



PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR HIGH TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CLIMATE CONTROLLED FARMING SYSTEMS

Posting Date: December 29, 2024

Deadline for Receipt: January 24, 2025 – 2:00 p.m. HST

The Pacific International Center for High Technology Research (PICHTR) is seeking sources of Climate-Controlled Farming Systems to grow various crops including, but not limited to, various lettuces, strawberries, herbs, and other high value vegetables. Up to three (3) systems are expected to be procured.

Climate-controlled farming systems, also known as controlled environment agriculture (CEA), use technology to create optimal growing conditions for crops. These systems can help farmers:

- **Grow year-round:** CEA allows farmers to grow crops in any season, extending their growing season and increasing their yields
- **Protect from weather:** CEA protects crops from damage caused by weather, pests, and diseases
- **Use fewer resources:** CEA can reduce the amount of water, fertilizer, and pesticides needed to grow crops
- **Grow anywhere:** CEA allows farmers to grow crops regardless of local conditions

Climate-controlled farming systems sought include:

- **Hydroponic farming**
- **Aquaponics**
- **Vertical farming**
- **Container farming**

Automated control and monitoring systems use sensor technology to regulate environmental factors in real-time. Integrated HVAC systems can also provide precise control over temperature and humidity levels.

REQUIREMENTS

Interested parties should send a proposal with pricing and technical specifications for the various systems and configuration options of climate-controlled farming system equipment and training for installation and operation of the systems by e-mail to keith.matsumoto@pichtr.org or to the following address:

PICHTR PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

1440 Kapiolani Boulevard, Suite 1410
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The selection of sources will not be based on the lowest bid but a combination of technical capabilities, fit to the end use cases, and other factors. Three (3) systems are being sought and may include three (3) different types of climate-controlled farming systems (noted above) or in different configurations. PICHTR will provide procurement preferences to Minority Business Enterprises and Women-Owned Business Enterprises.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency General Terms and Conditions Effective October 1, 2024
- 2) Compliance with 2 CFR Part 200 Uniform Administrative Requirements
- 3) Procurement
 - i) All procurement transactions will be conducted in a manner providing full and open competition consistent with 2 CFR § 200.319. In accordance with 2 CFR § 200.324, a cost or price analysis in connection with applicable procurement actions, including contract modifications.
- 4) Build America, Buy America Act (BABA)
 - i) Proposals must comply with the Build America, Buy America Act (BABA). All materials and components utilized in the Climate Controlled Farming Systems must be produced in the United States unless granted a waiver by PICHTR. Respondents must provide a certification of compliance with BABA or indicate any components that may require a waiver, with justification.
- 5) Insurance Requirements
Respondents must include proof of insurance meeting the following minimum requirements:
 - i) General Liability Insurance: Coverage of at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 aggregate.
 - ii) Workers' Compensation Insurance: In compliance with state and federal laws.
 - iii) Professional Liability Insurance: Coverage of at least \$1,000,000 per claim (if applicable to design or engineering services).
 - iv) Automobile Liability Insurance: Coverage of at least \$1,000,000 combined single limit for all owned, hired, and non-owned vehicles used in connection with the project.

Proof of insurance must be submitted with the proposal. PICHTR reserves the right to request additional coverage if necessary.

For any questions regarding the RFP, please contact Keith Matsumoto at keith.matsumoto@pichtr.org.

