

**ANNOUNCEMENT FOR STUDENT SERVICES CONTRACTS
(DIRECT PURCHASE ORDERS TO INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS
OR UNIVERSITIES)**

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Research and Development
National Exposure Research Laboratory
Ecosystems Research Division, Athens GA**

RFQ-RT-09-00123

The Ecosystems Research Division (ERD), Athens, GA of the National Exposure Research Laboratory, Office of Research and Development, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is seeking one student – a recent graduate student with a Master’s degree in chemistry, biological science, forest resources, environmental toxicology, biochemistry or related disciplines – to provide services under a contractual agreement in support of a research project focusing on fate and transport of nanomaterials in water and sediments. Knowledge of UV-visible spectroscopy, use of pH meter, balance, autoclave, chromatographs (liquid and gas) and measurements of water chemistry parameters is desirable. The Government will make the contract award based on the student's work experience, knowledge and skills, training and course work (GPA and number of course hours) as it relates to the services describes in this Announcement. Qualified candidates will possess knowledge in the following areas: environmental chemistry and biological science. For additional information regarding ERD, visit its home page at <http://www.epa.gov/athens/>.

The student will assist the mentor and others with conducting studies to determine the effects of solar radiation on microbial degradation and photoreactivity of carbon nanotubes and selected fullerenes in water and soil or sediment particle surfaces; and to identify and quantify the biological sources of the dissolved and particulate constituents of the waters that are responsible for UV light attenuation. The student will primarily be responsible for using known techniques to measuring concentrations of the nanomaterials in water and sediments, for measurements of UV-visible and fluorescence spectra of water samples, and for determination of water quality parameters for water samples and sediment suspensions investigated in the laboratory and field studies (including pH, DO, dissolved and suspended solids, COD, BOD, and TOC). The student contractor may be expected to participate in conferences and seminars. The student will also assist with underwater light measurements in field studies and will be responsible for data collection, analysis, and report preparation. All necessary instructions and training will provided by Dr. Richard Zepp, who will also serve as the student's mentor.

This contract is to begin on or about July, 2009. The initial contract will be for one year with an option for an additional year. It is anticipated that the student will work up to 1928 hours per year for the base year and 1609 for the option year. The duty location is the Ecosystems Research Division, NERL, 960 College Station Road, Athens, GA 30605. The hourly rate for this position is \$27.76. The student contractor will be paid this basic hourly rate only for the number of hours worked and will not receive overtime premium. The student will not accrue leave or holiday benefits and is not paid for any non-work days, regardless of the reason. Federal, State, Local and Social Security taxes will not be withheld; student contractors are

responsible for reporting income to authorities and paying all taxes. The student contractor will be responsible for all costs of transportation to and from the principal duty station location. EPA does not provide housing, meals or other living expenses. The student contractor must be a recent graduate in good standing who was enrolled in an advanced degree program at a recognized educational institution within the past two years. Non-U.S. citizens may be eligible to participate, depending on their immigration status and the applicable regulations of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Service (HIS), formerly known as the Immigration and Naturalization Service. **EPA ORD employees, their spouses, and children are NOT eligible to participate in this program and receive these contracts.**

To submit a proposal for this contract, you must provide a one or two page resume or statement of qualifications including

1. Your full legal name
2. Mailing address
3. Telephone number
4. Email address (if any),
5. Date of birth
6. Place of birth:
7. Citizenship or, if not a US citizen, immigration/VISA status
8. Education, including description of relevant classes
9. Work or volunteer experience related to the scientific field
10. Any laboratory work experience
11. Statement of your commitment to fulfill at least the initial year of the order, if selected
12. 2 letters of reference

Attach a copy of your undergraduate, and most recent graduate school official university transcripts, listing courses taken, grades, and overall GPA (unofficial copies are acceptable, if it is apparent from the transcript copy that it is a copy of an official document and that the school is identified), listing courses taken, grades, and overall GPA. Also, your proposal must contain a statement that you propose/accept the stated hourly rate of \$27.76 per hour. Send these materials to: William Goins, Contracting Specialist, via email at goins.william@epa.gov or via fax, with cover page, to (919) 541-4273. The applications/resume submission deadline will be listed at the website below.

Prior to submitting a proposal for this contract, you should visit the EPA procurement home page at http://www.epa.gov/oam/rtp_cmd/ to learn the full details of the contract. You should visit the website periodically to check the status of this procurement and to see whether or not any amendments (changes to the requirement of the posted contract) have been issued. If you have any questions on the information contained on the website, contact William Goins, Contracting Specialist, via email at goins.william@epa.gov or via fax, with cover page, to (919) 541-4273.

The Government will make contract award(s) based on the student's work experience, knowledge and skills, training and course work as it relates to the services as described in the Announcement. Students who perform under contract for EPA will be required to undergo a

background check, check of FBI fingerprint files and a suitability determination by the Environmental Protection Agency. The Government may elect to award contracts to multiple students under this Announcement.

Please check the evaluation factors document on the website mentioned in the previous paragraph. Questions regarding the technical aspects of the contracted duties and responsibilities should be directed to Dr. Richard Zepp, the EPA mentor for this contract, at zepp.richard@epa.gov.