

New York State
Department of Corrections and Community Supervision

Request for Information
RFI 2011-01
Transdermal Alcohol Concentration (TAC) Testing



Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

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Commissioner

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Deputy Commissioner

NYS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) 2011-01

TRANSDERMAL ALCOHOL CONCENTRATION (TAC) TESTING

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to gather information and assess equipment introduced by vendors or contractors involved in Transdermal Alcohol Concentration (TAC) Testing. Using information gathered from responses to this RFI, the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) may implement a monitoring system that offers services as described in this RFI.

II. Background

By Legislative action effective 4/1/11, the Division of Parole and the Department of Correctional Services have merged into the new Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS).

DOCCS is a criminal justice agency charged by statute with the supervision of individuals ordered by a New York State County or Supreme court to Strict and Intensive Supervision and Treatment (SIST), pursuant to Mental Hygiene Law Article 10 (known as the "Sex Offender Management and Treatment Act" or "SOMTA").

Cases may be ordered by a Court of competent jurisdiction as a condition of SIST to participate in a program of tamper-resistant continuous transdermal alcohol testing to monitor an individual's Transdermal Alcohol Concentration (TAC). This technology can serve as an additional tool in structuring the supervision process and may provide enhanced public safety and community protection in cases where alcohol abuse has been a factor in offending, particularly sexual offending.

SOMTA became effective in New York in April of 2007. Since then, 93 offenders have been ordered to SIST. Currently, a total of 49 cases remain in a community supervision status. Cases are supervised in areas throughout New York State. It is anticipated that the number of cases subject to an order of SIST will continue to increase in the future as all the elements of SOMTA become fully operational.

In order to reduce recidivism and increase public safety, offenders on SIST may be ordered by a Court to participate in a continuous alcohol testing system immediately upon their release to the community from a correctional institution or secure treatment facility. As many sex offenders are undomiciled upon release from confinement, and are often placed into emergency housing by local departments of social services, cases ordered to a continuous transdermal alcohol testing program are often limited in their ability to access landline phone services. Supervising Parole Officers must have the ability to manage a continuous transdermal alcohol concentration testing program in field settings where available communication technologies may be limited.

Parole Officers working with offenders with conditions of supervision relating to sobriety require an accurate, reliable tool that can help increase supervision compliance, increase victim safety,

decrease an offender's potential to consume alcohol and increase an Officer's ability to detect and appropriately manage offenders experiencing difficulties with remaining sober.

III. Information Requested

Specific information to address in your response would include:

1. Vendor/contractor name and contact information, including e-mail address and phone number;
2. Description of organization;
3. Description of services and equipment available to provide for Transdermal Alcohol Concentration (TAC) Testing. Also, please include a response to each of the following questions:
 - a. Describe the TAC Testing System product offered and your organization's experience in this area, particularly with criminal justice supervision agencies;
 - b. Describe the product specifications, ease of use and any system limitations and/or participant exclusions;
 - c. Describe the accuracy, reliability and validity of the offered product; attach any evaluation data;
 - d. Describe your ability to maintain historical case information and reports.
 - e. Describe any possible equipment failures and steps to be taken in the event of equipment failure;
 - f. Describe the support services your organization provides and your central data center operations;
 - g. Describe your reporting mechanisms; attach report samples;
 - h. Note your capacity to provide additional services both at additional cost and no additional cost;
 - i. Describe initial and refresher training offerings your organization provides;
 - j. Note how lost and damaged equipment is handled and describe your inventory control system;
 - k. Indicate contractual costs of equipment and monitoring per offender per day; include purchase and/or lease agreement options, and include cost of supplies (batteries, clips, faceplates, etc.), if any;
 - l. Describe any supplemental capacities the TAC system provides or can provide, such as an Electronic Monitoring (EM) radio frequency and/or GPS tracking system; whether such capacity is integrated and/or offered as an option; and specify how associated features, services and costs may differ;
 - m. Describe your capability to provide an integrated EM/TAC system;
 - n. Indicate your ability to provide expert testimony on any hardware/software requirements; and,
4. Include any product literature.

DOCCS will not be liable for any costs incurred by any vendor pertaining to the preparation and submittal of any written responses or for participation in a demonstration in response to this RFI.

All materials submitted by a vendor shall become the property of DOCCS and may be returned to the vendor at the sole discretion of DOCCS.

DOCCS has the right to adopt, modify, or reject any or all ideas presented in any material submitted in response to the RFI. To request that materials be protected from New York State Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) disclosure, the respondent must follow the procedures below regarding the FOIL. If a vendor believes that any information in its response or subsequent communication constitutes proprietary and/or trade secret information and desires that such information not be disclosed if requested pursuant to the New York State Freedom of Information Law, Article 6 of the Public Officers Law, the respondent should make that assertion by clearly identifying, by page number, line, or other appropriate designation, the specific information requested to be protected from FOIL disclosure and the specific reason why such information should not be disclosed. Vague, non-specific, summary allegations that material is proprietary or trade-secret are inadequate and will not result in protection from FOIL disclosure.

In the event any material is requested pursuant to FOIL, DOCCS will address each party's interests fully in accordance with the procedures required by Article 6 of the Public Officers Law.

IV. Questions

Since this is not a solicitation that would result in a contract, it does not fall under the procurement lobbying law; therefore, there is no restricted period. However, we ask that all questions related to this RFI be addressed in writing and e-mailed to the Contract Management Unit at contracts@parole.state.ny.us. Questions should be submitted by April 28, 2011. Answers to all questions will be posted on the NYSDOP website no later than April 29, 2011.

V. Responses and Due Date

DOCCS may issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) using information from submissions to this RFI. Responders to this RFI will not be precluded from responding to a future RFP, if any.

A team of managers will be reviewing the responses. Please note that DOCCS may contact vendors for clarification or questions regarding their response.

DOCCS will contact vendors to schedule demonstrations after responses are reviewed by staff. Product demonstrations will take place at DOCCS (Division of Parole), 97 Central Avenue, Albany, NY on **May 16 - 18, 2011**.

One (1) original and ten (10) copies of response should be received no later than **12:00 Noon on May 9, 2011**. Responses should be mailed to:

NYS DOCCS (Division of Parole)
Contract Management Unit
RFI 2011-01 TAC Testing
97 Central Avenue
Albany, NY 12206