

SMALL BUSINESS SOURCES SOUGHT NOTICE

Notice Number: HHS-NIH-NCI-SBSS-TSB-7001-36

Title: RECOVERY – Establishing a Small Molecule Chemical Repository for the NCI Chemical Biology Consortium

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.

A determination by the Government not to compete 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.

Background:

The Chemical Biology Consortium (CBC) has been developed by the Office of the Director (OD), Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis (DCTD), National Cancer Institute (NCI) in conjunction with the Center for Cancer Research (CCR) and the OD, to facilitate the discovery and development of new agents to treat and diagnose cancer. The goal of the CBC is to develop a network of academic and private drug discovery efforts that along with DCTD's current early development resources will establish a complete drug discovery and development platform for oncology therapeutics. This network of multidisciplinary scientific expertise, along with varied technical and infrastructure resources within the network, will work together to support execution of drug discovery and development projects from discovery to first in human studies in a team centric approach. One critical infrastructure resource that this platform will require is chemical repository services to function as the network's central resource to procure, receive, analyze, store, track and distribute chemical compounds expected to be generated throughout project execution. Our current assessment of the progress of this program anticipates the generation and management of arrayed libraries built from up to 250,000 diverse compounds. The compounds will be acquired from commercial and other sources. We will also require management (acquisition, analysis, distribution and storage) of 2,500-5,000 CBC member generated dry samples in the

first year and 5,000-7,000 dry samples in the second year. The number is expected to grow with the addition of nearly 7,500-15,000 compounds per year for the subsequent years.

Purpose and Objectives:

The purpose of this Small Business Sources Sought Notice (SBSS) is to identify qualified small business concerns including HUBZone small businesses; service-disabled, veteran-owned small businesses; 8(a) small businesses, women-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 received.

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 SBSS Notice or the NCI's use of such information as either part of our evaluation process or in developing specifications for any subsequent requirement.

If a RFP is issued, the NCI anticipates that only a single award may result from the issuance of the RFP.

The objective of this CBC project is to establish and fully develop a network of coordinating academic and private drug discovery collaborations with the Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis (DCTD) current preclinical development resources. The total Consortium will thereby establish a complete drug discovery and development platform for oncology therapeutics.

Project Requirements:

The contractor shall possess the necessary labor, services, equipment, materials, supplies, and facilities, except as otherwise specified herein, as needed to perform the work as set forth below:

1. Identify and acquire, in coordination with the NCI advisory groups, candidate compounds and arrays from government, academic, industry, and commercial sources, both domestic and international, and assemble a collection of compounds meeting specified criteria;
2. Array selected compounds in sets suitable for high-throughput screening (HTS) and long-term storage and distribute compound arrays to the CBC members and screening centers;
3. Communicate with CBC members and screening centers in regards to inventory and distribution of samples by developing and maintaining a secure CBC website;
4. Store, maintain and track the compound collection inventory and periodically monitor the purity of compounds in the library;
5. Monitor the compound inventory to ensure that threshold quantities of all compounds are available to support screening needs and to locate and re-acquire depleted compounds to replenish the inventory;
6. Provide the necessary informatics and support to build libraries based on select specifications and file, maintain and update chemical information on each sample and array and track

compound inventory and distribution;

7. Serve as the chemical structure registrar for all molecules of interest to the CBC. This will include evaluating each structure submitted to the CBC for correct and full structure integrity and assigning a unique identifier to each unique structure. This unique identifier will then be used as an index for all subsequent test results.

Anticipated Period of Performance:

The period of performance for this requirement is five (5) years, consisting of a twenty-four month base period, plus three (3) one-year options. The anticipated start date is on or about September 30, 2010. It is anticipated that the twenty-four month base period will be funded utilizing American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding. The option periods, if exercised will be supported by appropriated funds.

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 <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 325411 with a size standard of 750 employees is being considered.

Capability Statement/Information Sought

Sources are expected to have the personnel, facilities, equipment, and experience to facilitate the discovery and development of new agents to treat and diagnose cancer. Sources will work as part of a team in collaboration with DCTD and a network of academic and private drug discovery partners. The entire group will comprise a complete drug discovery and development platform for oncology therapeutics.

Tailored capability statements shall demonstrate a clear understanding of all tasks specified in the draft Statement of Work (SOW), to include the requirement for chemical repository services to function as the network central resource to procure, receive, manage and distribute chemical compounds expected to be generated throughout project execution. Tailored Capability Statements for this requirement shall also address the following areas:

- (a) Document capabilities of existing chemical repository networks

Information Submission Instructions:

1. Page Limitations:

Interested qualified small business organizations should submit a tailored capability statement for this requirement not to exceed twenty (20) 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. Delivery Point:

All capability statements sent in response to this Small Business Sources Sought notice must be submitted electronically (via email) to Stanley A. Knight, Contracting Officer, at knights@mail.nih.gov in MS Word or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF). The email subject line must specify HHS-NIH-NCI-SBSS-TSB-07001-36. Facsimile responses will not be accepted.

3. Common Cut-Off Date:

Electronically submitted tailored capability statements are due no later than 3:00 PM (Eastern Prevailing Time) on January 25, 2010. **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 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 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.

(2) 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).

