Notice of Intent to Sole Source

In accordance with §11-35-1560 (A) of the SC Consolidated Procurement Code, it is the intent of the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) to award without competition, a sole source contract in accordance with Regulation 19-445.2105 (B) (5) to purchase a Valent Automated Slide Staining Platform from Biocare Medical. The Valent Automated Slide staining unit with a stainer module computer system is needed to support the processing of patient specimens in slide preparation to provide both patient care and meet the research needs of MUSC’s Pathology Outreach Service, MUSC Histology, and Histochemistry Core. The Valent is the only instrument of its type that meets the needs of these service providers. This laboratory requires the availability of an instrument with the ability to utilize specialized histochemical staining reagents from any source, including those prepared in house, and to perform on site mixing of staining reagents. It also must have the capacity to hold at least 40 slides and to perform several different immunohistochemical staining protocols simultaneously, while employing different reagents in the same run, in order to provide precise methodological experimental controls.

PROTESTS (MAY 2019): If you are aggrieved in connection with the intended award of this contract, you may be entitled to protest, but only as provided in §11-35-4210. To protest an intended award of a contract pursuant to §11-35-1560, you shall (i) notify the chief procurement officer in writing of your intent to protest within five (5) business days of the date this intent to award is posted, and (ii) if the appropriate chief procurement officer has been timely notified of your intent to protest, you may submit your actual protest within fifteen days of the date this notice of intent to award is posted. Days are calculated as provided in §11-35-310(13). Both protests and notices of intent to protest must be in writing and must be received by the appropriate Chief Procurement Officer within the time provided. The grounds of the protest and the relief requested must be set forth with enough particularity to give notice of the issues to be decided.

Specification: Automated Immunohistochemistry Slide Stainer

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR IMMUNOSTAINER

1. The automated immunohistochemistry instrument must meet the following minimum criteria:
   - Capable of fully automating all IHC protocol steps including: deparaffinization, antigen retrieval, antibody detection and counter-stain on formalin-fixed paraffin embedded tissues.
   - 48 slide capacity
   - Ability to accommodate the use of enzyme pre-treatment, primary antibodies, detection systems, and/or chromogens from any source.
   - Capacity to accommodate 44 individual reagents
   - Bar code capability for on-board reagents and sample slides
   - Capacity to perform on-board mixing of chromogens and reagents
   - On-board refrigeration of reagent vials
   - Performance of multiple IHC staining protocols, with different primary antibody incubation times, on the same tray within the same run.
   - Instrument must have the ability to auto-level, ensuring even distribution of reagents on sample slides.
• Rapid ultrasound-based liquid level sensing or another method which eliminates extra washing steps, increased waste probe washes and increased waste associated with washing the probe after each liquid level sensing event.

• Minimum "dead volume" of reagent vials must not exceed 50µl.

• Audible and visual alarms must be in effect to alert users to error conditions such as:
  o Required bar coded reagents needed to perform programmed tests are not available
  o An insufficient volume of a specific bar coded reagent is available
  o To confirm the cancellation of a sample run
  o Volume of bulk fluids

2. Consumables must meet the following minimum criteria:

• An open system is required. The system should allow the use of other manufacturers' antibodies and detection systems without a requirement for minimum usage of manufacturer's reagents.

• Instrument and software must be compatible with reagents and slides with and without 2D matrix codes.

3. Safety

• Bulk Waste Carboys must have sensors alerting the user if maximum capacity has been reached to prevent overflow.

• Waste streams from the instrument must allow separation of hazardous and non-hazardous waste.

• Venting or dedicated water hookups must not be required.

4. Technical Service

• Telephone technical support must be available 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week.

• Instrument must have remote access capability (Internet connection required) to allow for software updates and/or rapid assistance for on-line technical support.