National AIDS Control Organisation

9th Floor, Chanderlok Building, 36, Janpath, New Delhi -110001

Tel: 011-23731958, Fax: 011-23731746, E-mail: nimjemg1960@gmail.com, Website: www.naco.gov.in

Ref: S/12015/4/2015- LS (NACO) Dated 1st,July, 2015

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

for

Scale up of Viral Load Testing

1. National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Govt of India is implementing the National AIDS Control Programme Phase IV funded by Government of India, GFATM and other donor partners.
2. Presently, there are nearly 8,50,000 patients on ART at more than 470 ART sites. These patients are monitored by CD4 testing every 6 months. But to know first line ART failure, viral load tests are carried out on need & prescription basis.
3. NACO has been implementing the Viral load testing programme through 10 Viral Load testing facilities in government run facilities across the country and around 10,000 tests are done annually. NACO is now planning to expand the Viral Load testing for monitoring of all patients on the first line ART besides those with first line ART failure. This will amount to nearly 8,50,000 tests /year.
4. NACO plans to implement this in a phased manner by prioritizing patients in following manner:
    - Patients who are on ART for long time (more than 5 years),
    - All HIV +ve pregnant women,
    - All children on ART
5. For this, NACO has proposed to do tentatively 2,10,000 test in year I (FY15-16), covering nearly 25% of all PLHIVs on ART in Year I, make this figure to 50% in 2nd & 80% in 3rd year, through outsourcing on "Turn Key" model basis. For this, NACO invites EOI from the interested Viral load test manufacturers/Suppliers/ laboratories which will be required to:

    a) Install, operate & maintain their Viral Load testing platforms, accessories & keep inventories of all reagents, etc at their own cost;

    b) Enroll testing sites in recognized External Quality Assurance (EQA) program

    c) Be responsible for pick up and transport of test samples (Blood sample/Dried Blood Spot) to testing facilities sites at recommended temperatures. NACO is in process of validation of DBS sample collection which shall be easily transportable

    d) Dispatch of reports to the Facility and NACO in hard copy and soft copy duly signed by the recommended signing authority as per National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibrating Laboratories (NABL).

    e) Interested parties may have testing facilities as NACO laboratories/ private labs/ other tie up labs. But the test kits should be IVD -CE &/FDA approved & the testing platforms must have a DCGI approval valid for at least two years from the time of signing of MoU with NACO.

    f) Should have established national service and maintenance network.

    g) Should provide a dedicated Toll free help desk for maintenance and trouble shooting.

h) Must have an inventory of spares and reagents (minimizing downtime is a priority; provide replacement for machine if imminent repair not possible).

i) Provide free of cost introductory training (as and when required) , refresher training and competency test to technical staff annually, the attendance and results of which will be communicated to NACO.

j) Provide free of cost software upgrades in sync with the testing and reporting platform

ART centers will only be responsible for drawing blood and no further processing at site. Any previous successful collaboration on similar lines with development agencies or government may be an added advantage.

6. The interested organization must submit EOI for above proposal at national level.
7. The shortlisted organization will provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services at national level along with a capability statement (not more than 5 pages) including organization's profile, existing infrastructure including manpower, number of years of experience in the laboratory testing field, availability of key skills and experience in samples handling or testing among staff and description of similar assignments, if any, executed during last 2-3 financial years.
8. The EOIs shall be evaluated strictly based on the substantive information / credentials / documentary evidences submitted by organization in support of the information as asked above.
9. The interested organization may obtain further information at the address given above during office hours [9:00 AM to 5:30 PM]. Please note that at this stage no technical and financial proposals are required. Based on the information submitted in response to this request for EOIs, NACO will prepare a shortlist of qualified Manufacturer/ Supplier/laboratories, which would be later issued Request for Proposal (RFP) document.
10. Clarification, if any, may be sought within 15 days from the date of publication of EOI .
11. The EOIs may be delivered to Under Secretary (Admin & Procurement) at the address 9th Floor, Chanderlok Building, 36, Janpath, New Delhi -110001 latest by 15:00 Hrs within 21 days from date of publication. Any EOI received after the closing date will not be considered.

Under Secretary (Admin & Procurement)