

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS December 19th, 2008

PERIOD OF PROPOSAL SUBMISSION ENDS: 5:30 PM Wednesday, January 21st, 2009



The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission (hereafter "the Commission") invites submission of proposals to provide a one-time report addressing the potential health & public safety impacts of the use of Chinese-produced ingredients in the U.S. manufacture of pharmaceutical products, and dietary and nutritional supplements.

ABOUT THE COMMISSION. The Commission was established by Congress in 2000 to monitor and report to Congress on the economic and national security dimensions of the United States' trade and economic ties with the PRC. Further details about the Commission are available on its website at: www.ussec.gov.

ABOUT PROPOSALS. The Commission solicits proposals from contractors capable of providing a one-time report which would examine the potential health & safety impacts of the widespread and unregulated use of Chinese-produced ingredients in the manufacture by U.S. firms of pharmaceutical products, and dietary and nutritional supplements.

Key issues and questions to be addressed by the report are:

- Examine and explicate the extent to which Chinese-produced raw ingredients are employed in the manufacture of U.S. pharmaceutical products and dietary/nutritional supplements. Identify and explicate specific examples of such products, and identify the Chinese-produced ingredients that are most commonly incorporated into U.S. pharmaceutical and supplement products.
- Identify specific supplement and pharmaceutical ingredients on which the U.S. may now or soon be dependent on Chinese suppliers.
- Provide and explicate recent case study examples of health and safety problems caused by tainted, counterfeit, or otherwise unsafe Chinese-produced ingredients in medicines and supplement products (the 2008 cases of tainted heparin, etc.).
- Assess the state of the inspection and regulatory regimes in both China and the United States for ensuring the safety and integrity of raw ingredients incorporated into pharmaceutical and supplement products that are manufactured and/or marketed within the United States. Contrast these inspection and regulatory

regimes with those of other industrialized countries, and, as appropriate, recommend measures to improve their efficacy.

Additional Requirements of the Commission:

- Prior to responding to this RFP, the responding entity must be currently registered in the federal Central Contractor Registry (CCR), and it shall confirm its current registration in its proposal.

- Once a contractor has been selected for this project by the Commission and a contract signed, public notice of this will be made on the Commission's website.
- Once a contractor has been selected by the Commission and a contract signed, a draft of the report must be submitted to the Commission for review no later than 120 days from the date of contract confirmation. The Commission will then endeavor to provide comments and requests for adjustments within 30 days; subsequently, the final report must be submitted within 30 days of formal receipt of the Commission's comments.

- As work on the report progresses, the Commission's Research Coordinator shall act as a representative of the Commission in monitoring the progress, quality, and relevance of the report to the identified major issues of concern. The Research Coordinator shall, on request to the contractor, be entitled to informal briefings on the status of the research work and to readings of the draft in progress.

- The contract shall be subject to termination if the Commission deems that the work is of unsatisfactory quality.
- At the Commission's discretion, the report procured via this Request for Proposal may be posted on the Commission's website.
- Each organization or individual responding to this request must warrant that it/he/she will perform this work solely for the Commission, and that the resulting report will not be shared with other parties without the prior written consent of the Commission.

- The Commission expects contractors to identify all personnel working on the contract, and that there not be any delegation of responsibilities to other parties without prior approval of the Commission.

Primary Selection Criteria:

- The Commission will determine which organization or individual responding to this request will be awarded the contract based on a comprehensive "best value" analysis of the proposals received, to include costs, technical value, and ability to complete the work satisfactorily and on time.
- The primary weighting criterion in selection shall be the assessed qualifications and ability of an organization or individual to address the fundamental research points enunciated above ("issues and questions to be addressed by the report").
- The cost and amount of time necessary to complete the report will also be considered as criteria in the selection process.

Proposal submissions should include:

- A statement of the applicant's relevant qualifications to satisfy the terms of this request for proposals (RFP);

- An description of the research methodology the applicant proposes to employ;
- An estimate of the time the applicant will need to complete the required work;
- The price the applicant will charge to the Commission to complete the work set forth in this RFP.

Firms and individuals wishing to submit a proposal in response to this Request for Proposal must ensure that the response arrives at the following location by **5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 21st, 2009**, or it will not be accepted or considered.

Electronic submissions are acceptable. Proposals, as well as any other correspondence related to this matter, should be directed to:

John Dotson
 Research Coordinator
 U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission
 Hall of the States, Suite 602
 444 North Capitol Street, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20001
 phone: 202-624-1482
 jdotson@uscc.gov