

**HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - COMMODITY**

HCC Proposal No.: RFP-C 20-22	Title: SOC/CYBER RANGE LAB
Due Date: April 29, 2020 by 2:00pm (local time)	
Issued By: Houston Community College Procurement Operations Department 3100 Main Street, 11 th Floor Houston, Texas 77002	Submit Inquiries To: Barbara E. Brooks, Sr. Buyer (713) 718-5365 Barbara.brooks@hccs.edu

HCC is an equal opportunity/educational institution, which does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation or veteran status.

In determining award, selection will be based on evaluation criteria stated in the Texas Education Code 44.031 (b).

1. Instruction

- 1.1 Complete, sign and return Attachment No. 1, Request for Proposal Form, Attachment No. 2 Proposer Certifications, Attachment No. 3 Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (Form CIQ) and Attachment No. 4 Financial Interests and Potential Conflicts of Interests.
- 1.2 Your proposal and the prices quoted therein must remain firm for acceptance for a period of ninety (90) days.
- 1.3 All items shall be quoted F.O.B. Destination, Full Freight Allowed.
- 1.4 Sealed Proposals shall be delivered to the address noted above by the referenced due date.
- 1.5 HCC's General Terms and Conditions of Purchase Order dated February 9, 2018, shall govern any purchase order/contract that may result from this request. A copy is available and posted on the HCC website at [HCC General Terms and Conditions](#).
- 1.6 Specifications
 - (a) Any catalog, brand name or manufacturers' reference used in this request is descriptive only (not restrictive) and is to indicate type and quality desired. Proposals of like nature and quality will be considered unless advertised as a Brand Name Only Specification.
 - (b) If proposing other than the brand names or manufacturers referenced product literature and technical data sheets must accompany your proposal response.
- 1.7 If you wish not to propose, please sign and return the attached Request for Proposal form and include the words "No-Proposal," please provide a brief explanation why you chose not to propose.
- 1.8 Please include a copy of your company's W-9.
- 1.9 Please submit the following attachments, including supplemental documents, with your response at the due date stated above:
 - Attachment No. 1, Request for Proposal Form;
 - Attachment No. 2 Proposer Certifications;
 - Attachment No. 3 Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (Form CIQ); and
 - Attachment No. 4 Financial Interests and Potential Conflicts of Interests.

2. Vendor Selection

Except as provided by the Texas Education Code, Subchapter B, in determining to whom to award a contract, the District shall consider:

1. The purchase price;
2. The reputation of the vendor and of the vendor's good or services;
3. The quality of the vendor's goods or services;

4. The extent to which the goods or services meet with the College's needs;
5. The vendor's past relationship with the College;
6. The impact on the ability of the College to comply with laws and rules relating to historically underutilized businesses;
7. The total long-term cost to the College to acquire the vendor's goods or services;
8. For a contract for goods and services, other than goods and services related to telecommunications and information services, building construction and maintenance, or instructional materials, whether the vendor or the vendor's ultimate parent company or majority owner:
 - a. Has its principal place of business in this state; or
 - b. Employs at least 500 persons in this state; and
9. Any other relevant factor specifically listed in the request for bids or proposals.

This section does not apply to a contract for professional services rendered, including services of an architect, attorney, certified public accountant, engineer, or fiscal agent. The District may, at its option, contract for professional services rendered by a financial consultant or a technology consultant in the manner provided by Section 2254.003, *Government Code*, in lieu of the methods.

3. General Information

- 3.1 A person is not eligible to be considered for award of this solicitation or any resulting contract or to be a subcontractor of the proposer or prime contractor if the person assisted in the development of this solicitation or any part of this solicitation or if the person participated in a project related to this solicitation when such participation would give the person special knowledge that would give that person or a prime contractor an unfair advantage over other proposers.
- 3.2 A person or proposer shall not be eligible to be considered for this solicitation if the person or proposer engaged in or attempted to engage in prohibited communications as described in Section 3.9 - Prohibited Communications and Political Contributions.
- 3.3 Award Approval – this Procurement, any award under this procurement, and the resulting purchase order/contract, if any, is subject to approval by HCC Board of Trustees. Subsequent to Board approval, the only person authorized to commit HCC contractually is the Chancellor or designee. This solicitation is a formal Request for Proposal and neither this solicitation nor the response or proposal from any prospective proposer shall create a contractual relationship that would bind HCC until such time as HCC has issued a legally binding purchase order/contract, which includes, without limitation, the terms required by HCC as set forth in this Request for Proposal.
- 3.4 HCC Contact – any questions or concerns regarding this Request for Proposal shall be

directed to the Procurement Officer listed on the cover page. HCC specifically requests that proposers restrict all contact and questions regarding this Request for Proposal to the Procurement Officer. The Procurement Officer must receive all questions or concerns no later than the date and time listed in the Solicitation Schedule.

- 3.5 Inquiries and Interpretations – responses to inquiries, which directly affect an interpretation or change to this Request for Proposal, will be issued in writing by addendum (amendment) and all addenda will be posted on the [HCC Procurement Website](#). All such addenda issued by HCC prior to the time that proposals are received shall be considered part of the Request for Proposal, and the proposer shall be required to consider and acknowledge receipt of such in their proposal.

Only those HCC replies to inquiries, which are made by formal written addenda, shall be binding. Oral and other interpretations or clarification will be without legal effect. Proposer must acknowledge receipt of all addenda in Attachment No. 1 Request for Proposal Form.

- 3.6 Contract Award – award of a contract, if awarded, will be made to the proposer who (a) submits a responsive proposal; (b) is a responsible proposer; and (c) offers the best value to HCC, price and other factors considered. A responsive proposal and a responsible proposer are those that meet the requirements of and are as described in this

solicitation. HCC may award a contract, based on initial proposal received, without discussion of such proposers. Accordingly, each initial proposal should be submitted on the most favorable terms from a price and technical standpoint, which the proposer can submit to HCC. Except as otherwise may be set forth in this solicitation, HCC reserves the right to waive any informalities, non-material errors, technicalities, or irregularities in the proposal documents submitted and consider for award.

3.7 Postponement of Proposals Due Date/Time – notwithstanding the date/time for receipt of proposal established in this solicitation, the date and time established herein for receiving proposals may be postponed solely at HCCs discretion.

3.8 Internship Program – HCC is expanding its student internship program. All proposers are encouraged to make a commitment to utilize certain HCC student(s) in an internship capacity with the company under any resulting contract for the items required under this solicitation. At the sole discretion of the vendor, the internship opportunity may be paid or unpaid and shall be intended to serve as a relevant and meaningful educational enrichment opportunity for the HCC students involved. HCC will provide the selected proposer with the name of student(s) eligible to participate in the internship program.

For additional information regarding the internship program, please contact Mr. James Mable, Director of Career and Job Placement Services at 713-718-6485.

3.9 Prohibited Communications and Political Contributions – except as provided in exceptions below, political contributions and the following communications regarding this solicitation or any other invitation for bids, requests for proposal, requests for qualifications, or other solicitation are prohibited:

- [1] Between a potential vendor, subcontractor to vendor, service provider, respondent, Offeror, lobbyist or consultant and any Trustee;
- [2] Between any Trustee and any member of a selection or evaluation committee; and

[3] Between any Trustee and administrator or employee.

The communications prohibition shall be imposed from the day the solicitation is first advertised through thirty (30) days after the contract is executed by the Chancellor or his/her designee, or when a determination is made that the contract will not be awarded. During this period, no HCC Trustee and no vendor shall communicate in any way concerning any pending Solicitation involving the Vendor, subject to the penalties stated herein.

In the event the Board refers the recommendation back to the staff for reconsideration, the communication prohibition shall be re-imposed.

The communications prohibition shall not apply to the following:

- [1] Duly noted pre-bid or pre-proposal conferences.
- [2] Communications with the HCC General Counsel.
- [3] Emergency contracts.
- [4] Presentations made to the Board during any duly-noticed public meeting.
- [5] Unless otherwise prohibited in the solicitation documents, any written communications between any parties, provided that the originator shall immediately file a copy of any written communication with the Board Services Office. The Board Services Office shall make copies available to any person upon request.
- [6] Nothing contained herein shall prohibit any person or entity from publicly addressing the Board during any duly-noticed public meeting, in accordance with applicable Board policies, regarding action on the contract.

Any potential vendor, subcontractor vendor, service provider, proposer, offeror, lobbyist or consultant who engages or attempts to engage in prohibited communications shall not be eligible for the award of any resulting contract under this solicitation. Any other direct or indirect actions taken to unduly influence competitive purposes, to circumvent equal consideration for competitive proposers, or to disregard ethical and legal trade practices will disqualify proposers, vendors, service providers, lobbyist, consultants, and contractors from both

this current and any future consideration for participation in HCC orders and contracts.

3.10 Drug Policy – HCC is a drug-free workforce and workplace. The manufacture, sale, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of illegal drugs (except legally prescribed medications under physician’s prescription and in the original container) or alcohol by proposers or contractors while on HCC’s premises is strictly prohibited.

3.11 Taxes – HCC is tax exempt as a governmental subdivision of the State of Texas under Section 501C (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Limited Sales Tax Number: 1-74-1709152-1. No proposal shall include any costs for taxes to be assessed against HCC. The proposer shall be responsible for paying all applicable taxes and fees, including but not limited to, excise tax, state and local income tax, payroll and withholding taxes for proposer employees. The purchase order/contract shall hold HCC harmless for all claims arising from payment of such taxes and fees.

3.12 Texas Public Information Act – HCC considers all information, documentation and other materials requested to be submitted in response to this solicitation to be of a non-confidential and/or non-proprietary nature, and therefore, shall be subject to public disclosure under the Texas Public Information Act (Texas Government Code, Chapter 552.001, et seq.) (“The Act”) after a contract if any, is awarded. If the proposer considers any information submitted in response to this Request for Proposal to be confidential under law or constitute trade secrets or other protected information, the proposer must identify such materials in the proposal response. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the identification of such materials would not be construed or require HCC to act in contravention of its obligation to comply with the Act and the proposer releases HCC from any liability or responsibility for maintaining the confidentiality of such documents.

3.13 Appropriated Funds – the purchase of service or product, which arises from this solicitation, is contingent upon the availability of

appropriated funds. HCC shall have the right to terminate the resulting contract at the end of the current or each succeeding fiscal year if funds are not appropriated by the HCC Board of Trustees for the next fiscal year that would permit continuation of the resulting purchase order/contract. If funds are withdrawn or do not become available, HCC reserves the right to terminate the resulting purchase order/contract by giving the selected contractor a thirty (30) day written notice of its intention terminate without penalty or any further obligations on the part of HCC or the contractor. Upon termination of the purchase order/contract HCC shall not be responsible for any payment of any service or product received that occurs after the end of the current contract period or the effective date of termination, whichever is the earlier to occur. HCCs fiscal year begins on September 1 and ends on August 31.

3.14 Conflict of Interest – if a firm, bidder, proposer, contractor, or other person responding to this solicitation knows of any material personal interest, direct or indirect, that any member, official, or employee of HCC would have in any contract resulting from this solicitation, the firm must disclose this information to HCC. Persons submitting a proposal or response to this solicitation must comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, and regulations of the State of Texas Government Code, including, without limitation, Chapter 171 and 176 of the Local Government Code. The person /proposer submitting a response to this solicitation must complete (as applicable), sign and submit Attachment No. 3, Conflict of Interest Questionnaire Form, and Attachment No. 4, Financial Interest and Potential Conflict of Interests with the proposal package. HCC expects the selected proposer to comply with Chapter 176 of the Local Government Code and that failure to comply will be grounds for termination of the contract.

Note: Attachment No. 3 and Attachment No. 4 shall be completed signed and returned to HCC. Enter N/A in those areas on the Attachments that are not applicable to your company. Failure to complete, sign and notarize (if applicable) these Attachments may render your proposal non-responsive.

3.15 Ethics Conduct – any direct or indirect actions taken to unduly influence competitive purposes, to circumvent equal consideration for competitive proposers, or to disregard ethical and legal trade practices will disqualify vendors and contractors from current and future consideration for participation in HCC orders and contracts.

3.16 No Third Party Rights – the resulting purchase order/contract is made for the sole benefit of HCC and the Contractor and their respective successors and permitted assigns. Nothing in this Purchase Order/Contract shall create or be deemed to create a relationship between the Parties to this Purchase Order/Contract and any third person, including a relationship in the nature of a third party beneficiary or fiduciary.

3.17 Withdrawal or Modification – no proposal may be changed, amended, modified by telegram or otherwise, after the same has been submitted or filed in response to this solicitation, except for obvious errors in extension. However, a proposal may be withdrawn and resubmitted any time prior to the time set for receipt of proposals. No proposal may be withdrawn after the submittal deadline without approval by HCC, which shall be based on proposer’s submittal, in writing, of a reason acceptable to HCC.

3.18 Submission Waiver – by submitting a response to this Solicitation, the Offeror or respondent agrees to waive any claim it has or may have against Houston Community College System and its trustees, employees or agents arising out of or in connection with (1) the Administration, evaluation or recommendation of any offer or response; (2) any requirements under the solicitation, the solicitation or response package or related documents; (3) the rejection of any offer or any response or any part of any offer or response; and/or (4) the award of a contract, if any.

3.19 Indemnification – proposer shall indemnify, pay for the defense of, and hold harmless the College and its officers, agents and employees of and from any and all liabilities, claims, debts, damages, demands, suits, actions and causes of

actions of whatsoever kind, nature or sort which may be incurred by reason of proposer’s negligence, recklessness, or willful acts and/or omission in rendering any services hereunder. Proposer shall assume full responsibility for payments of federal, state and local taxes or contributions imposed or required under the social security, Workers' Compensation or income tax law, or any disability or unemployment law, or retirement contribution of any sort whatever, concerning Contractor or any employee and shall further indemnify, pay for the defense of, and hold harmless the College of and from any such payment or liability arising out of or in any manner connected with Contractor’s performance under this Agreement.

3.20 Delegation – unless delegated, HCC Board of Trustees must approve all contracts valued at over \$100,000. The Board has granted the Chancellor authority to initiate and execute contracts valued up to \$100,000. The procurement of goods and services, including professional services and construction services shall be completed as per any applicable HCC policy and procedure and shall be in accordance with Section 44.031 of the Texas Education Code for the purchase of goods and services, Section 2254 of the Texas Government Code for the purchase of Professional and Consulting Services, and Section 2269 of the Texas Government Code for the purchase of construction services. The Board delegates its authority to the administration and the designated evaluation committee to evaluate score and rank the proposals. This includes the evaluation of all proposals, proposals, or statements of qualification under procurement, regardless of contract amount, including the final ranking and selection which shall be made on the evaluation and scoring as per the published selection criteria and the final evaluation ranking. The Board of Trustees shall approve the final award of contracts to the firm based on the published selection criteria and as evidenced in the final evaluation, scoring and ranking.

3.21 Invoice – to facilitate payment, invoices for goods or services delivered in accordance with the resulting purchase order/contract shall be emailed to the Accounts Payable Department with copy to the Small Business Development

Program. Pursuant to Texas Law, payment terms shall be net thirty (30) days.

All invoices shall include certified documentation noting any small business participation activity including but not limited to: small business firm's name, certification number, certification expiration date, description of work performed for the corresponding period noted on the invoice and amount being paid to the certified small business. Such documentation shall be certified by the small business and be used to monitor the ongoing small business commitment in accordance with the original proposed commitment and governing contract.

3.22 Cooperative Purchasing Agreement - as permitted under Interlocal Cooperation Act C Texas Government Code, Chapter 791, other governmental entities may wish to also participate under the same terms and conditions contained in this contract. If this solicitation does not specifically list additional entities, each entity wishing to participate must have prior authorization from Houston Community College and the vendor. If such participation is authorized, all purchase orders will be issued directly from and shipped directly to the entity requiring the goods or services. Houston Community College shall not be held responsible for any orders placed, deliveries made or payment for goods or services ordered by the entities. Proposer is to state their willingness to allow other governmental entities to participate in this contract, if awarded.

3.23 W9 Form - Proposer shall include a W9 Form with their proposal submission.

4. Obligations and Waivers

THIS REQUEST IS A SOLICITATION FOR FORMAL REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL AND IS NOT A CONTRACT OR AN OFFER TO CONTRACT.

THIS REQUEST DOES NOT OBLIGATE HCC TO AWARD A CONTRACT OR PAY ANY COST INCURRED BY THE INDIVIDUAL OR COMPANY IN THE PREPARATION AND SUBMITTAL OF A PROPOSAL.

HCC, IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION, RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT ANY PROPOSAL AND/OR REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS OR A PART OF A PROPOSAL, WITHOUT REASON OR CAUSE, SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST.

HCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY NON-RESPONSIVE OR CONDITIONAL PROPOSAL. HCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALITIES, IRREGULARITIES, AND/OR TECHNICALITIES IN THIS REQUEST, AND/OR ANY PROPOSALS RECEIVED OR SUBMITTED.

BY SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL, PROPOSER AGREES TO WAIVE ANY CLAIM IT HAS OR MAY HAVE AGAINST HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, AND ITS TRUSTEES, OR AGENTS ARISING OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH (1) THE ADMINISTRATION, EVALUATION, OR RECOMMENDATION OF ANY PROPOSAL; (2) ANY REQUIREMENTS UNDER THIS REQUEST OR RELATED DOCUMENTS; (3) THE REJECTION OF ANY PROPOSAL OR ANY PART OF ANY PROPOSAL; AND/OR (4) THE AWARD OF A PURCHASE ORDER/CONTRACT, IF ANY.

HCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW THIS REQUEST AT ANY TIME FOR ANY REASON; REMOVE ANY SCOPE COMPONENT FOR ANY REASON; AND TO ISSUE SUCH CLARIFICATIONS, MODIFICATIONS AND/OR AMENDMENTS AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE.

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**ATTACHMENT NO. 1
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FORM
RFP-C 20-22
SOC/CYBER RANGE LAB**

Date:		HCC Proposal No.: 20-22	
Submitted by:		Title:	
Company:		Email:	
Phone:			
Signature:			

1. General Overview

Houston Community College ("HCC") through this Request for Proposal ("RFP") is seeking proposals for the purchase of goods and services in order to develop a Security Operations Center (SOC)/Cyber Range Lab. Delivery will be in accordance with the terms, conditions and requirements set forth in this Request for Proposal. The successful proposer will provide the specified requirements in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local laws, standards and regulations necessary to perform the scope of services.

1.1. Contract Term

It is anticipated that the contract term for contract(s) awarded resulting from this solicitation, if any, will be three (3) years with the option to renew for two (2) one-year term. Further, HCC reserves the right to extend the contract term on a month-to-month basis, not to exceed three (3) months upon the expirations of the initial term and any successive renewal term.

Houston Community College (HCC) reserves the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, any or all proposals received and to make award based on individual items or combination of items. Although HCC may award one contract as a result of this Request for Proposal, HCC reserves the right to award by line or in the aggregate and/or multiple awards, whichever is in the best interest of the College as a result of this solicitation.

The proposer certifies that he/she has read, understands, and agrees to be bound by the requirements and terms and conditions and any and all amendments issued by HCC and made a part of this solicitation as set forth or referenced in this solicitation. The undersigned understands and agrees that any award resulting from this offer will be made in the form of an HCC Purchase Order and will have the following order of precedence: 1) HCC Terms and Conditions of Purchase Order, 2) HCC referenced solicitation including all amendments issued by HCC, 3) the Request for Proposal response as accepted and awarded by HCC. The undersigned further certifies that he/she is legally authorized to make the statements and representations in its response to this solicitation and that said statements and representations are true and accurate to the best of his/her knowledge.

The undersigned understands and agrees that when evaluating proposals and making an award decision, HCC relies on the truth and accuracy of the statements and representations presented in the proposal response. Accordingly, HCC has the right to suspend or debar the undersigned from its procurement process and/or terminate any contract award that may have resulted from this solicitation if HCC determines that any statements or representations made were not true and accurate.

2. **Solicitation Schedule**

The following is the anticipated solicitation schedule including a brief description for milestone dates:

Solicitation Milestone	Date & Time
Request for Proposal released and posted to HCC's & ESBD's websites	March 30, 2020
Pre-Proposal Meeting via WEBEX	April 8, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (local CST time)
Deadline to receive written question/inquiries	April 15, 2020 by 2:00 p.m.
Responses to written questions/inquiries (estimated)	April 20, 2020
Proposal Submittal Due Date and Time	April 29, 2020
Anticipated Board Recommendation and Approval	June 2020

NOTE: Houston Community College reserves the right to revise this schedule. Any such revision will be formalized by the issuance of an addendum to the Request for Proposal and posted on Procurement Operations web site for your convenience.

2.1 Pre-Proposal Conference

An informational webinar for prospective bidders will be from 10:00am–11:30am CST on April 8, 2020 - Go to Page No. 8 of 31, for WEBEX connection information.

SEE APPENDED GUIDELINES FOR PREPROPOSALS

Bidders who may not have the capability to view remotely are encouraged to submit questions in writing.

Please print a copy of the RFP and have it handy for your use during the webinar. The College intends to present general information, which may be helpful in the preparation of proposals, and to offer firms the opportunity to ask questions concerning this RFP.

Firms planning to attend the pre-proposal conference webinar should RSVP Barbara Brooks by email Barbara.Brooks@hccs.edu, no later than **3:00 p.m. on Monday, April 6, 2020** of the names, titles, and phone numbers of the individuals who will attend.

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Event Information

SEE APPENDED GUIDELINES FOR PREPROPOSALS Instructions for Webinar

Event: RFP-C- 20-22 SOC/CYBER RANGE LAB

Type: Unlisted Event

Event address for attendees: <https://hccs.webex.com/hccs/onstage/g.php?MTID=e048ca93096259d68c6127f17a345a784>

Event address for panelists: <https://hccs.webex.com/hccs/onstage/g.php?MTID=eab07546401c22b42c0bda449f0eb6899>

Date and time: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 10:00 am
Central Daylight Time (Chicago, GMT-05:00)

Duration: 1 hour 45 minutes

Description: RFP-C- 20-22 SOC/CYBER RANGE LAB

Event number: 798 726 391

Event password: RFP2022

Audio conference: United States Toll
+1-415-655-0003
[Show all global call-in numbers](#)
Access code: 798 726 391

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3. Scope of Services

The proposer will provide all materials, equipment labor, insurance, supervision, tools, supplies, services and other expenses necessary to develop and deliver a Security Operations Center (SOC)/Cyber Range Lab. The Scope of Work also includes (the "Lab") and installation of Nutanix Cluster Deployment (Servers) Services. The intent of this solicitation is to receive proposals for the purchase of two (2) Nutanix Servers, which includes hardware and software support for five (5) years.

3.1 HCC's Digital Information & Technology (DIT) Center of Excellence (COE) is repurposing its existing Cisco Lab at its West Loop campus (Room C.145) into a Security Operations Center (SOC) / Cyber Range lab (the "Lab"). The "Lab" will provide a state-of-the-art training environment where users will be able to simulate real world cyber-attacks based on real-world scenarios. In order to power the new "Lab", the College plans to make use of powerful servers. The servers that the DIT department is seeking to deploy in the "Lab" must be setup in a way that maximizes utility, reusability, flexibility, and creativity. This is possible thanks to virtualization technology.

3.2 Virtualization software enables the creation of a virtual (software-based) representation of something, such as a computer, a networking device, a storage device, and any other physical hardware. For example, if we had a physical server with the following specifications: 10 CPUs, 100GB of RAM memory, and 10TB of storage. A server administrator could then install virtualization software (called a hypervisor) on that physical server. He/she could now control those hardware specifications (10 CPUs, 100GB RAM, 10TB storage) and divide them in multiple machines. For example, Machine A could now have 5 CPUs, 50GB of RAM, and 2TB of storage. Machine B could now have 2 CPUs, 25GB of RAM, and 5TB of storage. Machine C could have the rest. All three machines would now be virtual and still powered by the same underlying physical server. This is the underlying concept behind cloud computing today (physical servers that are paired together into one giant server or cloud that can be shaped, divided, and reshaped as needed). It is the single most effective way to reduce IT expenses while boosting efficiency and agility for lab environments. With the addition of powerful servers running virtualization technology, the DIT COE will be able to create as many complex virtual lab environments as it sees fit and can quickly re-purpose its resources depending on the demands.

3.3 The DIT COE is also seeking an ideal platform to leverage hyper convergence technology. Hyper convergence combines compute, storage, and networking in a single system. It is also referred to as "a data center in a box." The DIT COE is also seeking hardware that supports this initiative so that students can directly interact and get the ultimate student experience (versus having the equipment housed at an off-site data center or in an existing IT room on campus). The "Lab" will also serve as a showpiece to attract additional funding and serve as a model and innovative hub to experiment with new technology such as Virtual Desktop Infrastructure to enable the streaming of desktops/labs.

3.3.1 The "Lab" will allow the COE to:

- 3.3.1.1. Create additional curriculum and lab offerings to our students;
- 3.3.1.2. Enhance existing curriculum and lab offerings to our students;
- 3.3.1.3. Provide professional development for its faculty;
- 3.3.1.4. Provide custom training workshops for specific industries/companies; and
- 3.3.1.5. Be a showpiece and model to our community and academic partners.

3.4 The "Lab" immediate use for the servers will be a fully isolated fashion. The servers will be communicated to directly by computer workstations. The students will utilize virtual labs / devices that are hosted by the new servers.

3.5 The DIT COE leadership team, internal administrators, and external contractors of choice (for the installation, setup, maintenance, and warranty) will work directly with HCC's cyber security team to protect the servers that will be housed in the "Lab" as well as facilitate a way for its servers to be updated with access either to the Internet or to a local update server (or manually).

3.6 The team will work closely with the College IT team to remain compliant on Network/Application access as well as the security of its devices and people. It is anticipated that the "Lab" will evolve based on the need to serve additional students, classes, and from potential additional contributions, grants, and donations from its partners and program specific needs.

3.6.1 The hardware needs include:

3.6.1.1 Two (2) servers (with up to 4 nodes each);

3.6.1.2 2000 GB of memory or more;

3.6.1.3 64 TB of storage or more;

3.6.1.4 24/7 Product & Hardware support for 5 years; and

3.6.1.5 Licensing for 5 years for software/hypervisor as needed.

3.7 Physical Attributes needs:

3.7.1. The proposed solution must support a mixture of 2.5" and 3.25" disks within the cluster to present the widest range of options to meet storage requirements.

3.7.2. The proposed solution must be based on standard x86/IBM Power servers and not require custom ASICs/Add-in cards, thus ensuring all functions are driven through software and easily updated.

3.7.3. The proposed solution must be comprised of 1 or 2U, 19" Rackmount Servers, to ensure maximum compatibility in the datacenter.

3.7.4. The proposed solution must not use any custom interlink networking. All networking between nodes must be standard Ethernet, carried over copper/fiber-optic media at 1/10/25/40/100Gbit and not require Jumbo Frames to ensure network compatibility within the datacenter.

3.7.5. An Out-Of-Band (OOB) mechanism must exist to manage each node from bare-metal.

3.7.6. The proposed solution must not require any FC or FCoE networking, to avoid any requirement for additional expensive networking hardware.

3.7.7. The proposed solution must contain redundant PSUs for the nodes to ensure a single failure cannot take a node offline. Other single points of failure must also be avoided, including whole-nodes (i.e. n+1 redundancy).

3.7.8. The proposed solution must allow the persistent storage of data on flash disks, while operating in a hybrid storage model, to ensure the most efficient use of solid-state drives. Flash drives must not be dedicated to caching only.

3.7.9. The proposed solution must offer a free, non-supported, downloadable version of the core product set, to allow for test and development use on recycled/retired hardware.

3.7.10. The proposed solution must offer the ability to add nodes of different sizes, both in physical dimensions and in the quantity of RAM, Storage and Cores, to take account of the changing needs

of the organization over time.

- 3.7.11. The proposed solution must allow the mixing of different CPU families within a cluster, to allow for continual replacement of old hardware by "rolling forward" the cluster over time.
- 3.7.12. The proposed solution must not require RAID technology to provide data availability.
- 3.7.13. The proposed solution must be truly Hyper-Converged in nature, where storage media, storage processing and fabrics are converged into the same physical units that offer compute services to the workloads. IO requests from VMs should be processed on the same host where the VM resides.
- 3.7.14. The proposed solution must be able to offer All Flash nodes that are partially populated, thus allowing the organization to scale-up the solution, not just scale-out.
- 3.7.15. The proposed solution must offer vGPU support for VDI deployments.

3.8 Platform Flexibility & Scale needs:

- 3.8.1. The proposed solution must be available on SuperMicro/IBM/Dell/HPE/Cisco/Fujitsu/Lenovo hardware, to suit the procurement preferences of the organization.
- 3.8.2. The proposed solution must support the following hypervisor choices to ensure future compatibility with organizational strategy; VMware, Hyper-V, AHV, XenServer.
- 3.8.3. The proposed solution must have the ability to convert between hypervisor choices in the field.
- 3.8.4. The proposed solution must offer ROBO site deployments with 1 or 2 nodes to ensure the most efficient use of resources in remote locations.
- 3.8.5. The proposed solution must have the proven ability to scale datacenter deployments from 3 to 64 nodes, in one-node increments.
- 3.8.6. The proposed solution must scale-out non-disruptively, obviating the need for forklift upgrades.
- 3.8.7. The proposed solution must scale-down without materially affecting the service of data to VMs, allowing for graceful decommissioning of older nodes.

3.9 Hypervisor Functionality needs:

- 3.9.1. The proposed solution's Hypervisor(s) must offer "Live VM Migration", "High Availability" and intelligent placement of workloads on nodes best suited to their execution.
- 3.9.2. The proposed solution must offer whole-cluster hypervisor conversion; in a few clicks convert an entire cluster from one hypervisor to another hypervisor and back again if desired.
- 3.9.3. The proposed solution must offer VLAN Trunking for VMs; vNICs on user VMs can have access port or trunk port.
- 3.9.4. The proposed solution must offer affinity rules that pin VMs to a specific host or set of hosts.

3.10 Data Services (Core Storage Functionality) needs:

- 3.10.1. The proposed solution must make data integrity checking (fingerprinting) part of the normal data lifecycle and be available without adversely affecting performance.
- 3.10.2. The proposed solution must support the mixing of Hybrid and All-Flash nodes in a cluster, to allow for flexibility of the deployment over time.
- 3.10.3. The proposed solution must natively (without additional software or configuration) cache frequently read data in RAM for ultra-low latency reads.
- 3.10.4. The proposed solution must support the "pinning" of workloads to Flash in a Hybrid deployment, whereby the persistent blocks of data for the workloads are not migrated to the "cold tier".
- 3.10.5. The proposed solution must offer Auto-Tiering (real-time) within Hybrid deployments, where data is automatically moved between faster and slower media, according to the usage profile and the availability of each media type within the cluster.
- 3.10.6. The proposed solution must offer Data Locality, whereby the system will always attempt to place a workload's data on the same node as the workload is executed upon, thus reducing network traffic and making best use of investments in the network fabric.
- 3.10.7. The proposed solution will offer a mixture of Compression, Deduplication and Erasure Coding on both Hybrid and All-Flash deployments.
- 3.10.8. The proposed solution will support the Thin-Provisioning of storage to the hypervisor.
- 3.10.9. Rapid Cloning must be supported by the proposed solution, (using VAAI/VCAI on VMware).
- 3.10.10. VAAI and ODX must be supported by the proposed solution, to handle the offloading of storage tasks from the hypervisor.
- 3.10.11. The proposed solution must offer native File Services, supporting SMB 2.0/2.1/3.0 and NFS 3.0/4.0, with the ability to scale-out the nodes to support increases in IO requirements.
- 3.10.12. The proposed solution must offer Block-level access to data from workloads outside of the HCI environment and to guests within it, using the iSCSI protocol. The configuration of block access must also include dynamic load balancing (removing the need for client-side MPIO) and flash-pinning for performance purposes.
- 3.10.13. The proposed solution must offer application-consistent Snapshots using Microsoft VSS to ensure data integrity.
- 3.10.14. The proposed solution must offer a native Backup solution that allows the storage of backup data on AWS/Azure public clouds.
- 3.10.15. The proposed solution must offer a per-VM granularity, native Disaster Recovery functionality that can support cross-hypervisor replication for efficient use of licensing.
- 3.10.16. The proposed solution must support a VMware Metro-Availability deployment, giving a stretched cluster over geographically dispersed locations.

- 3.10.17. For deployments that make use of replication between sites, a lightweight witness service must be available to prevent any split-brain syndrome and all storage controllers should be able to participate in the replication process.
- 3.10.18. The proposed solution must offer VMware SRM support via SRA integration.
- 3.10.19. The proposed solution must offer the ability to add storage-heavy nodes, running a non-VMware Hypervisor, to a VMware-based cluster, for the purposes of expanding storage-only.
- 3.10.20. The proposed solution must use all cluster nodes during disk rebuild operations, making disk rebuilds more efficient as the cluster scales-out.

3.11 Platform Management needs:

- 3.11.1. The proposed solution must offer an AD-integrated Self-Service-Portal (SSP), to allow users within the organization to take a number of permitted actions (such as VM deployments, console access and VM configuration changes).
- 3.11.2. The proposed solution must offer a Self-Service-Restore function to allow users to recover individual files from backups/snapshots.
- 3.11.3. The proposed solution must offer a "Smart Search" function for rapid navigation of the interface, using keywords or attributes of objects under management.
- 3.11.4. The proposed solution must offer customizable dashboards to show relevant information grouped as a series of "widgets".
- 3.11.5. Capacity Planning must be integrated (no additional software required) into the proposed solution, showing both efficiency savings available to the deployed system (such as right-sizing workloads) and the predicted time remaining for RAM, CPU and Storage on the cluster (given "current" demand). Additionally, the planning should advise on what resources need to be added and allow administrators to model the behavior of the platform given additional (configurable) workloads.
- 3.11.6. The proposed solution must allow the IT operational team to monitor platform resource usage and cluster health with proactive flagging of issues and assisted root cause analysis.
- 3.11.7. The proposed solution must offer native (no additional software required) VM-Anomaly detection, such as a sudden drop in CPU use for a VM (below the expected/observed typical value).
- 3.11.8. Active Directory Integration must be available for authenticating administrator access to the management UI.
- 3.11.9. The proposed solution must support a RESTful API for all functions available in the Management UI, so that automation can be used to operate the platform.
- 3.11.10. The management console must support being secured with SSL certificates issued from a corporate CA.
- 3.11.11. The proposed solution must support monitoring via SNMPv3 and alerting via SMTP.
- 3.11.12. The management console must support LDAP Active Directory authentication, and CA signed SSL certificates.

- 3.11.13. For ease of management, the proposed solution must be managed through an HTML5 web-based console that provides a single pane of glass view for the entire environment.
- 3.11.14. The solution must support management of diverse hypervisors from a single console without the need for agents or modification of the hypervisor stack.
- 3.11.15. The proposed solution must support the automated rolling upgrades of hypervisor, storage software, and firmware with no VM or storage down time without requiring the VMs to be relocated to other cluster or storage platform to accomplish these non-disruptive upgrades, all from a single GUI interface.
- 3.11.16. The proposed solution must offer PowerShell cmdlets for ease-of-administration of the platform.
- 3.11.17. The cluster management console must be natively (as part of the cluster) highly available, not requiring configuration of individual VMs to form a cluster, or the support of Load Balancers.
- 3.11.18. Management packs must be available to support the monitoring of the platform in Microsoft System Center Operations Manager.
- 3.11.19. The proposed solution must offer the ability to make cluster-wide changes (such as NTP, DNS or SNMP) in one place (not on a per-host basis)
- 3.11.20. The proposed solution must natively offer (no additional software) the ability to compose "application blueprints", containing the instructions to provision, manage and decommission an application over its lifetime, thus allowing the organization to capture application-specialist level knowledge, and make it available to less experienced users.
- 3.11.21. Application blueprints must be able to be deployed either into on-premises clouds, or via public cloud vendors, as the organization's needs determine.
- 3.11.22. Management of multiple clusters must be possible through a unifying tool, with click-through for the individual cluster management and SSO support. This unified management tool must be highly available and distributed over a number of nodes.
- 3.11.23. The proposed solution must be able to be integrated into vRealize Automation/Openstack/Azure Pack deployments.

3.12 Security needs:

- 3.12.1. The proposed solution must offer native (without additional software) Micro-segmentation for VM-level security (at the vNIC).
- 3.12.2. The proposed solution must provide a machine-readable Secure Technical Implementation Guide (STIG) that supports the SCAP standard and allows automated compliance checking, supporting the DIACAP process, installed by default.
- 3.12.3. The proposed solution must support self-healing of security-hardened settings within the STIGs, reverting any changed settings to the as-desired baseline.
- 3.12.4. The proposed solution must offer a network visualization function, whereby the physical characteristics of the network and the impact on workloads and traffic flowing between VMs, is

presented in the UI.

- 3.12.5. The solution must provide the highest-level cryptographic algorithms following NIST-SP800-131A guidance for FIPS 140.2 as well as multiple embedded STIGs following NIST-SP800-53.
- 3.12.6. The proposed solution must ship in a hardened state – requiring no subsequent “hardening” to make suitable for the organization’s needs.

3.13 Customer / References / Support needs:

- 3.13.1. The vendor of the proposed solution must use their own product for the running of LOB enterprise applications to support their business.
- 3.13.2. The proposed solution’s vendor must be a/the leader within the latest Gartner Magic Quadrant for Hyper Converged Infrastructure (HCI), thus giving credibility to their market presence and capability.
- 3.13.3. The vendor of the proposed solution must currently hold a Net Promoter Score (NPS) of over 90, and have maintained this position consistently for a minimum of 3 years, highlighting the quality of the post-sales support and customer satisfaction.
- 3.13.4. Support must be available 24/7/365 from the vendor of the proposed solution.
- 3.13.5. Support must be available from US-soil/Europe/etc.
- 3.13.6. The proposed solution’s vendor must have the ability to remotely monitor the solution and incidents resolved or escalated as needed.
- 3.13.7. Support must be available from a single point of contact, covering all components of the solution.
- 3.13.8. The global average of uptime for all shipped nodes from the proposed solution's vendor must be 99.999%.
- 3.13.9. It has been determined by the DIT team and the IT team that the only hyperconvergence / hypervisor-agnostic vendor that could meet those needs is Nutanix.
- 3.13.10. DIT COE stakeholders and the College IT/Security stakeholders have held meetings and it was determined that professional assistance from a third-party vendor would be needed to help assist the team with the services and implementation needs.

3.14 The service / implementation needs include:

Summary: The installation and configuration of the servers and cluster of up to eight nodes utilizing hypervisor technology.

- 3.14.1. An initial scope / expectations review that includes meeting with the service implementor and the relevant internal College stakeholders.
- 3.14.2. A design / planning session to assess the readiness of the lab and configure the inner workings of the servers.
- 3.14.3. A deployment and configuration phase whereby the service implementor will work with the

College stakeholders to perform pre-site checks (site-readiness), rack mounting, cabling, power testing, and the likes (as necessary), configuring and installing the hypervisor, customizing and installing the OS (custom image), customizing and installing additional software and/or tools needed to operate and maintain the equipment as well as software needed to make use of extra features as provided by the provider of the hyperconvergence technology.

3.15 Additional information related to HCC's Cyber Security program:

- 3.15.1. As of February 24, 2020, 302 students are enrolled in the Computer Systems Networking - Cyber Security AAS. 83 students are enrolled in the Level 1 Certificate in Cyber Security and 23 are enrolled in the Level 2.
- 3.15.2. The College Cyber Security program holds the prestigious Center of Academic Excellence 2-Year designation which is backed by the National Security Agency (NSA) & the Department of Homeland (DHS) (with the support of the National Science Foundation (NSF) and CyberWatch). The team is planning to apply for re-designation by 2023 and the Cyber Range will be a big boost.
- 3.15.3. HCC ranked #2 in Texas and #36 nationally during the SANS 2019 Cyber FastTrack competition. The College reached the Top Tier (top 3%) of US colleges in identifying students with a natural aptitude to excel in cybersecurity.
- 3.15.4. The College Cyber Security team is currently part of the core ABET Cyber-2-Year team and working on developing core curriculum requirements & criteria for the ABET 2-year Cybersecurity program accreditation. The team is currently working on its own ABET accreditation and plans to have it by 2020-2021.
- 3.15.5. The College has a newly formed Cyber Security club (as of Spring 2020).
- 3.15.6. HCC is part of a CyberCorps Scholarship for Service (SFS) program in partnership with Texas A&M with the opportunity for our students to receive coverage for (starting on their second year of their AAS): tuition & fees, annual stipends for both undergraduate and graduate), annual book allowance, a health insurance reimbursement allowance, a professional development allowance for SFS job fair (required). Students would then go to A&M on a full ride for a bachelor's degree and a guaranteed job for 3 years upon graduation.
- 3.15.7. The College is working with Texas A&M and SkillsUSA to partner on a Capture the Flag competition that would bring district-level leagues that can funnel into State Championships.
- 3.15.8. HCC is opening a Women in Cybersecurity (WiCYS) chapter.
- 3.15.9. The College is working closely with Cyber Houston to develop free courses during the upcoming Cyber Security Summit in Houston.

4. Delivery

Delivery locations or physical addresses for the delivery of goods and services ordered by or for a particular department will be specified on each individual Purchase Order.

5. Freight (F.O.B. Destination)

All items shall be shipped FOB Destination, Full Freight Prepaid and Allowed. Contractor assumes full responsibility for all transportation, transportation scheduling, packing handling, insurance and other services associated with delivery of products deemed necessary under the Contract.

6. Price Proposal

Pricing is set forth-in Exhibit 1 shall be firm. The Contract price shall include full compensation for providing all required goods and services in accordance with required specifications, or services as specified herein or when applicable, in the Scope of Services/Pricing attached to the Contract and no additional compensation will be allowed therefore, unless otherwise provided for in the Contract.

I have received and thoroughly examined the specifications and work schedule and items and services requested. I have also received and considered all solicitation amendments as posted on the solicitation website and have included those provisions in my Proposal.

I understand the work to be done as provided in the Scope of Services and specifications. I further understand that the work is subject to the review and approval of Houston Community College System and submit the following Proposal.

7. Total Cost

Provide a Total Cost (to include all travel and living expenses) for the proposed solution. The Total proposed cost will be a firm fixed cost for the life of the contract.

Please provide a Total Proposed Price reflecting all project costs to successfully complete the project. Work requirements will be specified in individual purchase orders issued by Houston Community College.

NOTE: Proposer shall insert cost below for hardware and services:

A. Total: \$ _____ Hardware (Exhibit 1)

B. Total: \$ _____ Services (Exhibit 1)

Cooperative Contract

Provide the following information for any cooperative contract your proposal is being submitted under:

Cooperative Contract Name:	
Cooperative Contract No.	
Cooperative Contract Term	
Cooperative Contract Website link:	

8. Additional Requirements

8.1 Proposer accepts payment using a purchasing card (MasterCard) at no additional fee:
Yes _____ No _____.

8.2 Proposer accept a site visit (if needed) to inspect the items being proposed:
Yes _____ No _____.

9. Discount for Prompt Payment

Net 10 Calendar days _____% Net 20 Calendar days _____%

10. Delivery of Invoices

All invoices shall referenced the governing Purchase Order (PO) number and be sent to the following location via email to accounts.payable@hccs.edu.

11. Certification

By submitting this Request for Proposal response, the above named individual certifies that the individual/company is not ineligible to receive a purchase order/contract per the terms and requirements set forth per **HCC General Terms and Conditions** or for any other reason. Further, the above named individual certifies that he/she has read, understands and agrees to be bound by the requirements and terms and conditions set forth in this Request for Proposal.

12. Small Business Development Program (SBDP)

The Houston Community College System’s Small Business Development Program (“SBDP” or the “Program”) was created to provide business opportunities for local certified small businesses to participate in contracting and procurement at Houston Community College (HCC).

The SBDP is a goal-oriented program, requiring Contractors who receive Contracts from HCC to use Good Faith Efforts to utilize certified small businesses. The Program applies to all Contracts over \$50,000, except Contracts for sole-source items, federally funded Contracts, Contracts with other governmental entities, and those Contracts that are otherwise prohibited by applicable law or expressly exempted by HCC. The SBDP is a race and gender-neutral program; however, HCC actively encourages the participation of minority and women-owned small businesses in the SBDP.

To participate, small businesses must be certified by an agency or organization whose certification is recognized by HCC. Certification is based on the firm’s gross revenues or number of employees averaged over the past three years, inclusive of any affiliates as defined by 13 C.F.R. § 121.103, does not exceed the size standards as defined pursuant to Section 3 of the Small Business Act and 13 C.F.R. § 121.201.

A list of HCC recognized SBE Certifications may be found at <http://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procurement/small-business-procurement/>

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**ATTACHMENT NO. 2
PROPOSER CERTIFICATIONS
RFP-C 20-22
SOC/CYBER RANGE LAB**

1. NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:

The undersigned certifies that he/she will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment or in the selection of subcontractors because of race, color, age, religion, gender, national origin or disability. The undersigned shall also take action to ensure that applicants are employed, and treated during employment, without regard to their race, color, religion, gender, age, national origin or disability. Such action shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following: non-discriminatory employment practices: employment, upgrading or transfer, recruitment or recruitment advertising, layoff or termination, rates of pay or other compensation and selection for training, including apprenticeship.

2. BLACKOUT PERIOD COMPLIANCE:

The undersigned certifies that he/she has read, understands and agrees to be bound by the Prohibited Communications and Political Contributions provision set forth in the solicitation. The undersigned further understands that the Proposer shall not communicate with a HCC Trustee, employee, or any member of the selection/evaluation committee in any way concerning this Solicitation from the day it is first advertised through thirty (30) days after the contract is executed by the Chancellor or his/her designee, or when a determination is made that the contract will not be awarded.

This period is known as the "Blackout Period," as further defined in Section 1.7.10 and 3.3 of the Procurement Operations Manual. Violation of the Blackout Period is considered unethical conduct and will be handled as such with regard to a Trustee and all applicable federal and state laws and regulations, local ordinances, board policies and procurement procedures with respect to their conduct as public officials involved in the procurement process.

With regard to a Proposer, violation of the Blackout Period may result in the cancellation of the referenced transaction, debarment, and disqualification from future procurement

solicitations and prosecution in accordance with the Laws of the State of Texas.

3. ASSURANCE OF SBDP GOAL:

The undersigned certifies that he/she has read, understands and agrees to be bound by the small business provisions set forth in this Solicitation. The undersigned further certifies that he/she is legally authorized to make the statements and representations in the Solicitation and that said statements and representations are true and accurate to the best of his/her knowledge. The undersigned will enter into formal agreement(s) for work identified on the CONTRACTOR AND SUBCONTRACTOR PARTICIPATION form conditioned upon execution of a contract with HCC. The undersigned agrees to attain the small business utilization percentages of the total offer amount as set forth below:

Small Business Participation Goal =

The undersigned certifies that the firm shown below has not discriminated against any small business or other potential subcontractor because of race, color, religion, gender, age, veteran's status, disability or national origin, but has provided full and equal opportunity to all potential subcontractors irrespective of race, color, religion, gender, age, disability, national origin or veteran status.

The undersigned understands that if any of the statements and representations are made knowing them to be false or there is a failure to implement any of the stated commitments set forth herein without prior approval of HCC's Chancellor or the duly authorized representative, the Proposer may be subject to the loss of the contract or the termination thereof.

4. CERTIFICATION AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT:

A person or business entity entering into a contract with HCC is required by Texas Law to disclose, in

advance of the contract award, if the person or an owner or operator of the business entity has been convicted of a felony. The disclosure should include a general description of the conduct resulting in the conviction of a felony as provided in section 44.034 of the Texas Education Code. The requested

information is being collected in accordance with applicable law. This requirement does not apply to a publicly held corporation.

If an individual

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Have you been convicted of a felony?
YES or NO

If a business entity:
YES or NO

Has any owner of your business entity been
convicted of a felony?

Has any operator of your business entity been
convicted of a felony?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, please provide a general description of the conduct resulting in the conviction of the felony, including the Case Number, the applicable dates, the State and County where the conviction occurred, and the sentence.

5. DISCLOSURE OF OWNERSHIP INTERESTS:

The undersigned certifies that he/she has accurately completed the attached Exhibit 1 "Ownership Interest Disclosure List." For the purposes of this section, in accordance with Board Bylaws, the term "Contractors" shall include any member of the potential vendor's board of directors, its chairperson, chief executive officer, chief financial officer, chief operating officer, and any person with an ownership interest of 10% or more. This requirement shall also apply to any Subcontractor listed on the "Contractor and Subcontractor Participation Form."

6. PROHIBITED CONTRACTS/PURCHASES:

The undersigned certifies that he/she has read, understands and is eligible to receive a contract in accordance with HCC Board of Trustees Bylaw regarding Prohibited Contracts/Purchases as further defined in the attached Exhibit 2.

7. HOUSE BILL 89 ACKNOWLEDMENT:

Pursuant to the provisions of Subtitle F, Title 10, Government Code Chapter 2270, by acknowledging this attribute, vendor verifies that their company:

1. Does not boycott Israel currently, and
2. Will not boycott Israel during the term of the contract

Pursuant to Section 2270.001, Texas Government Code:

1. "Boycott Israel" means refusing to deal with, terminating business activities with, or otherwise taking any action that is intended to penalize, inflict economic harm on, or limit commercial relations specifically with Israel, or with a person or entity doing business in Israel or in an Israeli-controlled territory, but does not include an action made for ordinary business purposes; and

2. "Company" means a for-profit sole proprietorship, organization, association, corporation, partnership, joint venture, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, or any limited liability company, including a wholly owned subsidiary, majority-owned subsidiary, parent company or affiliate of those entities or business associations that exist to make a profit.

8. SENATE BILL 252 ACKNOWLEDGE:

Pursuant to the provisions of Subtitle F, Title 10, Texas Government Code 2252.152 (CONTRACTS WITH COMPANIES ENGAGED IN BUSINESS WITH IRAN, SUDAN, OR FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION PROHIBITED)a governmental entity may not enter into a governmental contract with a company that is identified on a list prepared and maintained under Texas Government Code Section 806.051, 807.051, or 2252.153.

Sec. 2252.153. LISTED COMPANIES. The comptroller shall prepare and maintain, and make available to each governmental entity, a list of companies known to have contracts with or provide supplies or services to a foreign terrorist organization.

Sec. 2252.154. EXCEPTION. Notwithstanding any other law, a company that the United States government affirmatively declares to be excluded from its federal sanctions regime relating to Sudan, its federal sanctions regime relating to Iran, or any federal sanctions regime relating to a foreign terrorist organization is not subject to contract prohibition under this subchapter.

9. DIVESTMENT STATUTE LISTS:

<https://comptroller.texas.gov/purchasing/publications/divestment.php>

10.CERTIFICATE OF INTERESTED PARTIES FORM

Beginning January 1, 2018, successful proposers awarded contracts that are requires an action or vote by the governing body of the entity or agency or has a value of at least one million (\$1million) or more shall be required by state law to complete online the Certificate of Interested Parties Form 1295 and submit an unsworn declaration of completion to the Purchasing staff member listed in the solicitation before the purchase/contract will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval. For a list of Frequently Asked Questions, you can go to:

https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/FAQ_Form_1295.html

The form must be submitted at:

https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/elf_info_form1295.htm

The law applies only to a contract of a governmental entity or state agency that either:

- (1) requires an action or vote by the governing body of the entity or agency before the contract may be signed; or
- (2) has a value of at least \$1 million.

A completed Form 1295 is not required for:

- (1) a sponsored research contract of a state agency or an institution of higher education;
- (2) an interagency contract of a state agency or an institution of higher education;
- (3) a contract related to health and human services, if:

*The values of the contract cannot be determined at the time the contract is executed; and

*any qualified vendor is eligible for the contract;

- (4) a contract with a publicly traded business entity, including a wholly owned subsidiary of the business entity;
- (5) a contract with an electric utility, as that term is defined by Section 31.002, Utilities Code, or
- (6) a contract with a gas utility, as that term is defined by Section 121.001, Utilities Code.

Gov't Code § 2252.908. The disclosure requirement applies to a contract entered into on or after January 1, 2016. The District may not enter into a contract

with a business entity that fails to submit the form as required.

If your company qualifies for one of the exemptions listed in the Certificate of Interested Parties attribute, please indicate which exemption applies.

11.CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

No person shall be engaged by the vendor to work on District property where students are present who have charges pending, or who have been convicted, received probation or deferred adjudication. The following is a list of offenses which apply: 1) Any offense against a child; 2) Any sex offense; 3) Any crimes against persons involving weapons or violence; 4) Any felony offense involving controlled substances; 5) Any felony offense against property; or 6) Any other offense that the District believes might compromise the safety of students, staff or property.

It shall be the responsibility of the vendor to ensure compliance with this provision.

Prior to the start of the contract vendor shall submit a NATIONAL criminal background investigation report for all employees with an updated report to include any new hires working on District property to the facility manager or District Chief of Police. During the duration of the contract, the District reserves the right to request additional reports from the vendor if any employee is suspected of a criminal offense as stated above. Report must be in accordance with Texas Education Code 22.0834.

12.DEBARMENT

The Contractor certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction (contract), by any governmental department or agency. If the Contractor cannot certify this statement, attach a written explanation for review by the District. The Contractor must notify the District Director of Strategic Sourcing within 30 days if debarred by any governmental entity during the Contract period.

13.EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER (EOE)

Personnel relations of the Vendor's employees shall be the Vendor's responsibility, including compliance with all applicable government regulations related to the employment of personnel. The Vendor shall be an Equal Opportunity Employer and shall neither discriminate nor permit discrimination in its operations or employment practices against any person or group of persons on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, or veteran status. The vendor shall hire only persons who may legally work in the United States, to include citizens and nationals of the United States and foreign citizens who have the necessary authorization to work. It is the vendor's responsibility to verify the identity and employment eligibility of anyone hired for performance under this contract. Furthermore, all persons performing work under this contract must be an employee of the company.

14. NON COLLUSION STATEMENT

The Contractor certifies that you are duly authorized to execute this contract, that this company, corporation or firm has not prepared this proposal in collusion with any other proposer, and that the contents of this proposal as to prices, terms or conditions of said proposal have not been

communicated by the undersigned nor by any employee or agent to any other person engaged in this type of business prior to the official opening of this proposal.

15. DELINQUENT FRANCHISE TAXES CERTIFICATION

As required by §2252.903, Government Code, proposer's official certifies that it is not currently delinquent in the payment of any franchise taxes owed the State of Texas under Chapter 171, Tax Code, or that it is exempt from, or not subject to, such tax. Please indicate your status:

A. The corporation is exempt from payment of franchise taxes or is an out-of-state corporation not subject to franchise tax; therefore, I am submitting a certified statement to that effect.

B. The corporation is subject to Texas franchise tax. I hereby certify that there is no delinquent Texas franchise tax pending against the corporation.

C. I hereby certify that there is delinquent Texas franchise tax pending against the corporation.

I attest that I have answered the questions truthfully and to the best of my knowledge.

Signed By: _____ Name: _____

Title: _____ State of: _____

Sworn to and subscribed before me at _____
(City) (State)

This _____ day of _____, 2020.

Notary Public of the State of: _____

**EXHIBIT 2 - TO ATTACHMENT NO. 2
PROHIBITED CONTRACTS/PURCHASES
RFP-C 20-22
SOC/CYBER RANGE LAB**

The College shall not contract with a business entity in which a Board Member, Senior Staff Member, or a relative of a Board member or Senior Staff Member within the first degree of consanguinity or affinity, has any pecuniary interest. All such contracts executed prior to June 21, 2012 shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Further, the College shall not contract with a business entity that employs, hires, or contracts with, in any capacity, including but not limited to, a subcontractor, employee, contractor, advisor or independent contractor, a Board Member or a Senior Staff Member.

Further, the College shall not contract with a business entity that employs an officer or director who is a relative of a Board member or a Senior Staff Member within the first degree of consanguinity or affinity.

Definitions:

"Business entity" shall not include a corporation or a subsidiary or division of a corporation whose shares are listed on a national or regional stock exchange or traded in the over-the-counter market. "Business entity" shall not include non-profit corporations or religious, educational, and governmental institutions, except that private, for-profit educational institutions are included in the definition of Business entity.

"Director" is defined as an appointed or elected member of the board of directors of a company who, with other directors, has the responsibility for determining and implementing the company's policy, and as the company's agent, can bind the company with valid contracts.

"Officer" is defined as a person appointed by the board of directors of a company to manage the day-to-day business of the company and carry out the policies set by the board. An officer includes, but is not limited to, a chief executive officer (CEO), president, chief operating officer (COO), chief financial officer (CFO), vice-president, or other senior company official, as determined by the Board.

"Senior Staff Member" shall have the meaning as defined in Article A, Section 3 of the Board Bylaws which includes:

- a. Any member of the Chancellor's Advisory Council;
- b. HCC employees classified as E-10 and above;
- c. All procurement and purchasing personnel;
- d. Any employee who participates on an evaluation or selection committee for any HCC solicitation for goods or services; and
- e. Any employee who participates in the evaluation of goods or services provided by a vendor or contractor.

Absent other legal requirements, all contracts entered into by the College in violation of this policy shall be voided within 30 days of notice of the violation.

I attest that I have answered the questions truthfully and to the best of my knowledge.

**ATTACHMENT NO. 3
CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE
RFP-C 20-22
SOC/CYBER RANGE LAB**

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE	FORM CIQ
For vendor doing business with local governmental entity	
<p>This questionnaire reflects changes made to the law by H.B. 23, 84th Leg., Regular Session.</p> <p>This questionnaire is being filed in accordance with Chapter 176, Local Government Code, by a vendor who has a business relationship as defined by Section 176.001(1-a) with a local governmental entity and the vendor meets requirements under Section 176.006(a).</p> <p>By law this questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator of the local governmental entity not later than the 7th business day after the date the vendor becomes aware of facts that require the statement to be filed. See Section 176.006(a-1), Local Government Code.</p> <p>A vendor commits an offense if the vendor knowingly violates Section 176.006, Local Government Code. An offense under this section is a misdemeanor.</p>	OFFICE USE ONLY
<p>1 Name of vendor who has a business relationship with local governmental entity.</p>	Date Received
<p>2 <input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if you are filing an update to a previously filed questionnaire. (The law requires that you file an updated completed questionnaire with the appropriate filing authority not later than the 7th business day after the date on which you became aware that the originally filed questionnaire was incomplete or inaccurate.)</p>	
<p>3 Name of local government officer about whom the information is being disclosed.</p> <p align="center">_____</p> <p align="center">Name of Officer</p>	
<p>4 Describe each employment or other business relationship with the local government officer, or a family member of the officer, as described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A). Also describe any family relationship with the local government officer. Complete subparts A and B for each employment or business relationship described. Attach additional pages to this Form CIQ as necessary.</p> <p align="center">A. Is the local government officer or a family member of the officer receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than investment income, from the vendor?</p> <p align="center"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p align="center">B. Is the vendor receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than investment income, from or at the direction of the local government officer or a family member of the officer AND the taxable income is not received from the local governmental entity?</p> <p align="center"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	
<p>5 Describe each employment or business relationship that the vendor named in Section 1 maintains with a corporation or other business entity with respect to which the local government officer serves as an officer or director, or holds an ownership interest of one percent or more.</p>	
<p>6 <input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if the vendor has given the local government officer or a family member of the officer one or more gifts as described in Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), excluding gifts described in Section 176.003(a-1).</p>	
<p>7</p> <p align="center">_____ Signature of vendor doing business with the governmental entity</p> <p align="right">_____ Date</p>	

NOTE: When completing this Questionnaire, please be certain to answer each and every question; indicate "Not Applicable", if appropriate. Please sign and date.

**ATTACHMENT NO. 4
FINANCIAL INTERESTS AND POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS
RFP-C 20-22
SOC/CYBER RANGE LAB**

Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176 requires that vendors desiring to enter into certain contracts with a local governmental entity must disclose the financial and potential conflict of interest information as specified below.

Vendor shall disclose the financial interest and potential conflict of interest information identified in Sections one (1) through three (3) below as a condition of receiving an award or contract. Submit this information along with your bid, proposal, or offer. **This form must be received by HCC Office of Systemwide Compliance before the vendor's bid, proposal, or offer will be considered received or evaluated.** Completed forms must be **NOTARIZED** and delivered to:

This requirement applies to contracts with a value exceeding \$50,000.

Section 1 - Disclosure of Financial Interest in the Vendor

a. If any officers or employees of HCC ("individuals") have one of the following financial interests in the vendor (or its principal) or its subcontractor(s), please show their name and address and check all that apply and (include additional documents if needed):

Name: _____
Address: _____

b. For each individual named above, show the type of ownership/distributable income share:

Ownership interest of at least 10%	(_____)
Ownership interest of at least \$15,000 or more of the fair market value of vendor	(_____)
Distributive Income Share from Vendor exceeding 10% of individual's gross income	(_____)
Real property interest with fair market value of at least \$2,500	(_____)
Person related within first degree of affinity to individual has the following ownership or real property interest in Vendor:	(_____)
1. Ownership interest of at least 10%	
2. Ownership interest of at least \$15,000 or more of the fair market value of vendor	
3. Distributive Income Share from Vendor exceeding 10% of the individual's gross income	
4. Real property interest with fair market value of at least \$2,500	
No individuals have any of the above financial interests	(If none go to Section 4) (_____)

c. For each individual named above, show the **dollar value or proportionate share** of the ownership interest in the vendor (or its principal) or its subcontractor (s) as follows:

If the proportionate share of the named individual(s) in the ownership of the vendor (or its principal) or subcontractor of vendor is 10% or less, and if the value of the ownership interest of the named

individual(s) is
\$15,000 or less of the fair market value of vendor, check here (_____).

If the proportionate share of ownership exceeds 10%, or the value of the ownership interest exceeds \$15,000 of the fair market value of vendor, show either:

the percent of ownership _____ %, or
the value of ownership \$ _____ .

Section 2 - Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest

For each of the individuals having the level of financial interest identified in Section 1 above, and for any other HCC individual not identified in Section 1 above check "Yes" or "No" to indicate which, if any, of the following potential conflict of interest relationships apply. If "Yes", please describe (use space under applicable section-attach additional pages as necessary).

a. Employment, currently or in the previous 3 years, including but not limited to contractual employment for services for vendor.

Yes _____ No _____

b. Employment of individual's spouse, father, mother, son, or daughter, including but not limited to contractual employment for services for vendor in the previous 2 years.

Yes _____ No _____

Section 3- Disclosure of Gifts

For each of the individuals having the level of financial interest identified in Section 1 above, and for any other HCC individual not identified in Section 1 above check "Yes" or "No" to indicate which, if any, of the following potential conflict of interest relationships apply. If "Yes", please describe (use space under applicable section-attach additional pages as necessary).

a. Received a gift from vendor (or principal), or subcontractor of vendor, of \$250 or more within the preceding 12 months.

Yes _____ No _____

b. Individual's spouse, father, mother, son, or daughter has received a gift from vendor (or principal), or subcontractor of vendor, of \$250 or more within the preceding 12 months.

Yes _____ No _____

Section 4- Other Contract and Procurement Related Information

Vendor shall disclose the information identified below as a condition of receiving an award or contract.

This requirement is applicable to only those contracts with a value exceeding \$50,000. You must submit this information along with your bid, proposal, or offer.

a. Vendor shall identify whether vendor (or its principal), or its subcontractor(s), has current contracts (including leases) with other government agencies of the State of Texas by checking:

Yes _____ No _____

b. If "yes" is checked, identify each contract by showing agency name and other descriptive information such as purchase order or contract reference number (attach additional pages as necessary).

c. Vendor shall identify whether vendor (or its principal) or its subcontractor(s) has pending contracts (including leases), bids, proposal, or other ongoing procurement relationships with other government agencies of the State of Texas by checking:

Yes _____ No _____

d. If "yes" is checked, identify each such relationship by showing agency name and other descriptive information such as bid or project number (attach additional pages as necessary).

This disclosure is submitted on behalf of:

(Name of Vendor)

Certification. I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the information provided by me in this disclosure statement is true and correct. I understand that failure to disclose the information requested may result in my bid, proposal, or offer, being rejected, and/or may result in prosecution for knowingly violating the requirements of **Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176**. I understand that it is my responsibility to comply with the requirements set forth by HCC as it relates to this disclosure. I also understand that I must submit an updated disclosure form within seven (7) days of discovering changes in the significant financial interests of the individuals I identified in Section 1 of this disclosure or if individuals that were not identified, later receive a financial interest in my company or is a subcontractor of my company.

Official authorized to sign on behalf of vendor:

Name (Printed or Typed) _____ Title _____

Signature _____ Date _____

"NOTE: PROPOSER MUST COMPLETE THE ABOVE "FINANCIAL INTERESTS AND POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS" FORM. FAILURE TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR OFFER SHALL RESULT IN YOUR OFFER BEING CONSIDERED AS "NON-RESPONSIVE" TO THIS SOLICITATION."

Signed By: _____ Name: _____

Title: _____ State of: _____

Sworn to and subscribed before me at _____
(City) (State)

This _____ day of _____, 2020.

Notary Public of the State of: _____

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