



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES  
OFFICE OF STATE PROCUREMENT SERVICES  
STATE OF MAINE

## PROCUREMENT JUSTIFICATION FORM (PJF)

This form must accompany all contract requests and sole source requisitions (RQS) over \$10,000 submitted to the Office of State Procurement Services.

*INSTRUCTIONS: Please provide the requested information in the white spaces below. All responses (except signatures) must be typed; no hand-written forms will be accepted. See the guidance document posted with this form on the Procurement Services intranet site (Forms page) for additional instructions.*

| PART I: OVERVIEW                                        |                               |                                                                                                                                                             |                                |            |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| Department Office/Division/Program:                     |                               | Maine IT & Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)                                                                                                         |                                |            |
| Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator: |                               | Stephanie Buzzell, MEMA                                                                                                                                     |                                |            |
| (If applicable) Department Reference #:                 |                               |                                                                                                                                                             |                                |            |
| Agency Department Code:                                 | 15A                           | Advantage CT / RQS #:                                                                                                                                       | RQS 20260604000000001875       |            |
| Amount:<br>(Contract/Amendment/Grant)                   |                               | \$750,000.00                                                                                                                                                |                                |            |
| CONTRACT                                                | Proposed/Original Start Date: | 7/6/2026                                                                                                                                                    | Proposed/Most Recent End Date: | 11/30/2027 |
| AMENDMENT                                               | New Effective Date:           |                                                                                                                                                             | New End Date (if Applicable):  |            |
| GRANT                                                   | Project Start Date:           |                                                                                                                                                             | Grant Start Date:              |            |
|                                                         | Project End Date:             |                                                                                                                                                             | Grant End Date:                |            |
| Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State:              |                               | The ATOM Group (Portsmouth, NH)                                                                                                                             |                                |            |
| Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:              |                               | This project will leverage the ATOM Group to provide cybersecurity training and exercises to local entities upon request, as federal grant resources allow. |                                |            |

| PART II: JUSTIFICATION FOR VENDOR SELECTION                                                        |                                  |                          |                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Check the box below for the justification(s) that applies to this request. (Check all that apply.) |                                  |                          |                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                           | A. Competitive Process           | <input type="checkbox"/> | G. Grant                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                           | B. Amendment                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | H. State Statute/Agency Directed |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                                                                | C. Single Source/Unique Vendor   | <input type="checkbox"/> | I. Federal Agency Directed       |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                           | D. Proprietary/Copyright/Patents | <input type="checkbox"/> | J. Willing and Qualified         |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                           | E. Emergency                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | K. Client Choice                 |

|                          |                                         |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | F. Higher Education Cooperative Project | <input type="checkbox"/> | L. Other Authorization |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|

Please respond to ALL of the questions in the following sections.

### PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

1. Provide a more detailed description and explain the need for the goods, services or grant to supplement the response in Part I.

The State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) is a first of its kind Department of Homeland Security (DHS) program, co-administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), that directs federal cybersecurity funding to state, local, and tribal governments. In Maine, MEMA and OIT jointly manage the program, with MEMA serving as the State Administrative Agency. Together, they develop and administer projects aligned with Maine's Cybersecurity Plan.

The purpose of this project is to provide cybersecurity training and exercise services to county and local governments and K–12 school districts across the state. Under this project, the proposed vendor, the ATOM Group, will deliver training and exercises to participating local entities, contingent on available federal grant resources. The project is funded entirely with federal SLCGP dollars (100%), with no state match required due to Maine's approved cost share waiver. This project was approved by the ME SLCGP Planning Committee in March 2026.

All SLCGP funded efforts must follow state procurement requirements. Because only a small number of vendors can deliver whole of state cybersecurity services within the grant's tight timelines and federal requirements, procurement must account for this limited vendor pool.

To ensure statewide accessibility, training will be delivered virtually, on-demand in-person, and regionally. This multi-modal approach addresses current capability gaps and establishes a sustainable framework for ongoing cybersecurity skill development across local governments. This training is distinct from the KnowBe4 platform, which offers basic, self-paced cybersecurity courses for end users. The ATOM Group provides live, advanced sessions focused on real-world incident response, guiding attendees on topics such as reporting, IT staff on detection and mitigation, and organizations on communication and recovery.

**Need for the Goods/Services:** Local governments (including counties, municipalities, and school districts) lack consistent, structured cybersecurity incident response capabilities. Most do not have the financial resources, dedicated personnel, or technical expertise to develop and maintain incident response plans or conduct regular training. Findings from the statewide survey conducted during development of Maine's Cybersecurity Plan highlight that most local entities lack cybersecurity incident response plans, and few conduct training and exercises. Additionally, during Maine's outreach to determine the demand for these services, incident response planning and training were among the most frequently requested services from eligible entities.

Currently, Maine's capacity to support local jurisdictions is limited to state level expertise and ad hoc assistance. There is no standardized, statewide incident response training program available. This project fills that gap by establishing accessible, scalable training that strengthens the cybersecurity workforce and improves the resilience of Maine's public sector ecosystem.

**PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

2. Provide a brief justification for the selected vendor to supplement the response in Part II. Reference the solicitation (RFP/RFA/Rfq) number if applicable.

The State of Maine conducted market research and facilitated peer conversations with other states administering this grant, to determine how best to leverage the SLCGP funds to bolster incident response capabilities, and the State of New Hampshire offered a proven model to emulate. New Hampshire successfully implemented a first of its kind statewide cyber training initiative through the ATOM Group. ATOM is currently delivering an SLCGP funded, statewide cybersecurity training and exercise program in New Hampshire, making it the only provider in New England with direct, demonstrable experience operating a municipal cybersecurity capability of this scale. Their work shows a clear ability to navigate the complexities of whole of state cybersecurity initiatives. Maine could replicate New Hampshire's success by partnering with a vendor with similar proven experience delivering SLCGP aligned programs.

ATOM possesses unique qualifications that cannot be replicated by other vendors:

- **Exclusive operational experience** delivering a statewide, SLCGP aligned cybersecurity training and exercise program for local governments and K–12 entities.
- **Extensive municipal sector expertise**, serving as New Hampshire's first response provider for cybersecurity incidents across more than 550 municipal entities. This provides unparalleled insight into the operational, financial, and staffing constraints of local governments in northern New England.
- **Direct familiarity with federal SLCGP compliance, reporting, and performance requirements**, reducing implementation risk and ensuring alignment with federal expectations.

We have exhausted existing State of Maine procurement vehicles and Master Services Contracts. If an RFP were required, the State would likely lose these federal grant funds due to the tight SLCGP timelines. While competitive procurement was considered, no other vendor demonstrated the combination of technical capability, municipal sector experience, knowledge of New England, and proven SLCGP program delivery required to meet the State's objectives. Procuring these services from an alternative vendor would introduce significant risk, delay program implementation, and jeopardize the State's ability to meet federal grant requirements.

3. Explain how the negotiated costs or rates are fair and reasonable; or how the funding was allocated to grantee.

The entirety (100%) of the funding for this procurement will be funded by the federal government as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which created the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP). Funding is allocated to the State of Maine under the SLCGP Notice of Funding Opportunity, and the State is responsible for distributing services to eligible local entities in alignment with its approved Cybersecurity Plan.

The ATOM Group's pricing reflects longstanding, pre-established pricing already in place with multiple public sector organizations in New Hampshire, including their Executive Branch. Leveraging these existing rates ensures cost efficiency and avoids the administrative burden and potential cost escalation associated with establishing new pricing structures.

**PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

Additionally, ATOM's extensive experience delivering an identical SLCGP funded program significantly reduces implementation risk and associated costs. Their familiarity with federal requirements, reporting structures, and performance metrics minimizes the need for additional oversight, onboarding, or corrective work that would likely be required with a vendor lacking comparable experience.

**4. Describe the plan for future competition for the goods or services.**

This pilot program will undergo an evaluation approximately 6 months prior to the end of the contract term to determine if potential future competitive options may be available. MEMA and Maine IT will review deliverable quality, costs, participant feedback, overall vendor performance, and perform market research to assess whether future year SLCGP services can be competitively procured. Data generated through the pilot will inform the SLCGP Planning Committee's decisions and guide future competition where feasible.

**PART IV: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) / MAINE JOBS & RECOVERY PLAN (MJRP)**

Does this request utilize ARPA/MJRP funds?

☐ Yes, MJRP funds (023) – If Yes, please attach the approved Business Case(s).

☐ Yes, ARPA funds (025) or (026) – If Yes, please be aware of the requirements from awarding federal agencies.

☒ No – If No, proceed to Part V.

**PART V: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (COI); CONTRACT WITH THE STATE**

*Maine law contains Conflict of Interest statutes directed to State Departments, State Officers, and Employees Generally under MRS [Title 5, §18](#) and [§18-A](#), in harmony with MRS [Title 17, §3104](#).*

☒ The requesting department's signatory affirms, understands, and acknowledges Maine's Conflict of Interest statutes and, in accordance with those statutes and to the best of their knowledge, has determined that no conflict of interest exists at the time of this contract, renewal, or amendment.

**PART VI: APPROVALS**

Governor/Department Commissioner or Designee

1. The signature below indicates approval of this procurement request.

Signature of requesting  
Department's Commissioner  
(or designee):  
Joe Legee (Jun 14, 2026 21:06:31 EDT)

Typed Name: Joe Legee

Date: 06/14/2026

2. Additional signature required **ONLY if box E (Emergency) is selected in PART II**. The signature below indicates approval by the Department's Commissioner, or the designee specifically authorized to approve emergency procurement requests.Signature of requesting  
Department's Commissioner  
(or designee):

Typed Name:

Date:

**\*\*OSPS Section Only\*\***Signature of DAFS  
Procurement Official:

Signed by:



Typed Name:

2D5B6E39F57E44A...  
William J. E. Allen

Date:

6/15/2026

# RQS 20260604000000001875 - Atom Group

Final Audit Report

2026-06-15

|                 |                                                       |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Created:        | 2026-06-12                                            |
| By:             | tammy thayer-hardman (tammy.thayer-hardman@maine.gov) |
| Status:         | Signed                                                |
| Transaction ID: | CBJCHBCAABAAT_qnskmM2XfFEvO4zFmMqPjBYuYZS1Cr          |

## "RQS 20260604000000001875 - Atom Group" History

-  Document created by tammy thayer-hardman (tammy.thayer-hardman@maine.gov)  
2026-06-12 - 3:17:09 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Joe Legee (joe.legee@maine.gov) for signature  
2026-06-12 - 3:17:14 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Joe Legee (joe.legee@maine.gov)  
Signature Date: 2026-06-15 - 1:06:31 AM GMT - Time Source: server - Signature Appearance Selected: DRAW
-  Agreement completed.  
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