

TXShare

Your Public Sector Solutions Center

MASTER SERVICES AGREEMENT #2025-018 Artificial Intelligence (AI) Solutions for Public Sector Entities

THIS MASTER SERVICES AGREEMENT ("Agreement"), effective the last date of signed approval ("Effective Date"), is entered into by and between the **North Central Texas Council of Governments** ("**NCTCOG**"), a Texas political subdivision and non-profit corporation, with offices located at 616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington, TX 76011, and

Ardurra Group, Inc. ("Contractor")
1341 West Mockingbird Ln., Suite 310W
Dallas, Texas 75247

ARTICLE I RETENTION OF THE CONTRACTOR

- 1.1 This Agreement defines the terms and conditions upon which the Contractor agrees to provide **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Solutions for Public Sector Entities** (hereinafter, "Services") to governmental entities participating in the TXShare program (hereinafter "Participating Entities"). The Contractor is being retained to provide services described below to Participating Entities based on the Contractor's demonstrated competence and requisite qualifications to perform the scope of the services described herein and in the Request for Proposals #2025-018 (hereinafter, "RFP"). The Contractor demonstrated they have the resources, experience, and qualifications to perform the described services, which is of interest to Participating Entities and was procured via the RFP. NCTCOG agrees to and hereby does retain the Contractor, as an independent contractor, and the Contractor agrees to provide services to Participating Entities, in accordance with the terms and conditions provided in this Agreement and consistent with Contractor's response to the RFP.

ARTICLE II SCOPE OF SERVICES

- 2.1 The Contractor will provide Services described in a written Purchase Order issued by NCTCOG or a SHARE Participating Entity. Any such Purchase Order is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of this Agreement and shall be subject to the terms and conditions in this Agreement. In the event of a conflict between any term or provision in this Agreement and any term or provision in a Purchase Order, the term or provision in this Agreement shall control unless the conflicting term or provision in this Agreement is referenced, and expressly stated not to apply, in such Purchase Order.
- 2.2 All Services rendered under this Agreement will be performed by the Contractor: i) with due care; ii) in accordance with generally prevailing industry standards; iii) in accordance with Participating Entities' standard operating procedures and applicable policies, as may be amended from time to time; and iv) in compliance with all applicable laws, government regulatory requirements, and any other written instructions, specifications, guidelines, or requirements provided by NCTCOG and/or Participating Entities.
- 2.3 Any agreed-upon changes to a Purchase Order shall be set forth in a subsequent Purchase Order amendment. Contractor will not implement any changes or any new Services until a Purchase Order has been duly executed by Participating Entity. For the avoidance of doubt, the Contractor acknowledges that Participating Entity is under no obligation to execute a Purchase Order. Participating

Entity shall not be liable for any amounts not included in a Purchase Order in the absence of a fully executed amendment of Purchase Order.

- 2.4 Percentage discounts for items in Appendix A represent the minimum discounts provided for each category offered by the Contractor. Contractor and Participating Entity may mutually agree to a greater percentage discount for any item covered under this agreement.

2.5 NCTCOG Obligations

- 2.5.1 NCTCOG shall make available a contract page on its TXShare.org website which will include contact information for the Contractor(s).

2.6 Participating Entity Obligations.

- 2.6.1 In order to utilize the Services, Participating Entities must have executed a Master Interlocal Agreement for TXShare with NCTCOG. This agreement with the Participating Entity will define the legal relationship between NCTCOG and the Participating Entity.
- 2.6.2 In order to utilize the Services, Participating Entities must execute a Purchase Order with the Contractor. This agreement with the Participating Entity will define the Services and costs that the Participating Entity desires to have implemented by the Contractor.

2.7 Contractor Obligations.

- 2.7.1 Contractor must be able to deliver, perform, install, and implement services with the requirements and intent of RFP #2025-018.
- 2.7.2 If applicable, Contractor shall provide all necessary material, labor and management required to perform this work. The scope of services shall include, but not be limited to, items listed in Appendix A.
- 2.7.3 Contractor agrees to market and promote the use of the SHARE awarded contract whenever possible among its current and solicited customer base. Contractor shall agree to follow reporting requirements in report sales made under this Master Services Agreement in accordance with Section 4.2.

ARTICLE III TERM

- 3.1 This Agreement will commence on the Effective Date and remain in effect for an initial term ending on May 31, 2027 (the “**Term**”), unless earlier terminated as provided herein. This Agreement will automatically be renewed, unless NCTCOG explicitly desires otherwise, for up to three (3) additional one (1) year terms through May 31, 2030.
- 3.2 **Termination.** NCTCOG and/or Participating Entities may terminate this Agreement and/or any Purchase Order to which it is a signatory at any time, with or without cause, upon thirty (30) days’ prior written notice to Contractor. Upon its receipt of notice of termination of this Agreement or Purchase Order, Contractor shall follow any instructions of NCTCOG respecting work stoppage. Contractor shall cooperate with NCTCOG and/or Participating Entities to provide for an orderly conclusion of the Services. Contractor shall use its best efforts to minimize the amount of any non-cancelable obligations and shall assign any contracts related thereto to NCTCOG or Participating Entity at its request. If NCTCOG or Participating Entity elects to continue any activities underlying a terminated Purchase Order after termination, Contractor shall cooperate with NCTCOG or Participating Entity to provide for an orderly transfer of Contractor’s responsibilities with respect to such Purchase Order to NCTCOG or Participating Entity. Upon the effective date of any such termination, the Contractor shall submit a final invoice for payment in accordance with Article IV, and NCTCOG or Participating Entity shall pay such amounts as are due to Contractor through the effective date of termination. NCTCOG or Participating Entity shall only be liable for payment of services rendered before the effective date of termination. If Agreement is terminated, certain reporting requirements identified in this Agreement shall survive termination of this Agreement.

- 3.2.1 Termination for Convenience: Either party may terminate the agreement for its convenience in whole or in part at any time without cause, upon 30 days written notice. Upon termination for convenience, the contractor will be entitled to payment for goods or services satisfactorily performed or delivered.
- 3.2.2 Termination for Cause: Either party may immediately terminate this Agreement if the other party breaches its obligations specified within this Agreement, and, where capable of remedy, such breach has not been materially cured within thirty (30) days of the breaching party's receipt of written notice describing the breach in reasonable detail.
- 3.2.3 Termination for Breach: Upon any material breach of this Agreement by either party, the non-breaching party may terminate this Agreement upon twenty (20) days written notice to the breaching party. The notice shall become effective at the end of the twenty (20) day period unless the breaching party cures such breach within such period.

ARTICLE IV COMPENSATION

- 4.1 **Invoices.** Contractor shall submit an invoice to the ordering Participating Entity upon receipt of an executed Purchase Order and after completion of the work, with Net 30 payment terms. Costs incurred prior to execution of this Agreement are not eligible for reimbursement. There shall be no obligation whatsoever to pay for performance of this Agreement from the monies of the NCTCOG or Participating Entities, other than from the monies designated for this Agreement and/or executed Purchase Order. Contractor expressly agrees that NCTCOG shall not be liable, financial or otherwise, for Services provided to Participating Entities.
- 4.2 **Reporting.** NCTCOG intends to make this Agreement available to other governmental entities through its TXShare cooperative purchasing program. NCTCOG has contracted Civic Marketplace as a digital marketplace for selected TXShare awarded contracts and to serve as NCTCOG's collector of reports and remunerative fees referenced in Section 5.2 of the Master Services Agreement. Unless otherwise directed in writing by NCTCOG, Contractor shall submit to Civic Marketplace on a calendar quarterly basis a report that identifies any new client Participating Entities, the date(s) and order number(s), and the total contracted value of service(s) that each Participating Entity has purchased and paid in full under this Master Service Agreement. Reporting and invoices should be submitted to:

Civic Marketplace, Inc.
6502 Glen Abbey
Abilene, TX 79606
Email: support@civicmarketplace.com

ARTICLE V SERVICE FEE

- 5.1 **Explanation.** NCTCOG will make this Master Service Agreement available to other governmental entities, Participating Entities, and non-profit agencies in Texas and the rest of the United States through its SHARE cooperative purchasing program. The Contractor is able to market the Services under this Agreement to any Participating Entity with emphasis that competitive solicitation is not required when the Participating Entity purchases off of a cooperative purchasing program such as SHARE. However, each Participating Entity will make the decision that it feels is in compliance with its own purchasing requirements. The Contractor realizes substantial efficiencies through their ability to offer pricing through the SHARE Cooperative and that will increase the sales opportunities as well as reduce the need to repeatedly respond to Participating Entities' Requests for Proposals. From these efficiencies, Contractor will pay an administrative fee to SHARE calculated as a percentage of sales processed through the SHARE Master Services Agreement. This administrative fee is not an added cost to SHARE participants. This administrative fee covers the costs of solicitation of the contract, marketing and facilitation, as well as offsets expenses incurred by SHARE.

5.2 **Administrative Fee.** NCTCOG will utilize an administrative fee, in the form of a percent of cost that will apply to all contracts between awarded contractor and NCTCOG or participants resulting from this solicitation. The administrative fee will be remitted by the contractor to Civic Marketplace on a quarterly basis, along with required quarterly reporting. The remuneration fee for this program will be 2.5% on sales.

5.3 **Setup and Implementation.** NCTCOG will provide instruction and guidance as needed to the Contractor to assist in maximizing mutual benefits from marketing these Services through the SHARE purchasing program.

ARTICLE VI RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PARTIES

6.1 **Contractual Relationship.** It is understood and agreed that the relationship described in this Agreement between the Parties is contractual in nature and is not to be construed to create a partnership or joint venture or agency relationship between the parties. Neither party shall have the right to act on behalf of the other except as expressly set forth in this Agreement. Contractor will be solely responsible for and will pay all taxes related to the receipt of payments hereunder and shall give reasonable proof and supporting documents, if reasonably requested, to verify the payment of such taxes. No Contractor personnel shall obtain the status of or otherwise be considered an employee of NCTCOG or Participating Entity by virtue of their activities under this Agreement.

ARTICLE VII REPRESENTATION AND WARRANTIES

7.1 **Representations and Warranties.** Contractor represents and warrants that:

- 7.1.1 As of the Effective Date of this Agreement, it is not a party to any oral or written contract or understanding with any third party that is inconsistent with this Agreement and/or would affect the Contractor's performance under this Agreement; or that will in any way limit or conflict with its ability to fulfill the terms of this Agreement. The Contractor further represents that it will not enter into any such agreement during the Term of this Agreement;
- 7.1.2 NCTCOG is prohibited from making any award or permitting any award at any tier to any party which is debarred or suspended or otherwise excluded from, or ineligible for, participation in federal assistance programs under Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension. Contractor and its subcontractors shall include a statement of compliance with Federal and State Debarment and suspension regulations in all Third-party contracts.
- 7.1.3 Contractor shall notify NCTCOG if Contractor or any of the Contractor's sub-contractors becomes debarred or suspended during the performance of this Agreement. Debarment or suspension of the Contractor or any of Contractor's sub-contractors may result in immediate termination of this Agreement.
- 7.1.4 Contractor and its employees and sub-contractors have all necessary qualifications, licenses, permits, and/or registrations to perform the Services in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, and at all times during the Term, all such qualifications, licenses, permits, and/or registrations shall be current and in good standing.
- 7.1.5 Contractor shall, and shall cause its representatives to, comply with all municipal, state, and federal laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the performance of the Contractor's obligations under this Agreement.

ARTICLE VIII CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION AND OWNERSHIP

- 8.1 **Confidential Information.** Contractor acknowledges that any information it or its employees, agents, or subcontractors obtain regarding the operation of NCTCOG or Participating Entities, its products, services, policies, customer, personnel, and other aspect of its operation (“Confidential Information”) is proprietary and confidential, and shall not be revealed, sold, exchanged, traded, or disclosed to any person, company, or other entity during the period of the Contractor’s retention hereunder or at any time thereafter without the express written permission of NCTCOG or Participating Entity.

Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, Contractor shall have no obligation of confidentiality with respect to information that (i) is or becomes part of the public domain through no act or omission of Contractor; (ii) was in Contractor’s lawful possession prior to the disclosure and had not been obtained by Contractor either directly or indirectly from the NCTCOG or Participating Entity; (iii) is lawfully disclosed to Contractor by a third party without restriction on disclosure; (iv) is independently developed by Contractor without use of or reference to the NCTCOG’s Participating Entity’s Confidential Information; or (v) is required to be disclosed by law or judicial, arbitral or governmental order or process, provided Contractor gives the NCTCOG or Participating Entity prompt written notice of such requirement to permit the NCTCOG or Participating Entity to seek a protective order or other appropriate relief. Contractor acknowledges that NCTCOG and Participating Entities must strictly comply with applicable public information laws, in responding to any request for public information. This obligation supersedes any conflicting provisions of this Agreement.

- 8.2 **Ownership.** No title or ownership rights to any applicable software are transferred to the NCTCOG by this agreement. The Contractor and its suppliers retain all right, title and interest, including all copyright and intellectual property rights, in and to, the software (as an independent work and as an underlying work serving as a basis for any improvements, modifications, derivative works, and applications NCTCOG may develop), and all copies thereof. All final documents, data, reports, information, or materials are and shall at all times be and remain, upon payment of Contractor’s invoices therefore, the property of NCTCOG or Participating Entity and shall not be subject to any restriction or limitation on their future use by, or on behalf of, NCTCOG or Participating Entity, except otherwise provided herein. Subject to the foregoing exception, if at any time demand be made by NCTCOG or Participating Entity for any documentation related to this Agreement and/or applicable Purchase Orders for the NCTCOG and/or any Participating Entity, whether after termination of this Agreement or otherwise, the same shall be turned over to NCTCOG without delay, and in no event later than thirty (30) days after such demand is made. Contractor shall have the right to retain copies of documentation, and other items for its archives. If for any reason the foregoing Agreement regarding the ownership of documentation is determined to be unenforceable, either in whole or in part, the Contractor hereby assigns and agrees to assign to NCTCOG all rights, title, and interest that the Contractor may have or at any time acquire in said documentation and other materials, provided that the Contractor has been paid the aforesaid.

ARTICLE IX GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 9.1 **Notices.** All notices from one Party to another Party regarding this Agreement shall be in writing and delivered to the addresses shown below:

If to NCTCOG:	North Central Texas Council of Governments P.O. Box 5888 Arlington, TX 76005-5888 Attn: Purchasing Agent Phone Number: 817-704-5674 elittrell@nctcog.org
---------------	---

If to Contractor:

Ardurra Group, Inc.

Attn: Chad Morris

1341 West Mockingbird Ln., Suite 310W

Dallas, Texas 75247

469-640-6617

cmorris@adurra.com

The above contact information may be modified without requiring an amendment to the Agreement.

9.2 Tax. NCTCOG and several participating entities are exempt from Texas limited sales, federal excise and use tax, and does not pay tax on purchase, rental, or lease of tangible personal property for the organization's use. A tax exemption certificate will be issued upon request.

9.3 Indemnification. Contractor shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless NCTCOG and Participating Entities, NCTCOG's affiliates, and any of their respective directors, officers, employees, agents, subcontractors, successors, and assigns from any and all suits, actions, claims, demands, judgments, liabilities, losses, damages, costs, and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees and court costs) (collectively, "Losses") arising out of or relating to: (i) Services performed and carried out pursuant to this Agreement; (ii) breach of any obligation, warranty, or representation in this Agreement, (iii) the negligence or willful misconduct of Contractor and/or its employees or subcontractors; or (iv) any infringement, misappropriation, or violation by Contractor and/or its employees or subcontractors of any right of a third party; provided, however, that Contractor shall have no obligation to defend, indemnify, or hold harmless to the extent any Losses are the result of NCTCOG's or Participating Entities' gross negligence or willful misconduct.

9.4 Limitation of Liability. In no event shall either party be liable for special, consequential, incidental, indirect or punitive loss, damages or expenses arising out of or relating to this Agreement, whether arising from a breach of contract or warranty, or arising in tort, strict liability, by statute or otherwise, even if it has been advised of their possible existence or if such loss, damages or expenses were reasonably foreseeable.

Notwithstanding any provision hereof to the contrary, neither party's liability shall be limited by this Article with respect to claims arising from breach of any confidentiality obligation, arising from such party's infringement of the other party's intellectual property rights, covered by any express indemnity obligation of such party hereunder, arising from or with respect to injuries to persons or damages to tangible property, or arising out of the gross negligence or willful misconduct of the party or its employees.

9.5 Insurance. At all times during the term of this Agreement, Contractor shall procure, pay for, and maintain, with approved insurance carriers, the minimum insurance requirements set forth below, unless otherwise agreed in a Purchase Order between Contractor and Participating Entities. Further, Contractor shall require all contractors and sub-contractors performing work for which the same liabilities may apply under this Agreement to do likewise. All subcontractors performing work for which the same liabilities may apply under this contract shall be required to do likewise. Contractor may cause the insurance to be effected in whole or in part by the contractors or sub-contractors under their contracts. NCTCOG reserves the right to waive or modify insurance requirements at its sole discretion.

9.5.1 Workers' Compensation: Statutory limits and employer's liability of \$100,000 for each accident or disease.

9.5.2 Commercial General Liability:

9.5.2.1 Required Limits:

\$1,000,000 per occurrence;

\$3,000,000 Annual Aggregate

9.5.2.2 Commercial General Liability policy shall include:

9.5.2.2.1 Coverage A: Bodily injury and property damage;

- 9.5.2.2.2 Coverage B: Personal and Advertising Injury liability;
 - 9.5.2.2.3 Coverage C: Medical Payments;
 - 9.5.2.2.4 Products: Completed Operations;
 - 9.5.2.2.5 Fire Legal Liability;
 - 9.5.2.3 Policy coverage must be on an “occurrence” basis using CGL forms as approved by the Texas State Board of Insurance.
- 9.5.3 Business Auto Liability: Coverage shall be provided for all owned hired, and non-owned vehicles. Required Limit: \$1,000,000 combined single limit each accident.
- 9.5.4 Professional Errors and Omissions liability:
 - 9.5.4.1 Required Limits:
 - \$1,000,000 Each Claim
 - \$1,000,000 Annual Aggregate
- 9.6 **Conflict of Interest.** During the term of this Agreement, and all extensions hereto and for a period of one (1) year thereafter, neither party, shall, without the prior written consent of the other, directly or indirectly, whether for its own account or with any other persons or entity whatsoever, employ, solicit to employ or endeavor to entice away any person who is employed by the other party.
- 9.7 **Force Majeure.** It is expressly understood and agreed by both parties to this Agreement that, if the performance of any provision of this Agreement is delayed by force majeure, defined as reason of war, civil commotion, act of God, governmental restriction, regulation or interference, fire, explosion, hurricane, flood, failure of transportation, court injunction, or any circumstances which are reasonably beyond the control of the party obligated or permitted under the terms of this Agreement to do or perform the same, regardless of whether any such circumstance is similar to any of those enumerated herein, the party so obligated or permitted shall be excused from doing or performing the same during such period of delay, so that the period of time applicable to such requirement shall be extended for a period of time equal to the period of time such party was delayed. Each party must inform the other in writing within a reasonable time of the existence of such force majeure.
- 9.8 **Ability to Perform.** Contractor agrees promptly to inform NCTCOG of any event or change in circumstances which may reasonably be expected to negatively affect the Contractor’s ability to perform its obligations under this Agreement in the manner contemplated by the parties.
- 9.9 **Availability of Funding.** This Agreement and all claims, suits, or obligations arising under or related to this Agreement are subject to and limited by the receipt and availability of funds which are received from the Participating Entities by NCTCOG dedicated for the purposes of this Agreement.
- 9.10 **Governing Law.** This Agreement will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, United States of America. The mandatory and exclusive venue for the adjudication or resolution of any dispute arising out of this Agreement shall be in Tarrant County, Texas.
- 9.11 **Waiver.** Failure by either party to insist on strict adherence to any one or more of the terms or conditions of this Agreement, or on one or more occasions, will not be construed as a waiver, nor deprive that party of the right to require strict compliance with the same thereafter.
- 9.12 **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement and any attachments/addendums, as provided herein, constitutes the entire agreement of the parties and supersedes all other agreements, discussions, representations or understandings between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof. No amendments hereto, or waivers or releases of obligations hereunder, shall be effective unless agreed to in writing by the parties hereto.

- 9.13 **Assignment.** This Agreement may not be assigned by either Party without the prior written consent of the other Party.
- 9.14 **Severability.** In the event any one or more of the provisions contained in this Agreement shall for any reason be held to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision(s) hereof, and this Agreement shall be revised so as to cure such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision(s) to carry out as near as possible the original intents of the Parties.
- 9.15 **Amendments.** This Agreement may be amended only by a written amendment executed by both Parties, except that any alterations, additions, or deletions to the terms of this Agreement, which are required by changes in Federal and State law or regulations or required by the funding source, are automatically incorporated into this Agreement without written amendment hereto and shall become effective on the date designated by such law or regulation.
- 9.16 **Dispute Resolution.** The parties to this Agreement agree to the extent possible and not in contravention of any applicable State or Federal law or procedure established for dispute resolution, to attempt to resolve any dispute between them regarding this Agreement informally through voluntary mediation, arbitration or any other local dispute mediation process, including but not limited to dispute resolution policies of NCTCOG, before resorting to litigation.
- 9.17 **Publicity.** Contractor shall not issue any press release or make any statement to the media with respect to this Agreement or the services provided hereunder without the prior written consent of NCTCOG.
- 9.18 **Survival.** Rights and obligations under this Agreement which by their nature should survive will remain in effect after termination or expiration hereof.

ARTICLE X ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- 10.1 **Equal Employment Opportunity.** Contractor shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. Contractor shall take affirmative actions to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated, during their employment, without regard to their race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. Such actions shall include, but not be limited to, the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship.
- 10.2 **Davis-Bacon Act.** Contractor agrees to comply with all applicable provisions of 40 USC § 3141 – 3148.
- 10.3 **Contract Work Hours and Selection Standards.** Contractor agrees to comply with all applicable provisions of 40 USC § 3701 – 3708 to the extent this Agreement indicates any employment of mechanics or laborers.
- 10.4 **Rights to Invention Made Under Contract or Agreement.** Contractor agrees to comply with all applicable provisions of 37 CFR Part 401.
- 10.5 **Clean Air Act, Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and Energy Policy Conservation Act.** Contractor agrees to comply with all applicable provisions of the Clean Air Act under 42 USC § 7401 – 7671, the Energy Federal Water Pollution Control Act 33 USC § 1251 – 1387, and the Energy Policy Conservation Act under 42 USC § 6201.
- 10.6 **Debarment/Suspension.** Contractor is prohibited from making any award or permitting any award at any tier to any party which is debarred or suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for

participation in federal assistance programs under Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension. Contractor and its subcontractors shall comply with the Certification Requirements for Recipients of Grants and Cooperative Agreements Regarding Debarments and Suspensions.

- 10.7 **Restrictions on Lobbying.** CONTRACTOR agrees to comply with all applicable provisions of 2 CFR §200.450. CONTRACTOR shall include a statement of compliance with the Lobbying Certification and Disclosure of Lobbying Activities in procurement solicitations exceeding \$100,000. Lobbying Certification and Disclosure of Lobbying Activities shall be completed by subcontractors and included in subcontractor contracts, as applicable. Each tier certifies to the tier above that it will not and has not used Federal appropriated funds to pay any person or organization for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with obtaining any Federal contract, grant or any other award. Each tier must also disclose any lobbying with non-Federal funds that takes place in connection with obtaining any Federal award. See Appendix C.
- 10.8 **Procurement of Recovered Materials.** Contractor agrees to comply with all applicable provisions of 2 CFR §200.322.
- 10.9 **Drug-Free Workplace.** Contractor shall provide a drug free work place in compliance with the Drug Free Work Place Act of 1988.
- 10.10 **Texas Corporate Franchise Tax Certification.** Pursuant to Article 2.45, Texas Business Corporation Act, state agencies may not contract with for profit corporations that are delinquent in making state franchise tax payments.

10.11 **Civil Rights Compliance**

Compliance with Regulations: Contractor will comply with the Acts and the Regulations relative to Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), as they may be amended from time to time, which are herein incorporated by reference and made part of this agreement.

Nondiscrimination: Contractor, with regard to the work performed by it during the contract, will not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin in the selection and retention of subcontractors, including procurement of materials and leases of equipment. Contractor will not participate directly or indirectly in the discrimination prohibited by the Acts and the Regulations, including employment practices when the contract covers any activity, project, or program set forth in Appendix B of 45 CFR Part 21.

Solicitations for Subcontracts, Including Procurement of Materials and Equipment: In all solicitations either by competitive bidding or negotiation made by Contractor for work to be performed under a subcontract, including procurement of materials or leases of equipment, each potential subcontractor or supplier will be notified by Contractor of obligations under this contract and the Acts and Regulations relative to Nondiscrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

Information and Reports: Contractor will provide all information and reports required by the Acts, the Regulations, and directives issued pursuant thereto, and will permit access to its books, records, accounts, other sources of information, and facilities as may be determined by the State or the FHWA to be pertinent to ascertain compliance with such Acts, Regulations or directives. Where any information required of Contractor is in the exclusive possession of another who fails or refuses to furnish this information, Contractor will so certify to NCTCOG, the Texas Department of Transportation (“the State”) or the Federal Highway Administration, as appropriate, and will set forth what efforts it has made to obtain the information.

Sanctions for Noncompliance: In the event of Contractor's noncompliance with the Nondiscrimination provisions of this Agreement, NCTCOG will impose such sanctions as it or the State or the FHWA may determine to be appropriate, including, but not limited to: withholding of payments to the Contractor under this Agreement until the Contractor compiles and/or cancelling, terminating or suspension of this Agreement, in whole or in part.

Incorporation of Provisions: Contractor will include the provisions of the paragraphs listed above, in this section 10.11, in every subcontract, including procurement of materials and leases of equipment, unless exempt by the Acts, the Regulations and directives issued pursuant thereto. Contractor will take such action with respect to any subcontract or procurement as NCTCOG, the State, or the FHWA may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance. Provided, that if Contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or supplier because of such direction, Contractor may request the State to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the State. In addition, Contractor may request the United States to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the United States.

10.12 **Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program Requirements**

Contractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the award and performance of any U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)-assisted contract or in the administration of its DBE program or the requirements of 49 CFR Part 26. Contractor shall take all necessary and reasonable steps under 49 CFR Part 26 to ensure non-discrimination in award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts. Each sub-award or sub-contract must include the following assurance: *The Contractor, sub-recipient, or sub-contractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the performance of this Agreement. The Contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 49 CFR Part 26 in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts. Failure by the Contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach of this agreement, which may result in the termination of this agreement or such other remedy as the recipient deems appropriate.*

10.13 **Pertinent Non-Discrimination Authorities**

During the performance of this Agreement, Contractor, for itself, its assignees, and successors in interest agree to comply with the following nondiscrimination statutes and authorities; including but not limited to:

- a. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq., 78 stat. 252), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin); and 49 CFR Part 21.
- b. The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, (42 U.S.C. § 4601), (prohibits unfair treatment of persons displaced or whose property has been acquired because of Federal or Federal-aid programs and projects).
- c. Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973, (23 U.S.C. § 324 et seq.), as amended, (prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex).
- d. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, (29 U.S.C. § 794 et seq.) as amended, (prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability); and 49 CFR Part 27.
- e. The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, (49 U.S.C. § 6101 et seq.), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of age).
- f. Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982, (49 U.S.C. Chapter 471, Section 47123), as amended, (prohibits discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, or sex).
- g. The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, (PL 100-209), (Broadened the scope, coverage and applicability of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, The Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, by expanding the definition of the terms "programs or activities" to include all of the programs or activities of the Federal-aid recipients, subrecipients and contractors, whether such programs or activities are Federally funded or not).
- h. Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in the operation of public entities, public and private transportation systems, places of public accommodation, and certain testing entities (42 U.S.C. §§ 12131-12189) as implemented by Department of Transportation regulations at 49 C.F.R. parts 37 and 38.

- i. The Federal Aviation Administration's Nondiscrimination statute (49 U.S.C. § 47123) (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, and sex).
- j. Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, which ensures nondiscrimination against minority populations by discouraging programs, policies, and activities with disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations.
- k. Executive Order 13166, Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency, and resulting agency guidance, national origin discrimination includes discrimination because of limited English proficiency (LEP). To ensure compliance with Title VI, the parties must take reasonable steps to ensure that LEP persons have meaningful access to the programs (70 Fed. Reg. at 74087 to 74100).
- l. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, which prohibits the parties from discriminating because of sex in education programs or activities (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.).

10.14 Ineligibility to Receive State Grants or Loans, or Receive Payment on State Contracts

In accordance with Section 231.006 of the Texas Family Code, a child support obligor who is more than thirty (30) days delinquent in paying child support and a business entity in which the obligor is a sole proprietor, partner, shareholder, or owner with an ownership interest of at least twenty-five (25) percent is not eligible to:

- a. Receive payments from state funds under a contract to provide property, materials or services; or
- b. Receive a state-funded grant or loan.

By signing this Agreement, the Contractor certifies compliance with this provision.

10.15 House Bill 89 Certification

If contractor is required to make a certification pursuant to Section 2270.002 of the Texas Government Code, contractor certifies that contractor does not boycott Israel and will not boycott Israel during the term of the contract resulting from this solicitation. If contractor does not make that certification, contractor state in the space below why the certification is not required.

10.16 Certification Regarding Disclosure of Conflict of Interest.

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

“No employee of the contractor, no member of the contractor's governing board or body, and no person who exercises any functions or responsibilities in the review or approval of the undertaking or carrying out of this contract shall participate in any decision relating to this contract which affects his/her personal pecuniary interest.

Executives and employees of contractor shall be particularly aware of the varying degrees of influence that can be exerted by personal friends and associates and, in administering the contract, shall exercise due diligence to avoid situations which give rise to an assertion that favorable treatment is being granted to friends and associates. When it is in the public interest for the contractor to conduct business with a friend or associate of an executive or employee of the contractor, an elected official in the area or a member of the North Central Texas Council of Governments, a permanent record of the transaction shall be retained.

Any executive or employee of the contractor, an elected official in the area or a member of the NCTCOG, shall not solicit or accept money or any other consideration from a third person, for the performance of an act reimbursed in whole or part by contractor or Department. Supplies, tools, materials, equipment or services purchased with contract funds shall be used solely for purposes allowed under this contract. No member of the NCTCOG shall cast a vote on the provision of services by that member (or any organization which that member represents) or vote on any matter

which would provide a direct or indirect financial benefit to the member or any business or organization which the member directly represents.”

No officer, employee or paid consultant of the contractor is a member of the NCTCOG.

No officer, manager or paid consultant of the contractor is married to a member of the NCTCOG.

No member of NCTCOG directly owns, controls or has interest in the contractor.

The contractor has disclosed any interest, fact, or circumstance that does or may present a potential conflict of interest.

No member of the NCTCOG receives compensation from the contractor for lobbying activities as defined in Chapter 305 of the Texas Government Code.

Should the contractor fail to abide by the foregoing covenants and affirmations regarding conflict of interest, the contractor shall not be entitled to the recovery of any costs or expenses incurred in relation to the contract and shall immediately refund to the North Central Texas Council of Governments any fees or expenses that may have been paid under this contract and shall further be liable for any other costs incurred or damages sustained by the NCTCOG as it relates to this contract.

10.17 Certification of Fair Business Practices

That the submitter affirms that the submitter has not been found guilty of unfair business practices in a judicial or state agency administrative proceeding during the preceding year. The submitter further affirms that no officer of the submitter has served as an officer of any company found guilty of unfair business practices in a judicial or state agency administrative during the preceding year.

10.18 Certification of Good Standing Texas Corporate Franchise Tax Certification

Pursuant to Article 2.45, Texas Business Corporation Act, state agencies may not contract with for profit corporations that are delinquent in making state franchise tax payments. The undersigned authorized representative of the corporation making the offer herein certified that the following indicated Proposal is true and correct and that the undersigned understands that making a false Proposal is a material breach of contract and is grounds for contract cancellation.

10.19 Prohibition on Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment.

Pursuant to Public Law 115-232, Section 889, and 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, including §200.216 and §200.471, NCTCOG is prohibited from using federal funds to procure, contract with entities who use, or extend contracts with entities who use certain telecommunications and video surveillance equipment or services provided by certain Chinese controlled entities. The Contractor agrees that it is not providing NCTCOG with or using telecommunications and video surveillance equipment and services as prohibited by 2 CFR §200.216 and §200.471. Contractor shall certify its compliance through execution of the “Prohibited Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment Certification,” which is included as Appendix D of this Contract. The Contractor shall pass these requirements down to any of its subcontractors funded under this Agreement. The Contractor shall notify NCTCOG if the Contractor cannot comply with the prohibition during the performance of this Contract.

10.20 Discrimination Against Firearms Entities or Firearms Trade Associations

Pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Chapter 2274, Subtitle F, Title 10, prohibiting contracts with companies who discriminate against firearm and ammunition industries. NCTCOG is prohibited from contracting with entities, or extend contracts with entities who have practice, guidance, or directive that discriminates against a firearm entity or firearm trade association. Contractor shall certify its compliance through execution of the “Discrimination Against Firearms Entities or Firearms Trade Associations Certification,” which is included as Appendix D of this Contract. The Contractor shall pass these requirements down to any of its subcontractors funded under this Agreement. The Contractor shall notify NCTCOG if the Contractor cannot comply with the prohibition during the performance of this Contract.

10.21 **Boycotting of Certain Energy Companies**

Pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Chapter 2274, Subtitle F, Title 10, prohibiting contracts with companies who boycott certain energy companies. NCTCOG is prohibited from contracting with entities or extend contracts with entities that boycott energy companies. Contractor shall certify its compliance through execution of the “Boycotting of Certain Energy Companies Certification,” which is included as Appendix D of this Contract. The Contractor shall pass these requirements down to any of its subcontractors funded under this Agreement. The Contractor shall notify NCTCOG if the Contractor cannot comply with the prohibition during the performance of this Contract.

10.22 **Domestic Preference for Procurements**

As appropriate and to the extent consistent with law, the CONTRACTOR should, to the greatest extent practicable, provide a preference for the purchase, acquisition, or use of goods, products, or materials produced in the United States (including but not limited to iron, aluminum, steel, cement, and other manufactured products). Consistent with §200.322, the following items shall be defined as: “Produced in the United States” means, for iron and steel products, that all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States. “Manufactured products” means items and construction materials composed in whole or in part of non-ferrous metals such as aluminum; plastics and polymer-based products such as polyvinyl chloride pipe; aggregates such as concrete; glass, including optical fiber; and lumber.

10.23 **Trafficking in Persons**

Contractor agrees to comply with all applicable provisions of 2 CFR §175.15. NCTCOG, the Contractor, and its subcontractors are prohibited from (i) engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect; (ii) procure a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect; (iii) use forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award. The Federal award agency may unilaterally terminate the award, without penalty, if the Contractor (i) is determined to have violated an applicable prohibition; (ii) has an employee who is determined by the agency officially authorized to terminate the award to have violated an applicable prohibition of this award term. NCTCOG must notify the Federal award agency immediately if any information received from the Contractor indicates a violation of the applicable prohibitions.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement as of the Effective Date.

Ardurra Group, Inc.



5/12/2025

SignatureDate

Charles E. Morris

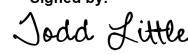
Printed Name

I&C. SCADA, Big Data Group Leader

Title

North Central Texas Council of Governments

Signed by:



6/1/2025

232D24222B0842B...

SignatureDate

Todd Little

Executive Director

APPENDIX A

Statement of Work

The Contractor agrees to provide AI Solutions in accordance with the scope of work outlined in Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 2025-018, and as further detailed in the Contractor's technical response, which is incorporated herein and made a part of this Statement of Work.

1. The Contractor shall be responsible for the design, development, deployment, and ongoing support of customized Artificial Intelligence (AI) solutions. These solutions must:
 - a. Address and solve specified operational and strategic challenges.
 - b. Integrate seamlessly with existing agency systems and databases.
 - c. Be intuitive, user-friendly, and accessible to a broad range of stakeholders.
 - d. Include end-user training, system documentation, and ongoing support for staff.
 - e. Provide ongoing maintenance, upgrades, and compliance assurance with applicable data security and privacy standards.
 - f. Ensure data security and privacy compliance in alignment with state and federal regulations.
2. Technical Requirements

The Contractor shall ensure that all AI solutions meet the following technical specifications:

 - a. Scalability: Must support growth in both data volume and user interaction without degradation of performance.
 - b. System Integration: Solutions must integrate with existing platforms.
 - c. Security frameworks: MDM, IAM, SIEM, and related infrastructure
 - d. Real-Time Analytics: Must provide real-time data analysis and reporting.
 - e. Data Security & Privacy Compliance: Adherence to standards such as GDPR, HIPAA, and CCPA are required.
 - f. Natural Language Processing (NLP): Advanced NLP capabilities must be embedded to support diverse and accurate user interactions.
 - g. Accuracy & Validation: Contractor must demonstrate and maintain a high level of system accuracy and describe methods for validation and quality assurance.
 - h. Algorithm Transparency: Solutions must include clear documentation of AI algorithms, approaches to mitigating bias, validation processes, and explainability.
 - i. Continuous Improvement: Solutions must include features for ongoing learning, with mechanisms to incorporate feedback and improve performance over time.
 - j. Interoperability: AI systems must comply with open standards and be capable of integrating with current and future digital infrastructure.
 - k. Quality Control: Contractor shall maintain rigorous quality control protocols to ensure consistent and reliable system performance.
3. Data Governance

The Contractor must implement the following data governance practices:

 - a. Data Integrity and Accuracy: Ensure reliable data quality through lifecycle validation checks and automated error correction.
 - b. Data Privacy Compliance: Adhere to all relevant privacy laws. Implement data anonymization and pseudonymization as needed and obtain/document user consent for data collection and use.
 - c. Access Controls: Implement role-based access controls and multi-factor authentication (MFA) for all sensitive data access.
 - d. Data Retention and Disposal: Define and adhere to policies for secure data retention and disposal.
 - e. Data Auditing and Monitoring: Regular auditing must be conducted, and access/modification logs must be maintained and made available upon request.
4. Cybersecurity Requirements

The Contractor shall maintain strong cybersecurity practices throughout the contract period:

 - a. Threat Detection & Response: Deploy AI-based threat detection tools. Define incident response plans and test them regularly.
 - b. Encryption: Utilize end-to-end encryption (AES-256, RSA-2048, etc.) for both data in transit and at rest.

- c. Vulnerability Management: Perform regular security assessments and penetration testing. Patch vulnerabilities promptly.
- d. Security Governance Framework: Establish and follow a documented governance model with defined policies, controls, and responsibilities.
- e. Risk Management: Identify risks, establish mitigation strategies, maintain a disaster recovery plan, and conduct root-cause analysis following incidents.
- f. Training & Awareness: Provide regular cybersecurity training to all relevant agency staff. Training must address both technical procedures and general awareness.

3.5.4 Ardurra Overview

Ardurra Group, Inc. is a leading multidisciplinary firm offering engineering and consulting services, including the management of AI and ML projects that drive innovation across the engineering, planning, design, and construction sectors. With over 85 offices nationwide and a team of dedicated professionals, we specialize in delivering impactful, tailored solutions in key areas such as water and wastewater systems, roadways, drainage infrastructure, and natural gas utilities.

At Ardurra, innovation is not just a buzzword, it's embedded in our approach. Our teams use advanced data analytics, AI, and ML tools to design solutions tailored to the unique needs of the projects. Whether optimizing water system operations or developing predictive models for infrastructure maintenance, we combine technical expertise with cutting-edge technology to deliver exceptional results.

Within only the DFW Metroplex, our three offices, two in Dallas and one in Fort Worth, are actively engaged in transformative projects, including transportation, trails, and thoroughfare initiatives. Our experienced teams employ AI-driven data analysis and robust public engagement processes to ensure that projects meet stakeholders' needs while mitigating risks and enhancing operational efficiency. Since 1981, Ardurra's Dallas presence has contributed to over \$3 billion in local transportation improvements for organizations such as the City of Dallas, TxDOT, DART, DFW Airport, and Dallas County.

Our commitment to innovation is reinforced by our proactive approach to managing workflows and staffing resources. By continuously monitoring project demands, we ensure that we are prepared to deliver on both current and future needs. With DFW-based staff and the support of our nationwide team, Ardurra is equipped to handle projects of any scale, offering the capacity to complete multiple tasks simultaneously while maintaining the highest standards of quality and efficiency.

CEO Ernesto Aguilar highlights Ardurra's mission: "Our unique organization supports the ability to be nimble and responsive in operations and delivery, allowing us to meet our clients' needs in the most cost-effective and innovative manner."

Ardurra's dedication to AI, ML, and emerging technologies positions us as a trusted partner in advancing communities and enhancing infrastructure. By integrating innovation with our deep expertise, we are shaping a smarter, more sustainable future.

Ardurra – Pioneers in Innovative Solutions

Ardurra's unique organization supports the ability to be nimble and responsive in operations and delivery, allowing us to meet client needs in the most cost-effective and innovative manner.

4 TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

In today's rapidly evolving landscape, public sector entities face mounting pressures to enhance operational efficiency, improve service delivery, and adapt to the growing expectations of citizens. Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers transformative potential to address these challenges, providing innovative solutions that optimize processes, enhance decision-making, and deliver measurable results. Our technical approach leverages advanced AI technologies to empower public sector organizations with intelligent, scalable, and sustainable systems.

This approach outlines a comprehensive lifecycle, encompassing solution design, development, integration, deployment, training, and long-term support. By tailoring each solution to the unique needs and objectives of public sector operations, we ensure outcomes that are not only impactful but also aligned with organizational goals and compliance standards. Whether it is streamlining workflows, enhancing citizen engagement, or bolstering data security, our strategy is built to drive tangible improvements and create a foundation for continuous innovation.

4.1 Project Deliverables

Ardurra/GHD's proposed AI solutions are designed to address each deliverable outlined in Section 4.2 comprehensively, combining cutting-edge technology with practical application to meet the unique needs of public sector entities. For **administration**, our AI solutions enhance strategic planning, policy analysis, and performance tracking by leveraging predictive analytics and automated dashboards, enabling data-driven decision-making for city governance. In **development services**, we offer streamlined workflows through intelligent systems that automate permit applications, inspection scheduling, and communications, ensuring transparency and efficiency for developers and residents. For **event centers**, we integrate AI-driven customer engagement tools and optimized ticketing systems to enhance user experiences and streamline event management processes. Our solutions for **economic development** provide predictive analytics and decision-support tools to attract investment, facilitate business growth, and enhance economic planning.

In **finance and budgeting**, our AI solutions enable real-time financial forecasting, budget allocation optimization, and anomaly detection to improve financial oversight and reporting. For **human resources**, our systems automate recruitment, onboarding, and employee engagement processes, creating a more streamlined and productive HR environment. In **IT and cybersecurity**, we offer advanced AI tools to automate Help Desk support, generate documentation, and proactively detect and prevent cyber threats, ensuring robust IT infrastructure. In **library services**, personalized user experiences are achieved through AI-powered catalog searches and virtual assistance tools.

For **municipal courts**, our AI-driven case management tools and automated inquiry systems enhance access to legal information and streamline court operations. **Parks and recreation** services benefit from AI-enhanced program management, activity recommendations, and optimized registration processes. Our solutions for **parks maintenance** include predictive maintenance scheduling, resource allocation optimization, and improved communication channels with residents. For **public works**, we optimize project scheduling, resource management, and public communication to ensure infrastructure projects are delivered efficiently.

In **utility billing**, AI solutions automate billing inquiries, improve payment processing, and offer real-time usage insights for customers. Our tools for **visitor bureaus** enhance tourism experiences through personalized recommendations and improved visitor engagement, fostering local economic growth. Across **other government departments**, our AI technologies drive efficiency, enhance service delivery, and support data-driven decision-making. These solutions are tailored to integrate seamlessly with existing systems, ensure compliance with data security standards, and deliver measurable outcomes, addressing the diverse operational challenges outlined in the RFP.

4.2 Technical Approach

Ardurra/GHD's technical approach to implementing AI solutions for public sector entities combine robust design methodologies, seamless integration strategies, and a user-focused commitment to accessibility. Our **methodologies for design and development** are rooted in an Agile framework, enabling iterative and flexible progress that adapts to evolving needs. We initiate with a comprehensive requirements analysis, engaging stakeholders to define project goals and prioritize functionalities. Using advanced AI frameworks such as machine learning, natural language processing (NLP), and predictive analytics, we develop scalable, modular systems tailored to address specific operational challenges. Rigorous testing, including unit, integration, and user acceptance testing (UAT), ensures the solutions meet performance, compliance, and usability standards before deployment.

For **integration with existing government systems**, we employ a compatibility-first strategy to seamlessly connect AI tools with legacy infrastructures such as ERP systems, case management software, and database platforms. Open APIs and adherence to interoperability standards ensure smooth data exchange and system interaction. Our solutions are designed with scalability and adaptability, enabling integration with current IT ecosystems and accommodating future upgrades or extensions. Data security and privacy are paramount, with built-in compliance for regulations such as GDPR, HIPAA, and CCPA, ensuring secure and lawful handling of sensitive information.

User-friendliness and accessibility are key pillars of our approach. Interfaces are designed to be intuitive and accessible, with minimal training required for end-users. Solutions include customizable dashboards, natural language processing capabilities for effortless interaction, and multi-language support to cater to diverse communities. Accessibility features comply with WCAG standards, ensuring inclusivity for individuals with disabilities. By prioritizing a seamless and engaging user experience, our solutions foster higher adoption rates, streamline workflows, and empower stakeholders to leverage AI effectively for enhanced public sector operations. This holistic approach ensures our solutions are not only technologically robust but also operationally impactful and user-focused.

4.2.1 Solution Design and Development

Needs Assessment

- Conduct detailed operational diagnostics to identify pain points, inefficiencies, and opportunities for automation or optimization.
- Engage with stakeholders across all relevant departments to capture a holistic understanding of organizational objectives and constraints.
- Perform system and process audits to ensure that proposed solutions align seamlessly with existing workflows.

AI Model Development

- Build and train AI models using machine learning, natural language processing (NLP), computer vision, and predictive analytics to solve specific use cases.
- Incorporate modular and scalable designs that allow for future customization and integration as operational needs evolve.
- Ensure models are developed with fairness and transparency, leveraging bias-mitigation techniques to promote equitable outcomes.

User-Centric Design

- Develop user interfaces that are accessible and intuitive, designed with input from diverse user groups.
- Prioritize user experience to encourage adoption, reduce training time, and ensure accessibility for all stakeholders, including those with disabilities.
- Incorporate multilingual capabilities and customizable dashboards to support a broad range of users.

4.2.2 Integration with Existing Systems

System Compatibility

- Integrate AI solutions with legacy systems such as ERP platforms, case management tools, and public records databases.
- Ensure compatibility with existing IT infrastructure while maintaining adaptability for future upgrades.

APIs and Interoperability

- Leverage open APIs and standards for seamless communication between AI solutions and existing systems.
- Provide comprehensive API documentation to facilitate future integrations by in-house IT teams or third-party vendors.

Real-Time Analytics

- Deploy real-time analytics engines to process large data volumes, generate actionable insights, and provide predictive forecasting for better decision-making.
- Implement dashboards tailored to departmental needs, offering key metrics such as operational efficiency, citizen engagement rates, and system performance.

4.2.3 Implementation and Deployment

Pilot Testing

- Conduct limited-scale deployments in controlled environments to evaluate system performance, identify areas for improvement, and gather stakeholder feedback.
- Use insights from pilot programs to refine models, adjust parameters, and validate the solution against predefined success metrics.

Change Management

- Develop and execute a comprehensive change management strategy, including communication plans, stakeholder alignment, and impact analysis.
- Provide leadership with resources and tools to support organizational adaptation to new AI-driven workflows.

Phased Rollout

- Implement solutions incrementally, beginning with high-priority departments or processes to minimize operational disruption.
- Scale deployments based on user readiness and demonstrated success in initial phases.

4.2.4 Data Governance and Cybersecurity

Data Privacy and Compliance

- Ensure adherence to global and local data protection regulations such as GDPR, HIPAA, and CCPA.
- Utilize advanced anonymization, encryption, and access control measures to protect sensitive information.

Security Frameworks

- Incorporate multi-layered security protocols, including end-to-end encryption, intrusion detection systems, and automated threat detection powered by AI.
- Regularly update systems to address vulnerabilities and maintain compliance with evolving cybersecurity standards.

Auditing and Monitoring

- Implement automated monitoring systems to track solution performance, user behavior, and system anomalies.
- Conduct regular audits to ensure data integrity, operational transparency, and compliance with regulatory frameworks.

4.2.5 Performance Metrics and Continuous Improvement

KPIs and Monitoring

- Define and track KPIs, such as service response times, system uptime, error rates, and user adoption metrics.
- Use performance dashboards to provide stakeholders with real-time visibility into the impact of AI implementations.

Feedback Loops

- Establish mechanisms to capture user feedback and continuously refine AI models based on operational insights.
- Facilitate regular review cycles to align AI functionalities with changing organizational priorities.

Algorithm Updates

- Leverage continuous learning techniques to update AI algorithms in response to new data, ensuring improved accuracy and relevance over time.

- Implement safeguards to validate updates, ensuring they enhance performance without unintended consequences.

4.2.6 Training and Support

Comprehensive Training

- Develop detailed training programs tailored to different user roles, ensuring all stakeholders have the skills and confidence to use AI solutions effectively.
- Offer hands-on workshops, instructional videos, and written documentation to accommodate diverse learning preferences.

Ongoing Support

- Provide 24/7 technical support and system monitoring to address issues promptly and ensure uninterrupted operation.
- Deliver regular software updates to enhance functionality, improve security, and adapt to emerging technological advancements.

Knowledge Transfer

- Work closely with internal teams to transfer knowledge, enabling in-house management of AI solutions.
- Develop operational guides and technical documentation to ensure sustainable operation and maintenance of the systems.

4.3 Performance Metrics

At Ardurra/GHD, measuring the success and performance of AI solutions is integral to delivering impactful results for public sector entities. Our approach is centered on defining and tracking **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)** tailored to each deliverable. For instance, in administration-focused solutions, KPIs may include improved decision-making speed, increased policy analysis accuracy, and reduced time to generate performance reports. In development services, success is measured by metrics such as permit processing time, reduction in inspection scheduling errors, and customer satisfaction rates. Similarly, for utility billing, KPIs like decreased billing inquiries, improved payment processing times, and customer engagement metrics are monitored to ensure performance objectives are achieved.

To ensure the **accuracy and reliability** of AI solutions, we employ rigorous validation and testing protocols throughout the development lifecycle. This includes data validation to ensure input accuracy, algorithm testing for error reduction, and user acceptance testing to confirm real-world applicability. Automated monitoring systems continuously assess solution performance, flagging anomalies for review and adjustment. Advanced error-detection mechanisms are embedded in the solutions to identify and correct discrepancies in real time, ensuring reliable outputs across all applications.

Our approach to **continuous improvement** involves leveraging adaptive learning mechanisms within the AI models. These systems evolve based on user interactions and new data inputs, enhancing performance over time. Regular feedback loops are established with stakeholders to capture insights and refine functionalities. Scheduled audits and performance reviews ensure that KPIs are consistently met and updated as organizational priorities shift. Additionally, our solutions are designed to accommodate scalability and integration of emerging technologies, ensuring their relevance and effectiveness in addressing future challenges.

Through a combination of targeted KPIs, robust accuracy measures, and a commitment to continuous improvement, we ensure that our AI solutions consistently deliver measurable value, align with organizational goals, and adapt to the evolving needs of public sector operations.

4.4 Risk Management

Implementing AI solutions in the public sector comes with several potential risks that must be proactively addressed to ensure project success and long-term sustainability. These risks include **data security and privacy concerns, integration challenges with legacy systems, resistance to change among stakeholders, algorithm bias**

or inaccuracies, and system downtime or performance issues. GHD employs a comprehensive risk management framework to identify, assess, and mitigate these risks throughout the project lifecycle.

To address **data security and privacy risks**, we ensure all AI solutions comply with stringent regulations such as GDPR, HIPAA, and CCPA. Our approach incorporates encryption protocols, multi-factor authentication, and role-based access controls to protect sensitive information. Regular security audits and penetration testing are conducted to identify and resolve vulnerabilities, while real-time threat detection systems monitor and mitigate potential breaches proactively.

Integration challenges with existing government systems are mitigated through thorough system assessments and stakeholder consultations during the planning phase. We prioritize compatibility and scalability by leveraging open APIs, adhering to interoperability standards, and conducting extensive integration testing to ensure seamless connectivity between AI solutions and legacy infrastructure. Our phased deployment approach further minimizes disruptions, allowing for incremental adaptation and feedback.

Resistance to change among stakeholders is a common risk in technology adoption. To mitigate this, we implement robust change management strategies, including clear communication of project benefits, hands-on training programs, and ongoing support to build user confidence. Engaging stakeholders early and consistently ensures alignment and fosters a sense of ownership in the AI implementation process.

To minimize the risk of **algorithm bias or inaccuracies**, we employ rigorous data validation and testing protocols during development. Bias-mitigation techniques, such as balanced dataset design and algorithm transparency, are integral to our approach. Continuous monitoring and adaptive learning mechanisms ensure that AI models evolve to maintain accuracy and fairness as new data becomes available.

Finally, **system downtime and performance issues** are mitigated through high-availability system architectures, regular maintenance schedules, and the use of cloud-based infrastructure to ensure scalability and reliability. Disaster recovery plans are established, including automated failover mechanisms and data backups, to minimize downtime in the event of a disruption.

By identifying potential risks early and implementing tailored mitigation strategies, GHD ensures the delivery of secure, reliable, and impactful AI solutions that align with the goals and operational needs of public sector entities. Our proactive risk management approach fosters resilience and confidence in the adoption of advanced technologies.

4.5 Compliance and Standards

Ardurra/GHD's AI solutions are designed with a steadfast commitment to adherence to relevant regulations and industry standards, ensuring that our implementations meet and exceed the legal and ethical requirements of public sector entities. We prioritize compliance with globally recognized data privacy laws, including the **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**, **Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)**, **California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA)**, and other applicable local, state, and federal regulations. This focus guarantees the protection of sensitive information while fostering trust and confidence among stakeholders and the communities we serve.

To ensure adherence to **data privacy laws**, our solutions integrate advanced data protection measures, including end-to-end encryption for data at rest and in transit, as well as robust access control mechanisms such as multi-factor authentication (MFA) and role-based access controls (RBAC). We employ data anonymization and pseudonymization techniques to protect personal information while allowing data analysis for decision-making purposes. In addition, all data collection and processing activities are performed with explicit user consent, and audit trails are maintained to document compliance with regulatory requirements.

Our solutions are developed with a **privacy-by-design and privacy-by-default** approach, embedding data protection principles into every stage of the solution lifecycle. This includes rigorous data validation and integrity checks, ensuring the accuracy and reliability of data used by AI systems. Regular compliance audits and updates are conducted to align our systems with evolving regulatory standards and to address potential vulnerabilities proactively.

In the context of **HIPAA compliance**, our solutions are tailored to safeguard Protected Health Information (PHI) through the implementation of strict security measures. This includes the use of industry-standard encryption protocols (e.g., AES-256) and secure data storage and transmission practices. Access to PHI is limited to authorized personnel, and detailed logging mechanisms track all interactions with sensitive data, enabling swift responses to potential breaches or non-compliance incidents.

We also maintain compliance with **industry standards and frameworks**, such as ISO/IEC 27001 for information security management and NIST cybersecurity frameworks. These standards guide our practices in secure solution design, risk management, and incident response planning. By adhering to these frameworks, we ensure that our solutions remain resilient against emerging security threats and align with best practices in data governance and cybersecurity.

GHD's commitment to compliance is further reinforced by continuous training for our teams and client stakeholders, ensuring that all parties understand their roles in maintaining regulatory adherence. By integrating these measures into our technical and operational frameworks, we provide AI solutions that not only meet compliance requirements but also set a benchmark for security, reliability, and ethical governance in the public sector.

5 PRICING

See Exhibit 1: Categories Offered and Pricing Proposal.

6 PROPOSED VALUE-ADD

Ardurra/GHD bring a unique value-add to public sector AI solutions by going beyond the standard scope of work to deliver innovative, impactful, and sustainable results. Our solutions are not just about addressing immediate challenges but are designed to provide long-term operational efficiency, enhanced citizen engagement, and measurable outcomes that align with the strategic goals of public sector entities.

One of our core value propositions is our **integrated expertise in AI and domain-specific knowledge**. By combining advanced AI capabilities with a deep understanding of public sector operations, we craft solutions tailored to specific departmental needs, whether optimizing utility billing systems, automating HR workflows, or enhancing decision-making in municipal governance. Our team's ability to align AI innovations with the practical realities of public sector operations ensures seamless adoption and tangible benefits.

Ardurra/GHD also excel in leveraging **cutting-edge technologies**, such as predictive analytics, machine learning, and natural language processing (NLP), to introduce efficiencies that extend beyond traditional implementations. For instance, our AI-driven real-time analytics platforms enable data-informed decision-making across multiple departments, while automated self-service tools reduce administrative burdens and improve citizen satisfaction. Moreover, our solutions are designed to evolve, integrating emerging technologies such as edge computing and IoT to further enhance operational capabilities.

Another key value-add is our focus on **user experience and accessibility**. We prioritize user-centric design to create intuitive, inclusive, and accessible interfaces that accommodate diverse user groups, including citizens with disabilities. Features such as multilingual support, personalized dashboards, and voice-enabled interactions ensure broader adoption and satisfaction. This commitment to usability fosters greater engagement and trust among end-users.

In addition to technical innovation, Ardurra/GHD offer **unmatched support and training services**. We provide comprehensive training programs tailored to the needs of public sector staff, empowering them to maximize the potential of AI tools. Our post-deployment support includes proactive system monitoring, regular updates, and dedicated customer service to ensure the long-term success of our solutions. We also emphasize knowledge transfer, equipping in-house teams with the skills and documentation needed to maintain and adapt the solutions over time.

Finally, Ardurra/GHD's solutions are designed with a strong emphasis on **sustainability and cost efficiency**. By automating routine tasks and optimizing resource allocation, we help public sector entities reduce operational

APPENDIX A.1
Pricing for TXShare Cooperative Purchase Program Participants

Category 1 - AI Solutions Pricing Format Request Example				
Notes:				
Description	Add additional description if necessary:	Unit Price	% Discount	Notes/Comments
1. Software Licensing and Subscription Costs: <i>Provide the cost breakdown for software licenses, subscriptions, or any other software-related fees.</i>				
2. Implementation and Customization Costs: <i>Outline the costs related to the implementation of the AI solution, including setup, integration with existing systems, customization, and deployment.</i>				
2.1 - Project Management		\$400/hour	10%	Pricing may vary based on the Scope of Services provided. The pricing provided is for high-level budgetary purposes only. The variance in the size and commodity mix of the NCTCOG members makes it impossible to provide a firm price without working directly with individual utilities to clarify requirements. A firm price will only be offered upon completion of a scoping/discovery exercise with an individual utility
2.1 - Billing System Integration		\$419/hour	10%	
2.1 - Data Scientist		\$210/hour	10%	
2.1 - Data Privacy & Security		\$425/hour	10%	
2.1 - Systems Administrator		\$450/hour	10%	
2.1 - Data Governance Specialist		\$385/hour	10%	
2.1 - Cybersecurity Specialist		\$285/hour	10%	
2.1 - Ethics and Bias Specialist		\$235/hour	10%	
2.1 - QA/QC Specialist		\$235/hour	10%	
2.1 - Data Visualization Specialist		\$175/hour	10%	
2.1 - UI/UX Designer		\$210/hour	10%	
2.1 - Software Engineer/Full Stack Developer		\$315/hour	10%	
2.1 - Natural Language Programming Specialist		\$380/hour	10%	
2.1 - Computer Vision Specialist		\$345/hour	10%	
3. Training and Support Costs: <i>Include costs for training government staff, technical support, and customer service, both during and after implementation.</i>				
Training and Change Management Specialist		\$370/hour	10%	Pricing may vary based on the Scope of Services provided. The pricing provided is for high-level budgetary purposes only. The variance in the size and commodity mix of the NCTCOG members makes it impossible to provide a firm price without working directly with individual utilities to clarify requirements. A firm price will only be offered upon completion of a scoping/discovery exercise with an individual utility
Onsite Training		\$370/hour	10%	
Technical Support		\$350/hour	10%	
4. Ongoing Maintenance and Updates: <i>Provide costs for ongoing software maintenance, updates, and any regular services required to keep the AI system running smoothly.</i>				
Software Hosting, Maintenance, and Support		\$435/hour	10%	Pricing may vary based on the Scope of Services provided. The pricing provided is for high-level budgetary purposes only. The variance in the size and commodity mix of the NCTCOG members makes it impossible to provide a firm price without working directly with individual utilities to clarify requirements. A firm price will only be offered upon completion of a scoping/discovery exercise with an individual utility
5. Optional Add-Ons or Features: <i>List any additional features or services available that are not included in the core proposal but can be added at an additional cost.</i>				
6. Total Cost of Ownership (TCO): <i>Summarize the Total Cost of Ownership (TCO), which includes all costs over a defined period (e.g., 3 years or 5 years). This should reflect software, implementation, support, maintenance, and optional add-ons.</i>				
7. Additional Costs (if applicable): <i>List any additional costs not covered in the above sections that are relevant to the proposal, such as travel costs, setup fees, or other miscellaneous charges.</i>				

Category 2 - Ancillary Goods and/or Services				
Describe Below:			% Discount	Notes/Comments
Technology Business Case Support		\$60 to \$100K+	10%	Pricing may vary based on the Scope of Services provided. The pricing provided is for high-level budgetary purposes only. The variance in the size and commodity mix of the NCTCOG members makes it impossible to provide a firm price without working directly with individual utilities to clarify requirements. A firm price will only be offered upon completion of a scoping/discovery exercise with an individual utility
Vendor Procurement Services		\$90 to \$150K+	10%	Pricing may vary based on the Scope of Services provided. The pricing provided is for high-level budgetary purposes only. The variance in the size and commodity mix of the NCTCOG members makes it impossible to provide a firm price without working directly with individual utilities to clarify requirements. A firm price will only be offered upon completion of a scoping/discovery exercise with an individual utility
Vendor Contract Negotiation Services		\$50K to \$90K+	10%	Pricing may vary based on the Scope of Services provided. The pricing provided is for high-level budgetary purposes only. The variance in the size and commodity mix of the NCTCOG members makes it impossible to provide a firm price without working directly with individual utilities to clarify requirements. A firm price will only be offered upon completion of a scoping/discovery exercise with an individual utility

APPENDIX A.2
Service Area Designation Forms

EXHIBIT 3: SERVICE DESIGNATION AREAS

Texas Service Area Designation or Identification			
Proposing Firm Name:	Ardurra Group, Inc.		
Notes:	Indicate in the appropriate box whether you are proposing to service the entire state of Texas		
	Will service the entire state of Texas	Will not service the entire state of Texas	
	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	If you are not proposing to service the entire state of Texas, designate on the form below the regions that you are proposing to provide goods and/or services to. By designating a region or regions, you are certifying that you are willing and able to provide the proposed goods and services.		
Item	Region	Metropolitan Statistical Areas	Designated Service Area
1.	North Central Texas	16 counties in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan area	
2.	High Plains	Amarillo Lubbock	
3.	Northwest	Abilene Wichita Falls	
4.	Upper East	Longview Texarkana, TX-AR Metro Area Tyler	
5.	Southeast	Beaumont-Port Arthur	
6.	Gulf Coast	Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land	
7.	Central Texas	College Station-Bryan Killeen-Temple Waco	
8.	Capital Texas	Austin-Round Rock	
9.	Alamo	San Antonio-New Braunfels Victoria	
10.	South Texas	Brownsville-Harlingen Corpus Christi Laredo McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	
11.	West Texas	Midland Odessa San Angelo	
12.	Upper Rio Grande	El Paso	

(Exhibit 3 continued on next page)

(Exhibit 3 continued)

Nationwide Service Area Designation or Identification Form			
Proposing Firm Name:	Ardurra Group, Inc.		
Notes:	Indicate in the appropriate box whether you are proposing to provide service to all Fifty (50) States.		
	Will service all fifty (50) states <input type="checkbox"/>	Will not service fifty (50) states <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	<p>If you are not proposing to service to all fifty (50) states, then designate on the form below the states that you will provide service to. By designating a state or states, you are certifying that you are willing and able to provide the proposed goods and services in those states.</p> <p>If you are only proposing to service a specific region, metropolitan statistical area (MSA), or City in a State, then indicate as such in the appropriate column box.</p>		
Item	State	Region/MSA/City (write "ALL" if proposing to service entire state)	Designated as a Service Area
1.	Alabama		
2.	Alaska		
3.	Arizona		
4.	Arkansas		
5.	California		
6.	Colorado		
7.	Connecticut		
8.	Delaware		
9.	Florida		
10.	Georgia		
11.	Hawaii		
12.	Idaho		
13.	Illinois		
14.	Indiana		
15.	Iowa		
16.	Kansas		
17.	Kentucky		
18.	Louisiana		
19.	Maine		
20.	Maryland		

21.	Massachusetts		
22.	Michigan		
23.	Minnesota		
24.	Mississippi		
25.	Missouri		
26.	Montana		
27.	Nebraska		
28.	Nevada		
29.	New Hampshire		
30.	New Jersey		
31.	New Mexico		
32.	New York		
33.	North Carolina		
34.	North Dakota		
35.	Ohio		
36.	Oregon		
37.	Oklahoma		
38.	Pennsylvania		
39.	Rhode Island		
40.	South Carolina		
41.	South Dakota		
42.	Tennessee		
43.	Texas	ALL	
44.	Utah		
45.	Vermont		
46.	Virginia		
47.	Washington		
48.	West Virginia		
49.	Wisconsin		
50.	Wyoming		

End of Exhibit 3

APPENDIX B

NCTCOG FEDERAL AND STATE OF TEXAS REQUIRED PROCUREMENT PROVISIONS
The following provisions are mandated by Federal and/or State of Texas law. Failure to certify to the following will result in disqualification of consideration for contract. Entities or agencies that are not able to comply with the following will be ineligible for consideration of contract award.

REQUIRED 2 CFR 200 CLAUSES

Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles & Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Contractor)

1. **Equal Employment Opportunity.** CONTRACTOR shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. CONTRACTOR shall take affirmative actions to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated, during their employment, without regard to their race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. Such actions shall include, but not be limited to, the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship.
2. **Davis-Bacon Act.** CONTRACTOR agrees to comply with all applicable provisions of 40 USC § 3141 – 3148.
3. **Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards.** CONTRACTOR agrees to comply with all applicable provisions of 40 USC § 3701 – 3708 to the extent this agreement indicates any employment of mechanics or laborers.
4. **Rights to Invention Made Under Contract or Agreement.** CONTRACTOR agrees to comply with all applicable provisions of 37 CFR Part 401.
5. **Clean Air Act, Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and Energy Policy Conservation Act.** CONTRACTOR agrees to comply with all applicable provisions of the Clean Air Act under 42 USC § 7401 – 7671, the Energy Federal Water Pollution Control Act 33 USC § 1251 – 1387, and the Energy Policy Conservation Act under 42 USC § 6201.
6. **Debarment/Suspension.** CONTRACTOR is prohibited from making any award or permitting any award at any tier to any party which is debarred or suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in federal assistance programs under Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension. CONTRACTOR and its subcontractors shall comply with the special provision “Certification Requirements for Recipients of Grants and Cooperative Agreements Regarding Debarments and Suspensions”.
7. **Restrictions on Lobbying.** CONTRACTOR of these funds is prohibited from using monies for lobbying purposes; CONTRACTOR shall comply with the special provision “Restrictions on Lobbying”. CONTRACTOR shall include a statement of compliance with the Lobbying Certification and Disclosure of Lobbying Activities in applicable procurement solicitations. Lobbying Certification and Disclosure of Lobbying Activities shall be completed by subcontractors and included in subcontractor contracts, as applicable.
8. **Procurement of Recovered Materials.** CONTRACTOR agrees to comply with all applicable provisions of 2 CFR §200.322.
9. **Anti-Israeli Boycott.** By accepting this work order, CONTRACTOR hereby certifies the following:
 1. CONTRACTOR’s Company does not boycott Israel; and
 2. CONTRACTOR’s Company will not boycott Israel during the term of the contract.

The following definitions apply to this statute:

- (1) "Boycott Israel" means refusing to deal with, terminating business activities with, or otherwise taking any action that is intended to penalize, inflict economic harm on, or limit commercial relations specifically with Israel, or with a person or entity doing business in Israel or in an Israeli- controlled territory, but does not include an action made for ordinary business purposes; and
- (2) "Company" means an organization, association, corporation, partnership, joint venture, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, or limited liability company, including wholly owned subsidiary, majority-owned subsidiary, parent company, or affiliate of those entities or business associations that exists to make a profit.

10. Domestic Preference for Procurements

As appropriate and to the extent consistent with law, the CONTRACTOR should, to the greatest extent practicable, provide a preference for the purchase, acquisition, or use of goods, products, or materials produced in the United States (including but not limited to iron, aluminum, steel, cement, and other manufactured products). Consistent with §200.322, the following items shall be defined as: “Produced in the United States” means, for iron and steel products, that all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States. “Manufactured products” means items and construction materials composed in whole or in part of non-ferrous metals such as aluminum; plastics and polymer-based products such as polyvinyl chloride pipe; aggregates such as concrete; glass, including optical fiber; and lumber.

11. Trafficking in Persons

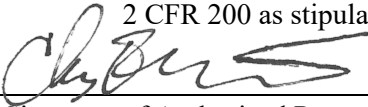
Contractor agrees to comply with all applicable provisions of 2 CFR §175.15. NCTCOG, the Contractor, and its subcontractors are prohibited from (i) engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect; (ii) procure a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect; (iii) used force labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award. The Federal award agency may unilaterally terminate the award, without penalty, if the Contractor (i) is determined to have violated an applicable prohibition; (ii) has an employee who is determined by the agency officially authorized to terminate the award to have violated an applicable prohibition of this award term. NCTCOG must notify the Federal award agency immediately if any information received from the Contractor indicates a violation of the applicable prohibitions.

Check one of the following:

- ☒ The Contractor or Subrecipient hereby certifies that it **does** comply with the requirements of 2 CFR 200 as stipulated above and required by the NCTCOG.

-OR-

- ☐ The Contractor or Subrecipient hereby certifies that it **cannot** comply with the requirements of 2 CFR 200 as stipulated above and required by the NCTCOG.



Signature of Authorized Person
Charles E. Morris

Name of Authorized Person
Ardurra Group, Inc.

Name of Company
5/12/2025

Date

APPENDIX C

RESTRICTIONS ON LOBBYING

Section 319 of Public Law 101-121 prohibits recipients of federal contracts, grants, and loans exceeding \$100,000 at any tier under a federal contract from using appropriated funds for lobbying the Executive or Legislative Branches of the federal government in connection with a specific contract, grant, or loan. Section 319 also requires each person who requests or receives a federal contract or grant in excess of \$100,000 to disclose lobbying.

No appropriated funds may be expended by the recipient of a federal contract, loan, or cooperative agreement to pay any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any federal executive department or agency as well as any independent regulatory commission or government corporation, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with any of the following covered federal actions: 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 and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

As a recipient of a federal grant exceeding \$100,000, NCTCOG requires its subcontractors of that grant to file a certification, set forth in Appendix B.1, that neither the agency nor its employees have made, or will make, any payment prohibited by the preceding paragraph.


Subcontractors are also required to file with NCTCOG a disclosure form, set forth in Appendix B.2, if the subcontractor or its employees have made or have agreed to make any payment using nonappropriated funds (to include profits from any federal action), which would be prohibited if paid for with appropriated funds.

**LOBBYING CERTIFICATION
FOR CONTRACTS, GRANTS, LOANS, AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS**

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 federal 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, and the extension continuation, renewal amendment, or modification of any federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
- (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, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form - LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.
- (3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients 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, US 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.



Signature

Charles E. Morris

Title

Ardurra Group, Inc.

Agency

5/12/2025

Date

APPENDIX D
PROHIBITED TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SERVICES OR
EQUIPMENT CERTIFICATION

This Contract is subject to the Public Law 115-232, Section 889, and 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, including §200.216 and §200.471, for prohibition on certain telecommunications and video surveillance or equipment.

Public Law 115-232, Section 889, identifies that restricted telecommunications and video surveillance equipment or services (e.g. phones, internet, video surveillance, cloud servers) include the following:

- A) Telecommunications equipment that is produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliates of such entities).
- B) Video surveillance and telecommunications equipment produced by Hytera Communications Corporations, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, or Dahua Technology Company (or any subsidiary or affiliates of such entities).
- C) Telecommunications or video surveillance services used by such entities or using such equipment.
- D) Telecommunications or video surveillance equipment or services produced or provided by an entity that the Secretary of Defense, Director of the National Intelligence, or the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation reasonably believes to be an entity owned or controlled by the government of a covered foreign country.

The entity identified below, through its authorized representative, hereby certifies that no funds under this Contract will be obligated or expended to procure or obtain telecommunication or video surveillance services or equipment or systems that use covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as a critical technology as part of any system prohibited by 2 CFR §200.216 and §200.471, or applicable provisions in Public Law 115-232 Section 889.

Check one of the following:

☒ The Contractor or Subrecipient hereby certifies that it **does** comply with the requirements of 2 CFR 200 as stipulated above and required by the NCTCOG.

-OR-

☐ The Contractor or Subrecipient hereby certifies that it **cannot** comply with the requirements of 2 CFR 200 as stipulated above and required by the NCTCOG.



 Signature of Authorized Person

Charles E. Morris

 Name of Authorized Person

Ardurra Group, Inc.

 Name of Company

5/12/2025

 Date

**DISCRIMINATION AGAINST FIREARMS ENTITIES OR FIREARMS TRADE
ASSOCIATIONS**

This contract is subject to the Texas Local Government Code chapter 2274, Subtitle F, Title 10, prohibiting contracts with companies who discriminate against firearm and ammunition industries.

TLGC chapter 2274, Subtitle F, Title 10, identifies that “discrimination against a firearm entity or firearm trade association” includes the following:

- A) means, with respect to the entity or association, to:
 - I. refuse to engage in the trade of any goods or services with the entity or association based solely on its status as a firearm entity or firearm trade association; and
 - II. refrain from continuing an existing business relationship with the entity or association based solely on its status as a firearm entity or firearm trade association; or
 - III. terminate an existing business relationship with the entity or association based solely on its status as a firearm entity or firearm trade association.
- B) An exception to this provision excludes the following:
 - I. contracts with a sole-source provider; or
 - II. the government entity does not receive bids from companies who can provide written verification.

The entity identified below, through its authorized representative, hereby certifies that they have no practice, policy, guidance, or directive that discriminates against a firearm entity or firearm trade association; and that they will not discriminate during the term of the contract against a firearm entity or firearm trade association as prohibited by Chapter 2274, Subtitle F, Title 10 of the Texas Local Government Code.

Check one of the following:

☒ The Contractor or Subrecipient hereby certifies that it does comply with the requirements of Chapter 2274, Subtitle F, Title 10.

-OR-

☐ The Contractor or Subrecipient hereby certifies that it cannot comply with the requirements of Chapter 2274, Subtitle F, Title 10.



Signature of Authorized Person

Charles E. Morris

Name of Authorized Person

Ardurra Group, Inc.

Name of Company

5/12/2025

Date

BOYCOTTING OF CERTAIN ENERGY COMPANIES

This contract is subject to the Texas Local Government Code chapter 809, Subtitle A, Title 8, prohibiting contracts with companies who boycott certain energy companies.

TLGC chapter Code chapter 809, Subtitle A, Title 8, identifies that “boycott energy company” means, without an ordinary business purpose, refusing to deal with, terminating business activities with, or otherwise taking any action that is intended to penalize, inflict economic harm on, or limit commercial relations with a company because the company:

- I. engages in the exploration, production, utilization, transportation, sale, or manufacturing of fossil fuel-based energy and does not commit or pledge to meet environmental standards beyond applicable federal and state law; and
- II. does business with a company described by paragraph (I).

The entity identified below, through its authorized representative, hereby certifies that they do not boycott energy companies, and that they will not boycott energy companies during the term of the contract as prohibited by Chapter 809, Subtitle A, Title 8 of the Texas Local Government Code.

Check one of the following:

- ☒ The Contractor or Subrecipient hereby certifies that it **does** comply with the requirements of Chapter 809, Subtitle A, Title 8.

-OR-

- ☐ The Contractor or Subrecipient hereby certifies that it **cannot** comply with the requirements of Chapter 809, Subtitle A, Title 8.



Signature of Authorized Person

Charles E. Morris

Name of Authorized Person

Ardurra Group, Inc.

Name of Company

5/12/2025

Date

APPENDIX E DEBARMENT CERTIFICATION

BHAVIN VIJAY BHAYANI being duly
(Name of certifying official)
sworn or under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States, certifies that neither

GHD Inc., nor its principals
(Name of lower tier participant)
are presently:

- debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment,
- declared ineligible,
- or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any federal department or agency

Where the above identified lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the above statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall indicate below to whom the exception applies, the initiating agency, and dates of action.

Exceptions will not necessarily result in denial of award but will be considered in determining contractor responsibility. Providing false information may result in criminal prosecution or administrative sanctions.

EXCEPTIONS:

[Signature]
Signature of Certifying Official

Title Sr. Data Scientist

Date of Certification 05/13/25

Form 1734
Rev.10-91
TPFS

TEXAS ORDINARY CERTIFICATE OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT
Civil Practice & Remedies Code § 121.007

The State of Texas

County of Tarrant

Before me,

Katelyn Snider, Notary Public
Name and Character of Notarizing Officer,
e.g., "John Smith, Notary Public"

on this day personally appeared

Bharin Vijay Bhayari
Name of Signer

☐ known to me

☐ proved to me on the oath of

Name of Credible Witness

☒ proved to me through Driver's

license
Description of Identity Card or Document

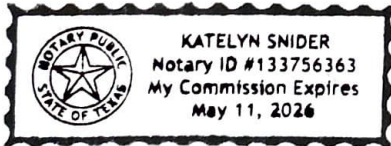
to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

Given under my hand and seal of office this

16th day of May, 2025
Day Month Year

Katelyn Snider

Signature of Notarizing Officer



Place Notary Seal and/or Stamp Above

OPTIONAL

Completing this information can deter alteration of the document or fraudulent reattachment of this form to an unintended document.

Description of Attached Document

Title or Type of Document: Appendix E Debarment Certification

Document Date: N/A Number of Pages: one

Signer(s) Other Than Named Above: no other signers