
REQUEST FOR BID
5,000LB Straight Mast Forklift
South Dakota Science and Technology Authority
SDSTA Purchase Agreement# 2026-19
July 22, 2026

The South Dakota Science and Technology Authority (SDSTA) is seeking bids for one new 5,000LB lift capacity, warehouse forklift at the Sanford Underground Research Facility (SURF). **This announcement is open to all businesses regardless of size. Quotes from small businesses are strongly encouraged.** Documents included in this Request for Bid include:

- A. This Request for Bid
- B. Draft Purchase Agreement

1.0 Background

SDSTA is a quasi-governmental agency established by the State of South Dakota to operate and manage SURF at the former Homestake Gold mine in Lead, SD. This facility has been rehabilitated and developed to support a variety of scientific experiments, including physics, biology, geology, and others.

SDSTA is seeking proposals for one new 5,000 LB straight mast forklift. It will be used primarily on smooth concrete on the surface and underground. The general equipment specifications are as follows.

2.0 Scope

- 2.1 Rated Operating Capacity: 5,000 LBS
- 2.2 Electric
- 2.3 Engine: Battery and Electric Motors
- 2.4 Transmission: Automatic
- 2.5 Steering: Adjustable Column
- 2.6 Brakes: Oil Cooled Disc Brakes
- 2.7 Tires: Solid Pneumatic
- 2.8 Operating Specifics:
 - 2.8.1 Mast: 3-stage with Full Free Lift
 - 2.8.2 Maximum Fork Lift Height: 189 Inches
 - 2.8.3 Tilt: 6 Degrees Forward and Backwards
 - 2.8.4 Carriage: ITA Hook Type with minimum 45" High Load Backrest
 - 2.8.5 Tines: 48 Inches Class II
 - 2.8.6 Inching Pedal
- 2.9 Overall Maximum Machine Width: 54 Inches
- 2.10 Overall Maximum Machine Height: 150 Inches
- 2.11 Safety:
 - 2.11.1 Seatbelt
 - 2.11.2 Operator Sensing System (Neutral Start Safety Switch)

- 2.11.3 Seat: Adjustable Full Suspension
- 2.11.4 Beacon
- 2.11.5 Mast Interlock: Lift, Lower and Tilt
- 2.11.6 Mirrors: Rearview, Left and Right Side
- 2.11.7 Back Up Alarm
- 2.11.8 LED Lights
- 2.12 Standard Warranty

3.0 SDSTA Additional Requirements

- 3.1 PDF Manuals: Operation, Service and Parts
- 3.2 Optional: Extended Service Coverage options.
- 3.3 Inbound Freight to SURF Lead, SD 57754 by October 15, 2026.

4.0 Schedule

The activities noted in the Scope section above should commence following the award of the contract. The schedule for completion of this project is negotiable and flexible to accommodate the contractor's availability. The proposed schedule for the project is:

RFB Posted.....	14 August 2026
RFB Responses Due by 2pm MTN.....	28 August 2026
Contract Awarded By (Target).....	4 September 2026

5.0 Bid Elements

The bid in response to this RFB must contain the following:

- 5.1 Proposal referencing RFB# for one new 5,000 LB straight mast forklift.
- 5.2 Include machine make and model (s) and verify on specification sheet it meets scope.
- 5.3 Availability from time of award.
- 5.4 Deviations from scope.

6.0 Bid Requirements

- 6.1 Proposers should submit an electronic copy of the bid in PDF format to (Joseph Mace, email: jmace@sanfordlab.org).
- 6.2 Questions must be sent in writing by email to (jmace@sanfordlab.org). Answers will be emailed to all prospective proposers and posted to the sanfordlab.org website. Prospective proposers must coordinate with Joseph Mace regarding attendance at the site visit in Lead, SD (if required).
- 6.3 The bid period may be extended at the discretion of the SDSTA based on the quantity and/or complexity of questions. Any notices of extension of time to respond will be distributed to all prospective proposers.

- 6.4 All communications regarding this procurement between RFB release and contract award shall be directed to Joseph Mace. Communications with other SDSTA staff regarding this procurement in advance of the contract award is not allowed.

7.0 Selection Process

The SDSTA will review all submitted bids for adherence to this request's requirements and capabilities and select the firm providing the Lowest Cost – Technically Acceptable bid.

Revision History

Rev	Date	Section	Paragraph	Summary of Change	Authorized by
03	11/5/2025	NA	NA	Updated document due to change to the document numbering of controlled documents due to the change from DocuShare system to SharePoint system	CCR 1182
04	4/15/2026	NA	NA	Updating format	CCR 1253