The University of Virginia (University or UVA) invites highly qualified architectural consulting firms to submit a letter of interest and associated supporting materials for consideration in the selection of a consultant team to provide academic/space planning, programming, campus planning, architectural, and engineering design services for the construction of the University of Virginia’s Data Science Facility, in accordance with the provisions of the University of Virginia Higher Education Capital Outlay Manual (HECOM).

**Purpose and Program Background:**

The Data Science Institute (DSI) at the University of Virginia has been active in research and offering graduate degrees in data science since 2014. The DSI is now building on that success and poised to transition into a more comprehensive School of Data Science, becoming the 12th school established at the University. Maintaining the [values](https://datascience.virginia.edu/about/approach) that define the DSI, the school will increase opportunities for data science education and world-class research. The DSI prepared [a document](https://datascience.virginia.edu/pages/vision-future) that sets up a vision for the future in preparation for submission to the UVA Faculty Senate for approval. A generous gift will support both the founding of the new school and the construction of an approximately 60,000 square foot facility, which will become the hub of the data science program. While teaching and research will occur in numerous locations across the University grounds, the facility will serve as the forum for these cross-disciplinary initiatives to intersect, to cross-pollinate, and to engage with the outside world. The facility will also house the administrative functions of the School, six or more classrooms of varying sizes, and faculty workspaces. Central to this work will be the University’s essential values of ethical, inclusive, and socially beneficial development of knowledge. The proposed building should not only accommodate the program elements, but also create an environmentally and financially sustainable physical setting that enhances, inspires, and makes visible the many facets of this unique interdisciplinary program. The consultant team should include significant expertise in academic/space planning and urban/ campus planning.

**Project Drivers:**

The proposed elevation of the existing Data Science Institute into an independent School will place new demands on the physical infrastructure of the program. A key driver of the project will be the need for a central gathering place to foster collaboration, the exchange of ideas across disciplines, and encounters with external partners, including the local community. A need for innovative and flexible academic space including classrooms, student study areas, faculty offices, research space, and generous amounts of public, interactive space that stimulates creativity will also drive the project.

**Criteria in Support of the Strategic Plan:**

This project supports the University’s Strategic Plan by creating new avenues for pan-university research, expanding its global presence, and promoting interdisciplinary faculty hiring. It also demonstrates the potential of strategically aligning University priorities with philanthropy and external support.

**Project Status:**

A gift recently received by the University will support the construction of the Data Science Facility. The University’s Board of Visitors approved the Concept Site and Design Guidelines for this project at its June 2019 meeting. The University anticipates that planning, programming, and design will begin in October 2019 and proceed without interruption. The remaining phases of procurement and construction should also proceed without significant delay.

**Project Site:**

The proposed site for the new Data Science Facility is near the corner of Emmet Street and Ivy Road, identified as Parcel 1A on the approved Ivy Corridor Landscape Framework Plan. The founding principles of the proposed School of Data Science align directly with the “Discovery” nexus identified by the Emmet Ivy Task Force, making the Ivy Corridor an appropriate site for the future building. The proposed location is an important and highly visible site in the newly redeveloped corridor with the building facing a green park space at the Emmet/ Ivy intersection.

**Qualifications:**

The firm selected will be a strong designer, with a demonstrated ability to bring ideas, expertise, and imagination to a building project. In addition to architectural excellence, they and their team will provide strong leadership in visioning, planning, and programming; in site planning; and in all needed engineering and technical disciplines. The unique nature of this project, and most likely of the selected site as well, will offer the opportunity to demonstrate a 21st-century approach to recognizing, yet extending and renewing the character and culture of a historic university.

The Data Science building does not conform to an established building type and must offer the flexibility of evolving with the emerging avenues of data analysis. The selected design firm will need to be a partner in the envisioning of this project, and bring expertise in programming and planning academic units, new kinds of scholarship, education, and community engagement. The designer must be able to bring insight into every scale of design, from building detail to urban and regional context.

Expertise in facilitating leaders and stakeholders around a new enterprise will be crucial; the designer will need to balance tact, understanding, and listening skills with strong initiative, design leadership, and focus.

As always, the ability to document and manage the process to deliver a project on an aggressive schedule and within budgets is essential. The University expects experience in obtaining LEED certification and the ability to comply with HECOM procedures.

A Dumont Janks led team has already developed a comprehensive Landscape Framework Plan and the UVA Building and Grounds Committee has approved that plan. In order to ensure consistency with that framework, the selected design firm and their building-related sub consultants will need to partner with that team which includes: Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Biohabitats, and Oehme van Sweden. UVA’s intention is that team will provide the civil, landscape, and traffic consulting for this project.

**Selection Process Schedule:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * RFQ Advertised…………
 | June 16, 2019 |
| * Response Deadline……..
 | August 1, 2019 by 4:00 pm\*\* |
| * Short List Notified……….
 | August 29, 2019 |
| * RFPs Issued …………....
 | August 30, 2019 |
| * Pre-Proposal Site Visit…..
 | September 17, 2019 |
| * Proposal Deadline……….
 | September 30, 2019 by 4:00 pm\*\* |
| * Interviews………………..
 | October 15, 2019 |

***\*\* Late submissions will not be accepted for any reason.***

**Submittal Requirements and Process:**

Where possible, all materials submitted should be fully recyclable. Submissions must be collated, three-hole-punched, on standard 8.5 x 11 letter-sized paper, and be clipped together **without** staples or binding. Double-sided printing is strongly encouraged. Interested firms must submit **fourteen (14) hard copies** **and one (1) digital copy** of each of the following. The digital copy should be one pdf file of the entire submission contained on a thumb drive:

1. Letter of Interest addressed to the Screening Committee, which is no longer than two (2) pages in length, and which states specifically the firm’s successful experience in planning and designing very similar facilities in campus and/or other similar settings.
2. Statement of Qualifications using the Office of the Architect for the University (OAU) standard form which can be obtained from the OAU website at:

<http://www.officearchitect.virginia.edu>

or at the following link:

 <http://www.officearchitect.virginia.edu/pdfs/soqform.pdf>

The email address provided should be for the person who will receive information regarding this RFQ, no general firm or marketing emails please.

1. Standard forms AE-1 through AE-6 which are available at:

<http://dgs.state.va.us/tabid/820/Default.aspx?udt_1673_param_detail=159>..

Select “Forms” from the drop-down box labeled “I’m Looking For” and then enter “AE” in the Filter box.

If proposal is a joint venture or association or two or more firms, forms AE-1 through AE-6 are required for each firm, with the proposed division of A/E services clearly indicated by firm and by individual staff members.

1. Sub-consultants can be listed on the AE-1 or an AE-2 may be submitted for them, but no other AE forms should be submitted for sub-consultants at this time.
2. Current references and current contact information for each project (five-project minimum) featured in AE forms above. Include contact information for an owner’s representative, a user client, and a construction manager for each project.

Submittals will be evaluated based on the demonstrated significant experience of the firm and its proposed personnel with similar facilities and projects within an academic setting; the ability to meet specific project objectives, e.g., budget, schedule, quality, etc.; successful experience with HECOM; experience in design with CM/ Subcontractor participation; experience with completion of sequential trade packages for construction; and other criteria as the Screening Committee may determine. Subsequently, the short-listed firms will receive a detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) and the University will invite them to present a more detailed response and make an oral presentation.

The above submission materials must be received according to the schedule above at the following address:

University of Virginia

Facilities Planning & Construction, Office of Contract Administration

Attention:  Bruce Jackson

 One Morton Drive, Suite 301

Charlottesville, VA 22903-6806

Questions: 434-924-6387or brj2n@virginia.edu

Please do not contact the Project Manager or others at the University regarding this Project. All questions and correspondence regarding this procurement should be made through Bruce Jackson in the Office of Contract Administration.

A copy of this Request for Qualifications is available on the Facilities Planning & Construction, Office of Contract Administration website at:

<https://www.fm.virginia.edu/depts/fpc/contractadmin/advertisements.html>

The University will require the successful firm to be licensed to do business in Virginia and able to demonstrate professional registration.

**eVA Business to Government Vendor Registration:**

The eVA Internet electronic procurement solution, web site portal [www.eva.state.va.us](http://www.eva.state.va.us), is the Commonwealth of Virginia’s comprehensive electronic procurement system. The portal is the gateway for firms to conduct business with state agencies and public bodies. The State expects all agencies and public bodies to use eVA. All firms desiring to provide goods and/or services in the Commonwealth are encouraged to participate in the eVA Internet e-procurement solution. Selected firm(s) is required to register in the eVA Internet e-procurement solution prior to the University making an award.

Firm’s past and proposed use of Small, Women and Minority-Owned (SWaM) firms will be considered in the evaluation of proposals. SWaM firms must be registered with and certified by the Department of Small Business & Supplier Diversity (SBSD) in Richmond. Assistance is available for registration. Quarterly reporting of expenditures to SWaM consulting firms or suppliers used in this contract will be required for the selected firms.