

THIS REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) – SOURCES SOUGHT IS ISSUED SOLELY FOR MARKET RESEARCH AND PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A SOLICITATION.

1. Responses to this Sources Sought must be in writing. The purpose of this Sources Sought Announcement is for market research only to make appropriate acquisition decisions and to gain knowledge of Small Business, Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Businesses and Veteran Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB/VOSB) interested and capable of performing the work. Be advised, priority is given to Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Businesses.

2. The CLASSIFICATION CODE for this requirement is:
65 -- Medical, dental & veterinary equipment & supplies

NAICS Code:
339 -- Miscellaneous Manufacturing/339112 --Medical equipment and supplies manufacturing

3. Interested and capable Contractors should respond to this notice not later than **2:00 pm (CST) on 08/11/2017** by providing the following via email only to Joey Grismore, Contracting Officer, at joey,grismore2@va.gov.

(a) Please present your organization below:

Company Name:
DUNS Number:
Address:
Point of Contact Name:
Phone No:
Email:

Business size information
Select all that applies:
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Business
<input type="checkbox"/> Emerging Small Business
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Disadvantaged Business
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified under Section 8(a) of the Small Business Act
<input type="checkbox"/> HubZone
<input type="checkbox"/> Woman Owned
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (registered in VetBiz.gov)
<input type="checkbox"/> Veteran Owned Small Business (registered in VetBiz.gov)

FSS/ GSA Contract Holder	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
FSS/ GSA Contract Number		
Effective Date / Expiration Date		

(b) Please provide a capability statement that addresses the organization's qualifications and ability to perform as a contractor *specifically* for the work described in paragraph 5 below. Respondents are also encouraged to provide specific examples (e.g. contract number, point of contact information) of the Contractor's experience providing the same or similar supplies/services to that described in paragraph 5 below.

4. SDVOSB/VOSB respondents.

(a) If respondent is VOSB or SDVOSB, respondent is **REQUIRED** to provide proof of www.vetbiz.gov certification. In addition, SDVOSB/VOSB Contractors are asked to acknowledge that they understand the limitations on sub-contracting pursuant to FAR 52.219-14, Limitations on Sub-Contracting, which will be included in the impending solicitation. Further SDVOSB/VOSB contractors are asked to respond that they are capable of providing the requested services keeping within the parameters of this clause.

(b) Small businesses, including SDVOSB/VOSBS are also advised that per 13 CFR, § 125.6 the prime contractor's limitations on subcontracting are as follows:

(1) *General.* In order to be awarded a full or partial small business set-aside contract with a value greater than \$150,000, an 8(a) contract, an SDVO SBC contract, a HUBZone contract, a WOSB or EDWOSB contract pursuant to part 127 of this chapter, a small business concern must agree that:

(2) In the case of a contract for services (except construction), it will not pay more than 50% of the amount paid by the government to it to firms that are not similarly situated. Any work that a similarly situated subcontractor further subcontracts will count towards the 50% subcontract amount that cannot be exceeded.

Please indicate if you would utilize a subcontractor in performing the requirement and supply the information below. Yes No

The results of this market research will assist in the determination if a set-aside is in the best interest.

5. Product Description:

The Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC), Houston Texas has the need for a (Brand Name or Equal) Leica TP1020 Automatic Tissue Processor.

Salient Characteristics

- Bench top automated carousel-type tissue processor, with dimensions suitable for bench working space (lid diameter and height each less than 34 inches).
- Easy and safe access to tissues baskets with rotatable rollers.
- Have the capability for fixation, dehydration and infiltration of histological tissues samples with fixatives, alcohol, solvents and paraffin wax.
- Have tissue cassette capacity up than 80 cassettes w/ option for additions baskets.
- Contain a minimum of 2 paraffin stations with the option of adding a third station.
- Temp range must include 45-65 °C temperature settings with an automatic cutout of temperature exceeding 75-80 °C.
- Processor must have multiple program storage for flexibility of multiple user/ protocols in addition to programmable infiltration time per station and a feature of delayed start processing times of at 7 days.
- Processor must have vacuum control flexibility that can be applied to any stations in manual and automatic operation.
- Processor must be equipped with maximal safety of reduced emission of vapors by having dual activated carbon filters (for formalin and alcohol/xylene) in addition to an exhaust air tube to direct the fumes to an outlet.
- Processor must contain a minimum of two-part fume containment shield surrounding the reagent containers
- Processor must contain an emergency stop feature
- To prevent tissue drying in the event of a power failure, there must be a tissue protected feature that returns the tissue basket to an immersed position automatically when a power outage occurs and resumes processing automatically when power is restored.

(1) Vendors submitting equivalent items **must** provide a brochure **and include** a line by line comparison of how your proposed equipment **meets or exceeds** the Leica TP1020. Be advised, the government will not assume or interpret the comparison of the equal product on your behalf. Without your comparison support, your product will not be considered to have meet the above Salient Characteristics.

6. Please note that if VA's pending market research establishes that two or more VOSB or SDVOSB, who are certified in VA's Vendor Information Pages (VIP) site <https://www.vip.vetbiz.gov/>, can perform the services, VA will set aside the underlying solicitation per 38 U.S.C. §8127.

7. All Offerors who provide goods or services to the United States Federal Government must be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) database found at <https://www.sam.gov>. Registration must include Representations and Certifications.

--End of Sources Sought Announcement --