

010-FF03 - MAINLINE FOODS AND DISTRIBUTOR SERVICES QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS LOG

QUESTION 1: I was unable to attend the pre-bid conference on 10/6/05. I wanted be sure about bidding on the "dry goods" portion of the bid. Must a company be a food distributor (and qualify under Special Condition #7, sections A & B) to bid the "dry goods"?

RESPONSE 1: NO. However, successful bidder(s) must bid both the food items and distribution services. This bid is different from previous Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) bids. All potential bidders need to read the ENTIRE bid package to understand the requirements of this bid.

QUESTION 2: Can you tell me if I am reading the page about samples correctly?

The way I am reading it is, if we bid an item that is not specified on your bid and M-DCPS wants to see a sample after the bid opens, we will send it in when M-DCPS requests it. We DO NOT have to send a sample BEFORE bid opening of the item we are bidding if it is not on the bid.

RESPONSE 2: The Department of Food and Nutrition may request samples before and/or after the bid award, but the bidder(s) should not send samples unless requested by the Department of Food and Nutrition.

QUESTION 3. Why is there nowhere to put how many pieces make in a 2 oz. CN serving?

RESPONSE 3: Please refer to the minimum portion counts and case counts under each bid item.

QUESTION 4. Do you want the portion cost (a 2 oz serving) or do you mean you a price per each portion/piece?

RESPONSE 4: M-DCPS wants a piece or portion cost, where applicable as stated in the bid item.

QUESTION 5. Why is the case pack not evaluated when adding in the fixed delivery fee to establish the lowest cost per serving?

RESPONSE 5: It will be considered, based on the minimum case count per item as indicated in each item description in the bid.

QUESTION 6. Why not go to a bid system where the manufacturer bids direct to M-DCPS and is awarded based on the " lowest possible serving or portion cost" and the distributor be awarded on the basis of the lowest total selling price?

RESPONSE 6: Because M-DCPS is looking for a format that generates the greatest amount of competition and will result in the best products and services at the best price for the district.

QUESTION 7. Questions on Items on the Bid:

FROZEN FOODS

A) #5 RIB SHAPED PORK PATTIES - JTM #CP5624 should be #5614

RESPONSE A: Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

B) #15 FULLY COOKED BREADED CHICKEN NUGGETS - Kings Delight Item #1311 was omitted as an approved brand. This item is an approved brand on the present Frozen and Refrigerated Food Item Bid.

RESPONSE B: Items on previous bids and awards are not automatically included in this bid.

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C) #39 LOW FAT MOZZARELLA CHEESE STICKS - Giorgio Foods has presented product and information to M-DCPS Schools Food & Nutrition Dept. and has submitted samples for evaluation twice with good results, is it possible that the omission of Giorgio Foods as an approved brand is simply that "Gilardi Foods" was transposed incorrectly on the bid instead of Giorgio Foods? To my knowledge Gilardi Foods does not manufacture a Breaded Mozzarella Cheese Stick.

RESPONSE C: Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

D) #47 BEEF AND CHEESE SOFT TACO - Los Cabos Item #64550CPN was omitted as an approved brand. This item was awarded on the present Frozen and Refrigerated Food Items Bid and has been successfully supplying M-DCPS Schools the past two years.

RESPONSE D: Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

E) #48 FIESTA BEAN BURRITO - Los Cabos Item #71670 was omitted as an approved brand. This item was awarded on the present Frozen and Refrigerated Food Items Bid and has been successfully supplying M-DCPS Schools the past two years.

RESPONSE E: Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

F) #54 PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY CUP - Cloverdale should be changed to Clovervale.

RESPONSE F: Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

G) #57 CRUST-LESS PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY SANDWICH - Cloverdale should be changed to Clovervale.

RESPONSE G: Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

REFRIGERATED FOODS

H) #2 PASTEURIZED PROCESSED AMERICAN CHEESE - Schreiber Foods #01-0402 should be changed to Schreiber Foods #30328.

RESPONSE H: Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

I) #10 STRING CHEESE - Schreiber Foods was omitted as an approved brand. The Schreiber string cheese information and eight cases of samples were submitted for testing and evaluation at the same time as the other brands that appear on this bid.

RESPONSE I: Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

J) I ask you to review and research the items that have been omitted as an approved brand in hopes that it was a simple error which can so easily happen with such a large bid. If there was a specific reason that an item was not placed on the bid please advise.

RESPONSE J: Items on previous bids and awards are not automatically included in this bid.

QUESTION 8. THE PROCEDURE IN THE PAST AT M-DCPS WAS THAT IF AN ITEM WAS NOT ON THE PRIOR BID A WINDOW OF TIME WAS DESIGNATED TO SUBMIT A SAMPLE. THIS WAS TO ENSURE THAT YOU PROVIDE EVERY OPPORTUNITY FOR MANUFACTURES TO BE APPROVED FOR ITEMS UNKNOWN TO THE TRADE THAT M-DCPS WAS INTERESTED IN USING IN THE MENU. THIS WAS CALLED THE NEW PRODUCT BID IN THE PAST.

THUS THE QUESTION BELOW DUE TO THE NEW FORMAT- QUESTION:

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TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY IN THE BID PROCESS, WHAT PROVISIONS ARE IN PLACE TO PROVIDE FOR TESTING ITEMS NOT SHOWN ON ANY PRIOR BID, SO THAT THEY BE TESTED AND APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED FOR BID 010-FF03? NOTE ABOVE NUTRITIONAL FOR HOPES COOKIES THAT SHOULD QUALIFY THEM FOR TESTING FOR APPROVAL ON ITEM 58

RESPONSE 8: Each bid is a new contract with M-DCPS. You may only bid products as specified on this current bid. Items on previous bids and awards or previously tested are not automatically included in this bid. Directions to submit new products for testing with the Department of Food and Nutrition will be posted on their webpage at <http://nutrition.dadeschools.net>

QUESTION 9. In review of your recent grocery bid, we saw that you have listed under the burritos a company "Coyote Grill" they are no longer in business, which would leave you with one approved vendor for this.

We have sampled and tested our Butcher Boy Burritos with your schools and would like the opportunity to bid these items. Please let us know if this is possible.

RESPONSE 9: Please look at the Bid Addendum for approved brands for each bid item.

QUESTION 10. The brand name on the large in half cases from Happy Eggs, is Hillandale Farms.

RESPONSE 10: Item is correct on the bid document.

QUESTION 11. I have another thought that came to mind that maybe another pre - bid conference could be held with just the Broker and MFG'S. This might help clear up any questions we have on the product specifications and other requirements. Also like brands on products on the bid that were approved by testing and not listed on the bid. It would not be necessary for the distributors to be in attendance. Let me know your thoughts on this.

RESPONSE 11: The pre-bid conference was an open meeting to the general public.

QUESTION 12. What factors will be used in determining if the school location can receive a combination of Frozen, Refrigerated and Dry Grocery on the same delivery truck?

RESPONSE 12: Size of storage space and freezer capabilities, staffing, and logistical concerns as determined by the Department of Food and Nutrition.

QUESTION 13. Must the "Distributor's Choice" item be available from the same manufacturer for the entire term of the bid?

RESPONSE 13: No, but the nutritional value needs to remain the same. Refer to Item 17, Distributor's Choice Section of the Special Conditions document.

QUESTION 14. Under special conditions-Award-"Contract will be awarded to bidder with lowest and best combined bid." What constitutes best", and can a distributor be best with out being lowest?

RESPONSE 14: Refer to Item 3, Award Section of the Special Conditions document.

QUESTION 15. Will estimated quantities be adjusted for the new initial award period?

RESPONSE 15: Yes, estimated quantities will be adjusted to reflect an revised initial award period with revised extension periods. Items will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

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QUESTION 16. Can you please explain the 5-day grace period to submit requested documents?

RESPONSE 16: Bid documentation is requested to be supplied with the bid or, within five (5) days of request. Failure to supply documents requested within five (5) days may result in the bid not being considered for award.

QUESTION 17. In light of the \$100 late fee to distributors, is it possible for the distributor to charge the school a re-delivery and/or restocking fee due to their error?

RESPONSE 17 : No. There is no provision to charge a school a re-delivery or restocking fee.

QUESTION 18. Under specifications--#8 Delivery Requirements-H. Please describe your interpretation of "immediate recovery".

RESPONSE 18: Immediate recovery means solving the problem as soon as it occurs.

QUESTION 19. Bids may not be withdrawn? How many days after opening? The Bid is not clear.

RESPONSE 19: Document will be corrected to state that the bid will not be withdrawn for 90 days after the determined opening date, according to Instructions to Bidders, IV. B..

QUESTION 20. Do you have to receive a Purchase order prior to the start up of the bid?

RESPONSE 20: Procurement procedures do dictate that the awarded bidder(s) receive the purchase order(s) prior to initiating service.

QUESTION 21. Is award date the start of the Bid?

RESPONSE 21: No. The start date of the bid will be the day after the current bids that are in place expire.

QUESTION 22. Does PO # have to be on all School invoices?

RESPONSE 22: Yes.

QUESTION 23. When purchase order dollars run out, does M-DCPS Public Schools guarantee payment?

RESPONSE 23: Each individual case will be reviewed and evaluated.

QUESTION 24. What actions can the Distributor take when payment is not received within 45 days?

RESPONSE 24: Please refer to Item 5 in *Attachment FS: Food Service Accounting Specifications* for this bid solicitation. The applicable portion reads as follows: Vendors may invoke Florida state statute 218.70 and 218.74, when payment has not been made accordingly.

QUESTION 25. What are the items that pertain to the 4-week menu cycle?

RESPONSE 25: Please see an example in the ATTACHMENT MC: Department of Food and Nutrition Menu Planning and Menu Cycle Example.

QUESTION 26. How can the distribution agent enforce the supplier to pay the price difference? Defaulting the supplier does not solve the loss of revenue to the distribution agent.

RESPONSE 26: Item will be reviewed and corrected in a Bid Addendum.

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QUESTION 27. How is the 99% service level computed?

RESPONSE 27: By order fill rate to actual deliveries received.

QUESTION 28. Can you explain the exact length of time pricing must be held for in regards to both items, and distribution agent fee?

RESPONSE 28: The revised initial award period will go through June 30, 2007. A request for price adjustment may be made in December 2006 for the remaining term of the initial award. Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

QUESTION 29. Can you supply the link to the local trucking with storage (SIC4214) and refrigerated warehouse and storage (SIC4222) referred in #16 pricing?

RESPONSE 29: This information is available on the Internet. Refer to the following website for details: <http://www.osha.gov/pls/imis/sicsearch.html>

QUESTION 30. Will the Minority Bid continue past the awarded date of this bid?

RESPONSE 30: Yes. The "Minority Bid" 089-CC03 with extensions will expire on 04/22/2006. Therefore, the items on that bid that will be carried over to 010-FF03 will not be take effect until the expiration date.

QUESTION 31. During the pre-bid conference it was stated that the most important consideration was the portion cost. Your examples show portion costs figured on the case cost without the "FEE" added in. Will you be determining the bid outcome based on this formula?

RESPONSE 31: M-DCPS will be looking at all costs and the total value of the bid will be the determining factor, which is most beneficial to M-DCPS.

QUESTION 32. Under opportunity buys: Overrun, seconds, close dated products, almost same size, same pack or different, aged or not. Can any of these be used?

RESPONSE 32: No. M-DCPS reserves the right to use opportunity buys AFTER bid award.

QUESTION 33. What about items left off bid. Can they be used as spot buys?

RESPONSE 33: Each bid is a new contract with M-DCPS. M-DCPS has the ability to purchase items not on the bid at their discretion.

QUESTION 34. Under deliveries, if a manager refuses a delivery, do they get charged a fee for re-shipping? What happens if there is an act of God? Who is responsible for late deliveries (if anyone)?

RESPONSE 34: A manager can refuse a delivery with due reason. They notify the Department of Food and Nutrition, who works with the Distribution Agent as their partner to correct the situation. Acts of God and other uncontrollable situations are coordinated between the Distribution Agent and the Department of Food and Nutrition, in order to determine an effective solution. The Distribution Agent is responsible for late deliveries.

QUESTION 35. In case of a Hurricane, which takes priority Schools or Shelters?

RESPONSE 35: All Miami-Dade County hurricane shelters are actual school sites. Emergency situations such as hurricanes require coordination between both the Distribution Agent and the Department of Food and Nutrition to effectively coordinate deliveries.

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QUESTION 36. Under the Bakery/Bread Items: #59 Honey Wheat Bagel, Approved Brand 1, AESOP, is this a typo? Do you have any information with regard to this Company? Can you add Distributors choice? Do you want all items with (v) Graded and Stamped?

RESPONSE 36: This is not a typographical error. M-DCPS has information on the manufacturer. M-DCPS chooses not make this item a distributor choice item. Items that require grading and stamping are specified in the bid document.

QUESTION 37. Under Mainline Refrigerated Foods: #1 Shell Eggs, Approved Brand 1, Sunny Morning is a distributor not a producer. Can you make this distributors choice since you only have 1 manufacturer and the spec is very clear?

RESPONSE 37: Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

QUESTION 38. Under Mainline Dry Grocery: #80 is the pack 1000? Approved brands are packed less.

RESPONSE 38: Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

QUESTION 39. Under Mainline Dry Grocery: #85 is the pack 500? Approved brands are packed less.

RESPONSE 39: Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

QUESTION 40. Do we correct the bid with wrong pack sizes and change estimated quantity number?

RESPONSE 40: NO. The bidder(s) do not have access to correct the pack sizes and estimated quantities. Bidder(s) must comply to pack sizes as indicated on the item description.

QUESTION 41. (Under Mainline Dry Grocery) #118, #119, #120 Can you add "Distributor's choice"?

RESPONSE 41: No. You are only allowed to bid on the brands specified for each bid item.

QUESTION 42. (Under Mainline Dry Grocery) #157 Can Snyder's and Wise be added?

RESPONSE 42: No. You are only allowed to bid on the brands specified for each bid item.

QUESTION 43. Because of sugar shortages, can the pack size be changed to 50# bags for all three-sugar items? 25# size bags are in short supply and very expensive.

RESPONSE 43: Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

COMMENT 44a. I have recently reviewed Bid # 010-FF03 Titled: Mainline Foods and Distributor Services. I believe that La Tang Cuisine's approved brand Chicken Egg Roll Item #36 M-DCPS#1311 was omitted.

RESPONSE 44a: Items on previous bids and awards are not automatically included in this bid.

COMMENT 44b. Pursuant to Bid#077-XX03 opened on July 13, 1999 Titled: Food Items: Frozen and Refrigerated New Products La Tang Cuisine Chicken Egg Roll #550CH was both an approved brand and an awarded bid item. In addition to Bid#056-AA03 opened on December 21, 2000 Titled: Food Items: Frozen and Refrigerated Item #127 La Tang Cuisine appears as the only approved brand.

RESPONSE 44b: Items on previous bids and awards are not automatically included in this bid.

QUESTION 45. On Bid number 088-AA03, item # 31. Farmland hot-dogs were specified. We do have a CN label. They are not specified on the newest bid, bid # 010-FF03. Was this an oversight, and can I bid this product?

RESPONSE 45: No. You may only bid products as specified on this current bid. Items on previous bids and awards are not automatically included in this bid.

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QUESTION 46. As your current supplier of a couple different breakfast items, we are interested in bidding those items. The bulk of this bid is for distribution services. The question is "Are you coming out with a separate bid for suppliers to price the items to the distributor(s) or are we to proceed with this bid and by-pass the areas concerning distribution to the individual schools?"

RESPONSE 46: Neither option is correct. Refer to answer in Question #1.

QUESTION 47. I wanted to inquire about item 135 (M-DCPS No. 8131) Pancake Syrup. I see that the requirement for the product be 1-1.5 oz leak proof pouch. I believe that the two Approved Brands that you have listed don't even make a Pouch product. They make theirs in a cup. Heinz has both cup and pouch. Our pouch is 100/1.5oz. I am not sure why we are not on as an approved vendor. If you check every other single serve item on the bid, Heinz is approved.

RESPONSE 47: Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

QUESTION 48. Why not invite the manufactures and their representatives to a working seminar prior to sending out an addendum to the bid 010-FF03?

RESPONSE 48: The pre-bid conference was an open meeting to the general public. In addition, this open period for question and comments is made available for any interested party to submit their questions and comments and have their answers posted on the M-DCPS Procurement Website at <http://procurement.dadeschools.net> for the general public to view.

QUESTION 49. Where do I find the site for viewing the questions and answers in other words the www. address.

RESPONSE 49: <http://procurement.dadeschools.net/bidsol/asp/ENACT.asp>

QUESTION 50. Have been trying to bring up the website link for question responses without success (procurement.dadeschools.net/bidsol/asp/ENACT.asp). Is it not working?

RESPONSE 50: It is working. Please go to the following website address:
<http://procurement.dadeschools.net/bidsol/asp/ENACT.asp>

QUESTION 51. Are the quantities noted based on yearly use or over the course of the bid term?

RESPONSE 51: Quantities listed are ESTIMATED and over the course of the initial bid term. Revised quantities and bid term will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

QUESTION 52. Since we are bidding on most of the Poultry items and know we are capable of selling Beef and Pork, we are wondering if we could bid on your Beef and Pork items?

RESPONSE 52: See answers to Questions #1 and #8. Directions to submit new products for testing with the Department of Food and Nutrition will be posted on their webpage at <http://nutrition.dadeschools.net>

QUESTION 53. The price bid term period. The vendors we represent will no go our for a 30 month period. I realize you mentioned a new time period and rewording the 6-month renewal terms.

RESPONSE 53: Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

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QUESTION 54. The necessity of grading and stamping of french-fries. This will only add to the case cost and time delay of the shipment of orders. We have been supplying your system McCain and Ore-Ida branded fries for many-many years. The quality of the products has never been questioned. All the potato products of these brands specked on the bid are all grade "A" first line products. This is in reference to bid line item numbers 85 – 91 which all have the (V) designation in the line description. The outline of this requirement is found on page 6 of 12 and this is why I am asking.

RESPONSE 54: Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

QUESTION 55. How do we post questions on the website or do we do that thru you?

RESPONSE 55: Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

QUESTION 56. We are in the process of determining how best to bid a non-food item on this bid. The item is a plastic container with a minimum order amount of 200 cases. Since this is a non food item, does delivery need to be made to individual schools, with a total minimum of 200 cases among the schools delivered or would the item go into a central warehouse maintained by Dade Schools and then sent out to individual site by the school system?

RESPONSE 56: Delivery needs to be made to all schools sites as indicated on the bid. Please refer to Question #1 with regards to bidding process and bid award.

QUESTION 57. As the representative for Carolina Turkey (which you are currently being supplied) I wanted to notify you of a mistake relative to item #53. Carolina Turkey does not make a cooked turkey sausage patty or link. Please remove Carolina from "approved brand 5"

RESPONSE 57: The item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

QUESTION 58. I am requesting that Ken's Dressing be added as an approved brand on Line #80 Individual Honey Mustard. Can that be revised?

RESPONSE 58: You may only bid products as specified on this current bid. Please see answer to Question #8 in this document.

QUESTION 59. Will a product be disqualified if the submitted item is not just as the specifications require?

RESPONSE 59: You may only bid products as specified on this current bid. Please see answer to Question #8 in this document.

QUESTION 60a. My first question is about us not being on as an approved vendor under the honey wheat bagel category. Is there any way to get listed?

RESPONSE 60a: Regarding the honey bagel in item #59 Frozen Foods Excel Worksheet, this item will be corrected on a Bid Addendum. Regarding directions to submit new products for testing with the Department of Food and Nutrition, please see answer to question #8 in this bid document.

QUESTION 60b. Second is, can we bid direct or do we have to use a distributor?

RESPONSE 60b: Regarding how to bid this solicitation, please see question #1.

QUESTION 61: MDCPS currently serves French Toast Sticks, Bakecrafters code # 440. Why is this item not an approved brand on item 67?

RESPONSE 61: Items on previous bids and awards are not automatically included in this bid.

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QUESTION 62: Why is Arepas not included on this bid, for the lunch menu?

RESPONSE 62: This item is on this bid. The menu is not part of this process.

QUESTION 63. Why are the following Bakecrafters items not shown as approved on this bid?

Item 171 – Oatmeal/Oatmeal Raisin Cookies Bakecrafters

Item 173 – Chocolate Chip Cookie Bakercrafters

Item 174 – Shortbread Cookie Bakecrafters

Item 176 – Chocolate Chip Cookie Bakecrafters

Item 177 – Animal Shaped Cookies – Bakecrafters

RESPONSE 63: You may only bid products as specified on this current bid. Please see answer to Question #8 in this document.

QUESTION 64. I understand that, Item 132, Pan Coating was supposed to be changed to a flour based pan spray. Please explain what circumstances prevented this change?

RESPONSE 64: Refer to Question #8 in this document regarding sample submissions.

QUESTION 65. Regarding Items 133 and 134 respectively, wherein the specifications stated that only butter flavored canola oil could be submitted. Is MDCPS' goal an attempt to provide a healthy alternative as opposed to the previously items provided? To achieve this, shouldn't you also state that only items with ZERO TRANSFATS can be submitted?

RESPONSE 65: The specifications will not change and remain the same for the items mentioned in your questions.

QUESTION 66. Why is Sturm Foods excluded as an approved supplier?

RESPONSE 66: You may only bid products as specified on this current bid. Please see answer to Question #8 in this document.

QUESTION 67. Why is Louisiana Hot Sauce, as an approved brand, excluded from the bid? Why is the yield of the products not used to calibrate the cost per serving? What provisions are made to ensure transparency/fairness between product yields?

RESPONSE 67: Regarding Item 66, Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

The bid specifications for this item will using equal measure in the evaluation. Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

QUESTION 68. MDCPS could not accommodate our request to testing the Cheese Sauce because of their internal staffing issues, resulting in our item being excluded from the bid? How do you plan to address our cheese sauce being excluded from the bid?

RESPONSE 68: Refer to question #8 in this document regarding sample submissions.

QUESTION 69. Please clarify the start and end dates of the bid.

RESPONSE 69: The beginning date of this bid will be rolled out in phases, in accordance with the expiration of the current bids in place. For distribution of food items, this is planned to occur on February 4, 2006. Please see Bid Addendum for details.

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QUESTION 70. Regard the following items Item 37: Baking Soda, Item 38: Baking Powder and Item 39: Corn Starch, will these items require competitive bidding if the packs are not included in the bid? Will you approve 3.5 lb, 5 lb, and 10 lb resealable plastic containers?

RESPONSE 70: These are distributor's choice items and the specifications will not be changed.

QUESTION 71. Regarding Pizza Shells, since this is the first time this item is included on MDCPS's list of products to be bid on, does MDCPS intend to allow a similar product substitution, and how much time will be allotted for the vendor to provide the substitution?

RESPONSE 71: Please see answer to Question #8 in reference to this item.

QUESTION 72. Items 16, 17 and 20 addresses Drained Weight and Grading. How does MDCPS intend to monitor drained weights and the specifications of a Grade A, without grading and stamping?

RESPONSE 72: Special Conditions #11, Acceptance Service and Grading Certificates state requirements as applicable.

QUESTION 73. Please clarify the specifications for sizing and packaging, as well as weight and portion requirements for Item 58, Cookie Dough.

RESPONSE 73 : Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

QUESTION 74. MDCPS requested that our manufacturers test specifically Items 41, 42, 59, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 68, and 74. The manufacturers could not accommodate this request, which eventuated in the items not being tested. Can these items be submitted pending testing results? Will the items be disqualified if they are submitted without the testing results?

RESPONSE 74: Please see answer to Question #8 in reference to this item. Directions to submit new products for testing with the Department of Food and Nutrition will be posted on their webpage at <http://nutrition.dadeschools.net>

QUESTION 75. Items 66, 69, 70 and 71 were approved under the name of Krusteaz in the prior frozen food bid; however, Krusteaz was sold to Bakery Chef and the items are now labeled under the name Bakery Chef. MDCPS wanted to test the items submitted under the name Bakery Chef and their CMI label, but MDCPS's staffing issues prevented the testing, and we were asked to hold off. What provisions will be made for these items to be on the bid considering the items which were not tested in a timely manner was as a result of MDCPS and their staffing problem?

RESPONSE 75: You may only bid products as specified on this current bid. Please see answer to Question #8 in this document.

QUESTION 76. The current requirement for pack size on Single Serve Dressing seems to be incorrectly listed as 500/2 oz, on the bid (more importantly, the 2 oz portion size since that is what you look at). Currently, MDCPS is using a 100/1.5 oz size dressing. There are two case sizes available and I want to make sure they are accepted since the bid is based on portion cost not case. Can you include 60/1.5 oz cases . Only 2 vendors are approved for this size.

RESPONSE 76: No. You may only bid products as specified on this current bid.

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QUESTION 77. Will the bid opening date be October 20, 2005? At the pre-bid conference held on October 6, 2005, we were under the impression that the date would be changed, but your website does not reflect a date specific for the bid opening.

RESPONSE 77: The beginning date of this bid will be rolled out in phases, in accordance with the expiration of the current bids in place. For distribution of food items, this is planned to occur on February 4, 2006. Please see Bid Addendum for details.

QUESTION 78. What is the time frame required to submit samples for testing to MDCPS, specifically for the Carolina Turkey (Items 26, 28 and 29)?

RESPONSE 78: You may only bid products as specified on this current bid. Please see answer to Question #8 in this document.

QUESTION 79.We are checking to see if the opening date of bid#010-FF03 is still10/20/05. From the pre-bid meeting held on 10/6 we were under the impression that would be changing but have not seen any addendums on your website. Please advise so that we can be sure to have the most accurate information for the bidders. Thank you so much for your help!!

RESPONSE 79: Open date for the bid will be revised. Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

QUESTION 80.Could you please direct me by return email how I can get a recap, or view a recap of this bid from the last time it was awarded. We are in the process of quoting our distributors and want to do everything possible to get you the best prices available on the products we have that apply to your bid.

RESPONSE 80: To view the original bid solicitation, go to the following website for information, click on "Search for Bids by Bid Number or Title" on the left side column and type in the bid number:
http://procurement.dadeschools.net/bidsol/asp/bid_portal.htm

To view the previous bid awards, on the website address above, look to the left side and click on the link "Bids and Board Action for 200X" for the appropriate year the bid was issued and awarded. One can sort the information numerically in order to find the bid number easier, instead of scrolling through the whole document.

One may also access the information for the Board Action on bid awards at the following website:
<http://pdfs.dadeschools.net/Bdarch/2005/default.asp>

On the bottom of the Board Action website, you can view board agenda for previous years, by clicking on the appropriate year at the bottom of the table shown.

The previous bid numbers and their awarded term is listed below:

010-CC03	from 01-15-2003 through 02-03-2006
088-CC03	from 06-18-2003 through 06-01-2005
089-CC03	from 10-22-2003 through 04-02-2006
100-CC03	from 06-18-2003 through 06-01-2005
175-CC03	from 12-18-2004 through 06-01-2005
102-CC03	from 08-20-2003 through 02-18-2006
061-DD03	from 02-11-2004 through 02-18-2006
071-EE03	from 07-13-2005 through 02-18-2006

The bid solicitation 010-FF03 is a NEW contract with M-DCPS. You may only bid products as specified on this current bid.

010-FF03 - MAINLINE FOODS AND DISTRIBUTOR SERVICES QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS LOG

QUESTION 81. After reviewing the most recently posted food bid (010-FF03), I noticed several items that need correcting for accuracy of item numbers or items that are presently being purchased that have been completely omitted from the bid. On separate attachments, I have listed these and included a list of items that have been tested and approved but are not listed on the bid. I politely ask that you review this inquiry and respond accordingly to each item listed on the attached Word Document. Thank you in advance for your consideration of my request. If you should have any questions regarding this inquiry, please don't hesitate to call.

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 81: Directions to submit new products for testing with the Department of Food and Nutrition will be posted on their webpage at <http://nutrition.dadeschools.net>

<u>Bid Item#</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Corrective Action Requested</u>
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<u>Item 3</u>	Beef Crumble	Pierre code should be 9739
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RESPONSE: Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

<u>Item 5</u>	Rib Patty	Pierre 3816 is a 3.25 upscale product should be listed as a separate item
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RESPONSE: Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

<u>Item 9</u>	Teriyaki nuggets	Pierre code is 3827
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RESPONSE: Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

<u>Item ?</u>	Corndogs	Foster Farms have supplied corndogs to Dade for over 7 years. None listed
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RESPONSE: Items on previous bids and awards are not automatically included in this bid.

RESPONSES TO QUESTION 81 ITEMS(CONTINUED)

<u>Item ?</u>	Donuts	Super Bakery has supplied Dade for over 7 years. None listed currently.
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RESPONSE: Items on previous bids and awards are not automatically included in this bid.

<u>Item ?</u>	Hot Wings (8086)	GoldKist is currently supplying this item
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RESPONSE: Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

<u>Item ?</u>	Chicken Patty (6307)	GoldKist is currently supplying this item
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RESPONSE: Items on previous bids and awards are not automatically included in this bid.

<u>Item ?</u>	Spicy Breaded Chicken	Pierre is currently supplying (1967)
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RESPONSE: Items on previous bids and awards are not automatically included in this bid.

<u>Item ?</u>	Crispy Breaded Chicken	Pierre is currently supplying (1979)
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RESPONSE: Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

Bageler's 47 Plain with cream cheese I/W

RESPONSE: Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

Bageler's 48 Cinnamon with cream cheese I/W

RESPONSE: Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

Double B 5651 Morning sausage roll

RESPONSE: See Frozen Foods Item #55

Ember Farms 19700 Pork sausage with ProPlus

RESPONSE: Items on previous bids and awards or previously tested are not automatically included in this bid.

Ember Farms 19720 Turkey sausage with ProPlus

RESPONSE: Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

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RESPONSE TO QUESTION 81 ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Schwans 69349 CN Pork and veg egg roll

RESPONSE: Items on previous bids and awards or previously tested are not automatically included in this bid.

Schwans 69162 CN Turkey and veg egg roll

RESPONSE: Items on previous bids and awards or previously tested are not automatically included in this bid.

Upstate Farms 9817

RESPONSE: Items on previous bids and awards or previously tested are not automatically included in this bid.

Upstate Farms 9814

RESPONSE: Items on previous bids and awards or previously tested are not automatically included in this bid.

Upstate Farms 9819

RESPONSE: Items on previous bids and awards or previously tested are not automatically included in this bid.

Upstate Farms 9818

RESPONSE: Items on previous bids and awards or previously tested are not automatically included in this bid.

Upstate Farms 9820

RESPONSE: Items on previous bids and awards or previously tested are not automatically included in this bid.

GoldKist 03700

RESPONSE: Items on previous bids and awards or previously tested are not automatically included in this bid.

GoldKist 00315 Fajita chicken meat

RESPONSE: GoldKist is an approved manufacturer item in question.

GoldKist 07505 Chris P Chicken Breaded Filet

RESPONSE: Item will be addressed in a Bid Addendum.

GoldKist 07506 Chris P Chicken Spicy Filet

RESPONSE: Item will be addressed in a Bid Addendum.

GoldKist 07507 Chris P Chicken Bite

RESPONSE: Item will be addressed in a Bid Addendum.

GoldKist 07508 Chris P Chicken Tender

RESPONSE: Item will be addressed in a Bid Addendum.

GoldKist 07509 Chris P Chicken Grilled Filet

RESPONSE: Item will be addressed in a Bid Addendum.

010-FF03 - MAINLINE FOODS AND DISTRIBUTOR SERVICES QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS LOG

QUESTION 82. Here is a list of Questions for the Bid:

A) Bid Line #2 Ground Beef – Since this item is a commodity type product raw 80/20 Ground Beef would it be possible to make this a distributor choice product?

RESPONSE 82A: Item will be addressed in a Bid Addendum.

B) Bid Line #10 – Jamaican Beef Patty - These are not manufactures I recognize and have been unable to locate. Would it be possible to provide contact information for Hot Pie, Patty King, and Charlies Pastries?

RESPONSE 82B:

Hot Pie: 1821 SW 31 Avenue, Pembroke Park, Florida

Patty King: 1701 NW 7 Avenue, Miami, Florida

Charlie's Pastries: d/b/a Hammond's Bakery, 17847 NW 27 Avenue, Miami, Florida

C) Bid Line #26 Turkey Meat Diced – Could the item specification be more defined since manufacture Id# is not listed for all Brands approved? Is this a white meat, dark meat, or white/dark product?

RESPONSE 82C: Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

D) Bid Line #59 Honey Wheat Bagels – This is not a manufacture I recognize and have been unable to locate. Would it be possible to provide contact information for AESOP?

RESPONSE 82D: AESOP's Bagel Bakery, 15 Garfield Avenue, Sommerville, MA

E) Bid Line #64 Frozen Bread - This is not a manufacture I recognize and have been unable to locate. Would it be possible to provide contact information for Gold Standard Baking?

RESPONSE 82E: Gold Standard Baking, 3701 South Spaulding Avenue, Chicago, IL

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 82 ITEMS (CONTINUED)

REFRIDGERATED

F) Bid Line #1 Shell Eggs – Since this is a commodity type product raw shell eggs would it be possible to make this a distributor choice product?

RESPONSE 82F: Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

G) Bid Line #14 Margarine – Since this is a commodity type product margarine solids would it is possible to make this a distributor choice product?

RESPONSE 82G: Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

H) Bid Line #15 Margarine Cups – Would a distributor label be considered a recognized label?

RESPONSE 82H: Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

I) Bid Line #16 Butter – Since this is commodity type product butter would it be possible to make this a distributor choice product?

RESPONSE 82I: Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

DRY

J) Bid Line item 180 Sprinkles – Could this tem be made a distributor choice item?

RESPONSE 82J: Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

010-FF03 - MAINLINE FOODS AND DISTRIBUTOR SERVICES QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS LOG

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 82 ITEMS (CONTINUED)

K) Bid Line item 181 Gummy Worms – Could this item be made a distributor choice item?

RESPONSE 82K: Item will be corrected in a Bid Addendum.

Questions General

L) If an approved manufacture also packs the same product under a distributor label with documentation from manufacture that the product meets or exceeds the specification can we bid the Distributor label? Example Tyson Flour Tortilla may produce the same tortilla under our distributor label

RESPONSE 82L: No. You may only bid products as specified on this current bid. Refer to question #8 in this document regarding sample submissions.

M) There are multiple items that do not have manufacture id # listed next to the approved brand. In order to insure all manufactures and distributors are bidding the correct and equal products could the manufacture id numbers be added to all products on bid? Example Bid Line #20 a manufacture my produce several different Grilled Chicken Fajita Strips

RESPONSE 82M: Item will be addressed in a Bid Addendum.

QUESTION 83.I cannot find canned soups on the bid? Please let me know if they have been eliminated.

RESPONSE 83: Items on previous bids and awards or previously tested are not automatically included in this bid.

QUESTION 84. What is the justification for changing from a two-part bid system (manufacturer direct and separate jobber bid) to a distributor-only bid? More and more systems throughout the state are switching to the type of bid you have utilized in the past and are moving away from the process you presently propose. The reason for this evolutionary improvement is clear. With the distributor-only bid, the soliciting school systems have been unable to see all the prices from all the manufacturers that are on the approved bid items. Instead, they have only been able to see the prices of those manufacturers with which the distributors have back-ended deals/monies programs. Because these discounts are not passed on to the school systems, the bids may not be awarded to the accepted or approved items that, in fact, possess the best pricing.

RESPONSE 84: Because the current format will enable M-DCPS to generate competition and achieve operational efficiency, while providing the best products and services at the best price for the School District.

QUESTION 85. Please confirm the time periods discussed at the pre-bid conference. Specifically, for what time period must the manufacturer guarantee original pricing? Also, at what intervals will price changes (increases/decreases) be permitted?

RESPONSE 85: The start date of the bid will be the day after the current bids that are in place expire. For distribution of food items, this is planned to occur on February 4, 2006. The initial award period will go through June 30, 2007. A request for price adjustment may be made in December 2006 for the remaining term of the initial award. Please see Bid Addendum for details.

010-FF03 - MAINLINE FOODS AND DISTRIBUTOR SERVICES QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS LOG

QUESTION 86. This question concerns the dry grocery section under the individual portion packs beginning with line items 74 catsup, 75 mayo light, 76 mayo regular, 77 taco sauce, 78 tartar sauce, 79 mustard, 80 honey mustard, 123 sweetener, 135 pancake syrup, & 137 peanut butter individual. After 6 years of purchasing the foodservice Boca Grande Foods products under the Poco Pack label, with only a single complaint about catsup viscosity (which was corrected with a reformulation as well as having tested their Grand Gourmet label which Dade County has approved for their salad dressing), why would you go to a national retail label on a category that serves no nutritional benefit whatsoever and is a giveaway item, thus increasing costs? You are currently purchasing this manufacturer's products. This is currently the better part of a \$1,000,000.00 category and your going to INCREASE your costs?

RESPONSE 86: Items on previous bids and awards or previously tested are not automatically included in this bid.

QUESTION 87. Also In the dry grocery section, line item 152. Again, despite the correction of last year's production problems, you have inexplicably eliminated Malt-O-Meal from the current bid, even though you are currently purchasing this product. Less than 1 year ago, Ms. Parham personally thanked me for convincing you to put this manufacturer on the bid, acknowledging that it significantly brought down the price of cereal. At an average savings of \$5.00 to \$6.00 per case, in a category of 150,000 cases, this amounts to \$750,000.00 or more. Surely this is a costly oversight.

RESPONSE 87: Items on previous bids and awards or previously tested are not automatically included in this bid.

QUESTION 88. Similarly, Dakota Gourmet 1 oz. sunflower seeds have been purchased for over a decade as a multi-purpose snack item that services your menu in a variety of ways: as 1 meat or 1 bread/grain. This product has been used in salads and snacks and in the after school snack program. In this nutrition-conscious climate, why would you eliminate such a versatile and economical item from the bid?

RESPONSE 88: Items on previous bids and awards or previously tested are not automatically included in this bid.

QUESTION 89.We are a bidder on two of the items on Bid #010-FF03. However, the bid seems to be directed at the distributor and not the individual vendor. We do not know who the possible distributors are and unless they contact us, we have no way of bidding. We are unsure of how we are to proceed at this point. Do we fill out our prices and submit the bid package directly to you?

RESPONSE 89: Contact information is addressed in Question # 81 above. Regarding how to bid this solicitation, please see Question #1.

QUESTION 90.Quick question/clarification on Item # 137 - Peanut Butter - Ind. It states that Smucker's is an approved brand - but also lists the pack size at 1.1 oz. However, the pack size we have is 200/ 3/4 oz. Please let me know if we should bid on our 3/4 oz product?

RESPONSE 90: Item will be addressed in a Bid Addendum.

QUESTION 91. Can we get estimates on the following item(s):

a) Commodity products: average monthly cases stored (dry, frozen, chill)

RESPONSE 91A: Approximately 60,234 cases in inventory on October 6, 2005.

b) Average monthly cases delivered (dry, frozen, and chill)

RESPONSE 91B:Approxiamately 15,000 cases delivered monthly

c) Average days an item stays in inventory.

RESPONSE 91C:Approxiamately 4.8 Months

010-FF03 - MAINLINE FOODS AND DISTRIBUTOR SERVICES QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS LOG

QUESTION 92. Will the schools be prepared to use an Internet based order entry system?

RESPONSE 92: M-DCPS is currently developing an RFP to develop an Internet order based system. Please see Special Conditions #10, Data Processing for details.

QUESTION 93. After an addendum comes out will there be a window for more questions to be asked?

RESPONSE 93: A window of 48 hours from date of the addendum posting released on the procurement website at <http://procurement.dadeschools.net> will be available for questions concerning THE ADDENDUM ONLY for this bid solicitation only.

QUESTION 94. Will you look at lowest portion cost?

RESPONSE 94: Yes.

QUESTION 95. Is it required to bid the paper and plastic section?

RESPONSE 95: No. This section is a proposal, which may or may not be awarded. The core of the bid is for the main line foods used by the district.

QUESTION 96. Will the district use commodities if the same item is on the bid?

RESPONSE 96: Yes. The bid is for items the district intends to use. If a commodity becomes available from USDA, the district intends to utilize those commodities as a priority. Pass thru value programs will be utilized wherever possible. There is planned to be a processing bid for processing commodity items at a future date.

The focus of this bid and the pre-bid conference is for the core, mainline foods. The district needs to insure continuation of items if the commodity stops. If an item is awarded, the distribution agent will be notified ahead of time that the item is now available to the district as a commodity item.

QUESTION 97. Do manufacturer's supplying products have to follow HAACP procedures?

RESPONSE 97: This is preferred but not required. A sanitation program must be documented, or follow HAACP principles.

QUESTION 98. Are foods going to a jobber?

RESPONSE 98: This is not a jobber bid. It is a mainline foods and distribution agent bid. Bidders will be procuring goods and providing services. This could be a Joint Venture opportunity. There is more than one business model to satisfy this bid. Jobber services is not mentioned anywhere in the bid. The business module response must state how the deliveries will be made.

QUESTION 99. Can the initial term of the bid be shortened from 2.5 years?

RESPONSE 99: Yes. The term will be changed to approximately 1.5 years. See Question 85.

QUESTION 100. Can the vendor walk away if the district does not accept a price increase?

RESPONSE 100: No.

QUESTION 101. What if a manufacturer's label changes?

RESPONSE 101: The nutritional content cannot change, but the look of the label may change.

010-FF03 - MAINLINE FOODS AND DISTRIBUTOR SERVICES QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS LOG

QUESTION 102. I understand I need to bid on a specific item for the initial bid period and I cannot base my offer on any opportunity buys. However, what is M-DCPS position on opportunity buys during the term of the initial bid award?

RESPONSE 102: The district may utilize opportunity buys. These would be communicated to the distribution agent and arrangements made. The fixed delivery fee the awarded bidder(s) submitted in the bid proposal under "Per Pack Other Delivery Section" would be attached to the item. The district wants to have the flexibility to access these buys. We have no intention of going around the awarded bid or vendor. It is only to provide the district with a method to utilize this process.

QUESTION 103. How will orders be placed? Electronically, through EDI or by some other means?

RESPONSE 103: Order will be placed through file transfer protocol (FTP.) Furthermore, the district is working on electronic ordering and billing, but it is not in place at this time.

QUESTION 104. Who should provide the D & B information in the Evaluation form, which must be submitted with the bid proposal?

RESPONSE 104: Whoever can substantiate the financial strength of the bidder. Note: This information is not required, but is one of the four categories in Section B and supporting documents MUST be attached to the evaluation form to provide evidence of competency for review.

QUESTION 105. Can dry and refrigerated goods be combined on one truck?

RESPONSE105: Yes. Compartmentalized trucks can be used. We want full trucks on the road. This process needs communication between the business partners to insure that the schools can accept large deliveries. The Department of Food and Nutrition will work with the distribution agent to determine which school sites qualify for this "combined" service.

QUESTION 106. Must vendors specify which approved brand they will be supplying?

RESPONSE 106: Yes. Bidders need to be specific as to the approved brand.

QUESTION 107. Is the vendor responsible to accommodate storage and delivery of commodity items?

RESPONSE 107: This needs to be mutually agreeable to both the district and the vendor. The length of time for storage must be agreed. Language suggested, "with agreement of both parties, store for a specified length of time".

QUESTION 108. Portion cost is very important. The manufacturers use a standard method of packing the items. Isn't one of the purposes of the bid to evaluate portion cost?

RESPONSE 108: Portion cost will be a factor in the bid award, where applicable.

QUESTION 109. Should distributor's choice be the distribution brand?

RESPONSE 109: "Distributor's choice" can be a national brand, a private label, or a distribution agent's brand of a item in the bid solicitation. It must be the specifications listed in the bid item and a food nutritional label must be submitted with the bid documents.

QUESTION 110. Will the bid address commodity items?

RESPONSE 110: No. We are obligated to use USDA approved products as a priority. We are concentrating on core, main items, so as to maintain continuity of the menu.

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QUESTION 111. If a vendor is awarded an item on the bid, will they be advised that they have won the award?

RESPONSE 111: No, not by M-DCPS. This is not an item-by-item bid or award as previous bid. This is a category award, wherein multiple categories will be awarded as one category. Vendors can combine through a joint venture, where one bidding "entity" can consist of 2 or more companies. The awarded bidder(s) must contact the vendor/manufacturer advising them they will be using their item(s) during the contract period.

QUESTION 112. Will the vendors be notified of the use of commodity products so that they don't bring an item into to their facility?

RESPONSE 112: No. This is not a vendor/manufacturer bid. The awarded bidder(s), known to M-DCPS as the "Distribution Agent" will be notified of the use of commodity items.

QUESTION 113. What if, let's say 1½ years later on the commodity is used up, will the Vendor have to produce an item?

RESPONSE 113: This is not a vendor/manufacturer bid. This is not a commodity bid either. The "Distribution Agent" is responsible to provide the awarded item(s) for the length of the initial bid term.

QUESTION 114. In the past the estimated quantity had a "lid" on purchases. What if there's a price increase? Can the lid be removed in order to have additional quantity at the original price in order to avoid charging a price increase for ordering a lesser quantity?

RESPONSE 114: There is no provision for a "lid." M-DCPS is under no obligation as it states in the bid solicitation to purchase estimated quantities listed in the bid. All requests for price adjustments are addressed in Question 85. The bid states the quantities are estimated quantities.

While the quantities may have been revised to show more accurate needs of the school district, M-DCPS is under no obligation to purchase the quantities listed. M-DCPS could purchase above, below, or none of the quantities listed, however we try to give accurate information as possible.

QUESTION 115. If a category is awarded to a vendor, can the vendor supply additional Amounts of the same item? Can you buy the items in that category and Exclude the person who won the award?

RESPONSE 115: See Question #111.

QUESTION 116. How do you evaluate doing business with minorities in the Community?

RESPONSE 116: See Evaluation Form in the bid solicitation package. Under Item #6 of the Evaluation Form, there are requirements that each bidder(s) submit documentation in ensuring that they have a minority vendor program and provide detailed information for evaluation in order to prove they have competency in being able to transact business with the minority business community during the time of the bid award.

QUESTION 117. Regarding HACCP (Hazard and Critical Control Points), what sort of Documentation will we need? Do you realize that HACCP approved Facilities will end up charging more because of the expense to meet the standards of the government?

RESPONSE 117: M-DCPS needs from the bidder(s) submission of procedures for safety and sanitation for safe handling of products, which is covered under HAACP. HAACP is a state of the art approach to food safety. M-DCPS considers the following of HAACP as good business protocol. For more information on HAACP, please go to the following website of the FDA:
<http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~comm/haccpov.html>

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QUESTION 118. In the bid you're requesting Dun and Bradstreet ratings and information? Don't you think you're asking for too much information, most of it very confidential information that will not become public records?

RESPONSE 118: We need to know the financial strength of each bidder(s). The bid requires you to only send information from 2 of the 4 categories listed. The bidder(s) can decide if they want to use Item 9 in the Evaluation Form as part of satisfying Section B of the Evaluation Document.

QUESTION 119. How do you determine who is best qualified to win the bid, if you're going to evaluate the bid based on receiving 2 out of 4 documents sent in Part B of the Evaluation Form?

RESPONSE 119: The information received will be used to determine if the vendor is responsive and responsible. These documents are only being used to determine viable vendors. Bidder(s) can submit any combination of Items 7-8-9-10 in Part B. They must show competency in at LEAST two (2) of the four (4) items. It is the bidder(s) choice which combination and how many of the four (4) items they choose to submit to have evaluated in satisfying Part B of the Evaluation Form.

QUESTION 120. Will the payment to vendors by accounts payable be 30 days after they receive the invoice?

RESPONSE 120: Please refer to the "Special Conditions" document of this bid solicitation, Item Ten (10), Letter G, and Attachment AP: Summary Account Statement to Accounts Payable for the answer to this question.

QUESTION 121. Regarding late delivery or being behind schedule, if a truck is delayed at a school because of a situation, which is beyond the control of the driver, and this delay causes a trickle down effect for all other locations, will the vendor be penalized for each 2-hour late delivery, for each school, thereafter?

RESPONSE 121: No. The penalty will occur at the end of the delivery day, if there is no justification for cause. If the truck is more than two (2) hours late at the last stop for the day in servicing M-DCPS, then the penalty will occur.

QUESTION 122. How many companies do you think can actually do this bid?

RESPONSE 122: This bid solicitation promotes competition. M-DCPS expects more companies to be able to submit complete bid packages for this bid solicitation, as there is more than one business model possible to service this bid. For example, companies can combine their efforts and do a joint venture.

Remember that this is a complete process: providing the mainline food items in each category AND the delivery to all M-DCPS school sites. M-DCPS welcomes as many companies and/or partnerships as possible to submit bid solicitations to service this bid.

QUESTION 123. Do you want a price quote for 2 ½ years that's to be adjusted every 6 months, or do you want a price every 6 months for a 2 ½ year period?

RESPONSE 123: We're not awarding this bid every 6 months, the revised term of the bid will be released in the bid addendum, but vendors can request a price adjustment starting in December 2006 and every 6 months thereafter if needed. Please see Question #85 for further reference.

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QUESTION 124. When has the price ever been adjusted in the best interest of both parties, and not just in the best interest of M-DCPS. If this is a business partnership like you say it is, how do we know that M-DCPS is looking out for the best interest of both sides.

RESPONSE 124: This bid solicitation is different from previous bids, M-DCPS is looking to model “best practices” and the business partnership principle is one of these “best practices”.

QUESTION 125. Do you want the manufacturer to quote a price for 2½ years and then request a price adjustment based on the Consumer Price Index?

RESPONSE 125. Please see Question #85. Original bid award period will be revised in a bid addendum.

QUESTION 126. From the manufacturer’s point of view, can we price based on FOB? How can we lock in a price for 2 ½ years?

RESPONSE 126: Please see Question #85. Original bid award period will be revised in a bid addendum.

QUESTION 127. If fuel is increased, let’s say to \$6.00/gal, will M-DCPS take that into consideration and do an automatic price adjustment?

RESPONSE 127: Price adjustments are not automatic, but may be requested as indicated in the bid addendum.

QUESTION 128. Fee category – can we adjust that separately?

RESPONSE 128: Price adjustments may be requested as indicated in the bid addendum

QUESTION 129. Can you clarify the restriction of the “lid” as it relates to pricing? How do you handle price adjustments after the “lid’ is in place?

RESPONSE 129: See Question #114.

QUESTION130. If you shorten the length of the bid from 2 ½ years you will get better prices. Can we have a shorter bid period with more renewals?

RESPONSE 130. Item will be addressed in a bid addendum.

QUESTION 131. From the vendor’s perspective, we’re looking at how the prices are being controlled. Can you change the language in the bid to address the price adjustment issue, to make the manufacturers more comfortable, that we’re not being locked in a price certain for 2 ½ years?

RESPONSE 131: See Question #85. Item will be addressed in bid addendum.

QUESTION 132. Has any broker in this room ever had a 2-½ year price quote ...ever?

RESPONSE 132: We will change the language in the bid so as to facilitate our maintaining long-term relationships and flexibility. It is not feasible to issue a bid every 6 months. Item will be addressed in bid addendum.

QUESTION 133. We don’t give our chains or suppliers a 2½-year price quote. What we give them is a business agreement stating we will supply them for 2 ½ years.

RESPONSE 133: M-DCPS is looking for a business partnership with this bid solicitation. With respect to the term of the pricing, item will be addressed in bid addendum.

010-FF03 - MAINLINE FOODS AND DISTRIBUTOR SERVICES QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS LOG

QUESTION 134. Regarding labels, they change quite often, depending on the manufacturer or distributor. If we need to attach a copy of the label what do we do in the case of one manufacturer who has more than one label for the same product?

RESPONSE 134: What we're more concerned with is the nutritional contents on the label and the quality of the product as specified. If the nutritional contents are the same for the same product, each bidder(s) only need to submit one nutritional label.

QUESTION 135. "Opportunity Buy" as stated in the bid might work to the disadvantage of the person awarded the bid. How are we to be Assured that after the vendor has been awarded a bid, M-DCPS won't use "opportunity buy" as an excuse to buy the product at a lower price from another vendor?

RESPONSE 135: See Response #102.

QUESTION 136. Can you then change the language to specify what the special circumstances are when you will use "opportunity buy"?

RESPONSE 136. Awarded bidder(s) will be notified when an "opportunity buy" may occur. Likewise, the awarded bidder(s) may notify M-DCPS if they have the chance to offer the district an "opportunity buy" if it meets the conditions of M-DCPS requirements.

QUESTION 137. Are you requesting corporate financial statements, or just financial statements for the company doing business with MDCPS?

RESPONSE 137: We're looking for whatever financial documents you submit which will substantiate the bidder(s) financial strength.

QUESTION 138. Since you're now combining dry and frozen items in the same bid, can we combine dry and frozen items in the same truck? In the past we could not combine dry and frozen deliveries.

RESPONSE 138: Yes. As long as the correct temperatures are maintained in the truck, according to specifications listed in the bid documentation. In other words, refrigerated and/or frozen items must be maintained at the required temperature(s), in a refrigerated truck. The Department of Food and Nutrition will work with the distribution agent to approve this on a site-by-site basis.

QUESTION 139. Delivery schedules are different for dry and frozen items. Will M-DCPS have the people in place to accept both dry and frozen items being dropped off at the same time?

RESPONSE 139: Yes, in specific locations. The details will be coordinated between the awarded bidder(s) and M-DCPS after bid award.

QUESTION 140. Do you want all commodities graded and stamped?

RESPONSE 140: This bid is not a commodities bid. If you mean the individual food items on the bid, and NOT USDA commodities, please refer to SPECIFICATIONS Section of this Bid under #11 and the Format B (Item Descriptions for this Bid.)

QUESTION 141. Section 2, Item 1 on the bid, can the distributor bid a price and then combines brands?

RESPONSE 141: No. You have to bid a price with a specific brand.

010-FF03 - MAINLINE FOODS AND DISTRIBUTOR SERVICES QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS LOG

QUESTION 142. How will you calculate the total amount for each vendor's bid?

RESPONSE 142: This item is calculated automatically in the Excel Spreadsheet in the Format B, which is the listing of items on this bid by category.

QUESTION 143. How will you determine the portions per case adjustment on the bid?

RESPONSE 143. Item will be revised on the Excel Spreadsheet in the Format B, and will be addressed in a bid addendum.

QUESTION 144. What is the storage time allowed for products? What is the storage price?

RESPONSE 144: Please see Question #91.

QUESTION 145. What cost price must we put on the bid? The cost price we receive, or the cost price to M-DCPS?

RESPONSE 145: There are two costs. The first cost is the price to the district for the manufacturer's item per the defined unit (pound, each, dozen, etc.) The second cost is the delivery fee per case or pack per category as indicated in the bid (frozen, refrigerated, dry).

QUESTION 146. How will you calibrate the award regarding dry and frozen items combined?

RESPONSE 146: It is not our intention to do separate awards by category. M-DCPS is looking for one business partnership to service this bid solicitation.

QUESTION 147: When evaluating the award, will there be an advantage to a vendor who bids on 3 or 4 items as opposed to bidding on all the items in the entire category? What if a vendor with the lower and better prices bids on less items?

RESPONSE 147: M-DCPS is looking for one business partnership to service this bid solicitation. Please see Questions #1 and #111 for further reference.

QUESTION 148. Just how specific are vendors required to be, when submitting a price delivered to the school sites?

RESPONSE 148: This is a new bid. M-DCPS Department of Food and Nutrition and Procurement Management Services evaluates case price to the nearest whole cent and unit price to four (4) decimal places.

QUESTION 149. Will the bid opening date now be changed?

RESPONSE 149: Yes, item will be addressed in bid addendum.