

BIDS FOR SOLAR THERMAL HOT WATER SYSTEM

Union County, as lead applicant for a project with Gilmer County, is seeking bids for two (2) solar hot water systems to be designed, installed and monitored at each county's respective detention facilities. Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program ("EECBG Program"). The EECBG Program provides grants to states and local governments to develop and implement projects to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy use and fossil fuel use in communities. The Division of Energy Resources of the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority ("GEFA") administers the EECBG by funding energy efficiency and conservation projects in the State of Georgia. Based on an analysis of propane consumption, propane pricing, hot water consumption at each facility, combined with budgetary allotments sizing follows. The Union County solar thermal system, located at the Union County Jail, 378 Beasley Street in Blairsville, should produce approximately 1,175 gallons of hot water per day. The Gilmer County solar thermal system, located at the Adult Detention Center, 106 Brett Dickey Memorial Drive in Ellijay, Georgia should produce approximately 1,600 gallons of hot water per day.

As the project is part of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act and EECBG program, the system should include the following:

SECTION I EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS

- 1.1 Flat plate collectors shall be used that are capable of producing the above specified daily hot water outputs
- 1.2 Must feature tempered glass glazing with a solar energy transmission of 90 percent
- 1.3 Existing hot water heating infrastructure will be used. Storage capacity can be proposed following the site visit.
- 1.4 Be rated according to the Solar Rating and Certification Corporation Standard 100 – Test Methods and Minimum Standards for Certifying Solar Collectors (ASHRAE Standard 93-1986)
- 1.5 Bids will be considered for any American manufactured brand which meets or exceeds the quality of the specifications listed for any items unless, otherwise stated in the specifications below.
- 1.6 Plumbing:
 - 1.61 Must feature pressurized system.
 - 1.62 Must conform to local and state codes including but not limited to International Building Code, International Mechanical Code and the International Plumbing Code
 - 1.63 Installed system must supplement existing hot water heaters.
- 1.7 Mounting:
 - 1.71 System should be roof mounted

SECTION II: SUBMISSION OF BID, FORMATTING AND PROCEDURES

- 2.1 All bids shall be typewritten.
- 2.2 An authorized officer or agent of the company submitting the bid must sign all bids in order to be considered.
- 2.3 All bids are to be submitted in sealed, plainly marked envelopes. Envelopes shall be marked in the bottom left corner with the Title of the Invitation to Bid (Solar Thermal Hot Water System), the Bid Number and the Closing (Due) Date. Facsimile and telephone bids will not be accepted.
- 2.4 FIVE (5) COPIES of bid documents shall be submitted.

- 2.5 Bids, which show omission, irregularity, alteration of forms, additions not called for, or conditional or unconditional unresponsive bids may be rejected.
- 2.6 Bidder shall submit with bid, the latest printed literature and detailed specifications on the solar thermal collector panel they propose to furnish in their Technical Approach Addendum. This literature is for informational purpose only, and shall be used to help determine a product's compliance with equipment specifications.
- 2.7 Proposals should be clearly formatted using inch margins, a clear typeface of at least 11 Font and include page numbers. Your company's name and contact information should appear clearly in Header or Footer on each page.

SECTION III: SUBMITTAL CONTENTS

Based on the contents of this RFP, information provided at the Pre-Proposal meeting, and issues discussed during the site visit, please prepare a qualifications packet and proposal addressing the following:

3.1 Corporate Background and Relevant Experience

This section shall include background information on your company. Please list your company Name, Address and Primary Point of Contact for this project.

- 3.1.1 Please list solar thermal projects your company has successfully designed and installed in the last year that are of similar size and scope. Projects should be similar in scope, size and complexity.
- 3.1.2 Please include a list of at least three (3) client references (including contact persons and telephone numbers) for whom similar work has been performed.
- 3.1.3 Please prove that solar energy is the primary core competence of your company.
- 3.1.4 Qualified company will hold proper business licenses for doing work in Georgia.

3.2 Project Staffing and Organization

- 3.2.1 The bidder shall provide information as to the qualifications and experience of all executive, managerial, legal, installation and other relevant professional personnel to be assigned to this project, including brief resumes (one page maximum) citing relevant solar industry experience with similar projects and the responsibilities to be assigned to each person.
- 3.2.2 Please demonstrate that proposed staff assigned to project has completed the National Association of Board Certified Energy Practitioner (NABCEP) exam in Solar Thermal
- 3.2.3 Most suited company will have a Professional Engineer on staff

3.3 Technical Approach:

This section shall include, in narrative, outline, and/or graph format the bidder's approach to accomplishing the projects specified in this RFP. A concise description of each task and deliverable and the schedule for accomplishing each task shall be included. The technical approach should also include the items enumerated below. Please limit the technical approach to no more than 5 pages. (equipment literature, specifications and similar documentation should be attached in an appendix). The technical approach description shall include the points below:

- 3.3.1 Statement describing the approximate BTUs generated annually and daily hot water production of both proposed systems, separately and as a whole;
- 3.3.2 Description of monitoring and data acquisition system capable of accurate measurement of energy generated (energy data must be totaled on a monthly or more frequent basis);
- 3.3.3 Statement of the projected greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions noted in tons of carbon dioxide equivalent avoided on an annual basis; and

3.3.4 Description of warranty, installation guarantee, maintenance, and/or regular service requirements for the solar thermal system technology installed and the provider of these services

3.3.5 All roof protection and protection of existing building shall be included in the bid.

3.3.6 Confirmation that all equipment necessary to set material on the roof and provide a complete installation is included in this scope. The Contractor shall have all appropriate OSHA training and certifications related to the specific hazards and job tasks should be included as well as a project specific safety manual. All trenching, if necessary, is included in this scope.

3.3.7 The Contractor shall include screen shots of proposed monitoring system to track production of the solar hot water systems. The monitoring system must show daily, weekly and yearly energy output as well as GHG reductions in order to educate the public about the system, allow enhanced troubleshooting capabilities and comply with mandatory ARRA reporting requirements. The Contractor should explain how the initial year of monitoring would be performed to ensure production is meeting design assumptions.

3.4. A turnkey price for designing, installing, commissioning, maintaining and monitoring the system.

SECTION IV BID EVALUATION

4.1 The County reserves the right to evaluate all bids, waive any technical or informalities, reject any and/or bids and proposals, and further specifically reserves the right to make the award and/or awards in the best interest of the the two counties.

4.2 The bid evaluation will be made on the following criteria:

4.2.1 Compliance with specifications and completeness of proposal

4.2.2 Ability to deliver product or service

4.2.3 Recent and substantial experience with similar solar hot water projects

4.2.4 Availability of warranty service and parts

4.2.5 References

4.2.6 Ability to comply with relevant sections of The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 ("ARRA") now and as amended, and any federal and state guidance, regulations, rules or similar materials provided related to ARRA

4.2.7 Bid Price

4.3 Union County shall be the sole judge as to an item meeting or exceeding the specifications.

4.4 NON-COLLUSION: Vendors, by submitting a signed bid, certify that the accompanying bid is not the result of, or affected by, any unlawful act of collusion with any other person or company engaged in the same line of business or commerce, or any other fraudulent act punishable under Georgia or United State law.

SECTION V ADDENDA AND INTERPRETATIONS

5.1 If it becomes necessary to revise any part of this bid, a written addendum will be provided to all bidders.

5.2 The County is not bound by any oral representations, clarifications or changes made in the written specifications by Union County Employees, unless such clarification or change is provided to bidders in written addendum form from the Purchasing Division.

5.3 Bidders must meet Davis-Bacon wage requirements (ARRA Requirement).

5.4 Bidders must also satisfy Buy American stipulation (ARRA Requirement).

5.5 All costs incurred in responding to this Request for Qualifications / Proposal are the Proposer's alone and Union County does not accept any liability for any such costs.

SECTION VI ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

6.1 Both jail facilities use propane to heat hot water for laundry, showers and food preparation.

6.2 Only American manufactured flat plate solar hot water collectors should be specified. No evacuated tube technology, domestic or foreign.

6.3 The systems have been sized through analysis of propane usage, hot water consumption, budgetary needs, roof space and other relevant factors. Re-sizing and utility invoice analysis by prospective bidders is not required. See above specifications for desired hot water output.

6.4 The successful bidder will be required to assist the County in reporting the following non-exclusive metrics as specified by GEFA: 1) jobs created/retained; 2) energy saved (gallons propane); 3) renewable energy generated in BTUs; 4) GHG emissions reduced in CO2 equivalents and 5) cost savings in dollars.

6.5 *Schedule of Work*

In keeping with the EECBG Program goal of rapidly deploying technology, the County plans to award the project to the successful contractor by Friday, August 20, 2010. We would like the installation to begin September 30, 2010 and be completed by January 31, 2011.

A Pre-Proposal site visit for interested bidders will take place on July 22, 2010 at 10 a.m. EST. The first visit will be at the Union County Jail at 378 Beasley Street in Blairsville, followed by a visit to the Gilmer County Adult Detention Center at 106 Brett Dickey Memorial Drive in Ellijay. Sealed bids must be received in the Union County Commission Office at 65 Courthouse Street, Blairsville, Georgia by 2 p.m. EST on August 5, 2010. The deadline for questions is July 29, 2010.

A Bid Bond of no less than 5% of the bid but not more than \$10,000 will be required with submission of the bid.

Bids received after the designated date and time will not be opened nor returned.

SUBMITTALS / QUESTIONS

Any questions regarding this bid (e-mail preferred) and submittals should be directed to:

Pam Hawkins

Purchasing Department

65 Courthouse Street

Blairsville, Georgia 30512

ucap@uniongov.com

(706) 439-6000

END OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL