



Johnston County Regional Oil Seed Production and Processing Study

1. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFQ Issued: April 15, 2016

Application Deadline: May 15, 2016

SOLICITING AGENCY: Johnston County
North Carolina

PROJECT TITLE: Oil Seed Processing

SERVICES SOLICITED: Professional Services

2. PURPOSE OF SOLICITATION:

Johnston County has announced the need of a feasibility study in association with the NC Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Grant. Johnston County will fund a consultant for a period not to exceed 2 years to perform an extensive market study and development program to educate regional farmers on the benefits of growing Canola.

It is the aspiration of Johnston County to encourage the investment and construction of an oil seed processing plant in Johnston County that would serve regional farmers. Through information gathered, between 25,000 to 30,000 acres of canola production would be needed before a processing plant would be considered in the area. The feasibility study would include neighboring counties of Wayne, Wilson, Sampson, Harnett and beyond.

Regional farmers continue to seek replacements for lower-demand cotton and tobacco crops. Shown to be one of the most profitable crops southern farmers can grow, Canola can also be grown in the winter and double-cropped along with the usual summer crops. However, as transportation costs continue to be unstable, shipping seed crops is an expensive aspect of today's farming.

With this cross pollination of Industry and Agriculture, the Johnston County delegation's goal is to provide additional financial opportunities for regional farmers, job creation at the location in which the processing facility is established, provide area livestock producers a high protein livestock and poultry feed, provide retail opportunities for area businesses and restaurants with the establishment of a locally grown cooking oil, and establishing Johnston County as a leader in the recycling of the used cooking oil for the purpose of creating biofuels.

The purpose of this solicitation is to obtain proposals from consulting firms to:

- a) Prepare a comprehensive report for Johnston County as to the market feasibility of oil seed production, transportation, processing and utilization.
- b) Study will show how Canola may fit into existing crop rotations, farm equipment availability, land resources and other agricultural related economies.

Application Contents

- a) Applications should provide a clear and concise demonstration of the Respondents capability. Respondents are required to submit the following information in sufficient detail to enable Johnston County and the Review Panel to give ample consideration to the application.
- b) Applications must include any background or other supporting information that the Respondent feels necessary.

Award of the contract for Professional Services shall be made to the responsible firm/individual whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to Johnston County. Special consideration shall be given to experience on similar projects, technical ability, and familiarity with the services to be provided, contractor integrity, and compliance with past projects involving federal funding, financial and technical resources, and quality of work. The most qualified competitor will be selected from the responses and a contract will be awarded subject to negotiation of fair and reasonable compensation.

The selected firm/individual will initially be contracted to prepare a comprehensive report.

3. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS:

A responding firm/individual must meet the following requirements at a minimum to submit a proposal:

- a) Have previous experience with agricultural related market and feasibility studies.
- b) Must be licensed to practice in the State of North Carolina and currently maintain and continue to maintain an office in the State;
- c) Must have knowledge of all Federal Labor Laws;
- d) Must provide a "Certificate of Insurance for professional liability and Workmen's Compensation" with the Request for Proposal response.

Determination of the qualifications and ability of offers shall be made, among other factors, on the following:

- a) Completeness of the proposal.
- b) Content of the proposal.
- c) Past performance of the firm or individual.
- d) Qualifications of individuals to perform the work.

e) Minority, Small Business, Local Business Status.

4. RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS:

Proposals responding to this request are to contain the following information:

- a) A resume of the firm/individual.
- b) Identification and brief qualifications statement on key personnel to be assigned to the project, including any subcontractors.
- c) Hourly rate and per diem schedule.
- d) A "Certificate of Insurance for professional liability and Workmen's Compensation".

All proposals that are incomplete, unconditional, obscure, altered, contain additions or materials not requested, or which have any irregularities of any kind may be rejected since it is the intent of Johnston County that all proposals be comparable for purposes of evaluation.

Five sets of the Request for Qualifications must be received by Chris Johnson, Johnston County Economic Development Director, and PO Box 1179, Smithfield, NC 27577 on or before 5:00 PM, May 15, 2016.

Proposals not received by this time and date shall not be considered. All proposals shall be valid for a period of sixty (60) days from receipt.

Each offeror shall agree to comply with all applicable state, federal and municipal laws, rules, regulations and ordinances governing this project, and any other requirements that may be dictated by state or federal agency participating in project funding.

Johnston County reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to negotiate price and service with any offeror it may choose.