

Mississippi Forensic Laboratory
 Notice of Proposed Sole Source Services
 Sole source # 3150005122

The Mississippi Forensic Laboratory (MSFL) is seeking to procure Professional Forensics Service in managing and delivering forensics, biometrics, and identity intelligence services.

1. What is the professional service that is being requested to Sole Source?

SNA provides staffing and enhances laboratory operations to build capacity and permanently reduce backlogs for government agencies. The MSFL is considering outside forensic laboratory subject matter experts to support the backlog reduction of casework in the Firearm Examinations and Drug Testing (Controlled Substance) divisions.

SNA GSA MAS Labor	Labor Function	Number of Hours	SNA GSA MAS Rate	Projected Cost
Scientist 2	Controlled Substance Analyst/ Program Manager	1920	\$95.08	\$182,553.60
Subject Matter Expert 2	Controlled Substance SME	960	\$159.90	\$153,504.00
Scientific Researcher 4	Controlled Substance Analyst	1920	\$63.62	\$122,150.40
Scientist 2	Firearm Analyst	1920	\$95.08	\$182,553.60
Scientific Researcher 3	Firearms Technician	5760	\$53.94	\$310,694.40
Year 1				Projected Total \$951,456.00

SNA GSA MAS Labor	Labor Function	Number of Hours	SNA GSA MAS Rate	Projected Cost
Scientist 2	Controlled Substance Analyst/ Program Manager	1920	\$97.93	\$182,030.21
Subject Matter Expert 2	Controlled Substance SME	960	\$164.70	\$158,109.12
Scientific Researcher 4	Controlled Substance Analyst	1920	\$65.53	\$125,814.91

Scientist 2	Firearm Analyst	1920	\$97.93	\$188,030.21
Scientific Researcher 3	Firearms Technician	5760	\$55.56	\$320,015.23
Year 2				Projected Total \$979,999.68

SNA GSA MAS Labor	Labor Function	Number of Hours	SNA GSA MAS Rate	Projected Cost
Scientist 2	Controlled Substance Analyst/ Program Manager	1920	\$100.87	\$193,671.11
Subject Matter Expert 2	Controlled Substance SME	960	\$169.64	\$162,852.39
Scientific Researcher 4	Controlled Substance Analyst	1920	\$67.49	\$129,589.36
Scientist 2	Firearm Analyst	1920	\$100.87	\$193,671.11
Scientific Researcher 3	Firearms Technician	5760	\$57.22	\$329,615.69
Year 3				Projected Total \$1,009,399.67
3-year Project Summary				\$2,940,855.35

2. Please provide an explanation of why the professional service is the only service that can meet the needs of the agency.

The Mississippi State Forensics Laboratory (MSFL) has backlogs in Firearms and Drug testing that have reached critical levels. With the laboratory's current testing rate, it will take the MSFL over eight years to complete the drug test backlog and over 15 years to complete the firearm test backlog. While private laboratories offer outsourced testing services, the MSFL has determined that staffing and enhancing laboratory operations is the only reliable way to build capacity and permanently reduce the backlog.

3. Please provide an explanation of why the vendor is the only vendor that can offer the professional service that can meet the needs of the agency.

SNA International stands out for its comprehensive expertise. SNA International offers the full suite of services required to support the MSFL, including toxicology, firearm

analysis, tool mark identification, and chemistry-based forensic consultant services. In addition, SNA International is the only company certified by both CMMI and ISO specifically for the delivery and management of forensics, biometrics, and identity intelligence services. This dual certification demonstrates a commitment to maintaining quality in their service offerings and sets them apart from other vendors. Further, SNA's combination of historical knowledge of the MSFL standards and procedures; specialized certifications to ensure the delivery of quality forensics services; expertise with Justice Trax; experience supporting similar forensic operations; the number and type of SMEs to draw upon; and SNA's special screening and competency testing approach make SNA uniquely qualified to support this task.

4. Was any market analysis conducted in order to ensure that the service required was practicably available from only one source?

The Mississippi Crime Lab researched the market to identify the most suitable vendor for our forensic lab staffing project. Our research included analyzing the offerings, capabilities, and expertise of various service providers in the field. We also used a U.S. Government General Services Administration (GSA) schedule review to identify potential vendors. Through this evaluation, we discovered that SNA emerged as the only prime vendor capable of meeting our project requirements after conducting research for companies that provide services in the forensics area for lab staffing.

5. Please provide an explanation of why the amount to be expended for the service is reasonable.

Estimated Cost: \$2,940,855.35

The services requested will save the Mississippi Forensics Laboratory in the search, hire, and training of new forensic scientists to address the casework backlog in the Firearms and Seized Drugs sections. The delivery of trained scientists by SNA will significantly impact and reduce the start-up time to results. Additionally, consideration was given to the employee hours required to package and ship the outsourced evidence to a contract laboratory.

6. Please explain the efforts the agency went through to conduct a noncompetitive negotiation to obtain the best possible price for the professional service.

Negotiations were made with the vendor to address the funding required for the services. The quote was reviewed, and a modification requested to remove non-imperative services.

Any person or entity that objects and proposes that the Professional Forensics Service in managing and delivering forensics, biometrics and identity intelligence services listed is not sole source and can be provided by another person or entity should submit a written notice to:

Britney Wesley or Sonya Toaster
Procurement Department
4th Floor, Room 402
Jackson, MS 39216

The notice should contain a detailed explanation of why the service is not a sole source procurement, as well as, but not limited to the following information:

Interested Party Information

- Contact Name, Phone Number, and email address
- Company Website URL, if applicable

Objection to Sole Source Justification

- Interested parties must present specific objections to the Sole Source certification, including, but not limited to the following:
 - a) A description of the service that Interested Party believes is comparable to Forensics Service in managing and delivering forensics, biometrics and identity intelligence.
 - b) An explanation of why Interested Party's service can also meet the needs of the agency; and
 - c) A list of sources from which Interested Party's services may be procured.
- If Interested Party claims that the Forensics Service is available from a source other than SNA International, the objection must contain a written statement from SNA International that the Interested Party is an authorized distributor or reseller of Professional Forensics Service

This information should be provided no later than Tuesday October 10, 2023, at 5:00 pm local time. Response may be delivered by hand, via regular mail or overnight delivery.

If after a review of the submitted notice and documents, MDPS determines that the service in the proposed sole-source request can be provided by another person or entity, then MDPS will withdraw the sole source request publication from the procurement portal website and submit the procurement of the commodity or commodities to an advertised competitive bid process.

If MDPS determines after the review that there is only one (1) source for the required commodity or commodities, then MDPS will appeal to the Public Procurement Review

Board. MDPS will have the burden of proving that the commodity or commodities is only provided by one (1) source.