

SMALL BUSINESS SOURCES SOUGHT NOTICE

Notice Number: HHS-NIH-NCI-SBSS-TSB-17021-82

Title: Data Center for the Clinical Proteomic Technologies for Cancer

This is a Small Business Sources Sought notice. This is **NOT** a solicitation for proposals, proposal abstracts, or quotations. The purpose of this notice is to obtain information regarding: (1) the availability and capability of qualified small business sources; (2) whether they are small businesses; HUBZone small businesses; service-disabled, veteran-owned small businesses; 8(a) small businesses; veteran-owned small businesses; woman-owned small businesses; or small disadvantaged businesses; and (3) their size classification relative to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code for the proposed acquisition. Your responses to the information requested will assist the Government in determining the appropriate acquisition method, including whether a set-aside is possible. An organization that is not considered a small business under the applicable NAICS code should not submit a response to this notice.

This National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Institutes of Health (NIH) project is a new requirement. This Small Business Sources Sought Notice (SBSS) is for information and planning purposes only and shall not be construed as a solicitation or as an obligation on the part of the National Cancer Institute.

A determination by the Government not to complete this requirement as a set-aside based upon responses to this Notice is solely within the discretion of the Government.

Interested parties are expected to review this Notice and the draft **Statement of Work** to familiarize themselves with the requirements of this project; failure to do so will be at your firm's own risk.

Background:

The role of the Clinical Proteomic Technologies for Cancer (CPTC) Data Center (DC) and the CPTC-Portal is to support and coordinate the data and metadata that will be generated in Phase II of the CPTC. To address many of the critical challenges facing the protein biomarker community, the NCI launched Phase I of the CPTC in 2006. The overall goals of CPTC Phase I were focused on removing several of the major barriers in proteomics research to enable the accurate, efficient and reproducible identification, and quantification of meaningful numbers of proteins that could drive high value clinical biomarker qualification studies. Phase II of the program will apply these foundational elements to discover and verify protein (and peptide) biomarkers and support the further improvement and development of robust proteomic technologies.

Purpose and Objectives:

The purpose of this Small Business Sources Sought Notice is to identify qualified small business concerns including HUBZone small businesses; service-disabled, veteran-owned small businesses; 8(a) small businesses, veteran-owned small businesses; woman-owned small businesses; or small disadvantaged businesses that are interested in and capable of performing the work described herein. The NCI does not intend to award a contract on the basis of responses received nor otherwise pay for the preparation of any information submitted.

As a result of this SBSS Notice, the NCI may issue a Request for Proposal (RFP). **THERE IS NO SOLICITATION AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.** However, should such a requirement materialize, no basis for claims against NCI shall arise as a result of a response to this Small Business Sources Sought Notice or the NCI's use of such information as either part of our evaluation process or in developing specifications for any subsequent requirement.

The purpose of this project is to develop and support the CPTC data center and data portal. During the performance of this project, 4 to 6 tumor types will be characterized by the Proteome Characterization Centers (PCCs) using a variety of platforms and experimental approaches to molecularly characterize cancer cells. Specific tasks to be performed under this project as defined under Section 5 of the attached Statement of Work are:

1. Project Management
2. System Requirements Gathering, Architecture, and Design
3. Deployment Plan
4. Domain Model, Data Elements, and Terminology Selection and Specification
5. System Implementation
6. Quality Management System
7. Reporting
8. Staff Training
9. Data Collection and Processing
10. Data Persistence and Distribution
11. caBIG® Compliance
12. Data Use, Disclosure, and Handling of Sensitive Information
13. Documentation of Software
14. Transition Plan

Project Requirements:

1. Design, build, specify, enhance, test, deploy, and support the CPTC DC, targeted to centrally store and coordinate data produced by PCCs and coordinate CPTC data with that of The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) on corresponding samples.
2. Establish and execute standard operating procedures (SOPs) for data transmission from PCCs to the DC. SOPs will be developed in collaboration with representatives from PCCs and Resource Center (RC). DC will play a coordinating role among various PCCs generating similar data and will be the final arbiter for definition of standard formats.

3. Design and implement data analysis procedures that perform quality checks on incoming data and report anomalies and non-conforming data to the data source sites.
4. Train a representative from each PCC and RC with appropriate SOPs for data transmission and procedures for addressing non-conforming data.
5. Implement a data management pipeline to process data and prepare it for public distribution in formats and systems that are consistent with compatibility guideline defined by the caBIG® program.
6. Post the data to the publicly accessible distribution points after quality check and processing are completed and that NCI's data release policy guidelines have been followed and cleared.
7. Design, build, specify, enhance, test, deploy and support the CPTC Data Portal, targeted to basic and clinical researchers for browsing and downloading subsets of data that are selected based upon various characteristics of data provenance, source, and content. The CPTC Portal shall display data from the CPTC project and other sources.
8. Provide regular and detailed reports of the status of the CPTC data, data quality, and data usage at all stages of the data management pipeline.

Anticipated Period of Performance:

The period of performance for this requirement will be a one-year base period with four (4) successive one-year options, for a total of five years if all options are exercised. The anticipated start date is on/or about September 29, 2011.

Other Important Considerations:

Draft Statement of Work:

A copy of the draft Statement of Work (SOW), which is subject to revisions, may be accessed on the NCI Office of Acquisitions Website at URL: <http://rcb.nci.nih.gov/> . Once there, click on Current Requests for Proposals.

NAICS Code and Size Standard:

In the event an RFP is issued, North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code 541511 with a size standard of 25.0 million dollars is being considered.

Capability Statement/Information Sought:

Tailored Capability Statements shall demonstrate a clear understanding of all tasks specified in the draft Statement of Work (SOW). Tailored Capability Statements for this requirement shall address the following areas:

1. Demonstrate understanding of the statement of work, documented capability for high-throughput informatics approaches necessary for data integration and data sharing of multiple levels of research data. Documented capability to develop a data model for data and metadata. Documented history of leveraging an electronic information management system (IMS) to manage the quality policy documents, generate reports of program status and project updates, and produce documentation of software.
2. Document experience in information technology management including system architecture, database development, deployment and support. Documented capability in establishing data transfer mechanism and providing web-based interface.
 - Documented expertise of personnel with PhD or equivalent-level of knowledge and five (5) years past experience (within the last seven years) with life science data analysis and management, including data from proteomics, genomics and patient demography and clinical annotations.
 - Documented expertise of personnel with at least one (1) staff member having five (5) years experience (within the last seven years) with high-throughput methods for data processing, quality analysis and compliance with data standards.
 - Documented expertise of personnel with five (5) years experience in project management.
 - Documented experience in developing and implementing a quality assurance program to facilitate both internal and external evaluation.
 - Documented experience in working with collaborators, partners and/or other laboratories to develop and optimize a database of complex data for a network of researchers.
3. Document facilities and equipment that will be available for use on this project.
 - Document current capability in managing complex proteomics datasets.
 - Document informatics capacity to track the data as it is uploaded and downloaded by difference users at multiple physical locations.
 - Adequacy of physical space to house service components. Availability and acceptability of equipment to perform this effort, including computers for informatics and data management.

4. Document and demonstrate project management experience, including ability to meet deadlines and re-assign staff.
 - Document history of training laboratory staff on informatics practices and information management processes.
 - Document experience with auditing clinical, proteomic, genomic, and medical laboratories for data quality practices.
 - Document history of gathering program, system and user requirements to effectively structure a biomedical informatics data center and user access portal.
 - Document ability to serve in a management capacity on a large biomedical informatics program.

Information Submission Instructions:

1. Page Limitations:

Interested qualified small business organizations should submit a tailored capability statement for this requirement not to exceed twenty-five (25) single-sided pages including all attachments, resumes, charts, etc. (single spaced, 12 point font minimum) that clearly details the firm's ability to perform the aspects of the notice described above and in the draft SOW. Tailored capability statements should also include an indication of current certified small business status; this indication should be clearly marked on the first page of your capability statement (preferably placed under the eligible small business concern's name and address), as well as the eligible small business concern's name, point of contact, address and DUNS number.

2. Number of Copies:

All capability Statement sent in response to this SMALL BUSINESS SOURCES SOUGHT notice must be submitted electronically (via e-mail) to Amy Stull, Contract Specialist, at stullac@mail.nih.gov and C. Timothy Crilley, Contracting Officer, at tcrilley@mail.nih.gov in MS Word, WordPerfect or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF). The e-mail subject line must specify HHS-NIH-NCI-SBSS-TSB-17021-82. Facsimile responses will not be accepted.

3. Common Cut-off Date:

Electronically submitted tailored capability statements are due no later than 2:00 PM (Eastern Prevailing Time) on April 1, 2011. ***CAPABILITY STATEMENTS RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE AND TIME WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.***

DISCLAIMER AND IMPORTANT NOTES: This notice does not obligate the Government to award a contract or otherwise pay for the information provided in this response. The Government reserves the right to use information provided by respondents for any purpose deemed necessary and legally appropriate. Any organization responding to this notice should ensure that its response is complete and sufficiently detailed to allow the Government to determine the organization's qualifications to perform the work. Respondents are advised that the Government is under no obligation to acknowledge receipt of the information received or provide feedback to respondents with respect to any information submitted. After a review of the responses is received, a pre-solicitation synopsis and solicitation may be published in Federal Business Opportunities. However, responses to this notice will not be considered adequate responses to a solicitation.

CONFIDENTIALITY: No proprietary, classified, confidential, or sensitive information should be included in your response. The Government reserves the right to use any non-proprietary technical information in any resultant solicitation(s).