



CAMBRIAN
COLLEGE

Request for Proposal
***INDUCTIVELY COUPLED PLASMA
MASS SPECTROMETER***
RFP #12-004

Issued: January 26, 2012

Closing Date: February 14, 2012

Closing Time: 3:00:00 p.m. (Local)

Closing Location: Purchasing Services, Room 4037
1400 Barrydowne
Sudbury, ON P3A 3V8

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Article 1 – Background & Statement of Requirements

Part A – Definitions

1.1 Definitions

The following definitions apply:

- (a) **“Eligible Proposal”**, as such term appears in Article 3 (Evaluation Process), means a Proposal that meets or exceeds the requirements for a phase of the evaluation process and is allowed to proceed to the next phase;
- (b) **“Preferred Proponent”** means the highest-ranked Proponent(s) that the Purchaser has identified as the top-ranked Proponent(s) in accordance with the evaluation process;
- (c) **“Proponent”** means an entity that submits a Proposal in response to this RFP and, in respect of the period prior to the RFP Closing Time, as the context may suggest refers to a potential Proponent;
- (d) **“Proposal”** means all of the documentation submitted by a Proponent in response to the RFP, which has been accepted by the Purchaser;
- (e) **“Purchaser”** means Cambrian College, and which is the purchasing authority pursuant to this RFP;
- (f) **“Request for Proposal”** or **“RFP”** means a procurement document used to competitively solicit Proposals for the particular goods or services stated in this document;
- (g) **“Days”** means calendar days unless otherwise stated;

1.2 Rules of Interpretation

This RFP shall be interpreted according to the following provisions, unless the context requires a different meaning:

- a) Unless the context otherwise requires, wherever used herein the plural includes the singular, the singular includes the plural, and each of the masculine, feminine and neutral genders include all other genders.
- b) Words in the RFP shall bear their natural meaning.
- c) References containing terms such as “includes” and “including”, whether or not used with the words “without limitation” or “but not limited to”, shall not be deemed limited by the specific enumeration of items but shall, in all cases, be deemed to be without limitation and construed and interpreted to mean “includes without limitation” and “including without limitation”.
- d) In construing the RFP, general words introduced or followed by the word “other” or “including” or “in particular” shall not be given a restrictive meaning because they are followed or preceded (as the case may be) by particular examples intended to fall within the meaning of the general words.

- e) Unless otherwise indicated, time periods will be strictly construed.
- f) The following terminology applies in the RFP:
- (i) Whenever the terms “must” or “shall” are used in relation to the Purchaser or the Proponents, such terms shall be construed and interpreted as synonymous and shall be construed to read “the Purchaser shall” or “the Proponent shall”, as the case may be;
 - (ii) The term “should” relates to a requirement which the Purchaser would like the Proponent to address in its Proposal; and
 - (iii) The term “will” describes a procedure that is intended to be followed.

Part B – Background

1.3 Background

This Request for Proposal is issued by Cambrian College (the “Purchaser” or “College”).

Cambrian College in Sudbury, Ontario, has been a leading postsecondary institution in Northern Ontario since its first classes were held in 1967. The College has a vibrant community of more than 14,000 learners – over 4,500 students in 80 full-time programs, plus over 9,500 students in almost 900 part-time courses/programs. It offers programming at three campuses and serves a student population that is reflective of the rich diversity of today’s global workplaces. Cambrian College also has specialized programming for those who are interested in corporate training, co-operative education, or dual credits that can provide secondary students with both high school and college credits.

For more information, visit www.cambriancollege.ca.

Mission:

In all that we do and all that we offer, you will find that:

- **We lead** with our commitment to diverse learners.
- **We teach** and learn through quality education that responds to the needs of the community.
- **We balance** hands-on experience with the knowledge and skills essential for personal and professional success.

Part C – Invitation & Statement of Requirements

1.4 Invitation

Cambrian College is seeking proposals from qualified vendors, capable of supplying, demonstrating and warranting, an Inductively Couple Plasma Mass Spectrometer that meets the specification as per the College’s requirement at 1400 Barrydowne Road, in Sudbury, Ontario.

1.5 Statement of Requirements

Supplying, demonstrating and warranty of one (1) - Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer within Cambrian College within the budget limit of \$ 160,000.00 (Including taxes) as per Specification indicated in Schedule G. The equipment must include all consumables for set-up and initial operations.

Please Note: While developing the specifications of ICPMS, Cambrian College did their best to avoid vendor specific specification. Cambrian College is encouraging the vendor to quote the price within the budget limit with the maximum features that they can offer. If the vendor feels that the specification is Vendor Specific, they are encouraged to provide the bid of their product clearly stating the features that they are offering. The Bid would be evaluated on warranty, features and price basis.

1.6 Timeframe

It is desired that the “Inductively Plasma Mass Spectrometer” be delivered on or before March 9, 2012.

1.7 Delivery, Installation and Training

The proponent must include all costs in stipulated price for the delivery, installation, clean-up (removal of packaging from College) and testing the function of the Equipment.

The installation must include any validation or instrument turning solutions for calibration testing of installed instrument and include all gas supply lines (argon and collision/reaction gas) for installation of the instrument to the required pre-install physical resources set-up.

Training on the operation and routine maintenance of the complete system must be provided on-site by the successful vendor’s service application specialist at time of installation.

1.8 Manuals

The proponent must provide one (1) manual for each piece of equipment.

1.9 Insurance

The Preferred Bidder must provide certificates of insurance and WSIB in accordance with the College’s minimum requirements set out below before the Contract is executed.

MINIMUM COVERAGE:

1. Commercial General Liability Insurance on an "Occurrence Basis" with limits of liability not less than \$5,000,000 per occurrence and/or aggregate combined limits \$5,000,000. Coverage shall include the following; (A) contractual liability; (B) products and completed operations; (C) Independent Contractors Coverage; (D) Broad Form Property Damage; (E) Waiver of Subrogation in favour of Cambrian College of Applied Arts and Technology; (F) Employees as additional insured; (G) Cross liability clause; (H) all non-owned automobile liability.
2. Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance, including Ontario No-Fault Coverage, with limits of liability of not less than \$ 2,000,000 per occurrence. Bodily Injury and Property Damage Coverage shall include all owned vehicles, and all hired vehicles.
3. Workers' Safety Insurance Board coverage in accordance with all applicable Statutes of the Province of Ontario.

1.10 Purchaser Order Terms and Conditions

The successful Proponent will be required to follow all of Cambrian College’s Purchase Terms and Conditions, available at:

<http://www.cambriancollege.ca/aboutcambrian/tendersandrfps/pages/purchasing.aspx>

Part D – Proposal Submission Contents

1.11 General

Proponents shall submit one (1) original and one (1) copy - in a sealed envelope as per Section 2.6.

1.12 Proposal Content Requirements

Proposal should be submitted in accordance with the instructions set out in this RFP and by completing the Schedules provided for this purpose. Proposal should be completed without deletions, alterations, or erasures. In the event of any discrepancy between the original copy of a Proposal and of the copies, the original shall prevail.

Cambrian College requires that the Bidder supply the following information and attachment in its Tender Submission:

1.12.1 Mandatory Requirements

The following completed and signed schedules must be submitted with your Proposal:

Schedule A - Unfair Advantage and Conflict of Interest Statement Schedule
Schedule C – Mandatory Requirements Checklist Schedule
Schedule D – Declaration and Certification Schedule
Schedule E – Reference Schedule
Schedule F – Stipulated Price Schedule Form

1.13 Scored Requirement

Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of information provided by the Proponent. Each Proposal will be reviewed to determine if the Proposal is responsive to the mandatory submission requirements outlined in the RFP. The maximum allowable score for this Proposal is 100 points. Proponent should provide a detail written proposal responding to each criterion set out below.

1.13.1 Meets Requirements (Pass/Fail)

The Proponent should provide complete specifications for the proposed equipment that meets the needs of the Purchaser.

1.13.2 Warranty Details (10)

The Proponent should provide Warranty Details of the equipment that they had proposed.

- Warranty period
- Parts replacement coverage

1.13.3 Equipments' Specifications/Features (40)

We encourage that Proponents propose the equipment within our budget limit (as per Section 1.5) clearly indicating the features/specification of the equipment. If the Proponent feels that they are offering

additional features for equipment that they are proposing, they are advised to add an appendage clearing stating the additional features/specification.

1.13.4 Stipulated Price (50)

The Proponent must provide a price for the Equipment by completing Schedule G.

1.13.5 Presentation (20)

Presentation weights (20) points and two Proponents who had scored highest would be invited for Presentation.

1.14 Legal Actions

The Proponent must disclose any pending or threatened legal action against the Proponent or by the Proponent against any third party, which may have an impact on the service proposed by the Proponent.

Article 2 – RFP Terms and Procedures

Part A – Procedure

2.1 RFP Coordinator

2.1.1 Contact Information

All communications regarding any aspect of this RFP must be directed to the RFP Coordinator:

Name: Santosh Mishra
Title: Senior Buyer
Address: 1400 Barrydowne Road, Sudbury, ON P3A 3V8
Phone #: 705-566-8101 x. 7213
Facsimile #: 705-524-7302
E-mail address: purchasing@cambriancollege.ca

Proponents that fail to comply with the requirement to direct all communications to the RFP Coordinator shall be disqualified from the RFP process. Without limiting the generality of this provision, Proponents shall not communicate with or attempt to communicate with the following:

- (a) any employee or agent of the Purchaser (other than the RFP Coordinator);
- (b) any employee or agent of any Purchaser;
- (c) any member of the Evaluation Team;
- (d) any expert or advisor assisting the Evaluation Team;
- (e) any member of the Board of Governors, Board of Directors, or Board of Advisors of the Purchaser;
and
- (f) any elected official of any level of government, including any member of the staff or any advisor to any elected official.

2.1.2 Notice

Proponents are advised that from the date of issue of the RFP through any award notification,

- (a) only the RFP Coordinator is authorized by the Purchaser to amend or waive the requirements of the RFP pursuant to the terms of this RFP;
- (b) as noted above, Proponents must not contact any, officer, governor, director, employee or agent of the Purchaser or any Purchaser (except for the RFP Coordinator), unless instructed to do so in writing by the RFP Coordinator;
- (c) Proponents must not contact the user departments regarding this procurement, even if they have an existing contract doing the same or similar services and are performing Work in the area of the end user;

- (d) under no circumstances shall a Proponent rely upon any information or instructions from the Purchaser, including any officer, governor, director, employee or agent unless the information or instructions are provided in writing by the RFP Coordinator; and
- (e) neither the Purchaser nor any of its end users, officers, governors, directors, employees or agents shall be responsible for any information or instructions provided to the Proponent, with the exception of information or instructions provided in writing by the RFP Coordinator.

2.2 RFP Tentative Schedule

The following is a summary of the key dates in the RFP process:

Event	Date
RFP Issue Date	January 26, 2012
Receipt Confirmation Schedule Submitted	February 2, 2012
Questions to be submitted in Writing (see Section 2.4.1 (Proposal))	February 3, 2012
Addenda Deadline (see Section 2.4.3 (Issued Addenda))	February 7, 2012
RFP Closing Time	February 14, 2012
Review of Mandatory Requirements	February 15, 2012
Evaluation of General Requirements	February 15, 2012
Presentation	February 19, 2012
Verification of References of Preferred Proponent	February 20, 2012
Discussions with Preferred Proponent (if applicable)	February 20, 2012
Anticipated Agreement Start Date	February 25, 2012
Notification to Unsuccessful Proponents	Once Contract has been executed

- (a) The above timelines are subject to change at the sole discretion of the Purchaser and in accordance with this RFP. In the event a change is made to any of the above dates, the Purchaser will issue an addenda in the same manner that the original RFP was sent.
- (b) The Purchaser may amend any timeline, including the RFP Closing Time, without liability, cost or penalty, and within its sole discretion.
- (c) In the event of any change in the RFP Closing Time, the Proponent shall thereafter be subject to the extended timeline.

2.3 Information

2.3.1 Proponent to Review

Every Proponent should carefully review the RFP to ensure that it has no reason to believe there are any uncertainties, inconsistencies, errors, omissions, or ambiguities in any part of the RFP. Every Proponent is responsible for conducting its own investigations and due diligence necessary for the preparation of its Proposal.

2.3.2 Proponent to Notify

In the event that a Proponent has any reason to believe that any of the conditions listed in Section 2.3.1 (Proponent to Review) exist; the Proponent must notify the RFP Coordinator in writing prior to submitting a Proposal. The RFP Coordinator will then clarify for the benefit of all Proponents.

Proponents shall not:

- (a) after submission of a Proposal, claim that there was any misunderstanding or that any of the conditions set out in Section 2.3 (Information) were present with respect to the RFP;

or

- (b) claim that the Purchaser is responsible for any uncertainty, inconsistency, error, omission, or ambiguity in any part of the RFP.

2.4 Clarification and Questions

2.4.1 Proposal

The following apply regarding any request for clarification of any aspect of the RFP:

- (a) Proponents must submit requests for clarification by fax, email, courier, delivery, or mail to the RFP Coordinator, or as may otherwise be directed by the RFP Coordinator;
- (b) In submitting a request for clarification, a Proponent must include its address, telephone number, facsimile number and email address;
- (c) Where a question relates to a specific section of this RFP, reference should be made to the specific section number and page; and
- (d) Requests for clarification must be submitted at least 7 Days prior to the RFP Closing Time.

2.4.2 Questions and Answers

The Purchaser will provide Proponents with written responses to questions that are submitted in accordance with Section 2.4.1 (Proposal), subject to the provisions of this Section. Questions and answers will be distributed in numbered Addenda to Proponents which returned Schedule B – Receipt Confirmation Schedule B. In answering a Proponent’s questions, the Purchaser will set out the question(s), but without identifying the Proponent that submitted the question(s) and the Purchaser may, in its sole discretion,

- (a) edit the question(s) for clarity;
- (b) exclude questions that are either unclear or inappropriate, and
- (c) answer similar questions from various Proponents only once.

Any answer that is intended to result in any change to any aspect of the RFP will be formally evidenced through the issue of a separate Addendum for this purpose.

2.4.3 Issued Addenda

Before submitting a Proposal, a Proponent shall be responsible to verify that it has received all of the Addenda that have been issued, which shall be emailed to all Proponents that have submitted a Receipt Confirmation Schedule at least 6 Days prior to the RFP Closing Time, unless it is an Addendum that extends the RFP Closing Time. Any amendment or supplement to the RFP made in any other manner will not be binding on the Purchaser.

2.5 Receipt Confirmation

Proponents are requested to complete and return either by facsimile or by email the Receipt Confirmation Schedule, in accordance with the specific instructions contained therein.

2.6 Proponent's Proposal

2.6.1 General

To be considered in the RFP process, a Proponent's Proposal must be received by **3:00:00 p.m. (Local time) on February 14, 2012** (the "RFP Closing Time"), in a sealed package and should bear the Proponent's name, return address, and RFP # 12-004, and addressed to:

Attention: RFP Coordinator
Cambrian College
Purchasing Services, Room 4037
1400 Barrydowne Road
Sudbury, ON P3A 3V8

Proposals received after the RFP Closing Time shall not be considered and shall be returned to the Proponent unopened, at the cost of the Proponent. Each Proponent is responsible for the actual delivery of its Proposal to the address and location listed above, regardless whether delivery of the Proposal to the required location has been assumed by a courier, delivery service, Canada Post or any employee or agent of the Purchaser.

Proposals transmitted by facsimile or sent by any other electronic means shall **not be considered**. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any applicable statute relating to electronic documents transactions, including the *Electronic Commerce Act, 2000*, S.O. 2000, c. 17, any notice, Proposal, statement, or other instrument provided in respect of the RFP may not be validly delivered by way of electronic communication, unless otherwise provided for in this RFP.

Proposals are to be submitted in English only, and any Proposal received by the Purchaser that is not entirely in English may be disqualified.

2.6.2 Receipt

Every Proposal received will be stamped at the location referred to in Section 2.6.1 (General) before the RFP Closing Time and a receipt will be provided, if required by the Proponent.

A Proponent should allow sufficient time in the preparation of its Proposal to ensure its Proposal is received by the RFP Closing Time.

2.7 Withdrawal of Proposal

A Proponent may withdraw its Proposal only by providing written notice received by the RFP Coordinator.

2.8 Amendment of Proposal

A Proponent may amend its Proposal after Proposal, but only if the Proposal is amended and resubmitted before the RFP Closing Time. The Proponent must provide notice to the RFP Coordinator in writing and replace its Proposal with a revised Proposal, in accordance with the requirements of this RFP.

2.9 Completeness of Proposal

By submitting a Proposal, the Proponent confirms that all of the components required to use and/or manage the Services have been identified in its Proposal or will be provided to the Purchaser at no additional charge. Any requirements that may be identified by the Proponent after the RFP Closing Time or subsequent to signing the Agreement shall be provided at the Proponent's expense.

2.10 Proponent's Proposals

All Proposals shall become the property of the Purchaser and will not be returned to the Proponents.

2.11 Acceptance of RFP

By submitting a Proposal in response to this RFP, a Proponent agrees to accept and to be bound by all of the terms and conditions contained in this RFP, and by all of the representations, terms and conditions contained in its Proposal.

2.12 Amendments to the RFP

Subject to Section 2.2 (RFP Tentative Schedule) and Section 2.4.3 (Issued Addenda), the Purchaser shall have the right to amend or supplement this RFP in writing prior to the RFP Closing Time. No other statement, whether written or oral, shall amend this RFP. The Proponent is responsible to ensure it has received all Addenda in order to ensure it has captured all requirements of this RFP.

2.13 Clarification of Proponent's Proposal

The Purchaser shall have the right at any time after the RFP Closing Time, to seek clarification from any Proponent in respect of the Proponent's Proposal, without contacting any other Proponent. The Purchaser shall not be obliged to seek clarification of any aspect of any Proposal.

Any clarification sought shall not be an opportunity for the Proponent to either correct errors or to change the Proponent's Proposal in any substantive manner. Subject to the Proposal in this provision, any written information received by the Purchaser from a Proponent in response to a request for clarification from the Purchaser may be considered to form an integral part of the Proponent's Proposal, in the Purchaser's sole discretion.

2.14 Verification of Information

The Purchaser shall have the right, in its sole discretion, to

- (a) verify any Proponent's statement or claim made in the Proponent's Proposal or made subsequently in an interview, site visit, oral presentation, demonstration or discussion by whatever means the Purchaser may deem appropriate, including contacting persons in addition to those offered as references, and to reject any Proponent statement or claim, if such statement or claim or its Proposal is patently unwarranted or is questionable; or
- (b) access the Proponent's premises where any part of the service is to be carried out to confirm Proposal information, quality of processes, and to obtain assurances of viability. The Proponent

shall co-operate in the verification of information and is deemed to consent to the Purchaser verifying such information.

2.15 Proposal Acceptance

The lowest price Proposal or any Proposal shall not necessarily be accepted. While price and financial considerations constitute an element of the evaluation process, several other considerations are to be taken into account in evaluating the Proposals, as is set out in Article 3 (Evaluation Process).

2.16 Substantial Compliance

The Purchaser shall be required to reject Proposals which are not substantially compliant.

2.17 No Publicity or Promotion

No Proponent, including the Preferred Proponent, shall make any public announcement or distribute any literature regarding this RFP or otherwise promote itself in connection with this RFP or any arrangement entered into under this RFP without the prior written approval of the Purchaser.

In the event that a Proponent, including the Preferred Proponent, makes a public statement either in the media or otherwise in breach of this requirement, in addition to any other legal remedy it may have in law, in equity or within the context of this RFP, the Purchaser shall be entitled to take all reasonable steps as may be deemed necessary by the Purchaser, including disclosing any information about a Proponent's Proposal to provide accurate information and/or to rectify any false impression which may have been created.

2.18 Debriefing

Not later than 60 days following the date of posting of a contract award notification in respect of the RFP, a Proponent may contact the RFP Coordinator requesting a debriefing from the Purchaser, and the Purchaser shall conduct such debriefing in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry Board of Cabinet (MBC) Procurement Directives. Any request that is not timely received will not be considered and the Proponent will be notified in writing.

Proponents should note that, regardless of the time of a request by a Proponent, debriefings will not be provided until such time as a contract award notification has been posted.

2.19 Bid Protest Procedure

In the event that a Proponent wishes to review the decision of the Purchaser in respect of any material aspect of the RFP process, and subject to having attended a debriefing, the Proponent shall submit a protest in writing to the Purchaser within 10 Days from such a debriefing. Any protest in writing that is not timely received will not be considered and the Proponent will be notified in writing.

A protest in writing shall include the following:

- (a) A specific identification of the provision and/or procurement procedure that is alleged to have been breached;
- (b) A specific description of each act alleged to have breached the procurement process;
- (c) A precise statement of the relevant facts;

- (d) An identification of the issues to be resolved;
- (e) The Proponent's arguments and supporting documentation; and
- (f) The Proponent's requested remedy.

Part B - Additional Terms

2.20 Confidentiality

2.20.1 Confidential Information of the Purchaser

All correspondence, documentation, and information of any kind provided to any Proponent in connection with or arising out of this RFP or the acceptance of any Proposal

- (a) remains the property of the Purchaser and shall be removed from the Purchaser's premises only with the prior written consent of the Purchaser;
- (b) must be treated as confidential and shall not be disclosed except with the prior written consent of the Purchaser;
- (c) must not be used for any purpose other than for replying to this RFP and for the fulfillment of any related subsequent agreement; and
- (d) must be returned upon request by the Purchaser.

2.20.2 Confidential Information of the Proponent

Except as provided otherwise in this RFP, or as may be required by Applicable Law, the Purchaser shall treat the Proponents' Proposals and any information gathered in any related process as confidential, provided that such obligation shall not include any information that is or becomes generally available to the public other than as a result of disclosure by the Purchaser.

During any part of this RFP process, a Proponent shall not require that the Purchaser, or any of its representatives or agents, execute a confidentiality agreement. In the event that a Proponent refuses to participate in any required step of the RFP (such as an oral presentation or demonstration) because the Purchaser has refused to execute any such confidentiality agreement, the Proponent shall receive no points for the particular step in the evaluation process in respect of which the Proponent has refused to participate.

2.20.3 Proponent's Proposal

All correspondence, documentation, and information provided in response to or because of this RFP may be reproduced for the purposes of evaluating the Proponent's Proposal.

If a portion of a Proponent's Proposal is to be held confidential, such provisions must be clearly identified in the Proposal.

2.20.4 Personal Information

- (a) Proposal of Information

The Proponent should not submit as part of its Proposal any information related to the Proposals or experience of persons who will be assigned to provide services unless specifically requested. Unless so requested, any such information, whether in the form of resumes or other documentation, will be returned to the Proponent or destroyed by a professional company that routinely provides document destruction services for the Purchaser and will not be used in the evaluation process. Should the Purchaser subsequently request such information from the Preferred Proponent during the process to finalize any Agreement that may be awarded from this RFP, the Purchaser will treat this information in accordance with the provisions of this Section.

(b) Use

Any personal information as defined in the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act, S.C. 2005, c.5 that is requested from each Proponent by the Purchaser shall only be used to select the qualified individuals to undertake the project/services and to confirm that the service performed is consistent with these Proposals.

(c) Consent

It is the responsibility of each Proponent to obtain the consent of such individuals prior to providing the information to the Purchaser. The Purchaser will consider that the appropriate consents have been obtained for the disclosure to and use by the Purchaser of the requested information for the purposes described.

2.20.5 Non-Disclosure Agreement

The Purchaser reserves the right to require any Proponent to enter into a non-disclosure agreement satisfactory to the Purchaser.

2.21 Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 1990 (Ontario) applies to information provided to the Purchaser by a Proponent. A Proponent should identify any information in its Proposal or any accompanying documentation supplied in confidence for which confidentiality is to be maintained by the Purchaser. The confidentiality of such information will be maintained by the Purchaser, except as otherwise required by law or by order of a court or tribunal. Proponents are advised that their Proposals will, as necessary, be disclosed on a confidential basis, to the Purchaser's Evaluation Team for the purpose of evaluating or participating in the evaluation of their Proposals.

By submitting any Personal Information requested in this RFP, Proponents are agreeing to the use of such information as part of the evaluation process, for any audit of this procurement process and for contract management purposes. If a Proponent has any questions about the collection and use of Personal Information pursuant to this RFP, questions are to be submitted to the RFP Coordinator in accordance with Section 2.4 (Clarification and Questions).

2.22 Intellectual Property

The Proponent shall not use any intellectual property of the Purchaser, including but not limited to logos, registered trademarks or trade names of the Purchaser, at any time without the prior written approval of the Purchaser.

All deliverables, documentation, services and intellectual property rights of any kind derived and/or developed pursuant to this RFP shall remain the exclusive property of the Purchaser.

Requests to present data or publish or present papers derived from service pursuant to this RFP in any type of publication, journal or professional conference must be made to the Purchaser and prior approval must be obtained in writing from the RFP Coordinator.

2.23 Rights of the Purchaser – General

In addition to any other express rights or any other rights which may be implied in the circumstances, the Purchaser reserves the right to:

- (a) make public the names of any or all Proponents;
- (b) request written clarification or the Proposal of supplementary written information from any Proponent and incorporate such clarification or supplementary written information into the Proponent's Proposal, at the Purchaser's discretion, provided that any clarification or Proposal of supplementary written information shall not be an opportunity for the Proponent to correct errors in its Proposal or to change or enhance the Proponent's Proposal in any material manner;
- (c) waive formalities or elements of non-compliance and accept Proposals which substantially comply with the requirements of this RFP, in the Purchaser's sole discretion;
- (d) verify with any Proponent or with a third party any information set out in a Proposal, as described in Section 2.14 (Verification of Information);
- (e) check references other than those provided by any Proponent;
- (f) disqualify any Proponent whose Proposal contains misrepresentations or any other inaccurate or misleading information, or any Proponent whose reasonable failure to cooperate with the Purchaser impedes the evaluation process, or whose Proposal is determined to be non-compliant with the requirements of the RFP;
- (g) disqualify a Proposal where the Proponent has previously breached a contract with the Purchaser, the Proponent has been charged or convicted of an offence in respect of a contract with the Purchaser, or the Proponent reveals a Conflict of Interest or Unfair Advantage in its Proposal or a Conflict of Interest or evidence of any Unfair Advantage is brought to the attention of the Purchaser;
- (h) disqualify any Proposal of any Proponent who has breached any applicable laws or who has engaged in conduct prohibited by this RFP, including where there is any evidence that the Proponent or any of its employees or agents colluded with any other Proponent, its employees or agents in the preparation of the Proposal;
- (i) make changes, including substantial changes, to this RFP provided that those changes are issued by way of addenda in the manner set out in this RFP;
- (j) accept or reject a Proposal if only one Proposal is submitted;
- (k) select any Proponent other than the Proponent whose Proposal reflects the lowest cost to the Purchaser;

- (l) cancel this RFP process at any stage and issue a new RFP for the same or similar requirements, including where
 - (i) the Purchaser determines it would be in the best interest of the Purchaser not to award an Agreement;
 - (ii) the Proposal prices exceed the bid prices received by the Purchaser for Services acquired of a similar nature and previously done service;
 - (iii) the Proposal prices exceed the costs the Purchaser would incur by doing the service, or most of the service, with its own resources;
 - (iv) the Proposal prices exceed the funds available for the Goods and/or Services; or
 - (v) the funding for the acquisition of the proposed Goods and/or Services has been revoked, modified, or has not been approved;

and where the Purchaser cancels this RFP, the Purchaser may do so without providing reasons for any such cancellation, and the Purchaser may thereafter issue a new request for Proposals, request for Proposals, sole source or do nothing;

- (m) discuss with any Proponent different or additional terms to those contemplated in this RFP or in any Proponent's Proposal;
- (n) reject any or all Proposals in its absolute discretion, including where a Proponent has launched legal proceedings against the Purchaser or is otherwise engaged in a dispute with the Purchaser;

By submitting a Proposal, the Proponent authorizes the collection by the Purchaser of the information identified in this RFP, which the Purchaser may request from any third party.

2.24 Rights of the Purchaser – Preferred Proponent

In the event that the Preferred Proponent fails or refuses to execute the Agreement within 15 Business Days from being notified of its position as the Preferred Proponent, the Purchaser may, in its sole discretion,

- (a) extend the period for concluding the Agreement, provided that if substantial progress towards executing the Agreement is not achieved within a reasonable period of time from such extension, the Purchaser may, in its sole discretion, terminate the discussions;
- (b) exclude the Preferred Proponent's Proposal from further consideration and begin discussions with the next highest-ranked Proponent without becoming obligated to offer to negotiate with all Proponents; and
- (c) exercise any other applicable right set out in this RFP, including but not limited to, cancelling the RFP or issuing a new RFP for the same or similar goods and services.

The Purchaser may also cancel this RFP in the event the Preferred Proponent fails to obtain any of the permits, licenses, consults, or authorizations required pursuant to this RFP.

2.25 Proponent's Costs

Every Proponent shall bear all costs and expenses incurred by the Proponent relating to any aspect of its participation in this RFP process, including all costs and expenses relating to the Proponent's participation in

- (a) the preparation, presentation and Proposal of its Proposal;
- (b) the Proponent's attendance at any meeting in relation to the RFP process, including any oral presentation and/or demonstration;
- (c) the conduct of any due diligence on its part, including any information gathering activity;
- (d) the preparation of the Proponent's own questions prior to the RFP Closing Time; and
- (e) any discussion and/or negotiation, if any, in respect of the Agreement.

2.26 No Liability

The Proponent agrees that:

- (a) Any action or proceeding relating to this RFP process shall be brought in any court of competent jurisdiction in the Province of Ontario and for that purpose the Proponent irrevocably and unconditionally attorns and submits to the jurisdiction of that Ontario court;
- (b) It irrevocably waives any right to and shall not oppose any Ontario action or proceeding relating to this RFP process on any jurisdictional basis; and
- (c) It shall not oppose the enforcement against it, in any other jurisdiction, of any judgment or order duly obtained from an Ontario court as contemplated by this RFP. The Proponent further agrees that if the Purchaser commits a material breach of this RFP (that is a material breach of Contract A), the Purchaser's liability to the Proponent, and the aggregate amount of damages recoverable against the Purchaser for any matter relating to or arising from that material breach, whether based upon an action or claim in contract, warranty, equity, negligence, intended conduct or otherwise, including any action or claim arising from the acts or omissions, negligent or otherwise, of the Purchaser, shall be no greater than the Proposal preparation costs that the Proponent seeking damages from the Purchaser can demonstrate.

2.27 Assignment

The Proponent shall not assign any of its rights or obligations hereunder during the RFP process without the prior written consent of the Purchaser. Any act in derogation of the foregoing shall be null and void.

2.28 Entire RFP

This RFP, addendums and all Schedules form an integral part of this RFP.

2.29 Priority of Documents

In the event of any inconsistencies between the terms, conditions, and provisions of the main part of the RFP and the Schedules, the RFP shall prevail over the Schedules during the RFP process.

2.30 Governing Law

The RFP, the Proponent's Proposal, and any resulting Agreement shall be governed by the laws of Ontario and the federal laws of Canada applicable there.

Article 3 – Evaluation Process

3.1 General

The evaluation of the Proposals will be conducted by the evaluation team (the “Evaluation Team”) as described below.

A Proposal must meet the requirements of each phase of the evaluation process to proceed to the next phase. The evaluation of the Proposals will be conducted on the basis of the members of the Evaluation Team arriving at a consensus. Where a consensus is not possible, the score will be averaged.

The Purchaser shall determine, in its sole discretion, the membership of the Evaluation Team, which may include external consultants and advisors to the Purchaser.

3.2 Stages of Proposal Evaluation

The evaluation of the Proposals will be conducted by the Purchaser as follows:

(a) Stage I - Review of Mandatory Submission Requirements (Pass/Fail) will consist of a review by the Purchaser to determine which Proposals comply with all of the Mandatory Requirements, as set out in Section 3.3 (Stage I - Review of Mandatory Requirements (Pass/Fail)). Proposals that do not comply with all of the Mandatory Requirements will be disqualified.

(b) Stage II – Evaluation of General Requirements (100 points) will consist of the scoring by the Evaluation Team of each Eligible Proposal on the basis of the General Requirements described in Section 3.4 (Stage II – Evaluation of General Requirements). Eligible Proposals that do not meet the minimum score for the General Requirements will be disqualified. Two Proponents with the highest score from stages II will move on to Stage III – Presentation.

(c) Stage III – Presentation (20) will consist of a Presentation to the Evaluation Team, as described in Section 3.5 (Stage III – Presentation (20)). The Purchaser will determine the amount of Proponents that will be required to present, provided they have met the minimum score in Stage II – Evaluation of General requirements. The Proponent with the highest combined score from stages II and III will move on to Stage IV – Reference Verification.

(d) Stage IV – Reference Verification (Pass/Fail) will consist of the Purchaser verifying the references of the Proponent whose Proposal has scored the highest – the Preferred Proponent – as described in Section 3.6 (Stage IV – Reference Verification (Pass/Fail)).

The points allocated to each stage of the evaluation process are as follows:

Stage Description	Points	Minimum Points
I Mandatory Requirements	(Pass/Fail)	Pass
II General Requirements	100	70
III Reference Verification	(Pass/Fail)	Pass

3.3 Stage I - Review of Mandatory Submission Requirements (Pass/Fail)

Every Proposal must include, or conform to, the Mandatory Requirements identified below:

1) Forms and Schedules

The following completed and signed schedules must also be submitted with your Proposal:

- Schedule A – Unfair Advantage and Conflict of Interest Statement Schedule
- Schedule C – Mandatory Requirements Checklist Schedule
- Schedule D – Declaration and Certification Schedule
- Schedule E – References

3.4 Stage II – Evaluation of General Requirements (100)

Proposals that reach or exceed the minimum score may be eligible to proceed to the next stage of the evaluation process. 100 points will consist of the scoring by the Evaluation Team of each eligible Proposal on the basis of the following General Criterion:

Evaluation Criteria	Weighting
Warranty Details	10
Equipment Specifications/Features	40
Stipulated Price	50

Warranty Details (10)

The Proponent should provide Warranty Details of the equipment that they had proposed.

- Warranty period
- Parts replacement coverage

Equipments' Specifications/Features (40)

We encourage that Proponents propose the equipment within our budget limit (as per Section 1.5) clearly indicating the features/specification of the equipment. If the Proponent feels that they are offering additional features for equipment that they are proposing, they are advised to add an appendage clearing stating the additional features/specification.

Stipulated Price (50)

The Proponent must provide a price for the Equipment.

Each Bidder will receive a percentage of the total possible points allocated to price for the Services by dividing that Bidder's price for the Services by the lowest bid price for the Services. For example, if the lowest bid price offered by one Bidder is \$120.00, that Bidder will receive 100% of the possible points ($120/120 = 100\%$). A Bidder who bids \$150.00 will receive 80% of the possible points ($120/150 = 80\%$) and a Bidder who bids \$240.00 will receive 50% of the possible points ($120/240 = 50\%$).

3.5 Stage III – Presentation (20)

Two Proponents, who had scored the most, will be invited for Presentation. The purpose of the Presentation will be to allow the Proponent to address the major elements of its Proposal, to obtain any required clarification, and to allow members of the Evaluation Team to interact directly with key representatives of the Proponent's proposed team so as to validate and to make final adjustments, if required, to the evaluation results of the written Proposal in Stage II – Evaluation of General Requirements.

Proponents that are invited to make a presentation will be notified in writing of the matters on which clarification will be sought, and the agenda for the meeting. The Proponent will not have the opportunity to modify its written Proposal or otherwise introduce new information during the Presentation stage.

Presentation can be conducted either by video conferencing or in person. Proponent would incur the costs associated to this task.

In addition, the Presentation will be evaluated on the basis of the following framework:

Criteria
Demonstration of Proponent commitment to Purchaser (5)
Demonstration of Proponent knowledge of equipment (10)
Response to questions by the evaluation committee (5)

3.6 Stage IV – Reference Verification (Pass/Fail)

At this stage, the Evaluation Team will verify as many references provided by the Preferred Proponent in the References Schedule as the Evaluation Team may deem appropriate and such references may be conducted in-person, as the Evaluation Team may determine in its sole discretion. References will be assessed on a pass/fail basis as to their satisfaction with the services performed, and will serve to validate (or not, as the case may be) the evaluation conducted by the Evaluation Team.

After the references have been successfully verified, the Purchaser will notify the Preferred Proponent of its position as the Preferred Proponent, and invite it to enter into discussions to finalize the terms of the Agreement, attached in the Form of Agreement Schedule. Subject to the requirements of Section 3.7 (Discussions with Preferred Proponent), the Purchaser expects that the Agreement will be executed substantially in the form in which it appears in this RFP.

3.7 Tie Score

In the event of a tie-score, the selected Proponent will be determined based on the proponent offering the lowest price.

3.8 Discussions with Preferred Proponent

After identifying the Preferred Proponent, if any, the Purchaser may attempt to finalize the terms and conditions of the Agreement with the Preferred Proponent or it may, in its sole discretion,

- (a) prior to making the award, enter into a letter of intent with the Preferred Proponent, on terms satisfactory to the Purchaser, as an interim measure; and
- (b) negotiate changes, amendments, or modifications to the Preferred Proponent's Proposal.

The Purchaser shall at all times be entitled to exercise its right under Section 2.28 (Rights of the Purchaser – Preferred Proponent).

For certainty, the Purchaser makes no commitment of any kind to the Preferred Proponent until the Agreement has been executed between the Purchaser and the Preferred Proponent. The Preferred Proponent acknowledges that the commencement of any discussions in respect of the Agreement does not create any contractual obligations between the Purchaser and the Preferred Proponent.

Schedule A - Unfair Advantage and Conflict of Interest Statement Schedule

“**Conflict of Interest**” includes, but is not limited to, any situation or circumstance where, in relation to the performance of its obligations under the Agreement, the Proponent’s other commitments, relationships or financial interests

- (i) could or could be seen to exercise an improper influence over the objective, unbiased and impartial exercise of its independent judgment; or
- (ii) could or could be seen to compromise, impair or be incompatible with the effective performance of its obligations under the Agreement.

“**Unfair Advantage**”, means any conduct engaged into, directly or indirectly, by a Proponent that may result in gaining an unfair advantage over other Proponents, including but not limited to

- (i) possessing, or having access to, information in the preparation of its Proposal that is confidential to the Purchaser and which is not available to other Proponents,
- (ii) communicating with any person with a view to influencing, or being given preferred treatment in, the RFP process, or
- (iii) engaging in conduct that compromises or could be seen to compromise the integrity of the RFP process and result in any unfairness.

In the event that the boxes below are left blank, the Proponent shall be deemed to declare that (a) it has had no Unfair Advantage in preparing its Proposal and (b) there is no foreseeable actual or potential Conflict of Interest in performing the contractual obligations contemplated in the RFP.

If either or both of the statements below apply, check the appropriate box:

- The Proponent declares that there is an actual or potential Unfair Advantage relating to the preparation of its Proposal.
- The Proponent foresees an actual or potential Conflict of Interest in performing the contractual obligations contemplated in the RFP.

In the event the Proponent declares an actual or potential Unfair Advantage and/or an actual or potential Conflict of Interest (by marking either of the boxes above), the Proponent shall provide all relevant detailed information below.

The Proponent agrees to provide any additional information which may be requested by the RFP Coordinator, in the form prescribed by the RFP Coordinator.

Where, in its sole discretion, the College concludes that an Unfair Advantage and/or Conflict of Interest arises, it may, in addition to any other remedy available to it at law or in equity, disqualify the Proponent’s Proposal, or terminate any Agreement awarded to the Proponent under the RFP.

Signature of Witness

Signature of Proponent Representative

Name of Witness

Name and Title
I have authority to bind the Proponent.

Date: _____

Schedule B - Receipt Confirmation Schedule

To: Cambrian College
Fax: 705-524-7302
Email: purchasing@cambriancollege.ca

Re: RFP No. 12-004

Proponents are requested to acknowledge receipt of **RFP No. 12-004 Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer** and their intent to submit a Proposal by sending this Receipt Confirmation Schedule by email to the attention of the RFP Coordinator. Proponents submitting this Receipt Confirmation Schedule will be notified of any addendum issued to this RFP, which will be forwarded to the person whose name is identified.

I hereby acknowledge receipt of the above-noted RFP.

[Please check your answer]

I / We DO DO NOT intend to submit a Proposal to this RFP.

Representative's contact information:

(Company Name)

(Representative's Signature)

(Address)

(Name – Please Print)

(City, Province, Postal Code)

(Title)

(Phone)

(Date)

(Email)

Schedule C - Mandatory Requirements Checklist Schedule

The Proponent must indicate the page number in its Proposal where each Mandatory Requirement can be found. In the event that the Purchaser determines, in its sole discretion, that any Mandatory Requirement is not met, the Proponent may be disqualified.

	Mandatory Requirements	Page #
M1	Schedule A – Unfair Advantage/ Conflict of Interest Declaration	21
M2	Schedule C – Mandatory Requirements Checklist	23
M3	Schedule D – Declaration and Certification	24
M4	Schedule E – References	25
M5	Schedule F – Stipulated Price	26

Signature of Witness

Signature of Proponent representative

Name of Witness

Name and Title
I have authority to bind the Proponent

Date: _____

Schedule D - Declaration and Certification Schedule

TO: Cambrian College (the "PURCHASER")

RE: IN THE MATTER OF our Proposal Response for RFP 12-004 dated _____, 2012 to which this Declaration and Certification Schedule is an integral part the Proposal prepared by _____ and submitted in response to a Request for Proposals issued by the Purchaser dated January 26, 2012, as amended, regarding the selection of a Proponent to execute the Agreement pursuant to the RFP.

I am duly authorized by the Proponent, including the persons, firms, corporations and advisors joining in the Proposal of this Proposal, to execute this Declaration and Certification Schedule. I solemnly declare and certify as follows:

1. Proponent Information

(a) The full legal name of the Proponent is:

(b) Any other registered business name under which the Proponent carries on business is:

(c) The jurisdiction under which the Proponent is formed is:

(d) The name, address, telephone, facsimile number and e-mail address of the contact person for the Proponent:

(e) Indicate whether the Proponent is an individual, a sole proprietorship, a corporation, a partnership, a joint venture, an incorporated consortium or a consortium that is a partnership or other legally recognized entity:

2. Addenda

The Proponent is deemed to have read and accepted all Addenda issued by the Purchaser prior to the RFP Closing Time. The onus remains on the Proponent to make any necessary amendment to its Proposal based upon the Addenda. The Proponent hereby confirms that it has received all Addenda by listing the Addenda numbers below, or if no Addenda were issued, by noting "None":

3. Disclosure of Information

The Proponent hereby agrees that any information provided in this Proposal, even if it is identified as being supplied in confidence, may be disclosed where required by law or if required by order of a court or tribunal. The Proponent hereby consents to the disclosure, on a confidential basis, of its Proposal to the Purchaser's advisors retained for the purpose of evaluating or participating in the evaluation of this Proposal.

Signature of Witness

Signature of Proponent representative

Name of Witness

Name and Title

I have authority to bind the Proponent

Date: _____

Schedule E - References Schedule

Proponent Name: _____

The Proponent must identify with its Proposal a minimum of 2 references with respect to itself, which must include the information set out below. Cambrian College reserves the right to contact references not listed below.

Reference 1	Proponent Response
Company Name	
Address	
Number of Sites	
Contact Information (name/phone/e-mail): Identify appropriate contacts to discuss the Services	
Detailed description of services provided	
Contract Duration	

Reference 2	Proponent Response
Company Name	
Address	
Number of Sites	
Contact Information (name/phone/e-mail): Identify appropriate contacts to discuss the Services	
Detailed description of services provided	
Contract Duration	

Reference 3	Proponent Response
Company Name	
Address	
Number of Sites	
Contact Information (name/phone/e-mail): Identify appropriate contacts to discuss the Services	
Detailed description of services provided	
Contract Duration	

Signature of Witness

Signature of Proponent representative
I have authority to bind the Proponent

Name of Witness

Name and Title

Date: _____

Schedule F - Stipulated Price Schedule Form

To: Cambrian College of Applied Arts and Technology
 1400 Barrydowne Road
 Sudbury ON P3A 3V8

The UNDERSIGNED, herein referred to as the “CONTRACTOR”
 With the legal company name of _____
 a company duly incorporated under the laws of _____
 and having its Head Office at _____

HEREBY UNDERTAKES AND AGREES WITH THE OWNER AS FOLLOWS:
 Having examined all the Proposal Documents, entitled “Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer,”
 and including:

- a) Statement of Requirement
- b) Purchase Order Terms & Conditions, Section 1.9
- c) Addenda Numbers: ____ to ____ inclusive

WE UNDERTAKE TO SUPPLY EQUIPMENT AND PROVIDE WARRANTY ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROPOSAL DOCUMENTS, FOR THE TOTAL CONTRACT PRICE LISTED BELOW.

PROJECT	PRICE	HST	TOTAL
Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer			

 Signature of Witness

 Signature of Bidder Representative
 I have authority to bind the Bidder

 Name of Witness

 Name and Title

Date: _____

Schedule G – Specifications

Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer

Specifications for ICP-MS

This spectrometer is used for analyses of toxic and other trace elements. System must be capable of analyzing other elements that are not toxic and at concentration levels above trace levels (e.g. part per million up to % ranges). The system must have simultaneous and multi-element capability. Matrix interferences must be eliminated and not impact key trace level elements.

General Performance Specifications

System must be a fully automated, new ICP-MS system, capable of analyzing 30+ elements simultaneously (i.e. at the same instant) per sample at percent and trace and ultra-trace levels. The system must include an auto-sampler, computer, cables and computer operated software. The system must fit in the existing lab space allotted for this unit. **Demonstration models, used, refurbished or prototype instruments will be considered.** The electrical equipment must be CSA approved prior to delivery (with the requisite CSA approval label) before acceptance can occur. The ICP-MS must be a bench top instrument, of a suitable size to be placed on a standard sized laboratory bench/countertop.

Safety interlocks throughout the system shall provide safe shut down of the generator without damage to the instrument in the event of power failure. In addition, all failure events must be recorded to an electronic error file and must include event description, time and date.

The ICP-MS system must be capable of eliminating polyatomic interferences and/or matrix- matrix interferences to reduce interferences created by complex matrices. ICP-MS must be equipped with collision/reaction cell technology capable of removing plasma and sample matrix interferences.

The capacity of the pumping system shall enable the use of collisional or reactive gases (such as He or H₂ or NH₃) and pre-mixed CCT and/or UCT gases (e.g. 7% H₂ dissolved in He).

ICP-MS must be an automated optimization of the torch position for maximum ease of use and maximum analytical performance. The torch position must be adjustable in x, y, z planes under computer control to enable the plasma position to be optimized, while the plasma is lit, in complete safety to the operator. It shall be possible to store and recall optimized settings in an analytical method along with other instrument parameters.

Measurement techniques for qualitative, quantitative and isotope ratio measurement of analysis should be included. System must analyze samples simultaneously for all elements. In order to maximize sample throughput and minimize sample consumption/waste generation, analysis should be carried-out on a single aspiration.

Maintenance of ion lenses must be able to be completed by a trained end user, and not require a service call. For end user simplicity the ion-optic design must provide maintenance free operation with no requirement for routine cleaning of the collision or reaction cell by the operator between normal service intervals. ICP-MS must be of robust design such that the collision/reaction cell must not be classed as a consumable item requiring periodic replacement.

RF generator should be capable of providing the output power for optimizing hard to ionize elements such as selenium and mercury and minimize matrix effects caused by high salts samples.

To minimize carry-over of some elements, to optimize sensitivity and to ensure that the same conditions are used within daily and day-to-day runs, it is required that the spray chamber is thermally stable and has a temperature that can be thermostatically controlled.

In order to achieve lower detection limits an alternate user interchangeable high performance interface shall be optionally available for ultra-trace applications. The high performance interface must enhance the sensitivity of the instrument without affecting the instrument background.

The instrument must be supplied with an auto sampler controlled by the software platform operating the ICP-MS. The auto sampler must be compatible with the instrument and control software. The system must include complete set of racks to maximize sample through-put. Sampling probe must be of inert material and use metal-free transfer lines to connect to the instrument.

System must provide the capability of using an optional on-line syringe driven (for accuracy) simultaneous dilution/sample preparation system.

The interface shall be equipped with an automatic isolation valve system to permit routine maintenance of the sampler and skimmer cones without venting the analyzer chamber.

All cones should be easily removed and replaced without venting or affecting the mechanical alignment. It must be possible to change between Ni and Pt sample cones.

The sampling and skimmer cones should be constructed from high purity Ni with apertures of at least 1.1mm and 0.75mm diameter respectively to minimize condensation of sample matrix in the cone orifice.

The system should give the user the option to run selected isotopes at a user defined, alternative resolution setting to increase the dynamic range of the analysis. The resolution adjustment must take place within a single sample analysis on the fly and result in no extra settling time on the quadrupole electronics.

Mechanical pumps must be easily accessible to facilitate changing of pump oil.

The instrument must be fully interlocked for complete operator safety and full protection of the instrument against damage.

Must include any chillers required for the cooling of the instrument interface and RF coil. A chiller unit must include all lines, connections and fittings for installation.

Computer must be included with the system; control software must be included with quality control/diagnostic features that can enable detection and correction for instrument faults including intercept drift, slope drift instrument malfunction and other sources of error and allows for calculation of duplicates, spikes. Software must have the ability to store, retrieve and display the analytical signals for each sample and must have Ethernet connectivity for network access.

All gas flows (nebulizer, auxiliary, plasma gas and collision/reaction cell gas flows must be computer controlled via mass flow controllers and be independently variable.

Cross calibration of the detector shall be fully automated and performed by the software. The detector must be automatically protected against damage due to high ion flux and auto-reset upon over-range signal measurement.

The vendor's proposed instrument must come supplied with a second, separate mass flow controlled reactive gas line (e.g. H₂ or NH₃) in addition to the first cell gas line (He or mixed He/H₂) for reduction of specific interferences on known matrices this will be considered beneficial for specialized research projects.

For end user simplicity the system should allow viewing of multiple sample profiles on the same viewing screen, including and not limited to concentration, replicates, standard deviations, relative standard deviations and internal standards profiles.

Data entry and results output of all required parameters (sample ID's, concentrations, units, standard deviations, relative standard deviations, etc...) shall be available in spreadsheet format enabling data reduction and report generation to be performed without recourse to third party software packages such as Microsoft Excel.

ICP – MS should include gas regulators for liquid argon supply tank and for the collision/reaction cell gases and must include a spare Nickel (or similar material) set of cones consisting of a sampler cone, a skimmer cone and a hyper skimmer cone (in addition to those installed).

The equipment must include all consumables for set-up and initial operation.