



May 25, 2023

TO: THE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF VALENCIA COLLEGE

FROM: DR. KATHLEEN PLINSKE
President

RE: AWARD OF RFP 2023-13, POINCIANA CAMPUS SOLAR PANELS

This project was made possible through the leadership of Congressman Darren Soto with a federal appropriation under the Congressional Community Appropriation Initiatives program.

On December 6, 2022, Valencia College issued Request for Proposal (RFP) 2023-13, Poinciana Campus Solar Panels, seeking proposals from qualified firms to provide and install solar panels at Poinciana Campus. The project selection consisted of two phases. Phase I, Qualifications Submittal, and Phase II, Fixed Price Submittal.

As part of the RFP request, firms were asked to provide pricing for two project solutions: Option 1, Roof Mounted Solar on the existing building, and an Option 2 Alternate to build and install solar on a car port.

Phase I, Qualifications Submittal Statements

On January 26, 2023, three (3) firms submitted Phase I, Qualifications Statements in response to the solicitation: Advanced Roofing, Inc., Constructive Resource, Inc, and 15 Lightyears, Inc. A public evaluation meeting was held on February 9, 2023, to review Phase I, Qualifications. Four (4) committee members evaluated, reviewed, scored, and ranked the proposals based on the following criteria: project team, experience with solar panel installation, experience working on occupied sites and on roofs of occupied buildings, experience working with federal contract requirements, and schedule and timeline. Following full discussion and deliberation, the committee invited all three (3) firms to Phase II of the RFP, Fixed Price Submittal.

Phase II, Fixed Price Submittal

On March 2, 2023, bids were received and opened in response to Phase II, Fixed Price Submittal. In accordance with established College process, the Procurement Department, along with the Facilities Planning and Operations Department, reviewed the bids for compliance with qualifications, completion of all the required documents, adherence to scope of work, and pricing.

A bid tabulation sheet was completed, and all responsive and qualified firms were ranked by overall price. 15 Lightyears, Inc., was the top ranked firm with a bid price of \$639,644 for Option 1, Roof

Mounted Solar. Bids for Option 2, Alternate Solar Solution, were above the College's available budget so an award could not be made.

Phase III, Alternate Solar Solution Submittal

In light of the absence of an acceptable price and award for Option 2, on April 10, 2023, the College issued a Phase III addendum requesting for the three (3) shortlisted proposers to recommend an alternate solar solution that could achieve the most kilowatts as possible within the available budget of \$560,000. On April 24, 2023, all three firms provided proposals in response to Phase III. Solutions provided included car port solar and a floating solar system to be placed in the retention pond. On May 11, 2023, private presentations and interviews were held, followed by a public meeting in which proposals were evaluated and the firms ranked based on the solution that provided the best overall value to the College based on the following criteria: project approach, solution for maximizing kilowatts, and design of solar panels. The Phase III selection committee selected the Floating Solar Panel Solution provided by 15 Lightyears, Inc., at a cost of \$560,000.

Total Project

Accordingly, the Poinciana Campus Solar Panels project includes the engagement of 15 Lightyears, Inc. for the installation of roof mounted solar panels at a cost of \$639,644 and floating solar panels at a cost of \$560,000. The total project cost is \$1,199,644 with \$500,000 being funded by a federal HUD/EDI Solar Panel Grant awarded to the College, and \$699,644 being funded directly by the College.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The President recommends that the District Board of Trustees of Valencia College authorize the College to award RFP 2023-13, Poinciana Campus Solar Panels to 15 Lightyears, Inc., at a total project cost of \$1,199,644, with \$500,000 being funded by a federal HUD/EDI Solar Panel Grant awarded to the College and \$699,644 being funded directly by the College, as presented. Should the College not be able to negotiate a mutually agreeable contract with 15 Lightyears, Inc., negotiations will cease, and negotiations will commence with the second-ranked bidder and so on until a fair, competitive, and reasonable agreement is reached.



President

POINCIANA CAMPUS

SOLAR ARRAY - FLOATING



POINCIANA CAMPUS

SOLAR ARRAY - ROOFTOP

