

Instructions to Bidders

Cover Sheet and Instructions

APPROVED DOCUMENT – This document is approved by the Office of the President and Office of the General Counsel for use by the Facility and is available on electronic media.

PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT:	Provides or explains the following: definitions of terms used in the bidding documents, bidder's representations, information regarding the bidding documents and the pre-bid conference, bidding procedures, bid consideration procedures, and bid protest procedures.		
CROSS-REFERENCE TO FACILITIES MANUAL:	FM4[]:4.5.1		
CONTENTS:	Instructions to Bidders		
FOR USE WITH:	CM/Contractor Contract Documents		
COMPLETED BY:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Filling in	<input type="checkbox"/> Adding Text <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Data Required
ITS USE IS:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Required	<input type="checkbox"/> Optional

NOTE: This document is a core document. Revisions to this document are made and issued only by the Office of the President.

Completion Instructions:

1. Since the Instructions to Bidders is a core document, no completion is required or allowed. Revisions to the Instructions to Bidders are made and issued by the Office of the President.
2. The *Supplementary* Instructions to Bidders provide a means of specifying varying bidding instructions without revising the Instructions to Bidders.
3. Insert project identification information as indicated in the header. The header contains coded instruction within the brackets. **{This is an example of the format.}** The instructions and shading will disappear when the required information is typed.

Modifications and Additions:

1. Since the Instructions to Bidders is a core document, *no modifications are allowed to this document.* Authorized modifications are made by way of the Supplementary Instructions to Bidders.

Comments:

None

INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

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ARTICLE 1 **DEFINITIONS**

- 1.1 Except as otherwise specifically provided, definitions set forth in the General Conditions or in other Contract Documents are applicable to all Bidding Documents.
- 1.2 The term “Addenda” means written or graphic instruments issued by University prior to the Bid Deadline which modify or interpret the Bidding Documents by additions, deletions, clarifications, or corrections.
- 1.3 The term “Alternate” means a proposed change in the Work, as described in the Bidding Documents which, if accepted, may result in a change to either the Contract Sum or the Contract Time, or both.
- 1.4 The term “Bid Deadline” means the date and time on or before which Bids must be received, as designated in the Advertisement for Bids and which may be revised by Addenda.
- 1.5 The term “Bidder” means a person or firm that submits a Bid.
- 1.6 The term “Bidding Documents” means the construction documents prepared and issued for bidding purposes including all Addenda thereto.
- 1.7 The term “Estimated Quantity” means the estimated quantity of an item of Unit Price Work.
- 1.8 As used in these Instructions to Bidders, the term “Facility” means the University's Facility office issuing the Bidding Documents.
- 1.9 The term “Option Sum - Phase 2” means the sum stated in the Bid for which Bidder offers to perform the Work for Phase 2 described in the Bidding Documents, but not including Unit Price items or Alternates.
- 1.10 The term “Planholder” means a person or entity known by the Facility to have received a complete set of Bidding Documents and who has provided a street address for receipt of any written pre-bid communications.
- 1.11 The term “Unit Price” means an amount stated in the Bid for which Bidder offers to perform an item of Unit Price Work for a fixed price per unit of measurement.
- 1.12 As used in these Instructions to Bidders, the term “Business Day” means any day other than a Saturday, a Sunday, and the holidays specified herein, and to the extent provided herein, if the Facility or applicable office of the University is closed for the whole of any day, insofar as the business of that office is concerned, that day shall be considered as a holiday for the purposes of computing time in these Instructions to Bidders. Holidays include January 1st, the third Monday in January, the third Monday in February, the last Monday in May, July 4th, the first Monday in September, November 11th, Thanksgiving Day, December 25th, and every day designated by the University as a holiday.

ARTICLE 2 **BIDDER'S REPRESENTATIONS**

- 2.1 Bidder, by making a Bid, represents that:

2.1.1 Bidder has read, understood, and made the Bid in accordance with the provisions of the Bidding Documents.

2.1.2 Bidder has visited the Project site and is familiar with the conditions under which the Work is to be performed and the local conditions as related to the requirements of the Contract Documents.

2.1.3 The Bid is based upon the materials, equipment, and systems required by the Bidding Documents without exception.

2.1.4 At the time of submission of the Bid, Bidder and all Subcontractors, regardless of tier, have the appropriate current and active licenses issued by the State of California Contractor's State License Board for the Work to be performed and any licenses specifically required by the Bidding Documents. If Bidder is a joint venture, at the time of submission of the Bid, Bidder shall have the licenses required by the preceding sentence in the name of the joint venture itself. The State of California Business and Professions Code, Division 3, Chapter 9, known as the "Contractor's License Law," establishes licensing requirements for contractors.

2.1.5 Bidder has read and shall abide by the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the Bidding Documents.

2.1.6 Bidder has the expertise and financial capacity to perform and complete all obligations under the Bidding Documents.

2.1.7 The person executing the Bid Form is duly authorized and empowered to execute the Bid Form on behalf of Bidder.

2.1.8 Bidder is aware of and, if awarded the Contract, will comply with Applicable Code Requirements in its performance of the Work.

ARTICLE 3 **BIDDING DOCUMENTS**

3.1 COPIES

3.1.1 Bidders may obtain complete sets of the Bidding Documents from the issuing office designated in the Advertisement for Bids, for the deposit sum stated therein, if any. If a deposit is required, it will only be refunded if Bidder returns the Bidding Documents in good condition no later than 60 days after the Bid Deadline unless otherwise provided in Supplementary Instructions to Bidders. The cost of replacement of missing or damaged documents may be deducted from the deposit. The Bidder to whom the Contract is awarded may retain the Bidding Documents and will be refunded its deposit.

3.1.2 Bidders shall use a complete set of Bidding Documents in preparing Bids.

3.1.3 University makes copies of the Bidding Documents available, on the above terms, for the sole purpose of obtaining Bids for the Work and does not confer a license or grant permission for any other use of the Bidding Documents.

3.2 INTERPRETATION OR CORRECTION OF BIDDING DOCUMENTS

3.2.1 Bidder shall, before submitting its Bid, carefully study and compare the components of the Bidding Documents and compare them with any other work being bid concurrently or presently under construction which relates to the Work for which the Bid is submitted; shall examine the Project site, the conditions under which the Work is to be performed, and the local conditions; and shall at once report to University's Representative errors, inconsistencies, or ambiguities discovered. If Bidder is awarded the Contract,

Bidder waives any claim arising from any errors, inconsistencies or ambiguities, that Bidder, its subcontractors or suppliers, or any person or entity under Bidder on the Contract became aware of, or reasonably should have become aware of, prior to Bidder's submission of its Bid.

3.2.2 Requests for clarification or interpretation of the Bidding Documents shall be addressed only to the person or firm designated in the Supplementary Instructions to Bidders.

3.2.3 Clarifications, interpretations, corrections, and changes to the Bidding Documents will be made by Addenda issued as provided in Article 3.5. Clarifications, interpretations, corrections, and changes to the Bidding Documents made in any other manner shall not be binding and Bidders shall not rely upon them.

3.3 PRODUCT SUBSTITUTIONS

3.3.1 No substitutions will be considered prior to award of Contract. Substitutions will only be considered after award of the Contract and as provided for in the Contract Documents.

3.4 SUBCONTRACTORS

3.4.1 Each Bidder shall list in its Bid, in the form of the CM/Contractor Expanded List of Subcontractors Exhibit, all first-tier Subcontractors that will perform work, labor or render such services as defined in Article 9 of the Bid Form for General Conditions Work. The CM/Contractor Expanded List of Subcontractors contains spaces for the following information when listing Subcontractors: (1) portion of the Work;; (2) name of Subcontractor; (3) city of Subcontractor's business location. The failure to provide the CM/Contractor Expanded List of Subcontractors or to list on the form any one of the items set forth above will result in the University treating the Bid as if no Subcontractor was listed for that portion of the Work and Bidder will thereby represent to University that Bidder agrees that it is fully qualified to perform that portion of the Work and shall perform that portion of the Work.

3.4.2 Subcontractors listed in the CM/Contractor Expanded List of Subcontractors shall only be substituted after the Bid Deadline with the written consent of University and in accordance with the State of California "Subletting and Subcontracting Fair Practices Act."

3.5 ADDENDA

3.5.1 Addenda will be issued only by University and only in writing. Addenda will be identified as such and will be mailed or delivered to all Planholders. At its sole discretion, the University may elect to deliver Addenda via facsimile to Planholders who have provided a facsimile number for receipt of Addenda.

3.5.2 Copies of Addenda will be made available for inspection wherever Bidding Documents are on file for inspection.

3.5.3 Addenda will be issued such that Planholders should receive them no later than 3 full business days prior to the Bid Deadline. Addenda withdrawing the request for Bids or postponing the Bid Deadline may be issued anytime prior to the Bid Deadline.

3.5.4 Each Bidder shall be responsible for ascertaining, prior to submitting a Bid, that it has received all issued Addenda.

3.6 BUILDER'S RISK PROPERTY INSURANCE

3.6.1 University will provide builder's risk property insurance subject to deductibles in the policy as required by the General Conditions if the Anticipated Contract Value exceeds \$200,000 at the time of award and the requirements of the Project are not excluded by such coverage. A summary of the provisions of the policy is included as an Exhibit to the Contract. Bidder agrees that the University's

provision of builder's risk property insurance containing said provisions meets the University's obligation to provide builder's risk property insurance under the Contract and, in the event of a conflict between the provisions of the policy and any summary or description of the provisions contained herein or otherwise, the provisions of the policy shall control and shall be conclusively presumed to fulfill the University's obligation to provide such insurance.

ARTICLE 4 **PRE-BID CONFERENCE**

4.1 Bidder shall attend the Pre-Bid Conference at which the requirements of the Bidding Documents are reviewed by University, comments and questions are received from Bidders, and a Project site visit is conducted. University requires all Pre-Bid Conference attendees to arrive for the meeting on time and to sign an attendance list, which in turn is used to determine if Bidders meet this requirement. Any Bidder not attending the Pre-Bid Conference in its entirety will be deemed to have not complied with the requirements of the Bidding Documents and its Bid will be rejected.

ARTICLE 5 **BIDDING PROCEDURES**

5.1 FORM AND STYLE OF BIDS

5.1.1 Bids shall be submitted on the Bid Form included with the Bidding Documents. Bids not submitted on the University's Bid Form shall be rejected.

5.1.2 The Bid Form shall be filled in legibly in ink or by typewriter. All portions of the Bid Form must be completed and the Bid Form must be signed before the Bid is submitted. Failure to comply with the requirements of this Article 5.1.2 will result in the Bid being rejected as nonresponsive.

5.1.3 Bidder's failure to submit a price for any Alternate or Unit Price will result in the Bid being considered as non-responsive. If Alternates are called for and no change in the Option Sum - Phase 2 is required, indicate "No Change" by marking the appropriate box.

5.1.4 Bidder shall make no stipulations on the Bid Form nor qualify the Bid in any manner.

5.1.5 The Bid Form shall be signed by a person or persons legally authorized to bind Bidder to a contract. Bidder's Representative shall sign and date the Declaration included in the Bid Form. Failure to sign and date the declaration will cause the Bid to be rejected.

5.2 BID SECURITY

5.2.1 Each Bid shall be accompanied by Bid Security in the amount of 10% of the Anticipated Contract Value as security for Bidder's obligation to enter into a Contract with University on the terms stated in the Bid Form and to furnish all items required by the Bidding Documents. Bid Security shall be a Bid Bond on the form provided by University and included herein, or a certified check made payable to "The Regents of the University of California." When a Bid Bond is used for Bid Security, failure to use University's Bid Bond form will result in the rejection of the Bid. Bidder must use the Bid Bond form provided by the University or an exact, true and correct photocopy of such form. The Bid Bond form may not be retyped, reformatted, transcribed onto another form, or altered in any manner except for the purpose of completing the form.

5.2.2 If the apparent lowest responsible Bidder fails to sign the Agreement and furnish all items required by the Bidding Documents within the time limits specified in these Instructions to Bidders,

University may reject such Bidder's Bid and select the next apparent lowest responsible Bidder until all Bids have been exhausted or University may reject all Bids. The Bidder whose Bid is rejected for such failure(s) shall be liable for and forfeit to University the amount of the difference, not to exceed the amount of the Bid Security, between the amount of the Bid of the Bidder so rejected and the greater amount for which University procures the Work.

5.2.3 If a Bid Bond is submitted, the signature of the person executing the Bid Bond must be notarized. If an attorney-in-fact executes the Bid Bond on behalf of the surety, a copy of the current power of attorney bearing the notarized signature of the appropriate corporate officer shall be included with the Bid Bond. Additionally, the surety issuing the Bid Bond shall be, on the Bid Deadline, an admitted surety insurer (as defined in the California Code of Civil Procedure Section 995.120).

5.2.4 Bid Security will be returned after the contract has been awarded. Notwithstanding the preceding, if a Bidder fails or refuses, within 10 days after receipt of notice of selection, to sign the Agreement or submit to University all of the items required by the Bidding Documents, the University will retain that Bidder's Bid Security. If the Bid Security is in the form of a Bid Bond, the Bid Security will be retained until the University has been appropriately compensated; if the Bid Security is in the form of certified check, the University will negotiate said check and after deducting its damages, return any balance to Bidder.

5.2.5 University will retain the Bid Security of the successful Bidder until CM/Contractor has furnished the Performance and Payment Bonds required by Article 11 of the General Conditions.

5.2.6 If the Bidder is awarded the Contract and fails to furnish the Performance and Payment Bonds within 10 days of the University's issuance of the Notice of Intent, as required by Article 11 of the General Conditions, University may:

.1 Elect to not exercise its Option for Phase 2 and not award a contract for Construction Work to another contractor, in which case the CM/Contractor shall pay to the University, as liquidated damages, \$250,000, or

.2 Elect to not exercise its Option for Phase 2 and award a contract for the Construction Work to another contractor, in which case the CM/Contractor shall pay to the University, not to exceed the amount of the Bid Security, the difference between the amount of the Option Sum Phase 2 and the larger amount for which University procures the Work, plus liquidated damages at the rate specified in Article 6 of the Agreement, for each day of delay, beyond the 10 days for furnishing payment and performance bonds, in awarding a contract for the Construction Work to another contractor, or

.3 Elect to exercise its Option for Phase 2, after the CM/Contractor furnishes the payment and performance bonds, in which case the CM/Contractor shall pay to the University, not to exceed the amount of the Bid Security, liquidated damages at the rate specified in Article 6 of the Agreement, for each day of delay beyond the 10 days for furnishing payment and performance bonds.

5.3 SUBMISSION OF BIDS

5.3.1 The Bid Form, Bid Security, and all other documents required to be submitted with the Bid shall be enclosed in a sealed opaque envelope. The envelope shall be addressed to the office designated in the Supplementary Instructions to Bidders for receipt of Bids. The envelope shall be identified with the Project name, Bidder's name and address, and, if applicable, the designated portion of the Project for which the Bid is submitted. If the Bid is sent by mail, the sealed envelope shall be enclosed in a separate mailing envelope with the notation "SEALED BID ENCLOSED" on the face thereof.

5.3.2 Bids shall be deposited at the designated location on or before the Bid Deadline. A Bid received after the Bid Deadline will be returned to Bidder unopened.

5.3.3 Bidder shall assume full responsibility for timely delivery at the location designated for receipt of Bids.

5.3.4 Oral, telephonic, facsimile, or telegraphic Bids are invalid and will not be accepted.

5.4 MODIFICATION OR WITHDRAWAL OF BID

5.4.1 Prior to the Bid Deadline, a submitted Bid may be modified or withdrawn by notice to the Facility receiving Bids at the location designated for receipt of Bids. Such notice shall be in writing over the signature of Bidder and, in order to be effective, must be received on or before the Bid Deadline. A modification so made shall be worded so as not to reveal the amount of the original Bid.

5.4.2 A withdrawn Bid may be resubmitted on or before the Bid Deadline, provided that it then fully complies with the Bidding Requirements.

5.4.3 Bid Security shall be in an amount sufficient for the Bid as modified or resubmitted.

5.4.4 Bids may not be modified, withdrawn, or canceled within 60 days after the Bid Deadline unless otherwise provided in Supplementary Instructions to Bidders.

ARTICLE 6 **CONSIDERATION OF BIDS**

6.1 OPENING OF BIDS

6.1.1 Bids which have the required identification as stipulated in Article 5.3.1 and are received on or before the Bid Deadline will be opened publicly.

6.2 REJECTION OF BIDS

6.2.1 University will have the right to reject all Bids.

6.2.2 University will have the right to reject any Bid not accompanied by the required Bid Security or any other item required by the Bidding Documents, or a Bid which is in any other way incomplete or irregular.

6.3 AWARD

6.3.1 University will have the right, but is not required, to waive nonmaterial irregularities in a Bid. If the University awards the Contract, it will be awarded to the responsible Bidder submitting the lowest responsive Bid as determined by University and who is not rejected by University for failing or refusing, within 10 days after receipt of notice of selection, to sign the Agreement or submit to University all of the items required by the Bidding Documents.

6.3.2 University will have the right to accept Alternates in any order or combination, unless otherwise specifically provided in the Bidding Documents. The opening of Bids and evaluation of Alternates will be conducted in accordance with a procedure that, at University's option, either (i) prescribes, prior to the time of Bid opening, the order in which Alternates will be selected or (ii) prevents, before the determination of the apparent low Bidder has been made, information that would identify any of the Bidders from being revealed to the representative of the University selecting the Alternates to be used in determining the low Bidder. After determination of the apparent low Bidder has been made, University will publicly disclose the identity of each Bidder that submitted a Bid and the amount of each such Bid.

6.3.3 University will determine the low Bidder on the basis of the sum of the Option Sum – Phase 2 plus all Unit Prices multiplied by their respective Estimated Quantities as stated in the Bid Form, if any, plus the daily rate for Compensable Delay multiplied by the “multiplier” as stated in the Bid Form, plus the amounts of all Alternates to be included in the Contract Sum at the time of award. The Contract Sum will be the sum of the Contract Sum-Phase 1 and the additive or deductive amounts for all Alternates that University has selected to be included in the Contract Sum as of the time of award.

6.3.4 The University will post the Bid results in a public place at the address where the Bids are received (unless another address is specified in the Bidding Documents).

6.3.5 University will select the apparent lowest responsive and responsible Bidder and notify such Bidder on University's form within 50 days (unless the number of days is modified in Supplementary Instructions to Bidders) after the Bid Deadline or reject all bids. Within 10 days after receipt of notice of selection as the apparent lowest responsible Bidder, Bidder shall submit to University all of the following items:

- .1 Three originals of the Agreement signed by Bidder.
- .2 Written certification from CM/Contractor's surety company that it has encumbered an amount equal to the Anticipated Contract Value less the Phase 1 Contract Sum.
- .3 Certificates of Insurance on form provided by University required under Article 11 of the General Conditions.
- .4 Names of all Subcontractors identified on the CM/Contractor Expanded List of Subcontractors with their addresses, telephone number, facsimile number, contact person, portion of the Work and designation of any Subcontractor as a Small Business Enterprise (SBE), Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), Women-owned Business Enterprise (WBE) and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) on Report of Subcontractor Information in the form contained in the Exhibits. Evidence, as required by University, of the reliability and responsibility of the proposed Subcontractors such as statements of experience, statements of financial condition, and references.
- .5 If Bidder wishes to utilize securities in lieu of retention beginning with the first Application For Payment, Selection of Retention Options accompanied by a completed Escrow Agreement for Deposit of Securities in Lieu of Retention and Deposit of Retention in the form contained in the Exhibits.

6.3.6 Prior to award of the Contract, University will notify Bidder in writing, if University, after due investigation, objects to a Subcontractor or Key Personnel proposed by Bidder, in which case Bidder shall propose a substitute acceptable to University. Substitution of Key Personnel shall be made in accordance with Article 3 of the General Conditions. Substitution of a Subcontractor shall be made in accordance with Article 5 of the General Conditions. Failure of University to object to a proposed Subcontractor or Key Personnel prior to award shall not preclude University from requiring replacement of Subcontractor or Key Personnel based upon information received subsequent to award, information which cannot be properly evaluated prior to award due to time constraints, or information relating to a failure to comply with the requirements of the Contract.

6.3.7 If Bidder submits three originals of the signed Agreement and all other items required to be submitted to University within 10 days after receipt of notice of selection as the apparent lowest responsive and responsible Bidder, and if all such items comply with the requirements of the Bidding Documents and are acceptable to University, University will award the Contract to Bidder by signing the Agreement and returning a signed copy of the Agreement to Bidder.

6.3.8 If University consents to the withdrawal of the Bid of the apparent lowest responsive and responsible Bidder, or the apparent lowest responsive and responsible Bidder fails or refuses to sign the Agreement or submit to University all of the items required by the Bidding Documents, within 10 days after receipt of notice of selection, or that Bidder is not financially or otherwise qualified to perform the

Contract, University may reject such Bidder's Bid and select the next apparent lowest responsible Bidder, until all Bids are exhausted, or reject all Bids. Any Bidder whose Bid is rejected because the Bidder has failed or refused, within 10 days after receipt of notice of selection, to sign the Agreement or submit to University all of the items required by the Bidding Documents, shall be liable to the University for all resulting damages.

ARTICLE 7 **BID PROTEST**

7.1 FILING A BID PROTEST

7.1.1 Any Bidder, person, or entity may file a Bid protest. The protest shall specify the reasons and facts upon which the protest is based and shall be filed in writing with the Facility not later than 3 business days after:

- .1 if the Bid Form does not contain any Alternate(s), the date of the Bid opening;
- .2 if the Bid Form contains any Alternate(s), the date of posting in a public place of Bid results.

7.1.2 If a Bid is rejected by the Facility, and such rejection is not in response to a Bid protest, any Bidder, person or entity may dispute that rejection by filing a Bid protest (limited to the rejection) within 3 business days of the rejected Bidder's receipt of the notice of rejection.

7.2 RESOLUTION OF BID CONTROVERSY

7.2.1 Facility will investigate the basis for the Bid protest and analyze the facts. Facility will notify Bidder whose Bid is the subject of the Bid protest of evidence presented in the Bid protest and evidence found as a result of the investigation, and, if deemed appropriate, afford Bidder an opportunity to rebut such evidence, and permit Bidder to present evidence that it should be allowed to perform the Work. If deemed appropriate by Facility, an informal hearing will be held. Facility will issue a written decision within 15 days following receipt of the Bid protest, unless factors beyond Facility's reasonable control prevent such a resolution, in which event such decision will be issued as expeditiously as circumstances reasonably permit. The decision will state the reasons for the action taken by Facility. A copy of the decision will be furnished to the protestor, the Bidder whose Bid is the subject of the Bid protest, and all Bidders affected by the decision. As used in this Article 7, a Bidder is affected by the decision on a Bid protest if a decision on the protest could have resulted in the Bidder not being the lowest responsible and responsive Bidder for the Contract.

7.2.2 Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 7.2.1, at the election of Facility, a Bid protest may be referred directly to University's Construction Review Board without prior investigation and review by Facility. The Chair of the Construction Review Board will either decide the Bid protest or appoint a Hearing Officer. If a Hearing Officer is appointed, the Hearing Officer will review the Bid protest in accordance with the provisions of Article 7.2.4.

7.2.3 Bidder whose Bid is the subject of the protest, all Bidders affected by the Facility's decision on the protest, and the protestor have the right to appeal to the Construction Review Board if not satisfied with Facility's decision. The appeal must be in writing and shall specify the decision being appealed and all the facts and circumstances relied upon in support of the appeal. The appeal must be received by the Chair, Construction Review Board, by close of business not later than the 5th day following appellant's receipt of the written decision of Facility, at the following address:

Chair, Construction Review Board

University of California
Office of the President
1111 Franklin Street, 6th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607-5200
Attention: Assistant Director, Design & Construction Policy

A copy of the appeal shall be sent to all parties involved in the Bid protest and to Facility. An appeal received after close of business is considered received as of the next business day. If the final date for receipt of an appeal falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or University holiday, the appeal will be considered timely only if received by close of business on the following business day.

7.2.4 The Chair of the Construction Review Board will review the Facility's decision and the appeal, and issue a written decision, or if appropriate, appoint a Hearing Officer to conduct a hearing and issue a written decision. If a hearing is held, the hearing shall be held not later than the 10th day following the appointment of the Hearing Officer unless the Hearing Officer for good cause determines otherwise. The written decision of the Chair or Hearing Officer will state the basis of the decision, and the decision will be final and not subject to any further appeal to University. The Chair or Hearing Officer may consult with the University's Office of the General Counsel on the decision as to legal form. The University will complete its internal Bid protest procedures before award of the Contract.