



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
 STATE OF MAINE

PROCUREMENT JUSTIFICATION FORM (PJF)

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 intranet site (Forms page) for additional instructions.

PART I: OVERVIEW			
Department Office/Division/Program:		State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry / PFAS Response	
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		Meagan Hennessey	
(If applicable) Department Reference #:			
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$ 25,000.00	Advantage CT / RQS #:	CT 01A 20231003*990
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	10/2/2023	Proposed End Date: 6/30/2025
AMENDMENT	Original Start Date:		Effective Date:
	Previous End Date:		New End Date:
GRANT	Project Start Date:		Grant Start Date:
	Project End Date:		Grant End Date:
Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State:		University of Maine Analytical Laboratory	
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		Laboratory Services for PFAS testing; soil fertility	

PART II: JUSTIFICATION FOR VENDOR SELECTION			
Check the box below for the justification(s) that applies to this request. (Check all that apply.)			
<input type="checkbox"/>	A. Competitive Process	<input type="checkbox"/>	G. Grant
<input type="checkbox"/>	B. Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/>	H. State Statute/Agency Directed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C. Single Source/Unique Vendor	<input type="checkbox"/>	I. Federal Agency Directed
<input type="checkbox"/>	D. Proprietary/Copyright/Patents	<input type="checkbox"/>	J. Willing and Qualified
<input type="checkbox"/>	E. Emergency	<input type="checkbox"/>	K. Client Choice
<input type="checkbox"/>	F. University Cooperative Project	<input type="checkbox"/>	L. Other Authorization

Please respond to ALL of the questions in the following sections.

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

1. Provide a more detailed description and explain the need for the goods, services or grant to supplement the response in Part I.

As a part of the State of Maine's response to PFAS contamination on agricultural lands DACF in conjunction with the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) are conducting studies to measure PFAS in both soils and plants used for livestock feed (e.g., grasses or corn) or for direct human consumption (e.g., lettuce, tomatoes) at PFAS impacted farms. These studies are integral to understanding the movement of PFAS from soil into the food chain and will help in deciding what crops may be safely grown on PFAS-contaminated soil with minimal concern that the crop or crop product will be contaminated with PFAS. Part of the understanding of the movement of PFAS from soil into plants is determining what factors influence this movement. In soil, these factors include soil health, for example, how much nutrients and what specific type of nutrient are present in the soil as well as how much organic matter is in the soil. Another factor is the soil type, whether sandy or has more clay. The Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station Analytical Laboratory and Maine Soil Testing Service at the University of Maine provides the analytical services to measure these factors in soil. The service provided by this testing laboratory is required to further the understanding of how PFAS ends up in food products at PFAS-contaminated farms in Maine.

2. Provide a brief justification for the selected vendor to supplement the response in Part II. Reference the RFP number, if applicable.

The Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station Analytical Laboratory and Maine Soil Testing Service are well-established and utilized by the public and researchers alike. This is the only laboratory offering accredited sampling of this kind at such low cost and high benefit due to our continued collaboration. Collaborating with the University of Maine Analytical Laboratory has been crucial in comprehending the path of PFAS in agriculture and transfer rates from soil to plant to animal. It is essential to maintain consistency in testing to gain a better understanding of PFAS. Therefore, continuing to use the same lab for these tests would be highly beneficial in gathering and analyzing PFAS data.

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

The costs are pre-established by the vendor and structured to allow affordable testing options for the general public and researchers. The costs are far below what we would normally pay for at most labs.

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

If another laboratory is established to conduct similar testing in the future, the methodology used, the parameters reported, and the lab's accuracy would all need to be analyzed, in addition to cost and timeliness considerations. If we continue to have this need, we will look into creating an RFP for this service.

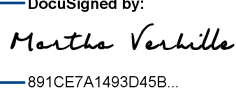
PART IV: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) / MAINE JOBS & RECOVERY PLAN (MJRP)

Does this request utilize ARPA/MJRP funds?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – If Yes, please attach the approved Business Case(s).	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – If No, proceed to Part V.	

PART V: APPROVALS

The signatures below indicate approval of this procurement request.

Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner (or designee):			
Typed Name:	Randy Charette, Deputy Commissioner	Date:	10/20/2023

Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:			
Typed Name:	Martha Verhille	Date:	10/23/2023