

United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service
Commodity Procurement Staff
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Room 3522-S, STOP 0239
Washington, DC 20250-0239

Information

Description: **AG-FFRT-S-15-0002**
Bid invitation number: **2000002950**
Purchasing Group: **AMS-Fruit and Veg**

SOLICITATION

Domestic Commodity Invitation

Bid invitation Overview

Bid Timezone: Central Time
Start Date: 10/15/2014 08:45:00
Offer Due Date : 10/24/2014 13:00:00

Opening date: 10/24/2014 13:00:00

Invitation Type : Definite Delivery

Additional requested information:

Tendering text - Header :

Bulk Apples for Further Processing, SOLICITATION NO: 2000002950

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) invites offers to sell Fresh Fruit pursuant to the AMS Master Solicitation for use in the National School Lunch Program and other Federal Food and Nutrition Assistance Programs. Acceptances will be announced by midnight, November 6, 2014. Deliveries are to be made between November 16, 2014 and February 28, 2015.

A. Product Origin

Commodities delivered pursuant to awards under this Solicitation shall have originated from crops that have been 100 percent grown, processed, and packed in the United States, its territories or possessions, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands, (hereinafter referred to as the United States). See Section I.E. of the Master Solicitation.

If the contractor handles any commodity originating from sources other than the United States, the contractor must have a written plan to segregate the commodity. This segregation plan will include an identification and record system for all commodities to ensure they are completely segregated and cannot be used to fulfill purchase orders awarded by USDA. Such segregation plan must be made available, within 10 days of purchase order award, to representatives of the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). The contractor must maintain positive written documentation records evidencing 100 percent domestic origin to the grower level. Contractors must also ensure that the documentation provided by any subcontractors demonstrates the same level of traceability. The burden of proof of compliance is on the contractor. Documentation may include load or warehouse storage receipts for raw product (i.e., bin tags), product blend (formulation) records, product coding explanations, finished product warehousing records, shipping or payment records, or other documentation or evidence that clearly establishes the product's domestic origin. Contractors must provide the domestic origin certification and supporting documentation records to representatives of the AMS Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Fresh Products Division (USDA Grader) when requesting inspection service. USDA graders will select and review at least one code for each purchase order to determine compliance with the Agency's domestic origin requirements. Such records must be available for review by the Government in accordance with FAR 52.214-26. In the event of an audit, AMS auditors will examine as many codes as is necessary to verify compliance. Self-certifications by contractors and subcontractors will not be accepted. Failure to observe this requirement may lead to suspension or debarment, purchase order termination, and penalties at Title 18, Section 1001 of the U.S. Code concerning falsification of information.

B. Packing Season

All fresh fruit must be from the current packing season/crop year.

C. Audits

Vendors and/or suppliers providing fresh fruit shall participate in and pass an Agricultural Marketing Service, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Handling Practices (GHP) Verification Audit. Verification Audits shall be performed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Fruit and Vegetable Programs (FVP), Fresh Products Division (FPD). All scopes of the audit applicable to the operation must be completed. For instance, if a grower has a storage facility on their farm where apples

SOLICITATION
Domestic Commodity Invitation

Information

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 Bid invitation number: **2000002950**

are stored prior to sending them to the sliced apple vendor, then the appropriate section of the audit must be completed. A copy of the GAP&GHP Audit Verification checklist is available on the USDA website at www.ams.usda.gov/gapghp, or from your local USDA or Federal-State inspection office.

D. Inspection Requirements

Inspection must be performed at destination by the USDA, AMS, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Fresh Products Division (USDA Grader) (see Section X of the Master Solicitation). The fresh apples shall be inspected, certified, and count (number) of packages verified in accordance with the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946. The acceptability of the quality and packaging of the product must be evidenced by certificates issued by the USDA Grader. Representative sample units will be graded according to the Regulations Governing Inspection and Certification of Fresh Fruit and Related Products (7 C.F.R. part 51), and United States Standards for Condition of Food Containers (7 C.F.R. part 42.140), effective on the date of the Solicitation/IFB.

The Contractor must give the USDA Inspector at least 72 hours advance notice when scheduling inspection service. Contractors are encouraged to submit requests for inspection in writing via form FV-237 (Record of Request for Inspection or Re-inspection of Food Products) with verifiable receipt notice, such as fax log, to alleviate possible miscommunication. Requests can also be made electronically using the following link: <http://eforms.ams.usda.gov/#CustomersFV>

E. Specifications

The attached commercial Specifications apply to all product supplied to the following destinations, as follows:

Specification A Hartford, MI
 Specification B Shelby, MI

F. Failure to Meet Specifications

Any lot which fails applicable specifications prescribed (See Item E) will be rejected as not acceptable for delivery. If any lot of fresh fruit fails to meet the product or packaging requirement, the Contractor may request in writing that USDA accept delivery of the lot. USDA may, at its option, accept delivery, provided that the purchase price is the purchase order price less a discount, to be determined by the Contracting Officer.

This Solicitation may show multiple stops on some line items; however, the number of stops will be limited to a maximum of three. To determine the number of destinations review the "Tendering Text" for the lot, which will indicate the City and State for each stop. Bidders may submit different prices for each stop. However, a price is required on all line items within the lot.

In order to verify that the contractor is in compliance with GAP/GHP certification, contractors shall meet the following requirements:

1) Contractors are required to:

a. Submit a list of all certified GAP/GHP suppliers to be used in the performance of the contract with their bid, including a copy of each supplier's certification. Certifications must be uploaded with their bids in WBSCM;

SOLICITATION
Domestic Commodity Invitation

Information

Description: **AG-FFRT-S-15-0002**
 Bid invitation number: **2000002950**

b. Contact USDA/AMS after contract award to request that additional GAP/GHP certified suppliers be added to the approved list on the purchase order and include a copy of each suppliers certification; If USDA/AMS finds that suppliers used by the contractor are not in compliance with AMS GAP/GHP certification requirements after the product is delivered, the following courses of action will apply:

1. The first time non compliance occurs AMS will deduct a 50% discount from the invoice for all noncompliant deliveries.
2. The second time non compliance occurs:
 - a. USDA/AMS will deduct a 50% discount from the invoice for all noncompliant deliveries;
 - b. The contract will be terminated for default; and
 - c. The contractor will be suspended from participating in all future USDA/AMS fresh fruit and vegetable solicitations for a period of one (1) year from the date of contract termination.

For offshore destinations (Puerto Rico, Hawaii, etc.), offerors have the option to choose to enter their bids direct to the offshore destination or to the port. Purchases will be made on an f.o.b. destination basis to cities on this Solicitation. Destination quantities listed are estimates and subject to adjustment based on offerings, changes in recipient needs, market conditions, and program operations.

All prime vendors are reminded that they are prohibited from subcontracting with companies or individuals that have been suspended or debarred.

Offers must be submitted electronically via the Web-Based Supply Chain Management System (WBSCM). Offers submitted by any means other than WBSCM will be deemed nonresponsive. Offerors must be active in WBSCM and have the required bidder roles in order to submit offers under this Solicitation. Once connected, follow the online procedures. A "HELP" button provides detailed instructions or call (202) 720-4517 for assistance.

Offerors are cautioned to bid only quantities they can reasonably expect to produce and deliver. Inquiries about the Master Solicitation dated April 2014; or this Solicitation should be directed to the Contracting Officer; USDA, AMS, Room 3522-South; 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.; Washington, D.C. 20250-0239. Telephone: (202) 720-4517. FAX: (202) 720-2782.

 The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)
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See attached documents:

- 1 . Specification A Hartford MI
- 2 . Specification B Shelby MI
- 3 . AMS Master Solicitation April 2014

Attributes :

OFFEROR CERTIFIES THAT THE OFFER IS MADE SUBJECT TO THE MASTER SOLICITATION; COMMODITY SUPPLEMENT AND/OR SPECIFICATION(S); THIS SOLICITATION; THE AGRICULTURE ACQUISITION REGULATIONS (AGAR) AND THE FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATIONS (FAR).

Timely performance: Offeror and any subcontractor have completed required performance of any USDA contract prior to this bid opening.

- Permitted values:
- Have been delivered
 - Have not been delivered
 - Have not been delivered, but the Offeror has notified the Contracting Officer
 - There are no existing contracts/purchase orders

OFFEROR REQUESTS HUBZONE SMALL BUSINESS PRICE EVALUATION PREFERENCE. APPLIES ONLY TO FIRMS CERTIFIED IN THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S HUBZONE PROGRAM (FAR SUBPART 19.13). MUST BE THE MANUFACTURER/PRODUCER OF THE PRODUCT TO RECEIVE A PRICE PREFERENCE

Furnish name, title, phone number, fax number, and e-mail address of person submitting this bid (must be an officer of the company or a person authorized to execute contracts/purchase orders on behalf of the bidder).

IS THE OFFEROR AN ENTITY THAT HAS FILED ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION IN ONE OF THE FIFTY STATES, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, OR THE VARIOUS TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED STATES? YOU MUST ANSWER THE NEXT 3 QUESTIONS IF THE ANSWER FOR THIS QUESTION IS YES.

HAS THE OFFEROR BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY CRIMINAL VIOLATION UNDER FEDERAL OR STATE

SOLICITATION
Domestic Commodity Invitation

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LAW IN THE 24 MONTHS PRECEDING THE DATE OF OFFER?

HAS THE OFFEROR HAD ANY OFFICER OR AGENT OF OFFEROR CONVICTED OF A FELONY CRIMINAL VIOLATION FOR ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF OFFEROR UNDER FEDERAL OR STATE LAW IN THE 24 MONTHS PRECEDING THE DATE OF OFFER?

DOES THE OFFEROR HAVE ANY UNPAID FEDERAL TAX LIABILITY ASSESSED, WHICH ALL JUDICIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTED/LAPSED, THAT IS NOT BEING PAID IN A TIMELY MANNER PURSUANT TO AGREEMENT WITH THE AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE FOR COLLECTING IT?

Offeror acknowledges receipt of the amendment(s) to the solicitation. Select N/A if no amendment was issued to the solicitation.

Permitted values: - Yes
 - No
 - N/A

Bid invitation Item details

Item	Material	Description	Required by	ZipCode	Quantity	
10 FRUIT, FRESH						
20 APPLES FOR FURTHER PROCESSING # BULK						
30 HARTFORD MI						
40	110149	APPLES FOR FURTHER PROCESSING # BULK	12/01/2014-12/15/2014	49057	158,400	LB
50 SHELBY MI						
60	110149	APPLES FOR FURTHER PROCESSING # BULK	11/16/2014-11/30/2014	49455	118,800	LB
70	110149	APPLES FOR FURTHER PROCESSING # BULK	12/01/2014-12/15/2014	49455	475,200	LB
80	110149	APPLES FOR FURTHER PROCESSING # BULK	01/01/2015-01/15/2015	49455	39,600	LB
90	110149	APPLES FOR FURTHER PROCESSING # BULK	01/16/2015-01/31/2015	49455	39,600	LB
100	110149	APPLES FOR FURTHER PROCESSING # BULK	02/01/2015-02/15/2015	49455	39,600	LB
110	110149	APPLES FOR FURTHER PROCESSING # BULK	02/16/2015-02/28/2015	49455	198,000	LB
Total Quantity for APPLES FOR FURTHER PROCESSING # BULK					1,069,200	LB
Total Quantity for Invitation					1,069,200	LB



Contracting Officer
 Commodity Procurement Division
 United States Department of Agriculture