

Beat: Technology

Defense Threat Reduction Agency and U.S. Strategic Command select CH2M

Biosafety and biosecurity contract

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USPA NEWS - The Defense Threat Reduction Agency and United States Strategic Command Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction (DTRA/SCC-WMD) have selected CH2M to lead efforts in West Africa to broaden its Cooperative Biological Engagement Program (CBEP) on the African continent and reduce the threat...

The Defense Threat Reduction Agency and United States Strategic Command Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction (DTRA/SCC-WMD) have selected CH2M to lead efforts in West Africa to broaden its Cooperative Biological Engagement Program (CBEP) on the African continent and reduce the threat of infectious diseases. The CBEP, developed by the Department of Defense to address global health security issues, was used in 2014 to support international efforts to combat the Ebola virus outbreak and other threats to global health security.

Under the new \$35M contract which extends to 2019, the CH2M team will greatly increase and improve national and local biosafety, biosecurity, and biosurveillance capabilities in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Senegal. The CH2M team will deliver design, engineering, construction, and infrastructure services; as well as provide scientific expertise and training for staff at new and existing laboratory facilities in the region. To further assist DTRA/SCC-WMD with its overall program objectives for West Africa, the CH2M team will also provide guidance in establishing national legislation on biosafety and biosecurity, and support the development of laboratory policies and procedures that meet international standards.

- With a focus on promoting overall security related to global health and delivering excellent health and safety program performance, the CH2M team will :

- * Design and construct new national and regional reference laboratories and infrastructure in Liberia
- * Design and renovate the Central Public Health Reference laboratory and infrastructure in Lakka, Sierra Leone
- * Develop a campus master plan and renovate laboratory facilities and infrastructure in Senegal
- * Develop methodologies and infrastructure to improve safety culture and practices, and the safeguarding of pathogens that raise security concerns at laboratory facilities across the region
- * Provide comprehensive ongoing laboratory staff training and laboratory consumables procurement
- * Provide mentorship and laboratory staffing for surge capability at laboratories throughout the region

CH2M has been assisting DTRA/SCC-WMD through its Biological Threat Reduction Integrating Contract since 2010. In Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Tanzania, Uganda, Senegal, Iraq, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Lao People Democratic Republic, DTRA/SCC-WMD has engaged CH2M to help those nations comply with international biosafety standards.

Also to improve disease detection and reporting, and pathogen security through laboratory and hospital emergency operations center design, engineering, construction and infrastructure services, and biological sciences expertise.

Source : CH2M - Defense Threat Reduction Agency and U.S. Strategic Command select CH2M

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