



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

Administered by:
Competitive Energy Services, LLC



**Renewable Liquid Biofuel and Environmental Attributes For
Addition to Campus Central Steam Plant
University of Maine (Orono)**

RFI# 2023-038

ISSUE DATE:
10/19/2022

PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED ON:
11/4/2022 by 5:00 PM EDT

Response Submission Information:

Submitted electronically to cbrook@competitive-energy.com
Email Subject Line – **Renewable Liquid BioFuels For UMaine - RFI# 2023-038**

Response Contact Information:

Director of Natural Gas & Energy Services: **Chris Brook**
Email: cbrook@competitive-energy.com Phone: 207.949.0312

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background, Purpose and Specifications

Competitive Energy Services (CES) is administering this RFI on behalf of the University of Maine System and the University of Maine (collectively the “University”). All communication associated with this RFI should be with CES – Respondents should not contact University staff directly.

Respondents are asked to provide the information requested in Appendix A, B and C. Qualified Respondents to this RFI will be invited to participate in future requests for proposals for renewable liquid biofuels issued by the University of Maine.

1.1.1 Background

University of Maine System

Established in 1968, the University of Maine System (UMS) unites seven distinctive public universities, comprising 10 campuses and numerous centers, in the common purposes of providing quality higher education while delivering on its traditional tripartite mission of teaching, research, and public service.

Maine’s largest educational enterprise, the University extends its mission as a major resource for the state, linking economic growth, the education of its people, and the application of research and scholarship.

A comprehensive public institution of higher education, UMS serves nearly 40,000 students annually and is supported by the efforts of more than 2,000 full-time and part-time faculty, more than 3,000 regular full-time and part-time staff, and a complement of part-time temporary (adjunct) faculty.

The System consists of the following seven universities: University of Maine (UM or UMaine); University of Maine at Machias (UMM); University of Maine at Augusta (UMA); University of Maine at Presque Isle (UMPI); University of Maine at Farmington (UMF); University of Southern Maine (USM); and University of Maine at Fort Kent (UMFK).

University of Maine

The University of Maine (UMaine), founded in Orono in 1865, is the state's land grant and sea grant university. As the state’s only public research university, UMaine has a statewide mission of teaching, research and economic development, and community service. UMaine is among the most comprehensive higher education institutions in the Northeast with nearly 100 majors and academic programs. It attracts students from Maine and 49 other states, and more than 60 countries. It currently enrolls more than 11,400 undergraduate and graduate students who can directly participate in research, working with world-class scholars. UMaine offers more than 100 degree programs through which students can earn graduate certificates, master's, doctoral or professional science master's

degrees. UMaine promotes environmental stewardship, with substantial efforts campus wide aimed at conserving energy, recycling and adhering to green building standards in new construction.

Technical Overview

UMaine's Orono campus includes 4.25 million gross square feet across 202 buildings. Campus energy and utility infrastructure includes over 151 miles of energy and utility distribution system infrastructure (not including building systems), and features a central steam plant, which houses four (4) boilers and supplies steam to campus at 50 psig outlet pressure. The steam distribution system serves approximately 90 campus buildings and 89% of the annual campus thermal load, through 4.7 miles of steam distribution lines, and 119 steam pits.

UMaine's central steam plant consists of three (3) water tube steam boilers (numbered as #5, #6, & #7) which are rated to produce 64,000 lb./hr. of 150psig steam, and one (1) boiler (Boiler #8) which can produce 60,000 lb./hr. of steam. Boilers #5 & #6 are designed to only burn #6 oil, Boiler #7 can burn either #6 oil or natural gas which is its primary fuel. Boiler #8 burns only natural gas.

UMaine's current central steam plant is nearing end of life and UMaine is engaged in the study of an addition to the existing central steam plant (CSP) on College Ave. The new boilers and equipment in the addition will be designed to use both liquid renewable fuels as well as renewable natural gas.

The operating boilers in the central steam plant and the addition are expected to consume about 450,000 MMBtu of energy per year, similar to the existing plant. The plant's peak daily demand is approximately 3,000 MMBtu (in the heating season). Monthly usage is provided below in Table 1.

1.1.2 Purpose

UMaine is seeking current information regarding the supply of Renewable Liquid Biofuel (RLB) and Environmental Attributes for use in the addition to the existing CSP. This document provides instructions for submitting information. Although this RFI will not result in an award, UMaine intends to use the information that is provided to inform the design and decision making for the CSP addition. Respondent(s) who choose to participate will be included in future solicitations that UMaine expects to conduct, in order to formally contract for the supply of RLB needed meet the fuel requirements of the Central Steam Plant.

UMaine is evaluating Renewable Liquid Biofuel as part of an ongoing effort to meet environmental, financial and reliability goals and seeks information regarding the current and future availability of RLB for use in the new boilers in the addition to the CSP. UMaine seeks to understand the current and future markets, supply, capital investments needed, and supplier service models offered to potentially develop and issue a subsequent competitive solicitation.

1.1.3 Specification

Contract Term: UMaine anticipates being operationally ready to take delivery/use renewable liquid biofuels in 2026, but deliveries as late as 2030 could still allow UMaine meet its environmental goals.

UMaine's preference is to contract for renewable liquid biofuels for a term between 5 and 20 years in length.

Contract Volume: UMaine is interested in potentially using renewable liquid biofuels to meet 100% of the thermal requirements at the CSP and to offset 100% of the Scope 1 greenhouse gas emissions produced by the CSP. If Respondent would like to propose a solution that provides 100% of the CSP's fuel requirement but has less than 100% renewable content, Respondent must clearly specify how renewable content could deviate on a daily, monthly and annual basis. Table 1 presents UMaine's estimated thermal needs at the CSP. Respondent should identify any daily or monthly usage bandwidth threshold, where the CSP's actual usage below or above the bandwidth threshold would be charged at a rate other than the contract price.

Table 1. Estimated CSP Natural Gas Usage by Month

Delivery Month	CSP Volume (MMBtu)
January	59,778
February	54,698
March	52,813
April	41,317
May	31,583
June	22,351
July	22,020
August	20,860
September	25,004
October	37,348
November	45,229
December	54,791
Total	467,792

Environmental Attributes and Claims: UMaine intends to own the environmental attributes and greenhouse gas emissions-related claims for contracted Renewable Liquid Biofuel. UMaine does not envision allowing the Respondent to sell any environmental attributes associated with contracted volumes into voluntary greenhouse gas emissions offset markets or into emissions compliance markets, such as the California Low Carbon Fuel Standard. State and federal incentives that do not have any environmental attributes associated with contract volumes, such as Renewable Identification Numbers or Maine Thermal Renewable Energy Credits (unless/until Maine law defines these credits as carrying emission claims), may be monetized by the producer, supplier, and/or

UMaine. Respondents are encouraged to comment on this and provide specific details in Appendix C.

State and Federal Incentives: Respondent should identify state or federal incentives available to Renewable Liquid Biofuel producers, suppliers, or UMaine and should specify which party owns these incentives under Respondent's indicative fuel pricing submission. Examples of incentives may include but are not limited to Renewable Identification Numbers or Maine Thermal Renewable Energy Credits.

Production and Delivery Costs: Any costs Respondent anticipates to extract, prepare, and deliver the Renewable Liquid Biofuel to UMaine should be included and specified in detail.

1.2 General Information

1.2.1 Communication

It is the responsibility of the Respondent to inquire about any requirement of this document that is not understood. Responses to inquiries, if they change or clarify the document in a substantial manner, will be forwarded by addenda to all parties that have received a copy of the document. Addenda will also be posted on our web site, <https://www.maine.edu/strategic-procurement/upcoming-bids/>.

It is the responsibility of all Respondents to check the web site before submitting a response to ensure that they have all pertinent documents. The University will not be bound by oral responses to inquiries or written responses other than addenda.

Inquiries must be made using the **Response Contact Information** provided on the cover sheet of this document. Refer to table in **Section 1.3.1 Timeline of Key Events** for deadline requirements.

1.2.2 Confidentiality

The University must adhere to the provisions of the Maine Freedom of Access Act (FOAA), 1 MRSA §401 et seq. As a condition of submitting a response under this section, a Respondent must accept that, to the extent required by the Maine FOAA, responses to this solicitation, and any ensuing contractual documents, are considered public records and therefore are subject to freedom of access requests.

The University will honor requests for confidentiality for information that meets the definition of "trade secret" under Maine law. Clearly mark any portion of your submitted materials which are entitled to "trade secret" exemption from disclosure under Maine's Freedom of Access Act. Failure to so identify as trade secret will authorize the University to conclude that no portions are so exempt; and that your entity will defend, indemnify and hold harmless the University in any and all legal actions that seek to compel the University to disclose under Maine's Freedom of Access Act some or all of your submitted materials and/or contract, if any, executed between the University and your entity.

1.2.3 Costs of Preparation

Respondent assumes all costs of preparation of the response and any presentations necessary to the response process.

1.3 General Submission Provisions

1.3.1 Timeline of Key Events

Event	Due Date
Issue Date	October 19, 2022
Inquiries Deadline	October 24, 2022
Response to Inquiries	October 28, 2022
Responses Due	November 4, 2022

1.3.2 Eligibility to Submit Responses

Public entities, private for-profit companies, and non-profit companies and institutions are invited to submit a response to this document.

1.3.3 Response Understanding

The University is seeking information and will make no award based on the information provided by Respondents to this RFI. By submitting a response, the Respondent agrees and assures that the specifications are adequate, and the Respondent accepts the terms and conditions herein.

1.3.4 Response Submission

A **SIGNED** virus-free electronic copy must be submitted as follows:

- The response must be received electronically to the E-Mail shown in the **Response Submission Information** section of the cover page of this document.
- Electronic submission must be received by the required **Response Deadline Date/Time** reflected on the cover page of this document.
- Response submissions that exceed 20 MB will be submitted with multiple emails modifying email subject line shown in the **Response Submission Information** section of the cover page of this document to include: Submission 1 of X ('X' representing the number of files being submitted).

2.0 RESPONSE FORMAT REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Response Format Instructions

This section contains instructions for Respondents to use in preparing their response. Please provide the information requested in the following Appendix.

- 1. Appendix A - Response Cover Page**
- 2. Appendix B - Debarment**
- 3. Appendix C – Requested Information**

Appendix A – University of Maine System Response Cover Page

RFI# 2023-038

Renewable Liquid Biofuel Supply and Environmental Attributes

Organization Name:	
Chief Executive – Name/Title:	
Telephone:	
Fax:	
Email:	
Headquarters Street Address:	
Headquarters City/State/Zip:	
Lead Point of Contact– Name/Title:	
Telephone:	
Fax:	
Email:	
Street Address:	
City/State/Zip:	

To the best of my knowledge all information provided in the enclosed response, both programmatic and financial, is complete and accurate at the time of submission.

Date: _____

Name and Title (Printed)

Authorized Signature

Appendix B – Debarment, Performance and Non-Collusion Certification

University of Maine System DEBARMENT, PERFORMANCE and NON-COLLUSION CERTIFICATION

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Renewable Liquid Biofuel Supply and Environmental Attributes

By signing this document, I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the aforementioned organization, its principals and any subcontractors named in this proposal:

- a. Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, and declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from bidding or working on contracts issued by any governmental agency.
- b. Have not within three years of submitting the proposal for this contract been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for:
 - i. Fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a federal, state or local government transaction or contract.
 - ii. Violating Federal or State antitrust statutes or committing embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
 - iii. Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State or Local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (b) of this certification; and
 - iv. Have not within a three (3) year period preceding this proposal had one or more federal, state or local government transactions terminated for cause or default.
- c. Have not entered into a prior understanding, agreement, or connection with any corporation, firm, or person submitting a response for the same materials, supplies, equipment, or services and this proposal is in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud. The above mentioned entities understand and agree that collusive bidding is a violation of state and federal law and can result in fines, prison sentences, and civil damage awards.

Failure to provide this certification may result in the disqualification of the Respondent’s proposal, at the University’s discretion.

Date: _____

Name and Title (Printed)

Authorized Signature

Appendix C – Requested Information

University of Maine System
RFI# 2023-038
Renewable Liquid Biofuel Supply and Environmental Attributes

Respondent's Organization Name:

1. Provide a statement describing your company to include name, number of employees, locations, number of years in business, number of years offering/supporting the proposed fuel.
2. Describe your renewable liquid biofuel. Include a description of the source materials used to produce the biofuel as well as the production process. What makes your fuel renewable?
3. Discuss the energy content, particulate emissions, and greenhouse gas emissions associated with your fuel. Please identify both burner-tip emissions as well as lifecycle emissions.
4. Are you currently producing renewable liquid biofuel? If so, please list each production facility along with the number of years it has been in operation. Please list both the total current production capacity as well as the available production capacity in both gallons/year and MMBtu/year for each facility.
5. Are you planning new or expanded production facilities? If so, please list each planned production facility along with the location, expected online date, production capacity and onsite storage capacity. Please describe the development status including permitting as well as the internal / external development milestones that need to be achieved before the new production facility can commence construction.
6. Are other end-users like UMaine currently using your renewable liquid biofuel? If so, please list each end user as well as the length of time they have been using your fuel. If it is ok to contact the other end-users, please provide contact details.
7. Please discuss your ability to reliably meet some or all of UMaine's monthly fuel requirements listed in Table 1, with Renewable Liquid Biofuel starting in 2026. Please include both production capacity and delivery logistics in your response; how would your fuel be delivered to UMaine and what limitations would there be, if any, on meeting peak winter delivery requirements.
8. In as much detail as possible – please explain the storage, handling and usage requirements for your liquid biofuel that UMaine should consider when designing its CSP. UMaine is particularly interested in any technical requirements associated with storage, piping or using the fuel and whether specialized equipment would be needed (e.g. tank heating, stainless

steel piping). If the fuel meets ASTM standards for biodiesel or biofuel or other categories, please specify. If the fuel does not meet ASTM standards, please explain why not.

9. Do any of the major boiler and burner manufacturers currently authorize use of your fuel under warranty? If so, please specify.
10. Provide indicative pricing for your fuel for 5, 10 and 20 year commitments on a \$/MMBtu basis. UMaine will consider both fixed price fixed volume as well as fixed adder pricing indexed to a liquid and transparent spot. Please specify all costs up to the UMaine storage tanks (e.g. demand charges, delivery adders) or key assumptions that are made in your pricing (e.g. federal renewable fuel standard). The indicative pricing should only cover fuel costs and should not assume any capital costs necessary for UMaine to store or consume the fuel.
11. Do you believe that your fuel will qualify for Maine Thermal Renewable Energy Credits as specified in [M.R.S. 35-A §3210](#) and [Chapter 311](#). If so, why? If not, why not?
12. Provide a statement that explains why your company would be most qualified to provide liquid biofuel to UMaine. What differentiates you from your competitors?