

**KENT COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY  
REQUEST AND ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS**

**ROOF MOUNTED SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC ENERGY SYSTEMS AT KENT  
COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY'S NEW OPERATIONS FACILITY**

**ADDENDUM NO. 2  
FEBRUARY 1, 2023**

TO ALL INTERESTED OFFERORS:

- (1) The deadlines and/or dates set forth in the above-referenced Request and Advertisement for Proposals are hereby amended as follows:

**DEADLINE FOR QUESTIONS: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2023 AT 2:00 P.M. EST**

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023 AT 2:00 P.M. EST**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023 AT 10:00 A.M.  
EST**

- (2) The provisions of R.I. Gen. Laws § 37-14.1, *et seq.*, Minority Business Enterprise, are appended hereto and are hereby incorporated into the above-referenced Request and Advertisement for Proposals by reference as if fully set forth therein. Accordingly, interested offerors are advised that Minority business enterprise(s), as defined in R.I. Gen. Laws § 37-14.1-3, shall be awarded a minimum of ten percent (10%) of the dollar value of this procurement. Compliance with this requirement shall be evaluated within and in accordance with the Qualifications section of the Request and Advertisement for Proposals.

To comply with and address such requirements, offerors shall complete and include the attached State of Rhode Island, Office of Diversity, Equity and Opportunity, Minority Business Enterprise Compliance Office, Minority Business Enterprise Utilization Plan with their submissions that sets forth compliance with the award of a minimum of ten percent (10%) of the dollar value of this procurement to [a] Minority business enterprise(s). The Copacity platform shall be updated to account for the submission of the Minority Business Enterprise Utilization Plan.

All offerors are advised that they must acknowledge receipt of this Addendum in their submissions.

# TITLE 37

## CHAPTER 14.1 MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

### Sections

37-14.1-1.	Purpose.
37-14.1-2.	Applicability.
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37-14.1-5.	Discrimination prohibited.
37-14.1-6.	Minority business enterprise guidelines.
37-14.1-7.	Establishment of criteria and guidelines.
37-14.1-8.	Sanctions.

### **37-14.1-1. Purpose.**

The purpose of this chapter is to carry out the state's policy of supporting the fullest possible participation of firms owned and controlled by minorities and women (MBE's), in state funded and state directed public construction programs and projects and in state purchases of goods and services. This includes assisting MBE's throughout the life of contracts in which they participate.

### **37-14.1-2. Applicability.**

This chapter shall apply to any and all state purchasing, including, but not limited to the procurement of goods, services, construction projects, or contracts funded in whole or in part by state funds, or funds which, in accordance with a federal grant or otherwise, the state expends or administers or in which the state is a signatory to the construction contract.

### **37-14.1-3. Definitions.**

- (a) "Affirmative action" means taking specific steps to eliminate discrimination and its effects, to ensure nondiscriminatory results and practices in the future, and to involve minority business enterprises fully in contracts and programs funded by the state.
- (b) "Compliance" means the condition existing when a contractor has met and implemented the requirements of this chapter.
- (c) "Contract" means a mutually binding legal relationship or any modification thereof obligating the seller to furnish supplies or services, including construction, and the buyer to pay for them. For purposes of this chapter, a lease is a contract.
- (d) "Contractor" means one who participates, through a contract or subcontract, in any procurement or program covered by this chapter, and includes lessees and material suppliers.
- (e) "Minority" means a person who is a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States and who is:
  - (1) Black (a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa);
  - (2) Hispanic (a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race);
  - (3) Portuguese (a person of Portuguese, Brazilian, or other Portuguese culture or origin, regardless of race);
  - (4) Asian American (a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands);
  - (5) American Indian and Alaskan Native (a person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America.); or
  - (6) Members of other groups, or other individuals, found to be economically and socially disadvantaged by the Small Business Administration under section 8(a) of the Small Business Act, as amended [15 U.S.C. 637(a)].
- (f) "Minority business enterprise" or "MBE" means a small business concern, as defined pursuant to section 3 of the federal Small Business Act [15 U.S.C. 632] and implementing regulations, which is owned and controlled by one or more minorities or women. For the purposes of this chapter, owned and controlled means a business.

- (1) Which is at least fifty-one percent (51%) owned by one or more minorities or women or, in the case of a publicly owned business, at least fifty-one percent (51%) of the stock of which is owned by one or more minorities or women; and
- (2) Whose management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more such individuals.

(g) "MBE coordinator" means the official designated to have overall responsibility for promotion of minority business enterprise in his or her departmental element.

(h) "Noncompliance" means the condition existing when a recipient or contractor has failed to implement the requirements of this chapter.

#### **37-14.1-4. Policy.**

It is the policy of the state of Rhode Island that minority business enterprises (MBE's) shall have the maximum opportunity to participate in the performance of procurements and projects outlined in 37-14.1-2.

#### **37-14.1-5. Discrimination prohibited.**

No person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise discriminated against in connection with the award and performance of any project covered by this chapter, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, or sex.

#### **37-14.1-6. Minority business enterprise participation.**

Minority business enterprises shall be included in all procurements and construction projects under this chapter and shall be awarded a minimum of ten percent (10%) of the dollar value of the entire procurement or project. The director of the department of administration is further authorized to establish by rules and regulation formulas for giving minority business enterprises a preference in contract and subcontract awards.

#### **37-14.1-7. Establishment of criteria and guidelines.**

The director of the department of administration shall establish, by rule and regulations adopted in accordance with chapter 35 of title 42, standards which shall determine whether a construction project is covered by this chapter, compliance formulas, procedures for implementation, and procedures for enforcement which are not inconsistent with 49 CFR 23 of the federal regulations. As to Rhode Island department of transportation contracts, the director of administration may delegate this authority to the director of transportation.

#### **37-14.1-8. Sanctions.**

(a) The director of the department of administration shall have the power to impose sanctions upon contractors not in compliance with this chapter and shall include but not be limited to:

- (1) Suspension of payments;
- (2) Termination of the contract;
- (3) Recovery by the state of ten percent (10%) of the contract award price as liquidated damages; and
- (4) Denial of right to participate in future projects for up to three (3) years.

(b) As to Rhode Island department of transportation contracts, the director of the department of administration may delegate this authority to the director of transportation.

**RHODE ISLAND REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION BY MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES**  
**IN STATE FUNDED AND DIRECTED PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, CONSTRUCTION**  
**CONTRACTS AND PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS**

In accordance with RI Gen. Law § 37-14.1-1, it is the policy of the State of Rhode Island to support the fullest possible participation of firms owned and controlled by minorities (MBEs) and women (WBEs). Pursuant to §§ 37-14.1-2 and 37-14.1-6, MBEs and WBEs shall be included in all state purchasing, including, but not limited to, the procurement of goods, services, construction projects, or contracts funded in whole or in part with state funds, or funds which, in accordance with a federal grant or otherwise, the state expends or administers. MBEs and WBEs shall be awarded a minimum of ten percent (10%) of the dollar value of the entire procurement or project. MBE participation credit shall only be granted for firms duly certified as MBEs or WBEs by the State of Rhode Island, Department of Administration, Office of Diversity, Equity and Opportunity, MBE Compliance Office (MBECO). The current directory of firms certified as MBEs or WBEs may be accessed at <http://odeo.ri.gov/offices/mbeco/mbe-wbe.php> or by contacting Elvys Ruiz at the MBECO at (401) 574-8253 or via email at [Elvys.Ruiz@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Elvys.Ruiz@doa.ri.gov)



**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
Office of Diversity, Equity and Opportunity (ODEO)  
Minority Business Enterprise Compliance Office  
Minority Business Enterprise Utilization Plan**

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative's Name who administers MBE Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Project Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Bid or Project #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Bid Opened: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Contract Value: \_\_\_\_\_ MBE % Assigned: \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of All Subcontractors/Suppliers used: \_\_\_\_\_ # of MBE Subcontractors/Suppliers used: \_\_\_\_\_

**List All Subcontractors/Suppliers/Consultants/Independent Contractors – Total Dollar Amounts – Scope of Work:**

<b>Subcontractor / Supplier</b>	<b>Dollar Award</b>	<b>Scope/Description of Work</b>	<b>RI Certified M/WBE Yes/No</b>

Please note that all MBE/WBE firms must be certified by the RI MBE Compliance Office, and that MBE/WBE firms must self-perform 100% of the work with their own forces or subcontract to another RI certified MBE/WBE in order to receive participation credit. Vendors may count 60% of expenditures for materials and supplies obtained from an MBE certified as a regular dealer/supplier, and 100% of such expenditures obtained from an MBE/WBE certified as a manufacturer. For firms certified as a broker, you may receive MBE participation credit only for the fees and commissions charged for the procurement of the good and materials, but not the cost of the materials themselves.

The above referenced contract will not be released until this plan has been approved by the Director of the Department of Administration or its designee.

For assistance and advice in identifying MBE/WBE firms, please call the Minority Business Enterprise Compliance Office at (401) 574-8670. The directory of all certified MBE firms is also located at <http://odeo.ri.gov/>.

Signature of Authorized Agent of Business: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send Completed Form to:**  
**Elvys Ruiz, Chief Program Development - MBE**  
**Office of Diversity, Equity and Opportunity**  
**(ODEO) Minority Business Enterprise**  
**Compliance Office One Capitol Hill, 3rd Floor**  
**Providence, RI 02908**  
**Phone: (401) 574-8253**  
[Elvys.Ruiz@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Elvys.Ruiz@doa.ri.gov)