NEBRASKA STATE PATROL
INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

Date: January 30, 2024

From: Mike Yates

To: State Purchasing Bureau

Subject: RFI 8824 Questions & Answers

Below are the questions and answers received from vendors for RFI 8824.

Question: ***What capabilities do you require in for "semi-automated" liquid handling? Can you expand on this a bit more please? This info will help us more accurately quote you!***

Answer: We are looking for a system that handles as much of the sample preparation, such as pipetting and mixing of reagents as possible. We would like to load our samples and walk away from the instrument with as little pre-sample preparation as possible.

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1. Question: **What the automation workflows are, type of plates and making sure these are compatible with our robotics and if the automation request is feasible**
    a. *Based on the RFI; ELISAs and automated liquid handling are required. Could you clarify the types of plates and any other workflows you'd be running on the equipment?*
2. **The information of #1 will then allow us to fit the instrumentation to the customer's need which includes: types of instrumentation, amount of storage, etc.**
    a. *Do you have any parameters for space/size of the system?*

    Answer:

1. We have no specific automation workflows. No automatic data transfer.
2. Plates to be used are TBA. We are expecting that the ELISA plates would be provided by the vendor providing the liquid handling equipment.
3. Prefer equipment size to be table top. Prefer no larger than 48" long or deep, no taller than 48". That space preference does not include computer, printer or separate washer, developer. Size preference is approximate.
   Looking for one vendor who can provide all necessary equipment to perform totality of ELISA screening: liquid handling, reagents, consumables, chemicals, washer, developer, computer, printer. Do not want to purchase individual components from different vendors

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Questions:

1). Is the purpose of the automation to have a complete end to end process fully automated?
If not, what steps would the lab be willing to have a manual operator intervention?
2). The total number of case samples is 500 per year. How many total number of tests are performed on those 500 samples??
3). Are there any temperature requirements for heating or cooling on the samples or reagents?

4). Will you be using pre-coated plates for your ELISA tests or will the automation need to coat the plates, incubate and wash the plates?

Answers:

1. No, we do not require full automation. We just need to know which steps can be automated. We do not have a preference on which steps are automated.
2. We want to analyze all 500 case samples at least once for every assay listed in the provided table. We generally analyze case samples once per week, each assay one time per sample, unless a repeat is needed, plus calibrators, controls, and at least one blank. This equals approximately 15 – 50 tests per week, depending on whether retesting is required.
3. We are looking for a vendor who can supply all necessary equipment, reagents, chemicals, consumables, printer, computer, etc. to perform ELISA testing in totality, so any necessary incubation temperatures should be known by the vendor. We do not have required incubation temperatures to provide.
4. Again, we are looking for a vendor who can supply the ELISA plates as well as the other equipment, reagents, chemicals, consumables, etc., to perform the ELISA testing in totality. We do not require full automation of all steps, but we are hoping to identify a vendor who can provide the ELISA plates as well as the rest of the equipment.

Question:

Would you be willing to send us a defined workflow or protocol for the ELIZA's?

Answer:

We will be screening drugs of abuse in urine and blood samples.

Question:

1. Is inside delivery required (white glove service) or is delivery to a loading dock acceptable? Delivery to a loading dock would require Nebraska personnel to move the equipment (crated) from the loading dock to laboratory.

Answer:

We would expect inside delivery required for installation. We do not have a loading dock or forklift so delivery would have to be from a truck with a liftgate. We would expect the vendor to unpackage and install the instrument to the laboratory.

Question:

2. What level of service is being requested for year 2? What is you preferred service level, 1 day onsite response time or 3 day onsite response time?

Answer:

We would be acceptable to a 3 day onsite response time.