

**Appendix A**  
**Standard Terms and Conditions For Services Contracts**

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**1. No Quantity Guarantees**

The Contract is not exclusive to the Vendor. Customers may obtain services from other sources during the term of the Contract. DIR makes no express or implied warranties whatsoever that any particular quantity or dollar amount of services will be procured through the Contract.

**2. Definitions**

**A. Customer** - any Texas state agency, unit of local government, institution of higher education as defined in Section 2054.003, Texas Government Code, and those state agencies purchasing from a DIR contract through an Interagency Agreement, as authorized by Chapter 771, Texas Government Code, any local government as authorized through the Interlocal Cooperation Act, Chapter 791, Texas Government Code, the state agencies and political subdivisions of other states as authorized by Section 2054.0565, Texas Government Code, and, except for telecommunications services under Chapter 2170, Texas Government Code, assistance organizations as defined in Section 2175.001, Texas Government Code to mean:

- i. A non-profit organization that provides educational, health or human services or assistance to homeless individuals;
- ii. A nonprofit food bank that solicits, warehouses, and redistributes edible but unmarketable food to an agency that feeds needy families and individuals;
- iii. Texas Partners of the Americas, a registered agency with the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid, with the approval of the Partners of the Alliance Office of the Agency for International Development;
- iv. A group, including a faith-based group, that enters into a financial or non-financial agreement with a health or human services agency to provide services to that agency's clients;
- v. A local workforce development board created under Section 2308.253;
- vi. A nonprofit organization approved by the Supreme Court of Texas that provides free legal services for low-income households in civil matters;
- vii. The Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation, Inc., or an entity designated by the commissioner of agriculture as the foundation's successor entity under Section 74.1011, Texas Agriculture Code;
- viii. A nonprofit computer bank that solicits, stores, refurbishes and redistributes used computer equipment to public school students and their families; and
- ix. A nonprofit organization that provides affordable housing.

**B. Contract** – the document executed between DIR and Vendor into which this Appendix A is incorporated.

**C. CPA** – refers to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

**D. Day** - shall mean business days, Monday through Friday, except for State and Federal holidays. If the Contract calls for performance on a day that is not a business day, then performance is intended to occur on the next business day.

**E. Purchase Order** - the Customer's fiscal form or format, which is used when making a purchase (e.g., formal written Purchase Order, Procurement Card, Electronic Purchase Order, or other authorized instrument).

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**F. State** – refers to the State of Texas.

**3. General Provisions**

**A. Entire Agreement**

The Contract and its Appendices constitute the entire agreement between DIR and the Vendor. No statement, promise, condition, understanding, inducement or representation, oral or written, expressed or implied, which is not contained in the Contract or its Appendices shall be binding or valid.

**B. Modification of Contract Terms and/or Amendments**

1) The terms and conditions of the Contract shall govern all transactions by Customers under the Contract. The Contract may only be modified or amended upon mutual written agreement of DIR and Vendor.

2) Customers shall not have the authority to modify the terms of the Contract; however, additional Customer terms and conditions that do not conflict with the Contract and are acceptable to Vendor may be added in a Purchase Order and given effect. No additional term or condition added in a Purchase Order issued by a Customer can weaken a term or condition of the Contract. Pre-printed terms and conditions on any Purchase Order issued by Customer hereunder will have no force and effect. In the event of a conflict between a Customer's Purchase Order and the Contract, the Contract term shall control.

**C. Invalid Term or Condition**

1) To the extent any term or condition in the Contract conflicts with the applicable Texas and/or United States law or regulation, such Contract term or condition is void and unenforceable. By executing a contract which contains the conflicting term or condition, DIR makes no representations or warranties regarding the enforceability of such term or condition and DIR does not waive the applicable Texas and/or United States law or regulation which conflicts with the Contract term or condition.

2) If one or more term or condition in the Contract, or the application of any term or condition to any party or circumstance, is held invalid, unenforceable, or illegal in any respect by a final judgment or order of the State Office of Administrative Hearings or a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Contract and the application of the term or condition to other parties or circumstances shall remain valid and in full force and effect.

**D. Assignment**

DIR or Vendor may assign the Contract without prior written approval to: i) a successor in interest (for DIR, another state agency as designated by the Texas Legislature), or ii) a subsidiary, parent company or affiliate, or iii) as necessary to satisfy a regulatory requirement imposed upon a party by a governing body with the appropriate authority. Assignment of the Contract under the above terms shall require written notification by the assigning party. Any other assignment by a party shall require the written consent of the other party. Each party agrees to cooperate to amend the Contract as necessary to maintain an accurate record of the contracting parties.

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**E. Survival**

All applicable service agreements that were entered into between Vendor and a Customer under the terms and conditions of the Contract shall survive the expiration or termination of the Contract. All Purchase Orders issued and accepted by Vendor shall survive expiration or termination of the Contract.

**F. Choice of Law**

The laws of the State of Texas shall govern the construction and interpretation of the Contract. Nothing in the Contract or its Appendices shall be construed to waive the State's sovereign immunity.

**4. Contract Fulfillment and Promotion**

**A. Service, Sales and Support of the Contract**

Vendor shall provide service, sales and support resources to serve all Customers throughout the State. It is the responsibility of the Vendor to sell, market, and promote services available under the Contract. Vendor shall use its best efforts to ensure that potential Customers are made aware of the existence of the Contract. All sales to Customers for services available under the Contract shall be processed through the Contract.

**B. Internet Access to Contract and Pricing Information**

**1) Vendor Website**

Within thirty (30) days from the effective date of the Contract, Vendor will establish and maintain a website specific to the service offerings under the Contract which is clearly distinguishable from other, non-DIR Contract offerings at Vendor's website. The website must include: the services offered, service specifications, Contract pricing, contact information for Vendor, instructions for obtaining quotes and placing Purchase Orders. The Vendor's website shall list the DIR Contract number, reference the DIR Go DIRect program, display the DIR logo in accordance with the requirements in paragraph D of this Section, and contain a link to the DIR website for the Contract.

**2) Accurate and Timely Contract Information**

Vendor warrants and represents that the website information specified in the above paragraph will be accurately and completely posted, maintained and displayed in an objective and timely manner. Vendor, at its own expense, shall correct any non-conforming or inaccurate information posted at Vendor's website within ten (10) business days after written notification by DIR.

**3) Website Compliance Checks**

Periodic compliance checks of the information posted for the Contract on Vendor's website will be conducted by DIR. Upon request by DIR, Vendor shall provide verifiable documentation that pricing listed upon this website is uniform with the pricing as stated within Section 4 of the Contract.

**4) Website Changes**

Vendor hereby consents to a link from the DIR website to Vendor's website in order to facilitate access to Contract information. The establishment of the link is provided

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solely for convenience in carrying out the business operations of the State. DIR reserves the right to terminate or remove a link at any time, in its sole discretion, without advance notice, or to deny a future request for a link. DIR will provide Vendor with subsequent notice of link termination or removal. Vendor shall provide DIR with timely written notice of any change in URL or other information needed to access the site and/or maintain the link.

#### **5) Use of Access Data Prohibited**

If Vendor stores, collects or maintains data electronically as a condition of accessing Contract information, such data shall only be used internally by Vendor for the purpose of implementing or marketing the Contract, and shall not be disseminated to third parties or used for other marketing purposes. The Contract constitutes a public document under the laws of the State and Vendor shall not restrict access to Contract terms and conditions including pricing, i.e., through use of restrictive technology or passwords.

#### **6) Responsibility for Content**

Vendor is solely responsible for administration, content, intellectual property rights, and all materials at Vendor's website. DIR reserves the right to require a change of listed content if, in the opinion of DIR, it does not adequately represent the Contract.

### **C. DIR Logo**

Vendor may use the DIR logo in the promotion of the Contract to Customers with the following stipulations: (i) the logo may not be modified in any way, (ii) when displayed, the size of the DIR logo must be equal to or smaller than the Vendor logo, (iii) the DIR logo is only used to communicate the availability of services under the Contract to Customers, and (iv) any other use of the DIR logo requires prior written permission from DIR.

### **D. Vendor Logo**

DIR may use the Vendor's name and logo in the promotion of the Contract to communicate the availability of services under the Contract to Customers. Use of the logos may be on the DIR website or on printed materials. Any use of Vendor's logo by DIR must comply with and be solely related to the purposes of the Contract and any usage guidelines communicated to DIR from time to time. Nothing contained in the Contract will give DIR any right, title, or interest in or to Vendor's trademarks or the goodwill associated therewith, except for the limited usage rights expressly provided by Vendor.

### **E. Trade Show Participation**

At DIR's discretion, Vendor may be required to participate in one or more DIR sponsored trade shows each calendar year. Vendor understands and agrees that participation, at the Vendor's expense, includes providing a manned booth display or similar presence. DIR will provide four months advance notice of any required participation. Vendor must display the DIR logo at all trade shows that potential Customers will attend. DIR reserves the right to approve or disapprove of the location or the use of the DIR logo in or on the Vendor's booth.

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**F. Performance Review Meetings**

DIR will require the Vendor to attend periodic meetings to review the Vendor's performance under the Contract. The meetings will be held within the Austin, Texas area at a date and time mutually acceptable to DIR and the Vendor. DIR shall bear no cost for the time and travel of the Vendor for attendance at the meeting.

**G. DIR Cost Avoidance**

As part of the performance measures reported to state leadership, DIR must provide the cost avoidance the State has achieved through the Contract. Upon request by DIR, Vendor shall provide DIR with a detailed report of a representative sample of service sold under the Contract. The report shall contain: service description, list price, price to Customer under the Contract, and pricing from three (3) alternative sources under which DIR customers can procure the services.

**5. Purchase Orders, Invoices, and Payments**

**A. Purchase Orders**

All Customer Purchase Orders will be placed directly with the Vendor. Accurate Purchase Orders shall be effective and binding upon Vendor when accepted by Vendor.

**B. Invoices**

1) Invoices shall be submitted by the Vendor directly to the Customer and shall be issued in compliance with Chapter 2251, Texas Government Code. All payments for services purchased under the Contract and any provision of acceptance of such services shall be made by the Customer to the Vendor.

2) Invoices must be timely and accurate. Each invoice must match Customer's Purchase Order and include any written changes that may apply, as it relates to services, prices and quantities. Invoices must include the Customer's Purchase Order number or other pertinent information for verification of receipt of the services by the Customer.

**C. Payments**

Customers shall comply with Chapter 2251, Texas Government Code, in making payments to Vendor. Payment under the Contract shall not foreclose the right to recover wrongful payments.

**6. Contract Administration**

**A. Contract Administrators**

DIR and the Vendor will each provide a Contract Administrator to support the Contract. Information regarding the Contract Administrators will be posted on the Internet website designated for the Contract.

**1) State Contract Administrator**

DIR shall provide a Contract Administrator whose duties shall include but not be limited to: i) supporting the marketing and management of the Contract, ii) advising DIR of Vendor's performance under the terms and conditions of the Contract, and iii)

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periodic verification of pricing and monthly reports submitted by Vendor.

**2) Vendor Contract Administrator**

Vendor shall provide a dedicated Contract Administrator whose duties shall include but not be limited to: i) supporting the marketing and management of the Contract, ii) facilitating dispute resolution between Vendor and a Customer, and iii) advising DIR of Vendor's performance under the terms and conditions of the Contract. DIR reserves the right to require a change in Vendor's then-current Contract Administrator if the assigned Contract Administrator is not, in the opinion of DIR, adequately serving the needs of the State.

**B. Reporting and Administrative Fees**

**1) Reporting Responsibility**

a) Vendor shall be responsible for reporting all services purchased under the Contract. Vendor shall file the monthly reports, subcontract reports, and pay the administrative fees in accordance with the due dates specified in this section.

b) DIR shall have the right to verify required reports and to take any actions necessary to enforce its rights under this section, including but not limited to, compliance checks of Vendor's applicable Contract books at DIR's expense.

**2) Detailed Monthly Report**

Vendor shall electronically provide DIR with a detailed monthly report in the format required by DIR showing the dollar volume of any and all sales under the Contract for the previous month period. Reports shall be submitted to the DIR Go DIRect Coordinator. Reports are due on the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) calendar day after the close of the previous month period. The monthly report shall include, per transaction: the detailed sales for the period, Customer name, invoice date, invoice number, description, quantity, unit price, extended price, Customer Purchase Order number, contact name, Customer's complete billing address, and other information as required by DIR. Each report must contain all information listed above per transaction or the report will be rejected and returned to the Vendor for correction in accordance with this section.

**3) Historically Underutilized Businesses Subcontract Reports**

a) Vendor shall electronically provide each Customer with their relevant Historically Underutilized Business Subcontracting Report, pursuant to the Contract, as required by Chapter 2161, Texas Government Code. Reports shall also be submitted to DIR.

b) Reports shall be due in accordance with the CPA rules.

**4) DIR Administrative Fee**

a) An administrative fee shall be paid by Vendor to DIR to defray the DIR costs of negotiating, executing, and administering the Contract. The administrative fee shall be specified in the Contract. Payment of the administrative fee shall be due on the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) calendar day after the close of the previous month period.

b) Vendor shall reference the DIR Contract number on any remittance instruments.

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**5) Accurate and Timely Submission of Reports**

a) The reports and administrative fees shall be accurate and timely and submitted in accordance with the due dates specified in this section. Vendor shall correct any inaccurate reports or administrative fee payments within three (3) business days upon written notification by DIR. Vendor shall deliver any late reports or late administrative fee payments within three (3) business days upon written notification by DIR. If Vendor is unable to correct inaccurate reports or administrative fee payments or deliver late reports and fee payments within three (3) business days, Vendor must contact DIR and provide a corrective plan of action, including the timeline for completion of correction. The corrective plan of action shall be subject to DIR approval.

b) Should Vendor fail to correct inaccurate reports or cure the delay in timely delivery of reports and payments within the corrective plan of action timeline, DIR reserves the right to require an independent third party audit of the Vendor's records as specified in C.3 of this Section, at DIR's expense.

**C. Records and Audit**

1) Acceptance of funds under the Contract by Vendor acts as acceptance of the authority of the State Auditor's Office, or any successor agency, to conduct an audit or investigation in connection with those funds. Vendor further agrees to cooperate fully with the State Auditor's Office or its successor in the conduct of the audit or investigation, including providing all records requested. Vendor will ensure that this clause concerning the authority to audit funds received indirectly by subcontractors through Vendor and the requirement to cooperate is included in any subcontract it awards pertaining to the Contract. Under the direction of the Legislative Audit Committee, a Vendor that is the subject of an audit or investigation by the State Auditor's Office must provide the State Auditor's Office with access to any information the State Auditor's Office considers relevant to the investigation or audit.

2) Vendor shall maintain adequate records to establish compliance with the Contract until the later of a period of four (4) years after termination of the Contract or until full, final and unappealable resolution of all Compliance Check or litigation issues that arise under the Contract. Such records shall include per transaction: Customer name, invoice date, invoice number, description, quantity, unit price, extended price, Customer Purchase Order number, contact name, Customer's complete billing address, the calculations supporting each administrative fee owed DIR under the Contract, Historically Underutilized Businesses Subcontracting reports, and such other documentation as DIR may request.

3) Vendor shall grant access to all paper and electronic records, books, documents, accounting procedures, practices and any other items relevant to the performance of the Contract to DIR, including the compliance checks designated by DIR, the State Auditor's Office and of the United States, and such other persons or entities designated by DIR for the purposes of inspecting, Compliance Checking and/or copying such books and records. Vendor shall provide copies and printouts requested by DIR without charge. DIR shall provide Vendor ten (10) business days' notice prior to inspecting, Compliance Checking, and/or copying Vendor's records.

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Vendor's records, whether paper or electronic, shall be made available during regular office hours. Vendor personnel familiar with the Vendor's books and records shall be available to DIR staff and designees as needed. Vendor shall provide adequate office space to DIR staff during the performance of Compliance Check.

4) For procuring State Agencies whose payments are processed by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, the volume of payments made to Vendor through the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts and the administrative fee based thereon shall be presumed correct unless Vendor can demonstrate to DIR's satisfaction that Vendor's calculation of DIR's administrative fee is correct.

**D. Contract Administration Notification**

1) Upon execution of the Contract, Vendor shall provide DIR with written notification of the following: i) Vendor Contract Administrator name and contact information, ii) Vendor sales representative name and contact information, and iii) name and contact information of Vendor personnel responsible for submitting reports and payment of administrative fees.

2) Upon execution of the Contract, DIR shall provide Vendor with written notification of the following: i) DIR Contract Administrator name and contact information, and ii) DIR Go DIRECT Coordinator name and contact information.

**7. Vendor Responsibilities**

**A. Indemnification**

**1) INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR**

**VENDOR AGREES AND ACKNOWLEDGES THAT DURING THE EXISTENCE OF THIS CONTRACT, IT IS FURNISHING SERVICES IN THE CAPACITY OF AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR AND THAT VENDOR IS NOT AN EMPLOYEE OF THE CUSTOMER, DIR OR THE STATE OF TEXAS.**

**2) Acts or Omissions**

Vendor shall indemnify and hold harmless the State of Texas and Customers, AND/OR THEIR EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, REPRESENTATIVES, CONTRACTORS, ASSIGNEES, AND/OR DESIGNEES FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY, ACTIONS, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, OR SUITS, AND ALL RELATED COSTS, ATTORNEY FEES, AND EXPENSES arising out of, or resulting from any acts or omissions of the Vendor or its agents, employees, subcontractors, Order Fulfillers, or suppliers of subcontractors in the execution or performance of the Contract and any Purchase Orders issued under the Contract REGARDLESS OF THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE CUSTOMER, THE STATE OF TEXAS AND/OR THEIR EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, REPRESENTATIVES, CONTRACTORS, ASSIGNEES, AND/OR DESIGNEES. VENDOR SHALL PAY ALL COSTS OF DEFENSE INCLUDING ATTORNEYS FEES. THE DEFENSE SHALL BE COORDINATED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR

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TEXAS STATE AGENCY CUSTOMERS AND BY CUSTOMER'S LEGAL COUNSEL FOR NON-STATE AGENCY CUSTOMERS.

**3) Infringements**

a) Vendor shall indemnify and hold harmless the State of Texas and Customers, AND/OR THEIR EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, REPRESENTATIVES, CONTRACTORS, ASSIGNEES, AND/OR DESIGNEES from any and all third party claims involving infringement of United States patents, copyrights, trade and service marks, and any other intellectual or intangible property rights in connection with the PERFORMANCES OR ACTIONS OF VENDOR PURSUANT TO THIS CONTRACT. VENDOR AND THE CUSTOMER AGREE TO FURNISH TIMELY WRITTEN NOTICE TO EACH OTHER OF ANY SUCH CLAIM. VENDOR SHALL BE LIABLE TO PAY ALL COSTS OF DEFENSE INCLUDING ATTORNEYS' FEES. THE DEFENSE SHALL BE COORDINATED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR TEXAS STATE AGENCY CUSTOMERS AND BY CUSTOMER'S LEGAL COUNSEL FOR NON-STATE AGENCY CUSTOMERS.

b) If Vendor becomes aware of an actual or potential claim, or Customer provides Vendor with notice of an actual or potential claim, Vendor may (or in the case of an injunction against Customer, shall), at Vendor's sole option and expense: (i) procure for the Customer the right to continue to use the affected portion of the product or service, or (ii) modify or replace the affected portion of the product or service with functionally equivalent or superior product or service so that Customer's use is non-infringing.

**4) PROPERTY DAMAGE**

IN THE EVENT OF LOSS, DAMAGE, OR DESTRUCTION OF ANY PROPERTY OF CUSTOMER OR THE STATE DUE TO THE NEGLIGENCE, MISCONDUCT, WRONGFUL ACT OR OMISSION ON THE PART OF THE VENDOR, ITS EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, REPRESENTATIVES, OR SUBCONTRACTORS, THE VENDOR SHALL PAY THE FULL COST OF EITHER REPAIR, RECONSTRUCTION, OR REPLACEMENT OF THE PROPERTY, AT THE CUSTOMER'S SOLE ELECTION. SUCH COST SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE CUSTOMER AND SHALL BE DUE AND PAYABLE BY THE VENDOR NINETY (90) CALENDAR DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THE VENDORS RECEIPT FROM THE CUSTOMER OF A WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE AMOUNT DUE.

**B. Taxes/Worker's Compensation/UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**

1) VENDOR AGREES AND ACKNOWLEDGES THAT DURING THE EXISTENCE OF THIS CONTRACT, VENDOR SHALL BE ENTIRELY

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RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LIABILITY AND PAYMENT OF VENDOR'S AND VENDOR'S EMPLOYEES' TAXES OF WHATEVER KIND, ARISING OUT OF THE PERFORMANCES IN THIS CONTRACT. VENDOR AGREES TO COMPLY WITH ALL STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS APPLICABLE TO ANY SUCH PERSONS, INCLUDING LAWS REGARDING WAGES, TAXES, INSURANCE, AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION. VENDOR AGREES AND ACKNOWLEDGES THAT VENDOR ITS EMPLOYEES, REPRESENTATIVES, AGENTS OR SUBCONTRACTORS SHALL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY STATE BENEFIT OR BENEFIT OF ANOTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY CUSTOMER. THE CUSTOMER AND/OR THE STATE SHALL NOT BE LIABLE TO THE VENDOR ITS EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, OR OTHERS FOR THE PAYMENT OF TAXES OR THE PROVISION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND/OR WORKERS' COMPENSATION OR ANY BENEFIT AVAILABLE TO A STATE EMPLOYEE OR EMPLOYEE OF ANOTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY CUSTOMER.

2) VENDOR AGREES TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS CUSTOMERS, THE STATE OF TEXAS AND/OR THEIR EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, REPRESENTATIVES, CONTRACTORS, ASSIGNEES, AND/OR DESIGNEES FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY, ACTIONS, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, OR SUITS, AND ALL RELATED COSTS, ATTORNEY FEES, AND EXPENSES, RELATING TO TAX LIABILITY, UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND/OR WORKERS' COMPENSATION OR EXPECTATIONS OF BENEFITS BY VENDOR, ITS EMPLOYEES, REPRESENTATIVES, AGENTS OR SUBCONTRACTORS IN ITS PERFORMANCE UNDER THIS CONTRACT. VENDOR SHALL BE LIABLE TO PAY ALL COSTS OF DEFENSE INCLUDING ATTORNEYS' FEES. THE DEFENSE SHALL BE COORDINATED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR TEXAS STATE AGENCY CUSTOMERS AND BY CUSTOMER'S LEGAL COUNSEL FOR NON-STATE AGENCY CUSTOMERS.

**C. Vendor Certifications**

Vendor certifies that it: (i) has not given, offered to give, and does not intend 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 Contract, (ii) is not currently delinquent in the payment of any franchise tax owed the State of Texas and is not ineligible to receive payment under §231.006 of the Texas Family Code and acknowledge the Contract may be terminated and payment withheld if this certification is inaccurate, (iii) neither they, nor anyone acting for them, have violated the antitrust laws of the United States or the State of Texas, nor communicated directly or indirectly to any competitor or any other person engaged in such line of business for the purpose of obtaining an unfair price advantage, (iv) has not received payment from DIR or any of its employees for participating in the preparation of the Contract, (v) under Section 2155.004, Texas Government Code, the vendor certifies that the individual or business entity named in this bid or contract is not ineligible to receive the specified contract and acknowledges that this contract may be terminated and

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payment withheld if this certification is inaccurate, (vi) to the best of their knowledge and belief, there are no suits or proceedings pending or threatened against or affecting them, which if determined adversely to them will have a material adverse effect on the ability to fulfill their obligations under the Contract, (vii) are not suspended or debarred from doing business with the federal government as listed in the *Excluded Parties List System (EPLS)* maintained by the General Services Administration, and (viii) as of the effective date of the Contract, are not listed in the prohibited vendors list authorized by Executive Order #13224, "*Blocking Property and Prohibiting Transactions with Persons Who Commit, Threaten to Commit, or Support Terrorism*", published by the United States Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control. In addition, Vendor acknowledges the applicability of §2155.444 and §2155.4441, Texas Government Code, in fulfilling the terms of the Contract.

**D. Ability to Conduct Business in Texas**

Vendor shall be an entity authorized and validly existing under the laws of its state of organization, and shall be authorized to do business in the State of Texas.

**E. Equal Opportunity Compliance**

Vendor agrees to abide by all applicable laws, regulations, and executive orders pertaining to equal employment opportunity, including federal laws and the laws of the State in which its primary place of business is located. In accordance with such laws, regulations, and executive orders, the Vendor agrees that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, veteran status or handicap, be excluded from employment with or participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity performed by Vendor under the Contract. If Vendor is found to be not in compliance with these requirements during the term of the Contract, Vendor agrees to take appropriate steps to correct these deficiencies. Upon request, Vendor will furnish information regarding its nondiscriminatory hiring and promotion policies, as well as specific information on the composition of its principals and staff, including the identification of minorities and women in management or other positions with discretionary or decision-making authority.

**F. Use of Subcontractors**

If Vendor uses any subcontractors in the performance of this Contract, Vendor must make a good faith effort in the submission of its Subcontracting Plan in accordance with the State's Policy on Utilization of Historically Underutilized Businesses. A revised Subcontracting Plan shall be required before Vendor can engage additional subcontractors in the performance of this Contract. Vendor shall remain solely responsible for the performance of its obligations under the Contract.

**G. Responsibility for Actions**

Vendor is solely responsible for its actions and those of its agents, employees, or subcontractors, and agrees that neither Vendor nor any of the foregoing has any authority to act or speak on behalf of DIR or the State.

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**H. Confidentiality**

- 1) Vendor acknowledges that DIR is a government agency subject to the Texas Public Information Act. Vendor also acknowledges that DIR will comply with the Public Information Act, and with all opinions of the Texas Attorney General's office concerning this Act.
- 2) Under the terms of the Contract, DIR may provide Vendor with information related to Customers. Vendor shall not re-sell or otherwise distribute or release Customer information to any party in any manner.

**I. Security of Premises, Equipment, Data and Personnel**

Vendor may, from time to time during the performance of the Contract, have access to the personnel, premises, equipment, and other property, including data, files and /or materials (collectively referred to as "Data") belonging to the Customer. Vendor shall use their best efforts to preserve the safety, security, and the integrity of the personnel, premises, equipment, Data and other property of the Customer, in accordance with the instruction of the Customer. Vendor shall be responsible for damage to Customer's equipment, workplace, and its contents when such damage is caused by its employees or subcontractors.

**J. Background and/or Criminal History Investigation**

Prior to commencement of any services, background and/or criminal history investigation of the Vendor's employees and subcontractors who will be providing services to the Customer under the Contract may be performed by certain Customers having legislative authority to require such investigations. Should any employee or subcontractor of the Vendor who will be providing services to the Customer under the Contract not be acceptable to the Customer as a result of the background and/or criminal history check, then Customer may immediately terminate its Purchase Order and related Service Agreement or request replacement of the employee or subcontractor in question.

**K. Limitation of Liability**

For any claim or cause of action arising under or related to the Contract: i) none of the parties shall be liable to the other for punitive, special, or consequential damages, even if it is advised of the possibility of such damages; and ii) Vendor's liability for damages of any kind to the Customer shall be limited to the total amount paid to Vendor under the Contract during the twelve months immediately preceding the accrual of the claim or cause of action.

**L. Purchase of Commodity Items (Applicable to State Agency Purchases Only)**

- 1) Texas Government Code, §2157.068 requires State agencies to buy commodity items, as defined in 7.L.2 below, in accordance with contracts developed by DIR, unless the agency obtains an exemption from DIR.
- 2) Commodity items are commercially available software, hardware and technology services that are generally available to businesses or the public and for which DIR determines that a reasonable demand exists in two or more state agencies. Hardware is the physical technology used to process, manage, store, transmit, receive or deliver information. Software is the commercially available programs that operate hardware

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and includes all supporting documentation, media on which the software may be contained or stored, related materials, modifications, versions, upgrades, enhancements, updates or replacements. Technology services are the services, functions and activities that facilitate the design, implementation, creation, or use of software or hardware. Technology services include seat management, staffing augmentation, training, maintenance and subscription services. Technology services do not include telecommunications services. Seat management is services through which a state agency transfers its responsibilities to a vendor to manage its personal computing needs, including all necessary hardware, software and technology services.

3) Vendor agrees to coordinate all State agency commodity item sales through existing DIR contracts. Institutions of higher education are exempt from Subsection 7.L.

**M. Overcharges**

Vendor hereby assigns to DIR any and all of its claims for overcharges associated with this contract which arise under the antitrust laws of the United States, 15 U.S.C.A. Section 1, et seq., and which arise under the antitrust laws of the State of Texas, Tex. Bus. and Comm. Code Section 15.01, et seq.

**N. Prohibited Conduct**

Vendor represents and warrants that, to the best of its knowledge as of the date of this certification, neither Vendor nor any Order Fulfiller, subcontractor, firm, corporation, partnership, or institution represented by Vendor, nor anyone acting for such Order Fulfiller, subcontractor, firm, corporation or institution has: (1) violated the antitrust laws of the State of Texas under Texas Business & Commerce Code, Chapter 15, or the federal antitrust laws; or (2) communicated its response to the Request for Offer directly or indirectly to any competitor or any other person engaged in such line of business during the procurement for the Contract.

**8. Contract Enforcement**

**A. Enforcement of Contract and Dispute Resolution**

1) Vendor and DIR agree to the following: (i) a party's failure to require strict performance of any provision of the Contract shall not waive or diminish that party's right thereafter to demand strict compliance with that or any other provision, (ii) for disputes not resolved in the normal course of business, the dispute resolution process provided for in Chapter 2260, Texas Government Code, shall be used, and (iii) actions or proceedings arising from the Contract shall be heard in a state court of competent jurisdiction in Travis County, Texas.

2) Disputes arising between a Customer and the Vendor shall be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution process of the Customer that is not inconsistent with subparagraph A.1 above. DIR shall not be a party to any such dispute unless DIR, Customer, and Vendor agree in writing.

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**B. Termination**

**1) Termination for Non-Appropriation**

Customer may terminate Purchase Orders if funds sufficient to pay its obligations under the Contract are not appropriated by the governing body on behalf of local governments, or by the Texas legislature on behalf of state agencies. In the event of non-appropriation, Vendor will be provided ten (10) calendar days written notice of intent to terminate. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a Customer issues a Purchase Order and has accepted delivery of the services, they are obligated to pay for those services.

**2) Absolute Right**

DIR shall have the absolute right to terminate the Contract without recourse in the event that: i) Vendor becomes listed on the prohibited vendors list authorized by Executive Order #13224, "*Blocking Property and Prohibiting Transactions with Persons Who Commit, Threaten to Commit, or Support Terrorism*", published by the United States Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control, or ii) Vendor becomes suspended or debarred from doing business with the federal government as listed in the *Excluded Parties List System (EPLS)* maintained by the General Services Administration. Vendor shall be provided written notice in accordance with Section 9.A, Notices, of intent to terminate.

**3) Termination for Convenience**

DIR or Vendor may terminate the Contract, in whole or in part, by giving the other party thirty (30) calendar days written notice. A Customer may terminate a Purchase Order if it is determined by the Customer that Vendor will not be able to deliver services in a timely manner to meet the business needs of the Customer.

**4) Termination for Cause**

**a) Contract**

Either DIR or Vendor may issue a written notice of default to the other upon the occurrence of a material breach of any covenant, warranty or provision of the Contract. The non-defaulting party shall give the defaulting party thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of notice to cure said default. If the defaulting party fails to cure said default within the timeframe allowed, the non-defaulting party may, at its option and in addition to any other remedies it may have available, cancel and terminate the Contract. Customers purchasing services under the Contract have no power to terminate the Contract for default.

**b) Purchase Order**

Customer or Vendor may terminate a Purchase Order upon the occurrence of a material breach of any term or condition: (i) of the Contract, or (ii) included in the Purchase Order in accordance with Section 3.B.2 above. The non-defaulting party shall give the defaulting party thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of notice to cure said default. If the defaulting party fails to cure said default within the timeframe allowed, the non-defaulting party may, at its option and in addition to any other remedies it may have available, cancel and terminate the Purchase Order.

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**5) Customer Rights Under Termination**

In the event the Contract expires or is terminated for any reason, a Customer shall retain its rights under the Contract and the Purchase Order issued with respect to all services ordered and accepted prior to the effective termination date.

**6) Vendor Rights Under Termination**

In the event a Purchase Order is terminated or the Contract expires or is terminated for any reason, a Customer shall pay all amounts due for services ordered prior to the effective termination date and ultimately accepted.

**C. Force Majeure**

DIR, Customer, or Vendor may be excused from performance under the Contract for any period when performance is prevented as the result of an act of God, strike, war, civil disturbance, epidemic, or court order, provided that the party experiencing the event of Force Majeure has prudently and promptly acted to take any and all steps that are within the party's control to ensure performance and to shorten the duration of the event of Force Majeure. The party suffering an event of Force Majeure shall provide notice of the event to the other parties when commercially reasonable. Subject to this provision, such non-performance shall not be deemed a default or a ground for termination. However, a Customer may terminate a Purchase Order if it is determined by the Customer that Vendor will not be able to deliver services in a timely manner to meet the business needs of the Customer.

**9. Notification**

**A. Notices**

All notices, demands, designations, certificates, requests, offers, consents, approvals and other instruments given pursuant to the Contract shall be in writing and shall be validly given on: (i) the date of delivery if delivered by email, facsimile transmission, mailed by registered or certified mail, or hand delivered, or (ii) three business days after being mailed via United States Postal Service. All notices under the Contract shall be sent to a party at the respective address indicated in Section 6 of the Contract or to such other address as such party shall have notified the other party in writing.

**B. Handling of Written Complaints**

In addition to other remedies contained in the Contract, a person contracting with DIR may direct their written complaints to the following office:

Public Information Office  
Department of Information Resources  
Attn: Public Information Officer  
300 W. 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1300  
Austin, Texas 78701  
(512) 475-4759, facsimile.

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**10. Captions**

The captions contained in the Contract and its Appendices are intended for convenience and reference purposes only and shall in no way be deemed to define or limit any provision thereof