

Amendment #1
Questions & Answers
(Q & A # 1 to 4)

Request for Quotation (RFQ)
DNA High Throughput Sequencing Analysis of Soil and Plant DNA Extracts
Buy and Sell Reference Number: PW-16-00715326
Solicitation Number: 01R11-16-C054

This solicitation amendment has been raised to answer questions asked by potential bidders during the tendering period. The following questions have been asked and are answered as follows.

QUESTION 1

Are you and end users aware of the 'technology and reagents offerings termination' by end of 2016 for all 454 platforms?

ANSWER 1

Yes, we are aware that FLX+ was phasing out; however we feel it is important to include this technology to ensure that all our older work can be completed on the same platform. Our experience with using technologies in the past has proven that facilities may be phasing out their equipment, yet they still had the consumables, etc. to provide the services with this equipment. Therefore, we have asked for pricing in our Financial Bid document, Appendix E, even though, we may or may not use this technology in the Option Years. As well, Appendix E, states, "The estimates provided in Column A will be used for cost evaluation purposes only and do not constitute a guarantee or commitment of work on behalf of Canada".

QUESTION 2

Is it acceptable to submit a bid for 2 out of the 3 tasks, or must all three tasks be included?

ANSWER 2

No, it is not acceptable to submit a bid for 2 out of the 3 tasks. AAFC is asking sequencing providers to conduct HTS analysis of soil and plant DNA extracts using all three different types of tasks (technology). When submitting your bid you must provide pricing for all three technologies.

QUESTION 3

In Task 2 (Illumina MiSeq 600 Technology), specific library construction kits are stated (384 and 96 sample procedures), and in Task 3 (Illumina HiSeq 2500 Technology) the TruSeq gDNA Library preparation protocol (or other approved method) is included in the description of the library construction protocol to be provided. Can we bid based on using our own in-house library construction protocols for both of these tasks? Our protocols are compatible with Illumina sequencing instruments, and have optimized them for our own pipelines.

ANSWER 3

Yes, you can utilize your own library construction protocols HOWEVER for the MiSeq samples to ensure the appropriate sequencing depth is attained, a 96 sample procedure is required for the Bacterial DNA extracts and 384 sample procedure is required for the AMF and Non-AMF extracts. It is essential for both technologies that the methods used are shown to be compatible with the sequencing requirements set out by Illumina for their technologies. Refer to Illumina documentation when showing the in-house protocols meet requirements.

QUESTION 4

Is there an expected or desired turnaround time from sample receipt? I note that there is a requirement that data is available 10 days after analysis, but is there an overall turnaround time expectation?

ANSWER 4

No, we are leaving this up to sequencing providers to indicate. Bidders must provide a schedule of what their average turn-around time is from sample receipt, etc. See Appendix D, 2.0 Mandatory Requirements Section.

All other terms and conditions in the RFQ document remain unchanged.