PennState
Physical Plant

**Office of Physical Plant**
Physical Plant Building
University Park, PA 16802-1118

DATE: May 20, 2025

SUBJECT: **Architect/ Engineering Team Selection – Interview Notice**
**FRONTIER Building Feasibility Study**
PSU Project #001009100
University Park, PA

TO: **Shortlisted Teams:**
**SmithGroup**
**Stantec**
**ZGF Architects**

Short-Listed Teams:

Thanks to all teams that submitted Proposals. The Screening Committee has selected the above three (3) teams as the short-list for this project. These three (3) firms will interview for the project via Zoom on June 13, 2025, with the following schedule. The order of interviews was randomly selected.

| Room | Time | Interviewing Team |
|---|---|---|
| **Virtual Meeting 1** | **12:40 PM – 1:50 PM (EST)** | **ZGF** |
| **Virtual Meeting 2** | **2:05 PM – 3:15 PM (EST)** | **SmithGroup** |
| **Virtual Meeting 3** | **3:30 PM – 4:40 PM (EST)** | **Stantec** |

The Zoom "room" will be available ten (10) minutes before your assigned time.

The interview format will be a 35-minute presentation (including your team introductions), followed by a 35-minute question and answer session. If there is time left within your Q+A time, you will be given time for closing. Your team should clearly describe why you believe you are the best team for the project, including an explanation of your team's differentiators. To the extent possible, we request an interactive interview that exemplifies how your team "will work" with PSU in executing this feasibility study.

As a part of the presentation, we request that you address the following topics. Present this information in the format, topic duration, and arrangement of information, best suited to your team:

- **Team and Experience.** Briefly introduce interviewees and their role on the project. Review overall team (organizational chart) and identify the role of key team members/ consultants. Recap overall lead firm and team experience with projects of a similar size, complexity and programmatic uses.

- **Project Approach.** Describe your approach to project success, including, but not limited to:
  - Describe the role of the client/user in your process, including what you need from us.
  - Describe how the architectural, engineering, and lab planning teams will interact with each other and with project stakeholders. Identify which team members will lead critical efforts, tasks, etc.

- Discuss your approach to identifying actionable project drivers with project stakeholders and your team's experience and/or ability to connect project drivers into realized design solutions.
- Identify criteria (and/or the approach) to establish priorities and make design decisions.

- **Project Schedule/ Staffing.** Describe your approach to achieving the project schedule, including:
  - Discuss how you propose to begin your efforts on this project (project's first ~90 to ~120 days).
  - Overall impression of the schedule. Do you have any proposed revisions?
  - Identify critical path items, milestones, risks, and/or schedule drivers.
  - Directly address your team's availability, especially considering other project/firm workload.

- **Cost Control.** Describe your cost control approach, including, but not limited to:
  - Outline critical factors to consider with respect to the project budget.
  - What strategies will be used to ensure the Feasibility Study will be executable within the project budget?
  - How will project cost/scope be managed dynamically through the study phase?

- **Project-Specific Consideration, Program and Project Goals**
  - Provide a project understanding and your impression of provided project information focusing on:
    - Platform versatility.
    - Research adaptability and building functionality
    - Laboratory, classroom and training simulator (digital twin) spaces.
    - Visitor center and interactive experience.
  - Describe key project drivers and/or critical design elements that your team has identified as a priority for this specific project.
  - Describe your unique knowledge about Micro Nuclear Facilities and Labs.
    - What makes them unique, what are the programmatic or design drivers?
    - Share your thoughts about safety and security related issues.
    - How will you assess and evaluate the process flow (materials, people, waste) to inform the program/ design/arrangement of the new facility in creating a comprehensive facility?
    - Describe how you assess the O&M/life cycle costs and use this criterion to design a facility that is highly-functioning, easy to maintain, and has a low(er) operating budget.
    - Provide your understanding of MEP building systems and other technical & sustainability aspects, important for the feasibility study. Summarize your opinion if, and/or how, the mechanical and electrical systems may influence the overall design of this facility.
  - If not addressed previously, highlight expertise in delivering buildings with similar programs, including the lab types identified in the RFP.
  - If important to your team, discuss trends and/ or benchmark data specific to this project type.

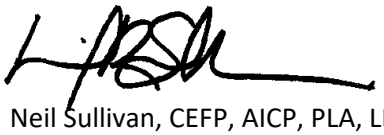
- **Site/ Design Ideas**
    - Discuss how your team will compare up to three sites for this study. What are the main issues for sitting a micro nuclear facility?
    - What are the key factors in ensuring a proper site location on or near Penn State's University Park Campus?
    - What information will your team need from Penn State to adequately study different site options.
    - Utilizing or expanding on the design ideas presented in your proposal, present project specific design ideas and/or considerations for this project. We do not expect final design solutions.

We strongly prefer to meet with the key contacts for this project that will be working with us on a regular basis. Executive level representation that will not actively participate in the design and construction phases should not attend. In preparation for these interviews, the following documents are provided:

- **Non-Binding A/E Fee Schedule.** Return completed form and billable rates, via email only to nsullivan@psu.edu by 12:00pm Eastern Standard Time (EST) on June 13, 2025.
- **Copy of your presentation.** Please email me a copy of your presentation 10 minutes before your meeting time (on June 13, 2025) to nsullivan@psu.edu.

The results of the interviews will be posted to our website by June 17, 2025. Please contact me or project manager Julie Patrick (814.865.8768 or jat280@psu.edu) with any questions regarding the projects or the A/E Selection process.

Respectfully,



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CC: Screening Committee