

COMMISSIONER
Jared S. Chicoine

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

64

js

TDD Access: Relay NH
1-800-735-2964

Tel. (603) 271-3670

FAX No. 271-1526

Website:
www.energy.nh.gov

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
Christopher J. Ellms, Jr.



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

January 31, 2024

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
New Hampshire State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the New Hampshire Department of Energy (Department) to enter into a contract with GDS Associates, Inc. (GDS), Bedford, NH, Vendor #171472, in an amount not to exceed \$18,000 to conduct technical monitoring of projects funded under the Department's School Energy Efficiency Development (SEED) Grant Program, effective upon Governor and Executive Council approval, through July 15, 2025. **100% Federal Funds (State Energy Program).**

Funding is available in the following Accounting Unit, with the authority to adjust encumbrances between state fiscal years within the price limitation through the Budget Office, if necessary and justified:

<u>New Hampshire Department of Energy, State Energy Program</u>	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>FY 2025</u>
02-52-52-520510-33520000-102-500731 52SP24BL		
Contracts for Program Services	\$9,000	\$9,000

EXPLANATION

The Department respectfully requests approval to enter into a contract in an amount not to exceed \$18,000 with GDS to conduct technical monitoring services for projects funded through the SEED Grant Program. The SEED Grant Program offers competitive grant funding to public schools for the implementation of energy efficiency projects. GDS will conduct periodic site inspections for the purposes of quality control, program compliance, and to observe and interview workers regarding project health and safety. GDS will also submit reports to the Department to document project progression and document the energy savings effectiveness of the implemented measures.

The Department issued a Request for Proposals on June 28, 2023, seeking proposals from qualified professionals to serve as the technical monitor for the SEED Grant Program. Proposals were accepted until August 30, 2023. The Department received one proposal that was reviewed and scored by an Evaluation Team made up of five State employees.

In the event Federal Funds are no longer available, General Funds will not be requested to support this program.

Respectfully submitted,

Jared S. Chicoine
Commissioner

RFP #2023-013: SEED Grant Program Technical Monitor	Date of Review: 10/5/23
Scoring Team Member: Griffin Roberge, State Energy Program Manager; Paige Relf, State Energy Program Specialist; Alexis LaBrie, Grants Compliance Officer; Chris Moore, Public Works Project Manager; Joseph Cicirelli, Weatherization Program Manager	GDS Associates, Inc.
<u>Quality and Clarity of Proposal</u> : Overall responsiveness to the requirements of the RFP, including completeness, clarity, and quality of proposal. (Maximum Point Score: 15)	15
<u>Essential Proposal Requirements</u> : Proposer meets all eligibility requirements, general requirements and conditions, and proposal submission requirements. (Maximum Point Score: 10)	10
<u>Qualifications of Proposer</u> : The proposer has provided work experience, references, and description of the Technical Monitor. (Maximum Point Score: 15)	15
<u>Relative Project Experience</u> : The proposer has relative project experience to the proposed project. (Maximum Point Score: 35)	35
<u>Confidence in Proposer's Ability to Meet General Requirements and Conditions</u> . (Maximum Point Score: 10)	10
<u>Budget</u> : Shows fiscal responsibility and understanding of available project funds. (Maximum Point Score: 15)	15
Total Score	100
Price	\$18,000

Notice: This agreement and all of its attachments shall become public upon submission to Governor and Executive Council for approval. Any information that is private, confidential or proprietary must be clearly identified to the agency and agreed to in writing prior to signing the contract.

AGREEMENT

The State of New Hampshire and the Contractor hereby mutually agree as follows:

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. IDENTIFICATION.

1.1 State Agency Name Department of Energy		1.2 State Agency Address 21 S. Fruit St., Ste. 10, Concord, NH 03301	
1.2 Contractor Name 1.3 GDS Associates, Inc.		1.4 Contractor Address 15 Constitution Drive, Suite 1E, Bedford, NH 03110	
1.5 Contractor Phone Number 603-656-0336	1.6 Account Unit and Class 520510-33520000-102-500731 52SP24BL	1.7 Completion Date 07/15/2025	1.8 Price Limitation \$18,000
1.9 Contracting Officer for State Agency Griffin Roberge		1.10 State Agency Telephone Number 603-271-8341	
1.11 Contractor Signature  Date: 12/14/2023		1.12 Name and Title of Contractor Signatory Matthew Siska, Principal	
1.13 State Agency Signature  Date: 1/2/24		1.14 Name and Title of State Agency Signatory Jared S. Chicoine, Commissioner	
1.15 Approval by the N.H. Department of Administration, Division of Personnel (if applicable) By: _____ Director, On: _____			
1.16 Approval by the Attorney General (Form, Substance and Execution) (if applicable) By:  On: 1/16/2024			
1.17 Approval by the Governor and Executive Council (if applicable) G&C Item number: _____ G&C Meeting Date: _____			

2. SERVICES TO BE PERFORMED. The State of New Hampshire, acting through the agency identified in block 1.1 ("State"), engages contractor identified in block 1.3 ("Contractor") to perform, and the Contractor shall perform, the work or sale of goods, or both, identified and more particularly described in the attached EXHIBIT B which is incorporated herein by reference ("Services").

3. EFFECTIVE DATE/COMPLETION OF SERVICES.

3.1 Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement to the contrary, and subject to the approval of the Governor and Executive Council of the State of New Hampshire, if applicable, this Agreement, and all obligations of the parties hereunder, shall become effective on the date the Governor and Executive Council approve this Agreement, unless no such approval is required, in which case the Agreement shall become effective on the date the Agreement is signed by the State Agency as shown in block 1.13 ("Effective Date").

3.2 If the Contractor commences the Services prior to the Effective Date, all Services performed by the Contractor prior to the Effective Date shall be performed at the sole risk of the Contractor, and in the event that this Agreement does not become effective, the State shall have no liability to the Contractor, including without limitation, any obligation to pay the Contractor for any costs incurred or Services performed.

3.3 Contractor must complete all Services by the Completion Date specified in block 1.7.

4. CONDITIONAL NATURE OF AGREEMENT.

Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement to the contrary, all obligations of the State hereunder, including, without limitation, the continuance of payments hereunder, are contingent upon the availability and continued appropriation of funds. In no event shall the State be liable for any payments hereunder in excess of such available appropriated funds. In the event of a reduction or termination of appropriated funds by any state or federal legislative or executive action that reduces, eliminates or otherwise modifies the appropriation or availability of funding for this Agreement and the Scope for Services provided in EXHIBIT B, in whole or in part, the State shall have the right to withhold payment until such funds become available, if ever, and shall have the right to reduce or terminate the Services under this Agreement immediately upon giving the Contractor notice of such reduction or termination. The State shall not be required to transfer funds from any other account or source to the Account identified in block 1.6 in the event funds in that Account are reduced or unavailable.

5. CONTRACT PRICE/PRICE LIMITATION/ PAYMENT.

5.1 The contract price, method of payment, and terms of payment are identified and more particularly described in EXHIBIT C which is incorporated herein by reference.

5.2 Notwithstanding any provision in this Agreement to the contrary, and notwithstanding unexpected circumstances, in no event shall the total of all payments authorized, or actually made hereunder, exceed the Price Limitation set forth in block 1.8. The payment by the State of the contract price shall be the only and the complete reimbursement to the Contractor for all expenses, of

whatever nature incurred by the Contractor in the performance hereof, and shall be the only and the complete compensation to the Contractor for the Services.

5.3 The State reserves the right to offset from any amounts otherwise payable to the Contractor under this Agreement those liquidated amounts required or permitted by N.H. RSA 80:7 through RSA 80:7-c or any other provision of law.

5.4 The State's liability under this Agreement shall be limited to monetary damages not to exceed the total fees paid. The Contractor agrees that it has an adequate remedy at law for any breach of this Agreement by the State and hereby waives any right to specific performance or other equitable remedies against the State.

6. COMPLIANCE BY CONTRACTOR WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS/EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY.

6.1 In connection with the performance of the Services, the Contractor shall comply with all applicable statutes, laws, regulations, and orders of federal, state, county or municipal authorities which impose any obligation or duty upon the Contractor, including, but not limited to, civil rights and equal employment opportunity laws and the Governor's order on Respect and Civility in the Workplace, Executive order 2020-01. In addition, if this Agreement is funded in any part by monies of the United States, the Contractor shall comply with all federal executive orders, rules, regulations and statutes, and with any rules, regulations and guidelines as the State or the United States issue to implement these regulations. The Contractor shall also comply with all applicable intellectual property laws.

6.2 During the term of this Agreement, the Contractor shall not discriminate against employees or applicants for employment because of age, sex, sexual orientation, race, color, marital status, physical or mental disability, religious creed, national origin, gender identity, or gender expression, and will take affirmative action to prevent such discrimination, unless exempt by state or federal law. The Contractor shall ensure any subcontractors comply with these nondiscrimination requirements.

6.3 No payments or transfers of value by Contractor or its representatives in connection with this Agreement have or shall be made which have the purpose or effect of public or commercial bribery, or acceptance of or acquiescence in extortion, kickbacks, or other unlawful or improper means of obtaining business.

6.4. The Contractor agrees to permit the State or United States access to any of the Contractor's books, records and accounts for the purpose of ascertaining compliance with this Agreement and all rules, regulations and orders pertaining to the covenants, terms and conditions of this Agreement.

7. PERSONNEL.

7.1 The Contractor shall at its own expense provide all personnel necessary to perform the Services. The Contractor warrants that all personnel engaged in the Services shall be qualified to perform the Services, and shall be properly licensed and otherwise authorized to do so under all applicable laws.

7.2 The Contracting Officer specified in block 1.9, or any successor, shall be the State's point of contact pertaining to this Agreement.

8. EVENT OF DEFAULT/REMEDIES.

8.1 Any one or more of the following acts or omissions of the Contractor shall constitute an event of default hereunder ("Event of Default"):

8.1.1 failure to perform the Services satisfactorily or on schedule;
8.1.2 failure to submit any report required hereunder; and/or
8.1.3 failure to perform any other covenant, term or condition of this Agreement.

8.2 Upon the occurrence of any Event of Default, the State may take any one, or more, or all, of the following actions:

8.2.1 give the Contractor a written notice specifying the Event of Default and requiring it to be remedied within, in the absence of a greater or lesser specification of time, thirty (30) calendar days from the date of the notice; and if the Event of Default is not timely cured, terminate this Agreement, effective two (2) calendar days after giving the Contractor notice of termination;

8.2.2 give the Contractor a written notice specifying the Event of Default and suspending all payments to be made under this Agreement and ordering that the portion of the contract price which would otherwise accrue to the Contractor during the period from the date of such notice until such time as the State determines that the Contractor has cured the Event of Default shall never be paid to the Contractor;

8.2.3 give the Contractor a written notice specifying the Event of Default and set off against any other obligations the State may owe to the Contractor any damages the State suffers by reason of any Event of Default; and/or

8.2.4 give the Contractor a written notice specifying the Event of Default, treat the Agreement as breached, terminate the Agreement and pursue any of its remedies at law or in equity, or both.

9. TERMINATION.

9.1 Notwithstanding paragraph 8, the State may, at its sole discretion, terminate the Agreement for any reason, in whole or in part, by thirty (30) calendar days written notice to the Contractor that the State is exercising its option to terminate the Agreement.

9.2 In the event of an early termination of this Agreement for any reason other than the completion of the Services, the Contractor shall, at the State's discretion, deliver to the Contracting Officer, not later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the date of termination, a report ("Termination Report") describing in detail all Services performed, and the contract price earned, to and including the date of termination. In addition, at the State's discretion, the Contractor shall, within fifteen (15) calendar days of notice of early termination, develop and submit to the State a transition plan for Services under the Agreement.

10. PROPERTY OWNERSHIP/DISCLOSURE.

10.1 As used in this Agreement, the word "Property" shall mean all data, information and things developed or obtained during the performance of, or acquired or developed by reason of, this Agreement, including, but not limited to, all studies, reports, files, formulae, surveys, maps, charts, sound recordings, video recordings, pictorial reproductions, drawings, analyses, graphic representations, computer programs, computer printouts, notes,

letters, memoranda, papers, and documents, all whether finished or unfinished.

10.2 All data and any Property which has been received from the State, or purchased with funds provided for that purpose under this Agreement, shall be the property of the State, and shall be returned to the State upon demand or upon termination of this Agreement for any reason.

10.3 Disclosure of data, information and other records shall be governed by N.H. RSA chapter 91-A and/or other applicable law. Disclosure requires prior written approval of the State.

11. CONTRACTOR'S RELATION TO THE STATE. In the performance of this Agreement the Contractor is in all respects an independent contractor, and is neither an agent nor an employee of the State. Neither the Contractor nor any of its officers, employees, agents or members shall have authority to bind the State or receive any benefits, workers' compensation or other emoluments provided by the State to its employees.

12. ASSIGNMENT/DELEGATION/SUBCONTRACTS.

12.1 Contractor shall provide the State written notice at least fifteen (15) calendar days before any proposed assignment, delegation, or other transfer of any interest in this Agreement. No such assignment, delegation, or other transfer shall be effective without the written consent of the State.

12.2 For purposes of paragraph 12, a Change of Control shall constitute assignment. "Change of Control" means (a) merger, consolidation, or a transaction or series of related transactions in which a third party, together with its affiliates, becomes the direct or indirect owner of fifty percent (50%) or more of the voting shares or similar equity interests, or combined voting power of the Contractor, or (b) the sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the Contractor.

12.3 None of the Services shall be subcontracted by the Contractor without prior written notice and consent of the State.

12.4 The State is entitled to copies of all subcontracts and assignment agreements and shall not be bound by any provisions contained in a subcontract or an assignment agreement to which it is not a party.

13. INDEMNIFICATION. The Contractor shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the State, its officers, and employees from and against all actions, claims, damages, demands, judgments, fines, liabilities, losses, and other expenses, including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys' fees, arising out of or relating to this Agreement directly or indirectly arising from death, personal injury, property damage, intellectual property infringement, or other claims asserted against the State, its officers, or employees caused by the acts or omissions of negligence, reckless or willful misconduct, or fraud by the Contractor, its employees, agents, or subcontractors. The State shall not be liable for any costs incurred by the Contractor arising under this paragraph 13. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing herein contained shall be deemed to constitute a waiver of the State's sovereign immunity, which immunity is hereby reserved to the State. This covenant in paragraph 13 shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

14. INSURANCE.

14.1 The Contractor shall, at its sole expense, obtain and continuously maintain in force, and shall require any subcontractor or assignee to obtain and maintain in force, the following insurance:

14.1.1 commercial general liability insurance against all claims of bodily injury, death or property damage, in amounts of not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 aggregate or excess; and

14.1.2 special cause of loss coverage form covering all Property subject to subparagraph 10.2 herein, in an amount not less than 80% of the whole replacement value of the Property.

14.2 The policies described in subparagraph 14.1 herein shall be on policy forms and endorsements approved for use in the State of New Hampshire by the N.H. Department of Insurance, and issued by insurers licensed in the State of New Hampshire.

14.3 The Contractor shall furnish to the Contracting Officer identified in block 1.9, or any successor, a certificate(s) of insurance for all insurance required under this Agreement. At the request of the Contracting Officer, or any successor, the Contractor shall provide certificate(s) of insurance for all renewal(s) of insurance required under this Agreement. The certificate(s) of insurance and any renewals thereof shall be attached and are incorporated herein by reference.

15. WORKERS' COMPENSATION.

15.1 By signing this agreement, the Contractor agrees, certifies and warrants that the Contractor is in compliance with or exempt from, the requirements of N.H. RSA chapter 281-A (*"Workers' Compensation"*).

15.2 To the extent the Contractor is subject to the requirements of N.H. RSA chapter 281-A, Contractor shall maintain, and require any subcontractor or assignee to secure and maintain, payment of Workers' Compensation in connection with activities which the person proposes to undertake pursuant to this Agreement. The Contractor shall furnish the Contracting Officer identified in block 1.9, or any successor, proof of Workers' Compensation in the manner described in N.H. RSA chapter 281-A and any applicable renewal(s) thereof, which shall be attached and are incorporated herein by reference. The State shall not be responsible for payment of any Workers' Compensation premiums or for any other claim or benefit for Contractor, or any subcontractor or employee of Contractor, which might arise under applicable State of New Hampshire Workers' Compensation laws in connection with the performance of the Services under this Agreement.

16. WAIVER OF BREACH. A State's failure to enforce its rights with respect to any single or continuing breach of this Agreement shall not act as a waiver of the right of the State to later enforce any such rights or to enforce any other or any subsequent breach.

17. NOTICE. Any notice by a party hereto to the other party shall be deemed to have been duly delivered or given at the time of mailing by certified mail, postage prepaid, in a United States Post Office addressed to the parties at the addresses given in blocks 1.2 and 1.4, herein.

18. AMENDMENT. This Agreement may be amended, waived or discharged only by an instrument in writing signed by the parties hereto and only after approval of such amendment, waiver or discharge by the Governor and Executive Council of the State of New Hampshire unless no such approval is required under the circumstances pursuant to State law, rule or policy.

19. CHOICE OF LAW AND FORUM.

19.1 This Agreement shall be governed, interpreted and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New Hampshire except where the Federal supremacy clause requires otherwise. The wording used in this Agreement is the wording chosen by the parties to express their mutual intent, and no rule of construction shall be applied against or in favor of any party.

19.2 Any actions arising out of this Agreement, including the breach or alleged breach thereof, may not be submitted to binding arbitration, but must, instead, be brought and maintained in the Merrimack County Superior Court of New Hampshire which shall have exclusive jurisdiction thereof.

20. CONFLICTING TERMS. In the event of a conflict between the terms of this P-37 form (as modified in EXHIBIT A) and any other portion of this Agreement including any attachments thereto, the terms of the P-37 (as modified in EXHIBIT A) shall control.

21. THIRD PARTIES. This Agreement is being entered into for the sole benefit of the parties hereto, and nothing herein, express or implied, is intended to or will confer any legal or equitable right, benefit, or remedy of any nature upon any other person.

22. HEADINGS. The headings throughout the Agreement are for reference purposes only, and the words contained therein shall in no way be held to explain, modify, amplify or aid in the interpretation, construction or meaning of the provisions of this Agreement.

23. SPECIAL PROVISIONS. Additional or modifying provisions set forth in the attached EXHIBIT A are incorporated herein by reference.

24. FURTHER ASSURANCES. The Contractor, along with its agents and affiliates, shall, at its own cost and expense, execute any additional documents and take such further actions as may be reasonably required to carry out the provisions of this Agreement and give effect to the transactions contemplated hereby.

25. SEVERABILITY. In the event any of the provisions of this Agreement are held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be contrary to any state or federal law, the remaining provisions of this Agreement will remain in full force and effect.

26. ENTIRE AGREEMENT. This Agreement, which may be executed in a number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, constitutes the entire agreement and understanding between the parties, and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings with respect to the subject matter hereof.

EXHIBIT A

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

1. Legally binding and enforceable documents under this contract include 2 CFR 200 as amended (Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards); 10 CFR 420 dated January 1, 2004 (State Energy Program); and the New Hampshire State Energy Program. The New Hampshire Department of Energy (Department) reserves the right to use any legal remedy at its disposal including, but not limited to, disallowance of costs, withholding of funds, suspension of agency personnel, disbarment of agency personnel, disbarment of agencies and/or subcontractors from present or future contracts, and such other legal remedies as determined to be appropriate by the New Hampshire Department of Justice in the enforcement of rules and regulations pertaining to the State Energy Program.
2. The costs charged under this contract shall be determined as allowable under the cost principles detailed in 2 CFR 200 Subpart E – Cost Principles.
3. Program and financial records pertaining to this contract shall be retained by the Contractor for three years from the date of submission of the final expenditure report or, for awards that are renewed quarterly or annually, from the date of the submission of the quarterly or annual financial report, as stated in 2 CFR 200.334-338 – Retention Requirements for Records.
4. The Department shall have the right to issue periodic notices, memos, and updated reporting forms and information.
5. The Contractor shall notify the Department of any media inquiries and responses and copies of published media clippings and broadcasts. The Department shall have the right to participate in any meetings with media.
6. The Department shall have the right to publicize progress of this program.
7. RESTRICTION ON ADDITIONAL FUNDING. It is understood and agreed between the parties that no portion of the “Grant” funds may be used for the purpose of obtaining additional Federal funds under any other law of the United States, except if authorized under that law.
8. COPELAND ANTI-KICKBACK ACT. All contracts and sub-grants in excess of \$2,000.00 for construction or repair shall comply with Copeland “Anti-Kickback” Act (18 USC 874) as supplemented in Department of Labor Regulations (29 CFR, Part 3). This Act provides that each contractor, subcontractor, or sub-grantee shall be prohibited from inducing, by any means, any person employed in the construction, completion, or repair of public work, to give up any part of the compensation to which he is otherwise entitled. The sub-grantee should report all suspected violations to the Department.

9. **PROCUREMENT.** Sub-grantee shall comply with all provisions of 2 CFR 200 Subpart D – Post Federal Award Requirements – Procurement Standards, with special emphasis on financial procurement (2 CFR 200 Subpart F – Audit Requirements) and property management (2 CFR 200 Subpart D – Post Federal Award Requirements – Property Standards).
10. Final required reports and reimbursement requests for the 2023-2024 program year shall be submitted to the State no later than July 15, 2024.
11. Final required reports and reimbursement requests for the 2024-2025 program year shall be submitted to the State no later than July 15, 2025.
12. **STATE INSPECTION:** Without limiting the rights established under paragraphs 6.4 and 10 of the General Provisions, between the Effective Date and the Completion Date, the Grantee shall grant to the State and the United States Department of Energy (USDOE), or any person designated by them, the ability to inspect project and program sites, interview workers, and inspect and monitor financial payroll records and transactions. Contractor shall provide the Department and USDOE, or any person designated by them, with access to all administrators, vendors, facilities, work sites, employees of the contractor(s), financial or other records, and assistance to ensure their safety and convenience for the performance of site visits and evaluations.
13. **ASSURANCES/CERTIFICATIONS.** The following are attached and signed: Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace Requirements; Certification Regarding Lobbying; Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Certification Regarding the Americans With Disabilities Act Compliance; Certification Regarding Environmental Tobacco Smoke; Assurance of Compliance Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs; and Certification Regarding the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Compliance.
14. The Department, at any time, in its sole discretion, may postpone or delay all or any part of this contract upon written notice.
15. These provisions flow down to all sub-contractor(s).
16. The Contractor shall maintain an active registration in the Federal System for Award Management (SAM) throughout the duration of the contract.
17. This is not a Research and Development (R&D) award.
18. The Department’s indirect cost rate is 10 percent.
19. Paragraph 9.1 of the General Provisions is amended to add “Without limiting the foregoing, a determination by the Department that the Grantee or Contractor is boycotting Israel shall be grounds for termination by the Department in accordance with New Hampshire Executive Order No. 2023-05.”

EXHIBIT B

SCOPE OF SERVICES

- A. GDS Associates, Inc. hereinafter “the Contractor,” agrees to provide services to ensure the implementation of the School Energy Efficiency Development (SEED) Grant Program as detailed in the scope of work.
- B. The contract period will commence upon the approval of Governor and Executive Council; and will have a completion date of July 15, 2025. All work must be completed by July 15, 2025. The New Hampshire Department of Energy (Department) at any time, in its sole discretion, may terminate the contract or postpone or delay all or any part of this contract, upon written notice.

Scope of Work:

- 1. The Contractor will conduct four inspections of SEED Grant Program funded projects (Projects) in each SEED Grant Program funding round in 2023-2024 and in 2024-2025:
 - a. Initial inspection;
 - b. Two project progression inspections; and
 - c. Final inspection.
- 2. Following each inspection, the Contractor will submit a report to the Department that includes:
 - a. Photographic documentation of Project progress;
 - b. Assurance that program regulations are being followed;
 - c. Appropriate measures are included on work orders;
 - d. Installed measures are allowed, effective, and of good quality workmanship;
 - e. Agreed upon test will be performed to ensure energy savings and effectiveness;
 - f. Verification that all the iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials that comply with federal Build America, Buy America requirements as represented by Project staff have been installed;
 - g. All installed measures are relative to the work plan;
 - h. All measures meet New Hampshire Building Codes and best practices; and
 - i. Any other relevant items deemed relevant by the Department.
- 3. To the greatest extent possible, inspections will be conducted after school hours so they do not interfere with student learning. It will be the responsibility of the Contractor to coordinate times for inspections.
- 4. The Contractor will complete two final reports and submit those reports to the Department. The first final report will be completed by July 15, 2024, or upon Project completion, whichever comes first, for Projects funded in the 2023-2024 SEED Grant Program funding round. The second final report will be completed by July 15, 2025, or upon Project completion, whichever comes first, for Projects funded in the 2024-2025

SEED Grant Program funding round. Both final reports will give an all-encompassing account of each Project including:

- a. Quality of work;
- b. Work completed;
- c. Energy saving effectiveness of the implemented measures; and
- d. Pictures documenting project completion.

EXHIBIT C

PAYMENT TERMS

1. In consideration of the satisfactory performance of the Services, the State agrees to pay the GDS Associates, Inc. hereinafter “the Contractor,” an amount not to exceed \$18,000 (which hereinafter is referred to as the “Contracted Amount,”) or \$9,000 for each SEED Grant Program funding round in 2023-2024 ending June 30, 2024, and 2024-2025 ending June 30, 2025. Funds not spent in the 2023-2024 grant year for the performance of Services may be carried over to the 2024-2025 grant year.
2. Drawdowns from the total Contracted Amount will be paid to the Contractor only after written documentation of cash need is submitted to the Department. Disbursement of the Contracted Amount shall be made in accordance with the procedures established by the State and 2 CFR 200.305(b) on an advance basis; limited to minimum amounts needed; and be timed to be in accordance with the actual, immediate cash requirements of the Contractor in carrying out the purpose of the program. The Grantee must make timely payments to (sub)contractors in accordance with the contract provisions. The Department will accept a monthly payment request, if the Contractor so chooses. Payment requests from the Contractor shall be received by the Department no later than the 15th of each month, or the first business day following the 15th day. Final invoicing for Services rendered for the 2023-2024 grant year is due to the Department by July 15, 2024. Final invoicing for Services rendered for the 2024-2025 grant year is due to the Department by July 15, 2025. Final payment for the performance of Services will not be issued by the Department until the Contractor’s final report is submitted to the Department for review.
3. Invoices shall be sent by e-mail to: Griffin Roberge, griffin.j.roberge@energy.nh.gov.
4. Invoices submitted by the Contractor shall include a summary of all activities that took place for the hours worked by the Contractor, the service provided during those hours, and who the Contractor assigned to work on that service. The Department may request, and the Contractor shall provide, additional supporting information as necessary.
5. The Contractor shall charge the rates and make reasonable attempts to budget time. The Contractor must complete all the required work within the Contracted amount. The Contractor shall notify the Department of any modifications in hourly rates or personnel that are relevant to this contract.
6. All obligations of the State, including the continuance of any payments, are contingent upon the availability and continued appropriation of funds for the services to be provided.

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

STANDARD EXHIBIT D

The Contractor identified in Section 1.3 of the General Provisions agrees to comply with the provisions of Sections 5151-5160 of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-690, Title V, Subtitle D; 41 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), and further agrees to have the Contractor's representative, as identified in Sections 1.11 and 1.12 of the General Provisions execute the following Certification:

**CERTIFICATION REGARDING DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE REQUIREMENTS
ALTERNATIVE I - FOR GRANTEES OTHER THAN INDIVIDUALS**

**US DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - CONTRACTORS
US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
US DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

This certification is required by the regulations implementing Sections 5151-5160 of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-690, Title V, Subtitle D; 41 U.S.C. 701 et seq.). The January 31, 1989, regulations were amended and published as Part II of the May 25, 1990, Federal Register (pages 21681-21691), and require certification by the Contractor (and by inference, sub-grantees and sub-contractors), prior to award, that they will maintain a drug-free workplace. Section 3017.630(c) of the regulation provides that a Contractor (and by inference, sub-grantees and sub-contractors) that is a State may elect to make one certification to the Department in each federal fiscal year in lieu of certificates for each grant during the federal fiscal year covered by the certification. The certificate set out below is a material representation of fact upon which reliance is placed when the agency awards the grant. False certification or violation of the certification shall be grounds for suspension of payments, suspension or termination of grants, or government wide suspension or debarment. Contractors using this form should send it to:

State Energy Program Manager Griffin Roberge, New Hampshire Department of Energy,
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10, Concord, NH 03301

- (A) The Contractor certifies that it will, or will continue to, provide a drug-free workplace by:
- (a) Publishing a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the Contractor's workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violation of such prohibition;
 - (b) Establishing an ongoing drug-free awareness program to inform employees about—
 - (1) The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;
 - (2) The Contractor's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace;
 - (3) Any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs; and
 - (4) The penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations occurring in the workplace;
 - (c) Making it a requirement that each employee to be engaged in the performance of the grant be given a copy of the statement required by paragraph (a);
 - (d) Notifying the employee in the statement required by paragraph (a) that, as a condition of employment under the grant, the employee will—
 - (1) Abide by the terms of the statement; and
 - (2) Notify the employer in writing of his or her conviction for a violation of a criminal drug statute occurring in the workplace no later than five calendar days after such conviction;

**CERTIFICATION REGARDING DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE REQUIREMENTS
ALTERNATIVE I - FOR GRANTEEES OTHER THAN INDIVIDUALS, cont'd**

**US DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - CONTRACTORS
US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
US DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

- (e) Notifying the agency in writing, within ten calendar days after receiving notice under subparagraph (d)(2) from an employee or otherwise receiving actual notice of such conviction. Employers of convicted employees must provide notice, including position title, to every grant officer on whose grant activity the convicted employee was working, unless the Federal agency has designated a central point for the receipt of such notices. Notice shall include the identification number(s) of each affected grant;
 - (f) Taking one of the following actions, within 30 calendar days of receiving notice under subparagraph (d)(2), with respect to any employee who is so convicted—
 - (1) Taking appropriate personnel action against such an employee, up to and including termination, consistent with the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; or
 - (2) Requiring such employee to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for such purposes by a Federal, State, or local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency;
 - (g) Making a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug-free workplace through implementation of paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f).
- (B) The Contractor may insert in the space provided below the site(s) for the performance of work done in connection with the specific grant.

Place of Performance (street address, city, county, State, zip code) (list each location)

Ashland Elementary School
16 Education Drive
Ashland, NH 03217-4210

A Place of Performance for the 2024-2025 SEED Grant Program funding round is undetermined. An awardee will be chosen through a Request for Proposals (RFP) in 2024.

Check if there are workplaces on file that are not identified here.

GDS Associates, Inc.	Upon Department approval to July 15, 2025
Contractor Name	Period Covered by this Certification
Matthew Siska, Principal	
Name and Title of Authorized Contractor Representative	
	12/14/2023
Contractor Representative Signature	Date

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

STANDARD EXHIBIT E

The Contractor identified in Section 1.3 of the General Provisions agrees to comply with the provisions of Section 319 of Public Law 101-121, Government wide Guidance for New Restrictions on Lobbying, and 31 U.S.C. 1352, and further agrees to have the Contractor’s representative, as identified in Sections 1.11 and 1.12 of the General Provisions execute the following Certification:

CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

**US DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - CONTRACTORS
US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
US DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

Programs (indicate applicable program covered):
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program
Weatherization Program
Federal Emergency Management Agency
State Energy Program

Contract Period: Upon Department approval to July 15, 2025

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

- (1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement (and by specific mention sub-grantee or sub-contractor).
- (2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement (and by specific mention sub-grantee or sub-contractor), the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form LLL, “Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying, in accordance with its instructions, attached and identified as Standard Exhibit E-1.
- (3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award document for sub-awards at all tiers (including subcontracts, sub-grants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all sub-recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by Section 1352, Title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

	Principal
Contractor Representative Signature	Contractor’s Representative Title
GDS Associates, Inc.	12/14/2023
Contractor Name	Date

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

STANDARD EXHIBIT F

The Contractor identified in Section 1.3 of the General Provisions agrees to comply with the provisions of Executive Office of the President, Executive Order 12529 and 45 CFR Part 76 regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters, and further agrees to have the Contractor's representative, as identified in Sections 1.11 and 1.12 of the General Provisions execute the following Certification:

CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS - PRIMARY COVERED TRANSACTIONS

Instructions for Certification

- (1) By signing and submitting this proposal (contract), the prospective primary participant is providing the certification set out below.
- (2) The inability of a person to provide the certification required below will not necessarily result in denial of participation in this covered transaction. If necessary, the prospective participant shall submit an explanation of why it cannot provide the certification. The certification or explanation will be considered in connection with the NH Department of Energy's (Department) determination whether to enter into this transaction. However, failure of the prospective primary participant to furnish a certification or an explanation shall disqualify such person from participation in this transaction.
- (3) The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when the Department determined to enter into this transaction. If it is later determined that the prospective primary participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the Department may terminate this transaction for cause or default.
- (4) The prospective primary participant shall provide immediate written notice to the Department to whom this proposal (contract) is submitted if at any time the prospective primary participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.
- (5) The terms "covered transaction," "debarred," "suspended," "ineligible," "lower tier covered transaction," "participant," "person," "primary covered transaction," "principal," "proposal," and "voluntarily excluded," as used in this clause, have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of the rules implementing Executive Order 12549: 45 CFR Part 76. See the attached definitions.
- (6) The prospective primary participant agrees by submitting this proposal (contract) that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the Department.
- (7) The prospective primary participant further agrees by submitting this proposal that it will include the clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transactions," provided by the Department, without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.
- (8) A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or involuntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals. Each participant may, but is not required to, check the Non-procurement List (of excluded parties).
- (9) Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.
- (10) Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 6 of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal government, the Department may terminate this transaction for cause or default.

**CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, AND OTHER
RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS - PRIMARY COVERED TRANSACTIONS, cont'd**

*Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other
Responsibility Matters - Primary Covered Transactions*

- (11) The prospective primary participant certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its principals:
 - (a) are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency;
 - (b) have not within a three-year period preceding this proposal (contract) been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State or local) transaction or a contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
 - (c) are not presently indicted for otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1) (b) of this certification; and
 - (d) have not within a three-year period preceding this application/proposal had one or more public transactions (Federal, State or local) terminated for cause or default.

- (12) Where the prospective primary participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal (contract).

*Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and
Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transactions*
(To Be Supplied to Lower Tier Participants)

By signing and submitting this lower tier proposal (contract), the prospective lower tier participant, as defined in 45 CFR Part 76, certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief that it and its principals:

- (a) are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any federal department or agency.
- (b) where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the above, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal (contract).

The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this proposal (contract) that it will include this clause entitled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility, and Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transactions," without modification in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.

 Contractor Representative Signature	Principal Contractor's Representative Title
GDS Associates, Inc. Contractor Name	12/14/2023 Date

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

STANDARD EXHIBIT G

**CERTIFICATION REGARDING THE
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COMPLIANCE**

The Contractor identified in Section 1.3 of the General Provisions agrees by signature of the Contractor's representative as identified in Sections 1.11 and 1.12 of the General Provisions, to execute the following certification:

By signing and submitting this proposal (contract) the Contractor agrees to make reasonable efforts to comply with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

	Principal
_____ Contractor Representative Signature	_____ Contractor's Representative Title
GDS Associates, Inc.	12/14/2023
_____ Contractor Name	_____ Date

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

STANDARD EXHIBIT H

**CERTIFICATION
Public Law 103-227, Part C
ENVIRONMENTAL TOBACCO SMOKE**

Public Law 103227, Part C Environmental Tobacco Smoke, also known as the Pro Children Act of 1994, requires that smoking not be permitted in any portion of any indoor facility routinely owned or leased or contracted for by an entity and used routinely or regularly for provision of health, day care, education, or library services to children under the age of 18, if the services are funded by Federal programs either directly or through State or local governments, by Federal grant, contract, loan, or loan guarantee.

The law does not apply to children's services provided in private residences, facilities funded solely by Medicare or Medicaid funds, and portions of facilities used for inpatient drug or alcohol treatment.

Failure to comply with the provisions of the law may result in the imposition of a civil monetary penalty of up to \$1000 per day and/or the imposition of an administrative compliance order on the responsible entity.

By signing and submitting this application the Contractor certifies that it will comply with the requirements of the Act.

The Contractor further agrees that it will require the language of this certification be included in any subawards which contain provisions for the children's services and that all subgrantees shall certify accordingly.

	Principal
Contractor Representative Signature	Contractor's Representative Title
GDS Associates, Inc.	12/14/2023
Contractor Name	Date

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

EXHIBIT I

U.S. Department of Energy Assurance of Compliance Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs

OMB Burden Disclosure Statement

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Office of Information Resources Management Policy, Plans, and Oversight, Records Management Division, HR-422 - GTN, Paperwork Reduction Project (1910-0400), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20585; and to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Paperwork Reduction Project (1910-0400), Washington, DC 20503.

GDS Associates, Inc. (Hereinafter called the "Contractor") HEREBY AGREES to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Pub. L. 88-352), Section 16 of the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93-275), Section 401 of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93-438), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, (Pub. L. 92-318, Pub. L. 93-568, and Pub. L. 94-482), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Pub. L. 93-112), the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (Pub. L. 94-135), Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Pub. L. 90-284), the Department of Energy Organization Act of 1977 (Pub. L. 95-91), the Energy Conservation and Production Act of 1976, as amended, (Pub. L. 94-385) and Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1040. In accordance with the above laws and regulations issued pursuant thereto, the Contractor agrees to assure that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity in which the Contractor receives Federal assistance from the Department of Energy.

Applicability and Period of Obligation

In the case of any service, financial aid, covered employment, equipment, property, or structure provided, leased, or improved with Federal assistance extended to the Contractor by the Department of Energy, this assurance obligates the Contractor for the period during which Federal assistance is extended. In the case of any transfer of such service, financial aid, equipment, property, or structure, this assurance obligates the transferee for the period during which Federal assistance is extended. If any personal property is so provided, this assurance obligates the Contractor for the period during which it retains ownership or possession of the property. In all other cases, this assurance obligates the Contractor for the period during which the Federal assistance is extended to the Contractor by the Department of Energy.

Employment Practices

Where a primary objective of the Federal assistance is to provide employment or where the Contractor's employment practices affect the delivery of services in programs or activities resulting from Federal assistance extended by the Department, the Contractor agrees not to discriminate on the ground of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability, in its employment practices. Such employment practices may include, but are not limited to, recruitment, advertising, hiring, layoff or termination, promotion, demotion, transfer, rates of pay, training and participation in upward mobility programs; or other forms of compensation and use of facilities.

Subrecipient Assurance

The Contractor shall require any individual, organization, or other entity with whom it subcontracts, sub-grants, or subleases for the purpose of providing any service, financial aid, equipment, property, or structure to comply with

laws and regulations cited above. To this end, the sub-recipient shall be required to sign a written assurance form; however, the obligation of both recipient and sub-recipient to ensure compliance is not relieved by the collection or submission of written assurance forms.

Data Collection and Access to Records

The Contractor agrees to compile and maintain information pertaining to programs or activities developed as a result of the Contractor's receipt of Federal assistance from the Department of Energy. Such information shall include, but is not limited to the following: (1) the manner in which services are or will be provided and related data necessary for determining whether any persons are or will be denied such services on the basis of prohibited discrimination; (2) the population eligible to be served by race, color, national origin, sex, age and disability; (3) data regarding covered employment including use or planned use of bilingual public contact employees serving beneficiaries of the program where necessary to permit effective participation by beneficiaries unable to speak or understand English; (4) the location of existing or proposed facilities connected with the program and related information adequate for determining whether the location has or will have the effect of unnecessarily denying access to any person on the basis of prohibited discrimination; (5) the present or proposed membership by race, color, national origin, sex, age and disability in any planning or advisory body which is an integral part of the program; and (6) any additional written data determined by the Department of Energy to be relevant to the obligation to assure compliance by recipients with laws cited in the first paragraph of this assurance.

The Contractor agrees to submit requested data to the Department of Energy regarding programs and activities developed by the Contractor from the use of Federal assistance funds extended by the Department of Energy. Facilities of the Contractor (including the physical plants, buildings, or other structures) and all records, books, accounts, and other sources of information pertinent to the Contractor's compliance with the civil rights laws shall be made available for inspection during normal business hours on request of an officer or employee of the Department of Energy specifically authorized to make such inspections. Instructions in this regard will be provided by the Director, Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Energy.

This assurance is given in consideration of and for the purpose of obtaining any and all Federal grants, loans, contracts (excluding procurement contracts), property, discounts or other Federal assistance extended after the date hereof, to the Contractors by the Department of Energy, including installment payments on account after such data of application for Federal assistance which are approved before such date. The Contractor recognizes and agrees that such Federal assistance will be extended in reliance upon the representations and agreements made in this assurance, and that the United States shall have the right to seek judicial enforcement of this assurance. This assurance is binding on the Contractor, the successors, transferees, and assignees, as well as the person(s) whose signatures appear below and who are authorized to sign this assurance on behalf of the Contractor.

Contractor Certification

The Contractor certifies that it has complied, or that, within 90 days of the date of the grant, it will comply with all applicable requirements of 10 C.F.R. § 1040.5 (a copy will be furnished to the Contractor upon written request to DOE).

Representative Name and Title: Matthew Siska, Principal

Signature:  Date: 12/14/2023

GDS Associates, Inc.
15 Constitution Drive, Suite 1E
Bedford, NH 03110
Phone Number: 603-656-0336

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

EXHIBIT J

FORM A

As the Contractor identified in Section 1.3 of the General Provisions, I certify that the responses to the below listed questions are true and accurate.

1. The UEI number for your entity is: MLGLXTFJ49K3

2. In your business or organization's preceding completed fiscal year, did your business or organization receive (1) 80 percent or more of your annual gross revenue in U.S. federal contracts, subcontracts, loans, grants, sub-grants, and/or cooperative agreements; and (2) \$30,000,000 or more in annual gross revenues from U.S. federal contracts, subcontracts, loans, grants, subgrants, and/or cooperative agreements?

XX NO YES

If the answer to #2 above is NO, stop here

If the answer to #2 above is YES, please answer the following:

3. Does the public have access to information about the compensation of the executives in your business or organization through periodic reports filed under section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a), 78o(d)) or section 6104 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986?

NO YES

If the answer to #3 above is YES, stop here

If the answer to #3 above is NO, please answer the following:

4. The names and compensation of the five most highly compensated officers in your business or organization are as follows:

Name: _____ Amount: _____

State of New Hampshire

Department of State

CERTIFICATE

I, David M. Scanlan, Secretary of State of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby certify that GDS ASSOCIATES, INC. is a Georgia Profit Corporation registered to transact business in New Hampshire on September 13, 1999. I further certify that all fees and documents required by the Secretary of State's office have been received and is in good standing as far as this office is concerned.

Business ID: **182980**

Certificate Number: **0006236577**



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF,

I hereto set my hand and cause to be affixed
the Seal of the State of New Hampshire,
this 24th day of May A.D. 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Scanlan".

David M. Scanlan
Secretary of State

CERTIFICATE OF VOTES

(Corporate Authority)

I, Brent A. Saylor, Vice President & Secretary of GDS Associates, Inc., a corporation validly existing under the laws of the State of Georgia, hereby certify that: (1) I am the duly elected and acting Vice President & Secretary of the Corporation; (2) I maintain and have custody and am familiar with the minute books of the Corporation; (3) I am duly authorized to issue certificates with respect to the contents of such books; (4) that the Board of Directors of the Corporation have, at a meeting held on May 25, 2023, authorized the person(s) holding the below listed position(s) to execute and deliver on behalf of the Corporation any contract or other instrument for the sale of products and services:

Matthew Siska
(name)

Shareholder / Principal
(position)

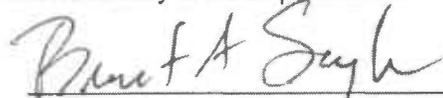
(name)

(position)

(5) the meeting of the Board of Directors was held in accordance with Georgia
(state of incorporation)

law and the by-laws of the Corporation; and (6) said authorization has not been modified, amended or rescinded and continues in full force and effect as of the date hereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand as the Clerk/Secretary of the corporation this 27th day of November, 2023.

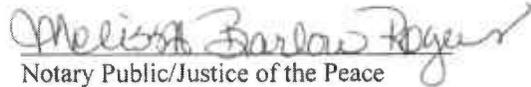


Brent A. Saylor, Vice President and Secretary

STATE OF Georgia
COUNTY OF Cherokee

On this 27th day of November, 2023 before me, Melissa Barlow Rogers, personally appeared Brent A. Saylor who acknowledged himself to be the Vice President & Secretary of GDS Associates, Inc., a corporation validly existing under the laws of the State of Georgia and that he being authorized to do so, executed the foregoing instrument for the purposes therein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and official seal.



Notary Public/Justice of the Peace

Commission Expiration



