

A. RFI NUMBER: F14-1807		B. DATE ISSUED: 9/4/13	
C. ISSUED BY:		D. ADDRESS OFFERS TO:	
SAIC-Frederick, Inc. Subcontracts Dept. P.O. Box B Frederick, MD 21702		D.1. HARD COPIES (if required): N/A	D.2. ELECTRONIC COPIES: robertse@mail.nih.gov
E. FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THIS SOLICITATION CONTACT:			
E.1. NAME: Mr. Steve Robert		E.2. EMAIL: robertse@mail.nih.gov	
IMPORTANT: F. Capability Statement must be received at the location specified in Block D.2. above by 3:00PM (ET) Monday October 4, 2013. All documents must be clearly identified with the RFI number provided in Block A above.			

This Request for Information is issued by SAIC-Frederick, Inc. (SAIC-F) in support of its prime contract awarded by the Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research (FNLCR). For more information regarding this relationship, see www.ncifcrf.gov. This document should not be construed as a solicitation or as an obligation on the part of SAIC-F, or the Government. SAIC-F does not intend to award a subcontract(s) on the basis of responses to this RFI, nor pay for the preparation of information provided herein.

RESPONDER INSTRUCTIONS:

Responders must submit a capability statement (40 page limitation, excluding resumes) describing their organization’s experience and abilities to provide the materials and services as described which includes: (1) a summary of list of past performance with references; (2) a brief description of the professional qualifications and experience of key staff who may be assigned in the production of the materials and delivery of services (CV’s may be provided); (3) listing of any/all current and relevant certifications from a qualified neutral third-party and contact information; (4) a general description of the facilities and other resources needed to provide the materials and services; (5) demonstrated ability to produce the materials & services; and (6) an estimated cost broken down in a Time and Material (T & M) format of defined materials and services.

Non-Human Primate Off-Site Housing

A. PURPOSE AND INTENT OF THIS REQUEST

SAIC-Frederick, Inc. (SAIC-F) at the National Cancer Institute-Frederick is requesting information regarding the cost and availability of AAALAC accredited/accredit able animal facility space to utilize for an undetermined period for housing and research support of ongoing nonhuman primate studies. SAIC-Frederick requests consideration and assessment of the following alternative approaches for executing this task, which are listed in order of preference:

Option A: The offeror will allow access to facilities by SAIC-Frederick personnel who will perform all routine animal husbandry, veterinary care, technical and experimental procedures defined by NCI research protocols. This program will fall under the NCI AAALAC accreditation. SAIC-Frederick will provide controlled substances for all procedures.

Option B: Routine animal husbandry and veterinary care functions will be performed by the offeror following SAIC-Frederick SOPs and procedures. The offeror will allow access to facilities by SAIC-Frederick personnel who will perform all technical and experimental procedures defined by NCI research protocols. Offeror will be responsible for supplying controlled substances for all procedures.

Option C: All work will be conducted by the offeror following SAIC-Frederick husbandry and technical SOPs and procedures with direct oversight by SAIC-Frederick staff and veterinarians. Offeror will be responsible for supplying controlled substances for all procedures.

SERVICE REQUIREMENTS THAT APPLY TO ALL OPTIONS:

- 1) Provision of sufficient space to house 30 to 150 macaques (rhesus and pigtailed) with up to 10 different health statuses based on the experimental infections. This will likely require space for 15 to 45 rolling quads (6.0 sq. ft., and 4.0 sq. ft.) with sufficient space to allow for sanitation without cross contamination of animals. These animals are currently housed in 10 rooms (capacity 2 to 8 quads per room). Depending on room size and configuration, additional rooms may be required.
- 2) The offeror will provide data on total square footage of the facility and the proposed square footage in support of this work.
 - If not the total facility, then the offeror will provide the proposed or current use of the remaining space and provisions for segregating these colonies/animals from other cohorts.
- 3) All work will be conducted at Animal Biosafety Level 2 (ABL) or ABL2 with ABL3 practices.
- 4) Mechanical cage wash to sanitize cages, transfer boxes, enrichment devices, must be present and must pass rigorous environmental monitoring testing.
- 5) Surgery suite with the ability to support major operative procedures in primates, including laparoscopic procedures and laparotomies. This should have a separate surgeon scrub area, instrument prep area, animal prep area, scavaging for isoflurane anesthesia, and surgical lights. An autoclave must be available for use.
- 6) Procedure space to accommodate chair-restrained primates as well as space for conducting procedures with sedated primates including endoscopies/colonoscopies, enemas and surgical prep of animals must be available. Preferably procedure space would be comprised of at least two rooms to allow for separation of health statuses. X-ray equipment and a certified Class II Biological Safety Cabinet must be available for use.
- 7) Necropsy suite with tables to accommodate and facilitate sanitation after necropsies of nonhuman primates.
- 8) Storage space adequate to accommodate supplies, cages, surgical equipment, feed, refrigerated fruit and enrichment devices must be available. A refrigerator, -20°C freezer, and -80°C freezer must be available for storage of drugs and samples from nonhuman primates.
- 9) Supplies used by SAIC-Frederick staff will be ordered by the SAIC-Frederick staff and may be received by SAIC-Frederick staff or offeror staff prior to storage.
- 10) The facility must provide for access control to rooms housing NCI animals, appropriate security measures, and permit access to SAIC-F staff during and after regular work hours, on weekends and on holidays.
- 11) Space must provide biosecurity such that animals can be maintained free of enteric pathogens such as but not limited to *Entamoeba histolytica*, *Balantidium*, all helminthes, *Shigella*, and *Salmonella*.

- 12) The facility must have environmental monitoring of temperature, humidity, power and lighting with remote call capabilities for any parameters outside the set points with the ability to have immediate response by trained staff capable of addressing the issue.
- 13) The facility must allow for AAALAC accreditation or provide proof of accreditation.
- 14) Facility location must enable sample delivery to the NIH campus in Bethesda and to Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research (FNLCR) on the Fort Detrick campus in Frederick within one hour of packaging.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR OPTION A:

- 1) Provision of space to accommodate the housing and care for 30 to 150 nonhuman primates at offeror's facility(s) by the SAIC-F personnel. The animals have been acquired by the government and are routinely screened for TB, retroviruses, B virus, and enteric pathogens.
- 2) Work will be performed under the NCI AAALAC accreditation and NCI Animal Study Proposals that are approved by the NCI Animal Care and Use Committee.
- 3) Cages can be provided by the requester, and the requester can provide staff to operate cage washing equipment.
- 4) Surgical, necropsy and procedural equipment other than that specified can be provided by the requester.
- 5) The offeror will provide a description of HVAC, emergency generators, environmental monitoring (temperature, humidity, power and lighting), cage wash, facility finishes, and a diagram of the facility with room labels and dimensions.
- 6) The offeror will provide the lease cost per square foot and estimated additional costs if applicable.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR OPTION B:

- 1) Provision of space to accommodate the housing and care for 30 to 150 nonhuman primates at offeror's facility(s) by the offeror's personnel following SAIC-Frederick SOPs and procedures. The animals have been acquired by the government and are routinely screened for TB, retroviruses, B virus, and enteric pathogens.
- 2) The offeror will allow access to facilities by SAIC-Frederick personnel who will perform all technical and experimental procedures defined by NCI research protocols. The offeror will be required to demonstrate that their staff has proficiency in, but not limited to, the following functions:
 - Housing and care of macaques. Housing must be in rinse down rooms with floor drains that are flushed on a daily basis.
 - Demonstrated proficiency in handling animals of different health statuses in the same room without cross contamination. Offeror must also have experience maintaining animals free of *Entamoeba histolytica*, *Balantidium*, all helminthes, *Shigella*, and *Salmonella* or provide evidence that no primates in the current colonies have these pathogens.
 - Environmental enrichment of macaques.
 - Veterinary personnel qualified and experienced in providing care for macaques, including those experiencing SAIDS and those undergoing chemotherapeutic administration.
- 3) Work will be performed under the offeror's AAALAC accreditation, and all NCI Animal Study Proposals would need to be reviewed and approved by the offeror's Animal Care and Use Committee.

- 4) Cages can be provided by the requester, and the requester can provide staff to operate cage washing equipment.
- 5) Surgical, necropsy and procedural equipment other than that specified can be provided by the requester.
- 6) Facilities should have strong environmental enrichment program for nonhuman primates. Some animals may need to be single-housed.
- 7) Offeror must have a DEA license for schedule II and below and provide controlled substances including anesthetics, analgesics, and euthanasia solution as requested by SAIC-F personnel to conduct experimental procedures.
- 8) The offeror will provide a description of HVAC, emergency generators, environmental monitoring (temperature, humidity, power and lighting), cage wash, facility finishes, and a diagram of the facility with room labels and dimensions indicating support spaces available to SAIC-Frederick to perform technical and surgical procedures.
- 9) The offeror will provide the estimated costs for:
 - Housing and husbandry services per animal assuming multi-virus rooms as described above.
 - Veterinary care services.
 - Estimated additional costs if applicable.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR OPTION C:

- 1) Provision of space to accommodate the housing and care for 30 to 150 nonhuman primates at offeror's facility(s) by the offeror's personnel following SAIC-Frederick SOPs and practices. The animals have been acquired by the government and need to be routinely screened for TB, retroviruses, B virus, and enteric pathogens on a quarterly basis.
- 2) The offeror will allow access to facilities by SAIC-Frederick personnel who will oversee as the offeror performs technical and experimental procedures defined by NCI research protocols. The offeror will be required to provide documentation to demonstrate that their staff has experience and proficiency in, but not limited to, the following functions:
 - Housing and care of macaques of different health statuses with no evidence of cross contamination, including animals that are chemical, biological and radiological hazards
 - Housing must be in rinse down rooms with floor drains that are flushed on a daily basis.
 - Environmental enrichment of macaques.
 - Veterinary personnel qualified and experienced in providing care for macaques, including those experiencing SAIDS and those undergoing chemotherapeutic administration.
 - Injections and inoculations (IV, IM, SQ, PO, gavage, intrarectal, intravaginal)
 - Daily cage side administration of injectable and oral antiretroviral therapy with PK and viral load evidence of successful dosing for continuous periods in excess of 1 year on individual animals.
 - Handling and restraint (pole and collar, chair, etc.) for administration of substances and sample collection.
 - Sample collections (blood, urine, BAL, CSF, vaginal/rectal pinch biopsies, endoscopic jejunal biopsies, colonic biopsies, etc.).
 - Maintenance and use of ports (IV).
 - Submucosal injections in the rectum, descending colon, and vagina with imaging verification of successful placement.
 - Major and minor survival surgery (laparotomy with intestinal wedge resection, inguinal/axillary lymph node biopsy).
 - Laparoscopic procedures inclusive of mesenteric and paraaortic lymph node biopsies, partial splenectomies, and hepatic biopsies.

- Electroejaculation in chair restrained animals.
 - Apheresis utilizing the Spectra Optia system with yields of CD34+ cells in excess of 10X10⁶ from individual collections.
 - Maintaining and monitoring of animals under isoflurane anesthesia for at least 5 hours.
 - In house hematology, blood gas and biochemistry.
 - Necropsy.
 - Packing and shipping samples.
- 3) Work will be performed under the offeror's AAALAC accreditation and all NCI Animal Study Proposals would need to be reviewed and approved by the offeror's Animal Care and Use Committee.
 - 4) Facilities should have strong environmental enrichment program for nonhuman primates. Some animals will need to be single-housed.
 - 5) Offeror must have documented experience housing animals with different ABSL2 and ABSL2 with 3 practices viruses in the same room with no history of cross contamination.
 - 6) Offeror must also have experience maintaining animals free of Entamoeba histolytica, Balantidium, all helminthes, Shigella, and Salmonella or provide evidence that no primates in the current colonies have these pathogens. All incoming animals will need to be treated for and tested free of these pathogens to ensure the colonies do not become infected.
 - 7) Offeror must have laparoscopic, endoscopic, X-ray, ultrasound equipment capable of performing up to 6-8 sets of procedures while maintaining health statuses in a 4-5 hour period.
 - 8) The offeror will provide a description of HVAC, emergency generators, environmental monitoring (temperature, humidity, power and lighting), cage wash, procedural and surgical support equipment described above, facility finishes, and a diagram of the facility with room labels and dimensions indicating support spaces available to SAIC-Frederick to perform technical and surgical procedures.
 - 9) The offeror will provide the estimated costs for:
 - Housing and husbandry services per animal assuming multi-virus rooms as described above.
 - Technical, surgical and veterinary care services for the procedures listed above.
 - Estimated additional costs if applicable.

ADDITIONAL GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) The nonhuman primates will be owned by the government and may be transferred to other contract facilities at any time after the initial acquisition and transfer to the offeror's facility.
- 2) The offeror will immediately notify the SAIC-Frederick Attending Veterinarian or SAIC-Frederick project coordinator of clinical cases or health concerns.
- 3) The offeror will immediately notify the SAIC-Frederick Attending Veterinarian or SAIC-Frederick project coordinator of any environmental parameters that vary from established ranges.
- 4) The offeror will maintain capability to respond to emergency incidents and to monitor the nonhuman primate colony status after regular work hours.

Each response should include the following Business Information in addition to capability statement:

- 1) RFI Number
- 2) DUNS number
- 3) Company Name
- 4) Company Address
- 5) Company Point of Contact, Phone, FAX, and Email Address. POC's should include individual(s) who is(are) duly authorized in managing any/all technical issues and/or questions, and individual(s) who is(are) authorized in managing any/all contractual issues and/or questions.
- 6) Type of Company (i.e. small business, 8(a), woman-owned, veteran-owned, etc.) as validated by the System for Award Management (SAM). All responders must register on the SAM, located at <http://www.sam.gov>.