

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

SOLICITATION AMENDMENT
MODIFICATION DE L'INVITATION

The referenced document is hereby revised; unless otherwise indicated, all other terms and conditions of the Solicitation remain the same.

Ce document est par la présente révisé; sauf indication contraire, les modalités de l'invitation demeurent les mêmes.

Comments - Commentaires

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

Issuing Office - Bureau de distribution
Informatics Professional Services - EL
Division/Services professionnels en informatique -
division EL
4C2, Place du Portage
Gatineau
Québec
K1A 0S5

Title - Sujet PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	
Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation EN869-120601/A	Amendment No. - N° modif. 006
Client Reference No. - N° de référence du client 20120601	Date 2012-09-06
GETS Reference No. - N° de référence de SEAG PW-\$\$EL-615-24680	
File No. - N° de dossier 615el.EN869-120601	CCC No./N° CCC - FMS No./N° VME
Solicitation Closes - L'invitation prend fin at - à 02:00 PM on - le 2012-09-13	
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: Ghaddab, Nabil	Buyer Id - Id de l'acheteur 615el
Telephone No. - N° de téléphone (819) 956-5419 ()	FAX No. - N° de FAX (819) 956-5925
Destination - of Goods, Services, and Construction: Destination - des biens, services et construction:	

Instructions: See Herein

Instructions: Voir aux présentes

Delivery Required - Livraison exigée	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

This Solicitation amendment is raised to answer questions received from Bidders and to amend the solicitation.

A. QUESTIONS AND CORRESPONDENT ANSWERS:

QUESTION 1

Re: Attachment 3.2, Evaluation Criterion M1 item 2)

M1 The Bidder must demonstrate that it has been awarded up to 5 Contracts for the provisioning of informatics services supplying ALL Categories of Personnel listed in the table below for the required minimum billable days per Category of Personnel.

To meet this mandatory criteria:

- 1) The services must have been for a client/server based systems;
- 2) The services must have been provided over a 24-month period within the 5 years preceding the closing date of this bid solicitation; and
- 3) The work delivered by the Category of Personnel must include at least 50% of the associated tasks listed in the Statement of Work at Annex A of this bid solicitation for that Category of Personnel.

Question

Could the Crown please clarify the following:

- 1.1. Do each of the bidder's contracts used to substantiate this requirement have to have a minimum total duration of 24 months?
- 1.2. Do each of the bidder's contracts used to substantiate this requirement have to have an active duration of 24 months within the last 5 years? (For Example: Could a Bidder use a 3-year contract that had only 18 months within the last five years?)

ANSWER 1

- 1.1. No, there is no minimum duration for the Contracts used to substantiate the subject criteria.
- 1.2. Yes, as long as the mandatory requirement is met within the 18 month period as per example above.

QUESTION 2

Re: Appendix C to Annex A; item MQ-2

“The proposed resource must have a minimum of 5 years of experience for the specific Category of Personnel, specializing in client/server architecture, based on Sybase' PowerBuilder (using either an Oracle or Sybase database) or BI Tools Suite. Whenever experience in a specific category is requested, it will be assessed against the responsibilities enumerated at Annex A for the specific Category of Personnel. In order for a Resource Project Reference, Appendix D to Annex A, to be accepted, the Contractor must demonstrate that the proposed resource has performed at least 50% of the responsibilities enumerated at Annex A for the specific Category of Personnel.

The Contractor must provide the completed Appendix D to Annex A.”

Question 1

The requirement of 5 years of experience specializing “in client/server architecture, based on Sybase' PowerBuilder (using either an Oracle or Sybase database) or BI Tools Suite” does not directly apply directly to the SOW for all of the resource categories (i.e. Project Administrator, Project Leader, Project Manager, BPR Consultant, etc.).

For example, a Project Administrator's core tasks and responsibilities on a development project using technologies including PowerBuilder/Oracle with Cognos BI, would not differ from a Project Administrator's responsibilities on a development project within a Microsoft environment including .Net/SQL Server with SSAS/SSRS.

Could the Crown please clarify if criterion MQ-2 will be a mandatory requirement for TA's issued under all resource categories?

ANSWER 2

Canada has reviewed the question and the RFP was amended accordingly. See RFP modification #1 below.

QUESTION 3

In reference to the 24-Month Period (within the last 5 years) that substantiates Corporate Experience for M1 and R1, the Crown's response to Amendment 4, Question 3.1 states that “any 24 month period (within the last 5 years) is acceptable”. Given that M1 and R1 are evaluating bidders on their ability to demonstrate a proven ability to handle a requirement of similar size and scope as that outlined in this Solicitation, please confirm that this response refers to the use of the same 24-Month Period within the last 5 years for all referenced contracts, and the response

to Question 3.1 is instructing Bidders to select the 24-Month Period within the past 5 years that best demonstrates its capacity to meet the requirements outlined in this Solicitation.

ANSWER 3

Multiple 24-Month Periods (within the last 5 years) can be referenced for contracts. Bidders are to refer, also, to answer 3.1 of Amendment 004.

QUESTION 4

4.1. Please confirm that the definition of client server based systems includes applications where the client is a web browser.

4.2. Given the applications built within the last 5 years are almost exclusively n-tier, thin client architectures, very few respondents will have client/server experience within the last 5 years. We respectfully request M1 be changed from “within the 5 years preceding the closing date of this bid solicitation” to “within the 10 years preceding the closing date of this bid solicitation”

ANSWER 4

4.1. Canada does not confirm the definition provided by the Bidder. The Client Server application software this RFP is referring to are **desktop “fat” client applications**; not “thin” or web-based applications.

4.2. Canada has reviewed the question and the RFP was amended accordingly. See RFP modification #2 below.

QUESTION 5

In M1 of the Corporate Mandatory Criteria table found in Amendment 3, item 2) states that:

The services must have been provided over a 24 month period within the 5 years preceding the closing date of this bid solicitation;

Can you clarify if the reference to the 24 month period reflects a minimum of 24 months or a maximum of 24 months?

ANSWER 5

A maximum of 24 months.

QUESTION 6

6.1. Would the crown kindly confirm our understanding that Amendment 004 (received 22 August 2012), Answer 2 modification #1 :

“1. At para. 3.1 - Bid Preparation Instructions the RFP

DELETE: para. 3.1 (a) (iii) Section III: Certifications (1 hard copy); and

DELETE: para 3.4 Section III: Certifications”

Indicates that bidders are to remove the certifications section in its entirety from their proposal submission?

6.2. Would the crown please clarify whether bidders are instructed to submit as part of their proposal the following sections:

5.2 Certifications Precedent to Contract Award;

(a) Federal Contractors Program – Certification;

(b) Former Public Servant Certification

ANSWER 6

6.1. Canada confirms that the certifications section was removed in its entirety from any proposed bid. As per Part 5 of the RFP, Bidders are requested to use Attachment 3.1 - Bid Submission Form, to respond to both <Federal Contractors Program> and <Former Public Servant> Certifications.

As per Part 3 - Bid Preparation Instructions, Attachment 3.1 - Bid Submission Form is part of the Technical Bid.

6.2. Bidders are to refer to answer 6.1.

QUESTION 7

Given that this solicitation has been issued under the TBIPS Supply Arrangement, please confirm that PWGSC reserves the right at any time after bid closing to request a Criminal Consent Verification Form from any bidder as per the Minister of PWGSC's announcement of July 11, 2012, “Harper Fights Corruption”, which announced that SAAC Manual general conditions 2020 (2011-05016) were to be replaced by 2020 (2012-07-16) and that this would eventually apply to all PWGSC solicitations and contracts.

ANSWER 7

The Consent to a Criminal Record Verification is not required for this solicitation. The RFP was amended accordingly to modify the Standard Instructions 2003 (2012-07-11). See RFP modification #3 below.

QUESTION 8

We feel that PWGSC's response is unreasonable, favours the incumbent companies and is seriously limiting the fairness and transparency of the bidding process while blatantly dismissing the capabilities of other companies who can easily provide the resulting services to the Government. We too find that meeting M1 and scoring reasonably for R1 is proving a challenge. We can support the required billable days per category, meeting 50% of the associated tasks through up to 5 contracts, but find the requirement for services to be provided '... within the 5 years preceding the closing date of this bid solicitation' highly restrictive, favours the incumbent companies and will significantly limit the competition/bids that PWGSC would otherwise receive. The incumbent companies can easily meet this criteria given that they have held the contracts with PWGSC for same services over the last several years. To ensure transparency and fair competition in response to this RFP, we respectfully request that the requested criteria for M1 and R1 may be provided within the last 8 years.

If PWGSC chooses not to amend the criteria to allow services provided within the last 8 years, then in order to ensure transparency and a fair competition, we respectfully request that PWGSC adjust the criteria as follows:

- a. Does not limit the number of contracts that may be used to support all of the requested criteria. Request first sentence be revised to read 'The Bidder must demonstrate that it has been awarded contracts for the provisioning of informatics services supplying ALL Categories of Personnel listed in the table below for the required minimum billable days per Category of Personnel.' , OR
- b. Revise item 2) that requires 'the services must have been provided over a 24-month period within the 5 years preceding the closing date of this bid solicitation ...' to simply read 'the services must have been provided within the 5 years preceding the closing date of this bid solicitation ...'.

ANSWER 8

Canada has reviewed the question and the RFP was amended accordingly. See RFP modification #2 below.

QUESTION 9

Further to Amendment 005, Q&A 1: In the event that Canada receives bids only from the incumbent vendors, will Canada cancel the solicitation? And if not, how will Canada defend the position it has taken?

ANSWER 9

Bidders are to refer to the answer 8 of this RFP Amendment.

B. RFP AMENDMENTS:

1. Appendix C to Annex A of the RFP Amendment 002

DELETE: Appendix C to Annex A in its entirety; and

INSERT: Appendix C to Annex A, as follows:

APPENDIX C TO ANNEX A

RESOURCES ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND RESPONSE TABLE FOR ALL CATEGORIES OF PERSONNEL ACCEPT THE PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR CATEGORY:

Proposed Resource Minimum Qualifications and Response Template			
Resources Category : _____		Level : <u> 2 </u>	
Contractor Name: _____		Proposed Resource Name: _____	
MQ- ID	Minimum Qualifications	Contractor's Response	
		Demonstrated Experience (Contractor to Insert Data)	Insert Page # of Response
MQ-1	The proposed resource must have either: 1.A university degree in a computer software development discipline; OR 2.A two-year college diploma in computer software development discipline and a minimum of 2 years of experience in computer software development; OR 3.A university degree in any field and a minimum of 5 years of experience in computer software development ; OR		

	4.A minimum of 15 years of experience in computer software development.		
MQ-2	<p>The proposed resource must have a minimum of 5 years of experience for the specific Category of Personnel, specializing in client/server architecture, based on Sybase' PowerBuilder (using either an Oracle or Sybase database) or BI Tools Suite.</p> <p>Whenever experience in a specific category is requested, it will be assessed against the responsibilities enumerated at Annex A for the specific Category of Personnel. In order for a Resource Project Reference, Appendix D to Annex A, to be accepted, the Contractor must demonstrate that the proposed resource has performed at least 50% of the responsibilities enumerated at Annex A for the specific Category of Personnel.</p> <p>The Contractor must provide the completed Appendix D to Annex A.</p>		

RESOURCES ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND RESPONSE TABLE FOR THE PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR CATEGORY:

Proposed Resource Minimum Qualifications and Response Template Resources Category : Project Administrator Level : <u> 2 </u> Contractor Name: _____ Proposed Resource Name: _____			
MQ- ID	Minimum Qualifications	Contractor's Response	
		Demonstrated Experience (Contractor to Insert Data)	Insert Page # of Response
MQ-1	<p>The proposed resource must have either:</p> <p>1.A university degree in a computer software development discipline; OR</p> <p>2.A two-year college diploma in computer software development discipline and a minimum of 2 years of experience in computer software development; OR</p> <p>3.A university degree in any field and a minimum of 5 years of experience in computer software development ; OR</p>		

	4.A minimum of 15 years of experience in computer software development.		
MQ-2	<p>The proposed resource must have a minimum of 5 years of experience as a Project Administrator.</p> <p>Whenever experience in a specific category is requested, it will be assessed against the responsibilities enumerated at Annex A for the specific Category of Personnel. In order for a Resource Project Reference, Appendix D to Annex A, to be accepted, the Contractor must demonstrate that the proposed resource has performed at least 50% of the responsibilities enumerated at Annex A for the specific Category of Personnel.</p> <p>The Contractor must provide the completed Appendix D to Annex A.</p>		

2. M1 of Attachment 3.2 of the RFP Amendment 004

DELETE: M1; and

INSERT: M1, as follows:

ID	Corporate Mandatory Criteria	Cross Reference
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M1	<p>The Bidder must demonstrated that it has been awarded up to 5 Contracts for the provisioning of informatics services supplying ALL Categories of Personnel listed in the table below for the required minimum billable days per Category of Personnel.</p> <p>To meet this mandatory criteria:</p> <p>1)The services must have been for a client/server based systems;</p> <p>2)The services must have been provided over a 24-month period within the 8 years preceding the closing date of this bid solicitation; and</p> <p>3)The work delivered by the Category of Personnel must include at least 50% of the associated tasks listed in the Statement of Work at Annex A of this bid solicitation for that Category of Personnel.</p> <p>The Bidder must provide the completed Appendices A and B of Attachment 3.2</p>	
	Category of Personnel	Minimum Billable Days
	Application/Software Architect	660
	Programmer Analyst	1,760
	System Analyst	2,200
	Tester	880
	Database Administrator	660
	Database Analyst / IM Administrator	440
	Database Modeller / IM Modeller	220
	System Administrator	220
	Technical Architect	220
	Technology Architect	220
	Business Analyst	220
	Business Process Reengineering (BPR) Consultant	440
	Technical Writer	220
	Project Administrator	220
	Project Leader	220
	Project Manager	220
	Quality Assurance Specialist/Analyst	440

3. Article 2.1 (c) of Part 2 - Bidder Instructions of the RFP Amd 002

DELETE: Article 2.1 (c) in its entirety; and

INSERT: Article 2.1 (c), as follows:

The 2003 (2010-10-07) Standard Instructions - Goods or Services - Competitive Requirements are incorporated by reference into and form part of the bid solicitation, with Subsection 5.4

Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation

EN869-120601/A

Client Ref. No. - N° de réf. du client

20120601

Amd. No. - N° de la modif.

006

File No. - N° du dossier

615e1EN869-120601

Buyer ID - Id de l'acheteur

615e1

CCC No./N° CCC - FMS No/ N° VME

amended by deleting “ (60) days” and inserting “ days” If there is a conflict between the provisions of 2003 and this document, this document prevails.

ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS REMAIN UNCHANGED