

State of Maine Waiver of Competitive Bidding Request Form

Form Instructions: Please provide the requested information in the white boxes below. This form is to precede all contract requests that are not the direct result of a competitive bid process.

PM-21187

Requesting Department's Contract Administrator:	Faith Huntington	Office/Division/Program of Contract Administrator:	Maine Public Utilities Commission (MPUC)
Est. Contract Amount:	\$611,040 (Non-state funds). Added \$60k to \$551,040	Contract or RQS Number:	65A 20180523*3706
Proposed Start Date:	January 2019	Proposed End Date:	January 31, 2020
Vendor/Provider Name, City, State	The Liberty Consulting Group (Liberty) located at 1451 Quentin Road, Suite 400, Lebanon, Pennsylvania 17042		
Short Description of Good or Service:	Ongoing analysis, testimony, and hearing support of customer calls, complaints, and inquiries related to Central Maine Power Company in the context of a Commission ordered forensic audit of CMP's metering and billings systems.		
Please note, for transparency purposes, Waivers of Competitive Bidding will be publicly posted. Public postings are placed on the Division of Procurement Services website for a period of seven consecutive calendar days.		To be completed by the Division of Procurement Services	
		Posting dates on Division of Procurement Services website: From: <u>12/16/19</u> To: <u>12/22/19</u>	
Notice of Intent to Waive Competitive Bidding Number:		NOI# 1220192051	
1. Statutory Justification			
State of Maine statute (5 M.R.S. §1825-B(2)) allows waivers of competitive bidding only for the specific reasons listed below. Please mark the appropriate box (X) next to the justification which applies to this specific request.			
<input type="checkbox"/>	A. The procurement of goods or services by the State for county commissioners pursuant to Title 30-A, section 124, involves the expenditure of \$2,500 or less, and the interests of the State would best be served;		
<input type="checkbox"/>	B. The Director of the Bureau of General Services is authorized by the Governor, or the Governor's designee, to make purchases without competitive bidding because, in the opinion of the Governor or the Governor's designee, an emergency exists that requires the immediate procurement of goods or services;		
	<i>If citing the above justification for this Waiver of Competitive Bidding request, please have the requesting Department's Commissioner or Chief Executive (as the Governor's "designee") sign and date on the right.</i>	<i>By signing below, I signify as the Governor's designee there is an emergency that necessitates this non-competitive procurement.</i>	
		Signature:	
		Printed Name:	Date:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C. After reasonable investigation by the Director of the Bureau of General Services, it appears that any required unit or item of supply, or brand of that unit or item, is procurable by the State from only one source;		
<input type="checkbox"/>	D. It appears to be in the best interest of the State to negotiate for the procurement of petroleum products;		
<input type="checkbox"/>	E. The purchase is part of a cooperative project between the State and the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System, the Maine Maritime Academy, or a private, nonprofit, regionally accredited institution of higher education with a main campus in this State involving: (1) An activity assisting a state agency and enhancing the ability of the university system, community college system, Maine Maritime Academy, or a private, nonprofit, regionally accredited institution of higher education with a main campus in this State to fulfill its mission of teaching, research, and public service; (2) A sharing of project responsibilities and, when appropriate, costs;		
	<i>If citing the above justification for this sole source request, please note that the specific approval of the Governor's Office is required, in accordance with Executive Order 26 FY 11/12, "An Order to Enhance Competitive Bidding". The approval must be documented on DAFS/BGS/Division of Procurement Services "GOVCOOP" form, found here: http://www.maine.gov/purchases/info/forms/govcoop.doc.</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	F. The procurement of goods or services involves expenditures of \$10,000 or less, in which case the Director of the Bureau of General Services may accept oral proposals or bids;		
<input type="checkbox"/>	G. The procurement of goods or services involves expenditures of \$10,000 or less, and procurement from a single		

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	source is the most economical, effective and appropriate means of fulfilling a demonstrated need.
If a different authorization specifically allows for this non-competitive procurement, please provide that reference here:	

Please note that the following four points below (#2 through 5) all require a response.

2. Description of Specific Need

Please identify, and fully describe, the specific problem, requirement, or need the resulting non- competitive contract would address and which makes the goods or services necessary. Explain how the requesting Department determined that the goods or services are critical and/or essential to agency responsibilities or operations.

The MPUC has an existing contract with Liberty Consulting to perform a forensic audit of CMP's meter, billing and customer services systems. Given Liberty's knowledge of CMP's systems, using Liberty is the most efficient and effective use of resources. The Commission recently extended the case into January 2020 and needs additional support and is therefore adding \$60,000 (non-state funds) to the existing contract with Liberty.

3. Availability of other Public Resources

Please explain how the requesting Department concluded that sufficient staffing, resources, or expertise is not available within the State of Maine's government, or other governmental entities (local, other state, or federal agencies) external to the requesting Department, which would be able to address the identified need more efficiently and effectively than the identified vendor.

The MPUC does not have the extensive expertise or existing resources to perform this work. Liberty has significant expertise to advise the MPUC in these matters.

4. Cost

Since a waiver of competitive bidding is being requested for this procurement, please explain how the requesting Department concluded the negotiated costs, fees, or rates are **fair and reasonable**.

The MPUC is using hourly rates from the existing Liberty contract. This contract is Non-State Funds.

5. Future Competition

Please describe potential opportunities which may be available to foster competition for these goods or services in the future.

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Future utility audits will be bid creating opportunities for other vendors.

Please note that only one of the two points below (“Uniqueness” or “Timeframe”) requires a response. Requesting Departments are not required to respond to both points.

6. Uniqueness

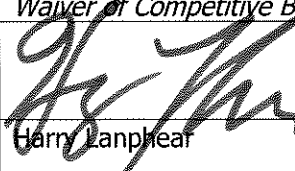
Please explain if the goods or services required are unique to a specific vendor. Describe the unique qualifications, abilities, and/or expertise of the vendor and how those particular unique factors address the specific need identified above. If the vendor has unique equipment, facilities, or proprietary data, also explain the necessity of these particular unique assets.

The forensic audit related work is very unique and specialized and requires significant expertise. Liberty has performed similar customer service related audit work for the MPUC.

7. Timeframe (Complete only if B. is the Statutory Justification marked on Page 1)

Please explain if time is of the essence and an emergency exists which requires the immediate procurement of goods or services. Describe the nature of this emergency, provide the date by which the goods or services must be delivered, and explain how that date was determined and its significance (i.e. impact if delayed beyond this date). Also, provide information as to how it was determined this vendor is the best option to address this time-sensitive procurement.

The forensic audit is a pending case before the Commission. To provide timely input into the Commission’s case the Commission must use outside services to perform this work.

Signature of requesting Department’s Commissioner or Chief Executive (or designee within the Commissioner’s Office):	<i>By signing below, I signify that my Department requests, and I approve of, this Waiver of Competitive Bidding.</i>
Printed Name:	 Harry Lanphear
Date:	December 9, 2019