

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS
Invitation for Bid
for
Laboratory Testing of Gasoline and Diesel Fuel
for the
Petroleum Product Quality Assurance Program

**Notice of Change and
Questions and Answers**

Final 10/25/06

Notice of Change to Diesel Fuel CFPP Protocol.

The Department has decided to change the description of the CFPP test protocol on Page 4 of the IFB and will remove the parenthetical statement “(P/F at specified 10th percentile minimum temperature)”. Bidders are asked to bid on the CFPP test following ASTM D6371. The reported value for the test will be the highest fuel temperature in degrees C at which the fuel sample fails to pass through the filter within the allotted time.

Questions and Answers

1. **Q.** Can D5453 be substituted for D2622 gasoline sulfur in the Gasoline Full Protocol?
 - A. D2622 is the official method. We will accept D5453 as an alternative provided the laboratory maintains correlation with D2622 throughout the term of the contract. Any bidder wishing to make this substitution shall so indicate in the bid documents in Section 1.7 of the proposal concerning the facilities and test equipment.

2. **Q.** Regarding Cetane Number, can the lab substitute recently adopted D6890 in place of D613 for Cetane Number?
 - A. Presently D975-05a is the standard adopted in regulations for diesel fuel. The official method for Cetane in that standard is D613. Bidders shall prepare the bids based on D613. Should the State adopt a newer version of D975 in the future that includes D6890, we will consider invoking the clause that permits us to alter test protocols and renegotiate the price accordingly.

3. **Q.** Was the volume of samples tested consistent over the last six years?
 - A. Yes it was fairly consistent. For example, the number of gasoline samples actually tested in each of the previous five fiscal years (those readily available in our active database) is as follows: FY01/02 – 16,896, FY02/03 – 16,162, FY03/04 – 15065, FY04/05 15,784, FY05/06 – 16,157.

- 4. Q.** With a bid opening of October 31, when can we expect to begin the new contract?
- A.** The Department plans to begin the new contract on the first day of the first month after analysis of the bids, award of the contract, and final approval of the contract by the Comptroller. This will take at least two months and the earliest date could be January 1, 2007. As permitted in the standard contract, we are presently negotiating an extension with the present contractor to provide time for this transition.
- 5. Q.** Who should I contact with questions?
- A.** As indicated on page 1 of the IFB, you must submit technical questions in writing to Ross Andersen by October 23, 2006. The questions and answers document will be updated as additional questions are received and the final list will be posted by October 25, 2006. To comply with lobbying rules, all other questions or comments shall be directed as per page 17 of the IFB to Emma Graham or Judy Giovannetti.
- 6. Q.** Is the awarding of the contract subject to a pre-audit of the lab?
- A.** The IFB provides for an option for a site visit (pre-audit). If deemed necessary it will only serve to verify that information provided in the IFB was complete and accurate. Please refer to Stage 3 in the evaluation of bids section on page 14 of the IFB.
- 7. Q.** The Department has established goals for the participation of minority and women owned businesses in the contract resulting from this solicitation at 1% each. If the prime contractor is a women owned business, what percentage is that considered?
- A.** If the prime contractor is a woman owned business, and there is no subcontracting, that would be considered 100% participation in the women owned enterprise category. If there is subcontracting, the percentage of participation is determined by the dollar value of the subcontracts.