

Notice of Intent: NB688000-16-04688

Status: Open

Description of Contract Action: Titanium Alloy Vacuum Components.

Post Date: 08/22/2016

Close Date: 08/25/2016

File Name: NB688000-16-04688 / Titanium Alloy Vacuum Components

Contact Points: Dennis Fuentes, Contract Specialist (303) 497.5573

Jo-Lynn Davis, Contracting Officer (303) 497-3764

This requirement is conducted under Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 13.106-1(b). This is a notice of intent to award a sole source procurement action and is not a request for competitive proposals. Firms who want to challenge the sole source must submit an interest letter that demonstrates your firm's ability to provide an equivalent supply as described below. Interested parties must provide rationale as to why they should be considered. All interested firms must respond to this special notice by 25 August 2016, 11:00am, Mountain Time to Dennis M. Fuentes at dennis.fuentes@nist.gov. Responses received will be evaluated; however, a determination by the Government not to compete the proposed procurement based upon responses to this notice is solely within the discretion for the Government. Information received will normally be considered solely for the purpose of determining whether to conduct a competitive procurement. NIST will not reimburse for any costs connected with providing the capability information.

Description: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), intends to award on a sole-source basis under the authority of FAR 13.106-1 (b) with Kimball Physics of Wilton, NH 03086 for Titanium Alloy Vacuum Components which meet specifications, including surface finish. Sole Source determination is based on the market research that shows only one vendor can comply to this critical process that meets all of the NIST technical requirements. NIST requires the ion trap to operate in an ultra-high vacuum environment at room temperature. This is achieved with the use of stainless steel chambers that are sealed using Con-Flat fittings. The background gas pressure in such systems is limited by the outgassing rate of hydrogen introduced into the steel during the manufacturing process. Titanium alloys have a lower hydrogen outgassing rate at room temperature than steel, without the need for extensive heat treatment. NIST requires various titanium alloy vacuum components for the purpose of operating a quantum-logic ion clock in ultra-high vacuum conditions. The components shall be made from titanium alloy (Grade 6Al-4V).

The NAICS code 334516 – Analytical Laboratory Instrument Manufacturing, Size Standard 1,000 employees will be used in soliciting as a sole-source to Kimball Physics.

DELIVERABLES: Three (3) titanium alloy ultra-high vacuum components including chambers, four (4) fittings, and four (4) in-vacuum parts.