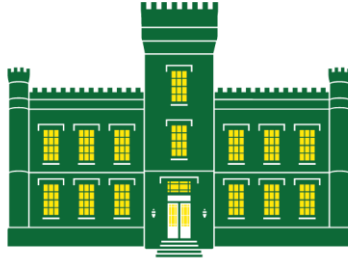


KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY (KSU)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

EXTERNAL AUDITING SERVICES

RFP 24-04



**KENTUCKY STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Issue Date: February 29, 2024

Closing Date and Time: March 28, 2024, at 2:00PM

Issued by:

Fran Pinkston

Kentucky State University

Academic Services Building (ASB), Suite 429

400 East Main Street

Frankfort, KY 40601

502-597-6434

Frances.Pinkston@kysu.edu

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SECTION 10 – PURPOSE, OVERVIEW & SCHEDULE

10.1 Purpose

The purpose of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to solicit proposals for External Audit Services from:

- Local or nationally recognized independent certified public accounting firms
- Firms specializing in accounting and auditing for both colleges and universities, or firms with extensive experience in accounting and auditing for corporations that would like to expand an existing higher education business

The successful firm will be awarded a personal service contract in accordance with Kentucky procurement law and Kentucky State University's established procedures. The selected firm shall be the external auditor of Kentucky State University and will, under this contract, examine the University's financial statements in accordance with GAAP and government auditing standards for the purpose of issuing an independent auditor's report. The firm will inform KSU's management of any inherent weaknesses in controls, procedures, and policies, as well as any instances of noncompliance with applicable laws or regulations. When advising management of the aforementioned issues, the firm must also provide its recommended changes and/or remedies.

A contract based on this RFP may or may not be awarded. Any contract awarded through this RFP is invalid until approved and executed by Kentucky State University, approved by the Kentucky State University Board of Regents, and approved by the General Assembly, Government Contract Review Committee.

The scope of services is further defined in Section 40.2.

10.2 Access to Solicitation, RFP and Addenda

The University invites each prospective Vendor to have full and complete information on which to base a proposal response. Only information presented or referred to in this RFP and any additional written information that is supplied by Kentucky State University's Buyer shall be used by Vendors in preparing the response. The solicitation, addenda, and attachments shall be posted to the Kentucky State University website at: <https://www.kysu.edu/finance-and-administration/purchasing/bid-opportunities.php>

10.3 RFP Terminology

For the purpose of this RFP, the following terms may be used interchangeably:

- Proposer, Offeror, Contractor, Provider, or Vendor;
- Buyer, Purchaser, or Contract Officer;
- RFP, Solicitation, or Procurement;
- Bid, Proposal, or Offer;
- Kentucky State University, KSU, University.

For the purpose of this RFP, the following terms are defined:

- Requirements that include the words "shall", "will", or "must" indicate a mandatory requirement.

10.4 Restrictions on Communications

The Kentucky State University Buyer named on the Cover Sheet of this RFP shall be the sole point of contact throughout the procurement process. All communications, oral and written

(regular, express, or electronic mail, or fax), concerning this procurement shall be addressed to the Buyer.

From the issue date of this RFP until a Vendor is selected and the selection announced, Vendors shall not communicate with any other University staff concerning this RFP. The University shall reserve the right to disqualify a Vendor's proposal response if the communication restriction clause is violated.

10.5 Questions Regarding this RFP

Vendors are encouraged to submit written questions pursuant to Section 10.7 of this RFP. Should a Vendor object to any of Kentucky State University's standard terms and conditions or provisions of the solicitation, that Vendor must specifically identify the deviation and must propose specific alternative language that could be acceptable to the University. Vendors must include a brief statement of the purpose and impact, if any, for each proposed change in addition to the specific proposed alternate wording. General references to the Vendor's terms and conditions or attempts at complete substitutions are not acceptable. Deviations shall not be in conflict with the basic nature of this solicitation. Kentucky State University reserves the right to reject any and/or all deviations, in whole or in part. Vendors must submit deviations pursuant to the schedule in Section 10.7 of this RFP.

Questions and deviations shall be submitted to the Kentucky State University Buyer via email at Frances.Pinkston@kysu.edu

Vendors should submit questions on Attachment B - Vendors Question Form.

No questions or deviations shall be accepted after the date(s) listed in Section 10.7 unless the question(s) or deviation(s) is considered material to the procurement. The Kentucky State University Buyer shall respond to salient questions in writing by issuing an addendum to the solicitation. Any addendum will either incorporate acceptable deviations into the solicitation, indicate the deviation is negotiable with the successful Vendor, or indicate the deviation is unacceptable. Any proposal that includes a deviation deemed unacceptable pursuant to the addendum will result in disqualification of the Vendor's proposal. The addendum shall be posted to the Kentucky State University website at <https://www.kysu.edu/finance-and-administration/purchasing/bid-opportunities.php>

10.6 Notification of Award

The procurement process will provide for the evaluation of proposals and selection of the successful proposal in accordance with State law and regulations. Kentucky State University follows KRS Chapter 45A of the Kentucky Model Procurement Code, which provides the regulatory framework for procurement of services.

All applicable statutes, regulations, policies and requirements shall become a part of an award as well as any Information Technology requirements.

To view the award of contract(s) and the contractor(s) receiving the award(s) for this solicitation, access the Kentucky State University's website at <https://www.kysu.edu/finance-and-administration/purchasing/bid-opportunities.php>

It is the Vendor's responsibility to review this information in a timely fashion. No other notification of the results of an award of contract will be provided.

10.7 Estimated Schedule of RFP Activities

The following schedule presents the anticipated schedule for major activities associated with the RFP distribution and proposal submission. The University reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to change the Schedule of Activities, including the associated dates and times.

Schedule of RFP Activities

Release of RFP	February 28, 2024
Vendor Written Questions due by 12:00 PM EST • (SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ATTACHMENT B - VENDORS' QUESTION FORM)	March 19, 2024
Kentucky State University's Response to Vendor Written Questions	March 21, 2024
Proposals due by 2:00 PM EDT.	March 28, 2024
All bids shall be time stamped by the Kentucky State University Purchasing Department no later than the due date and time defined in this Solicitation. In-person or courier-delivered bids in response to this Solicitation shall be delivered to Fran Pinkston, Kentucky State University .	
*NOTE: ALL TIME REFERENCES ARE TO THE EASTERN TIME ZONE.	

SECTION 20 – BACKGROUND AND PRESENT SYSTEM SUMMARY

20.1 Background and Current Business Need

Kentucky State University is a public, comprehensive, historically black land-grant University serving approximately 2,200 full-time and part-time students from around the world. The University is located at 400 East Main Street Frankfort, Kentucky. The University's 882-acre campus includes a 204-acre agricultural research farm and a 306-acre environmental education center.

The University's vision is to prepare today's students as global citizens, lifelong learners and problem solvers.

The Kentucky State Board of Regents is the governing body of Kentucky State University. The Board consists of eleven (11) members, including a staff representative, a student representative, faculty representative and eight (8) Governor-appointed members. The Student Government Association (SGA) President serves as the Student Regent for one academic year and is replaced by his/her successor. More information about the Board of Regents is available at <https://www.kysu.edu/board-of-regents/index.php>

Dr. Koffi C. Akakpo currently serves as president of Kentucky State University.

The University's fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30. The accounting and financial reporting functions of the University utilize Ellucian Banner as the current financial management system and are centralized under the Finance and Administration Office. More information about current financial status is available at:

<http://cpe.ky.gov/data/reports/ksufinancialassessment.pdf>.

Organizationally, the external auditor and/or Offeror providing audit services shall report to the Kentucky State University Board of Regents. Administratively, it may report to the President or the Vice President of Finance and Administration, at the discretion of the Board of Regents.

SECTION 30 – PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS

30.1 Contract Components and Order of Precedence

The University's acceptance of the Vendor's offer in response to the solicitation, indicated by the issuance of a contract award by Kentucky State University, shall create a valid contract between the Parties consisting of the following:

1. Procurement Statutes, Regulations, and Policies;
2. Any written Agreement between the Parties;
3. Any Addenda to the Solicitation;
4. The Solicitation and all attachments;
5. Any Best and Final Offer;
6. Any clarifications concerning the Contractor's proposal in response to the Solicitation;
7. The Contractor's proposal in response to the Solicitation.

In the event of any conflict between or among the provisions contained in the contract, the order of precedence shall be as enumerated above.

30.2 Final Agreement

The contract represents the entire agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof. Prior negotiations, representations, or agreements, either written or oral, between the parties hereto relating to the subject matter hereof shall be of no effect upon this contract.

30.3 Contract Provisions

If any provision of this contract (including items incorporated by reference) is declared or found to be illegal, unenforceable, or void, then both the University and the contractor shall be relieved of all obligations arising under such provision. If the remainder of this contract is capable of performance, it shall not be affected by such declaration or finding and shall be fully performed.

30.4 Type of Contract

The contract proposed in response to this solicitation shall be on the basis of a firm fixed unit price for the elements listed in this solicitation. This solicitation is specifically not intended to solicit proposals for contracts on the basis of cost-plus, open-ended rate schedule, or any non-fixed price arrangement.

30.5 Governing Law

This solicitation and any resulting contract shall be governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and any claim relating to this solicitation or resulting contract brought by the Vendor shall only be brought in the Franklin Circuit Court in accordance with KRS 45A.245.

30.6 Attorneys' Fees

In the event that either party deems it necessary to take legal action to enforce any provision of a contract resulting from this solicitation, the University and Vendor agree to pay their own respective expenses of such action, including attorneys' fees and costs at all stages as set by the court or hearing officer.

30.7 Contract Usage

As a result of this RFP, the contractual agreement with the selected Vendor will in no way obligate Kentucky State University to purchase any services or equipment under this contract. The University agrees, in entering into any contract, to purchase only such services in such quantities as necessary to meet the actual requirements as determined by the University.

30.8 Addition or Deletion of Items or Services

The University reserves the right to add new and similar items by issuing a contract modification to this contract, with the consent of the Vendor. Until such time as the Vendor receives a contract modification, the Vendor shall not accept delivery orders referencing products or services not within the scope of the contract.

30.9 Changes and Modifications to the Contract

Pursuant to KRS 45A.210(1) and 200 KAR 5:311, no modification or change of any provision in the contract shall be made, or construed to have been made, unless such modification is mutually agreed to in writing by the contractor and the University, and incorporated as a written amendment to the contract prior to the effective date of such modification or change pursuant to KRS 45A.210(1) and 200 KAR 5:311. Memoranda of understanding, written clarification, and/or correspondence shall not be construed as amendments to the contract. If the contractor finds at any time that existing conditions made modification of the contract necessary, it shall promptly report such matters to the University Buyer for consideration and decision.

30.10 Changes in Contract Scope

The University may, at any time by written order, make changes within the general scope of the contract. No changes in scope are to be conducted except upon the approval of the University.

30.11 Contract Conformance

If the University Buyer determines that deliverables due under the contract are not in conformance with the terms and conditions of the contract and the mutually agreed-upon project plan, the Buyer may request the contractor to deliver assurances in the form of additional contractor resources and to demonstrate that other major schedules will not be affected. The University shall determine the quantity and quality of such additional resources and failure to comply may constitute default by the contractor.

30.12 Assignment

The contract shall not be assigned in whole or in part without the prior written consent of the University Buyer. No portion of work shall be subcontracted without the prior written consent of the University.

30.13 Payment

The University will make payment within thirty (30) working days of receipt of contractor's invoice or of acceptance of goods and/or services in accordance with KRS 45.453 and KRS 45.454. Payments are predicated upon successful completion and acceptance of the described work, services, supplies, or commodities, and delivery of the required documentation. Invoices for payment shall be submitted to the University's Accounts Payable Department.

30.14 Contractor Cooperation in Related Efforts

The University may undertake or award other contracts for additional or related work, services, supplies, or commodities, and the contractor shall fully cooperate with such other contractors and University employees. The contractor shall not commit or permit any act that will interfere with the performance of work by any other contractor or by University employees.

30.15 Contractor Affiliation

"Affiliate" shall mean a branch, division or subsidiary that is effectively controlled by another party. If any affiliate of the contractor shall take any action that, if done by the contractor, would constitute a breach of this agreement, the same shall be deemed a breach by such party with like legal effect.

30.16 Kentucky State University Property

The contractor shall be responsible for the proper custody and care of any University-owned property furnished for contractor's use in connections with the performance of this contract. The contractor shall reimburse the University for its loss or damage, normal wear and tear excepted.

30.17 Confidentiality of Contract Terms

The Vendor and the University agree that all information communicated between them before the effective date of the contract shall be received in strict confidence and shall not be necessarily disclosed by the receiving party, its agents, or employees without prior written consent of the other party. Such material will be kept confidential subject to State and Federal public information disclosure laws. Upon signing of the contract by all parties, terms of the contract become available to the public, pursuant to the provisions of the Kentucky Revised Statutes. The contractor shall have an appropriate agreement with its subcontractors extending these confidentiality requirements to all subcontractors' employees.

30.18 Confidential Information

The contractor shall comply with the provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974 and instruct its employees to use the same degree of care as it uses with its own data to keep confidential information concerning client data, the business of the University, its financial affairs, its relations with its citizens and its employees, as well as any other information which may be specifically classified as confidential by the University in writing to the contractor. All Federal and State Regulations and Statutes related to confidentiality shall be applicable to the contractor. The contractor shall have an appropriate agreement with its employees, and any subcontractor employees, to that effect, provided however, that the foregoing will not apply to:

- A. Information which the University has released in writing from being maintained in confidence;
- B. Information which at the time of disclosure is in the public domain by having been printed and published and available to the public in 15 libraries or other public places where such data is usually collected; or
- C. Information, which, after disclosure, becomes part of the public domain as defined above, through no act of the contractor.

30.20 Patent or Copyright Infringement

The Vendor shall report to the University promptly, and in reasonable written detail, each notice of claim of patent or copyright infringement based on the performance of this contract of which the contractor has knowledge. The University agrees to notify the contractor promptly, in writing, of any such claim, suit or proceeding, and at the contractor's expense, give the contractor proper and full information needed to settle and/or defend any such claim, suit or proceeding. If, in the contractor's opinion, the equipment, materials, or information mentioned in the paragraphs above is likely to or does become the subject of a claim or infringement of a United States patent or copyright, then without diminishing the contractor's obligation to satisfy any final award, the contractor may, with the University's written consent, substitute other equally suitable equipment, materials, and information, or at the contractor's options and expense, obtain the right for the University to continue the use of such equipment, materials, and information. The University agrees that the contractor has the right to defend, or at its option, to settle, and the contractor agrees to defend at its own expense, or at its option, to settle, any claim, suit or proceeding brought against the University on the issue of infringement of any United States patent or copyright or any product, or any part thereof, supplied by the contractor to the University under this agreement. The contractor agrees to pay any final judgment entered against the University on such issue in any suit or proceeding defended by the contractor. If principles of governmental or public law are involved, the University may participate in the defense of any such action, but no costs or expenses shall be incurred for the account of the

contractor without the contractor's written consent. The contractor shall have no liability for any infringement based upon:

- A. The combination of such product or part with any other product or part not furnished to the University by the contractor;
- B. The modification of such product or part unless such modification was made by the contractor;
- C. The use of such product or part in a manner for which it was not designed.

30.21 Permits and Licenses

The Vendor shall, at its own expense, procure all necessary permits, licenses and registrations and abide by all applicable laws, regulations, and ordinances of all Federal, State, and local governments in which work under this contract is performed.

30.22 EEO Requirements

The Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1978 applies to all State government projects with an estimated value exceeding \$500,000. The contractor shall comply with all terms and conditions of the Act.

<https://finance.ky.gov/office-of-the-secretary/office-of-equal-employment-opportunity-contract-compliance/Pages/default.aspx>

30.23 Provisions for Termination of the Contract

Any contract resulting from this solicitation shall be subject to the termination provisions set forth in 200 KAR 5:312.

30.24 Bankruptcy

In the event the contractor becomes the subject debtor in a case pending under the Federal Bankruptcy Code, the University's right to terminate this contract may be subject to the rights of a trustee in bankruptcy to assume or assign this contract. The trustee shall not have the right to assume or assign this contract unless the trustee (a) promptly cures all defaults under this contract; (b) promptly compensates the University for the monetary damages incurred as a result of such default, and (c) provides adequate assurance of future performance, as determined by the Commonwealth.

30.25 Conformance with Commonwealth & Federal Laws/Regulations

This contract shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Any action brought against the University on the contract, including but not limited to, actions either for breach of contract or for enforcement of the contract, shall be brought in Franklin Circuit Court, Franklin County, Kentucky in accordance with KRS 45A.245.

30.26 Accessibility

Vendor hereby warrants that the products or services to be provided under this contract comply with the accessibility requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. § 794d), and its implementing regulations set forth at Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, part 1194. Vendor further warrants that the products or services to be provided under this contract comply with existing federal standards established under Section 255 of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (47 U.S.C. § 255), and its implementing regulations set forth at Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, part 1193, to the extent the Vendor's products or services may be covered by that act. Vendor agrees to promptly respond to and resolve any complaint regarding accessibility of its products or services which is brought to its attention.

30.27 Access to Records

The Contractor, as defined in KRS 45A.030, agrees that Kentucky State University, or its duly authorized representatives, shall have access to any books, documents, papers, records, or other evidence, which are directly pertinent to this agreement for the purpose of financial audit or program review. The Contractor also recognizes that any books, documents, papers, records, or other evidence, received during a financial audit or program review shall be subject to the Kentucky Open Records Act, KRS 61.870 to 61.884. Records and other prequalification information confidentially disclosed as part of the bid process shall not be deemed as directly pertinent to the agreement and shall be exempt from disclosure as provided in KRS 61.878(1)(c).

30.28 Prohibitions of Certain Conflicts of Interest

In accordance with KRS 45A.340, the contractor represents and warrants, and the University relies upon such representation and warranty, that it presently has no interest and shall not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, which would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of its services. The contractor further represents and warrants that in the performance of the contract, no person, including any subcontractor, having any such interest shall be employed. In accordance with KRS 45A.340 and KRS 11A.040 (4), the contractor agrees that it shall not knowingly allow any official or employee of the University who exercises any function or responsibility in the review or approval of the undertaking or carrying out of this contract to voluntarily acquire any ownership interest, direct or indirect, in the contract prior to the completion of the contract.

30.29 No Contingent Fees

No person or selling agency shall be employed or retained or given anything of monetary value to solicit or secure this contract, except bona fide employees of the Offeror or bona fide established commercial or selling agencies maintained by the Offeror for the purpose of securing business. For breach or violation of this provision, the University shall have the right to reject the proposal or cancel the resulting contract without liability.

30.30 Vendor Response and Proprietary Information

The RFP specifies the format, required information, and general content of proposals submitted in response to the RFP. Kentucky State University will not disclose any portions of the proposals prior to Contract Award to anyone outside the University. After a contract is awarded in whole or in part, the University shall have the right to duplicate, use, or disclose all proposal data submitted by Vendors in response to this RFP as a matter of public record. Although the University recognizes the Vendor's possible interest in preserving selected data which may be part of a proposal, the University must treat such information as provided by the Kentucky Open Records Act, KRS 61.870 et sequitur. Informational areas which normally might be considered proprietary shall be limited to individual personnel data, customer references, selected financial data, formula, and financial audits which, if disclosed, would permit an unfair advantage to competitors. If a proposal contains information in these areas that a Vendor declares proprietary in nature and not available for public disclosure, the Vendor shall declare in the Transmittal Letter [see Section 60.6 (A)] the inclusion of proprietary information and shall noticeably label as proprietary each sheet containing such information. Proprietary information shall be submitted under separate sealed cover marked "Proprietary Data." Proposals containing information declared by the Vendor to be proprietary, either in whole or in part, outside the areas listed above may be deemed non-responsive to the RFP and may be rejected.

30.31 Contract Claims

The Parties acknowledge that KRS 45A.225 to 45A.290 governs contract claims.

30.32 Limitation of Liability

The liability of the University related to contractual damages is set forth in KRS 45A.245.

SECTION 40 – SCOPE OF WORK

40.1 Term of Contract and Renewal Options

The University has established an aggressive schedule for completion of the FY 2024 audit. Upon vendor selection and contract award, the University shall issue a Purchase Order Contract for a term beginning upon submission to the Government Contract Review Committee—anticipated prior to April 15, 2024—and with an expiration date of June 30, 2024, with a one (1) year renewal for completion of FY 2024 audit. Three (3) additional, optional one-year renewals may be executed upon the mutual agreement of both parties, with such optional renewals to be aligned with the fiscal year schedule.

40.2 Scope of Work

The scope of the audit shall be a financial statement audit of KSU performed in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (GAGAS). This audit must include a determination as to whether KSU's federal expenditures have met the Single Audit threshold established by the Single Audit Act and the provisions of 2 CFR 200 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, And Audit Requirements. This audit must also include:

- An audit of the University's financial statements for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2024, which will include an Auditor's Opinion Letter and Management Letter;
- An audit of federal awards for the University, including Title IV student financial aid programs, in accordance with government auditing standards and the provisions of the Single Audit Act, for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2024;
- An Independent Auditor's Report on compliance with House Bill 622 (KRS 164A.555 through 164A.630), titled "Financial Management of Institutions of Higher Education," for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2024, that is based on the audit of the University's financial statements;
- An Independent Auditor's Opinion on the University's compliance with the Kentucky Lease Law (KRS 56.800 through 56.823, KRS 48.111 through KRS 48.190), which also includes a summary of compliance testing procedures and results; and
- A letter to the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Auditor of Public Accounts representing that the vendor (firm) is in compliance with GAAP and governmental auditing standards concerning continuing education requirements, independence, and peer review.

New Effective Accounting Standards

As part of the Commonwealth's reporting entity, please be advised that the financial statements must be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Please be aware that the following new governmental accounting standards are in effect for FY 2024:

- GASB Statement No. 100, Accounting Changes and Error Corrections—an amendment of GASB Statement No. 62.
- GASB Statement No. 99, Omnibus 2022, for requirements related to financial guarantees and the classification and reporting of derivative instruments within the scope of Statement 53.

Communication

Weekly status updates shall be required. Audit manager shall update the designated university contact on a weekly basis. Quarterly reports and meetings with the KSU Board of Regents are mandatory. It is critical that communication channels be open and available at all times. Failure of the contractor to provide requested information in a reasonable amount of time shall be grounds for finding the vendor non-compliant with the terms of the agreement.

Travel-Related Expenses

Kentucky State University may reimburse the selected Offeror for travel (if listed in addition to the Offeror's proposal) in accordance with the KSU travel policy and rates.

The University reserves the right to modify its travel policy and rates at any time during the term of this contract, and all requests for reimbursement will be processed in accordance with the then-current policy.

Time is of Critical Importance

For various reasons, the University desires the FY 2024 audit to be completed prior to September 15, 2024. Consideration will be given to those individuals/firms that can meet the aggressive schedule.

Expected Dates for the Annual Audit Cycle

Dates are subject to change by the University, with mutual agreement by both parties:

- April: Formal engagement letter, client assistance letter and pre-audit conference.
- May: Integrated audit testing plans, preliminary fieldwork including internal control review, control testing and substantive testing; and financial aid review.
- June-July: Major field work, with status meetings.
- End of August: Draft of University audit report presented to senior management and Audit Committee and formal exit interview. Partner from the firm may be required to attend:
 - (1) an Executive Session meeting of the Board of Trustees' Audit Committee; and
 - (2) an Executive Session or Public Meeting of the Full Board of Trustees, for a final presentation and acceptance of the audit.
- September: Issuance of final Audited Financial Statements. Required delivery date of audit to the University and Auditor of Public Accounts.
- September-October: Field draft of audit report and compliance letters.
- Note: A detailed audit plan will be prepared by Contractor and after the University's approval, made available to the Audit Committee of the Board of Trustees prior to the commencement of each year's audit.

40.3 Insurance

Prior to the beginning of the contract, the Vendor will furnish Kentucky State University the Certificates of Insurance that show it has and will maintain all insurance protection (including products liability insurance) at the Offeror's expenses as set forth below. The Offeror agrees that required insurance shall not be cancelled or allowed to lapse during the term of any awarded contract without prior written notification to the University.

Minimum liability coverage must be:

Public Liability- Comprehensive General Owners, Landlords and Tenants

Bodily Insurance Liability

Each Person \$1,000,000

Each Occurrence \$1,000,000

Property Damage Liability \$1,000,000

Products Liability

Each Person \$1,000,000

Each Occurrence \$1,000,000

Automobile Liability

Bodily Injury

Each Person \$1,000,000

Each Occurrence \$1,000,000

Personal Injury Liability
Each Person \$1,000,000
Property Damage Liability \$1,000,000
Worker's Compensation Statutory
Employers Liability \$500,000

Kentucky State University must be named as an additional insured in the policy for Comprehensive General Liability. In the event of failure by the contractor to maintain, in force, insurance coverage acceptable to Kentucky State University, the University will have the right to terminate the Contract immediately upon written notice to the Vendor. Copies of Insurance Certificates are to be furnished to the KSU Purchasing Department. Modification of this requirement must be requested in writing with supporting statements, prior to the time of the proposal submission.

The certificate of insurance shall name Kentucky State University and its Board of Regents as additional insured in the Description of Operations section of the Certificate of Insurance:

Kentucky State University
Kentucky State University Board of Regents
400 East Main Street
Frankfort, KY 40601

SECTION 50 – PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

50.1 Disposition of Proposals

All proposals become the property of Kentucky State University. The successful proposal shall be incorporated into the resulting contract by reference.

50.2 Rules for Withdrawal of Proposals

Prior to the date specified for receipt of offers, a submitted proposal may be withdrawn by submitting a signed written request for its withdrawal to the Buyer.

50.3 Submission of RFP Response

Each qualified Vendor shall submit only one (1) proposal. Alternate proposals shall not be allowed. Failure to submit as specified shall result in a non-responsive proposal.

Affidavit

The Vendor must complete and sign the Affidavit included as Attachment A of this solicitation. An authorized representative of the vendor **shall sign** where indicated on the Affidavit. **If the Affidavit is not signed the proposal shall be deemed non-responsive.**

Acknowledgement of Addenda

Any Addenda or instructions issued by the Buyer prior to the proposal deadline shall become a part of this RFP. No instructions or changes shall be binding unless documented by a properly issued addendum. It is the Vendor's responsibility to check the website for any modifications to this solicitation. Vendors are encouraged to acknowledge each addendum by signing and submitting the latest addendum with their response. However, signing the Affidavit as indicated above constitutes the Vendor's acknowledgement of, and agreement to be bound by, the terms of all addenda issued.

Proposal Packaging and Submission Address

Proposals shall be submitted in three (3) parts: The **Technical Proposal**, the **Cost Proposal**, and **Proprietary Information**.

- **The Technical Proposal**: The Vendor must include one (1) original paper copy of the technical proposal, clearly marked as the original. The bidder should submit one (1) thumb/flash drive having an exact copy of the original as a .pdf included. The copy requested is necessary in the evaluation of the bid proposal. Bid proposals shall not include embedded documents or hyperlinks to external content. **DO NOT SUBMIT ANY PRICING INFORMATION IN THE TECHNICAL PROPOSAL.**
- **The Cost Proposal**: The Vendor must submit one (1) original paper copy of the cost proposal, clearly marked as the original. Pricing shall only be provided in the Cost Proposal. All costs shall be in compliance with the Kentucky General Assembly, Government Contract Review Committee's policy
- **Proprietary Information**: The Vendor must submit one (1) original copy of the proprietary information and one (1) thumb/flash drive having an exact copy of the original as a .pdf included. The copy requested is necessary in the evaluation of the bid proposal. Bid proposals shall not include embedded documents or hyperlinks to external content.

E-mailed Proposals shall not be accepted.

Proposals shall be submitted to:

**Kentucky State University
Attn: Fran Pinkston
Academic Services Building (ASB), Suite 429
400 East Main Street
Frankfort, KY 40601**

Proposals shall be submitted by the RFP Closing Date and Time (both are identified on the cover page of this RFP). Bidders are cautioned to allow adequate delivery time to ensure timely delivery of bid proposals. Late bid proposals are ineligible for consideration.

**ANY PROPOSAL RECEIVED AFTER THE CLOSING DATE AND TIME
SHALL BE REJECTED.**

The outside cover of the package containing the original and copies of the technical proposal and proprietary information shall be marked:

**EXTERNAL AUDIT
RFP 24-04
TECHNICAL PROPOSAL
Name of Vendor
March 28, 2024, at 2:00 pm**

The outside cover of the package containing the cost proposal shall be marked:

EXTERNAL AUDIT

RFP 24-04
COST PROPOSAL
Name of Vendor
March 28, 2024, at 2:00 pm

All proposals must be received no later than the closing date and time listed on the cover page of this RFP. All submitted Proposals shall remain valid for a minimum of six (6) months after the proposal due date.

50.4 Evaluation of Proposals

Right to Reject/Waiver of Minor Irregularities

Kentucky State University reserves the right at its discretion to reject any and all offers. The University also reserves the right at its discretion to waive informalities and minor irregularities in offers received.

Clarification of Proposals

Kentucky State University reserves the right at its discretion to request additional information as may reasonably be required for selection and to reject any proposals for failure to provide additional information on a timely basis.

Evaluation Process

The following approach and criteria will be used to evaluate proposals:

Technical Proposal – 750 points

Part 1 – Company History – 50 points maximum

1. When was the company or firm established and/or incorporated?
 - Number of years in business;
 - Any changes in ownership within the past ten (10) years – or any forthcoming changes;
2. List the company or firm's main office address and other sites, with address/phone information;
3. A complete client list for the previous three (3) years; and
4. Other items relevant to previous experience which vendor wishes to provide as additional information.

Part 2 – Capacity and Qualifications – 100 points maximum

1. Size of firm, number of employees and profile as to diversity;
2. Description of key personnel who will be assigned to this project, their current positions within the firm, and identification of firm lead to be assigned to this project;
 - a. Include resumes and credentials of all key personnel to be involved, demonstrating their proficiency and expertise in the relevant areas;
 - b. Pursuant to KRS 164A.570, the Offeror must employ staff assigned to perform this engagement who are Certified Public Accountants (CPAs);
 - c. The Offeror should describe the supervision of firm resources assigned to a KSU account
3. Proposed plan if key personnel leave the KSU account or firm; and
4. Evidence of business stability. The Offeror should provide the latest financial statements, preferably audited, or other evidence of financial status sufficient to demonstrate both its financial strength and stability.

Part 3 – Disclosures – 100 points maximum

1. List any past and current involvement in legal proceedings in the last five (5) years; and

2. Disclose any potential conflicts of interest with representing Kentucky State University with this engagement, including any potential conflicts of interest of employees assigned to this engagement. KSU reserves the unqualified right to disqualify an entity or cancel any contract for any potential conflict of interest raised initially and/or during the life of any contract awarded.

Part 4 – Direct Relevant Experience pertinent to this RFP – 200 points maximum

1. List any specialties in the audit field;
2. List experience with information technology environment;
3. Demonstrate capability of performing assessments of operations and reputation-related risks (including enterprise risks, financial risks, general technology risks, information security risks, fraud risks, and compliance risks) in higher education;
4. Demonstrate capability of providing external audit assurance services in areas such as information technology, finance, compliance, operations, and administration; and
5. Demonstrate capability of providing consulting, advisory, and training services in higher education

Part 5 - Proposed Services – 300 points maximum

1. Describe in detail your strategies for assisting Kentucky State University (KSU) with external audit services in accordance with federal, state, and any other applicable law, regulations, and policies;
2. Include the depth of expertise in using data analytics, continuous auditing, institutional research analysis and fraud investigations;
3. List the software tools used by your company or firm for execution of audit services and risk assessments;
4. Include your firm's methodology for working with and on the behalf of an internal audit department; and
5. Provide an example of a typical audit plan and scope of work which includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a. Key performance indicators and standards – usually relating to cost, timing, and quality
 - b. Expected timelines for audits—statement of work timeline with milestones
 - c. Engagement of scope and objectives
 - d. Proposed testing to evaluate whether controls are designed adequately to mitigate risk
 - e. Communication and reporting plans (e.g., progress, draft, interim and final reports)

50.5 Format of Technical Proposal

The Technical Proposal should be arranged and labeled in the manner set forth below:

1. Page Numbering: The technical proposal should include page numbers.

2. Transmittal Letter

A transmittal letter shall be submitted on the Vendor's letterhead and signed by an agent authorized to bind the Vendor. The Transmittal letter shall include the following:

- A statement that deviations are included, if applicable;
- A statement that proprietary information is included, if applicable;
- A statement that, if awarded a contract as a result of this Solicitation, the Vendor shall comply in full with all the requirements of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act, and shall submit all data required by KRS 45.560 to 45.640;
- A sworn statement that, pursuant to KRS 11A.040, that Vendor has not knowingly violated any provisions of the Executive Branch Code of Ethics;
- A statement certifying that the price in this proposal was arrived at independently without collusion, consultation, communication, or agreement as to any matter relating to such prices with any other Vendor or with any competitor;

- A statement affirming that the Vendor is properly authorized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky to conduct business in this state and will remain in good standing with the Office of Kentucky Secretary of State for the duration of any awarded contract resulting from this Solicitation;
- The name, address, telephone number and email address of the person to serve as the primary point of contact for communication related to this Solicitation on behalf of the Vendor;
- The name, address, telephone number, and email address of the contact person to service as a point of contact for day-to-day operations; and
- A foreign entity's organization number issued by the Secretary of State in a certificate of authority or a statement of foreign qualification, if applicable.

3. Completed and Signed Affidavit and Addenda.

4. Response to the Technical Portion of the RFP - The Vendor should provide a detailed response to the technical requirements outlined Section 50.4, Format and Submission of Proposals, Level 1, Part 1, Part 2, Part 3 and Part 4.

50.6 Format of Cost Proposal

The Vendor shall submit cost using the Cost Proposal Form (See Attachment C). Cost proposals shall not be accepted unless it is submitted using the Cost Proposal Form. The Cost Proposal must be submitted under separate cover from the Technical Proposal. Costs for developing the proposals are solely the responsibility of the Vendor.

Kentucky State University is exempt from paying sales or use taxes, except on those items and/or purchase transactions that are specifically exempted by law.

A proposal shall not be considered for award if the price in the proposal was not arrived at independently without collusion, consultation, communication, or agreement as to any matter relating to such prices with any other Vendor or with any competitor. In addition, the Vendor is prohibited from making multiple proposals in a different form.

SECTION 60 – PROPOSAL EVALUATION

60.1 Technical Proposal

Kentucky State University will evaluate the Vendor's proposal based on the technical portion of the Evaluation Criteria. Each Vendor is responsible for submitting all relevant, factual and correct information with their proposal to enable the evaluator(s) to afford each Vendor the maximum score based on the available data submitted as part of the proposal.

Criteria	Maximum Points Possible
Part 1 – Company History	50
Part 2 – Capacity and Qualifications	100
Part 3 – Disclosures	100
Part 4 – Direct Relevant Experience	200
Part 5 – Proposed Services	300

Maximum Points Possible	750
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Cost Proposal

Kentucky State University will evaluate the Vendor’s cost proposal based on the cost portion of the Evaluation Criteria.

The lowest cost firm will receive 250 points; other firms will be assigned points based on this cost formula. The Vendor with the lowest price receives the maximum score. The Vendor with the next lowest price receives points by dividing the lowest price by the next lowest price and multiplying that percentage by the available points. For example, 250 points is allocated to the lowest price criteria for this procurement. Vendor “A” bids \$3.00 as the lowest Vendor and receives the maximum 250 points ($\$3.00 / \$3.00 = 1.00 \times 250 = 250$). Assume Vendor “B” is the next lowest Vendor at \$4.00, then “B” receives 187.5 points ($\$3.00 / \$4.00 = .75 \times 250 = 187.5$).

Criteria	Maximum Points Possible
Technical Proposal	750
Cost Proposal	250
Maximum Points Possible	1000

Reciprocal Preference for Kentucky Resident Bidders and Preferences for a Qualified Bidder

The scoring of cost is subject to reciprocal preference for Kentucky resident bidders and Preferences for a Qualified Bidder or the Department of Corrections, Division of Prison Industries (See KRS 45A.490(1), (2), 45A.492, 45A.494 and KAR 200 5:410).

Determining the residency of a bidder for purposes of applying a reciprocal preference

Any individual, partnership, association, corporation, or other business entity claiming bidder status shall submit the attached Required Affidavit for Bidders, Offerors and Contractors Claiming Resident Bidder Status as part of its response. Kentucky State University reserves the right to request documentation supporting a bidder’s claim of resident bidder status. Failure to provide such documentation upon request shall result in disqualification of the bidder or contract termination.

Vendors not claiming resident bidder or qualified bidder status need not submit the corresponding affidavit.

SECTION 70 – NEGOTIATIONS

Kentucky State University reserves the right pursuant KRS 45A.085 and 200 KAR 5:307 to negotiate a contract with the top-ranked Vendor. In the event the University cannot reach agreement with the top-ranked Vendor, it may proceed to negotiate with the next highest ranked Vendor, and so on. Terms and conditions that may be negotiated at the sole discretion of the University include, but are not limited to, issues related to the Technical and/or Cost proposals.

Kentucky State University reserves the right at its discretion to request a Best and Final Offer (BAFO) for technical and/or cost proposals. Vendors are cautioned to propose their best possible

offers at the outset of the process, as there is no guarantee that any Vendor will be allowed an opportunity to submit a Best and Final technical and/or cost offer.

SECTION 80 – ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Vendor Affidavit

Attachment B – Vendor Question Form

Attachment C – Cost Proposal Form