

National Joint Powers Alliance® (herein NJPA) Invitation for Bid (herein IFB)

for the procurement of

PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION RELATED EQUIPMENT, ACCESSORIES AND SUPPLIES,

IFB Opening

May 14, 2009

2:00 p.m.

At the offices of the

National Joint Powers Alliance®

200 First Street Northeast, Staples, MN 56479

IFB #051409

The National Joint Powers Alliance® (NJPA) issues this invitation for bid (IFB) to provide PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION RELATED EQUIPMENT, ACCESSORIES AND SUPPLIES, to NJPA, and current and qualified NJPA Members from government, education, and non-profit agencies in all 50 states, and with potential international distribution. Specifications and details of this IFB are available beginning April 2, 2009 and continuing until April 30, 2009. Specification may be obtained by letter of request to Gregg Meierhofer, NJPA, 200 First Street Northeast, Staples, MN 56479, or e-mail at IFB@njpacoop.org. Sealed Bids will be received until May 14, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. at the above address. NJPA reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

The text above is the Public Notice to Bidders to be used by NJPA.

IFB Timeline

April 2, 2009 and

April 16, 2009

April 30, 2009

May 4, 2009 10:00AM CST

May 14, 2009

2:00 p. m.

- *Publication of IFB in the print and online Minneapolis Star Tribune, the NJPA website, and on the website of noticetobidders.com*
- *Deadline for IFB requests*
- *Pre-Bid Conference (webcast – conference call)*
- *Deadline for Submission of Bids, and Public Opening of bids*

Direct questions regarding this IFB to:

Gregg Meierhofer at gregg.meierhofer@njpacoop.org or (218)894-1930

IFB Procedures offers the methods for submitting questions.

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1. INTRODUCTION

A. ABOUT NJPA

1.1 The National Joint Powers Alliance®- (NJPA)- is a Municipal Government Service Cooperative created by Minnesota Legislative Statute §123A.21 with the directive and commitment to offer, among other things, cooperative procurement services to its membership. Eligible membership includes cities, counties, governmental agencies, both public and non-public educational agencies, colleges, universities and non-profit organizations. This Minnesota Statute also allows for service to NJPA Member agencies in Minnesota and all other states.

1.2 To this end, NJPA has established a series of procurement contracts with various Vendors of products and services which NJPA Members desire to procure. These procurement contracts are created in compliance with applicable Minnesota Municipal Contracting Laws. A complete listing of NJPA cooperative purchasing contracts can be found at www.njpacoop.org.

1.3 NJPA's publicly elected Board of Directors calls for all bids, awards all Contracts, and hosts those resulting Contracts and offers them for the benefit of its Membership.

B. JOINT EXERCISE OF POWERS LAWS

1.4 NJPA cooperatively shares those contracts with its Members nationwide through various "Joint Exercise of Powers Laws" established in Minnesota and most other states. The Minnesota "Joint Exercise of Powers Law" is Minnesota Statute §471.59. The Minnesota "Joint Exercise of Powers Law" states "Two or more governmental units...may jointly or cooperatively exercise any power common to the contracting parties..." Similar Joint Exercise of Powers Laws for each State of the United States can be found on our website at <http://www.njpacoop.org/LEARN/About/Legal.html> and clicking on that state at the bottom of the web-page.

C. WHY BID A NATIONAL COOPERATIVE PROCUREMENT CONTRACT

1.5 National Cooperative Procurement Contracts create value for both governmental buyers and their Vendors of products and services in two ways:

1.5.1 We **save the time and effort** of many governmental buyers bringing individual procurement bids AND the time and effort of the Vendors in responding individually to those invitations. A single invitation for a cooperatively held contract can replace potentially thousands of invitations for the same items from individual NJPA Members.

1.5.2 We earn **volume purchasing discounts** which are passed on to our Members. A single awarded bid response is likewise exposed to thousands of potential purchasing units nationwide.

1.6 State laws that permit or encourage cooperative purchasing contracts do so with the belief that lower prices, better overall value and time savings will be the result.

1.7 The collective purchasing power of thousands of NJPA Members nationwide offer the opportunity for volume pricing discounts. Although no volume is guaranteed by a Contract resulting from this IFB, substantial volume is anticipated and volume pricing is requested.

1.8 NJPA and its Members desire the best value for their procurement dollar as well as a competitive price. Pre-competed procurement contracts offer NJPA and its Members the ability to more directly compare non-price factors in their procurement analysis and it offers Vendors the opportunity to display those attributes without the timing and interpretation constraints of a typical individual bidding process.

D. THE INTENT OF THIS IFB

1.9 The intent of this bid is to award an Exclusive Contract to a qualifying manufacturer Bidder demonstrating a solution which meets or exceeds the needs of NJPA or NJPA Members within the scope of **PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION RELATED EQUIPMENT, ACCESSORIES AND SUPPLIES**. Qualifying Bidders must be able to demonstrate the knowledge of applicable industry standards, laws and regulations; and the ability to both market to and service NJPA Members in all 50 states, with potential to serve internationally. All bids received will be evaluated based on (among other factors) their ability to provide the greatest utility to NJPA and NJPA Members and across the widest spectrum of products and services.

1.10 A response to this IFB can be in the form of a Line-Item Pricing *or* Percentage Discount from Catalog or Category Pricing purchasing contract. NJPA desires a relationship with a vendor providing a broad array of equipment, products, accessories and services within the **PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION RELATED EQUIPMENT, ACCESSORIES AND SUPPLIES** industry. Those products and services must be those most used and desired by NJPA and NJPA Members. NJPA is seeking a Prime and Exclusive Vendor relationship to best serve the overall needs of NJPA and NJPA Members nationally.

1.11 Non-Manufacturer Awards: NJPA reserves the right to make an award related to this invitation to a non-manufacturer if such action is in the best interests of NJPA and NJPA Members.

1.12 Multiple Awards: NJPA reserves the right to award a Contract to multiple Bidders where the responding Bidders are deemed to lack the ability to appropriately service a national contract or such action is deemed to be in the best interests of NJPA and NJPA Members

1.13 Award by Board of Directors: An Award of Contract may be made by the NJPA Board of Directors based on the recommendation of the NJPA Bid Review Committee and on the best interests of NJPA and NJPA Members. NJPA is seeking a Prime or Exclusive Vendor relationship(s) to meet this need. The goal and intent of this IFB is to follow through with a bid award and executed Vendor Agreement to be marketed through the NJPA to its participating members.

1.14 Best Responsive – Responsible Bidder: It is the intent of the NJPA to award a Contract to the best responsible and responsive Bidder(s) offering the best overall quality and selection of products and services meeting the commonly requested specifications of the NJPA and NJPA Members, provided the Bidder's response has been submitted in accordance with the requirements of this IFB.

1.15 Sealed Bids: NJPA will receive sealed bid responses to this IFB in accordance with accepted standards set forth in the Minnesota Procurement Code and municipal contracting law. Awards may be made to responsible and responsive Bidders whose bids are determined in writing to be the most advantageous to NJPA and its current or future NJPA Members.

1.16 Use of Contract: Any Contract resulting from this solicitation shall be awarded with the understanding that it is for the sole convenience of the NJPA Members. NJPA and/or its members reserve the right to obtain like goods and services from another source.

1.17 Sole Source of responsibility- NJPA desires a "Sole Source of Responsibility" Vendor meaning the Vendor will take sole responsibility for the performance of delivered products and services. NJPA also desires a sole source of responsibility with regard to:

1.17.1 Scope of Products and Services: NJPA desires a single provider for the broadest possible scope of the goods and services being bid over the largest possible geographic area and to the largest possible cross-section of NJPA Members.

1.17.2 Vendor use of sub-contractors in sourcing or delivering goods and services: NJPA desires a single source of responsibility for products and services bid. Bidder's are assumed to have sub-contractor relationships with all organizations and individuals whom are external to the Bidder and are involved in providing or delivering the goods and services being bid. Vendor assumes all responsibility for the products and actions of any such Sub-Contractor.

E. SCOPE OF THIS BID

1.18 Solutions Based Invitation:

1.18.1 All potential Bidders are assumed to be professionals in their respective fields. As professionals you are deemed to be intimately familiar with the spectrum of NJPA and NJPA Member's needs and requirements with respect to the Bidder's products and services.

1.18.2 With this intimate knowledge of NJPA and NJPA Member's needs, Bidders are instructed to provide their bid response in a format describing their solutions to those current and future needs and requirements.

1.18.3 Multiple solutions to the needs of NJPA and NJPA Member's are possible. **Examples could include:**

1.18.3.1 Materials Only Solution: A Materials Only Solution may be appropriate for situations where NJPA or NJPA Members possess the ability, either in-house or through local third party contractors, to properly install and bring to operation those materials being bid.

1.18.3.2 Turn-Key Solutions: A Turn-Key Solution is combination of materials and services which provides a single price for materials, delivery, and installation to a properly operating status. Generally this is the most desirable solution as NJPA and NJPA Members may not possess, or desire to engage, personnel with the necessary expertise to complete these tasks internally or through other independent contractors

1.18.3.3 Good, Better, Best: Where appropriate and properly identified, Bidders are invited to offer the CHOICE of good – better – best multiple grade solutions to NJPA and NJPA Member's needs.

1.18.3.4 Proven – Accepted – Leading Edge Technology: Where appropriate and properly identified, Bidders are invited to provide the CHOICE of an appropriately identified spectrum of technology solutions to NJPA and NJPA Member's needs both now and into the future.

1.19 Geographic Area to be Bid: This IFB invites bids to provide **PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION RELATED EQUIPMENT, ACCESSORIES AND SUPPLIES** to NJPA and NJPA Members throughout the entire United States and possibly internationally. Bidders will be expected to express willingness to explore service to NJPA Members located abroad; however the lack of ability to serve Members outside of the United States will not be cause for non-award. The ability to serve Canada, for instance, will be viewed as a value-added attribute.

1.20 Manufacturer as a Bidder: If the Bidder is a Manufacturer or wholesale distributor, the response received will be evaluated on the basis of a response made in conjunction with that Manufacturer's Dealer

Network. Unless stated otherwise, a Manufacturer or wholesale distributor bidder is assumed to have a documented relationship with their Dealer Network where that Dealer Network is informed of, and authorized to accept, purchase orders pursuant to any Contract resulting from this IFB on behalf of the Manufacturer or wholesale distributor Bidder. Any such dealer will be considered a sub-contractor of the Bidder/Vendor. The relationship between the Manufacturer or wholesale distributor Bidder and its Dealer Network may be proposed at the time of the bid submission if that fact is properly identified.

1.21 Dealer/Re-seller as a Bidder: If the Bidder is a dealer or re-seller of the products and/or services being bid, the response will be evaluated based on the Bidder's authorization to provide those products and services from their manufacturer. Where appropriate, Bidders must document their authority to offer those products and/or services.

1.22 Contract Term: NJPA is seeking a Contract base term of 4 years subject to annual renewals as allowed by Minnesota Contracting Law. Full term is expected, however will only occur through successful annual renewals.

1.23 Minimum Contract Value: NJPA anticipates considerable activity resulting from this IFB and subsequent award; however no commitment of any kind is made concerning actual quantities to be acquired. NJPA does not guarantee usage. Usage will depend on the actual needs of the NJPA Members.

1.24 Estimated Contract Volume: Estimated quantities and sales volume are based on potential usage by NJPA and NJPA Members.

1.25 Largest Possible Solution: If applicable, Contracts will be awarded to Bidder(s) able to deliver a bid meeting the entire needs of NJPA and NJPA Members within the scope of this IFB. NJPA prefers Bidders submit their complete product line of products and services described in the scope of this bid. NJPA reserves the right to reject specific products bid as a part of the award.

1.26 Contract Availability: This Contract must be available to all current and potential NJPA Members who choose to utilize this NJPA Contract to include all governmental agencies, public and private primary and secondary education agencies, and all non-profit organizations nationally.

1.27 Bidder's Commitment Period: In order to allow NJPA the opportunity to evaluate each bid thoroughly, NJPA requires that any response to this solicitation be valid and irrevocable for ninety (90) days after the date bids were opened regarding this IFB.

F. SPECIFICATIONS FOR PRODUCTS AND SERVICES BEING BID

1.28 Industry Standards: Except as contained herein, the specifications for this IFB shall be those accepted guidelines set forth by the **PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION RELATED EQUIPMENT, ACCESSORIES AND SUPPLIES** industry as they are generally understood and accepted within that industry across the nation. Submitted products, related services, and their warranties are required to meet and/or exceed all current, traditional and anticipated needs and requirements of NJPA and NJPA Members.

1.28.1 Deviations from industry standards must be identified by the Bidder and explained of how, in their opinion, the products and services they bid will render equivalent functionality, coverage, performance, and/or service. Failure to detail all such deviations may comprise sufficient grounds for rejection of the entire bid.

1.29 Important note: NJPA does not typically offer specific product and service specifications; rather NJPA is requesting an industry standard or accepted specification for the requested products and services. Where specific line items are specified, those line items should be considered the minimum which can be expanded by the Bidder to deliver the Bidder's "Solution" to NJPA and NJPA Member's needs.

1.30 Commonly used Goods and Services: It is important that the products submitted are the products, supplies, and equipment commonly requested by NJPA or NJPA Members.

1.31 New Current Model Goods: Bids submitted shall be for new, current model products and services with the exception of certain close-out products allowed to be offered on the Bidder's "Hot List" described herein.

1.32 Compliance with laws and standards: All items supplied on this Contract shall comply with the current applicable Occupational Safety and Health Standards, the National Electric Code, the National Fire Protection Association Standards, and any other applicable safety or regulatory standards or codes.

1.33 Delivered and operational; Products offered herein are to be bid based upon being delivered and operational at the NJPA Member's site. Exceptions to "delivered and operational" must be explicitly disclosed in your bid response.

1.34 Warranty: The Bidder/Vendor warrants that all products, equipment, supplies, and services delivered under this Contract shall be covered by the industry standard or better warranty. All products and equipment should carry a minimum industry standard manufacturer's warranty that includes materials and labor. The Bidder has the primary responsibility to submit, as a part of Tab 4, product specific warranty as required and accepted by industry standards. Dealer/Distributors agree to assist the purchaser in reaching a solution in a dispute over warranty's terms with the manufacturer. Any manufacturer's warranty which is effective past the expiration of the warranty will be passed on to the NJPA member. Failure to submit a minimum warranty may result in the non-award.

1.35 Bidder's Warrants: The Bidder warrants all goods and services furnished hereunder will be free from liens and encumbrances; and defects in design, materials, and workmanship; and will conform in all respects to the terms of this IFB including any specifications or standards. In addition, Bidder/Vendor warrants the goods and services are suitable for and will perform in accordance with the purposes for which they were intended.

G. CERTIFICATION – FIRM OFFER TO CONTRACT

1.36 By execution and delivery of a bid, Bidder certifies:

1. The submission of the offer did not involve collusion or any other anti-competitive practices;
2. The Bidder/Vendor shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment in violation of Federal and State Laws (see Federal Executive Order 11246);
3. The Bidder 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 (see Gratuities); and,
4. The Bidder agrees to promote and offer to Members only those products and/or services as previously stated, allowed, and deemed a resultant of the contract(s) as NJPA contract items or services. This clause shall include any future product or service additions as allowed through Contract additions.

1.37 A response to this IFB is a firm offer to Contract with the NJPA based upon the goals, intent, terms, and conditions and scope of products and services contained in and referenced to in this invitation.

1.38 All stated terms and conditions, expectations to include the goals, intent and scope of this IFB as described as a part of this IFB are to be considered binding under the signatures of authorized parties and are part of the Contract.

2. DEFINITIONS

A. BIDDER - VENDOR

2.1 Exclusive Vendor- A sole Vendor awarded in a product category. NJPA reserves the right to award to an Exclusive Vendor in the event that such an award is in the best interests of NJPA Members. Such a Bidder must exhibit the ability to offer an outstanding overall program and demonstrate the ability and willingness to serve NJPA Members in all 50 states, and comply with all other requirements of this IFB.

2.2 Potential Bidder- A person or entity requesting a copy of this IFB.

2.3 Bidder- A person or entity delivering a timely response to this IFB.

2.4 Vendor- One of a number of Bidders whose bid has been awarded a contract pursuant to this IFB.

B. CONTRACT

2.5 “Contract” as used herein shall mean cumulative documentation consisting of this IFB, an entire Bidder’s response, and a fully executed “Acceptance and Award.”

C. TIME

2.6 Periods of time, stated as number of days, shall be in calendar days.

F. BIDDERS RESPONSE

2.7 A Bidders Response is the entire collection of documents as they are received by NJPA from a Potential Bidder in response to this IFB.

G. CURRENCY

2.8 All transactions are payable in U.S. dollars on U.S. sales. All administrative fees are to be paid in U.S. dollars.

3. INSTRUCTIONS TO PREPARING YOUR BID

A. PREBID CONFERENCE

3.1 A pre-bid conference will be held at the date and time specified in the time line on page one of this IFB. Conference call and web connection information will be sent to all Potential Bidders through the same means employed in their enquiry. The purpose of this conference call is to allow Potential Bidders to ask questions regarding this IFB.

B. IDENTIFICATION OF KEY PERSONNEL

3.2 Vendor will designate one senior staff individual who will represent the awarded Vendor to the NJPA. This contact person will correspond with members for technical assistance, questions or problems that may arise including instructions regarding different contacts for different geographical areas as needed.

3.3 Individuals should also be identified (if applicable) as the primary contacts for the contents of this bid, marketing, sales, and any other area deemed essential by the Bidder.

C. BIDDERS EXCEPTIONS TO TERMS AND CONDITIONS

3.4 Any exceptions, deviations, or contingencies a Bidder may have to the terms and conditions contained herein must be documented on Form C.

3.5 Exceptions, Deviations or contingencies stipulated in Bidder’s response, while possibly necessary in

the view of the Bidder, may result in disqualification of a bid response.

D. FORMAL INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

3.6 It is the responsibility of all Bidders to examine the entire IFB package, to seek clarification of any item or requirement that may not be clear and to check all responses for accuracy before submitting a bid. Negligence in preparing a bid confers no right of withdrawal after the deadline for submission of bids.

3.7 All bids must be sent to “The National Joint Powers Alliance®, 200 1st ST NE Staples, MN 56479.”

3.8 All bids must be submitted in both hard copy and electronic formats (on a compact disc). Both hard copy and electronic bids must be tabbed (in appropriately named files in the case of the CD) as identified herein. Electronic bid submissions should be submitted in a nested file structure where the root file is entitled “Bid Response”. Files contained in the root file should be entitled “Tab A, Tab B,...” Documents within the nested files should be individual documents or folders appropriately titled as to their content.

3.9 Two complete copies of each bid must be submitted with the exception of a single original bid bond submitted in one response copy with a copy of the bid bond in the second response copy. All Bid forms must be legible. All appropriate forms must be executed by an authorized signatory of the Bidder. Blue ink is preferred for signatures.

3.10 Electronic bid submissions should be submitted using the electronic forms provided. If a Bidder chooses to use alternative documents for their response, the bidder will be responsible for ensuring the content is effectively equal to the NJPA form and that the document is in a format readable by NJPA.

3.11 Product descriptions, fact sheets, and catalogs should be submitted in electronic only format in an effort to limit the use of paper resources in the hard copy response. Price lists in excess of 20 pages should be submitted in electronic format only.

3.12 It is the responsibility of the Bidder to be certain that the bid submittal is in the physical possession of NJPA on or prior to the deadline for submission of bids. Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope or box properly addressed to NJPA and prominently identifying the bid number, bid category name, the message “Hold for Bid Opening”, and the deadline for bid submission. NJPA cannot be responsible for late receipt of bids. Bids received by the correct deadline for bid submission will be opened and the name of each Bidder and other appropriate information will be publicly read.

3.13 Corrections, erasures, and interlineations on a Bidder’s response must be initialed by the authorized signer in original ink on all copies to be considered.

3.14 Addendums to the IFB: The Bidder is responsible for ensuring receipt of all addendums to this IFB.

3.14.1 Bidder’s are responsible for checking directly with NJPA, or checking the NJPA website for addendums to this IFB.

3.14.2 Addendums to this IFB can change terms and conditions of this IFB including the deadline for submission of bids.

E. CONTENTS AND TABBING OF BID SUBMISSION

3.15 In order to insure that every bid receives a fair evaluation and comparison, it is required that each Bidder tab and label their bid in the following manner:

INSIDE FRONT COVER (pocket)

- **Original executed forms D, E, H & I.**
- **Electronic submission of bid (CD).**
- **Bid Bond (or Cashier’s Check)**

A table of contents identifying the tabbed contents.

Tab 1: Company Information and Bid Intention

- Executive Summary (a one page description of what you are bidding on and how your offer will best meet the needs of NJPA Members)
- Company Information Form B
- Insurance Certificate (Accord Form)

Tab 2: Copy of Bid Terms, Conditions, and Expectations

- Copy of each page of the Invitation For Bid in order

Tab 3: Bidder Qualifications

- Form A
- Company supporting information, stock holders or financial reports
- Any applicable or required license documentation

Tab 4: Cost Submittal

- Price discounts for categories
- Value added submittals in Line-Item Pricing format and/or language describing the value added, if applicable
- Shipping program
- Volume incentive program
- Warranty documents
- Sourced Goods pricing factor

Tab 5: Exceptions to IFB Terms and Conditions

- Exceptions to Terms and Conditions and Bid Expectations Form C

Tab 6: Marketing Plan

- Bidder's Marketing Material
- Marketing plan (Internal and External)
- Related company and product marketing material
- Copy of signed Bidder's Checklist Form F

Complete Bidder's Checklist Form F and sign all required documents as indicated. Sign and place originals of Forms D,E,H, and I in an envelope in the pocket inside the front cover of your bid response binder. Place an electronic copy of the entire bid response recorded on a Compact Disc (CD) and place that CD in the pocket inside the front cover of your bid response binder.

Send your bid so that it arrives on or before the required time and date in the Central Time Zone. Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope/package with the bid number, category, the deadline for bid opening, and the statement "HOLD FOR BID OPENING" clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside of your packaging.

IF YOUR BID IS OPENED PRIOR TO THE TIME AND DATE SPECIFIED BECAUSE YOU FAILED TO MARK THE EXTERIOR OF YOUR PACKAGING, YOUR BID MAY BE REJECTED AS NON-RESPONSEIVE.

Before you seal your bid, ask yourself this question, "Did I state my very best prices and overall program in this NJPA Bid response?" Be sure the cover sheet is signed and that all forms are properly executed and enclosed. After verifying this has been done, make a copy

of the bid for yourself.

F. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THIS IFB

3.16 Upon examination of this IFB document, Bidder shall promptly notify the Coordinator of Bids and Contracts of any ambiguity, inconsistency, or error that they may discover. Interpretations, corrections and changes to this IFB must be made by addendum. Interpretations, corrections, or changes made in any other manner will not be binding and Bidder shall not rely upon such.

3.17 Submit all questions about this IFB, in writing, referencing “**PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION RELATED EQUIPMENT, ACCESSORIES AND SUPPLIES,**” to Gregg Meierhofer, NJPA, 200 First Street NE, Staples, MN 56479 or ifb@njpacoop.org. Those not having access to the Internet may call Gregg Meierhofer at (218) 894-1930 to determine if addenda have been issued or to request copies of the IFB. Requests for additional information or interpretation of instructions to Bidders or technical specifications shall also be addressed to Gregg Meierhofer. NJPA urges Potential Bidders to communicate all concerns well in advance of the deadline to avoid misunderstandings. Questions received less than seven (7) days ending at 4:00 p.m. CST of the seventh (7th) calendar day prior to bid due-date cannot be answered.

3.18 If the answer to a question is deemed by NJPA to have a material impact on other Inquirers or the IFB itself, the answer to the question will become an addendum to this IFB.

3.19 If the answer to a question is deemed by NJPA to be a clarification of existing terms and conditions and does not have a material impact on other Inquirers or the IFB itself, no further documentation of that question is required.

3.20 As used in this solicitation, clarification means communication with a Potential Bidder for the sole purpose of eliminating minor irregularities, informalities, or apparent clerical mistakes in the IFB.

3.21 Addenda are written instruments issued by the NJPA that modify or interpret this IFB. All addenda issued by the NJPA shall become a part of the IFB. Addenda will be delivered to all Potential Bidders using the same method of delivery of the original IFB material. NJPA accepts no liability in connection with the delivery of said materials. Copies of addenda will also be made available on the NJPA website at www.njpacoop.org by clicking on “Current Bids” and from the NJPA offices. No addenda will be issued later than five (5) days prior to the deadline for receipt of bids, except an addendum withdrawing the request for bids or one that includes postponement of the date of receipt of bids. Each Potential Bidder shall ascertain prior to submitting a Bid that it has received all addenda issued, and the Bidder shall acknowledge their receipt in its Bid Response.

3.22 An amendment to a submitted bid must be in writing and delivered to NJPA no later than the time specified for opening of all bids.

G. MODIFICATION OR WITHDRAWAL OF A SUBMITTED BID

3.23 A submitted bid may not be modified, withdrawn from or cancelled by the Bidder for a period of ninety (90) days following the date bids were opened regarding this IFB. **Prior** to the deadline for submission of bids, any bid submitted may be modified or withdrawn by notice to the NJPA Coordinator of Bids and Contracts. Such notice shall be submitted in writing and include the signature of the Bidder and shall be delivered to NJPA prior to the deadline for submission of bids and it shall be so worded as not to reveal the content of the original bid. However, the original bid shall not be physically returned to the Potential Bidder until after the official bid opening. Withdrawn bids may be resubmitted up to the time designated for the receipt of the bids if they are then fully in conformance with the Instructions to Bidder.

H. VALUE ADDED ATTRIBUTES, PRODUCTS, AND SERVICES

3.24 Examples of Value Added Attributes: Value-Added attributes, products and services are items offered in addition to the products and services being bid which adds value to those items being bid. The availability of a contract for maintenance or service after the initial sale, installation, and set-up may, for instance, be “Value Added Services” for products where a typical buyer may not have the ability to perform these functions.

3.25 Where to document Value Added Attributes: The opportunity to indicate value added dimensions and such advancements will be available in the Bidder’s Questionnaire and Bidder’s product and service submittal and must be tabbed under Tab 4.

3.26 Value added products and expanded services, as they relate to this IFB, will be given positive consideration in the award selection. Consideration will be given to an expanded selection of **PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION RELATED EQUIPMENT, ACCESSORIES AND SUPPLIES**, and advances to provide products, supplies, equipment, and services meeting and/or exceeding today’s industry standards and expectations. A value add would include a program or service that further serves the members needs and complements the products, equipment, services and training. Value added could include areas of product and equipment, sales, ordering, delivery, performance, maintenance, technology, and service that furthers the functionality and effectiveness of the procurement process while remaining within the scope of this IFB.

3.27 Minority, Small Business, and Women Business Enterprise (WMBE) participation: It is the policy of some NJPA Members to involve Minority, Small Business, and WMBE contractors in the purchase of goods and services. Vendors should document WMBE status for their organization AND any such status of their affiliates (i.e. Dealer or Supplier networks) involved in carrying out the activities invited. The ability of a Bidder to provide “Credits” to NJPA and NJPA Members in these subject areas, either individually or through related entities involved in the transaction, will be evaluated positively by NJPA. NJPA is committed to facilitating the realization of such “Credits” through certain structuring techniques for transactions resulting from this IFB.

3.28 Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Opportunities: There is a growing trend among NJPA Members to consider the environmental impact of the products and services they purchase. Please identify any “Green” characteristics of the goods and services in your bid and identify the sanctioning body determining that characteristic.

3.29 Green Products and Green Vendors: NJPA, NJPA Members, and Vendors alike are responsible for being good stewards of the planet we share. Vendors are asked to, not only provide green products, but also to notify NJPA and NJPA Members of the green characteristics of those products. With this information NJPA and NJPA Members have the opportunity to both choose green products and comply with certain green regulations and initiatives.

3.30 On-Line Shopping/Ordering systems: On-line shopping and ordering systems will be viewed as a value-added characteristic.

3.31 Financing: The ability of the Bidder to provide financing options for the products and services being bid will be viewed as a Value Added Attribute.

I. BID BOND

3.32 A bid bond in the amount of \$10,000 (or a cashier’s check payable to NJPA in the same amount) will be required of all Bidders to secure the Bidder’s performance in completing the “Contract” contemplated herein. The bid bond (or cashier’s check) will be released to the Bidder following the required 90 day commitment period. If a bid bond is provided it must be issued by an Admitted Surety (an insurance organization authorized by the Insurance Commissioners in all 50 states to transact surety insurance during this calendar year).

- ACCEPTABLE BID BOND MUST BE PROVIDED WITH THE BID SUBMITTAL.
- INDUSTRY STANDARD DOCUMENTS ARE ACCEPTABLE.
- A SURETY THAT IS RATED AT LEAST A OR EQUIVALENT BY A MAJOR RATING COMPANY SHALL ISSUE BID BOND.
- THE BID BOND SHALL IDENTIFY NJPA AS THE OBLIGEE.
- THE BID BOND SHALL HAVE THE BIDDER IDENTIFIED AS THE OBLIGOR.
- THE BIDDER SHALL AGREE TO PROVIDE THE BASIC BID BOND ACTIVE UNTIL RELEASED BY NJPA. THE BIDDER ALSO AGREES TO ALLOW NJPA TO RETAIN THE CASHIERS CHECK IN THE EVENT THIS IS USED TO MEET THIS REQUIREMENT.
- A CASHIERS CHECK FOR THE STATED AMOUNT IS ALSO ACCEPTABLE TO MEET THIS BID REQUIREMENT AND SHALL BE CONSIDERED EQUAL IN VALUE AND PURPOSE TO A BID BOND.

3.33 THE PURPOSE OF THE NJPA SOLICITATION BID BOND IS TO INSURE THAT THE AWARDED BIDDER FOLLOWS THROUGH IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXECUTION OF THEIR MARKETING PLAN. NJPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACTIVATE THE CASH VALUE OF THE BID BOND OR CASHIERS CHECK IN THE EVENT THE AWARDED BIDDER FAILS TO INITIATE AND EMBRACE SAID MARKETING PLAN TO THE SATISFACTION OF NJPA.

J. CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE

3.34 All Bidders must provide verification of liability insurance coverage with their bid submission. A commercial general liability insurance policy will be required documenting standard coverage limits of at least \$1 million/\$2 million and standard automobile coverage. Evidence of the required insurance shall be provided by means of a certificate of insurance and documented under Tab 3.

Prior to commencing services under this Contract, successful Bidder shall provide and maintain during the entire life of this Contract a certificate of insurance with the above limits and having NJPA identified as an **additional insured**. The coverage is to be maintained in full effect during the term of any Contract resulting from this IFB.

K. ORDER PROCESS AND/OR FUNDS FLOW

3.35 Please propose an order process and funds flow for your bid. Please choose from one of the following:

3.35.1 B-TO-G: The Business-to-Government order process and/or funds flow model involves NJPA Members issuing Purchase Orders directly to a Vendor and pursuant to a Contract resulting from this IFB.

3.35.2 Through NJPA: If the order process and/or funds flow are proposed to be processed through NJPA, (that is NJPA receives orders from NJPA Members and places orders from the Vendor AND/OR NJPA invoices and collects funds from NJPA Members and pays invoices from the Vendor), please detail the proposed process for these transactions including their timing, potential charges related to timing, and any line-of-credit relationship to be established.

3.35.3 Other: Please fully identify.

L. ADMINISTRATIVE FEES

3.36 Bidder agrees to authorize and/or allow for an administrative fee payable to NJPA by an Awarded Vendor in exchange for its facilitation and marketing of a Contract resulting from this IFB to current and potential NJPA Members. This Administration Fee shall be:

3.36.1 Calculated as a percentage of the dollar volume of all goods and services provided to and

purchased by NJPA and NJPA Members, and

3.36.2 Included in, and not added to, the pricing included in Bidder's response to this IFB, and

3.36.2 Established as a part of the Vendor Agreement process, and

3.36.3 Set based on the anticipated costs of NJPA's involvement in facilitating the establishment, Vendor training, and the order/product/funds flow of the Contract resulting from this IFB.

3.36.3.1 Typical administrative fees for a B-TO-G order process and funds flow can be 2.0%.

3.37 The opportunity to propose these factors and an appropriate administrative fee is available in the questionnaire part of this IFB.

4. PRICING STRATEGIES

4.1 NJPA requests that Potential Bidders respond to this IFB only if they are able to offer a wide array of products and services at prices lower than what they would ordinarily offer to single government agency, larger school district, or regional cooperative bid.

4.2 This IFB is an "Indefinite Quantity Unit Price Request" with potential national sales distribution and service. You are agreeing to fulfill Contract obligations regarding each item to which you provide a description and a price. If your specification requires additional supporting documentation, describe where it can be found in your submission. If you offer the specification in an alternative fashion, describe your solution to be easily understood. All pricing must be tabbed and organized under Tab 4, and copied on a CD along with other requested information as a part of a Bidder's Response.

4.3 Regardless of the payment method selected by NJPA or NJPA Member, a total cost associated with a cash purchase option of the products and services being supplied must always be disclosed at the time of purchase.

4.4 Primary Pricing/Secondary Pricing Strategies- All bidders will be required to submit "Primary Pricing" in the form of either "Line-Item Pricing," "Percentage Discount from Catalog Pricing," or a combination of these two pricing strategies. Bidders are also encouraged to offer OPTIONAL pricing strategies including "Hot List," "Sourced Goods," and "Volume Discounts," as well as financing options such as leasing.

A. LINE-ITEM PRICING

4.5 Line-Item pricing- A pricing format where specific individual products and/or services are offered at specific individual Contract prices. Products and/or services are individually priced and described by characteristics such as manufacture name, stock or part number, size, or functionality. This method of pricing offers the least amount of confusion as products and prices are individually identified, however Bidders with a large number of products to bid may find this method cumbersome. In these situations, a percentage discount from catalog or category pricing model may make more sense.

4.6 Unit Pricing: Unit Pricing is a line-item technique of pricing for services including the related materials for those service on a unitized basis, The unitized basis may be per quantitative measure such as per square foot, per lineal foot or per occurrence. As an example (not necessarily related to the scope of this IFB) , sheetrock may be line item priced as a product only, delivered to the end users location, AND unit priced delivered and installed at that end users location. The sheetrock, hung and taped logical combination of product and service and could be priced per square foot. Whether pricing services or logical combinations of products and services, pricing per unit of product/product and service must be quoted (i.e. cost per square foot of sheetrock hung and taped).

4.7 All Line-Item Pricing items must be numbered, organized, sectioned, and easily understood by the bid review committee and members.

4.8 Line-Item Pricing items are to be submitted in an Excel spreadsheet format and are to include all appropriate identification information necessary to discern the line item from other line items in each Bidder's bid.

4.9 The purpose for the excel spreadsheet format for Line-Item Pricing is to be able to use the "Find" function to quickly find any particular item of interest. For that reason, Bidders are responsible for providing the appropriate product and service identification information along with the pricing information which is typically found on an invoice or price quote for such products and services.

4.10 All products and services typically appearing on an invoice or price quote must be individually priced and identified on the line-item price sheet.

4.11 Bidders are asked to provide both a "List" price as well as a "Proposed Contract Price" in their pricing matrix. "List" price will be the standard "quantity of one" price currently available to government and educational customers excluding cooperative and volume discounts.

B. PERCENTAGE DISCOUNT FROM CATALOG

4.12 Percent Discount From Catalog or Category Pricing- A specific percentage discount from a "Base or List Price" defined as a published manufacturers list, or catalog price for the products or services being bid. The "Base or List Price" is the price charged to an average government/education buyer absent reductions for cooperative or volume purchasing agreements.

4.13 Individualized percentage discounts can be applied individually to any number of defined product groupings. Product groupings can be defined by manufacturer, product type, or other factor as long as the Bidder sufficiently defines those product groupings

4.14 A Percentage Discount from Catalog or Category Pricing offered by the Bidder is acceptable if the products and equipment are far too numerous to name and price individually.

4.15 A Percentage Discount from Catalog or Category Pricing identifies a percentage discount to be applied to a "Base Price" for products from one or more published catalogs. The "Base Price" will be the price generally applicable to government and education customers absent the discounts contemplated herein. The catalog may be published by the Bidder or by the Bidder's supplier. "Published" means generally available to a dealer network distributing those products and services being bid in either print or electronic formats where an "Auditor" may verify the "Base Price" of a product bid during the term of a Contract.

4.16 When a Bidder elects to use "Percentage Discount from Catalog or Category," Bidder will be responsible for providing and maintaining current "Base or List Pricing" with NJPA both in their Bid and throughout the term of any Contract resulting from this IFB.

4.17 New "Base or List Price" Catalogs may be submitted for review throughout the term of the Contract. NJPA reserves the right to review subsequent catalogs submitted to determine if the represented products reflect the contracted products and equipment. Each new catalog received may have the effect of adding new product offerings and deleting products no longer carried by the Vendor. New catalogs shall apply to the Contract only upon approval of the NJPA. Non-approved use of catalogs will result in termination for convenience. New price lists or catalogs found to be offering non-contract items during the Contract would be grounds for terminating the Contract for convenience. New optional accessories for equipment may be added to the Contract at the time they become available.

C. HOT LIST PRICING

4.18 NJPA also invites the Vendor, at their option, to offer a specific selection of most commonly used products, defined as a Hot List Pricing, at greater discounts than those listed in the standard Contract pricing. All product pricing, including the Hot List Pricing must be submitted in hard copy as well as electronically provided in Excel format. Hot List pricing must be submitted in a Line-Item format. Consideration and valuation points will be given to the most advanced selection of Hot List Pricing products. Providing a “Hot List” of products is optional. Products and services may be added or removed from the “Hot List” at any time provided that current “Hot List” prices are provided to NJPA at all times.

4.19 Hot List pricing may also be used to discount and liquidate close-out and discontinued products as long as those close-out and discontinued items are clearly labeled as such. Current ordering process and administrative fees apply. This option must be published and made available to all NJPA Members.

4.20 Hot List Pricing is allowed to change at the discretion of the Vendor within the definition of Hot List Pricing. The Vendor is responsible to maintain current Hot List product descriptions and Pricing with NJPA.

D. CEILING PRICE

4.21 Bid pricing is to be established as a ceiling price. At no time may the bid products be offered pursuant to this Contract at prices above this ceiling price without approval by NJPA. Prices may be reduced to meet the specific needs of an NJPA Member.

4.22 Allowable specific needs may include commitments for certain purchase volume commitments or the establishment of custom programs based on the individual competitive market needs of certain NJPA Member.

E. VOLUME PRICE DISCOUNTS

4.23 Bidder’s/Vendor’s are free to offer volume and committed volume discounts from the quantity-of-one pricing documented in a Contract resulting from this IFB. Volume commitment levels shall be determined between the Vendor and individual NJPA Members on a case-by-case basis.

4.24 Nothing in this Contract establishes a favored member relationship between the NJPA or any NJPA Member and the Vendor. The Vendor will, upon request by NJPA or NJPA Member, extend this same reduced price offered or delivered to another NJPA Member provided the same or similar volume commitment, specific needs, terms, and conditions, a similar time frame, seasonal considerations and provided the same manufacturer support is available to the Vendor.

4.25 All price adjustments are to be offered equally to all NJPA Members exhibiting the same or substantially similar characteristics such as purchase volume commitments, and timing including the availability of special pricing from the Vendor’s suppliers.

F. SOURCED GOODS

4.26 NJPA and NJPA Members may, from time to time, request goods and services within the scope of this IFB which are not included in an awarded Vendor’s line-item listing or “list or catalog” known as Sourced Goods.

4.27 An awarded Vendor resulting from this IFB may “Source” these products for NJPA or NJPA Member to the extent that they:

4.27.1 Include in their bid response a cost-plus-percentage-of-cost pricing factor for such Sourced goods and services, and

4.27.2 Document the Vendor's "Total Cost of Acquisition" of such Sourced goods, and

4.27.3 Provide as many quotes for the Member's "Total Cost of Acquisition" for the goods and services to be sourced as may reasonably be required by NJPA or NJPA Member.

G. TOTAL COST OF ACQUISITION-

4.28 The Total Cost of Acquisition for the products and services being bid, including those payable by NJPA or NJPA Members to either the Bidder or a third party, shall be disclosed in the Bidder's response including but not limited to:

- The capitalized cost of the base products and services being bid,
- The cost of accessories, alterations, and customizations typically incurred in the acquisition of the products and services being bid.
- The cost of delivery and installation (where applicable) of the products and services and any accessories being bid.
- Other costs, where applicable, typically associated with the purchase, delivery, set-up, and installation of the products and services being bid and making it operational at the purchaser's site.

4.29 The Total Cost of Acquisition is to be stated "As Bid." As an example, a materials only bids, or portions of bids, must include the total cost of acquisition for those materials delivered. In contrast, the Total Cost of Acquisition for a turn-key bid must include the total costs to be incurred in the process of delivering that combination of products and services.

H. REQUESTING PRODUCT AND SERVICE ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

4.30 Requests for product, service, and price additions, deletions, or changes must be made in written form and shall be subject to approval by NJPA.

4.31 New products and services may be added to a Contract resulting from this IFB at any time during that Contract to the extent that those products and services are within the scope of this IFB. Those requests are subject to review and approval of NJPA. Allowable new products generally include new updated models of products and services previously offered which reflect new technology and improved functionality.

4.32 Bidders representing multiple manufacturers, or carrying multiple related product lines may also request the addition of new manufacturers or product lines to their Contract to the extent they remain within the scope of this IFB.

4.33 NJPA's due diligence in analyzing any request for change is to determine if approval of the request is 1) within the scope of the original bid, and 2) in the "Best Interests of NJPA and NJPA Members." We are looking for consistent pricing and delivery mechanisms and an understanding of what value the proposal brings to NJPA and NJPA Members.

4.34 Documenting the "Best Interests of NJPA and NJPA Members" when out-dated equipment is being deleted is fairly straight forward since the product is no longer available and not relevant to the procurement Contract.

4.35 Requests must be in the form of 1) a cover letter to NJPA a) asking to add the product line, b) making a general statement identifying how the products to be added are within the scope of the original bid, and c) making a general statement identifying that, if appropriate, the pricing is consistent with the existing Contract pricing and 2) the detail as to what is being added at what price will then be an attachment to that cover letter.

4.36 Our intent here is to encourage you, the Vendor, to provide and document our due diligence in a clear and concise one page format on which we can stamp and sign our acknowledgment and acceptance. This information must ultimately come from you, and we are requiring it in this format.

I. REQUESTING PRICING CHANGES

4.37 Price Decreases: Requests for standard Contract price decrease adjustments (percentage discount increases) are encouraged and will be allowed at any time based on market place efficiencies, market place competitiveness, improved technologies and/or improved methods of delivery or if Vendor engages in innovative procurement practices such as strategic sourcing, aggregate and volume purchasing. NJPA expects Vendors to bid their very best prices and anticipates price reductions due to the advancement of technologies and market place efficiencies. Documenting the “Best Interests of NJPA and NJPA Members” is pretty easy when we are documenting price reductions.

4.38 Price increases: Requests for standard contract price increases (or the inclusion of new generation products at higher prices) can be made at any time. These requests will again be evaluated by NJPA based on the best interests of NJPA and NJPA Members. As an example, typically acceptable requests for price increases for existing products/services may cite increases to the Vendor of input costs such as petroleum or other applicable commodities. Typically acceptable requests for price increases for new models replacing old models cite increases in utility of the new compared to the old. Vendors are requested to reasonably document the claims cited in their requests. Your written request for a price increase, therefore, is an exercise in describing what you need, and a justification for why you need it in sufficient detail for NJPA to deem such change to be in the best interests of our self and our Members.

4.39 Price Change Request Format: An awarded Bidder will use the format of a cover letter requesting price increases in general terms (a 5% increase in product line X) and stating their justification for that price increase (due to the recent increase in petroleum costs) by product category. Specific details for the requested price change must be attached to the request letter identifying, where appropriate, both current and proposed pricing. Attachments such as letters from material suppliers announcing price increases are appropriate for documenting your requests here.

J. PRICE AND PRODUCT CHANGES FORMAT

4.40 NJPA’s due diligence regarding product and price change requests is to consider the reasonableness of the request and document that consideration on behalf of our members. We would appreciate it if you would send the following documentation to request a pricing change:

4.40.1 A cover letter:

a. Please address the following subjects in your cover letter:

- i. What items prices are changing?
- ii. How much are the prices changing?
- iii. Why are the prices changing?
- iv. Any additions or deletions from the previous product list and the reason for the changes.

b. The specifics of the product and price changes will be listed in the excel spreadsheets indentified below. Please take a more general “Disclosure” approach to identifying changes in the cover letter.

- i. If appropriate, **for example**, state that, “All paper products increased 5 % in price due to transportation costs.”
- ii. If appropriate, for instance, state that, “The 6400 series floor polisher added to the product list is the new model replacing the 5400 series. The 6400’s 3% price increase reflects the rate of inflation over the past year. The 5400 series is now included in the “Hot List” at a 20% discount from previous pricing until remaining inventory is liquidated.”

4.40.2 An excel spreadsheet identifying all products and services being offered and their pricing. Each subsequent pricing update will be saved using the naming convention of “[Vendor Name] pricing effective XX/XX/XXXX.”

- a. Include all products regardless of whether their prices have changed. By observing this convention we will:
 - i. Reduce confusion by providing a single, easy to find, current pricing sheet for each Vendor.
 - ii. Create a historical record of pricing.

K. SINGLE STATEMENT OF PRICING/HISTORICAL RECORD OF PRICING

4.41 Initially; and with each request for product addition, deletion, and pricing change; all products and services available, and the prices for those products and services will be stated in an Excel workbook. The request for price changes described above will serve as the documentation for those requested changes. Each complete pricing list will be identified by its “Effective Date.” Each successive price listing identified by its “Effective Date” will create a “Product and Price History” for the Contract.

4.42 Bidder’s/Vendor’s may use the multiple tabs available in an Excel workbook to separately list logical product groupings or to separately list product and service pricing as they see fit.

4.43 All products and services, together with their pricing, whether changed within the request or remaining unchanged, will be stated on each “Pricing” sheet created as a result of each request for product, service, or pricing change.

4.44 Each subsequent “Single Statement of Product and Pricing” will be archived by its effective date therefore creating a product and price history for any Contract resulting from this IFB.

L. PAYMENT TERMS

4.45 Payment terms will be defined by the Bidder in the Bidder’s response. Bidders are encouraged to offer discounts for prompt payment. Bidders are encouraged to offer payment terms through P Card services.

4.46 Leasing- If available, identify any leasing programs available to NJPA and NJPA Members as part of your bid. Bidders must submit an example of the lease agreement to be used. Bidders must identify:

- General leasing terms such as:
 - The percentage adjustment over/under an index rate used in calculating the internal rate of return for the lease; and
 - The index rate being adjusted; and
 - The “Purchase Option” at lease maturity (\$1, or fair market value); and
 - The available term in months of lease(s) available.
- Leasing company information such as:
 - The name and address of the leasing company; and
 - Any ownership, common ownership, or control between the Bidder and the Leasing Company

M. SALES TAX

4.47 Sales and other taxes, where applicable, shall not be included in the prices quoted. Vendor will charge state and local sales and other taxes on items for which a valid tax exemption certification has not been provided. Each NJPA Member is responsible for providing verification of tax exempt status to Vendor. When ordering, if applicable, NJPA Members must indicate that they are tax exempt entities. Except as set forth herein, no party shall be responsible for taxes imposed on another party as a result of or arising from the transactions contemplated by a Contract resulting from this IFB.

N. SHIPPING AND SHIPPING PROGRAM

4.48 Shipping program for material only bids, or sections of bids, must be defined and tabbed under Tab 4 as a part of the cost of goods. If shipping is charged to NJPA or NJPA Member, only the actual cost of delivery may be added to an invoice. Shipping charges calculated as a percentage of the product price may not be used, unless such charges are lower than actual delivery charges. No COD orders will be accepted. It is desired that delivery be made within ninety-days (90) of receipt of the Purchase Order.

4.49 Any shipping cost charged to NJPA or NJPA Members will be considered to be part of “bid pricing.”

4.50 Additional costs for expedited deliveries will be at the additional shipping or handling expense to the NJPA Member.

4.51 Selection of a carrier for shipment will be the option of the party paying for said shipping. Use of another carrier will be at the expense of the requester.

4.52 Bidders must define their shipping programs for Alaska and Hawaii and any location not served by conventional shipping services. Over-size and over-weight items and shipments may be subject to custom freight programs.

4.53 A restocking fee may only be charged on products ordered and that have been delivered to the member’s site. Restocking fees in excess of 15% will not be allowed; restocking fees may be waived, at the option of the Bidder/Vendor. Indicate all shipping and re-stocking fees in price program under Tab 4.

4.54 Bidder agrees that shipping errors will be at the expense of the Vendor. For example, if a Vendor ships a product that was not ordered by the member, it is the responsibility of the Vendor to pay for return mail or shipment at the convenience of the member.

4.55 Unless specifically stated otherwise in the “Shipping Program” of a Bidder’s response, all prices quoted must be F.O.B. destination with the freight prepaid by the Vendor. Time is of the essence on this Contract. If completed deliveries are not made at the time agreed, NJPA or NJPA Member reserves the right to cancel and purchase elsewhere and hold Vendor accountable. If delivery dates cannot be met, Vendor agrees to advise NJPA or NJPA Member of the earliest possible shipping date for acceptance by NJPA or NJPA Member.

4.56 Goods and materials must be properly packaged. Damaged goods and materials will not be accepted, or if the damage is not readily apparent at the item of delivery, the goods shall be returned at no cost to NJPA or NJPA Member. NJPA and NJPA Members reserve the right to inspect the goods at a reasonable time subsequent to delivery where circumstances or conditions prevent effective inspection of the goods at the time of delivery.

4.57 Vendor shall deliver Contract conforming products in each shipment and may not substitute products without approval from NJPA Member.

4.58 The NJPA reserves the right to declare a breach of Contract if the Vendor intentionally delivers substandard or inferior products which are not under Contract and described in its paper or electronic price lists or sourced upon request to any member under this Contract. In the event of the delivery of a non-conforming product, NJPA Member will immediately notify Vendor and Vendor will replace non-conforming product with conforming product.

4.59 Throughout the term of the Contract, Bidder agrees to pay for return shipment on goods that arrive in a defective or inoperable condition. Bidder must arrange for the return shipment of damaged goods.

4.60 Unless contrary to other parts of this solicitation, if the goods or the tender of delivery fail in any

respect to conform to this Contract, the purchasing member may: 1) reject the whole, 2) accept the whole or 3) accept any commercial unit or units and reject the rest.

O. NORMAL WORKING HOURS

4.61 Prices quoted are for products and services delivered during normal business hours. Normal Business hours will be 1) as specifically defined herein, defined through industry standards OR defined through statement contained in the purchase/work order issued pursuant to a Contract resulting from this IFB.

5. MARKETING PLAN

5.1 Internal Marketing Plan: An award of Contract resulting from this IFB is an opportunity for the awarded contractor to pursue commerce with, and deliver value to NJPA and NJPA Members nationwide. An award of Contract is not an opportunity to see how much business NJPA can drive to an awarded Vendor's door. Your internal marketing plan should serve to:

5.1.1 Identify the appropriate levels of management whom will need to understand the value of, and the internal procedures necessary to deliver this Contract opportunity to NJPA and NJPA Members through your sales force.

5.1.2 Identify, in general, the feet-on-the-street sales force who will be carrying this Contract opportunity in the field to NJPA and NJPA Members in terms of numbers and geographic distribution.

5.1.2.1 Identify whether your sales force are employees or independent contractors.

5.1.3 Identify your plan for delivering training to these individuals.

5.1.3.1 Will you have your sales force gathered at national or regional events in the near future? Does your sales force have the ability to participate in webinar or webcast events?

5.1.3.2 NJPA is prepared to provide our personnel in your location for sales training and/or on a webinar or webcast where sufficient efficiencies can be shown in reaching the appropriate groups within your employee base, and sufficient numbers of personnel trained.

5.1.4 Identify your personnel involved in training.

5.1.4.1 NJPA can provide personnel to deliver training regarding the Contract itself, the authority of NJPA to offer the Contract vehicle to its Members, the value the Contract vehicle delivers to NJPA and NJPA Members, the scope of NJPA Membership, and the authority of NJPA Members to utilize our procurement contracts.

5.1.4.2 Your personnel will be needed to provide training regarding employee compensation and internal procedures when delivering the Contract opportunity, and how this Contract purchasing opportunity relates with other such opportunities available.

5.2 Success in marketing is dependent upon 1) the delivery of value as defined in section 1.4, 2) the delivery of knowledge of the program and its proper use and utility, and 3) the delivery of opportunity and reward which creates a personal commitment to the program. NJPA desires a marketing plan that:

5.2.1 identifies the value delivered in a competitively bid national cooperative procurement contract by relieving both the NJPA Member and the Vendor/Vendor's sales staff of the responsibility for bringing and answering many similar and individual IFB's; and

5.2.2 identifies the appropriate Vendor personnel from both management and sales staff's who will be trained on the use and utility of such a contract and a general schedule of when and how those individuals will be trained; and

5.2.3 identifies in general how the reward system for the marketing, delivery, and service chain of the Vendor will be affected by the implementation of the proposed Contract and how that will be proposed to those individuals in terms of the value created for them and their departments in 5.1.1 above.

5.3 External Marketing Plan: NJPA is seeking the ability to serve all our current and potential members nationwide. The Bidder must demonstrate the ability to both market and service their products nationwide. Please demonstrate that your sales and service force contains sufficient people in sufficient proximities, to receive the knowledge, opportunity, and reward in order to make a personal commitment to serving NJPA and NJPA Members nationwide.

5.4 The Bidder must exhibit the willingness and ability to develop marketing materials and participate in marketing venues such as:

5.4.1 Printed Marketing Materials. Bidder will initially produce and thereafter maintain full color print advertisements in camera ready electronic format including company logos, identifying the Vendor, the Vendor's general utility for NJPA and NJPA Members, and contact information to be used by NJPA and NJPA Members in a full page, half page, and quarter page formats. These advertisements will be used in the NJPA Catalog and other places.

5.4.2 Press releases and advertisements. Bidder will identify a marketing plan identifying their anticipated press releases, advertisements in industry periodicals, or other direct or indirect marketing activities.

5.4.3 Bidder's Website. Bidder will identify how an Awarded Contract will be displayed on the Bidder's website. An on-line shopping experience for NJPA and NJPA Members will be viewed as a value-added attribute to a Bidder's response.

5.4.4 Trade Shows. Bidder will outline their proposed involvement in the promotion of a Contract resulting from this IFB through trade shows. Vendors are encouraged to identify trade-show, and other appropriate venues, for the promotion of any such Contract. Vendors will be required to participate in the following trade shows:

NAEP	National Association of Education Procurement
I-ASBO	International Association of School Business Officials
NIGP	National Institute of Government Purchasing

5.5 Bidder must also work in cooperation with NJPA to develop a marketing strategy and provide avenues to equally market and drive sales through the Contract and program to all NJPA Members nationally. Awarded Vendor agrees to actively market in cooperation with NJPA all available products and services to current and potential NJPA Members. NJPA reserves the right to deem a bidder non-responsive or to waive an award based on an unacceptable marketing plan.

5.6 As a part of this response, submit a complete Marketing Plan on how you would help the NJPA rollout this program to current and potential NJPA Members. NJPA requires that the Vendor actively promote the Contract in cooperation with the NJPA. Vendors are advised to consider marketing efforts in the areas of 1) Website Link from Vendors website to NJPA's website, 2) Attendance and participation with a display booth at national trade shows as agreed upon/required by NJPA, and 3) Sales team and dealer training programs involving both Vendor and NJPA staff. NJPA requires awarded Vendors to offer the NJPA Contract opportunity to all current and NJPA Members.

5.7 Facilitating NJPA Membership: Bidder should express their commitment to determine the membership status of their customers whom are eligible for NJPA Membership, AND their commitment to establishing that membership.

5.7.1 Membership information: Bidder should further express their commitment to capturing sufficient member information as is deemed necessary by NJPA to appropriately facilitate

membership and certain marketing activities as agreed to by NJPA and an Awarded contractor.

6. BID OPENING PROCEDURE

6.1 Sealed and properly identified Bidder's Responses for this IFB entitled "**PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION RELATED EQUIPMENT, ACCESSORIES AND SUPPLIES**" will be received by Gregg Meierhofer, Coordinator of Bids and Contracts, at NJPA Offices, 200 First Street NE, Staples, MN 56479 until the deadline for receipt of, and opening of bids at **2:00 p.m. on May 14, 2009**. The NJPA Director of Business Development, or Representative from the NJPA Bid Review Committee, will then read the Bidder's names aloud. A summary of the responses to this IFB will be made available for public inspection in the NJPA office in Staples, MN. **Specifications are available for pick up or mail delivery beginning April 2, 2009 and continuing until 4:00 p.m. on April 30, 2009.** A letter or e-mail request is required to receive a complete IFB. Send or communicate all requests to the attention of Gregg Meierhofer 200 1st Street Northeast Staples, MN 56479 or IFB@njpacoop.org to receive a complete copy of this IFB. Method of delivery needs to be indicated in the request; an email address is required for electronic transmission. Oral, facsimile, telephone or telegraphic Bid Submissions or requests for IFB are invalid and will not receive consideration. All Bid Responses must be submitted in a sealed package. The outside of the package shall plainly specify "**PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION RELATED EQUIPMENT, ACCESSORIES AND SUPPLIES,** " To avoid premature opening, it is the responsibility of the Bidder to label the Bid Response properly.

7. EVALUATION OF BIDS

A. THE BID EVALUATION PROCESS

7.1 NJPA will use a 1000-Point Evaluation System to help determine the best overall Bidder(s) selection. Bonus points may be available for specific bid characteristics identified such as "Green Product Certifications."

7.2 NJPA reserves the right to use a "Cost Scoring Evaluation" through a product comparison process of like products. This process will establish points for submitted price levels. See Cost Scoring Evaluation.

7.3 NJPA shall use a final overall scoring system to include consideration for best price and cost evaluation. The total possible score is 1000 points. NJPA reserves the right to assign any number of point awards or penalties it considers warranted if a Bidder stipulates exceptions, exclusions, or limitations of liabilities.

7.4 To qualify for the final evaluation, a Bidder must have been deemed responsive as a result of the criteria set forth under "Bidder Responsiveness."

7.5 Responses will be evaluated first for responsiveness and thereafter for content. The NJPA Board of Directors will make awards to the selected Bidder(s) based on the recommendations of the Bid Review Committee.

7.6 The procurement activities of the NJPA Bid Review Committee are limited to document preparation, answering Bidder questions, advertising the solicitation, distribution of this IFB upon request, conducting an evaluation and making recommendation for possible approval to NJPA Board of Directors.

B. BIDDER RESPONSIVENESS

7.7 Bidder's Responses received after the deadline for bid submission will be invalid and returned to the Potential Bidder unopened.

7.8 An essential part of the bid evaluation process is an evaluation to qualify the Bidder being considered. All bids must contain answers or responses to the information requested in the bid forms. Any Bidder

failing to provide the required documentation may be considered non-responsive.

7.9 Deviations or exceptions stipulated in Bidder's response may result in the bid being classified as non responsive.

7.10 To qualify for evaluation, a bid must have been submitted on time and materially satisfy all mandatory requirements identified in this document. A bid must reasonably and substantially conform to all the terms and conditions in the solicitation to be considered responsive.

7.11 The Bid Review Committee shall utilize the following criteria to evaluate all bids received. Items 1-4 constitute the test for "Level One Responsiveness" and are determined on the bid opening date. "Level 2" responsiveness is determined through the evaluation of the remaining items listed below. These items are not arranged in order of importance and each item may encompass multiple areas of information requested.

1. The bid response is received prior to the deadline for submission.
2. The bid package was properly addressed and identified.
3. The bid response contains the required bid bond.
4. The bid response contains original signatures on all documents requiring such.
5. Response's conformance to terms and conditions as described in the solicitation, including documentation.
6. Possesses qualifications as a responding Bidder that meets or exceeds those set within the solicitation.
7. Information from references and past performance information (PPI), including past member approval.
8. Demonstrates that they offer the most current industry standard products and/or services.
Yes/No
9. Demonstrates financial stability and a favorable banking line of credit.
10. Demonstrates that their products and/or services proposed meet and/or exceed industry standards accepted by educational or governmental institutions.
11. Has demonstrated market place success and their past performance exhibit an acceptable reputation.
12. Demonstrates that the company possesses the background, knowledge, capacity, and ability to sell, deliver, and support products and services offered to Members.
13. Has provided documentation defining, outlining, and describing their concept of a national marketing program they will be implementing to facilitate and coordinate the cooperative activities required by an awarded Contract.
14. Has provided all of the required and applicable documentation required i.e. bid bond, insurance certificates, licenses, and/or registration certificates required to do business nationally. Yes/No
15. Line-Item Pricing, in approved excel format, listing of all of the proposed products, services and warranties provisions with their associated units of costs.
16. Hot List Pricing of the most commonly purchased items in a Line-Item Pricing format (where applicable).
17. Contract Pricing submitted as requested to include Line-Item Pricing and/or Percentage Discount from Catalog or Category Pricing.

C. BID EVALUATION CRITERIA

7.12 If a manufacturer or supplier chooses not to produce or supply equipment, supplies or services to meet these specifications, such action will be considered sufficient cause to reduce evaluation points.

7.13 Consideration will be given in the award based on the completion and degree of information provided regarding available products, equipment, and accessories, as well as, applicable parts of the Bidder Information and Questionnaire.

7.14 The fact that a manufacturer or supplier chooses not to produce or provide equipment products or services to meet the intent of this IFB will not be considered sufficient cause to adjudge this IFB as restrictive.

7.15 The Bidder is required to have extensive knowledge and at least three (3) years experience with the related activities surrounding the selling of the equipment, service or related products offered.

7.16 NJPA reserves the right to accept or reject newly formed companies solely based on information provided in the proposal and/or its own investigation of the company.

7.17 Consideration will be given in the bid evaluation based upon the selection, variety, technological advances, and demonstrated quality of products submitted, technological advances, and pricing. The ability of the Bidder to communicate the value of these factors and to demonstrate how the depth and breadth of their product and service offerings provide NJPA and NJPA Members with a sole source of responsibility within the scope of this bid will be positively reviewed.

7.18 Consideration will also be given to bids demonstrating technological advances, provide increased efficiencies, expanded service and other related improvements beyond today's standards.

7.19 Strong consideration will be given to a Bidder's past performance, distribution model, and the demonstration their ability to effectively market and service NJPA Membership nationally.

7.20 Strong consideration will be given to the best price as it relates to the quality of the product and service. However, price is ultimately one of the factors taken into consideration in evaluation and award.

7.21 Evaluation of a Bidder's Responses will take into consideration as a minimum response but not necessarily limited to the following:

1. Adherence to all requirements of this IFB as defined by industry standards.
2. Prior knowledge of and experience with a Bidder in terms of past performance and market place success.
3. Capability of meeting or exceeding current and future needs or requirements of the NJPA and NJPA Members.
4. Evaluation of Bidders' ability to market to and provide service to all NJPA Members nationally.
5. Financial condition of the Bidder.
6. Nature and extent of company data furnished in Bidder's Response.
7. Quality of products, equipment, and services offered including value added related services.
8. History of member service NJPA and NJPA type customers.
9. Overall ability to perform sales, solutions and contract support as submitted.
10. Ability to meet service and warranty needs.
11. History of meeting the shipping and delivery of products and services.
12. Technology advancements and related provisions.
13. Ability to market and promote the Contract within current business practices.
14. Willingness to develop and enter into NJPA Contract and business relations.
15. Favorable bond rating and applicable industry standard licensing ability.
16. Past market place successes and brand recognition.
17. Warranty and product/service responsibility.

7.22 The Bidders' ability to follow the bid preparation instructions set forth in this solicitation will also be considered to be an indicator of the Bidders' ability to follow other future instructions should they receive an award as a result of this solicitation. Any Contract between NJPA and a Bidder requires the delivery of information and data. The quality of organization and writing reflected in the bid will be considered an indication of the quality of organization and writing which would be prevalent if a Contract was awarded. As a result, the bid will be evaluated as a sample of data submission.

7.23 A bid must have been submitted on time and materially satisfy all mandatory requirements identified in this document.

7.24 The NJPA reserves the right to reject the Bidder's Response of the apparent successful Bidder where the available evidence or information does not exhibit the ability or intent to satisfy NJPA that the potential Vendor is unable to properly carry out the terms of this IFB and potential Contract.

7.25 The NJPA shall reserve the right to reject any or all bids. NJPA also reserves the right to reject a bid not accompanied by required bid bond, other data required by this IFB, or if a Bidder's response is incomplete or irregular. The NJPA shall reject all bids where there has been collusion among the Bidders.

7.26 Overall Evaluation (FORM G) - The NJPA Bid Review Committee will evaluate bids received based on a 1000 point evaluation system. The Committee will establish both the evaluation criteria and designate the relative importance of that criteria by assigning possible scores for each item.

7.27 Bonus Evaluation Points- Bonus evaluation points may be awarded by the NJPA Bid Review Committee based on criteria identified as being both "optional" and "having additional value" to the bid being reviewed.

D. COST SCORING EVALUATION

7.28 Cost evaluation may be used to make a best value determination. NJPA reserves the right to use this process in the event that the evaluation committee feels it is necessary to make a final determination.

7.29 This process will be based on a point system with points being awarded for being low to high Bidder for each cost evaluation item selected. A "Market Basket" of identical (or substantially similar) products shall be selected by the NJPA bid review committee and the unit cost will be used as a basis for determining the point value. The "Market Basket:" will be selected by NJPA from all product categories as determined appropriate by NJPA. The low priced Bidder will receive the full point value and all other Bidders will receive points as follows: Lowest price Bid=5 (where there are five bidders), and inferior bids = 4, 3, 2, 1 points each. The Total Score for each bidder will be the sum of all points earned. The result of this process shall not be the sole determination for award.

E. PRODUCT TESTING

7.30 The NJPA reserves the right to request and test products and/or services from the apparent successful Bidder. Prior to the award of the Contract, the apparent successful Bidder, if requested by the NJPA, shall furnish current information and data regarding the Bidder's resources, personnel, and organization within three (3) days.

F. PAST PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

7.31 Past performance information is relevant information regarding a Bidder's actions under previously awarded contracts to schools, local, state, and governmental agencies and non-profit agencies. It includes the Bidder's record of conforming to specifications and standards of good workmanship. The Bidder's history for reasonable and cooperative behavior and commitment to member satisfaction shall be under evaluation. Ultimately, PPI can be defined as the Bidder's businesslike concern for the interests of the NJPA Member.

G. WAIVER OF BID FORMALITIES

7.32 NJPA reserves the right to waive any minor formalities or irregularities in any bid and to accept bids, which, in its discretion and according to the law, may be in the best interest of its members.

8. POST AWARD OPERATING ISSUES

A. VENDOR AGREEMENT

8.1 An Awarded Bidder will be offered a Vendor Agreement with NJPA. This agreement will be separate from any Contract resulting from this IFB and will be used to identify Vendor and NJPA marketing responsibilities, product and service order and payment flow responsibilities, and the establishment of the administrative fee payable by Vendor to NJPA for the facilitation of the Contract. In the event the awarded Bidder and NJPA are not able to execute an acceptable Vendor Agreement, NJPA reserves the right to reject the awarded Bidder, or make the award to the next responsive Bidder based on the 1000 Point Evaluation System. NJPA also reserves the right to exercise the bid bond and retain the funds in the event the Bidder fails to enter into a Contract with NJPA within 90 days after the date bids were opened regarding this IFB.

8.2 Successful Bidder(s) will be notified that their Bidder's Response has been recommended for award by the NJPA Review Committee. The recommended Bidder and the NJPA contract department will then work out details of the Vendor Agreement implementation including:

- Marketing plan
- Order processing procedures
- Contract marketing activities
- Contract management for the Vendor and the NJPA
- Marketing material, advertising, flyers, website access, etc.
- A commitment by the Vendor to attend and promote a resulting Contract through the use of a display booth at four or more national trade shows. NJPA and Vendor will jointly select the trade shows to attend.
- Execution of the Vendor Agreement.

B. SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENTS

8.3 Purchase Order- Purchase Orders for goods and services may be executed between NJPA or NJPA Members (Purchaser) and awarded Vendor(s) or Vendor's sub-contractors pursuant to this invitation and any resulting Contract. NJPA Members are instructed to identify on the face of such Purchase orders that "This purchase order is issued pursuant to NJPA procurement contract #XXXXXXX." A Purchase Order is an offer to purchase goods and services at specified prices by NJPA or NJPA Members pursuant to an Contract resulting from this IFB. Purchase Order flow and procedure will be developed jointly between NJPA and an Awarded Vendor after an award is made.

8.4 Governing Law- Purchase Orders, as identified above, shall be construed in accordance with, and governed by, the laws of a competent jurisdiction with respect to the purchaser. Each and every provision of law and clause required by law to be included in the Purchase Order shall be read and enforced as though it were included. If through mistake or otherwise any such provision is not included, or is not currently included, then upon application of either part the Contract shall be physically amended to make such inclusion or correction. The venue for any litigation arising out of disputes related to Purchase Order(s) shall be a court of competent jurisdiction to the Purchaser.

8.5 Additional Terms and Conditions- Additional terms and conditions to a Purchase Order may be proposed by NJPA, NJPA Members, or Vendors. Acceptance of these additional terms and conditions is OPTIONAL to all parties to the Purchase Order. The purpose of these additional terms and conditions is to, among other things; formerly introduce job or industry specific requirements of law such as prevailing wage legislation. Additional terms and conditions can include specific local policy requirements and standard business practices of the issuing Member. Said additional terms and conditions shall not interfere with the general purpose and intent of this IFB.

8.6 Asset Management Contracts: Asset Management type contracts can be initiated pursuant to a Contract resulting from this IFB at any time during the term of said Contract. The establishment of such Asset Management Contracts cannot exceed the authorized term of a Contract resulting from this IFB, however the Asset Management Contract term may extend beyond the maturity date of a Contract

resulting from this IFB.

8.7 Specialized Service Requirements- In the event that service requirements or specialized performance requirements such as e-commerce specifications, specialized delivery requirements, or other specifications and requirements not addressed in the Contract resulting from this IFB; NJPA Member and Vendor may enter into a separate, stand alone agreement, apart from a Contract resulting from this IFB. Any proposed service requirements or specialized performance requirements require pre-approval by Vendor. Any separate agreement developed to address these specialized service or performance requirements is exclusively between the NJPA Member and Vendor. NJPA, its agents, Members and employees shall not be made party to any claim for breach of such agreement. Product sourcing is not considered a service.

8.8 Performance Bond- At the request of the member, a Vendor will provide all performance bonds typically and customarily required in their industry. These bonds will be issued pursuant to the requirements of Purchase Orders for goods and services. If a purchase order is cancelled for lack of a required performance bond, it shall be the recommendation of NJPA that pending Purchase Orders with all NJPA Members be considered for cancellation. Each member has the final decision on Purchase Order continuation. ANY PERFORMANCE BONDING REQUIRED BY THE MEMBER OR CUSTOMER STATE LAWS OR LOCAL POLICY IS TO BE MUTUALLY AGREED UPON AND SECURED BETWEEN THE VENDOR AND THE CUSTOMER/MEMBER.

C. NJPA MEMBER SIGN-UP PROCEDURE

8.9 A Potential NJPA Member is generally stated as any unit of government, education, or non-profit organization nationwide (and with possible international distribution). A properly executed Membership creates the necessary "Paper Trail" connection between the Member and NJPA. Membership in NJPA is required to participate in any NJPA contract. Any Member of NJPA who is in compliance with the terms and conditions of membership shall have the option and freedom to access any of the procurement contracts of NJPA.

8.10 Awarded Vendors must agree to facilitate in the NJPA Membership process as part of connecting NJPA members to NJPA contracts. Potential NJPA Members may request membership with NJPA through the following methods:

- Potential members can complete their membership through on-line submission, or through a printable form available on-line at njpacoop.org.
- Potential Members may also submit proposed membership documentation which complies with their State and local Laws, rules and regulations for NJPA review.

8.11 As part of the Contract award, it is the responsibility of the Vendor to facilitate the membership process.

8.12 It is agreed that the completion of a Member Sign-up form expressing the Qualifying Member's decision to participate under a Contract resulting from this IFB, signifies the NJPA Member's acceptance of a Contract resulting from this IFB, and all its specifications, terms and conditions therein.

D. REPORTING OF SALE ACTIVITY

8.13 A report of the total gross dollar volume of all products and services purchased by NJPA Members as it applies to this IFB and Contract will be provided quarterly to NJPA. The form and content of this reporting will be developed by NJPA in cooperation with the Vendor to include, but not limited to, name and address of purchasing agency, amount of purchase, a description of the items purchased.

E. AUDITS

8.14 During the Term, Vendor will, upon not less than fourteen (14) business days' prior written request,

make available to NJPA no more than once per calendar year, at Vendor's corporate offices, during normal business hours, the invoice reports and/or invoice documents from Vendor pertaining to all invoices sent by Vendor and payments made by NJPA members for all products purchased under this Contract. NJPA may employ an independent auditor or NJPA may choose to conduct such audit on its own behalf. Vendor shall have the right to approve the independent auditor, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. Upon approval and after the auditor has executed an appropriate confidentiality agreement, Vendor will permit the auditor to review the relevant Vendor documents. NJPA shall be responsible for paying the auditor's fees. The parties will make every reasonable effort to fairly and equitably resolve discrepancies to the satisfaction of both parties. Vendor agrees that the NJPA may audit their records with a reasonable notice to establish total compliance and to verify prices charged hereunder of the Contract are being met. Vendor agrees to provide verifiable documentation and tracking in a timely manner.

F. HUB VENDORS

8.15 Hub Vendor: NJPA Members may, from time to time, request a Vendor resulting from this IFB to serve them through a "Hub Vendor" for the purposes of complying with a Law, Regulation, or Rule to which the individual NJPA Member deems to be applicable in their jurisdiction. An Awarded Vendor resulting from this IFB may reject such a request provided they provide written notice of that rejection.

8.16 Hub Vendor Fees: Fees, costs, or expenses levied upon the NJPA Member OR the Vendor for the services provided by the Hub Vendor in the transaction provided that:

8.16.1 The NJPA Member be notified by the Vendor that additional charges may apply; and

8.16.2 The Vendor document the transaction to be "Executed for the Benefit of [NJPA Member Name]" on the face of all transactional and warranty documentation.

G. TRADE-INS

8.17 Where Appropriate, the value in US Dollars, of Trade-ins will be negotiated between NJPA or an NJPA Member, and an Awarded Vendor. That identified "Trade-In" value shall be credited in full against the NJPA purchase price identified in a purchase order issued pursuant to any Awarded NJPA procurement contract. The full value of the trade-in will be consideration to that purchase order.

H. TERMINATION OF CONTRACT RESULTING FROM THIS IFB

8.17 NJPA reserves the right to cancel the whole or any part of a resulting Contract due to failure by the Vendor to carry out any obligation, term or condition as described in the below procedure. Prior to any termination for cause, the NJPA will provide written notice to the Vendor, opportunity to respond and opportunity to cure according to the steps in the procedure in this Cancellation Section. Some examples of material breach are the following:

- The Vendor provides material that does not meet reasonable quality standards and is not remedied under the warranty;
- The Vendor fails to ship the products or provide the services within a reasonable amount of time;
- NJPA has reason to believe the Vendor will not or cannot perform to the requirements of the Contract and issues a request for assurance as described herein and Vendor fails to respond;
- The Vendor fails to observe any of the material terms and conditions of the Contract; and/or,
- The Vendor fails to follow the established procedure for Purchase Orders, invoices and/or receipt of funds as established by the NJPA and the Vendor in the Contract.
- The Vendor fails to report quarterly sales volume;
- The Vendor fails to actively market this Contract within the guidelines provided in this IFB and the expectations of NJPA.

8.18 Each party shall follow the below procedure if the Contract is to be terminated for violations or non-performance issues:

Step 1: Issue a warning letter outlining the violations and/or non-performance and state the length of time (10 days) to provide a response and correct the problem(s) if reasonably possible in such time frame.

Step 2: Issue a letter of intent to cancel Contract, if the problem(s) is not resolved within fifty (50) days.

Step 3: Issue letter to cancel Contract for cause.

8.19 Upon receipt of the written notice of concern, the Vendor shall have ten (10) business days to provide a satisfactory response to the NJPA. Failure on the part of the Vendor to reasonably address all issues of concern may result in Contract cancellation pursuant to this Section.

8.20 Any termination shall have no effect on purchases that are in progress at the time the cancellation is received by the NJPA. The NJPA reserves the right to cancel the Contract immediately for convenience, without penalty or recourse, in the event the Vendor is not responsive concerning the remedy, the performance, or the violation issue within the time frame, completely or in part.

8.21 The NJPA reserves the right to cancel or suspend the use of any Contract resulting from this IFB if the Vendor files for bankruptcy protection or is acquired by an independent third party. Prior to commencing services under this Contract, the Bidder/Vendor must furnish NJPA certification from insurer(s) proving level of coverage usual and customary to the specific industry. The coverage is to be maintained in full effect during the Contract period. Vendor must be willing to provide, upon request, certification of insurance to any NJPA member or member using this Contract.

8.22 Either party may execute Contract termination without cause with a required 60-day written notice of termination. Termination of Contract shall not relieve either party of financial, product or service obligations incurred or accrued prior to termination.

8.23 NJPA may cancel any Contract resulting from this solicitation without any further obligation if any NJPA employee significantly involved in initiating, negotiating, securing, drafting or creating the Contract on behalf of the NJPA is found to be in collusion with any Bidder to this IFB for their personal gain. Such cancellation shall be effective upon written notice from the NJPA or a later date if so designated in the notice given. A terminated Contract shall not relieve either party of financial, product or service obligations due to participating member or NJPA.

8.24 Events of Automatic termination to include:

- Vendor's or NJPA's voluntary or involuntary bankruptcy or insolvency;
- Vendor's failure to remedy a material breach of a Contract resulting from this IFB within sixty (60) days of receipt of notice from NJPA specifying in reasonable detail the nature of such breach; and/or,
- Receipt of written information from any authorized agency finding activities of Vendors engaged in pursuant to a Contract resulting from this IFB to be in violation of the law.

9. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

A. ADVERTISEMENT OF THIS IFB

9.1 As a policy, NJPA shall advertise this solicitation 1) for two consecutive weeks in both the print and on-line editions of the MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE, 2) it shall be placed on a national wire service by the MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE, 3) it shall be posted on NJPA's website, 4) it shall be posted to the website "Noticetobidders.com," and 5) it shall be posted to other third-party websites deemed appropriate by NJPA.

B. ADVERTISING OF A CONTRACT RESULTING FROM THIS IFB

9.2 Bidder/Vendor shall not advertise or publish information concerning this Contract prior to the award being announced by the NJPA. Once the award is made, a Vendor is expected to advertise the awarded Contract to both current and potential NJPA Members.

C. APPLICABLE LAW

9.3 NJPA Compliance with Minnesota Procurement Law: Contracts awarded through NJPA are intended to meet the procurement laws of all states and NJPA will exhaust all avenues to comply with as many state laws as possible. It is the responsibility of each participating NJPA member to insure to their satisfaction that these laws are satisfied. An individual NJPA member using these contracts is deemed by their own accord to be in compliance with bidding regulations. NJPA encourages the awarded Vendor to assist NJPA and the NJPA member in this research to the benefit of all involved.

9.4 Governing Law: All applicable portions of the Minnesota Uniform Commercial Code and all other applicable Minnesota laws shall govern contracts with the National Joint Powers Alliance®. Any claims pertaining to this IFB and any resulting Contract that develop between NJPA and any other party must be brought forth only in courts in Todd County in the State of Minnesota.

9.5 Vendor Compliance with applicable law: Vendor(s) shall comply with all federal, state, or local laws applicable to or pertaining to the sale of the products or services resulting from this IFB. All such laws, whether or not herein contained, shall be included by this reference. It shall be Bidder's/Vendor's responsibility to determine the applicability and requirements of any such laws and to abide by them.

9.6 Indemnity: Each party agrees that it will be responsible for its own acts and the result thereof to the extent authorized by law and shall not be responsible for the acts of the other party and the results thereof. NJPA's liability shall be governed by the provisions of the Minnesota Tort Claims Act, Minnesota Statutes, Section §3.736, and other applicable law.

9.7 Prevailing Wage: It shall be the responsibility of the Vendor to comply, when applicable, with prevailing wage legislation in effect in the jurisdiction of the purchaser (NJPA or NJPA Member). It shall be the responsibility of the Vendor to monitor the prevailing wage rates as established by the appropriate department of labor for any increase in rates during the term of this Contract and adjust wage rates accordingly.

9.8 Patent and Copyright infringement: If an article sold and delivered to NJPA or NJPA Members hereunder shall be protected by any applicable patent or copyright, the Vendor agrees to indemnify and save harmless NJPA and NJPA Members against any and all suits, claims, judgments, and costs instituted or recovered against it by any person whatsoever on account of the use or sale of such articles by NJPA or NJPA Members in violation or right under such patent or copyright.

D. ASSIGNMENT OF CONTRACT

9.9 No right or interest in this Contract shall be assigned or transferred by the Bidder/Vendor without prior written permission by the NJPA. No delegation of any duty of the Bidder/Vendor shall be made without prior written permission of the NJPA. The NJPA shall notify the members within fifteen (15) days of receipt of written notice by the Vendor. After issuance the awarded Contract may be reassigned to a comparable Vendor at the discretion of NJPA.

9.10 If the original Vendor 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. NJPA reserves the right to reject the acquiring person or entity as a Vendor. A simple change of name agreement will not change the contractual obligations of the Vendor.

E. BIDDERS LIST

9.11 NJPA will not maintain or communicate to a bidders list. All interested bidders must respond to the solicitation as a result of one of the methods of bid advertisements listed above. Because of the scope of the potential Members and national Vendors, NJPA has determined this to be the best method of fairly soliciting bids.

F. CAPTIONS, HEADINGS, AND ILLUSTRATIONS

9.12 The captions, illustrations, headings, and subheadings in this solicitation are for convenience and ease of understanding and in no way define or limit the scope or intent of this request.

G. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

9.13 If a Bidder wishes to withhold any part of its bid from public inspection, then a statement advising the NJPA of this fact shall accompany the submission. The NJPA shall review the statement to determine whether the information shall be withheld. If the NJPA determines to disclose the information, the Executive Director of the NJPA shall inform the Bidder, in writing, of such determination prior to award of Contract to Bidder.

H. DATA PRIVACY

9.14 Bidder agrees to abide by all applicable STATE and FEDERAL laws and regulations concerning the handling and disclosure of private and confidential information regarding individuals. Bidder agrees to hold the NJPA harmless from unlawful disclosure and/or use of private/confidential information.

I. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

9.15 The Contract, as defined herein, shall constitute the entire understanding between the parties to that Contract. All terms and conditions of this IFB and the entire Bidder's response are to be considered a part of the resulting Vendor Agreement.

9.16 A Contract resulting from this IFB is formed when the NJPA Board of Directors approves and signs the applicable Acceptance and Award Form document (see Form D).

J. FORCE MAJEURE

9.17 Except for payments of sums due, neither party shall be liable to the other nor deemed in default under this Contract if and to the extent that such party's performance of this Contract is prevented due to 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, snow, earthquakes, tornadoes or violent wind, tsunamis, wind shears, squalls, Chinooks, blizzards, hail storms, volcanic eruptions, meteor strikes, famine, sink holes, avalanches, lockouts, injunctions-intervention-acts, terrorist events or failures or refusals to act by government authority and/or other similar occurrences where such party is unable to prevent by exercising reasonable diligence. The force majeure shall be deemed to commence when the party declaring force majeure notifies the other party of the existence of the force majeure and shall be deemed to continue as long as the results or effects of the force majeure prevent the party from resuming performance in accordance with a Contract resulting from this IFB. Force majeure shall not include late deliveries of products and services caused by congestion at a manufacturer's plant or elsewhere, an oversold condition of the market, inefficiencies, or other similar occurrences. If either party is delayed at any time by force majeure, then the delayed party shall notify

the other party of such delay within forty-eight (48) hours.

K. GRATUITIES

9.18 NJPA may cancel this Contract by written notice if it is found that gratuities, in the form of entertainment, gifts or otherwise, were offered or given by the Bidder/Vendor or any agent or representative of the Bidder/Vendor, to any employee of the NJPA are deemed to be excessive with a view toward securing a contract or with respect to the performance of this Contract. However, paying the expenses of normal business meals or travel to meetings as described and allowed by law, which are generally made available to all eligible school and government employees, shall not be prohibited by this paragraph. Samples of products provided to the NJPA for demonstration, evaluation, or loan purposes are not considered gratuities.

L. HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

9.19 Proper Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), in compliance with OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard, must be provided by the Vendor to NJPA or NJPA Member at the time of purchase.

M. LEGAL REMEDIES

9.20 All claims and controversies between NJPA and Vendor shall be subject to the laws of the State of Minnesota and are to be resolved in Todd County, Minnesota, the county in which NJPA is domiciled.

N. LICENSES

9.21 Bidder/Vendor shall maintain a current status on all required federal, state, and local licenses, bonds and permits required for the operation of the business conducted by the Bidder/Vendor.

9.22 All responding Bidders must be licensed (where required) and have the authority to sell and distribute offered products to NJPA and NJPA Members in all states. Documentation of said licenses and authorities, if applicable, is requested under Tab 3.

O. MATERIAL SUPPLIERS AND SUB-CONTRACTORS

9.23 The apparent successful Vendor shall be required to supply the names and addresses of material suppliers and sub-contractors when requested.

9.24 Awarded Vendors under this IFB will be the sole source of responsibility for transactions originating that award. The Awarded Vendor is solely responsible for products and services provided by third party material or service providers.

P. NON-WAIVER OF RIGHTS

9.25 No failure of either party to exercise any power given to it hereunder, nor to insistence upon strict compliance by the other party with its obligations hereunder, and no custom or practice of the parties at variance with the terms hereof, nor any payment under a Contract resulting from this IFB shall constitute a waiver of either party's right to demand exact compliance with the terms hereof. Failure by NJPA to take action or assert any right hereunder shall not be deemed as waiver of such right.

Q. PROTESTS OF AWARDS MADE

9.26 Protests shall be filed with the NJPA's Coordinator of Bids and Contracts and Director of Business Development and shall be resolved in accordance with appropriate state statutes of Minnesota. A protest must be in writing and filed with NJPA. A protest of an award or proposed award must be filed within

ten (10) days after the public notice or announcement of the award. No protest shall lie for a claim that the selected Bidder is not a responsible Bidder. A protest must include:

1. The name, address and telephone number of the protester;
2. The original signature of the protester or its representative;
3. Identification of the solicitation by IFB number;
4. A detailed statement of the legal and factual grounds of protest including copies of any relevant documents; and, the bid form of relief sought.

R. PROVISIONS REQUIRED BY LAW

9.27 Bidder/Vendor agrees that in the performance of a Contract resulting from this IFB, it has complied with or will comply with all applicable statutes, laws, regulations, and orders of the United States and any State thereof.

S. PUBLIC RECORD

9.28 All bids submitted to this invitation shall become the property of the NJPA and will become a matter of public record and available for review subsequent to the award notification. Bids may be viewed by appointment at the NJPA offices Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

T. RIGHT TO ASSURANCE

9.29 Whenever one party to this Contract has reason to question the other party's intent to perform, he/she may demand a written assurance of this intent. In the event that a demand is made and no written assurance is given, the demanding party may treat this failure as an anticipatory repudiation of the Contract provided, however, in order to be effective, any such demand shall be addressed to the authorized signer for the party from whom the assurance is being sought, and sent via U.S. Postal Service, certified mail, return receipt requested or national overnight delivery service with proof of delivery.

U. SUSPENSION OR DISBARMENT STATUS

9.30 If within the past five (5) years, any firm, business, person or Bidder submitting a bid has been lawfully precluded from participating in any public procurement activity with a federal, state or local government, the Bidder must include a letter with its response setting forth 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 to disclose pertinent information may result in the cancellation of any Contract. By signing the bid section, the Bidder certifies that no current suspension or debarment exists.

V. HUMAN RIGHTS CERTIFICATE

9.31 If Bidder is not domiciled in Minnesota and has NOT on any single working day in the past year, employed more than 40 employees in the State of Minnesota, Bidder must provide a statement to that effect.

9.32 If Bidder is not domiciled in Minnesota and has on any single working day in the past year, employed more than 40 employees in the State of Minnesota, Bidder must document their application for a Human Rights Certificate issued by the Minnesota Commissioner of Human Rights. Bidder must also document receipt by the Minnesota Commissioner of Human Rights of that application and the Bidder's affirmative action plan for the employment of minority persons, women, and qualified disabled individuals.

9.33 If Bidder is domiciled in Minnesota and has on any single working day in the past year, employed more than 40 employees in the State of Minnesota, Bidder must provide a copy of their "Certificate of

Compliance” from the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Rights.

W. SEVERABILITY

9.34 In the event that any of the terms of a Contract resulting from this IFB are in conflict with any rule, law, statutory provision or are otherwise unenforceable under the laws or regulations of any government or subdivision thereof, such terms shall be deemed stricken from a Contract resulting from this IFB, but such invalidity or unenforceability shall not invalidate any of the other terms of a Contract resulting from this IFB.

X. RELATIONSHIP OF PARTIES

9.35 No Contract resulting from this IFB shall be considered a contract of employment. The relationship between NJPA and an Awarded Contractor is one of independent contractors each free to exercise judgment and discretion with regard to the conduct of their respective businesses. The parties do not intend the proposed Contract to create, or is to be construed as creating a partnership, joint venture, master-servant, principal-agent, or any other relationship. Except as provided elsewhere in this IFB, neither party may be held liable for acts of omission or commission of the other party, and neither party is authorized or has the power to obligate the other party by contract, agreement, warranty, representation or otherwise in any manner whatsoever except as may be expressly provided herein.

BIDDER QUESTIONNAIRE

Form A

Bidder Name: _____

Questionnaire completed by: _____

Please answer all questions and address all requests made in this IFB, please restate the question and provide the answer indented below each question. Supply any applicable supporting information and documentation. Organize your answers, documentation, and information under the questionnaire response (Tab #3). All information must be typed, organized, and easily understood by evaluators. Limit your answer and documentation as they directly relate to this IFB. This questionnaire may be reprinted to create space needed to answer each question, or delivered in a format established by the Bidder provided it is organized and easily understood.

- 1) Provide the full legal name, address, and telephone number for your business.
- 2) Provide contact information for the primary contact person from your business relating to this IFB.
- 3) Provide a brief history of your company that includes its goals and philosophy.
- 4) Indicate the number of years your company has been in the **PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION RELATED EQUIPMENT, ACCESSORIES AND SUPPLIES**, industry.
- 5) List and document recent industry awards and recognition.
- 6) Is the Bidder a distributor, manufacturer, manufacturer, or a dealer/re-seller of the products and services being bid?
- 7) If the Bidder is best described as a re-seller, manufacturer aggregate, or distributor, please provide evidence of your authorization as a dealer/re-seller/manufacturer aggregate for the manufacturer of the products you are bidding.
- 8) For public companies, provide your most recent annual report to shareholders.
- 9) For private companies, provide your most recent year-end financial statements, your bond rating, and/or a credit reference from your bank.
- 10) Supply three references/testimonials from customers similar to NJPA Members. Please include the customer's name, contact, and phone number.
- 11) Provide names and addresses of the top five (5) governmental or education customers and dollar volumes from the past year.
- 12) Provide documentation indicating the total dollar volume for each of your sales to government, education, and non-profit agencies for the last three (3) fiscal years.
- 13) Provide profiles of key executives of your company that will oversee the implementation and operation of a Contract resulting from this IFB.
- 14) Supply an organizational chart for your **sales force** including names and contact information for the management levels of your sales department, and describe their territories. Are these individuals the Bidder's employees, independent contractors, or employees of a third party?
- 15) Supply an organizational chart for your **service force** and dealer network including names and contact information for the management levels, and describe their territories. Are these individuals the Bidder's employees, independent contractors, or are they employees of a third party?
- 16) Describe in detail your customer service program regarding process and procedure. Please include, where appropriate, response time commitments.
- 17) Identify any areas of the United States you will **NOT** be serving.
- 18) Identify your ability and willingness to service Canada specifically and internationally in general.
- 19) Describe your general marketing program strategy to promote the proposed Contract nationally.
- 20) Describe your marketing material, and overall marketing ability, relating to promoting this type of partnership and contract opportunity.
- 21) Will your company offer and promote the NJPA Contract to **all** current and prospective NJPA Members nationally?
- 22) Describe your use of the internet to provide marketing and product awareness.
- 23) Describe your perception of NJPA's role in marketing the partnership and products and services.

- 24) Describe the unique quality of the products in your bid in relationship to others available in the market.
- 25) Describe any training programs available as options for members.
- 26) Describe technological advances your bid products offer.
- 27) Describe your "Green" program as it relates to your company, your products, and your recycling program.
- 28) Describe any Women or Minority Business Entity (WMBE) or Small Business Entity (SBE) accreditations of your organization or for related manufacturer or distributor directly involved in a Contract resulting from this IFB.
- 29) Identify any applicable leasing or other financing options as defined herein.
- 30) Identify any service options included in the bid price, or offered as a bid option, for the products or services being offered.
- 31) Describe, in detail, your Warranty Program including conditions to qualify, claims procedure, and overall structure.
- 32) Do all warranties cover all material and labor?
- 33) Do warranties impose usage limit restrictions?
- 34) Do warranties cover the technicians travel time to perform warranty repairs?
- 35) Please list any other limitations or circumstances that would not be covered under your warranty.
- 36) Please list any geographic regions of the United States for which you cannot provide a certified technician to perform warranty repairs. How do NJPA Members in these regions receive warranty work?
- 37) Identify all cooperative governmental procurement contracts which are marketed in more than one state held or utilized by the Bidder.
- 38) Identify all government procurement contracts held or utilized by the Bidder with any State of the United States.
- 39) Identify any GSA Contracts held or utilized by the Bidder.
- 40) Briefly describe the products, equipment, and services you are offering to NJPA Members through this bid.
- 41) Identify any Total Cost of Acquisition (as defined herein) cost(s) which is not included "Pricing" submitted with your bid response. Identify to whom these items are payable and their relationship to Bidder.
- 42) Identify the Bidder's proposal for an administrative fee payable to NJPA for facilitation and promotion of the Contract opportunity invited here. This fee should be calculated as a percentage of Contract sales.
- 43) Briefly describe your business plan and your proposed order process for this bid award and contract. (Note: order process may be modified or refined during the final Contract phase of this IFB process.
- 44) As an important part of the evaluation of your offer, you must indicate the level of pricing you are offering.
 Prices offered in this bid are:
 - _____ a. The same as we offer on single school district bids.
 - _____ b. The same as we offer to cooperatives and state purchasing departments.
 - _____ c. Better than we offer to purchasing cooperatives or state purchasing departments.
 (Your bid will be considered "Non-Responsive" if this question is not answered.)
- 45) Do you offer quantity or volume discounts? _____ YES _____ NO Outline guidelines and program.
- 46) Describe your shipping, exchange and return program(s) and policy(s). Also specifically identify those programs as they relate to Alaska and Hawaii.

Authorized Signature (Same signature as on Bid Affidavit Signature and Acceptance Form)

Form B

BIDDER INFORMATION

Company Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____
Toll Free Number: _____ E-mail: _____
Web site: _____

VOIDS sometimes exist between management (those who respond to IFBs) and sales staff (those who contact NJPA Members) that result in communication problems. Due to this fact, provide the names of your key sales people, phone numbers, and geographic territories for which they are responsible

COMPANY PERSONNEL CONTACTS

Contract Manager: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

In accordance with accepted standards of competitive sealed bid awards as set forth in the Minnesota Procurement Code, competitive sealed bids/awards will be made to responsible Bidders whose bids are determined in writing to be responsive and also be the most advantageous to NJPA and its NJPA Members. To qualify for the final evaluation, a Bidder must have been deemed responsive as a result of the criteria set for "Bidder Responsiveness." A bid must have been submitted on time and materially satisfy all mandatory requirements identified in this document.

Evaluation for: _____

The evaluation criteria for this solicitation, **not** arranged in order of importance:

	Available Points	Points Awarded
Conformance to terms and conditions to include documentation	25	
Pricing	300	
Qualifications as a responding vendor	50	
References and past performance information (PPI), to include past member approval	25	
Selection and variety of products and equipment and manufactured products offered.	225	
Value added features of overall vendor program as developed to best serve the NJPA Member's purchasing experience.	125	
Industry standard market place successes and reputation.	75	
Ability to sell, market, and service NJPA Members through a national distribution network of authorized sales reps, field reps, and telemarketing.	100	
Industry standard product and/or service awards	25	
Description of national cooperative marketing program to be facilitated in cooperation with NJPA to promote contract.	25	
Total Points	1000	0
Bonus Points awarded for:		
Bidders "Green" characteristics	50	
Bidders WBME or SBE characteristics	50	
Overall Evaluation Points		0

Reviewed by: _____ Its _____

_____ Its _____

BIDDER RESPONSE CHECK LIST

Form F

	Yes	No
Understand General Instructions, IFB Procedures and Vendor Agreement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Understand requested Product Guidelines and Bidder's Response Expectations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SPECIFICATIONS AND BID FORMS

Bid Submittal Organization and Check List

1. In order to ensure that every bid receives a fair evaluation and comparison, it is required that each bid be organized in the following manner: a three-ring binder with an inside pocket and a set of six index dividers is required.
2. It is suggested that the Bidder preparing a response check off each required item as it is completed. The same list will be used by NJPA evaluators to ascertain that the bid is complete.
3. Any submittals too large to secure in a binder must be clearly labeled with the name of the Bidder.
4. Two original copies of the bid shall be submitted.
5. Data must be provided on electronic media (flash drive or Compact Disc), when applicable, and a hardcopy printout of the required forms shall be signed and submitted with the bid. Electronic media shall be placed in a protective pouch and clearly identified with the Bidder's name, name of the bid and date. Electronic price lists shall be in Microsoft Excel and shall allow for sorting on any of the fields listed below. Other documents may be submitted as Microsoft Word or PDF files.

All original documents with signatures required shall be original signed with ink.

Divider Tab	Form	Description	Signature Required	Hard Copy	Word or PDF File	Excel File
5	A	Questionnaire for Responders	X	X	X	
1	B	Bidders Company Information	X	X	X	
5	C	Exception to Terms, Conditions and Specifications	X	X	X	
1	D	Copy Bid & Acceptance Signature	X	X	X	
4		Pricing for products and overall program to include Value added, Warranty documents, leasing and other financing programs		X		X
3		Bidder qualification documents Financial or stock holder reports License documents		X		
Left Pocket		Bid bond, or check, for \$10,000.00 Labeled CD(s) or flash drive(s)		X		X
1	E	Bidder assurance of compliance (Hard copy notarized)	X	X		
6		_____ Product marketing material Bidder's checklist Form F		X		
2		Copy of bid in page order		X		
Left pocket		Forms D & E signed original documents in envelope	X	X		

_____ All questions have been answered and data provided as requested. (Omissions and errors can cause bids to be rejected.)

Signature (Same signature as on Bid Affidavit Signature and Acceptance Form)

J.

**Bid Offering
And Acceptance and Award
IFB #051409**

FORM D

PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION RELATED EQUIPMENT, ACCESSORIES AND SUPPLIES,

Bid Offering (To be Completed Only by Bidder)

In compliance with the Invitation for Bid (IFB) for PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION RELATED EQUIPMENT, ACCESSORIES AND SUPPLIES, the undersigned warrants that I/we have examined the IFB and, being familiar with all of the instructions, terms and conditions, general specifications, expectations, technical specifications, service expectations and any special terms, do hereby offer and agree to furnish the defined products and services in compliance with all terms, conditions of the IFB, any applicable amendments of this IFB, and all Bidder's response documentation. Bidder further understands they are the sole offeror herein and that the performance of any sub-contractors employed by the Bidder in fulfillment of this offer is the sole responsibility of the Bidder.

Company Name: _____ Date: _____

Company Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Person: _____ Title: _____

Authorized Signature (ink only): _____

(Name printed or typed)

Contract Acceptance and Award (To be completed only by NJPA)

Your bid offering is hereby accepted and awarded. As the awarded Bidder, you are now bound to provide the defined goods and services contained in your bid offering according to all terms, conditions, and pricing set forth in the IFB, any amendments to the IFB, and the Bidder's Response. The term of the Contract shall commence on the date of this award and continue for four years AND which is subject to annual renewal at the option of both parties.

National Joint Powers Alliance® (NJPA)

NJPA Authorized signature: _____

(Name printed or typed)

Title: _____

NJPA Authorized signature: _____

Title: _____

Awarded this _____ day of _____

Contract Number # 051409

K. BIDDER ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE

Form E

Bid Affidavit Signature Page

BIDDER'S AFFIDAVIT

The undersigned, representing the persons, firms and corporations joining in the submission of the foregoing bid (such persons, firms and corporations hereinafter being referred to as the "Bidder"), being duly sworn on his/her oath, states to the best of his/her belief and knowledge:

1. The undersigned certifies the Bidder is submitting their bid under their true and correct name, the Bidder has been properly originated and legally exists in good standing in its state of residence, that the Bidder possesses, or will possess prior to the delivery of any goods and services, all applicable licenses necessary for such delivery, and that they are authorized to act on behalf of, and encumber the "Bidder" in this Contract, and
2. To the best of my knowledge, no Bidder or Potential Bidder, nor any person duly representing the same, has directly or indirectly entered into any agreement or arrangement with any other Bidders, Potential Bidders, any official or employee of the NJPA, or any person, firm or corporation under contract with the NJPA in an effort to influence either the offering or non-offering of certain prices, terms, and conditions relating to this IFB which tends to, or does, lessen or destroy free competition in the letting of the Contract sought for by this IFB, and
3. The Bidder or any person on his/her behalf, has not agreed, connived or colluded to produce a deceptive show of competition in the manner of the bidding or award of the referenced contract, and
4. Neither I, the Bidder, nor, any officer, director, partner, member or associate of the Bidder, nor any of its employees directly involved in obtaining contracts with the NJPA or any subdivision of the NJPA, has been convicted of false pretenses, attempted false pretenses or conspiracy to commit false pretenses, bribery, attempted bribery or conspiracy to bribe under the laws of any state or federal government for acts or omissions after January 1, 1985, and
5. The Bidder has examined and understands the terms, conditions, scope, contract opportunity, specifications request and other documents of this solicitation and that any and all exceptions have been noted in writing and have been included with the bid submittal, and
6. If awarded a contract, the Bidder will provide the products, equipment and/or services to qualifying members of the NJPA in accordance with the terms, conditions, scope of this IFB, Bidder offered specifications and other documents of this solicitation, and
7. The undersigned, being familiar with expectations and specifications request outlined in this defined IFB under consideration, hereby proposes to deliver through valid service request, Purchase Orders or forms for NJPA Members per IFB, only new, unused and first quality products and services to designated NJPA Members, and
8. The Bidder has carefully checked the accuracy of all items and listed total price per item in this bid. In addition, the Bidder accepts all general terms and conditions of this IFB, including all responsibilities of commitment and delivery of services as outlined, and
9. Accompanying this bid is a bid bond for \$10,000.00, or a cashier's check payable to NJPA in the same amount, the same being subject for forfeiture in the event of default as identified by the undersigned, and
10. In submitting this bid, it is understood that the right is reserved by the NJPA to reject any or all bids and it is agreed that this bid may not be withdrawn during a period of 90 days from the date bids were opened regarding this

IFB, and

11. The Bidder certifies that in performing this Contract they will comply with all applicable provisions of the federal, state, and local laws, regulations, rules, and orders, and

12. If Bidder has more than 40 employees in the state in which their principal place of business is located, Bidder hereby certifies their compliance with federal affirmative action requirements.

Company Name: _____

Contact Person for Questions: _____ Phone: _____
(Must be individual who is responsible for filling out this Bidder's Response form)

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Authorized Signature: _____

Authorized Name (typed): _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Notarized

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ the day of _____, 20_____

Notary Public in and for the County of _____ State of _____

My commission expires: _____

Signature: _____

Form H

HUMAN RIGHTS CERTIFICATION

Bidders must indicate in which category below they belong and provide the appropriate attachment indicated.

_____ Bidder has NOT on any single working day in the past year, employed more than 40 employees in the State of Minnesota.

Bidder must provide a statement to that effect.

_____ Bidder is not domiciled in Minnesota and has on any single working day in the past year, employed more than 40 employees in the State of Minnesota.

Bidder must document their application for a Human Rights Certificate issued by the Minnesota Commissioner of Human Rights. Bidder must also document receipt by the Minnesota Commissioner of Human Rights of that application and the Bidder's affirmative action plan for the employment of minority persons, women, and qualified disabled individuals.

_____ Bidder is domiciled in Minnesota and has on any single working day in the past year, employed more than 40 employees in the State of Minnesota.

Bidder must provide a copy of their "Certificate of Compliance" from the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Rights.

Bidder Name _____

By _____ Its _____

Dated _____

Form I

State of Minnesota — Immigration Status Certification

By order of the Governor’s Executive Order 08-01, vendors and subcontractors MUST certify compliance with the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) and certify use of the *E-Verify* system established by the Department of Homeland Security.

E-Verify program information can be found at <http://www.dhs.gov/ximgtn/programs>.

If any response to a solicitation is or could be in excess of \$50,000, vendors and subcontractors must certify compliance with items 1 and 2 below. In addition, prior to the delivery of the product or initiation of services, vendors MUST obtain this certification from all subcontractors who will participate in the performance of the contract. All subcontractor certifications must be kept on file with the contract vendor and made available to the state upon request.

1. The company shown below is in compliance with the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 in relation to all employees performing work in the United States and does not knowingly employ persons in violation of the United States immigration laws. The company shown below will obtain this certification from all subcontractors who will participate in the performance of this Contract and maintain subcontractor certifications for inspection by the state if such inspection is requested; and

2. By the date of the delivery of the product and/or performance of services, the company shown below will have implemented or will be in the process of implementing the *E-Verify* program for all newly hired employees in the United States who will perform work on behalf of the State of Minnesota.

I certify that the company shown below is in compliance with items 1 and 2 above and that I am authorized to sign on its behalf.

Name of Company: _____ Date: _____

Authorized Signature: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____

If the contract vendor and/or the subcontractors are not in compliance with the Immigration Reform and Control Act, or knowingly employ persons in violation of the United States immigration laws, or have not begun or implemented the *E-Verify* program for all newly hired employees in support of the contract, the state reserves the right to determine what action it may take. This action could include, but would not be limited to cancellation of the contract, and/or suspending or debaring the contract vendor from state purchasing.

For assistance with the *E-Verify* Program

Contact the National Customer Service Center (NCSC) at **1-800-375-5283** (TTY 1-800-767-1833).

For assistance with this form, contact:

Mail: 112 Administration Bldg, 50 Sherburne Ave. St. Paul, MN 55155

E-mail: MMDHelp.Line@state.mn.us

Telephone: 651.296.2600

Persons with a hearing or speech disability may contact us by dialing 711 or 1.800.627.3529

Bid Award Recommendation(s) for NJPA Membership Approval

The following are the recommendations of the Bid Review Committee regarding IFB #051409 for the procurement of **PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION RELATED EQUIPMENT, ACCESSORIES AND SUPPLIES, .**

The Bid Review Committee for this IFB consists of:

Chairman:

Member:

Member:

Member:

The findings of the Committee are as follows:

A. Bids rejected as non-responsive and the reason for that determination:

B. Methodologies used by the committee for evaluation:

C. Bids recommended for approval with reasons for recommendation:

It is therefore recommended by the Bid Review Committee that a Contract be approved for the above Bidder(s). A Vendor Agreement will be established with the following Bidder and recommended use by participating member agencies

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- _____
- _____