



County of Los Angeles  
Sheriff's Department Headquarters  
4700 Ramona Boulevard  
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

June 15, 2010

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**ADVANCE NOTIFICATION ON INTENT TO ENTER INTO  
SOLE SOURCE NEGOTIATIONS WITH APPLIED BIOSYSTEMS, LLC  
FOR MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR SERVICES FOR GENETIC  
ANALYZERS AND SEQUENCE DETECTION SYSTEMS**

**SUBJECT**

This letter provides advance notification to your Board that the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) intends to enter into sole source negotiations with Applied Biosystems, LLC (AB) for a service Agreement for the maintenance of Genetic Analyzers (Analyzers) and Sequence Detection Systems (Systems). The Agreement will be for a three-year term with the option to extend for up to two additional one-year periods.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of the recommended action is to allow the Department to obtain maintenance and repair services for a list of Analyzers and Systems located at Herzberg-Davis Forensic Science Center, 1800 Paseo Rancho Castilla, Los Angeles, California 90032, from a readily available qualified contractor for the repair and maintenance of the equipment. In order to ensure that the Analyzers and Systems continue to operate reliably and accurately, they must be repaired within a reasonable time frame when problems are detected and must be maintained regularly.

*A Tradition of Service*

**BACKGROUND**

The Department's Scientific Services Bureau (SSB) provides forensic laboratory services for the Department and 45 municipal police agencies within Los Angeles County (County).

SSB uses models 310, 3130, and 3500 Analyzers to analyze DNA evidence submitted by the Department's investigative units and numerous other law enforcement agencies in the County. They are used in conjunction with various commercially available kits that allow for the detection of genetic markers and the sex identifying marker amelogenin. The DNA profiles obtained with the Analyzers are used for identification of potential donors of forensic samples. The 7500 Real-Time PCR System quantifies the amount of DNA present in a sample. Currently, there are three model 310 Analyzers, three model 3130 Analyzers, one model 3500 Analyzer, and two model 7500 Real-Time PCR Systems in SSB.

AB has worked with the FBI to setup procedures and reagents that have become the standards of forensic analysis. AB's model 310, 3130, and 3500 Analyzers have been commonly used by forensic laboratories throughout the country and are the only instruments validated for use in DNA typing by SSB.

**SOLE SOURCE JUSTIFICATION**

AB has proprietary rights to the Analyzers and the Systems, as well as the software utilized by SSB to complete DNA analysis functions. It is the only vendor that can provide the necessary maintenance and repair services. Only AB service engineers go through a multi-step process in order to obtain certification to work on AB instrumentation and software. This certification is renewed every two years. AB has not authorized any third-party service provider to perform maintenance and repair on AB instruments.

Pursuant to Board policy, the Department will proceed with the sole source contract negotiations in two weeks, unless otherwise instructed by your Board. Should additional information be required, your staff may contact Mona Whittouck, Contracts Manager, at (323) 526-5542.

Sincerely,



LEROY D. BACA  
SHERIFF