SAIC-Frederick, Inc.
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From Science to Solutions

AMENDMENT OF SOLICITATION/MODIFICATION OF SUBCONTRACT

MODIFICATION NO.: 01	**EFFECTIVE DATE: September 23, 2008**
SUBCONTRACTOR NAME AND ADDRESS:	**ISSUED BY**: Melissa Borucki Sr. Subcontracts Specialist SAIC-Frederick, Inc. Frederick, Maryland 21702-1201
AMENDMENT OF SOLICITATION **NO: S08-221 DATED: September 16, 2008**	MODIFICATION OF SUBCONTRACT NO: DATED:

THIS BLOCK APPLIES ONLY TO AMENDMENTS OF SOLICITATIONS

☑ The above numbered solicitation is amended as set forth below. The hour and date specified for receipt of Offers ☐ is extended, ☑ is not extended. Offerors must acknowledge, receipt of this amendment prior to the hour and date specified in the solicitation, or as amended, ☐ by signing and returning ____ copies of this amendment; ☑ by acknowledging receipt of this amendment on each copy of the offer submitted; or ☐ by separate letter referencing the solicitation and amendment numbers.

FAILURE OF YOUR ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO BE RECEIVED AT THE ISSUING OFFICE PRIOR TO THE HOUR AND DATE SPECIFIED MAY RESULT IN REJECTION OF YOUR OFFER.

THIS BLOCK APPLIES ONLY TO MODIFICATION OF SUBCONTRACTS
☐ This Change Order is issued pursuant to the General Provisions entitled "*Changes*"
☐ Supplemental Agreement
☐ Subcontractor ☐ is not required ☐ is required to sign this document and return ___ originals to issuing office.

DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENT/MODIFICATION:
MODIFY THE ABOVE REFERENCED SOLICITATION AS FOLLOWS:

1. Append RFP Attachment 4: Offeror questions and SAIC-F responses.

See pages 2-6 for further details.

ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE SOLICITATION REMAIN UNCHANGED.

OFFEROR/SUBCONTRACTOR **NOT REQUIRED** **BY:**		**SAIC-Frederick, Inc.** **BY:**	
NAME AND TITLE OF SIGNER:	**DATE:**	**NAME AND TITLE OF SIGNER:** **Greg Davis** **Manager, Research Subcontracts**	**DATE:** 9/23/08

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS POSTED SEPTEMBER 23, 2008

1. ***May I contact the NCI Project Leaders directly to discuss the CBC Program and the requirements of the RFP?***

Response:

No, in order to protect the integrity of the procurement process direct contact with the NCI Project Leaders is not allowed. The NCI Project Leaders will direct you to follow the instructions for questions as outlined in the RFP under Section L.1.d., (page 42). Questions will be edited to remove any identifying information in order to maintain the anonymity of the requestor. Parties who have submitted a question will be notified when the modification is posted. All questions and appropriate responses will be posted as Modification(s) to the Solicitation on the Federal Business Opportunities website at:

https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=5b49c24c70ea6fc5fa8632d32c232c23&tab=core&_cview=1.

2. ***My question revolves around how this program will work. It appears from the RFP that, if it's successfully reviewed and accepted, we would be added to a pool of other consortium members who would be tasked with specific units of work (Task Orders) that would be bid for on a case-by-case basis. Is my understanding correct? If so, is there any guarantee of some baseline level of funding for members of the consortium to maintain staffing levels to be able to competitively bid on these Task Orders?***

Response:

The resulting subcontracts from this RFP, as stated, will be awarded as five year Basic Ordering Agreements (BOA). Once BOAs are in place, Task Orders will be issued. Task Orders will be varying in value, duration and complexity.

It is anticipated that Participants will be members of one or more project teams. The technical and intellectual involvement in Project Teams will be funded though Task Orders. If a Center provides a unique specialization in a CBC area (i.e. one not available in any other center) then the Task Order would be issued directly to a Center without competition (sole sourced). A few tasks may be more general in nature and would be competed among qualified Centers. For the first year of the program, we expect to develop 5-10 projects within the CBC. Each project may lead to multiple Task Orders depending upon the nature of the projects and the expertise of the Participants.

3. ***Can you please provide me with some information about the budget for such a comprehensive center and for how long?***

Response:

The resulting subcontracts from this RFP, as stated, will be awarded as five year Basic Ordering Agreements (BOA). Once BOAs are in place, Task Orders will be issued. Task Orders will be varying in value, duration and complexity. Since we are not certain of the number of CBC projects that will be developed and the resulting Task Orders that will be awarded, it is difficult to create a budget for any of the centers.

4. ***Is there a technical contact who can tell us what type of application we are supposed to submit, i.e. are you seeking a capabilities type of proposal or is there a specific research project you are seeking from applicants?***

Response:

This RFP is requesting a Technical Capability response. The CBC will be comprised of numerous Participants with varying skill sets and capabilities, when combined will meet all the needs of the CBC when fulfilling its mission. CBC projects will be determined by the Consortium. There will be opportunities for Participants to propose projects at multiple entry points into the CBC Drug

Discovery process as illustrated in Section C.2.b. Once a project is reviewed and accepted into the CBC, it will be managed under a CBC project team.

5. This question concerns section C.3.a.i: "Comprehensive Chemical Biology Screening Centers".

The RFP uses several different terms to refer to the small molecules to be delivered by the CBC. The referenced section refers specifically to a 'drug development lead'. In the industry, 'drug development' is considered to begin after a clinical candidate has been discovered and characterized. This would often include in vivo efficacy, dmpk studies, pk/pd studies, initial animal toxicology (7-day + MTD) and some characterization of formulation options. To arrive at a candidate, multiple compounds from within one or more chemical series are advanced through many of these assays (this is how the industry has successfully overcome most attrition due to dmpk issues in humans over the last decade). However, the sub-bullets (a-i) of this section do not include these assessments (although, perhaps bullet f. would include in vivo efficacy).

a) Is the deliverable a compound suitable for lead optimization to yield a clinical candidate – i.e. "a lead"?
b) Or, is it a clinical candidate?
c) If the deliverable is not a clinical candidate, where will the lead optimization take place?
d) And, if the deliverable is not a clinical candidate, how will all the necessary in vitro and in vivo assays be maintained during lead optimization?

Medicinal and synthetic chemistry expertise is required all the way through final candidate selection (and beyond for synthetic chemistry provision of drug substance) and it isn't clear from the RFP where this accountability will be placed - if it is within the "Comprehensive Chemical Biology Screening Centers" (or the "Chemical Diversity Centers"), then additional capabilities would be required versus those outlined in the RFP.

Response:

Your understanding of the drug discovery process is correct. The deliverable compound is a clinical candidate that has gone through the process of lead optimization. CBC Project Teams will take hits through lead optimization and eventually to clinical candidate. Since the deliverable is a clinical candidate, the targeted HTS assays will not be maintained unless needed by other CBC projects. However, some assays, such as in vitro ADME would be needed by most projects and would need to be maintained by the Center conducting the assay. The Project Team is responsible and accountable for the Medicinal Chemistry direction of the project. The additional required chemistry capabilities not listed in the RFP are the responsibility of the NCI; and the NCI may use other contractors to supply some of these services.

6. What is the difference between this RFP (S08-221) and the RFI (S08-181)?

Response:

This RFP is requesting a Technical Capability response. The CBC will be comprised of numerous Participants with varying skill sets and capabilities, which when combined will meet all the needs of the CBC when fulfilling its mission. CBC projects will be determined by the Consortium. The RFI was issued to determine interest in the community for the Consortium.

7. If we submit a proposal, will we be required to take work that is assigned, or can we propose to work on our own projects?

Response:

The technical and intellectual involvement in the CBC will be funded though Task Orders. Task Orders may be issued either as Sole Sourced to Centers that provide unique specializations or competed between Centers that offer similar capabilities. A Request for Quotation will be issued containing the Task Order statement of work, deliverables, and period of performance. Centers will respond to the RFQ with technical and cost proposals. The RFQ and corresponding technical

and cost proposals will be utilized to prepare a mutually agreed upon Task Order. Task Orders will be varying in value, duration and complexity.

There will be opportunities for Participants to propose projects at multiple entry points into the CBC Drug Discovery process as illustrated in Section C.2.b. Once a project is reviewed and accepted into the CBC, it will be managed under a CBC project team. This RFP is requesting a Technical Capability response. The CBC will be comprised of numerous Participants with varying skill sets and capabilities, which when combined will meet all the needs of the CBC when fulfilling its mission. CBC projects will be determined by the Consortium.

8. It is important to adhere to the separation of functions described in the three types of centers? We would like to focus on activities described for one of the centers, but have capabilities for all three. Can we propose to complete all the tasks for which we have extensive expertise?

Response:

Yes. The CBC will be comprised of Participants with diverse capabilities to meet all the requirements under all the Center types. It is important each Offeror provide a complete description of capabilities for all applicable areas in the Technical Response in the event that neither the other Centers, SAIC-F nor the NCI has those capabilities. When submitting a proposal, please be sure to specify how the requirements of each Center type are met.

9. I wanted to clarify that my understanding of the page limit for the Technical Proposal regarding Comprehensive Chemical Biology Screening Center is correct (RFP Attachment 3):

Section 0 – Baseline requirements – 15 pages
Section 1 – Capabilities/Expertise – 15 pages
Section 2 – Key Personnel – 8 pages
Section 3 – Past Performance – no page limit
Section 4 – facilities and Equipment – no page limit
Section 5 – Information Technology – 7 pages

Total page limit for sections 0, 1, 2, 5 = 45 pages; sections 3, 4 = no page limit.

Can you please confirm the above, as well as comment as to how "Baseline Requirements" (RFP Attachment 3) should be labeled in the Technical Proposal, and in the Table of Contents (RFP Attachment 2) where it currently is not noted.

Response:

The page count is correct. Please provide your response to the Baseline Requirements as described in RFP Attachment 3 prior to Section 1.

10. I read the RFP for Chemical Biology Consortium (CBC) with interest. However, I could not get any information about the application process. Could you kindly provide me with a document or a link that contains application information?

Response:

Section L (pgs 42-43) and RFP Attachments 1-3 provide the instructions for submitting a technical capabilities proposal in response to the Solicitation.

POSTED WITH THE RFP ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2008

ANTICIPATED CBC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What is the purpose of the program?

To advance NCI's mission of bringing novel therapies to patients, the Institute's highest priority in the area of drug development should be enhancing the entry of early stage drug candidates into the NCI therapeutics pipeline. It is envisioned that initiation of an NCI Chemical Biology Consortium (CBC) will provide cutting-edge chemical tools for probing complex signaling pathways and will serve as the starting point for the elaboration of first-in-class targeted therapies. We propose that the NCI support an integrated research consortium at the interface of chemical biology and molecular oncology that will, working with the NCI's Developmental Therapeutics Program, establish an iterative cancer drug discovery group on the scale of a small biotechnology concern. The goal of the CBC will be to focus on unmet therapeutic needs in oncology that are not currently addressed by the private sector. The long-term vision of the CBC is to bridge the gap between basic scientific investigation and clinical research supported by the NCI as the first step in re-establishing the NCI as a world leader in the area of innovative cancer therapeutics discovery.

2. What prompted NCI to pursue this program at this time?

NCI funding of extramural research in basic cancer biology has expanded significantly over the past 10 years. However, despite a significant investment in advanced technologies such as high-throughput screening, there remains an enormous need for innovative molecular drug discovery. Furthermore, looking across the full spectrum of therapeutic drug development at NCI, the weakest segment in the current program is the identification of new lead molecules. For the entire 50-year history of the NCI's Developmental Therapeutics Program, there has been a heavy reliance upon voluntary submission of molecules for testing. Thus, the current status of the NCI's drug discovery effort reflects a sustained lack of intensive focus and resources in the area of drug candidate identification and optimization. With the establishment of the CBC, the NCI plans to reinvigorate drug discovery and development at the NCI.

3. Is this program within the scope of NCI's purpose to support research?

Yes, the NCI is the primary agency for conducting the nation's cancer research. This program will complement other programs in discovery and development and the integrated process outlined in this proposal will allow NCI to maximize the return on its investment in molecular oncology over the past decade by consolidating and coordinating the essential chemical and biological technologies that are available and necessary for therapeutics development. This initiative will also streamline the therapeutics development workflow for chemists and biologists in academia and small business by enhancing the scientific infrastructure available to move their molecules along the entire drug development pipeline into first-in-human clinical trials. We believe that the NCI Chemical Biology Consortium will provide the new strategic approach that is required for NCI to re-establish itself as a world leader in anticancer drug discovery and development.

4. How does the CBC differ from the NIH Roadmap Molecular Libraries Screening Centers Network (MLSCN) and/or Molecular Libraries Probe Production Centers Network (MLPCN)?

The CBC will borrow some strategic elements from these NIH Roadmap Projects, but will consist of its own network of Centers. This network will provide the CBC with state-of-the-art facilities and scientific expertise to support CBC-related activities such as target identification, target prioritization/validation, HTS, lead identification and lead optimization. The CBC will focus on the discovery and development of new molecular targeted agents for cancer therapy instead of chemical probes to study genes, cells and biochemical pathways. However, some of these chemical probes could provide drug leads if the affected genes or pathways are important targets in molecular oncology.

5. How does the NCI anticipate managing inventions in the CBC?

The CBC Inventors/Institution would retain the patent rights to all inventions they make under the contract. The Government would retain the license provided under the Bayh-Dole Act which would allow the Government or an entity on behalf of the Government to practice the invention for Government purposes.

6. If the disposition of IP rights is determined by Bayh-Dole, how does the CBC provide an incentive to participate?

Data generated by the CBC will be a deliverable and will be accessible to other CBC members via a proprietary database. If the CBC Participants agree to bundle technology, they will have more leverage in dealing with industry. By choosing a single licensing leader, there is potential value and cost savings for smaller technology offices in pairing with institutions who have larger licensing offices with valuable (expertise and funding) resources to take the lead on licensing efforts.

7. If valuable technology is generated from the CBC, that has multiple owners in different institutions, it may be difficult to agree on a fair and equitable royalty sharing agreement. Individual members tend to argue that their contribution was the most important (and thus they deserve the lion's share of the royalties). How will this be mitigated?

Ideally, the market will take care of these issues, as the CBC will operate under a Bayh-Dole format. As such, there is no authority to impose a royalty sharing agreement amongst the members. However, the CBC will recommend the development of royalty funding plan that contains a clear (if not equal) division of royalty and arbitration of disputes by CBC members who do not have a fiduciary interest in the technology.

8. Many different funding mechanisms exist within NCI. Why was NCI-Frederick's prime contract with SAIC-Frederick, Inc., utilized to address the CBC procurement, rather than a grant, a cooperative agreement, or a government-issued contract?

NCI-Frederick, as a Federally Funded Research and Development Center, provides quick response and flexibility to meet the federal government's research and development goals that cannot be met effectively by other means. NCI-Frederick has extensive experience across the full spectrum of cancer research. NCI-Frederick's prime contractor, SAIC-Frederick, Inc. (SAIC-F), provides staff, operations management, and technical support.

9. What funding mechanism will SAIC-F use to facilitate the CBC?

The CBC is being procured by SAIC-F through BOAs/Task Order. Under a formal subcontract, the parties (SAIC-F and the successful organizations) shall be legally bound to various obligations, terms and conditions. If any obligation defined in the BOA is not met, the parties are afforded remedies, contractual and legal, to oblige compliance.

Successful organizations must adhere to all terms and obligations of the BOA and subsequent Task Orders, including, but not limited to, deliverable schedules, as well as invoicing and timekeeping requirements necessary to validate all reimbursable costs.

Signing an offer in response to the Request for Proposal (RFP) indicates a complete understanding of the requirements, and the implications of the BOA as a legal instrument governing this procurement.