



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP-2328

For: New Attractions & Destinations RFP Round 2

The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation (“Corporation”) seeks proposals from qualified firms for new attractions & destination events. The goal of this initiative is to provide seed funding for the development of new attractions or new recurring events located in Rhode Island. Special consideration will be given to those proposals that drive visitation from out of state during the shoulder and off-season (October – May) and propose events that operate yearly. Requests for funding should be focused on event production with no more than 10% of the allocation to administration and/or advertising for the events. Applications must include a marketing strategy and trackable metrics. Funds cannot be used for construction. This RFP will be funded with a \$2.27 million grant from the United States Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration that the Corporation has received to support travel, tourism and outdoor recreation sectors in the State.

This document constitutes a Request for Proposal (“RFP”), in a competitive format, from qualified firms. This request is an offer by the Corporation to underwrite, in accordance with the terms and conditions of this RFP, the services proposed by the successful firm(s), by contract.

The respondents (“Proposers”) to this RFP shall provide a proposal, in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth herein, to provide new attractions or new recurring events as described in the Scope of Work.

If the respondent received funding in the 1st round of this RFP that precludes the respondent from receiving funding in this second round.

Funding is contingent upon EDA subaward approvals. This process may have a delay in funding and not provide immediate assistance for new attractions or destination events in the winter of 2023. New attractions or destination events funded under this RFP should be scheduled for Summer/Fall 2024.

Project Overview

The Corporation seeks proposals from entities to increase new attractions and destination events in the State. Eligible entities include the (1) regional tourism boards, (2) municipalities, and (3) non-profit organizations.

The Corporation may make multiple awards. Awards will generally not exceed \$200,000. Proposed events should assist in the recovery, maintenance, and development of new and existing attractions and destination events. By promoting, maintaining, and improving existing attractions as well as assisting in the development of new ones, it is anticipated that awards under this RFP will bring more visitors to the State and help current Rhode Islanders to be more active in the State’s tourism industry, with special attention to recurring events in the off-season.

Proposals may provide a suite of ideas for events or a single event.

Background

Tourism is an important driver of the State's economy. In the most recent impact study in 2022, Rhode Island attracted 27.7 million visitors and tourism, which contributed \$7.9 billion to the State's economy. It also supported 84,386 jobs, representing 12.7% of all jobs in the State, and provided more than \$1.2 billion in tax revenues.

The Corporation is committed to growing the State's tourism industry through:

- Increasing traveler trips to Rhode Island;
- Increasing traveler length of stay;
- Increasing average traveler spend per trip; and
- Increasing resident spend on tourism activities.

The Corporation promotes Rhode Island in domestic and international markets, leveraging multiple marketing and communications tactics, including, but not limited to, traditional public relations strategies, advertising, social media, group sales initiatives and industry engagement. All of these efforts are directed at the State's target audience—prospective visitors, previous visitors, Rhode Island residents, transportation partners, tour operators, travel agents, and industry partners.

Scope of Work

All work, events, and programming performed pursuant to the Scope of Work below must be completed no later than March 31, 2025.

The Corporation requires Proposers to provide an overview of the event plan, including detailed description, anticipated date, related industry partners, anticipated impact of the event on the region, and possibility for event to recur annually.

Anticipated Impact Core Offerings

At a minimum, the Proposer(s) should be able to illustrate the following:

- Description of Event:
- Anticipated Date(s) of Event:
- Is this a recurring or one-time event?
- Partners for the Event:
- Impact of the event on the region
- Sustainability & Equity of the Event:
- Anticipated Topline Budget

Qualifications

The Proposer must be an Eligible Entity. The Proposer's account manager and team must have experience working on and implementing small- and large-scale destination and new attractions or events while meeting budget goals and achieving measurable results. The ideal Proposer should be known for their strong reputation in hosting successful events that attract out of state visitors and work in partnership with the tourism industry. Focus on off-season events and increasing hotel occupancy during the event is desirable. The Proposer must be flexible, organized, customer-service oriented and a team player; and be an exceptional event manager with a history of success and strong communication and budgeting/reporting skills.

Entities eligible to respond to this RFP include the following:

1. Cities or other political subdivisions of a State, including special purpose units of State or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions;
2. Regional tourism boards;
3. Public or private non-profit organizations or associations, including community or faith-based non-profit organizations, acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State. However, no religious activities will be funded with this award.

Individuals and for-profit entities are not eligible. No eligible entity may be an Interested Party (as defined at 13 C.F.R. § 300.3).

Project Timeline

The successful Proposer(s) will enter into a contract for services with the Corporation. The duration of the initial contract between the Corporation and the successful Proposer(s) is expected to begin upon the date of contract approval (expected by February 1, 2024) and terminate on March 31, 2025.

Budget

In order to be considered for funding, the Proposer needs to submit a budget covering all costs for the proposed event.

Proposer should include comprehensive pricing and/or rate sheet for all potential activities that it might provide under this RFP should it be selected.

The budget should include all applicable event and operations fees, out-of-pocket expenses, and placement (print, broadcast, digital and social) fees in order to properly market the events. Travel to and from the Corporation offices, and the costs associated with it, will be the responsibility of the Proposer and may be held virtually where appropriate. However, the Corporation reserves the right to adjust both the budget and related activities.

Proposers shall provide a proposed fee structure for providing the proposed events and activities. Proposers shall include a total, fixed, maximum price to complete the activities and events incorporated in the proposal. Fee structure proposals shall include, but are not limited to, costs for specific items from the Scope of Work along with an estimate regarding the duration and number of hours to complete each item. Proposers shall also provide job titles and rates for any subcontractors that the respondent is including in this response. If the Proposer contemplates any purchases or pass-through charges during the engagement, any mark-up rate above actual cost shall be identified as a separate line item in the budget. The Corporation reserves the right to adjust both the budget and related activities.

In addition to showing how a Proposer will meet the requirements outlined in the Scope of Work, it should also provide information regarding the following:

Research & Analytics: Provide an overview of how the Proposer determine success, including, but not limited to, analytic tools or services that it uses, and what type of information it will be reporting back to the Corporation as it relates to meeting the Corporation's objectives. Proposers should define how their analytics can be converted into insights, and how the insights will help guide the Corporation in making decisions on how it markets in the future.

Travel and Administration: In its proposed budget, the Proposer should estimate any travel to the Corporation meetings, monthly meetings (can be done virtually), communication and postage/shipping expenses expected to be incurred during contract period, and any additional reserve funds to be held for marketing contingencies.

EDA PRIOR APPROVAL NECESSARY:

Prior to making any award under this RFP, the Corporation must obtain EDA approval of such award. EDA will review the submitted information and determine whether an award to the Proposer is allowable.

- A. **For non-construction projects.** At a minimum, the Corporation will provide to EDA the following information of the Proposer:
 - a. Name, entity type, and UEI of the Proposer;
 - b. Amount of proposed award to the Proposer; and
 - c. Summary of the scope of work of the Proposer, including the specific services/tasks to be performed and how they relate to the accomplishment of State Tourism Grant objectives.

Criteria for Selection

Designated Corporation staff will evaluate the written proposals according to the Evaluation Criteria outlined in the table below. The Corporation may at any time during the evaluation process seek clarification from Proposers regarding any information contained within their proposal.

Any attempt by a Proposer to contact a member of Corporation staff, in an attempt to gain knowledge or an advantage in the evaluation process, may result in disqualification of Proposer.

In addition to Proposer management, key personnel performing day-to-day activities will be requested to attend the interview.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

	Points
<p>OVERALL EXPERIENCE OF COMPANY & DEMONSTRATED RESULTS Our evaluation will include an assessment of the history of your company, your experience as it relates to the requirements within this RFP, evidence of past performance, quality and relevance of past work, references, and related items.</p>	25
<p>CREATIVITY (if applicable) Our evaluation will include an assessment of the quality of proposed strategies, and creativity.</p>	15
<p>QUALIFICATIONS OF PERSONNEL Our evaluation will include an assessment of the qualifications and experience of your managerial team, staff, subcontractors, and related items.</p>	15
<p>FAMILIARITY WITH RHODE ISLAND’S TOURISM INDUSTRY (if applicable) Our evaluation will include our assessment of your understanding of our organization and Rhode Island’s economic drivers and how you integrated this knowledge into your proposal.</p>	15

STRATEGIC THINKING/PLANNING APPROACH Overall approach and strategy described/outlined in the proposal and firm capacity to perform the engagement within the specified timeframe (prior experience of the firm in meeting timelines will be factored in here)	15
BUDGET APPROACH/COST EFFECTIVENESS Effective and efficient delivery of quality services is demonstrated in relation to the budget allocation. The allocation is reasonable and appropriate.	15
Total	100
MBE/WBE/DisBE Participation (additional potential points)	6 pts

NOTE: Designated Corporation staff or selected advisors will evaluate the written proposals. The Corporation may at any time during the evaluation process seek clarification from Proposers regarding any information contained within their proposal. Final scores for each respondent will reflect a consensus of the evaluations. The highest scores of proposals received will move forward with an award contingent on funding. Any attempt by a Proposer to contact a member of Corporation staff or selected advisors outside the RFP process, in an attempt to gain knowledge or an advantage, may result in disqualification of Proposer.

1. ISBE Participation Evaluation (see below for scoring)

- a. The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation encourages MBE/WBE/DisBE participation in this Request. In accordance with Title 37, Chapter 14.1, and Title 37, Chapter 2.2 of the Rhode Island General laws, the Corporation reserves the right to apply additional consideration to MBE/WBE/DisBE up to six (6) additional points in the scoring evaluation as provided below:
- b. Calculation of ISBE Participation Rate
 - i. ISBE Participation Rate for Non-ISBE Vendors. The ISBE participation rate for non ISBE vendors shall be expressed as a percentage and shall be calculated by dividing the amount of non-ISBE vendor's total contract price that will be subcontracted to ISBEs by the non-ISBE vendor's total contract price. For example, if the non-ISBE's total contract price is \$100,000.00 and it subcontracts a total of \$12,000.00 to ISBEs, the non-ISBE's ISBE participation rate would be 12%.
 - ii. ISBE Participation Rate for ISBE Vendors. The ISBE participation rate for ISBE vendors shall be expressed as a percentage and shall be calculated by dividing the amount of the ISBE vendor's total contract price that will be subcontracted to ISBEs and the amount that will be self-performed by the ISBE vendor by the ISBE vendor's total contract price. For example, if the ISBE vendor's total contract price is \$100,000.00 and it subcontracts a total of \$12,000.00 to ISBEs and will perform a total of \$8,000.00 of the work itself, the ISBE vendor's ISBE participation rate would be 20%.
- c. Points for ISBE Participation Rate:
 - i. The vendor with the highest ISBE participation rate shall receive the maximum ISBE participation points. All other vendors shall receive ISBE participation points by applying the following formula:

(Vendor's ISBE participation rate ÷ Highest ISBE participation rate X Maximum ISBE participation points)

For example, assuming the weight given by the RFP to ISBE participation is 6 points, if Vendor A has the highest ISBE participation rate at 20% and Vendor B's ISBE participation rate is 12%, Vendor A will receive the maximum 6 points and Vendor B will receive $(12\% \div 20\%) \times 6$ which equals 3.6 points.

See Appendix A for information and the MBE, WBE, and/or Disability Business Enterprise Participation Plan form(s). Bidders are required to complete, sign and submit these forms with their overall proposal in a sealed envelope. Please complete separate forms for each MBE, WBE and/or Disability Business Enterprise subcontractor/supplier to be utilized on the solicitation.

Instructions and Notifications to Proposers

1. Potential proposers are advised to review all sections of this RFP carefully and to follow instructions completely, as failure to make a complete submission as described elsewhere herein may result in rejection of the proposal.
2. Alternative approaches and/or methodologies to accomplish the desired or intended results of this procurement are solicited. However, proposals that depart from or materially alter the terms, requirements, or scope of work defined by this RFP will be rejected as being non-responsive.
3. All costs associated with developing or submitting a proposal in response to this RFP, or to provide oral or written clarification of its content, shall be borne by the proposer. The Corporation assumes no responsibility for such costs.
4. Proposals are considered to be irrevocable for a period of not less than 120 days following the date set for submission of proposals.
5. All pricing submitted will be considered to be firm and fixed unless otherwise indicated herein.
6. Proposals that are submitted late, misdirected or sent to the wrong email address will not be accepted.
7. All proposals should identify the proposed team of professionals, including those employed by subcontractors, if any, along with respective areas of expertise and relevant credentials. Proposer should also provide a delineation of the portion of the scope of work for which each of these professionals will be responsible.
8. All proposals should include the proposer's FEIN or Social Security number as evidenced by a W9, downloadable from <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>
9. All proposals should include a completed RFP Response Certification Cover Form, included in this document and available here: <https://commerceri.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/RFP-RESPONSE-CERTIFICATION-COVER-FORM.pdf>
10. The purchase of services under an award made pursuant to this RFP will be contingent on the availability of funds and made at the discretion of the Corporation.
11. Awarding this RFP is based on the Evaluation Criteria set forth in this RFP. Vendors are advised, however, that all materials and ideas submitted as part of this proposal and during the performance of any award shall be the property of and owned by the Corporation, which may use any such materials and ideas.
12. Interested parties are instructed to peruse the Corporation's website (www.commerceri.com) on a regular basis, as additional information relating to this solicitation may be released in the form of an addendum to this RFP. Addenda will also be posted to the Rhode Island State Division of Purchases' website at www.ridop.ri.gov.
13. Equal Employment Opportunity (R.I. Gen. Laws § 28-5.1-1, et seq.) – § 28- 5.1-1 Declaration of policy – (a) Equal opportunity and affirmative action toward its achievement is

the policy of all units of Rhode Island state government, including all public and quasi-public agencies, commissions, boards and authorities, and in the classified, unclassified, and non-classified services of state employment. This policy applies to all areas where State dollars are spent, in employment, public services, grants and financial assistance, and in state licensing and regulation.

14. In accordance with Title 7, Chapter 1.2 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, no corporation organized under the laws of another state or country shall have the right to transact business in Rhode Island until it shall have procured a Certificate of Authority to do so from the Rhode Island Secretary of State (401-222-3040). This is a requirement only of the successful bidder.

15. The Proposer should be aware of the State's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) requirements, which address the State's goal of fifteen percent (15%) participation by MBE's in all procurements, including a minimum of 7.5% participation by minority business enterprises owned and controlled by a minority owner, as defined in Section 37-14.1-3, and a minimum of 7.5% participation by minority business enterprises owned and controlled by a woman... For further information, visit the website www.mbe.ri.gov.

16. The Corporation reserves the right to make an award to one or more Proposers.

Proposal Requirements

In order to be considered responsive, proposals must at a minimum contain the following:

Technical Proposal Elements

1. Description of the proposed approach and work plan. Activities and timelines should be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-oriented. Include a timeline of major tasks and milestones.
2. Person who will be the primary point of contact with the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation.
3. Qualifications of the Proposer to provide the requested services including capability, capacity, similarly complex projects and related experience and client references. Certification of availability of individuals in proposal.
4. A listing of the staff to be assigned to this engagement and their respective qualifications, past experience on engagements of this scope including resumes, and their role in those past engagements.
5. A description of the outcome monitoring and evaluation plan including a list of tools to track process, output and outcome measures for each component of the application.

Proposal Submission

Responses to this RFP must be received as follows:

One (1) electronic (PDF) version must be provided by email to RFP@commerceri.com by **February 23, 2024, 11:59pm**. Submissions that are late, misdirected or sent to the wrong email address will not be accepted.

Note: To ensure transparency, no phone calls pertaining to this RFP will be accepted.

Rhode Island Commerce will hold a pre-bidders' conference on January 23, 2024 from 10:00 -11:00 am hosted on Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81671111762?pwd=UtyRx5e6froQLFqNvn1PqzjIF1H3aK.1> *This is not a mandatory session.*

Questions, interpretations, or clarifications concerning this RFP should be directed by e-mail to RFP@commerceri.com no later than 11:59 pm on **February 2, 2024**. Responses to questions, interpretations, or clarifications concerning this RFP will be posted online via addendum at www.commerceri.com and www.ridop.ri.gov on **February 9, 2024** to ensure equal awareness of important facts and details.

The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation reserves the right to terminate this solicitation prior to entering into any agreement with any qualified firm pursuant to this Request for Proposal, and by responding hereto, no firms are vested with any rights in any way whatsoever.

Rhode Island Commerce Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for not complying with the terms of this RFP.

APPENDIX A

PROPOSER ISBE RESPONSIBILITIES AND MBE, WBE, AND/OR DISABILITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PARTICIPATION FORM

A. Proposer's ISBE Responsibilities (from 150-RICR-90-10-1.7.E)

1. Proposal of ISBE Participation Rate. Unless otherwise indicated in the RFP, a Proposer must submit its proposed ISBE Participation Rate in a sealed envelope or via sealed electronic submission at the time it submits its proposed total contract price. The Proposer shall be responsible for completing and submitting all standard forms adopted pursuant to 105-RICR-90-10-1.9 and submitting all substantiating documentation as reasonably requested by either the Using Agency's MBE/WBE Coordinator, Division, ODEO, or Governor's Commission on Disabilities including but not limited to the names and contact information of all proposed subcontractors and the dollar amounts that correspond with each proposed subcontract.
2. Failure to Submit ISBE Participation Rate. Any Proposer that fails to submit a proposed ISBE Participation Rate or any requested substantiating documentation in a timely manner shall receive zero (0) ISBE participation points.
3. Execution of Proposed ISBE Participation Rate. Proposers shall be evaluated and scored based on the amounts and rates submitted in their proposals. If awarded the contract, Proposers shall be required to achieve their proposed ISBE Participation Rates. During the life of the contract, the Proposer shall be responsible for submitting all substantiating documentation as reasonably requested by the Using Agency's MBE/WBE Coordinator, Division, ODEO, or Governor's Commission on Disabilities including but not limited to copies of purchase orders, subcontracts, and cancelled checks.
4. Change Orders. If during the life of the contract, a change order is issued by the Division, the Proposer shall notify the ODEO of the change as soon as reasonably possible. Proposers are required to achieve their proposed ISBE Participation Rates on any change order amounts.
5. Notice of Change to Proposed ISBE Participation Rate. If during the life of the contract, the Proposer becomes aware that it will be unable to achieve its proposed ISBE Participation Rate, it must notify the Division and ODEO as soon as reasonably possible. The Division, in consultation with ODEO and Governor's Commission on Disabilities, and the Proposer may agree to a modified ISBE Participation Rate provided that the change in circumstances was beyond the control of the Proposer or the direct result of an unanticipated reduction in the overall total project cost.

B. MBE, WBE, AND/OR Disability Business Enterprise Participation Plan Form:

Attached is the MBE, WBE, and/or Disability Business Enterprise Participation Plan form. Bidders are required to complete, sign and submit with their overall proposal in a sealed envelope. Please complete separate forms for each MBE, WBE and/or Disability Business Enterprise subcontractor/supplier to be utilized on the solicitation.

MBE, WBE, and/or DISABILITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PARTICIPATION PLAN

Bidder's Name:

Bidder's Address:

Point of Contact:

Telephone:

Email:

Solicitation No.:

Project Name:

This form is intended to capture commitments between the prime contractor/vendor and MBE/WBE and/or Disability Business Enterprise subcontractors and suppliers, including a description of the work to be performed and the percentage of the work as submitted to the prime contractor/vendor. Please note that all MBE/WBE subcontractors/suppliers must be certified by the Office of Diversity, Equity and Opportunity MBE Compliance Office and all Disability Business Enterprises must be certified by the Governor's Commission on Disabilities at time of bid, and that MBE/WBE and Disability Business Enterprise subcontractors must self-perform 100% of the work or subcontract to another RI certified MBE in order to receive participation credit. Vendors may count 60% of expenditures for materials and supplies obtained from an MBE certified as a regular dealer/supplier, and 100% of such expenditures obtained from an MBE certified as a manufacturer. This form must be completed in its entirety and submitted at time of bid. **Please complete separate forms for each MBE/WBE or Disability Business Enterprise subcontractor/supplier to be utilized on the solicitation.**

Name of Subcontractor/Supplier:					
Type of RI Certification:	<input type="checkbox"/> MBE <input type="checkbox"/> WBE <input type="checkbox"/> Disability Business Enterprise				
Address:					
Point of Contact:					
Telephone:					
Email:					
Detailed Description of Work To Be Performed by Subcontractor or Materials to be Supplied by Supplier:					
Total Contract Value (\$):		Subcontract Value (\$):		ISBE Participation Rate (%):	
Anticipated Date of Performance:					

I certify under penalty of perjury that the forgoing statements are true and correct.

Prime Contractor/Vendor Signature		Title	Date
Subcontractor/Supplier Signature		Title	Date

RFP/RFQ RESPONSE CERTIFICATION COVER FORM

Instruction: To fulfill your RFP/RFQ response, this form must be completed, printed, signed and included with your submission.

SECTION 1 - RESPONDENT INFORMATION

RFP/RFQ Number:

RFP/RFQ Title:

RFP/RFQ Respondent Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

Contact Name:

Contact Title:

Contact Email:

SECTION 2 —DISCLOSURES

RFP/RFQ Respondents must respond to every statement. RFP/RFQ Responses submitted without a complete response may be deemed nonresponsive.

Indicate "Y" (Yes) or "N" (No) for Disclosures 1-4, and if "Yes," provide details below

____ 1. State whether the Respondent, or any officer, director, manager, stockholder, member, partner, or other owner or principal of the Respondent or any parent, subsidiary, or affiliate has been subject to suspension or debarment by any federal, state, or municipal governmental authority, or the subject of criminal prosecution, or convicted of a criminal offense within the previous 5 years. If "Yes," provide details below.

____ 2. State whether the Respondent, or any officer, director, manager, stockholder, member, partner, or other owner or principal of the Respondent or any parent, subsidiary, or affiliate has had any contracts with a federal, state, or municipal governmental authority terminated for any reason within the previous 5 years. If "Yes," provide details below.

____ 3. State whether the Respondent, or any officer, director, manager, stockholder, member, partner, or other owner or principal of the Respondent or any parent, subsidiary, or affiliate has been fined more than \$5000 for violation(s) of any Rhode Island environmental law(s) by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management within the previous 5 years. If "Yes," provide details below.

____ 4. State whether any officer, director, manager, stockholder, member, partner, or other owner or principal of the Respondent is serving or has served within the past two calendar years as either an appointed or elected official of any state governmental authority or quasi-public corporation, including without limitation, any entity created as a legislative body or public or state agency by the general assembly or constitution of this state.

Disclosure details (continue on additional sheets if necessary):

SECTION 3 —OWNERSHIP DISCLOSURE

Respondents must provide all relevant information. Respondent proposals submitted without a complete response may be deemed nonresponsive.

If the Respondent is publicly held, the Respondent may provide owner information about only those stockholders, members, partners, or other owners that hold at least 10% of the record or beneficial equity interests of the Respondent; otherwise, complete ownership disclosure is required.

List each officer, director, manager, stockholder, member, partner, or other owner or principle of the Respondent, and each intermediate parent company and the ultimate parent company of the Respondent. For each individual, provide his or her name, business address, principal occupation, position with the Respondent, and the percentage of ownership, if any, he or she holds in the Respondent, and each intermediate parent company and the ultimate parent company of the Respondent.

SECTION 4 —CERTIFICATIONS

Respondents must respond to every statement. Responses submitted without a complete response may be deemed nonresponsive.

Indicate "Y" (Yes) or "N" (No), and if "No," provide details below.

THE RESPONDENT CERTIFIES THAT:

___ 1. The Respondent will immediately disclose, in writing, to the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation any potential conflict of interest which may occur during the term of any contract awarded pursuant to this solicitation.

___ 2. The Respondent possesses all licenses and anyone who will perform any work will possess all licenses required by applicable federal, state, and local law necessary to perform the requirements of any contract awarded pursuant to this solicitation and will maintain all required licenses during the term of any contract awarded pursuant to this solicitation. In the event that any required license shall lapse or be restricted or suspended, the Respondent shall immediately notify the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation in writing.

___ 3. The Respondent will maintain all required insurance during the term of any contract pursuant to this solicitation. In the event that any required insurance shall lapse or be canceled, the Respondent will immediately notify the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation in writing.

___ 4. The Respondent understands that falsification of any information in its RFP/RFQ response or failure to notify the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation of any changes in any disclosures or certifications in this Respondent Certification may be grounds for suspension, debarment, and/or prosecution for fraud.

___ 5. The Respondent has not paid and will not pay any bonus, commission, fee, gratuity, or other remuneration to any employee or official of the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation or the State of Rhode Island or any subdivision of the State of Rhode Island or other governmental authority for the purpose of obtaining an award of a contract pursuant to this solicitation. The Respondent further certifies that no bonus, commission, fee, gratuity, or other remuneration has been or will be received from any third party or paid to any third party contingent on the award of a contract pursuant to this solicitation.

___ 6. This RFP/RFQ response is not a collusive RFP/RFQ response. Neither the Respondent, nor any of its owners, stockholders, members, partners, principals, directors, managers, officers, employees, or agents has in any way colluded, conspired, or agreed, directly or indirectly, with any other Respondent or person to submit a collusive response to the solicitation or to refrain from submitting response to the solicitation, or has in any manner, directly or indirectly, sought by agreement or collusion or other communication with any other Respondent or person to fix the price or prices in the response or the response of any other Respondent, or to fix any overhead, profit, or cost component of the price in the response or the response of any other Respondent, or to secure through any collusion, conspiracy, or unlawful agreement any advantage against the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation or the State of Rhode Island or any person with an interest in the contract awarded pursuant to this solicitation. The price in the response is fair and proper and is not tainted by any collusion, conspiracy, or unlawful agreement on the part of the Respondent, its owners, stockholders, members, partners, principals, directors, managers, officers, employees, or agents.

___ 7. The Respondent: (i) is not identified on the General Treasurer's list created pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 37-2.5-3 as a person or entity engaging in investment activities in Iran described in § 37-2.5-2(b); and (ii) is not engaging in any such investment activities in Iran.

___ 8. The Respondent will comply with all of the laws that are incorporated into and/or applicable to any contract with the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation.

Certification details (continue on additional sheet if necessary):

Submission by the Respondent of a response pursuant to this solicitation constitutes an offer to contract with the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation on the terms and conditions contained in this solicitation and the response. The Respondent certifies that: (1) the Respondent has reviewed this solicitation and agrees to comply with its terms and conditions; (2) the response is based on this solicitation; and (3) the information submitted in the response (including this Respondent Certification Cover Form) is accurate and complete. The Respondent acknowledges that the terms and conditions of this solicitation and the response will be incorporated into any contract awarded to the Respondent pursuant to this solicitation and the response. The person signing below represents, under penalty of perjury, that he or she is fully informed regarding the preparation and contents of this response and has been duly authorized to execute and submit this response on behalf of the Respondent.

RESPONDENT

Date: _____

Name of Respondent

Signature in ink

Printed name and title of person signing on behalf of Respondent