The University of Virginia (University or UVA) invites highly qualified architectural consulting firms to submit a Letter of Interest/ Statement of Qualifications and associated supporting materials for consideration in the selection of a team to provide program verification, architectural design, and engineering services for the construction of the University’s School of Data Science (SDS) Entrepreneurship Building, in accordance with the latest version of the UVA Higher Education Capital Outlay Manual (HECOM).

**Purpose &** **Background:**

The proposed University of Virginia School of Data Science Entrepreneurship Building is envisioned to create a new interdisciplinary computational research environment within a state-of-the-art facility. This building’s program is intended to foster collaboration between UVA’s School of Data Science (SDS) and faculty from across the University, creating a vibrant trans-disciplinary research environment. By pairing advanced interdisciplinary research spaces with UVA Innovates, the hub of the University’s entrepreneurship initiative, the SDS Entrepreneurship Building aims to ensure that the research conducted within its walls has a pathway to implementation. This bi-directional relationship allows for seeding and creating new research and ventures. This integration will connect researchers with commercialization resources, making it easier to translate research into products, services, and technologies that can make a tangible difference in the world. It will also serve as a “front door” to the University’s wider entrepreneurial ecosystem and a first stop to connect faculty, students, alumni, investors, and community members to resources.

The building is planned to be five (5) levels at roughly 11,200 square feet each, with a mechanical basement and penthouse. It is an integrated program intended to break down silos between disciplines and practitioners, and instead group researchers and entrepreneurs with access to resources for inspiration and support. Level 1 is the main public floor and contains the Entrepreneurship program as well as instructional space and communal and/or lab spaces. Levels 2, 4, and 5 are the computational research floors for both SDS and Interdisciplinary Research teams while Level 3 is designated as instructional space with access to classrooms and seminar spaces for growing data science academic programs. Class attendees can use the SDS Atrium as access to and from the classrooms at the SDS Entrepreneurship Building.

The SDS Entrepreneurship Building will also feature a variety of specialized laboratory settings designed to enhance the research process across multiple disciplines. These could include immersive audio-visual environments and hands-on laboratory environments to enable researchers to engage with data in new and interactive ways, allowing for deeper insights and creative problem-solving. These settings will be flexible enough to adapt to a changing research environment and serve a wide range of projects, ensuring that researchers have the tools they need to bring their ideas to life.

Sustainability is also a core principle of the SDS Entrepreneurship Building. In alignment with UVA’s environmental goals as part of the Emmet Ivy Corridor precinct, the facility will feature energy-efficient systems, renewable energy sources, and sustainable building materials. This commitment to sustainability ensures that the SDS Entrepreneurship Building serves as both a cutting-edge academic resource and a model of responsible development.

**Project Drivers:**

At its core, the SDS Entrepreneurship Building represents growth in data science programs, interdisciplinary data-driven research, and entrepreneurship across Grounds. As the SDS team and student base continue to grow substantially in the coming years, the anticipated need for growth in instructional space, faculty offices, and research lab space must be met. This includes a full floor of instructional space, and substantial interdisciplinary lab space to accommodate faculty, research personnel, and graduate student growth. The adjacency to the current SDS building and connection with entrepreneurship and broader research endeavors makes this location ideal for the collaboration and growth of both SDS and Entrepreneurship. Similarly, this project gives a home and life to the various entrepreneurial activities happening across Grounds and provides a front door for those looking for opportunities to translate research into products and ideas.

**Criteria in Support of Strategic Plan:**

This Project supports the University’s 2030 Strategic Plan (<https://strategicplan.virginia.edu/>) by representing UVA’s commitment to the future of research – creating a dynamic space where researchers from all career stages can collaborate, innovate, and turn their discoveries into real-world impact.

**Project Status:**

A detailed project program has been completed and will be made available during the Request for Proposal (RFP) stage of this process. This Request for Qualifications follows the Board of Visitors June 2025 approval of the SDS Entrepreneurship Building Project.

**Project Site:**

The SDS Entrepreneurship Building at UVA will be situated on Site 1B of the Emmet Ivy Corridor, adjacent to the existing School of Data Science (SDS) building.

**Qualifications:**

The selected firm will have a proven record of design excellence, with a demonstrated ability to bring ideas, expertise, and imagination to a complex building project. The design team must demonstrate considerable experience in the planning, designing, documenting, and construction administration of projects of comparable scale and complexity in a higher education setting. Experience in obtaining LEED certification and familiarity with HECOM will be required.

**Selection Process Schedule:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * RFQ Advertised………… | June 9, 2025 |
| * Response Deadline……. | July 2, 2025 by 2:00 pm\*\* |
| * Shortlist Notified………. | July 10, 2025 |
| * RFPs Issued ………….... | July 11, 2025 |
| * Preproposal Site Visit…. | TBD |
| * Proposal Deadline………. | August 13, 2025, 2025, by 2:00 pm\*\* |
| * Interviews………………... | August 27, 2025 |

***\*\* The University will not accept late submissions for any reason.***

**Submittal Requirements & Process:**

Submitted material shall be an unlocked electronic format only submission. Interested firms may send **one (1)** thumb drive containing their submittal in PDF format, OR an email containing the electronic submittal if file size permits OR send a link to a file storage system. The digital copy should be **one PDF file of the entire submission**. The submittal is to include the following:

1. Letter of Interest addressed to the Selection Committee that 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 Contract Administration Services (OCAS) standard form which the firm can obtain from the OCAS website at:

<https://www.fm.virginia.edu/docs/fpc/contractadmin/SOQ-form.pdf>.

The email address provided on the AE-2 form should be for the person who will receive information regarding this RFQ, no general firm or marketing emails please.

1. Representative images of the projects listed under “Recent Project Experience” in the Statement of Qualifications.
2. Standard forms AE-1 through AE-6 which are available at:

<https://dgs.virginia.gov/globalassets/business-units/bcom/documents/forms/dgs-30-004_03-19_ae_data_forms.xlsx>

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

1. The subconsultants must be listed on the AE-1, and may also submit an AE-2, Consultant/ Other office data, AE-3, Project Staffing and Organization, AE-4 Personnel Qualifications, and AE-5, Representative Project Data. AE-6, Supplemental Information, may be submitted but is not required.
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); 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 Selection Committee may determine. Subsequently, the shortlisted 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 University must receive the above submission materials according to the schedule above at the following address:

University of Virginia

Capital Construction & Renovations, Office of Contract Administration Services

Attention:  Bruce Jackson

1571 Pratt Drive, Facilities Management Shop #2

Charlottesville, VA 22904

**Mailing address:**

**P.O. Box 400735**

**Charlottesville, VA 22904-4735**

**Questions: 434-924-6387or** [**brj2n@virginia.edu**](mailto:brj2n@virginia.edu)

Please do not contact the Project Manager or others at the University regarding this Project. Firms should submit all questions and correspondence regarding this procurement through Bruce Jackson in the Office of Contract Administration Services.

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

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

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

**eVA Business to Government Vendor Registration:**

The eVA Internet electronic procurement solution, website portal <https://www.eva.virginia.gov/>, 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. The State encourages all firms desiring to provide goods and/or services in the Commonwealth to participate in eVA. The University requires selected firms to register in eVA prior to the University making an award.

The University will consider the firm’s history and proposed participation by “SWaM” firms in the evaluation of proposals including Minority-Owned (M), Women-Owned (W), Micro (O), Service-Disabled Veteran (SDV), Small Business (S), Employment Service Organization (ESO), (8a), Economically Disadvantaged Woman Owned Small Business (EDWOSB), and Federal Service-Disabled Veteran (FSDV) Businesses. SWaM firms must be registered with and certified by the Department of Small Business & Supplier Diversity (SBSD) in Richmond. Assistance is available for registration. The University requires quarterly reporting of expenditures to SWaM consulting firms or suppliers used in this contract by the selected firms.