



# Request for Quotes

Solicitation Number: **USC-RFQ-3672-TF**  
 Date Issued: **January 7, 2021**  
 Procurement Officer: **Tracy Fountain**  
 Phone: **803-777-4115**  
 E-Mail Address: [fountai3@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:fountai3@mailbox.sc.edu)  
 Mailing Address: **1600 Hampton Street, Ste 606**

DESCRIPTION: **Furnish, and Deliver Deep Learning Workstation PC with NVIDIA GPU and Liquid Cooling System**  
 USING GOVERNMENTAL UNIT: **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

*The Term "Offer" Means Your "Bid" or "Proposal". Your offer must be submitted in a sealed package. Solicitation Number & Opening Date must appear on package exterior. See "Submitting Your Paper Offer or Modification" provision.*

Quotes must be emailed to [fountai3@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:fountai3@mailbox.sc.edu)

SUBMIT QUOTES BY (Opening Date/Time): **January 18, 2021 at 11:00 AM (EST)** (See "Deadline For Submission Of Offer" provision)

QUESTIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY: **January 13, 2021 at 11:00 (EST)** (See "Questions From Offerors" provision)

CONFERENCE TYPE: N/A DATE & TIME: (As appropriate, see "Conferences - Pre-Bid/Proposal" & "Site Visit" provisions)	LOCATION: N/A
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You must submit a signed copy of this form with Your Offer. By signing, You agree to be bound by the terms of the Solicitation. You agree to hold Your Offer open for a minimum of Thirty (30) calendar days after the Opening Date. (See "Signing Your Offer" provision.)

NAME OF OFFEROR (full legal name of business submitting the offer)	Any award issued will be issued to, and the contract will be formed with, the entity identified as the Offeror. The entity named as the Offeror must be a single and distinct legal entity. Do not use the name of a branch office or a division of a larger entity if the branch or division is not a separate legal entity, i.e., a separate corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, etc.
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE (Person must be authorized to submit binding offer to contract on behalf of Offeror.)	DATE SIGNED
TITLE (business title of person signing above)	STATE VENDOR NO. (Register to Obtain S.C. Vendor No. at <a href="http://www.procurement.sc.gov">www.procurement.sc.gov</a> )
PRINTED NAME (printed name of person signing above)	STATE OF INCORPORATION (If you are a corporation, identify the state of incorporation.)

OFFEROR'S TYPE OF ENTITY: (Check one) (See "Signing Your Offer" provision.)

Sole Proprietorship     
  Partnership     
  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Corporate entity (not tax-exempt)     
  Corporation (tax-exempt)     
  Government entity (federal, state, or local)

**PAGE TWO**  
**(Return Page Two with Your Offer)**

HOME OFFICE ADDRESS (Address for Offeror's home office / principal place of business)	NOTICE ADDRESS (Address to which all procurement and contract related notices should be sent.) (See "Notice" clause)
	Area Code - Number - Extension <span style="float: right;">Facsimile</span>
	E-mail Address
PAYMENT ADDRESS (Address to which payments will be sent.) (See "Payment" clause)	ORDER ADDRESS (Address to which purchase orders will be sent) (See "Purchase Orders and "Contract Documents" clauses)
<input type="checkbox"/> Payment Address same as Home Office Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Order Address same as Home Office Address
<input type="checkbox"/> Payment Address same as Notice Address <b>(check only one)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Order Address same as Notice Address <b>(check only one)</b>

<b>ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF AMENDMENTS</b>							
Offerors acknowledges receipt of amendments by indicating amendment number and its date of issue. (See "Amendments to Solicitation" Provision)							
Amendment No.	Amendment Issue Date	Amendment No.	Amendment Issue Date	Amendment No.	Amendment Issue Date	Amendment No.	Amendment Issue Date

DISCOUNT FOR PROMPT PAYMENT (See "Discount for Prompt Payment" clause)	10 Calendar Days (%)	20 Calendar Days (%)	30 Calendar Days (%)	____ Calendar Days (%)
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PREFERENCES - A NOTICE TO VENDORS (SEP. 2009): On June 16, 2009, the South Carolina General Assembly rewrote the law governing preferences available to in-state vendors, vendors using in-state subcontractors, and vendors selling in-state or US end products. This law appears in Section 11-35-1524 of the South Carolina Code of Laws. A summary of the new preferences is available at [www.procurement.sc.gov/preferences](http://www.procurement.sc.gov/preferences). **ALL THE PREFERENCES MUST BE CLAIMED AND ARE APPLIED BY LINE ITEM, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER AWARD IS MADE BY ITEM OR LOT. VENDORS ARE CAUTIONED TO CAREFULLY REVIEW THE STATUTE BEFORE CLAIMING ANY PREFERENCES. THE REQUIREMENTS TO QUALIFY HAVE CHANGED. IF YOU REQUEST A PREFERENCE, YOU ARE CERTIFYING THAT YOUR OFFER QUALIFIES FOR THE PREFERENCE YOU'VE CLAIMED. IMPROPERLY REQUESTING A PREFERENCE CAN HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES.** [11-35-1524(E)(4)&(6)]

PREFERENCES - ADDRESS AND PHONE OF IN-STATE OFFICE: Please provide the address and phone number for your in-state office in the space provided below. An in-state office is necessary to claim either the Resident Vendor Preference (11-35-1524(C)(1)(i)&(ii)) or the Resident Contractor Preference (11-35-1524(C)(1)(iii)). Accordingly, you must provide this information to qualify for the preference. An in-state office is not required, but can be beneficial, if you are claiming the Resident Subcontractor Preference (11-35-1524(D)).

In-State Office Address same as Home Office Address  
 In-State Office Address same as Notice Address **(check only one)**

## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

All amendments to and interpretations of this Request for Quotations shall be in writing. The procurement officer shall not be legally bound by any amendment or interpretation that is not in writing.

Any contract entered into by the University of South Carolina or its agencies resulting from this solicitation shall be subject to cancellation at the end of any fiscal or appropriated year unless otherwise provided by law.

Payment will be made in accordance with Section 11-35-45 of the South Carolina Consolidated Procurement Code and Disbursement Regulations. Delay in receiving invoices, as well as errors and omissions on the invoices, will be considered just cause for withholding payment without losing discount privileges. The University reserves the right to withhold payment or make such deductions as may be necessary to protect the University from loss or damage because of defective work, claims, damages, or to pay for repair or correction of materials furnished hereunder.

Unit prices will govern over extended prices unless otherwise stated. Quoted prices must remain firm for a period of no less than thirty (30) days beyond the RFQ deadline.

Award will be made in accordance with Section 11-35-1550 of the South Carolina Consolidated Procurement Code. Award will be made to one offeror for the complete job.

All materials and products offered must be guaranteed to meet and comply with the requirements of all specifications, terms, and conditions indicated in this solicitation.

The University reserves the right to: (1) reject any and all quotations and to cancel the solicitation; (2) waive any and all technicalities; (3) reject any quotation in which the delivery time indicated is of substantial length to cause disruption and/or delay in operation for which the item(s) is/are intended; (4) reject ambiguous quotations which are uncertain as to terms, delivery, quantity, or compliance with specifications.

The successful bidder (contractor) assumes sole responsibility and shall hold harmless the University of South Carolina, its directors, officers, employees, and agents from and against any and all claims, actions, or liabilities of any nature which may be asserted against them by third parties in connection with the performance of the successful bidder, its directors, officers, employees, and agents under this agreement. The University of South Carolina agrees to accept responsibility for claims, actions, or liabilities resulting from negligent acts of its employees occurring within the scope of their employment which may be asserted against them by third parties in connection with the performance of the University of South Carolina, its members, directors, officers, employees, and agents under this agreement.

Contractor agrees not to refer to award of this contract in commercial advertising in such a manner to state or imply that the products or service provided are endorsed or preferred by the user.

Upon award of a contract under this solicitation, the person, partnership, association, or corporation to whom the award is made must comply with the laws of South Carolina that require such person or entity to be authorized and/or licensed to do business in this State. Notwithstanding the fact that applicable statutes may be exempt or exclude the successful offeror from requirements that it be authorized and/or licensed to do business in this State, by submission of this signed quote, the quoter agrees to subject itself to the jurisdiction and process of the courts of the State of South Carolina as to all matters and disputes arising or to arise under the contract and the performance thereof, including any questions as to the liability for taxes, licenses, or fees levied by the State.

The University of South Carolina requires all contractual activities to be performed in a manner that is consistent with all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations, rules, rulings, and ordinances.

Award Criteria: The award shall be made to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder(s) whose RFQ meets the requirements and criteria set forth in the Request for Quotation.

Bidders Qualification: Bidders must, upon request of the University, furnish satisfactory evidence of their ability to furnish products or services in accordance with the terms and conditions of these specifications. The Purchasing Department reserves the right to make the final determination as to the bidder's ability to provide the products or services requested herein.

Bidder's Responsibility: Each bidder shall fully acquaint himself with conditions relating to the scope and restrictions attending the execution of the work under the conditions of this RFQ. It is expected that this will sometimes require on-site observation. The failure or omission of a bidder to acquaint him with existing conditions shall in no way relieve him of any obligation with respect to this RFQ or to the contract.

Rejection/Cancellation: The University of South Carolina reserves the right to reject any and all RFQs and to cancel the RFQ.

## **QUESTIONS FROM BIDDER**

Any prospective offeror desiring an explanation or interpretation of the solicitation, drawings, specifications, etc., must request it in writing. Questions must be received by the Procurement Officer no later than 01-13-2021 11:00 A.M.

### **Information for Submitting Questions**

Questions can only be received via emailing the Procurement Officer **Tracy Fountain** at [fountai3@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:fountai3@mailbox.sc.edu). Solicitation number **USC-RFQ-3672-TF** must be the subject.

**E-mail Address:** [fountai3@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:fountai3@mailbox.sc.edu)

ACQUIRE SUPPLIES / EQUIPMENT (JAN 2006): The purpose of this solicitation is to establish a source or sources of supply for the purchase of new supplies and/or equipment as listed. [01-1015-1]

CODE OF LAWS AVAILABLE (JAN 2006):

The South Carolina Code of Laws, including the Consolidated Procurement Code, is available at: <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/statmast.php> The South Carolina Regulations are available at: <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/coderegs/statmast.php> [02-2A040-2]

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS (JAN 2006): During the term of the contract, contractor shall comply with all applicable provisions of laws, codes, ordinances, rules, regulations, and tariffs. [07-7B035-1]

## DEFAULT

The state may terminate this contract, or any part hereof, for cause in the event of any default by the contractor, or if the contractor fails to comply with any contract terms and conditions, or fails to provide the state, upon request, with adequate assurances of future performance. In the event of termination for cause, the state shall not be liable to the contractor for any amount for supplies or services not accepted, and the contractor shall be liable to the state for any and all rights and remedies provided by law. If it is determined that the state improperly terminated this contract for default, such termination shall be deemed a termination for convenience. In case of default by the contractor, the University of South Carolina reserves the right to purchase any or all items in default in the open market, charging the contractor with any additional costs. The defaulting contractor shall not be considered a responsible bidder until the assessed charge has been satisfied.

INDEMNIFICATION-THIRD PARTY CLAIMS – GENERAL (NOV 2011): Notwithstanding any limitation in this agreement, and to the fullest extent permitted by law, Contractor shall defend and hold harmless Indemnitees for and against any and all suits or claims of any character (and all related damages, settlement payments, attorneys' fees, costs, expenses, losses or liabilities) by a third party which are attributable to bodily injury, sickness, disease or death, or to injury to or destruction of tangible property arising out of or in connection with the goods or services acquired hereunder or caused in whole or in part by any act or omission of contractor, its subcontractors, their employees, workmen, servants, agents, or anyone directly or indirectly employed by them or anyone for whose acts any of them may be liable, regardless of whether or not caused in part by an Indemnitee, and whether or not such claims are made by a third party or an Indemnitee; however, if an Indemnitee's negligent act or omission is subsequently determined to be the sole proximate cause of a suit or claim, the Indemnitee shall not be entitled to indemnification hereunder. Contractor shall be given timely written notice of any suit or claim. Contractor's obligations hereunder are in no way limited by any protection afforded under workers' compensation acts, disability benefits acts, or other employee benefit acts. This clause shall not negate, abridge, or reduce any other rights or obligations of indemnity which would otherwise exist. The obligations of this paragraph shall survive termination, cancelation, or expiration of the parties' agreement. This provision shall be construed fairly and reasonably, neither strongly for nor against either party, and without regard to any clause regarding insurance. As used in this clause, "Indemnitees" means the State of South Carolina, its instrumentalities, agencies, departments, boards, political subdivisions and all their respective officers, agents and employees. [07-7B100-2]

MATERIAL AND WORKMANSHIP (JAN 2006): Unless otherwise specifically provided in this contract, all equipment, material, and articles incorporated in the work covered by this contract are to be new and of the most suitable grade for the purpose intended. [07-7B120-1]

#### OPERATIONAL MANUALS (JAN 2006)

Unless otherwise specified, contractor shall provide one operational manual for each item acquired.

#### PREFERENCES – A NOTICE TO VENDORS (SEP 2009)

On June 16, 2009, the South Carolina General Assembly rewrote the law governing preferences available to in-state vendors, vendors using in-state subcontractors, and vendors selling in-state or US end products. This law appears in Section 11-35-1524 of the South Carolina Code of Laws. A summary of the new preferences is available at [www.procurement.sc.gov/preferences](http://www.procurement.sc.gov/preferences). ALL THE PREFERENCES MUST BE CLAIMED AND ARE APPLIED BY LINE ITEM, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER AWARD IS MADE BY ITEM OR LOT. VENDORS ARE CAUTIONED TO CAREFULLY REVIEW THE STATUTE BEFORE CLAIMING ANY PREFERENCES. THE REQUIREMENTS TO QUALIFY HAVE CHANGED. IF YOU REQUEST A PREFERENCE, YOU ARE CERTIFYING THAT YOUR OFFER QUALIFIES FOR THE PREFERENCE YOU'VE CLAIMED. IMPROPERLY REQUESTING A PREFERENCE CAN HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES. [11-35-1524(E)(4)&(6)]

#### PREFERENCES – SC/US END PRODUCT (SEP 2009)

Section 11-35-1524(B)(4) provides a preference to vendors offering South Carolina end-products or US endproducts, if those products are made, manufactured, or grown in SC or the US, respectively. An endproduct is the tangible project identified for acquisition in this solicitation, including all component parts in final form and ready for the use intended. The terms "made," "manufactured," and "grown" are defined by Section 11-35-1524(A). By signing your offer and checking the appropriate space(s) provided and identified on the bid schedule, you certify that the end-product(s) is either made, manufactured or grown in South Carolina, or other states of the United States, as applicable. Preference will be applied as required by law. Post award substitutions are prohibited. See "Substitutions Prohibited - End Product Preferences (Sep 2009)" provision.

#### PREFERENCES – RESIDENT VENDOR PREFERENCE (SEP 2009)

To qualify for the RVP, you must maintain an office in this state. An office is a nonmobile place for the regular transaction of business or performance of a particular service which has been operated as such by the bidder for at least one year before the bid opening and during that year the place has been staffed for at least fifty weeks by at least two employees for at least thirty five hours a week each. In addition, you must either: (1) maintain at a location in South Carolina at the time of the bid an inventory of expendable items which are representative of the general type of commodities for which the award will be made and which have a minimum total value, based on the bid price, equal to the lesser of fifty thousand dollars [\$50,000] or the annual amount of the contract; or (2) be a manufacturer headquartered and having an annual payroll of at least one million dollars in South Carolina and the end product being sold is either made or processed from raw materials into a finished end product by that manufacturer or its affiliate (as defined in Section 1563 of the Internal Revenue Code).

## PREFERENCES – BID SCHEDULE

All preferences must be claimed by initialing in the space provided in the bid schedule. Preferences are applied by line item whether the award is to be made by line item or lot. If you request a preference, you are certifying that your offer qualifies for the preference you have claimed. If you qualify for a preference but do not request it, you are not entitled to receive preference applications per 11-35-1524.

QUALITY – NEW (JAN 2006): All items must be new. [03-3060-1]

RELATIONSHIP OF THE PARTIES (JAN 2006):

Neither party is an employee, agent, partner, or joint venturer of the other. Neither party has the right or ability to bind the other to any agreement with a third party or to incur any obligation or liability on behalf of the other party. [07-7B205-1]

SHIPPING / RISK OF LOSS

FOB Destination. Destination is the shipping dock of the University of South Carolina's designated receiving site, or other location, as specified herein.

STATE OFFICE CLOSINGS (JAN 2004)

If an emergency or unanticipated event interrupts normal government processes so that offers cannot be received at the government office designated for receipt of bids by the exact time specified in the solicitation, the time specified for receipt of offers will be deemed to be extended to the same time of day specified in the solicitation on the first work day on which normal government processes resume. In lieu of an automatic extension, an Amendment may be issued to reschedule bid opening. If state offices are closed at the time a pre-bid or pre-proposal conference is scheduled, an Amendment will be issued to reschedule the conference. Useful information may be available at: <http://www.scemd.org/planandprepare/disasters/severe-winter-weather>

SUBSTITUTIONS PROHIBITED – END PRODUCT PREFERENCES (SEP 2009)

If you receive the award as a result of the South Carolina end product or United States end product preference, you may not substitute a nonqualifying end product for a qualified end product. If you violate this provision, the State may terminate your contract for cause and you may be debarred. In addition, you shall pay to the State an amount equal to twice the difference between the price paid by the State and your evaluated price for the item for which you delivered a substitute. [11-35-1524(B)(4)]

TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE – SHORT FORM (JAN 2006)

The Procurement Officer may terminate this contract in whole or in part, for the convenience of the State. In such a termination, the Procurement Officer may require the contractor to transfer title and deliver to the State in the manner and to the extent directed by the Procurement Officer: (a) any completed supplies; and (b) such partially completed supplies and materials, parts, tools, dies, jigs, fixtures, plans, drawings, information, and contract rights (hereinafter called

“manufacturing material”) as the contractor has specifically produced or specially acquired for the performance of the terminated part of this contract. Upon such termination, the contractor shall (a) stop work to the extent specified, (b) terminate any subcontracts as they relate to the terminated work, and (c) be paid the following amounts without duplication, subject to the other terms of this contract: (i) contract prices for supplies or services accepted under the contract, (ii) costs incurred in performing the terminated portion of the work, and (iii) any other reasonable costs that the contractor can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the State, using its standard record keeping system, have resulted from the termination. The contractor shall not be paid for any work performed or costs incurred that reasonably could have been avoided. As a condition of payment, contractor shall submit within three months of the effective date of the termination a claim specifying the amounts due because of the termination. The absence of an appropriate termination for convenience clause in any subcontract shall not increase the obligation of the state beyond what it would have been had the subcontract contained such a clause.

#### UNIT PRICE GOVERNS (JAN 2006)

In determining award, unit prices will govern over extended prices unless otherwise stated. [06-6075-1]

#### WARRANTY – STANDARD (JAN 2006)

Contractor must provide the manufacture’s standard written warranty upon delivery of product.

Contractor warrants that manufacturer will honor the standard written warranty provided.



MINORITY PARTICIPATION (DEC 2015)

Is the bidder a South Carolina Certified Minority Business?  Yes  No

Is the bidder a Minority Business certified by another governmental entity?  Yes  
 No

If so, please list the certifying governmental entity: \_\_\_\_\_

Will any of the work under this contract be performed by a SC certified Minority Business as a subcontractor?  Yes  No

If so, what percentage of the total value of the contract will be performed by a SC certified Minority Business as a subcontractor? \_\_\_\_\_

Will any of the work under this contract be performed by a minority business certified by another governmental entity as a subcontractor?  Yes  No

If so, what percentage of the total value of the contract will be performed by a minority business certified by another governmental entity as a subcontractor?  
\_\_\_\_\_

If a certified Minority Business is participating in this contract, please indicate all categories for which the Business is certified:

- Traditional minority
- Traditional minority, but female
- Women (Caucasian females)
- Hispanic minorities
- DOT referral (Traditional minority)
- DOT referral (Caucasian female)
- Temporary certification
- SBA 8 (a) certification referral
- Other minorities (Native American, Asian, etc.)

(If more than one minority contractor will be utilized in the performance of this contract, please provide the information above for each minority business.)

The Department of Administration, Division of Small and Minority Business Contracting and Certification, publishes a list of certified minority firms. The Minority Business Directory is available at the following URL:  
<http://osmba.sc.gov/directory.html>

**SPECIFICATIONS:**

1. Furnish and deliver Deep Learning Workstation PC with NVIDIA GPU and Liquid Cooling System as specified. Price to include all shipping, handling fees.
2. Location: University of South Carolina Columbia Campus
3. Quote only as specified. Do not include sales tax.

<b>Components</b>	<b>Description: Deep Learning Workstation PC with NVIDIA GPU and Liquid Cooling System</b>
Processor:	32-Core 3.70 GHz AMD Ryzen Threadripper 3970X 3 <sup>rd</sup> Generation
Cooling:	Liquid Cooling System
Memory: (DDR4 3200 MHz)	128 GB (4 x 32 GB) ** Memory slot expandable to 256GB or above.
GPU Support:	2 GPU-Ready (up to 2x NVIDIA RTX 30xx or 2x 20xx; 1300W power supply)
Operating System:	BIZON Z-Stack (Ubuntu 20.04 with preinstalled deep learning frameworks)
Graphics Card:	2 x NVIDIA RTX 3090 24 GB
HDD #1: Operating System, Applications	4 TB PCI-E 4.0 NVMe SSD
HDD #2:	14 TB HDD 7500rpm
HDD: #3:	14 TB HDD 7500rpm
Network:	802.11ax WiFi 6 + Bluetooth v.5.0 Module + 1 Gigabit Ethernet (built-in)
Peripherals:	Logitech Combo MK320 Keyboard + Mouse (Wireless)
Service & Support:	Lifetime Expert Care with 3 Year Limited Warranty (3 Year Labor & 1 Year Part Replacement)

**Price to include all sales taxes, shipping, handling and installation fees.**

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Submitted quotes/bids/proposals establish the first impression of the offeror's ability to follow instructions.
2. Responsiveness will be evaluated against the solicitation's specifications and scope of work and evaluation criteria.
3. Save costs associated with printing, binding, and shipping bids and by only submitting the information requested in the solicitation you are responding to.
4. INFORMATION FOR BIDDERS OF RFQ'S TO SUBMIT:
  - a. Page 1
  - b. Bid Schedule (Pages 1 and 2)
  - c. MINORITY PARTICIPATION (DEC 2015) - page
5. DO NOT INCLUDE:
  - a. Do not include a copy of the solicitation.
  - b. Do not include a copy of any amendment(s) to the solicitation.
  - c. Do not include any of your company's standard contract forms or other legal documents.
  - d. Do not include any exceptions to the solicitation's terms and conditions or specifications.
  - e. Do not include any additional boilerplate contract clauses, unless requested.
6. Instructions regarding how to acknowledge an amendment should appear in all amendments issued.
7. By signing the Cover Page, you agree to be bound by the terms of the Solicitation.
8. Emailed quotes and/or questions without the solicitation number in the subject line may not be discovered before the deadlines.

## BIDDING SCHEDULE

Price to include all sales taxes, shipping, handling and installation fees.

Item No.	Qty	Unit of Measure	Description	List Price
1	1	Ea	Deep Learning Workstation PC with NVIDIA GPU and Liquid Cooling System <b>as specified</b>	

Resident Vendor Preference \_\_\_\_\_

SC End Product Preference \_\_\_\_\_ US End Product Preference \_\_\_\_\_

Note: The commodity preferences do not apply to a bid for an item of work by the bidder if the annual price of the bidder's work exceeds \$50,000 or the total potential price of the bidder's work exceeds \$500,000. [11 35 1524(E) (3)]

Delivery Date (ARO): No later than 30 days ARO

**Please refer to the preference clauses listed in the terms and conditions of this solicitation to ensure that you qualify to select the above preferences.**