

RFQ-1001465

Automated Western Protein Analyzer

Issue Date: 6/22/2026

Questions Deadline: 7/1/2026 12:00 PM (CT)

Response Deadline: 7/6/2026 03:00 PM (CT)

Contact Information

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Event Information

Number: RFQ-1001465
Title: Automated Western Protein Analyzer
Type: Request for Quote (Public)
Issue Date: 6/22/2026
Question Deadline: 7/1/2026 12:00 PM (CT)
Response Deadline: 7/6/2026 03:00 PM (CT)
Notes: Iowa State University of Science and Technology (ISU) is soliciting bids for a high-throughput, fully automated capillary electrophoresis immunoassay system capable of performing protein sizing, quantitation, and immunodetection without the need for traditional membrane blotting and time-consuming antibody incubation procedures associated with conventional western blotting. The chosen system must perform sequential, automated immunoassays within the same capillary and provide the capacity to analyze up to 24 samples simultaneously, generating results within approximately 2.5 to 3 hours. In addition, the platform must include total protein quantification capabilities that allow normalization of individual protein abundance to actual protein content, thereby improving the accuracy, reproducibility, and biological interpretation of protein expression data.

Suppliers should read all materials carefully and note the due date.

Suppliers must direct all questions and comments in reference to this RFP to the University Representative using the QUESTIONS tab via this electronic bid system.

All bid responses must be submitted through ISUBid.

Bid Attachments

ISU Instructions.pdf

[Download](#)

Review the instructions for important information. REVISED APRIL 2022

ISU General Terms & Conditions.pdf

[Download](#)

Review the general terms and conditions carefully and any exceptions should be listed in the "Attributes" section.
REVISED JUNE 2025

Insurance Language - Equipment Repair, Install, Maintenance (low risk) 09-2020.pdf

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Insurance Requirements - Equipment Repair, Install, Maintenance (low risk) 09-2020

Requested Attachments

Detailed Quote

(Attachment required)

Attach a detailed, itemized quote for all equipment and services included in the offer.
Optional Items should be clearly identified and itemized.

Technical Datasheet

(Attachment required)

Attach a Technical Data Sheet for each component being offered.

Bid Attributes

1 Intended Purpose and Application

Our laboratory investigates the biological mechanisms that determine the quality and value of fresh meat products. Meat quality can vary substantially among products, influencing the economic sustainability of livestock producers, the profitability of the meat industry, and consumer satisfaction in Iowa and throughout the United States. Our research focuses on muscle development, the biological factors that influence muscle growth, and how these processes affect meat composition, tenderness, water-holding capacity, overall quality, and consumer acceptance. Understanding these mechanisms requires precise, reproducible, and high-throughput measurement of proteins and protein modifications that regulate postmortem muscle metabolism and meat quality attributes.

The proposed capillary electrophoresis immunoassay system would dramatically enhance our research capabilities by providing substantially higher throughput, improved reproducibility, and significantly reduced sample requirements compared with conventional western blot methods. The automated nature of the ideal system would minimize technical variability, increase analytical efficiency, and permit rapid processing of large experimental sample sets necessary for proteomic investigations of meat quality phenotypes. Furthermore, the instrument must provide sufficient flexibility to utilize our extensive library of existing antibodies while also supporting the development and optimization of novel assays using new antibodies and reagents as emerging scientific questions arise. This capability is essential for advancing our research on muscle biology, protein biomarkers, and the molecular determinants of meat quality and value.

The acquisition of a system will provide a transformative analytical capability that accelerates discovery, improves experimental rigor and reproducibility, and strengthens our ability to identify protein signatures associated with desirable meat quality traits. Ultimately, this investment will support research that contributes to improved livestock production efficiency, enhanced product quality and consistency, and increased consumer confidence in meat products.

2 Evaluation Criteria

- Ability to meet the required specification
- Ability to meet preferred specifications
- Ease of use
- Availability of support
- Quality of references and/or past experience
- Total cost for Iowa State University
- Exceptions taken to RFP Terms and Conditions
- Delivery lead time

☐ I have read and understand.
(Required: Check if applicable)

3 Equality of Equipment

University will consider equipment that, in the opinion of University, is equal to or better in performance and quality than the equipment specified in the Specifications.

☐ I have read and understand.
(Required: Check if applicable)

4 Refurbished Equipment

The University will consider refurbished equipment.

☐ I have read and understand.
(Required: Check if applicable)

5 Brand Name or Equivalent

The use of a brand name or equivalent specifications is for the purpose of describing the standard of quality, performance and characteristics desired and is not intended to limit or restrict competition. Specifications are given as guidelines only; alternate equipment(s) may vary slightly from given specifications. Alternate units are expected to be close in specifications to the desired unit.

☐ I have read and understand.

(Required: Check if applicable)

6 Technical Specifications

Any specifications stated are only listed to establish a basis for the minimum performance characteristics of systems offered in response to this request for proposal. The use of these specifications is not intended to restrict competition. ISU reserves the right to accept systems with minor variances to the specifications listed, provided that, in the opinion of ISU, the product offering is suitable for ISU as research-grade analytical equipment, when compared to compliant offers received.

7 Required Specifications

Offering meets or exceeds the following specifications:

- Must fully automate western process, without manual intervention
- Must not use nitrocelulose or PVBD membranes Must have quantitative chemiluminescence detection
- Must have picogram level sensitivity Must use capillary electrophoresis and not standard PAGE technology
- Must complete analysis in 3 hours
- Must run 24 samples simultaneously
- Must be capable of using multiple (8+) distinct antibody species in a single run
- Must be caple of total protein detection and normalization
- Must have linear dynamic range greater than 3 logs
- Must have publication annotation software tools directly in the program
- Must have multiple integration a peak find analytical tools
- Must come with full support, training, and technical assistance directly from the vendor
- Must have resolving capabilities from 2 kDa -440 kDa
- Must have a validated list of antibodies tested on the system
- Must come with a full original manufacturer's warranty
- Must come with stripe/reprobe functionality and not remove >5% of the initial target protein without manual intervention
- Must have built-in standard curve calculations without exporting to external programs
- Must be able to purchase consumables directly from the vendor
- Must have lot-controlled consumable selections when needed
- Must be a single benchtop unit, no larger than 36 cm H x 36 cm W x 57 cm D
- Must run on Windows 11
- Must have the capability to use primary antibodies from different sources
- Must allow multiple user access to software on PC and Apple products for post hoc analysis

☐ Yes ☐ No

(Required: Check only one)

8 Required Specifications

In this text box, please provide details on how the offering exceeds the specification above. If not conforming, provide alternative specifications that explain the deficiencies from the requirements above.

(Optional: Maximum 4000 characters allowed)

9 Preferred Specifications

Offering meets or exceeds the following specifications:

- Optimized secondary antibody with hyper conjugation of HRP enzyme
- Service and diagnostics capability beyond instrument self-test.
- Policy to support instrument and consumable needs for at least 5 years after purchase.
- Reagent and Consumable cost should be less than \$25 per individual sample.

☐ Yes ☐ No

(Required: Check only one)

1 Preferred Specifications

In this text box, please provide details on how the offering exceeds the specification above. If not conforming, provide alternative specifications that explain the deficiencies from the requirements above.

(Optional: Maximum 4000 characters allowed)

1 Demonstration Unit

Upon request, within 10 days post bid closing, finalists may be required to provide a demonstration unit for evaluation.

☐ I have read and understand.

(Required: Check if applicable)

1 Describe the warranty duration and what does it cover?

(Required: Maximum 1000 characters allowed)

1 Preventative Maintenance/Extended Warranty

If available, please use the text box to describe your preventative maintenance/extended warranty options for a total of 12 Months post the standard warranty.

(Optional: Maximum 1000 characters allowed)

1 Technical Support

Please use the text box to describe customer support, hours of operation and typical response time.

(Required: Maximum 1000 characters allowed)

1
5**Installation and Training**

Describe any installation and training services including durations and timeline.

(Required: Maximum 1000 characters allowed)

1
6**Delivery Schedule (In Days)**

Please enter anticipated delivery in days after receipt of PO.

(Required: Numbers only)

1
7**Payment Term Options**

Please select the payment terms for this offer.

- ☐ Net 30 ☐ Net 20 ☐ Net 15 ☐ Net 10 ☐ 0.25% 10, Net 30 ☐ 0.5% 10, Net 30
☐ 0.5% 20, Net 30 ☐ 1.5% 10, Net 30 ☐ 1.5% 15, Net 30 ☐ 1% 10, Net 30 ☐ 1% 15, Net 30
☐ 2%, Net 10 ☐ 2% 10, Net 30 ☐ 2% 15, Net 30 ☐ 2% 20, Net 30 ☐ 3% 10, Net 30
☐ 3% 15, Net 30 ☐ 5% 10, Net 30 ☐ 5% 15, Net 30 ☐ 6% 15, Net 30 ☐ Due on 20th, Net 30
☐ Due on 20th, Net 60 ☐ Due on 20th, Net 90 ☐ Immediate ☐ Other

(Required: Check only one)

1
8**Payment Term Options - If "Other" is selected briefly explain.**

(Optional: Maximum 1000 characters allowed)

1
9**Insurance Requirements**

Contractor can comply with the attached insurance requirements.

☐ Yes ☐ No

(Required: Check only one)

2
0**References**

Please provide references for universities or companies you are currently supplying product. Do not use references internal to ISU.

2
1**Reference #1 Name and Company**

Note: It is strongly recommended that you provide references. If you do not provide references in your bid response, you may not be given an opportunity to provide them later in the bid process and you may be scored 0 points with respect to this evaluation criteria.

(Required: Maximum 1000 characters allowed)

2
2**Reference #1 Phone**

(____) _____ - _____ ext: _____

(Required)

2
3**Reference #1 Email**

(Required: Email address)

2
4**Reference #2 Name and Company**

Note: It is strongly recommended that you provide references. If you do not provide references in your bid response, you may not be given an opportunity to provide them later in the bid process and you may be scored 0 points with respect to this evaluation criteria.

(Required: Maximum 1000 characters allowed)

2
5**Reference #2 Phone**ext:

(Required)

2
6**Reference #2 Email**

(Required: Email address)

2
7**Reference #3 Name and Company**

Note: It is strongly recommended that you provide references. If you do not provide references in your bid response, you may not be given an opportunity to provide them later in the bid process and you may be scored 0 points with respect to this evaluation criteria.

(Required: Maximum 1000 characters allowed)

2
8**Reference #3 Phone**ext:

(Required)

2
9**Reference #3 Email**

(Required: Email address)

3
0**Exception to Construction Terms and Conditions - 1**

Include page number, section and reason for exception.

Note: Exceptions taken may cause the Proposal to be rejected at the sole discretion of University. Any terms to which Contractor does not take exception shall be binding and any subsequent objections to those terms shall have no effect.

(Optional: Maximum 1000 characters allowed)

3
1 **Exception to Construction Terms and Conditions - 2**

Include page number, section and reason for exception.

Note: Exceptions taken may cause the Proposal to be rejected at the sole discretion of University. Any terms to which Contractor does not take exception shall be binding and any subsequent objections to those terms shall have no effect.

(Optional: Maximum 1000 characters allowed)

3
2 **Exception to Construction Terms and Conditions - 3**

Include page number, section and reason for exception.

Note: Exceptions taken may cause the Proposal to be rejected at the sole discretion of University. Any terms to which Contractor does not take exception shall be binding and any subsequent objections to those terms shall have no effect.

(Optional: Maximum 1000 characters allowed)

3
3 **Confidential Information**

Contractor identifies portions of this Proposal listed as confidential under the Iowa Open Records Law.

☐ Yes ☐ No

(Required: Check only one)

3
4 **Description of Confidential Information - 1**

If YES, provide the description of the confidential information including the specific subsection of Iowa Code §22.7 that is believed to be applicable.

Note: Contractor's name, pricing information and other financial offers must be released pursuant to Iowa Administrative Code §681-8.1(h) and cannot be identified as confidential.

(Optional: Maximum 500 characters allowed)

3
5 **Description of Confidential Information - 2**

If YES, provide the description of the confidential information including the specific subsection of Iowa Code §22.7 that is believed to be applicable.

Note: Contractor's name, pricing information and other financial offers must be released pursuant to Iowa Administrative Code §681-8.1(h) and cannot be identified as confidential.

(Optional: Maximum 500 characters allowed)

3
6 **Description of Confidential Information - 3**

If YES, provide the description of the confidential information including the specific subsection of Iowa Code §22.7 that is believed to be applicable.

Note: Contractor's name, pricing information and other financial offers must be released pursuant to Iowa Administrative Code §681-8.1(h) and cannot be identified as confidential.

(Optional: Maximum 500 characters allowed)

3
7 **Contractor Certification**

In response to this RFP/RFQ and after carefully reviewing all instructions, scope of work/specifications, and terms in the RRP/RFQ documents, submits this Proposal as an offer to enter into a mutually acceptable contractual agreement with University. If this Proposal is accepted by University, Contractor agrees to provide goods and/or furnish services in accordance with this Proposal.

Contractor certifies that: **(a)** this Proposal is genuine and is not made on behalf of any undisclosed person or entity; **(b)** Contractor is not a "Conflict of Interest Vendor"; **(c)** any prices or hourly rates in the Proposal have been arrived at independently, without consultation, communication, or agreement with any competitor for the purpose of restricting competition; **(d)** any prices or hourly rates which have been provided in this Proposal have not been knowingly disclosed by Contractor, directly or indirectly, to any competitor; **(e)** Contractor has not attempted to induce any person or entity to submit or refrain from submitting a proposal for the purpose of restricting competition; and **(f)** Contractor has not offered or made a gift to a University employee in violation of Iowa law.

☐ Read and agreed

(Required: Check if applicable)

Bid Lines**1** **Automated Western Protein Analyzer**

(Response required)

Quantity: 1 UOM: EA Price: \$ Total: \$

Item Notes: Provide the total cost of the system being offered to include equipment, freight, installation and training.

Supplier Notes:

- ☐ No bid
- ☐ Alternate specification
(Attach separate sheet)
- ☐ Additional notes
(Attach separate sheet)

2 **Preventive Maintenance/Extended Warranty**

(Response required)

Quantity: 1 UOM: EA Price: \$ Total: \$

Item Notes: State PM/extended warranty cost for a total of 12 months beyond the standard warranty.

Supplier Notes:

- ☐ No bid
- ☐ Alternate specification
(Attach separate sheet)
- ☐ Additional notes
(Attach separate sheet)

Supplier Information

Company Name:

Contact Name:

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

Supplier Notes

By submitting your response, you certify that you are authorized to represent and bind your company.

Print Name

Signature