



Procurement Services
University of Arkansas at Little Rock

2801 S. University Ave., Little Rock, AR 72204-1099 | (O)501.916.3144 | (F)501.916.3425

Invitation for Bid (IFB)

SOLICITATION INFORMATION

Solicitation Number:	FB-26-015	Solicitation Issued:	2/25/2026
Description:	Industrial Education Kits		

Bid Opening Date:	3/18/2026	Bid Opening Time:	4:00 PM CST
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Per Arkansas Procurement Law and Bid Rules, it is the supplier's responsibility to submit bids at the designated location on or before the bid opening date and time. **Submissions received after the designated bid opening date and time may be rejected as untimely.** Procurement Services shall return them to the supplier without review. It is not necessary to return "no bids."

DELIVERY OF RESPONSE DOCUMENTS

Delivery Address:	<p>University of Arkansas at Little Rock Office of Procurement University Services Building C100 2801 South University Little Rock, AR 72204</p> <p>Suppliers are responsible for delivering their bid documents to the University of Arkansas at Little Rock on or before the scheduled bid opening time. Postage service providers—USPS, UPS, and FedEx—deliver mail to our offices based on our street address. Supplier assumes all risk for timely and properly submitted deliveries.</p>
Bid's Outer Packaging:	<p>Seal the outer packaging and mark it with the following information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solicitation number • Date and time of bid opening • Prospective supplier's name and return address <p>Improperly marked packages may be opened for identification purposes.</p>

UA LITTLE ROCK PROCUREMENT SERVICES CONTACT

Buyer:	Nancy Riethoff	Email:	nriethoff@ualr.edu
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Section 1 - General Instructions and Information

Do not respond to items in this section unless specifically and expressly required

1.1. Introduction

- A. The University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UA Little Rock) is soliciting proposals from qualified and experienced suppliers to provide **5** (five) modular, table-top industrial automation training systems operating at 24V DC that simulates a complete Industry 4.0-enabled production environment and storage transport cases.

1.2. Goals

- A. ICS environment is to provide a secure, realistic, and hands-on platform where learners can design, operate, and defend industrial control systems under real-world conditions. It enables safe experimentation with automation, monitoring, and cybersecurity practices to build workforce-ready skills without risking production systems.

1.3. Objectives

- A. The system must be durable for repeated classroom use, suitable for undergraduate, graduate, and workforce development training environments.
- B. The system shall support instruction in:
- Industrial automation and PLC programming
 - Smart manufacturing / Industry 4.0
 - Operational Technology (OT) networking and Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) integration
 - Cyber-physical systems
 - Industrial data acquisition and analytics
 - Production traceability and digital workflows

1.4. About UA Little Rock

The University of Arkansas at Little Rock is a metropolitan research university that provides access to quality education through flexible learning and unparalleled internship opportunities. At UA Little Rock, we prepare our students to be innovators and responsible leaders in their fields. Committed to its mission, UA Little Rock is a driving force in Little Rock's thriving cultural community and a significant component of the city and state's growing profile as a regional leader in research, technology transfer, economic development, and job creation.

For more information on the university, please see ualr.edu/about/.

1.5. Type of Contract and Bid Opening Location

- A. As a result of this IFB, UA Little Rock intends to issue a purchase order to a single supplier.
- B. By submitting a signed proposal in response to this IFB, the prospective supplier represents and warrants that it will honor its proposal as being held open as irrevocable after this period.
- C. *Intentionally omitted.*
- D. Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 19-11-249, any campus, unit or division of the University of Arkansas System or any college or university in Arkansas will be eligible to acquire from the successful purchaser or bidder goods or services that are the subject of this procurement, on all of the terms and conditions contained in any contract issued under this solicitation.

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E. BID OPENING LOCATION:

Use the information below to view the proposal opening online.

Meeting ID: 848 0938 7307

Meeting Link:

<https://ualr-edu.zoom.us/j/84809387307?pwd=uA2m7YINmG2UmpOdtL2BuJpvm0TQOC.1>

Dial-In Information: 877 853 5257 US Toll-free

888 475 4499 US Toll-free

1.6. Schedule of Events

Event Description	Date
Release of IFB	2/25/2026
Pre-Bid Meeting	N/A
Questions from Bidders due	3/4/2026
Answers to questions posted*	3/9/2026
Bid Deadline/ Bid Opening	3/18/2026 4:00 pm CST
Evaluation complete*	3/19/2026
Recommended award and/or submitted for legislative approval*	3/20/2026
Final legislative review*	N/A
Award Commences*	4/3/2026

Table A

*Anticipated Dates.

1.7. Clarification of IFB Solicitation

Submit any questions requesting clarification of information contained in this solicitation via email to the buyer no later than the date and time listed in Table A. Questions will be consolidated and responded to by the university as deemed appropriate. The university's consolidated, written response is anticipated to be posted on the university's website by the close of business on the date provided in Table A.

- A. For each question submitted, the prospective supplier should reference the specific solicitation item number to which the question refers.

- B. Prospective suppliers' If a prospective supplier's questions are unclear or non-substantive, the university may request clarification of a question(s) or decline to answer.
- C. Prospective suppliers may contact the buyer with non-substantive questions before the proposal opens.
- D. The prospective supplier should notify the buyer of any term, condition, etc., that precludes the prospective supplier from submitting a compliant, responsive proposal. Prospective suppliers should note that it is their responsibility to seek resolution of all such issues, including those relating to the terms and conditions of the contract, before submitting a proposal.
- E. An oral statement by UA Little Rock will not be part of any contract resulting from this solicitation. It may not reasonably be relied on by any prospective supplier as an aid to interpretation unless it is expressly adopted in writing by UA Little Rock.

1.8. Response Documents

All responses should be submitted in English. **Do not** include any other documents or ancillary information, such as a cover letter or promotional/marketing information.

A. Bid Response Packet

The following are submission requirements and should be submitted in the original bid response packet.

- a. Original signed Bid Signature Page (see Bid Response Packet)
 - o An official authorized to bind the prospective supplier(s) to a resultant contract should sign the Bid Signature Page included in the Bid Response Packet.
 - o The prospective supplier's signature signifies agreement to and compliance with all requirements in this IFB. Any exception that conflicts with Terms and Conditions or a requirement of this solicitation will cause the prospective supplier's bid to be rejected.
- b. **One (1)** original hard copy of the Official Bid Price Sheet.
 - o Any management fees or costs should be disclosed below as well.
 - o Pricing should be proposed in US dollars and cents.
- c. Prospective Supplier's Equal Opportunity Policy, if available
- d. Proposed Subcontractors Form, if applicable
- e. **One (1)** flash drive with the following documents in PDF format.
 - o Bid Signature Page
 - o Official Bid Price Sheet
 - o Prospective Supplier's Equal Opportunity Policy
 - o Proposed Subcontractors Form

1.9. Additional Terms and Conditions

- A. This solicitation incorporates all of the Solicitation Terms and Conditions on the UA Little Rock Procurement Services website here: <https://ualr.edu/procurement/bids/>.
 - a. Any special terms and conditions included in this solicitation shall override the Solicitation Terms and Conditions.
- B. Any purchase or contract as a result of this solicitation incorporates all the UA System Procurement Terms and Conditions as posted here: <https://www.uasys.edu/system-office/finance-and-administration/procurement/>.
 - a. Any special terms and conditions included in this solicitation shall override the UA System Procurement Terms and Conditions.

Section 2 - Specifications

Do not respond to items in this section unless specifically and expressly required.

2.1. Specifications

- a. System Overview Requirements
 - i. The system shall represent a fully integrated, end-to-end production process including material intake, automated handling, processing, sorting, storage, and output. All stations must be physically interconnected and logically controlled through an industrial PLC platform.
 - ii. The solution must:
 1. Operate using 24V industrial control standards
 2. Include real motors, sensors, and actuators (not purely simulated software models)
 3. Support modular expansion and reconfiguration
- b. Required Functional Stations
 - i. Automated Material Handling
 1. Conveyor transport system
 2. Motor-driven movement of workpieces
 3. Sensor-based object detection
 - ii. Robotic Handling System
 1. Pick-and-place mechanism (e.g., vacuum gripper or equivalent)
 2. PLC-controlled actuation
 - iii. Automated Storage / High-Bay Warehouse
 1. Vertical or multi-position storage
 2. Automated retrieval
 3. First-In First-Out (FIFO) or configurable inventory logic
 4. Position sensing and tracking
 - iv. Processing Station
 1. Multi-step processing simulation
 2. First-In First-Out (FIFO) or configurable inventory logic
 3. Position sensing and tracking
 - v. Processing Station
 1. Multi-step processing simulation
 2. Actuated mechanical operations and/or heating simulation
 3. Timed process control sequences
 - vi. Sorting / Quality Detection Station
 1. Detection classification sensor
 2. Automated routing logic
 3. Decision-based actuation

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- vii. Environmental Monitoring
 - 1. Integrated sensors for at least:
 - a. Temperature
 - b. Humidity
 - c. Atmospheric pressure or air quality
 - viii. Visual Monitoring
 - 1. Integrated camera system
 - 2. Live video monitoring capability
 - ix. Workpiece Identification & Traceability
 - 1. The system shall support digital workpiece identification and lifecycle tracking, including:
 - a. Identification technology
 - b. Unique ID assignment per workpiece
 - c. Data association with production steps
 - d. Real-time status visibility
 - x. Control System Requirements
 - 1. The system shall include or be compatible with:
 - a. Industrial PLC control architecture
 - b. Digital and analog Input/Output (O/I)
 - c. Structured Text programming capability
 - d. Ladder logic support
 - e. Function block support
 - f. Expandable I/O modules
 - 2. The vendor must provide:
 - a. Sample control programs
 - b. Complete wiring diagrams
 - c. I/O mapping documentation
 - d. Electrical schematics
 - xi. Industrial Communication & IIoT
 - 1. The system must support modern industrial communication protocols, including:
 - a. OPC UA (OPC Unified Architecture)
 - b. MQTT (Message Queuing Telemetry Transport)
 - c. Ethernet-based PLC communication
 - d. TCP/IP networking
 - 2. The system shall allow:
 - a. Edge device integration (e.g., industrial gateway or single-board computer)
 - b. Dashboard visualization
 - c. Real-time production monitoring
 - xii. Data & Dashboard Requirements
 - 1. The system must support:
 - a. Live production metrics

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- b. Inventory status visualization
 - c. Environmental sensor display
 - d. Workpiece tracking interface
 - 2. The system should allow integration with:
 - a. External databases
 - b. Data analytics platforms
 - c. Operational Technology cybersecurity monitoring tools
 - xiii. Educational Deliverables
 - 1. The vendor shall provide:
 - a. Instructor manuals
 - b. Student lab exercises
 - c. Curriculum-aligned learning modules
 - d. Programming examples
 - e. Maintenance documentation
 - f. Assembly and troubleshooting guides
 - xiv. Expandability
 - 1. The system shall:
 - a. Allow addition of new stations
 - b. Support cybersecurity testing modules
 - c. Permit integration with third-party PLCs
 - d. Support additional sensor modules
 - xv. Physical & Electrical Requirements
 - 1. 24V DC industrial standard
 - 2. Industrial-grade wiring
 - 3. Modular frame construction
 - 4. Compact footprint suitable for lab tables for the educational environment
 - 5. Enclosed wiring for safety
 - 6. Clearly labeled connection points
 - xvi. Support & Warranty
 - 1. Vendors must provide:
 - a. Minimum 1-year warranty
 - b. Technical support availability
 - c. Replacement parts availability
 - xvii. Compliance
 - 1. The system must comply with:
 - a. Applicable electrical safety standards
 - b. Industrial training safety requirements
 - xviii. Optional/**Non-Evaluated** Desired Features:
 - 1. (Optional) Additional Educational Deliverables:
 - a. Lesson plans aligned to Industry 4.0 frameworks
 - b. Cybersecurity lab integration materials

- c. API (Application Programming Interface) documentation for data access
- 2. (Optional) Additional Support:
 - a. On-site or virtual training
 - b. Extended warranty offerings

2.2. Delivery and Shipping

- A. The university requests delivery within **30** calendar days after the submission of an order. If this delivery schedule cannot be met, the supplier must state the number of days required to place the commodity in the designated location.
- B. Failure to communicate the delivery time obligates the bidder to complete the delivery by the requested date.
- C. The supplier shall give the university immediate notice of any anticipated delays or delays caused by force majeure. See our Standard Terms and Conditions for the force majeure clause. Extended delivery dates may be considered when in the university's best interest.
- D. All deliveries must be made during normal state work hours, within the agreed-upon number of days unless otherwise arranged and coordinated with the university, and delivered F.O.B. Destination to the name and location specified on the purchase order.
- E. Loss or damage that occurs during shipping or at any point before the university receives the order is the supplier's responsibility. All orders should be properly packaged to prevent damage during shipping. Damage to goods that is not apparent prior to acceptance will be inspected and reported to the supplier within thirty (30) days of receipt.

Section 3 - Terms and Conditions

Do not respond to items in this section unless specifically and expressly required

3.1. Doing Business With UA Little Rock

- A. To conduct business with UA Little Rock, all suppliers must be registered and approved in PaymentWorks, our secure supplier management system.
- B. Procurement Services will issue the apparent successful supplier an invitation to PaymentWorks upon completion of the evaluation, release of the Intent to Award letter, **and** ALC approval.
- C. Failure to register in PaymentWorks may result in the cancellation of this award or resulting contract.
- D. For more information, see <https://ualr.edu/procurement/suppliers/>.

3.2. Piggyback Clause

Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 19-11-249, any campus, unit, or division of the University of Arkansas System or any college or university in Arkansas will be eligible to acquire from the successful purchaser of bidder goods or services that are the subject of this procurement, on all of the terms and conditions contained in any contract issued under this solicitation.

3.3. Minority Business Policy

Minority participation is encouraged in this and all other procurements by state agencies. Minority is defined by Arkansas Code Annotated § 15-4-303 as a lawful permanent resident of this State who is: African American, Hispanic American, American Indian, Asian American, Pacific Islander American, or a Service Disabled Veteran as designated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The Arkansas Economic Development Commission conducts a certification process for minority businesses. Bidders unable to include minority-owned businesses as subcontractors "may explain the circumstances preventing minority inclusion."

- A. The Arkansas Economic Development Commission conducts a certification process for minority-owned and women-owned businesses.
- B. Per Arkansas Code Annotated § 15-4-303, a minority-owned business is defined as a business that is at least fifty-one percent (51%) owned by one (1) or more minority persons, and a minority is defined as a lawful permanent resident of this State who is:
 - African American
 - American Indian
 - Asian American
 - Hispanic American
 - Pacific Islander American
 - A Service Disabled Veteran as designated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
- C. Per Act 1080 of the 91st General Assembly Regular Session 2017, a women-owned business is defined as a business that is at least fifty-one percent (51%) owned by one (1) or more women who are lawful permanent residents of this State.

3.4. Equal Employment Opportunity Policy

In compliance with Arkansas Code Annotated § 19-11-104, UA Little Rock must have a copy of the supplier's Equal Opportunity Policy before issuing a contract award. UA Little Rock will maintain a file of all supplier EO policies submitted in response to solicitations issued by this office.

- A. *EO Policies* may be submitted electronically to the following email address: procurement@ualr.edu , but a hard copy should also be included with the bid response.
- B. Submitting an *EO Policy* to UA Little Rock is a one-time Requirement. Contractors are responsible for providing updates or changes to their policies and supplying *EO Policies* upon request to other state agencies, which must also comply with this statute.
- C. Prospective Contractors who are not required by law to have an *EO Policy* must submit a written statement to that effect.

3.5. Prohibition Of Employment Of Illegal Immigrants

- A. Pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated § 19-11-105, Contractor(s) providing services of \$25,000 or greater shall certify with UA Little Rock that they do not employ or contract with illegal immigrants.
- B. By signing and submitting a response to this Bid Solicitation, a Prospective Contractor for services of \$25,000 or greater agrees and certifies that they do not employ or contract with illegal immigrants. In addition, if selected, the Prospective Contractor certifies that they will not employ or contract with illegal immigrants during the aggregate term of a contract.

3.6. Restriction Of Boycott Of Israel

- A. Pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated § 25-1-503, a public entity shall not enter into a contract with a company unless the contract includes a written certification that the person or company is not currently engaged in, and agrees for the duration of the contract not to engage in, a boycott of Israel.
- B. This prohibition does not apply to:
 - a. A company that offers to provide the goods or services for at least twenty percent (20%) less than the lowest certifying business.
 - b. Contracts with a total potential value of less than \$1,000.
- C. By checking the designated box on the first page of this bid, a Prospective Contractor agrees and certifies that they do not, and will not, for the duration of the contract, boycott Israel.

3.7. Restriction Of Boycott Of Energy, Fossil Fuel, Firearms, and Ammunition Industries

In accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 25-1-1002, the respondent certifies that it is not currently engaged in a boycott of the energy, fossil fuel, firearms, and ammunition industries and agrees for the duration of its agreement not to engage in a boycott of the energy, fossil fuel, firearms or ammunition industries.

- A. The preceding does not apply to:
 - a. A financial services provider as defined at Ark. Code Ann. § 25-1-1001(8)(A),
 - b. An agreement with a total potential value of less than \$75,000, or
 - c. A contract under which the supplier's price for the goods or services is at least 20% less than the lowest certifying business.

3.8. Restriction Of Contracts with Scrutinized Companies

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- A. In accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 25-1-1001, the respondent certifies that the government of the People's Republic of China ("PRC") does not wholly own the bidder or hold a majority interest in the bidder. Bidder further certifies that the PRC does not own or hold a majority interest in a for-profit parent company, subsidiary, or affiliate of the bidder or in a subcontractor to be employed by the bidder
- B. A "scrutinized company" is an entity in which the People's Republic of China holds 51% or greater ownership and includes any for-profit parent, subsidiary, or affiliate of such a company.
- C. This restriction applies regardless of the source of the funds but does not apply to exempt commodities and services.

3.9. Payment and Provisions

- A. Invoices are accepted by mail or email. Supplier shall send invoices to one of the following:

PHYSICAL ADDRESS	EMAIL
University of Arkansas at Little Rock ATTN: Accounts Payable 2801 South University Ave Little Rock, Arkansas 72204	ACCOUNTSPAYABLE@UALR.EDU

- B. Payment shall be made in accordance with applicable State of Arkansas accounting procedures upon acceptance by the university.
- C. UA LITTLE ROCK may not be invoiced before delivery and acceptance of any equipment, service or commodity.
- D. Payment will be made only after the contractor has successfully satisfied the university as to the goods and/or services purchased.
- E. Suppliers shall provide an itemized invoice for all charges.
- F. The Purchase Order Number and/or UA Little Rock Supplier Contract Number (SPC) should be referenced on each invoice.