MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Dakota County Technical College

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
FOR
Electrical and Cat 6 Data Cable Installation for
Classroom Monitor Data Drops
August 2021

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

FOR Electrical and Cat 6 Data Cable Installation for Classroom Monitor Data Drops

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Notice
This Request for Proposal (RFP) does not obligate the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, its Board of Trustees or Dakota County Technical College or Minnesota State to award a contract or complete the proposed project and each reserves the right to cancel this RFP if it is considered to be in its best interest. Proposals must be clear and concise. Proposals that are difficult to follow or that do not conform to the RFP format or binding specifications may be rejected. Responding Vendors must include the required information called for in this RFP. Minnesota State reserves the right to reject a proposal if required information is not provided or is not organized as directed.

Dakota County Technical College or Minnesota State also reserves the right to waive minor informalities and reserves the right to:

1. Reject any and all proposals received in response to this RFP;
2. Select a proposal for contract negotiation other than the one with the lowest cost;
3. Negotiate any aspect of the proposal with any Vendor;
4. Terminate negotiations and select the next most responsive Vendor for contract negotiations;
5. Terminate negotiations and prepare and release a new RFP;
6. Terminate negotiations and take such action as deemed appropriate.

Any decision to cancel or reject any and all proposals is in Minnesota State’s sole discretion. Minnesota State also reserves the right to change the evaluation criteria or any other provision in this RFP by posting notice of the change(s) on the Vendors and Suppliers at Minnesota State page. Vendors should check the site daily for updates (e.g. amendments, responses to questions) and are expected to review information on the site carefully before submitting a final proposal. Such changes or updates above constitutes written notice to each Vendor.

Definitions
Wherever and whenever the following words or their pronouns occur in this proposal, they shall have the meaning given here:

Minnesota State: State of Minnesota, acting through its Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities on behalf of Dakota County Technical College.

School: Dakota County Technical College

System Office: The central system office of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities located at Wells Fargo Place, 30 7th Street East, Suite 350, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.
Vendor: The firm selected by Minnesota State as the successful responder(s) responsible to execute the terms of a contract.

Targeted Group Business (TGB): A business that is at least 51% owned and operated by a woman or person of color.

Minority-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE): Independent business which is at least 51% owned and operated by one or more minority group member (citizen of the United States or permanent resident who is Black, Hispanic, Asian, or American Indian).

Women-Owned Business Enterprise (WBE): Independent business which is at least 51% owned and operated by one or more women.

Economically Disadvantaged (ED) Business and Individuals: Independent business or persons which is at least 51% owned and operated by economically disadvantaged.

Veteran-Owned Business Enterprise (VO): Independent business which is at least 51% owned and operated by one or more veteran.

Please note, for TGB consideration, Minnesota State recognizes certification from at least one the following certifying agencies:

- State of Minnesota – Department of Administration
- Central (CERT) Certification Program
- North Central Minority Supplier Development Council
- Women’s Business Development Center

About Minnesota State and Dakota County Technical College

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities is the third-largest system of state colleges and universities in the United States. It comprises 37 state colleges and universities with 54 campuses located in 47 Minnesota communities. Minnesota State serves approximately 350,000+ plus students each year. Minnesota State employs more than 15,900+ dedicated faculty and staff focused on student success. Minnesota State is an independent state entity that is governed by a 15-member Board of Trustees. For more information about the colleges and universities of Minnesota State, please view its website at www.minnstate.edu.

Inver Hills Community College, founded in 1970 is a fully accredited community college located in Inver Grove Heights, MN 10 minutes from St. Paul off U.S. Route 52.
Dakota County Technical College is located in Rosemount, Minnesota. Founded in 1970, the college is part of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System. The address is 1300-145th Street East Rosemount, MN 55068.

**Authority**

This RFP is undertaken by Dakota County Technical College hereinafter “MINNESOTA STATE”) pursuant to the authority contained in provisions of Minnesota Statutes § 136F.581 and other applicable laws. MINNESOTA STATE will select the Vendor(s) whose proposal(s), and oral presentation(s) if requested, demonstrate in its sole opinion, the clear capability to best fulfill the purposes of this RFP in a cost-effective manner. MINNESOTA STATE reserves the right to accept or reject proposals, in whole or in part, and to negotiate separately as necessary to serve the best interests of MINNESOTA STATE. This RFP does not obligate Minnesota State to award a contract or complete the proposed project and it reserves the right to cancel this RFP if it is considered to be in its best interest.

**Project Overview**

MINNESOTA STATE is requesting proposals to assist in requesting proposals from vendors to install electrical outlets, wiring and related components as well as CAT6 data cabling with Panduit data / networking parts in identified campus classrooms. Inver Hills Community College is expecting this installation to include 85 total classrooms. Dakota County Technical College expects this installation to include 100 total classrooms. This projects outcome is to facilitate increased connectivity and remote instruction capabilities.

**Technical/Functional Requirements**

Installation of 120v electrical outlets and CAT6 data cables with Panduit data / networking parts and all related components in various campus classrooms that will be identified.

**RFP Information Contact**

MINNESOTA STATE’S authorized representative for purposes of responding to inquiries about the RFP is:

- **Name:** Erica Kantola
- **Title:** Facilities & Operations Coordinator
- **Address:** 2500 East 80th Street, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55075
- **Telephone:** 651-450-3394
Other persons are not authorized to discuss RFP requirements before the proposal submission deadline and MINNESOTA STATE shall not be bound by and vendors may not rely on information regarding RFP requirements obtained from non-authorized persons. Questions must include the name of the questioner and his/her telephone number, fax number and/or e-mail address. Anonymous inquiries will not be answered.

**Duration of Offer**

All proposal responses must indicate they are valid for a minimum of ninety (90) calendar days from the date of the proposal opening unless extended by mutual written agreement between MINNESOTA STATE and the Vendor.

Prices and terms of the proposal as stated must be valid for the length of the resulting contract.

**Minnesota State’s RFP Terms and Conditions**

This RFP includes and incorporates MINNESOTA STATE’S RFP Terms and Conditions. Vendors should be aware of MINNESOTA STATE’S RFP terms and conditions in preparing responses to this RFP. Much of the language reflected in any resulting contract with MINNESOTA STATE is required by statute. If you take exception to any of the language in the terms and conditions, you must indicate those exceptions in your response to the RFP; certain exceptions may result in your proposal being disqualified from further review and evaluation. Only those exceptions indicated in your response to the RFP will be available for discussion or negotiation.

**Authorized Signature**

The proposal must be completed and signed in the firm’s name or corporate name of the Vendor and must be fully signed by an authorized representative of the Vendor. Proof of authority of the person signing must accompany the response.

**Pre-award Vendors Conference**

MINNESOTA STATE will hold a pre-award Vendors conference on Tuesday September 7th at 12:30 pm at Dakota County Technical College. Please RSVP for invite and building location. All potential or interested respondents must attend the conference. Please contact Erica Kantola at EKantola@inverhills.edu to be invited to the meeting.

**Selection and Implementation Timeline**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Dates</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, August 23, 2021</td>
<td>Publishes RFP notice in State Register</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, September 7, 2021</td>
<td>Pre-Award Vendor’s Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday September 9, 2021</td>
<td>Deadline for Vendors to submit clarifying questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday September 13, 2021</td>
<td>Deadline to publish responses to RFP questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, September 20, 2021</td>
<td>Deadline for RFP proposal submissions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, September 22, 2021</td>
<td>Vendor(s) selected and notified</td>
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</tbody>
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MINNESOTA STATE reserves the right to not award a contract. The dates noted above are estimates, but are reasonable for the purposes of presenting deadlines.

**Contract Term**

MINNESOTA STATE desires to enter into a contract with the successful Vendor(s) effective September 30, 2021 or on the date the last recognized signature is obtained, whichever occurs later. The length of such contract(s) will be 1 year. If MINNESOTA STATE and Vendor are unable to negotiate and sign a contract by September 30th, 2021 MINNESOTA STATE reserves the right to seek an alternative Vendor(s).

**Proposal Deadline**

Submitted proposals must be received to the following address either by courier, in person or by mail to the mail room, 1st floor College Center building or Information Desk, 2nd floor College Center Building, not later than 3:00 p.m. CT on Monday, September 20, 2021:

Institution: Inver Hills Community College  
Name: Erica Kantola  
Title: Facilities & Operations Coordinator  
Mailing Address: 2500 80th Street East, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076

**Format of Proposals and Submission**

The Vendor shall submit 1 printed copies of its RFP response and one copy on digital media with the RFP response in Microsoft Word format. Proposals are to be sealed in mailing envelopes or packages with the Vendor’s name and address clearly written on the outside. One copy of the proposal must be unbound and signed in blue or black ink by an authorized representative of the vendor. Proof of authority of the person signing must accompany the response.
Proposals received after the Proposal Deadline date and time will not be considered. Fax, and e-mail responses will not be considered. Proposals made in pencil will be rejected. Alterations in cost figures used to determine the lowest priced proposal will be rejected unless initialed in ink by the person responsible for or authorized to make decisions as to price quoted. The use of “white out” is considered an alteration.

**Proposal Content**

Vendors must submit the following information:

1. **Adherence to MINNESOTA STATE Terms and Conditions:** A statement of the objectives, goals, and tasks to show or demonstrate the vendor's view and understanding of the nature of the contract.

2. **Work Plan:** A description of the deliverables to be provided by the vendor along with a detailed work plan that identifies the major tasks to be accomplished and be used as a scheduling and managing tool, as well as the basis for invoicing.

3. **Qualifications of Vendor and its Personnel:** An outline of the vendor's background and experience with examples of similar work done by the vendor and a list of personnel who will conduct the project, detailing their training, and work experience. Resumes or other information about project personnel should not, if possible, contain personal telephone numbers, home addresses or home email addresses. If it is necessary to include personal contact information, please clearly indicate in the proposal that personal contact information is being provided.

4. **Accessibility:** A completed response to the linked Voluntary Product/Service Accessibility Template(s)®. The response must contain adequate information to evaluate the responsiveness to the accessibility standards (i.e. a completed VPAT or equivalent).

5. **Cost/Value:** Identify the level of MINNESOTA STATE’S participation in the contract, as well as any other services to be provided by Minnesota State, and details of cost allowances for this participation. The cost breakdown of the bid must include total project time, materials, and any permits costs. Bidders must also include time and materials rates for any additional necessary project work that may be discovered during the project.

**Terms of Payment**

Payment shall be made by MINNESOTA STATE promptly after Vendor’s presentation of invoices for services performed and acceptance of such services by MINNESOTA STATE’S authorized representative. All services provided by the Vendor pursuant to the resulting contract shall be performed to the satisfaction of MINNESOTA STATE, as determined at the sole discretion of its authorized representative, and in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules and regulations. The Vendor shall not receive payment for work found by
MN to be unsatisfactory or performed in violation of any applicable federal, state or local law, ordinance, rule or regulation.

Payments are to be made from federal funds obtained by MINNESOTA STATE through Title Pub.L 117-2 of the American Rescue Plan Act of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. (Public law and amendments thereto). If at any time such funds become unavailable, the resulting contract may be terminated immediately upon written notice of such fact by MINNESOTA STATE to the Vendor. In the event of such termination, Vendor shall be entitled to payment, determined on a pro rata basis, for services satisfactorily performed.

**Required Documents and Forms**

1. Affidavit of Non-Collusion. All vendors must complete the Affidavit of Non-Collusion and submit it with the response.

2. Conflicts of Interest. Vendor must provide a list of all entities with which it has relationships that create, or appear to create, a conflict of interest with the work that is contemplated in this request for proposals. The list should indicate the name of the entity, the relationship, and a discussion of the conflict.

3. Workforce Certificate. For all contracts estimated to be in excess of $100,000, vendors are required to complete the Minnesota Department of Human Rights Workforce Certificate Form and submit your certification with the response (including extension options).

4. Equal Pay Certification. For all businesses with 40 or more employees and a contract is estimated to be in excess of $500,000, responders are required to complete the Minnesota Department of Human Rights Equal Pay Certificate Form or claim exemption prior to contract execution. Submit your certification with the response (including extension options).

5. Targeted Group Businesses (TGBs). If applicable, eligible certified TGBs businesses will receive preference in the evaluation of its proposal as outlined below. Submit your certification with the response. Targeted Business Inclusion Form

6. Economically Disadvantaged (ED)/ Veteran-Owned (VO) Businesses and Individuals Preference. If applicable, eligible certified ED/VO businesses will receive preference in the evaluation of its proposal as outlined below. Submit your certification with the response. Vendors may apply for certification through the Minnesota Small Business Certification Portal.
Selection Process

The selection process includes Paul DeMuth, Director of Facilities & Operations, Todd Jagerson Chief Information Officer other campus Operations and IT personnel. This group will evaluate the proposals and make the final decision.

RFP Evaluation Factors

The following factors and their identified weight will be used by Minnesota State to evaluate the responses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Evaluation Factors</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Adherence to MINNESOTA STATE Terms and Conditions</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Work Plan</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Price [OR Price in relation to level of service to be provided]</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Qualifications of Vendor and its personnel (experience of personnel who are committed to work on the contract will be given greater weight than that of the company)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Completeness, thoroughness and detail of response as reflected by the proposal’s discussion and coverage of all elements of work listed above</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Targeted Business Inclusion; respondent is a certified TGB and/or respondent commits to sub-contracting 10% or more of the value of the contract to a certified TGB</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Preference to Economically Disadvantaged Business and Individuals, if applicable*</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Preference to Service Disabled / Veteran-Owned Business and Individuals, if applicable*</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Preferences are to be applied by adding 6% to the final cost proposal submitted by non-TGB/ED/VO respondents.

MINNESOTA STATE reserves the right to name a date which all responding Vendors will be invited to present demonstrations or participate in an interview.

MINNESOTA STATE does not agree to reach a decision by any certain date although it is hoped the evaluation and selection will be completed by the date identified in the Selection and Implementation Timeline.

A proposal may be rejected if it is determined that a Vendor’s ability to work with the existing infrastructure will be too limited or difficult to manage.
Supplier Diversity

Pursuant to policy 5.14 and Minn. Stat. 16C.16, MINNESOTA STATE is committed to taking affirmative action to ensure that minority-owned (MBEs) and women-owned (WBEs) businesses are given equal opportunity to provide their goods & services to MINNESOTA STATE. Targeted Group Business (TGB) inclusion is a part of the criteria for this RFP to facilitate MINNESOTA STATE’S fulfillment of this commitment.

For all goods & services contracts estimated to be in excess of $50,000, all responding Vendors are required to complete the attached Targeted Business Inclusion Form and attach hard copies of TGBs certificates verifying that the Vendor is certified by one of the certifying agencies recognized by MINNESOTA STATE. Vendors are not required to include TGBs in their bid response; however, it should be noted that TGB inclusion is ten percent (10%) of the total proposal criteria.

Minnesota State recognizes certifications from at least one the following certifying agencies:

- State of Minnesota – Department of Administration
- Central (CERT) Certification Program
- North Central Minority Supplier Development Council
- Women’s Business Development Center

ED/VO Preferences:

Register to become certificated or for information regarding certification, contact the OEP at 651-201-2402 or you may reach the Helpline by e-mail at procurement.equity@state.mn.us. For TTY/TDD communications, contact the Helpline through the Minnesota Relay Services at 1.800.627.3529.

Economically Disadvantaged (ED) Business and Individuals

In accordance with Minnesota Rules, part 1230.1810, subpart B certified Economically Disadvantaged (ED) Businesses submitting proposals as prime contractors shall receive the equivalent of a six percent (6%) preference in the evaluation of their proposal. Eligible ED businesses must be currently certified by the Minnesota Department of Administration’s Office of Equity in Procurement (OEP) prior to the solicitation opening date and time.

Veteran-Owned (VO)

In accordance with Minn. Stat. § 16C.16, subd. 6a, (a) Except when mandated by the federal government as a condition of receiving federal funds, the commissioner shall
award up to a six percent (6%) preference, but no less than the percentage awarded to any other group under this section on state procurement to certified small businesses that are majority-owned and operated by veterans.
Bid Response Cover Page

By signing this statement, you certify the information provided is accurate and that you are authorized to sign on behalf of the vendor.

I certify that my company is:

☐ Veteran Owned
☐ Targeted Group Business Owned
☐ Economically Disadvantaged
☐ None of the above

Name of Company: ____________________________________________________________

Authorized Signature: ________________________________________________________

Printed Name and Title: _______________________________________________________

Telephone and Email Address: _________________________________________________

Date: ______________________________________________________________________