

## SMALL DIVERSE BUSINESS AND SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION SUBMITTAL

**A. General Information.** The Issuing Office encourages participation by Small Diverse Businesses (SDB) and Small Businesses (SB) as prime contractors and encourages all prime contractors to make significant commitments to use SDBs and SBs as subcontractors and suppliers.

A SB must meet each of the following requirements:

- Δ The business must be for-profit, United States business;
- Δ The business must be independently owned;
- Δ The business may not be dominant in its field of operation;
- Δ The business may not employ more than 100 full-time or full-time equivalent employees;
- Δ The business, by type, may not exceed the following three-year average gross sales:
  - o Procurement Goods and Services: \$20 million
  - o Construction: \$20 million
  - o Building Design Services: \$7 million
  - o Information Technology Goods and Services: \$25 million

For credit in the RFP scoring process, a SB must complete the Department of General Services (DGS)/Bureau of Diversity, Inclusion and Small Business Opportunities (BDISBO) self-certification process. Additional information on this process can be found here: [Small Business Self-Certification](#).

A SDB is a DGS-verified minority-owned small business, woman-owned small business, veteran-owned small business, service-disabled veteran-owned small business, LGBT-owned small business, Disability-owned small business, or other small businesses as approved by DGS, that are owned and controlled by a majority of persons, not limited to members of minority groups, who have been deprived of the opportunity to develop and maintain a competitive position in the economy because of social disadvantages.

For credit in the RFP scoring process, a SDB must complete the DGS verification process. Additional information on this process can be found here: [Small Diverse Business Verification](#).

An Offeror that qualifies as a SDB or SB and submits a proposal as a prime contractor is not prohibited from being included as a subcontractor in separate proposals submitted by other Offerors. A SDB or SB may be included as a subcontractor with as many prime contractors as it chooses in separate proposals.

The Department's directory of self-certified SBs and DGS/BDISBO-verified SDBs can be accessed here:

[Find Small and Small Diverse Businesses.](#)

**B. SDB and SB Participation Evaluation.** BDISBO has established the minimum evaluation weight for the SDB and SB Participation criterion for this RFP as 20% of the total points.

- 1) The SDB and SB point allocation is based entirely on the percentage of the contract cost committed to SDB and SB participation. If the proposer is a SDB, 100% of the contract cost is allocated to SDB participation. If the proposer is a SB, 100% of the contract cost is allocated to SB participation.
- 2) A total combined SDB/SB commitment less than one percent (1%) of the total contract cost is considered de minimis and will receive no SDB or SB points.
- 3) Based on a maximum total of 200 available points for the SDB/SB Participation Submittal, the scoring mechanism is as follows:

$$\text{SDB and SB Raw Score} = 200 (\text{SDB}\% + (1/3 * \text{SB } \%))$$

- 4) The SDB and SB Raw Score is capped at 200.

The Offeror with the highest raw score will receive 200 points. Each Offeror's raw score will be pro-rated against the Highest Offeror's raw score by applying the formula set forth here: [RFP Scoring Formula.](#)

- 5) The Offeror's prior performance in meeting its contractual obligations, SDBs and SBs will be considered by BDISBO during the scoring process. To the extent the Offeror has failed to meet prior contractual commitments, BDISBO may recommend to the Issuing Office that the Offeror be determined non-responsible for the the limited purpose of eligibility to receive SDB and SB points.

Questions regarding the SDB and SB Programs, including questions about the self-certification and verification processes can be directed to:

Department of General Services

Bureau of Diversity, Inclusion and Small Business Opportunities (BDISBO)  
Room 601, North Office Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17125  
Phone: (717) 783-3119  
Fax: (717) 787-7052  
[Email: RA-BDISBOVerification@pa.gov](mailto:RA-BDISBOVerification@pa.gov)  
[Website: www.dgs.pa.gov](http://www.dgs.pa.gov)

**C. SDB/SB Participation Submittal.** All Offerors are required to submit the attached SDB/SB Participation Submittal Form in its entirety and related Letter(s) of Intent. **To receive points for SDB or SB participation commitments, the SDB or SB must be listed in the Department's directory of self-certified SBs and DGS/BDISBO-verified SDBs as of the proposal due date. BDISBO reserves the right to adjust overall SDB or SB commitments to correctly align with the SDB or SB status of a prime contractor or subcontractor as of the solicitation due date, and also to reflect the correct sum of individual subcontracting commitments listed within the Letters of Intent.**

If there are multiple Letters of Intent, please combine them into one document and upload them with your response. The Letter(s) of Intent must be signed by both the Offeror and the SDB or SB for each of the identified SDB or SB subcontractors. Please use the attached Letter of Intent template and include all highlighted information.

Each SDB or SB commitment credited by BDISBO along with the overall percentage of SDB and SB commitments will become contractual obligations of the selected Offeror.

**Offerors will not receive credit for any commitments for which information as above is not included in the SDB/SB Participation Submittal. Offerors will not receive credit for stating that they will find a SDB or SB after the contract is awarded.**

**Equal employment opportunity and contract compliance statements referring to company equal employment opportunity policies or past contract compliance practices do not constitute proof of SDB and/or SB Status or entitle an Offeror to receive credit for SDB or SB participation.**

**D. Contract Requirements.**

All contracts containing SDB and SB Participation must contain the following contract provisions to be maintained through the initial contract term and any subsequent options or renewals:

1. Each SDB and SB commitment which was credited by BDISBO and the total percentage of such SDB and SB commitments made at the time of proposal submittal, BAFO, or contract negotiations, as applicable, become contractual obligations of the selected Offeror upon execution of its contract with the Commonwealth.
2. All SDB and SB subcontractors credited by BDISBO must perform at least 50% of the work subcontracted to them.
3. The individual percentage commitments made to SDBs and SBs cannot be altered without written approval from BDISBO.
4. SDB and SB commitments must be maintained in the event the contract is assigned to another prime contractor.
5. The selected Offeror and each SDB and SB for which a commitment was credited by BDISBO must submit a final, definitive subcontract agreement signed by the selected Offeror and the SDB and/or SB to BDISBO within 30 days of the final execution date of the Commonwealth contract. A Model Subcontract Agreement which may be used to satisfy this requirement is provided as an attachment – **Model Form of Small Diverse and Small Business Subcontract Agreement**. The subcontract must contain:
  - a) The specific work, supplies or services the SDB and/or SB will perform; location for work performed; how the work, supplies or services relate to the project; and the specific timeframe during the initial term and any extensions, options and renewals of the prime contract when the work, supplies or services will be provided or performed.
  - b) The fixed percentage commitment and associated estimated dollar value that each SDB and/or SB will receive based on the final negotiated cost for the initial term of the prime contract.
  - c) Payment terms indicating that the SDB and/or SB will be paid for work satisfactorily completed within 14 days of the selected Offeror's receipt of payment from the Commonwealth for such work.
  - d) Commercially reasonable terms for the applicable business/industry that are no less favorable than the terms of the selected Offeror's contract with the Commonwealth and that do not place disproportionate risk on the SDB and/or SB relative to the nature and level of the SDB's and/or SB's participation in the project.

**6.** If the selected Offeror and a SDB or SB credited by BDISBO cannot agree upon a definitive subcontract within 30 days of the final execution date of the Commonwealth contract, the selected Offeror must notify BDISBO.

**7.** The Selected Offeror shall complete the Prime Contractor's Quarterly Utilization Report and submit it to the contracting officer of the Issuing Office and BDISBO within ten (10) business days at the end of each quarter of the contract term and any subsequent options or renewals. This information will be used to track and confirm the actual dollar amount paid to SDB and SB subcontractors and suppliers and will serve as a record of fulfillment of the the contractual commitment. If there was no activity during the quarter, the form must be completed by stating "No activity in this quarter." A late fee of \$100.00 per day may be assessed against the Selected Offeror if the Utilization Report is not submitted in accordance with the schedule above.

**8.** The Selected Offeror shall notify the Contracting Officer of the Issuing Office and BDISBO when circumstances arise that may negatively impact the selected Offeror's ability to comply with SDB and/or SB commitments and to provide a corrective action plan. Disputes will be decided by the Issuing Office and DGS.

**9.** If the Selected Offeror fails to satisfy its SDB and/or SB commitment(s), it may be subject to a range of sanctions BDISBO deems appropriate. Such sanctions include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following: a determination that the selected Offeror is not responsible under the Contractor Responsibility Program; withholding of payments; suspension or termination of the contract together with consequential damages; revocation of the selected Offeror's SDB and/or SB status; and/or suspension or debarment from future contracting opportunities with the Commonwealth.