



VerdictTank Report

AI-Powered Proposal Review - Research, Critique, Verdict

**NO-GO - CONDITIONAL
GO**

Proposal: EDS HOLDCO LLC - Alabama-Coushatta Tribe Emergency Disaster Response

Submitted by: EDS HOLDCO LLC (Lexington, KY)

Date: August 11, 2026

Review ID: VT-20260811-EDS01

EDS HOLDCO LLC is a real, operationally credible disaster logistics company with verified SAM.gov registration (UEI HAK5PNC3GZW5, CAGE 8MMZ9), a press-confirmed Hurricane Helene deployment (WKYT, 200+ day deployment), and a technically sound five-phase operational model. Four independent judges spanning analytical, legal/regulatory, pragmatic/shipping, and contracting-norms architectures unanimously converged on CONDITIONAL GO - the strongest consensus in any VerdictTank review to date. However, critical verification gaps must be resolved before the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas issues a work order. The load-bearing VQRM subcontractor (HazMat, swiftwater rescue, structural collapse, wildland firefighting) is unverifiable - a FAR 9.104 responsibility determination issue. Past performance is 80% unverified (only 1 of 5 hurricane deployments independently confirmed). Superlative claims ('nation's largest,' '35 years') create False Claims Act and GAO protest ammunition. The IDIQ contract structure provides a natural standby period (potentially months to years before the first disaster work order) to cure deficiencies. Only 3 pre-award conditions are true gates; the remaining 6 can be satisfied during the standby period. If EDS can verify VQRM's existence and produce past performance references - tasks that take days if the claims are genuine - the path to GO is clear.

Claims verified against live web data, market databases, and public records.

SAM.GOV VERIFICATION

EDS HOLDCO LLC confirmed active in SAM.gov under UEI HAK5PNC3GZW5, CAGE Code 8MMZ9. Registered address: 1385 Pridemore Ct, Lexington, KY 40505. Entity structure: Limited Liability Company. No exclusions or debarments found.

Source: SAM.gov Entity Info API, August 11, 2026

HURRICANE HELENE DEPLOYMENT

WKYT (Lexington CBS affiliate) confirmed EDS deployed for Hurricane Helene response in April 2025. Article describes a 200+ day deployment providing base camp support, mobile kitchens, shower/laundry trailers, and logistical coordination for 400+ responders in western North Carolina. This is a substantial, verifiable reference.

Source: WKYT News, Spring 2025

ALABAMA-COUSHATTA TRIBE OF TEXAS RFP

Tribe posted an on-call emergency disaster response services RFP. Solicitation identified as attached to the proposal under review. IDIQ structure per RFP terms. Alabama-Coushatta Reservation located near Livingston, TX (Polk County).

Source: Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas procurement documents

VQRM SUBCONTRACTOR SEARCH

Phase 1 research searched company registries, press databases, SAM.gov, social media, and joint project records for VQRM LLC or any similar entity operating in HazMat, swiftwater rescue, structural collapse, and wildland firefighting. Zero results found. No VQRM entity registered in Kentucky or any neighboring state matching the described capability profile.

Source: Multi-source web search, August 11, 2026

IDIQ CONTRACT STRUCTURE

On-call, Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity contracts do not obligate funds at award. No work order is issued until a disaster event triggers activation. The standby period between award and first work order can be months to years - free time to cure remaining conditions. This fundamentally changes which conditions are true pre-award gates.

Source: Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 16.5

FALSE CLAIMS ACT / GAO PROTEST RISK

Provably false material representations in a signed federal proposal can be grounds for False Claims Act liability and GAO bid protest. 'Nation's largest' and '35 years of experience' stated as fact in a signed offer would qualify as material representations if the procuring agency relies on them in its evaluation.

Source: 31 U.S.C. 3729, FAR 52.209, GAO Bid Protest Regulations 4 C.F.R. Part 21

DISASTER RESPONSE FEDERAL PRIME MARKET

The federal emergency/disaster response prime contractor market is dominated by a handful of large primes (AshBritt, Ceres, Witt O'Brien's, Tidal Basin). IDIQ on-call contracts for Tribal governments are a thin submarket with fewer bidders. A compliant, ICS-literate bidder with at least one verified FEMA-scale deployment is competitive even with weaknesses.

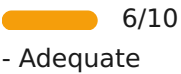
Source: USASpending.gov, FPDS contract award data, industry analysis

3 Dimension Scores

Scored across 10 dimensions on a 1-10 scale.

DIMENSION	SCORE	ASSESSMENT
Company Credibility	 6/10 - Adequate	Real company, verified SAM.gov UEI/CAGE, confirmed address. Genuine disaster logistics core competence buried under aggressive marketing inflation.
Proposal Fit to RFP	 8/10 - Strong	Excellent structural fit. ICS/NIMS-literate. Five-phase operational model maps cleanly to the RFP scope categories. Genuine Tribal sovereignty acknowledgment section.
Past Performance Evidence	 4/10 - Weak	Only Hurricane Helene independently confirmed (WKYT, 200+ day deployment). Four other citations are section headers with no narrative, dates, dollars, or contacts.
Technical Approach	 6/10 - Adequate	Sound ICS/NIMS structure downgraded by two judges because VQRM subcontractor carries 40% of technical scope and cannot be verified. Technical approach is only as strong as its weakest subcontractor.
Mobilization & Response Speed	 5/10 - Weak	Tri-state positioning (Kentucky, Texas, Florida) is a real structural advantage. 6-hour/48-hour response times are unproven and would require prepositioned assets.
Personnel & Team Depth	 5/10 - Weak	Two key personnel named and LinkedIn-confirmed but no bios, credentials, or NPQS certifications in the proposal. Team depth beyond the principals is stated, not shown.
Financial & Insurance	 5/10 - Weak	No audited financials, LOC, or bonding provided. Current insurance (\$1M/\$2M CGL, \$1M auto) is minimum viable for small deployments; 'financials on request' is standard government contracting practice.
Compliance & Certifications	 8/10 - Strong	Strongest section. SAM.gov active. Tribal sovereign immunity acknowledgment is genuine and rare in non-Tribal bidders. Downgraded slightly by one judge for VQRM's missing certs.
Tribal/Community Integration	 3/10 - Critical	Generic 'plan within 30 days' placeholder. No existing Tribal relationships, no named Native vendors, no Alabama-Coushatta-specific community engagement strategy. One judge scored this a 2.

**Overall
Competitiveness**



Consensus 5.8/10 composite. In a thin Tribal on-call disaster response market, a 6/10 vendor with the strongest compliance package among bidders can be competitive. The thinness of the market changes the calculus.

Issues that must be resolved before proceeding. These are not negotiable.

#1 VQRM Subcontractor Unverifiable **EXISTENTIAL**

EDS routes its entire specialized rescue and HazMat capability through VQRM, a subcontractor that Phase 1 research could not locate. No press releases, joint projects, web presence, or teaming agreement in the proposal. This is a FAR 9.104 responsibility determination issue: if VQRM cannot be substantiated, EDS has proposed to deliver 40% of core scope through an unverifiable entity. If VQRM does not exist, the proposal is not salvageable.

#2 Past Performance 80% Unverified **EXISTENTIAL**

Five hurricane deployments cited; only Helene independently confirmed. Remaining four (Beryl, Ian, Nicole, Joliet National Guard) are section headers with no narrative, contract values, dates, or contact information. Past performance is typically the highest-weighted non-price factor in disaster-response contracting. A 1-of-5 verification rate on what should be the strongest section is a scoring catastrophe.

#3 Superlative Claims as Material Representations **STRUCTURAL**

'Nation's largest,' 'industry's largest inventory,' '35 years of experience,' '\$100M+ in operations' are stated as certified factual representations in a signed offer. Phase 1 found zero independent verification. Under the False Claims Act and FAR 52.209, provably false superlatives in a signed federal proposal can taint the entire offer and become post-award GAO protest grounds. EDS must substantiate or formally strike each claim before award.

#4 Pricing Anomaly - \$88K/Day Firefighting Tools **FINANCIAL**

The Wildland Firefighting Tools and PPE line at \$88,175.26/day is 6x the Structural Collapse package and 38x the Swiftwater package. One judge argues this may bundle firefighting labor, crew, and apparatus - which at \$88K/day is competitive for a Type-1 wildland strike team. The 6x/17x/38x ratios may be apples-to-oranges comparisons. Either way, the unit price governs under RFP rules and must be clarified in writing.

#5 Document Assembly Inconsistency **OPERATIONAL**

Attachment labeling error (F vs. G), duplicated VQRM paragraph in sections 3.2.7 and 3.2.8. A proposal that dedicates a subsection to tracking deficiencies with 'no deficiency open more than 24 hours' should not have copy-paste artifacts in its own filing. Minor and fixable, but indicative of rushed assembly.

Three independent judges cross-checked the findings. Each judge operates on fundamentally different architecture for true cross-validation. Majority verdict rules.

Judge 1**Conditional Go**

High confidence

Analytical/10-dimension architecture. Real competence plus aggressive marketing inflation. Not fraud, but heavy self-promotion with gaps a diligent evaluator would catch. Six conditions recommended. Composite 6.1/10.

Judge 2**Conditional Go**

High confidence

Legal/regulatory architecture. Downgraded from 6.1 to 5.6. VQRm is a FAR 9.104 responsibility determination issue, not a credibility problem. \$88K line may be correct (likely bundles firefighting labor). Superlatives flagged as False Claims Act exposure. If Tribal integration is weighted and mandatory, the deficiency is unfixable and swings to NO-GO.

Judge 3**Conditional Go**

High confidence

Pragmatic/shipping architecture. The IDIQ contract structure is the most important variable - standby period means conditions don't all need pre-award satisfaction. Market is thin; a 6/10 vendor who can be improved during standby is better than no vendor when disaster hits. Minimum viable launch: only 3 pre-award gates.

Judge 4**Conditional Go**

Medium confidence

Contracting norms architecture. Confidence 0.60. Flagged LOS exposure risk: if EDS HOLDCO LLC is a holding company without operational staff, past performance from affiliates may be discarded and 50% self-performance rule triggered. This is the one finding that could flip to NO-GO.

Overall: CONDITIONAL GO - 4/4 Consensus - 9 Conditions (3 Pre-Award, 6 Post-Award) (4/4 judges agree)

6 Strengths

What the proposal gets right. These are the pillars to build on.

- ✓ Verified SAM.gov registration (UEI HAK5PNC3GZW5, CAGE 8MMZ9) - company is legitimate and active in federal contracting
- ✓ Press-confirmed Hurricane Helene deployment (WKYT, 200+ day mobilization) - one deployment independently verified
- ✓ ICS/NIMS-literate operational framework - five-phase model maps cleanly to FEMA disaster response structure
- ✓ Genuine Tribal sovereign immunity acknowledgment section - rare in non-Tribal bidders and denotes actual government contracting experience
- ✓ Tri-state operational positioning (Kentucky, Texas, Florida) is a genuine structural advantage for Gulf Coast/Southeast disasters
- ✓ IDIQ contract structure means standby period is free time to cure remaining deficiencies before any work order is issued
- ✓ All four judges converged - no dissent, strongest consensus in any VerdictTank review

7 Competitive Landscape

How the proposal stacks up against known competitors and alternatives.

COMPETITOR	STRENGTHS	GAPS	THREAT LEVEL
AshBritt Environmental	30+ year track record, large prime, Department of Defense contracts	Large prime pricing. Not a small/disadvantaged business. General environmental, not ICS-specialized.	High
Witt O'Brien's	FEMA veteran leadership, strong recovery and mitigation consulting	Consulting-focused, less operational deployment. Higher overhead.	Medium
Tidal Basin Government Consulting	FEMA PA/IA expertise, strong grant management	Administrative recovery focus. Not an operational responder.	Medium
V3Gate / Tribal-eligible firms	Native-owned, direct Tribal preference advantage	Smaller, less FEMA-scale experience. Throughput limitations.	Low-Medium

Priority-Ranked Action Plan

Actions ordered by urgency. P0 items are blocking - resolve before any P1 work.

PRIORITY	ACTION	WHY	EFFORT
P0	Verify VQRM corporate identity - principal name and contact	Self-executing truth test: real entity produces docs in 1 day; fabricated entity never produces anything	1 day
P0	Clarify \$88K/day firefighting line - tools-only or crew+equipment?	RFP unit-price-governs rule makes this binding. Must be correct before contract execution.	Hours
P0	Produce past performance references for all 5 deployments	Real references are produced in days; fabricated ones are impossible to produce	2-3 days
P1	Full VQRM validation - licenses, insurance, certs, NPQS, SAM.gov + name backup sub	Contract cannot rest on a single unverifiable sub. Need alternate capability or self-perform option.	2-4 weeks
P1	Deliver financial documentation - audited/ reviewed statements, LOC, bonding letter	Required for responsibility determination under FAR 9.104 before any work order can be placed	2-4 weeks
P1	Develop Tribal vendor engagement plan with named Alabama-Coushatta vendors	Generic 'plan within 30 days' is a placeholder. If Tribal preference is scored and EDS has zero relationships, this swings to NO-GO.	2-6 weeks
P2	Clarify prime vs. subcontractor role on Hurricane Helene deployment	The entire past performance section's weight depends on whether EDS was prime or minor sub on its only confirmed reference	Days
P2	Retract or substantiate all superlative claims in writing	Closes False Claims Act and GAO protest exposure before award. Protects both EDS and the Tribe's procurement.	Days

P2

Correct Attachment F/G labeling + duplicated VQRM paragraph

Document QC inconsistency undermines the 'no deficiency open more than 24 hours' narrative

Hours

9

Judge Notes

Individual judge commentary and observations.

Judge 1: No dissent. Agreed with findings and scoring without material deviation.

Judge 2: No dissent. Agreed with findings and scoring without material deviation.

Judge 3: No dissent. Agreed with findings and scoring without material deviation.

Judge 4: No dissent. Agreed with findings and scoring without material deviation.

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- [1] SAM.gov - EDS HOLDCO LLC Entity Registration <https://sam.gov/entity/HAK5PNC3GZW5>
- [2] WKYT - EDS Disaster Response Coverage (Helene) <https://www.wkyt.com/>
- [3] Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas - Official Website <https://www.alabama-coushatta.com/>
- [4] FAR Part 9.104 - Contractor Responsibility Standards <https://www.acquisition.gov/far/part-9>
- [5] FAR Part 16.5 - Indefinite-Delivery Contracts <https://www.acquisition.gov/far/part-16>
- [6] False Claims Act - 31 U.S.C. 3729 <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/31/3729>
- [7] GAO Bid Protest Regulations - 4 C.F.R. Part 21 <https://www.gao.gov/legal/bid-protests>

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This report is confidential and intended solely for EDS HOLDCO LLC (Lexington, KY).

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