

Advance Contract Award Notice (ACAN)

23-58152

Acquisition of a Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry System

1. Advance Contract Award Notice (ACAN)

An ACAN is a public notice indicating to the supplier community that a department or agency intends to award a contract for goods, services or construction to a pre-identified supplier, thereby allowing other suppliers to signal their interest in bidding, by submitting a statement of capabilities. If no supplier submits a statement of capabilities that meets the requirements set out in the ACAN, on or before the closing date stated in the ACAN, the contracting officer may then proceed with the award to the pre-identified supplier.

2. Definition of the requirement

- The Department of National Resources Council Canada has a requirement for the supply of 1 x gas chromatography mass spectrometry (GC/MS) system. The system must be compatible with both a Markes thermal desorber (TD) 100-xr system, the corresponding Agilent GC-MS processing software and the use of helium and nitrogen as carrier gases. No third-party instrument can be used due to lack of compatibility with the current existing set-up. Other specifications required include scan rates of up to 20,000 u/sec allowing for better spectral information, ability to verify accurate mass assignment, enhanced sensitivity and confirmatory information in the trace analysis of dirty matrices. The ability of the equipment to measure a variety of compounds ranging in volatility from ethane to tetratetracontane and including thermally labile compounds without modifications to the system is also required.

3. Criteria for assessment of the Statement of Capabilities (Minimum Essential Requirements)

The GC-MS system that is required to carry out the work at VIAQ needs to be sensitive, reliable and compatible with our current instrumentation set-up. This means, it should allow for the quantification of various compounds at lower concentration levels (ex. Ppb) and for compounds ranging in volatility and mass (up to 1050 u) without the need for modification to the system. A higher range of scanning helps with providing a more reliable and accurate mass reading. Combined with fast venting/pump down procedures, the system can optimally run for long-periods of time without breaking down and needing service repairs. It is crucial no third-party software or equipment is used due to incompatibilities with

our system. Linearizing the process for efficient and quick use is the main objective. The GC-MS system should come with a 10-year guarantee from the vendor as well as support for troubleshooting in case of any defect/faults with the unit.

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

The following are required specifications needed for the instrument purchase. See the following for more details:

- The GC/MS system must be hardware and software compatible with the thermal desorption unit (NRC's owned Markes International TD 10-xr system) that will be coupled with it;
- The GC/MS system must fit the lab bench space but allows for space for the necessary plumbing and wiring of the different cords and parts (max 35x29x30 inches);
- The GC/MS system must be sensitive and detect low-concentration levels of volatile organic compound (VOC) at the ppb level varying in volatility and mass (1.6-1050 u);
- The GC/MS system must have fast scan rate (down to 0.1 msec) allowing for shorter instrument times (at least 10% improvement in time);
- The GC/MS system must be able to vent/pump down and get back into working mode within an hour of servicing the vacuum manifold without damaging any delicate internal parts or causing excessive wear and tear on the seals and gaskets lining the vacuum Manifold;
- The GC/MS system must be able to support 0.25 mm ID Agilent columns;
- The GC/MS system must have a Capillary Flow Technology (CFT) with a low thermal mass, low dead volume devices to make secure leak-free capillary connections that can withstand the temperature extremes and cycles of a GC oven;
- The GC/MS system must have materials in the MSD build that allows the user to reach higher sensitivity while lowering the possibilities of matrix deposition on the source;
- The GC/MS system must have seamless data integration allowing data from older Agilent GC-MM systems to be imported, viewed and reprocessed. No third-party software can be used for data conversion;
- The GC/MS system must come with on-site installation and must include a minimum of 2 days of training for the equipment operators.

4. Applicability of the trade agreement(s) to the procurement

This procurement is subject to the following trade agreement(s):

- *Canada-Chile Free Trade Agreement (CCFTA)*
- *Canada-Colombia Free Trade Agreement (CCOFTA)*
- *Canada-Honduras Free Trade Agreement (CHFTA)*
- *Canada-Korea Free Trade Agreement (CKFTA)*
- *Canada-Panama Free Trade Agreement (CPAFTA)*
- *Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA)*

5. Justification for the Pre-Identified Supplier

The following exception to the Government Contracts Regulations is invoked for this procurement under Part 1 Conditions of Contract Entry, subsection 6(d):

Only one person is capable of performing the contract.

6. Government Contracts Regulations Exception(s)

The following exception(s) to the *Government Contracts Regulations* is (are) invoked for this procurement under subsection 6(d) - "only one person is capable of performing the work".

7. Exclusions and/or Limited Tendering Reasons

The following exclusion(s) and/or limited tendering reasons are invoked under the

- Canada–Chile Free Trade Agreement, Article Kbis-09: Tendering Procedures, para 1: Limited Tendering, 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.
- Canada–Colombia Free Trade Agreement, Article 1409: Limited Tendering (b) Where the goods or services can be supplied only by a particular supplier and no reasonable alternative or substitute goods or services exist for any of the following reasons: (iii) Due to an absence of competition for technical reasons.
- Canada–Panama Free Trade Agreement, Chapter 16, Article 16.10: Limited Tendering b. procurement can be carried out only by a particular supplier and a reasonable alternative or substitute does not exist because: iii. of the absence of competition for technical reasons.

- Canada–Honduras Free Trade Agreement, Chapter 17, Article 17.11: Limited Tendering, (b) a good or service being procured can be supplied only by a particular supplier and a reasonable alternative or substitute does not exist because: (iii) there is an absence of competition for technical reasons.
- Canada–Korea Free Trade Agreement, which defers to WTO-AGP Article XIII: Limited Tendering b) where the goods or services can be supplied only by a particular supplier and no reasonable alternative or substitute goods or services exist for any of the following reasons: (iii). due to an absence of competition for technical reasons.
- Canadian Free Trade Agreement, Article 513 Limited Tendering (b): The goods can be supplied only by a particular supplier and no reasonable alternative or substitute goods or services exist due to an absence of competition for technical reasons due to an absence of competition for technical reasons; (iii) due to an absence of competition for technical reasons.

8. Period of the proposed contract or delivery date

- The system must be delivered on March 28th, 2024.

9. Cost estimate of the proposed contract

The estimated value of the contract, is \$ 152,046 (Applicable taxes are extra).

10. Name and address of the pre-identified supplier

Agilent Technologies
6705 Millcreek Drive, Unit 5
Mississauga, ON, Canada L5N 5M4

11. Suppliers' right to submit a statement of capabilities

Suppliers who consider themselves fully qualified and available to provide the goods, services or construction services described in the ACAN may submit a statement of capabilities in writing to the contact person 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.

12. Closing date for a submission of a statement of capabilities .

The closing date and time for accepting statements of capabilities is November. 23, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. EST.

13. Inquiries and submission of statements of capabilities

Inquiries and statements of capabilities are to be directed to:

Stéphane Lajoie
Senior Contracting Officer
E-mail: stephane.lajoie@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca