

HHS-NIH-NCI-ETSB-71004-72  
NOTICE INFORMATION

Agency/Office: National Institutes of Health

Location: National Cancer Institute, Office of Acquisitions

**Title: Molecular Pathology Services Contract**

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 requirement is assigned a NAICS code of 541380 and the small business size standard for such requirements is \$15 Million per annum. Statements should also include an indication of current certified 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 business concern's name, point of contact, address, and DUNS number.

The Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics (DCEG), National Cancer Institute (NCI) is seeking capability statements from all eligible Small Businesses as stated above.

**THERE IS NO SOLICITATION AVAILABLE. THIS IS STRICTLY FOR MARKET RESEARCH.**

**Background:**

The mission of the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics (DCEG), National Cancer Institute (NCI) is to conduct population and multidisciplinary research to discover the genetic and environmental determinants of cancer and new approaches to cancer prevention. In support of its mission, DCEG maintains a rich resource of tissue specimens available to enhance our understanding of the etiology of a diverse array of cancer types. Currently DCEG stores over 300,000 tissue-related specimens for over a hundred family and population-based studies. Materials included in these collections include formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded (FFPE) tissues, fresh frozen tissues, stained and unstained slides. Fixed tissues may be stored as cores, blocks, Tissue Micro Arrays (TMAs) and slides. Specimens were collected and processed using study-specific protocols and are stored in several locations, most commonly at the NCI Central Repository located in Frederick, Maryland, but are also stored in several other smaller repositories located on Ft. Detrick, Maryland. Tissue specimens have been collected over the past 30 years and have been stored under a variety of conditions.

**Purpose and Objectives:**

The Scope of this contract is to provide molecular pathology support services to DCEG investigators in areas covering the microdissection of tumor and adjacent normal tissue, preparation of hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) slides, immunohistochemistry, in-situ hybridization, fluorescence in situ hybridization, and extraction of nucleic acids from frozen and FFPE tissue blocks and slides. The Contractor should be able to scan slides using a digital imaging system wherein the images can be used for subsequent analysis.

**Project Requirements:**

The Contractor shall furnish services, qualified personnel, material, equipment, including secure computers, and facilities, to provide support services to DCEG studies in the areas of receipt and processing of human biospecimens and temporary storage of biospecimens until they are ready to be included in research activities, and transfer to laboratory for testing.

**Tasks:**

The Contractor shall:

- 1) Provide pathology laboratory services on a wide range of histopathology services encompassing techniques including immunohistochemistry, in situ hybridization (ISH), fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) and other molecular analyses.
- 2) Use an imaging system for slides that allow for subsequent sharing and evaluation of the scanned images. The Contractor shall also provide support for review diagnosis, microdissect tumor and adjacent normal tissue and extract DNA and RNA from fresh frozen or FFPE tissue blocks or slides. The laboratory should have experience handling tissues with known complicating issues, such as melanin pigment in melanoma or melanocytic tissues or loss of surface epithelium in ovarian tissue.
- 3) Scan slides using a digital imaging system wherein the images can be used for subsequent analysis.

**Anticipated Period of Performance:**

It is anticipated the services will be acquired through full and open competitive procedures. It is anticipated that one Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract will be awarded with a five (5) year period of performance beginning on or about February 7, 2017.

**Information Sought:**

To be deemed capable of providing services that meet the DCEG requirements, please submit a written capability statement demonstrating your ability and experience.

**Submission Information:**

Interested qualified small business organizations should submit a tailored capability statement for this requirement, not to exceed 20 single-sided pages (including all attachments, resumes, charts, etc)

presented in single-space and using a 12-point font size minimum, that clearly details the ability to perform the aspects of the notice described above. 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, as well as the eligible small business concerns name, point of contact, address and DUNS number.

**Information submission instructions:**

All capability statements sent in response to this SOURCES SOUGHT notice must be submitted electronically (via email) to Juana A. Diaz, Contracting Officer, at [diazj@mail.nih.gov](mailto:diazj@mail.nih.gov) in MS Word or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) by April 29, 2016 10:00 AM, EST. All responses must be received by the specified due date and time in order to be considered. CAPABILITY STATEMENTS RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE AND TIME WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. No collect calls or facsimile transmissions will be accepted.

**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.

**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.