SOURCES SOUGHT NOTICE: Brand Name AKTA Pure M1 Chromatography System for *the National Cancer Institute (NCI), Center for Cancer Research (CCR).*

Notice Number:
SS-NCI-130105-TG

Issued By:
National Cancer Institute (NCI),
Office of Acquisitions (OA)
http://www.nci.nih.gov or http://rcb.cancer.gov/rcb-internet/

Key Dates:
Capability Statement Due Date: August 7, 2013 by 4:00PM EST

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 (NCI).

The purpose of this Sources Sought Notice is to identify qualified **small business concerns** including 8(a), HUBZone or Service-Disabled Veteran-owned business concerns 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. 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 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code 334516 with a size standard of 500 employees is being considered.

As a result of this Sources Sought Notice, the NCI may issue a Request for Quotation (RFQ) through FedBizOpps. 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 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 acquisition is to purchase the AKTA Pure M1 Chromatography System.

Laboratories within the Laboratory of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (LBMB) investigate many aspects of chromosome biology, including heterochromatin formation, chromosome segregation, regulation of genome stability, and maintenance of telomeres. Particularly relevant to this acquisition is the Laboratory of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (LBMB) has need of the AKTA pure M1 system to purify antibodies and proteins that will be used in the Xenopus Egg extract system, human cancer cells and in vitro to study the process of cell division. LBMB has optimized protocols and successfully purified samples and generated data using this system. One of the columns used extensively for the purification of samples is a pre- packed Superdex column for high-resolution separation of biomolecules by size (gel filtration). It is critical that the work be performed using the same system (and columns) to be able to compare to previous data collected and without jeopardizing the quality of the purified samples.

The AKTA Pure M1 Chromatography System possesses the following salient characteristics:

- The system shall have low pressure protein purification system to purify proteins and other biomolecules
- The system shall deliver a smooth, low pulsation flow to the column in increments of 0.1 ml/min up to a maximum of 25 ml/min at 0 to 20 MPa pressure.
- The system shall allow users to perform time-based, volume-based and column- based programming.

- The system shall have multi-wavelength UV/V's monitor and detects up to 3 wavelengths from 190 to 700 nm. This can purify, identify and distinguish the labeled protein from the unlabeled species since they absorb at different wavelengths.
- The system shall have modular design, which brings versatility and flexibility in using the system. Additional parts/modules can later be added on to further expand the system capability and productivity. Due to the accessibility and design of the modules, easily changed, which allows quick and efficient customization.
- The system shall allow for safe collection of 576 fractions in deep-well plates, tubes, and bottles.
- The system shall contain a Column valve kit, which includes the V9-C column valve and 5-columns. The valve can control the flow of the column and monitor by measuring the change of pressure pre and post column. This is important since the column valve can adjust the flow rate according to the change in pressure, instead of the system abruptly stopping the flow due to pressure exceeding the upper limit. That means the run will continue as long as the flow rate is adjusted to keep the pressure under limit. The column valve kit also allows reverse flow through the column for fast and effective elution of strongly bound proteins, sharper peaks (increase purity), and a concentrated target molecule eluent. This is important for maximizing the yield for purifying the target protein for subsequent characterizations. A reversed flow also help lengthens the lifetime and improve the performance of columns by rinsing away debris on the top. In addition, the inlet selection of the system comprises 4 inlet positions in a single valve giving a convenient solution for automation of buffers. Also it can switch automatically between 5 columns and automate cleaning.
- The system shall contain a Superloop 10 ml, 50 ml, and 150 ml AKTAs allow for the introductions of large sample volumes into a pressurized fluid system.

How to Submit a Response:

1. **Page Limitations:**

   Interested qualified small business organizations should submit a tailored capability statement for this requirement not to exceed 10 single sided pages including all attachments, resumes, charts, etc. (single spaced, 12 point font minimum) that clearly details the ability to perform the requirements of the notice described above. All proprietary information should be marked as such. Responses should include a minimum of a two pages demonstrating experience over the past two years meeting the requirements of this notice. 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 (preferable placed under the eligible small business concern's name and address). Responses will be reviewed only by NIH personnel and will be held in a confidential manner.

2. **Due Date:**

   Capability statements are due no later than 4:00 a.m. EST on August 7, 2013.

3. **Delivery Point:**

   All information furnished must be in writing and must contain sufficient detail to allow the NCI to determine if it can meet the unique specifications described herein. Written responses can be emailed to Terry Galloway Contracting Officer at terry.galloway@nih.gov or mailed to the address located under Point of Contact. All questions must be in writing and can be faxed to (240) 276-5399 or emailed. A determination by the Government not to compete this requirement based upon responses to this notice is solely within the discretion of the Government. Information received will be considered solely for the purpose of determining whether to conduct a competitive procurement. In order to receive an award, contractors must have valid registration and certification in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) and the Online Representations and Certifications Applications (ORCA), through sam.gov. No collect calls will be accepted. Please reference number SS-NCI-130105-TG on all correspondence.

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, an RFQ may be published on FedBizOpps. However, responses to this notice will not be considered adequate responses to a solicitation(s).

Point of Contact:

Inquiries concerning this Notice may be direct to:

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