

AN AGREEMENT
BY AND BETWEEN
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OFFICES
AND MORNINGSIDE RESEARCH AND CONSULTING, Inc.

This Services Agreement (“Agreement”) is entered into and effective May 1, 2018 (the “Effective Date”), by and between The Texas A&M University System (hereafter referred to as “TAMUS”), an agency of the state of Texas, and Morningside Research and Consulting, Inc. (hereafter referred to as “PROVIDER”). TAMUS and PROVIDER are sometimes hereafter referred to as “Party” individually or “Parties” collectively).

TAMUS and PROVIDER hereby agree as follows:

1. SCOPE OF WORK

PROVIDER will work with TAMUS to provide consulting services to assist the Governor’s Commission to Rebuild Texas in drafting a report chronicling Hurricane Harvey. Tasks include, but are not limited to, helping organize material in the report, in-person or telephone interviews to gather information, research on assigned topics, drafting and reviewing portions of the report, and attending meetings related to these tasks.

2. TERM OF THE AGREEMENT

The initial term of this Agreement shall begin May 1, 2018 and will continue until the completion of the project.

3. PAYMENT TERMS

- A. For the services rendered under this Agreement, the A&M System shall pay PROVIDER \$150 per hour, plus any pre-approved business related expenses not to exceed \$5,000. The total amount for services, including reimbursables, under this agreement shall not exceed \$50,000.
- B. PROVIDER can invoice the A&M System monthly for the Scope of Work identified in Section 1. For reimbursement of travel expenses or other reimbursable expenses, PROVIDER’S invoice(s) must include supporting documents. Any expenses to be reimbursed must be approved by the A&M System prior to incurring the expense. Payment will be made to PROVIDER upon approval of such invoice by the A&M System. Payment will be made on a properly prepared and submitted invoice within fifteen (15) days of the latter of any final acceptance of performance or the receipt of a properly submitted invoice.
- C. All payments shall be made by electronic direct deposit. PROVIDER is required to complete and submit to TAMUS a Vendor Direct Deposit Authorization form prior to the first payment request. The form can be accessed at;
<http://www2.tamus.edu/offices/budget-acct/acct/general/> .

- D. All invoices must reference the TAMUS purchase order number (which will be provided to PROVIDER within 15 days of the execution of this Agreement) and description of services provided to include but not limited to time, deliverables, and activities.

4. DEFAULT AND TERMINATION

- A. In the event of substantial failure by PROVIDER to perform in accordance with the terms hereof, TAMUS may terminate this Agreement upon fifteen (15) days written notice of termination setting forth the nature of the failure (the termination shall not be effective if the failure is fully cured prior to the end of the fifteen-day period), provided that said failure is through no fault of TAMUS.
- B. TAMUS may terminate this Agreement at any time upon seven (7) days prior notice to PROVIDER.

5. PUBLIC INFORMATION

- A. PROVIDER acknowledges that TAMUS is obligated to strictly comply with the Public Information Act, Chapter 552, *Texas Government Code*, in responding to any request for public information pertaining to this Agreement, as well as any other disclosure of information required by applicable Texas law.
- B. Upon TAMUS's written request, PROVIDER will provide specified public information exchanged or created under this Agreement that is not otherwise excepted from disclosure under chapter 552, Texas Government Code, to TAMUS in a non-proprietary format acceptable to TAMUS. As used in this provision, "public information" has the meaning assigned Section 552.002, *Texas Government Code*, but only includes information to which TAMUS has a right of access.
- C. PROVIDER acknowledges that TAMUS is required to post a copy of the fully executed Agreement on its Internet website in compliance with Section 2261.253(a)(1), *Texas Government Code*.

6. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The dispute resolution process provided in Chapter 2260, *Texas Government Code*, and the related rules adopted by the Texas Attorney General pursuant to Chapter 2260, shall be used by TAMUS and PROVIDER to attempt to resolve any claim for breach of contract made by PROVIDER that cannot be resolved in the ordinary course of business. PROVIDER shall submit written notice of a claim of breach of contract under this Chapter to Billy Hamilton, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer for TAMUS, who shall examine PROVIDER's claim and any counterclaim and negotiate with PROVIDER in an effort to resolve the claim.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. **Indemnification. PROVIDER agrees to indemnify and hold harmless TAMUS from any claim, damage, liability, expense or loss to the extent arising out of PROVIDER's negligent or willful errors or omissions under this Agreement.**

- B. **Independent Contractor.** PROVIDER is an independent contractor, and neither PROVIDER nor any employee of PROVIDER shall be deemed to be an agent or employee of TAMUS. PROVIDER will have no responsibility to provide transportation, insurance or other fringe benefits normally associated with employee status. PROVIDER shall observe and abide by all applicable laws and regulations, policies and procedures, including but not limited to those of TAMUS relative to conduct on its premises.
- C. **Delinquent Child Support Obligations.** A child support obligor who is more than 30 days delinquent in paying child support and a business entity in which the obligor is a sole proprietor, partner, shareholder, or owner with an ownership interest of at least 25 percent is not eligible to receive payments from state funds under an agreement to provide property, materials, or services until all arrearages have been paid or the obligor is in compliance with a written repayment agreement or court order as to any existing delinquency. The *Texas Family Code* requires the following statement: "Under Section 231.006, *Texas Family Code*, the vendor or applicant certifies that the individual or business entity named in this contract, bid, or application is not ineligible to receive the specified grant, loan, or payment and acknowledges that this contract may be terminated and payment may be withheld if this certification is inaccurate."
- D. **Payment of Debt or Delinquency to the State.** Pursuant to Section 2252.903, *Texas Government Code*, PROVIDER agrees that any payments owing to PROVIDER under this Agreement may be applied directly toward certain debts or delinquencies that PROVIDER owes the State of Texas or any agency of the State of Texas regardless of when they arise, until such debts or delinquencies are paid in full.
- E. **Previous Employment.** PROVIDER acknowledges and understands that Section 2252.901, *Texas Government Code*, prohibits TAMUS from using state appropriated funds to enter into any employment contract, consulting contract, or professional services contract with any individual who has been previously employed, as an employee, by the agency within the past twelve (12) months. If PROVIDER is an individual, by signing this Agreement, PROVIDER certifies that Section 2252.901, *Texas Government Code*, does not prohibit the use of state appropriated funds for satisfying the payment obligations herein.
- F. **Franchise Tax Certification.** If PROVIDER is a taxable entity subject to the Texas Franchise Tax (Chapter 171, *Texas Tax Code*), then PROVIDER certifies that it is not currently delinquent in the payment of any franchise (margin) taxes or that PROVIDER is exempt from the payment of franchise (margin) taxes.
- G. **State Auditor's Office.** PROVIDER understands that acceptance of funds under this Agreement constitutes acceptance of the authority of the Texas State Auditor's Office, or any successor agency (collectively, "Auditor"), to conduct an audit or investigation in connection with those funds pursuant to Section 51.9335(c), *Texas Education Code*. PROVIDER agrees to cooperate with the Auditor in the conduct of the audit or investigation, including without limitation, providing all records requested. PROVIDER will include this provision in all contracts with permitted subcontractors.
- H. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement constitutes the sole agreement of the parties and supersedes any other oral or written understanding or agreement pertaining to the subject matter of this Agreement. This Agreement may not be amended or otherwise altered except upon the written agreement of both parties.

- I. **Severability.** If any provisions of this Agreement are rendered or declared illegal for any reason, or shall be invalid or unenforceable, such provision shall be modified or deleted in such manner so as to afford the Party for whose benefit it was intended the fullest benefit commensurate with making this Agreement, as modified, enforceable, and the remainder of this Agreement and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby, but shall be enforced to the greatest extent permitted by applicable law.
- J. **Headings.** Headings appear solely for convenience of reference. Such headings are not part of this Agreement and shall not be used to construe it.
- K. **Non-Assignment.** PROVIDER shall neither assign its rights nor delegate its duties under this Agreement without the prior written consent of TAMUS.
- L. **HUB Subcontracting Plan.** If a subcontractor will be used to provide any commodity or service as part of the scope on a specific assignment, the PROVIDER will be required to make a good faith effort and complete the state of Texas HSP found at <http://www.tamus.edu/business/facilities-planning-construction/forms-guidelines-wage-rates/>. If there are pre-existing agreements in place with companies who will be hired as subcontractors, the PROVIDER will show those companies as subcontractors on the HSP and provide an explanation as to why solicitations were not done, e.g. contractual requirements. If no pre-existing agreements with companies who will be hired as subcontractors exist, then the PROVIDER will be expected to make a good faith effort according to the HSP instructions.

In the event that you determine you will be using a subcontractor, please contact Mr. Jeff Zimmermann from the A&M System's HUB Program at (979) 458-6410 or jzimmermann@tamus.edu for assistance in determining available HUB subcontractors and proper completion of the HSP.

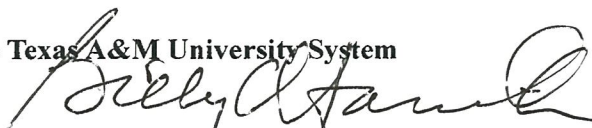
- M. **Force Majeure.** Neither party is required to perform any term, condition, or covenant of this Agreement, if performance is prevented or delayed by a natural occurrence, a fire, an act of God, an act of terrorism, or other similar occurrence, the cause of which is not reasonably within the control of such party and which by due diligence it is unable to prevent or overcome.
- N. **Loss of Funding.** Performance by TAMUS under this Agreement may be dependent upon the appropriation and allotment of funds by the Texas State Legislature (the "Legislature"). If the Legislature fails to appropriate or allot the necessary funds, TAMUS will issue written notice to PROVIDER and TAMUS may terminate this Agreement without further duty or obligation hereunder. PROVIDER acknowledges that appropriation of funds is beyond the control of TAMUS.
- O. **Governing Law.** The validity of this Agreement and all matters pertaining to this Agreement, including but not limited to, matters of performance, non-performance, breach, remedies, procedures, rights, duties, and interpretation or construction, shall be governed and determined by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Texas.
- P. **Venue.** Pursuant to Section 85.18, *Texas Education Code*, venue for any suit filed against TAMUS shall be in the county in which the primary office of the chief executive officer of TAMUS is located, which is Brazos County, Texas.
- Q. **Non-Waiver.** PROVIDER expressly acknowledges that TAMUS is an agency of the State of Texas and nothing in this Agreement will be construed as a waiver or

- relinquishment by TAMUS of its right to claim such exemptions, privileges, and immunities as may be provided by law.
- R. **Conflict of Interest.** By executing this Agreement, PROVIDER and each person signing on behalf of PROVIDER certifies, and in the case of a sole proprietorship, partnership or corporation, each party thereto certifies as to its own organization, that to the best of their knowledge and belief, no member of The A&M System or The A&M System Board of Regents, nor any employee, or person, whose salary is payable in whole or in part by The A&M System, has direct or indirect financial interest in the award of this Agreement, or in the services to which this Agreement relates, or in any of the profits, real or potential, thereof.
- S. **Prohibition on Contracts with Companies Boycotting Israel.** By executing this Agreement, the PROVIDER certifies it does not and will not, during the performance of this contract, boycott Israel. PROVIDER acknowledges this Agreement may be terminated if this certification is inaccurate.
- T. **Certification Regarding Business with Certain Countries and Organizations.** Pursuant to Subchapter F, Chapter 2252, Texas Government Code, PROVIDER certifies it is not engaged in business with Iran, Sudan, or a foreign terrorist organization. PROVIDER acknowledges this Agreement may be terminated if this certification is inaccurate.
- U. **Notices.** Any notice required or permitted under this Agreement must be in writing, and shall be deemed to be delivered (whether actually received or not) when deposited with the United States Postal Service, postage prepaid, certified mail, return receipt requested, and addressed to the intended recipient at the address set out below. Notice may also be given by regular mail, personal delivery, courier delivery, facsimile transmission, email or other commercially reasonable means and will be effective when actually received. TAMUS and PROVIDER can change their respective notice address by sending to the other party a notice of the new address. Notices should be addressed as follows:

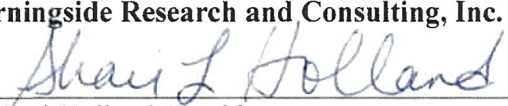
TAMUS: The Texas A&M University System
301 Tarrow St., Suite 361
College Station, Texas 77840
Attention: Jeff Zimmermann
Phone: (979) 458-6410
Fax: (979) 458-6250
E-mail: jzimmermann@tamus.edu

PROVIDER: Morningside Research and Consulting, Inc.
1216 Alegria Road
Austin, TX 78757
Phone: (512) 302-4413
Email: sholland@morningsideresearch.com

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, intending to be bound, the Parties have entered into this Agreement as of the Effective Date.

The Texas A&M University System
By 
Billy Hamilton
Exec. Vice Chancellor & Chief Financial Officer

6-11-18
Date

Morningside Research and Consulting, Inc.
By 
Shari Holland, President

5/18/18
Date