Sources Sought Notice

Sources Sought Notice No.: SS-ETSB-2008-Z8

Title: "Retroviral Vector Encoding Anti-Tumor TCR Genes"

This Sources Sought Notice (SS) is for information and planning purposes only and shall not be construed as a solicitation or as an obligation on the part of the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

The purpose of this SS is to identify qualified small business concerns [including Small Disadvantaged Businesses (SDB), Woman-owned Small Businesses (WOSB), Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) Small Businesses, Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (VOSB) and Service-Disabled Veteran-owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB] that are interested in and capable of performing the work described herein. The NCI does not intend to award a contract on the basis of responses nor otherwise pay for the preparation of any information submitted. As a result of this Sources Sought notice, the NCI may issue a Request for Proposal (RFP). THERE IS NO SOLICITATION AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME. However, should such a requirement materialize, no basis for claims against NCI shall arise as a result of a response to this Sources Sought notice or the NCI's use of such information as either part of our evaluation process or in developing specifications for any subsequent requirement. THIS IS NOT AN RFP AND DOES NOT COMMIT THE NCI, NIH TO AWARD A CONTRACT NOW OR IN THE FUTURE.

The National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Center for Cancer Research is seeking capability statements from all eligible small business concerns [particularly Small Disadvantaged Businesses (SDB), Woman-owned Small Businesses (WOSB), Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) Small Businesses, Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (VOSB) and Service-Disabled Veteran-owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB)] under the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code 325411, with a size standard of 750 employees. Based on the responses received from this SOURCES SOUGHT announcement, the proposed acquisition may be solicited as a Total Small Business Set-Aside. All eligible small business concerns responding to this Sources Sought Announcement must have the capabilities to produce and provide biosafety testing of retroviral or lentiviral gene therapy products.

Major tasks required of the Contractor include the following:

- Production and certification of a Master Cell Bank (MCB)
- Production and certification of retroviral and lentiviral vector supernatants
- Development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's);
- Quality Assurance (QA) practices;
- Qualifications of production components;
- Preparation of batch records;
- Issuance of a final report containing the certificates of analysis; and

- Monthly progress reports on the status of individual projects.

The contractor will be responsible to conduct certification assays based on the current FDA guidelines.

A copy of the draft Statement of Work (SOW) pertaining to this requirement, which is subject to revisions, may be accessed at Attachment 1 to this Sources Sought notice or it may be accessed on the NCI Office of Acquisitions External Website at URL: http://rcb.nci.nih.gov/. Once there, click on Current Request for Proposals. Under the Section entitled, "Sources Sought Announcement", click on the notice related to this requirement, i.e., click on **SS-ETSB-2008-Z8, entitled, "Retroviral Vector Encoding Anti-Tumor TCR Genes"**. Interested parties are expected to review this notice and the draft SOW to familiarize yourself with the requirements of this project; failure to do so will be at your firm's own risk.

Interested qualified small business organizations should submit a tailored capability statement for this requirement, not to exceed 10 single-sided pages (including all attachments, resumes, charts, etc.) presented in single-space and using a 12-point font size minimum, that clearly details the ability to perform the aspects of the notice described above and in the draft SOW. All proprietary information should be marked as such. Statements should also include an indication of current certified small business status; this indication should be clearly marked on the first page of your capability statement (preferably placed under the eligible small business concern's name and address). Responses will be reviewed only by NIH personnel and will be held in a confidential manner.

All capability Statements sent in response to this SOURCES SOUGHT notice may be submitted electronically (via email) to Michael P. Marino, Contract Specialist, at Michael.Marino@nih.gov in either MS Word, WordPerfect or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF), by April 8, 2008, 3:30PM, EST. All responses must be received by the specified due date and time in order to be considered.