

## State of Maine Procurement Justification Form

This form must accompany all contract requests and sole source requisitions (RQS) over \$5,000 submitted to the Division of Procurement Services.

INSTRUCTIONS: Please provide the requested information in the white spaces below. All responses (except signatures) must be typed; no hand-written forms will be accepted. See the guidance document posted with this form on the Division of Procurement Services website (Forms page) for additional instructions.

PART I: OVERVIEW				
Department Office/Division/Program:		DHHS/Maine CDC Nicholas Matluk / Morgan Easler		
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		Chris Moiles / Patricia Wall		
(If applicable) Department Reference #:		CD0-21-5434C		
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	Original: \$ 1,750,000.00 Amend: \$ 413,387.73 Revised: \$ 2,163,387.73	Advantage CT / RQS #:	CT 10A 20210226*2345	
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:		Proposed End Date:	
AMENDMENT	Original Start Date:	1/20/2021	Effective Date:	
	Previous End Date:	7/31/2023	New End Date:	12/31/2023
GRANT	Project Start Date:		Grant Start Date:	
	Project End Date:		Grant End Date:	
Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State:		Jackson Laboratory Bar Harbor, Maine		
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		SARS-CoV-2 whole genome sequencing		

PART II: JUSTIFICATION FOR VENDOR SELECTION			
Mark an "X" before the justification(s) that applies to this request. (Check all that apply.)			
	A. Competitive Process		G. Grant
X	B. Amendment		H. State Statute/Agency Directed
X	C. Single Source/Unique Vendor		I. Federal Agency Directed
	D. Proprietary/Copyright/Patents		J. Willing and Qualified
	E. Emergency		K. Client Choice
	F. University Cooperative Project	X	L. Other Authorization: COVID-19

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
Please respond to ALL of the following:
<b>1. Provide a more detailed description and explain the need for the goods, services or grant to supplement the response in Part I.</b>
First identified in December 2019, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a mild to severe respiratory disease with a significant mortality rate. The etiological agent of COVID-19, severe acute respiratory syndrome-related coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), appears to have originated in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China and has since rapidly spread globally. As of January 10, 2021, this includes 90.2 million confirmed cases and 1.2 million deaths with 19% of the deaths occurring in the United States. As this outbreak continues to spread, action is required to quickly catalog viral diversity to understand the evolution of the epidemic, transmission dynamics, evolutionary rates, and provide real-time surveillance of new and expanding viral mutations.

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This information can be used by public health officials while monitoring and tracking to mount a well informed and more robust response to SARS-CoV-2 within their areas of operation (1). Recently, two variants of concern (VOCs) have emerged independently, detected by on-going surveillance efforts in the United Kingdom and South Africa. These two VOCs (B.1.1.7 and B.1.351), show strong epidemiological evidence of increased transmissibility and carry mutations shown to weaken neutralization by some human sera. One VOC has now been detected in the United States and aggressive monitoring for new occurrences is of critical importance.

This Agreement is to supplement SARS-CoV-2 whole genome sequencing performed by the Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL). The addition of the Lab Services to the HETL's current capacity should substantially augment the Department's capacity to develop a comprehensive understanding of the evolution and transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in near real time.

The purpose of this Amendment is to utilize new funds available through the Federal CDC ELC Enhancing Detection Grant to support COVID-19 surveillance activities and extend the end date of the contract by six (6) months.

**2. Provide a brief justification for the selected vendor to supplement the response in Part II.**

Jackson Labs has so far created a phylogenetic tree with >3000 SARS-CoV-2 genomes and has personally sequenced >2500. They have created 10 weekly SARS-CoV-2 sequencing reports which outline SARS-CoV-2 sequencing in Maine. This sequencing effort has kept Maine in the top 5 states for the overall rate of SARS-CoV-2 sequencing. Jackson Labs is still the only laboratory in the state with the lab bench expertise and bioinformatics capacity to continue this effort. HETL is only able to sequence ~50 samples per week and is not able to maintain the phylogenetic tree withal the SARS-CoV-2 genomes. Jackson Labs is able to sequence upwards of 200-300 samples per week and is able to maintain the phylogenetic tree withal the SARS-CoV-2 genomes. The link to the phylogenetic tree can be found at [https://nextstrain.org/community/tewhey-lab/ncov-ME/latest?c=clade\\_membership](https://nextstrain.org/community/tewhey-lab/ncov-ME/latest?c=clade_membership).

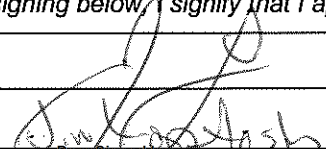

**3. Explain how the negotiated costs or rates are fair and reasonable; or how the funding was allocated to grantee.**

The Department looked at available companies to provide these services; this organization was the only one that could support the Department's need. As such, the Department reviewed the pricing, which was deemed acceptable in light of the Governor's Civil State of Emergency.

**4. Describe the plan for future competition for the goods or services.**

The department does not intend to RFP this service at this time.

### PART IV: APPROVALS

<b>Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner (or designee):</b>	<i>By signing below, I signify that I approve of this procurement request.</i>		
<b>Printed Name:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	8-Jan-23
<b>Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:</b>			
<b>Printed Name:</b>	Kathy Paquette	<b>Date:</b>	6/26/2023