TXShare
Your Public Sector Solutions Center

MASTER SERVICES AGREEMENT #2025-023
Artificial Intelligence (AI) Consultancy Services

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

FedTec, LLC ("Contractor")
1950 Opportunity Way, Suite 1300
Reston, VA 20190

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) Consultancy Services** (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 **#2025-023** (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 Pricing for items in Appendix A represent the maximum cost for each item offered by the Contractor. Contractor and Participating Entity may mutually agree to a lower cost 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 #**2025-023.**

    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.

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ARTICLE III
TERM

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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   <u>Termination for Convenience</u>: 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   <u>Termination for Cause</u>: 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   <u>Termination for Breach</u>: 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.

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ARTICLE IV
COMPENSATION
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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:

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

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ARTICLE VI
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PARTIES

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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.

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ARTICLE VII
REPRESENTATION AND WARRANTIES

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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 of 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: **FedTec, LLC**
> **Attn:** Parminder Kaur
> 1950 Opportunity Way, Suite 1300
> Reston, VA 20190
> **Phone:** 347-281-3877
> **Email:** stateproposals@fedtec.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).

1. 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.
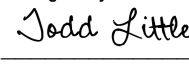
10.23 **Trafficking in Persons**
Contractor agrees to comply with all applicable provisions of 2 CFR §175.15. NCTCOG, the Contractor, and its subcontractors are prohibited from (i) engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect; (ii) procure a 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.

FedTec, LLC   **North Central Texas Council of Governments**

Parminder Kaur   5/13/2025   Signed by: _Todd Little_   6/1/2025
Signature   Date   Signature 232D04222B0842B...   Date
                                                   Todd Little
                                                   Executive Director

Parminder Kaur
Printed Name

Director
Title

APPENDIX A
Statement of Work

The Contractor agrees to provide AI consultancy services in accordance with the scope of work and requirements outlined in Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 2025-023, and as further detailed in the Contractor's technical proposal response. Both documents are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of this Statement of Work.

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5. Technical Proposal

5.1 Objectives:

The objectives of the AI consultancy services include, but are not limited to:

a. Assessing current organizational processes and identifying opportunities for AI integration, with specific examples relevant to various departments (e.g., public safety response optimization, citizen engagement tools, predictive maintenance in infrastructure).

Organizations today face increasing pressure to optimize operations, improve service delivery, and meet public expectations while ensuring resource efficiency. AI-driven solutions, when effectively implemented, address these challenges by automating processes, providing predictive insights, and enabling proactive decision-making.

FedTec's approach to **assessing current organizational processes** begins with a thorough evaluation of existing workflows, technologies, and operational challenges. By leveraging advanced analytical methodologies, we identify areas where **AI integration** delivers significant value. For instance, in **public safety**, AI solutions such as predictive analytics optimizes *resource allocation, enabling faster emergency response times and improving situational awareness.* Using *historical data and machine learning models* we predict high-risk areas, allowing agencies to pre-emptively deploy resources and enhance public safety outcomes.

- ❖ *AI solutions optimize operations and improve service delivery.*
- ❖ *Evaluates workflows to identify AI integration opportunities.*
- ❖ *Predictive analytics enhance public safety and resource allocation.*
- ❖ *NLP chatbots improve citizen engagement and reduce staff workload.*
- ❖ *Sentiment analysis shapes community-focused policies.*
- ❖ *Predictive maintenance reduces downtime and extends asset lifespan.*
- ❖ *Proactive AI tools enable efficient, data-driven decisions.*

In **citizen engagement**, FedTec proposes the use of tools like **natural language processing (NLP)** for chatbots and virtual assistants. These systems facilitate seamless interaction between citizens and government services, providing quick, accurate responses to inquiries while reducing the workload on human staff. Sentiment analysis tools further enable organizations to gauge public sentiment, helping to shape policies and initiatives that resonate with community needs. For **infrastructure management**, FedTec identifies opportunities for deploying **predictive maintenance solutions**. By analyzing real-time data from IoT sensors and historical maintenance logs, AI algorithms forecast equipment failures, enabling timely interventions that minimize downtime and reduce maintenance costs. These strategies not only enhance operational efficiency but also extend the lifespan of critical assets.

b. Recommending AI tools, frameworks, and applications to solve specific organizational challenges.

FedTec specializes in **recommending AI tools, frameworks, and applications** that are tailored to solve specific organizational challenges with precision and scalability. Our approach begins with a detailed analysis of the operational needs and objectives, ensuring that the recommended solutions align with the strategic vision of the organization. For instance, in environments requiring enhanced decision-making, **machine learning frameworks** such as *TensorFlow and PyTorch* are ideal for developing predictive models to analyze trends and forecast outcomes. In addition, analytics and visualizations tools like Microsoft PowerBI or Tableau provides predictive analysis capabilities on aggregated data sets.

- ❖ *Tailored AI tools align with organizational goals.*
- ❖ *Machine learning enhances predictive decision-making.*
- ❖ *AI improves public safety, citizen engagement, and maintenance.*
- ❖ *Scalable platforms ensure security and compliance.*
- ❖ *Comprehensive roadmaps enable seamless integration.*

For challenges in **public safety**, FedTec recommends tools like **AI enabled incident response platforms** that leverage *real-time data and advanced analytics* to improve situational awareness and optimize emergency resource allocation. In the area of **citizen engagement**, *natural language processing (NLP)* applications such as *OpenAI's GPT models or Google Dialogflow* are utilized to create conversational agents, enabling efficient and personalized communication with citizens.

In **infrastructure management**, FedTec proposes the deployment of **predictive maintenance applications** using platforms like **IBM Maximo or Azure IoT. The data from these tools can be aggregated in a Data lake and then MS PowerBI can be used to predict equipment failures and schedule proactive maintenance, reducing costs and operational disruptions.** For developing AI algorithms and model development, FedTec recommends **cloud-based AI platforms** like **AWS SageMaker and Microsoft Azure AI Hub**, which offer scalable and secure environments for developing, testing, and deploying AI models.

c. Developing a comprehensive data strategy alongside an AI roadmap, emphasizing data quality, governance, privacy, and security.

FedTec delivers transformative **AI solutions** through a **comprehensive data strategy** aligned with a phased **AI roadmap**. This approach ensures a **robust data foundation** emphasizing **quality**, **governance**, **privacy**, and **security**, enabling organizations to maximize **data value** while maintaining compliance with **GDPR**, **HIPAA**, **CCPA and other federal and state regulations**

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FedTec enhances **data quality** using advanced **cleansing** and **validation tools while developing data processing pipelines** to ensure AI models are trained on **accurate**, **consistent datasets**, leading to improved **decision-making** and reduced **errors**. **Governance frameworks**, including **role-based access controls** and **audit trails**, establish **accountability** and **transparency**. **Privacy-by-design** principles are implemented using techniques such as **data anonymization**, **encryption**, and **secure multi-party computation**. **Cybersecurity measures**, including **threat detection systems** and **incident response plans**, further safeguard **data integrity**.

The **AI roadmap** identifies **high-impact use cases**, selects **scalable frameworks** (e.g., **TensorFlow**, **PyTorch**), and defines **milestones** for **implementation** and **performance tracking**. Practical applications, such as **predictive analytics** and **fraud detection**, demonstrate the roadmap's value in transitioning organizations from **pilot projects** to **enterprise-wide AI adoption**. This integrated strategy empowers organizations to **innovate securely** and **sustainably**.

d. Developing a strategic roadmap for AI implementation, including governance, timelines, milestones, and deliverables.

FedTec's approach to developing a **strategic roadmap for AI implementation** ensures that organizations have a structured, actionable plan to achieve their AI objectives. Our roadmap is designed to align with organizational goals while emphasizing **governance, clear timelines, milestones, and deliverables** to drive accountability and success.

The **governance framework** forms the foundation of the roadmap, establishing roles, responsibilities, and decision-making protocols for AI implementation. FedTec collaborates with stakeholders to define a governance structure that includes executive oversight, data stewards, and cross-functional AI teams. **Timelines** are *strategically planned, detailing each phase of the AI journey, from initial assessment to deployment and optimization*. FedTec divides the implementation into key phases—*discovery, pilot, deployment, and scale-up*—assigning realistic timeframes to each step to ensure progress without compromising quality.

➢ **Milestones** serve as **critical checkpoints** to measure progress and validate outcomes. Examples include completing an initial data readiness assessment, finalizing AI tool selection, conducting pilot tests, and achieving system integration. These milestones are linked to key performance indicators (KPIs), providing measurable benchmarks for success.

➢ **Deliverables** are clearly outlined, ensuring transparency and accountability throughout the implementation. These include deliverables such as a detailed AI capability assessment report, fully functional AI prototypes, user training programs, and post-implementation performance evaluations. Each deliverable is designed to provide tangible value and contribute to the overall objectives of the AI initiative.

e. Ensuring that all AI implementations comply with legal standards (e.g., FOIA, grant/state/federal regulations) and establish technical, administrative, and policy controls for internal AI use.

FedTec ensures that all **AI implementations** comply with legal standards, including the **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)**, **grant-specific**, **state**, and **federal regulations**. Our approach integrates **technical**, **administrative**, and **policy controls** to guarantee the **responsible and ethical use** of AI technologies.

Key Compliance Measures:

1. **Legal and Regulatory Assessment**: FedTec conducts thorough evaluations of **FOIA**, **GDPR**, **CCPA**, **HIPAA**, and grant-specific regulations. Systems are designed to incorporate **transparency features** like **audit logs** and **explainability modules** to meet legal mandates and ensure accountability.

2. **Technical Controls**:
   o **Encryption** and **Role-Based Access Control (RBAC)** to safeguard sensitive data.
   o **Bias detection and mitigation mechanisms** to ensure fairness in AI decisions.
   o Continuous **compliance testing** throughout the AI lifecycle to validate adherence to standards and minimize risks.

3. **Administrative Controls**:
   o Governance committees to oversee AI usage and compliance.
   o Specialized **training programs** for stakeholders on **ethical and legal AI use**.
   o Defined roles, responsibilities, and **reporting protocols** for swift issue escalation and resolution.

4. **Policy Controls**:
   o Formalized **AI use policies**, including guidelines on **data usage**, **ethical principles**, and **incident response plans**.
   o Regular **compliance reviews** to adapt to evolving regulatory and technological landscapes.

Responsibilities of Compliance Manager
❖ *Developing proactive strategies for AI governance and regulatory adherence.*
❖ *Leading the integration of compliance frameworks into AI systems to mitigate risks while fostering innovation.*
❖ *Ensuring organizations leverage AI responsibly, enhancing trust, accountability, and operational integrity.*

f. Providing training and knowledge transfer to the organization's internal teams on AI capabilities, ensuring employees effectively adopt and utilize AI tools.

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FedTec ensures organizations effectively adopt and utilize **AI tools** by offering tailored **training** and **knowledge transfer programs**. For **TXShare members**, a dedicated **Training Specialist** will be appointed to oversee the process, providing personalized support to align with organizational goals and member-specific needs.

Key Program Components:

➢ **Customized Training Plans**: Modules are designed to address the organization's specific **AI tools**, **use cases**, and **business objectives**, with role-specific training for **technical teams**, **business users**, and **leadership**.

➢ **Hands-On Learning**: Practical **workshops**, **interactive demonstrations**, and **scenario-based exercises** ensure teams can apply AI tools effectively to solve real-world challenges.

➢ **Knowledge Transfer Framework**: Comprehensive **user guides**, **process workflows**, and **best practices** are provided. FedTec's **AI experts** collaborate with teams during the implementation phase for smooth transitions.

➢ **Ongoing Support and Upskilling**: Regular **refresher courses**, **advanced training sessions**, and access to **e-learning platforms** keep employees updated on **AI advancements**.

➢ **Performance Metrics and Feedback**: Training effectiveness is evaluated using **pre- and post-training assessments**, with feedback loops to refine content and address knowledge gaps.

g. Quantify the long-term value AI brings to the organization and create business cases for both immediate and future expenditures, supporting sustained AI investment and adoption.

FedTec assists organizations in quantifying the **long-term value of AI** by showcasing its ability to drive **efficiency**, **productivity**, and **informed decision-making**. By developing **comprehensive business cases**, we ensure that both immediate and future **AI expenditures** are justified, supporting sustained investment and adoption.

➢ **Key Components of Value Quantification:** FedTec's **data-driven ROI analysis** highlights the measurable benefits of AI, such as **cost reductions**, **process automation**, and **revenue generation**. Metrics like **time saved**, **error reduction**, and **increased throughput** are utilized to demonstrate the impact on operational and financial performance. Additionally, **predictive models** are employed to forecast long-term gains, including **scalability**, enhanced **customer experiences**, and improved **market competitiveness**, enabling organizations to plan for sustainable growth. To encourage initial adoption, we emphasize **immediate value**, showcasing **quick wins** such as reduced manual processes through **automation** and better decision-making via **predictive analytics**.

➢ **Business Case Development:** FedTec's business cases combine both **tangible and intangible benefits** to present a comprehensive value proposition. Tangible benefits include **cost savings**, **productivity enhancements**, and **operational efficiencies**, while intangible benefits, such as increased **employee satisfaction** and **customer trust**, provide a holistic perspective. A detailed **cost breakdown** is included, covering **software**, **hardware**, and **training expenses**, along with projected timelines for realizing **ROI**. Additionally, FedTec incorporates **risk mitigation strategies** into these cases, addressing challenges like **data bias**, **security concerns**, and **regulatory compliance** to ensure responsible AI adoption.

h. Supporting the pilot and/or full-scale implementations and providing comprehensive training for sustainable, in-house AI operations.

Successful AI implementation is not just about deploying technology; it requires sustainable integration into an organization's processes and a workforce capable of managing and leveraging it effectively. Supporting pilot and full-scale implementations with comprehensive training ensures AI solutions are not only adopted but also optimized for long-term success. **FedTec** provides **end-to-end support** for both **pilot and full-scale AI implementation**s, ensuring seamless integration with existing infrastructure and equipping teams with the necessary tools and knowledge to manage AI systems sustainably. Key aspects of our approach include:

1. **Pilot Implementation Support**
   o Develop a roadmap to implement a use case with measurable business value
   o Identify measurable KPIs to evaluate the pilot's success.
   o Resolve technical and operational challenges to mitigate risks during the full-scale implementation.

2. **Full-Scale Implementation**
   o Design and enhance AI architectures tailored to organization's scalability requirements.
   o If applicable, Integrate AI systems with existing processes, ensuring interoperability.
   o Offer ongoing monitoring, fine tuning and operational support during the transition phase.

3. **Comprehensive Training Programs**
   o Develop customized training modules based on organizational roles and technical expertise.
   o Conduct workshops focusing on AI operations, troubleshooting, and optimization.

> ***FedTec's Capabilities***
> ❖ *Experience in delivering AI solutions across public and private sectors.*
> ❖ *Proficiency in leveraging AI frameworks, machine learning models, and automation tools.*
> ❖ *Strong track record in training multidisciplinary teams to adopt and manage AI technologies.*
> ❖ *Expertise in scaling AI implementations while minimizing operational disruptions.*

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   o   Create detailed user guides, manuals, and video tutorials for future reference.
   o   Offer on-demand support post-training to reinforce knowledge retention.
4. **Sustainable Operations Framework**
   o   Establish governance and best practices for AI operations.
   o   Enable continuous learning through periodic training updates.
   o   Introduce feedback loops for iterative improvement of AI processes.

i. Incorporating a 5-year AI roadmap to guide the organization's future AI development.

FedTec's development of a **5-year AI roadmap** provides organizations with a structured and strategic plan to guide future AI development. Roadmaps are designed to align with organizational objectives, ensuring a phased and scalable approach to AI adoption that delivers measurable outcomes over time. It emphasizes sustainability, adaptability, and alignment with emerging technologies to keep the organization at the forefront of innovation.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Needs Assessment: By collaborating with stakeholders, FedTec identifies high-impact AI use cases and aligns them with priorities. Comprehensive assessments evaluate data readiness and operational challenges for seamless AI integration.

Phased AI Implementation Expertise: FedTec excels at phased AI implementation:

- **Years 1-2:** Pilot deployments and integration of predictive analytics, NLP, and automation tools.
- **Years 3-4:** Deployment of advanced models like deep learning and reinforcement learning, coupled with training for scalability.
- **Year 5:** Integration of technologies like generative AI and IoT, establishing a maturity model for autonomous systems.

Governance and Compliance: FedTec ensures ethical AI usage and compliance with GDPR, FOIA, ADA, and other regulations through governance frameworks, transparent reporting, and robust security measures.

Data Strategy and Management: FedTec enhances data quality with governance policies and scalable pipelines, leveraging tools like TensorFlow, PyTorch, and AWS SageMaker for optimal AI applications.

Continuous Training and Capacity Building: Custom training, workshops, and knowledge transfer programs ensure internal teams are equipped to manage AI systems effectively and sustainably.

Risk Mitigation and Performance Monitoring: FedTec incorporates risk mitigation strategies and continuous performance monitoring to refine AI systems and maintain alignment with organizational goals.

Scalable and Sustainable Solutions: FedTec delivers scalable solutions that evolve with technological advancements, fostering innovation and ensuring long-term adaptability.

With 23 years of experience, FedTec has successfully implemented AI solutions in public and private sectors, demonstrating expertise in predictive analytics, NLP, and advanced machine learning models.
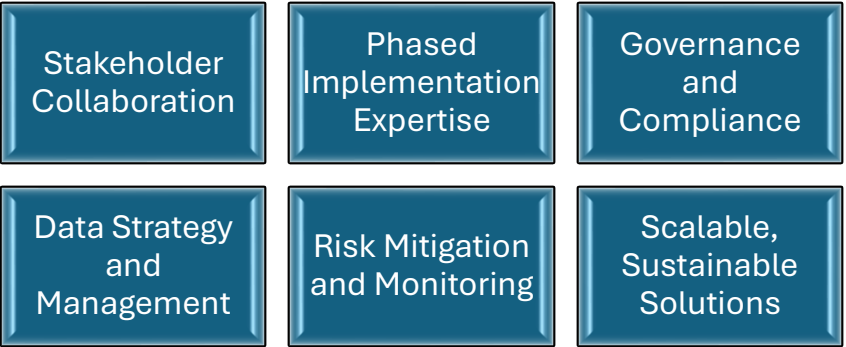
5.2 Scope Of Work:
The selected AI consultancy firm will perform the following tasks:

5.2.1 AI Strategy Development
a. Collaborate closely with individual departments to identify specific AI use cases and associated challenges, such as improving response times in public safety or reducing procurement costs, to develop tailored solutions that align with departmental needs.

FedTec's **AI strategy development process** emphasizes close collaboration with individual departments, led by **Anand Marthi**, FedTec's dedicated **Account Manager**, to identify specific **AI use cases** and address their associated challenges. Anand's proactive involvement ensures that tailored AI solutions are not only aligned with departmental needs but also strategically integrated into the organization's broader objectives.

For **public safety departments**, Anand facilitates detailed discussions with stakeholders to understand pain points such as delayed response times, . In **procurement**, Anand works closely with department heads to identify opportunities for AI-driven cost reductions. Using machine learning algorithms to analyze supplier data, predict pricing trends, and streamline procurement workflows, FedTec provides tools that ensure cost-effective purchasing while maintaining quality and compliance.

Anand's role is pivotal in maintaining a continuous feedback loop with departments, ensuring that AI solutions evolve alongside operational needs. His expertise in facilitating knowledge transfer, aligning resources, and ensuring adherence to timelines and objectives guarantees that AI implementations deliver maximum value. This personalized, **Account Manager-led approach** ensures that FedTec's AI solutions are impactful, sustainable, and strategically aligned with the organization's goals.

b. Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment to understand the organization's goals, existing processes, challenges, and value to be added to the organization by leveraging AI.

FedTec, under the leadership of **Account Manager Anand Marthi**, conducts a **comprehensive needs assessment** as the cornerstone of its AI strategy development process. This assessment delves deeply into the organization's **goals, existing processes, challenges**, and potential areas where **AI add measurable value**. By collaborating with stakeholders across departments, FedTec ensures that the assessment is both detailed and actionable.

The process begins with **goal alignment**, where Anand works closely with organizational leaders to identify strategic objectives, such as enhancing operational efficiency, improving service delivery, or driving innovation. This step ensures that all AI initiatives are designed to support long-term organizational priorities.

Next, FedTec evaluates **existing processes** to map workflows, identify inefficiencies, and assess data readiness. For example, in infrastructure maintenance, Anand's team examines how predictive analytics   reduce unplanned downtimes by forecasting equipment failures. Similarly, in citizen engagement, the assessment explores how conversational AI tools   streamline interactions and improve satisfaction rates.

The needs assessment also identifies **challenges** that may hinder AI adoption, such as data silos, outdated technologies, or resistance to change. FedTec proposes tailored solutions to address these obstacles, such as implementing centralized data pipelines or conducting change management workshops to build stakeholder confidence.

Finally, the assessment focuses on **quantifying the value AI bring to the organization**. This includes identifying key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure success, such as cost savings from automated workflows, reduced response times in public safety, or improved decision-making accuracy through predictive analytics. Anand ensures that the insights from the needs assessment translate into a clear and actionable roadmap, enabling the organization to leverage AI effectively and sustainably.

c. Develop a long-term AI strategy aligned with the organization's strategic plan and 5-year vision.

FedTec, led by **Account Manager Anand Marthi**, develops a **long-term AI strategy** that aligns seamlessly with the organization's **strategic plan and 5-year vision**. This comprehensive approach ensures that AI adoption is strategic, scalable, and sustainable, driving measurable improvements while keeping pace with evolving organizational goals and technological advancements.

The strategy begins with a **vision alignment phase**, where Anand collaborates with organizational leaders to map the strategic plan and 5-year vision to specific AI initiatives. This ensures that AI implementations address core priorities, such as improving operational efficiency, enhancing citizen services, and fostering innovation. By integrating AI into the broader organizational strategy, FedTec positions AI as a transformative enabler of success. In the **planning phase**, FedTec designs a phased AI roadmap that identifies high-impact projects to be implemented over the next five years. The roadmap is structured to deliver early wins through pilot projects, such as predictive analytics in public safety or AI-driven procurement optimization, building confidence and momentum for further adoption. These early successes pave the way for scaling AI capabilities across the organization, including more complex applications like real-time data analytics, generative AI, or autonomous decision-making systems.

- Strategic Alignment
- Vision Alignment Phase
- Phase AI Roadmap
- Governance and Adaptability
- Capacity Building
- Outcome-Oriented Approach

The strategy also incorporates **governance and adaptability**, ensuring that AI implementations are aligned with ethical standards, regulatory requirements, and organizational policies. Governance structures are established to monitor progress, evaluate performance, and ensure accountability. Anand works closely with stakeholders to integrate flexible frameworks that allow the AI strategy to adapt to emerging technologies and shifting priorities over the five-year horizon.

To support this vision, FedTec emphasizes **capacity building** through continuous training and knowledge transfer, ensuring the organization's workforce is equipped to manage and expand AI capabilities independently. Regular performance assessments and feedback loops are integrated into the strategy to refine AI initiatives and ensure sustained alignment with the organization's vision.
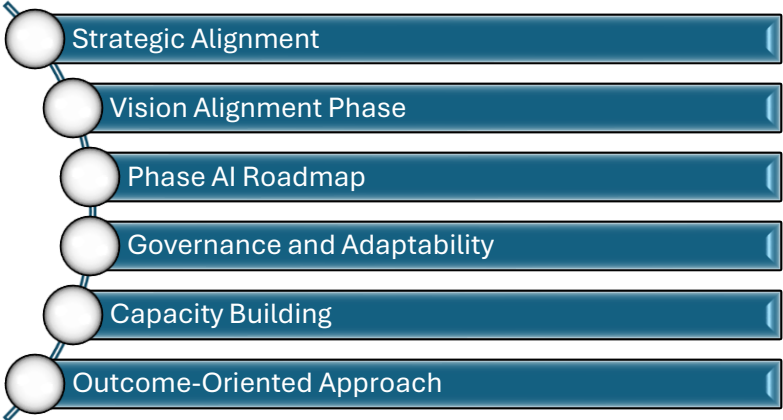
5.2.2 Feasibility Study and Use Case Identification

a. Identify potential AI use cases, analyze their feasibility, and assess value.

FedTec identifies **AI use cases** by analyzing current processes and aligning opportunities with **organizational goals**. Key examples include **predictive analytics** for optimizing **public safety response**, **AI-driven chatbots** to enhance **citizen engagement**, and **predictive maintenance** solutions for efficient **infrastructure management**. These use cases are chosen for their potential to improve **operational efficiency** and **service delivery**.

Each identified use case undergoes a detailed **feasibility analysis**, assessing **technical compatibility** with existing systems, **operational readiness** for AI adoption, and **financial feasibility**, including cost projections and **return on investment (ROI)**. This ensures that selected solutions are both practical and capable of delivering measurable **value**.

FedTec prioritizes use cases based on their **impact** on critical objectives, **scalability** across departments, and alignment with **stakeholder expectations**. This structured approach guarantees that AI initiatives not only address immediate needs but also provide **long-term benefits** and meaningful outcomes for the organization.

b. Document compliance requirements (external and internal).

FedTec ensures that all AI implementations adhere to both **external regulations** and **internal policies**, establishing a robust compliance framework. A dedicated **Project Manager**, in collaboration with an appointed **Compliance Manager**, will oversee compliance activities, ensuring alignment with legal and organizational standards throughout the project lifecycle.

External Compliance

FedTec integrates all relevant regulatory requirements to align with public sector legal standards, including:

- **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**: Ensuring privacy and protection of personal data in AI systems.
- **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)**: Facilitating transparency and accountability in AI-driven processes.
- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**: Developing accessible AI solutions, such as speech-to-text and text-to-speech functionalities.
- **State and Federal Regulations**: Addressing public sector mandates related to cybersecurity, data governance, and ethical AI deployment.

Internal Compliance

The **Project Manager** and **Compliance Manager** will ensure adherence to organizational governance and policies by:

- Establishing **data ownership frameworks** to define responsibilities and access controls.
- Implementing **data security protocols** to protect sensitive information and prevent unauthorized access.
- Ensuring adherence to **organizational ethics policies** by deploying bias-free and explainable AI models.
- Conducting **internal audits** to verify compliance with organizational standards and external regulations.

c. Provide detailed pros, cons, and risk-benefit analysis for each use case.

Use Case	Pros	Cons	Risk-Benefit Analysis
Skytech Consultancy Services	- Increased efficiency by 30%. - Enhanced decision-making with RAG. - Scalable ERP.	- Requires significant training. - Possible data compatibility issues.	**Risks**: Integration delays, resistance to new workflows. **Benefits**: Sustainable cost savings, reduced errors, and better decisions.
New Generation LLC	- Improved resource allocation (25%). - Reduced scheduling errors. - Enhanced satisfaction.	- Data accuracy dependency. - Technical challenges in RAG integration.	**Risks**: Technical hurdles, resistance to changes. **Benefits**: Better utilization, reduced delays, and improved public satisfaction.
Prudent Technology LLC	- Reduced breaches by 40%. - Faster threat mitigation with RAG. - Strengthened resilience.	- High resource dependency. - Ongoing updates needed.	**Risks**: Deployment challenges, resource needs. **Benefits**: Stronger security, reduced disruptions, compliance assurance.
AmeriCorps (ServiceNow)	- Ticket submissions reduced by 80%. - Faster response (50%). - Focus on complex issues.	- Training required for user adaptation. - Chatbot limitations.	**Risks**: User resistance, chatbot limitations. **Benefits**: Significant efficiency and cost savings, enhanced user experience.
IRS – Anomaly Detection	- Reduced detection time by 60%. - Improved accuracy.	- Privacy concerns in public record checks. - Extensive testing needed.	**Risks**: Legal and privacy challenges. **Benefits**: Faster processing, fewer errors, better taxpayer service.

	- Allowed staff to focus on complex cases.		
City of Pittsburgh	- Salary standardization improved by 35%. - Faster position identification (40%). - Better workload management.	- Dependence on data accuracy. - Resistance to new tools.	**Risks**: Training challenges, data inaccuracies. **Benefits**: Transparent HR decisions, efficient resource management, equitable pay structures.

d. Ensure feasibility study includes considerations related to data strategy, including data quality, governance, and integration readiness.

FedTec ensures that all feasibility studies incorporate a comprehensive evaluation of the **data strategy**, focusing on critical elements such as **data quality**, **governance**, and **integration readiness**. These considerations are essential for building robust, scalable, and compliant AI solutions.

Data Quality

FedTec evaluates the current state of organizational data to ensure it meets the requirements for AI implementation.

- **Assessment**: Analyze datasets for accuracy, consistency, and completeness to identify gaps or inconsistencies.
- **Data Cleaning and Enrichment**: Implement processes to enhance data quality, such as removing duplicates, filling gaps, and normalizing formats.
- **Monitoring**: Establish automated validation mechanisms to maintain high data quality throughout the project lifecycle.

Data Governance

A strong governance framework is crucial for managing data responsibly and ensuring compliance with regulatory standards.

- **Ownership and Accountability**: Clearly define roles and responsibilities for managing and maintaining data, including access controls and accountability mechanisms.
- **Policy Frameworks**: Develop governance policies for data collection, storage, usage, and sharing while ensuring alignment with regulations such as GDPR, FOIA, and ADA.
- **Security Measures**: Incorporate robust encryption, anonymization, and user access controls to safeguard sensitive data against breaches and unauthorized access.

Integration Readiness

Ensuring that AI solutions integrate seamlessly with existing systems is critical for their success.

- **System Compatibility**: Evaluate current IT infrastructure and identify potential gaps or challenges in integrating AI technologies.
- **Scalable Architecture**: Design scalable solutions to accommodate future data growth and evolving AI capabilities.
- **Data Interoperability**: Implement standardized data exchange protocols to enable seamless communication between legacy systems and new AI tools.

e. Prioritize use cases based on impact and ease of deployment.

FedTec prioritizes AI use cases using a structured framework that evaluates both **impact** and **ease of deployment**. This approach ensures that the most valuable and practical solutions are implemented first, aligning with organizational objectives and resource capabilities.

Impact Assessment

FedTec evaluates the potential impact of each use case by considering:

- **Alignment with Organizational Goals**: Prioritizing use cases that directly address critical objectives such as operational efficiency, improved public services, or enhanced citizen engagement.
- **Value Generation**: Focusing on solutions that deliver measurable outcomes, such as cost savings, improved response times, or enhanced infrastructure reliability.
- **Scalability**: Giving preference to use cases that be expanded across multiple departments or services for broader organizational benefits.

Ease of Deployment

To ensure practical implementation, use cases are assessed for deployment readiness:

- **Technical Feasibility**: Evaluating compatibility with existing IT systems and identifying potential gaps or challenges in integration.
- **Resource Availability**: Ensuring that the necessary skills, data, and infrastructure are readily accessible to support the deployment.
- **Implementation Complexity**: Prioritizing solutions that require minimal disruption to current operations and be implemented within a reasonable timeframe.

Prioritization Matrix

FedTec uses a prioritization matrix that maps each use case based on its **impact** (high, medium, low) and **ease of deployment** (easy, moderate, difficult). Use cases in the **high-impact, easy-to-deploy quadrant** are implemented first, followed by those with moderate deployment challenges and potential for significant impact.

5.2.3 AI Solution Design and Roadmap

a. Research and document various External Compliance (e.g. Freedom of Information Act, grant requirements, and the various local, state, and federal regulations), and Internal Compliance (e.g. designing technical, administrative, policy controls, among others, for the safe use of AI).

FedTec ensures a thorough understanding and adherence to both **external** and **internal compliance requirements** during the AI solution design phase. This ensures that all AI systems are implemented securely, ethically, and in alignment with organizational goals.

Compliance Type	Key Requirements	Examples of Controls/Measures
External Compliance		
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)	Ensure transparency in AI operations and decision-making, with appropriate access to public information.	Implement robust logging and reporting mechanisms for decision-making processes.
Grant Requirements	Align AI implementations with funding conditions and ensure adherence to specified deliverables and compliance terms.	Develop detailed documentation and reporting frameworks to meet grant terms.
Local, State, and Federal Regulations	Address data privacy, cybersecurity, and ethical AI deployment standards as mandated by regulatory bodies.	Comply with state and federal laws, enforce data encryption, and conduct regular compliance audits.
General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)	Protect personal data through privacy safeguards and transparency in data usage.	Anonymize datasets, implement data encryption, and define clear data processing purposes.
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)	Design accessible AI solutions to cater to diverse user needs, ensuring equity in AI-driven public services.	Incorporate features like speech-to-text, text-to-speech, and user-friendly interfaces to ensure accessibility.
Internal Compliance		
Technical Controls	Safeguard AI systems against security breaches, data misuse, and unauthorized access.	Implement encryption, role-based access control (RBAC), and anomaly detection systems.
Administrative Controls	Define clear roles, responsibilities, and governance structures for AI system management.	Assign compliance officers, establish data stewardship roles, and create governance committees.
Policy Controls	Develop policies to ensure ethical, transparent, and fair use of AI technologies.	Create policies for bias mitigation, explainable AI (XAI), data usage, and ethical AI deployment.
Risk Mitigation Frameworks	Establish processes to identify, monitor, and address potential risks in AI deployment and operations.	Conduct regular audits, implement risk tracking systems, and establish incident response plans.
Data Governance	Ensure proper handling, storage, and processing of data to maintain quality and compliance.	Develop data ownership frameworks, enforce data privacy protocols, and implement lifecycle management.
Training and Awareness	Equip employees and stakeholders with knowledge of AI compliance, ethical standards, and best practices.	Conduct workshops, training sessions, and awareness programs for internal teams.

b. Design appropriate AI models, frameworks, or tools for selected use cases.

FedTec adopts a tailored approach to design AI models, frameworks, and tools that address the unique needs of selected use cases. The design process focuses on ensuring high performance, scalability, and compliance with organizational goals and regulatory standards.

FedTec designs AI models, frameworks, and tools to meet the unique needs of each use case, focusing on high performance, scalability, and compliance with organizational goals and regulations.
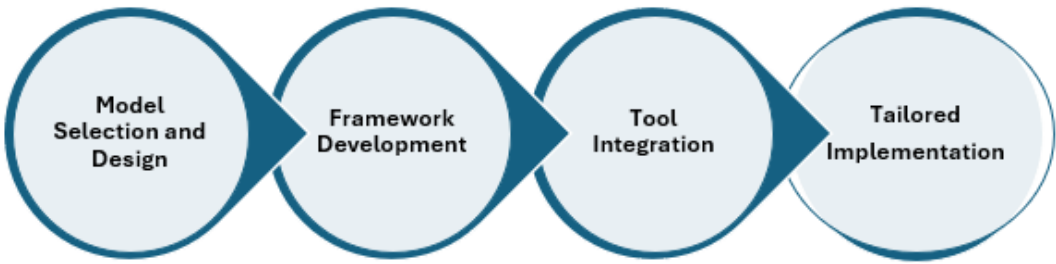
1. **Model Selection and Design**: FedTec utilizes models tailored to specific tasks:
   o **Predictive analytics and anomaly detection**: Supervised and unsupervised models like linear regression and clustering.
   o **Image recognition**: Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs).
   o **Sequential data**: Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs).
   o **Natural Language Processing (NLP)**: BERT and GPT for chatbots and sentiment analysis.
   o **Dynamic scenarios**: Reinforcement learning for tasks like resource optimization.
2. **Framework Development**: Scalable AI frameworks are built using tools like TensorFlow, PyTorch, and Scikit-learn. Apache Spark handles large datasets, and Explainable AI (XAI) ensures transparency in decision-making processes.
3. **Tool Integration**:
   o **Predictive maintenance**: MATLAB and analytics platforms forecast failures.
   o **Cybersecurity**: Tools like Splunk and IBM QRadar provide real-time threat detection.
   o **Citizen engagement**: Chatbots using Google Dialogflow and Microsoft Bot Framework streamline interactions.
4. **Tailored Implementation**: Solutions are customized for complexity, integration, and scalability, ensuring smooth deployment and the ability to adapt to growing data volumes and evolving organizational needs.

c. Provide a comprehensive roadmap, including governance, project timelines, milestones, resource requirements, and key performance indicators (KPIs).

FedTec's roadmap offers a structured approach to implementing AI solutions, ensuring alignment with organizational objectives and regulatory compliance. The roadmap includes governance structures, project timelines, milestones, resource requirements, and key performance indicators (KPIs) to guarantee successful execution.

Governance Structure

➢ **Oversight Committees**: An oversight committee, led by a Project Manager, Compliance Manager, and technical leads, will be established to guide project decisions and ensure alignment with organizational objectives.
➢ **Defined Roles and Responsibilities**: Specific roles, such as data stewards, AI specialists, and implementation leads, will be assigned for accountability and seamless execution.
➢ **Compliance Framework**: Governance policies, supported by regular audits, will ensure ethical AI use, data security, and adherence to local, state, and federal regulations.

Project Timelines and Milestones

Phase	Timeline	Key Activities
Phase 1: Discovery and Planning	Month 1-2	- Conduct needs assessment and feasibility studies. - Review compliance requirements and align objectives with regulations. - Identify high-impact AI use cases and establish project objectives.
Phase 2: Design and Development	Month 3-5	- Develop tailored AI models and frameworks for the identified use cases. - Build data pipelines for seamless data integration and processing. - Perform pilot testing to validate AI functionality and performance.
Phase 3: Deployment and Scaling	Month 6-8	- Implement AI solutions organization-wide, ensuring alignment with operational needs. - Scale systems to additional departments or processes. - Conduct knowledge transfer and training programs for internal teams.
Phase 4: Monitoring and Optimization	Ongoing	- Regularly monitor AI system performance against key performance indicators (KPIs). - Refine models and processes based on evolving requirements and user feedback. - Ensure continuous alignment with compliance and governance frameworks.

***Timeline may vary as per task order received from members**

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Resource Requirements

1. **Personnel Needs**: AI specialists, data engineers, project managers, and compliance officers.
2. **Technical Tools**: AI platforms (e.g., TensorFlow, PyTorch), cloud environments (AWS, Azure), and data management tools (e.g., Apache Spark, BigQuery).
3. **Budget Allocation**: Technology procurement, staff training, and operational scaling costs.
4. **Training Programs**: Tailored workshops for internal teams to ensure smooth adoption of AI technologies.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

✓ **Operational Efficiency**: Reduction in manual workflows and processing times by 30-50%.

✓ **Cost Savings**: Achieve a 20-40% reduction in operational costs via AI-driven automation.

✓ **Citizen Engagement**: Improvement in satisfaction scores due to enhanced engagement and service delivery.

✓ **Model Accuracy**: Attain at least 95% accuracy for AI systems handling classification tasks.

✓ **Compliance Metrics**: Maintain zero regulatory violations and consistent adherence to governance policies.

d. Provide a comprehensive cost analysis for each proposed AI solution, including but not limited to anticipated development costs, cloud/compute costs, required licensing/subscriptions, cloud storage/backup, etc.

FedTec provides a detailed cost analysis for each AI solution, covering all aspects of development, deployment, and ongoing maintenance. This ensures transparency and helps stakeholders understand the financial investment required to achieve the desired outcomes.

Cost Component	Description	Estimated Cost Range
Development Costs	Costs associated with designing, developing, and testing AI models and frameworks.	$100,000 - $250,000 per use case
Cloud/Compute Costs	Expenses for cloud infrastructure (e.g., AWS, Azure, GCP) to support model training and execution.	$10,000 - $30,000/month
Licensing and Subscriptions	Costs for AI development tools (e.g., TensorFlow, PyTorch), APIs, and proprietary software licenses.	$5,000 - $15,000/year per solution
Cloud Storage/Backup	Fees for secure data storage, backups, and disaster recovery solutions.	$1,000 - $5,000/month
Training and Knowledge Transfer	Investment in workshops and training programs to ensure effective adoption by internal teams.	$20,000 - $50,000
Compliance and Governance	Costs for compliance audits, data security measures, and governance framework implementation.	$10,000 - $25,000
Operational and Maintenance Costs	Ongoing support, monitoring, and optimization of AI solutions post-deployment.	$5,000 - $10,000/month

Total Cost Range

- **Initial Implementation Costs**: $150,000 - $350,000 per use case.
- **Ongoing Costs (Annual)**: $50,000 - $100,000 per solution.

e. Ensure AI solutions align with ethical guidelines and public sector regulations, including data privacy laws such as GDPR (if applicable), and customer's internal data loss protection policies.

FedTec prioritizes the alignment of all AI solutions with **ethical guidelines** and **public sector regulations** to ensure secure, fair, and compliant operations. Rigorous testing is conducted to mitigate biases, while Explainable AI (XAI) techniques are implemented to provide transparency in decision-making. Accountability is reinforced through robust logging and reporting mechanisms.

To comply with **data privacy laws** such as **GDPR** (if applicable), FedTec ensures data minimization, explicit user consent, and encryption of sensitive information. Transparency is further supported by adhering to the **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)**, maintaining accessible records for non-sensitive AI operations. Additionally, solutions are designed to meet **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** requirements, providing accessible interfaces for diverse users.

FedTec also aligns AI systems with the customer's **internal data loss protection (DLP) policies**, integrating measures to prevent unauthorized data sharing and breaches. Real-time monitoring and alerts are employed to safeguard sensitive information, complemented by governance frameworks to manage data securely.

To maintain compliance, FedTec conducts regular audits, updates AI systems as regulations evolve, and trains stakeholders on ethical AI use. This approach ensures that AI solutions remain ethical, transparent, and fully aligned with regulatory and organizational standards.

5.2.4 Pilot Testing and Implementation Support

a. Guide the organization through the implementation of pilot AI solutions.

FedTec, with its dedicatedly assigned **Project Manager &AI Lead Consultant**, a team of **450 internal employees**, and the resources of **FedTec Labs**, provides structured support to guide organizations through the implementation of pilot AI solutions. This ensures seamless integration, effective testing, and measurable outcomes aligned with organizational goals.

| Planning and Preparation | Development and Deployment | Training and Knowledge Transfer | Monitoring and Feedback Collection | Post-Pilot Evaluation |

- ➢ **Planning and Preparation:** The **AI Lead Consultant** collaborates with stakeholders to define objectives, allocate necessary resources, and develop a pilot roadmap. This includes establishing timelines, milestones, and key performance indicators (KPIs) to evaluate success.
- ➢ **Development and Deployment:** FedTec's team customizes AI models and frameworks to meet specific use case requirements. Using the resources of **FedTec Labs**, advanced testing and model validation are conducted to ensure compatibility and performance within real-world scenarios. Data integration and quality checks are prioritized for accuracy.
- ➢ **Training and Knowledge Transfer:** Internal teams are equipped through targeted workshops and training sessions led by the **AI Lead Consultant** and subject matter experts. Comprehensive user guides and manuals are provided to ensure operational readiness.
- ➢ **Monitoring and Feedback Collection:** Pilot solutions are monitored in real-time, with performance evaluated against KPIs. Stakeholder feedback is collected to identify areas for improvement, ensuring that the solution meets organizational expectations.
- ➢ **Post-Pilot Evaluation:** FedTec conducts a detailed analysis of the pilot results, refining the AI solution based on findings to enhance performance and scalability. These adjustments prepare the solution for full-scale deployment across the organization.

With its experienced team, innovative **FedTec Labs***, and strategic guidance, FedTec ensures that pilot AI solutions are implemented effectively,*

b. Work with stakeholders to evaluate the pilot projects, troubleshoot issues, and refining solutions as needed.

FedTec's **Project Manager (PM)** and **AI Lead Consultant** work closely with stakeholders to evaluate pilot projects by assessing performance against established **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)**. Through regular reviews, they identify and troubleshoot technical, operational, or integration challenges, leveraging the advanced resources of **FedTec Labs** to address issues promptly and effectively. Stakeholder feedback and performance data are used to refine AI models and frameworks, ensuring scalability, accuracy, and alignment with organizational goals. This collaborative approach ensures pilot projects deliver optimal outcomes and are ready for successful full-scale implementation.

c. Offer post-implementation support for system integration and scaling AI solutions across the organization.

FedTec provides comprehensive post-implementation support to ensure seamless system integration and the successful scaling of AI solutions across the organization. The **Project Manager (PM)** oversees integration efforts, coordinating with internal teams to align AI solutions with existing systems and workflows. The **AI Lead Consultant** ensures scalability by refining models and frameworks to adapt to larger datasets, additional departments, or evolving organizational needs. Leveraging **FedTec Labs**, advanced diagnostics and optimization tools are utilized to enhance performance and reliability. Continuous monitoring, training programs, and responsive technical support are provided to address challenges and sustain system efficiency, enabling the organization to maximize the value of its AI solutions.

5.2.5 Training, Adoption, and Capacity Building

a. Provide training sessions and materials for staff on AI tools and best practices, to ensure effective and efficient use of AI.

FedTec delivers targeted training sessions and materials to equip staff with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively use AI tools and adopt best practices.

- ➢ **Customized Training Programs**: Tailored sessions are developed by the **AI Lead Consultant** to align with organizational needs and use cases, covering the functionality of specific AI tools, model interpretation, and operational workflows.
- ➢ **Interactive Workshops**: Hands-on workshops ensure practical understanding, allowing staff to engage with AI tools in real-time and apply them to day-to-day operations.
- ➢ **Comprehensive Materials**: Training resources, including user manuals, quick-start guides, video tutorials, and FAQs, are provided to support ongoing learning and ease adoption.
- ➢ **Best Practices**: Sessions emphasize ethical AI use, data privacy, and compliance, ensuring staff   operate AI systems responsibly and securely.

b. Facilitate workshops to build internal AI capabilities and foster a culture of innovation.

FedTec organizes interactive workshops to enhance internal AI expertise and promote a culture of innovation. Led by the **Project Manager & AI Lead Consultant**, these workshops focus on developing foundational and advanced AI skills, including understanding workflows, managing data pipelines, and deploying models effectively. By incorporating hands-on exercises and real-world scenarios, participants gain practical knowledge that aligns directly with their roles. The workshops encourage cross-functional collaboration, bringing together diverse teams to brainstorm innovative AI applications and align initiatives with organizational objectives. Additionally, they emphasize long-term capability building, empowering staff to lead future AI projects and embedding innovation as a core competency.

c. Develop a knowledge transfer plan to ensure the organization can maintain and update AI systems independently.

FedTec creates a **comprehensive knowledge transfer plan** to ensure the organization   independently **maintain and update AI systems**. The plan includes **structured training sessions**, led by the **AI Lead Consultant**, to provide in-depth knowledge of **AI tools**, workflows, and system functionalities. To support **long-term self-sufficiency**, detailed **documentation** such as **user manuals**, system **architecture diagrams**, and **troubleshooting guides** is provided. Additionally, **mentorship programs** and **shadowing opportunities** allow internal teams to work closely with FedTec experts, gaining **hands-on experience** in managing and updating AI systems.

5.3 Specifications and Requirements:
5.3.1 Consultant Expertise and Qualifications

a. Demonstrated experience in providing AI consultancy services to government agencies or similar public sector organizations.

b. Proficiency in AI technologies, including machine learning, natural language processing, computer vision, etc.

FedTec demonstrates **proficiency in AI technologies**, leveraging advanced **machine learning** techniques such as **supervised, unsupervised, and reinforcement learning** to develop predictive models for tasks like anomaly detection and trend analysis. Its expertise extends to **natural language processing (NLP)**, enabling the creation of conversational AI tools like chatbots and virtual assistants for improved citizen engagement. Additionally, FedTec excels in **computer vision**, employing deep learning models like **Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs)** for image recognition and infrastructure monitoring. By utilizing state-of-the-art tools such as **TensorFlow**, **PyTorch**, and **AWS SageMaker**, FedTec delivers scalable and innovative solutions tailored to public sector needs.

FedTec's team comprises highly skilled professionals with expertise in diverse **AI technologies** and public sector solutions. The team includes **AI strategists**, **data scientists**, **machine learning engineers**, and **compliance specialists**, each with extensive experience in delivering impactful AI implementations. FedTec's **dedicated project management team**, led by Anand Marthi, ensures seamless communication, resource allocation, and quality control. Supported by AI Lead Consultant Chaudhry Ibrahim, the team collaborates across disciplines to design tailored solutions that are innovative, compliant, and aligned with client objectives. With over **450 internal resources** and access to **FedTec Labs**, the team is equipped to handle projects of any scale while maintaining exceptional service quality.

Extensive AI Experience / Advanced Tools and Solution / Ethics and Compliance / Stakeholder Collaboration
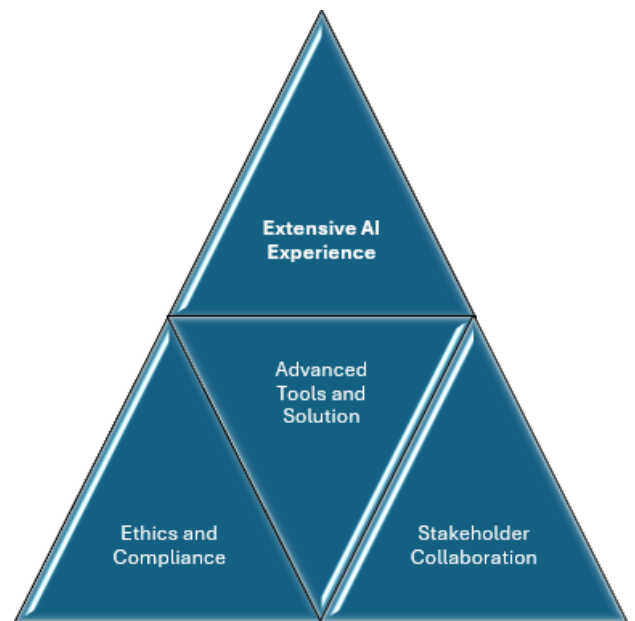
c. Experience with AI ethics, data privacy, and security, particularly in a public sector context.

FedTec has proven expertise in **AI ethics, data privacy, and security**, particularly within the public sector. Working with clients such as **Skytech Consultancy Services**, **New Generation LLC**, **Prudent Technology LLC**, and **NeevSys, Inc**, FedTec ensures compliance with frameworks like **GDPR**, **FOIA**, and **NIST**. The firm integrates **bias mitigation measures** and **Explainable AI (XAI)** techniques, emphasizing fairness, transparency, and data protection in all AI deployments.

For **AmeriCorps**, FedTec implemented **Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG)** capabilities within their **ServiceNow platform**, introducing an AI chatbot that reduced manual ticket submissions by 80% and improved response times by 50%. This solution streamlined operations, enhanced user satisfaction, and ensured efficient resource utilization.

At the **IRS**, FedTec developed an **RPA system** integrated with AI to automate **anomaly detection** in taxpayer data, reducing resolution times by 60%. This solution improved accuracy while maintaining strict privacy and compliance standards, enabling IRS staff to focus on complex cases effectively.

For the **City of Pittsburgh**, FedTec deployed a **RAG model** and AI chatbot to standardize salary structures and improve workforce management. These solutions enhanced salary standardization accuracy by 35% and reduced position identification time by 40%, ensuring equitable pay and operational efficiency while adhering to ethical AI practices.

d. Proven success in developing AI strategies and roadmaps, including successful project implementation.

FedTec has demonstrated **proven success** in developing comprehensive **AI strategies and roadmaps** tailored to public sector needs. The firm employs a structured approach to assess organizational goals, identify impactful use cases, and design phased implementation plans that deliver measurable outcomes. These roadmaps emphasize **governance**, **compliance**, and **scalability**, ensuring alignment with client priorities and regulatory requirements.

For **Skytech Consultancy Services**, FedTec integrated AI-driven features into ERP systems, enhancing decision-making and reducing operational errors by 30%. Similarly, FedTec worked with **New Generation LLC** to develop predictive analytics models for public transportation, improving resource allocation by 25% and boosting passenger satisfaction.

In partnership with **Prudent Technology LLC**, FedTec implemented AI-enabled cybersecurity solutions, deploying real-time threat detection models that reduced breaches by 40%. These projects showcase FedTec's ability to translate strategic roadmaps into impactful, scalable AI implementations, driving efficiency and innovation across public sector operations.

e. Ability to work collaboratively with internal teams and translate technical concepts into layman's terms for non-technical stakeholders.

FedTec excels in **collaborative engagement** with internal teams, ensuring seamless integration of AI solutions into organizational workflows. The firm's approach emphasizes open communication and cross-functional teamwork, guided by experienced professionals who bridge the gap between technical complexities and business goals.

For example, during its work with **Skytech Consultancy Services** and **New Generation LLC**, FedTec conducted workshops and facilitated stakeholder alignment meetings to ensure all parties clearly understood AI strategies and their operational benefits. The team translates **technical concepts** into practical, easily digestible explanations for **non-technical stakeholders**, enabling informed decision-making and fostering trust. Through customized training sessions and interactive demonstrations, FedTec empowers internal teams to adopt and manage AI tools effectively

f. Demonstrated understanding and experience with public sector compliance and ethical standards.
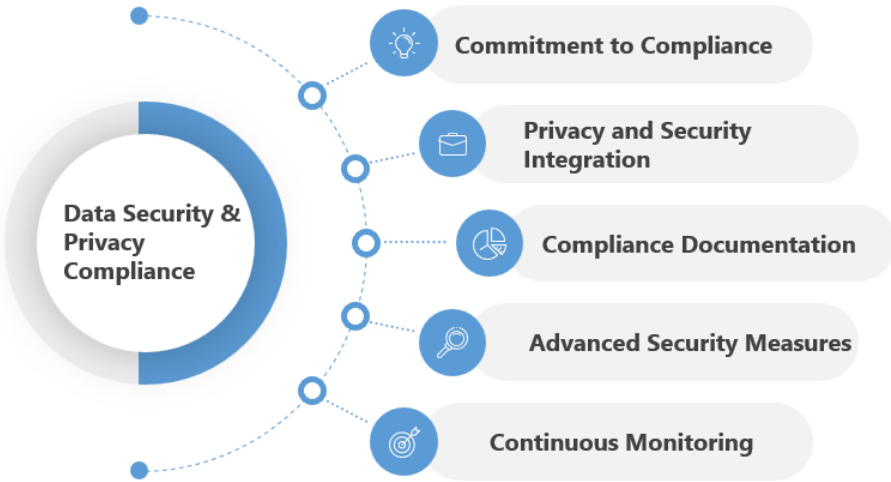
FedTec has extensive experience working with multiple government sector clients, ensuring adherence to public sector compliance and ethical standards. Key engagements include projects with Skytech Consultancy Services, New Generation LLC, Prudent Technology LLC, and NeevSys, Inc, where FedTec successfully implemented AI-driven solutions while maintaining compliance with frameworks such as GDPR, FOIA, and HIPAA.

For AmeriCorps, FedTec developed an AI-enhanced ServiceNow platform, incorporating Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG) capabilities to improve user satisfaction and operational efficiency. At the IRS, FedTec implemented an AI-driven anomaly detection system, ensuring data privacy and accuracy while automating complex processes. Additionally, FedTec supported the City of Pittsburgh with AI solutions to standardize salary structures and optimize workforce management, emphasizing equity and transparency.

5.3.2 Data Security and Privacy Compliance

FedTec is committed to ensuring full compliance with all **federal, state, and local data privacy laws** throughout the implementation of AI solutions. This includes adhering to regulations such as the **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** (where applicable) and equivalent local laws. By integrating compliance into every stage of the AI lifecycle, FedTec ensures that privacy and security remain top priorities.

To validate compliance, FedTec provides detailed **documentation** demonstrating that all AI systems are designed to meet data protection regulations. This includes measures such as **data**

Data Security & Privacy Compliance

- Commitment to Compliance
- Privacy and Security Integration
- Compliance Documentation
- Advanced Security Measures
- Continuous Monitoring

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minimization, **user consent protocols**, and mechanisms to enable transparency and accountability in AI decision-making. Robust **security measures** are implemented to protect sensitive and personal information during data processing. This includes advanced **encryption**, **anonymization**, and **access control protocols** to safeguard data against unauthorized access or breaches. Regular **audits** and **risk assessments** are conducted to ensure ongoing compliance and to address emerging threats.

5.3.3 Project Management and Reporting

FedTec ensures effective project oversight, transparent communication, and thorough documentation through robust **project management and reporting practices**. Utilizing tools like **Microsoft Project**, **JIRA**, and **Confluence**, the **Project Manager (PM)** provides **regular status updates** and attends weekly or bi-weekly meetings with the organization's project management team. These updates include progress tracking, milestone achievements, and solutions to any challenges, ensuring alignment with project objectives.

At the conclusion of the project, FedTec delivers a **detailed final report** summarizing findings, actionable recommendations, implementation outcomes, and lessons learned. Additionally, a comprehensive suite of reports—including **progress reports**, **financial summaries**, and **risk assessments**—is made available to meet the organization's specific requirements.

FedTec is committed to adhering to all **agreed deadlines**, ensuring timely delivery of required documentation and project deliverables. With a proactive **PM** leading the process and leveraging advanced tools, FedTec provides an organized, transparent, and results-driven approach to project management, supporting the organization in achieving its objectives efficiently.

5.3.4 Budget and Cost Estimates

a. Comprehensive Cost Breakdown

FedTec provides a detailed cost breakdown to ensure transparency and alignment with the organization's financial expectations. This includes:

- **Consultancy Fees**: Covers the expertise and services provided by the **AI Lead Consultant**, **Project Manager**, and support teams.
- **Software Licensing Costs**: Expenses related to AI development platforms (e.g., TensorFlow, PyTorch) or proprietary tools, if applicable.
- **Additional Expenses**: Includes anticipated costs for cloud infrastructure, data storage, backup solutions, compliance audits, training sessions, and knowledge transfer activities.

b. Flexible Pricing Structures

FedTec offers flexible pricing models tailored to the project's scope and complexity:

- **Time and Materials**: Best suited for projects with evolving requirements, ensuring cost control and adaptability.
- **Fixed-Price Contracts**: Ideal for clearly defined scopes of work, providing predictable budgeting and no cost overruns.

5.3.5 Data Strategy and Management

a. Data Quality Controls:

FedTec ensures that all AI solutions align with **best practices in data strategy and management**, prioritizing **data quality**, **governance**, **privacy**, and **security**. This approach guarantees that AI models operate on accurate and reliable data while adhering to organizational and regulatory standards.

1. **Integrity and Accuracy Measures:** FedTec implements controls to ensure the integrity and accuracy of data used in AI models. It includes employing **automated tools** and algorithms to monitor data quality and detect discrepancies in real-time.
2. **Data Validation Processes:** Validation protocols are established to identify and correct **inaccuracies** or **inconsistencies** in datasets. These processes include schema checks, outlier detection, and cross-referencing with trusted sources to confirm data reliability before use in AI systems.
3. **Data Enrichment Procedures:** FedTec defines clear procedures to enhance the quality of datasets, including filling gaps with predictive modeling, normalizing formats, and integrating relevant external data sources. This ensures that datasets are optimized for AI training and operational effectiveness.

b. Data Governance Framework:

FedTec establishes a comprehensive **data governance framework** to ensure effective management, transparency, and regulatory compliance for all data used in AI solutions. This framework is designed to address **data ownership**, **usage rights**, and **stewardship roles** while maintaining the highest standards of governance.

1. Governance Strategy and Policies

FedTec outlines a robust governance strategy, which includes:

- **Policies for Data Ownership**: Clearly defining who owns, accesses, and manages the data within the organization.
- **Usage Rights**: Establishing guidelines on how data   be used, shared, and repurposed, ensuring ethical and legal compliance.
- **Data Stewardship Roles**: Assigning responsibilities to data stewards to oversee data quality, governance, and compliance initiatives.

2. Compliance with Public Sector Regulations

To facilitate adherence to public sector regulations, FedTec provides:

- **Governance Documentation**: Detailed policies and procedures that align with regulations like **GDPR**, **FOIA**, and local/state data laws.
- **Audit-Ready Processes**: Implementing systems that support regulatory audits, ensuring accountability and transparency in data handling.

3. Version Control and Data Lineage Tracking

FedTec implements tools and processes to maintain transparency and control in data management, including:

- **Version Control Tools**: Leveraging systems like **Git**, **Apache Subversion (SVN)**, and **Microsoft Azure DevOps** to track changes in datasets, ensuring data consistency and minimizing errors.
- **Data Lineage Tracking Tools**: Utilizing platforms such as **Apache Atlas**, **Collibra**, and **Talend** to map the flow of data from its source to its use in AI models. These tools provide detailed visibility into how data is processed, transformed, and stored.

c. Data Privacy Assurance:

FedTec prioritizes **data privacy assurance** to ensure that all AI solutions comply with **data privacy laws** and protect sensitive information throughout the AI model lifecycle. This approach builds trust and ensures ethical data usage.

1. Adherence to Data Privacy Laws

FedTec ensures full compliance with **GDPR** (if applicable) and relevant **local legislation** by:

- Conducting privacy impact assessments for AI solutions to identify and address potential risks.
- Embedding compliance requirements into AI workflows and operational protocols.
- Aligning all data processes with public sector regulations and organizational policies to maintain transparency and accountability.

2. Methodologies for Anonymizing and Protecting Sensitive Data

FedTec implements robust methodologies to safeguard sensitive information, including:

- **Data Anonymization**: Using techniques such as **masking**, **tokenization**, and **differential privacy** to prevent identification of individuals within datasets.
- **Encryption Protocols**: Employing **AES-256** encryption standards to protect data during storage and transmission.
- **Access Controls**: Utilizing tools like **Microsoft Azure Active Directory** and **Okta** for role-based access, ensuring only authorized personnel   access sensitive data.

3. Protocol for Obtaining and Managing Consent

FedTec creates a comprehensive **data consent protocol**, which includes:

- **Obtaining Consent**: Developing clear and accessible consent forms that outline how data will be used, stored, and protected.
- **Managing Consent**: Using consent management platforms like **OneTrust** or **TrustArc** to track and maintain records of user consent.
- **Auditing and Updating**: Regularly reviewing consent protocols to ensure alignment with evolving privacy regulations.

d. Data Security Protocols:

FedTec establishes comprehensive **data security protocols** to protect sensitive information and ensure robust defenses against potential threats. These protocols encompass advanced security measures, incident response plans, and secure data management practices.

1. Implementation of Data Security Measures

FedTec deploys and recommends industry-standard measures to safeguard data integrity and confidentiality:

- **Encryption**: Adopting protocols such as **AES-256** and **SSL/TLS** for secure data storage and transmission.
- **Access Controls**: Utilizing **role-based access control (RBAC)** through tools like **Microsoft Azure Active Directory** or **Okta** to restrict unauthorized access.
- **Risk Assessment Practices**: Conducting regular **vulnerability scans**, **penetration tests**, and **risk assessments** to proactively identify and address security gaps.

2. Response Plan for Data Breaches

FedTec develops a detailed **data breach response plan** to minimize impact and ensure swift resolution in case of security incidents:

- **Incident Management**: Clearly defined responsibilities for the **consultant team**, including immediate containment, root cause analysis, and system restoration.
- **Notification Procedures**: Ensuring timely reporting to stakeholders, regulatory bodies, and affected individuals as required by laws such as GDPR.
- **Post-Incident Review**: Conducting post-mortem analysis to identify root causes and implement preventive measures.

3. Secure Data Storage and Backup Practices

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To protect against data loss, FedTec adheres to best practices in secure data management:

- **Storage**: Utilizing **cloud storage solutions** like **AWS S3** or **Microsoft Azure Blob Storage**, configured with encryption and redundant storage.
- **Backups**: Implementing automated **incremental backups** and **off-site storage** to ensure data recovery in case of system failures.
- **Access Monitoring**: Logging and monitoring all access to storage systems to detect and respond to unauthorized activities.

e. Ongoing Data Strategy Evaluation:

FedTec ensures a sustainable and adaptable approach to **data strategy** by incorporating periodic evaluations and empowering internal teams to maintain compliance and efficiency over time.

1. Plan for Periodic Evaluation and Updates

FedTec develops a structured plan to regularly evaluate and update the organization's data strategy to adapt to **regulatory changes** and **technological advancements**:

- **Quarterly Reviews**: Conduct assessments to identify gaps or areas for improvement in the current data strategy.
- **Regulatory Tracking**: Monitor changes in **data privacy laws** (e.g., GDPR, local legislation) to ensure continued compliance.
- **Technology Updates**: Integrate advancements in **AI tools**, **encryption technologies**, and **data governance frameworks** to enhance efficiency and security.
- **Stakeholder Reports**: Provide regular reports summarizing evaluation results and recommendations for updates.

2. Training and Workshops for Internal Teams

FedTec offers tailored **training programs** to enable internal teams to manage and uphold the data strategy after the consultation period:

- **Workshops on Data Governance**: Covering topics such as data quality management, privacy regulations, and governance protocols.
- **Hands-On Training**: Practical sessions led by the **AI Lead Consultant** to train teams how to use tools and processes for data monitoring and reporting.
- **Sustainability Focus**: Equip teams with strategies for long-term management, including self-audit techniques and response plans for emerging challenges.

5.3.6 Ethical AI Requirements

a. Ethical Framework Alignment:

FedTec ensures that all AI solutions are developed and deployed in alignment with the organization's **ethical principles**, emphasizing **fairness**, **transparency**, **accountability**, and **bias mitigation**. This commitment fosters trust and ensures responsible AI practices.

1. Aligning with Ethical Guidelines

FedTec ensures AI solutions align with **industry-standard ethical frameworks** like the **OECD AI Principles**, **EU AI Act**, and **AI Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI**, as well as the organization's specific ethical principles.

- **Transparency Tools**: Utilizing **Explainable AI (XAI)** tools such as **IBM AI Explainability 360** and **Google What-If Tool** to make decision-making processes clear and understandable for stakeholders.
- **Accountability Systems**: Implementing governance structures supported by tools like **AuditAI** for automated compliance checks and monitoring.
- **Ethics Dashboards**: Deploying dashboards powered by platforms such as **Power BI** or **Tableau** to track and report AI system performance, transparency metrics, and ethical adherence.

2. Fairness and Inclusiveness in AI Development

FedTec incorporates fairness and inclusiveness into AI development through advanced technical measures:

- **Bias Mitigation Techniques**: Leveraging tools like **Fairlearn** and **AI Fairness 360 (AIF360)** to identify, measure, and reduce bias in models.
- **Inclusive Dataset Design**: Utilizing **Snorkel AI** or **Labelbox** to curate diverse datasets and perform data annotation while addressing demographic imbalances.
- **Continuous Monitoring**: Deploying automated monitoring systems such as **Amazon SageMaker Clarify** to evaluate bias throughout the AI lifecycle.

b. Bias Detection and Mitigation:

FedTec employs advanced **bias detection** and **mitigation techniques** to ensure AI solutions are equitable and inclusive. Through robust methods and state-of-the-art tools, bias is identified, reduced, and continuously monitored throughout the AI lifecycle.

1. Identifying and Reducing Bias in Training Data and Algorithms

FedTec establishes comprehensive methods to detect and minimize bias in datasets and AI models:

- **Bias Auditing Tools**: Tools like **AI Fairness 360 (AIF360)** and **Fairlearn** are used to assess datasets and algorithms for potential biases across protected attributes such as gender, age, and ethnicity.
- **Data Preprocessing Techniques**: Implement methods like **re-sampling**, **re-weighting**, and **synthetic data generation** using tools such as **Snorkel AI** to create balanced and representative datasets.
- **Fair Algorithms**: Implement fairness-aware algorithms, such as **adversarial debiasing** or **regularized loss functions**, to reduce bias during model training.
- **Explainable AI (XAI)**: Tools like **SHAP** and **LIME** are used to analyze model decisions and identify bias in output patterns.

2. Ongoing Monitoring Techniques

FedTec ensures that bias mitigation is a continuous process by implementing automated monitoring systems during AI deployment:

- **Real-Time Bias Tracking**: Utilize tools like **Amazon SageMaker Clarify** and **Google Cloud AI Explanations** to monitor AI outputs in real-time for bias indicators.
- **Post-Deployment Audits**: Schedule periodic audits using platforms such as **AuditAI** to assess model performance and bias metrics.
- **Feedback Loops**: Integrate user feedback mechanisms to identify and address bias from real-world applications of the AI system.
- **Automated Alerts**: Configure anomaly detection systems to flag unexpected disparities in outputs, enabling rapid corrective action.

c. Transparency Protocols:

FedTec prioritizes **transparency** in AI solutions by making models understandable and accessible to relevant stakeholders. By leveraging cutting-edge tools and comprehensive documentation, the organization ensures that decision-making processes are clear and accountable.

1. Understandable AI Models for Stakeholders

FedTec employs advanced techniques and tools to enhance the interpretability of AI models:

- **Explainable AI (XAI)**: Tools like **SHAP (SHapley Additive ExPlanations)**, **LIME (Local Interpretable Model-agnostic Explanations)**, and **Google What-If Tool** are integrated to provide visual and quantitative explanations of how AI decisions are made.
- **Stakeholder Dashboards**: Utilize platforms like **Tableau** and **Power BI** to present model outcomes, key decision metrics, and explanations in an easily interpretable format.
- **Model Decision Summaries**: Develop user-friendly reports summarizing decision logic and outputs tailored for both technical and non-technical stakeholders.

2. Comprehensive Documentation Process

FedTec ensures full transparency by documenting all aspects of the AI system:

- **Data Source Documentation**: Maintain detailed records of data origins, collection methods, and preprocessing steps, using tools like **Apache Atlas** or **Collibra** to track data lineage.
- **Decision Logic Records**: Document the algorithms, decision thresholds, and logic pathways used in the model, ensuring traceability and accountability.
- **Model Output Explanations**: Provide insights into model predictions and outputs, including confidence scores, bias mitigation steps, and fairness assessments.
- **Version Control Systems**: Utilize tools like **Git** or **Microsoft Azure DevOps** to manage model versions and changes, ensuring an audit trail for all updates.

d. Accountability Measures:

FedTec prioritizes **accountability** in AI development and deployment by implementing measures to track actions, decisions, and changes, and by establishing robust auditing mechanisms to ensure compliance with ethical standards. This approach fosters transparency, trust, and continuous improvement.

1. Defining Accountability Measures

FedTec implements clear accountability structures for AI systems to ensure traceability of all actions and decisions:

- **Action and Decision Tracking**: Leveraging tools such as **Git** and **Azure DevOps** for version control to monitor and document changes to models, datasets, and workflows.
- **Audit Trails**: Automated logging of decision-making processes and AI outputs using platforms like **DataRobot** or **Amazon SageMaker Clarify**, enabling full visibility into how and why decisions are made.

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- **Role Assignment**: Establishing clear responsibilities for **AI developers**, **data stewards**, and **compliance officers** to oversee different aspects of AI development and use.

2. Mechanisms for Auditing AI Solutions

FedTec proposes rigorous auditing frameworks to ensure ethical standards are upheld throughout the lifecycle of AI systems:

- **Compliance Audits**: Regular assessments using tools like **AuditAI** and **Collibra** to evaluate adherence to ethical principles, regulatory requirements, and organizational policies.
- **Performance Monitoring**: Continuous tracking of AI models for bias, fairness, and accuracy using platforms such as **Fairlearn** and **AI Fairness 360**.
- **Independent Reviews**: Engaging external auditors or third-party evaluations to ensure impartial assessments of AI compliance.
- **Audit Dashboards**: Providing real-time insights and reporting through dashboards powered by **Power BI** or **Tableau**, ensuring transparency for stakeholders.

e. Impact Assessments:

FedTec incorporates regular **ethical impact assessments** into its AI development and deployment processes to evaluate potential **societal, cultural, and operational impacts**. By leveraging structured frameworks and advanced tools, the organization ensures that findings are addressed proactively and responsibly.

1. Plans for Regular Ethical Impact Assessments

FedTec conducts periodic assessments to evaluate the broader implications of AI systems. Using established frameworks such as the **HLEG Assessment List for Trustworthy AI (ALTAI)** and tools like **Ethics Canvas**, these evaluations focus on metrics such as inclusivity, accessibility, and fairness. The assessments involve input from a diverse range of stakeholders, including end-users, policymakers, and domain experts, to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the AI system's impacts. By defining clear metrics and **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)**, FedTec ensures that all societal, cultural, and operational risks are effectively monitored.

2. Framework for Addressing Findings

To respond to assessment findings, FedTec implements a structured framework designed to take immediate and effective corrective actions. This begins with **root cause analysis**, using tools such as **Tableau** or **Power BI** to visualize and analyze data linked to ethical concerns. Based on these insights, detailed **corrective action plans** are developed to address issues like bias, lack of inclusivity, or unfair outcomes.

The framework incorporates a **continuous improvement loop**, ensuring the effectiveness of corrective measures is monitored over time. Platforms like **Collibra** or **OneTrust** are utilized to track compliance with ethical standards and regulatory requirements, maintaining alignment with best practices. Additionally, feedback mechanisms ensure that the lessons learned from these assessments are integrated into future AI development cycles.
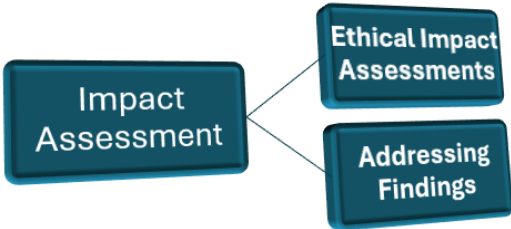
5.4 Deliverables

Deliverables include, but are not limited to, the following:
a. Initial AI Strategy Report.

FedTec delivers a **technical Initial AI Strategy Report** that establishes the foundation for the organization's AI integration. This report will provide a detailed roadmap aligning AI initiatives with the organization's operational goals, technical requirements, and compliance obligations. The report will begin with an **assessment of the current state**, analyzing existing infrastructure, processes, and technologies to identify gaps and opportunities for AI adoption. It will outline **strategic AI goals**, defining measurable objectives to enhance efficiency, decision-making, and stakeholder engagement. The **proposed AI use cases** will be tailored to the

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organization's unique needs, prioritized based on feasibility and potential benefits. Each use case will include technical details such as recommended AI models, required data inputs, and expected outcomes. The report will also present an **implementation roadmap** with clearly defined phases, including timelines, milestones, resource requirements, and pilot project recommendations to validate AI strategies. To ensure compliance, the report will include a robust **ethical and regulatory framework**, detailing adherence to data privacy laws (e.g., GDPR, FOIA) and fairness principles. A **cost analysis** will be provided, including projected expenses for development, licensing, infrastructure, and training, alongside a return on investment (ROI) projection for each AI initiative.

b. Feasibility Study with AI Use Case Recommendations, including a detailed data strategy component.

FedTec will deliver a **Feasibility Study** that provides an in-depth analysis of proposed AI use cases, assessing their technical, operational, and financial viability. This study will include a **detailed data strategy component** to ensure the successful implementation and sustainability of AI solutions.

The **feasibility analysis** will evaluate the potential impact and alignment of AI use cases with organizational goals. Each recommendation will include a detailed assessment of required resources, technical prerequisites, and potential challenges. Metrics such as cost-effectiveness, scalability, and operational efficiency will guide the prioritization of use cases.

The accompanying **data strategy component** will focus on ensuring high-quality, secure, and compliant data management throughout the AI lifecycle. Key elements include:

- **Data Quality Controls**: Techniques for cleansing, validating, and enriching datasets to ensure reliable AI model performance.
- **Data Governance Framework**: Policies for data ownership, access, and compliance, leveraging tools like **Apache Atlas** or **Collibra** for tracking lineage and ensuring regulatory adherence.
- **Data Integration Strategy**: Recommendations for integrating organizational data with AI systems, addressing challenges related to legacy systems, silos, and cross-departmental workflows.
- **Scalability Considerations**: Ensuring the data infrastructure   support growing volumes and diverse sources, with the use of cloud platforms like **AWS** or **Microsoft Azure**.

c. 5-Year AI Roadmap alongside a detailed AI Implementation Plan.

FedTec's **5-Year AI Roadmap** and **Implementation Plan** offer a structured approach to sustainable AI development and deployment. The roadmap begins with foundational phases, including assessments and pilot projects, to establish a robust AI framework. Subsequent phases prioritize scaling solutions across departments, incorporating advanced technologies like **predictive analytics**, **NLP**, and **machine learning**, tailored to organizational goals.

Governance frameworks ensure compliance with **ethical standards**, **data privacy laws**, and **regulatory mandates** such as **GDPR**. Key milestones and **KPIs** (e.g., operational efficiency, cost savings, and citizen engagement metrics) are defined to measure success. The implementation plan provides timelines, resource allocations, and training schedules, empowering internal teams to manage AI systems independently. Continuous monitoring, performance optimization, and integration of emerging technologies ensure scalability and alignment with future innovations, positioning the organization at the forefront of AI-driven transformation.

d. Pilot Implementation Plan.

FedTec's **Pilot Implementation Plan** would be designed using a team of experts with *extensive experience in government and public sector projects, ensuring compliance, efficiency, and technical excellence*. The plan includes customized AI solutions tailored to specific use cases, integrating advanced technologies like **predictive analytics**, **NLP**, and **machine learning frameworks** such as TensorFlow and PyTorch. Data is securely managed with tools like **AWS SageMaker** and **Azure AI Services**, employing robust encryption and governance platforms such as **OneTrust** and **Collibra**. Real-time monitoring with **CloudWatch** and **Explainable AI (XAI)** tools ensures transparency and performance tracking. The pilot outcomes are evaluated for scalability, with knowledge transfer sessions empowering internal teams to independently operate and expand AI systems, aligning with long-term organizational goals.

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e. Staff training Sessions and Knowledge Transfer Plan and Materials.

FedTec delivers **staff training sessions** and a **knowledge transfer plan** to ensure effective AI adoption and compliance. Training programs focus on **data privacy laws** (e.g., GDPR, FOIA) and internal governance standards, equipping teams with practical skills using tools like **TensorFlow** and **AWS SageMaker**. Workshops address ethics, transparency, and bias mitigation with tools such as **Fairlearn** and **AI Fairness 360**.

The **knowledge transfer plan** includes detailed documentation, mentorship, and compliance tools like **Collibra** and **OneTrust**. Post-deployment support ensures teams independently manage and scale AI systems while adhering to regulatory requirements, fostering long-term operational success.

f. Detailed documentation on ethical AI guidelines and measures incorporated.

FedTec provides **detailed documentation** outlining the **ethical AI guidelines** and measures integrated into its solutions, ensuring compliance with industry standards and organizational principles. The documentation includes frameworks like the **OECD AI Principles** and **AI Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI**, detailing their application in system design and deployment.

It highlights measures for **fairness**, such as bias detection using tools like **Fairlearn** and **AI Fairness 360**, and **transparency**, achieved through **Explainable AI (XAI)** tools like SHAP and LIME. Accountability measures, including action tracking and version control with platforms like **MLflow** and **Git**, are thoroughly explained. This documentation serves as a reference for ensuring all AI systems align with ethical standards, fostering trust and transparency in their operations.

g. Final Project Report, including project evaluation, outcomes, and recommendations for further AI integration.

FedTec will deliver a **Final Project Report** that provides a comprehensive overview of the project's execution, evaluation, and outcomes, along with actionable recommendations for future AI integration. The report will detail the **project's objectives**, the methodologies employed, and the results achieved, including key metrics such as operational improvements, cost savings, and stakeholder satisfaction. The evaluation section will assess the performance of deployed AI solutions, including their alignment with organizational goals and compliance with **data privacy** and **ethical AI standards**. Tools like **Power BI** and **Tableau** will be used to visualize project outcomes. The report will also offer strategic recommendations for expanding AI applications, incorporating scalability considerations, emerging technologies, and feedback from stakeholders, ensuring the organization is equipped to sustain and enhance its AI initiatives.

APPENDIX A.1
Pricing for TXShare Cooperative Purchase Program Participants

	FedTec, LLC		
	RFP No. 2025-023		
	Artificial Intelligence (AI) Consultancy Services		
Item	**Description**		**Price**
1	AI Strategy Lead	$	148.96
2	Project Manager	$	147.80
3	Program Manager	$	148.19
4	Ethics and Compliance Manager	$	111.72
5	Public Sector Liaison	$	104.27
6	Change Management Specialist	$	119.17
7	Business Analyst	$	134.06
8	Machine Learning Engineer	$	145.23
9	Data Scientist	$	171.30
10	Natural Language Processing (NLP) Specialist	$	163.85
11	AI Architect	$	167.58
12	AI Research Scientist	$	156.41
13	Computer Vision Specialist	$	134.06
14	Deep Learning Engineer	$	148.96
15	Generative AI Specialist	$	186.20
16	Data Engineer	$	134.06
17	Cloud Integration Specialist	$	134.06
18	AI Model Trainer	$	111.72
19	Data Governance Specialist	$	119.17
20	Data Analyst	$	107.99
21	Big Data Engineer	$	141.51
22	ETL Developer	$	119.17
23	Data Quality Analyst	$	104.27
24	Database Administrator	$	111.72
25	Cybersecurity Specialist	$	141.84
26	AI Ethics Specialist	$	119.17
27	Risk Management Analyst	$	104.27
28	Regulatory Compliance Analyst	$	111.72
29	Security Operations Analyst	$	104.27
30	UI/UX Designer	$	104.27
31	AI Product Manager	$	148.96
32	Conversational AI Designer (Chatbot Specialist)	$	111.72
33	Accessibility Specialist	$	96.82
34	Training and Knowledge Transfer Specialist	$	89.38
35	Technical Writer	$	74.48
36	Performance Metrics Analyst	$	96.82
37	Incident Response Manager	$	111.72
38	Service Desk Analyst	$	74.48
Contractors shall provide additional related servcies at catalog price less:			None

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Exhibit 1

EXHIBIT 1: SERVICE DESIGNATION AREAS

Texas Service Area Designation or Identification			
Proposing Firm Name:			
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	
	✓	☐	
	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 1 continued on next page)

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(Exhibit 1 continued)

	Nationwide Service Area Designation or Identification Form		
Proposing Firm Name:			
Notes:	**Indicate in the appropriate box whether you are proposing to provide service to all Fifty (50) States.**		
	Will service all fifty (50) states ✓	Will not service fifty (50) states ☐	
	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. **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.**		

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		
44.	Utah		
45.	Vermont		
46.	Virginia		
47.	Washington		
48.	West Virginia		
49.	Wisconsin		
50.	Wyoming		

End of Exhibit 1

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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

    Parminder Kaur
Name of Authorized Person

    FedTec, LLC
Name of Company

5/13/2025
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.
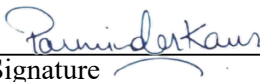
Subcontractors are also required to file with NCTCOG a disclosure form, set forth in Appendix B.2, if the subcontractor or its employees have made or have agreed to make any payment using nonappropriated funds (to include profits from any federal action), which would be prohibited if paid for with appropriated 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

Director
Title

FedTec, LLC
Agency

5/13/2025
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.

Parminder Kaur
Signature of Authorized Person

Parminder Kaur
Name of Authorized Person

FedTec, LLC
Name of Company

5/13/2025
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.

Parminder Kaur
Signature of Authorized Person

Parminder Kaur
Name of Authorized Person

FedTec, LLC
Name of Company

5/13/2025
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.

Parminder Kaur

Signature of Authorized Person

Parminder Kaur
_____

Name of Authorized Person

FedTec, LLC
_____

Name of Company

5/13/2025
_____

Date

APPENDIX E
DEBARMENT CERTIFICATION

_____Parminder Kaur_____being duly
(Name of certifying official)
sworn or under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States, certifies that neither

_____FedTec, LLC_____, 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:

_N/A_____

_____

_____

_____
Signature of Certifying Official
_____Director_____
Title
_____5/13/2025_____
Date of Certification
Form 1734
Rev.10-91
TPFS