



Request for Proposals

2019 – PRIFB – 01 PRIFB & EDA Robotic Manufacturing Project

The purpose of this solicitation (RFP) is to obtain competitive offers from qualified contractors (Bidders) to acquire robotic and automated sewing machinery to Puerto Rico Industries for the Blind, Corp. (PRIFB) for the Robotic Manufacturing Project located at 2010 Jaime Rodriguez St., Guanajibo Industrial Park, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico 00682.

Bid Due: Not later than JANUARY 20, 2020 at 10:00 am ET, in the Procurement Office of Puerto Rico Industries for the Blind, Corp. located at 2010 Jaime Rodriguez St., Guanajibo Industrial Park, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico 00682, at which time they will be publicly open.

Puerto Rico Industries for the Blind, Corp. reserves the right to reject any bids not in compliance with all prescribed public bidding procedures and to reject for good cause any or all bids that are not in the best interests of Puerto Rico Industries for the Blind, Corp.

PRIFB will invite, and provide samples to the following potential suppliers:

Supplier	Address	Email
Kiko Sewing Machine Inc	10823 Bell Ct. Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730	mike@KikoSewing.com
Atlanta Attachment Company	362 Industrial Park Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30046, USA	sales@atlatt.com
Becker Automated Products, LLC	4385 Julien Newstead Road Hopkinsville, Kentucky, USA 42240	Dbecker@beckerautomated.com
Henderson Sewing Machine Co.	1 Waits Drive Industrial Park Andalusia, Alabama 36421 USA	mario@hendersonsewing.com

Also, this solicitation is advertised on the PRIFB webpage, www.prifb.com/edarp

Schedule

RFP Posted	December 18, 2019
RFP send by email to potential suppliers	December 20, 2019
Proposal Due 10:00 AM	January 20, 2020
Selection Committee Review Complete	January 23, 2020

*This schedule is tentative subject to change.

About PRIFB

Puerto Rico Industries for the Blind (PRIFB), is a resilient non-profit 501 (c)(3) apparel-manufacturing corporation that caters to the defense industry and have specialized capabilities for providing training and employment to persons with severe disabilities.

These employment opportunities are possible through opportunities to manufacture military uniforms for the United States Department of Defense that are obtained as part of the AbilityOne Program (www.abilityone.gov). The AbilityOne Program uses the purchasing power of the federal government to buy products and services from participating, community-based nonprofit agencies nationwide, dedicated to training and employing individuals who are blind or have significant disabilities.

The PRIFB Team has extensive expertise in sewing heavy knits, flat-seam products, standard broad-cloths, as well as unique materials. We have helped design and improve the manufacturability of apparel for the US Army, and we have provided research-and-development (R&D) support that resulted in improved durability, functionality and capability of several Army clothing products. The leadership team collectively has over 120 years of experience supporting the Department of Defense (DoD) in this industry, managing the production of well over two million combat uniforms and other items, including chemical protective suits, Improved Combat Vehicle Crewmen's Coveralls (ICVC), and field packs.

About EDA

The mission of the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting competitiveness and preparing the nation's regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. An agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce, EDA makes investments in economically distressed communities in order to create jobs for U.S. workers, promote American innovation, and accelerate long-term sustainable economic growth.

Section I Project Scope

PRIFB's objective is to work with Economic Development Agency to acquire the automated technology to promote the development of a resilient workforce that can better shift between jobs, operations and related roles as customer requirements change, minimizing the shock caused by a product change or sudden termination of a manufacturing contract.

The funds obtained through EDA would contribute towards the following objectives:

- Acquiring robotic & automated machinery
- Developing workforce automation process – specialized to each employee needs
- Training staff on newly acquired equipment
- Acquiring non-robotic equipment (sewing machinery)

According to the Occupational Information Network (O*NET), developed by the U.S. Department of Labor and the Employment and Training Administration, the training period for Sewing Machines Operator is 3 to 6 months.

The automated machinery to be acquired not only reduces errors and waste, increases speed and efficiency, but also facilitates the employment of people with severe disabilities (PWSD) and other unemployed trainable persons. In the case of the PWSD, the use of automated equipment, as well as robotics, can be considered as a reasonable accommodation. However, it will strengthen the operation of a local nonprofit that potentially and could create at least dozens of jobs for PWSD. The job opportunities will be open for all, with systems adaptation to ensure the equipment could be operated by people with severe disabilities.

The robotics machinery to be acquired will also shorten the supply chain for our customers, including the federal government and Department of Defense, and provide them with the best value.

Project deliverables:

1. The proposed automations must satisfy the following production needs:

Operation	Machinery	Stitch Type	Automation Description
Face & Close Back Pocket	Single Needle Lock Stitch	301	Automation capable to set facing and close pocket.
Face Front Pocket	Single Needle Lock Stitch	301	Automation capable to set one facing and then realign and set the second facing.
Set Seat Patch	Single Needle Lock Stitch	301	Automation capable to fold and set seat patch, must set two row of stitches.
Knee Reinforcement	Single Needle Lock Stitch	301	Automation capable to fold and set knee reinforcement, must set two row of stitches.
Set Velcro Breast Pocket Flap	Single Needle Lock Stitch	301	Automation capable to set Velcro. (300 x 200)
Set Velcro Breast Pocket.	Single Needle Lock Stitch	301	Automation capable to set Velcro. (300 x 200)
Set Velcro in Front Panel.	Single Needle Lock Stitch	301	Automation capable to set Velcro. (300 x 200)
Fold and close hip pocket flap.	Single Needle Lock Stitch	301	Automation capable to fold and close hip pocket flap.
Top Stitch hip pocket Flap	Single Needle Lock Stitch.	301	Automation capable to top stitch hip pocket flap.

Operation	Machinery	Stitch Type	Automation Description
Fold and close lower pocket flap.	Single Needle Lock Stitch	301	Automation capable to fold and close lower pocket flap.
Top stitch lower pocket flap.	Single Needle Lock Stitch	301	Automation capable to top stitch lower pocket flap.
Auto Serge Panel Station	Serge	504	Automation capable to overedge front & back panels.

Considering that these machines could be operated by people with severe disabilities, automation should have the flexibility that the controls that activate it can be on the workstation to be activated using the hands or on the floor to be activated using the feet.

2. The bidder, or the bidders, who are selected must conduct an on-site training to the trainers, of not less than 40 hours, on the use of the machinery, as well as troubleshooting.

Section II Bid Requirements

- Proposals must complete the *Bid Schedule*, they must include, saved on a thumb drive, photos, videos and / or diagrams of the proposed automation solution.
- Proposal must specify the machine head brand to be used on each automation solution.
- Proposal must specify payment terms (Example: % with the Purchase Order; % at installation, etc.)
- Prices must include machine head, automation solution, training, transportation & installation cost (if applicable).
- Proposal must be submitted (one original, one copy and one thumb drive with digital copies, photos or videos), by mail or hand – delivered no later than January 20, 2020 at 10:00 AM ET.

Section III General Information

This solicitation is issued pursuant to Puerto Rico Industries for the Blind, Corp. under the Economic Development Agency Project 01-79-14900. The term “PRIFB” throughout this solicitation means Puerto Rico Industries for the Blind, Corp., and the term “Bidder”, “Proposer” or “Respondent” means the Person or Firm that submits an offer in response to this Solicitation.

1. **Solicitation Review:**

Bidders must carefully review this document and are responsible for knowing and understanding the terms and conditions included in or applicable to this solicitation.

2. **Offer:**

A submission in response to this solicitation is the Bidder's Offer to enter into a Contract. By signing and returning the Offer, the Bidder acknowledges he/she has read, understands and agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions contained in this document. The Offer is a "Firm Offer," and must be held open by the Bidder for PRIFB's acceptance for a minimum of sixty (60) days. PRIFB's Award of a Contract constitutes acceptance of the Offer and binds the Bidder to the contract. The Bidder must not make an Offer contingent upon the PRIFB's acceptance of any terms or conditions (including Specifications, Photos and / or Videos) other than those contained in this solicitation.

3. **Offer Preparation:**

Failure to submit Offers in accordance with the provisions of this document shall be grounds to declare the Offer as non-Responsive. Bidders must:

- a. Submit all completed forms as listed under Bid Requirements within this solicitation.
- b. Initial any corrections or erasures to their Offer.
- c. Provide (on the Proposers/Bidders Certification Form) certification of nondiscrimination.
- d. Provide (on the Proposers/Bidders Certification Form) written acknowledgement of the receipt of all addenda.
- e. All bids shall be written in English, legibly written or if typed, single-spaced with font size not smaller than 10 point.
- f. Adhere to a page limit of no more than 25 pages not including the required forms as listed under Bid Requirements.

6. **Proposal Submission:**

To ensure proper identification and handling, Proposals shall be submitted as follows: hand-delivered or mailed to Liz Vargas, Procurement Office, PRIFB 2010 Jaime Rodriguez St. Guanajibo Industrial Park Mayaguez, P.R. 00682, with the Bid title, Bid number, and the name and address of the bidder not later than the stated deadline.

The PRIFB is not responsible for Proposals submitted in any manner, format or to any delivery point other than as required.

Bidders are solely responsible for ensuring that the PRIFB receives their Proposals at the required delivery point prior to closing.

7. **Addenda:**

PRIFB may change this solicitation by written addenda. All addenda shall be issued not later than 72 (seventy-two) hours prior to the bid closing. Bidders shall provide written acknowledgement of receipt of any Addenda on the provided

Bidders are responsible to make inquiry as to any Addenda issued. At its discretion, PRIFB may extend the closing to allow bidders time to analyze and adjust to changes.

8. **Modification or Withdrawal:**

A bidder may modify or withdraw its Proposal in writing only prior to closing. Any modifications or withdrawals must be marked and delivered as described above under *Proposal Submission*. A bidder may also deliver its modification or withdrawal in person. Bidders are responsible for ensuring that PRIFB receives its modification or withdrawal. Modifications or withdrawal must be prepared and submitted on the Bidder's letterhead, signed by an authorized representative of the Bidder.

- a. **Modifications:** Each modification shall state that the modification amends and supersedes the prior offer.
- b. **Withdrawals:** The Bidder may withdraw its proposal in person prior to the closing, upon presentation of appropriate identification and evidence of authority satisfactory to PRIFB. PRIFB shall void any date and time stamp mark.

9. **Receipt, Opening, and Recording of Proposals:**

The PRIFB shall mark the time and date on each Proposal and any modification upon receipt at the PRIFB's Procurement Office located at 2010 Jaime Rodriguez St. Guanajibo Industrial Park Mayaguez, Puerto Rico 00682. PRIFB shall not be responsible for the premature opening or failure to open any Proposal that is not properly addressed and/or identified.

10. **Late Proposals, Withdrawals, or Modifications:**

Any Proposal received after the closing is late. A Proposer's request for withdrawal or modification of a Proposal received after closing is late. PRIFB shall not consider late Offers, withdrawals or modifications except as permitted in *Mistakes by Proposer* below. PRIFB reserves the right to consider Proposals that have been delayed or mishandled by PRIFB.

11. **Mistakes by Proposer:**

PRIFB shall carefully consider whether to permit waiver, correction or withdrawal of Proposals for certain mistakes. PRIFB must not allow a Proposer to correct or withdraw an Offer for an error in judgment. PRIFB must reject any Proposal in which a mistake is evident on the face of the Proposal. If certain mistakes in a Proposal are discovered after Opening, but before Award of the Contract, PRIFB may take the following action:

- a. PRIFB may waive, or permit a Proposer to correct, a minor informality; a matter of form rather than substance that is evident on the face of the Proposal, or an insignificant mistake that can be waived or corrected without prejudice to other

Proposers.

- b. PRIFB may correct a clerical error if the error is evident on the face of the Proposal, or other documents submitted with the Proposal, and the Proposer confirms PRIFB's correction in writing. A clerical error is a Proposer's error in transcribing its Proposal.
- c. PRIFB may permit a Proposer to withdraw a Proposal based on one or more clerical errors in the Proposal.

12. **Offer Evaluation and Award:**

Evaluation: The PRIFB will utilize the following objective factors to determine the lowest responsive responsible bidder:

- a. **Responsibility of Bidder:** Before awarding a Contract, PRIFB must determine that the Proposer submitting the lowest Bid is responsible.
- b. **Contingent Proposals:** The Proposer must not make its Proposal contingent upon PRIFB's acceptance of any terms or conditions (including Specifications) other than those contained in this document.
- c. **Clarification of Proposals:** After the Opening, the PRIFB may conduct Discussions with apparent Responsive Proposers for the purpose of clarification and to assure full understanding of the Proposal.
- d. **Time of Completion and Liquidated Damages:**
The Proposer must agree to commence work on or before a date to be specified in a written "Notice to Proceed" from the PRIFB; and to complete the project in total by June 30, 2020.

13. **Award:**

PRIFB may award a Contract as follows:

- a. In part or in whole, contingent upon available funding. In the event adequate funds are not appropriated and allocated by PRIFB. PRIFB reserves the right to cancel any solicitation and/or requirements Contracts at no penalty.
- b. PRIFB may reject all or part of a Proposal and may issue a new Solicitation on the same or revised terms, conditions and Specifications.
- c. The award for this project will be awarded based on a low bid basis but using

evaluation factors that are in the best interest of PRIFB.

- d. PRIFB may select one or more suppliers for this project.

14. **Notice of Award:**

PRIFB shall provide written *Notice of Award* to all proposers. Award must not be final until the execution of a written contract.

15. **Proposal Rejection:**

The PRIFB may reject any Proposal:

- a. When the rejection is in the best interest of PRIFB.
- b. When the Proposal is contingent upon PRIFB's acceptance of terms and conditions (including Specifications) that differ from the Solicitation.
- c. When the Proposal takes exception to terms and conditions (including Specifications) set forth in the Solicitation.
- d. That fails to meet the Specifications of the Solicitation.
- e. That is submitted late.
- f. Not in substantial compliance with the Solicitation or with all prescribed public procurement procedures.
- g. Not in compliance with federal regulations.

The PRIFB may reject all Proposals based upon the following criteria:

- a. The PRIFB must notify all Proposers of the rejection, along with the reasons for rejection.
- b. The content of or an error in the Solicitation or the Procurement Process unnecessarily restricted competition for the Contract.
- c. The price, quality or performance presented by the Proposers are too costly or of insufficient quality to justify acceptance of any Proposal.
- d. Misconduct, error, or ambiguous or misleading provisions in the Solicitation threaten the fairness and integrity of the competitive process.

- e. Causes other than legitimate market forces threaten the integrity of the competitive process. Such as collusion, corruption, and/or inadvertent or intentional errors in the Solicitation.
 - f. Any other circumstance indicating that awarding the Contract would not be in the best interest of the PRIFB or of public interest.
16. **Questions, Changes or Clarifications:**
Delivery: Written questions, changes or clarification must be emailed to lvargas@prifb.com, mailed or hand-delivered to the PRIFB's Procurement Office, 2010 Jaime Rodriguez St. Guanajibo Industrial Park Mayaguez, P.R. 00682.
- Questions:** All questions regarding this solicitation must be submitted in writing to the attention of Liz Vargas, Procurement Office. **No oral questions will be accepted.** All questions received prior to the deadline must be received in written form and will be answered by written addenda.
- Change or Clarification:** Proposers may request changes of or clarification to the terms and conditions and/or the specifications of this Solicitation. Proposer comments must be made in writing.
- Response:** All Bidders will be provided notice of the PRIFB's determination (i.e. entirely rejects or agrees with) in a written addendum to any questions, changes, clarification or protest.
17. **Offer Costs:** The PRIFB is not liable for any costs incurred by the Proposer in its Proposal preparation.
18. **Use of Brand or Trade Names:** Any brand or trade names used by PRIFB in Proposal specifications are for the purpose of describing and establishing the standard of quality, performance and characteristics desired and are not intended to limit or restrict competition. Proposers may submit Proposals using substantially equivalent products to those designated unless the solicitation provides that a specific brand is necessary because of compatibility requirements, etc.
19. **Submittals:** Submittals should be prepared simply, economically, and neatly. Special bindings, colored displays, and other similar accoutrements are not desired. Proposals will not be evaluated on the aesthetics of the package

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

One (1) original, two (2) copies of the Proposal plus One (1) thumb drive with a digital copy limited to 25 pages as well as all required documents as listed under BID REQUIREMENTS should be submitted to Liz Vargas, Procurement Office, **not later than 10:00 am ET, January 23, 2020**. Proposals may be submitted by mail or hand-delivered and must be clearly marked as follows: **RFQ No. 2019 - 01, PRIFB & EDA Robotic Manufacturing Project**. Proposals submitted by mail must meet the above requirements and should be addressed as follows:

PRIFB
Liz Vargas, Procurement Office
2010 Jaime Rodriguez St.
Guanajibo Industrial Park
Mayaguez, Puerto Rico 00682

It is the sole responsibility of the Proposer to have the Proposal delivered to the PRIFB by the date and time specified in this solicitation. **Any Proposal received later than the specified date and time will not be accepted or considered.** All Proposals will be retained as property of PRIFB.



BID SCHEDULE

2019 – PRIFB – 01

PRIFB & EDA Robotic Manufacturing Project

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION: PRIFB – EDA Robotic Manufacturing

BID TO: Puerto Rico Industries for the Blind, Corp.
Attn: Liz Vargas, Procurement Office
2010 Jaime Rodriguez St.
Guanajibo Industrial Park
Mayagüez, Puerto Rico 00682

RESPONDENT

Name of Offeror

Address

Point of Contact

Email

Phone

1.1 The undersigned Respondent agrees, if this Bid is accepted, to enter into an agreement with PRIFB, in the form defined in the Bid Documents, to perform and furnish the Work as specified or indicated in the Bid Documents for the Bid Price and within the Bid Times indicated in this Bid and in accordance with the other terms and conditions of the Contract Documents, including all EDA requirements.

1.2 In submitting this Bid, Respondent represents, as more fully set forth in the Agreement, that:

- This Bid will remain subject to acceptance for 60 days after the day of Bid opening;
- PRIFB has the right to reject this Bid;
- Respondent will sign and submit the Agreement with the other documents required

- by the Respondent Requirements within 10 days after the date of PRIFB of Intent to Award;
- All applicable Federal, State, City, and County Taxes are included in the Bid Price.
 - If awarded a contract Respondent will commence the Work no later than seven (7) days after the date of receipt of Notice to Proceed
 - Respondent has examined copies of all the Bid Documents;
 - Respondent is familiar with federal, state, and local laws and regulations;
 - Respondent has correlated the information known to Respondent, information and observations obtained from visits to the site, reports and drawings identified in the Bid Documents and additional examinations, investigations, explorations, tests, studies and data with the Bid Documents;
 - This Bid is genuine and not made in the interest of or on behalf of an undisclosed person, firm or corporation and is not submitted in conformity with an agreement or rules of a group, association, organization or corporation; Respondent has not directly or indirectly induced or solicited another Respondent to submit a false or sham Bid; Respondent has not solicited or induced a person, firm or corporation to refrain from Responding; and Respondent has not sought by collusion to obtain for itself an advantage over another respondent or over the College.
 - If awarded a contract, Respondent shall comply with EDA Regulations and pay workers not less than current BOLI/DBRA rates.
 - If awarded a contract that the Contract shall contain a provision that the contractor shall pay and perform according to the conditions required by federal regulations.
 - The cost includes machine head, automation solution, training, transportation & installation cost (if applicable).

BASE BID

The bid shall include all work described and specifications as indicated through-out the rest of these documents.

Operation	Machinery	Stitch Type	Automation Description	Qty. Required	Price	Estimated Delivery
Face & Close Back Pocket	Single Needle Lock Stitch	301	Automation capable to set facing and close pocket.	1		
Face Front Pocket	Single Needle Lock Stitch	301	Automation capable to set one facing and then realign and set the second facing.	1		
Set Seat Patch	Single Needle Lock Stitch	301	Automation capable to fold and set seat patch, must set two row of stitches.	2		
Knee Reinforcement	Single Needle Lock Stitch	301	Automation capable to fold and set knee reinforcement, must set two row of stitches.	3		
Set Velcro Breast Pocket Flap	Single Needle Lock Stitch	301	Automation capable to set Velcro. (300 x 200)	1		
Set Velcro Breast Pocket.	Single Needle Lock Stitch	301	Automation capable to set Velcro. (300 x 200)	1		
Set Velcro in Front Panel.	Single Needle Lock Stitch	301	Automation capable to set Velcro. (300 x 200)	1		
Fold and close hip pocket flap.	Single Needle Lock Stitch	301	Automation capable to fold and close hip pocket flap.	1		
Top Stitch hip pocket Flap	Single Needle Lock Stitch.	301	Automation capable to top stitch hip pocket flap.	1		
Fold and close lower pocket flap.	Single Needle Lock Stitch	301	Automation capable to fold and close lower pocket flap.	1		
Top stitch lower pocket flap.	Single Needle Lock Stitch	301	Automation capable to top stitch lower pocket flap.	1		

Operation	Machinery	Stitch Type	Automation Description	Qty. Required	Price	Estimated Delivery
Auto Serge Panel Station	Serge	504	Automation capable to overedge front & back panels.	1		
Single Needle Sewing Machine	Single Needle Lock Stitch	301	Not Applicable	15		

Other terms & conditions (use additional space, if needed):

IF SOLE PROPRIETOR OR PARTNERSHIP

IN WITNESS hereto the undersigned has set his / her hand the _____ day of _____, 2019.

Signature of Proposer

Title

IF CORPORATE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned corporation has caused this instrument to be executed and its seal affixed by its duly authorized officers this the _____ day of _____, 2019.

Corporation Name: _____

Authorized Officer

Title

Corporate Seal