

1. Title: Industrial Hygiene Services

2. Purpose: The Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center (MEDVAMC) hereby issues the following Sources Sought, Request for Information (RFI). This RFI seeks to identify contractors capable of providing the MEDVAMC, with the services requirement described in the enclosed Draft Performance Work Statement (PWS). The results of this RFI will enable the Government to accurately define its procurement strategy; including, determining potential levels of competition available in the industry. **Small Businesses are encouraged to respond.**

3. Responses Requested: The MEDVAMC requests your response to the RFI address the following areas:

- a. Provide your point(s) of contact: name, address, phone number and email address.
- b. Lists the company's business size, Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) and confirm your registration in the applicable NAICS.
- c. If your company is a small business: SDVOSB, VOSB, HUB Zone, etc., provide proof of qualifications.
- d. Include a list of active or recent contracts for commercial, federal, state and local governments. The contracts listed will include sufficient information to enable a comparison with the MEDVAMC's requirement.
- e. If your company is available under any Government Wide Agency Contract (GWAC), General Services Administration Schedules (GSA), Federal Government Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) and/or Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA); list the contract number and a brief summary of the products and services provided.

4. Instructions and Response Guidelines: RFI responses are due by **February 21, 2018 at 9:00 am (CST)**. The response format is limited to 8.5 x 11 inches, 12-point font, with 1-inch margins in Microsoft Word. Respond via email to gregory.franklin2@va.gov.

All Questions shall be submitted by February 16, 2018 9:00 am (CST) via email to gregory.franklin2@va.gov. Telephone requests or inquiries will not be accepted.

The subject line shall read: 36C25618Q9175-Industrial Hygiene Services

5. NO SOLICITATION EXISTS NOW. There is no page limitation on subparagraphs 3(a) - 3(e).

Please provide additional information you deem relevant to respond to the specific inquiries of the RFI. Information provided will be used solely by MEDVAMC as "market research".

This RFI does not constitute a Request for Proposal (RFP), Invitation for Bid (IFB), or Request for Quotation (RFQ), and it is not to be construed as a commitment by the Government to enter into a contract, nor will the Government pay for the information submitted in response to this request. All information contained in this RFI is preliminary as well as subject to modification

and is in no way binding on the Government.

In accordance with FAR 15.201(e), responses to this notice are not offers and cannot be accepted by the U.S. Government to form a binding contract. If a competitive solicitation is released, it will be synopsisized in the Federal Business Opportunities (FedBizOpps) website or GSA's eBUY. It is the responsibility of the interested parties to monitor these sites for additional information pertaining to this RFI, or future solicitations.

6. Contact Information:

Gregory Franklin

Email address: gregory.franklin2@va.gov

Your response to this notice is appreciated.

THIS NOTICE IS NOT A REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE QUOTES; however, any firm that believes it can meet the requirement may give written notification prior to the response due date and time. Supporting evidence must be furnished in sufficient detail to demonstrate the ability to perform the requirement.

Performance Work Statement (PWS) Industrial Hygiene Services

INTRODUCTION

The Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC) is interested in establishing a professional service contract associated with this PWS and contract award. The MEDVAMC is looking for highly qualified, experienced firms to provide analytical and technical consulting services. Credentialed professionals experienced in conducting Industrial Hygiene, Asbestos, Mold and Lead abatement assessments and sampling protocols are needed to support the MEDVAMC main campus, nine (9) Community Based Out-Patient Clinics and four (4) Vet Centers.

General Requirements

The contractor shall provide all necessary resources, labor, supervision, materials, equipment, and expertise to perform Industrial Hygiene services to the MEDVAMC in accordance with the terms and conditions of this PWS for the procurement of Indoor Air Quality (IAQ), Mold, Lead and Asbestos Sampling.

Description of Required Services

Contract must ensure that Industrial Hygiene, mold, lead and asbestos sampling/air monitoring is conducted per the most current standards set by the American Industrial Hygiene Association

(AIHA), the International Organization for Standardization, ASTM International, The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA), The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, Threshold Limit Values for Chemical Substances and Physical Agents and Biological Exposure Indices and all other applicable regulatory guidance. Other services needed on an infrequent basis may include development of site specific asbestos, mold and lead management plans; asbestos awareness training; mold and lead remediation; and monitoring for asbestos abatement projects. All work shall be completed in accordance with federal, state and local regulations.

As a minimum, required contractor support services must include monitoring of the indoor air quality environment for carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, hydrocarbons, fungi, bacteria, dust, temperature, and relative humidity. Other monitoring will be conducted as determined or required. Contractor must have or be able to obtain microbiology, toxicology and chemistry laboratory services. Contractor must submit documentation showing that the laboratory is accredited by the American Industrial Hygiene Association, under the Environmental Microbiology Laboratory Accreditation Program (EMLAP), prior to the contract award date.

Number of Site Locations for Sampling:	Indoor Air Quality: 15 Locations
	Mold/Asbestos: 15 Locations
	Asbestos Awareness Training: 1 location – Main Campus Annually or as needed for new MEDVAMC employees or contract housekeeping staff.

Contracts will be awarded for an initial term of one (1) year. After the initial term, the MEDVAMC shall have the option to renew for up to four (4) additional one (1) year periods, exercisable at the MEDVAMC's sole discretion.

Investigations and sampling shall be conducted at the following locations on an "as requested" basis:

Main Campus

- 1) Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center
2002 Holcombe Blvd.
Houston, TX 77082
Buildings 100, 103, 105, 108, 108A, 109, 110, 120, 121, 122, Fisher Houses I, II and III
- 2) Center for Innovation in Quality, Effectiveness, and Safety
2450 Holcombe Blvd., Suite 01Y
Houston, TX 77021

Community Based Outpatient Clinics

- 3) Beaumont VA Outpatient Clinic
3420 Veterans Circle
Beaumont, TX 77707

- 4) Charles Wilson VA Outpatient Clinic
2206 North John Redditt Drive
Lufkin, TX 75904
- 5) Conroe VA Outpatient Clinic
690 South Loop West, 3rd & 4th Floors
Conroe, TX 77304
- 6) Galveston VA Outpatient Clinic
3828 Avenue N
Galveston, TX 77550
- 7) Katy VA Outpatient Clinic
750 Westgreen Blvd
Katy, TX 77450
- 8) Lake Jackson VA Outpatient Clinic
208 Oak Drive South
Lake Jackson, TX 77566
- 9) Richmond VA Outpatient Clinic
22001 Southwest Freeway, Suite 200
Richmond, TX 77469
- 10) Texas City VA Outpatient Clinic
9300 Emmett F. Lowery Expressway, Suite 206
Texas City, TX 77591
- 11) Tomball VA Outpatient Clinic
1200 W. Main Street
Tomball, TX 77375
- 12) VA Regional Office
6900 Almeda Road
Houston, TX 77030

Vet Centers

Houston

Houston Southwest Vet Center
3000 Richmond Ave, Suite 355
Houston, TX 77096

Houston Vet Center
14300 Cornerstone Village Dr. Suite 110
Houston, TX 77014

Houston West Vet Center
701 N. Post Oak Road, Suite 102
Houston TX 77024

Beaumont
Beaumont Vet Center
990 IH-10 North, Suite 180
Beaumont, TX 77702

Labor Categories – Certified Industrial Hygienist, Industrial Hygienist, Lead Risk Assessor, Mold Assessor/Remediators, Mold Assessment Consultant

Minimum Qualifications: Certified Industrial Hygienist – Education and experience requires a minimum of a four (4) year industrial hygiene degree or related science degree with technical and administrative experience in managing facility services similar to the complexity of work associated with the PWS and contract award. The Senior Certified Industrial Hygienist should have a minimum of ten (10) years of overall management experience with day-to-day operations similar in scope and complexity as discussed herein.

Minimum Qualifications: Industrial Hygienist – Education and experience requires a minimum of a four (4) year industrial or related science degree and at least six (6) months of experience. ALL work is to be supervised, reviewed, and signed by a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH).

IAQ Specialist/Technician – Education and experience requires a minimum of a four (4) year industrial or related science degree and at least six (6) months of experience.

A resume' or copy of the certification is required to support the position (s) qualifications.

1. **QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS:**

Contractor shall be a firm who has the expertise and knowledge and regularly engaged in the containment, remediation, demolition and abatement of asbestos, mold and lead. The contractor shall possess and provide all the necessary supervision, labor, materials, equipment, human capital, licenses, certifications, inventory, tools, and resources to successfully and skillfully execute the requirements associated with the PWS and contract award. Contractors shall provide proof of qualifications (Asbestos/Lead/Mold/IAQ) prior to award of the contract.

Deliverables/Reports:

Written reports for each facility with a summary including any action items, detail of the sampling evaluation methods, results and discussion, acceptable ranges for each sampling

strategy, conclusion of results, sampling results tables, and recommendations are required for all sampling. Actual laboratory results are to be available on request.

Routine reports are to be completed and received within ten (10) days after sample collection. Rush reports must be completed and received within forty-eight (48) hours. Reports will be submitted electronically or hard copies delivered directly to the COR. United States Postal Service will not be used due to the effects of irradiating the documents.

Other industrial hygiene or occupational safety and health support services as requested to include but not limited to the following:

Industrial Hygiene:

Personnel and area monitoring for chemical hazards (Benzene, Formaldehyde, Xylene, cleaning products, adhesives, surgical gas exposure or other task specific hazards).

Testing and analyzing samples for hazardous conditions and producing report of finding.

Providing cost estimates for media testing/sampling and removal.

Monitoring of personnel and area for Physical Hazards (noise, temperature and humidity, light, or other task specific hazards).

Performing Compliance Sampling and Monitoring to stay in compliance with rules and regulations governing worker and environmental safety.

Testing and analyzing drinking water samples for safety and compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency's primary and secondary drinking water standards (bacteria, lead, copper, Legionella and other task specific hazards).

Prescribing corrective procedure, when necessary to protect health, based on past experience, knowledge and the quantitative data available.

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)/Mold/Asbestos

Monitoring indoor environment for carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, fungi, bacteria, dust, asbestos, temperature, relative humidity and other parameters determined or required.

Determining the causations of industrial and environmental hazards and prescribing steps to mitigate or eliminate them.

Conducting ventilation surveys in a workplace environment.

Project Management of Mold Remediation

Conducting Sick Building Syndrome Investigations

CHANGES:

The contractor is advised that **only** the Contracting Officer, acting within the scope of the contract has the authority to make changes which may affect the contract terms and conditions, quality, quantity, price, and/or delivery. It is mandatory that the contractor contact the Contracting Officer for approval in the event there are changes prior to proceeding. No other individual has the authority to make binding changes and/or commitments.

Any changes in personnel, after award of the contract, must be coordinated with the COR and approved by the Contracting Officer. Failure to comply may result in contract termination.

Subcontracting: In the event the Contractor, Subcontracts; the subcontractor shall meet all the requirements on the Prime Contractor and be approved by MEDVAMC.

Contractor Response Time:

The contractor shall respond to “Emergency Requirements”, by arriving at the designated location with two (2) hours, after receipt of the requirement. The “Standard” response time shall be within forty-eight (48) hours after receipt of the requirement.

Security Procedures:

Most of the work will be performed during normal working hours of 7:00am to 3:30 pm Monday-Friday excluding federal Holidays. Some of the work, such as building envelope analysis, may need to be performed after hours.

For working outside the “regular hours” as defined in the contract, the contractor shall give one (1) day notice to the COR so that escort arrangements can be provided for the employees. This notice is separate from any notices required for utility shutdown.

1. Contractor’s employees shall not enter the building without appropriate badge or identification. They may also be subject to inspection of their personal effects when entering or leaving the building. All contractor personnel are subject the MEDVAMC policies and procedures regarding employee safety and security.
2. Photography of VA premises is allowed only with permission of the COR.

Parking:

All contractors are required to park in the contracting parking lot, located behind building 122 near the Holcombe Blvd entrance. Personal or company vehicles left unattended in areas not approved for contractor parking, will be subject to ticketing and towing at the owner's expense.

Contractor Storage:

A temporary on-site interior storage/work area for small amounts of contractor sampling equipment has been designated inside of the Safety Office. The area will be accessible during regular working hours of the Safety Staff. The Contractor shall keep the area neat, orderly and clear of all debris.

2. HOURS OF OPERATIONS:

The Contractor is responsible for conducting business during normal business hours, Monday through Friday from 0700 to 1530, during the times that the COR is available, with the exception of Federal holidays or when the Government facility is closed due to local or national emergencies, administrative closings, or similar Government directed facility closings.

If a holiday falls on a Sunday, the following Monday will be observed as the National Holiday. When a holiday falls on a Saturday, the preceding Friday is observed as a National Holiday by U.S. Government agencies. Also, included would be any day specifically declared by the President of the United States. Contractor is not required to provide any service(s) on nationally recognized U.S. Government holidays, nor shall the contractor be paid for these holidays.

The Contractor must always maintain an adequate workforce for the uninterrupted performance of all tasks defined within this solicitation when the Government facility is not closed for the above reasons. When hiring personnel, the Contractor shall keep in mind that the stability and continuity of the workforce are essential.

The healthcare systems operations are 24/7, 365 days a year, therefore on occasions; the Government may have requirements outside of normal business hours. The Contractor will be required to provide services under these circumstances.

3. OVERTIME AND HOLIDAYS:

Any overtime and/or holiday work requests must be submitted to the CO and COR in writing. Any work completed without prior authorization of the COR and CO, shall be the sole responsibility of the Contractor and shall not be billed to nor reimbursed by the Government.

4. **NATIONAL HOLIDAYS** - Listed below are the ten (10) national holidays:

New Year's Day	January 1 st
Martin Luther King 's Birthday	Third Monday in January
President's Day	Third Monday in February
Memorial Day	Last Monday in May
Independence Day	July 4 th
Labor Day	First Monday in September
Columbus Day	Second Monday in October
Veterans Day	November 11 th
Thanksgiving Day	Fourth Thursday in November
Christmas Day	December 25 th

Incorporated References:

American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygiene's (ACGIH), Threshold Limit Values for Chemical Substances and Physical Agents and Biological Exposure Indices:

www.acgih.org, 2017

American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), Standard 55-2017, Thermal Environmental Conditions for Human Occupancy

www.ashrae.org, 2017

ASHRAE Standard 62.1-2017, Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality

www.ashrae.org, 2016

ASTM Standard E1186-2017, Standard Practices for Air Leakage Site Detection in Building Envelopes and Air Barrier Systems

www.astm.org, 2017

EPA Indoor Air Quality Links

www.epa.gov (use in conjunction with January 19, 2017 web snap shot)

Indoor Air Quality Handbook, Spengler, 2017

Indoor Air Quality Publications from CPSC

www.CPSC.gov

Institute of Inspection Cleaning and Restoration

(IICRC, S500) Standard and Reference Guide for Professional Water Damage Restoration

www.iicrc.org

Institute of Inspection Cleaning and Restoration

(S520) Standard and Reference Guide of Professional Mold Remediation

www.iicrc.org

NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

Guidance for Indoor Air Quality Investigations

NIOSH, Indoor Air Quality Building Education and Assessment (I-BEAM) Model, 2002

www.epa.gov/nscep

NIOSH Indoor Environmental Quality Webpage

www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/indoorenv/

The IAQ Investigator's Guide, AIAH, Gunderson, 2006

OSHA Indoor Air Quality Webpage

www.osha.gov/SLTC/indoorairquality/

OSHA Technical Manual – IAQ Investigations

www.osha.gov/dts/osta/otm/

OSHA Technical Manual, Section III, Chapter 2, Subsection V "Recommendations for the Employer,"

Engineering and administrative guidance to prevent IAQ Problems

www.osha.gov/dts/osta/otm/

Texas Administrative Code (TAC), 25 TAC 295.301-295.338, May 20, 2007

www.dshs.texas.gov/mold/pdf/MoldRules