

STATEOFTENNESSEE

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SPECIAL PROVISIONREGARDINGDBE CONTRACT GOAL

All contractors shall pursue affirmative action requirements to encourage and increase participation of disadvantaged individuals in business enterprises as set forth in this specification which is imposed pursuant to 49 CFR 26. The bidder shall arrange for the percentage of the work specified on the cover of the Proposal Contract to be performed by Tennessee Uniform Certification Program (TNUCP) Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) or clearly demonstrate adequate good faith efforts as described herein.

A. Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Policy

The Contractor shall accept as operating policy and include in all subcontract agreements the following statement, which is designed to promote full participation of DBEs as suppliers and subcontractors through a continuous, positive result-oriented program on contracts let by the Department:

*The Contractor, sub recipient or subcontractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the performance of this contract. The Contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 49 CFR 26 in the award and administration of Department assisted contracts. Failure by the Contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach of this contract, which may result in the termination of this contract or such other remedy, as the Department deems appropriate.*

B. Counting DBE Participation toward Meeting Goals

The Contractor shall count DBE participation toward goals in accordance with 49 CFR 26. The Contractor may count toward the goals only expenditures to DBEs that perform a commercially useful function of a contract, including those functions as a subcontractor. A DBE performs a commercially useful function when it is responsible for the execution of the work of the contract and is carrying out its responsibilities by actually performing, managing, and supervising the work involved. To perform a commercially useful function, the DBE must also be responsible, with respect to materials and supplies used on the contract, for negotiating price, determining quality and quantity, ordering the material, installing (where applicable) and paying for the material itself. Work performed by a DBE firm

in a particular transaction may be counted toward the goal only if the Department determines that it involves a commercially useful function. The work performed by the DBE firm shall be necessary and useful to the completion of the contract, and consistent with normal highway construction industry practices in Tennessee. The bidder may count the following DBE expenditures towards the DBE commitment:

1. Projects where the DBE is the Prime Contractor - The portions of the contract to be completed by certified DBE firms will be counted toward meeting the goal. Items of the contract subcontracted to non-DBE firms will not be counted in the commitment.
2. Portions of a bid from a Joint Venture - A bid from a joint venture, between a DBE and non-DBE Contractor, shall include an explanation of DBE commitments on DBE Form 1247A, which must be approved by the Department's Civil Rights Office - Small Business Development Program (CRO - SBDP) prior to the Letting. Only the DBE's portion will be counted toward the goal. Joint venture agreements have to be approved separately from the bid documents, prior to the awarding of the contract.
3. DBE Subcontractors - The DBE subcontractor shall assume actual and contractual responsibility for provision of materials and supplies, subcontracted work, or other commercially useful functions of the items of work subcontracted to them. Cost of materials purchased from or the cost of equipment leased from the Contractor will not count toward the project DBE commitment. Prior written approval must be obtained from the (CRO - SBDP) for any DBE use of the Prime Contractor's personnel or equipment.
4. Manufacturers - The Contractor may count toward the DBE commitment 100% of its expenditures for materials and supplies required under a contract and obtained from a DBE manufacturer only if the DBE firm produces and supplies goods manufactured from raw materials or substantially alters them before resale.
5. Regular Dealers (e.g. Material Suppliers) - The Contractor may count toward the DBE goal 60% of its expenditures for materials and supplies required under a contract and obtained from a DBE regular dealer only if the DBE firm performs a commercially useful function in the supply process. For purposes of this section, a regular dealer is a firm that owns; operates; or maintains a store, warehouse, or other establishment in which materials or supplies required for the performance of the contract are bought, kept in stock, and regularly sold to the public in the usual course of business. To be a regular dealer, the firm shall engage in, as its principal business and in its own name, the purchase and sale of the products in question. A regular dealer in such bulk items as steel, cement, gravel, stone, and petroleum products need not keep such products in stock if it owns or operates the distribution equipment. If the DBE supplier does not own the distribution equipment, a lease containing the terms of the agreement shall be available and must be approved in writing by the CRO - SBDP.

6. Brokers and Packagers- Brokers and packagers will not be regarded as regular dealers within the meaning of this section. Only the amounts charged for fees and commissions may be used towards meeting the DBE commitment.
7. Transportation or Hauling of Materials –The Department will continue to utilize the trucking regulations under 49 CFR 26.55. This regulation allows for DBE goal hauling-credit in either DBE trucks or in trucks leased to or by DBE firms. The verification of truck drivers employed by DBE firms will continue to be by submission of payrolls independent from any Davis-Bacon regulations.
  - a) The DBE must be responsible for the management and supervision of the entire trucking operation for which it is responsible on a particular contract, and there cannot be a contrived arrangement for the purpose of meeting DBE goals.
  - b) The DBE must itself own and operate at least one fully licensed, insured, and operational truck used on the contract.
  - c) The DBE receives credit for the total value of the transportation services it provides on the contract using trucks it owns, insures, and operates using drivers it employs.
  - d) The DBE may lease trucks from another DBE firm, including an owner-operator who is certified as a DBE. The DBE who leases trucks from DBE receives credit for the total value of the transportation services the lessee DBE provides on the contract.
  - e) The DBE may also lease trucks from a non-DBE firm, including an owner-operator. The DBE who leases trucks from a non-DBE is entitled to the total value of transportation services provided by non-DBE lessees not to exceed the value of transportation services provided by DBE-owned trucks on the contract. Additional participation by non-DBE lessees receives credit only for the fee or commission it receives as a result of the lease arrangement.
  - f) For purposes of this paragraph a lease must indicate that the DBE has exclusive use of and control over the truck. Leases cannot be Department contract-specific, must be long term, and must be approved by the CRO - SBDP Staff. This does not preclude the leased truck from working for others during the term of the lease with the consent of the DBE, so long as the lease gives the DBE absolute priority for use of the leased truck. Leased trucks must display the name and identification number of the DBE.
  - g) Prior to hauling, the Contractor and DBE shall provide the Department's Project Supervisor a complete list of trucks that will be used on the project for DBE goal participation. The Department will provide a form that shall be used by the Contractor and the DBE to identify the trucks. A revised list will be required any time the trucks used changes. The Contractor and DBE must be able to adequately document the actual amount of hauling eligible for DBE goal participation.

8. Contracted Labor / Temporary Employment Agencies – utilization of these services via subcontract will be allowed to count toward DBE goal commitment, in accordance with 49 CFR Part 26.55. The Department will count the entire amount of fees or commissions charged by a DBE for providing a bona fide service. Provided, the Department must find the fee to be reasonable and not excessive as compared to the fees customarily allowed for similar services.
9. Other Commercially Useful Functions - The fees paid to certified DBE firms, which are necessary for the completion of the contract and commonplace outside of the DBE program, may be counted towards the commitment.

### C. Contract Award Procedures

The established DBE goal will be shown on the proposal as a percent of the total amount bid. If the total proposed DBE work submitted with the bid is less than the percentage of participation goals set by the Department, the bidder shall, within three (3) business days from the bid openings, propose sufficient additional DBE participation to meet the goal or shall clearly demonstrate by documentation that good faith efforts were made to meet the goal.

#### 1. Bidder's Responsibility

It is the bidder's responsibility to determine the level of professional competence and financial responsibility of any proposed DBE subcontractor. The bidder shall ascertain that the proposed DBE subcontractor has suitable experience and equipment to perform a commercially useful function for work that is common industry practice in the Tennessee highway construction industry.

The Contractor shall develop and maintain records of negotiations with DBEs to reach agreeable prices, quotations and work schedules, including but not limited to a record of dates when the Contractor first contacted each DBE.

#### 2. DBE's Responsibility

In order to receive goal credit on a TDOT project, a DBE must perform a commercially useful function through execution of the work of the contract and carry out its responsibilities by actually performing, managing, and supervising the work involved. To perform a commercially useful function, the DBE must also be responsible, with respect to materials and supplies used on the contract, for negotiating price, determining quality and quantity, ordering the material, installing (where applicable) and paying for the material itself.

Before bidding and subsequently entering into a contract (as a contractor or subcontractor), the DBE should consider the scope and size of the project, as well as if they are certified to receive credit for the type of work performed. As with any contract, this is a legally binding document and should be executed to the best of one's ability. However, should a DBE ever have to withdraw from a contract, they should provide the CRO-SBDP and Prime Contractor with written documentation.

A DBE should only withdraw when there is no other option, as non-completion of their duties may result in temporary disqualification of a prequalified bidder or subcontractor by suspending the privilege of bidding on Department contracts or becoming an approved subcontractor, as outlined in Chapter 1680-5-3 of the Rules of The Tennessee Department of Transportation.

3. Proposals with Established Project DBE Goals

For proposals with established project goals, the bidder will be required to complete the computer generated DBE Form 1247A. The bidder shall list the following information on each DBE Form 1247A that is submitted:

- a. All DBE firms being used or being considered for use as part of the bidder's DBE commitment.
- b. The work classification(s) for each DBE on the contract.
- c. The "Amount to DBE" which has been committed to each DBE firm for use on the contract.

The completed DBE Form 1247A form shall be submitted within three (3) business days of the Letting. Failure to provide a completed form or documentation clearly evidencing a good faith effort, as detailed in Section 4 below, within three (3) business days of the Letting may cause the bid to be rejected as irregular. Only certified DBE firms may be used. Contractor may access this information on the DBE list by viewing the Department's website or the certified DBE listing.

When DBE goal projects are involved and the Prime Contractor subcontracts to a non-DBE, and the non-DBE subcontractor in turn subcontracts to a DBE as a second tier subcontractor, the Prime Contractor must affirm in writing his/her knowledge and approval of such an arrangement. Recognition of a second tier arrangement with a DBE subcontractor for goal work must be forwarded to the Director of the CRO - SBDP for verification, in writing, prior to any work performed by the DBE which will be counted toward the goal.

4. Bidder Selection and Good Faith Efforts

- a. Bidders shall submit proposals that meet the DBE goal or shall submit documentation clearly evidencing that they made a good faith effort to meet the DBE goal. Contractors who meet or exceed the contract goal will be assumed to have made good faith efforts to utilize DBE firms. DBE firms who bid as Prime Contractors will be considered to have met the goal.
- b. The following are illustrative of factors which will be considered in determining whether the bidder has made adequate good faith efforts:
  - 1) Whether the bidder selected portions of the work likely to attract DBE participation. The total dollar value of the portions selected should meet or exceed the contract DBE goal. If it is necessary, the bidder should break down subcontracts into economically feasible

units in order to facilitate participation.

- 2) Whether the bidder provided notice to a reasonable number of specific DBEs, including those not regularly used by the bidder, that their participation in the contract is being solicited in sufficient time to allow them to participate effectively.
  - 3) Whether the bidder provided interested DBEs with adequate information about the plans, specifications and requirements of the contract.
  - 4) Whether the bidder advertised in general circulation, trade association, or minority-focus media concerning participation opportunities or effectively used the services of available minority, community organizations, minority contractors groups, local, state or federal minority business assistance offices, or other organizations that provide assistance in the recruitment and placement of DBEs.
  - 5) Whether the bidder negotiated in good faith with interested DBEs, not rejecting DBEs as unqualified without sound reasons based on a thorough investigation of their capabilities.
  - 6) Whether the bidder made efforts to assist interested DBEs in obtaining bonding or insurance required by the bidder.
  - 7) Whether the bidder submitted all quotations received from DBEs, and for those quotations not accepted, an explanation of why the DBE was not accepted including price comparisons. Receipt of a lower quotation from a non-DBE will not in itself excuse a bidder's failure to meet contract goal.
  - 8) Whether the bidder has adequate records of its contacts and negotiations with DBEs.
- c) If the Contractor has not met the DBE goal or submitted documentation clearly evidencing good faith efforts within three (3) business days after the bid opening, the Contractor's bid will be considered non-responsive and the Department may consider the next lowest responsive bid for award.
- d) Failure of the bidder to meet the DBE goal in its bid or failure to provide documentation clearly evidencing good faith efforts to meet the goal, may be cause for the forfeiture of the Proposal Guaranty which shall become the property of the Department, not as penalty, but in liquidation of damages sustained.

As soon as practical after award of the contract, the Contractor shall submit copies of all binding subcontracts and purchase orders with DBEs to the respective Project Supervisor and the CRO- SBDP Director. No progress estimate shall be processed until this information is received.

#### 5. Joint Checking Allowance for DBE

A DBE must receive pre-approval by the Department before using a joint check. Joint check requests shall be submitted, by the DBE, to the CRO - SBDP prior to the contract agreement.

The following are some general conditions that must be met regarding joint check use:

- a. The second party (typically the Prime Contractor) acts solely as a guarantor.
- b. The DBE must release the check to the supplier.
- c. The use of joint checks must be a commonly recognized business practice in the industry.
- d. The DBE remains responsible for all other elements of 49 CFR 26.55(c)(1)
- e. The DBE is not required to use a specific supplier nor the Prime Contractor's negotiated unit price.
- f. The DBE shall submit receipt/copy of cancelled checks to the CRO - SBDP.

#### D. Construction Period Requirements

##### 1. Process for Removal of a DBE

At no time shall a DBE be removed or substituted without prior written confirmation from the CRO-SBDP. Before terminating and/or substituting a DBE subcontractor on a project with SP1247 included in the Contract Proposal, the Prime Contractor must give notice in writing to the DBE subcontractor, with a copy to TDOT's CRO-SBDP, of its intent to request to terminate and/or substitute, and the reason for the request.

The Prime Contractor must then give the DBE five (5) days to respond to the Prime Contractor's notice. The DBE shall then advise TDOT's CRO - SBDP and the Contractor of the reasons, if any, why it objects to the proposed termination of its subcontract and why the CRO - SBDP should not approve the Prime Contractor's action. If approval is granted for removal, the TDOT CRO - SBDP will submit a letter to the Contractor and the DBE. Good faith efforts shall then be directed at finding another DBE to perform at least the same amount of work under the contract as the DBE that was terminated, to the extent needed to meet the contract goal established.

The Prime Contractor has the responsibility to comply with 49 CFR 26.53 (f) and

all applicable policies and regulations.

Reasons for termination and/or substitution must meet the reasons for good cause as outlined in the current 49 CFR 26.53(f), which include, but are not limited to, the following circumstances:

- (i) The listed DBE subcontractor fails or refuses to execute a written contract;
- (ii) The listed DBE subcontractor fails or refuses to perform the work of its subcontract in a way consistent with normal industry standards. Provided, however, that good cause does not exist if the failure or refusal of the DBE subcontractor to perform its work on the subcontract results from the bad faith or discriminatory action of the prime contractor;
- (iii) The listed DBE subcontractor fails or refuses to meet the prime contractor's reasonable, nondiscriminatory bond requirements.
- (iv) The listed DBE subcontractor becomes bankrupt, insolvent, or exhibits credit unworthiness;
- (v) The listed DBE subcontractor is ineligible to work on public works projects because of suspension and debarment proceedings pursuant 2 CFR Parts 180, 215 and 1,200 or applicable state law;
- (vi) The Department determined that the listed DBE subcontractor is not a responsible contractor;
- (vii) The listed DBE subcontractor voluntarily withdraws from the project and provides to you written notice of its withdrawal;
- (viii) The listed DBE is ineligible to receive DBE credit for the type of work required;
- (ix) A DBE owner dies or becomes disabled with the result that the listed DBE contractor is unable to complete its work on the contract;
- (x) Other documented good cause that the Department determines to compel the termination of the DBE subcontractor. Provided, that good cause does not exist if the prime contractor seeks to terminate a DBE it relied upon to obtain the contract so that the prime contractor can self-perform the work for which the DBE contractor was engaged or so that the prime contractor can substitute another DBE or non-DBE contractor after contract award.

Each prime contract includes a provision for appropriate administrative remedies that will be invoked if the Prime Contractor fails to comply with the requirements of this section.



2. Brokering of work by DBEs is not allowed and is a material breach of contract. A DBE firm involved in brokering of work may have their certification removed or suspended. Any firm involved in brokering of work that engages in willful falsification distortion, or misrepresentation with respect to any facts related to the project shall be referred to the U. S. Department of Transportation's Office of the Inspector General for prosecution under Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 100.20. Contractor shall place this provision in all subcontracts with DBEs.
3. A Department Project Supervisor/Inspector shall complete a Commercially Useful Function (CUF) Checklist to document the first date of work, work items, equipment, and forces of each DBE.
4. The Contractor shall provide a monthly payment certification to the Department entitled "Prompt Payment Certification Form." The Department shall provide the Contractor with a computer generated Prompt Payment Certification Form. An officer of the Contractor shall provide an electronic signature to the Prompt Payment Certification Form and return via email to [DBE.Runningtally@tn.gov](mailto:DBE.Runningtally@tn.gov). The Department will hold estimate payments if information is not submitted. Reasons for non-payment to a DBE could include the following:
  - a) Whether the DBE is performing satisfactorily;
  - b) Whether the Contractor has reason to believe the DBE is not performing a commercially useful function, and if so, why and what steps the Contractor is taking to rectify the situation.

In the event the Contractor promptly reports questions on the Prompt Payment Certification Form regarding whether a DBE is independent and performing a commercially useful function and takes appropriate steps promptly to address the issue, then the Department will take this effort into account when considering Contractor compliance measures as described below.

#### E. Post Construction Requirements

Prior to receiving final payment, the Contractor shall provide to the Project Engineer and CRO-SBDP certification of the dollars paid to each DBE firm, using Form CC3, "Certification of DBE Accomplishment." The certification shall be dated and signed by a responsible officer of the contractor and by the DBE. Falsification of this certification will result in the suspension of bidder qualifications. The final estimate will not be paid to the Contractor until proper certifications have been made.

#### F. Required Records

The Prime Contractor and all subcontractors shall retain, for a period of not less than 3 years after final acceptance of a project, copies of canceled checks or other documentation

that substantiates payments to DBE firms. These records shall be available at reasonable times and places for inspection by authorized representatives of the Department and various Federal Agencies.

#### G. Contractor Compliance

1. It is the intent of this Special Provision to require the Contractor to take full responsibility for the performance of a commercially useful function by all DBE subcontractors, manufacturers and materials suppliers who work on the project and are counted by the Contractor toward the project DBE goal. A DBE is considered to perform a commercially useful function when it is responsible for the execution of a distinct element of the work of a contract and carrying out its responsibilities by actually performing, managing and supervising the work involved (49 CFR 26).
2. If the Contractor fails to comply with Special Provision 1247, the Department may take one or a combination of the following steps:
  - 1) Require the Contractor to have its entire management staff attend DBE training arranged by the Department and paid by the Contractor.
  - 2) The next bid when the Contractor is the low bidder on a DBE goal project, require that Contractor to achieve a DBE participation that is twice the stated goal.
  - 3) For the Contractor's failure to find another DBE subcontractor to substitute a DBE that is terminated or fails to complete its work on the contract for any reason or to provide the CRO - SBDP documentation clearly evidencing good faith efforts, as detailed in D.1. above, then the Department may withhold from the Contractor an amount not to exceed the amount of money originally committed to the non-complying DBE subcontractor, not as a penalty but as liquidated damages.
  - 4) Suspend the Contractor from participation in Department bid lettings pursuant to rules promulgated by the Department.
  - 4) For repeated failures to comply, debar the Contractor pursuant to rules promulgated by the Department.
  - 5) Invoke other remedies available by law and/or in the contract.
  - 6) Invoke remedy agreed upon by the Commissioner and the Contractor in writing.