Postal Regulatory Commission
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BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268–0001

COMPETITIVE PRODUCT PRICES PRIORITY MAIL, PARCEL SELECT & PARCEL RETURN SERVICE PRIORITY MAIL, PARCEL SELECT & PARCEL RETURN SERVICE CONTRACT 1	Docket No. MC2023–103
COMPETITIVE PRODUCT PRICES PRIORITY MAIL, PARCEL SELECT & PARCEL RETURN SERVICE CONTRACT 1 (MC2023–103) NEGOTIATED SERVICE AGREEMENT	Docket No. CP2023–104

USPS REQUEST TO ADD PRIORITY MAIL, PARCEL SELECT & PARCEL RETURN SERVICE CONTRACT 1 TO COMPETITIVE PRODUCT LIST AND NOTICE OF FILING MATERIALS UNDER SEAL
(December 27, 2022)

In accordance with 39 U.S.C. § 3642, 39 C.F.R. § 3020.30 et seq., and 39 C.F.R. § 3015.5, the United States Postal Service requests that Priority Mail, Parcel Select & Parcel Return Service Contract 1 be added to the competitive product list within the Mail Classification Schedule. This is a competitive product not of general applicability within the meaning of 39 U.S.C. § 3632(b)(3).

Attachment A is a redacted version of the Governors' Decision, which includes the explanation and justification required by the Commission's rules. Attachment B is a redacted version of the contract. Attachment C shows the requested changes in the Mail Classification Schedule product list, with the additions underlined. Attachment D provides a statement of supporting justification, as required by 39 C.F.R. § 3020.32. Attachment E is a certification of compliance with 39 U.S.C. § 3633(a)(1) and (3).

Unredacted versions of the Governors' Decision, contract, and required cost and revenue data are being filed under seal. Attachment F provides an Application for Nonpublic Treatment of these materials.

As required by 39 U.S.C. § 3642(d)(1), this Request is being published in the Federal Register.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorney:

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December 27, 2022

ATTACHMENT A TO REQUEST

REDACTED GOVERNORS' DECISION

DECISION OF THE GOVERNORS OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PRICES AND CLASSIFICATIONS FOR DOMESTIC COMPETITIVE AGREEMENTS, OUTBOUND INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE AGREEMENTS, INBOUND INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE AGREEMENTS, AND OTHER NON-PUBLISHED COMPETITIVE RATES (GOVERNORS' DECISION NO. 19-1)

February 7, 2019

STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION AND JUSTIFICATION

Pursuant to our authority under section 3632 of title 39, as amended by the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 ("PAEA"), we establish new prices not of general applicability for certain of the Postal Service's competitive service offerings, and such changes in classification as are necessary to implement the new prices.

This decision establishes new prices for Domestic Competitive Agreements, Outbound International Competitive Agreements, Inbound International Competitive Agreements, and Other Non-Published Competitive Rates. Domestic Competitive Agreements consist of negotiated service agreements with Postal Service customers for domestic services that are categorized as competitive in accordance with 39 U.S.C. § 3642(b)(1)-(2). Outbound International Competitive Agreements consist of negotiated service agreements with Postal Service customers for outbound international services that are categorized as competitive in accordance with 39 U.S.C. § 3642(b)(1)-(2). Inbound International Competitive Agreements consist of negotiated service agreements with foreign postal operators or other entities for inbound international services that are categorized as competitive in accordance with 39 U.S.C. § 3642(b)(1)-(2). Other Non-Published Competitive Rates consist of rates not of general applicability that are not embodied in contractual instruments.

With respect to any product within the above categories, management is hereby authorized to prepare any necessary product description, including text for inclusion in the Mail Classification Schedule, and to make all necessary regulatory filings with the Postal

Regulatory Commission. [redacted]

The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA) requires that prices for competitive products must cover each product's attributable costs, not result in subsidization by market dominant products, and enable all competitive products to contribute an appropriate share to the Postal Service's institutional costs. For agreements subject to this Decision, there are hereby established prices that will enable each agreement to cover at least 100 percent of the attributable costs for the relevant product and that conform in all other respects to 39 U.S.C. §§ 3632-3633 and 39 C.F.R. §§ 3015.5 and 3015.7. As discussed in the accompanying management analysis, the Chief Financial Officer (or his delegee(s)) shall certify that all cost inputs have been correctly identified for prices subject to this Decision and that all prices subject to this Decision conform to this Decision and to the requirements of the PAEA.

No agreement, grouping of functionally equivalent agreements, or other classification authorized pursuant to this Decision may go into effect unless it is submitted to the Postal Regulatory Commission with a notice that complies with 39 U.S.C. § 3632(b)(3). On a semi-annual basis, management shall furnish the Governors with a report on all non-published rate and classification initiatives, as specified in the accompanying Management Analysis. Not less than once each year, the Governors shall review the basis for this Decision and make such further determination as they may deem necessary. This Decision does not affect postal management's obligation to furnish to the Board of Governors information regarding any significant new program, policy, major modification, or initiative, or any other matter under 39 C.F.R. § 3.7(d), including where such a matter also falls within the scope of this Decision.

This Decision supersedes previous Governors' Decisions setting classifications and rates not of general applicability for competitive products; however, prices and classifications established under those Decisions may continue to be offered until the expiration of their terms, and contractual option periods and extension provisions that are included in the existing and future agreements can continue to be exercised.

ORDER

In accordance with the foregoing Decision of the Governors, the new prices and terms set forth herein for Domestic Competitive Agreements, Outbound International Competitive Agreements, Inbound International Competitive Agreements, and Other Non-Published Competitive Rates and the changes in classification necessary to implement those prices, are hereby approved and ordered into effect. An agreement or other nonpublished rate and classification initiative is authorized under this Decision only if the prices fall within this Decision and the certification process specified herein is followed. Prices and classification changes established pursuant to this Decision will take effect after filing with and completion of any necessary review by the Postal Regulatory Commission.

By The Governors:

Robert M. Duncan

Robert M. Duncan
Chairman, Board of Governors

Attachment A

Management Analysis of Domestic Competitive Agreements, Outbound International Competitive Agreements, Inbound International Competitive Agreements, and Other Non-Published Competitive Rates

This analysis concerns the inbound competitive prices and classifications in the Domestic Competitive Agreements, Outbound International Competitive Agreements, Inbound International Competitive Agreements, and Other Non-Published Competitive Rates (collectively, "competitive instruments"). Competitive instruments are often negotiated with customers and foreign postal operators for better cost coverage, higher overall contribution, and improved service with respect to postal services classified as competitive. They may also arise from other sources, such as the Universal Postal Convention.

The cost coverage for each competitive agreement or grouping of functionally equivalent instruments (collectively, each "product") will be [redacted]

[redacted]

The cost coverage for a product equals [redacted]

[redacted]

Each competitive instrument may have multiple price categories and negotiated components. Examples of such categories or components would be Priority Mail, Priority Mail Express, Parcel Return Service, Parcel Select, First-Class Package Service, First Class Package International Service, Commercial ePacket Service, Priority Mail International, Priority Mail Express International, International Priority Airmail, International Surface Air Lift, Inbound Parcel Post, Inbound Direct Entry, and Inbound EMS services. These or other categories may include other services that the relevant customer or foreign postal operator offers to its customers under differing terms, but that nevertheless are processed and delivered in the same manner within the United States Postal Service's network. Such instruments may also establish negotiated rates for services ancillary to such items and for customized competitive services developed for application solely in the context of the agreement.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] Prices established by these formulas should not interfere with competitive products' ability as a whole to comply with 39 U.S.C. §3633(a)(3), which, as implemented by 39 C.F.R.§ 3015.7(c), requires competitive products to contribute a minimum percentage to the Postal Service's total institutional costs. Accordingly, no issue of subsidization of competitive products by market dominant products should arise from 39 U.S.C. §3633(a)(1).

The Postal Service shall submit a semi-annual report to the Governors. The report shall include information on the cost coverage for each agreement or initiative that has been executed under the authority of Governors' Decision 19-1. Agreements classified as non-published rates or rate ranges may be reported as a collective grouping; all other agreements or initiatives are to be reported separately. The report shall also include cost coverage information on any agreements and nonpublished initiatives established under previous numbered Governors' Decisions and Resolutions.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

CERTIFICATION OF GOVERNORS' VOTE ON
GOVERNORS' DECISION NO. 19-1

Consistent with 39 USC 3632(a), I hereby certify that the following Governors voted in favor of Governors' Decision No. 19-1:

Robert M. Duncan
David C. Williams

7 February 2019

Michael J. Elston
Secretary of the Board of Governors (A)

Date

ATTACHMENT B TO REQUEST

REDACTED SHIPPING SERVICES CONTRACT

SHIPPING SERVICES CONTRACT
BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
AND
[redacted]
REGARDING
PARCEL SELECT,
PRIORITY MAIL
AND
PARCEL RETURN SERVICE

This Contract for Shipping Services is made by and between [redacted], a corporation organized and existing under the laws of [redacted] with its principal office at [redacted] ("Customer"), and the United States Postal Service, an independent establishment of the Executive Branch of the United States Government established by the Postal Reorganization Act, Public Law 91-375, with its principal office at 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, DC 20260 (the "Postal Service"). The Postal Service and Customer are referred to herein collectively as the "Parties" and each as a "Party".

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the Parties to enter into a Shipping Services Contract ("SSC" or "Contract") that will benefit the Postal Service, the postal system as a whole, and Customer, and that will comply with the requirements of Title 39 United States Code, as amended by the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties agree as follows:

I. Terms

The following terms apply as of the Effective Date, as defined below:

A. Except to the extent different terms or prices are specified in this Contract, applicable provisions of the Domestic Mail Manual (as may be regularly updated by the Postal Service and posted at http://pe.usps.com/text/dmm300/dmm300_landing.htm) and of other postal laws and standards, including USPS Publication 52 - Hazardous, Restricted, and Perishable Mail, apply to mail tendered under this Contract.

B. This Contract applies to Customer's inbound and outbound packages (collectively "Contract Packages"), excluding packages originating from and/or addressed to ZIP Codes contained in Table A below, as follows:

1. Parcel Select DDU that are no greater than [redacted], not addressed to any ZIP Code in Attachment A ("[redacted]");
2. Parcel Select DDU that are no greater than [redacted]

[redacted], addressed to any ZIP Code in Attachment A ("[redacted]");

3. Parcel Select DSCF 5-Digit that are no greater than [redacted], not addressed to any ZIP Code in Attachment A ("[redacted]");
4. Parcel Select DSCF 5-Digit that are no greater than [redacted], addressed to any ZIP Code in Attachment A ("[redacted]");
5. Parcel Select DSCF SCF machinable packages that are no greater than [redacted], not addressed to any ZIP Code in Attachment A ("[redacted]");
6. Parcel Select DSCF SCF machinable packages that are no greater than [redacted], addressed to any ZIP Code in Attachment A ("[redacted]");
7. Customer's unit loads (pallets and pallet boxes) handled by the Postal Service as Palletized Priority Mail Open & Distribute ("PPMOD") containers via surface transportation only and do not exceed [redacted]. Containers will be prepared and labeled in the manner specified by the Postal Service, for destinations as designated by the Postal Service based on origin points;
8. Machinable Parcel Return Service packages that are no greater than [redacted], being returned to designated Regional Processing Facilities ("RPFs");
9. Nonmachinable Parcel Return Service packages that are no greater than [redacted], being returned to designated RPFs;
10. Machinable Parcel Return Service packages that are no greater than [redacted], being returned to designated Return Delivery Units ("RDUs"); and
11. Nonmachinable Parcel Return Service packages that are no greater than [redacted], being returned to designated RDUs.

- The ZIP Codes contained in Attachment A may be modified once a year by the Postal Service.

[redacted]

C. Customer expressly commits to not offer, sell, or allow the use of Contract Pricing provided in this Contract to any other entity or party (i.e. "reselling"). Customer shall not

extend pricing to a third party under this Contract, including commercial published pricing for the products defined in Section I.B, or any prices below commercial published pricing. For the avoidance of doubt, a violation of this section will constitute a material breach of this Contract. This requirement may be waived in writing by the Postal Service, expressly for the limited purpose of Customer's dropshipping activities.

D. Customer will manifest Contract Packages under a separate account as specified by the Postal Service, using the Electronic Verification System ("eVS") or successor eVS system. USPS will provide commercially reasonable notice of any successor system to allow ample time to make necessary systems changes. Current specifications can be found in Publication 205: eVS Business and Technical Guide. Only Contract Packages, and Customer's other Parcel Select packages ("Total Packages"), shipped from authorized permit numbers shall count toward the volume commitment expressed in Sections I.F and Table B below.

E. Customer must prepare Parcel Select packages in the manner mutually agreed to as set forth in Operations Memorandum of Understanding ("Operations MOU") in Section I. X.

F. Annual Volume Requirements. The volume requirements found in Table B are the annual quantities of Total Packages to be shipped to be eligible for Contract Package pricing for the applicable tier.

[redacted]

G. Contract Package Pricing. From the Contract's Effective Date, as defined in Section II below, until the first anniversary of the Contract's Effective Date, Customer shall pay Tier 3 prices for its Contract Packages pursuant to Tables 5 and 6 below.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

J. Customized Palletized Priority Mail Open & Distribute ("PPMOD") Prices. The terms and prices contained herein, will take effect on the Effective Date as defined in Section II below. PPMOD Contract Package prices shown in Table 7 below will remain in effect until the first anniversary date of the Contract's Effective Date, and will be adjusted pursuant to the Annual Price Adjustment found in Section I.M.4, throughout the term of the Contract.

K. PPMOD unit loads can be permitted to include within its contents all irregular and machinable parcels, properly called "APPS machinable parcels" at all classes, which are prepared and paid individually as specified by the Postal Service. Applicability of this provision is restricted to the PPMOD unit load product, regardless of other DMM criteria applicable to individual classes.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

M. Annual Price Adjustments

1. For subsequent years of the Contract, beginning on the first anniversary of the Contract's Effective Date, Parcel Select custom Contract Package prices will be the lesser of (a) the previous Contract Year's prices, plus the most recent (as of the anniversary date) cell-by-cell percentage increase in prices of general applicability, as calculated by the Postal Service, for DDU and/or DSCF SCF entry Parcel Select price categories, or (b) the previous year's prices plus [redacted].
2. If the Postal Service maintains or decreases published rates of general applicability for Parcel Select, there shall be no change to Contract pricing for that Contract Year.
3. If at any time a Parcel Select price determined by this Contract exceeds the applicable published price for Parcel Select Service for its corresponding published price cell, Customer will pay the applicable published price. If Customer has paid an amount in excess of the published rates for Parcel Select, the Postal Service will refund the difference between the Contract price and published price within 30 days of notification of such payment.
4. For subsequent years of the Contract, beginning on the first anniversary of the Contract's Effective Date, Customized PPMOD Prices shown in Table 7 will be the lesser of (a) the previous year's prices plus the most recent (as of the anniversary date) overall percentage increase in prices of general applicability for Priority Mail Commercial Plus, as calculated by the Postal Service, or (b) the previous year's prices plus [redacted].
5. If the Postal Service maintains or decreases published rates of general applicability for Priority Mail Commercial Plus, there shall be no change to PPMOD Contract pricing for that Contract Year.
6. For subsequent years of the Contract, beginning on the first anniversary of the Contract's Effective Date, customized Parcel Return Contract Package prices will be the previous Contract Year's prices, plus [redacted].
7. Customized prices for the subsequent years will be calculated by the Postal Service and rounded up to the nearest whole cent.

N. In the event new fees and surcharges are added to the Domestic Mail Manual, associated with Parcel Select DDU, Parcel Select DSCF and Parcel Returns, this Contract may be amended.

O. Time-Limited Price Changes. To the extent the Postal Service promulgates a time-limited price change and effective during any timeframe between October 1st and January 31st any year of the Contract**,** applicable to the products defined and referenced in Term I.B, during the term of this Contract, such time-limited price change will be applied to the then applicable prices for those products under this Contract, subject to the same terms as such surcharge or fee is applied to the prices of general applicability for those products, respectively, as calculated by the Postal Service. The Postal Service will make commercially reasonable efforts to notify Customer in a timely manner of any applicable increases. The time-limited price change shall not be considered the "most recent price change" for the purposes of the Annual Adjustment provision in Section I.M above. The

Postal Service reserves the right to forego an increase pursuant to this section, or increase by a lesser amount (but no less than zero), at its sole discretion.

P. Custom Nonstandard Length and Cubic (volume) Fees.

1. Customer shall pay the following Custom Nonstandard Fees for its Parcel Select packages throughout the term of the Contract, pursuant to Table D below.

[redacted]

2. Beginning with the Effective Date of this Contract until the end of the first full calendar quarter, Customer shall pay the Custom Nonstandard Fee of [redacted] for Parcel Select DDU Entry packages [redacted] (see Table D above).
3. At the conclusion of each subsequent full calendar quarter, the Postal Service will recalculate the percentage of Total Parcel Select packages entered at a DDU [redacted]. The Custom Nonstandard Fee charged to Customer, pursuant to Table D above, will be determined by the percentage of Total Parcel Select Packages not meeting the required dimension. The Nonstandard Fee change will be implemented within thirty (30) calendar days of the conclusion of the

calendar quarter and will be recalculated in subsequent calendar quarters throughout the term of the Contract.

4. If published Nonstandard Fees decrease or remain the same, there will be no change to the custom fees provided in this Contract, unless during the term of the Contract, the discounted Non-Standard Fees exceed Published Prices, the Customer shall pay the prevailing Published Fee.

Q. Sunday Delivery. When requested, Customer will pay [redacted] for Sunday Delivery of Parcel Select DDU entry packages, weighing [redacted], throughout the term of the Contract, in addition to the applicable Contract Package price, or the prevailing published DDU rate, where applicable. Parcel Select packages weighing less than [redacted], and [redacted] are not eligible for this service.

R. Signature Confirmation (electronic). Customer will pay [redacted] for Signature Confirmation (electronic) per Parcel Select Contract Package requested, throughout the term of the Contract on Customer's Parcel Select Contract Packages.

S. Adult Signature Required. Customer will pay [redacted] for Adult Signature Required per Parcel Select Contract Package requested, throughout the term of the Contract on Customer's Parcel Select Contract Packages.

T. Package Intercept Service. Customer will pay [redacted] for Package Intercept Service per Parcel Select Contract Package requested, throughout the term of the Contract on Customer's Contract Packages.

[redacted]

V. Business Reviews. The Postal Service and Customer shall, within thirty (30) calendar days after the conclusion of the second and fourth calendar quarter in each Contract Year, jointly conduct a business review of Customer's Contract Package volume, weight and cube characteristics, time in transit, and other performance expectations under this Contract. If either Party is unable to conduct a business review within thirty (30) calendar days after the conclusion of the above referenced calendar quarters, it shall notify the other Party in writing of that fact and propose a date as soon as practicable thereafter.

W. Record Keeping and Audit. Customer shall respond to the Postal Service's or its designated auditor's quarterly and/or yearly transaction confirmations related to Postal Service transactions; and such other assistance as required by the Postal Service or its designated auditors in connection with Customer's performance under this Contract.

X. The Parties will endeavor to mutually agree to operational guidelines, as it pertains to Parcel Select, PPMOD and Parcel Returns. Such guidelines are intended to be documented in an agreement ("Operations Memorandum of Understanding" or "Operations MOU") between the Parties, and can be adjusted by the parties as needed.

II. Regulatory Review and Effective Date

This Contract is subject to approval by Postal Service senior management and/or the Governors of the Postal Service, as well as by the Postal Regulatory Commission ("the Commission"). In accordance with Title 39 and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Postal Service will make required filings with the Commission. The Effective Date of this Contract shall be the latter of three (3) business days following the day on which the Commission issues all necessary regulatory approval, or January 1, 2023. For the purposes of this SSC, business days are defined as Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays and days on which the Postal Service Headquarters is administratively closed.

III. Expiration Date, Termination and Extension

Unless the Effective Date of this Contract occurs between December 1st and March 31st, this Contract shall expire two (2) years from the Effective Date, unless (1) terminated by either Party with ninety (90) calendar days' notice to the other Party in writing; (2) renewed by mutual agreement in writing and subsequent approval by the Commission; (3) superseded by a subsequent contract between the Parties; (4) ordered by the Commission or a court; or (5) required to comply with subsequently enacted legislation.

If the Effective Date of this Contract occurs between December 1st and March 31st, the Contract will expire on March 31st following the second anniversary of the Contract's Effective Date, unless (1) terminated by either Party with ninety (90) calendar days' notice to the other Party in writing; (2) renewed by mutual agreement in writing and subsequent approval by the Commission; (3) superseded by a subsequent contract between the Parties; (4) ordered by the Commission or a court; or (5) required to comply with subsequently enacted legislation.

At the conclusion of the Contract term, both Parties may mutually agree, in writing, to extend the Contract for an additional one (1) year period. Whether the Contract is allowed to expire after the initial two-year term, or after the lapse of the additional one-year extension, the Contract may be extended for up to two (2) ninety (90) calendar day periods with official notification to the Commission at least seven (7) calendar days prior to Contract's expiration date, if preparation of a successor SSC is active. Upon both Parties' agreement of the extension, the escalation clause will be implemented in Section I.K, throughout the extension period.

IV. Appeals

Customer may appeal a Postal Service decision regarding the calculation of prices, the amount of postage paid, or other implementation or operational issues under this Contract by submitting a written appeal via email, along with any and all supporting documentation, within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of notification of the determination giving rise to the appeal to: [redacted]. The appeal is forwarded to the Pricing and Classification Service Center (PCSC). The PCSC manager issues the final agency decision. Any decision that is not appealed as prescribed becomes the final agency decision.

V. Confidentiality

Customer acknowledges that as part of securing approval of this Contract, the Contract and supporting documentation will be filed with the Commission in a docketed proceeding. The Postal Service shall request from the Commission non-public treatment of information that the Postal Service deems to be eligible for protection from public disclosure when it files such material with the Commission, including Customer's identity, the terms of this Contract, and supporting data relating to postal costs, prices, and Customer's shipping profile. The Postal Service will redact such information from its public filing. Customer authorizes the Postal Service to determine the scope of information that must be made publicly available in the Commission's docketed proceeding. Customer further understands that any unredacted portion of this Contract or supporting information will be available on the Commission's public website, www.prc.gov. At the request of Customer, the Postal Service will notify Customer of the docket number of the Commission proceeding once assigned. Customer has the right, in accordance with the Commission's rules, to address its confidentiality concerns directly with the Commission. Customer agrees to treat as confidential and not disclose to third parties absent express written consent by the Postal Service any information related to this Contract that is determined by the Commission to be non-public.

VI. Amendments

This Contract shall not be amended except expressly, in writing, by authorized representatives of the Parties.

VII. Assignment

Neither Party may, or shall have the power to, assign its rights under the Contract or, delegate its obligations hereunder, without the prior consent of the other; such consent is not to

be unreasonably withheld. In addition, in the event that Customer is merged with or into or acquires another entity, pricing under this Contract following such merger or acquisition shall apply only to mail sent by the entity existing prior to the merger or acquisition. Following any such merger or acquisition, the parties may negotiate in good faith to extend, modify or enter into a new contract applicable to the merged or acquired entity.

VIII. Waiver

Any waiver by a Party shall not constitute a waiver for any future occurrence. No waiver shall be valid unless set forth in writing executed by the Party waiving such provision.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Contract to be duly executed as of the later date below:

UNITED STA[illegible]ICE

Signed by: Shibani Gambhir

Printed Name: Shibani Gambhir

Title: Vice President Business Development

Date: 12/23/2022

[redacted]

ATTACHMENT A [redacted]

[redacted]

MAIL CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

PART B—COMPETITIVE PRODUCTS

2000 COMPETITIVE PRODUCT LIST

***

NEGOTIATED SERVICE AGREEMENTS

Domestic

***

Priority Mail, Parcel Select & Parcel Return Service Contract 1

Statement of Supporting Justification

I, Shibani S. Gambhir, Director, Field Sales Strategy and Contracts, am sponsoring this request that the Commission add Priority Mail, Parcel Select & Parcel Return Service Contract 1 to the list of competitive products. This statement supports the Postal Service's request by providing the information required by each applicable subsection of 39 C.F.R. § 3020.32. I attest to the accuracy of the information contained herein.

(a) Demonstrate why the change is in accordance with the policies and applicable criteria of the Act.

As demonstrated below, the change complies with the applicable statutory provisions.

(b) Explain why, as to the market dominant products, the change is not inconsistent with each requirement of 39 U.S.C.§ 3622(d), and that it advances the objectives of 39 U.S. C. § 3622(b), taking into account the factors of 39 U.S. C. § 3622(c).

Not applicable. The Postal Service is proposing that this Priority Mail, Parcel Select & Parcel Return Service contract be added to the competitive products list.

(c) Explain why, as to competitive products, the addition, deletion, or transfer will not result in the violation of any of the standards of 39 U.S.C. 3633.

The service to be provided under the contract will cover its attributable costs and make a positive contribution to coverage of institutional costs. The contract will increase contribution toward the requisite 5.5 percent of the Postal Service's total institutional costs. Accordingly, no issue of subsidization of competitive products by market dominant products arises (39 U.S.C. § 3633(a)(1)).

(d) Verify that the change does not classify as competitive a product over which the Postal Service exercises sufficient market power that it can without risk of losing a significant level of business to other firms offering similar products: (1) set the price of such product substantially above costs, (2) raise prices significantly; (3) decrease quality; or (4) decrease output.

The contract sets specific terms and conditions for providing Priority Mail, Parcel Select & Parcel Return Service to the customer. Priority Mail, Parcel Select & Parcel Return Service are provided in a highly competitive market. The Postal Service is unable to set prices substantially above costs, raise prices significantly, decrease quality, or decrease output, without losing this business to private competitors in the expedited shipping market.

In negotiating this contract, the Postal Service's bargaining position was constrained by the existence of other providers of services similar to the Postal Service's. As such, the market precludes the Postal Service from taking unilateral action to increase prices or decrease service. As with Priority Mail, Parcel Select & Parcel Return Service in general, the Postal Service may not decrease quality or output without risking the loss of business to competitors that offer similar expedited delivery services. The market does not allow the Postal Service to raise prices or offer prices substantially above costs; rather, the contract is premised on prices and terms that provide sufficient incentive for the customer to ship with the Postal Service rather than a competitor.

(e) Explain whether or not each product that is the subject of the request is covered by the postal monopoly as reserved to the Postal Service under 189 U.S.C. 1696, subject to the exceptions set forth in 39 U.S.C. 601.

I am advised that merchandise sent by Priority Mail, Parcel Select & Parcel Return Service and this contract are not covered by these provisions. See part (d) above.

(f) Provide a description of the availability and nature of enterprises in the private sector engaged in the delivery of the product.

See part (d) above. Expedited shipping, similar to Priority Mail, Parcel Select & Parcel Return Service, is widely available from well-known and successful private firms at both published and contract prices.

(g) Provide any available information of the views of those who use the product on the appropriateness of the proposed modification.

Having entered into this contract with the Postal Service, the customer supports the addition of the contract to the product list so that the contractual terms can be effectuated.

(h) Provide a description of the likely impact of the proposed modification on small business concerns.

The market for expedited delivery services is highly competitive and requires a substantial infrastructure to support a national network. Large shipping companies serve this market. The Postal Service is unaware of any small business concerns that could offer comparable service for this customer.

(i) Include such other information, data, and such statements of reasons and bases, as are necessary and appropriate to fully inform the Commission of the nature, scope, significance, and impact of the proposed modification.

Additional details regarding the terms of the contract have been provided to the Commission under seal due to the sensitivity of the contract to both the customer and the Postal Service.

Certification of Prices for

Priority Mail, Parcel Select & Parcel Return Service Contract 1

I, Jorge A. Diaz, Manager, NSA Strategy & Support, Finance Department, am familiar with the prices and terms for Priority Mail, Parcel Select & Parcel Return Service Contract 1. The prices and terms contained in this Contract were established by the Decision of the Governors of the United States Postal Service on the Establishment of Prices and Classifications for Domestic Competitive Agreements, Outbound International Competitive Agreements, Inbound International Competitive Agreements, and Other Non-Published Competitive Rates (Governors' Decision No. 19-1).

I hereby certify, based on the financial analysis provided herewith, that the prices are in compliance with 39 U.S.C § 3633 (a)(1), (2), and (3). They are expected to cover attributable costs. There should therefore be no subsidization of competitive products by market dominant products. This contract should not impair the ability of competitive products on the whole to cover an appropriate share of institutional costs.

Jorge A Diaz Digitally signed by Jorge A Diaz
Date: 2022.12.27 10:53:24 -05'00'

Jorge A. Diaz

APPLICATION OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR NON-PUBLIC TREATMENT OF MATERIALS

In accordance with 39 C.F.R. Part 3007, the Postal Service hereby applies for non-public treatment of: the unredacted Governors' Decision; the unredacted shipping services contract; and the supporting documents establishing compliance with 39 U.S.C. § 3633 and 39 C.F.R. § 3015.5. The Postal Service hereby furnishes the justification required for this application by each subsection of 39 C.F.R. § 3007.201(b), as enumerated below.

For the reasons discussed, the Postal Service asks that the Commission grant its application for non-public treatment of the identified materials.

(1) The rationale for claiming that the materials are non-public, including the specific statutory provision(s) supporting the claim, and an explanation justifying application of the provision(s) to the materials.

The materials designated as non-public consist of information of a commercial nature, which under good business practice would not be publicly disclosed. In the Postal Service's opinion, this information would be exempt from mandatory disclosure pursuant to 39 U.S.C. § 410(c)(2) and 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(3), (b)(4).[1] Because the portions of the materials which the Postal Service is applying to file only under seal fall within the scope of information not required to be publicly disclosed, the Postal Service asks the Commission to support its determination that these materials are exempt from public disclosure and grant its application for their non-public treatment.

Information of a commercial nature, which under good business practice would not be publicly disclosed, as well as third party business information, are not required to

[1] In appropriate circumstances, the Commission may determine the appropriate level of confidentiality to be afforded to such information after weighing the nature and extent of the likely commercial injury to the Postal Service against the public interest in maintaining the financial transparency of a government establishment competing in commercial markets. 39 U.S.C.§ 504(g)(3)(A). The Commission has indicated that "likely commercial injury" should be construed broadly to encompass other types of injury, such as harms to privacy, deliberative process, or law enforcement interests. PRC Order No. 194, Second Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to Establish a Procedure for According Appropriate Confidentiality, Docket No. RM2008-1, Mar. 20, 2009, at 11.

be disclosed to the public. 39 U.S.C. § 410(c)(2); 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4). The Commission may determine the appropriate level of confidentiality to be afforded to such information after weighing the nature and extent of the likely commercial injury to the Postal Service against the public interest in maintaining the financial transparency of a government establishment competing in commercial markets. 39 U.S.C. § 504(g)(3)(A).[2] Because the portions of materials filed non-publicly in this docket fall within the scope of information not required to be publicly disclosed, the Postal Service asks the Commission to support its determination that these materials are exempt from public disclosure and grant its application for their non-public treatment.

(2) A statement of whether the submitter, any person other than the submitter, or both have a proprietary interest in the information contained within the non-public materials, and the identification(s) specified in paragraphs (b)(2)(i) through (iii) of this section (whichever is applicable). For purposes of this paragraph, identification means the name, phone number, and email address of an individual.

The Postal Service believes that the customer with whom the contract is made has a proprietary interest in the non-public materials and that customer-identifying information is sensitive and should be withheld from public disclosure. Therefore, rather than identifying the customer, the Postal Service gives notice that it has already informed the customer, in compliance with 39 C.F.R. § 3007.200(b), of the nature and scope of this filing and its ability to address its confidentiality concerns directly with the Commission. The Postal Service employee responsible for providing notice to the third party with proprietary interest in the materials filed in this docket is Elizabeth A. Reed, Attorney, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, D.C. 20260-1137, whose email address is Elizabeth.A.Reed@usps.gov and whose telephone number is 202-268-3179.

(3) A description of the information contained within the materials claimed to be non-public in a manner that, without revealing the information at issue,

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would allow the Commission to thoroughly evaluate the basis for the claim that the information contained within the materials are non-public.

The Governors' Decision establishing Domestic Competitive contracts, including those for Priority Mail, Parcel Select & Parcel Return Service, the contract identifying the customer and containing the prices, terms, and conditions of the contract, and the financial workpapers supporting the contract are being filed under seal in this docket. Redacted copies of the Governors' Decision and the contract are being filed publicly in this docket. The Postal Service maintains that the redacted portions of the Governors' Decision, the contract, name of the customer and related financial information should remain confidential.

With regard to the contract, the redactions are of the name, address, signature block, and other information that could identify the customer; such identifying information of a postal patron may be withheld from mandatory public disclosure by virtue of 39 U.S.C. § 504(g)(1) and 39 U.S.C. § 410(c). Also redacted are the negotiated price structure and the terms directly related to implementation of the price structure.

The redacted portions of the Governors' Decision and attached Analysis protect the costs authorizing Domestic Competitive contracts, and the analysis of those costs.

The redactions applied to the financial work papers protect commercially sensitive information such as underlying costs and assumptions, pricing formulas, information relevant to the mailing profile of the customer, and cost coverage projections. To the extent practicable, the Postal Service has limited its redactions in the workpapers to the actual information it determined to be exempt from disclosure under 5 U.S.C. § 552(b). However, in a limited number of cases, narrative passages or notes were redacted in their entirety due to the practical difficulties of redacting particular words or numbers within the text as presented in a spreadsheet format.

(4) Particular identification of the nature and extent of the harm alleged and the likelihood of each harm alleged to result from disclosure.

If the redacted information were to be disclosed publicly, the Postal Service considers that it is quite likely that it and the customer would suffer commercial harm.

The information is commercially sensitive, and the Postal Service does not believe that it would be disclosed under good business practices.

Revealing this information would provide a competitive advantage to competitors of the Postal Service and of the customer. The Postal Service considers that it is highly probable that if this information were made public, such entities would take immediate advantage of it and there is a substantial risk that the Postal Service and the customer would lose business as a result. Additionally, other postal customers could use the information to their advantage in negotiating the terms of their own agreements with the Postal Service and other businesses could use the information to their advantage in negotiating with the customer. The Postal Service considers these to be highly probable outcomes that would result from public disclosure of the redacted material.

Finally, the financial work papers include specific information such as costs, negotiated prices and pricing structure, assumptions used in developing costs and prices, mailer profile information, and projections of variables. All of this information is highly confidential in the business world. If this information were made public, the Postal Service's and the customer's competitors would likely take great advantage of this information. Unlike its competitors, the Postal Service is required to meet the standards of 39 U.S.C. § 3633 with each negotiated service agreement that it asks to have added to the competitive products list. Competitors are not so constrained and could use the redacted information to their advantage in gaining customers. The formulas shown in the spreadsheets in their native format provide additional sensitive information. Revealing the Postal Service's profit margin information could also be used by the customer to attempt to renegotiate its own prices.

(5) At least one specific hypothetical, illustrative example of each alleged harm.

Identified harm: Revealing customer identifying information would enable competitors to target the customers for sales and marketing purposes.

Hypothetical: The identity of the customer in this contract is revealed to the public. A competitor's sales representatives contact the Postal Service's customer and

offer the customer lower prices or other incentives, taking away the business anticipated by the Postal Service.

Identified harm: Public disclosure of negotiated terms of the agreement could be used by competitors and potential customers to the detriment of the Postal Service and its customer.

Hypothetical: A competitor obtains a copy of the unredacted version of Customer A's contract and workpapers to the detriment of the Postal Service's customer. Company B discovers proprietary business strategies and changes its business practices to minimize differentiation, identify their key customer base and cause defection of Customer A's customers. Customer A cancels the contract and withdraws their business from the Postal Service. Other companies would then refuse to share critical details of their business or to participate in negotiated prices with the Postal Service, harming the Postal Service's ability to compete in the marketplace for additional volume and revenue.

Hypothetical: The competitor could leverage multiple services to offer deeper discounts than provided by the Postal Service's contract as a loss leader, using profits on other products profits to make up for the temporary loss.

Identified harm: Public disclosure of the price formula, underlying cost structure, and information in the financial work papers relating to the contract would be used by competitors and customers to the detriment of the Postal Service.

Hypothetical: A competing package delivery service or its representative obtains a copy of the unredacted version of the financial work papers. It analyzes the work papers to determine what the Postal Service would have to charge its customers in order to meet its minimum statutory obligations for cost coverage and contribution to institutional costs. It then sets its own rates for products similar to what the Postal Service offers its customers under that threshold and markets its ability to guarantee to beat the Postal Service on price for similar delivery services.

Hypothetical: Competitors constantly monitor "cost to serve" scenarios to combine and alter facilities to lower costs. A competitor could add satellite pickup stations closer to the Postal Service's customer in order to underbid the Postal Service's prices.

Identified harm: Public disclosure of the prices and related terms would provide potential customers extraordinary negotiating power.

Hypothetical: Customer B obtains the contract showing Customer A's negotiated prices and the underlying workpapers. Customer B can determine that there is additional profit margin between the prices provided to Customer A and the statutory cost coverage that the Postal Service must produce in order for the agreement to be added to the competitive products list. Although Customer B was offered prices identical to Customer A's, Customer B uses the publicly available information to insist that it unless the Postal Service offers it even lower prices than Customer A's, it will not use the Postal Service but will give its business to a competitor of the Postal Service.

Alternatively, Customer B attempts to negotiate lower rates only for those destinations for which it believes the Postal Service is the low-cost provider among all service providers. The Postal Service may agree to this demand in order to keep the customer's business overall, which it believes will still satisfy total cost coverage for the agreement. Then, Customer B uses other providers for destinations other than those for which it negotiated lower rates. This impacts the Postal Service's overall projected cost coverage for the agreement. Although the Postal Service can terminate the contract when it sees that the mailer's practice and projected profile are at variance, the costs associated with establishing the contract, including filing it with the Postal Regulatory Commission, would be sunk costs that would have a negative impact on postal finances.

Harm: Public disclosure of information in the financial work papers would be used by the customer's competitors to its detriment.

Hypothetical: A business in competition with the customer obtains a copy of the unredacted version of the financial work papers. The customer's competitor analyzes the work papers to assess the customer's underlying shipping costs. The customer's competitor uses that information as a baseline to negotiate with shipping companies and other suppliers to develop lower-cost alternatives and thereby to undercut the customer.

(6) The extent of the protection from public disclosure alleged to be necessary.

The Postal Service maintains that the redacted portions of the materials filed non-publicly should be withheld from persons involved in competitive decision-making in the market for domestic parcel shipping products, as well as their consultants and attorneys. Additionally, the Postal Service believes that actual or potential customers of the Postal Service for such products should not be provided access to the non-public materials.

(7) The length of time for which non-public treatment is alleged to be necessary with justification thereof.

The Commission's regulations provide that non-public materials shall lose non-public status ten years after the date of filing with the Commission, unless otherwise provided by the Commission. 39 C.F.R. § 3007.401(a). However, because the Postal Service's relationships with customers often continue beyond ten years, the Postal Service intends to oppose requests for disclosure of these materials pursuant to 39 C.F.R. § 3007.401(b-c).

(8) Any other relevant factors or reasons to support the application.

None.