



## Request for Information

Subject: Request for Information - National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx) initiative - Infrastructure Support Vendors

Date of Issuance: June 22, 2020

Response due: June 24, 2020, 5:00 PM EDT

Response to: [mmarino@venturewell.org](mailto:mmarino@venturewell.org), [hnaquin@venturewell.org](mailto:hnaquin@venturewell.org), [evelasquez@venturewell.org](mailto:evelasquez@venturewell.org)

This Request for Information (RFI) seeks to identify service providers, vendors, and other companies/organizations that can assist the RADx initiative in providing support for selected RADx projects. This includes:

1. Selecting specialized consulting and contracting firms to provide cost-effective resources to our entire RADx portfolio. Services, including but not limited to regulatory filing, quality systems, manufacturing, legal and contracting negotiation support, marketing research and training are especially needed, as well as specialized software to facilitate these services.

Respondents will receive an electronic confirmation acknowledging receipt of your response. After VentureWell reviews and considers any responses, a decision will be made regarding whether and how to proceed with the new potential activity.

Not responding to this request does not preclude participation in any future solicitation/opportunity, if any is issued.

Sincerely,

Mark Marino  
VentureWell Project Lead and Point of Contact - RADx



## Attachment - Request for Information

### I. Background

NIBIB has launched the Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx) initiative, which infuses funding into early innovative technologies to speed development of rapid and widely accessible COVID-19 testing. The technologies will be put through a highly competitive, rapid three-phase selection process to identify the best candidates for at-home or point-of-care tests for COVID-19. Finalists will be matched with technical, business, and manufacturing experts to increase the odds of success. If certain selected technologies are already relatively far along in development, they can be put on a separate track and be immediately advanced to the appropriate step in the commercialization process. The goal is to make millions of accurate and easy-to-use tests per week available to all Americans by the end of summer 2020, and even more in time for the flu season.

VentureWell has more than 25 years of expertise in supporting innovators by training, funding, convening, and providing technical support in the field of medical device commercialization and biomedical engineering. VentureWell has provided support to the initiative by coordinating with RADx leadership to: 1) recruit and manage a diverse pool of technical, clinical, and business advisors who assist in the assessment, review, and project management of selected RADx projects; 2) provided tracking and payments to selected experts and consultants supporting selected projects; and 3) processed award payments to selected RADx projects.

### II. Input Requested

This Request for Information seeks to identify service providers, vendors, and other companies/organizations that can assist the RADx initiative in providing support for selected RADx projects. This includes:

1. Selecting specialized consulting and contracting firms to provide cost-effective resources to our entire RADx portfolio. Services, including but not limited to regulatory filing, quality systems, manufacturing, legal and contracting negotiation support, marketing research and training are especially needed, as well as specialized software to facilitate these services.

Specifically, we are seeking details including the following:

- Letter of commitment describing the vendors interest and ability to support the RADx initiative
- Sample technical description, acknowledging the differing requirements per project, supporting the proposed work/services/tasks/activities offered to the RADx initiative, including:



- Area of Expertise Offered
- Type of Services Provided
- Experience/Qualifications
- Availability/Capacity of Vendor
- Description of rate/budget for services - For a typical engagement in the diagnostics industry, what is your average rate (with all costs accounted for, your wrap rate) and what is a typical engagement duration?
  - Hourly Rate
  - Per Project rate
  - Other anticipated costs associated with work/services on a fixed/variable basis
  - Total Costs
- References to previous projects. While not a requirement, please indicate what level of experience your firm has with working on or managing federal contract based activities.

In determining best value to the Program, the administrators shall consider:

- a. Competitive purchase price for the services to be delivered in support of project;
- b. The availability and timeliness of the service in support of program objectives;
- c. Reputation of the vendor and of the vendor's goods or services;
- d. Quality of the vendor's goods or services;
- e. Extent to which the goods or services meet the Program's needs;
- f. The vendor's past relationship with the Program;

VentureWell will oversee the contracting of the vendor selection process. Final approval and overruling authority of contracting shall remain with the Funder (NIH/NIBIB).. VentureWell will verify that any contracting is allowable and compliant with Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) guidelines depending upon the funding type they will be utilizing. Contracting must have a clear business purpose that supports the goals and objectives of the Program.

### **III. Prohibited Contracts**

- The contracting of goods or services for personal use or for personal resale are strictly prohibited.
- Contracts in which the Program administrator(s) has received a personal benefit from the vendor, or in which a Financial Conflict of Interest exists, are prohibited.
- Any contract with a vendor that has been debarred and is excluded from doing business with the federal government.