

**SOUTH DAKOTA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: 2026-14**

Bi-Annual Non-Destructive Test Wire Rope Inspections

1.0 PURPOSE

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) inspection services for Sanford Underground Research Facility (SURF) and the evolving operations. An individual firm will be selected for a fixed price contract based on the total of the quantities and unit costs listed on the statement of work document, demonstrated competence, and qualifications for the required work.

Documents included in this RFP include:

- Draft Service Contract 2026-14
- 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

2.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND

SDSTA is a quasi-governmental agency established by the State of South Dakota in 2004 to operate and manage SURF at the former historic Homestake Gold mine in Lead, SD. This facility has been and continues to be rehabilitated and developed to host cutting-edge research across multiple disciplines, including physics, geology, biology, and engineering. Our mission is to advance world-class science and inspire learning across generations – America’s Underground Lab!

3.0 PROJECT OVERVIEW

SDSTA’s standard procedure is to perform Bi-Annual Magnetic NDT Wire Rope 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.

4.0 SCOPE OF WORK

- Contractor will perform Bi-Annual Magnetic NDT wire rope inspections of the following wire ropes located at the Sanford Underground Research Facility (SURF) in Lead, South Dakota:
 - 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)
 - Two (2) 1-5/8” ropes, each approximately 5,000 feet in length (Ross Service Hoist Cage and Counterweight)
 - Two (2) “Rope Dogs” half locked coil 1-1/2” stationary ropes approximately 5,000 feet in length (Yates Service Hoist).

- Contractor will have the ability to provide additional services including but not limited to: destructive “break” testing of hoist ropes, the capability to NDT connection hardware such as pins, drawbars and sockets, and the ability to socket hoist ropes.
- Contractor shall provide/forecast the expected life of the wire rope.

5.0 TECHNICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

A best value selection process will be used to award this contract. The selection criteria are listed below. Selection will be made based on tradeoffs between price and non-price evaluation criteria.

- a. The offeror’s total project package including proposed project team and other technical requirements defined in this document.
- b. Contractor shall provide necessary personnel certifications, training, and demonstrated experience documentation, according to current Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) regulations.
- c. Contractor demonstrates a comprehensive and technically sound approach for conducting NDT inspections that meet industry standards and safety requirements.
- d. Contractor demonstrates successful completion of similar projects involving NDT inspections comparable in size and complexity.
- e. Past performance on SDSTA, US Department of Energy, State of South Dakota or other contracts with respect to cost control, quality of work, and compliance schedules.
- f. Construction safety practices, procedures, and safety record relating to the scope of work.

6.0 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.

Questions Submitted by 2PM..... August 14, 2026
 Q&A Posted by 2PM August 19, 2026
 RFP Responses Due by 2PM..... August 28, 2026
All times listed in Mountain Time

7.0 SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Submission Requirement: General

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.

Proposals should be provided in digital format as a pdf file with standard letter size format. Note that there is a 50-page limit for proposals. Proposals must contain the following:

- Description detailing the approach to perform the services outlined in the scope of work.
- Pricing Structure: Proposed pricing model
- Any exceptions to the draft contract, terms and conditions, or other RFP materials.

Submission Requirement: Similar Projects

Describe at least two similar projects that the Contractor has completed in the past five years. Examples should note the customer, location, and date of the project.

Submission Requirement: Safety

Provide a description of the safety program of the Contractor who would be performing work at SURF under this contract.

Submission Requirement: Schedule

The total contract duration will be three years from the date of award. Work must be completed in the Spring and Fall, typically March and September.

8.0 PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

- 8.1 Offerors should submit an electronic copy of the bid in PDF format to David Raad at draad@sanfordlab.org.
- 8.2 Questions must be sent in writing by email to David Raad. Answers will be emailed to all prospective proposers and posted to the Sanfordlab.org website.
- 8.3 The solicitation 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.
- 8.4 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.

9.0 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.