



Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
2812 S. Business Highway 281
New Administration Building
Edinburg, Texas 78539
(956) 318-2626/ Fax: (956) 318-2629

MEMORANDUM

(Approval of Specifications)

TO: Eddie Olivarez, Director
Hidalgo County Health Department

Attn: Josie Escalante, Adm. Asst.

FROM: Sandra Montalvo, Buyer II
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department

DATE: May 17, 2012

RE: Approval of Modified Specifications for: Bid No. -2012-137-00-00-SMA- Hidalgo County Health and Human Services --"Laboratory Services for Diagnosing Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Infection

Please review the following modifications and indicate if they meet all your requirements by selecting APPROVE, DISAPPROVE and signing below. If your answer is DISAPPROVE, please make any modifications necessary to the specifications and return the revised copy to the designated Buyer in the Purchasing Department.

If you have any questions, please call me at (956) 318-2626 ext# 4865.

APPROVE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DISAPPROVE <input type="checkbox"/>
APPROVED WITH MODIFICATIONS <input type="checkbox"/>	

FUNDS AVAILABILITY: X YES / _____ NO/ _____ Other(Specify) _____

BUDGET ACCOUNT #: 2-1293-441-00-340-008-2-339

	<u>Eddie Olivarez</u>	<u>Health + Human Serv</u>	<u>5/22/12</u>
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE	PRINT NAME	DEPARTMENT	DATE

SUBMIT THIS FORM TO THE HIDALGO COUNTY PURCHASING DEPARTMENT, VIA FAX TO (956) 292-7612 or e-mail: sandra.montalvo@co.hidalgo.tx.us by no later than Friday, May 18, 2012 @ 3:00 P.M.

Enclosures

Bid No.: 2012-137-00-00-SMA

Buyer: Sandra Montalvo

Tel. No: (956) 318-2626

REQUEST FOR BIDS

HIDALGO COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

“Laboratory Services for Diagnosing Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Infection”

BID OPENING DATE: _____, 2012 @ 9:30 A.M.

Contact Person:

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
2802 S. Business Highway 281 - New Administration Building
Edinburg, Texas 78539



1. Sealed bids will be received for **“HIDALGO COUNTY HEALTH and HUMAN SERVICES-“Laboratory Services for Diagnosing Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Infection””** in accordance with the specifications attached as Exhibit "A" hereto. Bids should address all specifications set forth. Bidders may suggest substitutions of features which they feel would be in the best interest of Hidalgo County ("County"). Strong rationale must be presented for any deviation from the specifications. Hidalgo County reserves the right to reject the deviation and its effect on the overall bid.
2. **One (1) original and Three (3) copies** of all bids are required with the bidders name and return address clearly typed/printed on upper left hand corner and the proper notation clearly typed/printed on the lower left hand corner of the envelope and/or package: **"BID NO.: 2012-137-00-00-SMA-“HIDALGO COUNTY HEALTH and HUMAN SERVICES-“Laboratory Services for Diagnosing Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Infection””** and in County's Purchasing Department, 2802 S. Business Hwy 281, New Administration Building, Edinburg, Texas, **on or before 9:30 a.m., WEDNESDAY, , 2012.**

NO FACSIMILES OR LATE ARRIVALS WILL BE ACCEPTED. ANY RFB RECEIVED AFTER THAT TIME WILL NOT BE OPENED AND WILL BE RETURNED. OVERNIGHT MAIL MUST ALSO BE PROPERLY LABELED ON THE OUTSIDE OF EXPRESS ENVELOPE OR PACKAGE WITH REFERENCE TO **REQUEST FOR BIDS-2012-137-00-00-SMA-“HIDALGO COUNTY HEALTH and HUMAN SERVICES-“Laboratory Services for Diagnosing Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Infection””**

Hidalgo County reserves the right to refuse and reject any/all RFB and to waive any/all formalities or technicalities, or to accept the RFB considered the best and most advantageous to Hidalgo County.

3. Hidalgo County reserves the right to: A. separate and accept, or eliminate any item(s) listed under this bid that it deems necessary to accommodate budgetary and/or operational requirements; B. reject any or all bids submitted and further reserves the right to design the evaluation criteria to be used in selecting the lowest and best bid for approval; and C. award the bid to one bidder or to multiple bidders if the County determines it is in its best interest to do so.”
4. The Bidder shall not substitute items named in the bid without the express written consent of Hidalgo County. Failure of the delivered item to perform as specified or failure to meet the stated delivery schedule shall release Hidalgo County from all obligations to the contracting party with regard to the item(s) in question. In such event, County may elect to award the contract to the next-lowest responsible bidder, or to reject all bids and re-advertise.
5. For work to be performed at a County owned or operated location, each bidder shall, in its sole discretion, visit the job site before preparing the bid and thoroughly familiarize himself/herself with existing conditions. Bidder should take field dimensions and note all circumstances which affect the dollar amount of the bid.
6. Descriptive specifications are referenced in this document to indicate the general kind and quality of equipment desired by Hidalgo County. Due to various styles and models of equipment, bidders are required to include illustrations, specifications, explanation of warranties, and service data with their bid including catalogue numbers and any necessary references.

7. No bid may be withdrawn within thirty (30) days from the scheduled time to open bids.
8. Proposed prices are to remain firm for a minimum of ninety (90) days after bid opening.
9. Any interpretations, amendments, corrections or changes to this bid document must be in a written addendum and signed by the County Judge or his designee. Addenda will be mailed to all who are known to have received a copy of the Request for Bids. Bidders shall acknowledge receipt of all addenda as a part of their bid.
10. County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.
11. Costs are to be net F.O.B., County Prepaid.
12. County is exempt from Federal Excise Tax, State Tax and Local Tax. Do Not include tax in cost figure. If it is determined that tax was included in the cost figures it will not be included in the tabulation of any awards. Tax exemption certificates will be furnished upon request.
13. Funds for this procurement have been provided through the County budget for this fiscal year only. County, on an annual basis, has the right to reconsider a contract during the budget process for ensuing years if financial resources of County are insufficient to meet the liabilities of said contract. The award of a bid or contract hereunder will not be construed to create a debt of the County which is payable out of funds beyond the current fiscal year.
14. Upon award and prior to execution of a contract, Sole Proprietorships are required to submit a copy of their social security cards to the Hidalgo County Auditor's Office in order to establish an account with the County. All awarded vendors must submit a completed W-9 and a copy of their Federal ID Number Certificate.
15. **DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS:**
 - No deliveries accepted after 3:00 P.M., Monday-Friday.
 - At least seventy two (72) hours prior notice of delivery must be given to Martha L. Salazar, Purchasing Agent before delivery will be accepted.
 - If you need additional information call the office listed below:

Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
Martha L. Salazar, Purchasing Agent
(956) 318-2626

16. **BILLING AND PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Invoices must include:
 - a) Name and address of successful bidder
 - b) Name and address of receiving department or official
 - c) Purchase Order and Contract Number (if any)
 - d) Notation-“**HIDALGO COUNTY HEALTH and HUMAN SERVICES-“Laboratory Services for Diagnosing Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Infection”**” Descriptive information as to the items or services delivered, including product code, item number, quantity, etc.
- Discount payments will be considered when offered.
- Contact person for Billing and Payment questions:

Ray Eufrazio, Auditor
 Hidalgo County Auditor’s Office
 2808 South Business Hwy 281
 Edinburg, Texas 78539
 ATTN.: Accounts Payable
 (956) 318-2511

17. **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Bid Opening, 9:30 AM		_____ , 2012
Award of Contract		_____ 2012
Commence Work or Deliver Products		_____ , 2012

18. **BID OR PERFORMANCE BOND AND DEBARMENT CERTIFICATION; PAYMENT UNDER CONTRACT (if applicable):**

- If the contract proposed is for the construction of public works or is for a contract for goods & services exceeding \$100,000, all bidders shall furnish a good and sufficient bid bond in the amount of five percent of the total contract price. A bid bond must be executed with a surety company authorized to do business in Texas. All bidders are also required to furnish a certification or acknowledgment stating that the contractor or vendor is free from suspension or debarment pursuant to federal regulation 45CFR Part 76.
- Together with the signing of a contract or issuance of a purchase order following the acceptance of a bid, and prior to commencement of the actual work, the bidder shall furnish a performance bond to the County for the full amount of the contract, if that contract exceeds \$50,000.
- If the contract is for \$50,000 or less, no money will be paid to the contractor until completion and acceptance of the work or the fulfillment of the purchase obligation to the County, and, if applicable, the receipt by County of satisfactory evidence that all subcontractors and material men have been paid.
- If a contract is for the construction, alteration or repair of public buildings or public works, the contractor *shall* provide a payment bond for a contract in excess of Twenty Five Thousand

Dollars (\$25,000.00), as required by Tex. Govt. Code Ch. 2253.

- For requirements contracts, bond requirements are determined by applying the proposed unit price to the estimated quantities included in the specifications.

19. **ETHICAL STANDARDS:**

- It shall be a breach of ethics to offer, give or agree to give any elected official, department head or employee, or former elected official, department head or employee, of the County, or for any elected official, department head or employee or former elected official, department head or employee of the County, to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, entity or organization, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation or any part of a program requirement or purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing, or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract, or to any solicitation or proposal therefore pending before any department or agency of the County.
- It shall be a breach of ethics for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor for any contract for the County, or any person associated therewith, as an inducement for the award of a subcontract or order.
- No public official shall have an interest in a contract awarded hereunder except in accordance with Tex. Loc. Govt. Code Chapter 171.

20. **DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

- Effective January 1, 2006, Chapter 176 of the Texas Local Government Code requires that any vendor, person, consultant or contractor considering doing business with Hidalgo County (“the County”) to disclose in the Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (the “CIQ”) attached as Exhibit D, the vendor, person, consultant or contractor’s affiliation or business relationship that might cause a conflict of interest with the County. By law, the CIQ must be filed with the Hidalgo County Clerk’s Office no later than the seventh business day after the date the person becomes aware of facts that require that statement to be filed. The disclosure requirement applies to a person or business who contracts or seeks to contract with Hidalgo County for the sale or purchase of property, goods or service. Any purchase order or contract resulting from this process shall be considered null and void if the successful bidder fails to comply with Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176. Vendors, consultants, contractors and others who desire to conduct business with Hidalgo County are encouraged to refer to Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176 for the details of this law. An offense under Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176 is a Class C Misdemeanor.

Please Submit completed CIQ forms to the Hidalgo County Clerk’s Office located at 100 N. Closner, Edinburg, Texas 78539-Hidalgo County Courthouse
COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION OF FORM CIQ IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROSPECTIVE BIDDER.

21. If, during the life of any contract or bid awarded, the successful bidder's net prices generally available to other customers for items awarded herein are reduced below the contracted price, it is understood and agreed that the benefits of such reduction shall be extended to County.
22. Bids, and all goods and services provided thereunder, shall comply with all federal, state and local laws concerning this type(s) of goods and/or services.
23. Minimum Standards for Responsible Prospective Bidders: A prospective bidder must affirmatively demonstrate bidder's responsibility. A prospective bidder, by submitting a bid, represents to County that it meets the following requirements:
 - Possess or is able to obtain adequate financial resources as required to perform under the bid;
 - Be able to comply with the required or proposed delivery schedule;
 - Have a satisfactory record of performance;
 - Have a satisfactory record of integrity and ethics;
 - Be otherwise qualified and eligible to receive an award.
24. Successful bidder will pay or cause to be paid, without cost or expenses to County, all FICA, FUTA/SUTA and Federal Income Withholding Taxes of all employees, and all wages and benefits as required by Federal or State law. Successful bidder's officers, agents and/or employees will not be entitled to any benefits of an employee or elected official of County, including, but not limited to, benefits associated with County's civil service system.
25. Any contract award to a successful bidder will be in effect until (a) the contract expires, (b) delivery and acceptance of products, and/or performance of services ordered, or (c) terminated by County with thirty day's written notice prior to cancellation.
26. County reserves the right to enforce performance of any contract awarded hereunder in any manner prescribed by law or deemed to be in the best interest of the County in the event of breach or default by successful bidder; County reserves the right to terminate any contract immediately in the event a successful bidder fails to:
 - A. Meet schedules;
 - B. Pay any required fees or taxes; or
 - C. Otherwise perform in accordance with the specifications.
27. Successful bidder shall defend, indemnify and save harmless County and all its elected officials, officers, agents and employees from all suits, actions, or other claims of any character, name and description brought for or on account of any injuries or damages received or sustained by any person, persons, or property on account of any negligent act or fault of the successful bidder, or of any agent, employee, subcontractor or supplier of successful bidder in the execution of, or performance under, any contract which may result from bid award or which arises from any event or casualty happening on or within County premises themselves or happening upon or in any halls, elevators, entrances, stairways or approaches of or to such County facilities. Successful bidder shall pay any judgment with costs which may be obtained against County growing out of such injury or damages, and shall, upon request, provide a defense to County by counsel reasonably acceptable to County. Successful bidder's indemnity hereunder shall include, but is not limited to, claims relating

to patent, copyright or trademark infringement, and the like, arising out of the goods and services provided by successful bidder.

28. Successful bidder shall warrant that all items/services shall conform to the specifications and/or all warranties provided under the Uniform Commercial Code and be free from all defects in material, workmanship and the like. Items supplied under a contract pursuant to this Request for Bids shall be subject to County's approval. Items found to be defective or not meeting specifications shall be replaced by successful bidder within two business days at no expense to County. Items not picked up within one (1) week after notification shall be deemed a donation to County and may be used or disposed of at County's discretion and without waiver of any other rights of County as to the item's nonconformity.
29. This document and any disputes arising hereunder shall be governed and construed according to the laws of the State of Texas, and will be performable exclusively in Hidalgo County, Texas.
30. The successful bidder shall not assign, sell, transfer or convey its rights under any awarded contract, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of County.

Bid
for

HIDALGO COUNTY HEALTH and HUMAN SERVICES
“Laboratory Services for Diagnosing Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Infection”

To: Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
2802 S. Business Hwy 281 – New Administration Building
Edinburg, Texas 78539

In accordance with the Specifications, and subject to all laws and regulations of the United States and state and local laws, the undersigned bidder proposes and commits to furnish all labor, equipment, material, software and services as set forth in the documents hereinbefore mentioned. The undersigned bidder further agrees, upon acceptance of its bid, to execute a contract and/or Purchase Order issued by Hidalgo County for performing and completing the work described in the Specifications within the time stated and for the prices proposed in the documents attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Bidder acknowledges receipt of all of the pages of the documents referenced in the Invitation to Bid Checklist presented in connection with this procurement. Bidder understands that Hidalgo County reserves the right to reject any or all bids and further reserves the right to design the evaluation criteria to be used in selecting the lowest and best bid.

Bidder agrees that this bid shall be good and may not be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) calendar days after the scheduled closing time for receiving bids, as contained in the Specifications.

Respectfully submitted,

Bidder: _____
Address: _____
By: _____
Printed Name: _____
Title: _____

EXHIBIT “A”

SPECIFICATIONS/REQUIREMENTS

Hidalgo County Health and Human Services

“Laboratory Services for Diagnosing Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Infection”

RFB No.: 2012-137-00-00-SMA

SCOPE:

Hidalgo County Health and Human Services is seeking bidder(s) that can adequately demonstrate that they have the resources, experience and qualifications necessary to provide ***“Laboratory Services for blood test for Diagnosing Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Infection”*** in a timely manner; ensure that such services meets the county standards; ensure quality, yet be cost effective.

SPECIFICATIONS/REQUIREMENTS, TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

The following are the minimum requirements and/or specifications that will be acceptable to the Hidalgo County Health and Human Services. These requirements and/or specifications must be equal or better, including, but not limited to, the following:

- 1) Hidalgo County Health and Human Services and TB Program are requesting to contract a qualified Medical Laboratory vendor to provide the TB Program with a lab test that will aid in diagnosing mycobacterium tuberculosis infection.
 - 2) The lab test will aid the TB program while conducting investigations of Tuberculosis exposures. The blood test will require a single patient visit to conduct the test. The results should be available within twenty-four (24) hours.
 - 3) The vendor shall provide qualified, trained personnel and certified licensed facilities for the laboratories services.
 - 4) Specimens will be collected by Hidalgo County Health and Human Services Staff.
 - 5) Provide at least 2 (two) accessible lab locations to refer patients for collection if specimen cannot be collected by Hidalgo County Health and Human Services staff (i.e. Weslaco, Edinburg, McAllen). Laboratory will be responsible for delivery/processing of such specimens when necessary.
 - 6) Electronic Lab results are required.
 - 7) Lab must schedule and provide pick up service or shipping and handling cost should be included for all specimens from each clinic location on a daily basis at Hidalgo County Health -Pulmonary Clinic, 1304 South 25th St., Edinburg, Tx 78542
 - 8) All certificates, licenses, etc. for laboratory to operate in the State of Texas are required and copies must be submitted with bid. (*Including but not limited to Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) 1988 certification*)
 - 9) Hidalgo County Health and Human Services has the authority to utilize State Contracts from its membership with their existing or new cooperatives whenever it is in the County’s best interest to do so.
 - 10) This service will be on an **“As Needed Basis”**, there are no set quantities to be requested only approximations.
-

- 11) The initial contract term for this project will be for one (1) year with the County's option to extend for an additional two (2) one (1) year term.
- 12) Hidalgo County Health and Human Services reserves the right to continue this bid for an additional sixty (60) day grace period, under the same rates, terms and conditions at the end of the contract term for unforeseen delays in award of new bid for the next contract term.
- 13) Insurance Requirements for this project to be maintained throughout the contract term (Refer to limits on the Exhibit "C" for limits).
- 14) Hidalgo County Health and Human Services reserves the right to award to one (1) or multiple vendors whichever is more valuable to the County.
- 15) Hidalgo County reserves the right to reject any/all bids, to waive any/all formalities or technicalities, or to accept the bid considered the best and most advantage to the County.
- 16) All bid prices for items shall take into consideration shipping and handling costs and any other items mentioned on specifications as part of the fixed item price.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- 1) All costs and expenses associated with the preparation and submission of bids shall be the responsibility of the bidder and no reimbursement for such charges or expenses shall be passed onto Hidalgo County.
- 2) Hidalgo County is requesting that any and all questions, inquiries and clarifications regarding quotes, bids, proposals or statements of qualifications be addressed to, Sandra Montalvo, Buyer II, via-email sandra.montalvo@co.hidalgo.tx.us Physical: 2802 S. Business Hwy. 281 Postal/Mailing: 2812 S. Business Hwy. 281, New Administration Building, Edinburg, Texas 78539. **TELEPHONE INQUIRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
- 3) **ALL WRITTEN INQUIRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED VIA FACSIMILE NO LATER THAN, [REDACTED], 2012, by 5:00 P.M. Responses to said inquiries will be sent to all applicants via facsimile by no later than [REDACTED] 2012 by 5:00 p.m.**

From: [Martha Salazar](mailto:Martha.Salazar@co.hidalgo.tx.us)
To: "[rocio.villarreal](mailto:rocio.villarreal@co.hidalgo.tx.us)"; "[Sandra Montalvo](mailto:Sandra.Montalvo@co.hidalgo.tx.us)"
Subject: FW: C-12-137-00-00-Laboratory Services for Diagnosing Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Infection
Date: Thursday, May 24, 2012 3:33:40 PM

From: Steve Crain [<mailto:scrain@atlashall.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 3:21 PM
To: 'Martha Salazar'
Subject: RE: C-12-137-00-00-Laboratory Services for Diagnosing Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Infection

The form agreement is OK.

From: Martha Salazar [<mailto:martha.salazar@co.hidalgo.tx.us>]
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 2:25 PM
To: 'Steve Crain'
Cc: 'rocio.villarreal'; 'Sandra Montalvo'
Subject: FW: C-12-137-00-00-Laboratory Services for Diagnosing Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Infection
Importance: High

Mr. Crain:
Please review, correct and comment as to form.
Marty

From: rocio.villarreal [<mailto:rocio.villarreal@co.hidalgo.tx.us>]
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 2:11 PM
To: 'Martha Salazar'
Cc: 'Sandra Montalvo'
Subject: C-12-137-00-00-Laboratory Services for Diagnosing Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Infection
Importance: High

Ms. Marty,

Please forward attached draft agreement to legal for approval as to form. Thank you.



From: Sandra Montalvo [<mailto:sandra.montalvo@co.hidalgo.tx.us>]
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 8:25 AM
To: 'rocio.villarreal'
Subject: HIDALGO CTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES-LABORATORY SERVICES FOR DIAGNOSING

MYCROBACTERIUM TUBERCULOSIS INFECTION RFB NO. 2012-137 SMA

Importance: High

Rocio,

I need a draft contract. It's a new project and department needs the contract by no later than August 31,2012. So pleeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee I need it.

A side of your major contracts.

Thank you,

Sandra Montalvo, Buyer II

Hidalgo County Purchasing Department

2812 S. Bus. Hwy. 281

Edinburg, Tx 78539

Office-(956)318-2626 or 956-292-7000 ext. 4865

Fax-(956)318-2629 or (956)292-7612

Email: sandra.montalvo@co.hidalgo.tx.us



THE STATE OF TEXAS §
§
COUNTY OF HIDALGO §

**SERVICE CONTRACT
C-12-137-00-00**

THIS CONTRACT is made and entered into this ___ day of ___, 2012 by and between the COUNTY OF HIDALGO, TEXAS ("County"), and COMPANY'S NAME a Texas Corporation. ("Company").

WHEREAS, Company responded to advertised notices for bids for **“Laboratory Services for Diagnosing Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Infection”** for Hidalgo County (the "Services"); and

WHEREAS, Company submitted a bid to provide services in accordance with the specifications as bid, a copy of Request for Bid (RFB) Procurement Packet being attached hereto as Exhibits "A" (the “RFB”) and Exhibit "B" respectively, and incorporated herein for all purposes (the "Bid Page"); and

WHEREAS, in recognition of and in consideration of Company's agreement to perform the Services in accordance with RFB, the Commissioners’ Court of County awarded the bid to Company.

NOW, THEREFORE, in mutual consideration of the foregoing and the further consideration of the following, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. County and Company hereby agrees that this Contract is entered into in order to provide the Services to locations at **Hidalgo County.** This Contract does not extend to any third parties any duties or benefits conferred in any manner hereunder or otherwise.

2. Company hereby promises and agrees to render and provide, during the term of this Contract, and shall be obligated to render and provide the Services in accordance with the

Specifications within **Hidalgo County** following a request for Services by the Department Head, Commissioner, Sheriff or his designated agent. Company agrees in performing the Services that it will use proper professional standards comply with any and all appropriate laws and regulations in providing the Services, and devote such time as is necessary to safely and efficiently provide the Services.

3. This Contract shall be for a period beginning _____ and ending _____, with the County's option to extend for an additional two (2) one (1) year term. Contract may be extended at the sole discretion of County for an additional sixty (60) days, unless this Contract is terminated pursuant to the provisions herein, whichever occurs first.

4. As a condition of this Contract, Company shall hold and maintain throughout the term of this Contract specifically all required licenses and permits, including but not limited to Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) 1988 certification or which may be required by any authority during the term hereof to provide the Services.

5. All trucks or vehicles operated by the Company to perform the Services shall contain all equipment required by any authority to operate on streets and roads and all persons in the employ of Company who operate such trucks or vehicles shall have the required licenses, qualifications, skill and expertise to perform such Services and shall comply with all laws, rules and regulations prescribed by any agency or authority having jurisdiction with regard to the operation of such trucks or vehicles in providing the Services.

6. As consideration for rendering the Service provided for in this Contract, the County agrees to pay Company the amounts specified in Exhibit "B" attached hereto payable against written invoice submitted by Company.

7. Company shall provide insurance in force on all its vehicles and all persons connected with providing services under this Contract naming County as an additional insured (with the coverages and in the amounts described on Exhibit "C" attached hereto and incorporated herein at this point for all purposes), and shall furnish to County certificates of such insurance coverage.

8. Company shall provide a sufficient number of trucks, vehicles, personnel and equipment available to safely and efficiently provide the Services.

9. Company shall indemnify and hold harmless County, its elected officials, employees and agents from any and all claims, damages, losses, and expenses including attorney's fees for the defense of any action against County arising out of, resulting from, or connected with the provision of the Service by Company under this Contract. Said indemnity shall cover any act or failure to act by the Company, its agents or employees.

10. This Contract shall not be assignable in whole or in part by either party without prior written consent of the other party.

11. It is expressly agreed that this Contract and the performance by the parties hereunder does not create any agency relationship or master-servant relationship that County has no supervision of the performance of the Services provided by Company, and that Company is an independent contractor under this Contract.

12. Any notice required or permitted to be given hereunder shall be in writing and shall be delivered personally or sent by certified mail, postage prepaid, as set forth below:

If to County:

**The County of Hidalgo
Attn: County Judge
1615 S. Closner, Suite J
Edinburg, Texas 78539**

If to Company:

13. In case any one or more of the provisions contained in this Agreement shall for any reason be held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision thereof and this Agreement shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had never been contained herein.

14. This Agreement may be terminated by County without cause upon thirty (30) days written notice.

15. This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of and be enforceable by the parties hereto and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, successors, and assigns where permitted by this Agreement.

16. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas and shall be performable in Hidalgo County.

17. **Commitment of Current Revenues Only.** In the event that, during any term hereof, the Commissioners Court does not appropriate sufficient funds to meet the obligations of Buyer under this Agreement, Buyer may terminate this Agreement upon ninety (90) days written notice to Seller. Buyer agrees, however, to use reasonable efforts to secure funds necessary for the continued performance of this Agreement. The parties intend this provision to be a continuing right to terminate this Agreement at the expiration of each budget period of Buyer pursuant to the provisions of Tex. Loc. Govt. Code Ann. ' 271.903 (Vernon Supp. 1996).

In witness where of, the parties have executed this Agreement effective as of the day and year first above written.

COUNTY OF HIDALGO

ATTEST:

By: _____
Ramon Garcia, County Judge

Arturo Guajardo Jr., County Clerk

VENDOR'S NAME

By: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Atlas, Hall & Rodriguez, LLP

By: _____
Stephen L. Crain

EXHIBIT “A”

REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)

PROCUREMENT PACKET

DRAFT

EXHIBIT “B”

BID PAGE

DRAFT

EXHIBIT “C”

CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE

DRAFT