

STANDARD BID CONDITIONS

M-06-174H

1. **ACCEPTANCE AND REJECTION:** The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to accept bids in whole or in part (unless otherwise indicated by bidder), to waive any informalities in bids received, to accept bids on materials or equipment with variations from specifications where efficiency of operation will not be impaired, and to award bids to best serve the interest of the State.
2. **PRICES:** Unless otherwise stated in the Bid Invitation, the following will apply: (1) unit prices shall be bid, (2) prices should be stated in units of quantity specified (feet, each, lbs., etc.), (3) prices must be F.O.B. destination specified in bid, (4) prices must be firm and not subject to escalation, (5) bid must be firm for acceptance for 30 days from bid opening date. In case of errors in extension, unit prices shall govern. Discounts from bid price will not be considered in making awards.
3. **BID BONDS AND PERFORMANCE BONDS:** If required, a **Bid Bond** in the form of a cashier's check, certified check, or surety bond issued by a surety company, in an amount stated in the Bid Invitation, must accompany bid. **Personal and company checks are not acceptable as Bid Bonds.** Failure to submit a Bid Bond as required will cause a bid to be rejected. The Bid Bond will be forfeited as liquidated damages if the successful bidder fails to provide a required Performance Bond within the period stipulated by AHTD or fails to honor their bid. Cashier's checks and certified checks submitted as Bid Bonds will be returned to unsuccessful bidders; surety bonds will be retained. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a **Performance Bond** in an amount stated in the Bid Invitation and in the form of a cashier's check, certified check, or surety bond issued by a surety company, unless otherwise stated in the Bid Invitation, as a guarantee of delivery of goods/services in accordance with the specifications and within the time established in the bid. **Personal and company checks are not acceptable as Performance Bonds.** In some cases, a cashier's check or certified check submitted as a Bid Bond will be held as the Performance Bond of the successful bidder. Cashier's checks or certified checks submitted as Performance Bonds will be refunded shortly after payment has been made to the successful bidder for completion of all terms of the bid; surety bonds will be retained. Surety bonds must be issued by a surety company authorized to do business in Arkansas, and must be signed by a Resident Local Agent licensed by the Arkansas State Insurance Commissioner to represent that surety company. Resident Agent's Power-of-Attorney must accompany the surety bond. Certain bids involving labor will require Performance Bonds in the form of surety bonds only (no checks of any kind allowed). In such cases, the company issuing the surety bond must comply with all stipulations herein and must be named in the U. S. Treasury listing of companies holding Certificates of Authority as acceptable sureties on Federal Bonds and as acceptable reinsuring companies. Any excess between the face amount of the bond and the underwriting limitation of the bonding company shall be protected by reinsurance provided by an acceptable reinsuring company. Annual Bid and Performance Bonds on file with E & P Division must have sufficient unencumbered funds to meet current bonding requirements, or the bid will be rejected, unless the balance is submitted as set forth above, prior to bid opening.
4. **TAXES:** The AHTD is not exempt from Arkansas State Sales and Use Taxes, or local option city/county sales taxes, when applicable, and bidders are responsible to the State Revenue Department for such taxes. These taxes should not be included in bid prices, but where required by law, will be paid by the AHTD as an addition thereto, and should be added to the billing to the AHTD. The AHTD is exempt from Federal Excise Taxes on all commodities except motor fuels; and excise taxes should not be included in bid prices except for motor fuels. Where applicable, tax exemption certificates will be furnished by the AHTD.
5. **"ALL OR NONE" BIDS:** Bidders who wish to bid "All or None" on two or more items shall so stipulate on the face of bid sheet; otherwise, bid may be awarded on an individual item basis.
6. **SPECIFICATIONS:** Complete specifications should be attached for any substitution or alternate offered, or where amplification is necessary. Bidder's name must be placed on all attachments to the bid.
7. **EXCEPTIONS TO SPECIFICATIONS:** Any exceptions to the bid specifications must be stated in the bid. Any exceptions to manufacturer's published literature must be stated in the bid, or it will be assumed that bidder is bidding exactly as stated in the literature.
8. **BRAND NAME REFERENCES:** All brand name references in bid specifications refer to that commodity or its equivalent, unless otherwise stated in Bid Invitation. Bidder should state brand or trade name of item being bid, if such name exists.
9. **FREIGHT:** All freight charges should be included in bid price. Any change in common carrier rates authorized by the Interstate Commerce Commission will be adjusted if such change occurs after the bid opening date. Receipted common carrier bills that reflect ICC authorized rate changes must be furnished.
10. **SAMPLES, LITERATURE, DEMONSTRATIONS:** Samples and technical literature must be provided free of any charge within 14 days of AHTD request, and free demonstrations within 30 days, unless AHTD extends time. Failure to provide as requested within this period may cause bid to be rejected. Samples, literature and demonstrations must be substantially the same as the item(s) being bid, unless otherwise agreed to by AHTD. Samples that are not destroyed will be returned upon request at bidders expense. Samples from successful bidders may be retained for comparison with items actually furnished.
11. **GUARANTY:** Unless otherwise indicated in Bid Invitation, it is understood and agreed that any item offered or shipped on this bid shall be newly manufactured, latest model and design, and in first class condition; and that all containers shall be new, suitable for storage or shipment and in compliance with all applicable laws relating to construction, packaging, labeling and registration.
12. **BACKORDERS OR DELAY IN DELIVERY:** Backorders or failure to deliver within the time required may constitute default. Vendor must give written notice to the AHTD, as soon as possible, of the reason for any delay and the expected delivery date. The AHTD has the right to extend delivery if reasons appear valid. If reason or delivery date is not acceptable, vendor is in default.
13. **DEFAULT:** All commodities furnished will be subject to inspection and acceptance by AHTD after delivery. Default in promised delivery or failure to meet specifications authorizes the AHTD to cancel award or any portion of same, to reasonably purchase commodities or services elsewhere and to charge full increase, if any, in cost and handling to defaulting vendor. Applicable bonds may be forfeited.
14. **ETHICS:** *"It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure a State contract upon an agreement of understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies maintained by the contractor for the purpose of securing business."* (Arkansas Code, Annotated, Section 19-11-708).

Specification for Fluxer Unit

This specification provides for a fluxer unit for the preparation of glass discs (beads) for accurate XRF analysis, and solutions for quick AA and ICP analysis.

The unit shall have the capability to process soils, silicates, ceramics, slags, cements, carbonates, bauxites, glass, carbonates, geological, mining, oxides, sulfides, catalysts, fluorides, polymers, ferroalloys, pure metals and other alloys.

The unit shall provide for or be supplied with the following:

Completely automatic operation to process a sample with minimal or no supervision required. Operation shall not require special programming knowledge and shall be user friendly. It shall be operation without a computer, but shall allow for interface to a computer for operation if desired. Connections and software necessary for operation by computer shall be supplied. Software supplied shall be compatible with Windows 2000 or Windows XP operating system. .

User-friendly operation with pre-stored fusion programs for most of the common fusion applications. Fusion parameters such as gas flow, mixing speed, amplitude, duration of events, crucible angle, cooling airflow, can be modified.

Programmable gas control with specially designed burners to give consistent and effective heating for different (programmable) durations, at low and high temperatures, and for retention of the volatile elements. This shall allow for a pre-heat/ oxidation step during the fusion process to minimize sample material overflow.

Igniter system for automatic ignition.

Minimum of three(3) burners for processing one(1), two(2) or three(3) or more discs at a time. Each set of crucible and burner shall allow for independent operation.

Programmable crucible arm rotation with programmable mold holder arm and crucible/mold clips, to allow fusions and castings to be performed safely, and quickly. Unit shall hold the crucibles in place during the casting operation with no devices that shall allow for the possible contamination during fusion or casting.

Sample material to be rotated during processing promoting efficient agitation and superior homogenization of the melt.

Quick exchange of crucibles and XRF molds/beakers allowing for preparation of both glass discs and fusions for solutions.

Separate programmable holders for casting molds to allow molds to be raised into flame just before casting for direct and uniform heating.

Minimum three(3) position magnetic stirring/casting platform located in open front area of fluxer mechanism for easy access to all positions with Teflon beakers and stirring rods for each position.

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Safety mechanisms to prevent potentially dangerous operation of the unit. It shall contain a thermocouple system for flame watching with automatic shutoff for gas/flame interruptions. The unit shall monitor for potential disruptions in operation. It shall not allow pouring of fusions until molds or beakers are in position.

Safety enclosure to prevent accidental entry into fusion apparatus during operation. Trays or mechanisms to catch material and ease in cleanup in the event of spillage.

Air/oxygen injectors in the crucibles (optional) for enhanced sample oxidation in the case of carbon-bearing materials.

All connectors required for operation of the unit.

Any power requirements to be 110/120 VAC, 60 Hz

Pre-installation Manual, User Manual, Application Manual, and Software Manual provided.

Support and technical representatives available by phone, free of charge, for assistance with installation, trouble shooting and method development. Support shall be available 9:00 am – 4:00 Central Time.

Two(2) year warranty covering all parts and labor effective following acceptance of the instrument. Warranty work will be completed within thirty(30) days of purchaser's notification to the supplier.

Accessories

Three (3) heavy walled platinum crucibles suitable for use in casting glass discs.

Three (3) heavy walled platinum crucibles suitable for use in preparation of solutions.

Molds necessary for reshaping of the supplied crucibles.

Bid shall provide for the trade-in of scrap platinum.
