



Roeslein Alternative Energy, LLC

Horizon II: A Climate-Smart Future for Corn, Soybean, Livestock, and Renewable Natural Gas Production

Request for Proposal

November 7, 2024

1. Introduction

The purpose of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to solicit vendor information, qualifications, approach, and cost for accounting services and related support for an \$80 million United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant awarded to Roeslein Alternative Energy (RAE). The grant period started September 14, 2023, and runs for a five-year period.

This document includes a profile of the business need, scope, and response guidelines.

2. Background

The Horizon II Pilot Project will demonstrate how farmers can earn environmental credit compensation and renewable energy revenue by planting prairie grass and cover crops and harvesting the “biomass” to use as a feedstock in the anaerobic digestion process.

A partnership of 13 public and private entities led by Roeslein Alternative Energy, LLC finalized the grant from the USDA’s Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities program. The funding will be used in a five-year pilot project in Iowa and Missouri called “Horizon II” to demonstrate a “Climate-Smart Future for Corn, Soybean, Livestock, and Renewable Natural Gas Production.”

The Horizon II project will enhance climate-smart markets, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve carbon sequestration in the production of corn, soybean, pork, and beef commodities. Horizon II will also create new opportunities for small and underserved producers while benefiting soil health, clean water, flood control, and habitats for native wildlife.

More information on the grant can be found at <https://prairieprophets.com/usda-climate-smart-commodities-grant/>. Questions regarding the RFP should be sent to: Ron Murray – Grant Accountant at rmurray@roesleinae.com.



3. Scope of Service

- a. Review Grant Contract
- b. Up to 8 hours of training meetings with RAE Grant staff to review needs via zoom. Concerns include allowable expenses under the grant, allowable travel expense requirements, developing an accounting system to track expenses.
- c. Initial review of first required financial report before January 30, 2024.
- d. Hourly costs going forward to assist with additional accounting needs with same day response when available.
- e. Certification that there are no conflicts of interest with any sub-awardees. The list of sub-awardees can be found on the grant website.
***Please note that to avoid conflicts, a separate provider will be required to perform the annual audit.**

4. Decision Criteria

Submittals will be evaluated based upon the following criteria:

- a. Review of estimated cost compared to approved budget.
- b. Demonstrated experience working with Federal Grants.
- c. Demonstrated experience with Midwest Agricultural Industry and the USDA.
- d. Commitment to the same day response to accounting inquiries when possible.
- e. Experience of lead support staff in grant and agricultural related accounting.
- f. Past performance through client referrals.

5. Submission Requirements

- a. Format: Proposals must be provided in Word format or searchable PDF with a font size no smaller than 11 pt.
- b. Contact Information: Primary contract person, company name, address, phone number, email, website, and EIN/Taxpayer ID#.
- c. Past Experiences & Qualifications: A description of your qualifications that align with past experiences of the project team in your submittal (not to exceed 1 page).
- d. Biographies: Short CV of key staff and their role in the proposed work (not to exceed 2 pages).
- e. Work Examples: Summaries of past projects that demonstrate your experience and qualifications to complete the services described in this request (not to exceed 2 pages).
- f. References: Provide three references (name, organization, title, phone number, email) that are connected to work examples and experience needed to complete the services described in this request.
- g. Budget: Provide an estimate of the total cost needed to complete Tasks A-E in the scope of services described above. The budget estimate should not exceed one page.
- h. Submission: All materials should be submitted to rmurray@roesleinae.com and mzwilling@roesleinae.com no later than the vendor submission deadline listed below.



6. **Timeline**

Event	Timeframe
Request for proposal sent to vendors	November 8, 2023
Time period for vendor questions regarding RFP	November 22, 2023
Vendor submission deadline	November 22, 2023
Requestor evaluation of proposals and seeks responses to follow up questions	November 22-November 30, 2023
Vendor selected & notified of selection	November 30, 2023
Vendor onboarded and work begins	December 1, 2023
Notice to non-selected applicants	November 30-December 1, 2023