

December 19, 2023

ADDENDUM – BID SOLICITATION
FOR
AAFC MORDEN, MANITOBA
SOLICITATION NO. 01R11-24-C070
Sequencing Services

Addendum No. 2

1. Question: I am reaching out to you clarify the technology certification on Equipment type : Illumina NovaSeq 6000, Is it possible for us to Use Alternative platform identical to Illumina which is Clear labs platform?

Answer: No, it is not possible to use alternative platform identical to Illumina which is Clear labs platform. I am unfamiliar with the Clear Labs sequencing platform and how comparable it is to the NovaSeq 6000. For this reason we would prefer the contractor to perform the sequencing services using the Illumina platform.

2. Question: Based on the Ensembl website, the estimated genome size for *Triticum aestivum* is 17Gb (https://plants.ensembl.org/Triticum_aestivum/Info/Index). This means 102 Gbases of data per sample, or about 680 million individual 150bases reads) per sample for 6X; This is inconsistent with the 1200M reads in the request. Can you clarify how many Gbases in total you need per sample, including extra bases needed to account for the fact that not 100% of the data will be usable during data analysis?

Answer: 102 Gbases per sample will be sufficient.

3. Question: Can the lab submit rRNA-depleted **plant** RNA?

Answer: We request that the rRNA depleted RNA be generated by the Contractor.

4. Question: Can the lab clarify what they mean by “Illumina NovaSeq 6000 S4 flow cell separator (per lane)”. Illumina S4 flowcells comes with 4 lanes that are physically separated from each other. Do they mean that they want to load specific samples on each lane as opposed to a single pool of libraries in all 4 lanes?

Answer: Samples may be pooled.

5. Question: Will the lab accept 2x150-bases instead of 2x100, and a different NovaSeq flowcell if that is more cost-effective than S4 flowcells?

Answer: Yes we will accept 2x150-bases if it is more cost effective.

6. Question: Is bidding through CPC Connect the only way to send the proposal? I am not familiar with this method and my understanding from their website is that this requires a paid account, which I am not sure we can get it approved in time to submit the bid.

Answer: Bids will be received by email if sent to the Contract Authority Zack Flamont at: zack.flamont@agr.gc.ca See section 2.2 Submission of Bids. Alternate arrangements for bid receipt can be made by contacting the Contracting Authority.

7. Question: If bid is awarded to us, will there be a contract that needs to be signed between our institutions aside from the bid?

Answer: Yes, a contract will be issued that will need to be signed by both the company and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.