

**Request for Proposal (RFP)
Training Courses**

Forum on Laboratory Accreditation
Chicago, Illinois
January 2010

BACKGROUND

The NELAC Institute (TNI) is a not-for-profit scientific voluntary consensus organization engaged in research and development whose mission is to foster the generation of environmental data of known and documented quality.

TNI hosts a semi-annual meeting, the Forum on Laboratory Accreditation, where TNI's committees meet to continue their efforts to further establish national accreditation programs.

TNI is interested in contracting with organizations to provide training in the general areas of data quality and accreditation. Training should impart knowledge with the goal that the person being trained will achieve some level of self-sufficiency with regard to the subject matter.

Organizations may propose to provide the training for only one course, or for multiple courses. The courses will be offered in conjunction with the Forum on Laboratory Accreditation at the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

TRAINING COURSES

TNI is seeking organizations to provide formal training courses that can be anywhere from a half-day to a day and a half in length. In preparing the schedule for the 2010 Forum, the conference organizers have identified three potential times where formal training courses could be offered. These times are Monday afternoon, Thursday afternoon and any time on Friday. See the attached preliminary schedule for more information.

FURNISHED EQUIPMENT, PROPERTY, OR INFORMATION

The following items will be provided by TNI:

- Course advertising;
- Suitable room for providing the training at the hotel;
- LCD computer projector,
- Evaluation forms;
- Registration and collection of fees;
- Listing of registered attendees two weeks before the class and updates the morning of the first day of the class;
- Name badges for attendees; and
- Certificates.

DELIVERABLE REQUIREMENTS

Contractor shall supply documentation of attendance records, the agenda for the course and one copy of course materials provided to students. Contractor shall retain all intellectual property rights for the course materials.

PROPOSAL FORMAT

Interested contractors should prepare a formal proposal that briefly discusses how the contractor will achieve TNI's training objectives. The proposal should also include the following elements:

- A summary of what the training course will be;
- A course outline with a one or two sentence description of each item outlined;
- A summary of the contractor's general and specific experience including experience developing and presenting training courses; and
- A detailed cost proposal that satisfies the requirements specified in the pricing section below.

The proposal should not exceed 10 pages in length.

PROPOSAL DUE DATE

Proposals must be received at TNI by midnight EDT, September 7, 2009. Proposals shall be submitted by email to Jerry Parr at jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org.

SUBMISSION OF QUESTIONS

Bidders may direct questions regarding this solicitation to Jerry Parr at TNI no later than 1:00 p.m. EDT, September 3, 2009. Questions shall be submitted by email. Questions and answers that affect the bidding process will be made available to all organizations that have indicated they are planning to respond no later than 5:00 EDT, September 4, 2009. Since this is the only means that will be used to provide responses to questions or to amend the solicitation, applicants should inform TNI if they plan to provide a proposal.

PRICE

Nothing herein shall be construed to commit TNI to pay any costs incurred by bidders in connection with preparation of a proposal, or to guarantee the procurement of any services. All prices are to be in U.S. dollars. Contractor shall furnish and provide all material, labor, supervision, equipment, and incidentals required for accomplishing the work covered by the Contract, except the work, materials, services, or equipment to be furnished by TNI. The proposal should include any fees for instructor, materials, and instructor(s) travel being requested.

TNI and the contractor may mutually agree to cancel the class, if fewer than 10 students are registered by January 5, 2010, which is the deadline for early registration.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

TNI will review all proposals that are received by the deadline in accordance with the following criteria:

- Relevance of proposal to TNI's objectives and priorities;
- Technical merit;
- Competency of the proposed staff;

- Feasibility of the proposal;
- Adequacy of the applicant's resources; and
- Cost.

The anticipated award date for this contract is September 14, 2009.

PAYMENT TERMS

Net 45 days.

EXCEPTIONS, EXCLUSIONS, OR SPECIAL CONDITIONS

This solicitation permits the bidder to impose exceptions, exclusions, or special conditions. However, the bidder is hereby advised that any such exception, exclusion, or special condition may render your proposal non-responsive, which would preclude an award to you. Any exception, exclusion, or special condition the bidder wishes to include or impose must be fully and completely described in a written attachment to the Bidder's proposal.

ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSALS

TNI reserves the right to cancel this RFP or to not consider bids submitted in response to this solicitation.

2010 CHICAGO FORUM

Preliminary Schedule

Monday: 1/25

Welcome new attendees breakfast

8:30 – 12:00 **Opening Plenary**

- Keynote Address
- Report on TNI activities
- ELAB Presentation

1:30 – 5:00 Concurrent sessions

ELAB
Technical Assistance
Possible training course

Reception

Tuesday: 1/26

8:30 – 12:00 Concurrent sessions

Proficiency Testing (PT)
Assessment Forum
On-Site Assessment
TBA

1:30 – 5:00 Concurrent sessions

PT Board
SSAS Committee
Quality Systems
Assessment Forum

Wednesday: 1/27

8:30 – 12:00 Concurrent sessions

Accreditation Body
Website
NELAP
TBA

1:30 – 5:00 Concurrent sessions

LASC
Policy
NEFAP
TBA

Reception & Exhibit

Thursday: 1/28

8:30 – 12:00 Concurrent sessions

Mentor session
IAETL Meeting*
Advocacy

1:30 – 5:00 Concurrent sessions

BOD and Chairs
IAETL Meeting*
Possible training course

Friday: 1/29

Training Courses

* Illinois Association of Environmental Testing Laboratories