



Independent Procurement Review Report

Why We Did This Review

In accordance with Atlanta City Charter Chapter 6, Section 2.603, our office is authorized to review all solicitations with an aggregate value of \$1,000,000 or greater, seeking approval by the Atlanta City Council, for file completeness, conflicts of interest, and other areas of perceived deficiency.

Solicitation#	IFB-C-1200354
Estimated Dollar Amount:	\$500,000
Type of Procurement:	Invitation to Bid (IFB)
Contract Description:	Sanitary Sewer Lift Stations Operation & Maintenance at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
Requesting Department:	Department of Aviation
All Proponents:	Sierra Construction Company, Inc.
DOP Responsive Proponents:	Sierra Construction Company, Inc.
Recommended Awardee:	Sierra Construction Company, Inc.

TABLE OF FINDINGS

Review Area	Risk/Criteria	Results	DOP Response
Evaluation Team	DOP procedures require evaluators to possess the necessary and appropriate experience needed to evaluate the proposals or offerors submitted to the city.	No findings identified	No response needed
Solicitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bids shall only be evaluated on requirements and evaluation criteria outlined in the formal solicitation (DOP SOP 4.3.6.(E)(3)). Having selection criteria established in the solicitation can help prevent bid manipulation. Evaluation criteria that are too vague or subjective can allow for manipulation of the scores The Government Accountability Office states that the use of standard language such as "in the best interest of the city" without a specific justification for cancellation could be a fraud indicator. Transparency International states that effective record-keeping of decisions and reasons for cancellation promotes accountability and transparency. 	A previous solicitation for this project, IFB-S-1190757, was cancelled, with the reason documented as "the best interest of the City."	DOP Response Solicitation IFB-S-1190757 was canceled for OCC's nonresponsive determination. The sole bidder was given the opportunity to appeal OCC's decision; however, they choose not to and the City canceled the project by sending the standard cancellation letter indicating "the best interest of the City."
Advertisement/ Addenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changing the solicitation criteria to favor a particular proponent is a red flag of potential bid rigging (International Anti-Corruption Resource Center). Too many addenda could indicate unclear specifications or unclear scope of work, which could also favor a particular proponent. 	The city posted five addenda.	No response needed

Review Area	Risk/Criteria	Results	DOP Response
Submittal	The city code provides that the city shall select no less than three submittals solicited from an RFP that it deems as the most responsible and responsive; provided, however, that if three or fewer offerors respond, the requirement shall not apply (City Code Sec. 2-1189).	DOP received one bid for this solicitation.	No response needed
Responsive Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOP procedures require findings to be recorded on a responsive checklist which identifies specific submittal requirements for the project and identifies a bidder's compliance with those required documents. Unclear or inconsistent responsiveness determinations could be a red flag of bid manipulation. 	We identified discrepancies in the responsiveness review checklist that the Department of Procurement resolved.	No response needed
Conflict of Interest	The city's standards of conduct prohibit employees from having financial conflicts of interests. Contracts must be awarded and administered free from improper influence or the appearance of impropriety.	No findings identified	No response needed
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOP procedures require procurement staff to compile the evaluation scores, including those from risk management and contract compliance. Public procurement practice states that any arithmetical errors should be corrected, and scores should be recorded in grids/matrices (NIGP). According to the International Anti-Corruption Resource Center, bids that are too close together (less than 1%) or too far apart (more than 20%) could be indicators of collusive bidding. Not applicable for RFPs. 	No findings identified	No response needed

Review Area	Risk/Criteria	Results	DOP Response
Cancellation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government Accountability Office states that the use of standard language such as “in the best interest of the city” without a specific justification for cancellation could be a fraud indicator. • Transparency International states that effective record-keeping of decisions and reasons for cancellation promotes accountability and transparency. 	N/A	N/A
Award	A contract file should include all project items, to confirm that each phase of the procurement was facilitated appropriately and audit-ready (DOP SOP Sec. 3.18)	No findings identified	No response needed