Enterprises.

Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) are strongly encouraged to respond to this solicitation notice. If a sub-contracting goal and/or subgoals has been set in Section I of the solicitation, refer to Appendix M for further information regarding required process and documentation.

20. Living Wage Requirements.

A solicitation for services under a State contract valued at \$100,000 or more may be subject to Maryland's Living Wage requirement, located at Maryland Code Annotated, State Finance and Procurement Article, Title 18, §§ 18-101 through 18-109. Additional information regarding the Living Wage requirement is contained in Appendix B, if applicable to this solicitation. An Offeror that fails to submit and complete the Affidavit of Agreement contained in Appendix B, if applicable, may be deemed not responsible by the Issuing Office.

21. Conflict of Interest.

The Contractor awarded the Contract shall provide the specified services for UMGC, and must do so impartially, and without any conflicts of interest. If the Procurement Officer makes a determination that facts or circumstances exist that give rise to or could in the future give rise to a conflict of interest within the meaning of COMAR 21.05.08.08A, the Procurement Officer may reject a Contractor's Proposal under COMAR 21.06.02.03B. Contractors should be aware that the State Ethics Law, State Government 15-508, might limit the selected Contractor's ability to participate in future related procurements, depending upon specific circumstances. Refer to Paragraphs 15 and 16 above. By

submitting a response to the solicitation, the Contractor affirms its understanding and compliance with this clause.