



**STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC ADVOCATE**

**William S. Harwood  
Public Advocate**

**Janet T. Mills  
Governor**

**AWARD NOTIFICATION LETTER**

May 24, 2024

Via email: [sayad@londoneconomics.com](mailto:sayad@londoneconomics.com)

Sayad Moudachirou, Director  
London Economics International LLC  
717 Atlantic Ave, Suite 1A  
Boston, MA 02111

**SUBJECT:** Notice of Conditional Contract Award under RFP # 202404093,  
Consulting Services — Future of Natural Gas in Maine

Dear Sayad:

This letter is regarding the subject Request for Proposals (RFP), issued by the State of Maine Office of the Public Advocate for Consulting Services – Future of Natural Gas in Maine. 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 on the provision of receiving the Certificate of Insurance that is required for the RFP:

- London Economics International LLC

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William S. Harwood".

William S. Harwood  
Maine Public Advocate  
State House Station 112  
Augusta, ME 04333-0112

## **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  
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

**RFP #:** 202404093

**RFP TITLE:** Consulting Services – Future of Natural Gas in Maine

**BIDDER:** London Economics International LLC

**DATE:** May 22, 2024

**SUMMARY PAGE**

**Department Name:** Office of the Public Advocate

**Name of RFP Coordinator:** Kristina R. Winther

**Names of Evaluators:** Susan Chamberlin, Kristina R. Winther, William Harwood, Richard P. Hevey

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<b><u>Pass/Fail Criteria</u></b>	<b><u>Pass</u></b>	<b><u>Fail</u></b>
Section I. Preliminary Information (Eligibility)	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b><u>Scoring Sections</u></b>	<b><u>Points Available</u></b>	<b><u>Points Awarded</u></b>
Section II. Organization Qualifications and Experience	<b>40</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Section III. Proposed Services	<b>35</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Section IV. Cost Proposal	<b>25</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b><u>Total Points</u></b>	<b><u>100</u></b>	<b><u>N/A</u></b>

Note: There was only one bidder that submitted a proposal to this RFP.

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**OVERVIEW OF SECTION I  
Preliminary Information**

Section I. Preliminary Information

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**Evaluation Team Comments:**

The London Economics International LLC (LEI) proposal meets the expectations of the RFP, a multi-year project regarding the Future Use of Natural Gas in Maine.

The award is a conditional award on the provision of the Certificate of Insurance that is required for the RFP.

LEI, headquarters in Boston, MA, provides consulting services, specializing in energy and infrastructure, which is on point with the subject matter of this RFP. LEI has specific knowledge about gas distribution/transmission which will support the needs of the RFP. They are knowledge about expansion and cost recovery as they relate to natural gas distribution systems. The company does work worldwide, including in North America.

LEI can provide expert testimony, as will be needed in the work envisioned under this RFP.

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**EVALUATION OF SECTION II  
Organization Qualifications and Experience**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Section II. Organization Qualifications and Experience	<b>40</b>	<b>N/A</b>

**Evaluation Team Comments:**

- I. Overview of the Organization
  - LEI staff have training in economics, business, and the natural gas sector, including the costs and benefits of decarbonization.
  - LEI works with governments, utilities, and private clients
- II. Subcontractors
  - LEI will rely on assistance from the Posterity Group (PG) with quantitative analysis of natural gas demand in Maine.
    - i. PG works with governments, utilities, and private clients
    - ii. Opened in 2012
- III. Organizational Chart
  - LEI provided a flowchart of the “Proposed team” along with a list of the project team, with brief descriptions of their expertise and backgrounds
    - i. All have extensive experience that will suit the needs of this project in Maine
- IV. Litigation
  - LEI certifies they are not involved in litigation or ineligible for bidding for this RFP.
- V. Qualification and experience
  - LEI has experience in:
    - i. public policy engagements
    - ii. expert testimony
    - iii. litigation consulting
    - iv. gas distribution advisory
  - Familiarity with Maine
    - i. LEI has worked with the Maine Public Utilities Commission on related issues regarding the expansion of natural gas supply into Maine
    - ii. We have seen LEI perform work for other agencies
    - iii. LEI have performed contract work for us, as well
      1. The quality of work was good
  - LEI has knowledge regarding the clean energy transmission process
    - i. Familiar with the ISO-New England electricity markets

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- Has provided natural gas analysis in NJ, nationally, and in Canada
  - i. This will allow us to learn what is happening in other states, and look for best practices

VI. Financial Viability

- No concern

VII. Certificate of Insurances

- Not provided.

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**EVALUATION OF SECTION III  
Proposed Services**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Section III. Proposed Services	<b>35</b>	<b>N/A</b>

**Evaluation Team Comments:**

LEI reviewed the legislative and regulatory proceedings that, in part, necessitated this RFP.

LEI has presented a proposed list of tasks (A-H), culminating with the preparation and presentation of a summary report. They have also proposed a list of sub-tasks (“practices”) that align with the needs of the RFP subject matter. For each of these, LEI provides a detailed explanation of how they will be performed and the associated deliverables.

Where there exists some uncertainty as to what Maine agency proceedings (they have not yet been formally announced) will make up the bulk of this work, we will coordinate with LEI to amend the task and practice list to match the needs of the project.

The information provided by LEI demonstrates both their understanding of the needs of this Maine project and their familiarity with the subject matter.

There is a possibility that other Maine agencies are procuring natural gas consultants to perform overlapping work with what we have proposed. We will review the planned work of other agencies to the extent that it is available, and coordinate with LEI to avoid duplication of work.

LEI proposes to perform the tasks and practices in 4 overlapping workstreams. As noted by LEI, this provides for flexibility and for exchange of data and results simultaneously as the project proceeds. LEI provides an “Illustrative schedule” showing how the work could be completed by April 2025.

We will meet with LEI to comment and potentially amend this proposed schedule, and ask that LEI would seek approval before moving on to subsequent tasks.



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**EVALUATION OF SECTION IV  
Cost Proposal**

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Lowest Submitted Cost Proposal	÷	Cost Proposal Being Scored	x	Score Weight	=	Score
N/A	÷	N/A	x	25 points	=	N/A

**Evaluation Team Comments:** No scoring due to one bidder submitting a proposal for this RFP.



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**AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**RFP #: 202404093**

**RFP TITLE: Consulting Services – Future Use of Natural Gas in Maine**

I, Kristina Winther accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Office of the Public Advocate. 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 and agree that the evaluation process is to be conducted in an impartial manner without bias or prejudice. 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 award decision notices for public distribution.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

5/14/2024  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



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I, William Harwood accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Office of the Public Advocate. 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.

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I, Richard Hevey accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Office of the Public Advocate. 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.

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Signature

5-14-2024  
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**AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
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I, Susan Chamberlin accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Office of the Public Advocate. 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.

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Susan Chamberlin  
Signature

5/14/24  
Date