



## **Request for Qualifications – Architects**

### **NATIONAL CENTER FOR RELIABLE ELECTRIC POWER TRANSMISSION (NCREPT) ADDITION**

The University of Arkansas Fayetteville, in accordance with the policies of the Board of Trustees, is soliciting responses from qualified architects for the *National Center for Reliable Electric Power Transmission (NCREPT) addition*.

#### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The National Center for Reliable Electric Power Transmission (NCREPT) is a high-voltage testing facility for advanced power electronics equipment for electric power distribution systems. The existing building, located at Arkansas Research and Technology Park (ARTP), will be expanded by around 4000sf to increase the capacity of the test facility. The addition will house a new national center devoted to cybersecurity for electric power utilities—creating the necessary laboratory environment for evaluating new electric grid security algorithms. The center is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, augmented by matching funds from the research partners. The work will continue to promote NCREPT as a unique facility in the United States for grid and transportation power electronics and security.

The addition will include high-bay research space connected to the existing building, as well as office space for graduate students. Fifty students in power electronics and cybersecurity programs (electrical engineering, computer science, and computer engineering departments) will use the building each semester. The focus of the project will be the testing capabilities of the facility, so it is critical for the design team to have experience with electric testing equipment, as well as appropriate building systems (structural, mechanical, etc.) to accommodate its special requirements. While the architectural features of the building are of secondary importance, it is expected that the design be mindful of the industrial aesthetic of ARTP (such as at the Innovation Center or the soon-to-be-constructed Civil Engineering Research and Education Center<sup>1</sup>) within the constraints of the budget.

The total project cost is currently estimated at \$1.45 million, with construction anticipated to begin in late Autumn of this year. The proposed addition will be fully commissioned and constructed to the equivalent of LEED Silver or Green Globes Two Globes.

Architects and consultants will work with a university building committee, an independent third-party commissioning agent, and Facilities Management to advance overall site and campus master planning

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<sup>1</sup> A conceptual plan of ARTP is available at [http://planning.uark.edu/campus\\_planning/master\\_plan\\_documents.html](http://planning.uark.edu/campus_planning/master_plan_documents.html)

principles, as well as sustainability initiatives. For general campus planning and standards information, visit <http://planning.uark.edu>.

## **SUBMISSION**

**The deadline for responses is 1:00 PM local time on Monday, January 25, 2016.**

All respondents will be notified of the results by EMAIL, so please provide accurate contact information.

**Address ten (10) copies of responses to:** Todd Furgason, senior campus planner  
University of Arkansas  
Facilities Management Planning and Design  
521 S. Razorback Road, FAMA C-100  
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Statements of Qualification will be reviewed by a selection committee using a standardized *Design Services Shortlist Evaluation* form. This form is available for download at <http://planning.uark.edu/rfq>.

Written responses should include:

1. Proof of licensure or eligibility:

*Architects:* All firms shall be licensed, or eligible for licensure, in the State of Arkansas. Eligible firms not currently licensed must send a letter to the Arkansas State Board of Architects (501-682-3171/501-682-3172 fax) stating their intent to respond to an RFQ issued by the University of Arkansas. Please include project name, submittal date, and proof of valid NCARB certification in the letter. Consulting and joint venture firms are also required to be licensed by the Arkansas State Board of Architects. Notification to the State Board must be made PRIOR to responding to this solicitation, and **A COPY OF EITHER A VALID ARKANSAS LICENSE OR THE QUALIFYING LETTER FOR ALL TEAM MEMBER FIRMS MUST BE INCLUDED WITH ALL SUBMITTALS.** The final selected firm(s) will have 30 days to make application for corporate licensure after they are awarded the contract.

*Landscape Architects:* All firms shall be licensed by the Arkansas State Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, and Interior Designers. **A COPY A VALID ARKANSAS LICENSE MUST BE INCLUDED WITH THE SUBMITTAL.**

*Civil Engineers:* All engineers shall hold individual licenses in the State of Arkansas, and all engineering firms shall hold a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) issued by the Arkansas State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors. Joint venture firms are also required to hold a COA. **A COPY OF A VALID ARKANSAS CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION MUST BE INCLUDED WITH THE SUBMITTAL.**

2. Organizational chart for design team and all consultants
3. Specific project experience (within the past five years) with high bay laboratories, electric testing equipment, structural and mechanical systems which accommodate high-voltage testing, etc.
4. Current office size, personnel description, and workload
5. Proof of current professional liability insurance coverage (\$1,000,000 minimum required)
6. Prior experience constructing projects under nationally-recognized sustainable rating systems
7. Prior experience with fully commissioned projects
8. Projects currently under contract with state agencies or educational facilities
9. Statement of diversity in the workforce, if applicable
10. Certificate of women-owned or minority-owned business, if applicable

Professional Services Required:

PROGRAMMING, FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENTS, COST ESTIMATING, SCHEMATIC DESIGN, GRAPHIC PRESENTATION, DESIGN DEVELOPMENT, CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS, BIDDING, CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION, AND PROJECT CLOSEOUT.

## LOCATION

NCREPT is located at Arkansas Research and Technology Park (ARTP), south of the Engineering Research Center.

