



DATE: December 19, 2011

SUBJECT: Mueller and Whitmore Laboratories Renovation,
University Park

TO: Architectural Firms

In order to better serve our undergraduate students, the University plans to renovate portions of Mueller and Whitmore Laboratories.

Mueller Laboratory, constructed in 1965, has 88,200 GSF and houses the Eberly College of Science's biology laboratories and offices. Over 1,500 students enroll in Introductory Biology each year and current laboratory space is inadequate to accommodate them properly. To address this challenge, we want to add laboratory space within the existing building and modernize the existing undergraduate Biology and Anatomy & Physiology teaching laboratories, including an instructional cadaver lab. At this point our intention is to limit work to the first, fourth and sixth floors.

Whitmore Laboratory, constructed in 1953, has 94,000 GSF and its use has not materially changed since then; it houses chemistry laboratories for undergraduate introductory and advanced studies. Approximately 1,200 students from nearly all colleges at the University are taught in these spaces that, unfortunately, no longer meet the needs or goals of the Chemistry Department. We envision a complete renewal of the first floor in order to improve our students' educational experience.

The mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems in both buildings are deficient and we intend to renovate them in phases. The initial task in this project is to validate the overall program for both buildings and do a comprehensive evaluation of all the systems including the building envelopes; this will form the basis of the phasing decisions and budget confirmation.

In summary, the objectives of this project are:

- Validate the current programs.
- Provide state-of-the-art teaching laboratories.
- Evaluate all the building systems.
- Evaluate all utility infrastructure systems connecting to both buildings.
- The proposed design must optimize the performance of both facilities and meet the University's energy standards.
- Provide a phased implementation strategy that allows for partial occupancy of the buildings during construction.

These projects will not happen concurrently as a result of a shortage in swing space. The Mueller renovation will be the first to move forward and we intend to complete construction in the summer of 2014. The Whitmore renovation will follow with completion expected in the winter of 2015. The total project budget including soft costs and FF&E for both projects is \$25,000,000.

If your firm is interested in pursuing this project, please submit the following:

1. A brief statement detailing your firm's unique qualifications for designing facilities of this type and scope. Include a sampling of your previous relevant experience and graphic examples representative of your architectural designs.
2. Your firm's vision of what, beyond purely functional issues, constitutes the essence of this type of facility. To indicate to the Screening Committee your understanding of the uniqueness of this project, discuss some of the issues that are important in the design of a project of this type.

Please submit to my office eight hard copies of your response by noon on January 17, 2012 and limit your submission to five, single sided pages. Please include the name and email address of your firm's contact individual for this project. If you have any questions regarding programmatic issues, please contact Monica Reed, the Project Manager, at 814-863-5765 or mjr204@psu.edu. If you have process questions, please contact me. Please be aware that the University will be closed from December 23, 2011 to January 3, 2012.

The University will use a qualifications based selection process with long list, short list and interviews. The Screening Committee will select a long list of approximately ten firms from the respondents to this letter. A Request for Proposals (RFP) will be posted to this website by January 27, 2012. The RFPs will be due in my office at noon on February 21, 2012. Three firms will be chosen from the RFP respondents and interviewed on March 12, 2012. The results will be announced at the Board of Trustees meeting on March 16, 2012 and posted to this website.

Sincerely,

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cc: Screening Committee