

State of Maine

RFP / Proposal Master Score Sheet

Instructions: Complete the Master Score Sheet below providing all of the requested information for each bidder that submitted a proposal in response to the RFP. This document is to be included in the Selection Package submitted to the Division of Procurement Services for review/approval.

SCORESHEET FOR RFP# 202006100 Maine General Science Assessment							
PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY:		COGNIA		NEW MERIDIAN		NCS PEARSON	
COST:		Cost:	\$5,224,241	Cost:	\$6,037,162	Cost:	\$7,382,712
EVALUATION ITEM	POINTS AVAIL.						
Section I: Organization Qualifications and Experience	20	14		17		14	
Section II: Proposed Services	45	31		42		33	
Section III: Cost Proposal	Pro-rated (20)	20		17		14	
	Narrative (15)	6		15		3	
TOTAL	<u>100</u>	<u>71</u>		<u>91</u>		<u>64</u>	
PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY:							
COST:		Cost:		Cost:		Cost:	
EVALUATION ITEM	POINTS AVAIL.						
Section I: Organization Qualifications and Experience	20						
Section II: Proposed Services	45						
Section III: Cost Proposal	35						
TOTAL	<u>100</u>						

Award Justification Statement
RFP# 2020060100 Maine General Science Assessment

I. Summary

The Maine Department of Education (Maine DOE) is seeking a Provider for the development and implementation of a statewide assessment in science at grades 5, 8 and third year of high school.

II. Evaluation Process

A team of 8 individuals consisting of Maine Department of Education subject matter experts (science and engineering specialist, math specialist, procurement director, education data manager, science assessment coordinator), and Maine educators reviewed the three (3) proposals submitted. Each team member documented their notes and provided them prior to the team review meeting. The team review meeting, implemented on Monday, August 17, consisted of a review of each section within the RFP response and subsequent scoring of the section. Reference contacts provided by each of the bidders were contacted for references related to project implementation.

III. Qualifications & Experience

The bidder scored the highest in this section due to the following factors:

- The staff has varied experiences across assessments in addition to staff involved in the writing and construction of the NGSS standards.
- Collaborative partners are of a high caliber and known in the educational world.
- The possible establishment of a scoring center in ME was appealing.
- The bidder has no litigation and seems low risk from the information submitted.
- All assessment items are reviewed by two (2) external experts.
- The assessment is designed to be either administered at home or at the school.
- The bidder provided references for their sub-contractors.
- The bidder recognizes and values external expertise.
- The bidder shared 100% “on time,” “on budget” delivery.
- The projects provided/referenced in the proposal were similar to the project being implemented in Maine (science) with also Math & ELA experience.

IV. Proposed Services

The bidder scored the highest in this section due to the following factors:

- The bidder articulated universal training around NGSS and shares a clear process and protocol for training.
- The bidder utilizes the same framework for the items and the stimuli.
- There is a comprehensive data security and privacy plan articulated within the response.
 - These plans were also applicable to the bidder’s sub-contractors.
- The bidder shared that assessment administration for younger grades is shorter than the maximum 150 minutes – this differentiated approach was appealing to review team members.
- The bidder has prior experience with ME’s current vendor in relation to transferring items.
- A team member shared their excitement regarding sub-contractors that are open to new and innovative approaches and strategies. An example of which is the bidder has 8 technology enhanced items.
- The bidder’s approach to the work seems very thoughtful.
- The bidder also provided possible cost saving options to the state of Maine.

- Charts and graphics were very helpful.
- The bidder strives to ensure assessment items are grade level appropriate and align with necessary mathematics and language skills and knowledge.
- Strong scoring practices with small scoring teams, validation of responses, recalibration, double-blind scoring is **embedded within the platform** and were clearly articulated.
- Current research is referenced in the bidder's current design features, practices and procedures.
 - Above information and research are **embedded throughout** the bidder's response.
- The assessment could be administered if needed, remotely.
- All necessary permissions are received in advance of the assessment.
- A comprehensive list of accommodations was provided including math access support.
- The proposal overall is very well structured, well thought out based on evidence with Maine DOE as the point of interest and ensuring what is in the best interest of Maine and Maine students.
- Maine educators in the review team appreciated the approach taken by the bidder to embrace the type of teaching Maine educators envision in the classroom.

V. Cost Proposal

The bidder received the second highest score for the prorated section of the cost proposal and the maximum point value for the cost proposal narrative. The bidders cost proposal included all the applicable fields as referenced in the RFP however within the budget narrative, further expanded upon these elements in great detail (11 pages). The review team had a concrete understanding of cost centers, included costs and to where they are coded.

VI. Conclusion

As mentioned above, the bidder scored the highest in each of the RFP sections. The review team appreciated the level of detail; insights as to why the bidder implements the assessment program in the manner in which they do; the embedded research and applicability to all elements of implementation and development; and overall, how thorough and thoughtful the RFP response was constructed.



**STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**Janet T. Mills
Governor**

**Pender Makin
Commissioner**

September 1, 2020

Mark A. Elgart
Cognia, Inc.
9115 Westside Parkway
Alpharetta, GA 30009

**SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Award under RFP # 202006100
Maine General Science Assessment**

Dear Mr. Elgart,

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Proposals (RFP), issued by the State of Maine Department of Education for the Maine General Science Assessment. The Department has evaluated the proposals received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFP, and the Department is hereby announcing its conditional contract award to the following bidder:

New Meridian Corporation

The bidder listed above received the evaluation team's highest ranking. The Department will be contacting the aforementioned bidder soon to negotiate a contract. As provided in the RFP, the Notice of Conditional Contract Award is subject to execution of a written contract and, as a result, this Notice does NOT constitute the formation of a contract between the Department and the apparent successful vendor. The vendor shall not acquire any legal or equitable rights relative to the contract services until a contract containing terms and conditions acceptable to the Department is executed. The Department further reserves the right to cancel this Notice of Conditional Contract Award at any time prior to the execution of a written contract.

As stated in the RFP, following announcement of this award decision, all submissions in response to the RFP are considered public records available for public inspection pursuant to the State of Maine Freedom of Access Act (FOAA). 1 M.R.S. §§ 401 et seq.; 5 M.R.S. § 1825-B (6).

This award decision is conditioned upon final approval by the State Procurement Review Committee and the successful negotiation of a contract. A Statement of Appeal Rights has been provided with this letter; see below.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

Shari Templeton

Shari Templeton
K-12 Science Specialist/RFP Coordinator

STATEMENT OF APPEAL RIGHTS

Any person aggrieved by an award decision may request an appeal hearing. The request must be made to the Director of the Bureau of General Services, in writing, within 15 days of notification of the contract award as provided in 5 M.R.S. § 1825-E (2) and the Rules of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services, Division of Purchases, Chapter 120, § (2) (2).



**STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**Janet T. Mills
Governor**

**Pender Makin
Commissioner**

September 1, 2020

Lisa Lepic,
NCS Pearson, Inc.
2510 North Dodge Street,
Iowa City, IA 52245

**SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Award under RFP # 202006100
Maine General Science Assessment**

Dear Ms. Lepic,

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Proposals (RFP), issued by the State of Maine Department of Education for the Maine General Science Assessment. The Department has evaluated the proposals received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFP, and the Department is hereby announcing its conditional contract award to the following bidder:

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**STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**Janet T. Mills
Governor**

**Pender Makin
Commissioner**

September 1, 2020

Arthur VanderVeen,
New Meridian Corporation
9300 Research Boulevard,
Kaleido II, Suite 310,
Austin, TX 78759

**SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Award under RFP # 202006100
Maine General Science Assessment**

Dear Mr. VanderVeen,

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Proposals (RFP), issued by the State of Maine Department of Education for the Maine General Science Assessment. The Department has evaluated the proposals received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFP, and the Department is hereby announcing its conditional contract award to the following bidder:

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**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION & NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100
RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment
BIDDER: Cognia
DATE: August 17, 2020

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record all evaluation notes and scoring that is obtained through consensus discussions among the full evaluation team for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. The RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator should complete this form and maintain the only copy. This form should reflect the full team's consensus evaluations, and this form is not meant to take the place of individual evaluation notes, which are still required from each member of the evaluation team. A separate form is available for individual evaluation notes. Please submit a copy of this document to the Division of Purchases as part of your contract award selection documents

DEPARTMENT NAME: Education
NAME OF RFP COORDINATOR: Janette Kirk
NAMES OF EVALUATORS: Nancy Godfrey, Michele Mailhot, Shari Templeton, Charlotte Eilis, Jennifer Tarr, Kirsten Gould, Lindsay Noyes, Tracy Vassiliev

POINT SUMMARY

General Information

Required Item	Present	Missing	Comments
1. File 1 (Cover Sheet, Debarment Certification Form*)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. File 2 Organization Qualifications Experience Part IV, B Section 1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. File 3 Proposed Services (Part IV, B, Section II)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. File 4 Cost Proposal (Appendix D, Part IV, B, Section III)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

*Failure to provide certification may result in the disqualification of the Bidder's proposal, at the discretion of the Department

Section I. Organization Qualifications and Experience (20 Total Points related to Part IV B, Section I)

Section I Total (Max. 20 Points)	14
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Section II. Proposed Services (45 points) Part IV B Section II

Section II Total (Max. 45 Points)	31
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Section III. Priority Points (35 Total Points) Part IV B Section III

Cost Proposal (Maximum 30 Points)	Points Possible	Pro-Rated Score/Score
$\frac{5,244,241}{5,244,241} \times (20) = 20$	20	20
<u>Narrative Points</u>	15	6
Section III Total (Max. 35 points)		26
OFFICIAL SCORE (Max. 100 points)		71

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION & NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100
RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment
BIDDER: Cognia
DATE: August 17, 2020

EVALUATION TEAM NOTES

Section I: Organization Qualifications and Experience	Points Possible: 20	Score: 14
<p>Evaluation Team Comments:</p> <p>The team noted reference project seemed similar to Maine’s intent. Currently administering the ELA/Math grades 3 -8 assessment, relationship established. The bidder has a base in Dover, NH and being somewhat “local” may be helpful. The bidder does have similar contracts in other states across the country. Provided extensive background information regarding their subcontractor(s). Staff assigned to the project are known to Maine through prior contracts. The bidder is a low risk in regard to financial liability and there is no pending litigation. It was noted the bidder does have experience transitioning from paper pencil assessments to an online platform.</p> <p>Established relationship and merging of AdvancED and Measured Progress challenges in working with the vendor with other state summative assessments. Challenges related to internal bias due to current working relationship with the bidder and unintended implicit bias to influence decision making and the challenges of working with the vendor since the merger. Current working experience with bidder on other assessment projects outside of science is not as positive in comparison with the relationship with Measured Progress during the NECAP assessment. The approach and service are not consistent across services provided to the customer with multiple contracts.</p> <p>Unanswered Questions from the team: Is the bidder providing an NGSS aligned assessment in the states mentioned in the bidder’s response? It is unclear if the proposed assessment is being delivered online or if alignment studies have been completed.</p>		
Section II. Proposed Services	Points Possible: 45	Score: 31
<p>Evaluation Team Comments:</p> <p>The ME school staff and students are already familiar with the iTester platform. The bidder is offering the STEM bank at no cost which includes pre-recorded PD for educators and formative assessments that ME educators are able to use with students. The bidder has an established relationship with the subcontractor eMetric and have been working on the NGSS aligned assessment in another state (NM). The bidder has an established relationship with the Maine Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The bidder indicated usability of the ME owned customized items in the upcoming Spring 2021 science assessment. ME educator involvement was indicated in the response. Detailed projected schedule for year 1 & 2 provided. Existing relationship with customer service team.</p> <p>The bidder did not seem open to utilizing new technology for data transfer/exchanges. These exchanges have been a challenge in the past with this bidder. Possible limitations to technology that may restrict technology enhanced items offered to ME students. The bidder’s response seemed somewhat short-sighted regarding assessment implementation moving forward. Assumption is made that there will be not travel expenses incurred by DOE subject matter experts without mention of whether this would be achieved through a virtual convening. The bidder discussed their stellar record related to data accuracy and quality assurance. Although the Department recognizes this may be applicable to science, unfortunately, this has not been the Departments experience with this vendor under other state contracts. The bidder made assumptions in their response that the review team would be familiar with the bidder and subsequent performance. The proposal response was rather vague and lacked depth. There was no vision or innovation around implementation of the science assessment moving forward. The bidder did not include information regarding technology enhanced items. The timeline for implementation is aggressive and does not seem reasonable. Start date on page 178 indicates 8/28/2020 as a start date for implementation but then also lists on page 172 a contract start date of October 1, 2020. The team has concerns that the vendor will not be able to meet the scope of work in the RFP/contract given the timeline provided – it does not seem to have been adjusted based on the release of the RFP. The team does not feel they have an accurate understanding of the timeline to be implemented once dates are revised based if a contract was to</p>		

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION & NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100
RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment
BIDDER: Cognia
DATE: August 17, 2020

be awarded. As this bidder is the current vendor, and was awarded the new science assessment contract, the 2020 science assessment has been previously developed and was not administered during the spring of 2020 as a result of COVID-19. This was not accounted for or referenced in the bidder's proposal.

The proposed model of implementation is somewhat similar to that of the current eMPowerME assessment for Math and ELA. There are concerns related to the continued voice of ME educators being heard in order to amend assessment items. Overarching concerns related to varying experiences between the math & ELA assessment and the science assessment implementation, communication and timelines/schedules.

Unknowns:

The accuracy of the statement that 85% of students can complete the assessment in 150 minutes.

Section III: Cost Proposal Possible Points - 35	Points Possible:	Total Score:
<u>5,244,241</u> 5,244,241 X (20) = 20	20	20
<u>Narrative Points</u>	15	6
Total Score		26

Evaluation Team Comments:

Given the bidder is the current provider of Maine's General Science assessment, the team expected to see additional cost reductions to the overall cost than was shared. The team were unclear regarding if the costs outlined were in regard to the transfer of the paper pencil assessment to a computer-based assessment or if this was for a new computer-based assessment in its entirety. The team also noted that the system is already utilized in Maine schools and therefore, are all the set up/hosting fees, configuration of the kiosk and load testing additionally required outside of the math and ELA assessment. The budget narrative did not provide any additional information related to the budget and was somewhat vague in nature. For example – it is unclear to the team what elements would be included in publishing costs. This detail was lacking. The narrative did not add additional value to the cost proposal. Project narrative score: 6

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION & NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100
RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment
BIDDER: NCS Pearson
DATE: August 17, 2020

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DEPARTMENT NAME: Education
NAME OF RFP COORDINATOR: Janette Kirk
NAMES OF EVALUATORS: Nancy Godfrey, Michele Mailhot, Shari Templeton, Charlotte Ellis, Jennifer Tarr, Kirsten Gould, Lindsay Noyes, Tracy Vassiliev

POINT SUMMARY

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Section I. Organization Qualifications and Experience (20 Total Points related to Part IV B, Section I)

Section I Total (Max. 20 Points)	14
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Section II. Proposed Services (45 points) Part IV B Section II

Section II Total (Max. 45 Points)	33
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Section III. Priority Points (35 Total Points) Part IV B Section III

Cost Proposal (Maximum 30 Points)	Points Possible	Pro-Rated Score/Score
$\frac{5,244,241}{7,382,712} \times (20) = 14$	20	14
<u>Narrative Points</u>	15	3
Section III Total (Max. 35 points)		17
OFFICIAL SCORE (Max. 100 points)		64

EVALUATION TEAM NOTES

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION & NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100
RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment
BIDDER: NCS Pearson
DATE: August 17, 2020

Section I: Organization Qualifications and Experience	Points Possible: 20	Score: 14
<p>Evaluation Team Comments:</p> <p>Longevity of the vendor that is well known, has a broad reach and seems stable. The bidder is self-contained, uses no outside vendors. The bidder discussed the possibility of remote assessment if needed as a result of the current pandemic. The bidder indicated a presence in Maine – currently working with Maine schools. The bidder has a dedicated accessibility team. Projects featured in the review were somewhat similar. The “TESTNAV” platforms seems from the information provided to be a widely used platform. The bidder has experience in utilizing AI. The bidder does have experience transitioning from paper pencil assessments to an online platform. The bidder noted they are working on integrated assessments.</p> <p>The team has significant concerns about the financial high risk of the bidder and a 32% risk of delinquency for the coming year and 4 delinquencies in the past month. There were also two (2) litigations with one resulting in a modest settlement. Litigation was around scoring. The team noted that there is not a North-east regional office established but there is a presence in Massachusetts. Concerns regarding customer service and support to a small rural state such as Maine and the development of 50,000 assessment items on an annual basis.</p> <p>Wonderings from the team: Unclear about interactions with ME schools around science assessments. The team is unclear of the bidder’s interpretation of integrated assessments and if that is context based. Given the broad reach of the bidder, is the quality of services maintained or does it suffer?</p>		
Section II. Proposed Services	Points Possible: 45	Score: 33
<p>Evaluation Team Comments:</p> <p>The bidder clearly articulated the technology enhanced items however they do have less availability of these items. The proposal response does clearly indicate opportunities for Maine educator involvement. Extra supports for students who may need accommodations as a result of a designated accommodation team. Braille transcripts and the reduction of cognitive load we also included. Scoring of NAEP & Teacher certification. Timeline for implementation begins 10/1/2020.</p> <p>The team noted that in year 1, the Iowa assessment would be administered in Maine. Concerns regarding accessibility for some of Maine’s students. Year 2 would then incorporate the ME owned items and necessary field testing. Given this is the Iowa assessment, there are concerns the stimulus and the phenomenon may not be as robust as expected. There are concerns related the to the horizontal and vertical scrolling that is required to access an item (TESTNAV demo). It is not known if this would be applicable for online/computer-based assessment or if it is unique to NCS Pearson and the TESTNAV platform. The bidder will not be scoring the paper-based assessments and a one-to-one proctor is provided to respond to the test form – this increases the likelihood of human error. There will not be a paper-based assessment administered. It is unclear if the paper-based assessments will be utilized – areas of the response indicate that paper-based tests are not implemented and shredded and then later mentions the scanning of paper-based assessments. This cost is not included in the cost proposal provided. The team is unclear if the platform is a single sign-on platform and all other browsers and applications are disabled. The team noted rigidity of staying with performance expectations as written. It is unclear to the team if standard setting will be required in year 3 as a result of a science assessment that is predominantly ME owned items. Calibration of scoring and inter-rater reliability is a concern to the team.</p> <p>The team is unclear of the process and possible impacts around the release of science assessment items that are Iowa owned. The team remains unclear regarding the response of the bidder related to the review of assessment items and provided feedback.</p> <p>Mass issue related to scoring will work with the customer to resolve.</p>		

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION & NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100
RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment
BIDDER: NCS Pearson
DATE: August 17, 2020

Questions/Wonderings:

If Maine is using the Iowa assessment, will ME be assuming the benchmarks currently in place for Iowa or will the ME administration of the assessment be based upon new standard setting using the Iowa assessment? **Will standard setting be required in both year 1 & 2 and then again in year 3 when the assessment is 100% ME owned items?** Is it simply a clone of the Iowa assessment? If so, how does impact the release of the items?

Section III: Cost Proposal Possible Points - 35	Points Possible:	Total Score:
<u>5,244,241</u> 7,382,712 X (20) = 14	20	14
<u>Narrative Points</u>	15	3
Total Score		17

Evaluation Team Comments:

The bidder provided minimal information and restated information contained in the proposal through bulleted statements. The narrative provided no further insight as to how costs were calculated and determined. The team was surprised by the differentiation in costs related to test/task development between the initial period and the first renewal. It is unclear to the team why there are discrepancies between the initial period and subsequent renewals. The narrative did not alleviate the confusion as identified above. Cost proposal narrative score:3.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION & NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100
RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment
BIDDER: New Meridian
DATE: August 17, 2020

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record all evaluation notes and scoring that is obtained through consensus discussions among the full evaluation team for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. The RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator should complete this form and maintain the only copy. This form should reflect the full team's consensus evaluations, and this form is not meant to take the place of individual evaluation notes, which are still required from each member of the evaluation team. A separate form is available for individual evaluation notes. Please submit a copy of this document to the Division of Purchases as part of your contract award selection documents

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NAME OF RFP COORDINATOR: Janette Kirk
NAMES OF EVALUATORS: Nancy Godfrey, Michele Mailhot, Shari Templeton, Charlotte Ellis, Jennifer Tarr, Kirsten Gould, Lindsay Noyes, Tracy Vassiliev

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General Information

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Section I. Organization Qualifications and Experience (20 Total Points related to Part IV B, Section I)

Section I Total (Max. 20 Points)	17
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Section II. Proposed Services (45 points) Part IV B Section II

Section II Total (Max. 45 Points)	42
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Section III. Priority Points (35 Total Points) Part IV B Section III

Cost Proposal (<u>Maximum 35 Points</u>)	Points Possible	Pro-Rated Score/Score
$\frac{5,244,241}{6,037.162} \times (20) = 17$	20	17
<u>Narrative Points</u>	15	15
Section III Total (Max. 35 points)		32
OFFICIAL SCORE (Max. 100 points)		91

EVALUATION TEAM NOTES

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION & NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100
RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment
BIDDER: New Meridian
DATE: August 17, 2020

Section I: Organization Qualifications and Experience	Points Possible: 20	Score: 17
<p>Evaluation Team Comments:</p> <p>The staff has varied experiences across assessments including writers of NGSS standards. Collaborative partners are of a high caliber and known in the educational world. The bidder is a 501(c)(3) organization. The bidder had content experience but not assessment platform delivery experience. Establishment of a scoring center in ME is appealing. The bidder has no litigation and seems low risk. All items are reviewed by two (2) external experts. The assessment is designed to be either administered at home or at the school. The bidder provided references for their sub-contractors. A team member noted that the organization recognizes and values external expertise. The bidder shared 100% on time on budget delivery. The projects provided were similar to the project being implemented in Maine (science) with also Math & ELA experience.</p> <p>Mobile scoring center for SME that scored \$2million + items. The addition of ME items to the bidder's assessment pool and the provision of royalties may be a plus. This is a newer bidder, in existence since 2016 this is both appealing and somewhat of a concern. Concerns related to the number of individuals employed by the bidder (18).</p> <p>Wonderings from the team: The bidder seems to be a management organization and not an actual vendor implementing the assessment. If the SOM ends a contract with the bidder, what is the resulting impact to the assessment items that have been added to the bidder's pool of items and subsequent royalties. Unclear of customer service. Management of sub-contractors.</p>		
Section II. Proposed Services	Points Possible: 45	Score: 42
<p>Evaluation Team Comments:</p> <p>The bidder articulated universal training around NGSS but it was unclear as to whom the bidder would be training and for what purpose. E.g. item writers etc. Regardless, the bidder does share a clear process and protocol for training. The bidder utilizes the same framework for the items and the stimuli. There is a comprehensive data security and privacy plan articulated within the response. These plans were also applicable to the bidder's sub-contractors. The bidder shared that assessment administration for younger grades is shorter than the maximum 150 minutes – this differentiated approach was appealing to review team members. The bidder has prior experience with ME's current vendor in relation to transferring items. A team member shared their excitement regarding sub-contractors that are open to new and innovative approaches and strategies. An example of which is the bidder has 8 technology enhanced items. The bidder's approach to the work seems very thoughtful. It was appreciated the bidder also provided possible cost saving options to the state of Maine. A team member indicated the charts and graphics were very helpful. The team appreciated the bidder strives to ensure assessment items are grade level appropriate and align with necessary mathematics and language skills and knowledge. The strong scoring practices with small scoring teams, validation of responses, recalibration, double-blind scoring is embedded within the platform were clearly articulated. The current research is referenced in the bidder's current design features, practices and procedures. This is information and research are embedded throughout the bidder's response. The bidder indicated the assessment could administer the assessment, if needed, remotely. The bidder indicated all necessary permissions are received in advance of the assessment. A comprehensive list of accommodations was provided including math access support. The proposal overall is very well structured, well thought out based on evidence with Maine DOE as the point of interest and ensuring what is in the best interest of Maine. Maine educators in the review team appreciated the approach taken by the bidder to embrace the type of teaching Maine educators envision in the classroom.</p> <p>There is no mention of released items for year 1 & 2 however the bidder does indicate the benchmark of 25% of released items provided will be achieved in year 3. The team has inferred that bidder items will be released in years 1 & 2. The proposal shared that all items would be owned by the bidder and licensed to ME for use. IRC is indicated utilizing ME educators but the proposal response is not clear around whether the bidder will utilize feedback provided and amend/edit an item as opposed to reject or accept. Revise does not seem to be a possible option. During year 1, a single assessment form will be provided – all students in a grade will participate in the same assessment. In preceding years, additional</p>		

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION & NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100
RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment
BIDDER: New Meridian
DATE: August 17, 2020

assessment forms will be developed and provided. This will limit the opportunity to field test items. There are some concerns regarding the scope of work to be achieved during the month of October.

Questions & wonderings:

Peer review support – is this included in the current cost proposal or an additional cost?

Does the single assessment form apply to computer-based assessment or paper-pencil?

Section III: Cost Proposal Possible Points - 35	Points Possible:	Total Score:
<u>5,244,241</u> 6,037,162 X (20) = 17	20	17
<u>Narrative Points</u>	15	15
Total Score		32

Evaluation Team Comments:

The budget narrative provided contained information the review team would expect to see in a budget narrative. A significant level of detail was provided to demonstrate how the bidder determined the costs within the proposal response. This narrative also included some of the responsibilities the customer can expect to receive. The budget proposal provided clear, itemized information to ensure team review members had a clear understanding of detailed costs provided in the cost proposal. The bidder also provided potential cost saving opportunities in the budget proposal. The 15-page narrative was comprehensive and not just a reiteration of already provided information.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: Cognia

DATE: 08/13/2020

EVALUATOR NAME: Charlotte Ellis

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by individual evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

- **Organization Qualifications and Experience**

- Overview of the Organization ✓
 - + Project References-projects all have similarities to RFP requirements (pages 10-12)
 - + Maine has experience with Cognia and Measured Progress before it merged with Advanced Ed/Cognia
- Subcontractors ✓
 - + Provided extensive information and background on eMetric (pages 13-15)
 - + Maine has experience with this subcontractor
- Organizational Chart ✓
 - + Some of the staff are known to Maine, particularly some project leads and the data architect (pages 18-22)
- Litigation✓
- Financial Viability✓
 - + Low risk
- Certificate of Insurance✓

- **Proposed Services**

- Services to be Provided
 - + Maine school staff and students already familiar with iTester platform
 - - Detail their quality assurance regarding data and adherence to timelines, but that has not been our experience with this vendor in prior contract situations.
 - - Specifically indicates that in order for success, there must be no disruption to testing experience. Since we are in the midst of a pandemic, this seems like an unrealistic expectation and sometime contingency for issues should be planned.
- Implementation – Work Plan and Schedule ✓

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: NCS Pearson, Inc

DATE: 08/13/2020

EVALUATOR NAME: Charlotte Ellis

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

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Individual Evaluator Comments:

- **Organization Qualifications and Experience**

- Overview of the Organization√
 - + Team dedicated to accessibility
 - + Project References-projects all have similarities to RFP requirements (pages 15-17)
- Subcontractors√
- Organizational Chart √
- Litigation√
- Financial Viability√
 - - High risk (pages 28-32)
- Certificate of Insurance√

- **Proposed Services**

- Services to be Provided
 - - Will not be scanning paper tests, but instead wants Maine educators to manually input the results into the testing platform. This process would introduce data integrity issues into the system.
 - - By asking the educator to shred the initial paper test, there is no audit trail of the student's actual responses.
 - + Human scoring and automated scoring systems are integrated
 - - Lots of edits to Rider B-IT
- Implementation – Work Plan and Schedule √

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: New Meridian Corporation

DATE: 08/13/2020

EVALUATOR NAME: Charlotte Ellis

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

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Individual Evaluator Comments:

- **Organization Qualifications and Experience**
 - Overview of the Organization ✓
 - - Project references for primary do not show evidence of assessment delivery
 - Subcontractors ✓
 - ? Two subcontractors
 - + Subs have previous experience working together (page 9)
 - ? No evidence that primary has prior experience working with subs
 - Organizational Chart ✓
 - + Staff have extensive experience across many different nationwide assessment systems and programs
 - Litigation ✓
 - Financial Viability ✓
 - + Low risk
 - Certificate of Insurance ✓
- **Proposed Services**
 - Services to be Provided
 - + Trains all item writers in NGSS
 - + Seem to have a strong training and process for item writing
 - - Maine will not own items
 - + Comprehensive data privacy and security policies
 - + Prior experience working with Cognia to pull in Maine owned items
 - + Included data privacy and security policies for MZD as well
 - Implementation – Work Plan and Schedule ✓

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100
RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment
BIDDER NAME: Cognia
DATE: 8/18/20
EVALUATOR NAME: Nancy Godfrey
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by individual evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. *It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings.* A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.

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Individual Evaluator Comments:

- **Organization Qualifications and Experience**
 - Overview of the Organization
 - Subcontractors
 - Organizational Chart
 - Litigation
 - Financial Viability
 - Certificate of Insurance
- **Proposed Services**
 - Services to be Provided
 - Implementation – Work Plan and Schedule

Positive
Negative
Question
Interesting

	OVERVIEW
P	Oklahoma DOE: Cognia manages and administers the Oklahoma School Testing Program (3-8) and Oklahoma College and Career Readiness: Science and U.S. History (Grade 11). Cognia assesses approximately 300,000 students per year in Grades 3–8 and approximately 90,000 students at Grade 11 using eMetric's iTester for all online testing components.
P	New Mexico DOE: Cognia currently manages the New Mexico Spanish Reading Standards Based Assessments, the New Mexico Assessment of Science Readiness, and the New Mexico Grades 3-8 summative assessments in reading, English language usage, and mathematics.

STATE OF MAINE INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: Cognia

DATE: 8/18/20

EVALUATOR NAME: Nancy Godfrey

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

P	Maryland DOE: Cognia's Maryland High School Assessment (HSA) Government and Science contract consists of assessment administrations in science and government studies.
N	Have had some difficulties in the past with aspects of Measured Progress/AdvancED/Cognia – some issues during transition period. The culture and personnel pre-SBAC and post-SBAC at the company is quite different – pros and cons regarding the multiple contracts Maine has with Cognia.
	SUBCONTRACTORS
P	eMetric, LLC: ME, OK, MD, NM, SD
P	Maine has experience working with both vendors (Cognia & eMetric)
	SERVICES
P	Cognia has NGSS-aligned Science Secure Item Bank (SSIB). Cognia content specialists have developed deep familiarity not only with the NGSS but with Maine's rigorous requirements for development of custom content. The Cognia SSIB is an item bank for grade 3 through high school that provides a full range of item clusters and standalone test items for assessing student proficiency with the NGSS.
P	broad representation of the NGSS at multiple levels of cognitive complexity, and field test item development plans that leverage items from our own SSIB and new Maine-owned custom items
P	We recommend an assessment design including SSIB-licensed content for the operational assessment and Maine-owned custom items for field testing for spring 2021 that will allow Maine to field test new items one year sooner than the RFP requires, thus achieving one of your key goals on a shorter timeline.
P	Maine users (5&8) are already familiar with iTester from its use with the eMPower assessment
Q	Cognia has collaborated successfully with eMetric specifically for NGSS-aligned Science assessment in New Mexico Do we have a reference?
P	Cognia has an established relationship with Maine's TAC
I	Educator/Student Questionnaires: Previously the Department has solicited feedback regarding the MEA Science assessment using student and administrator questionnaires directly following the administration. We propose to reexamine the content, audiences, and timing of the questionnaires in an effort to gather evidence to support the validity of the assessment. We provide more information on use of questionnaires to support validity in section J. Benchmarking, Scoring, Scaling, Analysis, and Reporting. We will work with the Department to create a questionnaire that includes both open-ended and closed-ended items related to computer-based and paper-based assessment administration, assessment security, customer service, program management, and other criteria agreed upon with the Department. Upon receipt of questionnaires, Cognia will compile the results in a report with recommendations for Department review and for planning purposes. The Department will retain the sole authority to approve changes and enhancements and communicate them to the public.
Q	Complimentary access to Cognia resources for STEM readiness and science formative assessment. <i>Cognia offers multiple STEM Formative Item Sets at each grade level to provide educators maximum flexibility and variety.</i> All components of the STEM Formative Item Sets are accessible and downloadable from a Cognia portal. As we make enhancements to our STEM Formative Item Sets, we will offer the same to Maine. More info/details?
P	To accomplish the goals of the new MEA Science assessment and to align to NGSS, we propose the use of a principled approach to assessment design, development, and implementation (PADDI) based on the work of 23 RFP # 202006100 Cognia's Dr. Steve Ferrara in Ferrara, Lai, Reilly, and Nichols (2016). ² In following

STATE OF MAINE INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: Cognia

DATE: 8/18/20

EVALUATOR NAME: Nancy Godfrey

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

	PADDI, we guide the assessment program design, development, and reporting decisions, to align to such industry best practices as outlined in the <i>Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing</i> and integrating the CCSSO <i>Criteria for Procuring and Evaluating High Quality Assessments</i> to strengthen our rigorous procedures.
P	The SSIB contains items written to the PEs including a robust selection of items in the grades assessed by the MEA Science. Within each grade span, the SSIB includes items from each NGSS content strand: Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, Earth and Space Sciences, and Engineering Design.
I	Sample Item via iTester: URL: https://maine.cognia.org/student Username: MainerFP Password: Cognia (not case sensitive) Variety of item types in 10 sample questions.
*	The estimated amount of time students will need to respond to the items is within 150 minutes for each grade.
Q	Item Metadata Report from the Item Authoring System. The Item Authoring System conforms to both IMS Global Question Test Interoperability (QTI) and Accessible Portable Item Protocol (APIP). Is this an internal access function or login for client?
P	Equivalence for BPT (e.g. TEIs): To support equivalence between the different modes of testing, we will replace technology-enhanced items (TEIs) from the computer-based core form with paper-based machine-scored versions of these TEIs. The student response interaction for these paper replacement items will be a choice interaction (i.e., multiple choice or multiple select).
I	A sample of the SharePoint electronic risk register and tracking system used by program management staff is shown in the following exhibit.
Q	Although the RFP does not specify it, standard setting will be needed for the new science assessments to facilitate score reporting and to meet Peer Review requirements. (pg. 115). Full plan for Standard Setting pp. 122-126. The RFP doesn't mention Standard Setting? Yes it did
P	Correlation between ALDs/cut scores: where approximately 60% of students in all three grades reached At State Expectations and above), National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) science performance in grades 4 and 8, and performance in the 2019 Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)
I	Vertical Articulation options pp. 119-120
P	Ensuring Comparability conduct comparability studies that will compare results for students taking the assessment on paper (PBT) with students taking the assessments on computer (CBT).
P	Detailed section on equating 129-131
P	Validity follows US DOE criteria (response process, cognitive process, internal structure, relationship to other variables, mode comparability, comparability across testing modes and devices, etc.
I	L. Special Analyses: peer review, validity, reliability, usability, add performance tasks to CBT?, equate PBT to CBT?, cognitive labs?
P	Hoping for smooth transition from traditional PBT to iTester online platform (also accomplished with Oklahoma and New Mexico)

STATE OF MAINE INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: Cognia

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EVALUATOR NAME: Nancy Godfrey

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

P	Site Readiness: iTester includes a web-based readiness tool for schools and districts to verify that their infrastructure, network bandwidth, and testing devices are properly configured for administering student tests.
P	Customer/Client Care Center success with Maine
P	Platform-based student tutorial: Machine-scored items (i.e., multiple choice, multiple select, technology-enhanced) in the tutorial can be scored immediately.
	WORK PLAN AND SCHEDULE
P	<p>Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The contract start date will be approximately October 1, 2020. • The dates for 2021 assessment administration will follow closely the dates planned for the 2020 administration, with separate assessment windows for High School, and Grades 5 and 8 combined. • The count of students who receive paper-based, Braille, and Large Print assessment forms will be approximately the same as in 2020. • No more than one-third of newly developed items will be rejected during item reviews. • Cognia Program Management staff will collaborate closely and regularly with designated Department staff (Science Assessment Coordinator, Science Content Specialist, Data Specialist) and subcontractor (eMetric) during Planning phase to ensure a common understanding of program components, key milestones, schedule.
P	<p>Implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eMetric's portal will be opened to educators (District/School Test Assessment Coordinators) approximately 1 month prior to the opening of each testing window. • Sample practice tests/student tutorials will be available to educators and students approximately 1 month prior to the opening of each testing window. • Assessments will be made available for scheduling in iTester one week prior to the opening of each assessment window.
P	Projected Schedule Year 1: pp. 177-190 / Year 2: pp. 192-204
*	Projected annual invoicing schedule/amount years 1&2

NOTE: Source of Items

For the Spring 2021 MEA Science assessment, we will construct full operational (core) forms using items with existing performance data from Cognia's SSIB.5 Although the RFP indicates that the Spring 2021 forms should be 100% vendor-supplied, we would like to propose an enhancement to the Department's plan that will provide multiple advantages and promote continuity of the new assessment. We propose that the Spring 2021 forms include field test slots for items from Maine's current item development cycle and/or previously developed Maine custom items originally intended for the Spring 2020 administration but cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Including those items for field testing in Spring 2021 would provide the following benefits:

- Utilize Spring 2021 field test positions in service of Maine's existing content. The Spring 2021 forms will include field test positions in order to maintain equivalent length (i.e., student testing experience) from the first administration to subsequent administrations of the new assessment. These field test positions could be filled with Maine-owned content rather than SSIB content.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

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EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

- Capitalize on the dedicated item development efforts already expended on Maine custom items the past two years. The items have already completed all committee reviews, quality assurance processes, and been approved by the Department for field testing. No new item development tasks are needed before selecting these items for field testing.
- Begin field testing sooner than Spring 2022, thereby introducing Maine-owned content into the operational portion of the assessment sooner and collecting data on more items in the same two-year span outlined in the RFP.

This enhancement is offered free of charge to the Department.

Using this model, we propose the following distributions of Maine-owned and SSIB items for the Spring 2021 administration and for the Spring 2022 administration and beyond.

The sources of core and matrix field test items for Spring 2021 will be

- 100% operational items from the SSIB
- Field test items from previously authored and approved Maine-owned items (filling any remaining field test positions with items from the SSIB)

The sources of core and matrix field test items for Spring 2022 and beyond will be

- 75% operational items from the SSIB
- 25% operational items from the Maine-owned item pool
- Field test items from both the Maine-owned item pool and the SSIB

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100
RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment
BIDDER NAME: Pearson
DATE: 8/18/20
EVALUATOR NAME: Nancy Godfrey
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

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Individual Evaluator Comments:

- **Organization Qualifications and Experience**
 - Overview of the Organization
 - Subcontractors
 - Organizational Chart
 - Litigation
 - Financial Viability
 - Certificate of Insurance
- **Proposed Services**
 - Services to be Provided
 - Implementation – Work Plan and Schedule

Positive
Negative
Question
Interesting

OVERVIEW	
P	Pearson has been around forever
Q	Tens of thousands of K–12 students in Maine benefit from a wide range of high quality, reliable, and valid assessment products, including Digital Assessment Library for Schools (DALs), aimswebPlus, and Review360, among others.

STATE OF MAINE INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES

RFP #: 202006100

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EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

	The Digital Assessment Library for Schools provides a solution for school districts that offers unlimited use of more than 30 assessments on <u>Q-interactive®</u> and <u>Q-global®</u> , including WISC®-V, BASC™-3, KTEA™-3, Sensory Profile™ 2, CELF®-5 and more. None of this seems to be free.
Q	COVID: We know that as we respond to the RFP, there is a possibility that the spring 2021 assessments will be difficult to administer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distance Testing Pilot (Minnesota)? End-of-Year Assessments (Texas)?
P	Capacity: TestNAV = test delivery platform single sign-on to our Pearson Access suite of services integrates summative online testing, pretesting identification, reporting, education data management, and many other aspects of state assessment programs. TestNav delivers items ranging from traditional multiple-choice to highly interactive multimedia items. It also offers multiple online testing accommodations. We currently use TestNav to deliver assessments in 12 US states and Puerto Rico, with four states applying our platform for computer-adaptive testing.
I	Scoring Capacity = Our constructed-response scoring contracts include 10 state programs, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, NAEP, college entrance exams, high school equivalency assessments, and teacher licensure exams
P	Good experience with AI
N	High financial risk company – too large an ocean for a small fish contract like Maine
	SUBCONTRACTORS & OTHER CONTRACTS EXPERIENCE
	Pearson will not be using any subcontractors for this contract.
P	Iowa Testing Program Statewide Assessments of Student Progress (ISASP) (2019–2023)
Q	Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) 2019–2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) 2006–2019 – “integrated” how? Maryland ELA and Mathematics (PARCC) 2012–2017 Maryland High School Assessment (HSA) 2007–2016 (sub) Alternate Maryland School Assessment (Alt-MSA) 2003–2016 Maryland School Assessment (MSA) 2002–2014 reading and mathematics Maryland Functional Testing Program (MFTP) 2002–2008
Q	Next-Generation Science Assessment System for Delaware Learners Phase II: Development and Implementation (2017–2022)
N	Litigation: In April 2018, a Mississippi parent, on behalf of herself and her minor child, filed a lawsuit against Pearson related to a scoring issue that occurred in the Spring of 2017. It was determined that the Plaintiff did not experience any harm as a result of the issue, and the parties mutually agreed to a modest settlement in September 2018.
	SERVICES
Q	web-based scheduling software, KeyedIn®, we identify the critical path to help inform contingency planning and identify slack in the schedule, where activities can be consolidated or reconfigured to free resources for tasks on the critical path. Similar to SharePoint? For project management monitoring schedule to timelines?
I	If Maine DOE requires Pearson to procure services that Pearson cannot perform, we will adhere to the following process:

STATE OF MAINE INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES

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EVALUATOR NAME: Nancy Godfrey

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the requirements Obtain approval to use vendor of choice Contract for vendor/vendors' services
	Bank = In Year One, we propose licensing of the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) science test form in Maine for use during the first year of administration of the Maine General Science Assessment. Fully aligned to NGSS, the ISASP science program assessed grades 5, 8, and high school, with all domains addressed equally.
	Year Two, Pearson proposes operational field test forms using embedded Iowa clusters as linking items. This will include two operational forms that have the same three Iowa clusters, ensuring that enough material is administered to build future forms.
	In Year Three and following, the content will be Maine-developed. In each of the three sessions, two base operational forms and field test sections will be used.
P	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple choice (MC) Multiple select (MS) Technology enhanced items (TEI) Graphic gap match Match table grid Hot spot Bar graph Two-part dependent items (TPD) Two-part independent items (TPI) Constructed response (CR) Extended response (ER)
N	<p>TestNAV Platform Demo (split screen L/R but you had to scroll not only on L/R, but also bottom of both sides (4 scrolling bars)) The sample items may be reviewed by clicking the link below.</p> <p>Student Interface. TestNav provides a consistent user experience across screen sizes—from desktops to touchscreen devices. Students can consistently view test questions and tools in response to the size of the screen through TestNav's responsive web design. This allows for a fair assessment of students' abilities in all subjects, across a variety of devices.</p> <p>https://ref.testnav.com/client/index.html#login?username=LGN713708374&password=W8A4R24S</p>
N	<p>The practice tests for the Iowa Science Assessment is located here: http://iowa.pearsonaccessnext.com/test-prep/science/ Is this different from testnav? No scroll bars in practice tests, similar to our tutorial which has limited items and features.</p>
P	Item and Stimulus Review = Pearson recommends providing training at the beginning of the meeting to assist committee members as they evaluate items.
P	Item Approval = All items and passages proposed for potential inclusion in the Maine DOE item pools will be available for Maine DOE review and approval. Should Maine DOE determine that an item or passage is inappropriate for use on the Maine General Science Assessment or that it does not align to the NGSS, that asset will not be included in the item pool.

STATE OF MAINE INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: Pearson

DATE: 8/18/20

EVALUATOR NAME: Nancy Godfrey

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

P	Ownership = Pearson acknowledges that Maine DOE has final approval and will retain ownership of all items, tasks, any materials created in the course of the contract. The items and materials will be maintained in a mutually agreed upon electronic format (QTI) that can be transferred to a subsequent vendor and to the Maine DOE.
I	<p>Year 1, this custom plan includes administering test forms with items previously benchmarked and calibrated for automated scoring.</p> <p>Year 2, the Maine General Science Assessment will consist of pre-developed, pre-calibrated items for the operational assessment and new field test items developed specifically for Maine.</p> <p>Year 3, the Maine General Science Assessment will comprise 100% Maine-developed items.</p> <p>Each year, beginning in Year 2, embedded field test items will be benchmarked so they can be used in operational tests in subsequent years.</p>
I	<p>SCORING = the first score will be assigned by Pearson's automated scoring engine, the Intelligent Essay Assessor (IEA), with 10% percent of all student responses automatically redistributed for human read-behinds.</p> <p>Latent Semantic Analysis (LSA) analyzes large bodies of relevant text to generate semantic similarity of words and passages. LSA can then "understand" the meaning of text much the same as a human scorer. The Maine General Science Assessment will be scored at a Pearson regional scoring site.</p>
Q	Scoring = All human scoring of student responses will be conducted through our scoring platform, ePEN
	Used by NAEP?
	ABBI (Assessment Banking and Building for Interoperability)
Q	<p>RELEASED ITEMS = Pearson will provide released item documents for the representative sample of items that approximate 25 percent of the items. This includes licensed items from the ISASP science program.</p> <p>How are they releasing 25% of Iowa owned/licensed items?</p>
Q	<p>UNIVERSAL/SUPPORTS/ACCOMMODATIONS = Charts in File # pgs. 123-130. Mostly copying Maine, but also</p> <p>Work Prediction</p> <p>Is TestNav an SSO platform that allows no other program to be running? Is word prediction an outside program, or is it part of the TestNav application and considered a Universal Tool?</p>
N	<p>NO PBT Scoring Unless we specifically request, and pay for separately (File #3 pg. 156)</p> <p>Due to the small volume of paper-based assessments and the time necessary to prepare and ship small numbers of assessments back to Pearson for scanning and scoring, our proposed solution is that after the assessment has been administered to the student using the paper/accommodated form, Maine educators will then enter the student responses into the online testing system. After responses have been successfully added to the online system, the test booklets will be securely destroyed, such as through shredding, at the local level. Given this solution, the requirement for a student label is no longer needed. If, instead, Maine DOE prefers that Pearson inputs student responses, either via machine scanning or by human transcription and data entry, we will be happy to provide amended costs reflecting the additional processing.</p> <p>This is an unreasonable request as students who need PBT do not necessarily have 1:1 test administrator, and this staffing puts an undue burden on school.</p>
	WORK PLAN AND SCHEDULE
P	Sample Milestone Summary File #3 pgs. 169-171
Q	Quality Plan Section (37 pages) to address II.G. Quality Control and Risk Management

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: Pearson

DATE: 8/18/20

EVALUATOR NAME: Nancy Godfrey

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

	Previous statement that “after the assessment has been administered to the student using the paper/accommodated form, Maine educators will then enter the student responses into the online testing system. After responses have been successfully added to the online system, the test booklets will be securely destroyed, such as through shredding, at the local level.”, but the quality plan section describes processing (scanning, etc.) for paper tests. Will Pearson scan/score PBTs or not? Yes they will for an extra cost!
P	Interesting User Role Chart File #3 pgs. 221-227
P	Detailed Program Schedule draft File #3 pgs. 229-245
Q	Pearson put together their own Rider C (exceptions to Rider B-IT)?

Scoring

Item Banking and Development

ABBI (Assessment Banking and Building for Interoperability) provides a single unified interface for the following:

- Authoring test content and all associated content assets
- Banking content elements and metadata
- Building test forms
- Publishing test forms for online or paper delivery

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100
RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment
BIDDER NAME: New Meridian
DATE: 8/18/20
EVALUATOR NAME: Nancy Godfrey
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by individual evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. *It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings.* A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.

- File #1:** Proposal Cover Page (**Appendix A**)
Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification (**Appendix B**)
- File #2:** Organization Qualifications and Experience (**Appendix C** and all related/required attachments stated in PART IV, B., Section I.)
- File #3:** Proposed Services (and all related/required attachments stated in PART IV, B., Section II.)
- File #4:** Cost Proposal (**Appendix D** and all related/required attachments stated in PART IV, B., Sec III.)

Individual Evaluator Comments:

- **Organization Qualifications and Experience**
 - Overview of the Organization
 - Subcontractors
 - Organizational Chart
 - Litigation
 - Financial Viability
 - Certificate of Insurance

Positive
Negative
Question
Interesting

	OVERVIEW
Q	fairly new company 2016 / non-profit 501 C-3, which is interesting, but also a positive. Small company (18 employees) – how thin is the 18 spread for current contracts?
Q	Each state contracts separately with its test administration vendor for test administration, scoring, and reporting services. Meaning that Meridian does not have a platform, or scoring staff, or reporting platform?
Q	In April of 2017, New Meridian was selected to be the management vendor for content and item development, state engagement, and program management for a multi-state English language arts and mathematics assessment system For who?
Q	Multi-State vs. consortium?

STATE OF MAINE INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: New Meridian

DATE: 8/18/20

EVALUATOR NAME: Nancy Godfrey

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

	What is Meridian's definition of each and what is the difference?
P	Access to the New Meridian Science Exchange. As a participating state in the Science Exchange, the Maine Department of Education (DOE) will have immediate access to a bank of more than 600 NGSS-aligned items for grades 5, 8 and the third year of high school.
I	Appendix 1 includes sample items and item clusters from the New Meridian Science Exchange.
P	There is also an opportunity for the Maine DOE to contribute its existing Maine-owned items and clusters to the Science Exchange and earn royalties when the items are licensed and used by other states participating in the Science Exchange.
P	New Meridian provides science content for the Illinois Science Assessment summative assessment in grades 5, 8, and high school.
P	Their Science staff assembled is top notch in country
	SUBCONTRACTORS & OTHER CONTRACTS
I	MZ Development, Inc., (MZD) and Strategic Measurement and Evaluation, Inc. (SME) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoring (OSCAR) • Delivery Platform (ADAM – capable remote) • Ancillary materials • Data exchange
I	SME will develop a custom solution for producing, delivering, and processing paper assessments and scoring all constructed-response items for the MECAS science assessment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PBTs • Benchmarking • Scoring (CRs)
I	Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) summative assessments for students in grades 3-8 in English language arts (ELA/L) and mathematics
I	Illinois Science Assessment summative assessment in grades 5, 8, and high school
I	New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (ELA/L & math)
Q	Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP) summative assessments for grades 3-8 and high school in ELA/L and mathematics. This content and related services are provided to Louisiana through Data Recognition Corporation (DRC). If provided to Louisiana through DRC, what is Meridian's role (middle-man)?
I	Louisiana ESSA Innovative Assessment Project (ELA & Social Studies)
I	MZD is partnering with Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA)
I	SME has been the New York City Charter Center's vendor of choice for the collection, scanning, and scoring of New York State Department of Education (NYSED) ELA and mathematics tests for all students attending New York City charter schools

STATE OF MAINE INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: New Meridian

DATE: 8/18/20

EVALUATOR NAME: Nancy Godfrey

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

- **Proposed Services**
 - Services to be Provided
 - Implementation – Work Plan and Schedule

	SERVICES
P	Online testing platform (MZD/ADAM) 70 item types including innovative TEIs
I	PBT = SME
P	Standard Setting August 2021
I	OSCAR online scoring and reporting platform
P	In addition to weekly meetings and minutes, New Meridian will submit a monthly status report to the Maine DOE leadership
P	Annually, New Meridian will collaborate with the Maine DOE to provide a stakeholder survey
P	Multiple comparisons are to be made between the content of each item with the Performance Expectation (PE) from each standard the item is intended to measure. These comparisons will include alignment of Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCIs), Science and Engineering Practices (SEPs), and Crosscutting Concepts (CCCs) when appropriate, as well as cognitive complexity.
P	Maine also will have the opportunity to review all selected items prior to form construction.
P	sample items demonstrate a range of selected-response (SR), constructed-response (CR), and technology-enhanced (TEI) formats across grades 5, 8 and 11
P	science assessment will include selected-response, technology-enhanced, and constructed-response, used within cluster-based item sets, two-part items, and as standalone questions.
Q	New Meridian's item specifications and test blueprints will require tight alignment of all items and forms to the Maine Science Standards
P	120 minutes for grade 5, 135 minutes for grade 8, and 150 minutes for grade 11.
N	plan to license 100 percent of the items and clusters required for the MECAS science assessments. This test design requires that New Meridian will maintain the rights to all items, clusters, and stimuli licensed to the State throughout the contract N.M. license/own 100% of the items and clusters? Not Maine-owned items.
P	New Meridian will construct forms according to test blueprints and specifications for each grade, approved by the Maine DOE
P	Year 2, New Meridian will identify field test item sets to be embedded in the test forms once the common item sets have been approved
P	Year 2, Maine's content and bias review committees will approve the items selected from the Science Exchange for field testing
Q	New Meridian proposes a gradual increase of the percentage of operational items released across the first three years of the contract, up to the full 25 percent in Year 3 and beyond What percentage of released items in years 1 and 2? In year's 1 and 2 is Meridian releasing items from its existing bank?
Q	Quality Diagnostics via Root Cause Analysis (RCA) process. Search and get more info.
P	Potential Risks: Due to COVID-19, there could be significant disruptions or cancellations to the summative assessments, similar to what many states experienced in spring 2020.

STATE OF MAINE INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: New Meridian

DATE: 8/18/20

EVALUATOR NAME: Nancy Godfrey

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

P	New Meridian proposes an equating design, scale linking method, and standard setting workshop to ensure scale maintenance across years.
P	Scoring (MZD) = The test delivery system ADAM will score student responses for all machine-scorable item types. SME will score all student responses for constructed-response and extended-response item types.
Q	OSCAR reports to support the scoring process Search and get more info.
P	CRISIS = OSCAR allows scorers to flag responses and immediately forwards flagged responses to the lead trainer associated with the item training for review. SME will immediately forward the flagged response and the identifying content to the Maine DOE
P	New Meridian will conduct a standard setting workshop using the Bookmark method following administration of the Year 1 MECAS test forms. New Meridian proposes reporting scale scores that are a linear transformation of the IRT ability estimate.
Q	New Meridian will use the student questionnaire data as a source of validity evidence. Will there be an educator survey?
Q	Peer Review CE Relations to Other Variables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Meridian can also conduct correlational research studies involving other related external measures, such as students' scores from norm-referenced achievement tests, scores from other subject area tests (e.g., mathematics and English Language Arts) and scores from classroom assessments (e.g., grades, teachers' ratings, and other formative assessments). As part of the contract? Or at an additional cost/special analysis?
P	Special Analysis = we will work annually with the Maine DOE science content specialist and assessment team coordinator as well as Maine's TAC on a research and analysis agenda that encompasses up to 120 hours for study planning, execution, analyses, and reporting
Q	Student performance is classified into one of five performance levels; (1) Did not yet meet expectations, (2) Partially met expectations, (3) Approached expectations, (4) Met expectations, and (5) Exceeded expectations. Can we change the language of the ALDs?
P	PLATFORM: Science Assessment Demo via https://adamexam.com/tester/ , using the Test Code JBFNPF.
P	PBT = SME will arrange to print the test booklets in black and white to provide for a minimum of 10 percent overage to all participating schools. SME will also produce appropriate quantities for students requiring Braille or large-print.
	WORK PLAN AND SCHEDULE
P	Table 2-1. Draft Work Plan for the Implementation of the MECAS Science Assessment pgs. 316-330

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: Cognia

DATE: 08-16-2020

EVALUATOR NAME: Kirsten Gould

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by individual evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. *It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings.* A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

- **Organization Qualifications and Experience**
 - Overview of the Organization:
 - Cognia works with 3600 education providers, including the MEA since 1980s. This relationship means Cognia knows our system and our expectations, and teachers and students know the assessment system.
 - The Dover, NH office will house all project staff, allowing for close proximity to educators and the DOE.
 - Cognia developed 7000 items and 4300 graphics, and scores 30 million sheets/year.
 - Cognia uses item-vetting with scoring content specialists. That has resulted in 90% item acceptance at review committee level.
 - 80% of content development team are educators.
 - The psychometrician led work with prior Maine projects.
 - Subcontractors:
 - eMetric: full range of summatives, formatives and interims
 - Worked with Maine since 2016 (80k students/year)
 - Worked with 250k students/year in Oklahoma.
 - Organizational Chart
 - Litigation: none
 - Financial Viability:
 - low-risk, 0 lawsuits, 1 lien, 15 UCCs
 - Certificate of Insurance: yes
- **Proposed Services**
 - Services to be Provided
 - They have human and AI scoring, including an image-scoring system.
 - Formative assessment sets will be provided free of charge.
 - STEM bank with formative assessments (97 sets for grades 3-8) and professional development prerecorded for educators to support consistency and understanding
 - Maine's Technical Advisory Committee is already involved with eMPowerME.
 - Feedback questionnaires are already developed and vetted.
 - Gap analysis each year to determine items to be developed.
 - Student tutorials are provided on the platform with immediate personal feedback.
 - Implementation – Work Plan and Schedule
 - Stimulus and item review use the same checklists and procedures to ensure accuracy, clarity, and eliminate bias, etc.
 - Proposal: Though the RFP states the vendor will supply 100% of the items in spring, 2021, Cognia proposes using some Maine items for field testing.
 - CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: Cognia

DATE: 08-16-2020

EVALUATOR NAME: Kirsten Gould

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

- Scoring:
 - 1:10 ratio of scorers to experts
 - Quality assurance includes 2 read-behinds per scorer, per hour, double-blind scoring, 10 validity check sets/day, scorer retraining and void scores.
 - Cognia requires 90% exact agreement with only one discrepant score.
 - All scores assigned by an ineffective scorer are returned to be scored by qualified scorer
- Cognia has a current student/teacher questionnaire.
- They state that research indicates use of a computer can widen the achievement gap. Comparability and equating studies will be used to mitigate differences in difficulty across test editions.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: Pearson

DATE: 08-16-2020

EVALUATOR NAME: Kirsten Gould

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by individual evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. *It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings.* A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

- **Organization Qualifications and Experience**
 - Overview of the Organization:
 - Pearson currently works with 100 Maine districts, including areas of special education, behavior, Sp&L, OT, PT, and psychology.
 - Their Digital Assessment Library for Schools inc
 - They worked with Texas to provide a flexible response to Covid-19 related to their end-of-year assessments.
 - They have a dedicated accessibility team to remove barriers and include assistive technology. There are 2 user studies/year to determine access needs. These are aligned with product release dates to ensure the ability to include feedback in their development cycle.
 - Scored 72 million responses in 2019
 - Q- Developed 300k items and 15k forms in the last 5 years.
 - Subcontractors: none
 - Organizational Chart
 - Litigation: 2 lawsuits in Dun & Bradstreet report; one listed in litigation (mother sued related to scoring issue in 2017 and resulted in 'modest settlement' in 2018)
 - Financial Viability:
 - High-risk, including a 32.12% risk of delinquency in the next year
 - 8 liens, including the states of Texas and South Carolina
 - 58 UCC claims
 - Certificate of Insurance: yes
- **Proposed Services**
 - Services to be Provided
 - They have an integrated suite that provides testing, reporting, and data management.
 - I- Parent Portal supports family engagement.
 - Implementation – Work Plan and Schedule
 - Maine would use Iowa items for the first year, followed by Iowa and Maine items the second year and Maine items the third year and beyond.
 - TEI items only include graphic gap match, match table grid, hot spot, and bar graph.
 - Q- Bias review team is comprised on Maine stakeholders. Does Pearson have a specific review team that will review for bias and sensitivity before the Maine team?
 - Q- They state that they have a strong stimuli development process and refer to review of stimulus, but I'm unsure of the specifics around this.
 - There will be a break in continuity when switching to this assessment.
 - CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: Pearson

DATE: 08-16-2020

EVALUATOR NAME: Kirsten Gould

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

- Scoring:
 - ePEN scoring platform monitors and encompasses automated and human scoring.
 - Automated scoring has a 10% read-behind.
 - Q- Pearson states, "The need to reset and rescore work en-masse is rare. However, if, after multiple reviews of the scoring reports, scoring accuracy is in doubt, we will collaborate and communicate with Maine DOE and our psychometricians to determine whether, how, and to what degree rescoring is warranted."
 - Q- Is there a scorer/expert ratio during scoring?
 - N- Pearson will have to build a questionnaire.
 - P- Pearson is able to provide standard-setting meetings virtually through Moodle.
 - P- Pearson has a unified delivery system for interim, formative assessments, and summative assessments.
 - Pearson has a wide range of accommodations, including bilingual dictionaries and translations, an ASL video player, noise buffers, and braille. Special considerations have been made related to cognitive load for students with designated supports.
 - Pearson has independent audits.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: New Meridian

DATE: 08-16-2020

EVALUATOR NAME: Kirsten Gould

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by individual evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. *It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings.* A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

- **Organization Qualifications and Experience**
 - Overview of the Organization:
 - Bank of 14,000 test items in ELA and math, used by multiple states
 - New Meridian Science Exchange includes 600 items for grades 5, 8, and HS. They are NGSS-aligned, multi-dimensional, free of bias and sensitivity issues, and at appropriately complex levels. Illinois has field-tested and adopted the items.
 - Items are reviewed by outside science content experts.
 - 100% on-time and on-budget delivery
 - Worked with Illinois to test over 475k students in science and 910k in ELA & math. This work included content and special populations experts. There was a focus on math practices, as we are doing with science practices.
 - Designed the Start Strong Assessment to be administered at home or at school in response to Covid-19.
 - Subcontractors:
 - MZD: scoring and assessment delivery platform
 - SME: test manufacturer, benchmarking & scoring
 - Includes a mobile scoring center that scored over 2.3 million CR items in 2018
 - Both have contracted with New Meridian on other projects
 - Organizational Chart
 - Litigation: none
 - Financial Viability:
 - Very low-risk, 0 lawsuits, 0 liens
 - Certificate of Insurance: yes
- **Proposed Services**
 - Services to be Provided
 - 70 types of testing items
 - Learnosity publishes 1.3 billion assessment items/year
 - Assessments can be administered remotely (Covid response)
 - Train staff on interpretations of NGSS aligned with ME DOE thinking.
 - Mosaic connection provides over 20k assets and over 50 publishers
 - Built-in monitoring of scoring and scoring issues
 - Implementation – Work Plan and Schedule
 - At least 2 experts review each item, including accuracy, clarity, equity & bias, and appropriate level of math and reading. Students require no other skills outside those specified in PEs & SEPs.
 - 1-10 ratio of expert scorer to other scorers

STATE OF MAINE INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: Cognia

DATE: 8/14/2020

EVALUATOR NAME: Michele Mailhot

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by individual evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is required that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

- **Organization Qualifications and Experience**

- Overview of the Organization
 - Cognia is the current vendor for the ELA and Mathematics state assessments for grades 3-8, and for science grades 5, 8 and 3rd year of high school
 - Provided necessary information to establish their qualifications and experience
- Subcontractors
 - eMetric, LLC – currently being used in the ELA/Mathematics contract
- Organizational Chart
 - provided
- Litigation
 - none
- Financial Viability
 - Low risk
- Certificate of Insurance
 - provided

- **Proposed Services**

- Services to be Provided
 - As our current vendor Maine DOE has experienced different levels of satisfaction of services provided. The science assessment contract seems to be more of the satisfactory experience, while the ELA/Mathematics contract has not. It is concerning to have very different experiences from the same vendor based upon the different contracts.
 - Referenced available STEM formative item sets and STEM Readiness professional learning materials that would be provided at no additional cost to Maine educators
- Implementation – Work Plan and Schedule
 - The details of the work plan would have benefitted with clearer articulation regarding whether the 2020-21 assessment would be CBT (with PBT as needed) or solely PBT, and if they would be using the 2019-20 test that was developed, printed and not administered due to COVID-19.
 - The timeline raises concerns as it has an anticipated start date August 28, 2020 when the contract may not be awarded prior to the start date of the time line. This raises concerns to attention to details. Not sure how the timeline will be adjusted for a much later start date.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: NCS Pearson

DATE: 8/14/2020

EVALUATOR NAME: Michele Mailhot

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

• **Organization Qualifications and Experience**

- Overview of the Organization
 - Vendor is well known and well established over time in relation to assessments
 - Provided necessary information to establish their qualifications and experience
- Subcontractors
 - None – vendor is self-contained, and all aspects of the project will be dealt with in house
- Organizational Chart
 - provided
- Litigation
 - Makes note that they are involved in “routine business litigation”
 - Recent settlement on behalf of a parent and minor child due to a lawsuit involving a scoring issues that occurred in Spring of 2017.
- Financial Viability
 - High risk
- Certificate of Insurance
 - provided

• **Proposed Services**

- Services to be Provided
 - Will provide the Iowa Assessment of Student Progress science test for the 2020-21 SY
 - Will provide two operational forms (utilizing three Iowa clusters and operational field test forms) for the 2021-22 SY
 - Will provide Maine-developed assessment for the 2022-23 SY
 - Provided information for standard setting in year 1, but did not address if standard setting would need to be done in year 3 or whether the Maine-developed assessment will be a clone of the Iowa assessment needing no further standard setting
- Implementation – Work Plan and Schedule
 - The timeline provided seemed reasonable with an anticipated start date of October 1, 2020.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: New Meridian

DATE: 8/14/2020

EVALUATOR NAME: Michele Mailhot

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by individual evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

- **Organization Qualifications and Experience**
 - Overview of the Organization
 - Fairly new organization (founded in 2016) and is a non-profit 502 (c)(3) educational organization
 - The organization has many of the well-known national science experts leading them
 - Subcontractors
 - MZ Development, Inc. (MZD)
 - Strategic Measurement and Evaluation, Inc. (SME)
 - Organizational Chart
 - provided
 - Litigation
 - none
 - Financial Viability
 - Low risk
 - Certificate of Insurance
 - provided
- **Proposed Services**
 - Services to be Provided
 - Clearly stated
 - Offered several options to defray costs
 - Implementation – Work Plan and Schedule
 - Well-articulated plan with clarifying details as well as references to most current research to support decisions
 - Timeline provided was reasonable

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: (Insert RFP #)
RFP TITLE: (Insert RFP Title)
BIDDER NAME: Cognia
DATE: Aug 16, 2020
EVALUATOR NAME: Lindsay DH Noyes
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Public school teacher / Education

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by individual evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

Directions: Follow the sections of your RFP to develop a bulleted outline for notes. Delete the sample below and these directions and replace with your own outline based on your RFP.

- I. Organization Qualifications and Experience
 - A. Overview of Organization
 - Local - close to Maine
 - Current partner for Math and ELA, 3-8
 - Handled ME Science Assessment since 1980s
 - 1. Pro? Con? Both!
 - Lexile, bias, sensitivity, design - etc. has been quality
 -
 - B. Subcontractors
 - eMetrics/Corp Capabilities & Experience
 - 1. Designed emPower - would scoring take as long for turnaround?
 -
 -
 - C. Organizational Chart
 - Cognia > eMetric?
 - Impact plan "will be" put into place - is this due to the different roles people play?
 - Continuity/seamless transition
 - D. Etc.
- II. Proposed Services
 - A. Services to be Provided
 - STEM Readiness - offering support to stakeholders for STEM feedback/improvement
 - PD, free of charge Day
 - Literacy support throughout school year (p2, F3)
 - Advisory committee -
 -
 - B. Implementation – Work Plan
 - 1 month prior to administering tests, access granted to teachers
 -

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: (Insert RFP #)
RFP TITLE: (Insert RFP Title)
BIDDER NAME: Pearson
DATE: Aug 16, 2020
EVALUATOR NAME: Lindsay DH Noyes
EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Public school teacher / Education

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by individual evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

Directions: Follow the sections of your RFP to develop a bulleted outline for notes. Delete the sample below and these directions and replace with your own outline based on your RFP.

- I. Organization Qualifications and Experience
 - A. Overview of Organization
 - Discusses COVID - supports potential of problem solving surrounding feasibility of testing given remote situations
 - 1. Pilot in MN
 - 2. End of year in TX
 - 3.
 - Huge company, not local
 - Produces 50K items annually
 -
 -
 - B. Subcontractors
 - Smaller team, more localized/intimate ?
 - No subcontractors - all handled within house
 - C. Organizational Chart
 - Clear, concise - how would this chart fit with local/state personnel?
 - D. Etc.
- II. Proposed Services
 - A. Services to be Provided
 - Mobile friendly (iPad capabilities)
 - Handle NAEP, Praxis?, etc.
 - Mentions adjustments for crash/schedule changes
 - Criteria for development Table 1
 - Year 1 licensing the Iowa test as framework? Could Maine developed (year 3 be bumped up?)
 - Solid NGSS explanation
 - 1. Format very similar to what is currently in place?
 - Sample is clearly articulated
 - 2. Variety from each grade level
 - Clear statement surround Maine educator item review committee as well as for bias
 - Includes clear development of quality items with quality artwork, and scientific accuracy/validation
 - Scoring turn around?

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: (Insert RFP #)

RFP TITLE: (Insert RFP Title)

BIDDER NAME: Pearson

DATE: Aug 16, 2020

EVALUATOR NAME: Lindsay DH Noyes

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Public school teacher / Education

B. Implementation – Work Plan

- *Timeline for score turn around?*
- *Thorough involvement*
-

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: RFP 202006100

RFP TITLE: (Insert RFP Title)

BIDDER NAME: New Meridian

DATE: Aug 16, 2020

EVALUATOR NAME: Lindsay DH Noyes

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Public education teacher/ Education

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by individual evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

Directions: Follow the sections of your RFP to develop a bulleted outline for notes. Delete the sample below and these directions and replace with your own outline based on your RFP.

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

A. Overview of Organization

- 14K test items
- Concept of Science Exchange
- NWEA connected - does this mean quick turn around for scores? Tailored/ immediate customized assessments as students progress?
- Names of individuals
- Smaller company

B. Subcontractors

- MZD - ties with NWEA
- Strategic Measurement and Evaluation
- 10+ years experience,

C. Organizational Chart

- Three parties involved

D. Etc.

II. Proposed Services

A. Services to be Provided

- Single platform
- Data files provided - will it jive with communication platforms?
- Higher order assessments styles
- Customizable and fluid
- COVID prep included - ADAM capable for remote administering
- Provides variety of formats for different cognitive needs
- Includes DOE collaboration for development, and approval
- Claims - evidence - task models used
-
-

B. Implementation – Work Plan

- Year 1 - immediate collaboration with MEDOE
- Thorough involvement throughout
-
-

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: Cognia

DATE: 8/16/2020

EVALUATOR NAME: Jennifer Tarr

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by individual evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

- **Organization Qualifications and Experience**

- Overview of the Organization
- Subcontractors
- Organizational Chart
- Litigation
- Financial Viability
- Certificate of Insurance

Bidder has experience with assessment (35 years) and with the Maine DOE. Currently administer summative assessments for 4 states.

Partner with eMetric

Project 1: Oklahoma DOE

Project 2: New Mexico Public Department of Education

Project 3: Maryland DOE

Provided org chart for the project and staffing plan

Provided financial reports

Provided Certificate of Insurance

- **Proposed Services**

- Services to be Provided
- Implementation – Work Plan and Schedule

ME already familiar with products

detailed Annual Work Plan

using same data exchange currently which has had some problems in current contract

technology enhanced items – is this limiting?

Access to professional learning

PADDI Approach

Parts of proposal were vague and unclear

Maine teacher involvement – Maine owned items

Provided milestone schedule – but start date is not realistic

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: Cognia

DATE: 8/16/2020

EVALUATOR NAME: Jennifer Tarr

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

- **Budget**

Narrative not always clear (paper v. CBT)

Would have like more detail to get better understanding of the cost break downs.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: NCS Pearson

DATE: 8/16/2020

EVALUATOR NAME: Jennifer Tarr

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by individual evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

- **Organization Qualifications and Experience**

- Overview of the Organization
- Subcontractors
- Organizational Chart
- Litigation
- Financial Viability
- Certificate of Insurance

Does work with nearly 100 schools.

Established assessment company

No outside vendors

Prepared for remote assessments

Handle assessments for Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Tennessee, Texas, and Puerto Rico

Provided similar project examples

Project 1: Iowa Testing Program

Project 2: Maryland DOE

Project 3: Delaware DOE

Provided project team

Provided financials – high risk?

Provided Certificate of Insurance

Litigation – Mississippi parent case

- **Proposed Services**

- Services to be Provided
- Implementation – Work Plan and Schedule

Year 1 – lease from Iowa

Year 2 – Lease and some field-tested Maine items

Year 3 – 100% Maine items

Testnav

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: NCS Pearson

DATE: 8/16/2020

EVALUATOR NAME: Jennifer Tarr

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

Tailored status reports

Released items – not sure how works

There is Maine educator involvement

4 different technology enhanced items

Braille

Timeline starts 10/1

- **Budget**

The narrative did not provide much additional context to the budget

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: New Meridian

DATE: 8/16/2020

EVALUATOR NAME: Jennifer Tarr

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by individual evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

- **Organization Qualifications and Experience**

- Overview of the Organization
- Subcontractors
- Organizational Chart
- Litigation
- Financial Viability
- Certificate of Insurance

Newer company (2016) – non-profit 501(c)(3)

Staff have varied experience across experience- very experience, top experts

Project 1: Illinois State Board of Education

Project 2: New Jersey DOE

Project 3: Louisiana

New York City Charter

Subcontractors – 2

MZD

SME

(gave references)

Provided organization chart

Litigation – none

Provided financials

Provided certificate of insurance

- **Proposed Services**

- Services to be Provided
- Implementation – Work Plan and Schedule

Released items in year 1 or 2?

Has list of potential cost saving options

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: New Meridian

DATE: 8/16/2020

EVALUATOR NAME: Jennifer Tarr

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

Maine would not own the items, but would license them and go into their bank.

Item review allow for revisions based on feedback?

Strong scoring practices

- **Budget**

The narrative provided additional context to support the proposed budget.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: Cognia

DATE: 15 August 2020

EVALUATOR NAME: Shari Templeton

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Department of Education

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by individual evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

- +/- Known entity in Maine
- + OK science contract
- + Established rapport/history with company players
- - Significant changes in staff over the past several years
- - Inconsistency in responsiveness across Maine contracts, i.e. solid with science, not so much with math and ELA
- + Maine educators in Bias & IRC have seen vast improvements in item development
- Q Why would year one of the contract be so costly if assessment is already set from 2020?
- + Solid proposal
- + Proximity of company to Maine geographically and in terms of understanding Maine attitudes

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: NCS Pearson

DATE: 15 August 2020

EVALUATOR NAME: Shari Templeton

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Department of Education

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by individual evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

- - High risk
- + Selected by Maryland and Delaware
- - Changes to the Department BP54
- + Organization and experience
- + All in-house, i.e. no need for sub-contractors
- + Large pool of NGSS items
- + Maine-owned items could be developed
- +/- IRC can accept items, make minor edits or reject
- Q Still unsure of Pearson's responsiveness to Maine educators
- + Solid solution/plan for roll-out
- - Out of our price range

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: New Meridian

DATE: 15 August 2020

EVALUATOR NAME: Shari Templeton

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Department of Education

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by individual evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

- + Assembled the best national minds in K-12 science assessment for their advisory team
- + Utilizing best current research-based approach to science assessment
- - Align strictly to PE rather than fluidly moving across SEPs and CCCs
- +/- ME review, but without ability to revise
- - Grade 11 omits ESS PEs
- Q Unclear if New Meridian would be training ME teachers to write items
- + Use of Mosaiq
- + Solid sub-contractors

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: Cognia, Alpharetta, GA

DATE: 8/14/20

EVALUATOR NAME: Tracy Vassiliev

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by individual evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

- **Organization Qualifications and Experience**
 - Overview of the Organization (+) use to be Measured Progress and familiar with ME, 125 year of experience, they are in position to help bring the science testing from paper to computer based. Provide webinars GA based but have NH Dover office. 35 year partnership with ME
 - Subcontractors (+) eMetrics (I) They already do ME MEA ELA and Math so there is possibility for future integration of Science reducing the number of standard assessments
 - Organizational Chart (+) detailed with allocated %
 - Litigation (+) none
 - Financial Viability (+) Net sales 32M and net worth 36M – High medium of payment (-) medium risk of credit limit recommendation
 - Certificate of Insurance (+) included ACORD – Marsh USA, Inc, Boston MA
- **Proposed Services**
 - Services to be Provided
 - (+) Prepare and support students and educators to improve STEM readiness and formative assessment literacy in their classrooms through the school year (item sets and PD webinars – free
 - NGSS ready with Maine custom items – ready for field-testing in the spring of 2021.
 - Incumbent and score MEA ELA and Math
 - They are able to verify 85% of students should be able to complete within 150 minutes and that computer testing will not impact results. (-) So, they think that 15% will not finish? Is this when the additional 15 minutes are added?
 -
 - Implementation – Work Plan and Schedule - This is quite a through plan.
 - (-) All question types are covered MC MS CR ER
 - (+) NGSS CCC DCI And SEP for each cluster
 - (?) I just had questions about how and when school results were going to be presented to schools so that teachers may look them over to help “improve STEM readiness and formative assessment literacy in their classrooms through the school year.” It looks like mid July but is that when the State receives the results?
 - (+) Metadata included for each question
 - Cost \$5.2 million

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: Cognia, Alpharetta, GA

DATE: 8/14/20

EVALUATOR NAME: Tracy Vassiliev

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

STATE OF MAINE INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: NSC Pearson Inc

DATE: 8/14/20

EVALUATOR NAME: Vassiliev

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by individual evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. *It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings.* A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

• Organization Qualifications and Experience

- Overview of the Organization (-) No Maine or Northeast branch, but they do work with MA and with technology this might not be a problem. (+) They have a dedicated Accessibility Team.
- Subcontractors (?) none
- Organizational Chart (?) chart is provided but doesn't include specific contacts. It might have to do with high turn over.
- Litigation (-) Once case that was settled- Mom sued
- Financial Viability (-) High risk score (-) 62 Paydex score
- Certificate of Insurance -Marsh USA, Inc.

• Proposed Services

- Services to be Provided
- 30+ years of testing experience.
- (+) NGSS aligned but (?) not sure about the Maine flavor
- (+) Can provide paper and then TESTNav on online testing.
- (+) Pearson offers more of a variety of questions (MC, MS, TEI, TPD, TPI, CR, ER, + depending on technology), Clusters will contain CCC, SEP, DCI, with a Maine flavor. All clusters will be created around a science or engineering phenomenon. Stand alone questions will be used to make sure the test can be completed within the 150 minutes + 15).
- (+) I read through and tried all the test questions. I like how the stimulus were all on the same page but there is a lot going on with each cluster with different ways to answer questions.
- (-) I can imagine this taking more time for students to read through and make sure they are doing what they are suppose to be doing (dragging arrows, statements selecting multiple statements, etc...)
- (+) Universal design.

Pearson Scorer Education Statistics



Maine General Science Assessment Scorers. Maine DOE can rely on Pearson to recruit and select the right scorers for Maine General Science Assessment scoring.

- (+) Human grading portion
- (+) The online testing arrangement is pretty good and they meet all the requirements,

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: NSC Pearson Inc

DATE: 8/14/20

EVALUATOR NAME: Vassiliev

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

- (-) This is a different company than what ME uses for the ELA and Math assessments so it is unlikely they'll be combined to reduce the amount of time schools spend testing
- Implementation – Work Plan and Schedule .
- (-) First two years of implementation will be based on the Iowa State Assessment and year three Maine Developed. Time frame is similar with results provided by July- August.
- Cost is about 7.4 million

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

BIDDER NAME: Meridian

DATE: 8/15/2020

EVALUATOR NAME: Tracy Vassiliev

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT: Education

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record proposal review notes written by individual evaluators for this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. *It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each proposal that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings.* A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFP Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFP.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

• **Organization Qualifications and Experience**

- Overview of the Organization New Meridian Corp. Austin, TX (?) nonprofit
- Subcontractors (?) MZD & Strategic Measurement and Evaluation Inc. (scoring vendor)
- Organizational Chart (?) Where is Dr. Christopher Lazzaro (Director of Science Programs) located/stationed?
- Litigation None
- Financial Viability Low risk and good Stress Score (73)
- Certificate of Insurance Arthur J. Risk Management Services, Inc. Houston, TX.

• **Proposed Services**

- Services to be Provided (+) ME will have access to the Science exchange, a bank of more than 600 NGSS aligned items and ready for use (practice items?)
- (?) 100% of the ME assessment questions from Science Exchange Bank – How will they provide that Maine Flavor?
- (-) Online testing – since it's a different company then ME will not be able to combine ELA and Math state tests.
- (+) Can do paper tests as well
- (+) Selected Response (SR) (CR), (TEI – will modify for paper) (-) Extended responses and multiple responses.
- (+) NGSS aligned and will tailor to ME Science Standards
- (+) Cluster will contain SEP, CCC, and DCI & phenomenon based (3D Design) . Clusters will be engaging and relevant and accessible making sure to use at least two modalities
- (+) Universal Design Principle – Inclusivity
- Testing time is 120, 135, 150 minutes in three testing sessions
- Well developed test development process
- Security
- Questions style is similar to Pearson – digital so all information can be seen on one page.
- One test form for year one and then multiple forms the next years
- Implementation – Work Plan and Schedule
- (+) Detailed draft work plan
- (?) Testing window is still April-May but I don't know when results will be shared with schools and teachers.
- (+) Student tutorial available in October
- Cost is \$6Million



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Pender Makin
Commissioner

AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
RFP #: 202006100
RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

I, (print name at right) Charlotte M. Ellis accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Department of Education. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFP.

Neither I nor any member of my immediate family have a personal or financial interest, direct or indirect, in the bidders whose proposals I will be reviewing. "Interest" may include, but is not limited to: current or former ownership in the bidder's company; current or former Board membership; current or former employment with the bidder; current or former personal contractual relationship with the bidder (example: paid consultant); and/or current or former relationship to a bidder's official which could reasonably be construed to constitute a conflict of interest (personal relationships may be perceived by the public as a potential conflict of interest).

I have not advised, consulted with or assisted any bidder in the preparation of any proposal submitted in response to this RFP nor have I submitted a letter of support or similar endorsement.

I understand that the evaluation process is to be conducted in an impartial manner. In this regard, I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, there are no circumstances that would reasonably support a good faith charge of bias. I further understand that in the event a good faith charge of bias is made, it will rest with me to decide whether I should be disqualified from participation in the evaluation process.

I agree to hold confidential all information related to the contents of Requests for Proposals presented during the review process until such time as the Department formally releases the funding decision notices for public distribution.

Charlotte M. Ellis
Signature

8-13-2020
Date



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Pender Makin
Commissioner

AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
RFP #: 202006100
RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

I, **NANCY W. GODFREY** accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Department of Education. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFP.

Neither I nor any member of my immediate family have a personal or financial interest, direct or indirect, in the bidders whose proposals I will be reviewing. "Interest" may include, but is not limited to: current or former ownership in the bidder's company; current or former Board membership; current or former employment with the bidder; current or former personal contractual relationship with the bidder (example: paid consultant); and/or current or former relationship to a bidder's official which could reasonably be construed to constitute a conflict of interest (personal relationships may be perceived by the public as a potential conflict of interest).

I have not advised, consulted with or assisted any bidder in the preparation of any proposal submitted in response to this RFP nor have I submitted a letter of support or similar endorsement.

I understand that the evaluation process is to be conducted in an impartial manner. In this regard, I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, there are no circumstances that would reasonably support a good faith charge of bias. I further understand that in the event a good faith charge of bias is made, it will rest with me to decide whether I should be disqualified from participation in the evaluation process.

I agree to hold confidential all information related to the contents of Requests for Proposals presented during the review process until such time as the Department formally releases the funding decision notices for public distribution.

**Reviewer has a previous contract(s) working relationship with bidder Cognia, Inc.*

Nancy W. Godfrey

Signature

8/13/20

Date



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Pender Makin
Commissioner

AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
RFP #: 202006100
RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

I, **Kirsten Gould** accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Department of Education. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFP.

Neither I nor any member of my immediate family have a personal or financial interest, direct or indirect, in the bidders whose proposals I will be reviewing. "Interest" may include, but is not limited to: current or former ownership in the bidder's company; current or former Board membership; current or former employment with the bidder; current or former personal contractual relationship with the bidder (example: paid consultant); and/or current or former relationship to a bidder's official which could reasonably be construed to constitute a conflict of interest (personal relationships may be perceived by the public as a potential conflict of interest).

I have not advised, consulted with or assisted any bidder in the preparation of any proposal submitted in response to this RFP nor have I submitted a letter of support or similar endorsement.

I understand that the evaluation process is to be conducted in an impartial manner. In this regard, I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, there are no circumstances that would reasonably support a good faith charge of bias. I further understand that in the event a good faith charge of bias is made, it will rest with me to decide whether I should be disqualified from participation in the evaluation process.

I agree to hold confidential all information related to the contents of Requests for Proposals presented during the review process until such time as the Department formally releases the funding decision notices for public distribution.

Kirsten Gould
Signature

8-13-20
Date

From: [Kirsten Gould](#)
To: [Brackett, Cheryl](#)
Subject: Re: Signature Confirmations
Date: Thursday, August 27, 2020 1:18:03 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Cheryl,

I can confirm that what I provided I accept for the Science RFP.

Thank you!
Kirsten Gould

On Thu, Aug 27, 2020 at 11:31 AM Brackett, Cheryl <Cheryl.Brackett@maine.gov> wrote:

Good Morning,

I am writing to request the signature confirmation needed to process the Science RFP.

“I can confirm that what I provided I accept for the Science RFP.”

Thank you very much for your help.

Cheryl M. Brackett, MBA

Management Analyst

Office of Learning Systems

Department of Education

23 State House Station

Augusta ME 04333-0023

Office Phone: (207)624-6770



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Pender Makin
Commissioner

AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
RFP #: 202006100
RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

I, Michele Mailhot, accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Department of Education. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFP.

Neither I nor any member of my immediate family have a personal or financial interest, direct or indirect, in the bidders whose proposals I will be reviewing. "Interest" may include, but is not limited to: current or former ownership in the bidder's company; current or former Board membership; current or former employment with the bidder; current or former personal contractual relationship with the bidder (example: paid consultant); and/or current or former relationship to a bidder's official which could reasonably be construed to constitute a conflict of interest (personal relationships may be perceived by the public as a potential conflict of interest).

I have not advised, consulted with or assisted any bidder in the preparation of any proposal submitted in response to this RFP nor have I submitted a letter of support or similar endorsement.

I understand that the evaluation process is to be conducted in an impartial manner. In this regard, I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, there are no circumstances that would reasonably support a good faith charge of bias. I further understand that in the event a good faith charge of bias is made, it will rest with me to decide whether I should be disqualified from participation in the evaluation process.

I agree to hold confidential all information related to the contents of Requests for Proposals presented during the review process until such time as the Department formally releases the funding decision notices for public distribution.

Michele Mailhot

8/13/2020

Signature

Date

From: [Mailhot, Michele R](#)
To: [Brackett, Cheryl](#)
Cc: [Kirk, Janette](#)
Subject: RE: Signature Confirmations
Date: Thursday, August 27, 2020 2:44:30 PM

Hi Cheryl,

I put my form through Docusign and used my electronic signature from there.

Do you still need me to state

I can confirm that what I provided I accept for the Science RFP.

~Michele

Michele Mailhot

Mathematics Specialist/Penquis Regional Representative
Maine Department of Education
(207) 624-6829
<https://www.maine.gov/doe/learning/content/mathematics>

Confidentiality Notice: This e-mail message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy/delete all copies of the original message.

From: Brackett, Cheryl <Cheryl.Brickett@maine.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2020 11:32 AM
To: Kirsten Gould <kgouldlearning@gmail.com>; Mailhot, Michele R <Michele.R.Mailhot@maine.gov>
Cc: Kirk, Janette <Janette.Kirk@maine.gov>
Subject: Signature Confirmations

Good Morning,

I am writing to request the signature confirmation needed to process the Science RFP.

"I can confirm that what I provided I accept for the Science RFP."

Thank you very much for your help.

Cheryl M. Brackett, MBA
Management Analyst
Office of Learning Systems
Department of Education
23 State House Station
Augusta ME 04333-0023
Office Phone: (207)624-6770



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Pender Makin
Commissioner

AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
RFP #: 202006100
RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

I, (print name at right) Lindsay DH Noyes accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Department of Education. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFP.

Neither I nor any member of my immediate family have a personal or financial interest, direct or indirect, in the bidders whose proposals I will be reviewing. "Interest" may include, but is not limited to: current or former ownership in the bidder's company; current or former Board membership; current or former employment with the bidder; current or former personal contractual relationship with the bidder (example: paid consultant); and/or current or former relationship to a bidder's official which could reasonably be construed to constitute a conflict of interest (personal relationships may be perceived by the public as a potential conflict of interest).

I have not advised, consulted with or assisted any bidder in the preparation of any proposal submitted in response to this RFP nor have I submitted a letter of support or similar endorsement.

I understand that the evaluation process is to be conducted in an impartial manner. In this regard, I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, there are no circumstances that would reasonably support a good faith charge of bias. I further understand that in the event a good faith charge of bias is made, it will rest with me to decide whether I should be disqualified from participation in the evaluation process.

I agree to hold confidential all information related to the contents of Requests for Proposals presented during the review process until such time as the Department formally releases the funding decision notices for public distribution.

Lindsay DH Noyes

Signature

8/13/20

Date

From: [Lindsay Noyes](#)
To: [Brackett, Cheryl](#)
Subject: Re: Signature Confirmation
Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 2:17:36 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Cheryl,

Yes, please accept this typed/digital signature as my signature.

Thank you,

Lindsay Noyes

On Wed, Aug 26, 2020 at 1:08 PM Brackett, Cheryl <Cheryl.Brackett@maine.gov> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

I have been informed by Procurement that if an evaluator used a typed signature, which is not considered a true signature, on the Agreement & Disclosure Statement, you will need to confirm by email that you accept the signature. Please send an email to me confirming that you accept the typed signature as your own.

Thanks so much for your assistance.

Cheryl M. Brackett, MBA

Management Analyst

Office of Learning Systems

Department of Education

23 State House Station

Augusta ME 04333-0023

Office Phone: (207)624-6770

www.maine.gov/doe



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Pender Makin
Commissioner

AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
RFP #: 202006100
RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

I, Jennifer Tarr accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Department of Education. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFP.

Neither I nor any member of my immediate family have a personal or financial interest, direct or indirect, in the bidders whose proposals I will be reviewing. "Interest" may include, but is not limited to: current or former ownership in the bidder's company; current or former Board membership; current or former employment with the bidder; current or former personal contractual relationship with the bidder (example: paid consultant); and/or current or former relationship to a bidder's official which could reasonably be construed to constitute a conflict of interest (personal relationships may be perceived by the public as a potential conflict of interest).

I have not advised, consulted with or assisted any bidder in the preparation of any proposal submitted in response to this RFP nor have I submitted a letter of support or similar endorsement.

I understand that the evaluation process is to be conducted in an impartial manner. In this regard, I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, there are no circumstances that would reasonably support a good faith charge of bias. I further understand that in the event a good faith charge of bias is made, it will rest with me to decide whether I should be disqualified from participation in the evaluation process.

I agree to hold confidential all information related to the contents of Requests for Proposals presented during the review process until such time as the Department formally releases the funding decision notices for public distribution.

Jennifer Tarr

8/17/2020

Signature

Date

From: [Tarr, Jennifer L](#)
To: [Brackett, Cheryl](#)
Subject: RE: Signature Confirmation
Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 1:21:44 PM

I do not recall what I did, but I can confirm that what I provided I accept.

From: Brackett, Cheryl <Cheryl.Brickett@maine.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 1:09 PM
To: Mailhot, Michele R <Michele.R.Mailhot@maine.gov>; Tarr, Jennifer L <Jennifer.L.Tarr@maine.gov>; Kirsten Gould <kgouldlearning@gmail.com>; ldhnoyes@gmail.com
Cc: Kirk, Janette <Janette.Kirk@maine.gov>
Subject: Signature Confirmation

Good Afternoon,

I have been informed by Procurement that if an evaluator used a typed signature, which is not considered a true signature, on the Agreement & Disclosure Statement, you will need to confirm by email that you accept the signature. Please send an email to me confirming that you accept the typed signature as your own.

Thanks so much for your assistance.

Cheryl M. Brackett, MBA
Management Analyst
Office of Learning Systems
Department of Education
23 State House Station
Augusta ME 04333-0023
Office Phone: (207)624-6770
www.maine.gov/doi



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Pender Makin
Commissioner

AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
RFP #: 202006100
RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

I, Shari Templeton accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Department of Education. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFP.

Neither I nor any member of my immediate family have a personal or financial interest, direct or indirect, in the bidders whose proposals I will be reviewing. "Interest" may include, but is not limited to: current or former ownership in the bidder's company; current or former Board membership; current or former employment with the bidder; current or former personal contractual relationship with the bidder (example: paid consultant); and/or current or former relationship to a bidder's official which could reasonably be construed to constitute a conflict of interest (personal relationships may be perceived by the public as a potential conflict of interest).

I have not advised, consulted with or assisted any bidder in the preparation of any proposal submitted in response to this RFP nor have I submitted a letter of support or similar endorsement.

I understand that the evaluation process is to be conducted in an impartial manner. In this regard, I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, there are no circumstances that would reasonably support a good faith charge of bias. I further understand that in the event a good faith charge of bias is made, it will rest with me to decide whether I should be disqualified from participation in the evaluation process.

I agree to hold confidential all information related to the contents of Requests for Proposals presented during the review process until such time as the Department formally releases the funding decision notices for public distribution.

Shari A. Templeton

Signature

Date



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Pender Makin
Commissioner

AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

RFP #: 202006100

RFP TITLE: Maine General Science Assessment

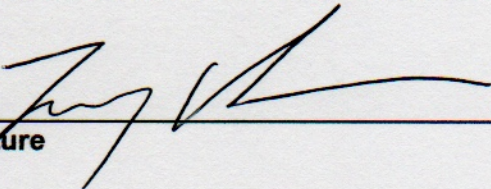
I, (print name at right) Tracy Vassiliev accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Department of Education. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFP.

Neither I nor any member of my immediate family have a personal or financial interest, direct or indirect, in the bidders whose proposals I will be reviewing. "Interest" may include, but is not limited to: current or former ownership in the bidder's company; current or former Board membership; current or former employment with the bidder; current or former personal contractual relationship with the bidder (example: paid consultant); and/or current or former relationship to a bidder's official which could reasonably be construed to constitute a conflict of interest (personal relationships may be perceived by the public as a potential conflict of interest).

I have not advised, consulted with or assisted any bidder in the preparation of any proposal submitted in response to this RFP nor have I submitted a letter of support or similar endorsement.

I understand that the evaluation process is to be conducted in an impartial manner. In this regard, I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, there are no circumstances that would reasonably support a good faith charge of bias. I further understand that in the event a good faith charge of bias is made, it will rest with me to decide whether I should be disqualified from participation in the evaluation process.

I agree to hold confidential all information related to the contents of Requests for Proposals presented during the review process until such time as the Department formally releases the funding decision notices for public distribution.


Signature

August 13, 2020
Date