

**Amendment #1
Invitation for Bids (IFB) No. 3160002720
Genetic Testing for Paternity Services**

Amendments to the IFB are as follows:

1. Section 2.4.1 The ~~awarded~~ Vendors shall provide MDHS a draft implementation plan. Within 10 calendar days of Contract award, the awarded Vendor shall establish a final implementation plan with the cooperation of MDHS.
2. Questions and Answers are attached.

Please acknowledge receipt of Amendment #1 by returning it, along with your bid package, by April 5, 2019, at 9:00 AM. This acknowledgement should be enclosed in your bid package. **Failure to submit this acknowledgement may result in rejection of the bid package.**

Name of Company

Authorized Official's Typed Name/Title

Signature of Authorized Official
(No stamped signature)

Date

Should an amendment to the IFB be issued, it will be posted on the MDHS website (www.mdhs.ms.gov) in a manner that all bidders will be able to view. Further, bidders must acknowledge receipt of any amendment to the solicitation by signing and returning the amendment with the bid package, by identifying the amendment number and date in the space provided for this purpose on this form, or by letter. The acknowledgment must be received by MDHS by the time and at the place specified for receipt of bids. It is the bidder's sole responsibility to monitor the website for amendments to the IFB.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Genetic Testing for Paternity Services**

1. Would it be equally acceptable to the agency to be listed as certificate holder rather than additional insured on the certificate of insurance?

ANSWER: No.

2. The current deadline for receiving proposals in 9:00 AM CT in the morning April 5, 2019. In 2014 the delivery deadline for this project was 3:00 PM. Would it be possible to shift the deadline to later in the day to allow a higher level of certainty bids can be received before the deadline?

ANSWER: No.

3. Please confirm that we are correct in our understanding that the term “DNA Test” in the first pricing line item of Attachment B refers to a single sample collected from one individual?

ANSWER: It is confirmed per the below sections of the IFB.

2.3.1.1.2 “...In accordance with the requirements stated below, the Contractor will be paid for each individual DNA test that results in a final test confirming or excluding paternity.”

2.3.3.16.1 “The Contractor will be paid for each individual DNA test that results in a final test confirming or excluding paternity.”

4. Please confirm that we are correct in our understanding that the agency is seeking individual sample pricing in the last pricing line item of Attachment B referred to as “the cost for motherless DNA testing”?

ANSWER: It is confirmed per the below section from Attachment B of the IFB.

Pricing Structure: All pricing for **Genetic Testing for Paternity Services** includes all associated costs with no additional or hidden fees. Compensation for services will be in the form of a firm fixed-rate agreement. Each test price shall remain firm and fixed, although the total contract value may vary based on the number and type of tests performed. A Unit Price shall be given for each service, and that Unit Price shall be the same throughout the Contract.

DNA Testing:	State the cost for each individual DNA Test	\$ _____
DNA Collection:	State the cost per DNA Collection in the State of MS	\$ _____
DNA Collection:	State the cost per DNA Collection outside the State of MS	\$ _____
DNA Testing:	State the cost for motherless DNA testing	\$ _____

5. Attachment P provides two values for volume during the prior twelve (12) months.

a. Is the 7,337 Total Test Units samples from individuals or cases?

ANSWER: Samples from individuals.

b. What number or percentage of this value are in-state cases vs. out-of-state cases?

ANSWER: Approximately 6.3% of individual draws require vendor collection. This includes out-of-state cases and correction facility draws.

c. Are prison/correctional facilities included in this number or if not how many prison/correctional facility collections take place or are estimated to take place annually?

ANSWER: See answer to 5b.

d. What is meant by the term 460 “Total Collection Units” and is that samples from individuals or cases?

ANSWER: Samples from individuals.

6. Please provide the numbers or a percentages of samples collected by agency staff vs. the current contractor collectors during the twelve (12) month period for each scenario listed in Attachment P.

ANSWER: 6.3%

7. In the event an Offeror wants to list an exception in their proposal or identify a topic for possible negotiation after award, would it be acceptable to list those items on a separate sheet referenced on the bid form or do these topics have to be listed directly on the bid form?

ANSWER: Bidders should list any exceptions on the provided bid form or provide reference on the bid form of an attachment that lists any exceptions.

8. Section 4.1.0 on page 35 lists the Implementation Plan described in section 2.4 as an item to be included in the Offerors proposal at the time of submission however guidance provided in section 2.4 on page 32 indicates the draft and final versions of the Implementation Plan are only to be submitted by the awarded Offeror. Can you clarify which directive is correct?

ANSWER: The Vendors shall provide MDHS a draft implementation plan. Within 10 calendar days of Contract award, the awarded Vendor shall establish a final implementation plan with the cooperation of MDHS.

9. This Offeror is AABB accredited which indicates that our procedures have been and continue to be scrutinized through regularly scheduled audits to ensure these procedures meet all of the necessary scientific and legal requirements to conduct court admissible paternity testing? Given that our standard operating procedures are some of the most sensitive documents we possess, will the agency accept documentation of AABB accreditation in lieu of requiring us to provide copies of our actual SOPs?

ANSWER: No. Please see Attachment E of the IFB.

10. Regarding the invoicing procedure section 2.3.3.16.8 on page 19 are we correct in our understanding that all parties in a case can be invoiced together on a single invoice.

ANSWER: Yes.

11. Does the agency want an individual invoice for each case listed separately or would it be equally acceptable if we billed more than one case per invoice?

ANSWER: More than one case per invoice is acceptable.

12. What percentage of cases end up as partial cases?

ANSWER: MDHS cannot provide an answer at this time.

13. It is our understanding that only completed cases can be billed. Given the ongoing costs to the service provider of collecting, shipping and storing samples for which they are not being paid, would it acceptable to bill for the samples associated with partial cases after an agreed to time of 60 or 90 days so that the company can recoup their costs?

ANSWER: No.

14. Regarding section 2.3.2.3.1 on page 8:

- a. Please provide an example of the current daily report?

ANSWER: A copy of the currently-used report will not be provided. However, it contains the following information:

- b. How is this report being provided to the agency currently, for example by email or in another manner?

ANSWER: Reports should be provided electronically in a format approved by MDHS.

15. How will the pricing page be scored? Will the Offeror with the lowest total of all four categories be the lowest responsive bid? If not, can the agency confirm which line of pricing will be assessed to evaluate pricing?

ANSWER: Pricing will not be scored, bidder providing the lowest proposed cost will be selected. Probably not. All pricing will be evaluated to assess cost.

16. In most cases, assuming the Offeror meets the minimum qualifications, IFB-type solicitation are awarded based on lowest price from an otherwise qualified Offeror. How will pricing be weighed during the evaluation of this opportunity?

ANSWER: Pricing is not weighted.

17. Is the agency specifying a set number of exclusions or will the agency accept AABB standards regarding exclusions?

ANSWER: The AABB standards will be accepted.

18. Section 2.3.3.3.1 states the following: “The Contractor shall send all parties a copy of the report by mail. The Contractor shall file the original report with the clerk of the court wherein the action is pending along with proof of notice to the parties.” Depending on how this must be handled it could be a significant cost point.

a. By “parties” does this mean all individuals undergoing testing (M, child, alleged father) and how and when are those addresses currently being provided to the current service provider?

ANSWER: The term “parties” includes alleged father, mother, and custodial parent if the child lives with someone else other than the mother. The awarded vendor will be provided the necessary addresses when the DNA samples are received.

b. How is the address for the “clerk of the court wherein the action is pending” being provided currently?

ANSWER: The awarded vendor will be provided the addresses for the court clerks at the beginning of the contract period.

c. How is “proof of notice to the parties” currently being provided to the agency and please describe what is acceptable as “proof”?

ANSWER: Proof of notice provided online will be deemed adequate.

19. Regarding section 2.3.3.3.5 on page 10, is evidence that the service provider requested and received proof to proceed with a motherless case required with the invoice?

ANSWER: No.

20. Is the allowed time interval for collections at non-correctional facilities and other standard collections also seven (7) days?

ANSWER: Yes.

21. Are we correct in our understanding that the agency is requesting responses to each section of 2.3?

ANSWER: No. Section 2.3 of the IFB outlines and describes the responsibilities of the awarded vendor to provide DNA Testing Services. Also, please see Section 4.1.4 of the IFB.

22. Would the agency consider modifying the terms of Exhibit I paragraph 38 and if so would it be acceptable to provide alternative language as a topic for negotiation/exception?

ANSWER: Please see Section 4.1.4.

23. Would the state add “cyber-attack” to Exhibit H, paragraph 14.a. and Exhibit I paragraph 13?

ANSWER: Please see Section 4.1.4.

24. Would the state qualify Exhibit I paragraph 15 to be THIRD PARTY claims in the third line?

ANSWER: Please see Section 4.1.4.

25. Regarding Attachment C, rather than circling the appropriate language election, would it be equally acceptable to just modify the appropriate text before signing?

ANSWER: No. Please follow instructions as provided.

26. Regarding the following on Attachment A on page 39: “For how many customers has your company provided **Genetic Testing for Paternity Services** in the past two (2) years? Please include the dates, the size of the area maintained, and the annual amount of the billing to each customer.”

- a. Because this is business sensitive information and for purposes of establishing the size of these projects for comparison by evaluators, would it be acceptable to provide a range of billing for each entry rather than actual values (i.e. \$250,000 to \$500,000, over \$1 million, etc.)?

ANSWER: Yes.

- b. Since this is an IFB for the State of Mississippi will be it be acceptable to provide a list of contracts the Offeror holds or held with other states only?

ANSWER: Section 2.3.2.4.2 and Attachment A identify the requested bidder experience for the solicitation.

27. Regarding the following on Attachment A on page 39: What is the largest customer your company has provided **Genetic Testing for Paternity Services** for in the past two (2) years? Please include the annual amount of the billing.”

- a. Assuming the State is seeking information regarding other State clients, if the largest customer has already been listed in the response to the previous specification will a simple notation suffice?

ANSWER: Yes.

28. If responses to Offeror questions are provided later than the date currently anticipated that is listed in the IFB is it possible the agency might shift the due date slightly to allow Offerors adequate time to incorporate Q&A guidance in their offers and still meet the current due date deadline?

ANSWER: No.

29. In 2.3.4.4.9, you ask for show and no show information of clients within 24 hours. There are sometimes delays with the courier that could delay the delivery of the specimens to the laboratory. Plus, the 24 hour window might not take into account weekends and holidays. Could MDHS please modify the timeframe to 2 – or 3 -business days after the scheduled sample collection?

ANSWER: No.

30. In 2.3.4.6 Performance Accountability Measures for DNA Collection, PAM #2 DNA Collection Time, the Standard listed is “fewer than ten (10) in excess of fourteen (14) calendar days of MDHS request during a calendar quarter.” Please confirm this number of ten (10) examples refers to cases which did not receive the exception request from MDHS.

ANSWER: It is confirmed.

31. In Attachment B, in the second paragraph below the pricing table, you ask for “a rate sheet of all tests offered (outside of tests required in the above table). This rate sheet shall include test type, test description, and price per test.” Could you please clarify what information you want? Specifically, our lab performs many types of genetic testing, from lifestyle to veterinary, but these tests would not be applicable to this contract.

ANSWER: Please limit to tests pertaining to paternity.