

**Questions on Solicitation VA244-16-Q-0196**  
**Domestic Water Testing Services**  
**Pittsburgh Healthcare System**  
**Wilmington VA Medical Center**

**General Questions**

1. Will a storage room at the Wilmington VAMC be provided for Contractor use? **No**
2. Will special precautions or training be required for access to any sample locations (i.e., psychiatric wards, OR suites, isolation rooms etc.)? **Yes. It is possible that testing will be done in OR suites, and isolation room**
3. Is medical gowning or related PPE protocol required to access any of the sample locations? If yes, will the VA provide the appropriate PPE? **Yes. Some rooms during testing may require proper PPE to take the sample. PPE will be provided through the hospital for these rooms.**
4. Will confined space entry be required to access any of the sample locations? **No**
5. Does the VA require the Contractor to submit a QC Sampling Plan for review and approval prior to the start of the contract? **No**
6. As stated in the RFQ, quotes will be evaluated on three factors: Technical, Past Performance and Price. Could the VA please provide the specific evaluation criteria that will be used to determine “most advantageous to the Government”? **Proposals will be evaluated based on being able to meet and/or provide all requirements stated in the Statement of Work and solicitation. The offeror whom provides the lowest price technically acceptable (LPTA) to the Government will be accepted for contract award.**
7. How does the VA want Past Performance to be documented? If completion of a Project Survey is required to document Past Performance, the date for response to this RFQ will not allow for timely completion of this evaluation. Will allowances be made for late delivery of Project Surveys from selected respondents? **A project survey is not required. Please provide Past Performance from three (3) sources which clearly indicates the offeror has satisfactorily performed similar scope of work commercially or for the Government within the past three (3) years.**

**13.106-2 -- Evaluation of Quotations or Offers:**

**The Government intends to award one purchase order as a result of this Request for Quote to the responsible offeror whose offer conforms to the solicitation requirements. Quotes shall be evaluated for acceptability only and shall not be rated. Offerors must be determined responsible according to the standards of FAR Part 9 to be eligible for award.**

**Award will be based on the total overall lowest price quoted. Any offeror whose quote has been determined technically acceptable will then have its quote evaluated for lowest price.**

**The following criteria shall be used to establish technical acceptability:**

1. Requirements in Statement of Work
2. Past Performance Information, to include:
  - a. Contractor name
  - b. Name of customer/agency
  - c. Contract/Purchase Order Number

- d. Customer Point of Contact (provide name, telephone number, and email address)
- e. Length of contract/period of performance (dates)
- f. Dollar Amount of Contract (initial and final price)
- g. A narrative synopsis that describes the specific nature of the work; similarities with the proposed work; and relative experience gained.

The Government is not limited to the information provided above, but reserves the right to independently seek past performance information through open market contracts, government systems, and other government agencies.

- 8. How many copies of the quotation will be required? Does the VA want separate Technical and Cost proposals? One copy is required. It is up to the Contractor to determine how it prefers to submit required information.
- 9. Will the VA accept proposals by email? Please submit proposals via email. If file is too large, please fax to 717-228-5936.
- 10. The link to the pdf directives in the scope of work do not appear to work. Can you attach copies for me to review. See attachments provided.

#### Water Testing for Legionella

- 11. Does the VA expect the Contractor to support the implementation of control measures or monitor disinfectant concentration during any remedial effort? No. Remediation is not included in this work.
- 12. What is the specific sampling requirement for this task (e.g., first draw only or pre/post-flush samples etc.)? 10 samples from hot water 10 samples from cold form 2 building for a total of 40 Samples. This will be from the 1<sup>st</sup> draw.
- 13. When measuring water temperature after sample collection, will the VA require both initial water temperature and stabilized temperature? The temperature shall be taken after the sample is taken. The sample itself temperature should not be measure to prevent cross contamination.
- 14. Will measurement of disinfectant/biocide concentration in water be required at time of sample collection? Yes
- 15. Will swab samples be required at any time during the contract period of performance? If yes, what is the budget for this effort? No
- 16. For quarterly environmental water testing for Legionella, please specify the specific testing requirement (e.g., culture and identify Legionella, L. pneumophila enumeration, combined Serogroup 1-14 or individual serotyping, enumeration of other legionella species etc.)? Individual serotyping
- 17. Will resampling and testing be required following remedial action from a positive test area? If yes, can the VA provide a budget quantity for this activity? No. This contract is only for routine testing.
- 18. Will the Contractor be required to collect and test additional water samples in support of case investigations? No. This contract is only for routine testing.

### **Testing Dental Water Lines**

19. Who is responsible for disassembly or removal of dental equipment from the water line in preparation for sampling? **VA Staff.**
20. What is the specific sampling requirement for this task (e.g., first draw only or pre/post-flush samples etc.)? **The line needs to be flushed before testing.**
21. Will measurement of disinfectant/biocide concentration in water be required at time of sample collection? **No**
22. What specific culture media testing method is required (i.e., SM9215 Heterotrophic Plate Count, or similar) and will bacterial identification be required? **Standard 9215B**
23. Will a separate sampling event for post-treatment retesting be required? If yes, can the VA provide a budget quantity for this activity? **Only routine testing.**

### **Dialysis Water Sampling and Testing – Disregard dialysis water sampling and testing; Government will acquire this service from VA’s national mandatory contract.**

24. There are several basic LAL test methodologies. Which specific method does the VA desire for testing dialysis water samples?
25. Project specification requires “AAMI recommended water culture technique”. Per the AAMI guidelines, several culture methods are available for bacterial analysis of dialysis water. Please specify the desired method.
26. The standard turnaround time for water analysis is 2 weeks. Does the VA require expedited testing of less than 2 weeks? Per the RFQ, the contractor will perform AAMI Contaminant panel testing annually. Per AAMI, the testing panel includes Calcium, Magnesium, Potassium, Sodium, Antimony, Arsenic, Barium, Beryllium, Cadmium, Chromium, Lead, Mercury, Selenium, Silver, Aluminum, Chloramines, Free Chlorine, Copper, Fluoride, Nitrate (as N), Sulfate, Thallium, and Zinc. Please confirm the above list and/or designate alternative list/methods.
27. Colony Counts CC testing. Is this Hetrophic Plate Counts? (Section c.i.1)
28. Can you please expand the term “chemical composition testing” (c.ii.1)