



NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD

This Funding Announcement is not a request for applications. This announcement is to provide public notice of the U.S. Geological Survey's intention to fund the following project activities without full and open competition.

ABSTRACT	
Funding Announcement	USGS-19-FA-6903
Project Title	Wildlife Diagnostic and Surveillance Capacity for the Thailand National Wildlife Health Center (Thailand-NWHC)/Monitoring and Surveillance Center for Zoonotic Diseases in Wildlife and Exotic Animals (MoZWE)
Recipient	Mahidol University, Thailand
Principal Investigator / Program Manager	Dr. Jonathan Sleeman
Anticipated Federal Amount	\$46,000
Cost Share	
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$165,000
New Award or Continuation?	New award
Anticipated Period of Performance	09/01/2019 – 09/01/2022
Award Instrument	
CFDA # and Title	15.808 U.S. Geological Survey Research and Data Collection
USGS Point of Contact	Dr. Jonathan Sleeman / jsleeman@usgs.gov

OVERVIEW

NWHC is a World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Collaborating Centre and in that role provides consultation and technical services to other nations to assist in building national wildlife health capacity. Consequently, the NWHC has been approached by the Government of Thailand to assist in the development of the Thai National Wildlife Health Center. This would be achieved through a formal OIE Twinning Project between the NWHC and Mahidol University, which hosts the Thai National Wildlife Health Center.

RECIPIENT INVOLVEMENT

- Two diagnosticians from the Thailand NWHC will be placed on secondments at the USGS NWHC to learn a variety of general wildlife disease diagnostic tests and methodologies for two months.
- An epidemiologist from the Thailand NWHC will be placed on secondment at the USGS NWHC to collaboratively develop a general wildlife disease surveillance plan for Thailand and learn data management techniques.

USGS INVOLVEMENT

Substantial involvement on the part USGS is anticipated for the successful completion of the objectives to be funded by this award. In particular, USGS will be responsible for the following:

- USGS NWHC will lead a two-week workshop focused on wildlife disease risk assessment tools, wildlife disease surveillance strategies, surveillance networks, data management, and general wildlife diagnostic techniques hosted by the Thailand NWHC.
- USGS NWHC will lead a one-week workshop to train the Thailand NWHC in the diagnostic testing for the priority pathogens including avian influenzas, virulent Newcastle Disease virus, plague, tularemia, and West Nile virus.
- A diagnostician and technician from the USGS NWHC will visit the Thailand NWHC to learn the diagnostic test methodologies for the priority diseases listed above.
- An epidemiologist from the USGS NWHC will visit the Thailand NWHC to establish a targeted surveillance plan and data management plan for the highest priority wildlife diseases for Thailand.

- For the workshops listed above representatives in Thailand from the public health and livestock governmental sectors will be invited to participate in the workshops to encourage a One Health approach to wildlife disease surveillance in Thailand. The livestock and public health sectors will also be consulted during the development of the general and targeted surveillance plans.

The USGS NWHC and Thailand NWHC will seek opportunities for increased regional engagement in South East Asia and the establishment of the Thailand-NWHC/MoZWE as an OIE Collaborating Center on Wildlife Health and Zoonotic Disease in the Asia-Pacific region. The twinning project will also lead to collaborative projects between the Candidate Institute and Parent Institute to promote the One Health approach. Substantial involvement on the part USGS is anticipated for the successful completion of the objectives to be funded by this award.

SINGLE-SOURCE JUSTIFICATION

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SINGLE SOURCE POLICY REQUIREMENTS
Department of the Interior Policy (505 DM 2) requires a written justification which explains why competition is not practicable for each single-source award. The justification must address one or more of the following criteria as well as discussion of the program legislative history, unique capabilities of the proposed recipient, and cost-sharing contribution offered by the proposed recipient, as applicable.
In order for an assistance award to be made without competition, the award must satisfy one or more of the following criteria: (1) Unsolicited Proposal – The proposed award is the result of an unsolicited assistance application which represents a unique or innovative idea, method, or approach which is not the subject of a current or planned contract or assistance award, but which is deemed advantageous to the program objectives; (2) Continuation – The activity to be funded is necessary to the satisfactory completion of, or is a continuation of an activity presently being funded, and for which competition would have a significant adverse effect on the continuity or completion of the activity; (3) Legislative intent – The language in the applicable authorizing legislation or legislative history clearly indicates Congress’ intent to restrict the award to a particular recipient of purpose;

- (4) Unique Qualifications – The applicant is uniquely qualified to perform the activity based upon a variety of demonstrable factors such as location, property ownership, voluntary support capacity, cost-sharing ability if applicable, technical expertise, or other such unique qualifications;
- (5) Emergencies – Program/award where there is insufficient time available (due to a compelling and unusual urgency, or substantial danger to health or safety) for adequate competitive procedures to be followed.
- (6) Cooperative Agreements - USGS Unique Authority cited at 43 U.S.C. 36d (Federal, State, and academic partners) or DOI Authority cited at 43 U.S.C. 1457b (not-for-profit organizations).

USGS did not solicit full and open competition for this award based the following criteria:

(4) UNIQUE QUALIFICATIONS

Single Source Justification Description:

This cooperative effort will enable research to be conducted by University of Mahidol as an OIE Collaborating Centre. As the cooperative effort is intended for this purpose Mahidol University can be the only recipient of the funds.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

43 U.S.C. Section 36d authorizes the USGS to enter into cooperative agreements directed towards a particular cooperator, in support of joint research and data collection activities with Federal, State, and academic partners funded by appropriations herein, including those that provide for space in cooperator facilities.