

RFQ-RT-09-00016

**ANNOUNCEMENT FOR STUDENT SERVICES CONTRACTS  
For Nanotechnology Research Support**

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Research and Development  
National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory  
Atlantic Ecology Division, Narragansett, RI**

The Atlantic Ecology Division (AED) National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory (NHEERL) of the Office Research and Development (ORD) at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Narragansett, RI is seeking one individual who is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in the field of chemistry or environmental chemistry at a recognized educational institution to provide services under a contractual agreement in support of the Agency's nanotechnology program.

The NHEERL/AED is responsible for conducting studies that evaluate the environmental health of aquatic ecosystems. A new threat to these ecosystems may be nanomaterials. The ORD is actively researching improved methods for detecting and monitoring nanomaterials in the environment and will develop rapid screening methods for the materials. In addition, ORD is researching the effects of nanomaterials (and their byproducts) to organisms including the uptake, transport, and bioaccumulation of these materials. Data gaps abound for both fate and effects of nanomaterials. Although the current state of the science surrounding these contaminants is fluid, it is clear that nanomaterials are becoming ubiquitous in our environment. This research will involve experiments designed to elucidate the fate and effects of nanomaterials in the environment including development of analytical methods for detection/measurement, toxicity, bioaccumulation and ecological effects. The student services contractor shall be involved in all aspects of the research including designing and performing the studies in this project as well as the analysis of data, and preparation of reports and presentations.

The student contractor shall have substantial experience and a strong academic background in environmental chemistry, biology, and environmental toxicology. The student contractor needs to have completed a B.S. in chemistry and be pursuing a Ph.D. The student contractor shall be pursuing graduate training in environmental chemistry and/or toxicology, with an emphasis on fate and transport of anthropogenic contaminants in the aquatic environment. In addition, graduate level courses in mass spectrometry and environmental chemistry will be helpful. The student contractor shall need to know basic safety requirements in the laboratory and shall be given additional safety training at the Atlantic Ecology Division laboratory (Narragansett, RI). Laboratory experience in environmental chemistry (i.e. instrumental analysis) and/or ecotoxicology is necessary.

The contract period of performance will be for 8 months, and is expected to begin approximately January 1, 2009 through August 31, 2009, and represents an estimate of up to 1212 hours of total effort. The student is expected to work at least 20 hours per week during the school year and at least 40 hours per week during the summer. AED reserves the option to extend the contract for an additional year through August 31, 2010, representing up to 1364 hours of additional effort for

the option year. The student may enter the building during business hours (the facility is in continuous operation). The student shall be able to perform moderately strenuous work, including climbing step ladders and occasional heavy lifting (up to 50 lbs).

The hourly rate of \$30.40 is commensurate with the level of education and experience necessary. Student contractors shall be paid the basic hourly rate only for the actual number of hours worked and shall not receive overtime premium for any hours worked beyond the 40-hour work week. Student/recent graduate contractors do not accrue leave or holiday benefits and are not paid for any non-work days, regardless of the reason.

The student contractor is considered as an independent contractor; therefore, Federal, State, Local, Social Security, and Medicare taxes shall not be withheld. Student/recent graduate contractors are responsible for reporting income to authorities and paying all taxes.

Student contractors are responsible for all costs of transportation to and from the principal duty station location. EPA does not provide nor pay for housing, meals, or other living expenses while working at the principal duty station location. If performance of the contract requires overnight travel, the student/recent graduate contractor shall travel under the rules and procedures established for Federal employee travel.

Students shall be required to comply with Federal requirements for Standards of Ethical Conduct and Conflicts of Interest.

Student contractors may be offered, at Government expense, non-mandatory vaccinations, immunizations, treatments, medical examinations, and health and safety training to safeguard their health prior to beginning certain types of work which may expose them to health or safety risks in the environment.

The selected student will receive more information about these issues prior to award of the contract.

Those eligible to participate must be at least 18 years of age and students in good standing who are currently enrolled in a degree program at a recognized educational institution. U.S. citizens are eligible to participate in this program. 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 (BCIS) formerly known as the Immigration and Naturalization Service. All non-US citizens must submit, as part of their proposal, evidence of their immigration status that allows them to work in the United States. Students, who are EPA ORD employees, or the spouse or child of an EPA ORD employee, are not eligible to participate.

Interested students shall provide a one or two page resume or statement of qualifications, including a copy of the transcript and documentary evidence from BCIS, if appropriate, including:

. Full legal name

- . Mailing address
- . Email address (if any)
- . Telephone number
- . Social Security Number
- . Date of Birth
- . Place of Birth
- . Citizenship or immigration/visa status (documentary evidence from BCIS)
- . Description of recent classes relevant to the SOW
- . Experience related to the scientific field (paid or volunteer work and academic)
- . Experience in laboratory work (paid or volunteer work or academic)
- . Scientific publications with a description of the individual's participation in the publication
- . An attached certified copy of the most recent transcript showing listing of courses and overall grade point average

The student shall also submit a letter of recommendation from an academic adviser, major professor, or other professional associate very familiar with the applicant's skills and performance. Additionally, interested students shall submit a statement indicating they agree with the hourly rate as specified above in order to have an acceptable proposal. However, if a different rate is proposed, it shall be accompanied by an explanation indicating why the offered rate was not accepted.

Interested students should submit their resume or statement of qualifications and rate proposal to Marsha B. Johnson, Contract Specialist via email at: Johnson.marsha@epa.gov or via fax to 919-541-4273.

Prior to applying for this position, all interested parties are required to visit the EPA procurement home page at: [http://www.epa.gov/oam/rtp\\_cmd/](http://www.epa.gov/oam/rtp_cmd/) to learn full details of the proposed contract opportunity. Under the section entitled “**Student Services, RFQ-RT-09-00016**” review all of the attached documents. This website should be visited periodically to check the status of this procurement and to see whether or not any changes have been made. If you have any questions on the information contained in this website, please contact the EPA Contract Specialist, Marsha B. Johnson at: Johnson.marsha @epa.gov. Questions regarding the technical aspects of the contracted duties and responsibilities should be directed to Dr. Kay Ho, the EPA technical mentor for the contracted activities, at ho.kay@epa.gov or (401) 782-3106.

The Government will make the contract award based on the student's course work, training and experience as it relates to the services described in the announcement, grade point average, and recommendation. Please check the evaluation factors document on the website given above for the specific factors and order of importance.

Students who perform under contract for EPA shall have a checking or savings account at a financial institution that shall accept direct deposits of Federal funds for Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), and are required to undergo a background check, check of FBI fingerprint files and a suitability determination by the EPA. **Responses to this Announcement shall be accepted through November 28, 2008, 12:00 p.m. ET.**