

1. Is the required on-site labor for the hospital to perform internal RMW pulls or will the VA Staff/alternate contractor be receptacles, RMW containers and consolidating in the supplied transport containers/Roll-offs?

Answer: VA staff collects RMW, and consolidates at a secure location onsite. The contractor is responsible for swapping out full containers, and managing the waste program.

- a. Will off hour labor be needed? **No**
 - b. Please confirm site's where they will be needed, Hospital only? **Onsite technician will only be required at the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center.**
 - c. Who is the POC for the Vendor's FTE? **The Contracting Officer Representative (COR)**
2. Is this FTE considered Key personnel? Please provide descriptions if considered Key Personnel.
Answer: The FTE is considered Key Personnel. Key Personnel should possess the required training and experience in managing waste programs. This includes Regulated Medical Waste (RMW), Universal Pharmacy Waste (UPW), and Hazardous Waste.
 3. Please confirm that this solicitation includes REUSABLE SHARPS? It is not clear if these are brackets that have disposable SHARPS that need to be replaced OR if these are reusable SHARPS?

Answer: This solicitation requires reusable sharps containers (direct drop).

- a. If reusable, will there be an opportunity for the new vendor to place their containers during non-business hours? **Yes, non-business hours are preferred.**
 - b. Will the outgoing contractor be responsible for removal and damage associated with removal of their reusable SHARPS system? **The exiting contractor will be responsible for removal of their sharps systems. The facility is responsible for damage.**
4. If #3 above is negative, will the vendor be responsible to purchase and replace disposable SHARPS containers or will they be procured separately by the VA and stocked onsite?
The contractor is responsible for providing reusable sharps containers.

5. Will Teaming Agreements be allowed under the performance of this contract?

Answer: Sub-contracting is allowable.

6. Will the Teaming Partner be allowed to be the primary permit holder of the required documents, licenses?

Answer: Yes, for disposal facilities

7. Does the RMW weight provided in the pricing table include the weight of the SHARPS being replaced and dumped?

Answer: Sharps are not included in the estimated weight found in the pricing table.

8. Please provide prior RMW/Bio-waste contract number, who serviced the contract, total contract amount and award amount?

Answer: NEIE Medical Waste Services, VA248-17-P-0339, \$79,600.00 5 month period of performance.

9. Please provide an estimate of the amount and type of containers currently utilized by the current contractor?
- a. 2 gallon – 56
 - b. 3gallon – 34
 - c. 4 gallon – 65
 - d. etc

Answer: Please see attached spreadsheet

10. Please identify the locations/sites of the trailers/rolloffs?

Answer: Please see attached spreadsheet

11. Please confirm that bags and boxes used inside the facilities are the responsibility of the VA procurement system?

Answer: These items are provided by the VA.

12. Section D4 indicates that the VA can request up to 50 more containers at no additional cost. Please confirm that this is just for the installation and equipment and not for the disposal, (disposal number would be 870+)

Answer: Yes, this requirement is for the initial installation of sharps containers only.

13. Pricing table B.4 references Daily service of containers based on 870, confirm containers will only be pulled when full?

Answer: Confirmed, containers are only pulled when full.

- a. Please provide total number of yearly pulls from 2015/2016 of SHARPS containers?
- b. Please provide breakdown of the yearly pulls by container size?

Answer: Please see attachment for questions a and b.

14. Pricing Table B.4 indicated unit price for SHARPS service, monthly. Request that the pricing table be updated to include unit pricing per SHARPS container size and type if answers for #14 cannot be obtained.

Answer: Answers to question 14 are provided in the attachments. CLIN 0001 is for the entire SHARPS program.

15. Please confirm if there is a locked room or storage closet where UPW can be sorted and stored?

Answer: Yes, a secured area is provided.

16. Please clarify if contract personal will have to “gown up” and access spaces that require “special” or “escorted” access?

Answer: Not required, however certain areas may require a hair cap.

17. Please provide contact name of the current Environmental Officer who executes this contract on behalf of the VA.

Answer: This information will be provided to the awardee.

18. Please provide a breakdown of how many of each size sharps container are in use at the 870 stations. I.e: how many 2 gallon vs. 3 gallon vs. 4 gallon etc. need to initially be supplied?

Answer: Please see attached spreadsheet

19. How many 55 gallons for laboratory waste and how many 12 gallon pharmaceutical waste containers are in the 40 locations for initial set up?

Answer: Currently there are 49 locations where the 12 gallons are used. There is an attachment with location details. There are five (5) 55 gallons kept in the hazardous waste shed. The Medical Center will supply the 55 gallons and 12 gallons for the initial setup only.

20. How many carts with casters for the sharps containers will be required and how many holders for 2 gallon sharps for counters will be required?

Answer: Please see attached spreadsheet

21. How many locations of the 870 are at the Port St. Lucie location?

Answer: One (1)

22. Is daily exchange and daily packaging of waste required at the Port St. Lucie location? Can this exchange service be performed in the evening after regular business hours?

Answer: Currently, daily exchange is not required for this location. Service is scheduled when required.

23. Where is the waste stored? Are roll-offs used? Who provides the storage space?

Answer: Waste is stored in a Waste Management Cage at the Medical Facility

24. Please supply the list of the Universal Pharmaceutical Waste that may be placed in the container.

Answer: Both hazardous and non-hazardous waste is placed into the universal pharmaceutical waste containers.

25. In Line item 0002, 384,000 lbs., does this include the weight of the waste in the sharps containers? **Answer: Red bag waste only.**

26. May we get the how much volume is the Hazardous waste (from the Lab 55 Gallon drum). And much is solely Rx waste? How many of the 12 Gallon Rx containers were processed in a 12 month period. Bid request pricing per lb.

Answer: The 40 locations collected 8,785 pounds of pharmaceutical waste in FY 2016. In FY 2016, 9,174 pounds of hazardous waste was collected.

27. 2- Pg. 7 line 11. Requesting that the hazardous waste be treated with in the State of Florida but no one that we know of has a hazardous treatment plant in the State of Florida.

Answer: Final disposition documented and returned from a Florida regulated TSD facility.

28. What is currently being done with the controlled substances?

Answer: The facility uses a cactus sink for controlled substances.

29. How much training is required to be provided for the RX waste?

Answer: There is no requirement for the vendor to provide RX training to VA staff.

30. Are the Rx non-compatibles being separated? If so how much of it is there? Number of container of non-compatible?

Answer: No, all pharmaceutical waste is treated as hazardous waste and disposed as universal pharmaceutical waste.

31. Does the 50 possible additional containers apply to the Rx containers as well?

Answer: No

32. Where are the Rx locations located at?

Answer: Throughout facility laboratory, patient care areas, pharmacy. Please see attachment for details.

33. Will a drug formulary be provided with NDC numbers, prior to any waste being shipped?

Answer: A formulary of hazardous waste codes is available.

34. Are onsite sharps container exchanges at the Port St. Lucie facility to be handled by the contractor or will the exchanges be handled by the VA staff as the container exchanges are so few annually?

Answer: Sharp exchange in PSL currently is not running. But when required it will be scheduled because there are few exchanges annually.

35. Does the VA expect to have vendors provide Universal and Hazardous Pharmaceutical containers at no charge? These containers are typically disposable containers and are not free to purchase therefore the VA expecting these types of containers to be provided for free especially when it is unknown at this time how many of each type of container will be needed is not realistic. Please clarify. **Answer: The VA does anticipate a charge for these containers. A line item will be added for these containers. Please note that the VA will provide Universal Pharmaceutical containers for initial set up only.**
36. Are pharmaceutical waste segregated for hazardous waste and non-hazardous waste?
Answer: No
37. The statement of work mentions Laboratory Waste but does not give examples. Would these wastes be xylene, alcohol, formalin, corrosives, etc.? **Answer: Yes, xylene, alcohol, formalin, corrosives are examples.**
38. Which CLIN would be billed for these waste? **Answer: Please see updated Price/Cost Schedule**
39. CLINs X001 and X004 appear to be one each full time position, please confirm.
CLIN 0001- Is for the direct drop reusable sharps container program
CLIN 0004- Is for the on-site technician
40. Does the VA have a preferred and/or required Occupation Code for these positions? Example 11122 Housekeeping Aide \$10.40 **Answer: The VA does not have a preferred or required occupation code. Codes chosen by the vendor should reflect the appropriate job description / duties. Example: Environmental Technician.**
41. What was the dollar value and length of the past contract award? Example 1 year, \$300,000
Answer: \$79,600.00, 5 month period of performance.
42. Have services changed since last award? Volume, Frequency, Waste Type, etc.
Answer: Laboratory and pharmaceutical waste is an addition since the last award.
43. Will any preference be given to SDVOSBs base on percentage of services self-performed?
Answer: No
44. Term of contract? Any renewals? **Answer: This contract is for a base of 12 months, and four 12 month options.**
45. Is there any special training required prior to starting contract? **Answer: A required training is listed in the SOW. The awardee will be given instructions to complete the required training.**

46. Any bonds required? Either a bid bond or performance bond? **Answer: No bonds required for this contract. Liability Insurance is required.**
47. Start date? **Answer: October 1, 2017**
48. Can government cancel at any time for convenience? If so, can that be removed? **Yes, the Government may cancel for convenience. Termination for convenience is a Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and cannot be removed.**
49. What are the types and amount of sharps containers? **Answer: Please see attachment with sizes and locations.**
50. Are we locked into that pricing? **Answer: Yes, this is a fixed price contract.**
51. Can we do CPI price increase? **Answer: Vendors may enter pricing for each year, per line item in the Cost/Price Schedule.**
52. Who owns the dollies and lablids for the containers? **Answer: These are provided by the contractor.**
53. Are the special containers that are utilized within the facility are provided by the VA. These containers are disposable and have their own dollies? Are these VA provided and is the VA responsible for disposable SHARP purchase/replacement? **Answer: This contract requires direct drop reusable sharps containers. CLIN 0001 will cover the cost of those. All containers for this contract will be provided by the contractor. When possible it is the preference of the Medical Center to have reusable containers. Please note that reusable containers are required for sharps. The contractor is responsible for all disposals.**
54. Disposables for trace chemo, will these be utilized moving forward or swapped out? : **Answer: The Medical Center prefers reusable.**
55. For cost saving purposes, all wall mounts will be 3 gallon, will this be acceptable? **Answer: This will not meet our needs. Please see the attachment with sizes and locations for sharps containers.**
56. For all floating SHARP containers, 17 gallon containers will be utilized, will this be acceptable? **Answer: This will not meet our needs. Please see the attachment with sizes and locations for sharps containers.**

57. Please confirm that the 96 gallon container liners are provided by the VA. **Answer: Yes, these are provided by the VA.**

58. Please provide an outline of the expected duties of the FTE? It was remarked that the FTE is pulling SHARPS only and not RMW, please confirm. **Answer: The FTE will be responsible for replacing full sharps, and universal pharmaceutical waste containers. Transporting lab waste to the hazardous waste shed, and preparing all regulated waste for scheduled pick-ups. Details are provided in the Performance Work Statement.**

59. Some of the current reusable SHARPS are proprietary to the incumbent and do not have “like for like” replacement, will a different size be accepted? **Answer: Our size requirements must be met. Please the attachments for details.**