Posting Date: May 29, 2024

Closing Date: June 8, 2024 11:30 a.m. ET

Reference Number: 24-032623

To: NCI Bid Board

From: Viviane Rivera

NCI CCR P-ARC viviane.rivera@nih.gov

Subject: NCI Bid Board Posting – Identify biomarker signatures using non-coding RNAs in the Lung Chip model for different doses of radiation and time points

The National Cancer Institute (NCI), the Radiation Biology Branch research activities are focused on pre-clinical basic science research aimed at identifying and incorporating novel approaches to cancer treatment, evaluation, and prevention. A variety of approaches are evaluated at the molecular, biochemical, cellular, and physiological levels including the impact of the tumor microenvironment and metabolic mutations to improve cancer treatment. Intentional or accidental exposure of humans to ionizing radiation or a course of definitive radiation therapy can lead to cancer induction or second malignancies. Research studies are directed to identify interventions to delay or prevent radiation-induced cancer after the exposure has occurred. Emphasis is placed on gaining a better understanding of the mechanisms of cell killing and protection and the activation/inhibition of complex signaling pathways mediated by oxidative stress, including ionizing radiation, reactive oxygen species (ROS), and reactive nitrogen species (RNS).

The primary objective of this purchase is improve our understanding of how radiation injury can impact normal human liver. This data is important for protecting normal liver tissue in cancer patients after radiation and civilians exposed intentionally or accidentally to radiation.

The National Cancer Institute plans to purchase sets of mRNA, lncRNA and microRNA data sets to identify relevant signals for classification between radiation-injury responses from Deloitte Consulting LLP. This is not a request for competitive quotation. However, if any interested party believes it can meet the attached requirements, it may submit a statement of capabilities. The capability statement must be in writing and must contain information and material in sufficient detail to allow NCI to determine is the party can fully meet this requirement. The capability statement must be received in the contracting office by 11:30 AM on June 8, 2024. ET. A determination by the Government not to compete this requirement based upon responses to this notice is solely within the discretion of the Government. Information received will be considered solely for the purpose of determining whether to conduct a competitive procurement.

Sole Source Justification:

Market research included a web search conducted on March 15, 2024, using a combination of search terms "open source platform R to analyze the statistical significance of each microarray data point" which did not provide suitable alternative providers. The ROB continuously assesses the current technology available for analyzing statistical microarray data through scientific publications and interaction with experts and technical personnel from multiple manufacturers in the field through face-to-face meetings, conferences, phone, and email communication. Deloitte Consulting LLP is the only company that can provide the specialized service required to do the analysis for the signature development using RNA biomarkers. There are no known sources that meet the Deloitte Consulting LLP's expertise to do the analysis which is appropriate for the signature development using RNA biomarkers.

Attached Documents:

SF18

Statement of Work

FAR Clause 52.213-4 Simplified Acquisitions Terms and Conditions (JAN 2014) is applicable and available in full text upon request

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1.0 TITLE

Identify biomarker signatures using mRNA, microRNA (miRNA) and long noncoding RNA (lncRNA)in a Liver Quad Culture Chip model for different doses of radiation and time points.

2.0 BACKGROUND

RNA has been collected from a liver chip quad culture consisting of 4 cell types from (hepatocytes, liver sinusoidal endothelial cells, kuppfer cells and hepatic stellate cells) We will use the sets of mRNA, miRNA and lncRNA data sets to identify relevant signals for classification between radiation-injury responses and to understand pathway changes in cells after injury. We will examine the in vitro experimental data to understand signals important to identifying radiation injury in the organ chip model. This analysis will involve the development of an optimal model to distinguish between doses. This work will involve data cleaning, feature selection of relevant signals by using wrapper and filter algorithms. An analysis of differences in the response to different doses of radiation over time by examining sequenced cell-line data across four different cell types (hepatocyte, endothelial, Kupffer, and stellate) will be performed by Deloitte. In this task, Deloitte will use the raw sequencing data to identify differentially expressed genes between three radiation-injury response points across three different time points. This analysis will seek to identify top mRNA, lncRNA, and miRNA signals expressed within discrete time and dose categories. Additionally, Deloitte will analyze both mRNA and lncRNA signals for differentially expression as a linear function of time and dose, and within dose over time. This work will involve reprocessing the raw sequencing reads to obtain transcript and gene level quantification using modern bioinformatic tools. In addition to finalizing the lists of top up-and down-regulated genes for each cell type, RNA type, and dose group and time point as a discrete comparison, Deloitte LLP will develop final lists of top signals that have significant slopes when time and dose are treated as continuous variables. Deloitte LLP will also perform gene ontology analysis for the top signals across each cell and RNA type.

2.1 OBJECTIVE

The objective is identifying liver tissue specific biomarkers using RNAs to determine radiation exposure after mass-casualty incidents or to help with normal tissue injury in cancer patients. This could provide a valuable tool in developing and implementing effective and timely medical countermeasures.

3.0 SCOPE

1. Deloitte will use the sets of sequencing data to identify differentially expressed mRNAs, long non-coding RNAs and microRNAs between three radiation-injury responses: 1 Gy, 4 Gy, and 10Gy doses at different time points (6h, 24h and 7day).

- 2. This analysis will involve the development of linear models to evaluate differential expression between the different dose groups over 3 times points (6-hour, 24 hours, and 7 days) using data from multiple biological replicates
- 3. This work will involve cleaning and normalizing either the FPKM or read count data. If read counts are not available, the FPKM values will be log transformed and then a standard linear modeling approach to evaluate differential expression will be used with time and dose as the batch and treatment variables, respectively.
- 4. Radiation Oncology Branch representative will provide raw data files from sequencing experiment for the analysis

4.0. CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS/ AND PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS

The Contractor shall provide our laboratory with data cleaning services, and sophisticated data analysis services, including classifier development and population of our decision tree. Deloitte LLP staff bring an unusual depth of expertise in the physical and life sciences. Their basic science perspective is complemented by skills in qualitative and quantitative analytics as well as strong communication and research management skills.

The Contractor shall perform the following tasks:

- Data normalization
- standard linear modeling approach to evaluate differential expression with time and dose as the batch and treatment variables, respectively.
- Gene expression evaluation for developing gene signature.

3.1 <u>Project Management Plan</u>

The data files will be transferred within one week after the approval of the purchase. The length of the analysis process and discussions should be approximately 4 weeks; this will lead to the acceptance of the analysis criteria by the Project coordinator, Dr. Molykutty J Aryankalayil, Radiation Oncology Branch, NCI, NIH. E-mail: - aryankalayilm@mail.nih.gov Phone: -240 858 3002.

4.0 TYPE OF ORDER

This is a Firm fixed price purchase order

5.0 PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: 6/25/24- 9/24/24 3 MONTHS

Payments will be made within 45 days after Client has received an invoice. The Client shall review Deloitte's Consulting LLP's invoices for accuracy within 5 days of its receipt by Deloitte Consulting LLP. If an invoice is not disputed or rejected within 5 days of its receipt, it is deemed undisputed and payable to Deloitte Consulting LLP by the Client. Deloitte Consulting LLP agrees to retain financial records associated with this Agreement for an independent 3rd

party auditor and/or Government audit and review for a period of three years from the date of final payment.

6.0 PLACE OF PERFORMANCE

Deloitte Consulting LLP 1919 N. Lynn Street Arlington, VA 22209 USA

8.0 REPORT(S)/DELIVERABLES AND DELIVERY SCHEDULE

The contractor shall then perform the final statistical analysis and send the data to the project coordinator. This includes master list with both up and down regulated genes with fold change and p value, Gene Ontology classifications, Venn diagrams of different combinations and heat maps of our interest in actual CDs by FedEx. Will provide publication level quality figures on request. The files are also shared with us electronically.

1	Deliverable Table 1	Discrete comparisons across all cell types, RNA types, dose amounts, and time points	
2	Deliverable Table 2	Comparisons across all cell types and RNA types	
3	Deliverable Table 3	Pathway analysis and gene ontology analysis visualizations	

9.0 PAYMENT

Payment shall be made <u>(45 days after the award)</u>. Payment authorization requires submission and approval of invoices to the COR and NIH OFM, in accordance with the attached payment provisions listed below:

The following clause is applicable to all Purchase Orders, Task or Delivery Orders, and Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) Calls: PROMPT PAYMENT (JUL 2013) FAR 52.232-25. Highlights of this clause and NIH implementation requirements follow:

I <u>INVOICE REQUIREMENTS</u>

A. An invoice is the Contractor's bill or written request for payment under the contract for supplies delivered or services performed. A proper invoice is an "Original" which must include the items listed in subdivisions 1 through 12, below, in addition to the requirements of FAR 32.9. If the invoice does not comply with these requirements, the Contractor will be notified of the defect within 7 days after the date the designated billing office received the invoice (3 days for meat, meat food products, or fish, and 5 days for

perishable agricultural commodities, dairy products, edible fats or oils) with a statement of the reasons why it is not a proper invoice. (See exceptions under II., below.) Untimely notification will be taken into account in the computation of any interest penalty owed the Contractor.

- 1. Vendor/Contractor: Name, Address, Point of Contact for the invoice (Name, title, telephone number, e-mail and mailing address of point of contact).
- 2. Remit-to address (Name and complete mailing address to send payment).
- 3. Remittance name must match exactly with name on original order/contract. If the Remittance name differs from the Legal Business Name, then both names must appear on the invoice.
- 4. Invoice date.
- 5. Unique invoice #s for all invoices per vendor regardless of site.
- 6. NBS document number formats must be included for awards created in the NBS: Contract Number; Purchase Order Number; Task or Delivery Order Number and Source Award Number (e.g., Indefinite Delivery Contract number; General Services Administration number); or BPA Call Number and BPA Parent Award Number.
- 7. Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) or DUNS + 4 as registered in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR).
- 8. Federal Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN). In those exceptional cases where a contractor does not have a DUNS number or TIN, a Vendor Identification Number (VIN) must be referenced on the invoice. The VIN is the number that appears after the contractor's name on the face page of the award document.
- 9. Identify that payment is to be made using a three-way match.
- 10. Description of supplies/services that match the description on the award, by line billed.*
- 11. Freight or delivery charge must be billed as shown on the award. If it is included in the item price do not bill it separately. If identified in the award as a separate line item, it must be billed separately.
- 12. Quantity, Unit of Measure, Unit Price, Extended Price of supplies delivered or services performed, as applicable, and that match the line items specified in the award.*
- * NOTE: If your invoice must differ from the line items on the award, please contact the Contracting Officer before submitting the invoice. A modification to the order or contract may be needed before the invoice can be submitted and paid.
 - B. Shipping costs will be reimbursed only if authorized by the Contract/Purchase Order. If authorized, shipping costs must be itemized. Where shipping costs exceed \$100, the invoice must be supported by a bill of lading or a paid carrier's receipt.
 - C. Mail an original and 1 copy of the itemized invoice to:

National Institutes of Health Office of Financial Management, Commercial Accounts 2115 East Jefferson Street, Room 4B-432, MSC 8500

Bethesda, MD 20892-8500

For inquiries regarding payment call: (301) 496-6088

In order to facilitate the prompt payment of invoices, it is recommended that the vendor submit a photocopy of the invoice to the "Consignee" designated for the acquisition in blocks 6A - 6E of the face page of the Order/Award document.

II. INVOICE PAYMENT

- A. Except as indicated in paragraph B., below, the due date for making invoice payments by the designated payment office shall be the later of the following two events:
 - 1. The 30th day after the designated billing office has received a proper invoice.
 - 2. The 30th day after Government acceptance of supplies delivered or services performed.
- B. The due date for making invoice payments for meat and meat food products, perishable agricultural commodities, dairy products, and edible fats or oils, shall be in accordance with the Prompt Payment Act, as amended.

III. INTEREST PENALTIES

- A. An interest penalty shall be paid automatically, if payment is not made by the due date and the conditions listed below are met, if applicable.
 - 1. A proper invoice was received by the designated billing office.
 - 2. A receiving report or other Government documentation authorizing payment was processed and there was no disagreement over quantity, quality, or contractor compliance with a term or condition.
 - 3. In the case of a final invoice for any balance of funds due the contractor for supplies delivered or services performed, the amount was not subject to further settlement actions between the Government and the Contractor.
- B. Determination of interest and penalties due will be made in accordance with the provisions of the Prompt Payment Act, as amended, the Contract Disputes Act, and regulations issued by the Office of Management and Budget.

IV. PROVIDING ACCELERATED PAYMENT TO SMALL BUSINESS SUBCONTRACTORS, FAR 52.232-40 (DEC 2013)

a) Upon receipt of accelerated payments from the Government, the Contractor shall make accelerated payments to its small business subcontractors under this contract, to the maximum extent practicable and prior to when such payment is otherwise required under the applicable contract or subcontract, after receipt of a proper invoice and all other required documentation from the small business subcontractor.

b) The acceleration of payments under this clause does not provide any new rights under the prompt Payment Act.

Include the substance of this clause, include this paragraph c, in all subcontracts with small business concerns, including subcontracts with small business concerns for the acquisition of commercial items.