

## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

VISN 23 is requesting information for VOSB companies who offer the following goods or equivalent. **THIS IS A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) ONLY:** The market research is looking to identify potential vendors who have the capabilities to offer the following: Supply & install Pneumatic Tube System (PTS) that meets or exceeds the below salient characteristics.

### **A. Description & Salient Characteristics**

Pneumatic Tube System (PTS):

1. 940' of 6" 16-gauge pipe and associated hanging materials for laboratory services.
2. Pneumatic tube system stations brand name or equal Swisslog Nexus Stations -
  - a. Pneumatic tube system stations shall utilize carrier management technology to efficiently manage multiple transactions.
  - b. Shall allow for multiple carriers to be placed into the system at once, delivering the most urgent samples first.
  - c. The system shall automatically return empty carriers to stations that need them.
  - d. Shall have a touch Screen Panel
    - i. Shall not be less than 10" measured diagonally with resolution not less than 800 x 600 pixels (SVGA)
  - e. Stations shall provide air-cushioned arrival to reduce noise level in patient care areas. Delivery noise levels are reduced by at least 12 dB over molded ramp and bin stations.
  - f. Carrier Arrival notification by Alert Messaging
    - i. Carrier arrival notification can be made to an individual or a group of individuals via mobile phones, email, tablet or alpha-numeric pager.
  - g. RFID Tracking at each station
    - i. Each carrier is assigned a unique serial number. Tube stations read the tags on dispatch, arrival and interchange points, allowing the system to verify that the received carrier is the same as the sent carrier.
3. Transfer units
  - a. Transfer units shall enable a transmission tube connection from one tube to any one of several tubes, providing the tubing network for routing carriers between stations
4. A variable frequency drive blower with:
  - a. On-demand speed control allowing transactions to be slowed down for delicate specimens or sped up for transporting empty carrier tubes
    - i. 3 speeds shall be available with the VFD, slow (lower than normal), normal (standard transmission speed) and fast (used to return empty carriers to stations). Each of these speed settings can be customized to meet the optimal needs of the facility, allowing for sensitive items ( like blood samples) to be sent at a slow speed to avoid hemolysis.
5. Badge Readers that integrates existing Medical Center Badges
  - a. Stations utilize employee PIV cards for credentialing. To receive a transaction, a valid user identification card or PIN number must be presented to release the carrier into the station bin. Sender/receiver information is recorded for each transaction, allowing only approved users access.
6. Software Maintenance Agreement
  - a. At least 3 year software maintenance agreement will include bi-annual software patches and upgrades when available.

7. Secure Transaction Management
  - a. System allows multiple transactions to be loaded concurrently, processing each carrier as the system becomes available. System sends notifications via email, text... to recipient upon arrival of transaction. System allows secure transaction retrieval when convenient. Medications can be sent through the system due to the capability of secure transactions. Carrier transport is verified end to end.
8. Maintenance and Clinical Training
  - a. 1-2 Maintenance personnel shall be trained at the site of installation in the proper maintenance and troubleshooting of the system for a minimum of 4 hours. During final system check out, at least 2 ICVAHCS employees will accompany the contractor. A 24 hour, 7 day per week toll-free phone number is available during the warranty period for contacting personnel who are factory trained in the system. Calls will be answered by live support engineers, 24 hours per day. The contractor shall train ICVAHCS staff on-site in the use and operation of the system. Training shall be conducted immediately following station testing and start up. A maximum of 4 hours shall be included for operator training. Training shall include:
    - i. Operation and use of the tube station control panel and operator specific features.
    - ii. Containment and immobilization of items transported in the carriers.
    - iii. Use and functions of the tube station as part of the entire tube system.
    - iv. A hands on demonstration at an operating station.
9. RFID carriers with foam inserts
  - a. Sealed carriers shall be constructed of clear molded plastic with full access side opening. Wear bands are easily replaceable, latches provide positive closure and are easily openable. Compression gaskets seal the carrier halves together when closed. Carriers are RFID tagged with unique serial numbers. Carriers are capable of carrying both laboratory specimens and medications. Carriers can be designated for use within specific groups of stations, allowing for reduced risk of misrouted carriers. Carrier inserts are designed for maximum cushion and spill containment. All materials used are easy to clean and disinfect.

NAICS: 333922

If your company sells the Equipment listed above please contact me at [Joshua.lmdacha@va.gov](mailto:Joshua.lmdacha@va.gov) and provide the following information and any additional information that you deem pertinent:

Company Name	POC	Phone Number	Email Address	Product(s)	Duns	Business Size

**DISCLAIMER**

This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes only and does not constitute a solicitation. All information received in response to this RFI that is marked as proprietary will be handled accordingly. In accordance with FAR 15.201(e), responses to this notice are not offers and

cannot be accepted by the Government to form a binding contract. Responders are solely responsible for all expenses associated with responding to this RFI.

Thank you,

Joshua Imdacha  
Contract Specialist