



# HFSC Takes First Step Toward New Facility

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The Houston Forensic Science Center (HFSC) has issued a [Request for Qualifications](#) (RFQ) as the first step toward building a new forensic facility that will allow the regional operation to grow and meet the needs of the Houston Police Department and other law enforcement agencies in the coming decades.

The Center is looking for a firm qualified to perform a broad needs assessment before HFSC moves toward designing and building a new facility. Responses to the RFQs are due by January 15, 2015, at which time a four-member HFSC team will review the proposals based on a pre-determined point system and invite the highest-ranking firms to make an oral presentation to the team. HFSC's goal is to have a contract in place by February 2015 so the needs assessment can begin.

The needs assessment is likely to require three to six months to complete. It will include a thorough review of the city's growth projections over the next 30 years, the technology expected to come on line during that time and the lab's expansion to meet

the demographic growth. Once this assessment has been completed, HFSC will seek bids from architectural and construction firms to move toward having a new facility that will meet Houston's needs today, tomorrow and in the future.

This new facility is part of the process of making the city's forensic operations independent of law enforcement and prosecutors.

The Houston Forensic Science Center, Inc. officially took over management of the former Houston Police Department Crime Lab, parts of the police identification division and the Crime Scene Unit on April 3, 2014. HFSC currently operates in eight forensic disciplines and is expanding.

Further information regarding HFSC is available at [www.houstonforensicscience.org](http://www.houstonforensicscience.org).