Evaluation and Specification for a Laboratory Information Management System:

Developing the Bid Specifications for a Drinking Water and Wastewater Laboratory

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First Question?

- Do I Need a LIMS?
 - Do I have enough data requirements to manage them through a LIMS?
 - Do I have enough IT to support a LIMS?
 - Do I have staff that will accept a LIMS?
 - Do I have Management that will support a LIMS?

Second Question?

- How can I purchase a LIMS?
 - Sealed Bid
 - Request for Proposal (RFP)
 - This year's budget?
 - Next year's budget?
 - Split budgets?

Third Question?

- What type of infrastructure do I need or have?
 - Server?
 - Work stations or PCs?
 - Printers?
 - Reports?
 - Labels?
 - Power?
 - Cat 5 cable or Wi-Fi?
 - Software?

So how do I develop my Bid or RFP?

- Involve your laboratory staff in evaluating the LIMS usability!
- Involve the IT department LIMS supportability!
- Involve the Finance Department in the Bid or RFP Specs.
- Involve the LIMS providers in developing the Bid/ RFP Specs.
 - Remember: NO LOCKOUT SPECS !!!

Laboratory Staff Evaluation

LIMS Providers Evaluation								
LIMS Provider			Date					
Evaluate Each Question Based On The Numerical Rating That Best Fits								
Did the LIMS presenter:	Excellent Job (5)	4	Average (3)	(2)	Unacceptable (1)			
Present the LIMS functions in a way that was clear to you								
Clearly demonstrate all functions that you would use.								
Answer any question presented so it made sense to you.								
Present how the LIMS system would help you in your work.								
Interacted professionally with you and your coworkers.								

IT Staff Evaluation

Place an evaluation score for each LIMS provider's performance.

Duplicate scores can be awarded.

Scoring values: 5-Excellent, 4, 3-Average, 2, 1-Poor, 0-No Opinion)

Performance Area	LIMS 1	LIMS 2	LIMS 3
The LIMS representative presented to the IT staff clear systems requirements for the City SQL server.			
The LIMS representative presented to the IT staff clear systems requirements for the City web server.			
The LIMS representative presented to the IT staff consistent information through his presentation.			
The LIMS representative answered all questions from the City IT staff.			
The LIMS representative had an in-depth knowledge of his LIMS system as it applied to City IT implementation.			
From your observations of the LIMS provider, presentation, and documents rate the LIMS system as to ease of City IT staff installation.			
From your observations of the LIMS provider, presentation, and documents rate the LIMS system as to ease of City IT staff administration.			
From your observations of the LIMS provider, presentation, and documents rate the LIMS system overall			

Information Requests From LIMS Provider

- How many concurrent users can use the LIMS at any given time?
- What modules would be needed for the laboratory?
- What are the requirements for instruments to be interfaced?
- Are there any custom reports that the LIMS provider will need to develop?
- Will the LIMS vendor migrate some of the legacy data (including results) into the new LIMS?

Develop Your Bid or RFP

Insurance

 All RFP submitters are required to have current professional liability and statutorily required insurance.

LIMS

- The LIMS software must operate on the City's server system.
- The LIMS software must operate on the City's client workstations and all 3rd party contractor workstations at the City's wastewater treatment plant or at any other site specified by the city.
- The LIMS software must be able to operate at remote locations either over a fiber optic network or over the internet.
- The LIMS software must be able to perform all functions need by the City and the 3rd party contractor to collect, analyze and report data for compliance with the City's NPDES permit, Industrial Pretreatment program and sewer users rates.

