



Request for Proposals (RFP)

Independent Evaluator (IE) for Idaho Power Company's (IPC) 2026 All-Source Request for Proposals for Energy and Capacity Resources

Zycus Sourcing Event #: 1316693953

RFP Issued: November 1, 2022

RFP Response November 15, 2022

Idaho Power Company

Attn: Resource RFP Team

P.O. Box 70

Boise, ID 83707

ResourceRFP@idahopower.com

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1. Disclaimer

The information contained in this Request for Proposals (RFP) is presented to assist interested parties in deciding whether or not to submit a proposal. Idaho Power Company (Idaho Power or IPC), an operating company subsidiary of IDACORP, Inc., is issuing this RFP to solicit formal proposals from qualified companies (each a Respondent) and does not represent this information to be comprehensive or to contain all of the information that a Respondent may need to consider in order to submit a proposal. None of IPC, its affiliates, or their respective employees, directors, officers, customers, agents and consultants makes, or will be deemed to have made, any current or future representation, promise or warranty, express or implied, as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of the information contained herein, or in any document or information made available to a Respondent, whether or not the aforementioned parties knew or should have known of any errors or omissions, or were responsible for their inclusion in, or omission from, this RFP. No part of this RFP and no part of any subsequent correspondence by IPC, its affiliates, or their respective employees, directors, officers, customers, agents or consultants shall be taken as providing legal, financial or other advice or as establishing a contract or contractual obligation.

IPC reserves the right to request from Respondent information that is not explicitly detailed in this document, obtain clarification from Respondents concerning proposals, conduct contract development and other discussions with selected Respondents, and conduct discussions with members of the evaluation team and other support resources as described in this RFP. The requirements specified in this RFP reflect those presently known. IPC reserves the right to vary, in detail, the requirements and/or to issue addenda to the RFP. In the event it becomes necessary to revise any part of the RFP, addenda will be provided to Respondents included in the current and applicable stage of the RFP.

The issuance of this RFP does not obligate IPC to purchase any product or services offered by Respondent or any other entity. Furthermore, IPC may choose, at its sole discretion, to abandon the RFP process in its entirety. Respondents agree that they submit proposals without recourse against IPC, IDACORP Inc., any of IDACORP Inc.'s affiliates, or any of their respective employees, agents, officers, or directors for failure to accept an offer for any reason. IPC also may decline to enter into any agreement with any Respondent, terminate negotiations with any Respondent or abandon the RFP process in its entirety at any time, for any reason and without notice thereof. Respondents that submit proposals agree to do so without legal recourse against IPC, its affiliates, or their respective employees, directors, officers, customers, agents or consultants for rejection of their proposals or for failure to execute an agreement for any reason. IPC and its affiliates shall not be liable to any Respondent or other party in law or equity for any reason whatsoever for any acts or omissions arising out of or in connection with this RFP. Respondent shall conform in all material respects to all applicable laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations and nothing in this RFP shall be construed to require IPC or Respondent to act in a manner contrary to law. Except as otherwise provided in the rules and orders of the state Oregon, and Oregon Public Utilities Commission (Oregon Commission), by submitting its proposal, a Respondent waives any right to challenge any valuation by IPC of its proposal. Respondent whose proposal may be selected in response to this RFP acknowledges that it assumes full legal responsibility for the accuracy, validity, and legality of the work provided in conformance with this RFP. By submitting its proposal, a Respondent waives any right to challenge any determination of IPC to select or reject its proposal. IPC reserves the right to accept the proposal in whole or in part, and to award to more than one Respondent. Furthermore, Respondent understands that any "award" by IPC does not obligate IPC in any way. IPC will not be obligated to any party unless and until IPC executes a definitive agreement between the parties. Respondent will absorb all costs incurred in responding to this RFP, including without limitation, costs related to the preparation and presentation of its response, supplemental responses, and negotiation and documentation of agreements. All materials submitted by the Respondent immediately become the property of IPC. Any exception will require written agreement by both parties prior to the time of submission. In responding to this RFP, Respondent shall adhere to best business and ethical practices. Respondent shall adhere to IPC's Supplier Code of Conduct, available at www.idahopower.com. Respondent is specifically notified that failure to comply with any part of this RFP may result in disqualification of the proposal.

2. Company Background

IDACORP, Inc. is a holding company formed in 1998. Comprised of regulated and non-regulated businesses, its origins lie with Idaho Power, a regulated electric utility that began operations in 1916. Today, IPC is the largest regulated

electric utility in the state of Idaho and IDACORP's chief subsidiary. IPC serves over 600,000 residential, business, agricultural, and industrial customers. The IPC's service area covers approximately 24,000 square miles, including portions of eastern Oregon. Learn more about Idaho Power at www.idahopower.com.

IPC currently serves its customers by supplying low-cost, reliable, and clean energy. Affordable, clean hydropower is the largest source of energy for customers. Power generation comes from a diverse set of resources that continues to meet a growing demand. For a more detailed description of current generation resources, please visit: www.idahopower.com/energy-environment/energy/energy-sources.

IPC's service territory continues to experience customer growth and increasing demand (load) for electricity. IPC anticipates sustained load growth that will require the procurement of resources to meet energy and capacity needs and to maintain system reliability. Additionally, IPC is interested in the procurement of potential economic energy resources, as detailed in IPC's 2021 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) results, to supplement IPC's existing portfolio of resources.

3. Purpose of Solicitation

IPC is issuing this RFP to solicit formal proposals from Respondents for an Independent Evaluator (IE) to conform with Oregon Competitive Bidding Rules set forth in Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 860-089¹ during IPC's facilitation of an all-source request for proposals (2026 RFP) to solicit future energy and capacity resources. IPC operates in both the State of Oregon and the State of Idaho, and as such will communicate directly with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (Idaho Commission), in addition to adhering to the processes set forth in the Oregon competitive bidding rules. As an IE, the successful Respondent shall be required to perform specific activities as further detailed in this IE RFP.

An IE will be retained by IPC to oversee the 2026 RFP process under the rules set forth in and required by OAR 860-089 and as such the selected IE shall operate independent of IPC and potential Respondents to the 2026 RFP and shall report directly to the Oregon Commission. The Oregon Commission-selected IE shall be experienced and competent to perform all IE functions identified in and required by Oregon's competitive bidding rules as further detailed in Section 7 – Scope of Work, of this RFP.

IPC shall contract directly with the Oregon Commission-selected IE by executing IPC's Professional Services Agreement, included as **Attachment A – Professional Services Agreement** to this RFP.

3.1 Solicitation Background

IPC will issue a 2026 RFP to solicit formal proposals for electric energy and capacity delivered from electric resources to meet IPC's needs as initially identified in IPC's 2021 IRP, with updated load and resource balance expected deficits and as further described in **Attachment E – Explanation of Proposed Market Purchase Volumes for 2026 RFP** to this RFP.

IPC's 2021 IRP was filed on December 30, 2021. To ensure IPC is able to meet the needs identified in IPC's 2021 IRP Action Plan, IPC must acquire energy and capacity resources to be commercially operational no later than June 1, 2026. The addition of energy and capacity resources is critical to ensure IPC can continue to reliably serve its customers.

IPC's 2026 RFP will accept qualified proposals and evaluate all resource types (energy market purchases and new or existing resources) and use IPC's long-term capacity expansion and production cost simulation modeling tool (AURORA) during the 2026 RFP final short list evaluation process to evaluate and determine the final short list resources that provide the most economic benefit, and the lowest risk to IPC's system in compliance with the rules set in OAR 860-089. Refer to **Attachment C – IPC's Proposed 2026 RFP Bid Evaluation and Selection Process** and **Attachment E – Explanation of Proposed Market Purchase Volumes for 2026 RFP** for more detail.

IPC will submit self-build ownership proposals as benchmark resources and may allow for affiliate submittals. The inclusion of benchmark resource(s) from IPC will require the selected IE to do supplemental assessments

¹ [OAR 860-089](http://www.oregon.gov/energy/860-089).

regarding the reasonableness of scoring as well as the unique risks and advantages of available ownership structures. To ensure that an Independent Evaluator is familiar with Oregon state law and Commission policy regarding the allowance for diverse ownership of procured resources, please review the Oregon Competitive Bidding Rules included in **Attachment B – Oregon Competitive Bidding Rules (Order 18-324)**. IPC’s benchmark resource submittals will be submitted to the IE no later than seven (7) days prior to the receipt of market bids. Market bids shall not be opened until the IE and IPC’s evaluation team has reviewed, evaluated, and validated any and all benchmark resources bids submitted.

3.2 Competitive Bidding Rules

The Oregon Commission issued rules on competitive bidding for resource acquisitions, where a company seeks to acquire resources or contracts with a duration greater than five years and the quantity size is greater than 80 MW.² The 2026 RFP is subject to these rules as further described in **Attachment B – Oregon Competitive Bidding Rules (Order 18-324)**.

Under the Oregon Commission’s competitive bidding rules, an IE must be used in each resource RFP that meets the duration and size criteria above to help ensure that all offers are treated fairly, transparently, properly, and consistently. The IE is tasked with ensuring the 2026 RFP bid evaluation and selection process are also consistent with the rules. Through regular contact with the Commission and the Company, the IE will ensure the RFP design is fair, allows for consideration of diverse ownership structures, includes reasonable commercial terms, fairly scores bids, and makes appropriate selections for the initial and final shortlists.

4. Solicitation Portal and Restriction on Communications

IPC has opened a web-based portal hosted on the Zycus platform (the Portal). All information exchanged between the Respondent and IPC concerning this solicitation must be via the Portal only from the time the Portal is open until it is closed by IPC. The Portal allows a Respondent to see only its own information and not the information of other Respondents.

IPC has the ability to communicate with Respondents through the Portal. Other than written communication through the Portal, Respondents are prohibited from communicating with IPC employees, representatives, Staff, or Board Members regarding this solicitation during the period in which the Portal is open. Restricted communication includes, but is not limited to, “thank you” letters, phone calls, emails, and any contact that results in the direct or indirect discussion of this solicitation and/or submitted proposals. Violation of this provision by Respondents or their agents may lead to disqualification.

The web link to the Portal hosted by Zycus is: www.zycus.com

Respondent is responsible for ensuring it has registered for the Portal by **November 4, 2022**, and posts documents to, the correct Portal hosted by Zycus. The Respondent registering for access to the Portal must be a representative of the Respondent and counterparty with which IPC will engage in any future negotiations, and not consultants or attorneys for the Respondent.

Respondent must not disclose its participation in this solicitation (other than by attendance at any meeting held by IPC with respect to this solicitation) or collaborate on or discuss with any other Respondent or potential Respondent bidding strategies or the substance of any proposal(s), including without limitation the price or any other terms or conditions of any proposal(s).

Questions regarding the Portal should be directed to:

Idaho Power Company
Request for Resource Team
resourceRFP@idahopower.com

² OAR 860-089-0100(1)(a).

5. Key Events and Dates, Questions, and Submission of Bids

5.1 IPC IE RFP Schedule

The following key events and dates reflect the proposed schedule for the selection of the IE, and includes known major milestones. IPC reserves the right to alter the dates listed below, and further add or remove milestones, in accordance with direct written consent from the Commission.

EVENT	DATE
Issue IPC IE RFP	November 1, 2022
Last Day for IE Respondents to register in Zycus Portal	November 4, 2022
Last Day for Respondents to Submit Questions and/or Comments	November 9, 2022
IE Bids Due	November 15, 2022
Oregon Commission Public Meeting Approving IE (tentative)	December 13, 2022
Contract Execution with Selected IE (tentative)	December 29, 2022
Developer Agreement Negotiation	January 2024
Commercial Operation Date	June 1, 2026
<i>*It is important to note this schedule reflects services to be provided over possible holiday schedules. It is Idaho Power's expectation that services shall be provided in accordance with this timeline.</i>	

5.2 Questions

Respondents should carefully review this RFP for questions, clarifications, defects, and questionable or objectionable material. Comments and questions concerning clarifications, defects, and questionable or objectionable material shall be submitted via the third-party solicitation tool Zycus. No questions will be accepted by IPC after this date.

Protests based on any omission or error, or on the content of this solicitation, will be disallowed if they have not been brought to the attention of IPC in the timeframe outlined in this document.

5.3 Submission of Bids

One (1) proposal may be submitted electronically via the Portal, no later than **5:00 PM Mountain Standard Time on November 15, 2022**. Proposals received after this time and date will **NOT** be accepted.

All copies of the proposal and accompanying documentation become the property of IPC and will not be returned.

6. Confidentiality and Proprietary Information

All information submitted by Respondent will be considered public information unless Respondent requests that information be treated as confidential, and the information is considered exempt under Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 192.345 or 192.355. In such case, where a Respondent declares any information contained in its submittal to be confidential, Respondent must specifically identify those sections as containing "Confidential Information", and further detail how and why the information is exempt from disclosure to the public in accordance with ORS 192.345 or 192.355. Specifically, any and all documents submitted and exchanged between the parties that contain Confidential Information shall be marked on the outside as containing Confidential Information, and additionally each page upon which Confidential Information appears must be marked as containing Confidential Information. The Confidential Information should be clearly identifiable to the reader wherever it appears.

All copies submitted, including but not limited to the original proposal, must be marked in the manner identified above. The request made by Respondent to IPC to declare information as Confidential Information must also include the: i) name; ii) address; and iii) telephone number of the person authorized by the Respondent to answer any inquiries made by IPC to Respondent concerning the confidential status of submitted materials. IPC agrees to treat such information as Confidential Information and to submit such Confidential Information to the Oregon Commission, and other parties in accordance with a protective order.

Furthermore, Respondent agrees that certain Oregon Commission-authorized entities must be allowed to review such confidential materials.

Any and all information supplied to IPC or generated internally by IPC is and shall remain the property of IPC. To the extent Respondent received information from IPC, Respondent must maintain the confidentiality of such Confidential Information, and such Confidential Information may not be provided to any third-party before, during, or after this IE RFP process unless required by law or regulatory order.

To the extent the Respondent selected as the IE for IPC’s 2026 RFP receives such information from IPC, the selected IE must maintain the confidentiality of such Confidential Information, and such Confidential Information may not be provided to any third-party before, during, or after IPC’s 2026 RFP process unless required by law or regulatory order.

7. Scope of Work

7.1 Deliverables

IPC’s 2026 RFP is being issued in response to the energy and capacity needs identified in IPC’s 2021 IRP and ***Attachment E – Explanation of Proposed Market Purchase Volumes for 2026 RFP*** to this RFP. Consequently, Respondents should fully consider the below scope of work, and schedule through the selection of the initial shortlist, final shortlist, and IE closing report in their submittals in order to meet IPC’s identified energy and capacity deficits.

Review 2026 RFP

The IE will review the initial draft 2026 RFP developed by IPC prior to filing of the draft 2026 RFP with the Oregon Commission, and consult with IPC on changes to the draft RFP. After IPC files the draft 2026 RFP with the Oregon Commission, the IE will prepare for and participate in a workshop concerning the filed draft 2026 RFP, and review filings by Commission Staff and others concerning the 2026 RFP. The selected IE will also review stakeholder comments, provide feedback, and suggest modifications to the draft 2026 RFP prior to IPC’s filing of the final 2026 RFP with the Commission.³

Review 2026 RFP Modeling Assumptions and Sensitivities

Prior to receipt of benchmark proposals and market proposals, the IE will review the assumptions to be used by IPC in its quantitative evaluation of the proposals including those for its AURORA capacity expansion and production cost simulation. After receipt of proposals and performance of the initial modeling, the IE will prepare for and participate in meetings with IPC, Oregon Commission Staff, and parties to determine modeling sensitivities to be performed by IPC.

Reports

As further described below, the selected IE shall complete and file the following required RFP reports with the Oregon Commission:

1. ***Final Draft RFP Assessment***: The IE will prepare and submit to the Oregon Commission an assessment of the final draft 2026 RFP (the “IE RFP Assessment Report”) in conjunction with IPC’s filing of the 2026 RFP with the Oregon Commission for approval.⁴ The IE RFP Assessment Report shall review the adequacy, accuracy, and completeness of all solicitation materials to ensure compliance with the Oregon Commission’s competitive bidding requirements and consistency with accepted industry standards and practices.
2. ***Bid Scoring***: The IE shall independently score the competing bids and file the correlating scores with the Oregon Commission.⁵ As described herein, IPC may submit multiple benchmark bids, and as such this task shall be completed prior to providing results to the Oregon Commission.

³ OAR 860-089-0450(3).

⁴ OAR 860-089-0450(3).

⁵ OAR 860-089-0450(7).

3. Sensitivity Analysis: The IE shall review IPC's sensitivity analysis for the final shortlist as completed per OAR 860-089-0400(5)(b) and file a written assessment with the Oregon Commission.⁶
4. Closing Report: The Closing Report shall provide the IE's detailed assessment of IPC's selection of the final shortlist of submitted bid, including but not limited to, all aspects of the solicitation process and the IE's involvement, observations, conclusions, and recommendations.⁷ Additionally, the selected IE shall wholly detail the reasons and basis for IPC's evaluation and selection process including: a) ranking benchmark and market bids; b) selecting and scoring benchmark and market bids; and c) rejecting benchmark and market bids.

The IE shall ensure the Closing Report includes an analysis of whether or to the extent which:

- The resources selected minimize long-term costs for IPC's customers taking into consideration the overall system cost and risk impacts;
- The solicitation process was fair;
- Screening factors and weights were applied consistently and comparably to all benchmark and market bids;
- Credit and security requirements, liquidated damages provisions, resource performance and operational characteristics, warranties, and other similar requirements were appropriately applied during the bid evaluation, and appropriately affected the outcome of the solicitation process;
- All reasonably available data and information necessary for a potential bidder to submit a bid was provided;
- The IE was provided with, or given access to all data, information, and models relevant to the solicitation process to permit full and timely scoring, testing, and verification of assumptions, models, inputs, outputs, and results;
- Confidentiality claims and concerns between the IE and IPC were resolved in a manner that preserved confidentiality as necessary, yet permitted dissemination and consideration of all information reasonably necessary for the bidding process to be fairly and thoroughly conducted; and
- The evaluation was performed consistent with Oregon Commission-approved competitive bidding rules.

Furthermore, the Closing Report shall include:

- The selected IE's independent scoring of any and all bids, or a sample of such bids to determine whether the selections for the initial and final shortlists are reasonable. The Oregon Commission may request that all bids be scored by the IE, if a participant in the final shortlist acknowledgement proceeding requests the Oregon Commission to direct the IE to score and compare all bids;⁸ and
- Comparison between IPC's and the IE's scoring and evaluation of the competing bids following a meeting with IPC to attempt to reconcile and resolve any scoring differences, including but not limited to an explanation of the reconciliation process and any remaining differences.
- The IE will be required to disclose any conflict of interest regarding any of the actual 2026 RFP bidding in the Closing Report.
- An evaluation of the unique risks and advantages associated with available ownership structures (including the Benchmark Resource(s) as well as third-party bids where applicable.

⁶ OAR 860-089-0450(8).

⁷ OAR 860-089-0450(9).

⁸ OAR 860-089-0450(5).

7.2 Other Activities

The IE shall also participate in other activities as necessary and at the request of the Oregon Commission, including but not limited to:

1. Confer with the Oregon Commission and Oregon Commission Staff on an as needed basis, either by phone, email, or virtual meeting, regarding IE duties;⁹
2. In consultation with the Oregon Commission and Oregon Commission Staff, participate in additional meetings related to final shortlist selection or any request for acknowledgement of the final shortlist, with parties to be hosted by Oregon Commission Staff;
3. Participate in any pre-bid RFP conference, or subsequent recording, and be available to discuss the IE role in the 2026 RFP process;
4. Review and comment on IPC's screening process as it relates to bidder eligibility;
5. Participate in any Oregon Commission public meeting (as necessary) related to the Oregon Commission's consideration of the 2026 RFP approval, based on the IE's assessment of the 2026 RFP design;
6. Monitor all aspects of the solicitation process from issuance through the final shortlist of bids, including but not limited to:
 - a. Opening and cataloging of benchmark and market bids, including associated bid fees;
 - b. Bidder eligibility screening;
 - c. Communications between bidders and IPC both before and after proposals are due;
 - d. Any requested bidder updates;
 - e. Any amendments to the 2026 RFP as issued by IPC;
 - f. Evaluation and ranking of responses;
 - g. Selection of the initial shortlist bids;
 - h. Selection of the final shortlist bids; and
 - i. Monitoring the solicitation process, discussion with bidders, and contract negotiations through the acknowledgement of the final shortlist

It is important to note, the IE may be requested by Oregon Commission Staff to perform additional monitoring for the period between the acknowledgement process and contract finalization. Such requests will be made by the Oregon Commission to IPC, further directing IPC to issue a revised scope of work and request an incremental cost estimate from the IE, which, if acceptable to the Oregon Commission, will result in an amended contract with the IE.

7. Audit the evaluation process and validate that the evaluation criteria, methods, models, and other solicitation processes have been applied as approved by the Oregon Commission, and consistently and appropriately applied to all bids. Verify assumptions, inputs, outputs, and results are appropriate and reasonable;
8. Verify the basis for selection of the initial shortlist bids, including:
 - a. Verifying that the price score is calculated appropriately for the product and technologies submitted, using real-levelized or annuity methods;¹⁰ and

⁹ OAR 860-089-0450(2).

¹⁰ OAR 860-089-0400(2)(a).

- b. Verifying that the non-price score is based on resource characteristics identified in IPC's 2021 IRP (e.g., resource term, type, development, operational characteristics, etc.), and materially conform to the standard form contracts or term sheets attached to the 2026 RFP,¹¹ and further verifying that the non-price criteria is objective and can be reasonably self-calculated by bidders.¹²
9. Verify the basis for selection of the final shortlist of bids, including:
 - a. Verifying the impact of IPC's transmission interconnection agreements, including any study reports setting forth the cost and timing of each project's interconnection services on the selection of the final shortlist from the initial shortlist;
 - b. Verifying the results of modeling the effect of candidate resources on overall costs and risks to IPC's system; and
 - c. Verifying that the portfolio modeling and decision criteria used to select the final shortlist of bids are consistent with the modeling and decision criteria used to develop IPC's 2021 RFP.
10. Advise IPC and Oregon Commission Staff of any issue that might reasonably be construed to affect the integrity of the solicitation process and provide IPC an opportunity to remedy the issue identified. Advise Oregon Commission Staff of significant changes or unresolved issues as they arise;
11. Independently score all or a sample of the benchmark and market bids to determine whether the selections for the initial and final shortlists are reasonable. Subsequently, based on an initial sample of the bids, the IE shall use its judgement and in consultation with Oregon Commission Staff, determine whether independent scoring of all bids is appropriate;
12. Independently evaluate the unique risks and advantages associated with the benchmark bid(s) or a bid using a build-transfer agreement structure as contemplated in the 2026 RFP, including the issues identified in OAR 860-089-0450(6) and regulatory treatment of costs or benefits related to actual plant operation costs and performance differing from what was assessed in the 2026 RFP;
13. Compare the IE and IPC scoring and evaluation of the competing bids and attempt to reconcile and resolve any scoring differences;
14. Participate in any Oregon Commission proceedings on acknowledgement of the final shortlist of bids, in such case IPC requests such acknowledgement. Such participation shall include any and all oral comments made at an Oregon Commission public meeting or hearing; and
15. Participate in any additional meetings with parties at the request of the Oregon Commission or IPC.

8. Content of Proposals

Respondent(s) submitting a proposal shall use the following outline and criteria, and fully demonstrate Respondent(s) qualifications to meet the *Mandatory Minimum Qualifications* as detailed below in Section 9.1.

- Cover Letter and Introduction – Provide a general introduction and information about your firm (2 pages maximum).
- Company and Project Organization – Provide detailed information describing how your firm is organized along with a description of key personnel to be assigned to IPC's 2026 RFP. Respondent shall describe each task and responsibility assigned to such personnel, and include specific highlights of relevant prior experience on similar projects. Please note the duration of the 2026 RFP when developing organization and assignments. Such assignments and responsibilities shall be broken down

¹¹ IPC must allow bidders on the final shortlist to negotiate mutually agreeable final contract terms that are different from ones in the standard form contracts.

¹² OAR 860-089-0400(2)(b).

- and described by task. The respondent shall highlight illustrations of relevant prior experience on similar projects.
- Qualifications – Provide a description of specific qualifications to perform this work, including but not limited to relevant projects completed in the last five (5) years. Respondents shall additionally include qualifications and expertise of team members to be assigned to this project.
 - Client References – Provide a least three (3) references from clients for which Respondent’s firm has performed similar services, as described in this RFP in the past five (5) years, including performance references for similar IE projects with other regulated utilities.
 - Approach and Additional Submittals – Respondent shall submit a detailed description of how the Respondent intends to perform the services required in this RFP, including a narrative of the Respondent’s assessment for the services to be performed, and the resources necessary to fulfill the requirements set forth in this RFP. Respondent shall demonstrate clear and concise understanding of the IE’s performance expectations, and clearly indicate alternative solutions (if any). Additionally, Respondent shall provide the following:
 - Detailed experience with production costs models and an initial assessment of IPC’s scoring methods and long-term expansion models (AURORA) to be utilized with the 2026 RFP as described in **Attachment C – IPC’s Proposed 2026 RFP Bid Evaluation and Selection Process**, specifically on its consistency with IPC’s 2021 RFP modeling process, and the Oregon competitive bidding rules addressing the evaluation criteria.¹³
 - Experience and competence in assessment, evaluation, and monitoring related to competitive bidding for renewable and non-renewable resources that may or may not include a battery energy storage system (BESS), or other energy storage. Respondent should specifically document experience with assessing Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), Build-Transfer Agreements (BTAs), and tolling agreements. Such experience should include evaluation power supply alternatives including, but not limited to, production cost modeling to evaluate cost and risk.
 - Experience and competence in assessment, evaluation, and monitoring related to competitive bidding for generation resources and firm transmission with the Western Electric Coordinating Council (WECC).
 - Demonstrated knowledge of existing or anticipated renewable portfolio standards within the WECC.
 - Experience evaluating a competitive bidding process that involves examination of interconnections studies issued in accordance with Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT) interconnection processing rules common to vertically integrated utilities that are outside organized markets.
 - Work samples demonstrating such expertise and competence, including work samples demonstrating the Respondent’s willingness and ability to work independent of utilities. For prior RFP experience, please include: 1) the types of resource ownership structures considered; 2) any recommendations that you have made as part of an RFP or would potentially make as part of this RFP to increase benefits and/or reduce risk to ratepayers; 3) any recommendations that you have made as part of an RFP or would potentially make as part of this RFP to provide an opportunity for diverse ownership; and 4) a description of experience overseeing final resource selection and how you have or would ensure that it is done fairly, transparently, and properly.
 - IPC’s RFP allows bid structures that include build-transfer agreements and power purchase agreements. Under a build-transfer agreement the ownership of the constructed asset is ultimately transferred to IPC. Consistent with the Oregon competitive bidding rules, how will you

¹³ OAR 860-089-0400(2).

as the independent evaluator ensure that the PPA and the BTA are evaluated and scored on equal footing so that there is no bias toward one type of structure over another. Please provide examples of past work or recommendations that sought to ensure that the PPA and the BTA are evaluated and scored on equal footing so that there is no bias toward one type of structure over another.

- Work samples demonstrating such expertise and competence, including work samples demonstrating the Respondents willingness and ability to rigorously review, evaluate, and critique a utility RFP for firm transmission, generation capacity, and energy resources including storage.
- Experience with the use of electronic platform for management of bid submittal, communication, and documentation evaluation.
- Declaration of any conflicts of interest by identifying the conflict, or potential conflict of interest, that may arise during the course of the 2026 RFP solicitation.
- Disclosure of any past, current, or anticipated future relationship with, or work for, IPC or any affiliate, and any public utility regulatory agency in any of the states served by IPC. Respondent shall include specific dates, nature of relationship, and scope of any such relationship in this disclosure.
- **Cost and Fees** – Respondent shall submit a cost proposal that includes fixed lump sum pricing for each segment of services, as detailed in **Attachment D – Respondent Pricing Proposal**. Additionally, Respondent shall submit the following:
 - Personnel itemized costs, broken down by:
 - Personnel category (i.e., project manager, administrative personnel, etc.);
 - Names of personnel to be used in each personnel category;
 - Estimate of hours for each task performed;
 - Hourly rates for each person; and
 - Subtotal for each category and personnel cost.
 - Itemized cost of materials, and supplies including a subtotal for each element
 - Fully itemized transportation and related costs, separated into the following categories:
 - Travel;
 - Lodging;
 - Meals and other costs; and a
 - Subtotal for each transportation category and related costs.

9. RFP Evaluation Criteria and Process

9.1 Mandatory Minimum Qualifications

As directed by the Oregon Commission and for the purposes of this RFP, the selected IE must be independent of IPC and potential bidders into the 2026 RFP. The following minimum requirements must be demonstrated by Respondent(s):

- Respondent shall be experienced and competent to perform all IE function identified in the competitive bid guidelines and requirements of the Oregon Commission;
- Respondent shall disclose any and all business conducted with IPC or its affiliates, past or present;

- Respondent shall disclose any conflict, or potential conflict of interest, that might arise during the course of the solicitation process, including any potential bidders in IPC’s 2026 RFP;
- Respondent shall re-confirm, upon receipt of the 2026 RFP bidder list, that the Respondent has no conflict of interest with any of the bidders or their affiliates;
- Respondent shall demonstrate its experience and competence in assessment, evaluation, and monitoring related to competitive bidding for utility energy generation and capacity resources, including renewable and thermal resources; and
- Respondent shall demonstrate its experience and competence in assessment and evaluation of storage technologies, including operational dispatch of the batteries as part of an electric utility’s resource portfolio.

9.2 Scoring Criteria

From the information provided in accordance with this RFP, IPC shall review and score the proposals based on the following three components:

- **Ability to Perform (400 points)**

Demonstrated training, experience, and ability of the Respondent and its individual staff member(s) that will be assigned to IPC’s 2026 RFP to perform the proposed services, including but not limited to:

- *50 points* – Understanding the scope of services and deliverables, as shown by the Respondent’s description of the tasks in its deliverables, understanding of the functions to be performed, and experience evaluating another type of all-source resource RFP, or other related experience outside the WECC.
- *75 points* – Specific experience reviewing an RFP for transmission, renewable, and non-renewable market purchase resources, including experience with evaluating benchmark and market bids.
- *75 points* – Experience evaluating new or existing resources, including storage options such as BESS or other types of energy storage.
- *50 points* – Experience evaluating another type of renewable resource RFP, or other related experience in the WECC.
- *75 points* – Experience with utility applications of production cost modeling specific to firm transmission, and renewable and non-renewable generation resources as part of an RFP.
- *75 points* – Initial assessment and review of the scoring methods and computer models as described in ***Attachment C – IPC’s Proposed 2026 RFP Bid Evaluation and Selection Process***.

- **Price Proposal (300 Points)**

Attachment D – Respondent Pricing Proposal will be the basis for evaluation of Respondent’s proposal of the overall cost of the project, the overall elements of that cost, and the overall appropriateness of the submitted costs in relation to the submitted proposal.

- *150 points* – Total price of the proposal, and the overall elements of that price.
- *150 points* – Overall appropriateness of the cost in relation to the submitted proposal.

- **Acceptance of Contract Documents (50 Points)**

- Respondents must provide redlines and comments to ***Attachment A – Professional Services Agreement***.

9.3 IE Selection Process

- **Evaluation**

- Initial Review – IPC and Oregon Commission Staff shall review all submitted proposals to help ensure that all prescribed provisions and procedures have been met. Proposals that do not meet all prescribed mandatory minimum qualifications, solicitation procedures and requirements, may be rejected or further eliminated from the selection process. Submitted proposals meeting the prescribed solicitation requirements will be reviewed by IPC, Oregon Commission Staff, and interested non-bidding parties.¹⁴
- Evaluation – After IPC, Oregon Commission Staff, and interested non-bidding parties have reviewed, and provided input on submitted proposals, IPC and Oregon Commission Staff will meet to discuss their finding and identify the leading Respondents for final recommendation to the Oregon Commission.
- Scoring – Respondents who submitted the highest scoring proposals shall be recommended to the Oregon Commission for its consideration.
- Recommendation to Oregon Commission – Oregon Commission Staff will issue a report for the Oregon Commission public meeting five (5) days prior to the public meeting with its recommendation for an IE for IPC’s 2026 RFP.
- Oregon Commission’s Ultimate Discretion in Selecting IE – The Commission will consider Staff’s recommendation and comments from IPC and non-bidding parties in selecting the IE, but the ultimate discretion to select an IE lies with the Oregon Commission. The Oregon Commission will direct IPC to enter into a contract with the selected IE.

- **Notification**

IPC shall notify every Respondent of its selection status.

10. Revisions to this RFP

The requirements specified in this RFP reflect those presently known. IPC reserves the right to vary, in detail, the requirements and/or to issue addenda to the RFP. IPC also reserves the right to cancel or to reissue the RFP in whole or in part, prior to the execution of a contract, if any. In the event it becomes necessary to revise any part of the RFP, addenda will be provided to Respondent(s) included in the current and applicable stage of the RFP.

11. Form of Contract

IPC directs Respondent(s) to the ***Attachment A – Professional Services Agreement***. In the event IPC decides to move forward with Respondent, Respondent will be required to enter into a legally binding contract substantially similar to this agreement. As part of this RFP, Respondent must indicate acceptance of IPC’s Professional Services Agreement in its response to this RFP. Alternatively, if the Respondent is unwilling to agree to a proposed clause or term, Respondent must provide redlines of the agreement identifying any proposed changes requested by Respondent. The agreement provided by Respondent in its response should be Respondent’s best and final offer as to the legal terms and conditions Respondent is willing to accept.

Neither the State of Oregon nor the State of Idaho will be party to the resulting agreement, and will not be responsible for any conflicts that arise between IPC and the selected IE.

12. General Information for Respondents

12.1 Small Business and Small Disadvantaged Business Program

IPC is committed to the implementation of a Small and Disadvantaged Business Program. It is the intent of IPC that small businesses owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals have the opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts awarded by IPC. Consequently, we request that

¹⁴ OAR 860-089-0200(1).

Respondent indicate its eligibility as a small business based upon the regulations in Title 13, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 121. (If in doubt, consult the Small Business Administration Office in your area).

Eligibility as a small, disadvantaged business is first based on eligibility as a small business, as noted above. Second, the business must be majority owned (51 percent or more) and controlled/managed by socially and economically disadvantaged person(s). The Small Business Administration designated the following groups as “presumed socially disadvantaged”: Black Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, and Asian-Pacific Americans. Other individuals may be found socially disadvantaged and eligible for the program on a case-by-case basis. If you have any questions, please see 13 CFR 124.1 - 124.1016 or contact your local Small Business Administration office.

12.2 Purchasing Restrictions/Prohibited Technology

Pursuant to Section 889(a)(1)(B) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, Respondent must be able to represent in its agreement with Idaho Power that Respondent does not use or have installed any telecommunications equipment, system, or service (or as a substantial or essential component of any system or as or critical technology of any system) made by any of the following companies, or any subsidiary or affiliate thereof (including companies with the same principal word in the name, e.g., “Huawei” or “Hytera”): Huawei Technologies Company; ZTE Corporation; Hytera Communications Corporation; Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company; or, Dahua Technology Company (collectively, Prohibited Technology). Prohibited Technology may include, but is not limited to, video/monitoring surveillance equipment/services, public switching and transmission equipment, private switches, cables, local area networks, modems, mobile phones, wireless devices, landline telephones, laptops, desktop computers, answering machines, teleprinters, fax machines, and routers. Prohibited Technology does not include telecommunications equipment that cannot route or redirect user data traffic or permit visibility into any user data or packets that the equipment transmits or handles.

12.3 Addenda to RFP

Any additional responses required from Respondents as a result of an Addendum to this RFP shall become part of each proposal. Respondents must acknowledge receipt of, and list all Addenda, in Respondent’s submittal.

12.4 Entire RFP

This RFP and all Exhibits, Attachments, Questionnaires, Forms, and Addenda within the Portal event are incorporated herein by this reference and represent the final expression of this RFP. Only information supplied by IPC in writing through the Portal, listed herein, or incorporated by this reference made in submittal of this RFP shall be used as the basis for the preparation of responses.

13. Attachments

Attachment A – Professional Services Agreement

Attachment B – Oregon Competitive Bidding Rules (Order 18-324)

Attachment C.1 – IPC’s Proposed 2026 RFP Bid Scoring and Modeling Process

Attachment C.2 – Appendix A_B – Non-price Scoring Matrix

Attachment D – Respondent Pricing Proposal

Attachment E– Explanation of Proposed Market Purchase Volumes for 2026 RFP