FOOD PURCHASE REPORT

United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

DATE: Sept. 27, 2007

USDA CANNED BONED POULTRY PURCHASE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) today announced plans to purchase canned boned poultry for school lunch and other domestic food nutrition assistance programs.

Offers will be invited from the trade in one of the following forms:

12.5-ounce (354 g) cans - Canned boned poultry in 12.5-ounce (354 g) cans, packed 48 cans in each fiberboard shipping container. A purchase unit will consist of 1,000 shipping containers totaling 37,500 pounds (17,030 kg).

50-ounce (1.42 kg) cans – Canned boned poultry in 50-ounce (1.42 kg) cans, packed 12 cans to a shipping container. A purchase unit will consist of 1,000 shipping containers totaling 37,500 pounds (17,010 kg).

Invitation No. 1, inviting offers due by 12 noon, Central Time, Tuesday, Oct. 9 (due to the holiday on Monday for Federal employees), is being issued in the near future. Acceptances will be announced by midnight, Friday, Oct. 12, for delivery from Nov. 16 to Nov. 30, 2007, and Jan. 16 to Jan. 30, 2008. Subsequent invitations will be issued as needed.

All offers must be submitted electronically through the Domestic Electronic Bid Entry System (DEBES) website at https://pcsd.usda.gov:3077/mdbc1000.exe?. Offers submitted by any means other than DEBES will be considered nonresponsive.

There are some important changes to this year's program. Truck seals shall meet the American Society for Testing and Materials standards, and seals shall be 1/8-inch in diameter, high-security bolts, or equivalent. Additionally, food defense plans will be audited by the USDA, AMS, Grading Branch prior to contract award. Potential Contractors will receive written notification from the Contracting Officer of their eligibility to bid. Contractors may request the Contracting Officer waive the pre-award audit.

All other certifications that apply strictly to Poultry Programs will still be made annually and are contained in Appendix-1. The certifications will be made one time only for all Poultry Program Announcements for the program year. All certifications, in the Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA) and Appendix-1, must be completed prior to submitting a bid.

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Information regarding these requirements is contained in Announcement PY-329, which is being distributed to the trade. Offerors are urged to review the bid format and product specification and are cautioned to only offer quantities they can reasonably expect to produce and deliver during the contracted delivery period.

Offerors are urged to carefully read all applicable terms and conditions of USDA-1, as amended, Announcement PY-329, Appendix-1, the Commodity Specification for Canned Boned Poultry dated April 2007, and Invitation No. 1.

Inquiries may be made by telephoning (202) 720-7693 or addressing the Contracting Officer; USDA/AMS/Poultry Programs, Commodity Procurement Branch STOP 0260; 1400 Independence Ave., SW; Washington, DC 20250. An electronic version of this Food Purchase Report can be obtained through the world wide web via the Commodity Procurement Home Page at: http://www.ams.usda.gov/cp.

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