

RETURN BIDS TO:
RETOURNER LES SOUMISSIONS À:
Bid Receiving - PWGSC / Réception des
soumissions - TPSGC
11 Laurier St./ 11, rue Laurier
Place du Portage, Phase III
Core 0A1 / Noyau 0A1
Gatineau, Québec K1A 0S5
Bid Fax: (819) 997-9776

LETTER OF INTEREST
LETTRE D'INTÉRÊT

Comments - Commentaires

Vendor/Firm Name and Address
Raison sociale et adresse du
fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur

Issuing Office - Bureau de distribution
Clothing and Textiles Division / Division des vêtements et
des textiles
11 Laurier St./ 11, rue Laurier
6B1, Place du Portage
Gatineau, Québec K1A 0S5

Title - Sujet LOI Modular pack system	
Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation W8486-134743/A	Date 2012-05-22
Client Reference No. - N° de référence du client W8486-134743	GETS Ref. No. - N° de réf. de SEAG PW-\$\$PR-707-60507
File No. - N° de dossier pr707.W8486-134743	CCC No./N° CCC - FMS No./N° VME
Solicitation Closes - L'invitation prend fin at - à 02:00 PM on - le 2012-06-22	
Time Zone Fuseau horaire Eastern Daylight Saving Time EDT	
F.O.B. - F.A.B. Plant-Usine: <input type="checkbox"/> Destination: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other-Autre: <input type="checkbox"/>	
Address Enquiries to: - Adresser toutes questions à: Elder, Sylvie	Buyer Id - Id de l'acheteur pr707
Telephone No. - N° de téléphone (819) 956-3830 ()	FAX No. - N° de FAX (819) 956-5454
Destination - of Goods, Services, and Construction: Destination - des biens, services et construction: Specified Herein Précisé dans les présentes	

Instructions: See Herein

Instructions: Voir aux présentes

Delivery Required - Livraison exigée See Herein	Delivery Offered - Livraison proposée
Vendor/Firm Name and Address Raison sociale et adresse du fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur	
Telephone No. - N° de téléphone Facsimile No. - N° de télécopieur	
Name and title of person authorized to sign on behalf of Vendor/Firm (type or print) Nom et titre de la personne autorisée à signer au nom du fournisseur/ de l'entrepreneur (taper ou écrire en caractères d'imprimerie)	
Signature	Date

LETTER OF INTEREST
REGARDING SUPPLY CAPABILITY

1 SCOPE

1.1 **Subject** – 111012 Modular Pack System (product improvement project).

1.2 **Purpose** – The purpose of this Letter of Interest is to inform Industry that the Department of National Defence (DND) is considering a Modular Pack System to replace the in-service Small Pack and Rucksack. DND wishes to examine existing Modular Pack Systems for consideration during development of a draft specification.

1.3 **Nature of Solicitation** – This Letter of Interest (LOI) is not a bid solicitation. This LOI will not result in the award of any contract; therefore, potential suppliers of any goods or services described in this LOI should not earmark stock or facilities, nor allocate resources, as a result of any information contained in this LOI. Nor will this LOI result in the creation of any source list; therefore, whether or not any potential supplier responds to this LOI will not preclude that supplier from participating in any future procurement. Also, the procurement of any of the goods and services described in this LOI will not necessarily follow this LOI. This LOI is simply intended to solicit information from industry with respect to the contents of this LOI.

1.4 Terminology

1.4.1 CCMFR Close Combat Modular Fighting Rig (project to replace the current Tactical Vest).

1.4.2 DND Department of National Defence.

1.4.3 LOI Letter of Interest.

1.4.4 MPS Modular Pack System.

1.4.5 PALS Pouch Attachment Ladder System.

1.4.6 PWGSC Public Works and Government Services Canada.

1.5 **Related Search Terms** – backpacks, back packs, havresacks, bags, bergens, rucks, ruck-sacks, ruck sacks, carry, load carriage, cases, compartments, pockets, modular, pouches, equipment, combat, soldiers, soldier systems, luggage, haul, hike, travel, trek, march, contain, hold, transport, soft goods, sewn goods, sew, apparel, textiles, fabrics, mesh, cloth, camouflage, CADPAT, Canadian disruptive pattern, PALS, MOLLE, Nylon, Velcro, Cordura, straps, webbing, binding, binding tape, cords, shock cords, bungees, bungee cords, woven elastics, zippers, slide fasteners, buckles, hook and loop, hook and loop fasteners, foams, pads, paddings.

1.6 Background

1.6.1 How a soldier carries weapons, ammunition and sustainment items for dismounted combat and movement is one of the most critical decisions in the preparation for battle.

1.6.2 A Modular Pack System (MPS) will allow one to choose the proper load-capacity and configuration needed to accomplish a mission. A modular suspension system can be used to carry mission-specific loads by adding or subtracting different packs and carriers as needed.

2 VISION OF A FUTURE MODULAR PACK SYSTEM

2.1 The following describes DND's preliminary vision for a future Modular Pack System. Suppliers with products that could support or contribute to this vision are invited to respond to this LOI.

2.2 Modular Suspension System

2.2.1 **Yoke** – A modular Yoke (shoulder harness) would be a common component to all configurations of the Modular Pack System. It would be able to be attached to other main components and be adjusted to the user's size to comfortably suspend light loads from their shoulders.

2.2.2 **Frame** – A separate modular Frame with a hip-belt would be combined with the Yoke to support heavier loads and transfer weight to the user's hips. This would improve comfort and reduce associated fatigue. The Frame would accept the attachment of various packs and/or special carriers to accommodate non-standard loads like digging tools, mortar ammunition, ammunition cans, 20 litre water cans, weapon tripods, or a casualty.

2.3 Modular Packs and Carriers

2.3.1 **Patrol Pack** – As a baseline, the system would include a 35 to 45 litre Patrol Pack (with a stowable/removable hip-belt) for carrying light to moderate loads. It would be issued to most members of the Land Force and be able to carry Personal Field Equipment for 24 hour missions including rations, clothing, summer sleeping gear, a radio, water, and extra ammunition. The Patrol Pack and Yoke would be suitable for vehicle-mounted users, or could be enhanced and issued with the Frame to provide dismounted users with the extra load support they need.

2.3.2 **Rucksack** – For longer missions, the system would offer an 80 to 100 litre Rucksack to carry moderate to heavy loads on the modular Frame. The Rucksack would be issued to members of the Land Force who conduct dismounted operations, and would be able to carry Personal Field Equipment for 72 hour missions including rations, clothing, winter sleeping gear, a radio, water, and extra ammunition.

2.3.3 A general-purpose cargo harness would be able to attach to the modular Frame to carry very bulky items that are difficult for a regular pack to accommodate.

2.3.4 Other small and specialty packs (to be determined) would be used with the system to accommodate the load-carriage needs of special users like combat medical technicians, snipers, communicators, explosive ordnance disposal technicians, etc.

2.4 General Considerations

2.4.1 The main components of the MPS must be based on Commercial Off-The-Shelf (COTS) or Military Off-The-Shelf (MOTS) designs.

2.4.2 The main Packs and Carriers must be readily detachable from the Suspension System without the use of non-system tools, allowing the user to reconfigure the MPS for a variety of missions.

2.4.3 The MPS must be comfortable and stable when worn with or without body-armour (bullet resistant plates in particular), the Tactical Vest, and the CCMFR.

2.4.4 The MPS should be able to be worn continuously for up to 12 hours without excessive discomfort. Therefore, it must be able to transfer most of the weight to the user's hips.

2.4.5 The MPS should be sufficiently and easily adjustable to accommodate a maximum number of users with a minimum number of Suspension System sizes. It should not require the use of special sizing tools to properly accommodate different users or the same user as their size needs change (naturally, or with different clothing and equipment).

2.4.6 The MPS should provide PALS-compatible attachment surfaces inside and out where practical.

2.4.7 The MPS design should be an overall balance between comfort, simplicity, and versatility.

3 **RESPONSES**

3.1 **Instructions** – Suppliers that have produced pack systems resembling the above Vision of a Future Modular Pack System (s. 2) are requested to submit a written response to the Delivery Address below by the closing date of this LOI.

3.2 **Contents** – Responses should include:

3.2.1 The Respondent's name, contact information, and return address;

3.2.2 The LOI number and closing date;

3.2.3 Literature or a reference to a web site with general information about the Respondent and their product(s);

3.2.4 The name and/or part number of the product(s) being proposed by the Respondent (more than one product proposal may be submitted by each Respondent);

3.2.5 A synopsis that explains how the Respondent's product(s) support or contribute to the Vision of a Future Modular Pack System (s. 2).

3.3 **Format** – Written responses must be submitted in 3 hard copies only, and limited to 5 pages each. Responses may be in English or French, according to the Respondent's preference.

3.4 **Samples** – Respondents may include product samples with their written response to help communicate the features of their product(s); however the Government of Canada will not assume any liability for samples, nor compensate Respondents for the value of the samples, or the cost of shipping them. Samples should be individually marked with the name and contact information of their Supplier.

3.5 **Delivery Address** – Responses are not considered bids, however, responses shall be sent to the Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) Bid Receiving Unit at the following address:

3.5.1 Bid Receiving Unit
Public Works and Government Services Canada
Place du Portage
Level 0A1, Phase III
11 Laurier Street,
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 1C9

3.6 Use – Responses and product samples will not be formally evaluated, however, they may be used by DND to develop a future MPS specification. DND is especially interested in determining which features would be valuable for future load-carriage procurements. All responses and samples received by the LOI closing date will be reviewed by DND. DND may, at its discretion, review responses and samples received after the LOI closing date. Written responses to this LOI will not be returned. Product samples may be returned, at DND's discretion.

3.7 Costs – The Government of Canada will not reimburse any respondent for expenses incurred responding to this LOI.

3.8 Parameters – Respondents are reminded that this LOI is not a Request for Proposal. In that regard, Respondents should feel free to include any comments or concerns with their responses. Canada reserves the right to seek clarification from a Respondent on information provided in response to this LOI, either by telephone, in writing, or in person.

3.9 Confidentiality – The confidentiality of each Respondent will be maintained. Respondents are requested to clearly identify portions of their response that are proprietary. Items that are identified as proprietary will be treated as such except where Canada determines that the item is not of a proprietary nature.

3.10 Enquiries – Enquiries regarding this LOI shall be directed to the LOI Authority. Enquiries received after 15 days before the closing date of this LOI may not be answered. Because this is not a bid solicitation, the Government of Canada will not necessarily respond to all enquiries in writing, nor circulate all answers to Industry. However, in the event that answers are circulated, Enquirers should clearly identify portions of their questions that are proprietary in nature. Canada may edit the questions or request that the Enquirer do so, so that the proprietary nature of the question is eliminated, and the enquiry can be circulated to Industry.

3.11 LOI Authority – Public Works and Government Services Canada is responsible for the management of the LOI process. The PWGSC contact and LOI Authority for this LOI is:

Sylvie Elder
Supply Team Leader
Clothing and Textiles Division
Acquisitions Branch, PWGSC
Place du Portage, Phase III, 6A2
11 Laurier Street
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0S5
Telephone: (819) 956-3830 Fax: (819) 956-5454
E-mail address: Sylvie.elder@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca