



ADVANCE CONTRACT AWARD NOTICE (ACAN)

1. Advanced Contract Award Notice

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has a requirement for the provision of sampling for the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) surveillance program.

The purpose of this Advance Contract Award Notice (ACAN) is to signal the government's intention to award a contract for these services to the **University of Guelph (Animal Health Laboratory, Laboratory Services Division)**: PO Box 3650, Guelph, Ontario, Canada, N1H 8J7. 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 15 calendar day posting period.

If other potential suppliers submit a statement of capabilities during the 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.

2. 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. 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 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 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 Laboratory in Lethbridge.

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.

3. 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 Laboratory in Lethbridge;



- 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

4. Justification for the Pre-Selected Supplier

University of Guelph (Laboratory Services Division) is the only known supplier that can provide the services that meets the minimum essential requirements.

The proposed contract represents the continuation of a strategy initiated in 2003 between CFIA, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and the University of Guelph, Animal Health Laboratory (AHL) to obtain sufficient BSE testing capacity in Ontario beyond that available through CFIA laboratories. This capacity continues to be needed to achieve the targeted number of tests required per year in Ontario and to meet the rapid test turnaround times required by CFIA Programs and the cattle industry. The previous approved strategy was an ACAN in 2006, 2012, 2015 and again in 2019.

5. Ownership of Intellectual Property

Ownership of any Intellectual Property arising out of the proposed contract will vest in the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

6. Period of the Proposed Contract

The proposed contract is for a period of approximately one (1) year to March 31, 2022 with the option to extend the period by three (3) one (1) year periods.

7. Cost Estimate of the Proposed Contract

The estimated value of the contract, including the option periods, is \$457,600.00 (GST extra).

8. Suppliers' right to submit a statement of capabilities

Suppliers who consider themselves fully qualified and available to meet the specified minimum essential 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.

9. Closing Date for a Submission of a Statement of Capabilities

The closing date and time for accepting statements of capabilities is **February 8, 2021**.

10. Inquiries and Statements of Capabilities

Inquiries and statements of capabilities are to be directed to:



Aimée Legault
Contracting Officer
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
E-mail: aimee.legault@canada.ca

11. Policy Information

The statutory and regulatory requirements applicable for this ACAN process are the following:

Government Contracts Regulations (GCR) – Section 6(d)
“*only one person or firm is capable of performing the contract*”

12. Trade Agreements

This contract is subject to WTO-AGP