

RFQ 484-012506

NOTICE TO ENGINEERING FIRMS REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS: The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is requesting Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) from firms interested in providing professional services for the following projects:

Contract	County	Project Description
1	All	Project No.: HPP – 00MS(339), P.I. No. 860110 Completion of a Tier I Environmental Impact Statement for a High-Speed Ground Transportation in the Atlanta-Chattanooga Corridor

General Information

1. It is extremely important that project schedules are met. Only those firms or teams with the necessary resources and a commitment to complete all work on schedule should submit a Statement of Qualifications.
2. Firms are expected to be very knowledgeable and experienced in the disciplines and areas of work necessary to complete the attached Scope of Work.
3. GDOT will expect to liaison with a single project manager representing the prime consultant firm and the sub-consultants.
4. GDOT strongly encourages the solicitation of interest from Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE). Any selection made as a result of this notice will be made without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The DBE goal for this contract will be twelve percent (12%). Firms must demonstrate or indicate how they plan to meet this goal. GDOT's DBE policy can be found at: <http://www.dot.state.ga.us/dot/preconstruction/consultantdesign/dbe-prog.doc>. For more information regarding DBE definitions and requirements, please contact the GDOT's EEO Office at (404) 656-5323.
5. GDOT anticipates a Cost Plus Fixed Fee Contract will be awarded as a result of this advertisement. The contract period will be determined as part of the contract negotiations process.
6. The consultant selection is a one (1) step process. The Department will select the best qualified consultant(s) based on the information received from interested firms as a result of this solicitation. Additional information will not be requested, and interviews will not be required.
7. GDOT reserves the right to cancel any and all Request for Qualifications where it is determined to be in the best interest of the Department to do so.
8. GDOT reserves the right to increase, reduce, add or delete any item in this solicitation as deemed necessary where it is consistent with GDOT's policies to do so.

9. Post-award Debriefings will **not** be conducted until after the contract has been awarded. However, if a firm is disqualified during the Due Diligence Process, a **Pre-Award Debriefing** can be requested following Due Diligence.
10. Interested consultants should submit ten (10) copies of the Statement of Qualifications, no later than **Wednesday, January 25, 2006 at 4:45 P.M. Eastern Standard Time**, to the following address:

R. Deneice Dean, MPA, CTM
Contract Officer
Office of Consultant Design and Program Delivery
Room 373
No. 2 Capitol Square
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Statement of Qualifications will **not** be accepted after this date and time.

11. It is the responsibility of all firms interested in submitting Statement of Qualifications (SOQs) for this advertisement to routinely check the posting on the website for any revisions to this RFQ.
12. All inquiries must be received before **Wednesday, January 18, 2006 at 4:45 P.M. Eastern Standard Time**.

For any additional information about this solicitation, please contact Deneice Dean at (404) 463-1290 or by email at Rowena.Dean@dot.state.ga.us

13. Proposers are not allowed to communicate in any way with any Department staff, the Commissioner, or any Board Member regarding this RFQ, other than Deneice Dean at the e-mail address and telephone number shown above. Violation of this provision shall result in the rejection of the firm's Statement of Qualifications.

The Scope of Work

Required Area Classes

The consultant or consultant team must be pre-qualified in the following Area Classes: 1.04, 1.05, 1.06(a), 1.06(b), 1.06(c), 1.06(d), 1.06(e), 1.06(f), 1.06(g), 1.07, 1.09, 1.10, 1.12, 2.03, 2.04, 2.05, 2.06 and 2.07.

Description of Required Services

Congress has appropriated funds to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for the purpose of funding intermodal transportation planning in the Atlanta - Chattanooga Corridor. The recipients of the federal funds, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), and the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) have requested that the funds be used to initiate the Federal environmental process for deployment of high-speed ground transportation (HSGT) system in this corridor. The FHWA and Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) have agreed to pursue this effort, and the funds have been transferred to the FRA for this work.

Deployment of a HSGT system in the 110-mile corridor between Hartsfield International Airport and Atlanta, in Georgia, and Chattanooga, in Tennessee, that could provide competitive travel times would require major construction financing. Preliminary engineering and site-specific environmental review for the deployment of a full 110-mile project would cost substantially more than the available funds. This work effort will focus on completing a Tier-1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the corridor. Should implementation funding become available in the future, a completed Tier-1 EIS, with a Record of Decision (ROD) could allow for advancement of selected shorter sections in the Atlanta - Chattanooga corridor.

The selected consultant will prepare a Tier-1 EIS for the Atlanta-Chattanooga High-Speed Ground Transportation Initiative, as specified below, involving appropriate environmental and related analyses of the HSGT alternatives, including magnetic levitation (maglev) technology, in compliance with applicable requirements of both state and Federal law. The Tier-1 EIS will be prepared under the direction of FRA and FHWA as the co-lead federal agencies, and GDOT as the state lead agency. The Tier-1 EIS will incorporate and build upon previous studies of maglev and steel wheel HSGT concepts prepared by the Atlanta Regional Commission (see "reports" at www.acmaglev.com). The Tier-1 EIS will define the purpose and need, identify logical termini, analyze all reasonable alternatives, estimate potential ridership, determine an initial operating section, and identify possible implementation phasing. The Tier-1 EIS will be prepared at a conceptual level of detail appropriate for a programmatic analysis using recorded data, available mapping and GIS techniques. Field studies will be limited and analysis will be representative, not site-specific. Emphasis will be placed on qualitative assessments. An analysis of projected ridership, revenue, capital costs and economic impact will also be required.

It is intended for the Tier-1 EIS, to provide the FRA, FHWA and GDOT with sufficient information to select the HSGT technology, general corridor location, general station locations, and identification of an initial operating segment. The issuance of a ROD on the Tier-1 EIS by the Federal co-lead agencies could allow GDOT to develop a plan for protective advance right-of-way acquisition consistent with state and Federal requirements. Should implementation funding become available, GDOT could then make such protective acquisitions, in accordance with the Federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended. In the event that construction funds can be identified, a site-specific EIS could be initiated for an initial operating portion of the project.

The consultant scope of work shall include tasks **I** through **X**, as specified in following pages. While tasks **I** through **X** associated with the preparation of the Tier-1 EIS are presented sequentially, some of these activities can and will occur concurrently. Task **XI** identifies the deliverables the consultant will be required to provide.

I. Scoping

Scoping will be conducted in coordination with the FRA and FHWA to initiate the Tier-1 EIS process, including:

- Provision of a general overview of the corridor
- Development of a draft notice of Intent (for FRA and FHWA)
- Development of a detailed project scope of work
- Development of a draft purpose and need statement
- Development of scoping exhibits and presentation
- Conduct of scoping meetings with public/stakeholders/agencies
- Preparation of draft and final scoping reports

II. Alternatives Analysis

This task will be conducted following the guidance of the FRA and FHWA to develop the alternatives to be considered in the Tier-1 EIS, including:

Alignment Aspect

1. Preliminary environmental screening of alternate routes to be considered
2. In-depth environmental screening of each route to be considered
3. Identification of alignment(s) to be addressed in the draft EIS

Station Site(s) Aspect

1. Preliminary environmental screening of each station to be considered
2. In-depth environmental screening of each station location to be considered
3. Identification of station sites to be addressed in the draft EIS

Mode Choice Aspect

1. Preliminary environmental screening of each mode to be considered
2. Evaluation of potential ridership of each mode to be considered
3. Evaluation of capital and operating costs of each mode to be considered
4. In-depth environmental screening of each mode
5. Identification of modes to be addressed in the draft EIS

Integration of Alignment/Station Sites/Modes

1. Development of measures of effectiveness (MOE) for alignments, station sites and modes
2. Define reasonable and feasible alternatives (after evaluating against MOEs) to be addressed in the EIS
3. Evaluate alternatives and identify those to be addressed in the EIS
4. Preparation of a draft alternatives report
5. Preparation of a final alternatives report

III. Preparation of Environmental Analysis

This task will be conducted, following the guidance from the FRA and FHWA, to develop the alternatives to be considered in the Tier-1 EIS to develop environmental analysis methodologies, conduct research, perform field surveys, and prepare and document analysis for:

- Section 404 (wetlands/streams/open waters)
- Section 7 - Federally-protected species (biological assessment, if necessary)
- Section 106 (history and archeology)
- Section 4(f) resources (publicly owned parks, recreation areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges and significant historic sites)
- Noise and vibration

- Energy and air quality
- Land use, visual, socio-economic, environmental justice, and community issues
- Other topics as required by FRA Environmental Procedures (64 Fed. Reg. 28545)
- Other requirements/permits

IV. Economic Analysis

A comprehensive economic analysis of the long-term impact of a HSGT system between Atlanta and Chattanooga will be conducted. This analysis will identify anticipated impacts on the City of Atlanta, the City of Chattanooga, the corridor between the two major cities and the State of Georgia in general. Specific factors to be evaluated will include but not be limited to:

- Impact on commercial development
- Impact on residential development
- Impact on travel patterns and the associated economic impacts
- Impact on job creation
- Impact on other transportation infrastructure development
- Impacts on the tax base
- Impact on tourism
- Impact on airports in both Chattanooga and Atlanta

V. Agency Coordination and Public Involvement

This task will be conducted in coordination with the FRA and FHWA throughout the Tier-1 EIS process, including:

1. Development of a public involvement plan (PIP)
2. Coordination and conduct of agency meetings
3. Implementation of the PIP

VI. Preparation of the Draft EIS

A draft Tier-1 EIS will be prepared following the guidance from the FRA and FHWA including:

1. Preparation of an administrative draft EIS
2. Preparation of a second administrative draft EIS (for legal sufficiency review)
3. Preparation of the approved draft EIS for issuance and reproduction

VII. Distribution of the Draft EIS and Public Hearings

1. Reproduce and distribute the draft EIS
2. Coordinate and conduct public hearings
3. Prepare public hearing displays

VIII. Preparation of the Final EIS

A final Tier-1 EIS will be prepared following the guidance from the FRA, including:

1. Preparation of a summary of comments
2. Preparation of additional technical studies (in response of comments)
3. Preparation of draft responses (to comments)
4. Preparation of an administrative final EIS
5. Preparation of a revised administrative final EIS (for legal sufficiency review)
6. Preparation of the approved final EIS (for issuance and reproduction)
7. Reproduce and distribute the final EIS

IX. Preparation of Draft Record of Decision (ROD)

A draft ROD will be prepared for the FRA that addresses issues raised during the circulation of the final Tier-1 EIS.

X. Administration and Management

This task covers agency management of the preparation of the Tier-1 EIS, including staff time, participation in public outreach and administration of contract support.

XI. Deliverables

- Notice of Intent
- Purpose and Need Statement
- Public Involvement Plan
- Scoping Reports
- Alternatives Reports
- Technical Study Reports
- Administrative Draft EIS
- Draft EIS
- Administrative Final EIS
- Final EIS
- Draft ROD

Submittal Requirements

Failure to meet these requirements will result in the Statement of Qualifications being determined "non-responsive" and the entire submittal will be rejected.

1. Submittals of firm information and qualifications should be no more than twenty-five (25) single-sided 8½" x 11" pages in length. The twenty-five (25) page limit does not include the cover page, tab pages, and the "Notice of Professional Consultant Qualifications" pages.
2. Provide firm name, address, telephone number, e-mail address for the primary contact person, former firm names, official Georgia address (if applicable), joint venture partner information (if applicable), and sub-consultants to be used by the firm. If the firm has branch offices, state which office will be performing the majority of the work.
3. Provide the following information for primes specifically, and sub-consultants (if you deem pertinent) for the last five (5) years: gross income of the firm, average and maximum number of permanent employees. Firms having offices other than the local office, this information should be listed for both the local office and the firm as a whole.
4. In a table format (labeled as **Table 1**), also for the last five (5) years, provide a brief description of all related projects completed (including both design and construction costs). Include the name of the project owner, a contact name and telephone number, and whether the work was performed locally or in another office.
5. In table format (labeled as **Table 2**), provide a list of all GDOT contracts (projects) awarded to your firm for the last three (3) years including the original contract amount and the current status of each project.
6. One page of the SOQ shall be devoted to an Organizational Chart. This page shall be single-sided and shall not exceed 11" X 17" in size. Additional information should not be added on this page. Note: This page is included in the twenty-five (25) page limit for the submission.
7. Provide the names of key personnel (Principal, Project Manager, Lead Engineer, etc.) who will perform the work. Personnel information should include education, professional registrations [type, number, and state(s) where registered], years of experience, years with firm, and actual work performed by the individual.
 - A. A principal and a member of the team must be registered as professional engineers as appropriate to the Scope of Work, in their state of residence and in the State of Georgia.
8. Consultant should assume a minimum four months projected NTP on this advertised project when representing the availability of staff.
9. Submit the "Notice of Professional Consultant Qualifications" for the prime consultant and all sub-consultants on the team listed in the Statement of Qualifications. The Notice must be current by the deadline stated for this Request of Qualifications (RFQ).

Evaluation Criteria:

Firms will be evaluated and rated based on the criteria below (listed by relative importance, in descending order):

1. Reputation of Team

- Recent similar type project experience.
- Stability of the firm and its work force (including sub-consultants).
- Financial soundness of the firm.
- Professional qualifications (including sub-consultants).

2. Resources of the Team

- Recent similar type project and multi-project management experience.
- Capability of completing required fieldwork, laboratory analysis (if necessary), and technical writing.
- Capability of providing deliverables in acceptable GDOT electronic format.
- Current workload (including both conventional and work order contracts).
- Adequate staffing to complete the project(s) on schedule.

3. Reputation of Project Manager

- Knowledge of specialty area which includes new technologies and current developments.
- Knowledge of current Department policies and procedures and federal agency guidelines.
- Demonstrated experience of project manager with similar type of projects.

4. QC/QA Procedures

- Demonstrated past and proposed QC/QA procedures.