

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL # 16-2076EC
Professional International Marketing and Public Relations
Representation in the Central Europe for the
Bradenton Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

Manatee County, a political subdivision of the State of Florida (hereinafter "Manatee County" or the "County") will receive proposals from individuals, corporations, partnerships, and other legal entities authorized to do business in the State of Florida, to provide Professional International Marketing and Public Relations Representation abroad (in Central Europe: Germany, Switzerland, and Austria), hereinafter "Central Europe", for the Bradenton Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.

DEADLINE FOR CLARIFICATION REQUESTS: May 26, 2016 at 5:00 P.M. shall be the deadline to submit all inquiries, suggestions, or requests concerning interpretation, clarification or additional information pertaining to this Request for Proposal to the Manatee County Purchasing Division. This deadline has been established to maintain fair treatment for all potential bidders or Proposers, while ensuring an expeditious transition to a final agreement.

TIME AND DATE DUE: Proposals will be received until June 7, 2016 at 3:00 P.M. at which time they will be publicly opened. All interested parties are invited to attend this opening.

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Important Note: **A prohibition of Lobbying is in place. Please review paragraph A.19 carefully to avoid violation and possible sanctions.**

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
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(941) 749-3037, Fax (941) 749-3034
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Manatee County Financial Management Department
Purchasing Division

AUTHORIZED FOR RELEASE: DWW

SECTION A: INFORMATION TO PROPOSERS

PROPOSERS MUST COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR SELECTION.

A.01 OPENING LOCATION

These proposals will be publicly opened at Manatee County Purchasing Division, 1112 Manatee Avenue West, 8th Floor, Suite 803, Bradenton, Florida 34205, in the presence of County officials at the time and date stated on the cover sheet. All Proposers or their representatives are invited to attend.

A.02 PROPOSAL INFORMATION AND PROPOSAL DOCUMENTS

Request For Proposals on <http://www.mymanatee.org>

Request For Proposal documents and the Notices of Intent to Award related to those Proposals are available for download in a portable document format (.PDF) file on the Manatee County web page on the Purchasing tab under "Bids and Proposals". You may access these files using Adobe Acrobat software. You may download a free copy of this software (Adobe) from the County's web page if you do not have.

Manatee County collaborates with the Manatee Chamber of Commerce on distributing solicitations using the Chambers website: <http://www.Manateechamber.com>. This step is in addition to the posting on Manatee County Government web page.

Manatee County may also use an internet service provider to distribute Bids and Proposals. A link to that service <http://www.DemandStar.com>, is provided on this website under the Tab "MyDemandStar". Participation in the DemandStar system is not a requirement for doing business with Manatee County.

Note: The County posts the **Notice of Source Selection** prior to COMMENCING NEGOTIATIONS with the selected firms.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH PROPOSER, PRIOR TO SUBMITTING THEIR PROPOSAL, TO CONTACT THE MANATEE COUNTY PURCHASING DIVISION (see contact information on page one of this document) TO DETERMINE IF ADDENDA WERE ISSUED AND TO MAKE SUCH ADDENDA A PART OF THEIR PROPOSAL.

A.03 REQUIREMENTS FOR FORMAT AND DELIVERY OF PROPOSALS

Any proposals received after the stated time and date will not be considered. It shall be the sole responsibility of the Proposer to have their proposal delivered to the Manatee County Purchasing Division for receipt on or before the stated time and date. If a proposal is sent by U.S. Mail, the Proposer shall be responsible for its timely delivery to the Purchasing Division. Proposals delayed by mail shall not

be considered, shall not be opened at the public opening, and arrangements shall be made for their return at the Proposer's request and expense.

Proposals must be submitted in the format specified in Section C hereof. The contents of each proposal shall be **separated and arranged with tabs in the same order as listed in the Subsections within Section C** identifying the response to each specific item thereby facilitating expedient review of all responses.

A.04 CLARIFICATION & ADDENDA

Each Proposer shall examine all Request for Proposal documents and shall judge all matters relating to the adequacy and accuracy of such documents. Any inquiries, suggestions or requests concerning interpretation, clarification or additional information pertaining to the Request for Proposal shall be made in writing through the Manatee County Purchasing Division. The County shall not be responsible for oral interpretations given by any County employee, representative, or agent. The issuance of a written addendum by the Purchasing Division is the only official method whereby interpretation, clarification or additional information can be given.

Addenda shall be posted on <http://www.mymanatee.org>.

It shall be the responsibility of each Proposer, prior to submitting their proposal, to contact the Manatee County Purchasing Division at (941)748-4501, ext. 3014 to determine if addenda were issued and to acknowledge receipt of same on the Proposal Signature page (Attachment A).

DEADLINE FOR CLARIFICATION REQUESTS: **May 26, 2016 at 5:00 P.M.** shall be the deadline to submit all inquiries, suggestions, or requests concerning interpretation, clarification or additional information pertaining to this Request for Proposal to the Manatee County Purchasing Division.

This deadline has been established to maintain fair treatment for all potential bidders or Proposers, while ensuring an expeditious transition to a final agreement.

A.05 SEALED & MARKED

Manatee County requires a total of seven copies of your proposal to be submitted in one sealed package. The contents of your sealed package shall include: **One signed Original (marked Original) and Five (5) Copies (each marked Copy) and One (1) Electronic copy.** The electronic copy shall be in a pdf format and submitted on a CD or USB flash drive which is non-returnable. ***All seven copies of your proposal shall be identical.***

Your entire proposal package shall be submitted in one sealed package addressed from your company (name and address) and clearly marked on the outside "**Sealed Proposal #16-2076EC Professional International Marketing and Public Relations Representation in the Central Europe for the Bradenton Area Convention and Visitors Bureau**" and addressed to:

Manatee County Purchasing Division
1112 Manatee Avenue West, Suite 803
Bradenton, FL 34205

A.06 LEGAL NAME

Proposals shall clearly indicate the legal name, address and telephone number of the Proposer (company, firm, partnership, or individual). Proposals shall be signed above the typed or printed name and title of the signer. The signer shall have the authority to bind the Proposer to the submitted proposal.

A.07 PROPOSAL EXPENSES

All expenses for making proposals to the County are to be borne by the Proposer.

A.08 EXAMINATION OF OFFER

The examination of the proposal and the Proposer generally requires a period of not less than ninety (90) calendar days from the date of the opening of the proposals.

A.09 DISCLOSURE

Upon receipt, all inquiries and responses to inquiries related to this Request for Proposal become "Public Records", and shall be subject to public disclosure consistent with Florida Statutes, Chapter 119.

Bids become subject to disclosure thirty (30) days after the opening or if a notice of intent to award decision is made earlier than this time as provided by Florida Statutes § 119.071(1)(b). No announcement or review of the bid shall be conducted at the public bid opening.

Based on the above, Owner will receive bids at the time and date stated and will make public at the opening the names of the business entities of all that submitted a bid and any amount presented as a total offer without any verification of the mathematics or the completeness of the bid.

If Owner rejects all bids and concurrently notices its intent to reissue the solicitation, the rejected bids are exempt from public disclosure until such time as Owner provides notice of an intended decision concerning the reissued solicitation or until Owner withdraws the reissued solicitation. A bid is not exempt for longer than twelve (12) months after the initial notice rejecting all bids.

IF THE CONTRACTOR HAS QUESTIONS REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF CHAPTER 119, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO THE CONTRACTOR'S DUTY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC RECORDS RELATING TO THIS CONTRACT, CONTACT OWNER'S CUSTODIAN OF PUBLIC RECORDS AT: (941) 742-5845, debbie.scaccianoce@mymanatee.org, Attn: Records Manager, 1112 Manatee Ave W., Bradenton, FL 34205.

Pursuant to Florida Statutes 119.0701, to the extent CONTRACTOR is performing services on behalf of the COUNTY, contractor must:

- a. Keep and maintain public records required by public agency to perform the service.
- b. Upon request from the public agency's custodian of public records, provide the public agency with a copy of the requested records or allow the records to be inspected or copied within a reasonable time at a cost that does not exceed the cost provided in Florida Statutes, Chapter 119, or as otherwise provided by law.
- c. Ensure that public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements are not disclosed except as authorized by law for the duration of the contract term and following completion of the contract if the contractor does not transfer the records to the public agency.
- d. Upon completion of the contract, transfer, at no cost, to the public agency all public records in possession of contractor or keep and maintain public records required by the public agency to perform the service. If the contractor transfers all public records to the public agency upon completion of the contract, the contractor shall destroy any duplicate public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements. If the contractor keeps and maintains public records upon completion of the contract, the contractor shall meet all applicable requirements for retaining public records. All records stored electronically must be provided to the public agency, upon request from public agency's custodian of public records, in a format that is compatible with the information technology systems of the public agency.

A.10 CONFIDENTIALITY OF SECURITY RELATED RECORDS

(a) Pursuant to Florida Statutes § 119.071(3), the following records (hereinafter referred to collectively as "the Confidential Security Records") are confidential and exempt from the disclosure requirements of Florida Statutes § 119.07(1):

1. A Security System Plan or portion thereof for any property owned by

or leased to the County or any privately owned or leased property held by the County.

2. Building plans, blueprints, schematic drawings, and diagrams, including draft, preliminary, and final formats, which depict the internal layout and structural elements of a building, arena, stadium, water treatment facility, or other structure owned or operated by the County.

3. Building plans, blueprints, schematic drawings, and diagrams, including draft, preliminary, and final formats, which depict the internal layout or structural elements of an attractions and recreation facility, entertainment or resort complex, industrial complex, retail and service development, office development, or hotel or motel development in the possession of, submitted to the County.

(b) Contractor/Vendor agrees that it shall not, as a result of a public records request or for any other reason disclose the contents of, or release or provide copies of the Confidential Security Records to any other party absent the express written authorization of the County's Property Management Director or to comply with a court order requiring such release or disclosure. To the extent Contractor/Vendor receives a request for such records, it shall immediately contact the County's designated Contract Manager who shall coordinate the County's response to the request. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Contractor/Vendor may

1. Disclose or release Security System Plans to:

- (A) The property owner or leaseholder; or
- (B) Another state or federal agency to prevent, detect, guard against, respond to, investigate, or manage the consequences of any attempted or actual act of terrorism, or to prosecute those persons who are responsible for such attempts or acts.

2. Disclose or release building plans, blueprints, schematic drawings, and diagrams, including draft, preliminary, and final formats, which depict the internal layout and structural elements of a building, arena, stadium, water treatment facility, or other structure owned or operated by the County:

- (A) To another governmental entity if disclosure is necessary for the receiving entity to perform its duties and responsibilities;
- (B) To a licensed architect, engineer, or contractor who is performing work on or related to the building, arena, stadium, water treatment facility, or other structure owned or operated by the County and is contractually bound by the Contractor/Vendor to comply with this Article/Section; or
- (C) Upon a showing of good cause before a court of competent jurisdiction.

(c) For purposes of this Article/Section, the term "Security System Plan" includes all:

1. Records, information, photographs, audio and visual presentations, schematic diagrams, surveys, recommendations, or consultations or portions thereof relating directly to the physical security of the facility or revealing security systems;
2. Threat assessments conducted by any agency or any private entity;
3. Threat response plans;
4. Emergency evacuation plans;
5. Sheltering arrangements; or
6. Manuals for security personnel, emergency equipment, or security training.

A.11 ERRORS OR OMISSIONS

Once a proposal is submitted, the County shall not accept any request by any Proposer to correct errors or omissions in the proposal.

A.12 DISQUALIFICATION DUE TO NON-RESPONSIVENESS

Manatee County reserves the right to find that any proposal received which does not contain all of the information, attachments, verification, forms or other information, may be considered non-responsive and therefore be disqualified from eligibility to proceed further in the RFP process.

A.13 RESERVED RIGHTS

The County reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all proposals, to waive irregularities and technicalities, and to request resubmission. Any sole response received by the first submission date may or may not be rejected by the County, depending on available competition and timely needs of the County. The County reserves the right to award the contract to a responsible Proposer submitting a responsive proposal, with a resulting negotiated agreement which is most advantageous and in the best interests of the County. The County shall be the sole judge of the proposal, and the resulting negotiated agreement that is in its best interest and its decision shall be final. Also, the County reserves the right to make such investigation as it deems necessary to determine the ability of any Proposer to perform the work or service requested. Information the County deems necessary to make this determination shall be provided by the Proposer. Such information may include, but shall not be limited to: current financial statements prepared by an independent CPA; verification of availability of equipment and personnel; and past performance records.

A.14 APPLICABLE LAWS

Proposer must be authorized to transact business in the State of Florida. All applicable laws and regulations of the State of Florida and ordinances and regulations of Manatee County will apply to any resulting agreement. Any

involvement with any Manatee County procurement shall be in accordance with Manatee County Code Chapter 2-26.

A.15 CODE OF ETHICS

With respect to this proposal, if any Proposer violates, directly or indirectly, the ethics provisions of the Manatee County Procurement Ordinance and/or Florida criminal or civil laws related to public procurement, including but not limited to Florida Statutes Chapter 112, Part II, Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, such Proposer will be disqualified from eligibility to perform the work described in this Request for Proposal, and may also be disqualified from furnishing future goods or services to, and from submitting any future bids or proposals to supply goods or services to, Manatee County.

By submitting a proposal, the Proposer represents to the County that all statements made and materials submitted are truthful, with no relevant facts withheld. If a Proposer is determined to have been untruthful in its proposal or any related presentation, such Proposer will be disqualified from eligibility to perform the work described in this Request for Proposal, and may also be disqualified from furnishing future goods or services to, and from submitting any future bids or proposals to supply goods or services to, Manatee County.

A.16 COLLUSION

By offering a submission to this Request for Proposal the Proposer certifies the Proposer has not divulged to, discussed or compared his proposal with other Proposers and has not colluded with any other Proposer or parties to this proposal whatsoever. Also, the Proposer certifies, and in the case of a joint proposal, each party thereto certifies, as to their own organization that in connection with this proposal:

- a. any prices and/or data submitted have been arrived at independently, without consultation, communication or agreement, for the purpose of restricting competition, as to any matter relating to such prices and/or cost data, with any other Proposer or with any competitor;
- b. any prices and/or cost data quoted for this proposal have not been knowingly disclosed by the Proposer prior to the scheduled opening directly or indirectly to any competitor;
- c. no attempt has been made or will be made by the Proposer to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit a proposal for the purpose of restricting competition;
- d. the only person or persons interested in this proposal as principal or principals is/are named therein and that no person other than therein mentioned has any interest in this proposal or in the contract to be entered into; and

- e. no person or agency has been employed or retained to solicit or secure this contract upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee, excepting bona fide employees.

A.17 PUBLIC ENTITY CRIMES

In accordance with Section 287.133, Florida Statutes, a person or affiliate who has been placed on the convicted vendor list following a conviction for a public entity crime may not submit a proposal on a contract to provide any goods or services to a public entity, may not submit a proposal on a contract with a public entity for the construction or repair of a public building or public work, may not submit proposals on leases or real property to a public entity, may not be awarded or perform work as a contractor, supplier, subcontractor, or consultant under a contract with any public entity, and may not transact business with any public entity in excess of the threshold amount provided in Section 287.017 for Category Two for a period of 36 months from the date of being placed on the convicted vendor list.

In addition, Manatee Code of Laws Chapter 2-26 Article V prohibits the award of County contracts to any person or entity who/which has, within the past 5 years, been convicted of, or admitted to in court or sworn to under oath, a public entity crime or of any environmental law that, in the reasonable opinion of the Purchasing Official, establishes reasonable grounds to believe the person or business entity will not conduct business in a reasonable manner.

To ensure compliance with the foregoing, the Code requires all persons or entities desiring to contract with the County to execute and file with the purchasing official an affidavit, executed under the pain and penalties of perjury, confirming that person, entity, and any person(s) affiliated with the entity, does not have such a record and is therefore eligible to seek and be awarded business with the County. **Proposer is to complete Attachment "B" and submit with your proposal.**

A.18 SCRUTINIZED COMPANIES

Section 287.135, Florida Statutes, prohibits agencies from contracting with companies, for goods or services over \$1,000,000, that are on either the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in Sudan List or the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in the Iran Petroleum Energy Sector List. Both lists are created pursuant to section 215.473, Florida Statutes.

At the time a company submits a bid or proposal for a contract or before the company enters into or renews a contract with an agency or governmental entity for goods or services of \$1 million or more, the company must certify that the company is not on the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in Sudan List or the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in the Iran Petroleum Energy Sector List.

A.19 LOBBYING

After the issuance of any Request for Proposal, prospective Proposers, or any agent, representative or person acting at the request of such Proposer shall not contact, communicate with or discuss any matter relating in any way to the Request for Proposal with any officer, agent or employee of Manatee County other than the Purchasing Official or as directed in the Request for Proposal. This prohibition includes the act of carbon copying officers, agents or employees of Manatee County on email correspondence. This requirement begins with the issuance of a Request for Proposal, and ends upon execution of the final Contract or when the Proposal has been canceled. Violators of this prohibition shall be subject to sanctions as provided in the Manatee County Purchasing Code of Law Chapter 2-26.

A.20 EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

In accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title 15, Part 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Manatee County hereby notifies all prospective Proposers that they will affirmatively ensure minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to participate in response to this advertisement and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color or national origin in consideration for an award of contract.

A.21 AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, does not discriminate upon the basis of any individual's disability status. This non-discrimination policy involves every aspect of the County's functions including one's access to, participation, employment, or treatment in its programs or activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation for the **public meetings** specified herein (i.e. Information Conference or Proposal Opening), should contact the person named on the first page of this document at least twenty four (24) hours in advance of the activity to request accommodations.

END SECTION A

SECTION B: SCOPE OF SERVICES

B.01 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Bradenton Area is a mid-size Florida county located on the southwest coast and consists of 150 miles of coastline on the Gulf of Mexico, 741 square miles of land, 350,000 residents, and attracts more than 3 million visitors every year.

The Bradenton Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (BACVB), known in the marketplace as Bradenton, Anna Maria Island, Longboat Key on Florida's West Coast, requires International Marketing and Public Relations Representation Services in Central Europe.

The BACVB, which is funded by the tourism tax levied on overnight stays, also known as the "Bed Tax," plays a vital role in growing the delicate but resilient tourism base in the destination. The BACVB works with all partners in the destination who interact with visitors on a daily level. The BACVB is in daily contact with hotels and area attractions to make the Bradenton Area alluring to the visitor to spend their vacation time in our community with the ultimate goal of making a positive economic impact.

The BACVB is committed to maintaining a premiere tourism destination. The objective shall be to increase tourism in the Bradenton Area by providing potential visitors and international tour operators with content rich, reliable information with easy to use travel planning tools that will encourage visitation and longer stays.

The successful Proposer(s) shall provide an overall Central European marketing and public relations plan for the BACVB. The plan shall combine a number of specific tactics and promotions designed to secure positive media exposure for the Bradenton Area. Depending on specific goals established in the plan, target audiences, and applicable geographic regions, the successful Proposer(s) shall employ public relations tools to effectively extend the BACVB destination brand.

The successful Proposer(s) shall be able to work collaboratively with both the BACVB and its third party vendors including, but not limited to their social and advertising agency.

Manatee County expects that this Request for Proposal will result in an award to perform International Marketing and Public Relations Services on an annual basis for a period of four (4) years.

The successful Proposer(s) shall perform the following work to assist the BACVB in achieving its primary marketing objectives, including, but not limited to:

B.02 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

B.02.1 Marketing and public relations representation on behalf of the BACVB in Central Europe

Monthly services to include:

- a. Create market place awareness and information distribution (with photos) to key media contacts, i.e., tour operators, receptive and media targeted print and on-line outlets, airlines, travel agents, etc., a minimum of one (1) press release per month. Provide an aggressive follow-up to secure editorial coverage for the Bradenton Area. BACVB may provide, during the month, multiple press releases to be executed depending on events occurring in the destination.
- b. Secure individual writer visits, including confirming story ideas and publication dates with writers. Representative will work with BACVB to develop a detailed itinerary confirming all accommodations, meals, and activities.
- c. Offer strategic messaging on a variety of Bradenton Area topics that integrate with the BACVB's objectives and brand elements while being consistent with international Best Practices.
- d. Assist and guide the BACVB with any media questions or suggestions on other related issues in Central Europe as the need arises.
- e. Continually feed story ideas to print publications (consumer magazines, daily newspapers in-flight and trade publications), broadcast and on-line media outlets, as well as free-lance writers on an ongoing basis to create opportunities to host writers in the Bradenton Area. NOTE: BACVB will determine a budget and schedule for travel writer familiarization trips.
- f. Monthly Activity Report outlining all marketing initiatives, which includes a monthly spreadsheet of the current marketing programs and budget update.
- g. Develop E-newsletters to be distributed to tour operators, travel agents, and media outlets annually. Representative would also manage and maintain the newsletter database.
- h. Develop a strategic annual marketing/promotions plan that integrates with the BACVB's objectives.

B.02.2 Trade Retainer

- a. Monthly service for trade work with tour operators, airlines, and travel agents to include:
 - 1. Developing a marketing plan that includes organizing sales missions or monthly correspondence with operators and agents;
 - 2. Communicating with the short-term rental properties in the Bradenton Area regarding agreements with tour operators.

B.02.3 Public Relations

- a. Monthly conference calls; communication via email as necessary.
- b. Monthly Activity Report shall include copies of recent articles, a listing for the publication in which they appeared, and the resulting exposure, including reader impressions and advertising equivalent in dollars. Provide a "State of the Union report for the Central European Market", bi-annually.
- c. Deliver comprehensive monthly reports by mail to demonstrate concrete, predetermined, measurable deliverables regarding return on investment.
- d. Develop a strategic annual public relations plan that is integrated with the BACVB's objectives.

B.02.4 Public Relations Representation

- a. Pitch the properties and attributes of the Bradenton Area to tour operators, agents, consumers, and media in attendance at the following shows, if budgeted:
 - 1. International Tourism Bourse (ITB). Berlin.
 - 2. International POW WOW. United States.
 - 3. Florida Huddle. United States.
- b. Visit USA – maximize BACVB exposure through Visit USA communication committee's media events. Representative will provide Bradenton Area news to all communication staff for use in speaking with travel writers.
- c. Distribute press releases or visitor information as requested.
- d. Ship (mail) BACVB approved documents. i.e., visitor guides. Does not include monthly invoice billing.

END SECTION B

SECTION C: FORM OF PROPOSAL

This section identifies specific information which must be contained within each proposal. The contents of each proposal shall be **separated** and **arranged with tabs** in the same order as listed in **Sections C.01, through C.05**, identifying the response to each specific item.

The information that you provide shall be used to determine those Proposers with perceived ability to perform the Scope of Services as stated in this Request for Proposal which may overall best meet the needs of Manatee County. A review with those Proposers reasonably susceptible of being selected for award may be conducted for the purposes of clarification of both ability and benefit to Manatee County. See Section D. Selection.

C.01 MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS (Licensing) TO BE CONSIDERED

To qualify for any consideration, the Proposer(s) must present proof of any licensing or certification which will be required by law to perform the services set out in the scope of services required in this RFP.

Proposals may be presented by a single business entity, a joint venture, or partnership.

Prior to any consideration of the responses to the criteria in this Request for Proposal, Proposers are to document in their Proposals they have the following experience:

MINIMUM EXPERIENCE TO BE CONSIDERED

Proposers shall have substantial, current and verifiable experience with a Florida Convention & Visitors Bureau performing similar type services as described within the scope of services set forth herein. In the event more than one entity is joining in making this proposal, each entity shall set forth its respective experience and qualifications for those areas the entity intends to perform.

Proposer shall have experience attending World Travel Market as a representative of a destination marketing organization.

If subcontractors are to be used in your proposal given to meet the minimum qualifications detail the business entities, description of the service provided, and responses in the same level of detail and tabbed order as instructed in this Request for Proposal for the Proposer.

MINIMUM EXPERIENCE TO BE CONSIDERED (Continued)

To validate experience, expertise and capabilities, Proposers shall provide the following details for each of the Proposer(s)' relevant past performance of similar projects:

- a. Name and location of the Client and the project, the year of performance and the date the project was fully operational and accepted. The specific details of the project including the components and subcontractors utilized.

Specify the name, title and telephone number for the Clients contract manager for the project;

- b. Names of your firm's staff and their direct involvement in the project;
- c. Names and telephone numbers of the persons representing the individual agencies with which the identified key staff directly worked; and
- d. Governmental agency, if any, which verified compliance with its requirements or standards, and the names and telephone numbers of the key persons with direct knowledge of this process to achieve compliance.

After Manatee County staff validates the Minimum Qualifications have been met, those Proposals found to be in compliance will be considered by the evaluation committee.

C.02 ADMINISTRATIVE SUBMITTAL

- a. Proposal Signature Form (Attachment A).
- b. Public Contracting and Environmental Crimes Certification (Attachment B).

C.03 INFORMATION TO BE SUBMITTED REGARDING PROPOSER(S)

Note: Tabs are required to identify each item defined in this Section.

- C.03.1 Provide a description of each Proposers' **background and size**. Provide a general statement of qualifications to include Proposers' professional credentials, legal status, and experience in providing the service enumerated in this Request for Proposal.
- C.03.2 Proposer shall clearly demonstrate experience and ability. **Provide a list, with references, of Proposer's marketing/public relations experience.** Specify which key personnel were responsible for the contracted services. References given must specify employees in senior level management positions with knowledge of the operations to confirm the claimed details. Include the name of the entity the work was completed for, a description of

the services provided, the dates of service and the name(s) and telephone number(s) of the contact persons. This list shall be for both Governmental and Private clients for the past five (5) years.

C.03.3 Provide an **explanation of the Proposers' legal capacity** to perform all parts of the scope of services. Include a description of corporate or other structure and governance, and detail the legal, financial, and technical capabilities of Proposer(s) relevant to performing the scope of services. If more than one Proposer is teaming up to file a proposal, any prior work any two or more joint proposers have done before should be detailed.

C.03.4 Identify each **principal of the firm and other "key personnel"** who will be professionally associated with the County. Do not include personnel that will not have a key role in providing services. Describe their respective areas of expertise. Note: The proprietor of the agency/firm shall be the principle point person in communicating with the BACVB.

For each identified person, provide the following:

- Full Name
- Title
- Professional credentials
- Area of expertise, individual's roles and duties in providing services
- Office address
- Email address
- Telephone number
- Personalized resumes which identify the qualifications, training and experience of each key personnel

C.03.5 Disclose **any ownership interest in other entities** involved in these services which might reasonably be selected to perform work under the scope of services set forth in this Request for Proposal. This ownership disclosure shall be included, whether such ownership occurs by the Proposer through a parent, subsidiary or holding company or any other form of business entity. Submit entity names and the percent of ownership for each.

C.03.6 Submit a **manning level statement** for your organization, detailing how many total employees work for your firm at any one time, including temporary and part-time employees. List the ratio of full-time employees to part-time, and temporary employees.

C.03.7 Submit an **organizational chart** of your firm or organization, stating the names of the firm or organization's management and supervisory personnel to be assigned to this contract undertaking. Please include any major changes in the firm's senior management positions within the last three (3) years.

C.03.8 **Provide authorization for a Manatee County auditor and/or financial analysts to have access to your financial records at the primary**

location of the business entity explained in response to item C.03.5, or such other location as may be agreed, for the purposes of verifying your financial representations, review and assessment of the historical and current financial capacity of your business entity and its expected ability to meet ongoing financial obligations to the County as proposed in this proposal to Manatee County. The County's audit and /or financial analyst agents will report their findings in a summary report to the Manatee County Purchasing Official, which will be placed in the proposal files for subsequent use and review.

- C.03.9 Submit a narrative **explaining the direct economic benefit to the Bradenton Area to be realized by selecting Proposer(s)**. Please include a discussion of the employment, subcontracting, and support services contracting which would be procured within Manatee County.
- C.03.10 Provide three (3) external corporate references from clients who received similar services to those described herein. The minimum information that must be provided about each reference shall include:
- a. Name of individual/company for whom services were provided
 - b. Address of individual or company
 - c. Name, e-mail address, and telephone(s) of contact person
 - d. Type of services provided and dates services were provided.
- C.03.11 Provide one (1) external client reference for each proposed staff member. The minimum information that must be provided about each reference shall include:
- a. Name of individual/company for whom services were provided
 - b. Address of individual or company
 - c. Name, e-mail address, and telephone(s) of contact person
 - d. Type of services provided and dates services were provided

C.04 INFORMATION TO BE SUBMITTED REGARDING MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATION REPRESENTATION EXPERIENCE

- C.04.1 Identify any operational areas you intend to use **subcontractors**. Identify the services and roles that each subcontractor would assume in providing services. Provide a client reference list for the subcontractor(s).
- C.04.2 Demonstrate your firm's **experience** of a minimum of three (3) years of documented, successful experience in public relation services as described in this Request for Proposal.
- C.04.3 Provide three (3) **samples** of collateral press releases which demonstrate strong writing techniques based on media outlet, and other travel or destination related material.

- C.04.4 Describe your firm's business philosophy on public relations as it pertains to the frequent **changes in the media industry** while demonstrating the strength of your firm's media connections.
- C.04.5 Explain how your firm will maintain strategic direction and manage an aggressive, proactive media outreach in order to sustain visibility on clearly defined subjects and to clearly defined audiences for greatest success.
- C.04.6 Explain your firm's ability to enhance **branding efforts** of the Bradenton Area through strategic media outreach in such a way that the community's unique heritage, culture, and landscape stand out.
- C.04.7 Demonstrate short and long term goals for guiding the Bradenton Area through the current economic climate, creating a stronger position when travel increases worldwide.
- C.04.8 Demonstrate your firm's ability to handle **crisis communication** and organize special events.
- C.04.9 Briefly describe your firm's knowledge and **understanding** of Bradenton Area's existing assets as they relate to the mission of the County as described in Section "B," Scope of Services." Cite examples of destinations in the Bradenton Area that have great equity or potential for public relations.
- C.04.10 Describe your firm's experience with attending international trade shows.
- C.04.11 Describe your firm's knowledge, relationships, and experience working with international tour operators.
- C.04.12 Provide (i) a proposed project time line to include the time required, prior to the commencement date, to coordinate the administrative issues with the County and (ii) a detailed transition and implementation plan. Demonstrate your firm's ability to meet the **projected timelines**.
- C.04.13 Proposers shall submit a firm fixed hourly **fee** rate for all work to be performed as described in the Scope of Services. Fee should include anticipated out-of-pocket expenses associated with this contract.

In addition, Proposers shall submit an approximate budget for the following work to be performed:

- a. Administration
- b. Travel
- c. Production
- d. Equipment

The proposed fee paid by the County shall be all-inclusive, unless otherwise directed herein, and shall include, but not be limited to, any and all of the costs associated with labor, personnel, supervision, and administration necessary to perform the work, and any and all of the costs necessary to perform the work in a professional and efficient manner as described in the Scope of Services.

C.05 SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Submit any other additional information which would assist the County in the evaluation of your proposal.

END SECTION C

SECTION D: SELECTION

D.01 EVALUATION FACTORS

Evaluation of proposals will be conducted by an evaluation committee. The committee's goal will be to identify the proposal which will overall best meet the needs of Manatee County as determined from the proposals received and subsequent investigation by the County. General factors to be applied will be: (1) the perceived ability of the Proposer(s) to perform the Scope of Services as stated in this Request for Proposal in the most timely and efficient manner possible, (2) the legal, technical and financial capabilities of Proposer(s), and (3) the experience of Proposer(s).

These evaluation factors shall determine the successful proposal.

D.02 RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF EVALUATION FACTORS

Unless noted, no weight will be assigned to the Evaluation Factors stated above.

D.03 PRELIMINARY RANKING

An evaluation committee shall determine from the responses to this Request for Proposal and subsequent investigation as necessary, the Proposer(s) most qualified to be selected to negotiate an agreement.

D.04 REVIEW OF PROPOSERS AND PROPOSALS

In-person reviews may be conducted with responsible Proposers who are deemed reasonably susceptible of being selected for award, for the purposes of assuring full understanding of: (a) conformance to the solicitation requirements, (b) the abilities of the Proposer, and (c) the proposal submitted.

Proposers shall be available for presentations to and interviews with the evaluation committee, upon reasonable notification from the Purchasing Division. The date(s) and time(s) of any such presentations / interviews shall be determined solely by the County, and may be closed to the public in the discretion of the Purchasing Official, and to the extent permitted by law.

D.05 SELECTION FOR NEGOTIATION

The evaluation committee will make a recommendation to the County Administrator as to the proposer which the County should enter into negotiations. The County Administrator will act upon that recommendation and, if accepted, the successful Proposer will be invited to enter negotiations led by the Purchasing Division.

D.06 AWARD

Award of an agreement is subject to the successful negotiations and the approval of either the County Administrator or the Board of County Commissioners (as provided for in the current Purchasing Code and Procurement Procedures).

END SECTION D

SECTION E: NEGOTIATION OF THE AGREEMENT

E.01 GENERAL

The following general terms and conditions apply to the proposal submitted for consideration and the subsequent negotiations:

- a. The proposal will serve as a basis for negotiating an agreement, but not compel adherence to its terms or conditions.
- b. Upon submission, all proposals become the property of the County which has the right to use any or all ideas presented in any proposal submitted in response to this Request for Proposal whether or not the proposal is accepted.
- c. All products and papers produced in the course of this engagement become the property of the County upon termination or completion of the engagement.

E.02 AGREEMENT

The selected Proposer shall be required to negotiate an agreement, in a form and with provisions acceptable to Manatee County.

Negotiated Agreements may or may not include all elements of this RFP or the resulting successful proposal where alternative terms or conditions become more desirable to the County, and the parties agree to such terms.

The parties will negotiate the term of the agreement, and the circumstances in which it may be renewed, assigned or terminated.

The parties will negotiate matters of insurance, liability, record-keeping, auditing, and all other relevant contractual matters.

END SECTION E

ATTACHMENT A

PROPOSAL SIGNATURE FORM RFP #16-2076EC

The undersigned represents that by signing the proposal, that he/she has the authority and approval of the legal entity purporting to submit the proposal, and that all of the facts and responses set forth in the proposal are true and correct. If the proposer is selected by the County to negotiate an agreement, the undersigned certifies that the proposer's negotiators will negotiate in good faith to establish an agreement to provide the services described in the Scope of Services of this Request for Proposal.

Print or Type Proposer's Information Below:

Name of Proposer

Telephone Number

Street Address

Email Address

Web Address

Print Name & Title of Authorized Officer

Signature of Authorized Officer

Date Signed

Acknowledge Addendum No.	_____	Dated:	_____
Acknowledge Addendum No.	_____	Dated:	_____
Acknowledge Addendum No.	_____	Dated:	_____

ATTACHMENT B

PUBLIC CONTRACTING AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES CERTIFICATION

SWORN STATEMENT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE V, MANATEE COUNTY PURCHASING CODE

THIS FORM MUST BE SIGNED AND SWORN TO IN THE PRESENCE OF A NOTARY PUBLIC OR OTHER OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED TO ADMINISTER OATHS.

This sworn statement is submitted to the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners by _____.
[print individual's name and title]

_____ For _____
[name of entity submitting sworn statement]

whose business address is: _____

and (if applicable) its Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) is _____. If the entity has no FEIN, include the Social Security Number of the individual signing this sworn statement:

I understand that no person or entity shall be awarded or receive a county contract for public improvements, procurement of goods or services (including professional services) or a county lease, franchise, concession or management agreement, or shall receive a grant of county monies unless such person or entity has submitted a written certification to the County that it has not:

(1) been convicted of bribery or attempting to bribe a public officer or employee of Manatee County, the State of Florida, or any other public entity, including, but not limited to the Government of the United States, any state, or any local government authority in the United States, in that officer's or employee's official capacity; or

(2) been convicted of an agreement or collusion among bidders or prospective bidders in restraint of freedom of competition, by agreement to bid a fixed price, or otherwise; or

(3) been convicted of a violation of an environmental law that, in the sole opinion of the County's Purchasing Director, reflects negatively upon the ability of the person or entity to conduct business in a responsible manner; or

(4) made an admission of guilt of such conduct described in items (1), (2) or (3) above, which is a matter of record, but has not been prosecuted for such conduct, or has made an admission of guilt of such conduct, which is a matter of record, pursuant to formal prosecution. An admission of guilt shall be construed to include a plea of nolo contendere; or

(5) where an officer, official, agent or employee of a business entity has been convicted of or has admitted guilt to any of the crimes set forth above on behalf of such and entity and pursuant to the direction or authorization of an official thereof (including the person committing the offense, if he is an official of the business entity), the business shall be chargeable with the conduct herein above set forth. A business entity shall be chargeable with the conduct of an affiliated entity, whether wholly owned, partially owned, or one which has common ownership or a common Board of Directors.

For purposes of this Form, business entities are affiliated if, directly or indirectly, one business entity controls or has the power to control another business entity, or if an individual or group of individuals controls or has the power to control both entities. Indicia of control shall include, without limitation, interlocking management or ownership, identity of interests amount family members, shared organization of a business entity following the ineligibility of a business entity

under this Article, or using substantially the same management, ownership or principles as the ineligible entity.

Any person or entity who claims that this Article is inapplicable to him/her/it because a conviction or judgment has been reversed by a court of competent jurisdiction, shall prove the same with documentation satisfactory to the County's Purchasing Director. Upon presentation of such satisfactory proof, the person or entity shall be allowed to contract with the County.

I UNDERSTAND THAT THE SUBMISSION OF THIS FORM TO THE CONTRACTING OFFICER FOR MANATEE COUNTY IS VALID THROUGH DECEMBER 31 OF THE CALENDAR YEAR IN WHICH IT IS FILED. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT ANY CONTRACT OR BUSINESS TRANSACTION SHALL PROVIDE FOR SUSPENSION OF PAYMENTS, OR TERMINATION, OR BOTH, IF THE CONTRACTING OFFICER OR THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DETERMINES THAT **SUCH PERSON OR ENTITY HAS MADE FALSE CERTIFICATION.**

[Signature]

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF _____

Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, 200____ by _____.

Personally known _____ OR Produced identification _____
[Type of identification]

Notary Public Signature My commission expires _____.

[Print, type or stamp Commissioned name of Notary Public]

Signatory Requirement - In the case of a business entity other than a partnership or a corporation, this affidavit shall be executed by an authorized agent of the entity. In the case of a partnership, this affidavit shall be executed by the general partner(s). In the case of a corporation, this affidavit shall be executed by the corporate president.