

AWARD RECOMENDATION

Notice of Intent to Award Number: 260000000253

Notice of Intent to Award Date: 2/27/2026

The Department of Technology, Management, and Budget office has completed the evaluation of Request For Proposal 2500000002614 Statewide Electronic Newswire Services and has recommended an award to Gongwer News Service LLC in the amount of \$940,000.00 and Infoguys, Inc., (S-Corp) dba Michigan Information & Research Service Inc. in the amount of \$835,820.85, pending State Administrative Board approval, if applicable. More information on the State Administrative Board can be found at: [State Administrative Board](#).

Bidders who were not recommended for the award are encouraged to schedule a debriefing session with the Solicitation Manager. The debriefing session will provide the bidder with the State’s rationale on why the bidder was not recommended for the award. The Solicitation Manager may be contacted as follows:

Emily Massa, Solicitation Manager.

Massae@michigan.gov

517-897-7321

Public copies of all bidder proposals can be found here: [DTMB - Bid Proposals \(michigan.gov\)](#)

Background Information:

This Request for Proposal (RFP) was to solicit responses for selection of a Contractor to provide State Government News Subscription Services. The term of this contract is five years, with up to five 1-year renewal options.

Bidders:

The RFP was posted on SIGMA VSS on September 4th, 2025 The following bidders submitted proposals by the published due date of October 9th, 2025.

| Bidder | Address, City, State, Zip Code | SDVOB* | GDBE** |
|--|--|--------|--------|
| Gongwer News Service LLC | 101 S. Washington Sq., Suite 540, Lansing MI 48933 | No | Yes |
| Infoguys, Inc., (S-Corp) dba Michigan Information & Research Service Inc. | 910 W. Ottawa Street, Lansing, MI 48915 | No | Yes |

*SDVOB: Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Business

**GDBE: Geographically Disadvantaged Business Enterprise

EVALUATION SYNOPSIS

I. Evaluation Process

A Responsible Vendor is a vendor that demonstrates it has the ability to successfully perform the duties identified by the solicitation. A Responsive proposal is one that is submitted in accordance with the solicitation instructions and meets all mandatory requirements identified in the solicitation.

Proposal Instructions: Evaluation Process

| | Technical Evaluation Criteria | Weight |
|----|--|--------|
| 1. | Product Quality – Schedule A, Statement of Work, Section 1 | 35 |
| 2. | Service Capabilities – Schedule A, Statement of Work, Sections 2-5 | 20 |
| 3. | Schedule A, Statement of Work, Sections 6-9 | 15 |
| 4. | Vendor Questions Worksheet | 30 |
| | Total | 100 |

Proposals receiving 80 or more technical evaluation points will have pricing evaluated and considered for award.

The full evaluation process is stated in the RFP Proposal Instructions.

II. Evaluation Method

Responses to this solicitation were reviewed by a Joint Evaluation Committee, which consisted of the following individuals:

| Voting | Advisory |
|---|---|
| Emily Massa, Solicitation Manager DTMB/CPS | Kelly Manning, Director, Performance, Audit, and Communications Services DTMB/Executive Office |
| Laura Wortruba, Communications Director DTMB/Executive Office | |
| Nicole Kilsch, Communications Specialist DTMB/Executive Office | |
| Jason Moon, Communications Director LEO | |
| Danielle Gittus, Communications Director Treasury | |

III. Evaluation Results

A. Bidder # 1

The Evaluation Team determined that Gongwer News Service LLC based on a score of 90/100, did meet the requirements of this RFP. This determination was accomplished by evaluating their responses to the Technical Evaluation Criteria.

1. **Product Quality - Schedule A, Statement of Work, Sections 1**

The Evaluation Team determined that overall, the responses were mostly satisfactory, but the following deficiencies were noted (32/35):

- a. Section 1.1.B: Gongwer will not consider the members of State boards and commissions as qualifying State employees.
- b. Section 1.1.G - b: Gongwer is not providing interactive charts of campaign contribution data, going back as far as a member of the House and Senate has run, including industry breakout of contributions.
- c. Section 1.1.G - d: Gongwer is not providing archived, searchable database of press releases received.

2. **Service Capabilities - Schedule A, Statement of Work, Section 2-5**

The Evaluation Team determined that overall, the responses were mostly satisfactory, but the following deficiencies were noted (19/20):

- a. Section 4.1 – Gongwer requests that the State does not meet annually, but as requested.

3. **Delivery Capabilities - Schedule A, Statement of Work, Section 6-9**

The Evaluation Team determined that overall, the responses were mostly satisfactory, but the following deficiencies were noted (11/15):

- a. Liquidated Damages – Gongwer will not pay damages in the unexpected situation where forces beyond our control prevent publication
- b. Service Level Agreements - Gongwer will not pay damages in the unexpected situation where forces beyond our control prevent publication

4. **Vendor Questions Worksheet**

The Evaluation Team determined that overall, the responses were mostly satisfactory, but the following deficiencies were noted (28/30):

- a. State of Michigan Experience – Gongwer only provided one experience.

Total Score:90/100

B. Bidder # 2

The Evaluation Team determined that Infoguys, Inc. based on a score of 99/100, did meet the requirements of this RFP. This determination was accomplished by evaluating their responses to the Technical Evaluation Criteria.

1. Product Quality - Schedule A, Statement of Work, Sections 1

The Evaluation Team determined that overall, the responses were mostly satisfactory, but the following deficiencies were noted (34/35):

- a. Section 1.1.G - b: InfoGuys does not currently provide interactive charts of campaign contribution data, going back as far as a member of the House and Senate has run, including industry breakout of contributions.

2. Service Capabilities - Schedule A, Statement of Work, Section 2-5

The Evaluation Team determined that overall, the responses were satisfactory. (20/20)

3. Delivery Capabilities - Schedule A, Statement of Work, Section 6-9

The Evaluation Team determined that overall, the responses were satisfactory. (15/15)

4. Vendor Questions Worksheet

The Evaluation Team determined that overall, the responses were satisfactory. (30/30)

Total Score:99/100

IV. Technical Evaluation Summary

| Selection Criteria | | Bidder #1 | Bidder #2 |
|--------------------|---|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | Product Quality - Schedule A, Statement of Work, Sections 1 | 32 | 34 |
| 2 | Service Capabilities - Schedule A, Statement of Work, Section 2-5 | 19 | 20 |
| 3 | Delivery Capabilities - Schedule A, Statement of Work, Section 6-9 | 11 | 15 |
| 4 | Vendor Questions Worksheet | 28 | 30 |
| Total | | 90 | 99 |

V. Pricing Summary

Pricing was evaluated for the bidders who passed technical. The following is a summary of their price proposals:

| | Gongwer | InfoGuys |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Total Price | \$940,000.00 | 835,820.85 |

VI. Award Recommendation

Award recommendation is made to the responsive and responsible Bidder who offers the best value to the State of Michigan. Best value is based on the proposal meeting the minimum point threshold and offering the best combination of the factors stated in the *Proposal Instructions Evaluation Process* section, and price.

Gongwer News Service LLC and Infoguys, Inc. provided the best value to the State. Best value factors for this Award Recommendation include the State's need for access to multiple news sources. These services offer differing perspectives, story selections, and reporting coverage for The State of Michigan. Awarding both contracts ensures the State receives comprehensive news coverage.

As part of the best value determination, overall economic impact to the State of Michigan was considered and is not a determinative factor in making this award.