

**761—20.2(307) Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise specifies:

“*Bidder*” means a respondent to a solicitation as a bidder, offeror or contractor.

“*Competition*” means the efforts of three or more parties acting independently to secure a contract with the department to provide equipment, materials, supplies or services to the department by offering or being in a position to offer the most favorable terms. “Favorable terms” includes, but is not limited to: price, speed of execution, anticipated quality of the product to be provided judged according to the expertise and experience of the provider, or ability to produce a desired result or to provide a desired commodity.

“*Firm*” means any bona fide contracting entity, including individuals, public mitigation banks and educational institutions. Except for educational institutions, the term is not to include governmental agencies or political subdivisions.

“*Methods of procurement*” means formal solicitation, informal solicitation, or negotiation as follows:

1. “*Formal solicitation*” means procurement by competition through public advertising of bid documents stating departmental needs.

2. “*Informal solicitation*” means procurement by obtaining a sufficient number of quotations, bids or proposals from qualified sources.

3. “*Negotiation*” means any method of procurement other than formal solicitation or informal solicitation to seek the best and final offer that is most advantageous to the department.

“*Professional and technical services*” means services that are unique, technical, or infrequent functions performed by independent contractors whose occupation is the rendering of such services. Contracts may go to partnerships, firms, or corporations as procured through formal and informal solicitation or negotiation methods outlined in rules 761—20.3(307) through 761—20.6(307). Architectural, landscape architectural, surveying, general engineering consultant, construction inspection, or engineering services and other related professional and technical services are outlined in rule 761—20.9(307).

“*Response*” means the submittal of written documents by a prospective bidder, offeror or contractor as a response to any type of solicitation issued by the department for a quotation, bid or proposal.

“*Solicitation*” means the request by the department for a quotation, bid or proposal. This includes but is not limited to the complete assembly of related documents (whether attached or incorporated by reference) furnished to prospective bidders for the purpose of responding to a solicitation.

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