



February 17, 2014

Mr. Michael Spicer
Information Technology Management Office
1201 Main Street, Suite 430
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Re: Delegation of Authority to Solicit and Award Contract for a Remote Back-up Data Center for Clemson University

Dear Mr. Spicer:

I respectfully request a delegation of authority, in accordance with the South Carolina Code Section 11-35-840, to solicit a contract for services for a vendor to provide a back-up data center for Clemson in support of the primary data center Clemson currently hosts for the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS). In order to meet SCDHHS from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Clemson was expected to have this back-up data center operational last year (October 2013), but unanticipated delays from a vendor working on the scoping requirements and from utilities commissions have put us further behind schedule. SCDHHS has been forgiving of the delay, however they and the State risk losing funding from CMS for this service, putting the State at significant financial risk for delivering this service. Clemson must provide this alternate data center site before development begins on the next major SCDHHS system replacement, scheduled for early 2015.

Clemson, SCDHHS, and a potential vendor (Duke Energy) have spent more than one year refining the scope of this service, including the strict HIPAA data security constraints, so that it would meet the requirements of CMS. Until recently, we believed the scope would require a sole source contract with a single provider, but in the final stages of determining scope, it became clear that the contract would need to be competed. A team is working on the final specifications for a Request for Proposal (RFP) that addresses our requirements and provides what I feel is a very clean and detailed scope of work.

The biggest challenge at this point is the time schedule, since the lead time to establish a suitable data center after award is 8-9 months by itself. Without this delegation, I fear we would risk not having a contract in place to allow for completion of the project before financial penalties would impact both Clemson and SCDHHS. We have negotiated an interim solution with SCDHHS, but have to have the center operational in early 2015. While the scope of the contract is fairly straight-forward, we expect the total contract to be approximately \$7-10M, which exceeds our current certification limit. The RFP will ensure that any data security requirements are met and will not include any software licenses. I believe the solicitation and award are well within our abilities to handle based on past experience, and I personally will be the Procurement Officer for this solicitation.

I submit this request for your consideration and am available to answer any questions you may have; please contact me at 864-656-2067 or mnebesk@clemson.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Nebesky".

Mike Nebesky, CPPO
Director, Procurement Services



Procurement Services Department | Administrative Services Building | Silas N.
Pearman Blvd
Clemson SC 29634-5365 | 864-656-2000 | fax 864-656-2394