

ADVANCE CONTRACT AWARD NOTICE

H0039 – BSE Surveillance and Sampling Services

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has a requirement for provision of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Surveillance and Sampling Services in the Ontario region.

The purpose of this Advance Contract Award Notice (ACAN) is to signal the government's intention to award a contract for these services to **University of Guelph, Animal Health Laboratory, Laboratory Services Division**, located at **Box 3612, Guelph, Ontario N1H 6R8**. Before awarding a contract, however, the government would like to provide other suppliers with the opportunity to demonstrate that they are capable of satisfying the requirements set out in this Notice, by submitting a statement of capabilities during the **fifteen (15) calendar day posting period**.

If other potential suppliers submit a statement of capabilities during the fifteen (15) calendar day posting period that meet the requirements set out in the ACAN, the government will proceed to a full tendering process on either the government's electronic tendering service or through traditional means, in order to award the contract.

If no other supplier submits, on or before the closing date, a statement of capabilities meeting the requirements set out in the ACAN, a contract will be awarded to the pre-selected supplier.

Background

On May 20, 2003, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), otherwise known as “mad cow disease” was confirmed in an animal born and raised in Canada. On January 9, 2004, as part of a national BSE response strategy, the Government of Canada announced that it would enhance its BSE surveillance testing. To date, there have been 20 cases of BSE identified in Canadian-born cattle. The most recent case of BSE, detected on February 11, 2015, illustrates the need for ongoing surveillance. As part of its BSE surveillance program the CFIA intends to contract with the Animal Health Laboratory (Laboratory Services Division, University of Guelph) to perform surveillance testing for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in Ontario.

The work will involve the collection of Obex samples from dead animals (“the samples”) and their transportation to Contractor’s Animal Health Laboratory (AHL) located in Guelph, Ontario is the sole responsibility of the CFIA or its agents. The samples shall be collected by the CFIA and transported to the Contractor and the AHL in batches of approximately 40 samples once per week for the duration of the Service Contract. The Contractor shall conduct testing upon the samples using a rapid test that has been approved by the CFIA for BSE diagnostics. A CFIA-approved testing protocol will be used, including quality control measures. The procedure will also be subject to proficiency testing coordinated by the National BSE Reference Laboratory at the CFIA

Lethbridge Laboratory. The testing shall be carried out with appropriate bio-security safeguards and under the direction of a qualified laboratory veterinarian with expertise in the methodology.

The proposed contract period is from *June 27, 2015 to March 31, 2016 with three (3) one-year options.*

The estimated value of the contract, *including the three (3) option periods* is *\$457,600.00* (taxes excluded).

Minimum Essential Requirements

Any interested supplier must demonstrate by way of a statement of capabilities that it meets the following requirements:

- be located in the province of Ontario;
- be a member that participates in the TSE Veterinary Diagnostic Network under the leadership of the BSE National Reference Lab at the CFIA Lethbridge Laboratory;
- be certified by the CFIA as conforming to the appropriate (i.e. TSE) containment standards;
- have experience with testing for Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy's (TSEs) using CFIA approved rapid tests;
- must be accredited by a third party (e.g. Standards Council of Canada) as operating under an internationally recognized quality system such as ISO17025, ISO 9000, etc...;
- have adequate facilities and record keeping capabilities;
- must be operated in accordance with federal, provincial and municipal requirements

Justification for the Pre-Selected Supplier

University of Guelph, Animal Health Laboratory meets the criteria below, which are required in order to provide the contracted service:

- located in the province of Ontario;
- a member that participates in the TSE Veterinary Diagnostic Network under the leadership of the BSE National Reference Lab at the CFIA Lethbridge Laboratory;
- certified by the CFIA as conforming to the appropriate (i.e. TSE) containment standards;
- experience with testing for Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy's (TSEs) using CFIA approved rapid tests;
- accredited by a third party (e.g. Standards Council of Canada) as operating under an internationally recognized quality system such as ISO17025, ISO 9000, etc...;
- adequate facilities and record keeping capabilities;
- operate in accordance with federal, provincial and municipal requirements

Suppliers who consider themselves fully qualified and available to meet the specified requirements may submit a statement of capabilities in writing to the Contracting Authority identified in this Notice on or before the closing date of this Notice. The statement of capabilities must clearly demonstrate how the supplier meets the advertised requirements.

The closing date and time for accepting statements of capabilities is **June 22, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. Ottawa, Ontario time.**

Inquiries and statements of capabilities are to be directed to:

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Policy Information

- a) Government Contracts Regulations (GCRs):
 - d. only one person is capable of performing the contract.*

- b) Subject to WTO-AGP:
 - XV.1(a) - protection of exclusive rights, such as patents or copyrights, or in the absence of competition for technical reasons, the products or services can be supplied only by a particular supplier and no reasonable alternative or substitute exists*

- c) Subject to NAFTA:
 - 1016.2(b) - where, for works of art, or for reasons connected with the protection of patents, copyrights or other exclusive rights, or proprietary information or where there is an absence of competition for technical reasons, the goods or services can be supplied only by a particular supplier and no reasonable alternative or substitute exists*

- d) Subject to AIT:
 - 506.12(b) - where there is an absence of competition for technical reasons and the goods or services can be supplied only by a particular supplier and no alternative or substitute exists*

- e) Subject to CKTEA:
 - Protection of exclusive rights, such as patents or copyrights, or in the absence of competition for technical reasons, the products or services can be supplied only by a particular supplier and no reasonable alternative or substitute exists*