

**LDEQ ANSWERS TO PROPOSERS QUESTIONS**  
**RFP No. 2012-09-3501**  
**“Analytical and Consulting Services”**

LDEQ's answers to the following questions are intended to provide information to potential proposers questions to RFP No. 2012-09-3501.

Questions and answers that may potentially result in the disclosure of information from proposals of competing bidders will not be published.

**Question 1:** Names of countries that will be eligible to participate in this tender?

**LDEQ's answer:** This is open competition, not limited to companies based in any particular country(s). In accordance with RFP Part II, Section 2.1, any corporation must have a certificate of authority to transact business in Louisiana from the Louisiana Secretary of State.

**Question 2:** Estimated Budget for this Purchase?

**LDEQ's answer:** This information cannot be released during the advertisement period, as it could compromise the RFP process with regard to competitive price proposals.

**Question 3:** Any Extension of Bidding Deadline?

**LDEQ's answer:** Proposal due date and time are unchanged and remain as indicated in the RFP: June 28, 2012; 3:00 p.m. CST

**Question 4:** Any Addendum or Pre Bid meeting Minutes?

**LDEQ's answer:** This Question & Answer document is the only addendum. There was no pre bid meeting or minutes.

**Question 5:** Certification: The RFP states we must be LELAP certified for at least 75% of the items in the Schedule of Prices. Will it be acceptable to include as part of this 75% items for which we are NELAP certified by the State of California, as we can easily have items added to our LELAP certification that are already on our CA-NELAP certification? We would then provide a letter of intent to apply for items that appear on our CA-NELAP certification in addition to the items that are not currently included on our CA cert.

**LDEQ's answer:** For clarification of this sentence in the above question:

*"The RFP states we must be LELAP certified for at least 75% of the items in the Schedule of Prices."*

75% is in reference to Schedule of Prices A and B combined and Exhibits 1 and 2. The 75% does not include Schedule of Prices C and Exhibit 3.

In accordance with RFP Part III Proposal Preparation Instructions, Section 3.2.3 Scope of Services, Item (2) Performance of Project Tasks, second bullet, current LELAP certification is required for 75% of Schedule of Prices A and B combined and exhibits 1 and 2 (i.e., 481 out of 641 methods/analytes). The proposed use of current California NELAP certification at the time of proposal submission, to satisfy the compulsory 75% requirement, is **not** acceptable since no detailed LELAP scope of accreditation would be available to satisfy the RFP mandatory requirement. Per RFP Part IV Proposal Evaluation and Selection, Part 4.1 Evaluation Process, Item (3), disqualification shall occur if evidence of LELAP accreditation is not provided consistent with the above-referenced Section 3.2.3, which indicates at least 75% current LELAP accreditation.

Current CA-NELAP (or equivalent) certification could count toward meeting the required 85% method/analyte *performance* requirement (i.e., 545 out of 641 methods/analytes) indicated in RFP Part III Proposal Preparation Instructions, Section 3.2.3 Scope of Services, Item (2) Performance of Project Tasks, first bullet. This applies for those items that comprise the difference between the mandatory 75% current LELAP accreditation items and the mandatory 85% method/analyte performance items. The "Applied" or "Intent to Apply" options in the RFP are acceptable for items beyond the 75% (LELAP), necessary to achieve 85% (performance). The Department acknowledges that obtaining LELAP certification via recognition of current NELAP certification is a relatively easy process, however this applies to those items other than the required 75%.

**Question 6:** What effect will the method update rule of May 18<sup>th</sup> 2012 have on the test methods listed in this RFP and/or laboratory certification should the laboratory have to apply for certification?

**LDEQ's answer:** The Department issued a statement regarding the latest method update rule issued by EPA. Link to LDEQ press release: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/portals/0/news/pdf/NewEPAIabrulPR.pdf>.

This RFP will be evaluated using the current rule since the new rule will not be effective until June 18, 2012. If an alternate test method is proposed that was not included in the current rule but was added to the new rule, it will be evaluated as an acceptable alternate if the method complies with the LELAP accreditation requirements of the RFP. All methods that are to be included in the count for the above-referenced 75% must have C (current), and all methods beyond the 75% up to the above-referenced 85%, must have C (current), A (applied), or I (intent) status. Winning proposer(s) are expected to comply with LELAP requirements for transition to the new rule.