

REQUEST FOR INTEREST

Request for Interest No.:	RFI-FY2027-001
Title:	Small Continuous Kraft Digester
Procurement Officer:	Tess Klatt
Due Date:	October 16, 2026

ORNL is considering Subcontracting for the items/services generally described below under a new agreement issued as a firm fixed price contract type. All Interested Parties are asked to provide a response to this Request for Interest (RFI) indicating the ability to meet each element of the technical criteria set forth in this document.

NOTE: All information provided will be used for planning purposes only and will not be considered an offer to perform work nor will any information be used external to ORNL and its client, The United States Department of Energy.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Provide the following prime potential Offeror information:

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

DUNS No.: _____

SAM.gov UEI No: _____

SUMMARY OF SCOPE

The agreement contemplated may include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following work:

The Center for Research and Advancement of Fiber Products Technologies (CRAFT) is seeking information from equipment manufacturers and technology providers regarding a laboratory-scale digester capable of accurately simulating continuous Kraft pulping conditions to evaluate improvements in pulp yield, cooking chemistry, and process performance.

The primary objective is to develop a laboratory testing capability with sufficient repeatability and process fidelity to reliably detect an approximately 1% change in pulp yield in the Kraft process resulting from additives, wood species, cooking chemistry, or modifications to operating conditions. Results will be used to screen technologies and justify subsequent pilot-scale or commercial trials.

The proposed system should incorporate the following capabilities:

- Simulation of continuous Kraft cooking which could include movement of chips, or alternatively could utilize a stationary wood-chip bed through which cooking liquor is circulated or displaced to simulate the liquor-to-chip contact, temperature, and chemical profiles of a commercial continuous digester.

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- Programmable cooking profiles: Ability to control temperature, pressure, residence time, liquor-to-wood ratio, alkali concentration, and liquor flow/displacement through successive cooking stages.
- Process flexibility: Ability to evaluate different wood species, chip characteristics, cooking additives, and modified Kraft cooking sequences.
- Measurement precision: Sufficient process control, reproducibility, and sampling capability to resolve approximately 1% changes in screened pulp yield with statistical confidence.
- Data acquisition: Automated recording of temperature, pressure, liquor flow, and other relevant process parameters.
- Sampling and analysis: Provision for liquor sampling during cooking and recovery of pulp for subsequent yield, kappa number, viscosity, and other relevant characterization.

This RFI is intended for market research and technical evaluation purposes and does not constitute a commitment to purchase equipment.

Location of the Work:	Delivery & Installation to occur at ORNL facilities in Oak Ridge, TN
Period of Performance (estimated):	TBD
Socio-Economic Set-Aside:	TBD
Anticipated RFP NAICS Code:	333243, Sawmill, Woodworking, and Paper Machinery Manufacturing
Size Standard for NAICS Code:	550 Employees

Classified Work is included: ☐ Yes ☒ No

SURVEY OF ABILITIES

Interested Parties are asked to complete the following to indicate their ability to meet the technical criteria of this scope.

1. Commercial Data

- A. Has the potential Offeror signed up and entered their information in the Ariba Supplier Portal?

☐ Yes ☐ No

- B. Has your company been debarred from working with the US Government in the last 5 years?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Note: This response is subject to verification in SAM.gov.

2. Environment, Safety & Health

- A. Has your company worked the previous three (3) years without a fatality or without receiving any willful or non-willful citations or fines from OSHA or other regulatory organizations?

☐ Yes ☐ No

- B. Has your company worked the previous three (3) years without receiving, or contributing to the receipt of, any citations, or fines for Price-Anderson Amendments Act (PAAA) or Worker Safety & Health enforcement non-compliances?

☐ Yes ☐ No

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C. Has your company worked the previous three (3) years without receiving, or contributing to the receipt of, any citations by a Federal or state agency for violations of an environmental regulatory requirement?

☐ Yes ☐ No, were any fines or penalties levied? ☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Technical Criteria

Interested suppliers are requested to provide:

1. Description of available equipment and its suitability for simulating continuous Kraft cooking using a stationary chip bed and moving liquor.
2. Recommended vessel capacity, batch size, operating pressure, and temperature range.
3. Demonstrated repeatability of pulp yield measurements and supporting performance data, where available.
4. Available process controls, instrumentation, data acquisition, and sampling capabilities.
5. Estimated equipment cost, installation requirements, and delivery schedule.
6. Options for customization, commissioning, operator training, and technical support.

4. Direct Relevant Experience Documentation:

Provide a reference list of example projects that demonstrate the directly relevant project experience to support this scope of work. Interested parties are asked to include the following information (please provide additional narrative, capability statements, etc. as necessary to show relevant experience): Client Name, Address, Contact and Telephone Number; Work Description; Estimated Value; Work Location; Performance Dates

RESPONSE SUBMITTAL

Electronic response (e-mail w/ attachments) is the preferred method of response and is required by no later than October 16, 2026.

Address response along with any questions to: Tess Klatt, UT-Battelle ESTD Procurement Manager,
KlattTA@ornl.gov