



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Consultant to Assist in the Request for Proposal Process for the Workers' Compensation Third Party Administrator and Insurance Broker

RFP Number: 08-0002 Contract Number: _____
 Issue Date: October 19, 2007 Opening Date/Time: November 14, 2007, 3:00 p.m.
 Pre-Proposal: None Contracting Officer: Susan Dugan, CPPB

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SPECIFIC SOLICITATION REQUIREMENTS ARE AS NOTED BELOW:	
Proposal and/or Performance Bond:	Not Applicable
Certificate of Competency/License:	Section 2.3
Indemnification/Insurance:	Section 2.8
Pre-Bid Conference/Walk-Thru:	Not Applicable

At the date and time specified above, all proposals that have been received in a timely manner will be opened, recorded, and accepted for consideration. The names of the vendors submitting proposals will be read aloud and recorded. The proposals will be available for inspection during normal business hours in the Office of Procurement Services within ten (10) working days after the opening date. A separate contractual document will be signed by the County and the awarded vendor.

Vendors shall complete and return items listed in Section 2.13.2 (c) of this RFP Document, and attach all other information requested. Failure to sign the bid response may be cause for rejection of the proposal.

NO-RESPONSE REPLY

If any vendor does not want to respond to this solicitation at this time, or, would like to be removed from Lake County's Vendor List, please mark the appropriate space, complete name below and return this page only.

- Not interested at this time; keep our firm on Lake County's Vendors List for future solicitations for this product / service
- Please remove our firm from Lake County's Vendor's List for this product / service.

VENDOR IDENTIFICATION

Company Name: _____ Phone Number: _____
 E-mail Address: _____ Contact Person: _____

1.1 DEFINITIONS

Addenda: A written change to a solicitation.

Contract: The agreement to perform the services set forth in this document signed by both parties with any addenda and other attachments specifically incorporated.

Contractor: The vendor to which award has been made.

County: Shall refer to Lake County, Florida.

Modification: A written change to a contract.

Proposal: Shall refer to any offer(s) submitted in response to a Request for Proposal.

Proposer: Shall refer to anyone submitting an offer in response to a Request for Proposal.

Request for Proposal (RFP): Shall mean this solicitation documentation, including any and all addenda. An RFP involves evaluation of proposals, and award may be made on a best value basis with price, technical, and other factors considered.

Solicitation: The written document requesting either bids or proposals from the marketplace.

Vendor: a general reference to any entity responding to this solicitation or performing under any resulting contract.

The County has established for purposes of this Request for Proposal (RFP) that the words “shall”, “must”, or “will” are equivalent in this ITB and indicate a mandatory requirement or condition, the material deviation from which shall not be waived by the County. A deviation is material if, in the County’s sole discretion, the deficient response is not in substantial accord with this ITB’s mandatory requirements. The words “should” or “may” are equivalent in this ITB and indicate very desirable conditions, or requirements but are permissive in nature.

1.2 INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSERS**A. Proposer Qualification**

It is the policy of the County to encourage full and open competition among all available qualified vendors. All vendors regularly engaged in the type of work specified in the solicitation are encouraged to submit proposals. Vendors may enroll with the County to be included on a mailing list for selected categories of goods and services. To be recommended for award the County requires that vendors provide evidence of compliance with the requirements below upon request:

1. Disclosure of Employment.
2. Disclosure of Ownership.
3. Drug-Free Workplace.
4. W-9 and 8109 Forms – The vendor must furnish these forms as required by the Internal Revenue Service.
5. Social Security Number – The vendor must provide a copy of the primary owner’s social security card if the social security number is being used in lieu of the Federal Identification Number (F.E.I.N.).
6. Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.).
7. Conflict of Interest.
8. Debarment Disclosure Affidavit.
9. Nondiscrimination.
10. Family Leave.
11. Antitrust Laws – By acceptance of any contract, the vendor agrees to comply with all antitrust laws of the United States and the State of Florida.

B. Public Entity Crimes

Pursuant to Section 287.133(2)(a) of the Florida Statutes, a person or affiliate who has been placed on the convicted vendor list following a conviction for a public entity crime may not submit a bid on a contract to provide any goods or services to a public entity, may not submit a bid on a contract with a public entity for the construction or repair of a public building or public work, may not submit bids on leases of real property to a public entity, may not be awarded or perform work as a contractor, supplier, subcontractor, or consultant under a contract with any public entity, and may not transact business with any public entity in excess of the threshold amount provided in Section 287.017 of the Florida Statutes, for CATEGORY TWO for a period of 36 months from the date of being placed on the convicted vendor list.

C. Request for Additional Information

1. Any communication or inquiries, except for clarification of process or procedure already contained in the solicitation, are to be made in writing to the attention of the procurement representative identified in the solicitation no later than five (5) working days prior to the proposal opening date. Such inquiries or request for information shall be submitted to the procurement representative in writing and shall contain the requester’s name, address, and telephone number. If transmitted by facsimile, the request should also include a cover sheet with the bidder’s facsimile number.
2. The Office of Procurement Services may issue an addendum in response to any inquiry received, prior to proposal closing, which changes, adds to, or clarifies the terms, provisions, or requirements of the solicitation. The proposer should not rely on any representation, statement or explanation whether written or verbal, other than those made in this solicitation document or in any addenda issued. Where there appears to be a conflict between this solicitation and any addenda, the last addendum issued shall prevail. It is the proposer’s responsibility to ensure receipt of all addenda, and any accompanying documentation. The proposer is required to submit with its proposal a signed “Acknowledgment of Addenda” form, when any addenda have been issued. Failure to acknowledge each addendum may prevent the proposal from being considered for award.

D. Contents of Solicitation and Proposers’ Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the proposer to become thoroughly familiar with the requirements, terms, and conditions of this solicitation. Pleas of ignorance of these matters by the proposer of conditions that exist or may exist will not be accepted as a basis for varying the requirements of the County, or the compensation to be paid to the proposer.

E. Restricted Discussions

From the date of issuance of this solicitation until final County action, vendors should not discuss the solicitation or any part thereof with any employee, agent, or any other representative of the County except as expressly authorized by the designated procurement representative. The only communications that shall be considered pertinent to this solicitation are appropriately signed written documents from the vendor to the designated procurement representative and any relevant written document promulgated by the designated procurement representative.

F. Change or Withdrawal of Proposals

1. Changes to Proposal - Prior to the scheduled proposal closing, a proposer may change its proposal by submitting a new proposal specified in the solicitation with a letter on the firm’s letterhead, signed by an authorized agent stating that the new submittal replaces the original submittal. The new submittal shall contain the letter and all information as required for submitting the original proposal.
2. Withdrawal of Proposal – A proposal shall be irrevocable unless the proposal is withdrawn as provided herein. A proposal may be withdrawn, either physically or by written notice, at any time prior to the proposal closing date. If withdrawn by written notice, that notice must be addressed to, and received by, the designated procurement representative prior to the bid opening date and time. A proposal may also be withdrawn ninety (90) days after the proposal has been opened and prior to award, by submitting a letter to the designated procurement representative identified on the front cover of this solicitation. The withdrawal letter must be on company letterhead and signed by an authorized agent of the proposer.

G. Conflicts within the Solicitation

Where there appears to be a conflict between the General Terms and Conditions, Special Conditions, the Technical Specifications, the Pricing Section, or any addendum issued, the order of precedence shall be: the last addendum issued, the Proposal Price Section, the Technical Specifications, the Special Conditions, and then the General Terms and Conditions. It is incumbent upon the

vendor to identify such conflicts to the designated procurement representative prior to the proposal closing date.

H. Prompt Payment Terms

1. It is the policy of the County that payment for all purchases by County agencies shall be made in a timely manner and that interest payments will be made on late payments in accordance with Part VII, Chapter 218, Florida Statutes, known as the Florida Prompt Payment Act.
2. The proposer may offer cash discounts for prompt payments; however, such discounts will not be considered in determining the lowest price during proposal evaluation. Proposers are requested to provide prompt payment terms in the space provided on the signature page of the solicitation.

1.3 PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS

- A. The Proposal Pricing Section of this solicitation defines requirements of items to be purchased, and must be completed and submitted with the proposal. Use of any other form or alteration of the form may result in the rejection of the bid.
- B. The proposal submitted must be legible. Bidders shall use typewriter, computer or ink. All changes must be crossed out and initialed in ink. Failure to comply with these requirements may cause the bid to be rejected.
- C. An authorized agent of the proposers firm must sign the proposal. **FAILURE TO SIGN THE PROPOSAL MAY BE CAUSED TO REJECT THE PROPOSAL.**
- D. The proposer may submit alternate proposal(s) for the same solicitation provided that such offer is allowable under the terms and conditions. The alternate proposal must meet or exceed the minimum requirements and be submitted as a separate proposal marked "Alternate Proposal".
- E. When there is a discrepancy between the unit prices and any extended prices, the unit prices will prevail.

1.4 CANCELLATION OF SOLICITATION

The County reserves the right to cancel, in whole or in part, any Request for Proposal when it is in the best interest of the County.

1.5 AWARD

- A. The contract resulting from this solicitation may be awarded to the responsible proposer which submits a proposal determined to provide the best value to the County with price, technical, and other applicable factors considered. The County reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to waive irregularities or technicalities and to re-advertise for all or any part of this solicitation as deemed in its best interest. The County shall be the sole judge of its best interest.
- B. When there are multiple line items in a solicitation, the County reserves the right to award on an individual item basis, any combination of items, total low bid or in whichever manner deemed in the best interest of the County. This provision specifically supersedes any method of award criteria stated in the solicitation when such action is clearly necessary to protect the best interests of the County.
- C. The County reserves the right to reject any and all proposals if it is determined that prices are excessive or determined to be unreasonable, or it is otherwise determined to be in the County's best interest to do so.
- D. Award of this solicitation will only be made to firms that satisfy all necessary legal requirements to do business with the County. The County may conduct a pre-award inspection of the proposer's site or hold a pre-award qualification hearing to determine if the proposer is capable of performing the requirements of this solicitation.
- E. The proposer's performance as a prime contractor or subcontractor on previous County contracts shall be taken into account in evaluating the responsibility of a proposer that submitted a proposal under this solicitation.
- F. The Director of Procurement Services will decide all tie proposals with initial preference being given to the entity

employing the most personnel residing within the County.

- G. Award of the contract resulting from this solicitation may be predicated on compliance with and submittal of all required documents as stipulated in the solicitation.

1.6 CONTRACT EXTENSION

- A. The County reserves the unilateral right to extend a contract for up to ninety (90) calendar days beyond the current contract period. In such event, the County will notify the vendor(s) in writing of such extensions.
- B. This contract may be extended beyond the initial ninety (90) day extension upon mutual agreement between the County and the vendor(s).
- C. Exercise of the above options requires the prior approval of the County's Director of Procurement Services.

1.7 WARRANTY

All warranties express and implied, shall be made available to the County for goods and services covered by this solicitation. All goods furnished shall be fully guaranteed by the vendor against factory defects and workmanship. At no expense to the County, the vendor shall correct any and all apparent and latent defects that may occur within the manufacturer's standard warranty period. The special conditions of the solicitation may supersede the manufacturer's standard warranty.

1.8 ESTIMATED QUANTITIES

Estimated quantities or dollars are for proposer's guidance only. No guarantee is expressed or implied as to quantities or dollars that will be used during the contract period. The County is not obligated to place any order for a given amount subsequent to the award of this solicitation. Estimates are based on the County's actual needs and/or usage during a previous contract period. The County may use these estimates to determine the proposer selected for award. Estimated quantities do not contemplate or include possible additional quantities that may be ordered by other government, quasi-governmental or non-profit entities utilizing this contract. In no event shall be County be liable for payments in excess of the amount due for quantities of goods or services actually ordered.

1.9 NON-EXCLUSIVITY

It is the intent of the County to enter into an agreement that will satisfy its needs as described within this solicitation. However, the County reserves the right as deemed in its best interest to perform, or cause to be performed, the work and services, or any portion thereof, herein described in any manner it sees fit. In no case will the County be liable for billings in excess of the quantity of goods or services actually provided under this contract.

1.10 CONTINUATION OF WORK

Any work that commences prior to and will extend beyond the expiration date of the current contract period shall, unless terminated by mutual written agreement between the County and the vendor, continue until completion at the same prices, terms and conditions.

1.11 PROTEST OF AWARD

A vendor wishing to protest any award decision resulting from this solicitation shall do as set forth in the County's Purchasing Procedure Manual. It is incumbent upon the vendor to be aware of the posting of any associated award recommendation. Any protest received after the actual contract award date may be rejected.

1.12 RULES, REGULATIONS AND LICENSES

The vendor shall comply with all laws and regulations applicable to provide the goods and/or services specified in this solicitation. The vendor shall be familiar with all federal, state and local laws that may in affect the goods and/or services offered.

1.13 SUBCONTRACTING

Unless otherwise specified in this solicitation, the vendor shall not subcontract any portion of the work without the prior written consent of the County. The ability to subcontract may be further limited by the Special Conditions. Subcontracting without the prior consent of the County may result in termination of the contract for default.

1.14 ASSIGNMENT

The vendor shall not assign or transfer any contract resulting from this solicitation, including any rights, title or interest therein, or its power to execute such contract to any person, company or corporation without the prior written consent of the County.

1.15 DELIVERY

Unless otherwise specified in the solicitation, prices quoted shall be F.O.B. Destination. Freight shall be included in the bid price.

1.16 RESPONSIBILITY AS EMPLOYER

The employee(s) of the vendor shall be considered to be at all times its employee(s), and not an employee(s) or agent(s) of the County or any of its departments. The contractor shall provide employee(s) capable of performing the work as required. The County may require the contractor to remove any employee it deems unacceptable. All employees of the contractor shall wear proper identification.

1.17 INDEMNIFICATION

The vendor shall indemnify and hold harmless the County and its officers, employees, agents and instrumentalities from any and all liability, losses or damages, including attorney's fees and costs of defense, which the County or its officers, employees, agents or instrumentalities may incur as a result of claims, demands, suits, causes of actions or proceedings of any kind or nature arising out of, relating to or resulting from the performance of the agreement by the vendor or its employees, agents, servants, partners, principals or subcontractors. The vendor shall pay all claims and losses in connection therewith, and shall investigate and defend all claims, suits or actions of any kind or nature in the name of the County, where applicable, including appellate proceedings, and shall pay all costs, judgments, and attorney's fees which may be incurred thereon. The vendor expressly understands and agrees that any insurance protection required by this Agreement or otherwise provided by the vendor shall in no way limit the responsibility to indemnify, keep and save harmless and defend the County or its officers, employees, agents and instrumentalities as herein provided.

1.18 COLLUSION

Where two (2) or more related parties, as defined herein, each submit a proposal for the same contract, such proposals shall be presumed to be collusive. The foregoing presumption may be rebutted by the presentation of evidence as to the extent of ownership, control and management of such related parties in preparation and submittal of such proposals. Related parties shall mean proposer or the principals thereof which have a direct or indirect ownership interest in another proposer for the same contract or in which a parent company or the principals thereof of one proposer have a direct or indirect ownership interest in another proposer for the same contract. Furthermore, any prior understanding, agreement, or connection between two (2) or more corporations, firms, or persons submitting a proposal for the same materials, supplies, services, or equipment shall also be presumed to be collusive. Proposals found to be collusive shall be rejected. Proposers which have been found to have engaged in collusion may be considered non-responsible, and may be suspended or debarred, and any contract resulting from collusive bidding may be terminated for default.

1.19 MODIFICATION OF CONTRACT

Any contract resulting from this solicitation may be modified by

mutual consent of duly authorized parties, in writing through the issuance of a modification to the contract and/or purchase order as appropriate. This presumes the modification itself is in compliance with all applicable County procedures.

1.20 TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE

The County, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to terminate this contract upon thirty (30) days written notice. Upon receipt of such notice, the vendor shall not incur any additional costs under this contract. The County shall be liable only for reasonable costs incurred by the vendor prior to notice of termination. The County shall be the sole judge of "reasonable costs."

1.21 TERMINATION DUE TO UNAVAILABILITY OF FUNDING IN SUCCEEDING FISCAL YEARS

When funds are not appropriated or otherwise made available to support continuation of performance in a subsequent fiscal year, the contract shall be cancelled and the vendor shall be reimbursed for the reasonable value of any non-recurring costs incurred amortized in the price of the supplies or services/tasks delivered under the contract.

1.22 TERMINATION FOR DEFAULT

The County reserves the right to terminate this contract, in part or in whole, or place the vendor on probation in the event the vendor fails to perform in accordance with the terms and conditions stated herein. The County further reserves the right to suspend or debar the vendor in accordance with the appropriate County ordinances, resolutions and/or administrative orders. The vendor will be notified by letter of the County's intent to terminate. In the event of termination for default, the County may procure the required goods and/or services from any source and use any method deemed in its best interest. All re-procurement cost shall be borne by the vendor.

1.23 FRAUD AND MISREPRESENTATION

Any individual, corporation or other entity that attempts to meet its contractual obligations with the County through fraud, misrepresentation or material misstatement, may be debarred for up to five (5) years. The County as a further sanction may terminate or cancel any other contracts with such individual, corporation or entity. Such individual or entity shall be responsible for all direct or indirect costs associated with termination or cancellation, including attorney's fees.

1.24 ACCESS TO RECORDS

The County reserves the right to require the vendor to submit to an audit by any auditor of the County's choosing. The Contractor shall provide access to all of its records, which relate directly or indirectly to this Agreement at its place of business during regular business hours. The vendor shall retain all records pertaining to this Agreement and upon request make them available to the County for three (3) years following expiration of the Agreement. The vendor agrees to provide such assistance as may be necessary to facilitate the review or audit by the County to ensure compliance with applicable accounting and financial standards.

1.25 PROPRIETARY/CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Proposers are hereby notified that all information submitted as part of, or in support of proposal submittal will be available for public inspection after the proposal closing date in compliance with Chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes; the "Public Record Law." The proposer shall not submit any information in response to this solicitation, which the proposer considers to be a trade secret, proprietary or confidential. The submission of any information to the County in connection with this solicitation shall be deemed conclusively to be a waiver of any trade secret or other protection, which would otherwise be available to the proposer unless such information is exempt or confidential under the Public Records Act.

1.26 CONTRACTING WITH COUNTY EMPLOYEES

Any County employee or member of his or her immediate family seeking to contract with the County shall seek a conflict of interest opinion from the procurement representative designated herein prior to submittal of a response or application of any type to contract with the County. The affected employee shall disclose the employee's assigned function within the County and interest or the interest of his or her immediate family in the proposed contract and the nature of the intended contract.

1.27 INCURRED EXPENSES

This RFP does not commit the County to make an award nor shall the County be responsible for any cost or expense which may be incurred by any proposer in preparing and submitting a proposal, or any cost or expense incurred by any proposer prior to the execution of a purchase order or contract agreement. By submitting a proposal, the proposer, and also agrees that the County bears no responsibility for any costs associated with the preparation of the proposal and/or any administrative or judicial proceedings resulting from this solicitation process.

1.28 COUNTY IS TAX-EXEMPT

The County is generally exempt from Federal Excise Taxes and all State of Florida sales and use taxes. Do not include any tax on any item or service. The County will sign an exemption certificate if submitted by the contractor.

Contractors doing business with the County are not exempt from paying sales tax to their suppliers for materials to fulfill contractual obligations with the County, nor shall any contractor be authorized to use any of the County's Tax Exemptions in securing such materials.

In the event the project is declared a sales tax recovery project by the County, the following procedure shall apply:

- (a) The County representative shall make a recommendation to the Division of Procurement Services regarding the materials to be purchased;
- (b) When those materials are purchased by the County, all purchase orders shall be issued directly from Procurement Services;
- (c) The County shall take title to those materials directly from the manufacturer/supplier and shall bear the risk of loss or damage to the materials which are delivered directly from the manufacturer/supplier;
- (d) The County shall be invoiced directly for the materials from the manufacturer/supplier and shall pay the invoices directly to the manufacturer/supplier, presenting its sales tax exemption certificate at the time of payment.

The cost of any materials purchased through the sales tax recovery program shall be deducted from the contract amount and the vendor shall no longer be responsible for providing those materials. A written change order shall be executed.

1.29 GOVERNING LAWS

The interpretation, effect, and validity of any contract(s) resulting from this RFP shall be governed by the laws and regulations of the State of Florida, and Lake County, Florida. Venue of any court action shall be in Lake County, Florida. In the event that a suit is brought for the enforcement of any term of the contract, or any right arising there from, the parties expressly waive their respective rights to have such action tried by jury trial and hereby consent to the use of non-jury trial for the adjudication of such suit.

1.30 STATE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Any corporation submitting a proposal in response to this RFP shall either be registered or have applied for registration with the Florida Department of State in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 607, Florida Statutes. A copy of the registration/application may be required prior to award of a contract. Any partnership submitting a proposal in response to this RFP shall have complied with the applicable provisions of Chapter 620, Florida Statutes. For additional information on these requirements,

please contact the Florida Secretary of State's Office, Division of Corporations, 800.755.5111 (<http://www.dos.state.fl.us>).

1.31 PRIME CONTRACTOR

The vendor awarded the contract shall act as the prime contractor for all required items and services and shall assume full responsibility for the procurement and maintenance of such items or services. The vendor shall be considered the sole point of contact with regard to all stipulations, including payment of all charges and meeting all requirements of this RFP. All subcontractors will be subject to advance review by the County in regards to competency and security concerns. After the award of the contract no change in subcontractors will be made without the consent of the County. The vendor shall be responsible for all insurance, permits, licenses, and related matters for any and all sub-contractors. Even if the subcontractor is self-insured, the County may require the contractor to provide any insurance certificates required by the work to be performed.

1.32 FORCE MAJEURE

The parties will exercise every reasonable effort to meet their respective obligations hereunder, but shall not be liable for delays resulting from force majeure or other causes beyond their reasonable control, including, but not limited to, compliance with any Government law or regulation, acts of nature, acts or omissions of the other party, Government acts or omissions, fires, strikes, national disasters, wars, riots, transportation problems and/or any other cause whatsoever beyond the reasonable control of the parties. Any such cause will extend the performance of the delayed obligation to the extent of the delay so incurred.

1.33 OTHER AGENCIES

With the consent of the vendor, other agencies may make purchases in accordance with the contract. Such purchases shall be governed by the same terms and conditions as stated herein with the exception of the change in agency name.

1.34 NO CLAIM FOR DAMAGES

No claim for damages or any claim other than for an extension of time shall be made or asserted against the County because of any delays. No interruption, interference, inefficiency, suspension, or delay in the commencement or progress of the Work shall relieve the vendor of duty to perform, or give rise to any right to damages or additional compensation from the County. The vendor's sole remedy shall be the right to seek an extension to the contract time. However, this provision shall not preclude recovery of damages by the vendor for hindrances or delays due solely to fraud, bad faith, or active interference on the part of the County.

1.35 TRUTH IN NEGOTIATION CERTIFICATE

For all lump-sum or cost-plus fixed fee agreements exceeding \$150,000, the firm awarded the agreement must execute a truth in negotiation certificate stating that the wage rates and other factual unit costs are accurate, complete and current, at the time of contracting. Any agreement requiring this certificate shall contain a provision that the original agreement price and any additions shall be adjusted to exclude any significant sums by which he owner determines the agreement price was increased due to inaccurate, incomplete, or non-current wage rates and other factual unit costs. All such agreement adjustments shall be made within one (1) year following the end of the contract. Execution of this Agreement constitutes execution of the Truth in Negotiation Certificate.

Section 2.1: Purpose

The purpose of this solicitation is to retain a consultant to assist in the Request for Proposal process for the Worker’s Compensation Third Party Administrator and Insurance Broker.

Section 2.2: Designated Procurement Representative

Questions concerning any portion of this solicitation shall be directed in writing [fax and e-mail accepted] to the below named individual who shall be the official point of contact for this solicitation. Questions should be submitted no later than five (5) working days before the opening date.

Susan Dugan, CPPB, Senior Contracting Officer
Lake County BCC
Office of Procurement Services
315 W. Main Street, Room 416
PO BOX 7800
Tavares, FL 32778-7800
Phone : 352.343.9839
Fax : 352.343.9473
E-mail: sdugan@lakecountyfl.gov

No answers given in response to questions submitted shall be binding upon this solicitation unless released in writing as an addendum to the solicitation by the Lake County Department of Procurement Services.

Section 2.3: Method of Award – Considering Qualifications and Pricing

Award will be made to the vendor which submits the overall proposal that is judged to provide the best value to the County. The following represent the principal selection criteria that will be considered during the evaluation process:

1. Qualifications of firm and proposed personnel.
2. Methodology and answers to Questionnaire.
3. Cost / fee schedule.
4. Reports from direct and indirect references.
5. Responsiveness and completeness of the written proposal to these instructions with regard to the Scope of Services.
6. Other relevant criteria.

The County reserves the right to conduct post-closing discussions with any proposer(s) which have a realistic possibility of contract award to include any request for additional information, and any request for “best and final” offers.

Section 2.4: Pre-Proposal Conference

Not Applicable

Section 2.5: Term of Contract

This contract shall be effective immediately following the date of execution by the County and remain in effect through September 30, 2008. The contract prices resultant from this solicitation shall prevail for the full duration of the initial contract term.

Section 2.6: Option to Renew

Prior to, or upon completion, of the initial term of this contract, the County shall have the option to renew this contract for one (1) additional twelve (12) month period under the same terms and conditions.

Section 2.7: Method of Payment

The vendor shall submit monthly invoices by the tenth (10th) calendar day of each month. These invoices shall be submitted to the County user department(s) that requested the service through a purchase order. The invoices shall reflect the type of service provided to the County in the prior month.

All invoices shall contain the contract and/or purchase order number, date and location of delivery or service, and confirmation of acceptance of the goods or services by the appropriate County representative. Failure to submit invoices in the proscribed manner will delay payment, and the vendor may be considered in default of contract and its contract may be terminated. Payments shall be tendered in accordance with the Florida Prompt Payment Act, Part VII, Chapter 218, Florida Statutes.

Section 2.8: Insurance

Each vendor shall include in its solicitation response package proof of insurance capabilities, including but not limited to, the following requirements: [This does not mean that the vendor must have the coverage prior to submittal, but, that the coverage must be purchased and in place prior to a purchase order or contract being executed by the County.]

A certificate of insurance indicating that the awarded vendor has coverage in accordance with the requirements of this section shall be furnished by the vendor to the Contracting Officer within five (5) working days of such request and before any work begins.

The vendor shall provide and maintain at all times during the term of any contract, without cost or expense to the County, policies of insurance insuring the vendor against any and all claims, demands or causes of action whatsoever, for injuries received or damage to property relating to

the performance of duties, services and/or obligations of the vendor under the terms and provisions of the contract.

Such policies of insurance shall insure the vendor in accordance with the following minimum limits:

General Liability insurance on forms no more restrictive than the latest edition of the Commercial General Liability policy (CG 00 01 or CG 00 02) of the Insurance Services Office or equivalent without restrictive endorsements, with the following minimum limits and coverage:

Each Occurrence/General Aggregate	\$500,000
Products-Completed Operations	\$500,000
Personal & Adv. Injury	\$500,000
Fire Damage	\$50,000
Medical Expense	\$5,000
Contractual Liability	\$300,000

Automobile liability insurance, including owned, non-owned, and hired autos with the following minimum limits and coverage:

Combined Single Limit	\$300,000
or	
Bodily Injury (per person)	\$100,000 (per accident)
Property Damage	\$100,000

Workers' compensation insurance based on proper reporting of classification codes and payroll amounts in accordance with Chapter 440, Florida Statute, and/or any other applicable law requiring workers' compensation (Federal, maritime, etc). If not required by law to maintain workers' compensation insurance, the vendor must provide a notarized statement that if he or she is injured; he or she will not hold the County responsible for any payment or compensation.

Professional liability and/or specialty insurance (medical malpractice, engineers, architect, consultant, environmental, pollution, errors and omissions, etc.) insurance as applicable, with minimum limits of \$500,000 and annual aggregate of \$1,000,000.

Lake County, a Political Subdivision of the State of Florida, and the Board of County Commissioners, shall be named as additional insured as their interest may appear on the general liability policy.

Certificate(s) of insurance shall provide for a minimum of thirty (30) days prior written notice to the County of any change or cancellation of the required insurance.

Certificate(s) of insurance shall identify the contract number in the Description of Operations section of the Certificate.

Certificate holder shall be:

LAKE COUNTY, A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE OF
FLORIDA, AND THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.
P.O. BOX 7800
TAVARES, FL 32778-7800

The vendor shall be responsible for subcontractors and their insurance.

All deductibles or self-insured retention shall appear on the certificate(s) and shall be subject to approval by the County. At the option of the County, the insurer shall reduce or eliminate such deductible or self-insured retention; or the vendor shall be required to procure a bond guaranteeing payment of losses and related claims expenses.

All insurance companies must be authorized to transact business in the State of Florida.

The County shall be exempt from, and in no way liable for, any sums of money, which may represent a deductible in any insurance policy. The payment of such deductible shall be the sole responsibility of the vendor and/or subcontractor providing such insurance.

Failure to obtain and maintain such insurance as set out above will be considered a breach of contract and may result in termination of the contract for default.

Neither approval by the County of any insurance supplied by the vendor, nor a failure to disapprove that insurance, shall relieve the vendor of full responsibility of liability, damages, and accidents as set forth herein.

Section 2.9: Offer Guaranty/ Bid Bond

Not Applicable

Section 2.10: Delivery

Per Section 3, Scope of Work

Section 2.11: Work Acceptance

All invoices are subject to review and approval by the Lake County Employee Services Department.

Section 2.12: Warranty Requirements

Not Applicable

Section 2.13: Preparation of Solicitation/Submission of Response

Section 2.13.1: Delivery of Solicitation Responses

Unless a package is delivered by the vendor in person, all incoming mail from the U.S. Postal Service and any package delivered by a third party delivery organization (Fed-X, UPS, DHL, private courier, etc) will be opened for security and contamination inspection by the Lake County Clerk of the Circuit Court Mail Receiving Center in an off-site secure controlled facility prior to delivery to any Lake County Government facility, which includes the Lake County Department of Procurement Services.

To be considered for award, a bid or proposal must be received and accepted in the Procurement Services Office prior to the date and time established within the solicitation. Allow sufficient time for transportation and inspection.

Each package shall be clearly marked with the applicable solicitation number and title. Ensure that your bid or proposal is securely sealed in an opaque envelope/ package to provide confidentiality of the bid or proposal prior to the solicitation closing.

If you plan on submitting your bid or proposal **IN PERSON**, please bring it to:

LAKE COUNTY PROCUREMENT SERVICES
315 W. MAIN STREET
4TH FLOOR, ROOM 416
TAVARES, FLORIDA

If you submit your bid or proposal by the **UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE, (USPS)** please mail it to:

LAKE COUNTY PROCUREMENT SERVICES
PO BOX 7800
TAVARES, FL 32778-7800

If you submit your bid or proposal by a **THIRD PARTY CARRIER** such as Fed-X, UPS, or a private courier, please send it to:

LAKE COUNTY PROCUREMENT SERVICES
MAIL RECEIVING CENTER
416 W. MAIN STREET
TAVARES, FL 32778

Facsimile (fax) or electronic submissions (e-mail) will not be accepted.

Section 2.13.2: Completion Requirements for a Request for Proposal (RFP)

Respondents shall submit one (1) original, marked "ORIGINAL," and three (3) copies, each marked "COPY," of their proposal package for review and evaluation by the County. Failure to provide the required copies and information may result in the proposal package not being considered. Proposals shall be sealed and delivered to the Office of Procurement Services no later than the official closing date and time. Any proposal received after this time will not be considered and will be returned unopened to the submitter. The County is not liable or responsible for any costs incurred by any vendor in responding to this RFP including, without limitation, costs for product and/or service demonstrations if requested. When you submit your proposal, you are making a binding offer to the County.

A. Economy of Presentation

Each proposal shall be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of the proposer's capabilities to satisfy the conditions and requirements of this RFP. Fancy bindings, colored displays, and promotional material are not desired. Emphasis in each proposal must be on completeness and clarity of content. The County emphasizes that the proposer concentrate on accuracy, completeness, and clarity of content.

B. Proposal Guidelines

To facilitate analysis of its proposal, the proposer shall prepare its proposal in accordance with the instructions outlined in this section. If the proposal deviates from these instructions, such proposal may, in the County's sole discretion, be rejected.

C. Proposal Submittal:

The following items shall be included and submitted with your proposal:

1. Complete the RFP Cover Sheet
2. Provide a statement, on your firm's letterhead, describing your understanding of the requested services.
3. Professional Experience and Expertise- Respond to the following questions. Limit answers to no more than one page per question, double-spaced, 12 point type.
 - a. What measures and analysis would be used to evaluate the County's current vendor arrangements and insurance coverage?
 - b. What factors does your firm take into consideration when assisting an organization through the competitive search and selection?
 - c. Describe how your firm would evaluate vendor proposals for the following:
 1. Workers' Compensation Third Party Administrator (TPA)
 2. Property and Liability Insurance Broker
 3. Property and Liability Insurance Coverage

- d. Do you recommend combining the Workers' Compensation TPA and the Insurance Broker with a single vendor or not? Explain your rationale.
 - e. Provide information concerning your firm's knowledge and experience of the State of Florida's Workers' Compensation laws and Property & Liability Insurance laws for public entities.
4. Completed Section 4 – Pricing/Certifications/Signatures
 - a. Fee Schedule
 - b. Acknowledgement of Addenda
 - c. Firm Profile Form
 - d. Team Composition Form – Identify prime consultant(s) and other key professional staff assigned to this project. Make copies of this form as needed.
 - e. Similar Projects Form – Reference similar work effort performed within the last three (3) years, to other public sector organizations in the state of Florida; County entities preferred. Make copies of this form as needed.
 5. Proof of license to practice in Florida.
 6. Provide either a completed Accord form or a signed letter from your insurance agency on its letter head stating that you have or can get the required insurance coverage.
 7. Provide information on the nature, magnitude, and outcome of all litigation and proceedings for the previous three (3) years where a court or administrative agency has ruled for or against you or your organization in any matter related to you or your organization's professional activities.
 8. Provide a list of any proposed sub-contractors or joint venture arrangements that may be used on the project.

Section 2.14: Additional Work

Although this solicitation and resultant contract identifies specific services to be provided, it is hereby agreed and understood that additional work may be added to this contract at the option of the County. When required, the contractor will be invited to submit price quotes for these additional services based on the hourly rates with the contract. If these quotes are determined to be fair and reasonable, then the additional work will be awarded to the current contract. The additional work shall be added to this contract by formal modification.

Section 3.1 Scope of Service

Provide consulting services to assist the County in the Request for Proposal process for the Workers' Compensation Third Party Administrator and Insurance Broker.

Section 3.2 Background

The County is located in northern central Florida and has a Self Insured Retention (SIR) of \$150,000 for each worker's compensation claim. The County currently contracts with a Third Party Administrator (TPA) to provide cost effective workers' compensation claims administration. The County has approximately 1276 employees covered under its workers' compensation program.

The County has a SIR for the first \$100,000 of each occurrence of damage to County property and has a SIR of \$50,000 on each occurrence of general liability. It has various other self insured retentions for other coverages. The County currently contracts with of an insurance brokerage firm that assists the County in procuring the most comprehensive and cost-effective Property & Liability insurance program.

Section 3.3 Scope of Work

Each proposal shall be made on the basis of and shall meet or exceed each of the requirements contained herein.

Provide assistance in the competitive solicitation and selection of the County's Workers' Compensation TPA and the County's Property and Liability Insurance Broker. Such assistance includes but is not limited to the following tasks:

- Task 1 Consultant will assist the County in the development of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Workers' Compensation TPA and Insurance Broker. The RFP should allow the option of a single provider for both services or for proposers to bid on providing only one service.
- Task 2 Consultant will be asked to analyze the County's current TPA and Insurance Broker arrangement and current insurance coverage to see if it is appropriate and sufficient, make recommendations for changes to the coverage (e.g., type and amount of coverage), and customize the RFP to reflect these adjustments to the County's coverage.
- Task 3 Consultant will be required to assist in preparation of the RFP documents and the development of the vendor submission forms, questionnaires, and spreadsheets to be used to conduct a side-by-side comparison of the results. Such information will be provided to the County's selection committee.
- Task 4 Consultant will to review, analyze, and evaluate the RFPs received for the TPA and Insurance Broker.
- Task 5 Consultant will assist in conducting finalist interviews, ranking the top three (3) firms, visiting assigned markets if necessary, and developing a final recommendation.
- Task 6 Consultant will be required to provide a qualified representative (non-voting) to attend RFP

Selection Committee meetings as needed or requested, provide written summaries of Consultant's conclusions and recommendations, and when necessary be available for in-person meetings to discuss the process with County staff.

Task 7 Consultant will assist in negotiations with TPA and Insurance Brokers in order to assure that the County has a competitive and complete contract.

Task 8 Consultant, or consultant's professional staff, will be available for telephone conferences, meetings, research and advice as may be requested by the County. When appropriate, consultant will respond to inquiries in written opinions.

Section 3.4 Minimum Qualifications

1. The proposing firm's primary consultant must have direct and primary responsibility for all professional services to be provided to Lake County.
2. The firm must be primarily engaged in independent fee-based risk management consultant services.
3. The firm must have been actively engaged in such business for a period of no less than three (3) years, and primary consultant shall have at least ten (10) years combined years of management consultant experience in Workers' Compensation and Property and Liability Insurance.
4. The firm will provide team composition information, including years and type of experience, certifications and degrees of each staff member assigned to work on the County's account.
5. The firm must be able to provide a minimum of five (5) verifiable references from public sector organizations in the state of Florida; County entities preferred. These organizations must have hired the firm to assist them in an RFP process, including the analysis of the organizations' insurance coverage.

Consultant to assist in the Request for Proposal process for the Workers' Compensation Third Party Administrator and Insurance Broker

FEE SCHEDULE

Provide a fee-based rate for the project and tasks described in the preceding terms, conditions and scope of services below. The total price listed below shall include but not be limited to, all consultant fees, consultant expenses, reproduction costs, telephone, supplies and any other out-of-pocket expenses, which may occur, by the consultant and staff in the performance of the services.

Task	Description	Price
1.	Assist in development of RFP's for the Workers' Compensation TPA and Insurance Broker.	
2.	Analyze the current TPA and Broker arrangement and current insurance coverage and customize the RFP to reflect these adjustments to the County's coverage.	
3.	Assist in the preparation of the RFP documents and the development of the vendor submission forms, questionnaires, and spreadsheets.	
4.	Review, analyze and evaluate RFP responses for the TPA and Insurance Broker.	
5.	Assist in conducting finalist interviews, ranking the top three (3) firms, visiting assigned markets if necessary, and develop a final recommendation.	
6.	Representative to attend RFP Selection Committee meetings, provide written summaries and recommendations and attend meetings in Lake County.	
7.	Assist in contract negotiations with the recommended TPA and Insurance Brokers.	
8.	Telephone conferences, meetings, research, advice and response to inquiries in written opinions, as requested by the County.	
Total Project		\$ _____

Notes:

All pricing submitted shall remain valid for a 90 day period. By signing and submitting a response to this solicitation, the vendor has specifically agreed to this condition

**Consultant to assist in the Request for Proposal process for the Workers'
Compensation Third Party Administrator and Insurance Broker**

PROPOSED HOURLY BILLING RATES

Provide fixed, hourly rates for any additional tasks that may be requested. Hourly rates of additional tasks shall be itemized separately. The firm, fixed, hourly rates proposed shall include, but not be limited to, all consultant fees, consultant expenses, reproduction costs, telephone supplies, and any other out-of-pocket expenses, which may occur, by the consultant and staff in the performance of the services.

Personnel Classification	Hourly Billing Rate

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ADDENDA

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete Part I or Part II, whichever applies

Part I:

The bidder must list below the dates of issue for each addendum received in connection with this ITB:

Addendum #1, Dated: _____

Addendum #2, Dated: _____

Addendum #3, Dated: _____

Addendum #4, Dated: _____

Part II:

No Addendum was received in connection with this ITB.

By Signing This Proposal the Proposer Attests and Certifies That:

- It satisfies all legal requirements (as an entity) to do business with the County.
- The undersigned vendor acknowledges that award of a contract may be contingent upon a determination by the County that the vendor has the capacity and capability to successfully perform the contract.
- The proposer hereby certifies that it understands all requirements of this solicitation, and that the undersigned individual is duly authorized to execute this proposal document and any contract(s) and/or other transactions required by award of this solicitation.

Additional Certifications Requiring Completion:

Certification Regarding Felony Conviction

Has any officer, director, or executive of the bidding entity been convicted of a felony during the past ten (10) years? Yes No (Check one)

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Certification

Except as listed below, no employee, officer, or agent of the firm has any conflicts of interest, real or apparent, due to ownership, other clients, contracts, or interests associated with this project; and, this bid is made without prior understanding, agreement, or connection with any corporation, firm, or person submitting a proposal for the same services, and is in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud.

Exceptions: _____

General Vendor Information and Proposal Signature:	
Firm Name:	_____
Street Address:	_____
Mailing Address (if different):	_____
Telephone No.:	_____ Fax No.: _____ E-mail: _____
FEIN No. _____ - _____	Prompt Payment Terms: _____ % _____ Days, net _____
Signature:	_____ Date: _____
Print Name:	_____ Title: _____

FIRM PROFILE

<p>1. Firm (or joint venture) Name & Address</p>	<p>1c. Licensed to do business in the State of Florida? _____ Yes _____ No</p>
<p>1a. Firm is ___National ___Regional ___Local FEIN # _____</p>	<p>1d. Name, Title & Telephone Number of Principal to Contact</p>
<p>1b. Firm is a Certified Minority Business Enterprise _____Yes _____No</p>	<p>1f. Address of office to perform work, if different from Item 1.</p>
<p>2. Number of years (no less than 3) the firm has actively engaged in independent fee-based risk management consultant services. _____years</p>	
<p>3. Please list number of people by discipline that your firm/joint venture will commit to the County's project.</p>	
<p>4. If submittal is by joint venture, list participating firms and outline specific areas of responsibility (including administrative, technical, and financial) for each firm:</p> <p>4a. Has this joint venture previously worked together?) _____Yes _____No</p>	

TEAM COMPOSITION

Brief resumes of prime consultant(s) and other key persons who shall be assigned to the project. Utilize one sheet per person. (Additional information may be attached.)

Name:
Title:
Project assignment:
Name of firm with which associated:
Years of experience: With this firm _____ With other firms _____ (Primary consultant shall have at least ten (10) years combined of management consultant experience in Workers' Compensation and Property and Liability Insurance.)
Education: Certifications/Degree(s)/year/school/specialization:
Other experience and qualifications relevant to the proposed project:

SIMILAR PROJECTS/REFERENCES

Reference similar work effort (at least five (5) verifiable) performed by your firm within the last three (3) years, to other public sector organizations in the state of Florida; County entities preferred. Examples should best illustrate current qualifications relevant to this project. Make copies of this form as needed.

<p><u>Project Name & Location</u></p> <p><u>Project Manager (from your firm):</u></p>	<p>Project Owners Contact Person, Title, & Telephone Number</p>
<p>Completion Date (Actual or Estimated)</p>	
<p>Estimated Total Project Cost \$ _____</p>	<p>Work for which your firm was/is responsible \$ _____</p>
<p><u>Scope of Entire Project</u> (Please give quantitative indications wherever possible)</p>	
<p><u>Nature of Firm's Responsibility in Project</u> (Please give quantitative indications wherever possible)</p>	
<p><u>Firm's Personnel (Name/Project Assignment) That Worked on the Stated Project that Shall Be Assigned to the County's Project</u></p>	