

LDEQ ANSWERS TO PROPOSERS QUESTIONS
RFP No. 2012-05-3501
“Analytical and Consulting Services –
Seafood Safety Response Related - DOSS”

LDEQ’s answers to the following questions are intended to provide information to potential proposers questions to RFP No. 2012-05-3501.

Questions and answers that may potentially result in the disclosure of information from proposals of competing bidders will not be published.

Question 1: (Our Laboratory) has recently invested in the LC/MS-MS instrumentation capable of performing the analysis for DOSS, but the certification process is quite lengthy. With the allotted time there is no way to have LELAP certification in place by the RFP due date of 6/22/2012. We propose that if we can have the LELAP certification in place before the contract commencement date, can we be allowed to bid on the DOSS contract? Allowing this provision will result in significant savings to the State of Louisiana by creating a truly competitive bid process.

LDEQ’s answer: For other analytical services RFP’s, the Department has allowed “applied for LELAP accreditation” and “intent to apply for accreditation upon notice of award.” For the DOSS RFP, these options are not appropriate for various reasons, including but not limited to, the following: DOSS is a highly specialized analysis request that is usually analyzed independently of other analytes, making it very likely that the method and technology do not currently exist on a laboratory’s current scope of accreditation. As opposed to the scenario of adding an analyte to an existing accredited method, which is a comparably less complex process, accreditation for DOSS testing where a new analyte, method, and technology are evaluated requires a more in-depth review and assessment by LELAP, and the best interest of the State is met by means of full accreditation of the laboratory at the time of the proposal deadline.

Depending on status of accreditation and lab location, an on-site assessment may be necessary to grant accreditation. The timing of the on-site assessment depends on the availability of Department and contracted laboratory assessors. The Department cannot risk a lapse in these services waiting on the accreditation.

This RFP only allows for current LELAP accreditation due to the nature of the specialized analysis requested. The current contract for this service expires 10/31/12 and risking a lapse in services is unacceptable, as the State would be unable to meet its responsibility of assuring the public that Louisiana seafood is safe for consumption.

The term of the contract is for twelve (12) months, at which time the Department has the option to issue another RFP for this service in order to open competition to newly

accredited laboratories, or may elect to extend the awarded contract per RFP Part I, Administrative Information, Section 1.2, Contract Term and Compensation, as well as RFP Appendix C, Sample Contract, Article 2, Contract Term.

Question 2: Are there any special considerations for keeping this work and these funds in the Gulf Coast Region, communities and states that were and are still impacted by the BP oil spill?

LDEQ's answer: The RFP includes no special considerations with regard to the physical location of the awarded company. In accordance with RFP Part IV, Proposal Evaluation and Selection, Section 4.1, Evaluation Process: "The responsible and qualified proposer with the highest rated proposal will be recommended for tentative selection." The Department is responsible for complying with R.S. 39:1496.B which requires open competition for consulting services contracts which have a total maximum amount of compensation of fifty thousand dollars or more.

Question 3: Are the "Evaluation Units" referenced in the pricing schedule equivalent to sample quantities?

LDEQ's answer: RFP Attachment 2, Schedule of Prices does *not* have evaluation units. RFP Part IV, Proposal Evaluation and Selection, Section 4.3, Price Evaluation Calculation is where evaluation units are located. As indicated in RFP Part IV, Section 4.3, the calculation, including evaluation units, is for evaluation purposes only. The evaluation units in Section 4.3, Table 3 represent theoretical sample quantities for the purpose of proposal evaluation only. Refer also to RFP Attachment 1, Statement of Work, Section 4.0, Project Schedule for approximate quantities based on project plans at the time of RFP issuance.

Question 4: Section 2.4 indicates that the lab will require accreditation with LDEQ for all methods and analytes associated with the RFPs. Since these are non-routine methods, is it known that LDEQ will provide accreditation for these methods/analytes?

LDEQ's answer: Yes. LELAP does provide accreditation for this method/analyte. This method/analyte is included in the current version (4.0.4) of the online LELAP application. If a previous version was downloaded, within the application, go to Utilities>Update all Methods/Analytes and the latest additions will become available. If omissions are found, there is also a mechanism within the application to request accreditation for additional methods/analytes. Full DOSS accreditation by LELAP is required by proposal deadline date.