



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

P.O. Box 96456
Washington, DC
20090-6456

March 9, 1999

NOTICE TO CANNED BEEF STEW SUPPLIERS

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) plans to purchase in the near future commercially labeled 24-ounce cans of beef stew. AMS will use a qualified bidders list to solicit bids on a periodic basis for the purchase of beef stew that meets minimum requirements as described in the attached Item Description and Checklist of Requirements (Item Description). The qualification process is necessary to ensure that beef stew complies with minimum quality characteristics and that beef originated from United States (U.S.)-produced livestock and that other significant ingredients (more than 1 percent of formulation) originated from products produced in the U.S.

To qualify, interested suppliers must submit the following to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, AMS, Livestock and Seed Program, Room 2610-South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250:

- A sample case of beef stew with the commercial label to be qualified. Labels must include the ingredient statement and nutrition facts panel.
- A certification statement that the sample submitted complies with the Item Description and that beef and other significant ingredients (more than 1 percent of formulation) used in the manufacture of the sample originated from products produced in the U.S.
- A description of records that may be audited to verify that all beef stew to be delivered to USDA complies with the requirement that beef and other significant ingredients (more than 1 percent of formulation) used in the production of beef stew for AMS originated from products produced in the U.S. This includes a certification from applicable suppliers that products provided originated from U.S. production.
- A statement as follows: If qualified and subsequently awarded contracts, supplier agrees to (1) fulfill contracts with beef stew equal to qualified samples originally submitted, and (2) to provide the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR) the right to verify all records regarding production of the beef stew to ensure all aspects of the Item Description and Checklist of Requirements have been met.
- Bidder's Mailing List Application (SF129)

There will be an approximate turn around time of 5 working days between the receipt of sample and applicable documentation to the notification of results of the evaluation. Suppliers with beef stew meeting AMS requirements will be put on a qualified bidders list for beef stew.

Notice to Canned Beef Stew Suppliers

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AMS anticipates purchasing the beef stew on a quarterly basis for Federal food assistance programs. Firms may apply at any time during the program; however, to qualify to bid on the first Invitation in April 1999, the above items must be submitted by March 25, 1999.

Questions should be directed to Erin Morris of the Commodity Procurement Branch on (202) 690-0404.

/s/ Barbara L Cope
Barbara L Cope, Chief
Commodity Procurement
Livestock and Seed Program

Attachments: Item Description, Checklist of Requirements, and Evaluation Factors
SF129



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ITEM DESCRIPTION, CHECKLIST OF REQUIREMENTS, AND EVALUATION FACTORS

This Item Description is for use by USDA for the procurement of Canned Beef Stew.

ITEM DESCRIPTION:

BEEF STEW, CANNED - Must contain discernable chunks of beef, potatoes and carrots. Beef stew must be produced in accordance with Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) regulations and the following checklist of requirements:

CHECKLIST OF REQUIREMENTS:

1. Beef will be the only meat ingredient and must originate from U.S. produced livestock. The beef will not have a ground appearance.
2. All other significant (more than one percent) ingredients must originate from U.S. produced products.
3. Potatoes and carrots must be primary ingredients as listed on the ingredient statement and must be at least 3/8 inch in size.
4. Fat Content of the finished product will not exceed 5.0 percent fat. Declared fat content will be reflected in the Nutrition Facts Panel appearing on the container in accordance with FSIS nutritional labeling regulations. Percent fat = (Total fat ÷ Serving Size) x 100.
5. Sodium Level of the finished product will not exceed 415 mg per 100 g of sample.
6. Packaging and Packing - Individual cans of beef stew will have a net weight of 24 ounces. Twenty-four cans will be packed into new shipping containers to a net weight of 36 pounds. Only one style and size of container will be used in a single delivery unit. Each delivery unit will consist of 1,000 shipping containers with a net weight of 36,000 pounds (16,330 kg.).
7. Labeling Commercially labeled cans.

A. Evaluation Factors for **Sample Prototype**

FACTOR/SUBFACTORS	WEIGHT/POINTS
1. Tenderness (Total 30 points)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beef chunks are tender, but not mushy. (10) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No presence of gristle or connective tissue. (10) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potatoes, carrots, or other vegetables do not mash or crumble upon light pressure, but are not undercooked, tough, or fibrous. (10) 	
2. Flavor (Total 20 points)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptable amount of seasonings (10) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptable salt taste (10) 	
3. Appearance (Total 25 points)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discernable chunks of beef apparent. (5) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No visible chunks of fat. (5) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gravy that is not watery, transparent, or lacking in substance. (5) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potato and carrot pieces will be at least 3/8 inch in size. (5) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Color normal for product prepared as specified. (5) 	
4. Aroma (Total 10 points)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pleasing aroma and absence of foreign odors such as burnt, scorched, moldy, rancid, sour, or stale. (10) 	
5. Traceability (Total 15 points)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequacy of records to provide Domestic Origin verification of all significant ingredients. (15) 	

SOLICITATION MAILING LIST APPLICATION

1. TYPE OF APPLICATION <input type="checkbox"/> INITIAL <input type="checkbox"/> REVISION	2. DATE	OMB No.: 9000-0002 Expires: 10/31/97
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NOTE: Please complete all items on this form. Insert N/A in items not applicable. See reverse for instruction.
 Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .58 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the FAR Secretariat (MVR), Federal Acquisition Policy Division, GSA, Washington, DC 20405.

3. SUBMIT TO	a. FEDERAL AGENCY'S NAME		4. APPLICANT	
	b. STREET ADDRESS	a. NAME	FI Est. #	
	c. CITY	d. STATE	e. ZIP CODE	b. STREET ADDRESS

5. TYPE OF ORGANIZATION (Check one) <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL <input type="checkbox"/> NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION <input type="checkbox"/> PARTNERSHIP <input type="checkbox"/> CORPORATION, INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF:	6. ADDRESS TO WHICH SOLICITATIONS ARE TO BE MAILED (If different than item 4) a. STREET ADDRESS b. COUNTY c. CITY d. STATE e. ZIP CODE
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7. NAMES OF OFFICERS, OWNERS, OR PARTNERS

a. PRESIDENT	b. VICE PRESIDENT	c. SECRETARY
d. TREASURER	e. OWNERS OR PARTNERS	

8. AFFILIATES OF APPLICANT

NAME	LOCATION	NATURE OF AFFILIATION

9. PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO SIGN OFFERS AND CONTRACTS IN YOUR NAME (Indicate if agent)

NAME	OFFICIAL CAPACITY	TELEPHONE NUMBER	
		AREA CODE	NUMBER

10. IDENTIFY EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, AND/OR SERVICES ON WHICH YOU DESIRE TO MAKE AN OFFER (See attached Federal Agency's supplemental listing and instruction, if any)

11a. SIZE OF BUSINESS (See definitions on reverse) <input type="checkbox"/> SMALL BUSINESS (If checked, complete items 11B and 11C) <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER THAN SMALL BUSINESS	11b. AVERAGE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES (including affiliates) FOR FOUR PRECEDING CALENDAR QUARTERS	11c. AVERAGE ANNUAL SALES OR RECEIPTS FOR PRECEDING THREE FISCAL YEARS \$
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12. TYPE OF OWNERSHIP (See definitions on reverse) (Not applicable for other than small businesses) <input type="checkbox"/> DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS <input type="checkbox"/> WOMAN-OWNED BUSINESS	13. TYPE OF BUSINESS (See definitions on reverse) <input type="checkbox"/> MANUFACTURER OR PRODUCER <input type="checkbox"/> CONSTRUCTION CONCERN <input type="checkbox"/> SURPLUS DEALER <input type="checkbox"/> SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	14. DUNS NO. (if available) TIN #
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15. HOW LONG IN PRESENT BUSINESS?	16. FLOORSPACE (Square Feet/ft ²)
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a. MANUFACTURING	b. WAREHOUSE	17. NET WORTH
		a. DATE b. AMOUNT \$

18. SECURITY CLEARANCE (If applicable, check highest clearance authorized)

FOR	TOP SECRET	SECRET	CONFIDENTIAL	c. NAMES OF AGENCIES GRANTING SECURITY CLEARANCES	d. DATES GRANTED
a. KEY PERSONNEL					
b. PLANT ONLY					

The information supplied herein (including all pages attached) is correct and neither the applicant nor any person (or concern) in any connection with the applicant as a principal or officer, so far as is known, is now debarred or otherwise declared ineligible by any agency of the Federal Government from making offers for furnishing materials, supplies, or services to the Government or any agency thereof.

19a. NAME OF PERSON AUTHORIZED TO SIGN (Type or print)	20. SIGNATURE	21. DATE SIGNED
19b. TITLE OF PERSON AUTHORIZED TO SIGN (Type or print)		

INSTRUCTIONS

Persons or concerns wishing to be added to a particular agency's bidder's mailing list for supplies or services shall file this properly completed Solicitation Mailing List Application, together with such other lists as may be attached to this application form, with each procurement office of the Federal agency with which they desire to do business. If a Federal agency has attached a Supplemental Commodity list with instructions, complete the application as instructed. Otherwise, identify in Item 10 the equipment, supplies, and/or services on which you desire to bid. (Provide Federal Supply Class or Standard Industrial Classification codes, if available.) The application shall be submitted and signed by the principal as distinguished from an agent, however constituted.

After placement on the bidder's mailing list of an agency, your failure to respond (submission of bid, or notice in writing, that you are unable to bid on that particular transaction but wish to remain on the active bidder's mailing list for that particular item) to solicitations will be understood by the agency to indicate lack of interest and concurrence in the removal of your name from the purchasing activity's solicitation mailing for items concerned.

SIZE OF BUSINESS DEFINITIONS (See Item 11A.)

a. Small business concern - A small business concern for the purpose of Government procurement is a concern, including its affiliates, which is independently owned and operated, is not dominant in the field of operation in which it is competing for Government contracts, and can further qualify under the criteria concerning number of employees, average annual receipts, or the other criteria, as prescribed by the Small Business Administration. (See Code of Federal Regulations, Title 13, Part 121, as amended, which contains detailed industry definitions and related procedures.)

b. Affiliates - Business concerns are affiliates of each other when either directly or indirectly (i) one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or (ii) a third party controls or has the power to control both. In determining whether concerns are independently owned and operated and whether or not affiliation exists, consideration is given to all appropriate factors including common ownership, common management, and contractual relationship. (See Items 8 and 11A.)

c. Number of employees - (Item 11B) In connection with the determination of small business status, "number of employees" means the average employment of any concern, including the employees of its domestic and foreign affiliates, based on the number of persons employed on a full-time, part-time, temporary or other basis during each of the pay periods of the preceding 12 months. If a concern has not been in existence for 12 months, "number of employees" means the average employment of such concern and its affiliates during the period that such concern has been in existence based on the number of persons employed during each of the pay periods of the period that such concern has been in business.

TYPE OF OWNERSHIP DEFINITIONS (See Item 12.)

a. "Disadvantaged business concern" - means any business concern (1) which is at least 51 percent owned by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals; or, in the case of any publicly owned business, at least 51 percent of the stock of which is owned by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals; and (2) whose management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more of such individuals.

b. "Women-owned business" - means a business that is at least 51 percent owned by a woman or women who are U.S. citizens and who also control and operate the business.

TYPE OF BUSINESS DEFINITIONS (See Item 13.)

a. "Manufacturer or producer" - means a person (or concern) owning, operating, or maintaining a store, warehouse, or other establishment that produces, on the premises, the materials, supplies, articles or equipment of the general character of those listed in Item 10, or in the Federal Agency's Supplemental Commodity List, if attached.

b. "Service establishment" - means a concern (or person) which owns, operates, or maintains any type of business which is principally engaged in the furnishing of nonpersonal services, such as (but not limited to) repairing, cleaning, redecorating, or rental of personal property, including the furnishing of necessary repair parts or other supplies as a part of the services performed.

- COMMERCE BUSINESS DAILY - The Commerce Business Daily, published by the Department of Commerce, contains information concerning proposed procurements, sales, and contract awards. For further information concerning this publication, contact your local Commerce Field Office.