

INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS
Welders MIG/TIG IFB230317

Friday, March 17, 2023

Sealed proposals are invited

Pursuant to specifications.

BIDS:

Proposals will be received and publicly read aloud by McHenry County College at the place, date, and time hereinafter designated. You are invited to be present if you so desire.

PLACE:

McHenry County College
8900 US HWY 14
Crystal Lake IL 60012

BIDS RECEIVE END DATE: Thursday April 6th at location McHenry County College Business Office
A246 8900 US HWY 14 Crystal Lake IL 60012

TIME: 11:00 AM Central Standard Time
Proposals received after this time will not be accepted.

BIDS QUESTION END DATE: Thursday March 23 (See Spec. Question contact) All questions and answers will be posted by amendment on March 24 on the BID web site.

TIME: 11:00 AM Central Standard Time
Proposals received after this time will not be accepted.

OPENING DATE: Thursday April 6th at location McHenry County College Board Room A217 8900
US HWY 14 Crystal Lake IL 60012

TIME: 11:30 AM Central Standard Time

Proposals must be made in accordance with the instructions contained herein. All Submittals are to contain a total of two(2) hard copies. They shall be submitted on or before the specified closing time in an opaque sealed envelope addressed to:

James Julison, Director of Business Services
McHenry County College
8900 US HWY 14, Suite A246
Chrystal Lake, IL 60012

All envelopes should be plainly marked, with the Bidder's Name and Address and the following notation: **PROPOSAL: WELDING EQUIPMENT IFB230317**

FAXES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE

SPEC. QUESTIONS: Bidders wanting questions addressed are to call Tom McGee, Dean of Career and Technical Education at 815/ 479-7764 or tmcgee@mchenry.edu before the Proposal question end date to make such inquiries.

TAX EXEMPTION: McHenry County College is exempt from Federal, State, and Municipal taxes.

SIGNATURE ON PROPOSALS:

The signature on proposal documents is to be that of an authorized representative of said company. Each bidder, by making his Proposal, represents that he has read and understands the proposal documents and that these instructions to bidders are a part of the specifications.

W-9FORM:

A current W-9 form must be returned with the proposal packet. *(A blank form is included at the end of this document)*

DISQUALIFICATION

The Business Services Staff will make such investigation as is necessary to determine the ability of the vendors to fulfill Proposal requirements. McHenry County College reserves the right to reject any proposal if it is determined that a vendor is not properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the Contract.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ADDENDA:

Signature of company official on original Proposal document shall be construed as acknowledgement of receipt of any and all addenda pertaining to this specific proposal. Identification by number of the addenda and date issued should be noted on all Proposals submitted. A copy of any and all Addenda must be included with the Proposal packet.

- ***FAILURE TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF ADDENDA ON PROPOSAL SUBMITTED MAY RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION OF PROPOSAL.***
- ***Bidders who obtain a copy of the Proposal from our web site are responsible for checking back on the site for any addenda issued.***

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION:

McHenry County College is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. In the event of the Contractor's noncompliance with any provision of this Equal Employment Opportunity Clause, the Illinois Fair Employment Practice Act, or the Fair Employment Practices Commission's Rules and Regulations for Public contracts, the Contractor may be declared non-responsible and therefore ineligible for future contracts or subcontracts with the State of Illinois or any of its political subdivisions or municipal corporation and the contract may be cancelled or avoided in whole, or in part, and such other sanctions or penalties may be imposed or remedies invoked as provided by statute or regulation.

PREVAILING WAGE:

Vendor's signature shall be construed as acceptance of; and willingness to comply with, all provisions of the Illinois Compiled Statutes, Chapter 820, 130/1-130/12, Employment Wages and Hours Prevailing Wage Act. All laborers, workers and mechanics engaged in construction will be paid not less than the "Prevailing Wage". The Vendor further agrees to provide a copy of the certified payroll to the Facilities Superintendent on a monthly basis for the duration of the project.

MCHENRY COUNTY COLLEGE

BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM

MINORITIES, FEMALES, AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITY

PARTICIPATION AND UTILIZATION PLAN

The Business Enterprise Program for Minorities, Females, and Persons with Disabilities Act (BEP) establishes certain goals for community colleges contracting with businesses that are owned and controlled by persons who are minorities (MBE), female (FBE), or persons with disabilities (DBE) (collectively, BEP certified vendor(s)).

Contract Goal to be Achieved by Vendor: This solicitation includes a specific BEP participation goal of 20 % of the total dollar amount of the contract.

The BEP participation goal is applicable to all bids or offers. McHenry County College (College) will award this contract to a Vendor that meets the goal or makes good faith efforts to meet the goal. This goal is also applicable to change orders and allowances within the scope of work provided by the BEP certified vendor. If Vendor is a BEP certified vendor, the entire goal is met and no subcontracting with a BEP certified vendor is required; however, Vendor must submit a Utilization Plan indicating that the goal will be met by self-performance. Failure to complete a Utilization Plan or provide good faith effort documentation shall render the bid or offer non-responsive or not responsible and subject to rejection and/or disqualification in the College's sole discretion.

The following are guidelines for Vendor's completion of the Utilization Plan. **Please read the guidelines carefully.** A format for the Utilization Plan is included in this section. Vendor should include any additional information that will add clarity to Vendor's proposed utilization of certified BEP vendors to meet the targeted goal. The Utilization Plan must demonstrate that Vendor has either: (1) met the entire contract goal or (2) made good faith efforts towards meeting the goal. Any submission of good faith efforts by Vendor shall be considered as a request for a full or partial waiver.

To meet the College's BEP participation goals, Vendor, or Vendor's proposed Subcontractor(s), must be certified with the Business Enterprise Council as a BEP certified vendor. If Vendor or Vendor's proposed Subcontractor(s) are not BEP certified vendors but do meet the definition of MBE, FBE, or DBE companies as set forth in 30 ILCS 575/2, Vendor shall have the burden of submitting sufficient evidence of the company's ownership. The College shall have the sole discretion of whether to accept non-BEP certified vendors and applying said contracts towards its BEP participation goals.

1. If applicable where there is more than one prime vendor, the Utilization Plan should include an executed Joint Venture Agreement specifying the terms and conditions of the relationship between the parties and their relationship and responsibilities to the contract. The Joint Venture Agreement must clearly evidence that the BEP certified vendor will be responsible for a clearly defined portion of the work and that its responsibilities, risks, profits and contributions of capital, and personnel are proportionate to its ownership percentage. It must include specific details related to the parties' contributions of capital, personnel, and equipment and share of the costs of insurance and other items; the scopes to be performed by the BEP certified vendor under its supervision; and the commitment of management, supervisory personnel, and operative personnel employed by the BEP certified vendor to be dedicated to the performance of the contract. Established Joint Venture Agreements will only be credited toward BEP goal achievements for specific work performed by the BEP certified vendor. **Each party to the Joint Venture Agreement must execute the bid or offer prior to submission of the bid or offer to the College.** The contract will not be awarded to Vendor unless the College approves the Vendor's Utilization Plan and Joint Venture Agreement, if applicable.
2. **Calculating BEP Certified Vendor Participation:** The Utilization Plan documents work anticipated to be

performed, or goods/equipment provided, by all BEP certified vendors and paid for upon satisfactory completion/delivery. Only the value of payments made for the work actually performed by BEP certified vendors is counted toward the contract goal. Applicable guidelines for counting payments attributable to contract goals are summarized below:

- 2.1. The value of the work actually performed, or goods/equipment provided by the BEP certified vendor shall be counted towards the goal. The entire amount of that portion of the contract that is performed by the BEP certified vendor, including supplies purchased or equipment leased by the BEP certified vendor shall be counted, except supplies purchased and equipment rented from the Prime Vendor submitting this bid or offer.
- 2.2. A vendor shall count the portion of the total dollar value of the BEP contract equal to the distinct, clearly defined portion of the work of the contract that the BEP certified vendor performs toward the goal. A vendor shall also count the dollar value of work subcontracted to other BEP certified vendors. Work performed by the non-BEP certified party shall not be counted toward the goal. **Work that a BEP certified vendor subcontracts to a non-BEP certified vendor will not count towards the goal.**
- 2.3. A Vendor shall count toward the goal 100% of its expenditures for materials and supplies required under the contract and obtained from BEP certified vendor manufacturers, regular dealers, or suppliers. A Vendor shall count toward the goal the following expenditures to BEP certified vendors that are not manufacturers, regular dealers, or suppliers:
 - 2.3.1. The fees or commissions charged for providing a bona fide service, such as professional, technical, consultant or managerial services and assistance in the procurement of essential personnel, facilities, equipment, materials or supplies required for performance of the contract, provided that the fee or commission is determined by the College to be reasonable and not excessive as compared with fees customarily allowed for similar services.
 - 2.3.2. The fees charged for delivery of materials and supplies required by the contract (but not the cost of the materials and supplies themselves) when the hauler, trucker, or delivery service is not also the manufacturer or a supplier of the materials and supplies being procured, provided that the fee is determined by the College to be reasonable and not excessive as compared with fees customarily allowed for similar services. The BEP certified vendor's trucking firm must be responsible for the management and supervision of the entire trucking operation for which it is responsible on the contract and must itself own and operate at least one fully licensed, insured and operational truck used on the contract.
 - 2.3.3. The fees or commissions charged for providing any bonds or insurance specifically required for the performance of the contract, provided that the fee or commission is determined by the College to be reasonable and not excessive as compared with fees customarily allowed for similar services.
- 2.4. BEP certified vendors who are performing the contract as second tier subcontractors may be counted in meeting the established BEP goal for this contract as long as the Prime Vendor can provide documentation indicating the utilization of these vendors.
- 2.5. A Vendor shall count towards the goal only expenditures to firms that perform a commercially useful function in the work of the contract. A Vendor shall not count towards the goal expenditures that are not direct, necessary and related to the work of the contract. Only the amount of services or goods that are directly attributable to the performance of the contract shall be counted. Ineligible expenditures include general office overhead or other Vendor support activities.

3. **Good Faith Effort Procedures:** Enclosed and sealed with the Vendor's bid documents, the Vendor must submit a: (1) Utilization Plan and (2) either Letters of Intent or subcontract documents that meet or exceed the published goal. If Vendor cannot meet the stated goal, Vendor must submit documents to support the good faith efforts it undertook to meet the goal. The College has the right to reject Vendor's bid as not responsible and/or not responsive if the College or the Business Enterprise Council determine, in either of their sole discretion, that Vendor failed to make a good faith effort to meet the MBE goals. The College may also accept and enter into a contract with a Vendor that can provide sufficient evidence of MBE, FBE or DBE status of Vendor or its proposed subcontractors and/or sub-vendors in compliance with the Illinois Business Enterprise for Minorities, Females, and Persons with Disabilities Act. If the College or the Council determine that Vendor has made good faith efforts to meet the goal, the College may award the contract provided that Vendor is otherwise eligible for award.

4. **Contract Compliance:** Compliance with this section is an essential part of the contract. The following administrative procedures and remedies govern Vendor's compliance with the contractual obligations established by the Utilization Plan. **After approval of the Utilization Plan and award of the contract, the Utilization Plan becomes part of the contract.**
 - 4.1. The Utilization Plan may not be amended after contract execution without the College's prior written approval. Vendor may not make changes to its contractual BEP certified vendor commitments or substitute BEP certified vendors without the College's prior written approval. The Vendor's request to substitute BEP certified vendors must state the specific reasons for the change or substitutions. Unauthorized changes or substitutions, including performing the work designated for a BEP certified vendor with Vendor's own forces, shall be a violation of the Utilization Plan and a breach of the contract, and shall be cause to terminate the contract, and/or seek other contract remedies or sanctions.
 - 4.2. Vendor shall maintain a record of all relevant data with respect to the utilization of BEP certified vendors, including but without limitation, payroll records, invoices, canceled checks and books of account for a period of at least three years after the completion of the contract. The College shall have the right to access to these records upon 48 hours written demand. The College shall have the right to obtain from Vendor any additional data reasonably related or necessary to verify any representations by Vendor.
 - 4.3. The College reserves the right to withhold payment to Vendor to enforce these provisions and Vendor's contractual commitments. Final payment shall not be made pursuant to the contract until Vendor submits sufficient documentation demonstrating compliance with its Utilization Plan.

- 7.30.

Note-The next four (4) pages are dedicated to BEP Plan to be part of the BID submission:

UTILIZATION PLAN

The Utilization Plan and Letter of Intent must be sealed and submitted with Vendor's Bid Documents.

_____ (Vendor) submits the following Utilization Plan as part of our bid or offer in accordance with the requirements of the BEP Program Status and Participation section of the solicitation for McHenry County College's

Wave Door Openers IFB230117 _____ (Project Name).

Vendor submits the following statement:

- Vendor is a BEP certified firm and plans to fully meet the goal through self-performance.
- Vendor has identified BEP certified subcontractor(s) to fully meet the established goal and submits the attached executed Letter(s) of Intent; or
- Vendor has made good faith efforts towards meeting the entire goal, or a portion of the goal, and hereby requests a waiver (complete checklist below).

Vendor's designee responsible for compliance with this BEP goal:

Name:

Title:

Telephone:

Email:

BEP Utilization Plan

The following firms will be utilized to meet the goals of the BEP Program:

Name of Firm	Contract Value	Description of Work	% of Goal
Total			

DEMONSTRATION OF GOOD FAITH EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE GOAL AND REQUEST FOR WAIVER

If the BEP participation goal was not achieved, Vendors must provide documented evidence of good faith efforts to achieve the goal.

Below is a checklist of actions that will be used to evaluate a Vendor's Demonstration of Good Faith Efforts and Request for Waiver. **Please check the actions which you completed.** If any of the following actions are not completed, please attach a detailed written explanation indicating why such action was not completed. If any other efforts were made to obtain BEP participation in addition to the items listed below, attach a detailed description of such efforts. The College reserves the right to review and audit the results of the Vendor's good faith efforts.

- Utilize the Sell2Illinois website: www2.illinois.gov/cms/business to identify BEP certified vendors within the respective commodity/service codes denoted above and at a minimum email all listed vendors and solicit quotes from all vendors who express an interest via follow-up emails or telephone calls.
- Solicit through all reasonable and available means (e.g., attendance at a vendor conference, advertising and/or written notices) the interest of BEP certified vendors that have the capability to perform the work of the contract. Vendor must solicit this interest within sufficient time to allow the BEP certified vendors to respond to the solicitation. Vendor must determine with certainty if the BEP certified vendors are interested by taking appropriate steps to follow up initial solicitations and encourage them to submit a bid or proposal. Vendor must provide interested BEP certified vendors with adequate information about the plans, specifications, and requirements of the contract in a timely manner to assist them in responding promptly to the solicitation.
- Select portions of the work to be performed by BEP certified vendors in order to increase the likelihood that the goal will be achieved. This includes, where appropriate, breaking out contract work items into economically feasible units to facilitate BEP certified vendor participation, even when Vendor might otherwise prefer to perform these work items with its own forces.
- Make a portion of the work available to BEP certified vendors and selecting those portions of the work or material needs consistent with their availability, so as to facilitate BEP certified vendor participation.
- Negotiate in good faith with interested BEP certified vendors. Evidence of such negotiation must include the names, addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of BEP certified vendors that were considered and an explanation as to why an agreement could not be reached.
- Thoroughly investigate the capabilities of BEP certified vendors and not reject them as unqualified without documented reasons.
- Make efforts to assist interested BEP certified vendors in obtaining lines of credit or insurance as required by the College.
- Make efforts to assist interested BEP certified vendors in obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or related assistance or services.

TERMINATION OF FUNDING

McHenry County College's contractual obligations will be subject to termination and cancellation without penalty, accelerated payment, or other recoupment mechanism as provided herein in any fiscal year for which the Illinois General Assembly or other legally applicable funding source fails to make an appropriation to make payments under the terms of this Contract. In the event of termination for lack of appropriation, the Vendor shall be paid for services performed under this Contract up to the effective date of termination. McHenry County College shall give notice of such termination for funding as soon as practicable after becoming aware of the failure of funding.

BLACKOUT PERIOD:

After the College has advertised for Proposals, no pre-Proposal vendor shall contact any College officer(s) or employee(s) involved in the solicitation process, except for interpretation of Proposal specifications. No vendor shall visit or contact any College officers or employees until after the Proposals are awarded. During the black-out period, any such visitation, solicitation, or sales call by any representative of a prospective vendor in violation of this provision may cause the disqualification of such bidder's response.

Bidding Procedures listed on the following page

BID/RFP PROCEDURES:

1. Proposals will be received for this project at the scheduled time. Proposals and will be publicly opened at the designated opening time in the Board Room (A117).
2. The College reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or parts thereof, or waive any irregularities or informalities, and to make the award in the best interest of the College. Decisions of the College will be final.
3. All proposals will be considered final for a period of (60) days from the date established for the opening of proposals.
4. Changes or corrections. may be made by the college to the proposal documents after they have been issued and before they are received. In such case, a written addendum describing the change or correction will be issued by the College to all bidders of record via MCC BID Site. Such addendum shall take precedence over that portion of the documents concerned and shall become part of the proposal documents.
5. Each bidder shall carefully examine all proposal documents and all addenda there to and shall thoroughly familiarize themselves with the detailed requirements thereof prior to submitting a proposal. Should a bidder find discrepancies or ambiguities in, or omissions from documents, or should they be in doubt as to their meaning, they shall, at once notify the Purchasing Coordinator of the college, who will, if necessary, post written addendums for all bidders on MCC BID site. The college will not be responsible for any oral instructions.
6. All BID inquiries shall be directed to the McHenry County College Director of Business Services. Or the Project owner as described in page one of the BID document.
7. After Proposals are received, no allowance will be made for oversight by bidder.
8. The successful Bidder shall not proceed on this proposal until they have received verification that they have been awarded the proposal by the McHenry County College Board of Trustees. Failure to comply is done so at the risk of the Bidder.
9. The Board reserves the right to waive technicalities and informalities in the bidding process, to reject any and/or all, or any part of any proposal, for any reason and to accept the proposal that in its judgement best serves the interest of the college.

Specifications start on the following page.

Proposal Specifications

McHenry County College is soliciting formal proposals from Vendors to provide Welding equipment supplied by bidder as described in specifications. The successful proposer(s) of this IFB will be responsible for providing materials to McHenry County. The specifications contained in this document are designed to accomplish this mission.

AGREEMENT PROVISIONS

If a purchase agreement is awarded, the selected Vendor shall be required to adhere to a set of general agreement provisions which shall become part of any formal purchase agreement. These provisions shall include, but are not limited to the following:

DELIVER LOCATION: Vendor shall deliver specified equipment to the McHenry County College Welding Center located at 912 Trakk Ln, Woodstock, IL 60098.

TERM OF AGREEMENT: The initial term of this Agreement shall be for reasonable duration required to complete the acquisition of equipment commencing within 60 days upon award of BID,

OVERVIEW OF WORK: Vendor shall manage and prioritize all installations with college staff. The Vendor shall:

- Provide all equipment, materials and supplies specified.
- Ensure equipment is available at the agreed to time as specified in the BID proposal.
- Report delivery status to the Dean of Career and Technical Education.

SPECIFICATIONS OF MATERIALS:

FRONIUS I-WAVE BID PACKAGE

ITEM NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	UOM	QTY
FRONIUS 49,0400,0032	I-WAVE 230i AC/DC TIG - WATER COOLED PACKAGE	EA	12
FRONIUS 42,0440,0306	FOOT PEDAL ADAPTER BOX FOR FRONIUS	EA	12
WELDTEC SW-320-12-DX	SPEEDWAY TORCH, 12.5 FT., 320 AMP	EA	12
CK SLWHAT-35MF	SAFELOC ADAPTER PLUG, FRONIUS	EA	12
CK C810-01425	QC ADAPTER PLUG, WATER	EA	12
SSC CONTROLS C810-1425	FOOT CONTROL, MILLER 14 PIN, 25 FT CABLE	EA	12

GTAW BID PACKAGE REQUIREMENTS:

- 230 AMP MINIMUM OUTPUT
- AC/DC OUTPUT
- CELLULOSE MODE FOR 6010 SMAW
- VARIABLE AC FREQUENCY – MIN. RANGE OF 40HZ – 250HZ
- PULSE FREQUENCY – MIN. RANGE OF .2 - 2000HZ
- A/C CURRENT OFFSET – MIN. RANGE OF +/- 70%
- HARD RECTANGLE/SOFT RECTANGLE/SINE/TRIANGLE WAVE FORMS
- INVERTER BASED POWER SUPPLY REQUIRING NO MORE THAN 20 AMPS OF 230 V INPUT POWER
- BUILT-IN WLAN CONNECTIVITY
- 20 SIZED WATER COOLED 320 AMP TORCH AND ANY REQUIRED ADAPTERS – 12.5 FT. LEAD
- SSC C810-1425 FOOT PEDAL OR EQUIVALENT MILLER 14 PIN PEDAL AND ANY REQUIRED ADAPTERS

FRONIUS TRANS STEEL 3000 PULSE BID PACKAGE

ITEM NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	UOM	QTY
FRONIUS 49,0400,0020	TRANS STEEL 3000 PULSE (MULTI PROCESS) PACKAGE	EA	12

GMAW BID PACKAGE REQUIREMENTS:

- 300 AMP MINIMUM OUTPUT
- MULTI-PROCESS CAPABLE OF DC GTAW, DC GTAW-P, DC SMAW, GMAW AND GMAW-P
- 460 V/3 PHASE INPUT POWER NOT TO EXCEED 35 AMPS
- 20 INCH MAXIMUM HEIGHT
- PULSE AND SYNCRO PULSE (PULSE ON PULSE) CAPABLE
- SYNERGIC MODE
- SPOT AND STITCH MODES
- USB PORT FOR DATA LOGGING OF WELDING PARAMETERS

INSPECTION: Upon delivery, the College shall reserve the right to make final inspection and finding the entire work to be in full compliance with all requirements set forth, will accept the equipment. If any defects or omissions in the equipment are hidden or concealed at the time of acceptance but become apparent within one year after the final acceptance of the equipment, the Vendor shall immediately correct and make good the same upon notice by the College, and if the Vendor fails, refuses or neglects to do so, the College may correct and make good the same and the Vendor here by agrees to pay on demand the cost and expense of doing such work.

SELECTION PROCESS: The College will award the contract to the responsible respondent whose proposal is determined to be the most advantageous to the college by taking into consideration the ability of the vendor to fulfill proposal requirements.

Criteria to be considered includes, but it not limited to:

- The vendor's ability to meet the overview of work as described above.
- Experience and qualifications of the installation technicians to be assigned to the college.
- Reputation of vendor based on past experience with the college and references.
- Overall cost to the college based on submitted proposal by vendor.
- Length and terms of the warranty provided with the equipment.
- Ability to deliver the TIG welders by May 1, 2023 Ability to deliver the MIG welders by June 1, 2024

PROPOSAL FORM

(Note: the following five pages are required to be submitted with the Proposal packet)

Submitted by:

*Note: Vendors are invited to include additional information not requested above, **if** believed to be useful and applicable to this Request for Proposal.*

Part 1- NOTES: NA

Part 3 - REFERENCES:

Please provide contact information for at least three (3) current clients similar in size and/or structure to McHenry County College. The College will make any necessary reference checks to determine the ability of the Vendor to fulfill proposal requirements.

Name	Address	Contact Information (Phone & Email)

Part 4 - OFFER:

Having examined the site and having familiarized itself with the conditions affecting the cost of the work associated with the **MIG and TIG Welding Equipment as specified** at McHenry County College and with the bidding documents, Bidder hereby proposes to perform everything required and to furnish all materials and transportation necessary to complete work stated in the Specifications section of the bidding documents.

Proposed Total Cost	
Quote	

Warranty: _____

Part 5 - SECONDARY VENDOR:

If your firm does not receive the primary vendor award, would your firm be willing to accept a secondary vendor award under the terms of your IFB response in the event that an awarded primary vendor is, unable to fulfill the college's complete needs.

.....Yes No
Explain: _____

(Note: If the pricing will be different for a secondary provider, proposer should indicate the difference of their pricing, if any.)

Part 6 - PROPOSAL FORM SIGNATURE(S)

Company Name: _____
(Bidder- print the full name of your Proprietorship, Partnership or Corporation)

Authorized Signing Officer: _____ Date ____

Title: _____