



Request for Proposal for Procurement of Outreach and Technical Assistance Services

This Request for Proposal (RFP) is issued to provide outreach and technical support to farmers to implement climate-smart cover crops in their operation for Gevo's Farmer Grower Program.

Primary Contacts

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Table of Contents

Section 1: About Gevo

- Company Background
- Ideal Customer
- Technology Stack
- Competitors

Section 2: Program or Project Objectives

- Objective Summary
- Scope of Work
- Schedule

Section 3: Criteria for Response

- Evaluation Criteria
- Presentation / Proposal Requirements

Section 4: Terms and Conditions

Section 1: About Gevo (USDA Program)

Background:

Gevo is a leading renewable chemicals and advanced biofuels company. We are dedicated to delivering low carbon sustainable fuels and chemicals. The greenhouse gas CO₂ is our renewable carbon source. We know it's possible to replace the non-sustainable, greenhouse gas generating fossil carbon-based chemicals and fuels used all across the world today with renewable carbon alternatives. Our technologies make it possible. We want it all: fuels for cars, airplanes, trucks, small engines, boats, and ships. We want to replace the carbon source for major packaging plastics like polyester and polypropylene. Done right, we enable production of protein that helps feed the world. With sustainable farming, we can help farmers capture CO₂ in the soil, improving soil quality. Together, with our customers and partners we can change what's possible and do our part to positively change the world.

Target Audience for project work:

The consultant would assist Gevo in the utilization of cover crop project within the GEVO Climate-Smart Farm-to-Flight Program to drive production of low carbon intensity (CI) corn. Local corn farmers are the target audience for the outreach and technical assistance to be provided by the consultant selected from this Request for Proposal (RFP). The goal is to identify and train farmers within the project areas of Council Bluffs, IA; Lake Preston, SD; and the Standing Rock Indian Reservation on the best practices for implementing climate-smart agriculture at the field level and assist with education and local training for climate-smart ag practices which lower the CI of their commodity. Corn farmers would be provided the information they need to engage in, track, and report the data for regenerative agriculture practices to receive a competitive price for lowering the carbon intensity of their commodity.

Current Marketing Technology Stack:

- Marketing Automation platform: Google Cloud Products
- CRM platform: Google Cloud Products, Salesforce and Slack
- Current Gevo website (undergoing redevelopment)
- Social Media monitoring and engagement via Meltwater
- Verity Tracking platform (internal build)

Competitors:

Regrow	https://www.regrow.ag/
CIBO	https://www.cibotechnologies.com/
Indigo Ag / Carbon	https://www.indigoag.com/

Section 2: Program or Project Objectives

Project or Program Objectives:

The proposed project will address and mitigate the two major market barriers to climate-smart corn-based biofuel commodities for sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) production: (1) an inadequate supply of verifiable low-carbon intensity corn that can be delivered to biofuel facilities for SAF production, and (2) lack of availability of biofuels produced from low-CI corn, such as SAF, despite ongoing growth and demand.

The insufficient market supply of low-CI corn is the result of several factors including an absence of effective educational outreach and technical support to farming producers to promote the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices and a lack of market demand for low-CI corn and the lack of an organized system to monetize low-CI corn for farmers. Gevo has a dual role of working with joint-venture partner Verity Tracking to create a system to mitigate these challenges while simultaneously educating and partnering with farmers, community leaders, and industry to install long-term and economically viable solutions.

Scope of Services:

The successful proposer shall provide all necessary services to provide outreach and technical assistance to farmers to implement climate-smart cover crops in their operations including but not limited to the following:

- Conduct internal meetings with Gevo team to align on desired outcomes (as needed)
- Engage with Gevo's USDA program producers to educate and develop awareness of climate-smart commodity farming practices and Gevo's Farm-to-Field project.
- Identify corn producers to enroll and incorporate smart-commodity farm practices in their farm operation,
- Collect all grower data needed to calculate a CI score
- Organize and present up to two outreach events per year for enrolled growers who are interested in adopting cover crops,
- Participate at least one in-person Gevo organized grower meetings per year regarding adoption of cover crops,
- Network with area corn producers to educate and develop awareness of smart commodity farming practices and Gevo's Farm-to-Field project,
- Identify corn producers to enroll and incorporate smart-commodity farm practices in their farm operation,
- Provide coordination and engagement with other agencies and vendors that supply ongoing and/or project specific work (i.e. data collection, soil testing, enrollment, etc.) to Gevo,
- Other tasks and responsibilities as mutually agreed upon.

Additional Details:

This is a project that will require specific engagement with the Gevo team to align on overall goals and objectives for the 2023 launch of Net Zero 1 (NZ1) and USDA climate-smart projects.

Program or Project Schedule:

Competitive proposals for the services specified will be received by Gevo, Inc via email only to Mark Ritter at MRitter@gevo.com.

Proposals will be accepted until a vendor has been selected. Gevo Inc. reserves the right to reject any or all proposals in part or whole. Proposals received after time stipulated will not be accepted and any request for an extension will not be granted on an individual basis.

Project Milestones	Deadline
RFP Posted	4/24/2024
RFP Questions Period Ends	5/8/2024
RFP Close Date	5/29/2024
Proposal Review	5/30/2024
Agency Evaluation	6/7/2024
Award Project to Agency	After successful evaluation

Section 3: Criteria for Response

Evaluation Criteria:

All proposals will be evaluated against the following criteria. In your response, please be specific about how you meet or do not meet the line item below.

- Cost
- Description of Agency service area
- Agency Experience
- Quality of Services
- Communication and Responsiveness
- Strategic Thinking
- Understanding of Market and Business Challenge
- Alignment with Gevo’s Vision

Gevo Inc. will award contracts to the responsible and eligible vendor whose proposal is responsive to the Request for Proposals (RFP) and is deemed by Gevo Inc. to be the most highly advantageous and in the best interest of Gevo Inc. Lowest bidder is a consideration, but not the determining factor. The evaluation will identify those proposals which offer the best combination of expertise and value.

Presentation Proposal Requirements:

At a minimum, vendors must submit all materials requested in accordance with the specifications of this RFP to be considered complete and responsive. With the goal of helping you focus your presentation, we ask that you include the following items in the proposal:

Required Agency Information:

Corporate Overview: Including the number of full-time employees, number of contract employees, office location(s), and date founded.

- Primary markets served
- Map of primary market area
- Number of customers served
- Awards won over the past 3 years

Proposed Solution:

- Detailed explanation of the proposed solution
- Make sure to cover all items in the scope of work
- Identify areas of unique expertise

References

- Minimum of 3 reference customers

Estimated Budget & Project Plan

- Provide a line-item breakdown of costs associated with the full program. Costs should include fixed pricing, variable pricing ranges, any billable hours, travel expenses, etc.
- All proposals must include a project workback schedule that includes:
 - Timelines
 - Key Milestones
 - Delivery Dates

Section 4: Terms and Conditions

This is an invitation for proposal only.

Gevo, Inc. shall not be obligated in any major to any vendor until a written agreement has been executed.

Gevo, Inc. shall not be liable for any costs associated with the preparation of presentation or proposal materials.

While sub-contracting any phase of the work may be considered, the vendor submitting the proposal must assume full responsibility of the end-to-end process. Vendor must disclose if they are using sub-contracted services as part of the proposal.

Any and all verbal discussions and responses are not binding on either party.

Gevo may issue addenda during the proposal period by the designated official. All addenda become part of the RFP documents and responses must be submitted with the proposal. It is the responsibility of the vendor to establish whether or not Gevo, Inc. has issued any addenda.

Funding for this project will be provided in part by USDA. Gevo Inc. is committed to equitable access to provide equal opportunities for underutilized firms owned by minorities and women. It is further the policy of Gevo Inc. to prohibit discrimination against any firm in pursuit of these opportunities, to conduct its contracting activities so as to prevent such discrimination, to correct present effects of past discrimination and to resolve complaints of discrimination. This policy applies to all professional services categories.

Requests for Clarification Questions regarding this RFP shall be submitted in writing via electronic mail only to Mark Ritter at MRitter@gevo.com.