

Request for Information (RFI) Number: H1051-206242

Health Canada

Project Title: Training aid for Detector Dogs to Screen for COVID-19

Purpose: The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) enquiry is as follows:

Health Canada is issuing this RFI to determine potential bidders who can develop a safe s training aid that can be used in a pilot program to train detector dogs (DDs), to assist in screening of incoming travellers for COVID-19 testing. In the case of SARS-CoV-2, it is assumed that the virus itself will not be the training aid as there is no current evidence to suggest that the virus will have a unique volatile organic compound (VOC) signature. Therefore, the expected focus will be the VOC signature directly or indirectly related to the host inflammatory response induced by SARS-CoV-2 infection.

Health Canada is seeking potential bidders that have the necessary experience to deliver on the two following objectives:

- 1) **Objective 1:** Identification of a signature VOC induced by SARS-CoV-2 infection that would be able to be detected by DDs to assist in screening for COVID-19. The signature VOC should be developed to maximize the chances of detecting incoming passengers with SARS-CoV-2 infection. The findings related to the VOC signature will be provided to Health Canada to inform the pilot COVID-19 DD training program; **and**
- 2) **Objective 2:** The development of a pilot training aid to inform detector dog training for COVID-19; accounting for the safety of both the DD, the handler, and those involved in the training process. This training aid will be provided to Health Canada to inform the pilot COVID-19 DD training program.

Health Canada reserves the right to award up to three contracts valued at \$75,000 each to responsive bidders to deliver the identification of a signature VOC and development of a synthetic training aid. The total budget for these three contracts is \$225,000.

Potential bidders must demonstrate that they have the necessary experience, expertise, equipment and personnel in place to achieve both objectives and the associated deliverables under each objective within the specified [Timelines](#) to be eligible to receive a bid package

Timelines

The total time anticipated to provide the training package that will meet both objectives is four (4) months after contract award.

Application information

The following information must be provided to be considered in receiving a bid package:

- A Summary of the Research Proposal that summarizes the proposal in a maximum of one (1) page; the summary **must include** expected timelines to meet both objectives and any expected limitations and mitigation measures within the identified timelines;
- A summary table listing the expertise of all resources;
- A PDF extract of a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Biosketch CV or a 3-page PDF CV of the Principal Applicant; **and**
- Name(s) of Co-Applicant(s) and Knowledge User(s) and affiliations. CVs of Co-Applicant(s) and Knowledge User(s) are encouraged but not required at this stage.

All interested potential bidders interested in receiving a bid package must direct their information to the Contracting Authority. Bid packages will be sent to potential bidders who can demonstrate that they can meet the objectives and have sufficient previous experience producing training aids to support training of detector dogs.

Interested bidders will be informed that they should not continue with the process if they:

- Do not provide the required information for this Request for Information; and/ or
- Provide incomplete information; and/ or
- Do not provide a summary of the research proposal that responds to the objectives and specific research requirements; and/ or
- Do not have the required expertise to meet both objectives within the timeline.; and/or
- Cannot meet the timeline.

All enquiries and responses related to this Request for Information shall be directed to the Contracting Authority.

Note to Potential Respondents:

This is not a bid solicitation and a contract will not result.

Interested bidders should only respond if they believe that they can provide the required information to meet both objectives and the specific deliverables.

Potential respondents are advised that any information submitted to the Government of Canada (GoC) in response to this RFI may be used by the GoC in the development of a subsequent Request for Proposal (RFP).

The issuance of this RFI does not create an obligation for Canada to issue a subsequent RFP.

Interested bidders of any goods or services described in this RFI should not reserve stock or facilities, nor allocate resources, as a result of any information contained in this RFI.

It should also be noted that no agreement to do business with any respondent will result from this specific enquiry.

Closing Date:

Responses to this Request for Information will be accepted at any time until November 23, 2020.

Contracting Authority:

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