



Delaware Office of Auditor of Accounts

Request for Proposal

For

Delaware Public Employees' Retirement System (DPERS)
and First State Independence Fund I, LLC (FSIF)
Financial Statement Audits

Professional Services

February 28, 2012

RFP12-CPA-04

by

State of Delaware
Office of Auditor of Accounts
Townsend Building, Suite 1
401 Federal Street
Dover, Delaware 19901

Deadline to Respond: 3 p.m. (EST), March 21, 2012

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I. Introduction

In accordance with 29 Del. C. Chapter 69, Subchapter VI, *Professional Services*, the Office of Auditor of Accounts (AOA) is distributing this Request for Proposal (RFP) to, and requesting proposals from, qualified certified public accounting firms to perform an engagement in accordance with Section IV. for each of the fiscal years ended June 30, 2012 and June 30, 2013.

There is no expressed or implied obligation for AOA to reimburse firms for any costs or expenses incurred in preparing proposals in response to this request. AOA will **not** pay any costs or expenses incurred by any firm associated with any aspect of responding to this RFP, including proposal preparation, printing, delivery, or the negotiation process. Additionally, no indirect reimbursements (e.g., in the form of credits or reductions to any agreed upon compensation) must be made to any responding firm by AOA for any such costs or expenses.

Public notice has been provided in accordance with 29 Del. C. § 6981.

II. Proposal Process

A *mandatory* pre-bid meeting for all firms interested in submitting a proposal will be held at 10:00 a.m., March 14, 2012, in the AOA's third floor conference room in the Townsend Building, 401 Federal Street, Dover, DE 19901 to discuss the RFP and answer questions.

All firms who wish to bid on this proposal **must be present** and on time at the mandatory pre-bid meeting. No proposals will be accepted from bidders who either do not attend the mandatory pre-bid meeting or who are more than 10 minutes late.

After this *mandatory* pre-bid meeting, **any inquiries concerning this RFP must be emailed directly to:**

Kathleen O'Donnell
Chief Administrative Auditor
302-857-3919
Kathleen.Odonnell@state.de.us

Direct contact with State of Delaware or AOA employees other than the above-referenced contact regarding this RFP is expressly prohibited without prior consent.

Firms contacting the State of Delaware or AOA employees risk elimination of their proposal from further consideration.

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To be considered, the *technical* proposal and the *cost* proposal **must be emailed separately** to Candace Casto (Candace.Casto@state.de.us) on or before 3:00 p.m. on March 21, 2012. AOA reserves the right to retain all proposals submitted and to use any ideas in a proposal regardless of whether that proposal is selected. AOA reserves the right without prejudice to reject any or all proposals.

By submitting a bid, each proposer must be deemed to acknowledge that it has carefully read all sections of this RFP, including all forms, schedules and exhibits hereto, and has fully informed itself as to all existing conditions and limitations.

Once the selection of a firm is completed, all proposers will be notified and the executed contract will be completed reasonably thereafter.

III. Term of Engagement

The contract period is for two years, with the option to renew the contract at AOA's request for two additional years (subsequent fiscal years) subject to the satisfactory negotiation of terms (including a cost acceptable to both AOA and the selected firm) and the annual availability of an appropriation by the Legislature.

IV. Nature of Services Required

A. Engagement Description and Cycle

The proposer shall conduct a financial statement audit on the Delaware Public Employees' Retirement System (DPERS). DPERS is on a June 30 fiscal year-end.

The proposer shall conduct a financial statement audit on the First State Independence Fund I, LLC (FSIF). The FSIF is on a calendar year-end.

B. Engagement Standards

To meet the requirements of this RFP, the audits must be performed in accordance with standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and U.S. Government Accountability Office, *Government Auditing Standards*.

C. Deliverables

A detailed engagement plan and programs for each audit **must** be submitted to AOA staff for review and approval before work can start.

Following the completion of the engagement, the firm must issue a written report for each of the DPERS and the FSIF in accordance with standards established by the

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American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and *Government Auditing Standards*. AOA will distribute copies of the reports to the appropriate officials.

In each report, all findings must be reported unless they are clearly inconsequential, considering both qualitative and quantitative factors. Inconsequential findings must be presented in writing to AOA for review and approval prior to communicating with the engagement entity. Once approved, the firm must present the findings either verbally or in a separate, written document, depending on the significance of the findings, to the engagement entity. Evidence of the communication must be in the engagement documentation.

Irregularities and illegal acts. All situations or transactions that come to the firm's attention that could be indicative of fraud, abuse, illegal acts, material errors, defalcations, or other irregularities must be promptly reported to AOA. AOA will determine the appropriate course of action.

D. Retention and Access to Engagement Documentation

All engagement documentation and reports must be retained, at the firm's expense, for a minimum of six¹ years, unless the firm is notified in writing by AOA of the need to extend the retention period. The firm will be required to make engagement documentation available, upon request, to the AOA or its designees.

In addition, the firm must respond to the reasonable inquiries of successor firms and allow the firms to review engagement documentation relating to matters of continuing engagement significance.

V. Description of the Entity

A. Engagement Location and Contact

The location of both audits will be at the DPERS office located at McArdle Building, Suite 1, 860 Silver Lake Boulevard, Dover, DE 19904-2402. A designated representative from DPERS will coordinate the assistance to the firm.

B. Background Information

DPERS

- Office of Pensions' Website - <http://www.delaware.pensions.com>
- DPERS Financial Statements - http://delawarepensions.com/information/annual_financial_reports.shtml

¹ Auditee is subject to 6 year record retention for False Claims.

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- First State Independence Fund I, LLC Financial Report - <http://auditor.delaware.gov/Audits>
- Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Act (146th General Assembly, House Bill 190 [http://legis.delaware.gov/LIS/lis146.nsf/vwLegislation/HB+190/\\$file/legis.pdf?open](http://legis.delaware.gov/LIS/lis146.nsf/vwLegislation/HB+190/$file/legis.pdf?open))
- The Board's authority is set forth at 29 Del. C. § 8308 and lists all the funds under the administration of the Pension Board.
- DPERS Fund Structure includes total assets held in a commingled investment pool of about \$7 billion as of September 30, 2011.
- DPERS maintains a commingled master trust with 133 participating employers covering the following benefit plans, which will require separate plan accounting performed by the custodial bank:
 - State Employees' Pension Plan (29 Del. C. c.55)
 - The closed State Police Retirement Fund (11 Del. C. c.83 Subchapter II)
 - The new State Police Retirement Fund (11 Del. C. c.83 Subchapter III)
 - The State Judiciary Retirement Fund, both closed and revised plans (29 Del. C. c.56)
 - The County and Municipal Employees' Pension Plans (29 Del. C. c.55A)
 - The County and Municipal Police and Firefighters' Pension Plans (11 Del. C. c.88)
 - The Volunteer Firemen's Pension Plan (16 Del. C. c.66A)
 - The Diamond State Port Corporation Pension Plan (29 Del. C. c.87 Subchapter II)
- In addition, the following commingled retirement funds have been established under the custody of the Board for investment purposes only and will require separate accounting by the custodial bank:
 - County & Municipal Police and Firefighters' COLA Fund (18 Del. C. c.701)
 - Post-Retirement Increase Fund (29 Del. C. c.5548)
 - Delaware Local Government Retirement Investment Pool (29 Del. C. c.2718)
- DPERS also maintains a separate commingled trust for the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Fund with two participating employers which will require separate plan accounting performed by the Custodial Bank:
 - Other Post-Employment Benefits Fund (29 Del. C. c.5281)

The Delaware Public Employees' Retirement System (DPERS) is a public employee retirement system, which covers most State employees. The DPERS is a legally separate entity, which provides services and benefits almost exclusively to the primary government. It is considered a blended component unit and is shown as a pension trust fund in the primary government's financial statements.

The Office of Pensions utilizes PeopleSoft v9.0 HRMS as the main processing application. The suite of modules includes HR, Payroll, Base Benefits and Pension

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Administration. The application runs on an HP-UNIX v11 platform with Oracle 11g database management. The implementation of a new general ledger system (Microsoft GP2010) should be completed by fiscal year end June 30, 2012.

First State Independence Fund I, LLC (FSIF)

The First State Independence Fund I, LLC (FSIF) was formed on June 25, 2008 for the purpose of increasing the investment return on assets of the pension plans of DPERS. The investment objective of the FSIF is to realize an annual total investment return exceeding the S&P 500 Index over a full market cycle, net of fees. The investment strategy is to invest in long/short equity hedge funds (underlying funds).

The FSIF is a blended component unit of the DPERS and the assets of the FSIF are included in the DPERS' financial statements. The Board of Pension Trustees of DPERS manages the FSIF and DPERS is the sole member of the FSIF.

VI. Time Requirements

A. Proposal Calendar

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| • Request For Proposal issued | February 28, 2012 |
| • <i>Mandatory</i> Pre-Bid conference | March 14, 2012 |
| • Due date for proposals | March 21, 2012 |

B. Preliminary Engagement Planning

A detailed engagement plan and program(s) must be submitted to the AOA Liaison no later than April 15, 2012 for FSIF and DPERS. The AOA Liaison will review and provide comments, if necessary, within 10 business days.

Each year, financial records and documents are expected to be available for review by the end of July for DPERS and by the end of March for FSIF.

C. Entrance Conference

An entrance conference must be held with the engagement entity's key personnel each fiscal year. At the entrance conference, the firm must provide the engagement entity with a time schedule for the engagement and a listing of all information needed.

The firm must make the AOA Liaison aware of the date and location of the entrance conference in case the AOA Liaison wishes to attend.

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D. Progress Reporting and Exit Conference

The firm must keep the engagement entity and AOA updated on the progress of the engagement. After the engagement has been completed, an exit conference must be held with the engagement entity's key personnel and the AOA Liaison, unless the AOA Liaison declines.

E. Reports

1. Draft Reports – Prior to obtaining management's response but after going through a supervisory and technical review, the draft report will be submitted via email to the AOA Liaison on or before the following dates. The AOA Liaison requires a minimum of 10 business days for review and to return any comments to the firm. In addition to requirements under the professional standards, reports **must** be formatted in accordance with AOA's Style Guide.

DPERS

- Fiscal Year 2012 September 28, 2012
- Fiscal Year 2013 September 30, 2013

FSIF

- Fiscal Year 2012 May 31, 2012
- Fiscal Year 2013 May 31, 2013

The firm must provide an electronic version of the draft report to the engagement entity's principal contact or designee for their response and approval. The engagement entity's principal contact or designee must complete their review of the draft report as expeditiously as possible. During management review, the firm must be available to discuss the engagement report and resolve any issues. After all issues are resolved, an electronic version of the draft report must be forwarded to the AOA Liaison for final review by the following dates.

DPERS

- Fiscal Year 2012 October 31, 2012
- Fiscal Year 2013 October 31, 2013

FSIF

- Fiscal Year 2012 June 15, 2012
- Fiscal Year 2013 June 14, 2013

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2. Final Reports – Once the AOA Liaison approves the report for issuance, the final report must be emailed in an unsecured PDF format to the AOA Liaison by the following dates.

DPERS

- Fiscal Year 2012 November 16, 2012
- Fiscal Year 2013 November 15, 2013

FSIF

- Fiscal Year 2012 June 29, 2012
- Fiscal Year 2013 June 28, 2013

Report preparation and editing is the responsibility of the firm.

VII. Proposal Content

A. Technical Proposal

There must be **no dollars or total costs** included in the technical proposal document. Inclusion of such information will result in disqualification of the proposal. The Technical Proposal **must** address all the points outlined in the RFP in the following format:

1. Transmittal Letter - The signed transmittal letter must briefly discuss the following: RFP subject, reference number, the proposer’s understanding of the work to be done, the commitment to perform the work within the time period, a statement why the firm believes it is best qualified to perform the engagement, and a statement that the proposal is a firm and irrevocable offer for one month after the due date of proposal. The transmittal letter must also clearly state and justify any exception to the requirements of the RFP that the applicant may have taken in presenting the proposal.
2. Table of Contents - A table of contents must clearly identify each section by page number.
3. Mandatory Criteria
No proposal will move forward for full technical review and scoring unless the mandatory items are fully addressed as requested in this section.
 - a. Pre-Bid Conference Attendance
Nothing is required to be included in the proposal. This item is evidenced and documented in AOA’s Pre-Bid Conference sign-in sheet.
 - b. Independence

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The firm **must** provide an affirmative statement that it is independent of the engagement entity and the AOA as defined by engagement standards in the U.S. Government Accountability Office's *Government Auditing Standards*.

The firm **must** also list and describe the firm's professional relationships involving the engagement entity for the past five years, together with a statement explaining why such relationship does not constitute a conflict of interest relative to performing the proposed engagement. If the firm has had no relationships within the last five years, the proposal **must** include a declarative statement.

In addition, the firm **must** give the engagement entity and AOA immediate written notice and obtain approval from the AOA of any professional relationships before they are entered into during the period of this agreement.

- c. License to Practice in Delaware & Delaware Business License
The applicant **must** provide 1) a copy of valid Delaware CPA licenses or authorization to practice in the State of Delaware from the National Association of State Board of Accountancy (NASBA) for the engagement partner and manager/supervisor in-charge. 2) A copy of a current Delaware State business license for the firm.

- d. Firm Qualifications and Experience
The proposer **must** state the size of the firm, the size of the firm's governmental staff, the location of the office from which the work on this engagement is to be performed, the number and nature of the professional staff to be employed in this engagement on a full-time basis, and the number and nature of the staff to be employed on a part-time basis.

If the proposer is a joint venture or consortium, the qualifications of each firm comprising the joint venture or consortium **must** be separately identified and the firm that is to serve as the principal auditor must be noted, if applicable.

- e. Peer Review
The proposer **must** submit a copy of the most current peer review and a statement whether the quality control review included a government engagement. A proposer must be in compliance with generally accepted government auditing standards (GAGAS) peer review requirements.

- f. Suspension and Debarment

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The firm **must** certify that it has not been suspended or debarred from performing government engagements or other government activity. In addition, the firm must certify that it has not been the subject of any disciplinary action or inquiry in any jurisdiction during the past three years.

Any firm ineligible to conduct business in the State of Delaware for any reason is ineligible to respond to the RFP.

g. Insurance

The firm as an independent contractor to the State and **must** provide a copy of insurance for claims under the Worker’s Compensation Act and from any other claims for damages for personal injury, including death, which may arise from operations under this Contract. The firm copy of insurance **must** demonstrate that is currently carries insurance of minimum limits as follows:

Commercial General Liability	\$1 million per claim/ \$3 million aggregate
Professional Liability	\$1 million per claim/ \$3 million aggregate

h. Partner, Supervisor, and Staff Qualifications and Experience

The firm **must** identify the engagement team: engagement partners, managers, supervisors, staff auditors, and specialists. For each person, the firm must indicate whether the person is registered or licensed to practice as a certified public accountant in the State of Delaware; provide information on the person’s government auditing experience, including information on relevant continuing professional education for the past three years and membership in professional organizations relevant to the performance of this engagement; and discuss whether or not that person, within the past three years, has been the subject of any disciplinary action or inquiry in any jurisdiction.

The proposer must identify the extent to which staff to be assigned to the engagement reflect the State of Delaware’s commitment to Affirmative Action.

Engagement partners, managers, and supervisory staff may be changed if those personnel leave the firm, are promoted, or are assigned to another office, or for other reasons with the express prior written permission of AOA. However, in either case, AOA retains the right to approve or reject

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replacements and the replacements must have substantially the same or better qualifications or experience.

Consultants and firm specialists mentioned in response to this RFP can only be changed with the express prior written permission of AOA, which retains the right to approve or reject replacements.

- i. Statement on Subcontracting & Third Party Service Providers
A statement that the work will not be subcontracted and that none of the work products will be subjected to a third party service provider.
- j. Non-Collusion Statement
The form, located at Appendix B, must be completed and signed by an authorized representative of the firm.

4. Technical Criteria

- a. Prior Engagement with AOA
All engagements performed for AOA within the last three years must be listed in the proposal. These engagements must be ranked on the basis of total staff hours and by type of engagement (i.e., audit, management advisory services, other). The scope of work, date, engagement partners, total hours, the location of the firm's office from which the engagement was performed, and the name and telephone number of the principal client contact must also be detailed.
- b. Similar Engagements with Other Government Entities
For the firm's office that will be assigned responsibility for the engagement, the firm must list the most significant engagements (maximum of 5) performed in the last three years that are similar to the engagement described in this RFP. These engagements must be ranked on the basis of total staff hours and must indicate the scope of work, date, engagement partners, total hours, and the name and telephone number of the principal client contact.
- c. Specific Engagement Approach
The proposal must set forth a work plan including but not limited to the following as applicable:
 - (1) Proposed segmentation of the engagement.
 - (2) Level of staff and number of hours to be assigned to each proposed segment of the engagement **without dollars**.
 - (3) Sample methodology and the extent to which sampling is to be used in the engagement.
 - (4) Extent of software to be used in the engagement.

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- (5) Processes to ensure quality of engagement.
- (6) Approach to manage the engagement process and ensure appropriate time and staff commitments to meet AOA deadlines.
- (7) Firms that were members of the AICPA's Government Audit Quality Center (GAQC) during the review must disclose such information. If a firm has joined since the last peer review, they must disclose the membership date.

B. Cost Proposal

The cost proposal will include a transmittal letter with the name of the firm and certification that the person signing the proposal is entitled to represent the firm, empowered to submit the bid, and authorized to sign a contract with AOA.

For each audit, the cost proposal must contain all cost information relative to performing the engagement as described in this RFP **for each fiscal year presented in the schedule as outlined in Appendix A**. Out-of-pocket expenses for firm personnel (e.g., travel, lodging, and subsistence) will be reimbursed at the prevailing rates used by the State of Delaware for its employees. A statement **must** be included in the cost proposal stating the firm will accept reimbursement for travel, lodging, and subsistence at the prevailing rate used by the State of Delaware for its employees.

VIII. Evaluation Process

During the evaluation process, AOA reserves the right to request additional information or clarification from proposers, or to allow corrections of errors or omissions. Additionally, AOA may request the firm or firms to make oral presentations as part of the evaluation process. Not all firms may be asked to make such oral presentations. All costs associated with participation in oral presentations conducted for the State of Delaware are the firm's responsibility.

The Evaluation Committee may negotiate with one or more of the qualified firms during the same period and may, at its sole discretion, terminate negotiations with any and all firms at any time.

A. Review of Proposals

Proposals that do not meet or comply with the instructions of this RFP may be considered non-conforming, deemed non-responsive, and be subject to disqualification at the sole discretion of the Evaluation Committee.

The Evaluation Committee will use a point formula during the review process to score technical proposals. All assignments of points must be at the sole discretion of

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the Evaluation Committee. Each member of the Technical Evaluation Committee will first score each technical proposal by each of the criteria described in Section VIII. The Technical Evaluation Committee will then convene to review and discuss these evaluations and to combine the individual scores to arrive at an average technical score for each firm. At any point a firm may be eliminated from further consideration for unacceptably low technical scores.

B. Evaluation Criteria

Only firms meeting the mandatory criteria and all the must requirements of the RFP will have their proposals evaluated and scored for both technical qualifications and cost.

1. Technical Qualifications: (Maximum Points: 90)

Technical criteria will include, but are not limited to, staffing qualification, prior experience, AOA's prior experiences with the firm, use of specialist, engagement approach and innovation, and realistic time estimates.

2. Cost: (Maximum Points: 10)

Cost **will not** be the primary factor in the selection of any firm.

C. Reservation of Rights

The Evaluation Committee reserves the right to:

- Select for contract or for negotiations a proposal other than that with the lowest costs.
- Reject any and all proposals or portions of the proposals received in response to this RFP or to make no award or issue a new RFP.
- Waive or modify any information, irregularity, or inconsistency in proposals received.
- Request modification to proposal from any or all contractors during the review and negotiation.
- Negotiate any aspect of the proposal with any firm and negotiate with more than one firm at the same time.

The Evaluation Committee reserves the right to reject any proposal as represented throughout this document and from a firm who:

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- Has been convicted for commission of a criminal offense as an incident to obtaining or attempting to obtain a public or private contract or subcontract, or in the performance of the contract or subcontract;
- Has been convicted under State or Federal statutes of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, receiving stolen property, or other offenses indicating lack of business integrity or business honesty that currently and seriously affects responsibility as a State contractor;
- Has been convicted or has had a civil judgment entered for a violation under State or Federal antitrust statutes;
- Has violated contract provisions such as:
 - Knowing failure without good cause to perform in accordance with the specifications or within the time limit provided in the contract;
 - Failure to perform or unsatisfactory performance in accordance with terms of one or more contracts;
 - Has violated ethical standards set out in law or regulation;
 - Any other cause listed in regulations of the State of Delaware determined to be serious and compelling as to affect responsibility as a State contractor, including debarment by another government entity for cause listed in the regulations.

D. Confidentiality of Documents

All documents submitted as part of the firm's proposal will be deemed confidential during the evaluation process. Proposals will not be available for review by anyone other than AOA and the Evaluation Committee or its designated agents. There must be no disclosure of any firm's information to a competing firm prior to award of the contract.

The State of Delaware is a public agency as defined by state law, and as such, it is subject to the Delaware Freedom of Information Act, 29 Del. C., c. 100. Under the law, all the State of Delaware's records are public records, unless otherwise declared by law to be confidential, and are subject to inspection and reproduction by any person. Vendors are advised that once a proposal is received by the State of Delaware and a decision on contract award is made, its contents will become public record and nothing contained in the proposal will be deemed to be confidential except proprietary information.

Firms must not include any information in their proposal that is proprietary in nature or that they would not want to be released to the public. Proposals must contain sufficient information to be evaluated and a contract written without reference to any proprietary information. If a firm feels that it cannot submit its proposal without including proprietary information, it must adhere to the following procedure or their proposal may be deemed unresponsive and will not be recommended for selection. The firms must submit such information in a separate, sealed envelope labeled

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“Proprietary Information” with the RFP number. The envelope must contain a letter from the firm’s legal counsel describing the documents in the envelope, representing in good faith that the information in each document is not “public record” as defined by 29 Del. C. § 10002(d), and briefly stating the reasons that each document meets the said definitions.

IX. Contract Conditions

The firm awarded the contract will be required to enter into a written agreement with AOA. AOA reserves the right to incorporate standard State of Delaware contractual provisions into any contract negotiated as a result of a proposal submitted in response to an RFP. Any proposed modifications to the terms and conditions of the standard contract are subject to review and approval by AOA. The firm must be referred to as “Contractor” in the agreement.

The selected firm will be expected to enter negotiations with AOA, which will result in a formal agreement between the parties. Procurement will be in accordance with the subsequent contracted agreement. This RFP and the selected firm’s response to this RFP will be incorporated as part of any formal agreement.

If the firm to whom the contract is awarded fails to enter in the agreement as herein provided, the award will be annulled and an award may be made to another firm. Such firm must fulfill every stipulation embraced therein as if they were the party to whom the first award was made.

The selected firm under this RFP must be subject to contractual provisions, in a form substantially similar to the following, as well as those agreed to by the parties and not specifically described herein.

A. Term

The term of the contract between the successful firm and AOA must be determined by AOA. The agreement may be terminated by AOA at any time by giving written notice to the Contractor of such termination. Upon such termination, the Contractor will be paid for the hours of work actually completed.

In the event the successful firm materially breaches any obligation under this Agreement, the Contractor must not be relieved of any liability to the State of Delaware for damages suffered by it by virtue of any such breach. AOA may withhold any payments to Contractor for the purpose of set off for such damages.

B. Compensation

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AOA agrees to pay Contractor compensation calculated solely on the amount of engagement work performed by firm's staff, based on actual hours billed and hourly rates as set forth in Appendix A herein, as well as approved out-of-pocket expenses.

Contractor agrees to bill AOA only for actual work performed and out-of-pocket expenses incurred during its performance of the engagement. Contractor must submit all invoices in writing or electronic format to AOA for approval. Invoices must include the name of the auditor who performed the work, the nature of work performed, the date(s) work was performed, the number of hours worked and the corresponding hourly rate, in addition to the amounts, descriptions and dates of all out-of-pocket expenses for which reimbursement is requested. If approved, AOA will forward the invoice to the engagement entity for payment or pay the invoices itself, depending on the type of engagement.

C. Non-Appropriation

In the event the General Assembly fails to appropriate the specific funds necessary to enter into or continue the contractual agreement, in whole or in part, the agreement must be terminated, as to any obligation of the State of Delaware requiring the expenditure of money for which no specific appropriation is available at the end of the last fiscal year for which no appropriation is available or upon the exhaustion of funds.

D. Notice of Termination

Any notice to AOA required under this Agreement must be in writing and sent by regular mail and registered mail to:

Attention: Kathleen A. O'Donnell
Chief Administrative Auditor
Townsend Building, Suite 1
401 Federal Street
Dover, DE 19901

E. Formal Contract and Purchase Order

The successful firm must promptly execute an agreement incorporating the terms of this RFP within twenty business days after the award of the contract. When purchase orders are applicable, no bidder is to begin any service prior to receipt of a State of Delaware purchase order signed by two authorized representatives of the agency requesting service, properly processed through the State of Delaware Division of Accounting and the (Agency) where applicable. The purchase order must serve as the authorization to proceed in accordance with the bid specifications and the special instructions, once it is received by the successful firm.

F. Indemnification

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By submitting a proposal, the proposing firm agrees that in the event it is awarded a contract, the Contractor must defend, indemnify and save harmless the State from and against all liability, damages, costs or expenses, causes of actions, suites, judgments, losses, and claims including reasonable attorney's fees, brought against the State arising out of or resulting from the performance of the auditing services by Contractor under the Agreement resulting from this RFP to the extent caused by Contractor's negligence or arising from any breach or default Contractor under such Agreement. The foregoing obligation of Contractor to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the State must not extend or apply to any claim alleging that the State's financial statements are inaccurate or incomplete or were not prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Further, in no event will Contractor indemnify and hold harmless the State from any claims or liabilities resulting from the acts of the State.

G. Compliance

In performance of the contract the firm is required to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations, policies, guidelines and requirements of the jurisdiction in which the Agreement is performed, as well as all applicable professional conduct rules and guidelines. The cost of permits and other relevant costs required in the performance of the contract must be borne by the successful firm. The firm **must** be properly licensed and authorized to transact business in the State of Delaware as provided in Section 2502 of Title 30 of the Delaware Code and other applicable statutes and regulations.

H. Confidentiality of Information. Any reports, information, data, etc., given to, prepared, or assembled by the Contractor under this Contract shall not be released or made available to any individual or organization by the Contractor without the prior written approval of the AOA. All information must be properly secured to prevent unauthorized access in accordance with the IRS Publication 1075, Tax Information Security Guidelines for Federal, State, and Local Agencies.

I. Insurance

The firm recognizes that it is operating as an independent contractor (and not an employee of the State of Delaware) and that it is liable for any and all losses, penalties, damages, expenses, attorney's fees, judgments, and/or settlements incurred by reason of injury to or death of any and all persons, or injury to any and all property, of any nature, arising out of the contractor's negligent performance under this contract, and particularly without limiting the foregoing, caused by, resulting from, or arising out of any act of omission on the part of the contractor in their negligent performance under this contract.

The firm **must** certify that it must maintain such insurance as will protect against claims under Worker's Compensation Act and from any other claims for damages for personal injury, including death, which may arise from operations under the

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Agreement. The firm is an independent contractor and is not an employee of the State of Delaware.

The firm **must**, at its expense, carry insurance of minimum limits as follows:

Commercial General Liability	\$1 million per claim/ \$3 million aggregate
Professional Liability	\$1 million per claim/ \$3 million aggregate

The firm **must** provide a certificate of insurance as proof that the firm has the required insurance.

J. Non-Discrimination

In performing the services subject to this RFP, the firm agrees that it will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, creed, age, marital status, religion, color, sex, genetic information, national origin, or disability. The successful firm must comply with all federal and state laws, regulations and policies pertaining to the prevention of discriminatory employment practice. Failure to perform under this provision constitutes a material breach of contract.

K. Covenant Against Contingent Fees

The successful firm warrants that no person or selling agency has been employed or retained to solicit or secure this contract upon an agreement of understanding for a commission or percentage, brokerage or contingent fee excepting bona-fide employees, bona-fide established commercial or selling agencies maintained by the bidder for the purpose of securing business. For breach or violation of this warranty, AOA must have the right to annul the contract without liability or at its discretion to deduct from the contract cost or otherwise recover the full amount of such commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee.

L. Contract Documents

The RFP, the Purchase Order and the executed Agreement between AOA and the successful firm must constitute the Contract between AOA and the firm. In the event there is any discrepancy between any of these contract documents, the following order of documents governs so that the former prevails over the latter: Agreement, Purchase Order, and RFP. No other documents must be considered. These documents contain the entire agreement between AOA and the firm. Firm agrees to be bound by the terms of this RFP pending final execution of the Agreement by the parties.

M. Applicable Law

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The laws of the State of Delaware must apply, except where Federal law has precedence. The successful firm consents to exclusive jurisdiction in the State of Delaware and agrees that any litigation relating to this Agreement must be filed and litigated in a court in the State of Delaware.

N. Scope of Agreement

If the scope of any provision of this Agreement is too broad in any respect whatsoever to permit enforcement to its full extent, then such provision must be enforced to the maximum extent permitted by law, and the parties hereto consent and agree that such scope may be judicially modified accordingly and that the whole of such provisions of the Agreement must not thereby fail, but the scope of such provisions must be curtailed only to the extent necessary to conform to the law.

X. Additional Services

If, during the course of the engagement, the firm suspects that there will be significant delays in the timing of the work due to the actions of the engagement entity, such as not providing requested items in a timely manner or not adhering to the agreed-upon time schedule discussed at the entrance conference, the firm must notify AOA immediately. AOA and the firm will discuss the issues and develop a solution for completing the engagement.

If it must become necessary for AOA to request the firm to render any additional services to either supplement the services requested in this RFP or to perform additional work as a result of the specific recommendations included in any report issued on this engagement, then such additional work must be performed only if set forth in an addendum to the Agreement between AOA and the firm. Any such additional work agreed to between AOA and the firm must be performed at the same rates set forth in the schedule of fees and expenses included in the cost proposal.

XI. Manner of Payment Notice

Progress payments may be made no more frequently than 30, 60, and 90 percent completion based on the hours of work completed during the course of the engagement and out-of-pocket expenses incurred in accordance with the firm's cost proposal and not less than a calendar month.

The invoice must include the following: (1) name of engagement entity/engagement; (2) amount and if it's a progress or final invoice; and (3) a breakdown of staff and hours for each. Ten percent of the contract amount will be retained until the Exit Conference has been held and the final reports have been reviewed and accepted by AOA.

Contractor agrees to bill AOA only for actual work performed and out-of-pocket expenses incurred during its performance of the engagement. Contractor **must** submit all

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invoices in electronic format for AOA approval. Any additional work outside the contract or for additional fees related to the contract is not permitted without the AOA Liaison's knowledge and approval. Invoices must include the name of the person who performed the work, the nature of work performed, the date(s) work was performed, the number of hours worked, and the corresponding hourly rate, in addition to the amounts, descriptions, and dates of all out-of-pocket expenses for which reimbursement is requested. If approved, AOA will forward the invoice to the engagement entity for payment or pay the invoices itself, depending on the type of engagement. **Contractor must be responsible for following up on outstanding invoices with the engagement entity.**

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Appendix A

Schedule of Professional Fees and Expenses
For the Audit of the Department of XYZ
For Fiscal Years 20__ - 20__

	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Hourly</u> <u>Rates</u>	<u>Total</u>
Partner	10	\$ 180	\$ 1,800
Manager	15	\$ 150	\$ 2,250
Supervisor	63	\$ 125	\$ 7,875
Senior	-	\$ -	\$ -
Staff	49	\$ 87	\$ 4,263
Other (travel, lodging, meals, etc.)		\$ -	\$ 665
Total	<u>137</u>		<u>\$ 16,853</u>

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Appendix B

Non-Collusion Statement

This is to certify that the undersigned Vendor has not, directly nor indirectly, entered into any agreement, participated in any collusion, or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competitive bidding in connection with this proposal. The undersigned Vendor further certifies that it is not a sub-contractor to another vendor who also submitted a proposal as a primary vendor in response to this solicitation.

Signature of the authorized representative **MUST** be of an individual who legally may enter his/her organization into a formal contract with the State of Delaware, Office of Auditor of Accounts.

Company Name: _____

Check One: Corporation Partnership Individual

Company Classifications: [This information is used for statistical purposes only.]

(circle one)

Women Business Enterprise (WBE)	Yes	No
Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)	Yes	No
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)	Yes	No

Authorized Representative and Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email address: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME this ____ day of _____, 20 ____

Notary Public: _____ Commission Expires: _____

City of _____ County of _____ State of _____