



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

## **University of North Carolina at Charlotte**

**Invitation for Bid #: 66-25017 WH**

**Complete Single Molecule TIRF Microscope System**

**Date Issued: Wednesday, November 20, 2024**

**Bid Opening Date: Tuesday, December 3, 2024**

**At 2:00 PM ET**

**Direct all inquiries concerning this IFB to:**

Wendy Helton

Senior Buyer

Email: [whelton2@charlotte.edu](mailto:whelton2@charlotte.edu)

Phone: 704-687-7328



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Invitation for Bids #

66-25017 WH

For internal State agency processing, including tabulation of bids, provide your company's eVP (Electronic Vendor Portal) Number. Pursuant to G.S. 132-1.10(b) this identification number shall not be released to the public. **This page will be removed and shredded, or otherwise kept confidential**, before the procurement file is made available for public inspection.

**This page shall be filled out and returned with your bid.  
Failure to do so shall be sufficient cause to reject your bid.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vendor Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vendor eVP #

Note: For a contract to be awarded to you, your company (you) must be a North Carolina registered vendor in good standing. You must enter the vendor number assigned through eVP (Electronic Vendor Portal). If you do not have a vendor number, register at <https://vendor.ncgov.com/vendor/login>

Electronic responses ONLY via eVP will be accepted for this solicitation.

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**University of North Carolina at Charlotte**

Refer <u><b>ALL</b></u> Inquiries regarding this IFB to: <b>Wendy Helton</b> <a href="mailto:whelton2@charlotte.edu">whelton2@charlotte.edu</a>	Invitation for Bids # 66-25017 WH
	Bids will be publicly opened: Friday, November 22, 2024, at 2:00 PM ET
Using Agency: University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNCC)	Commodity No. and Description: 4111712 Inverted Microscopes

**EXECUTION**

In compliance with this Invitation for Bids (IFB), and subject to all the conditions herein, the undersigned Vendor offers and agrees to furnish and deliver any or all items upon which prices are bid, at the prices set opposite each item within the time specified herein.

By executing this bid, the undersigned Vendor understands that false certification is a Class I felony and certifies that:

- this bid is submitted competitively and without collusion (G.S. 143-54),
- that none of its officers, directors, or owners of an unincorporated business entity has been convicted of any violations of Chapter 78A of the General Statutes, the Securities Act of 1933, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (G.S. 143-59.2), and
- it is not an ineligible Vendor as set forth in G.S. 143-59.1.

Furthermore, by executing this bid, the undersigned certifies to the best of Vendor's knowledge and belief, that:

- it and its principals are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal or State department or agency.

As required by G.S. 143-48.5, the undersigned Vendor certifies that it, and each of its sub-Contractors for any Contract awarded as a result of this IFB, complies with the requirements of Article 2 of Chapter 64 of the NC General Statutes, including the requirement for each employer with more than 25 employees in North Carolina to verify the work authorization of its employees through the federal E-Verify system.

As required by Executive Order 24 (2017), the undersigned vendor certifies will comply with all Federal and State requirements concerning fair employment and that it does not and will not discriminate, harass, or retaliate against any employee in connection with performance of any Contract arising from this solicitation.

G.S. 133-32 and Executive Order 24 (2009) prohibit the offer to, or acceptance by, any State Employee associated with the preparing plans, specifications, estimates for public Contract; or awarding or administering public Contracts; or inspecting or supervising delivery of the public Contract of any gift from anyone with a Contract with the State, or from any person seeking to do business with the State. By execution of this bid response to the IFB, the undersigned certifies, for Vendor's entire organization and its employees or agents, that Vendor are not aware that any such gift has been offered, accepted, or promised by any employees or agents of Vendor's organization.

By executing this bid, Vendor certifies that it has read and agreed to the **INSTRUCTION TO VENDORS** and the **NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS incorporated herein**. These documents can be accessed from the ATTACHMENTS page within this document.

**Failure to execute/sign bid prior to submittal may render bid invalid and it MAY BE REJECTED.**

**Late bids CANNOT and will NOT be accepted.**

COMPLETE/FORMAL NAME OF VENDOR:		
STREET ADDRESS:		P.O. BOX:
CITY, STATE & ZIP:		TELEPHONE NUMBER:
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE (SEE INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDORS ITEM #21):		
NAME OF PERSON SIGNING ON BEHALF OF VENDOR:		TITLE
VENDOR'S AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:	DATE:	E-MAIL:

Bid Number: 66-25017 WH

Vendor: \_\_\_\_\_

**VALIDITY PERIOD**

Offer shall be valid for at least sixty (60) days from date of bid opening, unless otherwise stated here: \_\_\_\_\_ days, or if extended by mutual agreement of the parties. Any withdrawal of this offer shall be made in writing, effective upon receipt by the agency issuing this IFB.

**BID ACCEPTANCE**

If your bid is accepted, all provisions of this IFB, along with the written results of any negotiations, shall constitute the written agreement between the parties (“Contract”). The NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS are incorporated herein and shall apply. Depending upon the Goods or Services being offered, other terms and conditions may apply, as mutually agreed.

<p><b><u>FOR STATE USE ONLY:</u></b> Offer accepted and Contract awarded this ____ day of _____, 2024, as indicated on the attached certification, by _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>(Authorized Representative of UNC Charlotte)</b></p>
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## 1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The purpose of this Invitation for Bids (IFB) is to seek competitive bids from qualified vendors to establish an Agency Contract to provide a complete single-molecule TIRF microscope system with training, installation and support. The system must contain a microscope, filters, solid state lasers, computer workstation with Slidebook license, environmental chamber, scanner, camera and other components listed in the specifications portion of this solicitation document. University and collaborator's labs include simultaneous live cell single-molecule tracking and require TIRF illumination, FRAP and photoactivation. This system will be custom-built for our lab's needs.

## 2.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

### 2.1 INVITATION FOR BID DOCUMENT

The IFB is comprised of the base IFB document, any attachments, and any addenda released before Contract award, which are incorporated herein by reference.

### 2.2 E-PROCUREMENT

**ATTENTION: NC E-Procurement does NOT apply to this solicitation and the paragraph entitled ELECTRONIC PROCUREMENT of the North Carolina General Terms and Conditions does NOT apply.**

### 2.3 NOTICE TO VENDORS REGARDING IFB TERMS AND CONDITIONS

It shall be the Vendor's responsibility to read the Instructions to Vendors, the North Carolina General Terms and Conditions, all relevant exhibits and attachments, and any other components made a part of this IFB and comply with all requirements and specifications herein. Vendors also are responsible for obtaining and complying with all Addenda and other changes that may be issued in connection with this IFB.

If Vendors have questions or issues, or exceptions regarding any component within this IFB, those must be submitted as questions in accordance with the instructions in the BID QUESTIONS Section. If the State determines that any changes will be made as a result of the questions asked, then such decisions will be communicated in the form of an IFB addendum. The State may also elect to leave open the possibility for later negotiation of specific provisions of the Contract that have been addressed during the question-and-answer period, prior to contract award.

Other than through this process or negotiation under 01 NCAC 05B.0503, the State rejects and will not be required to evaluate or consider any additional or modified terms and conditions submitted with Vendor's bid. This applies to any language appearing in or attached to the document as part of the Vendor's bid that purports to vary any terms and conditions or Vendors' instructions herein or to render the bid non-binding or subject to further negotiation. Vendor's bid shall constitute a firm offer that shall be held open for the period required herein ("Validity Period" above).

**The State may exercise its discretion to consider Vendor proposed modifications. By execution and delivery of this IFB Response, the Vendor agrees that any additional or modified terms and conditions, whether submitted purposely or inadvertently, shall have no force or effect, and will be disregarded unless expressly agreed upon through negotiations and incorporated by way of a Best and Final Offer (BAFO). Noncompliance with, or any attempt to alter or delete, this paragraph shall constitute sufficient grounds to reject Vendor's bid as nonresponsive.**

### 2.4 IFB SCHEDULE

The table below shows the *intended* schedule for this IFB. The State will make every effort to adhere to this schedule.

Event	Responsibility	Date and Time
Issue IFB	State	Wednesday November 20, 2024
Submit Written Questions	Vendor	Friday November 22, 2024, at 12:00 PM ET
Provide Responses to Questions	State	Tuesday November 26, 2024
Submit Bids	Vendor	Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 2:00 PM ET
Contract Award	State	TBD

## 2.5 BID QUESTIONS

Upon review of the IFB documents, Vendors may have questions to clarify or interpret the IFB in order to submit the best bid possible. To accommodate the Bid Questions process, Vendors shall submit any such questions by the "Submit Written Questions" date and time provided in the IFB SCHEDULE Section above, unless modified by Addendum.

Written questions shall be e-mailed to [whelton2@charlotte.edu](mailto:whelton2@charlotte.edu) by the date and time specified above. Vendors will enter "IFB #66-25017 WH: Questions" as the subject for the email. Question submittals will include a reference to the applicable IFB section.

Questions received prior to the submission deadline date, the State's response, and any additional terms deemed necessary by the State will be posted in the form of an addendum to the electronic Vendor Portal (eVP), <https://evp.nc.gov>, and shall become an Addendum to this IFB. No information, instruction or advice provided orally or informally by any State personnel, whether made in response to a question or otherwise in connection with this IFB, shall be considered authoritative or binding. Vendors shall rely *only* on written material contained in an Addendum to this IFB.

## 2.6 BID SUBMITTAL

**IMPORTANT NOTE: This is an absolute requirement.** Vendor shall bear the risk of late submission due to unintended or unanticipated delay, or technical issue. It is the Vendor's sole responsibility to ensure its bid has been received via the eVP as described in this IFB by the specified time and date of opening. The date and time of receipt will be electronically time stamped by the system when received. Any bid or portion thereof received or attempted to be submitted after the bid submission deadline will be rejected.

**Attempts to submit a bid via mail, courier, facsimile (FAX) machine, telephone or email in response to this IFB shall NOT be accepted.**

All bids shall be submitted electronically via the electronic Vendor Portal (eVP). Additional information can be found at the eVP updates for Vendors link: <https://eprocurement.nc.gov/news-events/evp-updates-vendors>. Bids will ONLY be accepted through the eVP and will NOT be accepted in any other format, including, but not limited to, email, facsimile, USPS, or courier.

Failure to submit a bid in strict accordance with these instructions shall constitute sufficient cause to reject a Vendor's bid(s). Vendors are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to upload bids.

Critical updated information may be included in Addenda to this IFB. It is important that all Vendors responding on this IFB periodically check the State's eVP website for any Addenda that may be issued prior to the bid opening date. All Vendors shall be deemed to have read and understood all information in this IFB and all Addenda thereto.

## 2.7 BID CONTENTS

Vendors shall populate all attachments of this IFB that require the Vendor to provide information and include an authorized signature where requested. Failure to provide all required items, or Vendor's submission of incomplete items, may result in the State rejecting Vendor's bid, in the State's sole discretion

Vendor IFB responses shall include the following items and attachments:

- a) Cover Letter, which must contain all of the following; (i) a statement that confirms that the Vendor has read the IFB in its entirety, including all links, and all Addenda released in conjunction with the IFB; (ii) a statement that the Vendor agrees to perform in accordance with the scope of work, requirements, and specifications contained herein; (iii) Vendor's agreement to comply with all instructions, terms and conditions, and attachments; and (iv) contact information for Vendor's representative responsible for this IFB.
- b) Completed and signed version of EXECUTION PAGES, and completed version of any pages requiring vendor input.



- c) Signed receipt pages of any addenda released in conjunction with this IFB, if required to be returned.
- d) Vendor Response: Section 4.4 Delivery and Installation, Section 4.5 Authorized Reseller, and Section 4.6 Warranty
- e) Completed version of ATTACHMENT A: PRICING FORM
- f) Completed version of ATTACHMENT D: HUB SUPPLEMENTAL VENDOR INFORMATION
- g) Completed version of ATTACHMENT E: CUSTOMER REFERENCE FORM
- h) Completed version of ATTACHMENT F: LOCATION OF WORKERS UTILIZED BY VENDOR
- i) Completed and signed version of ATTACHMENT G: CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL CONDITION
- j) Completed and signed version of ATTACHMENT H: VENDOR REQUEST FOR EO50 PRICE-MATCHING, if applicable

## 2.8 ALTERNATE BIDS

Unless provided otherwise in this IFB, Vendor may submit alternate bids for comparable Goods, various methods or levels of Service(s), or that propose different options. Alternate bids must specifically identify the IFB requirements and advantage(s) addressed by the alternate bid. Any alternate bid, in addition to the marking described above, must be clearly marked with the legend: "Alternate Bid #66-25017 WH [for 'name of Vendor']". Each bid must be for a specific set of Goods and Services and must include specific pricing. If a Vendor chooses to respond with various offerings, each must be offered with a separate price and be contained in a separate bid. Each bid must be complete and independent of other bids offered.

## 2.9 DEFINITIONS, ACRONYMS, AND ABBREVIATIONS

Relevant definitions for this IFB are provided in 01 NCAC 05A .0112 and in the Instructions to Vendors referenced below which are incorporated herein by this reference.

## 3.0 METHOD OF AWARD AND BID EVALUATION PROCESS

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### 3.1 METHOD OF AWARD

North Carolina G.S. 143-52 provides a general list of criteria the State shall use to award contracts, as supplemented by the additional criteria herein. The Goods or Services being procured shall dictate the application and order of criteria; however, all award decisions shall be in the State's best interest.

All responsive bids will be reviewed, and award or awards will be based on the responsive bid(s) offering the lowest price that meets the specifications to include any required verifications set out herein such as but not limited to past performance, references, and financial documents.

While the intent of this IFB is to award a Contract(s) to a single Vendor for all line items/portions, the State reserves the right to make separate awards to different Vendors for one or more line items/portions, to not award one or more line items/portions, or to cancel this IFB in its entirety without awarding a Contract, if it is considered to be most advantageous to the State to do so.

If a Vendor selected for award is determined by the State to be a non-resident of North Carolina, all responsive bids will be reviewed to determine if any of them were submitted by a North Carolina resident Vendor who requested an opportunity to match the price of the winning bid, pursuant to Executive Order #50 and G.S. 143-59 (for more information, please refer to ATTACHMENT H: VENDOR REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE ORDER #50 PRICE MATCHING. If such bid(s) are identified, the State will then determine whether any such bid falls within the price-match range, and, if so, make a Contract award in accordance with the process that implements G.S. 143-59 and Executive Order #50.

The State reserves the right to waive any minor informality or technicality in bids received.

### 3.2 CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROHIBITED COMMUNICATIONS DURING EVALUATION

While this IFB is under evaluation, the responding Vendor, including any subcontractors and suppliers, is prohibited from engaging in conversations intended to influence the outcome of the evaluation. See the Paragraph 29 of the Instructions To Vendors entitled COMMUNICATIONS BY VENDORS.

Each Vendor submitting a bid to this IFB, including its employees, agents, subcontractors, suppliers, subsidiaries and affiliates, is prohibited from having any communications with any person inside or outside the using agency; issuing agency; other government agency office or body (including the purchaser named above, any department secretary, agency head, members of the General Assembly and Governor's office); or private entity, if the communication refers to the content of Vendor's bid or qualifications, the content of another Vendor's proposal, another Vendor's qualifications or ability to perform a resulting contract, and/or the transmittal of any other communication of information that could be reasonably considered to have the effect of directly or indirectly influencing the evaluation of proposals, the award of a contract, or both.

Any Vendor not in compliance with this provision shall be disqualified from evaluation and award. A Vendor's bid may be disqualified if its subcontractor and/or supplier engage in any of the foregoing communications during the time that the procurement is active (*i.e.*, the issuance date of the procurement until the date of contract award or cancellation of the procurement). Only those discussions, communications or transmittals of information authorized or initiated by the issuing agency for this IFB or inquiries directed to the purchaser named in this IFB regarding requirements of the IFB (prior to proposal submission) or the status of the award (after submission) are excepted from this provision.

### 3.3 BID EVALUATION PROCESS

Only responsive submissions will be evaluated.

**The State will conduct an evaluation of responsive Bids, as follows:**

Bids will be received according to the method stated in the Bid Submittal section above.

All bids must be received by the issuing agency not later than the date and time specified in the IFB SCHEDULE Section above, unless modified by Addendum. Vendors are cautioned that this is a request for offers, not an offer or request to contract, and the State reserves the unqualified right to reject any and all offers at any time if such rejection is deemed to be in the best interest of the State.

At the date and time provided in the IFB SCHEDULE Section above, unless modified by Addendum, the bids from each responding Vendor will be accessed via eVP and all offers (except those that have been previously withdrawn, or voided bids) will be tabulated. The tabulation shall be made public as soon as reasonably practical after the date and time of opening. When negotiations after receipt of bids is authorized pursuant to G.S. 143-49 and 01 NCAC 05B.0503, only the names of offerors and the Goods and Services offered shall be tabulated at the time of opening. Interested parties are cautioned that these costs and their components are subject to further evaluation for completeness and correctness and therefore may not be an exact indicator of a Vendor's pricing position.

At their option, the evaluators may request oral presentations or discussions with any or all Vendors for clarification or to amplify the materials presented in any part of the bid. Vendors are cautioned, however, that the evaluators are not required to request presentations or other clarification—and often do not. Therefore, all bids should be complete and reflect the most favorable terms available from the Vendor. Prices bid cannot be altered or modified as part of a clarification.

Bids will generally be evaluated, based on completeness, content, cost and responsibility of the Vendor to supply the requested Goods and Services. Specific evaluation criteria are listed in Section 3.1 METHOD OF AWARD.

Upon completion of the evaluation process, the State will make Award(s) based on the evaluation and post the award(s) to **the eVP website** under the IFB number for this solicitation. Award of a Contract to one Vendor does not mean that the other bids lacked merit, but that, all factors considered, the selected bid was deemed most advantageous and represented the best value to the State.

The State reserves the right to negotiate with one or more Vendors, or to reject all original offers and negotiate with one or more sources of supply that may be capable of satisfying the requirement, and in either case to require Vendor to submit a Best and Final Offer (BAFO) based on discussions and negotiations with the State.

### 3.4 PERFORMANCE OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

Vendor shall complete ATTACHMENT F: LOCATION OF WORKERS UTILIZED BY VENDOR. In addition to any other evaluation criteria identified in this IFB, the State may also consider, for purposes of evaluating proposed or actual contract performance outside of the United States, how that performance may affect the following factors to ensure that any award will be in the best interest of the State:

- a) Total cost to the State
- b) Level of quality provided by the Vendor
- c) Process and performance capability across multiple jurisdictions
- d) Protection of the State's information and intellectual property
- e) Availability of pertinent skills
- f) Ability to understand the State's business requirements and internal operational culture
- g) Particular risk factors such as the security of the State's information technology
- h) Relations with citizens and employees
- i) Contract enforcement jurisdictional issues

### 3.5 INTERPRETATION OF TERMS AND PHRASES

This IFB serves two functions: (1) to advise potential Vendors of the parameters of the solution being sought by the State; and (2) to provide (together with other specified documents) the terms of the Contract resulting from this procurement. The use of phrases such as "shall," "must," and "requirements" are intended to create enforceable contract conditions. In determining whether bids should be evaluated or rejected, the State will take into consideration the degree to which Vendors have proposed or failed to propose solutions that will satisfy the State's needs as described in the IFB. Except as specifically stated in the IFB, no one requirement shall automatically disqualify a Vendor from consideration. However, failure to comply with any single requirement may result in the State exercising its discretion to reject a bid in its entirety.

## 4.0 REQUIREMENTS

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This Section lists the requirements related to this IFB. By submitting a bid, the Vendor agrees to meet all stated requirements in this Section, as well as any other specifications, requirements, and terms and conditions stated in this IFB. If a Vendor is unclear about a requirement or specification or believes a change in a requirement would allow for the State to receive a better bid, the Vendor is encouraged to submit these items in the form of a question during the question and answer period in accordance with the Bid Questions Section above.

### 4.1 PRICING

Bid price shall include the total price for each item, including shipping, delivery, handling, administrative and other similar fees. Assembly and set-up at the State's location shall be shown as an additional line price for each applicable item. Complete ATTACHMENT A: PRICING FORM and include in Vendor's response.

### 4.2 PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

#### SUITABILITY FOR INTENDED USE

Vendors are requested to offer only items directly complying with the specifications herein or comparable items which will provide the equivalent capabilities, features and diversity called for herein. The State reserves the right to evaluate all bids for suitability for the required use and to award the one best meeting requirements and considered to be in the State's best interest.

#### 4.3 TRANSPORTATION AND IDENTIFICATION

The Vendor shall deliver Free-On-Board (FOB) Destination to the University with all transportation costs and fees included in the total bid price.

When an order is placed using a purchase order, the purchase order number shall be shown on all packages and shipping manifests to ensure proper identification and payment of invoices. A complete packing list shall accompany each shipment. Vendors shall not ship any products until they have received an order.

#### 4.4 DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION

The Vendor shall deliver Free-On-Board (FOB) Destination to the following location(s):

Address will also be noted on the Purchase Order.

UNC Charlotte – Woodward Hall  
8812 Craver Road  
246 (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)  
Charlotte, NC 28223

Vendor shall complete delivery within ninety (90) consecutive calendar days after receipt of purchase order.

Delivery shall not be considered to have occurred until installation has been completed. Upon completion of the installation, the Vendor shall remove and properly dispose of all waste and debris from the installation site. The Vendor shall be responsible for leaving the installation area clean and ready to use.

#### 4.5 AUTHORIZED RESELLER

The Vendor shall be authorized by the manufacturer to distribute or resell the products and/or maintenance offered in this IFB. The Vendor shall provide a signed statement from the manufacturer confirming authorization upon request from the State. Failure to provide this statement shall constitute sufficient grounds for rejection of Vendor's offer, at the discretion of the State.

Vendor is the: ☐ Manufacturer ☐ Dealer ☐ Reseller ☐ Distributor

Authorized: ☐ Yes ☐ No Attached Manufacturer's Authority: ☐ Yes ☐ No

#### 4.6 WARRANTY

Manufacturer's standard warranty shall apply. Vendors shall include a copy of the manufacturer's standard warranty with the bid response.

The report of a problem does not presuppose that every call must result in an "on-site" visit for service/repair. The Vendor and/or service sub-contractor shall utilize best efforts to resolve problems in a timely fashion by using acceptable servicing methods to include, but not limited to, verbal problem analysis and remote diagnosis. The warranty requirement does not impose any additional duty on the State to make other than normal and good faith problem resolution efforts or expenditures of time. Vendor shall be responsible for compliance with warranty terms by any third-party service provider. Vendor shall provide contact information for warranty service provider, below.

Vendor is authorized by manufacturer to repair equipment offered during the warranty period? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Will the Vendor provide warranty service? ☐ YES ☐ NO, a manufacturer-authorized third party will perform warranty service.

**Contact information** for warranty service provider:

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Bid Number: 66-25017 WH

Vendor: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person (name): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person (phone number): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person (email): \_\_\_\_\_

#### **4.7 MAINTENANCE OPTION**

Following expiration of the above warranty, Vendor, or its third-party service provider, shall maintain the system specifications and performance level in accordance with the manufacturer's published specifications and those of this IFB. Maintenance shall include all parts, remedial maintenance labor, travel and living expenses incurred. Except as specifically provided for elsewhere herein, coverage shall be at least for 8:00 am ET to 5:00 pm ET, Monday through Friday, except State recognized holidays and shall include a minimum of two (2) preventive and safety maintenance inspections per year. The State shall have the option to accept the maintenance coverage in this paragraph at the price offered in ATTACHMENT A: PRICING of this IFB, if applicable.

#### **4.8 DESCRIPTIVE LITERATURE**

##### **DESCRIPTIVE LITERATURE/CERTIFICATION**

Each bid shall be accompanied by complete descriptive literature, specifications, certifications, and all other pertinent data necessary for thorough evaluation of the item(s) offered and sufficient to determine compliance of the item(s) with the specifications. Failure to include such information shall be a sufficient basis for rejection of the bid.

#### **4.9 HUB PARTICIPATION**

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute G.S. 143-48, it is State policy to encourage and promote the use of small, minority, physically handicapped, and women contractors in purchasing Goods and Services. As such, this IFB will serve to identify those Vendors that are minority owned or have a strategic plan to support the State's Historically Underutilized Business program by meeting or exceeding the goal of 10% utilization of diverse firms as 1st or 2nd tier subcontractors. Vendor shall complete ATTACHMENT D: HUB SUPPLEMENTAL VENDOR INFORMATION.

#### **4.10 REFERENCES**

Vendors shall provide three (3) references, using ATTACHMENT E: CUSTOMER REFERENCE FORM, for which your company has supplied the equipment offered. The State may contact these users to determine quality level of the offered equipment; as well as, but not limited to user satisfaction with Vendor performance. Information obtained may be considered in the evaluation of the bid.

#### **4.11 VENDOR'S REPRESENTATIONS**

If the bid results in an award, Vendor agrees that it will not enter any agreement with a third party that may abridge any rights of the State under the Contract. If any Services, deliverables, functions, or responsibilities not specifically described in this solicitation are required for Vendor's proper performance, provision and delivery of the Service and deliverables under a resulting Contract, or are an inherent part of or necessary sub-task included within such service, they will be deemed to be implied by and included within the scope of the contract to the same extent and in the same manner as if specifically described in the Contract. Unless otherwise expressly provided herein, Vendor will furnish all of its own necessary management, supervision, labor, facilities, furniture, computer and telecommunications equipment, software, supplies and materials necessary for the Vendor to provide and deliver the Services and/or other Deliverables.

#### **4.12 FINANCIAL STABILITY**

As a condition of contract award, the Vendor must certify that it has the financial capacity to perform and to continue to perform its obligations under the Contract; that Vendor has no constructive or actual knowledge of an actual or potential legal proceeding being brought against Vendor that could materially adversely affect performance of this Contract; and that entering into this Contract is not prohibited by any contract, or order by any court of competent jurisdiction

Each Vendor shall certify it is financially stable by completing the ATTACHMENT G: CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL CONDITION. The State is requiring this certification to minimize potential performance issues from contracting with a Vendor that is financially unstable. This Certification shall be deemed continuing, and from the date of the Certification to the expiration of the Contract, the Vendor shall notify the State within thirty (30) days of any occurrence or condition that materially alters the truth of any statement made in this Certification.

#### 4.13 AGENCY INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS MODIFICATION

A. Default Insurance Coverage from the General Terms and Conditions applicable to this Solicitation:

- ☐ Small Purchases
- ☒ Contract value in excess of the Small Purchase threshold, but up to \$1,000,000.00
- ☐ Contract value in excess of \$1,000,000.00

## 5.0 PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

### SPECIFICATIONS

The below specifications and requirements are drawn around product which the State has evaluated and determined that the size, construction, design layout, special features and performance are necessary. Vendors are requested to offer only comparable TIRF Microscope System which will provide the features and performance needed and implied.

#### A: EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS

##### 1. Microscope System:

- **Inverted Research Grade TIRF Microscope:** Motorized research-grade inverted microscope stands featuring a harmonic focusing drive, binocular observation tube, and two 10x eyepieces. Requires selection of nosepiece and camera port.
- **Definite Focus 3 Motorized Autofocus Nosepiece for Microscope:** Infrared LED camera-based autofocus designed for multi-hour, multi-position time-lapse experiments. Includes a motorized 6-position DIC nosepiece and a visible light beam combiner.
- **Motorized Left and Right-Side Camera Ports for Microscope:** Configurable light path selectable as 100% left side camera port, 100% right side camera port, or 100% eyepieces. Includes two C-mounts.
- **Transmitted Light Pillar with LED Lamphouse for Microscope:** Features a field diaphragm, a 3-position filter changer, and a TTL-triggerable white light LED; requires condenser.
- **Long Working Distance Condenser Manual for Microscope:** A 6-position manual turret with open position, DIC I and II prisms, and Ph0, Ph1, and Ph2 positions. Equipped with a manual aperture diaphragm, NA 0.35, and a working distance of 70 mm.
- **Epi-Fluorescence Cube Turret for Microscope motorized:** Accepts up to six filter cubes.
- **Motorized X, Y Stage for Microscope:** Flat top stage with 120 mm x 75 mm travel, rack mount controller, joystick control, and universal slide/dish holder.
- **Microscope Mounting Kit, Metric and Imperial Tables:** Includes support rails and spacers for adjustable height configurations.

##### 2. Widefield Epifluorescence:

- **Microscope Filter Cube for Cy5 - LED:** Specific filter for Cy5 excitation.
- **Microscope Filter Cube for DAPI - LED:** Specific filter for DAPI excitation.
- **Microscope Filter Cube for GFP - LED:** Specific filter for GFP excitation.
- **Microscope Filter Cube for mCherry - LED:** Specific filter for mCherry excitation.

- **X-Cite XYLIIS White Light LED Source, UV385:** Includes a 3m liquid light guide, collimator for microscopes, and is optimized for a 385 nm UV LED.

### 3. Objective Selection:

- **Plan-Apochromat 20x/0.8NA Objective, M27:** Designed for applications requiring a working distance of 0.55 mm.
- **Alpha Plan-Apochromat 100x/1.46NA Oil TIRF Objective, M27:** Optimized for TIRF applications with a working distance of 0.11 mm. Includes high-performance coverslips and Immersol 518F.
- **C Plan-Apochromat 63x/1.4NA Oil Objective, M27:** Designed for applications requiring a working distance of 0.14 mm.

### 4. Laser Selection:

- **405nm 200mW:** Solid-state laser with controller, beam combining optics, and cleanup filter.
- **488nm 200mW:** Solid-state laser with controller, beam combining optics, and cleanup filter.
- **561nm 200mW:** Solid-state laser with controller, beam combining optics, and cleanup filter.
- **638nm 200mW:** Solid-state laser with controller, beam combining optics, and cleanup filter.
- **TTL Synchronization:** Includes PCIe cards and USB adapter for control.
- **LaserStack Base:** Accepts up to six lasers with control electronics and CDRH compliance.

### 5. PC, Acquisition Software, and VIT Table:

- **Computer Workstation 7960 Pro:** High-performance workstation equipped with Intel Xeon processor, NVIDIA GPU, and extensive memory and storage options.
- **Add 128GB RAM to Computer Workstation 7960:** Expansion for enhanced computational capabilities.
- **Add Two Front NVMe Drive Bays to Computer Workstation 7960:** Additional drive bays for expanded storage.
- **Dell M.2 NVMe Drive Tray:** Required for installing M.2 NVMe SSDs.
- **Logitech K845 Mechanical Illuminated Keyboard:** Features adjustable tilt and backlighting options.
- **8TB NVMe M.2 Solid State Drive (PCIe Gen4):** High-capacity storage solution.
- **Software Full Online License:** Comprehensive microscopy software for instrument control, image processing, and data analysis.
- **Super-Resolution Particle Tracking Module for Software:** Includes tools for sub-resolution particle identification and tracking.
- **PALM/STORM Module for Software:** Includes tools for PALM/STORM analysis.
- **Rapid 4D Streaming Module:** Enables high-speed 3D image capture over time.
- **Software Child Offline License:** For offline data analysis.
- **Vibration Isolation Table CleanBench 900x1200:** Features a smooth laminated top with tapped holes for equipment mounting.
- **Lab-Grade Computer and Accessories Table (LabCAT):** Designed for mounting control chassis and providing workspace.
- **34" WQHD Curved USB-C Thunderbolt™ 4 Monitor:** High-resolution monitor with multiple input options.

#### 6. Environmental Chamber - Temperature Control:

- **Stage Top Incubator with Temperature Control:** Designed for precise temperature regulation during experiments.
- **Sample Chamber for Stage Top Incubators - K-Frame SLIM:** Includes temperature controller and user interface.
- **35 mm Petri Lid for Perfusion:** Designed for connecting perfusion tubing.
- **Stage Top Sample Chamber K-Frame Riser:** Allows use of thicker multiwell plates.
- **Sample Insert for Two 35mm Dishes and One 1"x3" Slide:** Compatible with multiwell plate holders.

#### 7. TIRF and FRAP:

- **TIRF Illuminator and Photomanipulation High-Speed Point Scanner for microscope:** Laser-based point scanner for TIRF illumination and photomanipulation techniques.
- **Filter Set for 405/488/561/640 Excitation:** Includes filter cube and emission filters.
- **Beamsplitter Mirror 20R/80T:** Provides 20% reflection and 80% transmission.
- **Filter Wheel 6-Position High Speed:** Holds up to six filters with rapid change time.

#### 8. Dual EM-CCD Camera for TIRF - Simultaneous Acquisition:

- **iXon3 888 Ultra 1Kx1K 30MHz EMCCD Camera:** Features 13  $\mu\text{m}$  pixels, low operating temperature, and USB3 interface.
- **Camera Mounting Kit with Rotation Control:** Supports camera rotation and locking.
- **Empty Filter Cube for OptoSplit II:** Dovetail-less mount for compatibility.
- **TwinCam Two-Camera Splitter:** Splits emission signal to two detectors with calibration cube.
- **OptoSplit II and TwinCam Filter Set for Cy3/Cy5:** Includes specific filters for emission.
- **OptoSplit II and TwinCam Filter Set for GFP/Cy5:** Includes specific filters for emission.
- **Training to be provided by Vendor**

#### 9. System Maintenance Agreement – 5 Years:

- Covers software updates
- Service visits to troubleshoot hardware failures
- Unlimited phone/email support
- Annual preventive maintenance visit
- One year warranty against manufacturer defects for hardware

#### 10. Additional Specifications

- Illumination device with multiple modes for TIRF, including spinning/ring TIRF, fixed-point TIRF, HILO illumination, and critical angle illumination.
- Supports Fluorescence Recovery After Photobleaching (FRAP) and Photoactivation (PA) of user defined regions of interest using any of the lasers available in the laser launch.
- Single fiber setup for both TIRF and FRAP/PA illumination.
- User-selectable apozier for switching between maximum intensity and uniform flat-field illumination.
- Fully integrated system with camera control, laser control, and TTL synchronization.



**11. Training**

- Provide comprehensive training in microscopy techniques and related software: This includes instruction on operating the customized single-molecule TIRF microscopy system, as well as training on specialized software for data acquisition, image analysis, and data management. Training should cover system calibration, troubleshooting common issues, and advanced imaging techniques to enable users to effectively track and analyze single molecules within live cells.

**B: CRITICAL PARAMETERS**

The customized single-molecule TIRF microscopy system must meet the following specifications:

- During live-cell single-molecule tracking of individual HaloTag-fused epigenetic factors in mouse embryonic stem cell nuclei, using HILO illumination at a frame rate of 200 frames per second with a 5-millisecond camera integration time, the fluorescence signal of detected single particles must be at least three times higher than the background noise.
- The system must achieve a response time and data storage interval of less than 1 millisecond between frames.

**5.2 CERTIFICATION AND SAFETY LABELS**

All manufactured items and/or fabricated assemblies subject to operation under pressure, operation by connection to an electric source, or operation involving a connection to a manufactured, natural, or LP gas source shall be constructed and approved in a manner acceptable to the appropriate state inspector which customarily requires the label or re-examination listing or identification marking of the appropriate safety standard organization; such as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers for pressure vessels; the Underwriters Laboratories and /or National Electrical Manufacturers' Association for electrically operated assemblies; or the American Gas Association for gas operated assemblies, where such approvals of listings have been established for the type of device offered and furnished. Further, all items furnished shall meet all requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), and state and federal requirements relating to clean air and water pollution.

**5.3 DEVIATIONS**

The nature of all deviations from the Specifications listed herein shall be clearly described by the Vendor. Otherwise, it will be considered that items offered by the Vendor are in strict compliance with the Specifications provided herein, and the successful Vendor shall be required to supply conforming goods. Deviations shall be explained in detail on an attached sheet. However, no implication is made or intended by the State that any deviation will be acceptable. Do not list objections to the North Carolina General Terms and Conditions in this section.

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**6.0 CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION**

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All Contract Administration requirements are conditioned on an award resulting from this solicitation. This information is provided for the Vendor's planning purposes

**6.1 CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

The State encourages the Vendor to identify opportunities to reduce the total cost to the State. A continuous improvement effort consisting of various ideas to enhance business efficiencies as performance progresses.

## **6.2 INVOICES**

The standard format for invoicing shall be Single Invoices meaning that the Vendor shall provide the University with an invoice for each order. Invoices shall include detailed line-item information to allow the University to verify pricing at point of receipt matches the correct price from the original date of order.

**INVOICES MAY NOT BE PAID UNTIL AN INSPECTION HAS OCCURRED AND THE GOODS ACCEPTED.**

## **6.3 DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

During the performance of the Contract, the Parties agree that it is in their mutual interest to resolve disputes informally. Any claims by the Vendor shall be submitted in writing to the State's Contract Manager for resolution. Any claims by the State shall be submitted in writing to the Vendor's Project Manager for resolution. The Parties shall agree to negotiate in good faith and use all reasonable efforts to resolve such dispute(s).

During the time the Parties are attempting to resolve any dispute, each shall proceed diligently to perform their respective duties and responsibilities under this Contract. The Parties will agree on a reasonable amount of time to resolve a dispute. If a dispute cannot be resolved between the Parties within the agreed upon period, either Party may elect to exercise any other remedies available under the Contract, or at law. This provision, when agreed in the Contract, shall not constitute an agreement by either party to mediate or arbitrate any dispute.

## **6.4 PRODUCT RECALL**

Vendor expressly assumes full responsibility for prompt notification to the Buyer listed on the face of this IFB of any product recall in accordance with the applicable state or federal regulations. The Vendor shall support the State, as necessary, to promptly replace any such products, at no cost to the State.

## **6.5 CONTRACT CHANGES**

Contract changes, if any, over the life of the Contract shall be implemented by contract amendments agreed to in writing by the State and Vendor. Amendments to the contract can only be made through the contract administrator.

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7.0 ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A: PRICING FORM

Complete and return the Pricing associated with this IFB. The Pricing Form is a separate document that is captioned ATTACHMENT A: PRICING FORM and can be found at the end of this IFB.

FURNISH AND DELIVER

ITEM	QTY.	UOM	DESCRIPTION	UNIT COST	TOTAL EXTENDED COST
1.	1	Each	TIRF system per Section 5.0 above.  Make: _____  Model: _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

TOTAL BID AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*IMPORTANT NOTICE\*\***

**RETURN THE REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS WITH YOUR RESPONSE**

EACH ATTACHMENT CAN BE ACCESSED FROM THIS LINK:

<https://www.doa.nc.gov/divisions/purchase-contract/vendor-forms>

**ATTACHMENT B: INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDORS**

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The Instructions to Vendors are incorporated herein by this reference.

**ATTACHMENT C: NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS**

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The North Carolina General Terms and Conditions are incorporated herein by this reference.

**ATTACHMENT D: HUB SUPPLEMENTAL VENDOR INFORMATION**

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Complete and return the Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) Vendor Information form.

**ATTACHMENT E: CUSTOMER REFERENCE FORM**

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Complete and return the Customer Reference form.

**ATTACHMENT F: LOCATION OF WORKERS UTILIZED BY VENDOR**

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Complete and return the Location of Workers Utilized by Vendor form.

**ATTACHMENT G: CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL CONDITION**

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Complete, sign, and return the Certification of Financial Condition form.

**ATTACHMENT H: VENDOR REQUEST FOR EO50 PRICE-MATCHING**

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Complete, sign, and return the Vendor Request for EO50 Price-Matching.

**\*\*\* Failure to Return the Required Attachments May Eliminate  
Your Response from Further Consideration \*\*\***