



## **ADVANCE CONTRACT AWARD NOTICE (ACAN)**

**Title:** Neuropathology Laboratory Services for Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease

**Solicitation Number:** 1000256184

### **1. The Purpose and Explanation of an ACAN**

An Advance Contract Award Notice (ACAN) allows the Public Health Agency of Canada to post a notice for no less than fifteen (15) calendar days, indicating to the supplier community that a goods, services or construction contract will be awarded to a pre-identified contractor. If no other supplier submits, on or before the closing date, a Statement of Capabilities that meets the minimum requirements identified in the ACAN, the Contracting Authority may then proceed to award a contract to the pre-identified contractor.

### **2. Rights of Suppliers**

Suppliers who consider themselves fully qualified and available to provide the services or goods described in this ACAN may submit a Statement of Capabilities demonstrating how they meet the advertised requirement. This Statement of Capabilities must be provided via e-mail only to the contact person identified in Section 12 of the Notice on or before the closing date and time of the Notice. If the Bidder can clearly demonstrate they possess the required capabilities, the requirement will be opened to electronic or traditional bidding processes.

### **3. Proposed Contractor**

The University of Ottawa  
800 King Edward, Room 3042, Ottawa, Ontario. K1N 6N5

### **4. Definition of Requirements or Expected Results**

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) requires a contractor to provide laboratory-based services for neuropathologic examination and brain tissue banking in support of the Public Health Agency of Canada's efforts related to Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) and similar brain diseases. The contractor is expected to supply qualified personnel, including a neuropathologist and laboratory assistants, along with facilities such as a compliant neuropathology laboratory and secure storage for a biological risk group 3 brain tissue specimen collection. The services should include diagnostic neuropathology for CJD on an as-needed basis, consultation with a neuropathologist when required, and coordination with CJDSS operations by laboratory staff.

The contractor is responsible for various tasks related to the Canadian Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Surveillance System (CJDSS). These tasks include coordinating laboratory work, managing information and material movement, and ensuring collaboration with key entities such as the Project Authority, CJDSS team, and National Microbiology Laboratory. Specific responsibilities involve conducting cranial autopsies, collecting and storing brain tissue specimens, performing postmortem examinations, and preparing diagnostic neuropathology reports. The contractor must maintain a bank of frozen brain tissues for research, address operational issues with freezers, and facilitate the shipment of specimens for testing and research purposes. Additionally, they are required to manage records, collaborate with qualified neuropathologists, and promptly respond to healthcare-related concerns as directed by the Project Authority.

## 5. Minimum Requirements

Any interested supplier must demonstrate by way of a Statement of Capabilities that it meets the following minimum requirements:

- a) The proposed Contractor must be able to accept specimens for processing, storage and examination on any working day with the exception of statutory holidays in the province of Ontario. Staff are available during regular business of operation and on an emergency basis, as required.
- b) The proposed Contractor must provide evidence demonstrating laboratory capacity to receive, handle and process brain tissue specimens for at least 100 suspected CJD cases per year.
- c) The proposed Contractor's laboratory must at all times possess a valid license ([human Pathogens and Toxins Act license](#)) for handling, processing and storing biological materials containing prion agents, as per specifications for laboratory facilities, procedures and inventory maintenance as described in the Canadian Biosafety Standard (CBS). The CBS is administered under the Human Pathogens and Toxins Act and Regulations (HPTA, HPTR) by the PHAC PRD.
- d) The proposed Contractor must provide two laboratory technologists who accept and/or ship specimens and must be trained and certified in the handling, offering for transport, and transportation of dangerous goods in accordance with Canadian Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act and Regulations. Training must pertain specifically to:
  - a. International Air Transport Association (IATA) Class 6.2 dangerous goods
  - b. Biological Substances Category B (UN 3373)
  - c. IATA Class 9 dangerous goods (dry ice) for air transport as set out in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Technical Instructions for Shippers and the requirements in Part 12 (Air) of the Canadian Transport of Dangerous Goods Regulations.
- e) The proposed Contractor must provide a neuropathologist who is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada with specialty certification in neuropathology, and be licensed as a neuropathologist in the province where they practice. The proposed neuropathologist must have diagnostic contributions to at least one peer-reviewed publication in the past 2-10 years in the field of human prion disease diagnosis, and authorship on peer-reviewed scientific publications in this field.
- f) The proposed Contractor must provide two laboratory technologists with 5 years of experience with operation of a CJD brain tissue collection, and performing laboratory procedures required to prepare brain tissue of suspected CJD patients for neuropathology examination.

## 6. Reason for Non-Competitive Award

6d) Only one person or firm is capable of performing the contract.

## 7. Applicable trade Agreements and Justification for Limited Tendering or the Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Business

N/A

## 8. Ownership of Intellectual Property

The ownership of intellectual property will rest with Canada.

## 9. Period of the Proposed Contract

The contract period shall be from date of contract award until March 31, 2027 with option to extend the term by 2 additional 1-year periods.

#### **10. Estimated Value of the Proposed Contract**

The total estimated value of the proposed contract should not exceed \$3,750,000.00, including travel and living expenses (if applicable), and all applicable taxes.

#### **11. Closing Date and Time**

The Closing Date and Time for accepting Statements of Capabilities is March 01, 2024, 2 p.m. EDT.

#### **12. Contact Person**

All enquiries must be addressed by e-mail to:

Name: Sayed Abedi

E-Mail: [sayed.abedi@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:sayed.abedi@hc-sc.gc.ca)