

MAHONING COUNTY CAREER & TECHNICAL CENTER

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL DESIGN SERVICES AND REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) AND STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Mahoning County Career & Technical Center ("MCCTC") Board of Education ("Board"), located in Canfield, Mahoning County, Ohio, announces its intent to contract for professional design services for a Proposed Career Tech Expansion Construction Project ("the Project"). The Project is a proposal for a grant and we are seeking to completely design and create all bid documents. The time-line for the potential Project is a completion date of June 1, 2026. This total Project cost has not yet been determined, but it is estimated to be approximately \$18,500,000.

The Board invites professional design firms interested in providing the professional design services for the Project to submit their qualifications and a Statement of Interest in the Project. Statements of qualifications and proposals will be reviewed and a design professional selected in accordance with Sections 153.65 to 153.71 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Purpose and Objective of the Project

Advancing Workforce & Industry through Integrated AI and Career and Technical Expansion

The Mahoning County Career & Technical Center (MCCTC) is a vital player in preparing students for successful careers in an increasingly technology-driven world. With 22 programs spanning diverse career pathways, MCCTC equips students for business, industry, college, and the military. Recognizing the evolving demands of the job market and the Career and Technical Education landscape, a proposal for an Integrated AI and Career and Technical Expansion project has emerged on the MCCTC campus. This initiative aims to provide students with the skills, knowledge, and hands-on experience essential for success in a technology-focused workforce, encompassing areas like Engineering, Robotics, Welding, Industrial Maintenance, Software Engineering, and Cybersecurity. The project seeks \$20 million in total funding, including \$1.5 million for equipment and supplies, to design and establish the Technology Center. MCCTC experiences persistent waitlists for numerous programs, forcing the institution to turn away numerous students annually. Additionally, the global job market's rapid transformation underscores the necessity of technology across industries. To ensure student readiness for future careers, MCCTC recognizes the imperative of a cutting-edge Technology Center, integrating Artificial Intelligence throughout its programming. This center aims to bridge the gap between traditional education and the ever-evolving technology landscape.

Benefits:

The proposed AI and Career and Technical Expansion project offers several benefits:

- *Enhanced Learning Experience:* The center will provide an interactive, dynamic learning environment.
- *Industry Relevance:* Equipped with the latest technologies, the center ensures students' familiarity with tools used in modern workplaces, enhancing their appeal to potential employers.
- *Diverse Skill Development:* Offering a spectrum of programs in fields like robotics, artificial intelligence, and programming, the center empowers students to explore varied career paths.
- *Collaborative Opportunities:* Encouraging collaboration between students, instructors, and industry professionals, the center promotes networking and potential mentorships.

- *Community Impact:* By producing technologically adept graduates, MCCTC contributes to local economic growth, attracting technology-focused businesses.

Funding Breakdown:

The construction project demands an \$18.5 million budget, with an additional \$1.5 million designated for equipment and supplies.

Design and Build: The project encompasses both design and construction phases for the AI and Career and Technical Expansion. The design phase prioritizes an innovative space conducive to learning and collaboration. The build phase involves creating specialized labs, classrooms, and interactive areas tailored to technology-focused education. The space will include over 30,000 feet of space that will house 4 or more CT programs. Computer Networking & Cyber Security, Engineering & Robotics, Advanced Manufacturing, and Welding. This space will include classroom and lab space along with a 8,000-15,000 square foot collaborative space.

Conclusion:

Amid rapid technological advancement, MCCTC's AI and Career and Technical Expansion Project is a strategic investment in education and workforce readiness. Providing access to the latest technologies and hands-on learning experiences, this center empowers students for a technology-driven world. Seamless integration of artificial intelligence into Career and Technical Programs ensures student preparedness for current challenges and the evolving future.

Qualifications of Design Professional

Include the following:

1. Information about the firm's history including, but not limited to, location of main and satellite offices, length of time in business, annual design service workload for the past five (5) years, and a description of the professional liability insurance policy or policies provided by company or companies that are authorized to do business in Ohio and proof that the professional liability is of sufficient coverage amount(s) for the design services proposed to be rendered;
2. Education, technical training, and experience of owners and key personnel, especially the technical training, education, and experience of the employees within the firm who would be assigned to perform the services;
3. Firm's experience in providing substantially similar services in Ohio (*i.e., design services for public school districts, to construct the Project described*);
4. List of consultants used to provide any services not performed by the design firm (services required under this RFQ include: civil engineering, environmental engineering, and land surveying);
5. Familiarity with the MCCTC and its operations.
6. List of facilities that have been designed with current and future trends in technology
7. Firm's past experience with the Board (if applicable);

8. Firm's location and proximity to the site for purposes of attending meetings at the District;
9. Ability of the individuals identified by the firm who will be responsible for providing and coordinating the services of this RFQ with the District.

Additional Information Requested

In addition to the qualifications and information listed above, include the following:

1. Provide specific information about any claims asserted against the firm or its professional liability carrier within the last 5 years, including the resolution of the claim.
2. Provide information about the insurance coverages carried by the firm, including professional liability insurance.
3. The firm's practices with respect to site visits and oversight of the Project.
4. Availability of the firm in terms of whether, given the firm's current workload, it could complete the Project within the time-lines established by the Board for the Project.

Firms interested in being considered should submit one electronic PDF copy of the firm's Statement of Qualifications by email to:

John Zehentbauer, Superintendent
Mahoning County Career & Technical Center
Email: john.zehentbauer@mahoningctc.com

The subject line of the email should clearly read "Qualifications for Architectural and Design Services - Career Tech Expansion Construction Project". Statements of Qualifications must be submitted no later than 12:00 noon on November 17, 2023. Statements received after the due date and time will not be considered.

Direct any questions concerning the Project and requested services to Mr. John Zehentbauer, MCCTC Superintendent (email: john.zehentbauer@mahoningctc.com or phone: (330) 729-4001). Firms considering responding to this RFQ are strictly prohibited from communicating with any member of the Board's staff, as all questions should be directed to the person identified.

Cancellation and Rejection

The Board reserves the right to cancel at any time for any reason this solicitation and to reject all qualification statements. The Board shall have no liability to any firm arising out of such cancellation or rejection. The Board reserves the right to waive any informality, irregularity, or failure to conform to instructions.