

SOUTH DAKOTA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: 2025-22

Wire Rope NDT Inspections and Services

This Request For Proposal (RFP) is issued by the South Dakota Science and Technology Authority (SDSTA) for bi-annual wire rope Non-Destructive Test (NDT) inspections and services for Sanford Underground Research Facility (SURF) and the evolving operations. An individual firm will be selected based on demonstrated competence and qualifications for the required work.

- This announcement is open to all businesses regardless of size. In order to be eligible for contract award the firm must be registered as a business entity with the South Dakota Secretary of State, the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) and E-Verify.

Documents included in this Request for Proposal include:

- Draft Service Contract 2025-22
- Exhibit A: Insurance Requirements
- Exhibit B: Environment, Safety, and Health (ESH) Requirements
- Exhibit C: Federal Terms and Conditions
- Exhibit D: Acknowledgement of Risk Waiver
- Exhibit E: Release, Agreement Not to Sue, and Waiver

1.0 Background

SDSTA is a quasi-governmental agency established by the State of South Dakota to operate and manage SURF at the former historic Homestake Gold mine in Lead, SD. This facility has been rehabilitated and developed to support a variety of scientific experiments, including physics, biology, geology, and others. Our mission is to advance world-class science and inspire learning across generations.

2.0 Project Overview

SDSTA's standard procedure is to perform Bi-Annual Wire Rope Non-Destructive (NDT) inspections on the active length of the eight (8) regular hoisting ropes in the Spring and Fall of each year, and to inspect the drum ends each Fall. Testing will occur in March and September unless mutually agreed upon otherwise.

3.0 Scope

3.1 Bi-annual Wire Rope NDT Inspections:

- 3.1.1 Six (6) 1-7/8" ropes, each approximately 5,000 feet in length (Two (2) each: Ross Production Hoist, Yates Service Hoist and Yates Production Hoist)
- 3.1.2 Two (2) 1-5/8" ropes, each approximately 5,000 feet in length (Ross Service Hoist Cage and Counterweight)
- 3.2 Two (2) "Rope Dogs" half locked coil 1-1/2" stationary ropes approximately 5,000 feet in length (Yates Service Hoist).

3.3 Technical Support and Issue Resolution

- 3.3.1 The vendor will serve as a responsive support partner, addressing technical challenges as they arise. This includes troubleshooting and debugging backend issues, resolving errors, restoring system functionality, and optimizing site performance and stability.

4.0 SDSTA Additional Requirements

4.1 Company Profile and Experience

- 4.1.1 Overview of the company, size and areas of specialization
- 4.1.2 Contractor shall provide certified documentation according to current Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) regulations and shall also forecast the expected life of the wire rope.
- 4.1.3 Provide a minimum of two client references (preferably in education, research, non-profit or science sectors)

4.2 Testing must be conducted to ensure the safe transport of men and materials to locations a mile below the surface at SURF.

- 4.2.1 Approach to custom code maintenance

4.3 Method for calculating the cost of each project. Fixed rate, Time & Materials or rate sheet etc.

5.0 Schedule

The activities noted in the Scope section above should commence following the award of the contract. The schedule for completion of this project is negotiable and flexible to accommodate the contractor's availability. The proposed schedule for the project is:

Questions Submitted by 2PM.....	February 16, 2026
Q&A Posted by 2PM	February 19, 2026
RFP Responses Due by 2PM.....	March 6, 2026

All times listed in Mountain Time

6.0 Submission Requirements

The bid in response to this RFP must contain the following:

- 6.1 Proposal referencing RFP #2025-22 detailing the capabilities to perform the services outlined in the scope of work and associated additional requirements with a maximum of 50 pages.
- 6.2 Pricing Structure: Proposed pricing model (Hourly, Retainer, Hybrid), including standard turnaround times for security updates, minor issues and major incidents.
- 6.3 Rates Sheets for different roles and/or tasks that could be handled with a change order to this contract.
- 6.4 Provide a detailed list of exceptions to the scope of work and additional requirements as necessary.
- 6.5 Optional: Value Added Services:

7.0 Proposal Requirements

- 7.1 Bidders should submit an electronic copy of the bid in PDF format to David Raad at draad@sanfordlab.org.

- 7.2 Questions must be sent in writing by email to David. Answers will be emailed to all prospective proposers and posted to the Sanfordlab.org website.
- 7.3 The bid period may be extended at the discretion of the SDSTA based on the quantity and/or complexity of questions. Any notices of extension of time to respond will be distributed to all prospective proposers.
- 7.4 All communications regarding this procurement between RFP release and contract award shall be directed to David. Communications with other SDSTA staff regarding this procurement in advance of the contract award are not allowed.

8.0 Selection Process

SDSTA will assess all proposals to ensure they meet the requirements and demonstrate the necessary qualifications. The contract will be awarded to the firm determined to offer the Best Value to SDSTA.