



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

SAUT/26-27/03

Architectural and Engineering Services

SAU Tech Defense Manufacturing Center of Excellence

East Camden, Arkansas

1. Introduction

Southern Arkansas University Tech (SAU Tech) is soliciting Statements of Qualifications from qualified architectural firms to provide professional design services for the planned 50,000-square-foot **Defense Manufacturing Center of Excellence** to be located on the SAU Tech campus in East Camden, Arkansas.

The project is intended to support workforce development, advanced manufacturing training, defense industry partnerships, research activities, and related educational programs that strengthen the regional and national defense manufacturing workforce.

This solicitation is issued in accordance with applicable Arkansas laws and regulations governing the procurement of professional services.

2. Project Overview

SAU Tech intends to develop a new Defense Manufacturing Center of Excellence that will serve as a state-of-the-art facility supporting:

- Defense manufacturing workforce education and training
- Advanced manufacturing technologies
- Industrial and defense contractor partnerships
- Applied research and innovation activities
- Classroom, laboratory, testing, and collaboration spaces
- Administrative and support functions

The selected firm will assist SAU Tech in refining the project scope and developing a facility design that aligns with current and future workforce and industry needs.

The anticipated project budget for construction will be established during the planning and programming phase.

Funding Notice: Federal legislative appropriations for this project have been authorized; however, commencement of the project and execution of professional services agreements shall be contingent upon the award of all necessary project funding. SAU Tech reserves the right to delay, modify, or cancel the project without obligation should funding not become available.

3. Scope of Services

The selected firm will provide comprehensive architectural and engineering services, including but not limited to:

Programming and Planning

- Stakeholder meetings and project visioning
- Space needs assessment
- Facility programming
- Site evaluation and recommendations
- Preliminary cost estimates

Design Services

- Schematic Design
- Design Development
- Construction Documents
- Code analysis and compliance
- Sustainable and energy-efficient design strategies

Engineering Services

- Structural engineering
- Civil engineering
- Mechanical engineering
- Electrical engineering

- Plumbing engineering
- Fire protection engineering
- Technology and communications infrastructure design

Construction Administration

- Bidding support
- Review of contractor submittals
- Response to requests for information
- Construction observation
- Project closeout assistance

4. Minimum Qualifications

Interested firms must demonstrate:

- Current licensure to practice architecture in the State of Arkansas
- Capability to provide all required architectural and engineering disciplines
- Experience designing higher education facilities
- Experience with advanced manufacturing, industrial, workforce training, defense, aerospace, or similar facilities
- Demonstrated ability to complete projects within budget and schedule
- Experience working with public-sector institutions

5. Evaluation Criteria

Statements of Qualifications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Score
Relevant project experience	Up to 30 pts.
Qualifications of project team	Up to 25 pts.
Experience with higher education and manufacturing facilities	Up to 20 pts.
Project approach and understanding of objectives	Up to 15 pts.

SAU Tech may elect to conduct interviews with a short list of the highest-ranked firms.

6. Submission Delivery & Requirements

- Deliver six (6) copies of the statement of qualifications by 1:00 PM CST on September 8, 2026, to the following address:
Southern Arkansas University Tech
Keisha Robinson, Manning Hall Room 110
6251 Hussey Rd
Camden, AR 71701
- Sealed envelopes should state "Statement of Qualifications for RFQ SAUT/26-27/03 Architect Defense Manufacturing Center of Excellence ".

Statement of Qualification **must** follow the following format:

Relevant Project Experience (maximum of 30 points)

- Firm name and location
- Contact person
- Organizational structure
- Years in business

Qualifications of Project Team (maximum of 25 points)

- Description of firm's capabilities
- Relevant experience
- Key personnel and resumes
- Identification of consultants and subconsultants

Experience with Higher Education and Manufacturing Facilities (maximum of 20 points)

Provide descriptions of at least five (5) comparable projects completed within the last ten years, including:

- Project owner
- Project location
- Construction value

- Completion date
- Services provided
- Reference contact information

Project Approach and Understanding the Objective (maximum of 15 points)

Provide a narrative describing:

- Understanding of the project
- Design philosophy
- Approach to stakeholder engagement
- Cost control methodology
- Schedule management approach

References and Past Performances (maximum of 10 points)

Provide a minimum of three references from recent clients.

7. Selection Process

SAU Tech will review all submitted qualifications and rank firms pursuant to Arkansas procurement requirements for professional services. The highest-ranked firm may be invited to enter contract negotiations. If an agreement cannot be reached, negotiations may be terminated and initiated with the next highest-ranked firm.

8. Tentative Schedule

Activity	Date
RFQ Issued	August 24, 2026
Questions Due	August 31, 2026 by 2 p.m. CST
Responses Posted	September 2, 2026
SOQ Submission Deadline	September 8, 2026 by 1 p.m. CST
Interviews	September 18 & 21, 2026
Selection Announcement	September 22, 2026

Dates are subject to change at the discretion of SAU Tech.

9. Reservation of Rights

SAU Tech reserves the right to:

- Reject any or all submissions
- Waive informalities or irregularities
- Request additional information from respondents
- Modify the scope of services
- Cancel or reissue this RFQ
- Make no selection if deemed in the University's best interest

Issuance of this RFQ does not obligate SAU Tech to award a contract or reimburse any costs incurred in preparing a response.

10. Clarification of Request for Qualification:

Please direct all inquiries regarding this Request for Quotation (RFQ) **via email only** to Keisha Robinson, Carl Ramsay, and Michael Armstrong by 2:00 p.m. Central Time on or before Monday, August 31, 2026, using the email addresses provided below.

Keisha Robinson

Procurement Manager

Southern Arkansas University Tech

Email: krobinso@sautech.edu

AND

Carl Ramsay

Director of Physical Plant

Southern Arkansas University Tech

Email: cramsay@sautech.edu

AND

Michael Armstrong

Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration

Southern Arkansas University Tech

Email: marmstro@sautech.edu

Funding Contingency Statement

The Defense Manufacturing Center of Excellence project has received federal legislative appropriation authority. However, the project is contingent upon award of all necessary funding sources. No contract award, notice to proceed, or authorization for professional services shall occur until funding has been fully secured. SAU Tech reserves the right to postpone, modify, or cancel the project without liability should funding not be awarded or become unavailable.

This statement should be included prominently in both the RFQ and any subsequent agreement for professional services.