

**ANDROSCOGGIN TRANSPORTATION RESOURCE CENTER  
(ATRC)  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
FOR  
INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PLAN**

The Androscoggin Transportation Resource Center (ATRC), as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the urbanized area of Lewiston-Auburn, Maine, is seeking the services of qualified consulting firm(s) to prepare an Intelligent Transportation System Plan and Traffic Signal Master Plan for the municipalities of Lewiston, Auburn, Lisbon, and Sabattus.

**1. PROPOSALS ARE TO BE RECEIVED AT ATRC/AVCOG NO LATER THAN:**

Date Due: January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Local Time: **10:00 a.m.**

**Proposals must be received prior to the time and date for which they are due.**

**Late Proposals.** Any proposal, portion of a proposal, or unrequested proposal revision received at ATRC/AVCOG after the time and date specified on the cover page of this RFP **will not** be accepted.

**2. COMMUNICATIONS IN REFERENCE TO THIS RFP**

Any communication in reference to this RFP shall be in writing by fax or email and directed to the RFP Coordinator listed below. All correspondence must reference the RFP and Project name in the subject line.

Jason Ready, PE  
ATRC  
125 Manley Road  
Auburn, ME 04210  
Email: [jready@avcog.org](mailto:jready@avcog.org)

**3. REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION/RFP AMENDMENTS**

During the proposal preparation period, all requests for clarification and/or additional information must be submitted via e-mail to the RFP Coordinator referenced in Section 2 of this RFP by no later than **4:00 p.m. EST, January 17<sup>th</sup>**. ATRC reserves the right to answer or not answer any question received. Late requests for clarification will not be accepted. When appropriate, responses will be made in writing, via email or fax, and posted to the ATRC website, by 4:00 p.m. EST on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

**4. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENT – SCOPE OF WORK**

The primary purpose of the project is to create a Traffic Signal Master Plan and Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Communications Plan for the ATRC area that can be utilized for community planning and the construction of an industry standard Traffic Signal Management System (TSMS). The ATRC area is composed of the municipalities of Lewiston, Auburn, Lisbon, and Sabattus and has a population of around 73,500. The ATRC has been designated the lead for traffic signal planning and timing by each municipality while each town is responsible for maintenance and capital. From previous projects, 44 signals of 85 total signals in the area are connected back to a central server running the Streetwise TSMS by Trafficware and Naztec. The signal network is made

up of six arterial corridors running time-of-day coordination plans. ATRC staff is responsible in part for updating traffic signal timing, coordination plans, monitoring of the vehicle detection where available, and collecting the data necessary to support these activities. The Signal Master Plan will guide each city forward on TSMS and ITS implementation and ultimately benefit travelers to the region with improvements for all modes including motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians, transit, and emergency vehicles.

**TASK 1: Identify Existing Controller and Communications Network**

Identify the basic existing signal controller hardware in each municipality for each signalized intersection, including the network of communications to each controller, and create a spreadsheet and GIS layer of the inventory data.

Deliverables: A spreadsheet of existing traffic signal controllers with cabinet and pole mounted hardware attributes and line files of existing communications lines (fiber, copper, etc.) with applicable attribute data. A GIS shapefile reflecting the attributes of the spreadsheet.

**TASK 2: Recommendation of Upgrades to Signal System**

Identify for each municipality an outline in logical and fiscal steps to create a modern traffic signal system from the Task 1 inventory including order of magnitude cost estimates for future project planning. The report should address critical deficiencies, arterial priorities, and recommendations of signals which should be in coordinated systems. Other items which should be identified for possible implementation of system upgrades and additions may include but are not limited to:

- ATC Controllers
- Detection Systems
- Emergency Vehicle Preemption Systems
- Transit Vehicle Preemption Systems
- Battery Backup Systems
- CCTV Cameras
- Adaptive Signal Control Systems
- Changeable Message Signs
- Web/App Portals
- Traffic Management Center
- Staffing needed for maintenance and operations

The report should take into account each municipality's growth and capabilities to achieve the upgrades. The recommendations should also prioritize the projects into short, medium, and long term implementation.

Deliverables: A report and spreadsheet showing a prioritized path to upgrades of the current signal system. A GIS shapefile that identifies the proposed priorities.

**TASK 3: Communication Network**

The current signal system was introduced in multiple locations across Lewiston and Auburn, each requiring internet drops. Create a report that describes the present communication infrastructure which should be sought by each municipality that will reduce future recurring costs to each municipality and create redundancy of service for the signal system. The report will further make recommendations for network redundancy and recommended network specifications for future construction projects.

Deliverables: A report with maps/graphics showing the ITS communications infrastructure. This report will illustrate the hardware, techniques and organization needed to minimize or eliminate internet connection fees, create redundancy of fiber line communication to traffic signals, and additional security recommendations for the network and server hardware. A GIS shapefile that identifies key aspects of the report and recommendations of fiber optic cable locations to achieve report goals.

## 5. PROPOSAL RATING AND SELECTION PROCESS

- a. Proposal Rating. Proposals will be reviewed and rated using the responses to the Proposer Information outlined in this RFP.
- b. This is a Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) process, and therefore Technical Proposals alone will be used to select the successful proposer. Once the successful proposer has been selected, the government estimate will be compared against the successful proposer's Price Proposal and contract negotiations will begin.

## 6. PROPOSER INFORMATION

- a. **Contact Information:** Provide the name, address, phone number, FAX number, and e-mail address of Proposer in the proposal.
- b. **Key Personnel Qualifications (20 points):** Identify the **key** staff your company will assign to fulfill the contract requirements (Contract Managers, contact people, or assigned technicians). Provide resumes describing the educational and work experiences for those **key** staff.
- c. **Proposer's Experience (50 points):** Describe **key staff** experience in traffic signal master plans. Similar information should be provided for subcontracting firms. Identify at least two (2) projects with whom your **key** staff has done business similar to that required in this RFP in the last five (5) years. Include points of contact (client's company name, contact name, address, and telephone number), a brief description of the project, dates of the project and results.
- d. **Proposed Method (20 points):** Describe the process in which you will be proposing to fulfill the tasks of the RFP.
- e. **Proposer's Knowledge of the ATRC area (10 points).** A summary of the background, local presence, and knowledge of the ATRC MPO area including work experience in the ATRC area.
- f. **Schedule:** Include a schedule outlining project deliverables and any other relevant milestones.
- g. **Proposer's References:** Provide at least 3 work references including points of contact (person's name, company name, address and telephone number), and a brief description of the projects with dates. If contacted, all references must verify that a high level of satisfaction was provided. ATRC will determine which, if any, references are contacted. The results of any reference checks will be provided to the scoring committee and used when scoring the Technical Proposal.
- h. **Acknowledgement of Amendments:** The Proposer shall include reference to all amendments in their response to this RFP. Any amendments will be provided on the project website: <http://www.avcog.org/ITSplan>

- i. **Signature Page:** A signature page, signed by the Proposer’s chief executive officer, must be included with the Technical and Price Proposals stating that “I certify that all of the information contained in this Technical/Price Proposal to be true and accurate.”

**7. PACKAGING AND SUBMITTING YOUR TECHNICAL AND PRICE PROPOSALS**

- a. **Organization and Format.** The Technical Proposal, which should be organized as closely as practicable to the format and sequence indicated in these proposal instructions must be submitted as outlined below.
- b. **Font Type and Size:** Times New Roman – 12 Font
- c. **RFP Title.** The Proposer’s full business name and address as well as the assigned RFP title must be written on your Proposal Package.
- d. **Hard Copy.** Technical Proposals must be submitted as follows: four (4) copies of the Technical Proposal must be submitted in hard copy format accompanied by a Flash Drive, DVD, or CD in Portable Document Format (PDF).
- e. **Price Proposal:** The Price Proposal shall be provided in a separately sealed envelope. Prices shall be outlined for all required items. Each proposal will be evaluated for all criteria, and then costs shall be evaluated independently. **NO MENTION OF PRICE SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE NON-PRICE PROPOSAL, OTHERWISE THAT PROPOSAL SHALL BE REJECTED.**
- f. **Proposal Package Submittal:** Proposal packages must be mailed/delivered as follows:

Regular Mail Proposal Delivery	Hand Carried Proposer Delivery	Hand Carried Proposals from Federal Express/UPS Delivery
Address to: Jason Ready, PE ATRC 125 Manley Road Auburn, ME 04210	Address to: Jason Ready, PE ATRC 125 Manley Road Auburn, ME 04210	Address to: Jason Ready, PE ATRC 125 Manley Road Auburn, ME 04210

**8. GENERAL INFORMATION**

- a. The contract resulting from this RFP will be governed by the most recent version of the ATRC Consultant General Conditions. A copy of the Consultant General Conditions is available at the ATRC website: [www.atrcmpo.org](http://www.atrcmpo.org) and referenced at the project webpage [www.avcog.org/ITSplan](http://www.avcog.org/ITSplan).
- b. This RFP does not commit ATRC to pay any costs incurred in submitting your proposal, making studies or designs for preparing the proposal or in procuring or sub-contracting for services or supplies related to the proposal.

## 9. CERTIFIED DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

### **Certified DBE**

MaineDOT Certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) consultants are encouraged to apply as the prime consultant for this work. It is important the DBE consultants take advantage of this RFP to at least gain entry to the MaineDOT Prequalification List for transportation project related services. Non -DBE consultants shall ensure that DBEs have the maximum opportunity to participate in the performance of any project contract in accordance with MaineDOT current requirements for DBE utilization when utilizing subconsultants. Consultants certified by another state's transportation agency must be certified by MaineDOT.

Current requirements may be found at the MaineDOT website, "Certified Disadvantaged and Women Business Enterprise" directory available at; <http://www.maine.gov/mdot/disadvantaged-business-enterprises/dbe-home.php>, or by contacting:

**Maine Department of Transportation  
ATTN: Sherry Tompkins, Civil Rights Unit  
Civil Rights Office  
16 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333  
Tel#: 207-624-3066  
Fax#: 207-624-3021**

ATRC requests that all bidders complete the following DBE Proposed Utilization form and submit with the bid:

**ATRC CONTRACTOR'S SBE/DBE SUBCONTRACTOR/SUPPLIER  
PROPOSED UTILIZATION FORM**

**Must name ALL Contractors and Suppliers**

Contractor: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Ext. \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Bid Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CONTRACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

FEDERAL PROJECT PIN # \_\_\_\_\_ PROJECT LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ANTICIPATED DBE \_\_\_\_ % PARTICIPATION FOR THIS CONTRACT

S B E	D B E	Non- DBE	Subcontractor / Supplier Name	Item Number & Description of Work	Quantity	Cost Per Unit/Item	Anticipated \$ Value
Subcontractor Total >							
DBE Total >							

For a complete list of certified firms and company designation (DBE) go to  
<http://www.maine.gov/mdot/civilrights/>

**NOTE: THIS INFORMATION IS USED TO TRACK AND REPORT ANTICIPATED DBE PARTICIPATION IN ALL FEDERALLY FUNDED AVCOG CONTRACTS.**

For AVCOG Use Only:

Form received: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Verified by: \_\_\_\_\_

All bidders that will be subcontracting with a certified DBE firm if successful must also complete the Letter of Intent form and submit with the bid:

## ATRC DBE SUBCONTRACTOR LETTER OF INTENT

*Contractor must submit this page for each DBE Subcontractor.*

CONTRACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Contractor: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

DBE Subcontractor/Supplier: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of work to be performed by DBE Subcontractor/Supplier:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The bidder/offeror is committed to utilizing the above-named DBE firm for the work described above. The estimated dollar value of this work is \$\_\_\_\_\_.

### **Affirmation**

The above-named DBE Subcontractor/Supplier affirms that it will perform the portion of the contract for the estimated dollar value as stated above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Typed Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Title)

**If the bidder/offeror does not receive award of the prime contract, any and all representations in this Letter of Intent and Affirmation shall be null and void.**



## 10. PROPOSAL PRICING

Price Proposal, Elements of Supporting Data consist of the following:

- 1) **Direct Labor**. Please list all employees including their classifications for the employees who are expected to perform services on this project. Please provide a breakdown of each employee's salary rate including direct labor, indirect labor, and profit. Please show all calculations in detail, and include payroll records supporting these rates.
- 2) **Indirect Labor (Overhead)**. Please provide a copy of your latest audited corporate overhead rate report with supporting documentation
- 3) **Profit**. The percentage of profit is based on criteria specific to a project including, degree of risk, relative difficulty of work, size of job, etc.
- 4) **Direct Expenses**. Please provide a breakdown of direct expenses, including mileage, lodging, photocopying costs, etc. anticipated for this project. Direct expenses shall be reimbursed at cost, and travel expenses shall be reimbursed in accordance with the current per diem/mileage rates located at <http://www.maine.gov/osc/travel/addtltravelinfo.shtml> & <http://www.gsa.gov/portal/category/21287>
- 5) **Subconsultants**. Please identify each effort to be subcontracted. List the selected sub-consultant's name, location, amount proposed and type of contract. Describe the cost or price estimates for each subcontract. Please note that there is no mark up allowed on subconsultant costs.

## 11. CONTRACT TERM, TYPE AND PAYMENT METHOD

The initial contract term shall be through December 31, 2017, commencing upon approval of the contract documentation. Task deliverables will be agreed on a per task basis.

The contract type utilized for this project shall be **Price Plus Fixed Fee**, and the method of payment shall be monthly.

## 12. CONFIDENTIALITY

The information contained in proposals submitted for ATRC's consideration will be held in confidence until all reviews are concluded and the award notification has been made. At that time, the full content of the proposals becomes public record and is therefore available for public inspection upon request.

According to State procurement law, the content of all proposals, correspondence, addenda, memoranda, working papers, or any other medium which discloses any aspect of the request for proposals process will be considered public information when the award decision is announced. This includes all proposals received in response to this RFP, both the selected proposal and the proposal(s) not selected, and includes information in those proposals which a Proposer may consider to be proprietary in nature.

## **FHWA-1273 REQUIRED CONTRACT PROVISIONS FOR FEDERAL-AID CONTRACTS**

### **GENERAL**

These contract provisions shall apply to all work performed on the contract by the contractor's own organization and with the assistance of workers under the contractor's immediate superintendence and to all work performed on the contract by piecework, station work, or by subcontract.

Except as otherwise provided for in each section, the contractor shall insert in each subcontract all of the stipulations contained in these Required Contract Provisions, and further require their inclusion in any lower tier subcontract or purchase order that may in turn be made. The Required Contract Provisions shall not be incorporated by reference in any case. The prime contractor shall be responsible for compliance by any subcontractor or lower tier subcontractor with these Required Contract Provisions.

A breach of any of the stipulations contained in these Required Contract Provisions shall be sufficient grounds for termination of the contract.

### **CERTIFICATION REGARDING USE OF CONTRACT FUNDS FOR LOBBYING**

1. The prospective participant certifies, by signing and submitting this bid or proposal, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:
  - a. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any Federal agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
  - b. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any Federal agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.
2. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by 31 U.S.C. 1352. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

3. The prospective participant also agrees by submitting its bid or proposal that the participant shall require that the language of this certification be included in all lower tier subcontracts, which exceed \$100,000 and that all such recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

## **CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, INELIGIBILITY AND VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION**

This provision is applicable to all Federal-aid construction contracts, design-build contracts, subcontracts, lower-tier subcontracts, purchase orders, lease agreements, consultant contracts or any other covered transaction requiring FHWA approval or that is estimated to cost \$25,000 or more – as defined in 2 CFR Parts 180 and 1200.

### 1. Instructions for Certification – First Tier Participants:

- a. By signing and submitting this proposal, the prospective first tier participant is providing the certification set out below.
- b. The inability of a person to provide the certification set out below will not necessarily result in denial of participation in this covered transaction. The prospective first tier participant shall submit an explanation of why it cannot provide the certification set out below. The certification or explanation will be considered in connection with the department or agency's determination whether to enter into this transaction. However, failure of the prospective first tier participant to furnish a certification or an explanation shall disqualify such a person from participation in this transaction.
- c. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when the contracting agency determined to enter into this transaction. If it is later determined that the prospective participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the contracting agency may terminate this transaction for cause of default.
- d. The prospective first tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the contracting agency to whom this proposal is submitted if any time the prospective first tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.
- e. The terms "covered transaction," "debarred," "suspended," "ineligible," "participant," "person," "principal," and "voluntarily excluded," as used in this clause, are defined in 2 CFR Parts 180 and 1200. "First Tier Covered Transactions" refers to any covered transaction between a grantee or subgrantee of Federal funds and a participant (such as the prime or general contract). "Lower Tier Covered Transactions" refers to any covered transaction under a First Tier Covered Transaction (such as subcontracts). "First Tier Participant" refers to the participant who has entered into a covered transaction with a grantee or subgrantee of Federal funds (such as the prime or general

contractor). “Lower Tier Participant” refers any participant who has entered into a covered transaction with a First Tier Participant or other Lower Tier Participants (such as subcontractors and suppliers).

- f. The prospective first tier participant agrees by submitting this proposal that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency entering into this transaction.
- g. The prospective first tier participant further agrees by submitting this proposal that it will include the clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transactions," provided by the department or contracting agency, entering into this covered transaction, without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions exceeding the \$25,000 threshold.
- h. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant is responsible for ensuring that its principals are not suspended, debarred, or otherwise ineligible to participate in covered transactions. To verify the eligibility of its principals, as well as the eligibility of any lower tier prospective participants, each participant may, but is not required to, check the Excluded Parties List System website (<https://www.epls.gov/>), which is compiled by the General Services Administration.
- i. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require the establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of the prospective participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.
- j. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph (f) of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency may terminate this transaction for cause or default.

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2. Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion – First Tier Participants:

- a. The prospective first tier participant certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its principals:

- (1) Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participating in covered transactions by any Federal department or agency;
- (2) Have not within a three-year period preceding this proposal been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
- (3) Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (a)(2) of this certification; and
- (4) Have not within a three-year period preceding this application/proposal had one or more public transactions (Federal, State or local) terminated for cause or default.

b. Where the prospective participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

### 3. Instructions for Certification - Lower Tier Participants:

(Applicable to all subcontracts, purchase orders and other lower tier transactions requiring prior FHWA approval or estimated to cost \$25,000 or more - 2 CFR Parts 180 and 1200)

- a. By signing and submitting this proposal, the prospective lower tier is providing the certification set out below.
- b. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department, or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.
- c. The prospective lower tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the person to which this proposal is submitted if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.
- d. The terms "covered transaction," "debarred," "suspended," "ineligible," "participant," "person," "principal," and "voluntarily excluded," as used in this clause, are defined in 2 CFR Parts 180 and 1200. You may contact the person to which this proposal is submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations. "First Tier Covered Transactions" refers to any covered transaction between a grantee or subgrantee of Federal funds and a participant (such as the prime or general contract). "Lower Tier Covered Transactions" refers to any covered transaction under a First Tier Covered Transaction (such as subcontracts). "First Tier Participant" refers to the participant who

has entered into a covered transaction with a grantee or subgrantee of Federal funds (such as the prime or general contractor). "Lower Tier Participant" refers any participant who has entered into a covered transaction with a First Tier Participant or other Lower Tier Participants (such as subcontractors and suppliers).

- e. The prospective lower tier participant agrees by submitting this proposal that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency with which this transaction originated.
- f. The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this proposal that it will include this clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transaction," without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions exceeding the \$25,000 threshold.
- g. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant is responsible for ensuring that its principals are not suspended, debarred, or otherwise ineligible to participate in covered transactions. To verify the eligibility of its principals, as well as the eligibility of any lower tier prospective participants, each participant may, but is not required to, check the Excluded Parties List System website (<https://www.epls.gov/>), which is compiled by the General Services Administration.
- h. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.
- i. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph e of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

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**Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion--Lower Tier Participants:**

1. The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participating in covered transactions by any Federal department or agency.
2. Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

Failure to provide this certification may result in the disqualification of the Bidder's proposal, at the discretion of ATRC.