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Notice to Contractors for Building Integrated Photovoltaic Panels

Utah State University is seeking proposals from qualified contractors for the design, fabrication and erection of photovoltaic panels on the new College of Agriculture building presently under construction on the campus in Logan.

The existing building is currently under construction and has been designed to have horizontal aluminum grid shading devices installed at window head height on each floor, on metal brackets that cantilever out from the face of the aluminum curtain wall system approximately 4 feet. This proposal is for the installation of laminated glass panels containing photo voltaic thin film or crystalline chips instead of the metal grate. The schedule for the work would be for the panels to be installed in the summer/fall of 2011.

Because the PV glass panels will weigh more than the aluminum grate, the aluminum curtain wall system will require considerable reinforcing. The cost to reinforce the curtain wall to accommodate the additional weight of the glass PV panels will be offset by the deletion of the aluminum grate system and its supporting brackets. PV proposers will be responsible to coordinate with LCG the curtain wall subcontractor and include in their bid, the cost of all support brackets for the glass PV panels, including if necessary, upgrading the vertical rods that support the outside edges of the cantilevered brackets. Overall responsibility for the integrity of the curtain wall system will remain with LCG so the strength and weather proofing of the installation must be acceptable by LCG prior to bidding.

Wind loads in the area are high because of canyon breezes. Design wind speed listed in the State of Utah Design Guidelines is 90 mph sustained wind speed, but the university climate station has recorded sustained wind speeds of 110mph. The glass and its attachment must be capable of withstanding the existing climatic conditions without damage for its entire life.

Proposers will be responsible to visit the property and verify all site conditions, including delivery, storage and staging as well as become familiar with curtain wall details to ensure a complete proposal. The system required must have individual inverters on each panel to not only minimize the effects of shading but also have the ability to provide the university with monitoring capability as part of its sustainability outreach effort.

Details of this request for proposals and selection criteria are outlined in the Request for Proposals document. The project is funded as part of a federal grant to the State of Utah for energy education and outreach. In order to comply with federal rules pertaining to this project, PV modules must be manufactured in America but the cells may be of non-domestic origin; also Davis Bacon wage rates must be paid to each skill level. (See also: <http://dfcm.utah.gov/StdDocs/index.html> for complete ARA requirements.

The university reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if it is in the university's interest to do so. Any questions pertaining to this RFP may be directed to:

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