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Bid Questions/Answers and Clarifications 140L0619R0006 Montrose Fire Facility

- 1. Is demolition of existing building included in the solicitation? Demolition of the Existing Building is not included in this solicitation, it will be bid separately after construction of the new building.
- 2. Who is responsible for Commissioning: *The BLM will contract with a 3rd party for Commissioning.*
- 3. Will neat grout using type I/II Portland cement be acceptable presuming it meets the 4000psi/28 day requirement? Neat cement or sand/cement grout mixture with a minimum compressive strength at 28 days as specified, or submitted in the contractor's design submittal, is acceptable.
- 4. Taking into account typical micropile drilling methods, will a threaded casing joint be acceptable (rather than a welded joint) as long as the connections are more than 5' below grade? Threaded casing joints that develop at least the required compressive, tensile, and bending strength used in the design of the micropile are acceptable. If welding of permanent high strength steel casing is required, submit a Welding Procedure Specification (WPS) conforming to AWS D1.1 for review and written approval by the Government, prior to any welding operation. Weld all permanent casing seams and splices using complete penetration welds.
- 5. Are there any epoxy coating requirements for the #11 all thread reinforcing bar? In addition to grout cover, epoxy coating, galvanization, or encapsulation of the core steel may be used, in accordance with the FHWA Micropile Design and Construction Reference Manual.
- 6. May an alternate engineered micropile design be submitted? Yes, design micropiles and pile top-to-footing connections using the procedures described in the Building Code, FHWA Micro-Pile Design and Construction Guidelines, and accepted industry practice. Submit alternate designs in accordance with the section 013300 Submittal Procedures
- 7. Will there be any testing requirements, verification/proof tests? If so, what will be the quantity? Yes, one verification test and proof tests are required per FHWA Micro-Pile Design and Construction Guidelines. Test 5% of production piles for proof testing.
- 8. Is a Bearing Stratum Test feasible for a micropile installation? Bearing Stratum Tests are not required. Provide required verification and proof tests per FHWA Micro-Pile Design and Construction Guidelines.

9. Please clarify if offer to submit by email only -or- hard copy Original+ 1 copy?

Email only to nroush@blm.gov and ebuzbee@blm.gov

10. Do you have a form our Bid Guarantee is to be completed on?

No, we do not as a Bid Guarantee can come in many different forms. See clause 52.228-1 in the solicitation. Also note that it is part of your Volume 1 requirement.

- 11. Do Liquidated Damages/ Penalties apply? The clause is not included in this solicitation.
- 12. Please clarify the thickness of Asphalt to be remove? Asphalt thickness is unknown but anticipate at 4 to 6-inches.
- 13. Please clarify the average thickness of gravel to be stockpiled for reuse. *Average thickness is 4-inches*.
- 14. Would you be opposed to using a lower number of higher wattage panels to get you to a system size of 16.5KW or are you set on using 300w solar panels? The only hard number is at least 16.5KW, the power of each panel can be higher resulting in fewer panels. We are not opposed to less panels of higher wattage.
- 15. Will the Montrose Fire Facility be pursuing a LEED certification? We have solar panels that are Cradle-to-cradle certified. Cradle-to-cradle certified products increase LEED points and can help you receive this certification. I have attatched a bit of information about this at the bottom of the document. Please let me know if using a solar product that could give you additional LEED points would be helpful. Yes we are pursuing LEED, but refer to the bid package for specs on solar panels.
- 16. Division 011000-1/ 1.3 B. Demo of existing building under separate contract? Shows as alternate in section 12300-2/3.1A and 3.1B Demo at completion of new construction? Drawing A011 site plan general notes, Building to be demoed by contractor. Please verify as an alternate? Demolition of the Existing Building is not included in this solicitation, it will be bid separately after construction of the new building.
- 17. Drawing S500 Typical one way slab elevation 1-S500 shows void form under slabs and grade beams. Please verify under all slabs? Yes, void form is under all slabs and grade beams.
- 18. Anticipated notice to proceed for building of proposed schedule. Mentioned in prebid that an anticipated date for building schedule start time would be helpful. If the

- entire 90 days for review is used this could push portions into winter conditions. As discussed at the prebid, due to FAR requirements for the contract award process we cannot set an award date as it will depend on the process we need to follow once we see the bid packages. There are other solutions that will be discussed should winter impede on progress of construction.
- 19. Past performance- List relevant projects in last 3 years. Possible to extend the time line for past experience out to last 5 to 6 years? We will keep the requirement at 3 years
- 20. Pre-bid meeting, the special inspection items where called out. Can those be listed again to verify the special inspection item's? We do not have compiled list, you will need to review the Specifications and drawings.
- 21. Does the BLM have an existing Owner's Project Requirements (OPR/GPR)
 Document? Does the BLM have the Engineer's Basis of Design (BOD)
 Document? We do not have those documents in a format for release. The design plans and Specifications reflect those requirements.
- 22. Will the project formally pursue LEED® Certification with the United States Green Building Council (USGBC)? Yes BLM has submitted an application and is waiting on reply.
- 23. Please clarify who will hold the Commissioning Services contract. *BLM will solicit separately for these services and will hold the contract.*
- 24. Is it the intention of the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management to have the contractor complete the micropile design by a licensed Colorado Professional Engineer or provide pricing per Plans/Specs? It is the intent to have the contractor provide pricing and build per the design plans provided, or the contractor may elect to provide an alternate design meeting the design criteria provided.
- 25. Since Section 31633 Drilled Concrete Micropiles follow FHWA NHI-05-039 Micropile Design and Construction please confirm that one sacrificial micropile verification test in compression will need to be completed prior to production installation to confirm the bond strength and that a minimum of 5% of the total production micropiles will need to be proof load tested.
 Yes, one verification test and proof tests are required per FHWA Micro-Pile Design and Construction Guidelines. Test 5% of production piles for proof testing
- 26. Section 31633 Drilled Concrete Micropiles seems to take upon a specification that bounces between Micropiles and Drilled Piers technique which draws concern even though it specifically states FHWA NHI-05-039 Micropile Design and Construction. The following items specified as separate to the Section are of

concern and should be re-evaluated since it does not fall in line with standard micropile industry.

- a. Part 2 Products. 2.5 Concrete Mixtures; The industry standard micropile mix design is typically a grout mix design which consists of cement, water and admixtures (if needed). Having qualifications of slump, air, and use of ready-mix concrete would not be considered, please confirm if that is acceptable. Neat cement or sand/cement grout mixture with a minimum compressive strength at 28 days as specified, or submitted in the contractor's design submittal is acceptable
- b. Part 3 Execution. 3.2 Excavation. C. 1, 2, and 4; These items do not relate to micropiles but drilled piers and would not be recommended. Please advise if these are requirements the contractor will need to follow. These requirements will not apply to the micropile installation.
- c. Part 3 Execution. 3.2 Excavation. D.; Since Micropile rely on skin friction and not end bearing, evaluating the bottom of the excavation is not a micropile industry standard. Also due to the small micropile diameter it will be extremely difficult to inspect the bottom of excavation. Please advise if these are requirements the contractor will need to follow. These requirements will not apply to the micropile installation.
- d. Part 3 Execution. 3.3 Permanent Steel Casing Installation. A. 2.; Achieving a water tight seal is not a requirement per FHWA since grouting will be performed by gravity tremie method (Type A) which will draw the water out of the hole from the bottom up. Please advise if this is a requirement the contractor will need to follow.

 This requirement will not apply to the micropile installation. Threaded casing joints that develop at least the required compressive, tensile, and bending strength used in the design of the micropile are acceptable. If welding of permanent high strength steel casing is required, submit a Welding Procedure Specification (WPS) conforming to AWS D1.1 for review and written approval by the Government, prior to any welding operation. Weld all permanent casing seams and splices using complete penetration welds.
- e. Part 3 Execution. 3.4 Steel Reinforcement Installation, C.; Reinforcing cages are not specified in the micropile detail, clarify this doesn't comply with this project.
 - This requirement will not apply to the micropile installation.
- f. Part 3 Execution. 3.6 Field Quality Control, C. 1.a.; Bearing Stratum Tests are not a micropile industry standard since the micropile's are design for skin friction and not end bearing. The design load is verified through a sacrificial verification test. Please advise if this is a requirement the contractor will need to follow.

Bearing Stratum Tests are not required. Provide verification and proof tests required per FHWA Micro-Pile Design and Construction Guidelines.

- g. Part 3 Execution. 3.6 Field Quality Control, F. (Multiple); The following subsections are of concern. Please advise if these are a requirement the contractor will need to follow:
 - Item 2. Determine actual bottom of micropile diameter. Typically, this is confirmed through the diameter of the drill bit or casing. No further measuring is performed within the borehole.
 - ii. Item 9. Design and tested bearing capacity of bottom. Typically, no sampling is performed at the bottom. Micropiles are also designed for skin friction and not end bearing and are verified through a sacrificial verification test.
 - iii. Item 11. Levelness of bottom and adequacy of cleanout. Since micropiles are design for skin friction this is not performed.
 - iv. Item 12 & 13. Water-infiltration rate and sealing methods is not a standard practice since grouting is perform through tremie method.
 - v. Item 14. Description of water movement. This is not a standard practice since it is difficult to determine these conditions in a small borehole.

These requirements will not apply to the micropile installation. Provide field quality control / inspection / testing per building code, FHWA Micro-Pile Design and Construction Guidelines, and industry practice.

- 27. In the Project Manual states BLM will seek LEED Silver for this project. At the prebid site visit it was discussed that there is concern the project budget may not accommodate the LEED Silver certification. BLM has submitted a LEED application and is waiting on reply. We believe we have excess points and will achieve our LEED goals with the design that is out to bid. If the design, as stands, does not qualify for LEED we may choose not to achieve LEED.
- 28. After discussion contractors at the walk-through were discussing items to control cost. This creates a concern of contractors not bidding apples to apples. Please clarify which items can be substituted. We were not party to post prebid discussion regarding this item, as presented in the prebid discussion, if you would like to offer an alternate it should be presented in the form of a question during the bidding and will be answered on FedConnect with all other questions for all parties to see. The Specifications also state where an alternate will be allowed provided it meets project requirements which may include LEED, if it was part of the LEED submittal, and meets Buy American Act.
- 29. Is the Contractor to include full commissioning to obtain LEED Silver certification? BLM will solicit separately for these services and will hold the contract.

- 30. On Sheet A141 Note 5, See specification for roof Accessory sizes (Access Hatch) Question: Can't find location or size of roof Hatch on the plans, specification. The roof hatch was removed from the design, please ignore reference to roof hatch.
- 31. Contractor would like to know if BLM would waive AISC for steel fabrication if they provided a 3rd party inspection. *BLM will not waive AISC for steel fabrication*.
- 32. Buy American Act applies to this project. Does that apply to the HVAC Controls? Yes, the Buy American Act applies to all Construction Materials for the project. If the Contractor believes a particular item may meets the exception to the Buy America Act for being impractical or for unreasonable cost they should ask for clarification from the CO.
- 33. Under a Total Small Business solicitation, if the GC is a small business, can any of the sub's or specialty contractors not be a small business?

Please reference H-8 LIMITATIONS ON SUBCONTRACTING REPORTING in the solicitation.