TIPS VENDOR AGREEMENT

Between GovConnection, Inc. d/b/a Connection Public Sector Solutions and

THE INTERLOCAL PURCHASING SYSTEM (TIPS),

a Department of Texas Education Service Center Region 8

for

RFP 190302 Technology Solutions Products and Services (3)

General Information

The Vendor Agreement ("Agreement") made and entered into by and between The Interlocal Purchasing System (hereinafter referred to as "TIPS" respectfully) a government cooperative purchasing program authorized by the Region 8 Education Service Center, having its principal place of business at 4845 US Hwy 271 North, Pittsburg, Texas 75686. This Agreement consists of the provisions set forth below, including provisions of all Attachments referenced herein. In the event of a conflict between the provisions set forth below and those contained in any Attachment, the provisions set forth shall control unless otherwise agreed by the parties in writing and by signature and date on the attachment.

The vendor Agreement shall include and incorporate by reference this Agreement, the terms and conditions, special terms and conditions, any agreed upon amendments, as well as all of the sections of the solicitation as posted, including any addenda and the awarded vendor's proposal. Once signed, if an awarded vendor's proposal varies or is unclear in any way from the TIPS Agreement, TIPS, at its sole discretion, will decide which provision will prevail unless otherwise specifically agreed in writing by the parties.

A Purchase Order, Agreement or Contract is the TIPS Member's approval providing the authority to proceed with the negotiated delivery order under the Agreement. Special terms and conditions as agreed to between the vendor and TIPS Member should be added as addendums to the Purchase Order, Agreement or Contract. Items such as certificate of insurance, bonding requirements, small or disadvantaged business goals are some of the addendums possible.

Terms and Conditions

Freight

All quotes to members shall provide a line item for cost for freight or shipping regardless if there is a charge or not. If no charge for freight or shipping, indicate by stating "No Charge" or "0", "included in price" or other similar indication. Otherwise, all shipping, freight or delivery changes shall be passed through to the TIPS Member at cost with no markup and said charges shall be agreed by the TIPS Member.

Warranty Conditions

Since GovConnection is not the manufacturer of the Products sold to Customer; the only warranties offered are those of the manufacturer. In purchasing the Products, Customer is relying on the manufacturer's specifications only and may not rely on any statements, specifications in brochures, photographs or other illustrations representing the Products, even if furnished by us. We do not warrant the performance or integrity of any Product, but merely pass through to the Customer whatever end-user warranty the manufacturers or software publishers provide with their respective Products. GOVCONNECTION AND ITS AFFILIATES HEREBY EXPRESSLY DISCLAIM ALL WARRANTIES EITHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, RELATED TO PRODUCTS SOLD OR SERVICES PROVIDED BY THIRD PARTIES OR AFFILIATES OF GOVCONNECTION, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION, ANY WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. THIS DISCLAIMER DOES NOT AFFECT THE TERMS OF THE MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY, IF ANY.

Customer Support

The Vendor shall provide timely and accurate customer support for orders to TIPS Members as agreed by the Parties. Vendors shall respond to such requests within a commercially reasonable time after receipt of the request. If support and/or training is a line item sold or packaged with a sale, support shall be as agreed with the TIPS Member.

Agreements

Agreements for purchase will normally be put into effect by means of a purchase order(s) executed by authorized agents of the TIPS Member participating government entities, but other means of placing an order may be used at the Member's discretion.

Tax exempt status

Most TIPS Members are tax exempt and the related laws and/or regulations of the controlling jurisdiction(s) of the TIPS Member shall apply.

Assignments of Agreements

No assignment of Agreement may be made without the prior notification of TIPS. Written approval of TIPS shall not be unreasonably withheld. Payment for delivered goods and services can only be made to the awarded Vendor, Vendor designated reseller or vendor assigned company.

Disclosures

1. Vendor and TIPS affirms that he/she or any authorized employees or agents has not given, offered to give, nor intends to give at any time hereafter any economic opportunity, future employment, gift, loan, gratuity, special discount, trip, favor or service to a public servant in connection with this Agreement.

2. Vendor shall attach, in writing, a complete description of any and all relationships that might be considered a conflict of interest in doing business with the TIPS program.

3. The Vendor affirms that, to the best of his/her knowledge, the offer has been arrived at independently, and is submitted without collusion with anyone to obtain information or gain any favoritism that would in any way limit competition or give an unfair advantage over other vendors in the award of this Agreement.

Renewal of Agreements

The Agreement with TIPS is for one (1) year with an option for renewal for an additional one (1) consecutive year if both parties agree. TIPS may or may not exercise the one-year extension beyond the base one-year term and whether or not to offer the extension is at the sole discretion of TIPS. The scheduled Agreement termination date shall be the last date of the month of the last month of the agreement's legal effect. **Example:** *If the agreement is scheduled to end on May 23, the anniversary date of the award, it would actually be extended to May 31 in the last month of the last year the contract is active.*

Automatic Renewal Clauses Incorporated in Awarded Vendor Agreements with TIPS Members Resulting from the Solicitation and with the Vendor Named in this Agreement.

No Agreement for goods or services with a TIPS Member by the awarded vendor named in this Agreement that results from the solicitation award named in this Agreement, may incorporate an automatic renewal clause with which the TIPS Member must comply. All renewal terms incorporated in an Agreement by the vendor with the TIPS Member shall only be valid and enforceable when the vendor receives written confirmation by purchase order or executed Agreement issued by the TIPS Member for any renewal period. The purpose of this clause is to avoid a TIPS Member inadvertently renewing an Agreement during a period in which the governing body of the TIPS Member has not properly appropriated and budgeted the funds to satisfy the Agreement renewal. This term is not negotiable and any Agreement between a TIPS Member and a TIPS awarded vendor with an automatic renewal clause that conflicts with these terms is rendered void and unenforceable.

Shipments

The Vendor shall ship, deliver or provide ordered products or services within a commercially reasonable time after the receipt of the order from the TIPS Member. If a delay in said delivery is anticipated, the Vendor shall notify TIPS Member as to why delivery is delayed and shall provide an estimated time for completion of the order. TIPS or the requesting entity may cancel the order if estimated delivery time is not acceptable or not as agreed.

Invoices

The awarded vendor shall submit invoices or payment requests to the TIPS Member

participating entity clearly stating "Per TIPS Agreement # xxxxxxx or similarly identifying the Agreement. Each invoice or pay request shall include the TIPS Member's purchase order number or other identifying designation as provided in the order by the TIPS Member. If applicable, the shipment tracking number or pertinent information for verification of TIPS Member receipt shall be made available upon request.

Payments

The TIPS Member will make payments directly to the Vendor or vendor assigned dealer after receiving invoice or in compliance with applicable statute, whichever is the greater time or as otherwise provided by an agreement of the parties.

Pricing

Price increases will be honored according to the terms of the solicitation. All pricing submitted to TIPS shall include the participation fee, as provided in the solicitation, to be remitted to TIPS by the Vendor. Vendor will not show adding the fee to the invoice presented to TIPS Member customer. Failure to render the participation fee to TIPS shall constitute a breach of this agreement and shall be grounds for termination of this agreement and any other agreement held with TIPS.

Participation Fees

The Participation Fee that was published as part of the Solicitation and the fee published is the legally effective fee, along with any Fee conditions stated in the RFP. Collection of the fees by TIPS is required under Texas Government Code §791.011 Et seq. Vendor or vendor assigned dealer Agreements to pay the participation fee for all Agreement sales to TIPS on a monthly scheduled report or as otherwise agreed by the parties. Vendor must login to the TIPS database and use the "Submission Report" section to report sales. The Vendor or vendor assigned dealers are responsible for keeping record of all sales that go through the TIPS Agreement and submitting same to TIPS.

Failure to pay the participation fee will result in termination of Agreement and possible legal action. Please contact TIPS at tips@tips-usa.com or call (866) 839-8477 if you have questions about paying fees.

Indemnity

The Vendor, GovConnection, agrees to pass through any indemnity received from the Product manufacturers or supplier on goods and services sold by the Vendor. We warrant that the Products we sell have good title and that we have the proper authority to license the software products we distribute. The Vendor does not indemnify Customer for claims by third parties that Products infringe any patent, copyright, trademark or trade secret for products manufactured by a company other than the Vendor. The Vendor agrees to indemnify and hold harmless and defend TIPS, TIPS Member(s), officers and employees from and against all claims and suits by third parties for damages from any product or service created, manufactured and sold by the Vendor, injuries to persons (including death), property damages, losses, and expenses including court costs and reasonable attorney's fees, arising out of, or resulting from, Vendor's work, as limited herein, under this Agreement, including all such causes of action based upon common, constitutional, or statutory law, or based in whole or in part, upon allegations of negligent or intentional acts on the part of the Vendor, its officers, employees, agents, subcontractors, licensees, or invitees. Parties found liable shall pay their proportionate Vendor agreement modified for GovConnection Page 4 of 11 share of damages as agreed by the parties or as ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction over the case. NO LIMITATION OF LIABILITY FOR DAMAGES FOR PERSONAL INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE RESULTING FROM INTENTIONAL MALICIOUS, OR NEGLIGENT ACTS ARE PERMITTED OR AGREED BY TIPS/ESC Region 8. Per Texas Education Code §44.032(f), and pursuant to its requirements only, reasonable Attorney's fees are recoverable by the prevailing party in any dispute resulting in litigation.

Limitation of Liability

NEITHER GOVCONNECTION NOR ITS AFFILIATES WILL BE LIABLE FOR LOST PROFITS, LOSS OF BUSINESS OR OTHER CONSEQUENTIAL, SPECIAL, INDIRECT OR PUNITIVE DAMAGES, EVEN IF ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES, OR FOR ANY CLAIM BY ANY THIRD PARTY. NEITHER GOVCONNECTION NOR ITS AFFILIATES WILL BE LIABLE FOR PRODUCTS NOT BEING AVAILABLE FOR USE OR FOR LOST OR CORRUPTED DATA OR SOFTWARE OR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES BY THIRD PARTIES. CUSTOMER AGREES THAT FOR ANY LIABILITY RELATED TO THE PURCHASE OF PRODUCTS OR SERVICES PROVIDED DIRECTLY BY GOVCONNECTION OR ITS AFFILIATES, NEITHER GOVCONNECTION NOR ITS AFFILIATES ARE LIABLE OR RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY AMOUNT OF DAMAGES ABOVE THE DOLLAR AMOUNT PAID BY CUSTOMER FOR THE PRODUCT(S) OR SERVICE(S) GIVING RISE TO THE CLAIM." **THERE IS NO LIMITATION OF LIABILITY FOR DAMAGES FOR PERSONAL INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE RESULTING FROM INTENTIONAL MALICIOUS, OR NEGLIGENT ACTS.**

State of Texas Franchise Tax

By signature hereon, the bidder hereby certifies that he/she is not currently delinquent in the payment of any franchise taxes owed the State of Texas under Chapter 171, Tax Code.

Miscellaneous

The Vendor acknowledges and agrees that continued participation in TIPS is subject to TIPS sole discretion and that any Vendor may be removed from the participation in the Program at any time with or without cause. Nothing in the Agreement or in any other communication between TIPS and the Vendor may be construed as a guarantee that TIPS or TIPS Members will submit any orders at any time. TIPS reserves the right to request additional proposals for items or services already on Agreement at any time.

Purchase Order Pricing/Product Deviation

If a deviation of pricing/product on a purchase order or contract modification occurs, TIPS is to be notified within 48 hours of receipt of order.

Termination for Convenience

TIPS reserves the right to terminate this agreement for cause or no cause for convenience with a thirty-day written notice. Termination for convenience is required under Federal Regulations 2 CFR part 200. All purchase orders presented to the Vendor by a TIPS Member prior to the actual termination of this agreement shall be honored at the option of the TIPS Member. The awarded vendor may terminate the agreement with ninety (90) days written notice to TIPS 4845 US Hwy North, Pittsburg, Texas 75686. The vendor will be paid for goods and services delivered prior to the termination provided that the goods and services were delivered in accordance with the terms and conditions of the terminated agreement.

TIPS Member Purchasing Procedures

Purchase orders or their equal are issued by participating TIPS Member to the awarded vendor and should indicate on the order that the purchase is per the applicable TIPS Agreement number. Orders are typically emailed to TIPS at tipspo@tips-usa.com.

- Awarded vendor delivers goods/services directly to the participating member.
- Awarded vendor invoices the participating TIPS Member directly.
- Awarded vendor receives payment directly from the participating member.
- Awarded vendor reports sales monthly to TIPS (unless prior arrangements have been made with TIPS for an alternative submission schedule).

Licenses

Awarded vendor shall maintain in current status all federal, state and local licenses, bonds and permits required for the operation of the business conducted by awarded vendor. Awarded vendor shall remain fully informed of and in compliance with all ordinances and regulations pertaining to the lawful provision of goods or services under the Agreement. TIPS and TIS Members reserves the right to stop work and/or cancel Agreement of any awarded vendor whose license(s) expire, lapse, are suspended or terminated subject to a 30-day cure period unless prohibited by applicable statue or regulation.

Novation

If awarded vendor sells or transfers all assets or the entire portion of the assets used to perform this Agreement, a successor in interest must guarantee to perform all obligations under this Agreement. A simple change of name agreement will not change the Agreement obligations of awarded vendor.

Site Requirements (only when applicable to service or job)

Cleanup: Awarded vendor shall clean up and remove all debris and rubbish resulting from their work as required or directed by TIPS Member. Upon completion of work, the premises shall be left in good repair and an orderly, neat, clean and unobstructed condition.

Preparation: Awarded vendor shall not begin a project for which TIPS Member has not prepared the site, unless awarded vendor does the preparation work at no cost, or until TIPS Member includes the cost of site preparation in a purchase order.

Site preparation includes, but is not limited to: moving furniture, installing wiring for networks or power, and similar pre-installation requirements.

Registered sex offender restrictions: For work to be performed at schools, awarded vendor agrees that no employee of a sub-contractor who has been adjudicated to be a registered sex offender will perform work at any time when students are, or reasonably expected to be, present. Awarded vendor agrees that a violation of this condition shall be considered a material breach and may result in the cancellation of the purchase order at the TIPS Member's discretion.

Awarded vendor must identify any additional costs associated with compliance of this term. If no costs are specified, compliance with this term will be provided at no additional charge. Safety measures: Awarded vendor shall take all reasonable precautions for the safety of employees on the worksite, and shall erect and properly maintain all necessary safeguards for protection of workers and the public. Awarded vendor shall post warning signs against all Vendor agreement modified for GovConnection Page 6 of 11 hazards created by the operation and work in progress. Proper precautions shall be taken pursuant to state law and standard practices to protect workers, general public and existing structures from injury or damage.

Smoking

Persons working under Agreement shall adhere to the TIPS Member's or local smoking statutes, codes or policies.

Marketing

Awarded vendor agrees to allow TIPS to use their name and logo within TIPS website, marketing materials and advertisement subject to any reasonable restrictions provided to TIPS in the Proposal to the Solicitation. The Vendor may submit an acceptable use directive for Vendor's names and logos whit which TIPS agrees to comply. Any use of TIPS name and logo or any form of publicity, inclusive of press release, regarding this Agreement by awarded vendor must have prior approval from TIPS which will not be unreasonably withheld. Request may be made by email to <u>TIPS@TIPS-USA.COM</u>.

Supplemental agreements

The TIPS Member entity participating in the TIPS Agreement and awarded vendor may enter into a separate supplemental agreement or contract to further define the level of service requirements over and above the minimum defined in this Agreement i.e. invoice requirements, ordering requirements, specialized delivery, etc. Any supplemental agreement or contract developed as a result of this Agreement is exclusively between the participating entity and awarded vendor. TIPS, its agents, TIPS Members and employees shall not be made party to any claim for breach of such agreement unless named and agreed by the Party in question in writing in the agreement. If a vendor submitting a Proposal requires TIPS and/or TIPS Member to sign an additional agreement, those agreements shall comply with the award made by TIPS to the Vendor. Supplemental Vendor's Agreement documents may not become part of TIPS's Agreement with vendor unless and until an authorized representative of TIPS reviews and approves it. TIPS permits TIPS Members to negotiate additional terms and conditions with the Vendor for the provision of goods or services under the Vendor's TIPS Agreement.

Survival Clause

All applicable agreements, contracts, software license agreements, warranties or service agreements that were entered into between Vendor and TIPS or the TIPS Member Customer under the terms and conditions of this Agreement shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement. All Orders, Purchase Orders issued or contracts executed by TIPS or a TIPS Member and accepted by the Vendor prior to the expiration or termination of this agreement, shall survive expiration or termination of the Agreement, subject to previously agreed terms and conditions agreed by the parties or as otherwise specified herein relating to termination of this agreement.

Legal obligations

It is the responding vendor's responsibility to be aware of and comply with all local, state and federal laws governing the sale of products/services identified in this Solicitation and any awarded Agreement thereof. Applicable laws and regulations must be followed even if not specifically identified herein.

Audit rights

Due to transparency statutes and public accountability requirements of TIPS and TIPS Members', the awarded Vendor shall, at their sole expense, maintain appropriate due diligence of all purchases made by TIPS Member that utilizes this Agreement. TIPS and Region 8 ESC each reserve the right to audit the accounting of TIPS related purchases for a period of three (3) years from the time such purchases are made. This audit right shall survive termination of this Agreement for a period of one (1) year from the effective date of termination. In order to ensure and confirm compliance with this agreement, TIPS shall have authority to conduct audits of Awarded Vendor's pricing that is offered to TIPS Members with 30 days' notice unless the audit is ordered by a Court Order or by a Government Agency with authority to do so without notice. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event that TIPS is made aware of any pricing being offered to eligible entities that is materially inconsistent with the pricing under this agreement, TIPS shall have the ability to conduct the audit internally or may engage a third-party auditing firm to investigate any possible non-complying conduct or may terminate the Agreement according to the terms of this Agreement. In the event of an audit, the requested materials shall be reasonably provided in the time, format and at the location acceptable to Region 8 ESC or TIPS.

Force Majeure

If by reason of Force Majeure, either party hereto shall be rendered unable wholly or in part to carry out its obligations under this Agreement then such party shall give notice and fully particulars of Force Majeure in writing to the other party within a reasonable time after occurrence of the event or cause relied upon, and the obligation of the party giving such notice, so far as it is affected by such Force Majeure, shall be suspended during the continuance of the inability then claimed, except as hereinafter provided, but for no longer period, and such party shall endeavor to remove or overcome such inability with all reasonable dispatch.

Project Delivery Order Procedures

The TIPS Member having approved and signed an interlocal agreement, or other TIPS Membership document, may make a request of the awarded vendor under this Agreement when the TIPS Member desires goods or services awarded to the Vendor. Notification may occur via phone, the web, courier, email, fax, or in person. Upon notification of a pending request, the awarded vendor shall acknowledge the TIPS Member's request as soon as possible, but must make contact with the TIPS Member within two working days.

Status of TIPS Members as Related to This Agreement

TIPS Members stand in the place of TIPS as related to this agreement and have the same access to the proposal information and all related documents. TIPS Members have all the same rights under the awarded Agreement as TIPS.

Vendor's Resellers as Related to This Agreement

Vendor's Named Resellers under this Agreement shall comply with all terms and conditions of this agreement and all addenda or incorporated documents. All actions related to sales by

Authorized Vendor's Resellers under this Agreement are the responsibility of the Awarded Vendor.

Support Requirements

If there is a dispute between the awarded vendor and TIPS Member, TIPS or its representatives will assist in conflict resolution or third party if requested by either party. TIPS, or its representatives, reserves the right to inspect any project and audit the awarded vendors TIPS project files, documentation and correspondence related to the requesting Member's order. If there are confidentiality requirements by either party, TIPS shall comply to the extent permitted by law.

Incorporation of Solicitation

The TIPS Solicitation, whether a Request for Proposals, the Request for Competitive Sealed Proposals or Request for Qualifications solicitation, or other, the Vendor's response to same and all associated documents and forms made part of the solicitation process, including any addenda, that resulted in the execution of this agreement are hereby incorporated by reference into this agreement as if copied verbatim.

SECTION HEADERS OR TITLES

THE SECTON HEADERS OR TITLES WITHIN THIS DOCUMENT ARE MERELY GUIDES FOR CONVENIENCE AND ARE NOT FOR CLASSIFICATION OR LIMITING OF THE RESPONSIBILITES OF THE PARTIES TO THIS DOCUMENT.

NEW STATUTORY REQUIREMENT EFFETIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2017.

Texas governmental entities are prohibited from doing business with companies that fail to certify to this condition as required by Texas Government Code Sec. 2270.

By executing this agreement, you certify that you are authorized to bind the undersigned Vendor and that your company (1) does not boycott Israel; and (2) will not boycott Israel during the term of the Agreement.

You certify that your company is not listed on and we do not do business with companies that are on the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts list of Designated Foreign Terrorists Organizations per Texas Gov't Code 2270.0153 found at https://comptroller.texas.gov/purchasing/docs/foreign-terrorist.pdf

You certify that if the certified statements above become untrue at any time during the life of this Agreement that the Vendor will notify TIPS within 1 business day of the change by a letter on your letterhead from an authorized representative of the Vendor stating the non-compliance decision and the TIPS Agreement number and description at:

Attention: General Counsel ESC Region 8/The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) 4845 Highway 271 North Pittsburg, TX,75686 And by an email sent to <u>bids@tips-usa.com</u>

Insurance Requirements

The undersigned Vendor agrees to maintain the below minimum insurance requirements for TIPS Contract Holders.

General Liability Automobile Liability Workers' Compensation Umbrella Liability \$1,000,000 each Occurrence/ Aggregate \$300,000 Includes owned, hired & non-owned Statutory limits \$1,000,000

When the contractor or its subcontractors are liable for any damages or claims, the contractors' policy, when the Vendor is responsible for the claim, must be primary over any other valid and collectible insurance carried by the District. Any immunity available to TIPS or TIPS Members shall not be used as a defense by the contractor's insurance policy. The coverages and limits are to be considered minimum requirements and in no way limit the liability of the Contractor(s). Insurance shall be written by a carrier with an A-; VII or better rating in accordance with current A.M. Best Key Rating Guide. Only deductibles applicable to property damage are acceptable. "Claims made" policies will not be accepted. Vendor's required minimum coverage shall not be suspended, voided, cancelled, non-renewed or reduced in coverage or in limits unless replaced by a policy that provides the minimum required coverage except after thirty (30) days prior written notice by certified mail, return receipt requested has been given to TIPS or the TIPS Member if a project or pending delivery of an order is ongoing. Upon request, certified copies of all insurance policies shall be furnished to the TIPS or the TIPS Member.

Special Terms and Conditions

- <u>Agreements:</u> All vendor orders received form TIPS Members must be emailed to TIPS at tipspo@tips-usa.com. Should a TIPS Member send an order direct to vendor, it is the vendor's responsibility to forward a copy of the order to TIPS at the email above within 3 business days and confirm its receipt with TIPS.
- <u>Vendor Encouraging Members to bypass TIPS agreement</u>: Encouraging entities to purchase directly from the Vendor or through another agreement, <u>when the Member</u> <u>has requested using the TIPS cooperative Agreement or price</u>, and thereby bypassing the TIPS Agreement is a violation of the terms and conditions of this Agreement and will result in removal of the Vendor from the TIPS Program.
- <u>Order Confirmation</u>: All TIPS Member Agreement purchase orders are approved daily by TIPS and sent to vendor. The vendor should confirm receipt of orders to the TIPS Member (customer) within 3 business days.
- Vendor custom website for TIPS: If Vendor is hosting a custom TIPS website, updated pricing when effective. TIPS shall be notified when prices change in accordance with the award.
- <u>Back Ordered Products</u>: If product is not expected to ship within the time provided to the TIPS member by the Vendor, customer is to be notified within 3 business days and appropriate action taken based on customer request.

TIPS Vendor Agreement Signature Form

RFP 190302 Technology Solutions Products and Services (3)

Company Name GovConnection, Inc.	dba Connection Public Sec	tor Solutions
Address 732 Milford Road		
_{city} Merrimack	State NH Zip	03054
Phone 800-800-0019	_{Fax} 603-683-2482	
Email of Authorized Representative bob		on.com
Name of Authorized Representative Rol	pert Marconi	
Title VP of SLED Sales		
Signature of Authorized Representative	Host N	52
Date7/18/19		
TIPS Authorized Representative Name	redith Barton	
Title Vice-President of Operations		
TIPS Authorized Representative Signature	David Warne Fitts	
TIPS Authorized Representative Signature	Barton	
Date 7/23/19		

The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS Cooperative) Supplier Response

Bid Information		Contact Information		Ship to Information
Bid Creator	Rick Powell General Counsel/Procurement Compliance Officer	Address	Region 8 Education Service Center 4845 US Highway 271	Address
Email Phone	rick.powell@tips-usa.com (903) 575-2689		North Pittsburg, TX 75686	Contact
Fax		Contact	Kristie Collins	Department Building
Bid Number	190302 Addendum 1	Departmen	t	C C
Title	Technology Solutions Products and Services (3)	Building		Floor/Room Telephone
Bid Type	RFP	Floor/Room	1	Fax
Issue Date	3/7/2019 08:01 AM (CT)	Telephone	+1 (866) 839-8477	Email
Close Date	5/7/2019 09:00:00 AM (CT)	Fax Email	+1 (866) 839-8472 bids@tips-usa.com	
Supplier Infor	mation			

Company GovConnection, Inc. Address PO Box 536477 Pittsburgh, PA 15253 Contact Department Building Floor/Room Telephone (888) 294-0268 Fax Email Submitted 4/25/2019 04:04:24 PM (CT) Total \$0.00 By submitting your response, you certify that you are authorized to represent and bind your company. Signature Robert Marconi Email bob.marconi@connection.com Supplier Notes **Bid Notes**

Bid Activities

Bid Messages

Bid Attributes

#	ase review the following and respond v	<u>Note</u>	Response
1	Yes - No	Disadvantaged/Minority/Women Business Enterprise - D/M/WBE (Required by some participating governmental entities) Vendor certifies that their firm is a D/M/WBE? Vendor must upload proof of certification to the "Response Attachments" D/M/WBE CERTIFICATES section.	NO
2	Yes - No	Historically Underutilized Business - HUB (Required by some participating governmental entities) Vendor certifies that their firm is a HUB as defined by the State of Texas at https://comptroller.texas.gov/purchasing/vendor/hub/	No
		or in a HUBZone as defined by the US Small Business Administration at https://www.sba.gov/offices/headquarters/ohp	
		Proof of one or both may be submitted. Vendor must upload proof of certification to the "Response Attachments" HUB CERTIFICATES section.	
3	Yes - No	The Vendor can provide services and/or products to all 50 US States?	Yes
4	States Served:	If answer is NO to question #3, please list which states can be served. (Example: AR, OK, TX)	N/A
5	Company and/or Product Description:	This information will appear on the TIPS website in the company profile section, if awarded a TIPS contract. (Limit 750 characters.)	GovConnection, Inc. d/b/a Connection Public Sector Solutions is a Fortune 1000 Global Solutions Provider that connects people with technology to enhance growth, elevate productivity, and empower innovation.
			Founded in 1982, Connection delivers valuable IT services and advanced technology solutions to business, government, education, and healthcare markets. Today, we serve our customers through our staff of highly trained Account Managers, our team of on-staff experts, and our efficient procurement websites. We are also proud to offer custom-configured computer systems from a ISO 9001:2015 certified technical configuration lab at our distribution center in Wilmington, OH.
6	Primary Contact Name	Primary Contact Name	Ken Whittenburg
7	Primary Contact Title	Primary Contact Title	Account Manager
8	Primary Contact Email	Primary Contact Email	kenneth.whittenburg@connection.com
9	Primary Contact Phone	Enter 10 digit phone number. (No dashes or extensions) Example: 8668398477	800-800-0019 ext. 33054
10	Primary Contact Fax	Enter 10 digit phone number. (No dashes or extensions) Example: 8668398477	603-683-0918

11	Primary Contact Mobile	Enter 10 digit phone number. (No dashes or extensions) Example: 8668398477	NA
12	Secondary Contact Name	Secondary Contact Name	Rick Maze
13	Secondary Contact Title	Secondary Contact Title	Business Development Manager
14	Secondary Contact Email	Secondary Contact Email	rick.maze@connection.com
15	Secondary Contact Phone	Enter 10 digit phone number. (No dashes or extensions) Example: 8668398477	530-388-8319
16	Secondary Contact Fax	Enter 10 digit phone number. (No dashes or extensions) Example: 8668398477	603-683-1479
17	Secondary Contact Mobile	Enter 10 digit phone number. (No dashes or extensions) Example: 8668398477	N/A
18	Admin Fee Contact Name	Admin Fee Contact Name. This person is responsible for paying the admin fee to TIPS.	Nicole Poulin
19	Admin Fee Contact Email	Admin Fee Contact Email	nicole.poulin@connection.com
20	Admin Fee Contact Phone	Enter 10 digit phone number. (No dashes or extensions) Example: 8668398477	80080000192791
21	Purchase Order Contact Name	Purchase Order Contact Name. This person is responsible for receiving Purchase Orders from TIPS.	Ken Whittenburg
22	Purchase Order Contact Email	Purchase Order Contact Email	kenneth.whittenburg@connection.com
23	Purchase Order Contact Phone	Enter 10 digit phone number. (No dashes or extensions) Example: 8668398477	800800001933054
24	Company Website	Company Website (Format - www.company.com)	www.connection.com/PS
25	Federal ID Number:	Federal ID Number also known as the Employer Identification Number. (Format - 12-3456789)	52-1837891
26	Primary Address	Primary Address	732 Milford Road
27	Primary Address City	Primary Address City	Merrimack
28	Primary Address State	Primary Address State (2 Digit Abbreviation)	New Hampshire
29	Primary Address Zip	Primary Address Zip	03054
30	Search Words:	Please list search words to be posted in the TIPS database about your company that TIPS website users might search. Words may be product names, manufacturers, or other words associated with the category of award. YOU MAY NOT LIST NON-CATEGORY ITEMS. (Limit 500 words) (Format: product, paper, construction, manufacturer name, etc.)	Converged, SaaS, IaaS, Cloud, Virtual Systems, storage, Servers, Networking, Wireless, workstation, memory, cables, printers, projectors, scanners, chromebooks, charging carts, document cameras, notebooks, tablets, cases, keyboards, graphics Dell, HP, Cisco, Acer, Aver, Asus, Lenovo, IBM, Brother, Epson, APC, Tripp Lite, Barracuda, Symantec, Microsoft, Belkin, Black Box, Bretford, C2G, Cyber Power, Samsung

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31	Do you want TIPS Members to be able to spend Federal grant funds with you if awarded? Is it your intent to be able to sell to our members regardless of the fund source, whether it be local, state or federal?	Most of our members receive Federal Government grants and they make up a significant portion of their budgets. The members need to know if your company is willing to sell to them when they spend federal budget funds on their purchase. There are attributes that follow that are provisions from the federal regulations in 2 CFR part 200. Your answers will determine if your award will be designated as Federal or Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR)compliant. Do you want TIPS Members to be able to spend Federal grant funds with you if awarded and is it your intent to be able to sell to our members regardless of the fund source, whether it be local, state or federal?	Yes
32	Yes - No	Certification of Residency (Required by the State of Texas) The vendor's ultimate parent company or majority owner: (A) has its principal place of business in Texas; OR (B) employs at least 500 persons in Texas?	No
33	Company Residence (City)	Vendor's principal place of business is in the city of?	Rockville
34	Company Residence (State)	Vendor's principal place of business is in the state of?	MD
35	Discount Offered - CAUTION READ CAREFULLY BECAUSE VENDORS FREQUENTLY MAKE MISTAKES ON THIS ATTRIBUTE QUESTION	Remember this is a MINIMUM discount percentage so, be sure the discount percentage inserted here can be applied to ANY OFFERING OF GOODS OR SERVICES THROUGH OUT THE LIFE OF THE CONTRACT	3%
		CAUTION: BE CERTAIN YOU CAN HONOR THIS MINIMUM DISCOUNT PERCENTAGE ON ANY OFFERED SERVICE OR GOOD. What is the MINIMUM percentage discount off of any item or service you offer to TIPS Members that is in your regular catalog (as defined in the RFP document), website, store or shelf pricing? The resulting price of any goods or services Catalog list prices after this discount is applied is a ceiling on your pricing and not a floor because, in order to be more competitive in the individual circumstance, you may offer a larger discount depending on the items or services purchased and the quantity at time of sale. Must answer with a number between 0% and 100%.	
36	TIPS administration fee	By submitting a proposal, I agree that all pricing submitted to TIPS shall include the participation fee, as designated in the solicitation or as otherwise agreed in writing and shall be remitted to TIPS by the Vendor as agreed in the Vendor agreement. I agree that the fee shall not and will not be added by the vendor as a separate line item on a TIPS member invoice, quote, proposal or any other written communications with the TIPS member.	(No Response Required)
37	Yes - No	Vendor agrees to remit to TIPS the required administration fee? Region 8 is required by Texas Government Code § 791 to be compensated for its work and thus, failure to agree shall render your response void and it will not be considered.	Yes
38	Yes - No	Do you offer additional discounts to TIPS members for large order quantities or large scope of work?	Yes
39	Years Experience	Company years experience in this category? This is an evaluation criterion worth a maximum of 10 points. See RFP for more information.	36

40	Resellers:	Does the vendor have resellers that it will name under this contract? Resellers are defined as other companies that sell your products under an agreement with you, the awarded vendor of TIPS. BIGmart is a reseller of ACME brand televisions. If ACME were a TIPS awarded vendor, then ACME would list BIGmart as a reseller. applicable, vendor should download the Reseller/Dealers spreadsheet from the Attachments section, fill out the form and submit the document in the "Response Attachments" RESELLERS section.	No
41	Pricing discount percentage are guaranteed for?	Does the vendor agrees to honor the proposed pricing discount percentage off regular catalog (as defined in the RFP document), website, store or shelf pricing for the term of the award?	YES
42	Right of Refusal	Does the proposing vendor wish to reserve the right not to perform under the awarded agreement with a TIPS member at vendor's discretion?	Yes
43	NON-COLLUSIVE BIDDING CERTIFICATE	By submission of this bid or proposal, the Bidder certifies that: 1)This bid or proposal has been independently arrived at without collusion with any other Bidder or with any Competitor;	(No Response Required)
		2)This bid or proposal has not been knowingly disclosed and will not be knowingly disclosed, prior to the opening of bids, or proposals for this project, to any other Bidder, Competitor or potential competitor:	
		3)No attempt has been or will be made to induce any other person, partnership or corporation to submit or not to submit a bid or proposal;	
		4)The person signing this bid or proposal certifies that he has fully informed himself regarding the accuracy of the statements contained in this certification, and under the penalties being applicable to the Bidder as well as to the person signing in its behalf.	
		Not a negotiable term. Failure to agree will render your proposal non-responsive and it will not be considered.	
44	CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE - FORM CIQ - Do you have any CONFLICT OF INTEREST TO REPORT OR DISCLOSE under this statutory requirement?	Do you have any CONFLICT OF INTEREST TO REPORT OR DISCLOSE under this statutory requirement? YES or NO you have a conflict of interest as described in this form or the Local Government Code Chapter 176, cited therein- you are required to complete and file with TIPS. may find the Blank CIQ form on our website at:	No
		Copy and Paste the following link into a new browser or tab:	
		https://www.tips-usa.com/assets/documents/docs/CIQ.pdf	
		There is an optional upload for this form provided if you have a conflict and must file the form.	
45	Filing of Form CIQ	If yes (above), have you filed a form CIQ by uploading the form to this RFP as directed above?	No
46	Regulatory Standing	I certify to TIPS for the proposal attached that my company is in good standing with all governmental agencies Federal or state that regulate any part of our business operations. If not, please explain in the next attribute question.	Yes

47 Regulatory Standing

48 Antitrust Certification Statements (Tex. Government Code § 2155.005)

Regulatory Standing explanation of no answer on previous $\,$ N/A question.

By submission of this bid or proposal, the Bidder certifies that:

(No Response Required)

I affirm under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of Texas that:

(1) I am duly authorized to execute this contract on my own behalf or on behalf of the company, corporation, firm, partnership or individual (Company) listed below;

(2) In connection with this bid, neither I nor any representative of the Company has violated any provision of the Texas Free Enterprise and Antitrust Act, Tex. Bus.& Comm. Code Chapter 15;

(3) In connection with this bid, neither I nor any representative of the Company has violated any federal antitrust law;

(4) Neither I nor any representative of the Company has directly or indirectly communicated any of the contents of this bid to a competitor of the Company or any other company, corporation, firm, partnership or individual engaged in the same line of business as the Company. Instructions for Certification: By answering yes to the next Attribute question below, the vendor and prospective lower tier participant is providing the certification set out herein in accordance with these instructions.

2. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification in addition to other remedies available to the federal government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and / or debarment.

3. The prospective lower tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the person to which this proposal is submitted if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.

4. The terms "covered transaction," "debarred," "suspended," "ineligible," "lower tier covered transaction," "participants," "person," "primary covered transaction," "principal," "proposal" and "voluntarily excluded," as used in this clause, have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of rules implementing Executive Order 12549. You may contact the person to which this proposal is submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations.

5. The prospective lower tier participant agrees by submitting this form that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency with which this transaction originated.

6. The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this form that it will include this clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transaction" without modification in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.

7. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not debarred, suspended, ineligible or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals. Each participant may, but is not required to, check the Nonprocurement List.

8. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

9. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 5 of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the federal government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and / or debarment.

50 Suspension or Debarment Certification

By answering yes, you certify that no federal suspension Yes or debarment is in place, which would preclude receiving a federally funded contract as described above. and Suspension (Executive Orders 12549 and 12689)—A contract award (see 2 CFR 180.220) must not be made to parties listed on the government-wide exclusions in the System for Award Management (SAM), in accordance with the OMB guidelines at 2 CFR 180 that implement Executive

Orders 12549 (3 CFR part 1986 Comp., p. 189) and 12689 (3 CFR part 1989 Comp., p. 235), "Debarment and Suspension." SAM Exclusions contains the names of parties debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded by agencies, as well as parties declared ineligible under statutory or regulatory authority other than Executive Order 12549.

By answering yes, you certify that no federal suspension or debarment is in place, which would preclude receiving a federally funded contract as described above. In accordance with Federal civil rights law, all U.S. Departments, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. VI of the Education

Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; Title 7 CFR Parts 15, 15a, and 15b; the Americans with Disabilities Act; and FNS Instruction 113-1, Civil Rights Compliance and Enforcement – Nutrition Programs and Activities) U.S. Departments, including the USDA are equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. Not a negotiable term. Failure to agree by answering YES will render your proposal non-responsive and it will not be considered. I certify that in the performance of a contract with TIPS or its members, that our company will conform to the foregoing anti-discrimination statement and comply with the cited and all other applicable laws and regulations.

52 2 CFR PART 200 Contract Provisions Explanation Required Federal contract provisions of Federal Regulations for Contracts for contracts with ESC Region 8 and TIPS Members: following provisions are required to be in place and agreed if the procurement is funded in any part with federal funds.

The ESC Region 8 and TIPS Members are the subgrantee or Subrecipient by definition. Most of the provisions are located in 2 CFR PART 200 - Appendix II to Part 200—Contract Provisions for Non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards at 2 CFR PART 200. Others are included within 2 CFR part 200 et al.

In addition to other provisions required by the Federal agency or non-Federal entity, all contracts made by the

(No Response Required)

Yes

		non-Federal entity under the Federal award must contain provisions covering the following, as applicable.	
53	2 CFR PART 200 Contracts	Contracts for more than the simplified acquisition threshold currently set at \$150,000, which is the inflation adjusted amount determined by the Civilian Agency Acquisition Council and the Defense Acquisition Regulations Council (Councils) as authorized by 41 U.S.C. 1908, must address administrative, contractual, or legal remedies in instances where contractors violate or breach contract terms, and provide for such sanctions and penalties as appropriate.	Yes
		Notice: Pursuant to the above, when federal funds are expended by ESC Region 8 and TIPS Members, ESC Region 8 and TIPS Members reserves all rights and privileges under the applicable laws and regulations with respect to this procurement in the event of breach of contract by either party.	
		Does vendor agree?	
54	2 CFR PART 200 Termination	Termination for cause and for convenience by the grantee or subgrantee including the manner by which it will be effected and the basis for settlement. (All contracts in excess of \$10,000)	Yes
		Pursuant to the above, when federal funds are expended by ESC Region 8 and TIPS Members, ESC Region 8 and TIPS Members reserves the right to terminate any agreement in excess of \$10,000 resulting from this procurement process for cause after giving the vendor an appropriate opportunity and up to 30 days, to cure the causal breach of terms and conditions. ESC Region 8 and TIPS Members reserves the right to terminate any agreement in excess of \$10,000 resulting from this procurement process for convenience with 30 days notice in writing to the awarded vendor. The vendor would be compensated for work performed and goods procured as of the termination date if for convenience of the ESC Region 8 and TIPS Members. Any award under this procurement process is not exclusive and the ESC Region 8 and TIPS reserves the right to purchase goods and services from other vendors when it is in the best interest of the ESC Region 8 and TIPS. Does vendor agree?	
55	2 CFR PART 200 Clean Air Act	Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401-7671q.) and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251-1387), as amended—Contracts and subgrants of amounts in excess of \$150,000 must contain a provision that requires the non-Federal award to agree to comply with all applicable standards, orders or regulations issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401-7671q) and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251-1387). Violations must be reported to the Federal awarding agency and the Regional Office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).	Yes
		Pursuant to the Clean Air Act, et al above, when federal funds are expended by ESC Region 8 and TIPS Members, ESC Region 8 and TIPS Members requires that the proposer certify that during the term of an award by the ESC Region 8 and TIPS Members resulting from this procurement process the vendor agrees to comply with all of the above regulations, including all of the terms listed and referenced therein.	

Does vendor agree?

56	2 CFR PART 200 Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment	Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment (31 U.S.C. 1352)—Contractors that apply or bid for an award exceeding \$100,000 must file the required certification. Each tier certifies to the tier above that it will not and has not used Federal appropriated funds to pay any person or organization for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with obtaining any Federal contract, grant or any other award covered by 31 U.S.C. 1352. Each tier must also disclose any lobbying with non-Federal funds that takes place in connection with obtaining any Federal award. Such disclosures are forwarded from tier to tier up to the non-Federal award.	Yes
		Pursuant to the above, when federal funds are expended by ESC Region 8 and TIPS Members, ESC Region 8 and TIPS Members requires the proposer certify that during the term and during the life of any contract with ESC Region 8 and TIPS Members resulting from this procurement process the vendor certifies to the terms included or referenced herein.	
		Does vendor agree?	
57	2 CFR PART 200 Federal Rule	Compliance with all applicable standards, orders, or requirements issued under section 306 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 1857(h)), section 508 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1368), Executive Order 11738, and Environmental Protection Agency regulations (40 CFR part 15). (Contracts, subcontracts, and subgrants of amounts in excess of \$100,000)	Yes
		Pursuant to the above, when federal funds are expended by ESC Region 8 and TIPS Members, ESC Region 8 and TIPS Members requires the proposer certify that in performance of the contracts, subcontracts, and subgrants of amounts in excess of \$100,000, the vendor will be in compliance with all applicable standards, orders, or requirements issued under section 306 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 1857(h)), section 508 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1368), Executive Order 11738, and Environmental Protection Agency regulations (40 CFR part 15).	
		Does vendor certify that it is in compliance with the Clean Air Act?	
58	2 CFR PART 200 Procurement of Recovered Materials	A non-Federal entity that is a state agency or agency of a political subdivision of a state and its contractors must comply with section 6002 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The requirements of Section 6002 include procuring only items designated in guidelines of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at 40 CFR part 247 that contain the highest percentage of recovered materials practicable, consistent with maintaining a satisfactory level of competition, where the purchase price of the item exceeds \$10,000 or the value of the quantity acquired during the preceding fiscal year exceeded \$10,000; procuring solid waste management services in a manner that maximizes energy and resource recovery; and establishing an affirmative procurement	Yes
		program for procurement of recovered materials identified in the EPA guidelines.	

		Does vendor certify that it is in compliance with the Solid Waste Disposal Act as described above?	
59	Certification Regarding Lobbying	Applicable to Grants, Subgrants, Cooperative Agreements, and Contracts Exceeding \$100,000 in Federal Funds	I HAVE NOT Lobbied per above
		Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction and is imposed by section 1352, Title 31, U.S. Code. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure. undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:	
		(1)No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of a Federal contract, the making of a Federal grant, the making of a Federal loan, the entering into a cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of a Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.	
		(2)If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal grant or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.	
		(3)The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all covered subawards exceeding \$100,000 in Federal funds at all appropriate tiers and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.	
60	If you answered "I HAVE lobbied per above to the previous question.	IF you answered "I HAVE lobbied" per above Attribute question, you must download the Lobbying Report "Standard From LLL, disclosure Form to Report Lobbying" which includes instruction on completing the form, complete and submit it in the Response Attachments section as a report of the lobbying activities you performed or paid others to perform.	(No Response Required)
61	Subcontracting with small and minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms.	Do you ever anticipate the possibility of subcontracting any of your work under this award if you are successful?	NO
		IF NO, DO NOT ANSWER THE NEXT ATTRIBUTE QUESTION IF YES, and ONLY IF YES, you must answer the next question YES if you want a TIPS Member to be authorized to spend Federal Grant Funds for Procurement.	

62 ONLY IF YES TO THE PREVIOUS QUESTION OR if you ever do subcontract any part of your performance under the TIPS Agreement, do you agree to comply with the following federal requirements? ONLY IF YES TO THE PREVIOUS QUESTION OR if you ever do subcontract any part of your performance under the TIPS Agreement,

do you agree to comply with the following federal requirements?

Federal Regulation 2 CFR §200.321 Contracting with small and minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms. (a)The non-Federal entity must take all necessary affirmative steps to assure that minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible.

(b)Affirmative steps must include:(1)Placing qualified small and minority businesses and women's business enterprises on solicitation lists;

(2)Assuring that small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises are solicited whenever they are potential sources;

(3)Dividing total requirements, when economically feasible, into smaller tasks or quantities to permit maximum participation by small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises;

(4)Establishing delivery schedules, where the requirement permits, which encourage participation by small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises;

(5)Using the services and assistance, as appropriate, of such organizations as the Small Business Administration and the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce ; and

(6)Requiring the prime contractor, if subcontracts are to be let, to take the affirmative steps listed in paragraphs(1) through (5) of this section.

The ESC Region 8 and TIPS is a Texas Political Subdivision and a local governmental entity; therefore, is prohibited from indemnifying third parties pursuant to the Texas

Constitution (Article 3, Section 52) except as specifically provided by law or as

ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction. A provision in a contract to indemnify or hold a party harmless is a promise to pay for

any expenses the indemnified party incurs, if a specified event occurs, such as breaching the terms of the contract or negligently

performing duties under the contract. Article III, Section 49 of the Texas Constitution states that "no debt shall be created by or on

behalf of the State ... " The Attorney General has counseled that a contractually imposed obligation of indemnity creates a "debt" in

the constitutional sense. Tex. Att'y Gen. Op. No. MW-475 (1982). Contract clauses which require the System or institutions to

indemnify must be deleted or qualified with "to the extent permitted by the Constitution and Laws of the State of Texas." Liquidated

damages, attorney's fees, waiver of vendor's liability, and waiver of statutes of limitations clauses should also be deleted or qualified

with "to the extent permitted by the Constitution and laws

63 Indemnification

Yes

of State of Texas."

Not a negotiable term. Failure to agree will render your proposal non-responsive and it will not be considered. Do you agree to these terms?

The parties shall be entitled to exercise any right or remedy available to it either at law or in equity, subject to the choice of law, venue

and service of process clauses limitations agreed herein. Nothing in this agreement shall commit the TIPS to an arbitration resolution

of any disagreement under any circumstances. Any Claim arising out of or related to the Contract, except for those specifically waived

under the terms of the Contract, may, after denial of the Board of Directors, be subject to mediation at the request of either party. Any

issues not resolved hereunder MAY be referred to non-binding mediation to be conducted by a mutually agreed upon mediator as a

prerequisite to the filing of any lawsuit over such issue(s). The parties shall share the mediator's fee and any associated filing fee

equally. Mediation shall be held in Camp or Titus County, Texas. Agreements reached in mediation shall be reduced to writing, and

will be subject to the approval by the District's Board of Directors, signed by the Parties if approved by the Board of Directors, and, if

signed, shall thereafter be enforceable as provided by the laws of the State of Texas.

Do you agree to these terms?

65 Remedies Explanation of No Answer

66 Choice of Law

64

Remedies

The agreement between the Vendor and TIPS/ESC Region 8 and any addenda or other additions resulting from this procurement process, however described, shall be governed by, construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, regardless of any conflict of laws principles.

THIS DOES NOT APPLY to a vendor's agreement entered into with a TIPS Member, as the Member may be located outside Texas.

Not a negotiable term. Failure to agree will render your proposal non-responsive and it will not be considered. Do you agree to these terms? No

Connection agrees to Texas Choice of Law, but does not agree to arbitration.

Yes

Any Proceeding arising out of or relating to this

Infringement(s) Explanation of No Answer 69

70

Contract Governance

67

Jurisdiction and Service of Process

Connection offers thousands of brand-name commercially available products and services (Products). We have no control over the technology of the Products we sell and therefore cannot and do not indemnify Customer for claims by third parties that Products infringe any patent, copyright, trademark or trade secret. We will pass through any such indemnity we receive from the Product manufacturers or supplier. We warrant that the Products we sell have good title and that we have the proper authority to license the software products we distribute.

Yes

No

Yes

Any contract made or entered into by the TIPS is subject to and is to be governed by Section 271.151 et seq, Tex Loc Gov't Code. Otherwise, TIPS does not waive its governmental immunities from suit or liability except to the extent expressly waived by other applicable laws in clear

and unambiguous language.

71	Payment Terms and Funding Out Clause	Payment Terms:	Yes
		TIPS or TIPS members shall not be liable for interest or late payment fees on past due balances at a rate higher than permitted by the laws or regulations of the jurisdiction of the TIPS Member. Funding Out Clause:	
		Vendor agrees to abide by the laws and regulations, including Texas Local Government Code § 271.903, or any statutory or regulatory limitations of the jurisdiction of any TIPS Member which governs contracts entered into by the Vendor and TIPS or a TIPS Member that requires all contracts approved by TIPS or a TIPS Member are subject to the budgeting and appropriation of currently available funds by the entity or its governing body.	
		See statute(s) for specifics or consult your legal counsel.	
		Not a negotiable term. Failure to agree will render your proposal non-responsive and it will not be considered.	
		Do you agree to these terms?	
72	Insurance and Fingerprint Requirements Information	Insurance	(No Response Required)
		If applicable and your staff will be on TIPS member premises for delivery, training or installation etc. and/or with an automobile, you must carry automobile insurance as required by law. You may be asked to provide proof of insurance.	
		It is possible that a vendor may be subject to Chapter 22 of the Texas Education Code. The Texas Education Code, Chapter 22, Section 22.0834. Statutory language may be found at: http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/	
		If the vendor has staff that meet both of these criterion: will have continuing duties related to the contracted services; and	
		(2) has or will have direct contact with students you have "covered" employees for purposes of completing the attached form.	
		TIPS recommends all vendors consult their legal counsel for guidance in compliance with this law. If you have questions on how to comply, see below. If you have questions on compliance with this code section, contact the Texas Department of Public Safety Non-Criminal Justice Unit, Access and Dissemination Bureau, FAST-FACT at NCJU@txdps.state.tx.us and you should send an email identifying you as a contractor to a Texas Independent School District or ESC Region 8 and TIPS. Texas DPS phone number is (512) 424-2474. form in the next attribute to complete entitled: Texas Education Code Chapter 22 Contractor Certification for Contractor Employees	

73 Texas Education Code Chapter 22 Contractor Certification for Contractor Employees Introduction: Texas Education Code Chapter 22 requires entities that contract with school districts to provide services to obtain criminal history record information regarding covered employees. Contractors must certify to the district that they have complied. Covered employees with disqualifying criminal histories are prohibited from serving at a school district.

Definitions: Covered employees: Employees of a contractor or subcontractor who have or will have continuing duties related to the service to be performed at the District and have or will have direct contact with students. The District will be the final arbiter of what constitutes direct contact with students. Disqualifying criminal history: Any conviction or other criminal history information designated by the District, or one of the following offenses, if at the time of the offense, the victim was under 18 or enrolled in a public school:

(a) a felony offense under Title 5, Texas Penal Code; (b) an offense for which a defendant is required to register as a sex offender under Chapter 62, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure; or (c) an equivalent offense under federal law or the laws of another state. certify that: (Section A) of the employees of Contractor and any subcontractors are covered employees, as defined above. If this box is checked, I further certify that Contractor has taken precautions or imposed conditions to ensure that the employees of Contractor and any subcontractor will not become covered employees. Contractor will maintain these precautions or conditions throughout the time the contracted services are provided. (Section B) or all of the employees of Contractor and any subcontractor are covered employees. If this box is checked, I further certify that:

(1) Contractor has obtained all required criminal history record information regarding its covered employees. None of the covered employees has a disqualifying criminal history.

(2) If Contractor receives information that a covered employee subsequently has a reported criminal history, Contractor will immediately remove the covered employee from contract duties and notify the District in writing within 3 business days.

(3) Upon request, Contractor will provide the District with the name and any other requested information of covered employees so that the District may obtain criminal history record information on the covered employees.

(4) If the District objects to the assignment of a covered employee on the basis of the covered employee's criminal history record information, Contractor agrees to discontinue using that covered employee to provide services at the District.

Noncompliance or misrepresentation regarding this certification may be grounds for contract termination.

None

74 Texas Business and Commerce Code § 272 Requirements as of 9-1-2017

SB 807 prohibits construction contracts to have provisions (No Response Required) requiring the contract to be subject to the laws of another state, to be required to litigate the contract in another state, or to require arbitration in another state. A contract with such provisions is voidable. Under this new statute, a "construction contract" includes contracts, subcontracts, or agreements with (among others) architects, engineers, contractors, construction managers, equipment lessors, or materials suppliers. "Construction contracts" are for the design, construction, alteration, renovation, remodeling, or repair of any building or improvement to real property, or for furnishing materials or equipment for the project. The term also includes moving, demolition, or excavation. BY RESPONDING TO THIS SOLICITATION, AND WHEN APPLICABLE, THE PROPOSER AGREES TO COMPLY WITH THE TEXAS BUSINESS AND COMMERCE CODE § 272 WHEN EXECUTING CONTRACTS WITH TIPS MEMBERS THAT ARE TEXAS GOVERNMENT ENTITIES.

Texas Government Code 2270 Verification Form 75

Texas Government Code 2270 Verification Form Texas 2017 House Bill 89 has been signed into law by the governor and as of September 1, 2017 will be codified as Texas Government Code § 2270 and 808 et seq. The relevant section addressed by this form reads as follows: Texas Government Code Sec. 2270.002. PROVISION REQUIRED IN CONTRACT. A governmental entity may

not enter into a contract with a company for goods or services unless the contract contains a written verification from the company that it: (1) does not boycott Israel; and (2) will not boycott Israel during the term of the contract.engaged by

ESC Region 8/The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) 4845 Highway 271 North

Pittsburg, TX, 75686

verify by this writing that the above-named company affirms that it (1) does not boycott Israel; and (2) will not boycott Israel during the term of this contract, or any contract with the above-named Texas governmental entity in the future. I further affirm that if our company's position on this issue is reversed and this affirmation is no longer valid, that the above-named Texas governmental entity will be notified in writing within one (1) business day and we understand that our company's failure to affirm and comply with the requirements of Texas Government Code 2270 et seq. shall be grounds for immediate contract termination without penalty to the above-named Texas governmental entity.

AND

our company is not listed on and we do not do business with companies that are on the the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts list of Designated Foreign Terrorists Organizations per Texas Gov't Code 2270.0153 found at https://comptroller.texas.gov/purchasing/docs/foreign-terrorist.pdf

I swear and affirm that the above is true and correct.

YFS

76	Logos and other company marks	Please upload your company logo to be added to your individual profile page on the TIPS website. If any particular specifications are required for use of your company logo, please upload that information under the "Logo and Other Company Marks" section under the "Response Attachment" tab. Preferred Logo Format: 300 x 225 pxpng, .eps, .jpeg preferred Potential uses of company logo: Your Vendor Profile Page of TIPS website Potentially on TIPS website scroll bar for Top Performing Vendors TIPS Quarterly eNewsletter sent to TIPS Members Co-branding Flyers and or email blasts to our TIPS Members (Permission and approval will be obtained before publishing)	(No Response Required)
77	Solicitation Deviation/Compliance	Does the vendor agree with the General Conditions Standard Terms and Conditions or Item Specifications listed in this proposal invitation?	Yes
78	Solicitation Exceptions/Deviations Explanation	If the bidder intends to deviate from the General Conditions Standard Terms and Conditions or Item Specifications listed in this proposal invitation, all such deviations must be listed on this attribute, with complete and detailed conditions and information included or attached. TIPS will consider any deviations in its proposal award decisions, and TIPS reserves the right to accept or reject any bid based upon any deviations indicated below or in any attachments or inclusions. In the absence of any deviation entry on this attribute, the proposer assures TIPS of their full compliance with the Standard Terms and Conditions, Item Specifications, and all other information contained in this Solicitation.	N/A
79	Agreement Deviation/Compliance	Does the vendor agree with the language in the Vendor Agreement?	No
80	Agreement Exceptions/Deviations Explanation	If the proposing Vendor desires to deviate form the Vendor Agreement language, all such deviations must be listed on this attribute, with complete and detailed conditions and information included. TIPS will consider any deviations in its proposal award decisions, and TIPS reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal based upon any deviations indicated below. In the absence of any deviation entry on this attribute, the proposer assures TIPS of their full compliance with the Vendor Agreement.	Please reference Connection's Exceptions document titled TIPS RFP 190302 Exceptions to Vendor Agreement.

		entity for services performed before the termination of the contract." (c) This section does not apply to a publicly held corporation. The person completing this proposal certifies that they are authorized to provide the answer to this question.	
		Select A., B. or C.	
		A. My firm is a publicly held corporation; therefore, this reporting requirement is not applicable.	
		OR B.My firm is not owned nor operated by anyone who has been convicted of a felony, OR	
		C. My firm is owned or operated by the following individual(s) who has/have been convicted of a felony. (if you answer C below, you are required to provide information in the next attribute.	
82	If you answered C. My Firm is owned or operated by a felon to the previous question, you are REQUIRED TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.	If you answered C. My Firm is owned or operated by a felon to the previous question, you must provide the following information.	
		1. Name of Felon(s)	
		2. The named person's role in the firm, and	
		3. Details of Conviction(s).	
83	Long Term Cost Evaluation Criterion # 4.	READ CAREFULLY and see in the RFP document under "Proposal Scoring and Evaluation". Points will be assigned to this criterion based on your answer to this Attribute. Points are awarded if you agree not increase your catalog prices (as defined herein) more than X% annually over the previous year for years two and three and potentially year four, unless an exigent circumstance exists in the marketplace and the excess price increase which exceeds X% annually is supported by documentation provided by you and your suppliers and shared with TIPS, if requested. If you agree NOT to increase prices more than 5%, except when justified by supporting documentation, you are awarded 10 points; if 6% to 14%, except when justified by supporting documentation, you receive 1 to 9 points incrementally. Price increases 14% or greater, except when justified by supporting documentation, receive 0 points.	increases will be 5% or less annually per question

Texas Education Code, Section 44.034, Notification of

business entity that enters into a contract with a school district must give advance notice to the district if the person or an owner or operator of the business entity has been convicted of a felony. The notice must include a general description of the conduct resulting in the conviction of a felony." Subsection (b) states "a school district may terminate a contract with a person or business entity if the district determines that the person or business entity failed to give notice as required by Subsection (a) or misrepresented the conduct resulting in the conviction. The district must compensate the person or business

Criminal History, Subsection (a), states "a person or

A. Firm is a publicly held corporation.

Required Confidentiality Claim Form

This completed form is required by TIPS. By submitting a response to this solicitation you agree to download from the Attachments section, complete according to the instructions on the form, then uploading the completed form, with any confidential attachments, if applicable, to the Response Attachments section titled Confidentiality Form in order to provide to TIPS the completed form titled, CONFIDENTIALITY CLAIM FORM. By completing this process, you provide us with the information we require to comply with the open record laws of the State of Texas as they may apply to your proposal submission. If you do not provide the form with your proposal, an award will not be made if your proposal is qualified for anaward, until TIPS has an accurate, completed form from you.

Read the form carefully before completing and if you have any questions, email Rick Powell at TIPS at rick.powell@tips-usa.com

Response Total:

REFERENCES

Please provide three (3) references, preferably from school districts or other governmental entities who have used your services within the last three years. Additional references may be required. <u>DO NOT INCLUDE TIPS EMPLOYEES AS A REFERENCE.</u>

You may provide more than three (3) references.

Entity Name	Contact Person	VALID EMAIL IS REQUIRED	Phone
Rutland City Schools	Dan Roswell, IT Manager	droswell@rutlandschools.org	802-773-1900 x1449
	Jeremy Bunkley, Information and		
	Technical Services Department		
Clay County Schools	Supervisor	jeremy.bunkley@myoneclay.net	904-529-4876
	Michael Rutledge, Technology		
Lovington Municipal Schools	Director	michaelrutledge@lovingtonschools.net	575-739-2227

CERTIFICATION BY CORPORATE OFFERER

COMPLETE ONLY IF OFFERER IS A CORPORATION,

THE FOLLOWING CERTIFICATE SHOULD BE EXECUTED AND INCLUDED AS PART OF PROPOSAL FORM/PROPOSAL FORM.

OFFERER: GovConnection, Inc. d/b/a Connection Public Sector Solutions (Name of Corporation)

Robert Howard I, (Name of Corporate Sceretary) President President

certify that I am the Secretary of the Corporation

named as OFFERER herein above; that

Robert Marconi

(Name of person who completed proposal document)

who signed the foregoing proposal on behalf of the corporation offerer is the authorized person that is acting as

Vice President SLED Sales

(Title/Position of person signing proposal/offer document within the corporation)

of the said Corporation; that said proposal/offer was duly signed for and in behalf of said corporation by authority of its governing body, and is within the scope of its corporate powers.

N/A CORPORATE SEAL if available

Howard

SIGNATURE

April 16, 2019 DATE

Name of company

Required Confidential Information Status Form

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT REQUESTS OF EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER REGION 8 AND TIPS (ESC8) IS GOVERNED BY TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE. CHAPTER 552

If you consider any portion of your proposal to be confidential information and not subject to public disclosure pursuant to Chapter 552 Texas Gov't Code or other law(s), you must attach a copy of all claimed confidential materials within your proposal and put this COMPLETED form as a cover sheet to said materials then scan, name "CONFIDENTIAL" and upload with your proposal submission. (You must include all the confidential information in the submitted proposal. The copy uploaded is to indicate which material in your proposal, if any, you deem confidential in the event the receives a Public Information Request.) ESC8 and TIPS will follow procedures of controlling statute(s) regarding any claim of confidentiality

and shall not be liable for any release of information required by law. Upon your claim and your defense to the Office of Texas Attorney General is required to make the final determination whether the information submitted by you and held by
ESC8 and TIPS is confidential and exempt from public disclosure.
GovConnection, Inc. d/b/a Connection Public Sector Solutions

1 1 1 1	
Robert Marconi, Vice President SLED Sales	
Robert Marconi, Vice President SLED Sales	

Printed Name and Title of authorized company officer declaring below the confidential status of material

732 Milford Road	Merrimack	NH 03054	800-800-0019 ext. 34088
Address	City	State ZIP	Phone

I DO CLAIM parts of my proposal to be confidential and DO NOT desire to expressly waive a claim of confidentiality of all information contained within our response to the solicitation. The attached contains material from our proposal that I classify and deem confidential under Texas Gov't Code Sec. 552 or other law(s) and I invoke my statutory rights to confidential treatment of the enclosed materials.

ATTACHED ARE COPIES OF PAGES OF CLAIMED CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL FROM OUR PROPOSAL THAT WE DEEM TO BE NOT PUBLIC INFORMATION AND WILL DEFEND THAT CLAIM TO THE TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL IF REQUESTED WHEN A PUBLIC INFORMAITON REQUEST IS MADE FOR OUR PROPOSAL.

Signature	Date	

OR _____

I <u>DO NOT</u> claim any of my proposal to be confidential, complete the section below only.

Express Waiver: I desire to expressly waive any claim of confidentiality as to any and all information contained within our response to the competitive procurement process (e.g. RFP, CSP, Bid, RFQ, etc.) by completing the following and submitting this sheet with our response to Education Service Center Region 8 and TIPŜ.

Signature

Robert Marconi, Vice President SLED Sales

Date 4/22/2019



Warranty

Connection always passes through to the customer the complete end-user warranty offered by the manufacturers or software publishers provide with their respective products.

If a quotation includes software or other products acquired pursuant to a subscription or other licensing arrangement, be aware that the manufacturer of such products requires all end users to agree to an End User License Agreement ("EULA"). The manufacturer will make its EULA available for review and it must be agreed to at or before the time the software or other licensed product is installed or accessed for the first time by the end user. It is the end user's responsibility to review, understand and agree to the terms of any such EULA.

All products purchased via Connection, come with the specific warranty offered by the manufacturers. As Connection is the reseller and not the manufacturer of the products offered within this RFP, the manufacturer warranty on all products purchased through Connection, will be passed through to the purchaser.

Your Account Manager should be notified within 30 days of purchase to return defective product, for repair or replacement, for up to 30 days from the date of receipt. (Reference our return policy, via the link below, for complete details and restrictions.) After this period, the individual manufacturer's warranty/return policy will come into effect. https://www.govconnection.com/IPA/Content/Support/Returns/PCCGOV/Default

Our Technicians are manufacturer trained and CompTIA certified. The Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA) is an industry trade association dedicated to fostering high levels of competence and business ethics among computing industry professionals.

To provide customers with the highest level of expertise, our technicians are required to pass CompTIA's A+ certification exam. By passing this exam, our technicians demonstrate a level of technical and professional achievement that's accepted and respected throughout the industry. CompTIA A+ certification is one of the many tools we're using to deliver real value and service.



Executive Summary

We, at GovConnection, Inc. d/b/a Connection Public Sector Solutions (Connection) appreciate the opportunity to respond to The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) RFP 190302 for Technology Solutions Products and Services and offer the enclosed proposal response for your review and consideration.

We understand that, within the scope of this RFP, TIPS wishes to establish a contract with one or more qualified vendors to provide cost effective and competitive pricing for IT software and services, nationwide, to its members.

Throughout our response, we will demonstrate that **we have the history**, the **understanding**, the **experience**, the **product/service solutions**, and the **overall best value** to meet the primary goals and objectives outlined in your RFP.

Connection's History Servicing TIPS

Connection is extremely proud of our long history, holding and servicing various TIPS contracts since 2012. Upon award, we are confident that we can execute this contract and perform to TIPS' satisfaction. We look forward to the opportunity to continue to with you as an extension of your team and remain committed to your success and ongoing satisfaction.

Connection's Pricing Commitment Summary

Connection is offering a Cost Plus method of pricing to our entire catalog of software and professional services. This method allows for changes in industry costs, special pricing requests, and subsequent savings to be passed on to you on a consistent basis. Industry costs are automatically updated through our internal systems and provides for real time calculation of the cost (cost in the system at time of quote) plus method in our order entry system.

The proposed cost plus percentages will be applied as listed on the submitted pricing spreadsheets. We have affiliations with over 1,600 manufacturers, so are able to leverage our buying power to provide our clients competitive market benefits in the Information Technology market. Connection maximizes these relationships daily by monitoring cost changes in a live feed environment, which allows us to pass on any cost savings immediately to TIPS. This is the most advantageous pricing method for TIPS members.

Why Connection?

GovConnection, Inc. d/b/a Connection Public Sector Solutions (Connection) is a premier reseller and national IT solutions provider of a wide range of over 300,000 information technology products and services/solutions from over 1,600 manufacturers; we support our customers in designing, enabling, managing, and servicing their IT environments.

We are part of the Connection family of PC Connection, Inc., which was founded in 1982. In 2016, PC Connection announced corporate rebranding. New "Connection" brand unites all subsidiaries (PC Connection, GovConnection, MoreDirect, Softmart and GlobalServe) under one clear, concise, and powerful brand name. NASDAQ stock ticker changes from PCCC to CNXN.



The Connection family, a Fortune 1000 company, currently employs over 2,500 people and has revenues in excess of \$2.9 Billion. Today, our employees work in offices in New Hampshire, Connecticut, California, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah and in our full service, ISO 9001:2015-certified technical configuration lab and distribution center in Wilmington, Ohio.

Connection is fully capable of providing the products requested in this RFP, in large part, due to our:

- Long, rich and successful history providing similar products to our Public Sector customers (36+ years)
- > 8-year history servicing various TIPS contracts
- Experienced and fully-trained National Sales Team already in place to service the TIPS contract
- > Marketing team in place to service the TIPS contract
- Objective solutions recommendations
- Financial stability
- > Nationwide distribution
- Free standard, ground shipping

We aim to deliver on price, product and outstanding customer service. In addition to providing IT hardware/ software, we are able to perform a wide array of professional services and have a highly trained team of technical experts to assist in areas covering the network switch equipment, such as custom services or other practices, should the need arise. Some of our other practices include: Converged data center (includes servers, storage, virtualization and backups), Networking, Cloud, Software, Security, Lifecycle, Mobility and Digital services.

Connection Differentiators

We offer a partnership that can deliver the most comprehensive solution. Connection's offer is based on our unique capabilities that cannot be matched due to the extent and breadth of our expertise and the long reaching product and services knowledge base. We believe that price, product selection and availability, combined with service and support, are the most important competitive factors in our industry. Some of the differentiators that set us apart from the competition include:

Experienced / Highly Trained

Connection believes our employees, specifically our sales force, are the lifeline for our customers. We invest in training programs for our service and support personnel, with an emphasis on putting customer needs and service first. We continually expand and tailor our training and evaluation programs, system enhancements, and sales tools to focus on assisting our sales personnel in improving their expertise and effectiveness. Because of this, constant training and improvement are a priority. We want our customers to respect and trust the knowledge provided by their dedicated account team.

Some of the training programs our employees have access to are:

- New Account Managers receive three months of thorough training on contracts, product offerings, industry trends, internal infrastructure/applications and available support avenues, prior to being assigned a dedicated territory.
- Continuing Education training is provided, with manufacturers, to keep our employees abreast of industry trends and the latest technology. This is accomplished through Small Group training, vendor forums, WebExs, and frequent Lunch-and-Learns.



- Vendors such as HP, Cisco, VMWare and Microsoft offer training to allow our sales force to become certified in their products.
- Our parent company, PC Connection, Inc., offers ongoing Professional Development courses including Communication Skills and Microsoft Office Applications
- Ongoing training is available on Industry Regulations and Contract Requirements

Objective Solution Recommendations & Accolades

Connection has a history, of over 36 years, of maintaining strong, long-standing manufacturer/ vendor partner relationships; we were among the first direct marketers, qualified by manufacturers, to market computer systems to end users. Our current portfolio includes over 300,000 products from over 1,600 manufacturers. These established manufacturer relationships enable us to offer you deep pricing discounts.

One of the most important IT needs is to procure lasting products at high cost savings. As a premier, authorized reseller having no ownership affiliation with any of these partners, we are able to garner extremely competitive pricing for TIPS members.

We were among the first direct marketers, qualified by manufacturers, to market computer systems to end users. These established manufacturer relationships enable us to offer you deep pricing discounts.

A Sampling of Connection's Vendor recognition includes:

- 2017, Microsoft Double Gold Level of Excellence in Operations Award
- 2017, Hewlett Packard Enterprise NSP SLED Partner of the Year,
- 2017, Lenovo Platinum Data Center Partner
- 2017, RedHat Rising Star Partner of the Year
- 2017, CHIME Partner of the Year
- 2017, Vizient Innovative Technology Designation – Awarded Supplier
- 2016, Microsoft Operations Excellence Award
- 2016, Dell EMC Healthcare Partner of the Year
- 2016, Symantec Growth Partner of the Year
- 2016, Kaspersky Lab's Large Account Reseller (LAR) of the Year Award
- 2016, Americas VMware Partner Innovation Award in the Renewals category
- 2016, Premier's Continuum of Car Award

- 2015, HPE Federal Enterprise Group Partner of the Year
- 2015, Dell Partner Direct NSP Partner of the Year
- 2015, Symantec Growth Partner of the Year
- 2015, Microsoft Operational Excellence Award
- 2015, Ranked Top 20 of CRN's Solution Provider 500
- 2014, VMware Mid-Market Partner of the Year
- 2014, HP Server Growth Partner of the Year
- 2014, Adobe Partner of the Year
- 2013, Cisco Partner of the Year
- 2013, EMC Partner of the Year
- 2013, E&I Partner of the Year
- 2012, E&I Best-In-Class Member Responsiveness Award
- 2007, Named by FORBES as one of "America's Most Trustworthy Companies" ranking in the top 25% of the list.

Connection has attained industry leadership by adhering tenaciously to a high standard of quality—in our people, products, partnerships and technology. Despite our continued growth, we have never lost sight of the core of our success—customer satisfaction.



Accessibility

At Connection, our Account Managers work closely with senior management. Our team managers are only two levels away from our President, Bob Howard. Our entire Sales Team has daily interactions with our President and Vice Presidents, so everyone stays in tune with customers' needs. This also means that you have access to the top levels of our management with a quick phone call or email. We strive to be highly responsive, nimble, and adaptive, and this allows us to serve in ways that other companies cannot. If a customer needs us to change a process quickly, we can accomplish this and still meet timelines.

Marketing the TIPS Contract

Connection will provide information and training to any TIPS customer willing to meet with a member of the Connection Sales Team, to go over the contract.

Connection's Internal Marketing Team can also create email marketing material that can be sent to the end users to keep them updated on Webinar's available, as well as other events. (Lunch & Learns, One to Many, Vendor Fair, SME Webinars, Webinars, BDM Visits and Training opportunities).

Upon award, Connection commits to seek creative ways to market, to assist, to improve and to help you realize your strategic vision and the vision of TIPS members as well.

Connection staffs a dedicated marketing team responsible for our marketing strategy within the public sector market. This team has a deep understanding of technology trends within this segment, how to effectively reach the technology influencer/decision maker audience and proven track record of expanding awareness our partnership with consortiums. Their mission will be to develop, evolve, and execute the right mix of brand, customer engagement, lead generation, and sales enablement programs to increase TIPS' contract participation with Connection.

Marcia Hewey is Connection's full-time Marketing Manager. Marcia joined the Connection team in December of 2015, is the Marketing Manager for Education and Government and is committed to marketing the TIPS contract. Marcia supports the sales organization by working closely with senior sales management to develop and execute strategic initiatives that will advance the Company's value proposition, drive sales, and increase profitability while also supporting partner interest and garnering program investment. Marcia reports to Jamal Khan, President of Global Digital and eCommerce. Contact Information: Email: marcia.hewey@connection.com; Phone: 800-800-0019 ext. 2547.

Connection will be happy to provide a complete, customized marketing plan along with a proposed budget, upon award, and upon further discussions with TIPS, regarding your specific goals and expectations.

Nationwide Distribution for TIPS Members

With over \$2.9 billion dollars of buying power, Connection has priority access to the biggest IT brands in the industry—granting us the ability to maximize product availability. Our most frequently ordered items are always in stock at our Wilmington, OH, Distribution and Configuration Center, offering customers a dependable source for seamless order fulfillment. We also source products from manufacturers and can drop-ship from our suppliers' warehouses strategically located across the United States.



We maintain our own inventory, stocking our 11,000 most frequently purchased items in our warehouse to ensure regular shipment of 6,000–8,000 orders per day. Replenishments are ordered on a daily basis and are delivered the next day to our distribution center via dedicated trucks.



Free FOB, Standard Ground Shipping

Connection has a 99% ship rate and we are able to ship most in-stock items the same day the order is received. We will offer FREE FOB, standard ground shipping on all products. Our discounted shipping cost will be added to orders of \$50 or less. We are aware that on occasion, expedited or specialized delivery options may be required to meet your crucial deadlines. To meet these particular needs, we offer Expedited Overnight, Second Day, BOT (by ocean transport), Heavy Weight, Lift Gate, Inside Delivery, Hazardous Materials Delivery, Package Removal and Installation/Product Set-up. If such services are required, we ask that you contact a member of your Account Team to arrange and for a tailored rate quote.

ISO-Certified, State-of-the-Art Custom Configuration

In 2016, we relocated our Distribution and Configuration Center operations to a tremendous, cutting-edge facility that has effectively doubled our capacity for shipment and custom configuration, positioning us to meet your needs well into the future. Our commitment to customer service and satisfaction is our top priority, and our enhanced facility enables us to respond to customer needs—and continue to offer a quality of service that is second to none. Our technicians can perform a broad range of configuration services at our ISO 9001:2015 certified lab in Wilmington, OH. Our configuration services include hardware configuration, software installation, system imaging, product staging, server rack construction, custom printer construction, asset tagging, etching and custom labeling.



- Software Installation and System Imaging: We install operating systems and individual software titles, as well as create, store, and install a complete custom image on any system you buy.
 - Imaging can save hundreds of man hours in deployment time by leveraging our configuration and imaging services. This service also ensures excellence in image consistency.
 - We offer imaging services for any size order with no minimums
 - Image can be supplied by customer or by our technicians.
 - \circ We can manage a multitude of images, based on your needs.
 - Symantec Ghost is the preferred imaging software, although we also can use ".wim" files using Microsoft Image X.
- Laser Etching/Branded Embroidery: We can perform laser engraving services at our Distribution Center with customer-provided artwork. We also provide embroidery solutions for personalization of soft cases, such as backpacks.
- <u>Asset Tagging</u>: Asset Tagging makes it easier to track and manage your hardware by affixing standard, custom, or your own, previously supplied, asset tags to all your new equipment before it ships. We offer multiple tagging options, including numbering, lettering, RFID, laser engraving, and bar coding.
- Product Staging: If required, a dedicated Connection coordinator can manage the logistics of your next large rollout. We start by securely storing your new equipment in our facility. We work closely to custom-tailor a delivery schedule that works best for you.
- Branding: Have your tablets, notebooks, and tablet cases engraved with your logo.
- <u>Custom Labeling</u>: Custom labeling can save you time during your next rollout. We can place custom labels on the outside of your products' packaging. Labels can include serial numbers, operating instructions, or custom messaging perfectly suited to your application.
- <u>Custom Hardware Configuration:</u> Our technicians add memory, extra processors, interface cards, and more. We configure notebooks, desktops, workstations, servers, routers, switches, printers, tablets, and more.
- Server Rack Construction: Our technicians will custom-build server racks that will arrive fully assembled and ready for immediate installation.
- <u>Custom Printer Construction</u>: We can provide printers that are fully configured for your application, and fully tested, so you know they work right out of the box.

The new facility is 268,000 square feet and 7.5 million cubic feet. This gives us not only more room to provide continuous product availability, but also room to hire more staff to complete more projects in a day. With this increased capacity, we are now capable of completing more than 1,000 custom configurations in a day, which helps us serve more customers with our proven approach to rapid response.

For additional information on the dependable and seamless distribution and fulfillment offered by Connection Public Sector Solutions' state-of-the-art Custom Configuration / Distribution Center, we hope you will enjoy the video located at the bottom of the page via the following link: <u>http://www.govconnection.com/technology-services/distribution-and-configuration-center.</u> (Please note, this video views best via the Chrome browser.)



Financially Stable

Connection Public Sector Solutions is part of the Connection family of PC Connection, Inc. As such, we offer a financially stable, Fortune 1000 company you can count on. You can depend on Connection to deliver expertise, solutions, and integrity, consistently.

Connection has the financial ability and breadth of resources to meet all of the requirements outlined within your RFP for Technology Solutions Products and Services. All financial reporting for GovConnection, Inc. d/b/a Connection Public Sector Solutions is made through our parent company PC Connection, Inc. The most current corporation financial statements and annual reports can be read at http://ir.pcconnection.com/.

We are pleased to offer this proposal in response to your RFP. Upon award, Connection, is confident that we can execute this contract and perform to TIPS' satisfaction.

Product Selection

Connection offers more than 300,000 products—the broadest suite of IT solutions—from all major industry manufacturers.

COMPUTING	Server Hard Drives	KVM Switches	NETGEAR	CD-RW/DVD
Desktops	Axiom	Aten	TRENDnet	Creative Labs
Acer	Cisco	Avocent		Fujifilm
Apple	Dell	Belkin	Unified	HP
ASUS	Hitachi	D-Link	Communications	lomega
Dell		Hewlett Packard Enterprise	Avaya	Kanguru
HP	IBM	IOGEAR	Cisco	Maxell
Lenovo	Intel	Linksys	D-Link	Microboards
Lenovo	Lenovo	Raritan	Linksys	Micro Solutions
Handhelds	Seagate	StarTech.com	ShoreTel	Panasonic
ASUS	Western Digital	TRENDnet		QPS
HP	Western Digital	Tripp Lite	Videoconferencing	Toshiba
Motorola	Server Memory	hipp Lite	Cisco	Verbatim
Palm	Axiom	Modems	Hewlett Packard Enterprise	verbaum
	Cisco	D-Link	Polycom	Consumer Electronic
Notebooks	EDGE Memory	Linksys	Sony	Apple
Acer	Hewlett Packard Enterprise	TRENDnet	VoIP	Dell
Apple	IBM .	USRobotics		Electronic Arts
ASUS	Kingston Technology	USRODULICS	Wireless	HP
Dell	Lenovo	NIC Adapters	Adtran	
Fujitsu	Micron	Belkin	Aerohive	JVC
HP	Wherein	D-Link	Alvarion	Klipsch
Lenovo	NETWORKING	Hewlett Packard Enterprise	Apple	Microsoft
	Battery Backup		Belkin	Nintendo
MSI	APC	Intel	Blue Coat	Panasonic
Panasonic	Belkin	Linksys	Cisco	Philips
Samsung	CyberPower	NETGEAR	D-Link	Samsung
Toshiba	Eaton	SIIG	Hewlett Packard Enterprise	Sharp
Tablets	Hewlett Packard Enterprise	TRENDnet	IBM	Sony
		Demoschie Drives	Intel	SOYO
Acer	Liebert Trime Lite	Removable Drives	Linksys	Toshiba
Apple	Tripp Lite	Fujitsu	Motorola Solutions	Vantage Point
Cisco	Cables	Hewlett Packard Enterprise	NETGEAR	Westinghouse Digita
Fujitsu	Belkin	lomega	Ruckus Wireless	Electronics
HP	Black Box	Panasonic		
Lenovo	Cables To Go	Routers	TRENDnet	Copiers
Motion	PC Connection	Belkin	PERIPHERALS	Canon
Motorola			Accessories	Sharp
Samsung	StarTech	Cisco	3M	Plate In
Toshiba	Tripp Lite	D-Link		Digital Cameras
	CD/DVD Servers	Hewlett Packard Enterprise	Apple Belkin	Canon
Workstations	CD Int'l.	Linksys		Fujifilm
Apple		Motorola	BTI	HP
Dell	MaxOptix	NETGEAR	Chief Manufacturing	Kodak
HP	Prime Array	TRENDnet	Da-Lite	Minolta
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