PART B
AEPA General Terms and Conditions

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1. About AEPA

Welcome to this Association of Educational Purchasing Agencies (AEPA) solicitation. AEPA is a unique school procurement consortium established in 2000 and incorporated in 2007 under the state laws of Nevada. We are a consortium of non-profit public agencies representing thirty-one (31) states. We joined to issue simultaneous Invitations for Bids (IFB), or Request for Proposals (RFP), generating sales for vendor partners in all fifty (50) states. AEPA's mission is to cooperatively serve our members through a continuous effort to explore and solve present and future purchasing needs. Our goal is to secure multi-state volume purchasing contracts with benefits for our public members that are measurable, cost-effective, and exceed members' expectations for customer service and value. AEPA is committed to accomplishing this mission lawfully and ethically, using leading-edge technology and contemporary business practices.

The advantage for vendors to work with AEPA is that you respond to one bid or proposal that is legally performed across as many as 31 states, which have the potential to sell nationwide. You are working with up to 31 agencies with a long and trusted history with their public membership. Through our partnerships, AEPA vendors have access to thousands of public agencies across the country. We are a billion-plus-dollar procurement group through our current awarded vendors and are growing.

AEPA designates one Member Agency per state that is operating legally under the rules and regulations of that state. Any additional agencies that wish to participate will negotiate with the authorized Member Agency and participate through them in a way they mutually agree is not in conflict with AEPA procedures. The Member Agency will be the only agency allowed to represent that state at AEPA and will be the only communication link between AEPA and that state.

Each Member Agency, along with the awarded Vendor Partner, represents, supports, and promotes AEPA contracts within their respective state. While the consortium was initially created to support educational entities, the Member Agency for each state determines which public entities (higher educational institutions, cities, counties, townships, states, etc.) can utilize the competitively solicited contracts. Participating entities may include Public and Private School Districts, Educational Service Agencies, Intermediate School Districts, Higher Education Institutions, Federal Agencies, State Agencies, Local Public Bodies, and Nonprofit Non-Public Corporations, Organizations, other entities contracted to conduct business on behalf of a participating entity provided they are required to follow member state and local procurement regulations, etc. that have authorizations to utilize AEPA Member Agencies' Awarded Contracts.

AEPA has an elected President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Operations are overseen by the Executive Director. Solicitations are overseen by the Director of Solicitations. The AEPA Board representing member states meets twice per year and operates otherwise through a sophisticated committee structure.

AEPA Member Agency Information

State	Member Agency Name	Contact	Email	Students
Arkansas	Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative	Phoebe Bailey	phoebe.bailey@swaec.org	474,337
California	Monterey County Office of Education d/b/a CalSAVE	Andy Stroud	astroud@epylon.com	5,800,000
Colorado	Colorado BOCES Association	Bridget Thorn	coopdir@coloradoboces.org	881,000
Connecticut	Capitol Region Education Council (CREC)	Cara Hart	chart@crec.org	513,000
Florida	Panhandle Area Education Consortium	Charles Walker	Charles.walker@paec.org	2,700,000
Georgia	Cooperative Purchasing Agency	Kevin Benson/Elizabeth Dorman	aepa@cpa4schools.com / edorman@cpa4schools.com	1,600,000
Illinois	Illinois Learning Technology Purchase Program	Hope Hardin-Borbely	hhardinborbely@iltpp.org	1,925,415
Indiana	Wilson Education Service Center	Brent Minton	bminton@wesc.k12.in.us	1,030,000
Iowa	AEA Purchasing	Tracie Marshall	tmarshall@aeapurchasing.org	520,000
Kansas	The Purchasing Cooperative at Greenbush	Tina Smith	tina.smith@greenbush.org	478,858
Kentucky	Green River Regional Educational Cooperative	Amanda Turner / Scott Howard	amanda.turner@grrec.org / scott.howard@grrec.org	675,000
Massachusetts	The Education Cooperative	Tricia McKim	pmckim@tec-coop.org	914,959
Michigan	Oakland Schools	Anna Marie Hollander	AnnaMarie.Hollander@oakland.k12.mi.us	1,550,802
Minnesota	Cooperative Purchasing Connection	Melissa Mattson	mmattson@lcsc.org	944,736
Missouri	EducationPlus	Mike Havener	mhavener@edplus.org	880,000
Montana	Montana Cooperative Service	Dave Puyear	dpuyear@mrea-mt.org	144,129
Nebraska	ESU Coordinating Council (ESUCC)	Craig Peterson	craig.peterson@esucc.org	370,000
New Jersey	Educational Services Commission of New Jersey	Timothy Havlush	thavlush@escnj.us	1,369,000
New Mexico	Cooperative Educational Services	Robin Strauser	robin@ces.org	338,307
North Carolina	Carolinas Alliance 4 Innovation (CA4I)	Nita Werner	nwerner@carolinabuy.com	1,500,000
North Dakota	North Dakota Educators Service Cooperative	Jane Eastes	jeastes@lcsc.org	118,878
Ohio	Ohio Council of Educational Purchasing Consortia	Tamra Hurst	tamra.hurst@apps.sparcc.org	1,920,103
Oregon	Intermountain ESD	Rob Naughton	rob.naughton@imesd.k12.or.us	570,857
Pennsylvania	Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit d/b/a Keystone Purchasing Network	Mark Carollo	mcarollo@csiu.org	1,700,000
South Carolina	Carolinas Alliance 4 Innovation (CA4I) dba Carolina Buy	Nita Werner	nwerner@carolinabuy.com	787,000
Texas	Region 16 Education Service Center d/b/a TexBuy	Todd Merriman	todd.merriman@esc16.net	5,232,065
Virginia	Fairfax County Public Schools	Laila Sultan	lsultan@fcps.edu	1,297,000
Washington	King County Directors' Association	Bart Powelson	bpowelson@kcda.org	1,071,082
West Virginia	Mountain State Educational Services Cooperative	Jan Hanlon / Kevin Hess	jhanlon@k12.wv.us / kbhess@wvesc.org	245,000
Wisconsin	Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA Purchasing) #2	Meghan Cropp	meghan.cropp@cesapurchasing.org	854,000
Wyoming	Northeast Wyoming Board of Cooperative Educational Services (NEW BOCES)	Noamie Niemitalo / Benny Leonard	nniemitalo@newboces.com / bleonard@newboces.org	93,000

2. General Terms and Conditions for All Agencies

For the purposes of this Solicitation, the following terms must be defined as indicated below, and constitute the general terms and conditions for all AEPA Member Agencies:

Administrative Fee: The percentage of sales that each Vendor Partner pays the Member Agency for sales in their respective state or states that they extend AEPA pricing to. Administrative Fees must be paid to each Member Agency quarterly. Administrative fees may not exceed 2% based on volume sold net of shipping, sales and government fees.

Advertising: Vendor Partner must not advertise or publish information concerning this contract prior to the award being announced by AEPA Member Agencies. Once the award is made, the Vendor Partner may advertise to the individual Participating Entities that products/services are available. Vendor Partner must submit ad copy to the AEPA Member Agency for review and approval prior to issuing the advertisement.

AEPA Bi-Annual Meetings: AEPA holds two general meetings each year: one in the Spring (usually in April or May) and the other in the Winter (usually in November or December). AEPA requires that all successful contract holders attend both meetings and participate in the vendor engagement activities at the Spring meeting. AEPA requests that all vendor partners register in advance and stay at the AEPA official hotel if rooms are available. All registrations for the meetings are required by the official registration due date as announced by AEPA.

AEPA Member Agency: Refers to the entities identified in the table in Part I of this document who are approved as AEPA members. Member Agencies participating in a particular category are listed in Part A – IV. Specifications, Item 2: Anticipated Member Agency Participation. "Direct or Indirect Participation" may include their involvement through the formulation of any part of a procurement activity; the influencing of the content of any term, condition and/or specification; the evaluation, investigation, auditing and/or the rendering, of advice, recommendation, decision, approval, disapproval and the award and implementation of procurement contract. Not every listed entity may elect to participate in a solicitation once the responses are reviewed and approved.

Affirmative Action: An Affirmative Action Plan, Certificate of Affirmative Action, or other documentation regarding Affirmative Action may be required by AEPA Member Agencies. Vendors must comply with requirements and/or requests for information regarding Affirmative Action by Member Agencies.

Amendment of Solicitation: A solicitation may be amended up to the time of opening.

Appeal: A challenge that asks for a decision regarding a solicitation Recommendation for New Contract to be reviewed or changed.

1. **Initial Contact with Category Committee:** A Respondent desiring appeal of a decision regarding a solicitation or a contract recommendation shall first address, in writing, the appropriate Category Committee within fourteen (14) days of being notified of the decision. The Category Committee, in collaboration with the Director of Solicitations, will determine an appropriate resolution to the appeal. In addition, the Executive Director and Solicitations Committee will act as advisors in the appeal process. The solicitation process, including award, will not be stayed pending the resolution of the appeal.
2. **First Appeal to President***:* If the initial appeal is not satisfactorily resolved, it may be submitted to the President of AEPA to determine if the appeal can be satisfactorily resolved or should be presented to the Board.

Applicable Law: The laws of the state of the respective AEPA Member Agency must govern any resulting contract of this solicitation. Suits pertaining to this contract may be brought only in courts in the County and State as prescribed by the AEPA Member Agency. Both parties agree that the Uniform Commercial Code, as adopted by the State of the AEPA Member Agency, must fully apply. The Vendor Partner must comply with any and all laws, whether local, state, federal or otherwise, applicable to any aspect of the work to be performed in relation to the resulting contract. It must be the Vendor Partner's responsibility to identify, make themselves aware of, and determine the applicability and requirements of any such laws and to abide by them.

Approval and Awarding of Contract: AEPA and its AEPA Member Agencies reserve the right to approve and award a contract to one Vendor Partner, to make multiple approvals and awards, to reject any or all offers in whole or in part, to waive any minor formalities or irregularities in any offers, and to accept offers, which in its discretion and according to law may be in the best interest of the AEPA Member Agencies and their Participating Entities. A response to this solicitation is an offer to contract with the AEPA Member Agencies based upon the terms, conditions, and scope of work and specifications contained in this invitation. A solicitation does not become a contract unless and until it is accepted, recommended, and approved by AEPA and awarded by the individual AEPA Member Agency. A contract is formed when an AEPA Member Agency administrator and, if required, an AEPA Member Agency Board approves and signs the Acceptance of Solicitation and Contract Award Form (see Part E) document, eliminating the need for a formal signing of a separate contract.

Assignment: No right or interest in this contract must be assigned or transferred by the Vendor Partner without prior written permission by AEPA and its AEPA Member Agencies, and no delegation of any duty of the Vendor Partner must be made without prior written permission by the AEPA Member Agency. AEPA and its AEPA Member Agencies must not unreasonably withhold approval and must notify the Vendor Partner within fifteen (15) days of receipt of written notice by the Vendor Partner.

Audit Rights: In accordance with applicable law of the State of the AEPA Member Agency, the Vendor Partner's books, and pertinent records related to this contract may be audited at a reasonable time and place.

Authority: This solicitation, as well as any resulting contract/agreement, is issued under the general authority of the State laws of the AEPA Member Agency and those identified within the AEPA Member Agencies' Specific Terms and Conditions, Part C, (see also Procurement Code below). Internal or external Cooperative Purchasing Agreements between the AEPA Member Agency and Participating Entities may exist.

Bidder/Respondent/Offeror/Vendor Partner Definitions:
Bidder, Respondent, **Offeror,** and **Vendor Partner** are interchangeable and are used to identify the person(s) or firm(s) submitting a response to an Invitation for Bid or Request for Proposal.

1. Prospective Respondent/Bidder/Offeror: has notified AEPA of a desire to bid by registering on the AEPA solicitation portal. "Bidder" has submitted an offer to AEPA in response to an AEPA solicitation.
2. Recommended Respondent/Bidder/Offeror: has been approved by AEPA for its AEPA Member Agencies for contract consideration.
3. Vendor Partner: has entered into a contract with a participating AEPA Member Agency or subsequently a Participating Entity.

Brand Names: The use of the name of a manufacturer, brand, make or catalog number does not restrict the Respondent. Brand names and model numbers are used to indicate the character, quality, and/or performance equivalence of the commodity on which offers are submitted. Respondents may submit alternates. However, AEPA reserves the right to decide whether alternatives to the identified manufacturer and brand are equal to the product, equipment, and/or service described in the invitation. AEPA's decision must be final.

Buyer: Identifies the AEPA Member Agencies and their Participating Entities that acquire and purchase commodities, supplies, materials, equipment, and services under AEPA Member Agencies' awarded contracts.

Captions, Headings, and Illustrations: The captions, illustrations, headings, and subheadings in this solicitation are for explanation only and in no way define, limit, or describe the scope or intent of the request.

Certification: By signature in the solicitation section of the Contract Award page, the Respondent certifies: the submission of the offer did not involve collusion or other anti-competitive practices; the Respondent must not discriminate against any employee, or applicant for employment in violation of Federal and State Laws; the Respondent has not given, offered to give, nor intends to give at any time hereafter any economic opportunity, future employment, gift, loan, gratuity, special discount, trip, favor or service to a public servant in connection with the submitted offer; and the Respondent agrees to promote and offer to AEPA Member Agencies and Participating Entities only those materials and/or services as stated in and allowed under resultant contract(s) awarded.

Christian Doctrine: Any federal, state, and local governing authority's/jurisdiction's statutes, codes, rules, and regulations referenced and/or govern the products, services, and activities relating to and are part of this solicitation, whether or not physically noted or included, must be complied with, and adhered to as required. It is the sole responsibility of the Respondent to perform and complete any necessary research and investigation required to make themselves aware of and comply with this item.

Clarification: As used in this solicitation, clarification means communication with a Respondent for the sole purpose of eliminating minor irregularities, informalities, or apparent clerical mistakes in the solicitation. It is achieved by explanation or substantiation, either in response to an inquiry by the AEPA Member Agency or as initiated by the Respondent. Clarification does not allow the Respondent to revise or modify its solicitation.

Commercially Available Catalog: A published paper catalog or an online website that is widely distributed or accessible to a wide population or set of businesses across the United States. It is made available to the general public, public or nonprofit entities and contains a verifiable price, along with product descriptions, SKU numbers, and photographs. A commercially available catalog is distinct from a custom catalog or website, whose prices and offerings are tailored to niche audiences or are targeted to a small geographic location. The prices published in a Commercially Available Catalog will be considered a company's base pricing or "commercially available pricing" for the purpose of AEPA bids or proposals. All pricing must be in U.S. Dollars. AEPA will not accept an artificial catalog or price list, or base price created for the purpose of responding to a competitive solicitation.

Competitive Range: AEPA and its AEPA Member Agencies reserve the right to establish a competitive range of acceptable responses as part of the evaluation process as defined herein. Responses below the competitive range will be determined to be unacceptable and will not receive further consideration.

Contract Documents: AEPA Member Agency will review proposed contract documents. Vendor Partner's contract document must not become part of AEPA Member Agency's contract with Vendor Partner unless and until an authorized representative of an AEPA Member Agency reviews and accepts it.

Construction: Each AEPA Member Agency defines what constitutes construction within their state statutes, and identifies the policies, rules, regulations, and codes that govern construction projects. AEPA has defined construction as building, altering, repairing, installing or demolishing in the ordinary course of business any road, highway, bridge, parking area or related project; building, stadium or other structure; airport, subway or similar facility; park, trail, athletic field, golf course or similar facility; dam, reservoir, canal, ditch or similar facility; sewage or water treatment facility, power generating plant, pump station, natural gas compressing station or similar facility; sewage, water, gas or other pipelines; transmission line; radio, television or other towers; water, oil or other storage tanks; shaft, tunnel or other mining appurtenance; electrical wiring, plumbing or plumbing fixture, gas piping, gas appliances or water conditioners; air conditioning conduit, heating or other similar mechanical work; or similar work, structures or installations. Construction must also include leveling or clearing land; excavating earth; drilling wells of any type, including seismographic shot holes or core drilling; and similar work, structures, or installations.

Cooperative Procurement: Some individual state procurement codes may contain cooperative purchasing statutes that state any state agency or local public body may either participate in, sponsor or administer a cooperative procurement agreement for the procurement of any services, construction or items of tangible personal property with any other state agency, local public body or external procurement unit in accordance with an agreement entered into and approved by the governing authority of each of the state agencies, local public bodies or external procurement units involved. The cooperative procurement agreement must clearly specify the purpose of the agreement and the method by which the purpose will be accomplished. Any power exercised under a cooperative procurement agreement entered into according to each state's procurement code must be limited to the central purchasing authority common to the contracting parties, even though one or more of the contracting parties may be located in different states.

Cooperative Purchasing Contracts: The Vendor Partner agrees that all the prices, terms, warranties, and benefits granted by the Vendor Partner to AEPA Member Agencies or Participating Entities through this contract **will be equal to or better than** those offered to any individual entities or cooperatives that have equal or lesser volume. If the Vendor Partner must, during the term of this Contract, enter into arrangements with any customer or cooperative providing greater benefits or terms that are more favorable, the Vendor Partner must notify the AEPA category committee chairperson and offer said prices, terms, warranties, and benefits to all AEPA Member Agencies. The following must be noted:

1. AEPA and its AEPA Member Agencies reserve the right to accept or reject the Respondent's offer if it is determined it does not comply with the above based on their knowledge, investigation, review, and findings of Respondents' submitted prices.
2. In the event the Vendor Partner offers lower prices to another customer or cooperative, AEPA and its AEPA Member Agencies must notify the Vendor Partner of the deviation and request written justification. Based on AEPA and its AEPA Member Agencies' investigation, review, and findings, AEPA reserves the right to take the following actions: to request the Vendor Partner to immediately adjust its AEPA's offered prices to match the lower prices offered, to work with the Vendor Partner to mediate and resolve the situation; or to notify the Vendor Partner that it intends to suspend and/or terminate their contract.

Cost of Preparation: Neither AEPA nor any AEPA Member Agency must reimburse the cost of developing, presenting, or providing any response to this solicitation.

Credit Hold: The Vendor Partner must agree not to place the AEPA Member Agency and/or its Participating Entity on "credit hold" without 10-days advanced notice in writing, either by letter, facsimile, or email to the AEPA Member Agency and the Participating Entity. The AEPA Member Agencies believe it is better for the Vendor Partner if the AEPA Member Agency places the slow paying Participating Entity on "credit hold;" if a Vendor Partner places the Member Agency on credit hold, Participating Entities that pay promptly are penalized. If, on the other hand, the Member Agency places the offending Participating Entity on "credit hold," payment is more likely to result and only the offending Participating Entity is penalized.

Delivery Terms, Conditions, and Requirements

1. **Delivery:** is to be made within the specified time identified in Part A Specifications for each solicitation category, unless otherwise stipulated in writing and accepted by all parties (Buyer placing order and Vendor Partner). The Vendor Partner agrees to notify the Buyer if an order cannot be processed within the specified period and/or the agreed-upon timelines.
2. **The title and risk of loss of material or service:** must not pass to the Buyer purchasing the material or services until it receives the material or service at the point of delivery (FOB Destination), and they have been accepted, unless otherwise provided within this document or individual project's contract.
3. **Ownership of products and services** happens only after receipt and acceptance of delivery by the Buyer. The Buyer will be the determining judge of whether materials and services delivered under the purchase order/contract satisfy the specifications and requirements as identified in the contract/order.
4. **Fungible Goods:** Title to an undivided share or quantity of an identified mass of fungible goods will not pass to a Buyer until the separation of the purchased share has been made, delivered, and received.
5. **Shipping Terms:** (See Part A Specifications for specific instructions on shipping and handling costs for the individual category you are responding to.) Vendor Partner must retain the title and control of all goods until they are delivered and received. All risks of transportation and all related charges must be the responsibility of the Vendor Partner unless other arrangements have been made between the vendor partner and the AEPA Member Agency. Shipping must be FOB destination. The Vendor Partner must file all claims for visible or concealed damage. AEPA Member Agency, or the receiving Buyer, will notify the Vendor Partner and/or Freight Company promptly of any damaged goods and must assist the freight company/Vendor Partner in arranging for inspection. No FOB vessel, car, or other vehicle terms will be accepted.
    a. **Shipping Costs:** Products may be shipped without separate shipping costs. If shipping is allowed as a separate line item per Part A Specifications and charged, the actual cost of delivery may be added to an invoice. No COD orders will be accepted unless specifically requested by the AEPA Member Agency.
    b. **Shipment under Reservation:** Vendor Partner is not authorized to ship materials under reservation and no tender of a bill of lading will operate as a tender of the materials.
    c. **Shipping Errors:** Vendor Partner agrees that shipping errors will be at the expense of the Vendor Partner. For example, if a Vendor Partner ships a product that was not ordered, it is the responsibility of the Vendor Partner to pay for return mail or shipment.

6. **Stored Materials (vendor managed inventory):** Upon prior written agreement between Vendor Partner and Buyer, payment may be made for materials not incorporated in the work but delivered and suitably stored at the site or some other location, for installation at a later date. An inventory of the stored materials must be provided to the Buyer prior to payment. Such materials must be stored and protected in a secure location and be insured for their full value by Vendor Partner against loss and damage. Vendor Partner agrees to provide proof of coverage and/or addition of Buyer as an additional insured upon Buyer's request. Additionally, if stored offsite, the materials must also be clearly identified as the property of the Buyer and be separated from other materials. The buyer must be allowed a reasonable opportunity to inspect and take inventory of stored materials, on or offsite, as necessary. Until final acceptance by Buyer, it must be the Vendor Partner's responsibility to protect all materials and equipment. Vendor Partner warrants and guarantees that title for all work, materials, and equipment must pass to Buyer upon final acceptance. Payment for stored materials must not constitute final acceptance of such materials.
7. **Improper delivery:** Unless contrary to other parts of this solicitation, if the goods, services, or tender of delivery fail in any respect, to conform and adhere to the terms, conditions, specifications of the resulting contract based on this solicitation and/or the individual Buyer's contract/order, the Buyer may reject the whole, accept the whole, or accept any commercial unit or units and reject the rest.
8. **Defective Goods:** Vendor Partner agrees to pay for return shipment on goods that arrive in a defective or inoperable condition. Vendor Partner must agree to arrange for return shipment of damaged goods.
9. **Liquidated Damages:** The Buyer may suffer financial loss if the project is not substantially complete, or products or services are not delivered on the established date. The Vendor Partner (if applicable surety) must be liable for and must pay to the Buyer, not as a penalty, the sums that may be hereinafter agreed upon as liquidated damages per calendar day of delay until the work and/or delivery is determined by Buyer to be complete and/or delivered. Liquidated damages will be determined on a project-by-project basis.
10. **No Replacement of Defective Tender:** Every tender of materials must fully comply with all provisions of this contract. If tender is made which does not fully conform, this must constitute a breach, and Vendor Partner must not have the right to substitute a conforming tender without the written consent of all parties involved.
11. **Default in One Installment to Constitute Total Breach:** Vendor Partner must deliver conforming materials in each installment or lot of this contract and may not substitute nonconforming materials. The AEPA Member Agency reserves the right to declare a breach of contract if the Vendor Partner delivers nonconforming materials or services to any Buyer under this contract.
12. **Restocking Fees:** A restocking fee may only be charged on products ordered and delivered to the Buyer's site in accordance with the order/contract. Restocking fees in excess of 15% will not be allowed. Restocking fees may be waived, at the option of the Vendor Partner. The Vendor Partner must identify, specify, and justify any exceptions or deviations taken.

Disbarment and Suspension: By signature accepting Terms and Conditions, it is certified on behalf of the company and their key employees that neither the company nor its key employees have been proposed for debarment, debarred, or suspended by any State or Federal Agency within the last five (5) years. If within the past five (5) years, any Respondent has been disbarred, suspended or otherwise lawfully precluded from participating in any public procurement activity with a federal, state or local government, the Respondent must include a letter with its response that includes the name and address of the public procurement unit, the effective date of the suspension or debarment, the duration of the suspension or debarment, and the relevant circumstances relating to the suspension or debarment. Any failure to supply such a letter or not to disclose in the letter all the pertinent information may result in the cancellation of any resulting contract. By signing the solicitation section, the Respondent certifies that no current suspension or debarment exists.

EDGAR (2 CFR 200) Compliance: Respondents are required to complete Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) compliance certification, found in Part E of this solicitation. EDGAR regulations govern all federal grants awarded by the U. S. Department of Education on or after December 26, 2014.

Eligible Entities: Individual AEPA Member Agency's state procurement codes and statutes dictate which agencies, entities, and organizations can participate in cooperative procurement contracts approved by AEPA and awarded by its members. Depending on state-specific regulations, federal and state agencies, local public bodies, and non-profit/non-public entities may utilize these contracts.

Estimated Quantities: In Part A Specifications of this solicitation, AEPA, and AEPA Member Agencies have indicated their anticipated volume for the products and services requested. It is anticipated that a considerable amount of activity will result from this solicitation; however, there is no guarantee of future order quantities since this is an indefinite-quantity contract. Usage depends on the actual needs of the AEPA Member Agencies, their Participating Entities, and the marketing by the Vendor Partner.

Euna Procurement eProcurement Platform, FKA Bonfire
easy-to-use platform that provides Respondents with the automatic notification of open solicitations, automatic notification of answered questions and issued addenda, and a way to electronically submit an organization's solicitation response. All changes, updates, uploads, and downloads are time-stamped and logged as part of the solicitation process. Vendors must register to use Euna Procurement. Registration information is on the AEPA website. There is no cost for vendors to use Euna Procurement. Euna Procurement has recently changed its name to Euna Procurement. Therefore, the names Euna Procurement and Bonfire are interchangeable in this solicitation.

Experience, Proven Track Record and Past Performance Information: It has been determined by AEPA and its AEPA Member Agencies to be a major factor in consideration if a Respondent possesses the ability, capacity, and resources to acquire, manufacture, deliver, construct, install, service and support all of the procurement functions and activities involved in a national contract of this nature. AEPA and its AEPA Member Agencies reserve the right to accept or reject an offer if, in its judgment, the Respondent failed to demonstrate the following: a proven track record in the products and services offered (qualifications, knowledge, and background); is willing and able to deliver the proposed products and/or services percent to a substantial majority of those participating AEPA Member Agencies identified in Part A (unless otherwise noted in Part A Specifications) and has provided relevant information regarding its actions under previously awarded contracts to schools, local, state, or federal agencies. It includes the Respondent's record of conforming to specifications and standards of good workmanship; the Respondent's record of containing and forecasting costs on any previously performed cost-reimbursable contract schedules, including the administrative aspects of performance; the Respondent's history for reasonable and cooperative behavior and commitment to customer satisfaction; and generally, the Respondent's businesslike concern for the interests of the customer.

Additionally, any former Vendor Partner that has not been recommended for extension during a solicitation cycle, or current Vendor Partner that has had under $100,000 in total sales during the solicitation cycle, must appeal to AEPA in writing (to bid-committee@aepacoop.org) before being considered as a viable respondent to the solicitation. The appeal should include reasons for the poor past performance and steps that have been taken by the Vendor Partner to improve future performance. AEPA will reject the appeal if, in AEPA's sole discretion, the appeal does not sufficiently address poor past performance and steps to improve future performance. Failure of the Vendor to provide the appeal, before the due date of the solicitation, will result in the Vendor's submission being rejected.

External Procurement Unit: means any procurement organization not located in a current AEPA Member Agency state which, if located in the state, would qualify as a federal or state agency or a local public body. Various state procurement codes allow external procurement units to offer their contracts and for agencies within those states to utilize those contracts to acquire goods and services.

Federal Agency [25] USC 3001 (4): Is defined as any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States, any executive department, military department, government corporation, government-controlled corporation, or other establishments in the executive branch of government, including the Executive Office of the President or any independent regulatory agency established through legislative and/or administrative action.

Federal Requirements: Vendor Partner agrees, when working on any federally-assisted projects with more than $2,000 in labor costs, to comply with the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. 329 et seq.) and all applicable sections of the act and the Department of Labor's supplemental regulations (29 CFR parts 5 and 1926), the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, the Davis-Bacon Act (Section 29, CFR Part 5), and the Copeland "Anti-Kickback" Act (18 U.S.C. 874) as supplemented in the Department of Labor regulation (29 CFR part 3. In such projects, the Vendor Partner agrees to post wage rates at the worksite and submit a copy of their payroll to the AEPA Member Agency for their files. Also, to comply with the Copeland Act, the Vendor Partner must submit weekly payroll records to the AEPA Member Agency. The Vendor Partner must keep records for three (3) years and allow the federal grantor agency access to these records, upon demand. All federally assisted contracts to an AEPA Member Agency that exceed $10,000 may be terminated by the federal grantee for noncompliance by the Vendor Partner. In projects that are not federally funded, Vendor Partners must agree to meet any federal, state, or local requirements, as necessary. Also, if compliance with the federal regulations increases the contract costs beyond the agreed-on costs in this solicitation, the additional costs may only apply to the portion of the work paid by the federal grantee. On all other projects, the prices must agree with this contract. Vendor Partner must comply with all applicable standards, orders, or requirements issued under Section 306 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C.) 187 [h], and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 et. Seq.); and, Executive Order 11738 and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations (40 CFR Part 15), which prohibit the use under non-exempt federal contracts, grants, or loans of facilities included in the EPA list of violated facilities.

Force Majeure: Except for payments of sums due, neither party must be liable to the other, nor be deemed in default under this contract, if, and to the extent, that such party's performance of this contract is prevented by reason of force majeure. The term "force majeure" means an occurrence that is beyond the control of the party affected and occurs without its fault or negligence, including, but not limited to the following: acts of God; acts of the public enemy; war; riots; strikes; mobilization; labor disputes; civil disorders; fire; flood; blizzards; earthquakes; tornadoes or violent winds; hail storms; lockouts; injunctions-intervention-acts, or failures or refusals to act by government authority; and other similar occurrences beyond the control of the party declaring force majeure, which such party is unable to prevent by exercising reasonable diligence. The force majeure must be deemed to commence when the party declaring it notifies the other party of the existence of the force majeure and must be deemed to continue as long as the results or effects of the force majeure prevent the party from resuming performance in accordance with the contract. Force majeure must not include late deliveries of equipment or materials caused by congestion at a manufacturer's plant or elsewhere, an oversold condition of the market, inefficiencies, or similar occurrences. If either party is delayed at any time by force majeure, the delayed party must notify the other party in writing of such delay within forty-eight (48) hours.

Form of Contract: The form of contract for this solicitation must be the published solicitation, the awarded Vendor Partner's response, and properly issued purchase orders and/or contracts in accordance with this solicitation. If a firm submitting an offer requires AEPA Member Agency and/or Participating Entities to sign an additional contract, a copy of the proposed contract must be included with these.

Gratuities: AEPA Member Agency may, by written notice, cancel this contract if it is found that gratuities, in the form of entertainment, gifts or otherwise, were offered or given by the Vendor Partner or any agent or representative of the Vendor Partner, to any employee of the AEPA Member Agency with a view toward securing a contract or with respect to the performance of this contact. However, paying the expenses of normal business meals, which are generally made available to all eligible school and government employees, must not be prohibited by this paragraph. Samples of software, equipment, or hardware provided to the AEPA Member Agency for demonstration, evaluation, or loan purposes are not considered gratuities.

Historically Under-Utilized Business: An "Historically Under-Utilized Business" (HUB) is a category for companies that have traditionally failed to reap the benefit from full and equal procurement opportunities. Typically, these types of companies may include women-owned, disabled veteran-owned, and minority-owned businesses or operations defined as small businesses, micro businesses, or businesses operating in enterprise zones. For the purpose of this solicitation, a Bidder opting to offer a HUB program, may self-define the types of HUB businesses it includes in its network of HUB partners and the role they play; however, the Bidder must ensure that the partner-authorized HUBs provide a "Commercially Useful Function." As it related to HUB businesses, a "Commercially Useful Function" (CUF) is work that is integral to sales, delivery, or supply-chain solution, and not a mere facade for the pass through of goods. Examples of HUB work that qualify as a Commercially Useful Function include instances when HUBs:

- Execute a specific element of the scope of work including supplying of goods and services.
- Provide services work that is normal for the firm's assortment of business services.
- Are fully or partially responsible for paying for wholesale materials, conducting sales, installation of products, delivery of products.
- Do not subcontract a portion of the work greater than expected by industry practices.
- Act as resellers, buying products wholesale from the awarded Vendor/Contractor.

Indemnification: Vendor Partner will indemnify, defend and save harmless AEPA, its Members, Participating Entities, its employees from any and all claims, demands, suits, proceedings, loss, cost and damages of every kind and description, including any attorney's fees and/or litigation expenses, which might be brought or made against or incurred by AEPA, its Members, Participating Entities, its employees on account of loss or damage to any property or for injuries to or death of any person, caused by, arising out of, or contributed to, in whole or in part, by reasons of any act, omission, professional error, fault, mistake, or negligence of Vendor Partner, its employees, agents, representatives, or Subcontractors, their employees, agents, or representatives in connection with or incident to the performance of this agreement, or arising out of worker's compensation claims, unemployment compensation claims, or unemployment disability compensation claims of employees of Vendor Partner, and/or its Subcontractors or claims under similar such laws or obligations. Vendor Partner's obligation under this section will not extend to any liability caused by the sole negligence of AEPA, its Members, participating Entities, its employees. The liability of AEPA, its Members, Participating Entities, or its employees will be subject in all cases to the immunities and limitations of Nevada or the AEPA Member Agency's state laws.

Installation: Equipment and items of construction must be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, specifications, in accordance with any federal, state, local rules, regulations, codes, and the schedule determined by the AEPA Member Agency and/or Participating Entity.

Insurance: Prior to executing a contract with the AEPA Member Agency or a Participating Entity under this solicitation, if required, the Vendor Partner must procure, maintain and provide certification from insurer(s) for minimal coverage during the life of any resulting contract/agreement, to include but not limited to comprehensive public and/or commercial liability, errors and omissions, workman's compensation, unemployment and other insurance coverage required by and applicable to each AEPA Member Agency state's statutes and federal laws in which proposed products and services will be offered and provided. Evidence of the required insurance for each of those AEPA Member Agencies' state, who indicated an interest in participating in this solicitation, identified in Part A Specifications by providing written evidence

and/or documentation from your insurer(s) indicating your firm has in place the type and amount of coverage required by each of the states. The Bidder has the sole responsibility to conduct and perform the necessary research to make themselves aware of and to understand each state's requirements.

1. Certificate of Insurance: The Vendor Partner must provide, as required, a certificate of insurance for commercial liability insurance, naming the AEPA Member Agency and or its Participating Entity as the certificate holder (co-insurer). All insurance policies are to be executed by an insurance company authorized to do business in those AEPA Member Agencies' states participating in this solicitation.
2. Subcontractor's Insurance: Prior to commencing any work, any Subcontractor must procure and maintain, at its own expense until final acceptance of the work, insurance coverage in a form, and from insurers acceptable to the prime Vendor Partner. All Subcontractors must hold the appropriate type and amount of insurance coverage required by the AEPA Member Agency state in which the work is being done and will provide insurance, which waives all subrogation rights against the prime Vendor Partner, AEPA Member Agency and its Participating Entities.

Invalid Term or Condition: If any term or condition of this solicitation and any resulting contract must be held invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this solicitation and any resulting contract must not be affected and must be valid and enforceable.

Late Responses: Late responses will not be accepted. All offers must be submitted online via Euna Procurement eProcurement Solution by the due date and time of this solicitation. https://aepacoop.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities

Leases and Rentals: Vendor Partner may allow AEPA Member Agency or Participating Entity to rent, lease, or lease-purchase. The buyer must receive a copy of the executed leasing documents prior to processing a purchase order. Vendor Partner agrees that leases will comply with the Uniform Commercial Code and the Buyer's individual state laws. All terms of leasing must be included in the offer, with interest rates described as related to a published government standard. Vendor Partner must indicate in their response to this solicitation and in any leasing/rental agreement, all costs (must be itemized) associated with early termination and/or the returning of leased or rented equipment that are the responsibility of the Buyer. No sale of a contract to a third party will be made without informing the Buyer of the transfer. If Vendor Partner sells a lease contract to a third party, the cost of return of the product must not be greater than the cost of return to the original Vendor Partner.

Legal Remedies: All claims and controversies must be subject to the Procurement Code of the state in which the AEPA Member Agency or Participating Entity resides.

Licenses and Registration: Each state and local jurisdiction in which a transaction may occur may require various types of licenses and/or registrations (business, construction, etc.). Likewise, there are various policies, procedures, rules, regulations, codes, and laws that govern such licensing/registration within federal, state, and local jurisdictions, therefore, it is the Respondent's/Vendor Partner's responsibility to be aware of, obtain and maintain in current status all federal, state, and local licenses, registrations and bonds required for the performance and delivery of any and all products and services offered in its response to this solicitation. It is also the responsibility of the Respondent/Vendor Partner to ensure that any Subcontractors performing under this solicitation hold and maintain the appropriate licenses/registrations. The Respondent will submit copies of licenses, registration, and/or other documentation to substantiate whether they hold the appropriate licenses/registration required by individual jurisdictions covered by this solicitation.

Liens: All materials and services must be free of all liens.

Local Public Body: A political subdivision of the state and the agencies, instrumentalities, and institutions thereof. Such agencies may include but are not limited to two-year and four-year post-secondary educational institutions, pre-k-12 institutions, counties, cities, and municipalities, except as exempted pursuant to the Procurement Code within each state. Entities within these groups may include but are not limited to political subdivisions, administrative units, councils, commissions, boards, and organizations that either by federal, state, or local legislative or administrative action or appointment and have been established or given the responsibility and authority to act, conduct and perform various activities on behalf of the federal or state agency or local public body.

Manufacturer's Representative: Dealers, distributors, and installers of specialized facility technology, electrical, mechanical systems and equipment, who, if permitted by the Scope of Work, submit an offer as a manufacturer's representative, must be able to provide documented evidence from and/or between it and the manufacturer certifying that the Respondent is a bona fide manufacturer's agent for the specific products/services proposed, the Respondent is authorized to submit an offer on such products/services, and a guarantee that, should the Respondent fail to satisfactorily fulfill any obligations established as a result of the award of contract, the manufacturer will either assume and discharge such obligations covered by warrantees or provide for their competent assumption by one or more bona fide representatives for the term of the contract/warrantee period. Respondents of software, mechanical devices, electrical products/systems, and other commodities that makeup systems/networks must be able to provide the same information from a manufacturer.

Modification by Buyer: Vendor Partner must have no obligation with respect to any patent and copyright infringement claim based upon Buyer's modification of the equipment and/or software, or its operation or use with apparatus, data or programs not furnished by Vendor Partner. However, one Buyer's action will not preclude Vendor Partner's obligation to others not having modified their equipment or software.

Money: All transactions are payable in U.S. currency only.

Multiple Approvals and Awards: throughout the United States, AEPA Member Agencies have a large number of Participating Entities who take advantage of and utilize awarded contracts. To ensure that any issued contract will allow these entities to fulfill current and future needs and requirements, AEPA and its AEPA Member Agencies reserve the right at their discretion to approve and/or award one contract, multiple contracts, or no contracts. The actual use of any contract will be at the sole discretion of the AEPA Member Agency or the Participating Entity.

Nonexclusive Contract: Any contract resulting from this solicitation must be approved and awarded with the understanding and agreement that it is for the sole convenience of AEPA, its AEPA Member Agencies, their Participating Entities and they reserve the right to obtain like goods and services from another source.

Nonprofit, Non-Public Educational Institutions, and other Nonprofit Organizations (Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, Federal Tax Code): is defined as charitable, religious, educational, public service, support, and scientific organizations, entities, corporations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of the Federal Tax Code.

Notice: Notices under this solicitation/contract will be in writing and will, for all purposes, be deemed to have been fully given when sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, an email with appropriate verification, properly addressed to the respective parties as specified herein or at such other address as may be specified by either party from time to time.

Novation: If the original Vendor Partner sells or transfers all assets or the entire portion of the assets used to perform this contract, a successor in interest must guarantee to perform all obligations under this contract. AEPA and its AEPA Member Agencies reserves the right to recommend approval, acceptance, or rejection of the new party. A simple change of name agreement will not change the contractual obligations of the Vendor Partner.

Ordering Procedures: AEPA has established a standard and special ordering process as defined below. Additionally, some AEPA Member Agencies also prefer or utilize electronic ordering as the method for the transactions.

1. **Standard Ordering Process:** Buyer will select items for purchase from provided published catalog/price list or Vendor Partner will issue a quote upon request; the vendor will also send a copy of their quote to the state AEPA Member Agency for all construction-related bids. The buyer will prepare and issue a purchase order to the Vendor Partner based on the product catalog, price list, or Vendor Partner's quote. Vendor Partner will deliver and invoice the Buyer; Buyer will acknowledge delivery and acceptance by issuing the Vendor Partner payment. Vendor Partner, based on the agreed-to process, will report and submit payment for the AEPA Member Agency's administrative fee to the AEPA Member Agency (quarterly). The vendor Partner must provide the transaction and volume reporting in the AEPA report format.

2. **Special Ordering Process:**
    a. Buyer will select items for purchase from provided published catalog/price list or Vendor Partner will issue a quote upon request;
    b. Buyer will prepare and issue a purchase order to the AEPA Member Agency based on the product catalog, price list or Vendor Partner's quote;
    c. Vendor Partner will deliver the goods and/or service to the Buyer and will invoice the AEPA Member Agency;
    d. AEPA Member Agency will invoice the Buyer and add their administrative fee to the invoice price;
    e. AEPA Member will pay Vendor Partner for the goods and/or service once the Buyer has confirmed acceptance.
    f. The vendor Partner must provide the transaction and volume reporting as stipulated quarterly in the AEPA report format.

3. Electronic Ordering

When a Vendor Partner based online ordering system is available, the following functionality is required:

    a. Electronic ordering systems must be secure, and password protected. Entering the system with the designated password must automatically send the user to AEPA contract pricing.
    b. When the Buyer requires purchase orders, electronic ordering system must require the entry of a purchase order number, credit card, or purchasing card prior to accepting an order.
    c. Electronic ordering systems must automatically assign correct contract prices to applicable orders.
    d. Electronic ordering systems should list catalog price and AEPA discounted price.
    e. Electronic ordering systems must track orders and purchases covered by the AEPA contract for reporting and audit purposes. The vendor Partner must provide the transaction and volume reporting in the AEPA format.
    f. Electronic ordering systems' pricing must include the AEPA Member Agencies administrative fee required by the AEPA Member Agencies.
    g. Electronic ordering systems should allow AEPA Member Agencies to print an archived (historical) copy of a Buyer's order.

Order of Precedence: In the event a conflict occurs the following order of precedence must prevail:

1. Member Agency specific terms and conditions
2. Specifications and scope of work
3. General terms and conditions
4. Attachments and exhibits
5. Documents referenced or included in the solicitation.

Overcharges by Antitrust Violations: Member Agency maintains that, in actual practice, overcharges resulting from antitrust violations are borne by the Buyer. Therefore, to the extent permitted by law, the Vendor Partner hereby assigns to the Member Agency any and all claims for such overcharges as to the goods or services used to fulfill the contract.

Parole Evidence: This contract represents the final written expression of agreement. All agreements are contained herein and no other agreements or representations that materially alter it are acceptable.

Participating Entity: Those Public and Private School Districts, Educational Service Agencies, Intermediate School Districts, Higher Education Institutions, Federal Agencies, State Agencies, Local Public Bodies, and Nonprofit Non-Public Corporations, Organizations, other entities contracted to conduct business on behalf of a participating entity provided they are required to follow member state and local procurement regulations, etc. that have authorizations to utilize the AEPA Member Agencies' Awarded Contracts.

Patent and Copyright Indemnification: To the extent permitted by law, Vendor Partner must indemnify and hold harmless Member Agency and its Participating Entities against any liability, including costs and expenses, for infringement of any patent, trademark or copyright arising out of contract performance or use by Member Agency and its Participating Entities of materials furnished or work performed under this contract. Member Agency and its Participating Entities must reasonably notify Vendor Partner of any claim for which it may be liable under this paragraph.

Performance Bonding (required for construction projects): Performance bonds are completed after the contract and at the time a member authorizes a project. The Vendor Partner agrees to provide all performance and payment bonds for individual projects executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the individual AEPA Member's state and said surety to be approved in federal circular 570 as published by the United States treasury department, the state or the local governing authority, in an amount equal to one hundred percent of the price specified in the contract; when required by an AEPA Member Agency or Participating Entity at the time a contract is executed. If the Vendor Partner fails to deliver any required performance or payment bonds, the AEPA Member Agency or Participating Entity must not execute the contract or terminate the contract with the Vendor Partner and the appropriate AEPA Category Committee must be notified of such failure and must take the appropriate action.

Piggyback Contracts: In the event a new Member Agency joins AEPA, the Member Agency may elect to award any and all existing contracts if permissible by their state laws.

Prevailing Wage: Where applicable, the Vendor Partner must comply with prevailing wage legislation in effect in the jurisdiction of the awarding AEPA Member Agency.

Pricing: AEPA has identified and stipulated the type of bid and the pricing methodologies that are to be utilized to price and submit bid or proposal prices. The Vendor Partner agrees that the cost for any item bid or offered on this contract will be uniform for all states and that any differences in pricing are due to state-specific installation and labor costs, AEPA Member Agency's Administrative Fee, or other approved reasons. The Respondent must provide their pricing as requested utilizing the various pricing methodologies specified in Part A. **The Respondent/Vendor Partner must agree that they will not offer or provide a better price to any individual entities or cooperatives with equal or lesser volume than that through AEPA**. Please note the following that relates to pricing:

1. **Proposal Pricing:** For services priced through an AEPA Request for Proposal, vendors may respond with a discount off labor and material costs. Labor must be sufficiently itemized by title and include total rate (salary and fringe). Material costs must be itemized. Any Vendor Partner awarded under a time and materials pricing strategy must provide a "not to exceed" project quote to the purchasing Agency for work approval.

Prime Vendor Partner: For the purpose of this solicitation, a Vendor Partner will be considered a prime Vendor Partner and not a Subcontractor. Any Vendor Partner paid directly by the AEPA Member Agency or Participating Entity is a prime Vendor Partner; a Vendor Partner pays a Subcontractor. Prime Vendor Partners using Subcontractors are responsible for all actions of its Subcontractors.

Procurement Code: All Respondents/Vendor Partners must make themselves aware of and comply with all federal, state, and local statutes and regulations.

Products and Services

1. **Product Line:** If applicable, contracts will be awarded to Respondents able to provide their complete product line(s) of commodities, supplies, equipment, software, and services that meet the scope of work and specifications of this solicitation. Respondents with a published, priced catalog may submit their entire catalog; AEPA reserves the right to select or reject products within the catalog for recommendation without having to award all the contents.
2. **Serial Numbers:** Offers must be for equipment on which the original manufacturer's serial number has not been altered in any way.
3. **Current Products:** All offers must be for commodities, supplies, equipment, and software in current production; meet or exceed commercial and industry standards; and marketed and provided nationally to the general public and/or educational/governmental agencies.
4. **Construction Products and/or Services:** Are associated with building, erecting, altering, repairing, installing or demolishing in the ordinary course of business any: (1) road, highway, bridge, parking area or related project; (2) building, stadium or other structure; (3) airport, subway or similar facility; (4) park, trail, athletic field, golf course or similar facility; (5) dam, reservoir, canal, ditch or similar facility; (6) sewage or water treatment facility, power generating plant, pump station, natural gas compressing station or similar facility; (7) radio, television or other tower; (8) shaft, tunnel or other mining appurtenance; (9) electrical wiring, plumbing or plumbing fixture, gas piping, gas appliances or water conditioners; (10) air conditioning conduit, heating or other similar mechanical work; or similar work, structures or installations; (11) leveling or clearing land; (12) excavating earth; (13) drilling, wells of any type, including seismographic shot holes or core drilling; and similar work, structures or installations.
5. **Services:** Are defined as the furnishing of labor, time, or effort by a Vendor Partner not involving the delivery of a specific tangible product other than reports and other materials which are merely incidental to the required performance.

6. **Professional Services:** Services relating to architects, archeologists, engineers, surveyors, landscape architects, medical arts practitioners, scientists, management and systems analysts, certified public accountants, registered public accountants, lawyers, psychologists, planners, researchers, educational specialist, construction managers and other persons or businesses providing similar professional services, which may be designated as part of this solicitation.
7. **Peripheral & Optional Items:** Respondents can include various peripheral products, equipment, accessories, services, deliverables, and related items that are associated with and function with the primary offering. Optional equipment or products may be added to the contract during the term of the contract. AEPA reserves the right to accept or reject such offerings under the following conditions: the enhancement is recommended by AEPA and approved by the Member Agency; the option is priced at a discount similar to other options; and the option is an enhancement to the unit.
8. **Descriptive Literature and Brand Names:** All offers are to include a complete set of the manufacturer's descriptive literature regarding the commodities, supplies, materials, equipment, and software offered. Brand names, trade names, and/or catalog numbers used in the solicitation will be intended to describe and identify the type, level, and quality of products, equipment, and software being requested.
9. **Discontinued Products:** If a product or model is discontinued by the manufacturer, Vendor Partner may substitute a new product or model if the replacement product meets or exceeds the specifications and performance of the discontinued model and if the discount is the same or greater than the discontinued model.
10. **Product Specifications:** This solicitation is designed to enable a Respondent to satisfy a requirement for a commodity, supply, material, equipment, software, process, or service. A specification may be expressed as a standard, a part of a standard, or independent of a standard; by specifying a manufacturer's brand and model. No specification is intended to unnecessarily limit competition by eliminating items capable of satisfactorily and/or meeting the actual needs of the procurement. When a brand name product is specified and is only available for a single source, Respondents are encouraged to offer alternative products that they believe to adhere to and comply materially, functionally, and operationally equal to or better than the brand name product specified. **Any Respondent, believing a specification is unnecessarily restrictive, must indicate such in the form of a question during the solicitation process and prior to the due date for questions listed in the solicitation.** The fact that a manufacturer or supplier chooses not to produce or supply the commodity, supply, material, equipment, software, or services to meet these specifications will not be considered sufficient cause to adjudge these specifications as restrictive. If the Respondent deviates from these specifications, reasons must be stated for such deviation and state why, in their opinion, the commodity, supply, material, equipment, software, or services bid will render equivalent reliability, coverage, performance, and/or service. Failure to detail all such deviations may comprise sufficient grounds for rejection of the entire offer.
11. **Quality:** Unless otherwise modified elsewhere in this solicitation, Vendor Partner warrants the commodities, supplies, materials, equipment, and services delivered as stipulated in the Buyer's purchase order/contract, must be: of quality to pass without objection in the industry and professional standards normally associated with them; fit for the intended purpose(s) for which they are used; of even kind, quantity and quality within each unit and among all units, within the variations permitted by the contract; adequately offered, presented, delivered, accomplished and complete as the contract may require; and conform to the written promises and/or oral affirmations of fact made by Vendor Partner.

Product Information, Catalogs, and Price Lists: Respondents must include an electronic copy of the latest edition of the commercially available catalog and price lists that the discount will be applied to with the response. Throughout the term of the contract, Vendor Partner(s) must furnish all AEPA Member Agencies and their Participating Entities with copies of approved commercially available catalogs and price lists in the format desired (electronic, online shopping cart, etc.).

Progress Payments: Progress payments are allowed on purchases for goods and services under the following conditions: The Buyer and the Vendor Partner agree to the terms of the progress payments prior to issuing a purchase order; the purchase order describes the amounts to be paid and the date of payment; the Buyer has a satisfactory method of verifying progress described in writing in a letter or on the purchase order; that payments will only be made when actual goods and/or services are verified/received; and that any such payments be made in full compliance of Buyer's local board rules and any and all other applicable state rules and regulations.

Protest: A formal complaint made against the methods employed or decisions made by AEPA, as outlined below, during the process of recommending a vendor for contract award.

Under this public procurement and AEPA's Solicitation, any Respondent who is aggrieved in connection with this procurement, can file a protest in accordance with (1) AEPA's Solicitation Document; (2) AEPA's Policies and Procedures; and (3) AEPA Member Agency's State Procurement Code and Board Policies. Venue for all legal actions will follow AEPA policy and as outlined in Part E, 12. Governing Law; Forum Selection. The solicitation process, including award, will not be stayed pending the resolution of the protest.

1. **Procurement Phases:** AEPA's solicitation process is broken down into three (3) phases. Any Respondent who is aggrieved in connection with any of the three (3) procurement/solicitation phases listed below and/or any functions or activities associated with each must file their protest with the AEPA representative indicated below.
    a. **Solicitation Due Date:** The preparation and contents of the solicitation, its terms, conditions, and specifications, the notification, distribution of solicitation documents and addendums (date published through the solicitation due date and time).
    b. **AEPA Approval:** The receiving, opening, recording, evaluating, recommending, and approving Respondents to be considered for AEPA approval and/or actions relating to contract renewal and extension. (Date received and opened through the date of individual contract award and future renewals).
    c. **Contract Award:** The awarding, implementing, and administering of resulting contracts and the disclosure of confidential data. (Date individual contracts awarded by AEPA Member Agencies or 120 days from AEPA approval).
2. **Protest contents:** Protests must be in writing and must be filed with the appropriate AEPA represented below. A protest must include:
    a. The name, address, and telephone number of the protester;
    b. The original signature of the protester or its representative;
    c. Identification of the procurement function and/or contract activity with the solicitation or the contract number;
    d. A detailed statement of the factual grounds or legal basis for the protest;
    e. Supporting exhibits, evidence, or documents to substantiate any claim unless not available within the filing time, in which case, the expected availability date must be indicated; and
    f. The form of relief requested.

3. **Protest Submittal:** Protester must submit the solicitation protest in accordance with the requirements of the above three (3) procurement functions immediately or within ten (10) days of the date the protester knows or should have known the basis of the protest per the following:
    a. Solicitation Due Date: Knows or should have known the basis of the protest upon the solicitation due date or ten (10) days after the due date, send a protest to Solicitation Committee (bid-committee@aepacoop.org).
    b. AEPA Approval: Knows or should have known the basis of the protest upon notification from AEPA of the solicitation category approval, send a protest to the Category Committee (bid-committee@aepacoop.org).
    c. Contract Award: Knows or should have known the basis of the protest or ten days after the notification from the AEPA Member Agency award, send a protest to Individual AEPA Member Agency; see AEPA Member Agency information sheet.

Protest Resolution: Protest must be resolved, in accordance with AEPA's Board Policies, Procedures and/or the appropriate state statutes where the AEPA Member resides. AEPA will issue a written determination regarding the protest. The decision of AEPA shall be final unless otherwise provided by applicable law. If the protest is sustained, AEPA may take corrective action, including but not limited to:

- Re-evaluation of proposals
- Cancellation and reissuance of the solicitation
- Modification of solicitation requirements
- Other actions deemed appropriate.

AEPA intends that all solicitation protest decisions from the point a solicitation has been published through contract approval or rejection will be resolved by AEPA. Protests concerning contract award by AEPA Member Agencies will be resolved by the respective AEPA Member Agency.

Protest Costs: The losing party to the protest must be responsible for the reasonable and justifiable costs of the protest. The protest costs must be based on the costs and expenses incurred by AEPA and its Member Agencies, including but not limited to staff salaries, attorneys' fees, hearing, reproduction, transcription, and travel costs.

Provisions Required by Law: By submitting a response to this solicitation, Respondents are acknowledging they have conducted and performed the required research to make themselves aware and knowledgeable of all federal, state, and local laws/statutes that are referenced herein, may pertain to and/or govern the procurement activities and transactions covered by this solicitation. These provisions of law and any clause required by law that is associated with and relates to this solicitation and any resulting contract will be read and enforced as though it were included herein.

Public Record: All offers submitted to this invitation become the property of AEPA and will become a matter of public record, available for review, subsequent to the solicitation due date. The Opening Record will be posted to the AEPA website (www.aepacoop.org).

Questions: Inquiries and questions related to this solicitation must be submitted online in Euna Procurement, per the timeline included in Part A.

Once a contract has been awarded by an individual AEPA Member Agency any inquiries and questions relating to contract implementation, execution, transactions, and/or concerns/issues occurring within that state should be addressed to the individual AEPA Member Agency.

Reporting: Vendor Partners are required to submit quarterly detailed sales reports to all AEPA Member Agencies.. If there are no sales, $0 reports are required. A Vendor Quarterly Report Template is included with this solicitation.

Respondent Acceptance Period: To allow AEPA Member Agencies the opportunity to evaluate the offers, AEPA requires that an offer in response to this solicitation be valid and irrevocable for one hundred twenty-days (120) after opening time and date.

Right to Assurance: Whenever one party to this contract in good faith has reason to question the other party's intent to perform, he/she may demand that the other party give written assurance of this intent to perform. In the event that a demand is made, and no written assurance is given within ten (10) days, the demanding party may treat this failure as an anticipatory repudiation of the contract.

Right to Request Additional Information: AEPA, and its respective representatives, reserves the right to request any additional information during the procurement process that might be deemed necessary to better understand the submitted solicitation response including, but not limited to, clarifying questions. Respondents may be requested to submit such answers in writing but will not be allowed to change or alter their offer.

Safety Measures: Vendor Partners must take all necessary precautions for the safety of employees on the worksite, and must erect and properly maintain at all times, as required by job conditions and progress of the work, all necessary safeguards for the protection of the workers and public. They must post danger-warning signs against the hazards created by their operation and work in progress. Proper precautions must be taken pursuant to state law and standard construction practices to protect workers, the general public, and existing structures from injury or damage.

Safety Standards: All items supplied in this contract must comply with the current applicable Occupational Safety and Health Standards, the National Electric Code, and the National Fire Protection Association Standards.

Severability: The provisions of this contract are severable to the extent that any provision or application held to be invalid must not affect any other provision or application of the contract that may remain in effect without the invalid provision or application.

Substance Use & Conduct: All Vendor Partners and Subcontractors must adhere to the local substance (alcohol, drug, smoking, etc.) and conduct (dress code, language, parking, etc.) policies while on AEPA Member Agencies and Participating Entities premises.

State Agency: means any department, commission, council, board, committee, institution, legislative body, agency, government corporation, educational institution, or official of the executive, the legislative or judicial branch of the government of this state.

Survival: All applicable software license agreements, warranties, or service agreements that were entered into between Vendor Partner and Buyer under the terms and conditions of the Contract must survive the expiration or termination of the Contract. All purchase orders issued and accepted by Vendor Partner must survive expiration or termination of the Contract.

Tare: If the Vendor Partner requires the Buyer to pay for shipping, the weight of the empty container and any material used for packing must be of the lightest weight practical for safe delivery of the contents.

Taxes: Different jurisdictions taxing authorities have different tax laws, rules, regulations, and processes, therefore, prices offered will not include applicable federal, state, and local taxes. All applicable taxes must be listed as a separate item on all cost proposals and invoices.

Term of Contract and Extensions: The initial term of the contract must be for up to fifteen (15) months and will commence on the date as indicated by each Participating Member Agency on the Acceptance of Solicitation and Contract in Part E of this solicitation. By mutual written agreement, the contract may be extended for three additional 12-month periods. AEPA may choose to recommend the contract extension. If so recommended, an individual Member Agency may choose, at their sole discretion, to extend the contract. In the event AEPA does not recommend or approve a contract extension, or a contract expires, a Member Agency may offer an extension not to exceed six (6) months.

In categories where products or services are evolving rapidly, AEPA may choose to publish a new solicitation in lieu of offering extensions as described above.

Termination by AEPA Member Agency: An AEPA Member Agency may cancel any contract secured by the solicitation without any further obligation if any person significantly involved in initiating, negotiating, securing, drafting, or creating the contract on behalf of the AEPA Member Agency is or becomes, at any time while the contract or any extensions of the contract is in effect, an employee of, or a consultant to any other party to this contract with respect to the subject matter of the contract. Such cancellation must be effective when the parties to this contract receive written notice from the AEPA Member Agency unless the notice specifies a later time. Cancellation by one AEPA Member Agency does not require other Agencies to cancel their contracts.

Termination by Non-Approval of AEPA: AEPA Member Agencies, on an annual basis assess, evaluate, and review existing AEPA vendors to determine if the organization as a whole desires to extend its approval of those vendors. If an existing AEPA vendor's approval is not extended for an additional term, the AEPA Member Agencies cannot extend the disapproved vendor's contract for a period exceeding six (6) months. See Term of Contract and Extensions above.

Termination for Convenience: AEPA Member Agencies reserve the right to immediately terminate this contract, without penalty or recourse, in whole or in part, if the AEPA Member Agency determines that termination is in the best interest of Participating Entities. The Vendor Partner, after receipt of a "Notice of Termination," must not accept any new orders after the termination date specified in the notice. Any termination must not affect projects that are in progress at the time the cancellation is received by the AEPA Member Agency. Vendor Partner must be entitled to receive just and equitable compensation in accordance with applicable contract pricing for work in progress, work completed, and materials accepted before the effective date of the cancellation. The Vendor Partner will not be reimbursed for any anticipated profit. The AEPA Member Agency reserves the right to cancel, or suspend the use thereof, any contract resulting from this solicitation if the Vendor Partner files for bankruptcy protection or is acquired by an independent third party. Vendor Partner may cancel this contract upon written notice to the AEPA Member Agency prior to the intended termination date (or on the yearly anniversary of the solicitation). Any termination must not affect projects that are in progress at the time the cancellation is received by the AEPA Member Agency.

Termination for Default: If either party is in default under this contract, it must have an opportunity to cure the default within the time indicated (ten business days in most states) after it is given written notice of default by the other party, specifying the nature of the default. Upon receipt of the notice of default, the defaulting party must have ten business days to provide a satisfactory response to the AEPA Member Agency. Failure on the part of the defaulting party to adequately address all issues of concern may result in contract termination. If the default is not cured within the time specified in the notice of default, the non-defaulting party must have the right, in addition to all other remedies at law or equity, to immediately terminate this contract. Failure to complain of any action, non-action or default under this Agreement must not constitute a waiver of any of the parties' rights hereunder. The AEPA Member Agency reserves the right to terminate this contract, or any part hereof, for cause in the event of any default by the Vendor
Partner, or if the Vendor Partner fails to comply with any contract terms and conditions, or fails to provide the AEPA Member Agency, upon request, with adequate assurances of future performance. In the event of termination for cause, the AEPA Member Agency must not be liable to the Vendor Partner for any amount for supplies or services not accepted, and the Vendor Partner must be liable to the AEPA Member Agency or any Participating Entity for any and all rights and remedies provided by law. If it is determined that the AEPA Member Agency improperly terminated this contract for default, such termination must be deemed a termination for convenience. The AEPA Member Agency will issue written notice to the Vendor Partner for acting or failing to act in any of the following:

1. The Vendor Partner provides material that does not meet the specifications of the contract;
2. The Vendor Partner fails to adequately perform the services set forth in the specifications of the contract;
3. The Vendor Partner fails to complete the work required or to furnish the materials required within a reasonable amount of time;
4. The Vendor Partner fails to make progress in the performance of the contract and/or gives the AEPA Member Agency reason to believe that the Vendor Partner will not or cannot fulfil the requirements of the contract;
5. The Vendor Partner fails to extend lower pricing that has been offered to another customer or cooperative that has equal or lesser volume.
6. The Vendor Partner fails to observe any of the terms and conditions of the contract;
7. The Vendor Partner fails to follow the established procedure for purchase orders, invoices, and receipt of funds as stipulated by the AEPA Member Agency.

Termination for Non-Appropriation: Any individual Buyer's procurement/contract covered by this solicitation and executed in accordance with the resulting contract may be terminated if insufficient appropriations and/or authorizations do not exist due to changes in state or federal law, or because of a court order, or because of insufficient appropriations made available to the Buyer's governing board and/or its State Legislature. Such termination will be affected by sending fifteen (15) days' written notice to the Vendor Partner. The Buyer's decision as to whether sufficient appropriations and authorizations are available must be accepted by the Vendor Partner and must be final.

Title and Risk of Loss: The title and risk of loss of material or service must not pass to the Buyer purchasing the material or services until it receives the material or service at the point of delivery unless otherwise provided within this document.

Trade-in Equipment: Equipment for trade-in must be dismantled by the Vendor Partner and removed at its expense. The conditions of the trade-in equipment at the time it is turned over to the Vendor Partner must be the same as when the original agreement was made, except as affected by normal wear and tear from

use between the time of the solicitation and the trade-in. Values placed on trade-in products are between the Buyer purchasing the new unit and the Vendor Partner.

Vendor Partner: Respondent who has been approved and awarded a contract for the delivery of construction, tangible personal property, supplies, or services in response to this solicitation.

Vendor Partner Contact: Vendor Partner will designate one individual who will represent them to AEPA, and its AEPA Member Agencies during the contract period. This contact person will correspond with each AEPA Member Agency for technical assistance, problems, or questions that may arise. If other staff, distributors and/or independent Vendor Partners will be performing the sales or support functions for different geographical areas (states), Vendor Partner must include instructions and contact information that can be distributed to AEPA Member Agencies upon approval of this bid.

Warranty: Vendor Partner warrants that all commodities, supplies, materials, equipment, software, and service delivered under this contract must conform to the specifications of this contract. All items should carry a warranty equal to the intended life cycle or a minimum manufacturer's warranty that includes parts and labor unless otherwise specified in the category specifications. The manufacturer has the primary responsibility to honor a manufacturer's warranty; a distributor or dealer agrees to assist the purchaser to reach a solution in a dispute with the manufacturer over a warranty's terms. Any extended manufacturer's warranty will be passed on to the Buyer. For example, if a voice board has a three-year warranty, but the board is in a turnkey system that has a one-year warranty, the voice board's three-year warranty must be honored by the manufacturer and the Vendor Partner. All extended warranties must be passed on, without exception. If upon discovery, the Vendor Partner charges a Buyer for a replacement part that the Vendor Partner actually received at no cost under a warranty, the Vendor Partner will rebate the amount billed and the Buyer reserves the right to cancel the contract.