

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

US Tech Solutions, Inc. ("Contractor")
10 Exchange Place, Suite #1710
Jersey City, NJ 07302

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.

**ARTICLE III
TERM**

3.1 This Agreement will commence on the Effective Date and remain in effect for an initial term ending on May 31, 2027 (the "**Term**"), unless earlier terminated as provided herein. This Agreement will automatically be renewed, unless NCTCOG explicitly desires otherwise, for up to three (3) additional one (1) year terms through May 31, 2030.

3.2 **Termination.** NCTCOG and/or Participating Entities may terminate this Agreement and/or any Purchase Order to which it is a signatory at any time, with or without cause, upon thirty (30) days' prior written notice to Contractor. Upon its receipt of notice of termination of this Agreement or Purchase Order, Contractor shall follow any instructions of NCTCOG respecting work stoppage. Contractor shall cooperate with NCTCOG and/or Participating Entities to provide for an orderly conclusion of the Services. Contractor shall use its best efforts to minimize the amount of any non-cancelable obligations and shall assign any contracts related thereto to NCTCOG or Participating Entity at its request. If NCTCOG or Participating Entity elects to continue any activities underlying a terminated Purchase Order after termination, Contractor shall cooperate with NCTCOG or Participating Entity to provide for an orderly transfer of Contractor's responsibilities with respect to such Purchase Order to NCTCOG or Participating Entity. Upon the effective date of any such termination, the Contractor shall submit a final invoice for payment in accordance with Article IV, and NCTCOG or Participating Entity shall pay such amounts as are due to Contractor through the effective date of termination. NCTCOG or Participating Entity shall only be liable for payment of services rendered before the effective date of termination. If Agreement is terminated, certain reporting requirements identified in this Agreement shall survive termination of this Agreement.

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

ARTICLE IV COMPENSATION

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

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

ARTICLE V SERVICE FEE

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

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

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

ARTICLE VI RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PARTIES

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

ARTICLE VII REPRESENTATION AND WARRANTIES

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

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

**ARTICLE VIII
CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION AND OWNERSHIP**

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

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

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

**ARTICLE IX
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

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

If to NCTCOG:	North Central Texas Council of Governments P.O. Box 5888 Arlington, TX 76005-5888 Attn: Purchasing Agent Phone Number: 817-704-5674 elittrell@nctcog.org
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If to Contractor: **US Tech Solutions, Inc.**
Attn: Aamir Bakshi
PO Box 265
Jersey City, NJ 07303
Phone: 551-222-0404
Email: govt@ustechsolutions.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9.5.2 Commercial General Liability:

9.5.2.1 Required Limits:

\$1,000,000 per occurrence;

\$3,000,000 Annual Aggregate

9.5.2.2 Commercial General Liability policy shall include:

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

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

**ARTICLE X
ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

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

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

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

10.11 **Civil Rights Compliance**

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

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

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

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

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

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

10.12 **Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program Requirements**

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

10.13 **Pertinent Non-Discrimination Authorities**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10.15 House Bill 89 Certification

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

10.16 Certification Regarding Disclosure of Conflict of Interest.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10.17 Certification of Fair Business Practices

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

10.18 Certification of Good Standing Texas Corporate Franchise Tax Certification

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

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

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

10.20 Discrimination Against Firearms Entities or Firearms Trade Associations

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

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.

TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

COMPANY PROFILE

Founded in the year 2000, USTECH is a leader in **Digital Consulting & Enterprise Software Services**.

USTECH is a **Minority-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE)**, certified by the **National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC)**, **New York State**, and the **Canadian Aboriginal and Minority Supplier Council (CAMSC Certified)**. Through our commitment to workforce diversity, USTECH has been recognized as a **Top U.S. Firm by Diversity Business and Supplier of Excellence** by our many **Fortunes 500®** clients.

USTECH has achieved **ISO 9000:2004** (Management Systems) and **ISO:14001** (Environmental Standards) certifications, **ISO: 27001** (Information Security), as well as **CMMI Level III** status. We have also achieved multiple “green” certifications and been recognized for sustainability.

KEY CERTIFICATIONS



USTECH OVERVIEW

24+ Years of industry experience with 98% client retention rate	16500+ Employees & Contractors working for various projects globally	40+ Offices in US, Canada, UK, Europe, Argentina, Mexico, Australia and India	24/7 Integrated talent, technology and digital services in a 24x7 delivery model	350+ Customers across various industry verticals
Marquee Clients				
Key Certifications				
Technology Partnerships				

3 SOLUTION OVERVIEW & APPROACH METHODOLOGY

3.1 AI Readiness Assessment

- **Evaluation of Current Systems:** Conduct a thorough analysis and evaluation of existing business processes, data systems, data quality, data governance, and current analytics infrastructure etc.
- **Talent Assessment:** Analyze whether the existing IT team possesses the necessary AI skills, identify & document the gaps.
- **Infrastructure Audit:** Assess the scalability, computing power, and integration capabilities of current infrastructure.
- **Readiness Report:** Provide a comprehensive readiness report identifying gaps, opportunities, and recommendations.

3.2 Feasibility Study & Use Case Identification

3.2.1 AI Use Cases Identification

- **Conduct Stakeholder Workshops:** Organize sessions with key project & business stakeholders, administrators, policymakers, and IT staff to identify pain points and brainstorm potential AI solutions.
- **Analyse Feasibility:** Assess whether identified use cases align with available resources, organizational goals, and technical capabilities.
 - Feasibility Criteria: Data availability, technical expertise, scalability, and cost implications.
- **Value Assessment:** Estimate the value of each use case in terms of cost savings, outcomes, operational efficiency, or policy impact.

3.2.2 Compliance Requirements (external & internal)

- **Regulatory Compliance:** Ensure the following key regulatory and compliance requirements are analysed during the assessment phase, additional to the following federal government specific AI compliance requirements, we will also be analysing and recommending the respective state government specific AI compliance requirements to ensure the to-be developed application takes care of the end-to-end regulatory requirements.

Data Privacy & Security Regulations:

- **Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA):** Requires federal agencies to develop, document, and implement an information security program to protect sensitive government information.
- **Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA):** If the AI application deals with healthcare data, compliance with HIPAA for protecting personal health information is essential.
- **National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework:** Provides a risk-based framework to manage cybersecurity risks, often adopted by federal agencies.
- **Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA):** Relevant if the AI system interacts with children under 13 years of age.
- **Privacy Act of 1974:** Governs the collection, maintenance, and use of personal information by federal agencies.

Data Access and Sharing:

- **Federal Data Strategy:** Guides the ethical and secure use of federal data, ensuring that AI applications align with government-wide data use principles.
- **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA):** AI applications must comply with public access requirements while protecting sensitive or exempt information.

AI-Specific Ethical Standards:

- **AI Risk Management Framework (NIST AI RMF):** Aims to manage risks associated with AI systems, emphasizing trustworthiness, fairness, and accountability.
- **Executive Order 13960 (Promoting the Use of Trustworthy AI in the Federal Government):** Establishes principles for ethical AI use in federal agencies, including transparency, accountability, and fairness.
- **Algorithmic Accountability Act:** Requires government entities to assess the impact of AI systems on privacy, fairness, and bias.

Bias, Discrimination, and Civil Rights:

- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):** Requires AI systems used in public or employment settings to be accessible to individuals with disabilities.
- **Civil Rights Act of 1964:** Prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, relevant for AI applications impacting hiring, benefits, or services.
- **Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA):** Ensures AI systems in financial or credit services do not discriminate against protected groups.

Procurement and Federal Standards:

- **Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR):** Outlines requirements for procuring AI systems, emphasizing value, security, and compliance with federal law.
- **Buy American Act:** Requires AI hardware/software procurement to favor American-made products where possible.

Industry Standards and Best Practices:

- **ISO/IEC Standards:** Standards such as ISO/IEC 27001 for information security management and ISO/IEC 24028 for AI risk management.
- **IEEE Standards on AI:** IEEE P7000 series focuses on ethical and transparent design of autonomous systems.

Emerging Technologies and AI Governance:

- **National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA):** Includes provisions for the ethical use and development of AI in national security applications.
- **AI in Government Act of 2020:** Supports the adoption of AI in federal agencies, ensuring transparency, efficiency, and accountability.

3.3 Responsible AI Policy Development

- Implement model explainability tools to clarify how AI decisions are made, especially for high-stakes scenarios.
- Provide stakeholders with clear documentation on AI processes, ensuring transparency in decision-making.
- Define policies for continuous monitoring and auditing of AI systems to ensure responsible use.
- Use diverse and representative datasets to improve AI model fairness across different demographics.
- Conduct bias audits during model development to detect and mitigate discriminatory patterns.
- Develop guidelines for minimizing biases in data analytics, ensuring diverse and fair AI outcomes
- Develop a governance structure for AI system oversight, including a review board and regular audits.

3.4 Pilot AI Use case Implementation Support

3.4.1 AI Infrastructure Analysis & Recommendations

- **Cloud vs On-Premises:** We will assess NTCGOG’s specific government entity needs to determine whether cloud-based solutions (e.g., AWS, Azure, GCP) or On-Premises infrastructure are more appropriate. Cloud may provide more scalability, while On-Premise can offer greater control over sensitive data.

Criteria	Cloud Infrastructure	On-Premises Infrastructure
Cost	- Pro: Low initial investment, pay-as-you-go model.	- Pro: Fixed one-time costs.
	- Con: Recurring costs can grow with scale and usage.	- Con: High upfront investment in hardware, software, and maintenance.
Scalability	- Pro: Highly scalable, can scale up or down on demand instantly.	- Con: Limited scalability, constrained by on-premise hardware.
Deployment Time	- Pro: Rapid deployment, no need to set up physical infrastructure.	- Con: Slower deployment, requires time to set up and configure hardware.
Security	- Pro: Major cloud providers offer advanced security features.	- Pro: Complete control over security, with custom configurations.
	- Con: Security depends on third-party providers and shared environments.	- Con: Requires dedicated teams for security management.
Compliance	- Pro: Compliant with many global standards, though may vary by provider.	- Pro: Easier to ensure compliance with local data protection laws.
		- Con: Requires rigorous audits and compliance checks.
Performance	- Pro: High performance for global reach, optimal with multi-region support.	- Pro: Low latency for local data processing.
		- Con: May face performance issues if hardware is not upgraded.
Data Control	- Con: Limited control over where data is stored and processed.	- Pro: Full control over data, storage, and processing location.

Maintenance	- Pro: Managed services, no hardware maintenance required by the user.	- Con: Requires in-house teams to manage and maintain hardware, software, and updates.
Customization	- Con: Limited customization options based on the cloud provider’s offerings.	- Pro: Complete flexibility to customize infrastructure based on needs.
AI Hardware Requirements	- Pro: Access to cutting-edge AI hardware like GPUs, TPUs, with minimal investment.	- Con: Requires purchase and installation of AI-specific hardware, which can be expensive and time-consuming.
Integration with Existing Systems	- Pro: Seamless integration with many SaaS services.	- Con: Integration can be more complex with existing legacy systems and custom configurations.
Business Continuity	- Pro: Built-in disaster recovery, failover, and backups managed by cloud provider.	- Con: Requires dedicated disaster recovery infrastructure and backups.

- **Scalable AI Infrastructure:** When implementing a scalable AI infrastructure for large AI use cases, especially in domains like government sector that involve vast amounts of data, it’s crucial to design systems that can efficiently manage large datasets, high computational workloads, and ensure smooth integration. Here's a technical breakdown we will be considering during the assessment phase.
- **High-Performance Computing (HPC) Infrastructure:** Utilize HPC clusters with parallel processing capabilities to handle massive datasets, particularly for tasks like image processing, genomics analysis, and predictive data analytics.
 - **Multi-node architecture:** Use distributed computing across multiple nodes to parallelize AI tasks.
 - **Job scheduling:** Implement a scheduler like **Slurm** or **Kubernetes** to manage workloads effectively across the HPC environment.
 - **Interconnects:** Deploy **InfiniBand** or **high-speed Ethernet** for low-latency communication between nodes.

GPU-Enabled Servers for AI Workloads: Leverage GPUs for deep learning and other AI algorithms that require intensive computations. AI frameworks like TensorFlow, PyTorch, and Keras are optimized for GPU acceleration.

- **Technical Recommendations:**
 - **NVIDIA GPUs (A100, V100):** Specialized for AI workloads with **CUDA cores** and **Tensor cores** to accelerate matrix calculations. The A100 for example, delivers high throughput for both training and inference tasks.
 - **TPUs (Tensor Processing Units):** For specialized AI tasks (mainly deep learning), **Google TPUs** provide excellent performance.

- **PCIe-based accelerators:** Ensure the server supports PCIe 4.0 or later for optimal GPU integration and data transfer speeds.
- **Scalability Architecture:** Instead of relying on a few powerful servers, design the infrastructure to scale horizontally. This involves adding more servers as needed, which is critical for large AI models or vast amounts of healthcare data. We will consider using containerization with **Docker** and orchestration tools like **Kubernetes** to manage and scale workloads dynamically.
- **Data Pipeline for Large Volumes of Data:**
 - Data Ingestion:
 - We recommend using tools like **Apache Kafka / RabbitMQ** for real-time data ingestion.
 - For batch processing, we recommend using **Apache Hadoop / Apache Spark clusters**, which support large-scale data transformations.
- **Storage Solutions:**
 - **Distributed Storage:** Using services like **Amazon S3, Google Cloud Storage, Ceph** for scalable object storage can handle petabytes of structured and unstructured data for AI related applications.
 - **Database Systems:** Using NoSQL databases such as **MongoDB / Cassandra** is recommended for handling semi-structured data.

3.4.2 Sample AI Use case Recommendations



Industry - Government

Title	Use Case	Benefits	ROI	Market Size	Real-Life Example	Key Stats
Document Generation and Automation	Automate the generation of government reports, policy drafts, and legal documents.	Reduces time spent on repetitive tasks, ensures consistency, and increases productivity.	Significant reduction in administrative costs; faster policy-making processes.	The global AI market in the public sector is expected to reach \$6.3 billion by 2025.	Dubai’s government uses AI to automate document verification and customer service.	AI could save governments up to \$41 billion annually in productivity gains.
Citizen Engagement Chatbots	Deploy AI-driven chatbots for 24/7 citizen query handling and information dissemination.	Enhances public service efficiency, reduces response times, and improves citizen satisfaction.	Decreased operational costs, improved public trust, and higher citizen engagement.	Chatbot market size for government expected to grow by \$526.4 million by 2027.	Estonia uses AI chatbots to assist citizens in various public services.	
Predictive Analytics for Public Safety	AI models predict crime hotspots or disaster-prone areas.	Proactive public safety measures, optimized resource allocation, and improved response times.	Reduction in crime rates, decreased emergency response costs.	Public safety analytics is anticipated to grow at a CAGR of 16.5% from 2021 to 2028.	The U.S. police departments use predictive analytics to prevent crimes.	



Industry - Education

Title	Use Case	Benefits	ROI	Market Size	Real-Life Example	Key Stats
AI-Powered Tutoring Systems	Personalized learning experiences for students through AI tutors.	Addresses individual learning gaps, enhances engagement, and improves academic performance.	Higher student retention rates, improved learning outcomes, and reduced teacher workload.	The AI in education market is expected to grow from \$1.1 billion in 2019 to \$25.7 billion by 2025.	Carnegie Learning uses AI to tailor educational content for students.	Schools using AI saw a 30% increase in student engagement and a 20% improvement in test scores.
Content Generation and Curriculum Design	AI generates learning materials, quizzes, and even entire curricula tailored to various learning levels.	Speeds up content creation, ensures material relevance, and supports diverse learning styles.	Cost savings on curriculum development, increased accessibility to learning resources.	AI content generation tools are a growing segment in the edtech market.	Squirrel AI uses AI to develop personalized educational materials for Chinese students.	
Administrative Process Automation	Automate student enrollment, grading, and administrative documentation.	Streamlines operations, reduces human error, and allows educators to focus on teaching.	Lower administrative costs, enhanced operational efficiency.	The automation in education sector is seeing increased investments and adoption.	The University of Murcia in Spain uses AI to automate administrative processes.	



Industry - Healthcare

Use Case	Benefits	ROI	Market Size	Real-Life Example	Key Stats
Genomic Data Analysis	AI analyzes genomic data to identify disease markers.	Identifies genetic predispositions, enables personalized medicine, reduces diagnostic complexity.	Faster analysis reduces costs and accelerates research timelines.	Genomics market integrating AI is growing substantially.	23andMe uses AI to analyze genetic data for health insights.
Clinical Trial Optimization	AI optimizes patient recruitment and trial design.	Faster patient recruitment, higher trial success rates, reduced costs.	10-20% increase in trial success rates, reduced time-to-market for drugs.	AI in clinical trials market expected to grow as adoption increases.	Deep 6 AI uses AI for clinical trial recruitment.
Bioprocess Optimization	AI optimizes production processes in biomanufacturing.	Higher yield, reduced waste, lower production costs.	15-25% reduction in production costs, increased production efficiency.	Bioprocessing market sees increased adoption of AI solutions.	Amgen uses AI to optimize biomanufacturing processes.
Genomic Data Analysis	AI analyzes genomic data to identify disease markers.	Identifies genetic predispositions, enables personalized medicine, reduces diagnostic complexity.	Faster analysis reduces costs and accelerates research timelines.	Genomics market integrating AI is growing substantially.	23andMe uses AI to analyze genetic data for health insights.

3.4.3 AI Application Frameworks & Tool Recommendations

- **Machine Learning & Deep Learning Frameworks:**
 - **TensorFlow:** Optimized for both CPU and GPU workloads.
 - **PyTorch:** Highly popular for research and production-ready deployment.
 - **Horovod:** A framework to speed up distributed training of deep learning models.
 - **Apache MXNet:** Suitable for large-scale AI systems.
- **Big Data Tools for AI:**
 - **Apache Spark MLlib:** For machine learning tasks on large datasets.
 - **Dask:** A parallel computing library that scales Python AI applications across clusters.
- **AI Application Performance Monitoring & Management Tools:**
 - **Prometheus and Grafana:** For system monitoring and creating real-time dashboards.
 - **ELK Stack (Elasticsearch, Logstash, Kibana):** For centralized logging and monitoring.
 - **NVIDIA Nsight:** For GPU performance monitoring.

3.4.4 Security tools for AI applications

- **Data Encryption Tools:**
 - **VeraCrypt:** Provides full-disk encryption to protect sensitive data used in AI training and operations.
 - **KMS (Key Management Services):** AWS KMS, Azure Key Vault, or Google Cloud KMS for secure encryption key management in cloud-based AI applications.
 - **OpenSSL:** An open-source toolkit for securing communications and encrypting data.
- **Identity and Access Management (IAM) Tools:**
 - **Okta:** Manages identity and access for enterprise users interacting with AI systems.
 - **Microsoft Azure Active Directory (Azure AD):** Provides role-based access control (RBAC) to secure access to AI platforms and datasets.

- **Ping Identity:** Ensures secure single sign-on (SSO) and multi-factor authentication (MFA) for AI applications.
 - **Secured Data Collaboration Tools:**
 - **Databricks:** A secure, collaborative AI and ML platform with built-in security controls like encryption and access control.
 - **Snowflake:** Ensures secure data sharing and analysis across enterprises using encryption and fine-grained access controls.
 - **DevOps Tools for AI Applications:**
 - **HashiCorp Vault:** Manages secrets and sensitive data like API keys and tokens for AI models.
 - **SonarQube:** Scans AI application code for vulnerabilities and ensures secure coding practices.
 - **Snyk:** Detects and fixes vulnerabilities in open-source dependencies used in AI frameworks.

4 TENTATIVE PROJECT TIMELINE

Phase	Activities	Duration
Phase 1: Initial Discovery & Assessment	Conduct workshops with stakeholders to assess current processes.	2 Weeks
	Identify department specific AI integration opportunities, Business case analysis & ROI creation.	
	Analyze organizational data maturity and establish baseline.	
Phase 2: AI Strategy Documentation	Develop a comprehensive data strategy and governance framework.	2 Weeks
	Define AI roadmap with timelines, milestones, and deliverables.	
	AI Strategy Report documentation	
Phase 3: Pilot AI Use case Implementation Plan	Create pilot AI use case implementation plan for high impact areas (e.g. public safety optimization, Citizen E-Services, Predictive infrastructure maintenance etc.)	4 Weeks
	Recommend AI tools/frameworks for specific challenges.	
	5 Year AI Roadmap plan documentation	
Phase 4: Training & Knowledge Transfer	Conduct AI training workshops for key client stakeholders	4 Weeks
	Deliver training on AI tools, data management, and compliance protocols, ethical AI guidelines.	
	Final project report documentation on outcomes & future AI recommendations.	

***Note:** The timeline mentioned above is indicative for reference purpose, actual timeline may vary during actual project execution depending on the client stakeholder’s availability & sign-offs.

7 PRICING

7.1 Fixed Price Model

S.No.	Description	Cost
1	AI Consultancy Services (Duration – 3 Months)	168,240/- USD

Terms & Conditions:

- The above indicating fixed price model is assuming the consulting engagement will be completed within a duration of 3 months.
- In case there is an increase in project timeline due to delays in client stakeholder’s availability, delay in reviews of deliverables and sign-offs, the subsequent month’s efforts will be charged extra on actuals in T & M model.
- Hybrid approach considered with a mix of on-site and offshore resources with skillsets including Project Manager, AI Technical Architect, Business Analyst, AI Data Specialist & AI Security Specialist.
- Invoices will be raised as per the payment terms indicated in below table. Payment due date is NET30 days from the invoice raised date.

Payment Terms:

S.No.	Milestone	Payment %	Deliverable
1	Project Kick-off (Advance payment upon project kickoff date)	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project kick-off presentation
2	Interim milestone 1 (at the end of 1 st month from project kick-off date)	25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initial AI Strategy Report. ▪ Feasibility Study with AI Use Case Recommendations, including a detailed data strategy component.
3	Interim milestone 2 (at the end of 2 nd month from project kick-off date)	25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5-Year AI Roadmap alongside a detailed AI Implementation Plan. ▪ Pilot Implementation Plan.
4	Project Sign-off (at the end of 3 rd month from project kick-off date)	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff training Sessions, Knowledge Transfer Plan & Materials. ▪ Detailed documentation on ethical AI guidelines and measures incorporated. ▪ Final Project Report, including project evaluation, outcomes, and recommendations for further AI integration.

T&M rate card for both onshore and offshore resources

Job Roles	Experience Range	Bill Rates	
		US (Onsite)	India (Offshore)
Project Manager	12+ Years	\$125.00	\$45.00
AI Technical Architect	12+ Years	\$155.00	\$53.00
Business Analyst	8+ Years	\$116.00	\$37.00
AI Data Specialist	10+ Years	\$124.00	\$38.00
AI Security Specialist	10+ Years	\$147.00	\$44.00

Service Area Designation Forms

EXHIBIT 1: SERVICE DESIGNATION AREAS

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

(Exhibit 1 continued on next page)

(Exhibit 1 continued)

Nationwide Service Area Designation or Identification Form							
Proposing Firm Name:	US Tech Solutions, Inc.						
Notes:	<p>Indicate in the appropriate box whether you are proposing to provide service to all Fifty (50) States.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Will service all fifty (50) states</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Will not service fifty (50) states</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> <p>If you are not proposing to service to all fifty (50) states, then designate on the form below the states that you will provide service to. By designating a state or states, you are certifying that you are willing and able to provide the proposed goods and services in those states.</p> <p>If you are only proposing to service a specific region, metropolitan statistical area (MSA), or City in a State, then indicate as such in the appropriate column box.</p>			Will service all fifty (50) states	Will not service fifty (50) states	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will service all fifty (50) states	Will not service fifty (50) states						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Item	State	Region/MSA/City (write "ALL" if proposing to service entire state)	Designated as a Service Area				
1.	Alabama	ALL					
2.	Alaska	ALL					
3.	Arizona	ALL					
4.	Arkansas	ALL					
5.	California	ALL					
6.	Colorado	ALL					
7.	Connecticut	ALL					
8.	Delaware	ALL					
9.	Florida	ALL					
10.	Georgia	ALL					
11.	Hawaii	ALL					
12.	Idaho	ALL					
13.	Illinois	ALL					
14.	Indiana	ALL					
15.	Iowa	ALL					
16.	Kansas	ALL					
17.	Kentucky	ALL					
18.	Louisiana	ALL					
19.	Maine	ALL					
20.	Maryland	ALL					

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

End of Exhibit 1

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

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.

**APPENDIX D
PROHIBITED TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SERVICES OR
EQUIPMENT CERTIFICATION**

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

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

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

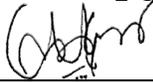
The entity identified below, through its authorized representative, hereby certifies that no funds under this Contract will be obligated or expended to procure or obtain telecommunication or video surveillance services or equipment or systems that use covered telecommunications equipment or services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

Check one of the following:

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

-OR-

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



Signature of Authorized Person

Aamir Bakshi

Name of Authorized Person

US Tech Solutions, Inc

Name of Company

5/23/2025

Date

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST FIREARMS ENTITIES OR FIREARMS TRADE ASSOCIATIONS

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

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

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

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

Check one of the following:

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

-OR-

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



Signature of Authorized Person

Aamir Bakshi

Name of Authorized Person

US Tech Solutions, Inc

Name of Company

5/23/2025

Date

BOYCOTTING OF CERTAIN ENERGY COMPANIES

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

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

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

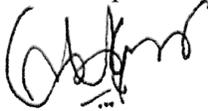
The entity identified below, through its authorized representative, hereby certifies that they do not boycott energy companies, and that they will not boycott energy companies during the term of the contract as prohibited by Chapter 809, Subtitle A, Title 8 of the Texas Local Government Code.

Check one of the following:

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

-OR-

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



Signature of Authorized Person

Aamir Bakshi

Name of Authorized Person

US Tech Solutions, Inc

Name of Company

5/23/2025

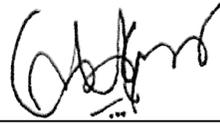
Date

**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

VP - Sales
Title

US Tech Solutions, Inc
Agency

5/23/2025
Date

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

Aamir Bakshi

Name of Authorized Person

US Tech Solutions, Inc

Name of Company

5/23/2025

Date

**APPENDIX E
DEBARMENT CERTIFICATION**

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

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

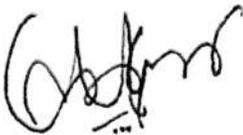
- debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment,
- declared ineligible,
- or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any federal department or agency

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

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

EXCEPTIONS:

N/A



Signature of Certifying Official

Title VP - Sales

Date of Certification 5/27/2025

Form 1734
Rev.10-91
TPFS



M L Vanetti
05/27/2025