

**REQUEST FOR**  
**ARCHITECTURAL / ENGINEERING**  
**SERVICES**

August 1, 2023

**High Performance Computing and Data Center**  
UA Project No. PLN-23-3287

Issued by

Construction Administration  
The University of Alabama

Note:

This submittal will be deemed a public record and open to public inspection; therefore, this submittal should not include anything that needs to be maintained in confidence. If there is material which the proposer deems confidential, the proposer should indicate which material is deemed confidential, and that the material will be released to UA only upon a promise of confidentiality. This will allow UA to protect it against an open records request.

# High Performance Computing and Data Center

UA Project No. PLN-23-3287

Please address all submittals and clarification questions to:

**Mr. Vincent Dooley, Architectural Design Coordinator**  
**Construction Administration**  
**The University of Alabama**  
**413 Cahaba Circle**  
**Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35404**  
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## **RFQ PROJECT SCHEDULE**

August 14, 2023	Response deadline for A/E Firms
August 15-18	UA Selection Committee Evaluation I
August 21, 2023	Notification to the top ranked A/E firms
September 5 or 6, 2023	UA oral interviews (top ranked A/E firms)
September 6-7, 2023	A/E rankings and Recommendation to BOT
<b>November</b>	<b>A/E approval by UA Board of Trustees</b>

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The UA High Performance Computing and Data Center project, located at 709 Johnny Stallings Drive, Tuscaloosa, AL, will consist of new construction of an approximately 40,000 gross square feet (“gsf”) building to serve the campus academic needs, the Office of Research and Economic Development (ORED), and strategic partners. The Project will consist of the new construction of a 2-story space for the HPC equipment that will include people space for UA staff office and work areas as well as shell space for a future secure suite. The facility will be designed to provide for efficient expansion of computing over time by providing an accessible structure and shell space for both compute and support infrastructure. The building will have an aesthetic and massing to complement the surrounding architecture and promote education of next generation HPC systems to staff, students, and visitors. The project includes a dedicated

chiller plant located adjacent to the new building and all necessary vehicular access for deliveries, service vehicles, and emergency vehicles. The Project will include the purchase of HPC equipment and will provide an appropriate environment for the operation thereof.

The project will also include a new approximately 22,500 gsf electrical substation yard. The proposed site is ideally located adjacent to Alabama Power high voltage transmission lines which will provide adequate and resilient capacity for current use and projected growth. As these lines also serve a nearby hospital, their operation and reliability are considered critical and would be addressed as a priority in case of a major outage. This will help ensure the continuity of operations for the facility and support an efficient cost of initial construction due to the close proximity.

The selected site aligns with the UA Master plan. The proposed site was chosen considering multiple factors, chiefly the availability of high capacity and resilient electrical service, availability and capacity of other support infrastructure and utilities and environmental resiliency. The site and layout will also consider the any need future expansion of the Capstone College of Nursing. Programming documents are currently in the works the estimated construction cost is approximately \$45,000,000.00.

## **PROJECT GOALS`**

All construction bid packages will be competitively bid in compliance with the State of Alabama Public Works Law (Code of Alabama, Title 39).

### **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

The University is seeking Architectural & Engineering firms/teams with comprehensive data /computer center design expertise. The Architect/Engineer (A/E) firm will be responsible for providing architectural and engineering designs to satisfy the UA design standards and guidelines, the Alabama Division of Construction Management standards, and the State Building Code, as well as any other applicable codes for this type of project. **Please upload/submit one (1) electronic copy using the link below by 5:00 pm local time on Friday, August 14, 2023.**

[Link to upload submissions:](#)

<https://alabama.app.box.com/f/11e6aa9c837b442eb69605db5576964d>

File name: (firm's name) HPC Data Center-UARFQ.pdf

### **SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:**

Respondents shall carefully read the information contained in the following criteria and respond in their application.

#### **ONE: RESPONDENT'S STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS** (Score 1-5)

- A. Describe your firm's experience working with other universities and state agencies.
- B. Describe your firm's experience working with The University of Alabama.
  - a. The UA desires to have input in the procurement of consultants once the top ranked firm is selected.
- C. The UA encourages the use of certified minority-owned businesses and certified women-owned businesses in its construction program. Describe your firm's approach in soliciting certified minority-owned or women-owned firms and consultants.

#### **TWO: RESPONDENT'S PERFORMANCE ON PAST REPRESENTATIVE PROJECTS** (Score 1-5)

- A. Identify and describe the proposed team's past experience providing A/E services that are **identical or similar** to this project within the last ten (10) years. List the projects in order of priority, with the most relevant project listed first.
- B. Provide references (for each project listed above, identify the following):
  - The Owner's name and their representative who served as the day-to-day liaison during the design and construction phases of the project, including current contact information.

The Owner may contact these references during this qualification process.

- C. Has your firm/organization within the past seven (7) years ever been terminated from a design project? If yes, please give pertinent details.

#### **THREE: LITIGATION AND CLAIMS** (Score 1-5)

- A. Does your firm/organization or any of its officers currently have any judgments, claims, arbitration, or mediation proceedings pending or outstanding? If yes, please give pertinent details and outcome(s).
- B. Has your firm/organization within the past seven (7) years filed any lawsuits or

requested arbitration or mediation proceedings in regard to any of your construction projects? If yes, please give pertinent details and outcome(s).

**FOUR: RESPONDENT'S ABILITY TO MEET INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS**

(Score 1-5)

- A. Does your firm/organization have the ability to meet all the UA insurance requirements? (See attached)
- B. What is your process for managing any claims of the contractors during the project?

**FIVE: PROJECT SPECIFIC CRITERIA** (Score 1-5)

- A. Describe and provide examples of your firm's sensitivity to the massing, architectural design and detailing as it pertains to surrounding building for contextual consistency.
- B. What is your design approach or methodology and design approach with projects where expansion and/or flexibility is paramount?
- C. Describe your firm's experience with the coordination/collaboration with specialized consultants where their scope was a major portion of the project scope.
- D. Discuss your experience with multiple bid packages and design alternates on major projects.

**SELECTION PROCESS:**

Upon receipt, submittals will be evaluated by the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee will rank the A/E firms accordingly to participate in oral Interviews (usually top three). A project program (if applicable or complete) will be sent to all top ranked A/E's to assist with their oral interviews. Following oral interview evaluations, the top ranked A/E firms will be recommended to the Board of Trustees for approval. A contract will be negotiated with the top-ranked A/E firm as approved by the Board of Trustees. If a contract can be negotiated, then that firm will be selected. If a contract cannot be negotiated, then negotiations with the next highest ranked A/E firm will commence until an agreement satisfactory to UA is reached. Preference shall be granted to an Alabama-based firm when qualities are comparable. This project is subject to approval by the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama.

Note:

Upon entering into an Agreement, the selected firm will be required to submit a Vendor Disclosure Statement. Samples of these documents are attached for your review.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Insurance Requirements
- B. Vendor Disclosure Statement