



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:		Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry/ Maine Geological Survey		
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		Denice Baron		
(If applicable) Department Reference #:				
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$ 15000.00	Advantage CT / RQS #:	CT 01A 20211015*1020	
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	12/20/2021	Proposed End Date:	4/29/2022
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:		The University of Arizona Department of Geosciences (LaserChron)		
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		Zircon separation, imaging, U-Pb LA-ICP-MS analysis		

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
	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		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.

The Arizona LaserChron Center in the Department of Geosciences at the University of Arizona will separate zircons from whole rock samples; select, mount, grind and polish, and image zircons, and conduct U-Pb laser ablation ICP-MS analysis with the goal of obtaining ages of the zircon samples. The samples are for igneous and detrital zircon dating in western Maine as part of the USGS-funded Earth MRI project on lithium-bearing pegmatites and their geologic settings. The Maine Geological Survey does not have the facilities to conduct this kind of specialized analysis.

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

The Arizona LaserChron Center is one of only a few commercial labs in the U.S. that provide this kind of analytical service, is the most cited vendor of this service in academic literature, and the only one that has all steps of the method conducted in-house by full-time staff without the need to ship samples to other laboratories for one or more steps (separation or imaging) or with the need of an MGS employee to be present to assist. The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly impeded the work on this USGS Earth MRI project and the LaserChron Center has the capability to turn these samples around quickly. This vendor provides high-quality and efficient analytical services for the best price.

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

Staff of the Maine Geological Survey have researched the quality and efficiency of the very few other vendors that supply a similar service and determined that the University of Arizona will provide the best service for the price per sample and in the time required by this project.

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

The few other commercial labs that conduct these kinds of zircon dating services may or may not improve their services over time, and the Maine Geological Survey would certainly be open to trying additional labs if time allows; this project is already delayed due to the pandemic and we need a reliable, all-in-one, tried-and-true lab for this particular situation.

PART IV: VENDOR STATUS

Is the vendor currently working?

Yes

No

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

Does this request utilize ARPA/MJRP funds?

Yes – If Yes, please attach the approved Business Case(s).

No – If No, proceed to Part VI

PART VI: APPROVALS			
Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner (or designee):	By signing below, I signify that I approve of this procurement request.		
	DocuSigned by: <i>Amanda E. Beal</i>		
Printed Name:	Amanda Beal, Commissioner	Date:	12/7/2021
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	DocuSigned by: <i>Debbie Jacques</i>		
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Printed Name:	debbie Jacques	Date:	12/7/2021