



Department of Administrative Services

Purchasing and Contracts

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CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

BID NO. 603594-15

ANNUAL REQUIREMENTS CONTRACT FOR FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY TESTS

March 3, 2015

ADDENDUM NO. 2

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

1. The Bid opening date of March 10, 2015 at 3:00:00 p.m. **remains unchanged.**

III – SPECIAL CONDITIONS

2. III – SPECIAL CONDITIONS, SECTION 10. - EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS:

Delete this section in its entirety and **replace** with the following:

Successful Bidder's laboratory shall be independent and accredited by American Board of Forensic Toxicology (ABFT) and/or the American Society for Crime Laboratory Directors – Laboratory Accredited (ASCLD-LAB). It should be noted that NIDA/SAMSHA, CLIA, and CAP certifications are not applicable to testing in the criminal setting and thus, are not adequate substitutes for ABFT certification. Laboratory shall have a minimum of five (5) years acceptable specific experience in Toxicological and Forensic Tests and Analysis.

The Laboratory Director shall possess specific documented qualifications that include a doctoral degree in a biological or chemical discipline and at least three years of full-time laboratory experience in forensic toxicology analysis; or a Master's degree in a biological or chemical discipline and at least five years of full-time laboratory experience in forensic toxicology analysis. The Director shall have documented training and/or experience in forensic applications of analytical toxicology. The Director shall also have knowledge and adhere to the national standards for legally defensible testing and evidentiary procedures in the area of post mortem death investigations that apply when toxicological specimens are acquired, processed and stored, and when toxicological data are submitted as a part of a legal proceeding. Toxicologists assigned to the responsibility must be certified by the American Board of Forensic Toxicology (F-ABFT) as well as the various courts of the United States and other medical legal organizations.

III – SPECIAL CONDITIONS, SECTION 15. - REPORTING:

Delete this section in its entirety and **replace** with the following:

The laboratory director and/or designee will review all data to verify the accuracy of the report and to verify that procedures and quality controls were performed according to the accepted protocol of the laboratory which is stated in the SOP manual. At a minimum, the review of data shall include: chain of custody documentation, validity of analytical data such as runtime and shape of chromatographic peak, calculation, and quality control data. Where possible, the results shall be reviewed within context of case history and autopsy findings. A toxicologist, certified by the American Board of Forensic Toxicology (F-ABFT), shall issue report of findings. The report shall include all information necessary to identify a case and include test results for each test performed. The laboratory shall be able to present documentation of the review of data on any case.

III – SPECIAL CONDITIONS 17. - CONSULTATION:

Delete this section in its entirety and **replace** with the following:

Successful Bidder shall have at least one full-time F-ABFT board certified toxicologist readily available, during normal business hours, for consultation about the results generated by its analysis and the significance of such findings, at no additional cost to the Coroner.

PRE-BID MEETING RECORDING

3. The recording of the Pre-Bid Meeting can be located at the following website.

PLAY RECORDING (37 min 23 sec)

<https://clarkcountynv.webex.com/clarkcountynv/lsr.php?RCID=9efad9bf1027431d8e055ba1dec0aab0>

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

4. Q1 What current vendor holds the contract?
A1 **National Medical Services, Inc.**
- Q2 Would Clark County accept post-mortem 3 tiered program/approach: basic toxicology profile, target, and comprehensive profile?
A2 **We generally initially submit samples for basic or comprehensive profile with an occasional suspected/targeted compound(s). On occasions following the results, targeted testing may follow.**
- Q3 Does your current vendor include all confirmation testing (quantitative results) in their toxicology panels?
A3 **Quantitative results on the positive findings and a few are only qualitative based on the testing method covered under the panel – noting “Positive” – i.e. nicotine, cotinine, etc.**
- Q4 What is the fee currently being paid for Basic Panels?
A4 **Basic Panel on blood - \$90.00
Basic Panel on urine - \$90.00
Basic Panel on fluid - \$169.00
Basic Panel on serum/plasma - \$90.00
Basic Panel on tissue - \$199.00**
- Q5 What is the fee currently being paid for Comprehensive Panels?
A5 **Comprehensive Panel on blood - \$183.00
Comprehensive Panel on urine - \$183.000
Comprehensive Panel on fluid - \$358.00
Comprehensive Panel on serum/plasma - \$183.00
Comprehensive Panel on tissue - \$286.00**
- Q6 What is the fee currently being paid for Carbon Monoxide?
A6 **Carbon Monoxide Exposure Screen/Confirmation on blood – screen \$49.00 / confirmation \$60.00
Carbon Monoxide Exposure Screen & Confirmation on tissue - \$358.00**
- Q7 What is the fee currently being paid for Vitreous Electrolytes?
A7 **Electrolytes and Glucose Panel on Vitreous - \$39.00**
- Q8 I don't understand what is being requested in Section III Special Conditions, 20.G. Please explain so I can include this in my bid response.
A8 **The information requested in Section III Special Conditions, subsection 20 is not being asked to be presented with your bid response, but upon request by the County. You will need to have this information prepared, but not necessarily submitted with the bid.**
- Section G specifically would request documentation that Bidder has experience adhering to budget constraints and a schedule.**

- Q9 Is there any other way to receive a copy of the current contract without going to your purchasing office in person?
- A9 **Yes. You may request a copy of the current contract by submitting a Request for Public Records, which can be found at <http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/depts/finance/purchasing/Pages/forms1.aspx>.**
- Q10 Is the County satisfied with the services they are receiving, including the cost for those services?
- A10 **Yes. Please note that the contract expires June 30, 2105 and statute requires that we go out to bid.**
- Q11 III – Special Conditions – Item #4 Reports
The bid requires that the vendor will report all results via the counties VertiQ CME web based software.
- How should vendors supply documentation of their historical and current successful integrations with VertiQ, to demonstrate competency in this bid requirement? Will it be acceptable for vendors to respond with detailed information of the clients that the laboratory has successfully interfaced and time interfaced, along with client contact information?
- A11 **Vendors do NOT need to supply documentation documenting integration with VertiQ with their bid. If Clark County needs further information to demonstrate competency for this bid requirement prior to recommendation for award, it shall be requested and the bidder shall provide the information requested.**
- Q12 III – Special Conditions – Item 6 Supplies
- a. Please provide additional detail on required “appropriate” sample containers. Is the expectation that “appropriate” refers to commercially manufactured sample containers with labeling that includes detailed information of preservatives printed on the label of each container?
- b. Will the use of less costly sample containers that are not individually labeled with preservative contents be acceptable?
- c. Should vendors include detail on the appropriateness of their sample containers in their bid response?
- A12 a. **Yes, we are looking for the vendor to provide commercially manufactured sample containers with labeling to include detailed information of the preservatives.**
- b. **No.**
- c. **Vendors do NOT need to supply details on the sample containers with their bid. If Clark County needs further information to demonstrate competency for this bid requirement prior to recommendation for award, it shall be requested and the bidder shall provide the information requested.**
- Q13 III – Special Conditions – Item 15 – Reporting and III-2 10. Experience and Qualifications
- The American Board of Forensic Toxicology (ABFT) merged with the Forensic Toxicologist Certification Board (FTCB) in Feb 2014. This merger changed the certification standards for board certification of toxicologists. Toxicologists that were previously designated as having qualifications at the Diplomat level D-ABFT are now moved to the more experienced and qualified level of Fellow (F-ABFT). The D (ABFT) level has been retained as a lower level of experience than previously required. See Link <http://www.abft.org/files/ABFT-Certification-Brochure.pdf> and ABFT Website <http://www.abft.org/> for “Important Announcement.”
- The Bid requires D (ABFT) level toxicologist as the assigned toxicologist (page III-2 10.) and as the issuer of the result report (page III-3. 15) is your expectation that the toxicologist assigned to Clark County cases has a current standing in the ABFT board certification level of a Doctoral Level Fellow of ABFT (F-ABFT)?
- If that is not the expectation, and the lower level D (ABFT) is accurate, will it be acceptable to use a more experienced doctoral F (ABFT) certified toxicologist, rather than the lower level D (ABFT) required in the bid.

A13 Clark County requires that the assigned toxicologist have a certification level of F-ABFT. See changes to Special Conditions as noted above in Section 2 of this Addendum.

Q14 Page III-2.8 Retention and disposal of Samples

What are the number of individual samples and samples types typically submitted on a case? On average how many of these samples routinely have testing requested to be performed on that sample matrix?

A14 Nearly 98% of all Coroner cases submitted to the toxicology laboratory have at least one sample undergo basic or comprehensive panel testing.

The following postmortem samples are generally submitted on an autopsy examination case to where one of the submitted samples will be requested to undergo a basic or a comprehensive panel:

2 – peripheral blood

2 – heart blood

1 – vitreous

1 – urine

1 – liver

* Plus any other additional samples the case-assigned medical examiner determines what they wanted tested or need held for potential additional testing.

With regards to postmortem samples from an external or limited examination cases, one of the submitted samples usually will be requested to undergo a basic or a comprehensive panel:

2 – peripheral blood or heart blood

1 – vitreous

1 – urine

* liver is submitted when blood is unavailable.

On occasion, additional samples from other sources will also be submitted on cases under a different submission form for either testing or forensic hold for 1 year in case of additional testing would be required; i.e. antemortem samples from hospitals and/or donor organizations.

Q15 Will you allow bidders to attend the bid opening scheduled on March 10th, 2015 @ 3:00pm?

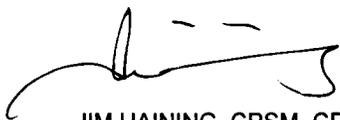
A15 Yes, it is a public bid opening. Additionally, bid results will be posted on the Clark County Purchasing website within a day of the bid opening.

Q16 For the Synthetic Cannabinoid panel will the county want a panel which tests for all known drugs? We test for all known 39 while others tests for 27.

A16 With regards to any testing and the ever changing substances/compounds being used and abused, the county would want the most up-to-date and comprehensive testing of all known drugs/substances available.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (702) 455-4230 or via email at jhaining@clarkcountynv.gov.

ISSUED BY:



JIM HAINING, CPSM, CPSD, C.P.M., A.P.P.
Sr. Purchasing Analyst

Attachment(s): None

cc: William Gazza, Office of the Coroner / Medical Examiner