

## **I. Background**

Chartered as a 501(c)3 by the state of South Carolina in 1983, [South Carolina Research Authority](#) (SCRA) is a public, non-profit corporation that fuels South Carolina's innovation economy.

The [South Carolina Medical Device Alliance](#) (MDA) is transforming how the state is inventing, advancing and commercializing medical devices to address unmet clinical needs. This multi-stakeholder partnership is the foundation of a regional innovation cluster to grow the economic impact through job creation and startup formation, as well as to attract international businesses. The MDA will advance technologies to market with multidisciplinary teams and launch startups that have been rigorously evaluated by seasoned industry experts.

Having evaluated and selected the most promising early-stage technologies, the current phase of the MDA process involves building project profiles to address aspects of medical device development that are key to commercialization. Profiles may include a regulatory assessment, reimbursement strategy, commercial/market assessment, design for manufacturability evaluation, and patent landscape analysis. Please watch for the release of our other RFPs in early May if you are interested in submitting a bid proposal for other components of the project profiles.

The project profiles will be compiled and provided to the innovator and their affiliated institution(s). The primary audience for the project profiles, however, is the Medical Device Commercialization Advisory Panel (MDCAP). The MDCAP was formed by SCRA to provide industry insight to academic innovators and technology transfer offices, prioritize technologies to advance through the MDA, and recommend the next commercially relevant steps in development. The MDCAP consists of seasoned medical device executives across disciplines, including regulatory affairs, R&D, product development, manufacturing, reimbursement and funding.

This work is supported by the Economic Development Administration's [Regional Innovation Strategies i6](#) program, SCRA, Clemson University, and Medical University of South Carolina.

## **II. Scope of Solicitation**

SCRA is soliciting fixed price bids for professional consulting services to develop patent landscape reports for eight early-stage medical devices, as well as one Freedom to Operate search.

The patent landscape report is a formal search and written opinion of relevant prior art. The search is to include US patent applications, international patent applications, literature, technical specifications and products on market. The written opinion should assess the relevance of cited references as pertaining to likely claims of the invention, including its impact on novelty and non-obviousness on a feature-by- feature basis. For the patentability assessments, the report should further elaborate on the relative likelihood of successful issuance of each feature/claim of the invention being searched and include a go-pause-no go recommendation regarding pursuing a patent application

The Freedom to Operate (FTO) analysis will include searching patent literature for issued or pending patents and determining whether a product, process or service may be considered to infringe any patent(s) owned by others.

## **Request for Proposal for Medical Device Alliance Patent Landscape Reports (RFP #2020-0001)**

All final work product will be presented in the form of a Microsoft Word document and, if appropriate, Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. In addition to the final report, the service provider will be required to virtually participate in a technology review session in July. The service providers for each component of the project profiles will participate in the call to summarize their findings for the MDCAP and answer questions from the panel.

For questions regarding the scope of work, please contact [academicinnovations@scra.org](mailto:academicinnovations@scra.org).

### **III. Bidding and Delivery Timeline**

Bid proposals are due by 5:00 PM on Friday, May 1st. The winning proposals will be notified on Monday, May 4th. Contracts will be put in place by May 6th. The final work product is to be delivered no later than May 20th, 2020. Submit all bid proposals to [academicinnovations@scra.org](mailto:academicinnovations@scra.org). No proposals will be accepted by mail or hand delivery.

### **IV. Bid Package**

Bid proposals must include a sample report, redacted as needed to protect confidentiality, that will be emulated by the service provider for the reports to be provided to SCRA. Bid proposals may also outline work, in addition to the scope of work in Section I, which the service provider views as crucial to execution of the project. The bid proposal must specify the cost per report to be completed in the time frame outlined in section III – Bidding and Delivery Timeline.

Service providers may submit bid proposals for multiple SCRA RFPs. Please submit a bid under each RFP separately, but indicate if there will be pricing discounts available if selected to provide services under more than one RFP.

Due to the U.S. federal funding associated with this project, all work must be completed by U.S.-based personnel from U.S.-based entities. Please explicitly state in the bid package if the company and personnel meet these criteria.

### **V. Contract Terms and Conditions**

The service provider must agree to a non-disclosure/confidentiality provision. Any resultant contract will include all clauses that are required under the Economic Development Administration's [Regional Innovation Strategies i6](#) program, all clauses required by law on the date of contract execution, other mutually agreeable clauses, provisions, and terms and conditions.

This is a solicitation and does not commit SCRA to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of any offer in any form or to produce or subcontract for said work. Any resultant agreement between SCRA will be subject to the provisions and Terms and Conditions of the Solicitation as well as SCRA's Standard Terms and Conditions. If you have any questions of a contractual nature, please feel free to contact [sheila.riley@scra.org](mailto:sheila.riley@scra.org).