USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

Marketing and Regulatory Programs

Agricultural Marketing Service

Washington, DC 20250

Note: New vendors and subcontractors must supply all of the required paperwork (Appendix-I, Financial Statement, and 3 Reference Letters), and must register in the Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA). In addition, all Vendors must also be registered in the CCR within 48 hours after bid opening or your company may be considered non-responsible.

FV-320 Fruit and Vegetable Programs

Date Issued: January 19, 2007

Miscellaneous Products, Announcement FV-320, Invitation 021

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) invites offers to sell fresh potatoes for processing as indicated below and per the Announcement for donation to the Child Nutrition Program. Offers are due by 1 p.m., Central Time, **Monday, February 2, 2007**. Acceptances will be announced by midnight, February 16, 2007. Deliveries are to be made from March 16 – April 30, 2007.

Offers are invited from the trade for:

Fresh Potatoes for Dehydration Processing	Bulk	1,000,000 lbs

A specification for Fresh Potatoes for Dehydration Processing is attached.

No offer will be made to 8(a) vendors on this invitation.

Bids must be submitted electronically via the Domestic Electronic Bid Entry System (DEBES) on the Internet. Offeror must be assigned a Logon ID by USDA to access the site. The Internet address is: http://pcsd.usda.gov/debes which translates into a connection of https://pcsd.usda.gov:3077/mdbc1000.exe? Once connected, follow the online procedures. A 'HELP' button provides detailed instructions for using the system or call 202-720-4517 for assistance.

Bidders are cautioned to bid only quantities they can reasonably expect to produce and deliver in accordance with the contract. Inquiries about Announcement FV-320, Appendix-1, the Commodity Specification for Miscellaneous Products dated June 2003, or this Invitation should be directed to the Contracting Officer, USDA/AMS/Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Commodity Procurement Branch STOP 0239, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-0239, telephone (202) 720-4517. An electronic version of this invitation can be obtained through the World Wide Web via the Commodity Procurement Home Page at http://www.ams.usda.gov/cp.

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Purchases will be made on a delivered basis, subject to Announcement FV-320, to the listed locations. Delivery by trucks or railcars is optional to the contractor, except for those destination(s) which specify delivery by truck only or rail only.

ANNOUNCEMENT : FV320
INVITATION : 021
COMM GROUP : 89 BULK FRESH PROCESSING
COMM TYPE : 21 FRESH POTATOES FOR DEHYDRATION
PACK SIZE : 90 BULK

ITEM NO	DESTINATION CITY	ST	TRANS RESTR	QUANTITY (LBS)	PRICE PER (LBS)
SHIPPING PERIOD 03/16/07 - 03/31/07					
001	BLACKFOOT	ID	TRUCK ONLY	440,000	_____
002	MOSES LAKE	WA		80,000	_____
	MOSES LAKE	WA	TRUCK ONLY	40,000	
SHIPPING PERIOD 04/01/07 - 04/15/07					
003	BLACKFOOT	ID	TRUCK ONLY	200,000	_____
004	MOSES LAKE	WA	TRUCK ONLY	40,000	_____
SHIPPING PERIOD 04/16/07 - 04/30/07					
005	BLACKFOOT	ID	TRUCK ONLY	200,000	_____

TOTAL QUANTITY FOR COMMODITY TYPE 1,000,000

TOTAL QUANTITY FOR INVITATION 1,000,000

Felicitas C. Lofton
Contracting Officer

Attachment

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

SPECIFICATIONS FOR FRESH POTATOES FOR DEHYDRATION PROCESSING

1. **Grade**- U.S. No. 2 Potatoes for Processing or better.

2. **Pack** – Bulk

3. **Crop Year** - The potatoes shall be from the current packing season/crop year.

4. **Size** – Whole potatoes shall be specified not less than 1 ½ inches in diameter in accordance with the U.S Standards for Grades of Potatoes for Processing (usable pieces not less than 4 ounces in weight).

5. **Varieties** - Shepody, Ranger, Umatilla, Alturas, Norkotah, Atlantic, Goldrush, Snowden, Pike, Reba, Marcy, Millenium, Superior, Freedom, and Russett Burbank. Varieties can not be mixed.

6. **Sugar or sugar end content Criteria:**

   Raw reducing sugars shall not exceed 4%

7. **Specific Gravity Specification:**

   All varieties 1.0723 (19.1% solids) or higher.

8. **Defects, Serious Damage and Foreign Material:**

   a. No lot should be less than 40% bruise-free.

   b. The method of calculating the term "bruise-free" shall be evaluated for bruising by the Federal or Federal-State Inspector.

   c. Any load of potatoes found to contain broken glass or foreign substance, which may be harmful to health or adulterates the finished product, will be rejected.

   d. Any load of potatoes will be rejected if potatoes have more than 10% dry rot.

9. **Domestic Product Requirement:**

   Documentation is required to support the domestic origin of the product.

10. **Grading and Inspection:**

    a. Inspection must be performed by Federal, Federal-State, or Inspection Service.

b. Product will be inspected as delivered at destination using one of the following methods:

Sampling Methods:

Sampling may be drawn either by hand or mechanical techniques:

a. Hand Sampling: Sample obtained by manually passing a tray through the flow of potatoes by a trained and approved sample puller. Sample puller may be a processor employee.
b. Mechanical Sampling: Sample obtained mechanically by a trained and approved sample puller. (Federal Inspection Service must approve all mechanical samplers)

Samples may be graded individually or aggregated by either of the following:

a. Each truck load is graded and certified individually.
b. Grading and certification can include that days run for individual growers and a single days harvesting from the same field for the individual grower constitutes a combined sample.

Sampling Procedures:

a. Samples should represent a minimum of one half of 1 percent or greater of the total gross weight.
b. Sampling is performed by either method 1.) a. or b. as identified in the Sampling Method above.
c. Samples should be taken from the back, middle, and front of the truck as it is unloaded.
d. After the sample is drawn, it is then carefully deposited in a sample bin(s). Each bin holds approximately 1,000 pounds of potatoes. Sample slips/scale tickets bearing pertinent information are either inserted in the bin or attached to the outside of the bin.

e. Sample bins are submitted for grading, where they are individually weighed and handled by machinery and dumped mechanically. This method helps to stabilize the accuracy and helps to eliminate bruises caused by handling of samples.

11. **Invoices and Payment:** Invoices and payment will be accordance with Section X. Invoices and Payment, Announcement FV-320.

12. **Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)**

GAP verification will be performed by the Fresh Products Branch on a **voluntary basis** beginning July 1, 2006. Verification will be based on the supplier's ability to meet the minimum score in each category for the entire system from field to receiving. These voluntary audits will allow vendors to identify that their suppliers have met GAP verification prior to July 1, 2007 when GAP verification will be a

mandatory contract requirement. At that point, GAP verification must be completed within 12 months prior to the award of the contract to no later than ten days after the award. No contract action will be taken as a result of these voluntary audits performed prior to July 1, 2007 unless a deficiency that results in an "automatic unsatisfactory" is found. Those suppliers that pass the GAP verification will be listed on the USDA GAP-GHP website, http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/fpbgapghp.htm.

All services provided by the Fresh Products Branch are on a cost-recovery basis and fees will be charged at $75/ hour.

The audit tool is based on the Food and Drug Administration's *Guide to Minimize Microbial Food Safety Hazards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables* and is available at http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/prodglan.html.

For more information about the USDA GAP/GHP guidelines check the USDA website at http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/fpbgapghp.htm or contact Kathy Staley, Head of the Fresh Products Branch's Field Operations Section at 800-811-2373.