

RETURN BIDS TO:
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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
Science Procurement Directorate/Direction de
l'acquisition de travaux scientifiques
11C1, Phase III
Place du Portage
11 Laurier St. / 11, rue Laurier
Gatineau, Québec K1A 0S5

Title - Sujet CHEMISTRY TESTING		
Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation 39903-130313/A		Amendment No. - N° modif. 004
Client Reference No. - N° de référence du client 39903-130313		Date 2013-03-07
GETS Reference No. - N° de référence de SEAG PW-\$\$\$-013-25446		
File No. - N° de dossier 013ss.39903-130313	CCC No./N° CCC - FMS No./N° VME	
Solicitation Closes - L'invitation prend fin at - à 02:00 PM on - le 2013-03-22		Time Zone Fuseau horaire Eastern Standard Time EST
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: Dagenais, Gaëtane		Buyer Id - Id de l'acheteur 013ss
Telephone No. - N° de téléphone (819) 956-1365 ()		FAX No. - N° de FAX (819) 997-2229
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 modify the Solicitation closing date and to respond to enquiries received relative to the bid solicitation.

Under "Solicitation Closes" on p.1 of the Request for Proposal:

Delete: 2013-03-15

Insert: 2013-03-22

Q1. Mandatory Technical Criteria M6.2 in Attachment 1 to Part 3 requires physical addresses and photos of storage facilities before shipping in each metropolitan area. The volume of samples coming from some of the locations is small enough that it would be possible to shop and ship on the same day and therefore storage would not be needed. For these locations, is it really mandatory to have a physical address and provide photos?

A1. The contractor and / or its sample collection subcontractor must ensure the samples are kept under appropriate condition throughout the entire process. Refer to Appendix V to Annex A, Sample Storage and Shipping Criteria, for details. Result(s) reported on an unfit sample(s) will be rejected by the Technical Authority. In order to maintain the integrity of the sample material, temporary storage facilities located within each city are necessary. In some cases, a designated area in a room, or a designated freezer / fridge / cooler is considered sufficient for temporary use. Yet, a physical address and photos of this area or this freezer / fridge / cooler are required in accordance with M6.2. You may also consult with Solicitation Amendment 002 for additional information on sample collection issues.

Q2. Appendix II to Annex A - The annual survey sample plan template provides the date planned for shopping for each sample. Is this date critical or could shopping be conducted weekly in each city to pick up all samples scheduled for shopping in a one week period?

A2. The "date planned" in Appendix II to Annex A is the date that Technical Authority expects to receive the result from the contractor. For example, In Appendix II to Annex A, C2014AFLA00001 has a DatePlanned as 01-Mar-2014. That means:

- (a) Result of the analysis must be reported to Technical Authority between March 1 and 14, 2014. Refer to 7.5 and 11.3 in Annex A, Statement of Work for details;
- (b) The analysis for C2012AFLA00001 is completed during February 2014;
- (c) The sample must have been collected less than or equal to 20 working days before this sample is analyzed; and, yes, sample collection can be conducted on weekly bases if it fits into the time frame. Please refer to refer to 6.4, 7.1, as well as Appendix III, IV and V in Annex A, Statement of Works for details on sample collection criteria.

Q3. Table 1 Survey Sample Guidance - what % of samples for each of the various surveys would be refrigerated / frozen product and therefore would require overnight shipment with icepacks?

A3. Historically, approximately 50% of the samples are perishable and need to be either refrigerated / frozen; however, this percentage may vary from survey to survey.

Q4. Table 5 - Technical Evaluation Table requires that the LOD / LOQ criteria be demonstrated in the recommended matrix for evaluation as well as a representative blank matrix. If the recommended matrix

is already free of the target compound and therefore "blank" is there still a requirement to analyze another blank matrix?

A4 Yes, another blank matrix is expected.

Q5. How many controlled copies of SOPs are required? The RFSO requires 4 copies of the technical proposal to be submitted. Should the SOPs in each copy be controlled or would it be sufficient to provide 1 controlled copy and 3 uncontrolled copies?

A5. 1 controlled and 3 uncontrolled copies of SOPs is sufficient.

Q6. Appendix II(A) to Annex A refers to the "General Sampling Instructions - Food Safety Action Plan (FSAP) Chemistry Targeted Surveys" document. Where can this document be found?

A6 Appendix II and Appendix II (A) serve as a template for Survey Sampling Plan. Details are subject to change and should not be considered as definite. "General Sampling Instruction", which is an instructional document, is not available for a specific survey at this time but will be provided at the time the contract is awarded. To ensure sample suitability, traceability, integrity, representability and randomization, as well as prevention of contamination, please consult with section 6.1, 7.1, 7.3, Appendix III, IV and V of Annex A, Statement of Work for guidance.

Q7. Can a bidder only having testing capability use another bidder as a subcontractor for sample collections, when the subcontractor is also bidding?

A7. There are no restrictions from PWGSC's perspective.

Q8. Re mandatory criteria M6; In M6, it requests the bidder demonstrate the ability to 'service' sampling in all 6 cities clearly with the intention to ensure sample integrity from all vicinities. Answer 2 in Amendment 002 clarifies that a storage facilities in all 6 metropolitan areas (or cities) is a proposal requirement. However, such a requirement does not seem to be needed in order to meet the sample integrity objectives as defined in Appendix II, IV and V to Annex A. Certainly shipment of samples overnight to storage facilities and/or to the lab location of analysis is necessary during the program. Shipping of samples under controlled temperature conditions is also clearly required. Samples can be taken and shipped the same day from a city without the need for a permanent storage facility 'in the metropolitan area' or 'in each city'.

The definition of metropolitan area may be subjective. Certainly, Oshawa, Milton, Mississauga, Oakville or Burlington are normally considered suburbs of Toronto and therefore would normally be included in a common definition of 'metropolitan area'. However many commute from Port Hope or Waterloo into the city of Toronto. From a laboratory service standpoint, Montreal could be serviced within same day driving of an Ottawa facility. Similarly, Calgary could be serviced from an Edmonton location.

Re mandatory criteria M7;.

The mandatory criteria M7 implies that each of these 6 storage facilities needs to have ambient, refrigerated and freezer storage.

(a) Can PWGSC/CFIA confirm again that a storage facility is required in (or around the surrounding area of) each metropolitan area?

- (b) If the response under (a) above is unchanged, can PWGSC/CFIA define how near a facility needs to be to a 'metropolitan area' in order to be classified as a facility to service the sampling in this metropolitan area?
- (c) For the purposes of this RFP, can PWGSC/CFIA define 'metropolitan area'?
- (d) Does each of the 'storage facilities' require sufficient ambient, refrigerated and freezer storage to handle the sampling events in that area?
- (e) If a bid relates to a survey that does not include frozen samples (as described in the RFP 'Table 1 Survey Sample Guidance' or otherwise defined) do the freezer storage facility requirements still apply?

A8

- (a) A temporary storage is required in or around the surrounding area of each metropolitan area. Please refer to A1 for additional information.
- (b) There is no set criteria regarding the distance between the temporary storage to the metropolitan area it serves. Ideally, it is no farther than 100 KM from the city limit.
- (c) Please refer to <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/z01/cs0007-eng.htm> for the definition. i.e. a storage located in Burlington or Oshawa, ON will be sufficient to serve Toronto sample collection.
- (d) No. The minimum requirement for a storage facility in M6 is to provide short term storage space in one or more conditions. Providing a facility with all 3 temperature conditions is not mandatory.
- (e) Yes. The laboratory where the analysis is conducted must provide ambient, refrigerator/cold room AND freezer storage facilities. Please refer to 6.5 Sample Retention of Annex A, Statement of Work.

Q9.

- (a) The bid solicitation indicates that up to 15 contracts may be awarded. However, it seems as though the Additional Surveys will not necessarily be awarded to the laboratory that is awarded the Survey. Does this mean that, in principle, 30 contracts may be awarded?
- (b) If bagels cannot be found with no declared sesame, is there an alternate Recommended Matrix for Evaluation of sesame?
- (c) M7.1 indicates the need to provide temperature monitoring record for the indicates storage facilities. Is there a minimum period of time for which records must be submitted.

A9.

- (a) No. It is the combination of the survey(s) listed in Table 2, Survey Guidance and additional survey is assessed.
- (b) The bidder can use alternative matrix other rather than recommended one.
- (c) There is no minimum period of time. Ideally, one month records are expected.