

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Vendors Using Bonfire for PEPS Electronic Submittal

Electronic Submittal Platform - Getting Started

What is the electronic submittal platform?

TxDOT has partnered with EUNA Solutions, aka Bonfire Interactive, to create a procurement portal that will allow you to view business opportunities and submit provider response packages digitally.

When did PEPS opportunities (procurements) initially appear in the Bonfire portal?

The Professional Engineering Services Division (PEPS) began using the Bonfire procurement portal in December 2020 for FY2021 Wave 2. All PEPS solicitations are also posted on the Electronic State Business Daily (ESBD).

How can vendors request access to the Bonfire portal?

Vendors are requested to visit the **Texas Department of Transportation's Procurement Portal** (<https://txdot.bonfirehub.com/>), and follow the link to the Bonfire vendor registration page (top right corner) to register your company. Google Chrome is the recommended browser for accessing the Bonfire portal.

Will firms be required to register with the Bonfire portal in order to compete for PEPS contracts?

Yes, to submit a response (provider response package) to a procurement a firm will need to register with Bonfire.

Registering with the Bonfire Portal

Are there instructions to show me how to register as a vendor with Bonfire?

Yes. Step-by-step written instructions are available through the Bonfire website at: [Bonfire Vendor Support \(gobonfire.com\)](https://gobonfire.com).

Are the Bonfire accounts based on the firm, or is it an individual account? Is registration limited to one person/email per firm or may a firm have multiple accounts?

Each individual who will be submitting documents will need to register with Bonfire. The registration is for the individual, not the firm.

Finding Opportunities in Bonfire

How do I look for contracting opportunities in Bonfire?

TxDOT will still be posting its engineering, architecture, and survey contracting opportunities on the Electronic State Business Daily (ESBD) website. The information posted on the ESBD website will direct you to look in the Bonfire Procurement Portal for more detailed information about each contracting opportunity.

You can also log into the Bonfire Procurement Portal (<https://txdot.bonfirehub.com/>), to view the contracting opportunities listed on the "Open Public Opportunities" tab. On the Open Public Opportunities tab, you can filter the list of opportunities by Department to show contracting opportunities for engineering, architecture, and surveying contracts, by typing "Professional Engineering (PEPS)" into the search field. You can also enter a specific project number in the search field to look for a specific project opportunity. Instructions for finding projects in Bonfire

can be found at: [Bonfire Vendor Support \(gobonfire.com\)](https://gobonfire.com).

Responding to Opportunities in Bonfire

How do I ask a question about one of the opportunities shown in Bonfire?

Questions about a particular project must be submitted using the Bonfire system using the “Ask A Question” button on the “Opportunity Q&A” tab prior to the question deadline. Instructions for submitting a question in Bonfire can be found at: [Bonfire Vendor Support \(gobonfire.com\)](https://gobonfire.com)

Where will I find the questions and answers for the project?

The relevant questions and answers will be compiled into a Q&A document, which will be posted as a “public notice” for each contracting opportunity. These documents can be viewed in the Bonfire Portal in the “Messages” area. Typically, vendors that have viewed a project will receive an email notification when a public notice, such as the Q&A document, has been posted. Instructions for finding a public notice in Bonfire can be found at: [Bonfire Vendor Support \(gobonfire.com\)](https://gobonfire.com)

Where can I look for an Addendum for a project?

Log into the Bonfire Portal and navigate to the project that you’re interested in. Addenda can be viewed on the Messages section under the Public Notices tab, similar to the process used for finding the Q&A document.

Bonfire shows an option for “intent to bid”. What does this mean?

In the context of Bonfire, “intent to bid” is simply an indication that a firm intends to submit a response to a project opportunity. It is not a bid related to cost.

In Bonfire, “Intent to bid” is the mechanism used by a vendor to indicate that it is planning to submit a response to a project opportunity. Vendors that answer “yes” to the intent to bid question will then be able to prepare a submission in Bonfire.

If a vendor views a project opportunity, but decides not to submit a response, the vendor may answer “no” to the intent to bid question. Vendors are requested to provide a brief explanation of why they do not intend to submit a response. Vendors that answer “no” will not be able to prepare a submission for this project in Bonfire.

May only one person in the firm be linked to the Intent to Bid and the submittal?

The person who certifies the Intent to Bid must be the same person who completes the submittal. If John from firm A certifies the Intent to Bid, but Sally in firm A wants to complete the submittal, then Sally will need to submit her own Intent to Bid to proceed with submittal.

How do I indicate my intent to Bid on an opportunity in Bonfire?

Log into the Bonfire Portal and click on a project opportunity. Then navigate to the Submission heading near the bottom of the page. Instructions for answering the vendor question for intent to bid can be found by searching “intent to bid” at: [Bonfire Vendor Support \(gobonfire.com\)](https://gobonfire.com).

May I change my mind on the intent to Bid?

Yes, if you have already submitted your Intent to Bid but you no longer wish to submit a proposal, you may go back to the opportunity page and change your answer from Yes to No or vice versa. Note: you will not be able to change your answer if the Intent to Bid deadline has passed.

How do I submit a response to compete for an opportunity in Bonfire?

You must use the Bonfire Portal to submit your response for a project opportunity. Log into Bonfire and click on a project to view the details for responding to that opportunity. You must answer "yes" to the intent to bid question before you can begin preparing your submission. The Request for Proposals (RFP) posted in the solicitation contains the details related to the submittal for the contract. Instructions for creating and submitting a submission can be found at: [Bonfire Vendor Support \(gobonfire.com\)](https://gobonfire.com).

Once a response is submitted, who will receive emails from Bonfire?

Public notices for the project will be sent to all email addresses that submitted "yes" on the Intent to Bid. However, private notices for the project will be sent to the email address used to submit the response. A "Best Practice" may be to use a general email account that is accessible to a few select individuals in the firm to submit the response, so that all notifications may be viewed by those individuals. Vendors should check the submitter's inbox regularly for notices from Bonfire. Note: some firm's email security features may send these types of emails to a junk/trash/spam/clutter email folder.

Does the PM listed on the submittal receive notice of award of a contract?

Notification of the award of a contract is sent as an email from the PEPS Procurement Engineer to the prime provider Project Manager. The Selected firms are then posted externally on the TxDOT.gov webpage.

What format do I need to use for documents I am submitting with my response?

In the **Requested Information** section of the project, the documents needed to complete your submittal are listed. The "Type" column shows the required format for that file. For example: Attachment 1 Cover Page is a Questionnaire which needs to be submitted as an Excel (.xlsx) file, while Attachment 3 Project Team Composition Form (Part 1, 2, &3) needs to be submitted as a PDF (.pdf) file. Bonfire will not let you complete your submittal if a file is not in the correct format. It is important to download the Questionnaire and complete it using Microsoft Excel before uploading it as an .xlsx file. Bonfire will not let you upload the file if you use other software programs to complete the Questionnaire and then convert it to a xlsx file. All of the required documents must be uploaded into Bonfire before the date/time of closing in the Request for Proposals or the submittal will not be considered complete in Bonfire and will not be evaluated.

Who must complete the Questionnaire?

Anyone delegated by the prime firm may complete the Intent to Bid and the submittal; however, in the Attestation section of the Questionnaire, the vendor must provide the "Full Name of the Prime Provider's Project Manager." Completion of this item effectively means the Prime Provider's Project Manager is certifying the contents of the submittal.

What is the Texas Identification Number?

Within each PEPS procurement, the Attachment 1 Cover Page Questionnaire requires the vendor to include the Texas Identification Number (TIN). The TIN is a number assigned by the [Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts](https://comptroller.texas.gov) to payees who contract with a state agency. This is also the first eleven numbers of the Comptroller's CMBL number. If the Prime Provider does not have one, the firm should apply for a Texas identification number from the Comptroller: https://comptroller.texas.gov/search/?site=ctg_collection&q=texas+identification+number+%28tin%29+-+texpayment+resource.

The eleven digit TIN or State Vendor ID should be used for all PEPS systems. If the Prime Provider does not have a TIN at the time of responding to a solicitation, they may use their federal Employer Identification Number (EIN) or use "NONE" on the Questionnaire in Bonfire; however, a prime provider that is awarded a contract must have a TIN before the contract is executed.

Reviewing, Revising, or Withdrawing a Submission in Bonfire

How do I review the files that were uploaded as part of my submission?

If you want to review the files that you uploaded as part of your submission, you may use Bonfire to navigate to the Submissions page and then use the download button for the document that you want to review. Instructions for reviewing the files you submitted can be found at: [Bonfire Vendor Support \(gobonfire.com\)](https://gobonfire.com).

Can I withdraw a response that I have submitted?

Yes. If you have changed your mind about submitting a response or need to revise your response you may withdraw the response, so long as the deadline has not passed. Instructions for withdrawing a response can be found at: [Bonfire Vendor Support \(gobonfire.com\)](https://gobonfire.com)

Can I make revisions after I have submitted my response in Bonfire?

Yes. If you have already submitted your response in Bonfire, you can “unsubmit” the response, make revisions, and then resubmit the updated response in Bonfire. Remember, that the updated response must be submitted in Bonfire prior to the deadline.

Questions Regarding the Electronic Submittal Process

Vendors unfamiliar with the process are encouraged to prepare and upload their submittal at least a day before the submittal deadline so they have time to reach out to PEPS or the Bonfire Support team to address any issues.

Who should I contact if I have questions about the PEPS electronic submittal and evaluation tool (eSET) process?

Vendors may submit general questions related to the PEPS eSET process to PEPS_COE_Process@txdot.gov. Questions about a particular contract must be submitted using the Bonfire system using the “Ask A Question” button on the “Opportunity Q&A” tab prior to the question deadline.

Who should I contact if I have questions about using Bonfire?

Vendors may ask questions while using Bonfire by clicking on the “Help” button at the lower left corner of the screen. The Bonfire Support team will respond to the question.

Are there any additional resources available?

Bonfire has User Guides and Frequently Asked Questions that vendors can access through the Bonfire support webpage at: [Bonfire Vendor Support \(gobonfire.com\)](https://gobonfire.com).