



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Protected Species Observers and
Shipboard Representatives

Hooper Bay Project

Quintillion Networks | 3601 C St, Suite 1000B, Anchorage, AK 99503

Questions Due 4/10/26 by 5pm AST	Proposals Due 4/20/26 by 5pm AST	Season May-August 2026
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1. Purpose and Background

Quintillion is soliciting proposals from qualified firms to provide **Protected Species Observer (PSO)** services in support of planned vessel-based operations for a grant-funded broadband project. The intent of these services is to ensure compliance with applicable environmental regulations and permit conditions, minimize impacts to protected marine species, and support responsible marine operations through qualified observation, monitoring, and reporting.

Quintillion is also soliciting proposals from qualified firms or individuals to provide **Owner Shipboard Representative (OSR)** services aboard one or more vessels in support of planned marine operations for the two projects. The OSR will act as the Owner’s on-site representative to oversee vessel activities, monitor contractor performance, facilitate communication, and support compliance with contractual, operational, safety, and environmental requirements.

Quintillion’s **Hooper Bay Project** connects to the *Nome to Homer Express* shown in **Figure 2**, below.

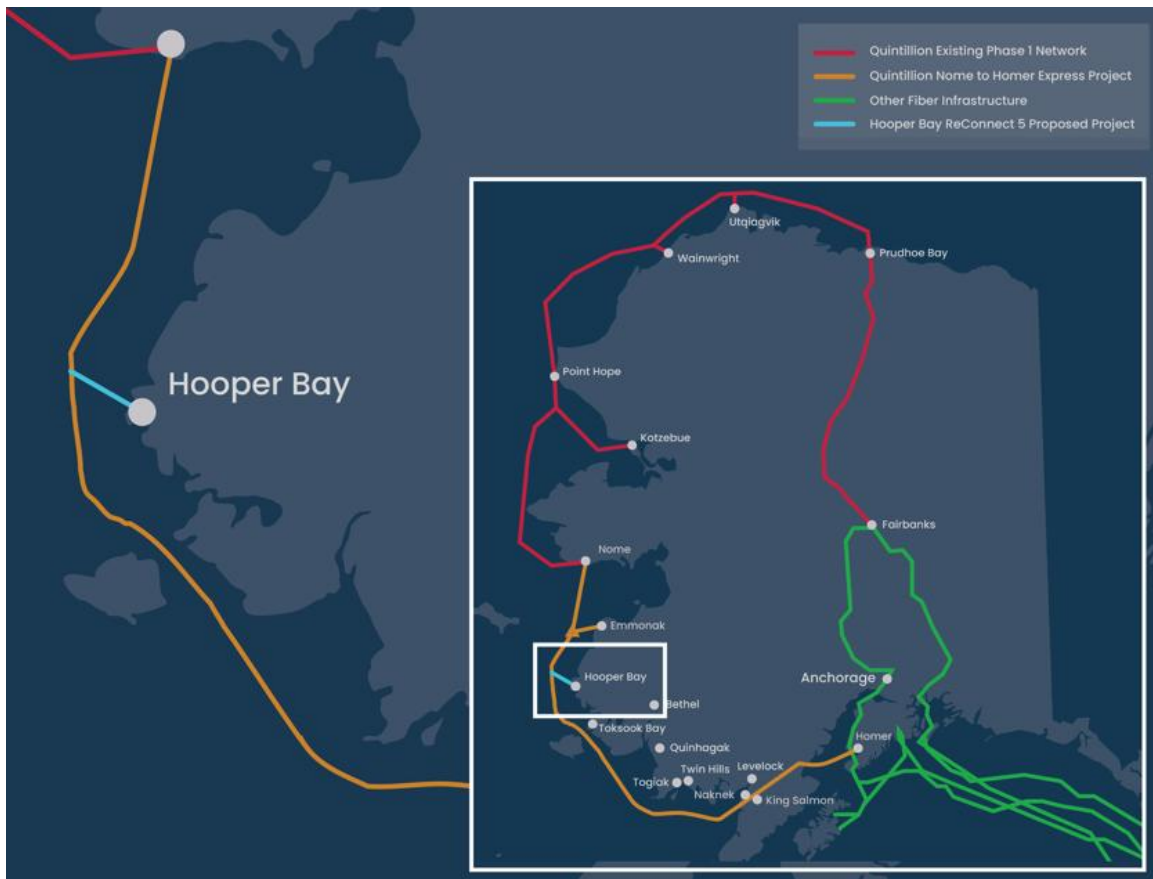


Figure 1: Quintillion Network Map. Nome to Homer route shown in orange; Hooper Bay shown in blue.

This project is funded in whole or in part by a grant awarded by Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and all work shall comply with, Uniform Guidance (2 CFR 200), and RUS grant award requirements.

2. Protected Species Observers and Client Representatives

This RFP covers two specialties in one procurement. Bidders may submit proposals for one or both. Each bid submission must clearly identify which specialties are included.

2.1 Protected Species Observer (PSO) Services for Vessel Operations

1. Background and Purpose

Quintillion is soliciting proposals from qualified firms to provide **Protected Species Observer (PSO)** services in support of planned vessel-based operations. The intent of these services is to ensure compliance with applicable environmental regulations and permit conditions, minimize impacts to protected marine species, and support responsible marine operations through qualified observation, monitoring, and reporting.

2. Project Description

The selected contractor shall provide trained and experienced PSOs to operate aboard one or more vessels engaged in subsea cable installation operations. The work will take place in western and southwestern Alaska over an anticipated period of May-September, subject to weather, operational needs, and regulatory requirements.

3. Scope of Services

The contractor shall furnish all personnel, supervision, equipment, and support necessary to perform PSO duties, including but not limited to the following:

3.1 Observation and Monitoring

- Conduct systematic visual monitoring for protected species (e.g., marine mammals, seabirds) during vessel operations.
- Implement observation protocols consistent with applicable permits, mitigation measures, and regulatory guidance.
- Monitor defined exclusion and safety zones prior to, during, and after relevant operational activities.
- Communicate real-time sightings and behavioral observations to the vessel crew and client representatives.

3.2 Mitigation and Compliance Support

- Recommend and initiate mitigation actions (e.g., power-downs, shutdowns, delays) when protected species are observed within designated zones, in accordance with permit conditions.
- Maintain continuous coordination with vessel operators to ensure mitigation measures are correctly and promptly applied.
- Support compliance with federal, state, and local environmental regulations and authorizations.

3.3 Data Collection and Documentation

- Record all required observational data, including species identification, group size, behavior, location, distance, environmental conditions, and mitigation actions taken.
- Maintain accurate and complete PSO logs and datasheets.
- Ensure data are collected using approved methods and formats.

3.4 Reporting

- Prepare and submit daily observation summaries as required.
- Develop interim and final monitoring reports suitable for regulatory submission.
- Notify the client immediately of any incidents, non-compliance events, or injured/dead protected species observations, in accordance with applicable reporting timelines.

4. Personnel Requirements

- PSOs shall meet or exceed qualification standards required by relevant regulatory agencies (e.g., NMFS, USFWS).

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- Personnel shall demonstrate experience with vessel-based observation and the species likely to be encountered in the project area.
- A **Lead PSO** shall be designated when required, with responsibility for coordination, data quality control, and reporting oversight.
- All PSOs must be capable of performing duties safely in a marine environment and meeting vessel safety requirements.

5. Training and Certification

Contractor personnel shall possess and maintain current:

- Required PSO training and certifications
- Marine safety training (e.g., First Aid/CPR, HUET if applicable)
- Any project- or vessel-specific training required by the client

6. Equipment

The contractor shall provide:

- Appropriate optical equipment (e.g., binoculars, range finders)
- Data recording tools (electronic or paper, as specified)
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) appropriate for vessel operations
All equipment must be well maintained and suitable for offshore use.

7. Schedule and Coverage

- PSO coverage shall align with the operational schedule and may include daylight-only or 24-hour monitoring, as required.
- Contractor shall demonstrate the ability to provide sufficient staffing for rotations, weather delays, and schedule changes.

8. Health, Safety, and Environmental (HSE)

- Contractor shall comply with all vessel safety policies, client HSE requirements, and applicable maritime regulations.
- PSOs shall participate in vessel safety briefings and drills.
- Safety of personnel shall not be compromised to maintain observation duties.

9. Deliverables

Deliverables may include:

- Daily PSO logs and observation summaries
- Incident or mitigation action reports (as needed)
- Interim monitoring summaries (if required)
- Final PSO report suitable for regulatory submission

10. Coordination and Communication

- PSOs shall maintain professional communication with vessel crew, the client's representative, and regulatory contacts as directed.
- The contractor shall provide a designated project manager as the primary point of contact.

11. Proposal Submission Requirements

Proposals should include:

- Firm qualifications and relevant experience
- Resumes of proposed PSO personnel
- Description of approach and quality control procedures
- Availability and staffing plan
- Cost proposal and rate structure
- References for similar projects

2.2 Owner Shipboard Representative (OSR) Services for Vessel Operations

1. Background and Purpose

Quintillion is soliciting proposals from qualified firms or individuals to provide **Owner Shipboard Representative (OSR)** services aboard one or more vessels in support of planned marine operations. The OSR will act as the Owner's on-site representative to oversee vessel activities, monitor contractor performance, facilitate communication, and support compliance with contractual, operational, safety, and environmental requirements.

2. Project Description

The OSR will be assigned to vessel(s) engaged in subsea cable installation operations in western and southwestern Alaska. The anticipated project duration is May-September, subject to change due to weather, operational requirements, or project schedule adjustments.

3. Scope of Services

The selected contractor shall provide qualified OSR personnel to perform the following services while onboard the vessel:

3.1 Operational Oversight

- Represent the Owner's interests during vessel operations.
- Monitor daily activities to ensure work is performed in accordance with approved plans, schedules, permits, and contractual requirements.
- Observe operational milestones, methodologies, and productivity, and identify potential issues or deviations.
- Serve as the primary onboard liaison between vessel personnel, contractors, and Owner's shore-based team.

3.2 Contract and Performance Monitoring

- Monitor contractor and vessel compliance with contractual obligations, including scope, sequencing, and work standards.
- Document and report deviations, non-conformances, or performance concerns to the Owner.
- Support verification of completed work for progress tracking or payment purposes, as applicable.

3.3 Safety and Regulatory Compliance Support

- Observe and promote adherence to vessel safety management systems, project Health, Safety, and Environmental (HSE) plans, and applicable maritime regulations.
- Participate in safety meetings, toolbox talks, and drills as required.
- Stop or recommend suspension of activities to the extent authorized by the Owner when unsafe conditions or significant non-compliance are observed.
- Support compliance with applicable permits, environmental requirements, and mitigation measures.

3.4 Communication and Coordination

- Provide daily coordination between vessel master, onboard contractors, and Owner representatives.
- Relay schedule updates, operational constraints, and emerging issues in a timely and professional manner.
- Maintain clear and accurate records of communications, instructions, and decisions impacting vessel operations.

3.5 Documentation and Reporting

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- Maintain a daily shipboard log documenting activities, weather, personnel, operational progress, and notable events.
- Prepare and submit daily or shift-based reports to the Owner in an agreed format.
- Draft incident, safety, or non-compliance reports when required.
- Support preparation of weekly, interim, or final project summaries as requested.

4. Personnel Requirements

- OSR personnel shall possess demonstrated experience serving as an owner's representative or similar role aboard marine vessels.
- Experience shall be relevant to the type of work being conducted (e.g., construction, offshore operations, surveys).
- Personnel shall be capable of working extended rotations in a marine environment.
- A **Lead OSR** may be required for multi-vessel or complex operations.

5. Training and Certifications

All OSR personnel shall maintain current:

- Required maritime safety training (e.g., First Aid/CPR, STCW or equivalent if applicable)
- Any project- or vessel-specific training required by the Owner
- Medical certifications required for offshore or vessel-based work

6. Work Schedule and Coverage

- OSR coverage shall align with vessel operations and may include daylight-only, continuous, or rotating shift coverage.
- Contractor shall demonstrate the ability to provide qualified personnel for schedule changes, extended operations, or personnel relief as needed.

7. Health, Safety, and Use of Vessel

- OSRs shall comply with all vessel safety rules, client HSE policies, and Captain's authority.
- Participation in vessel inductions, safety briefings, and emergency drills is mandatory.
- OSRs shall not interfere with safe navigation or vessel command.

8. Deliverables

Deliverables may include, but are not limited to:

- Daily activity and operations reports
- Safety and incident reports
- Compliance and deviation summaries
- End-of-project summary report (if requested)

9. Coordination and Management

- The contractor shall designate a project manager as the primary shore-based point of contact.
- OSRs shall coordinate closely with the Owner's designated representative and follow established lines of authority.

10. Proposal Submission Requirements

Proposals shall include:

- Firm or individual qualifications and relevant experience
- Resumes of proposed OSR personnel
- Approach to shipboard representation and reporting
- Availability and staffing plan
- Cost proposal and rate structure
- References from similar marine or offshore projects

2.3 Project Work Sites and Duration Estimates

Activity/Location	Number of Reps	Approx Dates
Infinity – Loading at Nordenham	1 Loading Rep	May 1 – May 14
Integrity- Seward, AK	1 PLGR and PLIB Rep	May 15 – Oct 15
Infinity – Dutch Harbor, AK	1 Installation Rep Main Lay 2 PSO	July 4 - Sept 30
Unalqa & Peregrine – Nome, AK	1 PLSE Rep	May 10 – Aug 1
Jungjuk/Cindluku & Miss Diane – Nome, AK	1 PLSE Burial Rep	May 9 – Sept 15
HDD – Site Rep Nome, AK	1 HDD Rep	Dates - TBD

Figure 2: Project sites, number of reps, and estimated dates.

2.4 Cost Reporting

- Submit detailed cost reports at 50% and 80% budget utilization milestones.
- Notify Quintillion in writing immediately upon identifying any anticipated cost overrun or scope change.
- Any additional costs arising from unforeseen conditions or scope deviations must receive prior written approval from Quintillion before being incurred.

3. Bidding Requirements and Proposal Format

To be considered responsive, each proposal must be organized and include all of the following components. Incomplete proposals may be disqualified without further evaluation.

3.1 Proposal Content Requirements

#	Component	Required Detail
1	Cover Letter	Company name, address, authorized signatory, and signature. State which segment(s) are included in the proposal.
2	Company Overview	Brief description of the organization, years in business, and relevant certifications or licenses.
3	Relevant Experience	At minimum 3 examples of comparable PSO and Client Rep experience. Alaska experience is strongly preferred.
4	Key Personnel	Resumes or qualifications for the PSO and Client Rep
5	Subcontractor List	Names of all subcontractors, their scopes of work, and all associated costs itemized separately.

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6	Local Hire Plan	Description of how the contractor intends to engage local Hooper Bay and Alaska Native labor, logistics providers, or services.
7	Pricing	Include a complete schedule of rates for T&M proposals.
8	Insurance Certificates	Confirmation of ability to provide required insurance coverages at contract execution (see Section 11). Certificates of Insurance are required upon contract award, not at proposal submission.
9	Signed Certifications	Completed and signed Appendix C (Debarment Certification) and Appendix D (Anti-Lobbying Certification).

4. Evaluation Criteria

Quintillion will evaluate all responsive proposals on the following criteria. Proposals will be scored holistically; no single factor is automatically disqualifying unless stated otherwise.

Evaluation Factor	What Quintillion Is Looking For
Relevant Experience	Demonstrated experience with providing PSO and Client Rep services. Experience in rural Alaska or similar remote/arctic terrain is a significant plus.
Key Personnel Qualifications	Documented technical expertise and certifications for PSOs and Client Reps.
Cost and Value	All-inclusive pricing that is competitive and clearly itemized
Local Hire and Community Engagement	Specific plans to engage Hooper Bay and Alaska Native workers, vendors, or logistics providers.
References	Quality of references from comparable projects; availability for Quintillion to contact.

5. RFP Timeline

Date	Milestone
4/3/2026	RFP Released
TBD	NDA Execution (required to receive detailed project files)
4/10/26 by 5pm AKST	Written Questions Due (see Section 10)
4/15/26	Quintillion Issues Q&A Responses to All Registered Bidders
4/20/26 by 5pm AKST	Proposals Due
4/24/26	Proposal Evaluation Period (Quintillion may contact bidders for clarification)
4/28/26	Selection Decision and Award Notification
By 5/10/26	Contract Execution Target (within 2 weeks of award)

NOTE: *Quintillion reserves the right to adjust timeline milestones. Any changes will be communicated to all registered bidders via email.*

6. Submission Instructions

Proposals must be submitted via email to all of the following addresses by 5pm Alaska Standard Time (AST) on 4/20/26:

- Mpeterson@quintillionglobal.com
- Ddean@quintillionglobal.com
- Amaduakor@quintillionglobal.com
- Apaul@quintillionglobal.com
- Dkerschbaum@quintillionglobal.com

Proposals may also be submitted via the Quintillion website at: <https://quintillionglobal.com/rfps>

6.1 File Naming Format

2026.MM.DD_QuintillionRFP_HooperBay_PSO_Client Rep_[OrganizationName]

Example: 2026.04.20_QuintillionRFP_HooperBay_PSO_Client Rep_AKFiberCo

6.2 Submission Requirements

- All proposals must include the legal name and address of the submitting organization.
- Proposals must be signed by an authorized agent or representative.
- Proposals are irrevocable for 30 days following the submission deadline.
- Modifications to submitted proposals are permitted in writing prior to the submission deadline.
- Quintillion will not reimburse any costs incurred in preparing or submitting a proposal.
- Submission of a proposal constitutes acknowledgment that the bidder has reviewed all RFP documentation, understands the requirements, and accepts the risks associated with a remote construction environment.
- Nothing in this RFP constitutes a commitment by Quintillion to award a contract.
- Quintillion reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive minor irregularities, and make award decisions in its sole discretion.

7. Questions

All questions must be submitted in writing by 5pm AST on 4/10/26 to the same email addresses listed in Section 9. Quintillion will compile all questions and issue a written Q&A response to all registered bidders by 4/15/26.

No verbal questions will be accepted or answered. Bidders should not contact Quintillion project staff directly regarding RFP content. All official clarifications will be provided only through the written Q&A process.

NOTE: To receive the Q&A response and detailed project documents, bidders must have an executed NDA on file with Quintillion. Contact apaul@quintillionglobal.com to initiate the NDA process.

8. Assumptions and Exclusions

8.1 Quintillion's Responsibilities (Assumptions)

- Quintillion will secure all principal permits, licenses, and clearances required to execute the project unless explicitly stated otherwise in the scope of work or Exhibit A.
- Project documents provided to bidders (following NDA execution) are accurate and complete. Quintillion will respond to clarification requests in a timely manner.
- Quintillion will coordinate with and provide guidance on subsea contractor requirements.

8.2 Contractor's Responsibilities (Exclusions from Quintillion Scope)

- The contractor is solely responsible for all logistics, transportation, housing, and accommodation for their personnel and subcontractors.
- The contractor is responsible for any costs associated with proposal preparation.
- The contractor assumes full responsibility for ensuring all subcontractors comply with applicable local, state, and federal laws and with Quintillion's standards outlined in this RFP.

9. Contractor Assurances and Insurance Requirements

9.1 Performance Assurance

The selected contractor may be required to provide a performance guaranty prior to contract execution. Acceptable forms include a performance bond, letter of credit, or other assurance acceptable to Quintillion. Quintillion reserves the right to approve the form and issuing institution. The guaranty ensures Quintillion's ability to recover additional costs in the event of contractor non-performance.

9.2 Insurance Requirements

Upon contract execution, the selected contractor must provide a Certificate of Insurance naming Quintillion and its affiliates as additional insured (except Workers' Compensation). All policies must include a waiver of subrogation in favor of Quintillion and be treated as primary and non-contributory. Minimum required coverages:

Coverage Type	Minimum Limit
Workers' Compensation	Minimum required by applicable law, including U.S. Longshoremen's and Harbor Workers Compensation Act and Jones Act as applicable.
Employers' Liability	\$1,000,000 per occurrence (occurrence-based)
Automobile Liability	\$1,000,000 per occurrence / aggregate (owned, non-owned, and hired vehicles). MCS-90 endorsement required when transporting hazardous materials.

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Commercial General Liability	\$1,000,000 per occurrence / aggregate. Must include premises and operations, products and completed operations, contractual liability, broad-form property damage, and personal injury.
Umbrella / Excess Liability	\$5,000,000 per occurrence / aggregate in excess of CGL and Auto.

10. Contract Terms and Prevailing Wage

10.1 Non-Disclosure Agreement

If not already in place, the selected contractor must execute a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) before receiving OSPE design documents and before contract negotiations begin. All submitted proposals and communications are treated as confidential.

10.2 Federal Compliance

The selected contractor must comply with all applicable requirements in Appendix II of 2 CFR Part 200 (see Exhibit B), as well as Quintillion's internal policies including the Conflict-of-Interest Policy, Global Anti-Corruption Policy, General Safety Policy, and Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Policy.

10.3 Prevailing Wage

Davis-Bacon Act wage requirements do not apply to this project. However, if Davis-Bacon requirements are not followed, the selected contractor must provide a Project Employment and Local Impact Report at project completion. This report must include:

- Total number of contractors and subcontractors on the project.
- Number of workers hired directly versus through a third party.
- Wages and benefits by job classification in the format below.

Job Classification	Hourly Wage	Hourly Benefits
(To be completed at award)	TBD	TBD

10.4 Contract Finalization

Full contract terms will be negotiated upon award. The contract will address scope, budget, schedule, and all other necessary project terms. Quintillion targets contract execution within four weeks of award notification.

Exhibit A – Project Documentation

Reference the project documentation provided separately. Drawings, etc. will be provided to bidders following execution of a Non-Disclosure Agreement with Quintillion.

Contact apaul@quintillionglobal.com to initiate the NDA process and receive design documents.

Exhibit B - Required Federal Contract Provisions (2 CFR Part 200, Appendix II)

As a contractor receiving payment made with federal funds, the Contractor agrees to comply as applicable with the following requirements:

- (A) Contracts over \$250,000 must include provisions for administrative, contractual, or legal remedies for contractor breach, including appropriate sanctions and penalties.
- (B) All contracts over \$10,000 must address termination for cause and convenience, including the manner of effect and basis for settlement.
- (C) Equal Employment Opportunity (41 CFR Part 60): All federally assisted construction contracts must include the EEO clause per Executive Order 11246, as amended.
- (D) Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. 3141-3148): When required, all prime construction contracts over \$2,000 must include prevailing wage requirements per DOL regulations (29 CFR Part 5).
- (E) Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. 3701-3708): Contracts over \$100,000 involving mechanics or laborers must include provisions for 40-hour standard workweek, overtime compensation at 1.5x, and safe working conditions.
- (F) Rights to Inventions (37 CFR Part 401): Applies to contracts qualifying as 'funding agreements' involving substitution of parties or experimental/research work.
- (G) Clean Air Act and Federal Water Pollution Control Act: Contracts over \$150,000 must require compliance with applicable EPA standards and regulations.
- (H) Debarment and Suspension (Executive Orders 12549 and 12689 / 2 CFR Part 180): Awards must not be made to parties listed on SAM exclusions.
- (I) Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment (31 U.S.C. 1352): Contractors bidding on awards over \$100,000 must certify they have not and will not use federal funds to influence federal officials. (See Appendix D.)
- (J) Procurement of Recovered Materials: State agencies and their contractors must comply with Section 6002 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act for purchases over \$10,000.
- (K) Prohibition on Telecommunications Equipment (Section 889, P.L. 115-232): Federal funds may not be used to procure or use telecommunications equipment or services from Huawei, ZTE, Hytera, Hikvision, or Dahua, or their affiliates.

Appendix C - Debarment Certification

Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion

Lower Tier Covered Transactions

Instructions

1. By signing and submitting this contract or proposal, the prospective lower-tier participant is providing the certification set out below.
2. This certification is a material representation of fact. If it is later determined that the prospective lower-tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, the originating department or agency may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.
3. The prospective lower-tier participant must provide immediate written notice to the person to whom this proposal is submitted if at any time the participant learns its certification was or has become erroneous.
4. Defined terms (covered transaction, debarred, suspended, ineligible, participant, person, principal, proposal) have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of rules implementing Executive Order 12549. Contact the person to whom this proposal is submitted for assistance obtaining those regulations.
5. By signing and submitting this proposal, the prospective lower-tier participant agrees not to knowingly enter into any lower-tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, or declared ineligible, unless authorized by the originating department or agency.
6. The prospective lower-tier participant agrees to include this certification clause in all lower-tier covered transactions and solicitations without modification.
7. A participant may rely on a prospective lower-tier participant's certification unless it has reason to believe the certification is erroneous. Participants may verify eligibility using the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Non-procurement Programs.
8. This certification does not require establishment of a records system. The knowledge required is that normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business.
9. Except as authorized under item 5, if a participant knowingly enters into a covered transaction with an excluded party, the originating agency may pursue available remedies including suspension and/or debarment.

Certification

The prospective lower-tier participant certifies, by signing and/or submitting this proposal or contract, that:

10. Neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.
11. Where the prospective lower-tier participant is unable to certify to any of the above statements, it shall attach a written explanation to this proposal.

Name of Vendor, Contractor, or Subgrantee: _____

Authorized Signatory Name: _____

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Title:

Signature:

Date:

Appendix D - Anti-Lobbying Certification

Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements

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

12. 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, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, or the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
13. If any non-Federal funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence federal officials in connection with this award, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, 'Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying,' in accordance with its instructions.
14. The undersigned shall require that this certification language be included in all subaward documents at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients certify and disclose accordingly. This certification is a material representation of fact. Failure to file the required certification is subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 per failure.

Signature:

Title:

Organization:

Date:
