

## **Request for Qualifications Saluda County**

The Saluda County Development Partnership, a 501(c)(6) corporation is seeking the services of a qualified firm to assess the regional capacity and need for additional cold storage facilities to serve the growing agricultural market of the area. The final product will be used to solicit interest from private developers to participate in a public/private project to construct and manage a facility in Saluda County.

### **QUALIFICATIONS STATEMENTS SHOULD PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:**

- Name of firm and contact information.
- Location of offices.
- List of references including name, address, telephone number, and a brief description of previous similar projects.
- Names and qualifications of persons who will specifically work on this project.
- Proposed timeline of phases to completion and description of estimated fee schedule.
- Agricultural industry knowledge.
- **Supplemental information** which you feel is important for us to consider your firm.

Saluda County, South Carolina is a leader in agricultural production with 107,000 acres engaged in farming. Peaches are a major crop in Saluda County and the County was number one in the state and seventh in the country in production per the 2007 Census of Agriculture. Edgefield County, adjacent to Saluda was the number two and eight nationally. Poultry processing employs over 4,800 persons in the county. Cattle ranching and dairy farming also make a significant contribution to the overall agriculture economy of the area.

### **Scope of Study**

1. Identify agricultural users of cold space storage in the agriculture community within a fifty mile radius of Saluda, South Carolina.
2. Through a series of interviews, report the volume for cold storage needed by each firm and project the same for the next five and ten year periods.

3. Determine in general the specifications of cold storage desired.
4. Saluda County has two sites available (1) adjacent to Roy's Foods corner of Columbia Highway (Hwy. 378) and Bouknight Ferry Road, (2) 453 Trojan Road, Ridge Spring that has a rail access. Please make a site recommendation again based on discussions with potential users.
5. Identify all cold storage facilities within a 75 mile radius of Saluda, SC and Ridge Spring, SC.
6. Determine the infrastructure needed to operate a cold storage facility i.e. electric loads, water, and sewer.

**Please contact Ed Parler, Economic Development Director, for Saluda County for further information.**

**(864) 445-4500 ext. 2224**

### **Deadline for Submission**

Original and five (5) copies of qualifications must be received by 3:00 PM, Friday, February 26, 2016 and marked "Planning Services" at:

Saluda County Administration  
Attn: Regina Turner  
400 West Highland Street  
Saluda, South Carolina 29138

### **Basis of Award**

All qualifications will be reviewed and evaluated by using the following criteria. From this review, firms **may** be invited to make an oral presentation or answer questions for a selected committee.

- The responsiveness, comprehensiveness, and quality of the response to the RFQ.
- The previous experience and qualifications with respect to similar projects.
- Knowledge of best practices in agriculture production and distribution.
- Familiarity with local products, companies and area.
- Experience of principal parties involved in the project.

- Proposed range of cost.
- Time scheduled to present results.

Firms must clearly mark as “Confidential” each part of their statements, which they consider to be proprietary or personal information under Code Section 30-4-40 et seq. of the South Carolina Code of Laws 1976, as amended (Freedom of Information Act). If any part is designated as “Confidential”, there must be attached to that part an explanation of how this information fits within one or more categories considered exempt under the Freedom of Information Act. Saluda County reserves the right to determine whether this information should be exempt from disclosure, within its interpretation of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

This request for qualifications does not commit Saluda County to award a contract or to procure or contract for the services. Saluda County reserves the right to reject, in whole or in part, any and all qualifications, to negotiate with any or all responsible and responsive offerors, and, in its sole discretion, to determine the responsiveness. Request which do not meet the mandatory requirements, will be considered non-compliant and rejected if it is in the best interest of the county to do so.