

## Questions and Answer

### IFB # 3160006113 Customized Testing and Reporting Services for MSFL

September 20, 2023

**Question 1:** At what point in the RFP process would the vendor be required to hold a DEA license? Would this be required prior to application or upon license award?

**Answer: Upon license award**

**Question 2. Section. 2.2 Scope of Services: Vendor Requirement Bid Specifications. Page 7**

*“Expert Witness Testimony available with experience in forensic seized drug cases.”*

a. Please provide clarification on the request for Expert Witness Testimony services.

**Answer: Expert testimony will be needed for any cases analyzed in which the court deems expert testimony is necessary for prosecution.**

b. Does the state desire the vendor to provide Expert Witness Testimony or have available a pool of expert witnesses?

**Answer: The vendor will provide expert testimony given by the certifying analyst or reviewer of the case.**

c. Due to the uncertain nature of how often the expert witness will be needed, will the state accept an hourly rate for these services rather than include it in the per test price?

**Answer: An hourly rate is acceptable.**

**Question 3.** Does the state have a specific LIMS system the vendor must use, or will the platform be at the discretion of the vendor?

**Answer: Discretion of the vendor**

**Question 4. Section 2.2 Scope of Services: Scope of Work Page 7**

*“Complete Internal Chain of Custody confirmed by laboratory site inspection if desired by bidder.”*

a. Will the state use METRC for their chain of custody handling?

**Answer: I am not familiar with the complete services of METRC. If it provides a list of all individuals who possess the submissions from the time the vendor takes custody until they return the submissions to agencies it is acceptable.**

**Question 5. Section. 2.2.I.3 Service and Supplies Requirements Page 8**

*“The vendor shall only test items submitted from Mississippi Law Enforcement Agencies”*

- a. Would this preclude the vendor from testing samples from Mississippi licensed cannabis growers, cultivators, and/or dispensaries?

**Answer: No. Samples tested under this contract must be submitted from Mississippi Law Enforcement Agencies only. It does not affect any samples not covered under this contract.**

- b. Would this preclude the vendor from testing plant samples from other law enforcement agencies in the state of Mississippi?

**Answer No. It only pertains to samples paid for under this contract. Independent samples submitted and paid for by other law enforcement agencies is not in violation of the contract.**

- c. Would this preclude the vendor from testing samples in other *out of state operations* for licensed growers, cultivators, dispensaries, or other law enforcement agencies?

**Answer: No**

- d. Please clarify this requirement.

**Answer: This requirement only pertains to samples being analyzed under this contract. It does not affect any other sample analysis. Samples paid for by this contract will only be accepted from Mississippi Law Enforcement Agencies**

**Question 6. Section 2.2.I.4 Service and Supplies Requirements Page 8**

*“Vendor shall provide a gross weight when all individual items are not tested.”*

**Please clarify this requirement.**

**Answer: Gross weight refers to the total amount of submitted material including any interior packaging such as plastic bags. If a submission contains four interior bags per the sampling guidelines only three individual samples will be tested. Therefore, a gross weight of all four bags including packaging will be reported as well as a net weight of the plant material only for the three bags analyzed.**

**Question 7. Section. 2.2.I2.2.I.4 Service Supplies Requirement. Page 8**

*“Vendor shall work only submit cases with a total net weight of plant material in excess of 30 grams.”*

- a. Is the vendor able to weigh the entire plant material in question at the agency, then collect smaller samples for transport to the lab?

**Answer: Yes.**

- b. For large volumes of plant material of a single seized product, will the lab be required to transport the entire mass, or will a sample size be allowed to be taken for testing?

**Answer: No. A sample size is acceptable.**

- c. For transport logistics, scales, and storage planning, what is the largest size of plant product the vendor should prepare for?

**Answer: Vendor will not be required to provide a gross weight over six kilograms.**

**Question 8. Statement: Section 2.3 Term Page 10**

*“There will be approximately 4000 samples.”*

- a. For clarification, is it estimated that there will be 4000 samples per year or over a different period of time?

**Answer: Per year.**

**Question 9. Section. 4.1.4 Minimum Qualifications to be deemed Responsive. Page 12**

*“The bidder must have been in business and providing the services listed in IFB or in requirements and scale to those described in this Invitation for Bid for a minimum of three (3) years.”*

- a. Please clarify, “or in requirements and scale to those described in this Invitation for Bid.”

\*The Cannabis program in Mississippi has been operational for less than three years.

**Answer: The bidder is only required to have a minimum of one (1) year in business and providing the service. Please see Amendment I**