

**THE STATE OF MARYLAND /
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET and MANAGEMENT
ASSISTIVE TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT and
ASSOCIATED PERIPHERALS; Project No. 050B7800030**

THIS CONTRACT is made as of this 29th day of November, 2007 by and between HITEC GROUP INTERNATIONAL, INC. and the MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT.

IN CONSIDERATION of the premises and the covenants herein contained, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

Definitions

In this Contract, the following words have the meanings indicated:

- 1.1 “Best and Final Offer (BAFO)” means the Contractor’s Best and Final Offer proposal dated October 15, 2007;
- 1.2 “Contract” means this Contract for Assistive Telecommunications Equipment and Associated Peripherals;
- 1.3 “Contractor” means HITEC Group International, Inc. whose principal business address is 8160 Madison Street, Burr Ridge, IL 60527 and whose principal office (and/or resident agent) in Maryland is Business Filings International, Inc., 300 East Lombard Street, Suite 1400, Baltimore, MD 21202;
- 1.4 “Contract Manager” means the individual identified in section 1.7 of the RFP or a successor designated by the Department;
- 1.5 “Department” means the Maryland Department of Budget and Management;
- 1.6 “Installation” means the physical means to provide for the features and functions generally described in the User Documentation of any assistive telecommunication equipment product as applicable;
- 1.7 “Manufacturer’s Suggest Retail Price (MSRP) Commitment Affidavit” means the affidavit completed and signed by the Master Contractor for each proposed Functional Area wherein the Master Contractor commits that at the secondary level of competition, they will propose at or lower than the current MSRP in response to each POIFB or PORFP;
- 1.8 “Purchase Order (P.O.)” authorizes Contractor to proceed with delivery of products and/or any services requested via a POIFB or PORFP;

- 1.9 "POIFB" means Purchase Order Information for Bid;
- 1.10 "PORFP" means Purchase Order Request for Proposals;
- 1.11 "Procurement Officer" means the individual identified in section 1.6 of the RFP or a successor designated by the Department;
- 1.12 "Project Manager" means the individual identified in Section 1.7 of the RFP or a successor designed by the Department;
- 1.13 "RFP" means the Request for Proposals for Assistive Telecommunications Equipment and Associated Peripherals dated **May 18, 2007** and any amendments thereto issued in writing by the State;
- 1.14 "Assistive Telecommunications Equipment, associated peripherals, services, warranty(ies)" means those applicable equipment, associated peripherals, services, or warranties described in Section 2 of this RFP;
- 1.15 "State" means the State of Maryland; and
- 1.16 "Technical Proposal" means the Contractor's Technical Proposal, dated June 28, 2007.

2. Scope of Work

2.1 The Contractor shall provide Assistive Telecommunications Equipment, associated peripherals and services, and/or Manufacturer's Extended Warranty, for the State as described in the P.O. and the POIFB/PORFP (See Section 2.3). These services shall be provided in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Contract and the following Exhibits, which are attached and incorporated herein by reference. If there are any inconsistencies between this Contract and Exhibits A through K, the terms of this Contract shall control. If there is any conflict among the Exhibits, the following order of precedence shall determine the prevailing provision.

- Exhibit A The RFP.
- Exhibit B Purchase Order (when executed for each applicable POIFB or PORFB).
- Exhibit C POIFB or PORFB (when released).
- Exhibit D Master Contractor's proposal response to the POIFB or PORFP (when submitted).
- Exhibit E The State's BAFO request dated October 9, 2007.
- Exhibit F The Master Contractor's BAFO to the Master Contract dated October 15, 2007.
- Exhibit G The State's Cure Letter to the Master Contractor dated August 17, 2007.
- Exhibit H The Master Contractor's Cure Letter Response to the State dated August 29, 2007.
- Exhibit I The Master Contractor's Technical Proposal to the Master Contract dated June 28, 2007.
- Exhibit J MSRP Commitment Affidavit, dated June 28, 2007.
- Exhibit K State Contract Affidavit, executed by the Contractor and dated

11/4/2007.

2.2. The Procurement Officer may, at any time, by written order, make changes in the work within the general scope of the Contract, the POIFB/PORFP or the P.O. No other order, statement or conduct of the Procurement Officer or any other person shall be treated as a change or entitle the Contractor to an equitable adjustment under this section. Except as otherwise provided in this Contract, if any change under this section causes an increase or decrease in the Contractor's cost of, or the time required for, the performance of any part of the work, whether or not changed by the order, an equitable adjustment in the Contract price shall be made and the Contract modified in writing accordingly. The Contractor must assert in writing its right to an adjustment under this section within thirty (30) days of receipt of written change order and shall include a written statement setting forth the nature and cost of such claim. No claim by the Contractor shall be allowed if asserted after final payment under this Contract. Failure to agree to an adjustment under this section shall be a dispute under Article 10, Disputes. Nothing in this section shall excuse the Contractor from proceeding with the Contract as changed.

2.3 The Master Contractor has been qualified to perform under Functional Area(s): I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VIII, IX, X, XI.

3. Time for Performance.

The Contractor shall provide services in accordance with this Master Contract and any POIFB/PORFP. The term of this Contract is for a period of approximately six (-6-) years, beginning on November 29, 2007 and ending August 31, 2013 unless terminated earlier as provided in this Master Contract.

4. Consideration and Payment

4.1 In consideration of the satisfactory performance of the work set forth in this Contract and any POIFB/PORFP, the Department shall pay the Contractor in accordance with the not-to-exceed rates and terms of each POIFB/PORFP as noted by the applicable executed P.O. Any work performed by the Contractor in excess of the ceiling amount of any P.O. without the prior written approval of the Contract Manager is at the Contractor's risk of non-payment. Payments under POs issued on a fixed price basis as it relates to a PORFP, shall be limited to the price specified in the PORFP, regardless of the actual cost to the Contractor.

4.2 Invoices must be provided in the format and on the schedule identified in the POIFB/PORFP. Each invoice must reflect the Contractor's federal tax identification number, which is [REDACTED]

4.3 The Contractor's eMM identification number is [REDACTED]

4.4 Payments to the Contractor pursuant to this Contract shall be made no later than 30 days after the State's receipt of a proper invoice from the Contractor. Charges for late payment of invoices, other than as prescribed by Title 15, Subtitle 1, of the State Finance

and Procurement Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, as from time to time amended, are prohibited. PORFPs may specify periodic payments based on deliverables or stages of completion. A POIFB or PORFP may specify that a portion of the payments due will be withheld until completion of the PO. The amount withheld from each payment shall be paid to the Contractor within thirty (30) days of the State's acceptance of all deliverables required under the PO and receipt from the Contractor of a release in a form prescribed by the State for any claims arising out of or related to the POIFB or PORFP. The final payment under this Contract will not be made until after certification is received from the Comptroller of the State that all taxes have been paid.

4.5 In addition to any other available remedies if, in the opinion of the Procurement Officer, the Contractor fails to perform in a satisfactory and timely manner, the Procurement Officer may refuse or limit approval of any invoice for payment, and may cause payments to the Contractor to be reduced or withheld until such time as the Contractor meets performance standards as established by the Procurement Officer pursuant to this Contract

4.6 The State will use electronic funds transfer to pay the Contractor for this Contract and any POs there under and any other State payments due Contractor unless the State's Comptroller Office grants the Contractor an exemption.

5. POIFBs/PORFPs

A POIFB/PORFP may specify terms in addition to the terms specified herein. Such additional terms may include warranties, deliverables, and acceptance test requirements. POIFBs/PORFPs and subsequent POs may not limit the State's rights as provided by law, in this Contract, or in the RFP and may not change the terms of this Contract or the RFP.

6. Rights to Records

6.1 The Contractor agrees that all documents and materials, including but not limited to, reports, drawings, studies, specifications, estimates, tests, maps, photographs, designs, graphics, mechanical, artwork, computations and data prepared by the Contractor for purposes of this Contract shall be the sole property of the Department and shall be available to the Department at any time. The Department shall have the right to use the same without restriction and without compensation to the Contractor other than that specifically provided by this Contract.

6.2 The Contractor agrees that at all times during the term of this Contract and thereafter, the works created and services performed under this Contract shall be "works made for hire" as that term is interpreted under U.S. copyright law. To the extent that any products created under this Contract are not works for hire for the Department, the Contractor hereby relinquishes, transfers, and assigns to the State all of its rights, title, and interest (including all intellectual property rights) to all such products created under this Contract, and will cooperate reasonably with the State in effectuating and registering any necessary assignments.

6.3 The Contractor shall report to the Department, promptly and in written detail, each notice or claim of copyright infringement received by the Contractor with respect to all data delivered under this Contract.

6.4 The Contractor shall not affix any restrictive markings upon any data and if such markings are affixed, the Department shall have the right at any time to modify, remove, obliterate, or ignore such warnings.

6.5 Upon termination of this Contract, the Contractor, at its own expense, shall deliver any equipment, Hardware and Associated Equipment and Services or other property provided by the State to the place designated by the Procurement Officer.

7. Patents, Copyrights, Intellectual Property

7.1 If the Contractor furnishes any design, device, material, process, or other item, which is covered by a patent or copyright or which is proprietary to or a trade secret of another, the Contractor shall obtain the necessary permission or license to permit the State to use such item or items.

7.2 The Contractor will defend or settle, at its own expense, any claim or suit against the State alleging that any such item furnished by the Contractor infringes any patent, trademark, copyright, or trade secret. If a third party claims that a product infringes that party's patent, trademark, trade secret, or copyright, the Contractor will defend the State against that claim at Contractor's expense and will pay all damages, costs and attorneys' fees that a court finally awards, provided the State (i) promptly notifies the Contractor in writing of the claim; and (ii) allows Contractor to control and cooperates with Contractor in the defense and any related settlement negotiations. The obligations of this paragraph are in addition to those stated in Section 7.3 below.

7.3 If any products furnished by the Contractor become, or in the Contractor's opinion are likely to become, the subject of a claim of infringement, the Contractor will, at its option and expense: (a) procure for the State the right to continue using the applicable item, (b) replace the product with a non-infringing product substantially complying with the item's specifications, or (c) modify the item so that it becomes non-infringing and performs in a substantially similar manner to the original item.

8. Confidentiality

Subject to the Maryland Public Information Act and any other applicable laws, all confidential or proprietary information and documentation relating to either party (including without limitation, any information or data stored within the Contractor's computer systems) shall be held in absolute confidence by the other party. Each party shall, however, be permitted to disclose relevant confidential information to its officers, agents and employees to the extent that such disclosure is necessary for the performance of their duties under this Contract, provided the data may be collected, used, disclosed,

stored and disseminated only as provided by and consistent with the law. The provisions of this section shall not apply to information that (a) is lawfully in the public domain; (b) has been independently developed by the other party without violation of this Contract; (c) was already in the possession of such party; (d) was supplied to such party by a third party lawfully in possession thereof and legally permitted to further disclose the information; or (e) which such party is required to disclose by law.

9. Loss of Data

In the event of loss of any State data or records where such loss is due to the intentional act, omission, or negligence of the Contractor or any of its subcontractors or agents, the Contractor shall be responsible for recreating such lost data in the manner and on the schedule set by the Contract Manager. The Contractor shall ensure that all data is backed up and is recoverable by the Contractor.

10. Non-Hiring of Employees

No official or employee of the State of Maryland as defined under State Government Article section 15-102, Annotated Code of Maryland, whose duties as such official or employee include matters relating to or affecting the subject matter of this Contract shall, during the pendency and term of this Contract and while serving as an official or employee of the State become or be an employee of the Contractor or any entity that is a subcontractor on this Contract.

11. Disputes

This Contract shall be subject to the provisions of Title 15, Subtitle 2, of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as from time to time amended, and COMAR 21.10 (Administrative and Civil Remedies). Pending resolution of a claim, the Contractor shall proceed diligently with the performance of the Contract in accordance with the Procurement Officer's decision. Unless a lesser period is provided by applicable statute, regulation, or the Contract, the Contractor must file a written notice of claim with the Procurement Officer within 30 days after the basis for the claim is known or should have been known, whichever is earlier. Contemporaneously with or within 30 days of the filing of a notice of claim, but no later than the date of final payment under the Contract, the Contractor must submit to the Procurement Officer its written claim containing the information specified in COMAR 21.10.04.02.

12. Maryland Law

This Contract shall be construed, interpreted, and enforced according to the laws of the State of Maryland. The Maryland Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act (Commercial Law Article, Title 22 of the Annotated Code of Maryland) does not apply to this Contract or any software license acquired hereunder. Any and all references to the Annotated Code of Maryland contained in this Contract shall be construed to refer to such Code sections as from time to time amended.

13. Nondiscrimination in Employment

The Contractor agrees: (a) not to discriminate in any manner against an employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, creed, age, sex, marital status, national origin, ancestry, or disability of a qualified individual with a disability; (b) to include a provision similar to that contained in subsection (a), above, in any subcontract except a subcontract for standard commercial supplies or raw materials; and (c) to post and to cause subcontractors to post in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment, notices setting forth the substance of this clause.

14. Contingent Fee Prohibition

The Contractor warrants that it has not employed or retained any person, partnership, corporation, or other entity, other than a bona fide employee, bona fide agent, bona fide salesperson, or commercial selling agency working for the Contractor to solicit or secure this Contract, and that it has not paid or agreed to pay any person, partnership, corporation or other entity, other than a bona fide employee, bona fide agent, bona fide salesperson or commercial selling agency, any fee or other consideration contingent on the making of this Contract.

15. Non-availability of Funding

If the General Assembly fails to appropriate funds or if funds are not otherwise made available for continued performance for any fiscal period of a PO under this Contract succeeding the first fiscal period, the PO shall be canceled automatically as of the beginning of the fiscal year for which funds were not appropriated or otherwise made available; provided, however, that this will not affect either the State's rights or the Contractor's rights under any termination clause in this Contract. The effect of termination of the PO hereunder will be to discharge both the Contractor and the State from future performance of the PO, but not from their rights and obligations existing at the time of termination. The Contractor shall be reimbursed for the reasonable value of any nonrecurring costs incurred but not amortized in the price of the PO. The State shall notify the Contractor as soon as it has knowledge that funds may not be available for the continuation of the PO for each succeeding fiscal period beyond the first.

16. Termination for Cause

If the Contractor fails to fulfill its obligations under this Contract properly and on time, or otherwise violates any provision of the Contract, the State may terminate the Contract by written notice to the Contractor. The notice shall specify the acts or omissions relied upon as cause for termination. All finished or unfinished work provided by the Contractor shall, at the State's option, become the State's property. The State of Maryland shall pay the Contractor fair and equitable compensation for satisfactory performance prior to receipt of notice of termination, less the amount of damages caused by the Contractor's breach. If the damages are more than the compensation payable to

the Contractor, the Contractor will remain liable after termination and the State can affirmatively collect damages. Termination hereunder, including the termination of the rights and obligations of the parties, shall be governed by the provisions of COMAR 21.07.01.11B.

17. Termination for Convenience

The performance of work under this Contract may be terminated by the State in accordance with this clause in whole, or from time to time in part, whenever the State shall determine that such termination is in the best interest of the State. The State will pay all reasonable costs associated with this Contract that the Contractor has incurred up to the date of termination, and all reasonable costs associated with termination of the Contract; provided, however, the Contractor shall not be reimbursed for any anticipatory profits that have not been earned up to the date of termination. Termination hereunder, including the determination of the rights and obligations of the parties, shall be governed by the provisions of COMAR 21.07.01.12 (A) (2).

18. Delays and Extensions of Time

The Contractor agrees to perform the work under this Contract continuously and diligently. No charges or claims for damages shall be made by the Contractor for any delays or hindrances from any cause whatsoever during the progress of any portion of the work specified in this Contract. Time extensions will be granted only for excusable delays that arise from unforeseeable causes beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of the Contractor, including but not restricted to acts of God, acts of the public enemy, acts of the State in either its sovereign or contractual capacity, acts of another contractor in the performance of a contract with the State, fires, floods, epidemics, quarantine restrictions, strikes, freight embargoes, or delays of subcontractors or suppliers arising from unforeseeable causes beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of either the Contractor or the subcontractors or suppliers.

19. Suspension of Work

The State unilaterally may order the Contractor in writing to suspend, delay, or interrupt all or any part of its performance for such period of time as the Procurement Officer or Contract Manager may determine to be appropriate for the convenience of the State.

20. Pre-Existing Regulations

In accordance with the provisions of Section 11-206 of the State Finance and Procurement Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, as from time to time amended, the regulations set forth in Title 21 of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR 21) in effect on the date of execution of this Contract are applicable to this Contract.

21. Financial Disclosure

The Contractor shall comply with the provisions of Section 13-221 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as from time to time amended, which requires that every business that enters into contracts, leases, or other agreement with the State of Maryland or its agencies during a calendar year under which the business is to receive in the aggregate \$100,000 or more, shall within 30 days of the time when the aggregate value of these contracts, leases or other agreements reaches \$100,000, file with the Secretary of the State of Maryland certain specified information to include disclosure of beneficial ownership of the business.

22. Political Contribution Disclosure

The Contractor shall comply with the Election Law Article, Sections 14-101 through 14-108, of the Annotated Code of Maryland, which requires that every person that enters into contracts, leases, or other agreements with the State, a county or an incorporated municipality or their agencies, during a calendar year under which the person receives in the aggregate \$100,000 or more, shall file with the State Board of Elections a statement disclosing contributions in excess of \$500 made during the reporting period to a candidate for elective office in any primary or general election. The statement shall be filed with the State Board of Elections: (1) before a purchase or execution of a lease or contract by the State, a county, an incorporated municipality, or their agencies, and shall cover the preceding two calendar years; and (2) if the contribution is made after the execution of a lease or contract, then twice a year, throughout the contract term, on: (a) February 5, to cover the 6-month period ending January 31; and (b) August 5, to cover the 6-month period ending July 31.

23. Retention of Records

The Contractor shall retain and maintain all records and documents in any way relating to this Contract for three years after final payment by the State of Maryland under this Contract or any applicable statute of limitations, whichever is longer, and shall make them available for inspection and audit by authorized representatives of the State, including by way of example only, the Procurement Officer or the Procurement Officer's designee, and the Contract Manager or the Contract Manager's designee, at all reasonable times. All records related in any way to the Contract are to be retained for the entire time provided under this section. The Contractor shall, upon request by the Department, surrender all and every copy of documents needed by the State, including, but not limited to itemized billing documentation containing the dates, hours spent and work performed by the Contractor and its subcontractors under the Contract. The Contractor agrees to cooperate fully in any audit conducted by or on behalf of the State, including, by way of example only, making records and employees available as, where, and to the extent requested by the State and by assisting the auditors in reconciling any audit variances. Contractor shall not be compensated for providing any such cooperation and assistance

24. Compliance with Laws

The Contractor hereby represents and warrants that:

- A. It is qualified to do business in the State of Maryland and that it will take such action as, from time to time hereafter, may be necessary to remain so qualified;
- B. It is not in arrears with respect to the payment of any monies due and owing the State of Maryland, or any department or unit thereof, including but not limited to the payment of taxes and employee benefits, and that it shall not become so in arrears during the term of this Contract;
- C. It shall comply with all federal, State and local laws, regulations, and ordinances applicable to its activities and obligations under this Contract; and
- D. It shall obtain, at its expense, all licenses, permits, insurance, and governmental approvals, if any, necessary to the performance of its obligations under this Contract.

25. Cost and Price Certification

By submitting cost or price information, the Contractor certifies to the best of its knowledge that the information submitted is accurate, complete, and current as of a mutually determined specified date prior to the conclusion of any price discussions or negotiations.

The price under this Contract and any change order or modification hereunder, including profit or fee, shall be adjusted to exclude any significant price increases occurring because the Contractor furnished cost or price information which, as of the date agreed upon by the parties, was inaccurate, incomplete, or not current.

26. Subcontracting; Assignment

The Contractor may not subcontract any portion of the services provided under this Contract without obtaining the prior written approval of the Procurement Officer, nor may the Contractor assign this Contract or any of its rights or obligations hereunder, without the prior written approval of the Procurement Officer, any such approvals to be in the State's sole and absolute subjective discretion; provided however, a Contractor may assign monies receivable under a PO after due notice to the State. Any such subcontract or assignment shall include the terms of sections 8, and 10 through 23 of this Contract and any other terms and conditions that the State deems necessary to protect its interests. The State shall not be responsible for the fulfillment of the Contractor's obligations to the subcontractors.

27. Indemnification

27.1 The Contractor shall hold harmless and indemnify the State against liability for any costs, expenses, loss, suits, actions, or claims of any character arising from or relating to the performance of the Contractor or its subcontractors under this Contract.

27.2 The State of Maryland has no obligation to provide legal counsel or defense to the Contractor or its subcontractors in the event that a suit, claim or action of any character is brought by any person not party to this Contract against the Contractor or its subcontractors as a result of or relating to the Contractor's obligations under this Contract.

27.3 The State has no obligation for the payment of any judgments or the settlement of any claims against the Contractor or its subcontractors as a result of or relating to the Contractor's obligations under this Contract.

27.4 The Contractor shall immediately notify the Procurement Officer of any claim or suit made or filed against the Contractor or its subcontractors regarding any matter resulting from or relating to the Contractor's obligations under the Contract, and will cooperate, assist, and consult with the State in the defense or investigation of any claim, suit, or action made or filed against the State as a result of or relating to the Contractor's performance under this Contract.

28. Limitation of Liability

For breach of this Contract, negligence, misrepresentation or any other contract or tort claim, Contractor shall be liable as follows:

A. For infringement of patents, trademarks, trade secrets and copyrights, as provided in Section 7 ("Patents, Copyrights, Intellectual Property") of this Contract;

B. Without limitation for damages for bodily injury (including death) and damage to real property and tangible personal property;

C. For all other claims, damages, loss, costs, expenses, suits or actions in any way related to this Contract, regardless of the form, Contractor's liability per claim shall not exceed three (3) times the total amount of the POIFB/PORFP out of which the claim arises; provided however, the State may, in its sole discretion, decrease the ceiling established hereunder in any POIFB/PORFP issued pursuant to this RFP. Third party claims arising under Section 26 ("Indemnification") of this Contract are included in this limitation of liability only if the State is immune from liability. Contractor's liability for third party claims arising under Section 26 of this Contract shall be unlimited if the State is not immune from liability for claims arising under Section 26.

29. Administrative

29.1 Procurement Officer. The work to be accomplished under this Contract shall be performed under the direction of the Procurement Officer and the Contract Manager. All matters relating to the interpretation of this Contract shall be referred to the Procurement Officer for determination.

29.2 Notices. All notices hereunder shall be in writing and either delivered personally or sent by certified or registered mail, postage prepaid as follows:

If to the State:

Department of Budget and Management
Office of Information Technology/Telecommunications Access of Maryland
(TAM)
301 West Preston Street, 10th Floor, Suite 1008A
Baltimore, MD 21201
Telephone: 410-767-5891
Fax No.: 410-767-4276
Attention: Brenda Kelly-Frey
Email: frey@dbm.state.md.us

If to the Contractor: HITEC Group International, Inc.
8160 Madison Street
Burr Ridge, IL 60527
Telephone: 630-321-2322
FAX: 630-654-9214
Attention: Richard Uzuanis, Vice-President
Email: richard.uzuanis@hitec.com

30. Risk of Loss; Transfer of Title.

Risk of loss for conforming supplies, equipment and materials specified as deliverables to the State hereunder shall remain with the Contractor until the supplies, equipment, materials and other deliverables are accepted at the destination listed in the Purchase Order as evidenced by a written statement of acceptance from the State to the Contractor that expressly specifies the supplies, equipment, materials and other deliverables that are subject to such acceptance. Title of all such deliverables passes to the State upon acceptance by the State, subject to the State's payment for the same in accordance with the terms of this Contract.

31. Non-visual Accessibility Warranty

The Contractor warrants that the information technology offered under the proposal (1) provides equivalent access for effective use by both visual and non-visual means; (2) will present information, including prompts used for interactive communications, in formats

intended for both visual and non-visual use; (3) if intended for use in a network, can be integrated into networks for obtaining, retrieving, and disseminating information used by individuals who are not blind or visually impaired; and (4) is available, whenever possible, without modification for compatibility with software and hardware for non-visual access. The Contractor further warrants that the cost, if any, of modifying the information technology for compatibility with software and hardware used for non-visual access does not increase the cost of the information technology by more than five percent. For purposes of this Contract, the phrase "equivalent access" means the ability to receive, use and manipulate information and operate controls necessary to access and use information technology by non-visual means. Examples of equivalent access include keyboard controls used for input and synthesized speech, Braille, or other audible or tactile means used for output.

32. Commercial Nondiscrimination

A. As a condition of entering into this Agreement, Contractor represents and warrants that it will comply with the State's Commercial Nondiscrimination Policy, as described under Title 19 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. As part of such compliance, Contractor may not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or on the basis of disability or other unlawful forms of discrimination in the solicitation, selection, hiring, or commercial treatment of subcontractors, vendors, suppliers, or commercial customers, nor shall Contractor retaliate against any person for reporting instances of such discrimination. Contractor shall provide equal opportunity for subcontractors, vendors, and suppliers to participate in all of its public sector and private sector subcontracting and supply opportunities, provided that this clause does not prohibit or limit lawful efforts to remedy the effects of marketplace discrimination that have occurred or are occurring in the marketplace. Contractor understands that a material violation of this clause shall be considered a material breach of this Agreement and may result in termination of this Agreement, disqualification of Contractor from participating in State contracts, or other sanctions. This clause is not enforceable by or for the benefit of, and creates no obligation to, any third party.

B. The contractor shall include the above Commercial Nondiscrimination clause, or similar clause approved by DBM, in all subcontracts.

C. As a condition of entering into this Agreement, upon the Maryland Human Relations Commission's request, and only after the filing of a complaint against Contractor under Title 19 of the State Finance and Procurement Article, as amended from time to time, Contractor agrees to provide within 60 days after the request a complete list of the names of all subcontractors, vendors, and suppliers that Contractor has used in the past 4 years on any of its contracts that were undertaken within the state of Maryland, including the total dollar amount paid by Contractor on each subcontract or supply contract. Contractor further agrees to cooperate in any investigation conducted by the State pursuant to the State's Commercial Nondiscrimination Policy as set forth under Title 19 of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of

Maryland, and to provide any documents relevant to any investigation that is requested by the State. Contractor understands that violation of this clause is a material breach of this Agreement and may result in contract termination, disqualification by the State from participating in State contracts, and other sanctions.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the parties have executed this Contract as of the date hereinabove set forth.

**HITEC GROUP
INTERNATIONAL, INC.**

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF
BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT**

[Redacted signature block]

[Redacted signature block]

By: _____
Date Nov 4, 2007

By: _____
Date November 28, 2007

[Redacted witness signature block]
Witness

[Redacted witness signature block]
Witness

Approved for form and legal
sufficiency this 21st day
of November 2007.

[Redacted signature block]
Assistant Attorney General

APPROVED BY BPW: November 28, 2007
(Date)

2-IT
(BPW Item #)