

**NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS — REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
FOR DESIGN-BUILD SERVICES**

The Forge Project, Project Number 000-125

**California State University, Fresno
5241 N. Maple Avenue
Fresno, CA 93740**

The Trustees of The California State University are requesting Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) from interested and qualified design-builders (Respondents) to design and build the above-named Project. The Trustees will select a design-build team consisting of a general contractor and architect (Design-Builder) using a two-step process: (1) this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from which Respondents may submit SOQ to the Trustees, and (2) the Request for Proposals (RFP) which the Trustees will issue to the shortlisted firms.

A technical review committee shall review the respondents' SOQ and, based on the criteria identified in the RFQ, the committee shall select no more than five finalists to receive the Request for Proposals. Selection of the winning Proposer will be based on qualifications and proposed fees. The Trustees will issue a Design-Build Agreement for this project.

In general, the scope of work consists of the design and construction, under a procedure more commonly referred to as "turnkey construction", of a Design-Build project, known as The Forge.

CSU Fresno desires to hire a design-build contractor to provide professional design, engineering, permitting, construction, commissioning and closeout services for The Forge – Ag-Tech, Bio-Tech, and Engineering Innovation Center, located at 2018 E. Sierra Avenue, Fresno, CA. The Trustees intend to select and award a contract to a single Respondent that will perform the work on the proposed site of California State University, Fresno, California, according to the Conceptual Design Package.

The project consists of the adaptive reuse and renovation of the existing Forestry Building into The Forge – Ag-Tech, Bio-Tech, and Engineering Innovation Center, a multidisciplinary facility that will support agricultural technology, biotechnology, engineering, workforce development, research collaboration, entrepreneurship and innovation.

The Design-Build entity shall be responsible for validating and refining the Trustee's conceptual design while maintaining the design intent, character and functional objectives established by the Trustee's.

It will be the responsibility of each potential respondent to submit their sealed SOQ submittal by the date and time listed below. As a part of that SOQ submittal, potential respondents will provide a copy of their prequalification letter received from the Trustees. Included in this notice are instructions on how to submit a prequalification application through the California State University, Office of the Chancellor, Vendor Portal.

SOQ Submittal Due Date and Time: Thursday, September 24, 2026, at 2:00 PM

Estimated Project Design-Build Cost: \$5,200,000.00 plus an add alternate of **\$2,000,000.00** for a ground-up building next to the existing building.

Contractor License Requirement: B

A mandatory RFQ Conference and Site Inspection to be held on **Wednesday, September 2, 2026, at 10:00 AM**, in the Planning & Design Conference Room located at 2351 East Barstow Ave. on the Fresno State campus.

CSU Point of Contact for Information: Rhonda Willson, Procurement Professional III,
publicworks@mail.fresnostate.edu or (559) 278-2869

To search for and view this project advertisement, Respondents shall register and log in on the “California State Contracts Register” (CSCR) at <https://caleprocure.ca.gov/pages/Events-BS3/event-search.aspx>. If Respondent experiences problems viewing this website, contact the CSU point of contact named above for assistance.

RFQ documents are available on or after Monday, August 17, 2026, on the “PlanetBids Public Solicitation Portal” website, <http://psp.planetbids.com/g/81563/>. Respondents shall first register as a vendor and then log in to the PlanetBids Public Solicitation Portal to search for this project and download the RFQ documents. If Respondent experiences problems viewing this website, contact the CSU point of contact named above for assistance.

Respondents must be prequalified with the Trustees. To do so, submit the prequalification applications no less than ten (10) business days prior to SOQ submittal due date. Respondents shall go to the following PlanetBids website to register, log in and then select the Prequalification tab to apply.

“California State University, Office of the Chancellor, Vendor Portal”
(<https://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=15331>)

Direct any prequalification questions to the Trustees’ Prequalification Administrator at cocm.prequal@calstate.edu.

The Trustees shall give a small business a bid advantage of five percent up to a maximum of \$50,000 to contracting firms that have been certified as a “Small Business” by the Department of General Services, Office of Small Business and DVBE Services, in accordance with Contract General Conditions (and Supplementary General Conditions) for Design-Build Major Projects, Article 32.10, Small Business Five Percent Bid Advantage.

Additionally, the Trustees require the successful proposer to achieve three percent (3%) DVBE participation in contracting construction projects, and are granting a DVBE Incentive, for proposal evaluation purposes only, to all proposers that propose to **exceed** the required DVBE participation. Details are provided in the Request for Proposals and in the Contract General Conditions (and Supplementary General Conditions) for Design-Build Major Projects, Articles 32.12-g, DVBE Incentive and 32.12-i, Sanction for Contractor’s Failure to Achieve the DVBE Incentive. The incentive is as follows:

DVBE Participation	Incentive
3.00% to 3.99%	None
4.00% to 4.99%	1%
5.00% to 5.99%	2%
6.00% or more	3%

Once the selected Design-Builder begins the competitive bidding selection of the Trade Contractors, the selected Design-Builder shall contact the University’s DVBE Advocate Brian Cotham at bcotham@mail.fresnostate.edu or (559) 278-2893.

Respondents shall be familiar with all of the provisions in the Contract General Conditions and Supplementary General Conditions, especially the insurance requirements for the CSU Builders Risk Insurance Program (BRIP) and for the CSU Owner-Controlled Insurance Program (OCIP). This Project will be enrolled into the BRIP and may be enrolled in OCIP, if so specified in the Supplementary General Conditions. Respondents may review OCIP documents online at www.calstate.edu/ConstructionInsurancePrograms.

This Project is a public works project and is subject to prevailing wage rate laws (Contract General Conditions, Article 35.02). All Respondents/Proposers and all tiers of subcontractors who will work on this Project shall register to bid and work on public works projects with the Dept. of Industrial Relations (DIR), and maintain current this registration per Labor Code section 1725.5. For more information, go to <http://www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/PublicWorks.html>.

RFQ SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
RFQ Advertised	<i>Monday, August 17, 2026</i>
RFQ Conference (Mandatory)	<i>Wednesday, September 02, 2026, 10:00 A.M.</i>
<i>Labor Day – Campus Closed</i>	<i>Monday, September 7, 2026</i>
Last day to submit application for prequalification on PlanetBids	<i>Thursday, September 10, 2026</i>
Last day to submit RFQ questions	<i>Thursday, September 10, 2026</i>
Last day to submit Affidavit of Joint Venture form	<i>Thursday, September 17, 2026</i>
RFQ Addenda issued (if required)	<i>Friday, September 18, 2026</i>
Statement of Qualifications due	<i>Thursday, September 24, 2026 2:00 P.M.</i>
Proposer Shortlist published by e-mail	<i>Thursday, October 1, 2026</i>
RFP SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
RFP distributed to shortlist on or before	<i>Friday, October 2, 2026</i>
Pre-Proposal Conference	<i>Thursday, October 8, 2026</i>
Last day to submit RFP questions	<i>Tuesday, October 13, 2026</i>
RFP Addenda issued (if required)	<i>Wednesday, October 21, 2026</i>
RFP Proposals due date and time	<i>Tuesday, October 27, 2026 2:00 P.M.</i>
Proposing firms interviewed	<i>Wednesday, November 4, 2026</i>
Successful Proposer announced	<i>Tuesday, November 10, 2026</i>
Intent to Award	<i>Tuesday, November 10, 2026</i>
<i>Veteran's Day – Campus Closed</i>	<i>Wednesday, November 11, 2026</i>
<i>Thanksgiving Holiday – Campus Closed</i>	<i>Thursday, November 26 & Friday November 27, 2026</i>
Design-Build Agreement executed	<i>Friday, December 4, 2026</i>
Issue NTP	<i>Monday, December 7, 2026</i>
Potential Start Date on or after	<i>Tuesday, December 15, 2026</i>

The schedule above is tentative and subject to change.

-End Notice to Contractors-