



## **OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS**

Procurement Division, 1000 N. Central Street, Suite 100, Knoxville, TN 37917

### **Knox County Procurement Division Addendum I to Request for Proposals No. 3610 Forensic Genetic Genealogy Testing Services**

**Addendum Date: November 22, 2024**

**Buyer: Susan Colella**

**Closing Date: December 17, 2024 @ 2:00 P.M. EST**

**Total Page(s): 4**

The following is for clarification:

**Question 1.** Item #6: "Does your company utilize forensic grade genome sequencing?" It is our understanding that the term "forensic grade genome sequencing" is trademarked by the only [Company] lab in the United States authorized to use this term. (<https://uspto.report/TM/88602605>) As such, we would like to inquire whether this requirement excludes companies that do not utilize [Company] specific services. It seems that this requirement could inadvertently limit competition to just one provider, potentially making the RFP a sole-source contract.

**Answer 1.** No. Knox County would like to convey interest in finding a Vendor to identify unidentified human remains (UHR's) utilizing any SNP array available, including but not limited to WGS, microarray, Kintelligence, etc.

**Question 2.** Item #10: "Does your company have its own DNA database?" Similarly, we seek clarification on the requirement regarding the ownership of a DNA database. From our knowledge, [Company] is the only private lab in the U.S. with a proprietary DNA database, known as DNASolves. (<https://dnasolves.com/faq>) This database is not accessible to the public or other entities and the specifics of its contents remain undisclosed. This raises the question of whether companies that do not possess such a database, or do not utilize [Company's] database, are disqualified from meeting this requirement.

**Answer 2.** No, see the following amendments.

**Question 3.** It appears that only a select few labs in the U.S. are ISO 17025 accredited, and of these, only three employ in-house genealogists. As many genetic genealogy firms, including ours, outsource lab work to accredited labs while providing genealogical expertise independently, we are concerned that the criteria as written may exclude such firms from consideration.

**Answer 3.** Knox County will remove the ISO 17025 accreditation requirement.

**Question 4.** Can we submit our full pricing sheet in addition to the price list in this Bid?

**Answer 4.** Yes

**Question 5.** Can "Upload to a genealogical database" be made a separate line item?

**Answer 5.** No. Pricing should include all costs associated with the process of identifying UHR(s).



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**Question 6.** Do you only want WGS or can we provide other SNP testing options such as Kintelligence and SNP Array options?

**Answer 6.** No. Knox County would like to convey interest in finding a Vendor to identify unidentified human remains (UHR's) utilizing any SNP array available, including but not limited to WGS, microarray, Kintelligence, etc.

The following will be amended:

Removed:

**3.11** **EVALUATION CRITERIA:** This proposal will be evaluated using the following criteria:

Approach to Scope of Work	40 Points
Experience, Qualifications, Questionnaire and References	40 points
Cost	20 points

Amended to:

**3.11** **EVALUATION CRITERIA:** This proposal will be evaluated using the following criteria:

Approach to Scope of Work	40 Points
Experience, Qualifications and References	40 points
Cost	20 points

Removed:

Section 4.2.1, Definitions, please disregard "f", "ISO 17025 Accreditation" means a required standard for DNA Labs.

Removed:

**4.2.4** The Contractor shall create DNA Profiles from the extractions generating SNP profiles that can be uploaded into a Genealogical Database for comparison or a 1:1 comparison.

Amended to:

**4.2.4** The Contractor shall create DNA Profiles from the extractions generating viable SNP profiles, that can be uploaded to a Genealogical Database for comparison or a 1:1 comparison



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Removed:

4.2.10 In order to identify potential laboratories with the capability and the capacity to process these samples, the questionnaire was developed. Proposers are required to answer all questions in Attachment A. Failure to answer will be regarded as non-responsive and the proposal will not be considered.

Removed:

Section V, Tab V, please disregard: "Proposers must answer and submit Questionnaire (Attachment A)"

Removed:

### **TAB V**      **EXPERIENCE, QUALIFICATIONS & References (40 Points)**

Proposers are to detail the Vendor's experience relating to the services requested in this RFP, specifically:

- ~~Proposers must answer and submit Questionnaire (Attachment A)~~
- Proposers must submit references (Attachment C).
- Proposers must state the organization's number of years in business and provide a description of the organization to include office location(s).
- Proposers must identify the person(s) responsible for contracting services and location where the Contract authority resides.
- Proposers must describe the organization's experience with similar projects.
- Proposers must provide an example of a project(s) similar to the work requested in this RFP.
- Proposers must provide accreditation certifications as requested in this RFP.
- Proposers must provide information pertaining to lawsuit(s), reason for lawsuit(s) and outcome(s).

Amended to:

### **TAB V**      **EXPERIENCE, QUALIFICATIONS & References (40 Points)**

Proposers are to detail the Vendor's experience relating to the services requested in this RFP, specifically:

- Proposers must submit references (Attachment C).
- Proposers must state the organization's number of years in business and provide a description of the organization to include office location(s).
- Proposers must identify the person(s) responsible for contracting services and location where the Contract authority resides.
- Proposers must describe the organization's experience with similar projects.
- Proposers must provide an example of a project(s) similar to the work requested in this RFP.
- Proposers must provide accreditation certifications as requested in this RFP.
- Proposers must provide information pertaining to lawsuit(s), reason for lawsuit(s) and outcome(s).



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Removed:

Attachment A, Questionnaire, has been removed from this Request for Proposal No. 3610

End of Addendum I.

Please acknowledge Addendum I in your response.

*Susan Colletta*

Buyer