



## INVITATION TO BID

University of Central Florida  
Arecibo Observatory

### Main Telescope Suspension Cable Replacement

Issue Date: June 19, 2020  
Updated June 24, 2020;  
updates in blue text

Submissions Due: July 20, 2020, 3:00 pm EST

## **PART I: FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION**

### **A. BACKGROUND**

The Arecibo Observatory is a facility of the National Science Foundation operated under cooperative agreement by the University of Central Florida. The Main Telescope Suspension Cable Replacement project aims to replace the damaged main suspension cable M8-4 for the telescope, located in tower 8 of the Arecibo Observatory. Project consists of the replacement of a 3" diameter stranded cable (M8-4) of roughly 700-foot length, one of nine cables on the Arecibo telescope, located in Puerto Rico. The replacement of this cable is critical to ensure long term structural health of the platform structure, and all the equipment it hosts. It is a priority for the Arecibo Observatory Management to ensure this cable is properly replaced, ensuring continued operational safety for the facility.

The total project will include planning, design, permitting, construction, commissioning, and furnishings/equipment. The project budget may be changed at UCF's discretion, and this project is subject to the availability of funding.

### **B. SCOPE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT**

The University of Central Florida is seeking a general contractor or professional engineering firm, hereby referred to as GC, that will provide/execute the planning, design, permitting, construction, commissioning, and furnishings/equipment to support the Main Telescope Suspension Cable Replacement project. Responses to the Invitation to Bid (ITB) are requested by the due date and time indicated in the ITB Schedule of Events. For additional information please contact Eddie Nieves by email at [eddie.nieves@ucf.edu](mailto:eddie.nieves@ucf.edu) or by telephone at (787) 878-2612 ext. 219

Project Address:  
Arecibo Observatory  
Route 625 Bo  
Esperanza  
Arecibo, PR 00612  
<https://www.naic.edu/ao/>

**NOTE:** The university may reject all proposals and stop the selection process at any time, and reserves the right to cancel the project at any time.

## Part II: INSTRUCTIONS

Carefully review the Contract posted with this advertisement at <https://fp.ucf.edu/vendors/current-advertisements/>. Submitting a bid for this project constitutes complete agreement with, and acceptance of, the terms and conditions contained within these documents. No changes will be accepted.

### 1. PROJECT INFORMATION

- a. Notice to Bidders:** Qualified bidders may submit bids for project as described in this Document. Submit bids according to the Instructions to Bidders.
- b. Project Identification:** Arecibo M8-4 Cable Replacement, Project Number UCF-598.
- c. Project Location:** Arecibo, Puerto Rico
- d. Owner:** Arecibo Observatory, Arecibo, Puerto Rico.
- e. Owner's Representative:** Eddie Nieves.
- f. Engineer:** WSP USA Solutions, Inc.
- g. Project Description:** Project consists of the replacement of a 3" diameter stranded cable (M8-4) of roughly 700-foot length, one of nine cables on the Arecibo telescope, located in Puerto Rico.
- h. Contract Bids will be received for the following Work:** General Contract (all trades).

### 2. BID SUBMITTAL AND OPENING

- a. Owner will receive sealed lump sum bids until the bid time and date at the location given below. Owner will consider bids prepared in compliance with the Instructions to Bidders issued by Owner, and delivered as follows:
  - i. ITB: June 19, 2020.
  - ii. Deadline for Bidders to Submit Questions: July 8, 2020.
  - iii. Responses to Bidder Questions: July 10, 2020 at the latest.
  - iv. [Deadline for Bidders to submit Pre-Qualifications: July 10, 2020 at the latest.](#)
  - v. Bid Date: July 20, 2020.
  - vi. Bid Time: By 3:00 p.m. EST

- vii. Submit bids electronically to:  
<https://ucf.bonfirehub.com/opportunities/28696>
- viii. Document Location: <https://fp.ucf.edu/vendors/current-advertisements/>
- ix. Selection of Top Bidder / Notice to apparent low bidders: No later than August 1, 2019.
- x. Start of Negotiation: August 8, 2020.
- xi. Contract Award / Notice to successful bidder: September 1, 2020.

**3. PREBID MEETING**

- a. **Prebid Meeting:** A Prebid meeting for all bidders will be held via Zoom, Teams, Skype or video platform on July 13, 2020 at 2:00 p.m., EST. Prospective prime bidders are requested to attend. See Document 002513 "Prebid Meetings" Part III of this document.
- b. **Bidders' Questions:** Bid questions should be directed to Eddie Nieves at [eddie.nieves@ucf.edu](mailto:eddie.nieves@ucf.edu). Engineer will provide responses at Prebid conference to bidders' questions received up to two (2) business days prior to conference.

**4. DOCUMENTS**

- a. Construction Documents and Specifications: Obtain after June 19, 2020, by contacting John Settle, [John.Settle@ucf.edu](mailto:John.Settle@ucf.edu). Documents will be provided electronically to registered bidders only; only complete sets of documents will be issued. Additionally, draft contract documents can be found on the UCF Facilities Planning and Construction website <https://fp.ucf.edu/vendors/current-advertisements/>.
- b. Bid questions and questions about Procurement and Contract Documents can be made by contacting Eddie Nieves at [eddie.nieves@ucf.edu](mailto:eddie.nieves@ucf.edu).

**5. BIDDER'S QUALIFICATION**

Bidders must be properly licensed under the laws governing their respective trades and be able to obtain insurance and bonds required for the Work. A Performance Bond (for the full bid amount), Payment Bond, and Insurance in a form acceptable to Owner will be required

of the successful Bidder.

Bidders must comply with Florida Board of Governor (BOG) Regulation 14.021 Procedures for Construction Contract Bidding and Award, including submitting all documents under sections (2) and (3) of said Regulation as part of their bid. See BOG Regulation 14.021: <https://www.flbog.edu/wp-content/uploads/14-021-Bidding-Procedures.pdf>

Additionally, Bidders must be Pre-Qualified, based on the following criteria: Past Performance, Corporate Resources, and Technical Approach. Narratives and backup documentation addressing each of these criteria must be submitted via email to Eddie Nieves by July 10, 2020.

- Past Performance – provide information on a minimum of two similar projects in terms of scope, complexity, or project type. Project information should include representative pictures, initial budget / final budget (and reasons for any changes), initial schedule / final schedule (and reasons for any changes), owner’s contact information, and team members on the project who will also be assigned to this project.
- Corporate Resources – provide a letter from your company’s bonding indicating your bonding limits, insurance provider, and personnel information. Personnel information should include resumes of key team members which include their experience (similar past projects), expertise, and education (degrees, certifications, etc.).
- Technical Approach – describe your technical approach to this project. Describe logistic challenges that you anticipate on the project. Provide a conceptual schedule to demonstrate your understanding of the project complexities. Provide a conceptual budget to demonstrate your understanding of the project scope. Describe your understanding of working in Puerto Rico with their local permitting and inspection requirements.

## **6. GENERAL INFORMATION**

All applicants will be notified of the results in writing or email. The successful bidder will be informed, and will be provided with additional project information, if needed. Upon approval by the president, negotiations will be conducted in accordance with Section 287.055, Florida Statutes.

**Part III: Additional Instruction, Guidelines and Forms**  
**(documents will be posted <https://fp.ucf.edu/vendors/current-advertisements/>)**

1. Instructions to bidders
2. Supplementary Instructions to bidders
3. Submittal Procedure
4. List of Drawings
5. Pre Bid Meeting
6. Procurement Substitution Procedures
7. Preliminary Schedule
8. Existing Condition Information
9. Bid Forms – Stipulated Sum
10. Bid Security Forms
11. Allowance Form
12. Propose Schedule of value forms
13. Bid Submittal Check List
14. Project Forms
15. Health and Safety Requirements
16. Quality Requirements