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11 Laurier Street / 11, rue Laurier

Place du Portage, Phase III

Core 0A1 / Noyau 0A1

Gatineau

Québec

K1A 0S5

Bid Fax: (819) 997-9776

**Revision to a Request for Supply
Arrangement - Révision à une demande
pour un arrangement en matière
d'approvisionnement**

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

There is a security requirement associated with this
requirement

Vendor/Firm Name and Address

Raison sociale et adresse du
fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur

Issuing Office - Bureau de distribution

Procurement Strategies Division / Division des
stratégies d'acquisition

11 Laurier St. / 11, rue Laurier

Place du Portage, 11C1

Phase III, Tower C

Gatineau

Quebec

K1A 0S5

Title - Sujet TEMPORARY HELP SERVICES	
Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation EN578-060502/F	Date 2013-04-11
Client Reference No. - N° de référence du client EN578-060502	Amendment No. - N° modif. 003
File No. - N° de dossier 004zn.EN578-060502	CCC No./N° CCC - FMS No./N° VME
GETS Reference No. - N° de référence de SEAG PW-\$\$ZN-004-25455	
Date of Original Request for Supply Arrangement 2013-02-18 Date de demande pour un arrangement en matière d'app. originale	
Solicitation Closes - L'invitation prend fin at - à 02:00 PM on - le 2013-04-16	Time Zone Fuseau horaire Eastern Daylight Saving Time EDT
Address Enquiries to: - Adresser toutes questions à: Mao, Lan	Buyer Id - Id de l'acheteur 004zn
Telephone No. - N° de téléphone (819) 956-8465 ()	FAX No. - N° de FAX (819) 997-2229
Delivery Required - Livraison exigée	
Destination - of Goods, Services, and Construction: Destination - des biens, services et construction: AS SHOWN ON EACH CONTRACT	
Security - Sécurité This revision does not change the security requirements of the solicitation. Cette révision ne change pas les besoins en matière de sécurité de l'invitation.	

Instructions: See Herein

Instructions: Voir aux présentes

Acknowledgement copy required Accusé de réception requis	Yes - Oui <input type="checkbox"/>	No - Non <input type="checkbox"/>
The Offeror hereby acknowledges this revision to its Offer. Le proposant constate, par la présente, cette révision à son offre.		
Signature	Date	
Name and title of person authorized to sign on behalf of offeror. (type or print) Nom et titre de la personne autorisée à signer au nom du proposant. (taper ou écrire en caractères d'imprimerie)		
For the Minister - Pour le Ministre		

THIS AMENDMENT 003 IS RAISED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FOR THE RFSA

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

QUESTION 014

In Part 3, Section 1.2 - Submission Grid, it outlines as an existing THS SA holder, we must submit the signed front page and a completed Annex H. It also states within Annex H - Existing THS SA Holders Certification, Part 1 that a bidder that meets this criteria "must sign and submit in hard copy the following Grandfather Certification along with the first page of EN578-060502/F and submit this requirement in accordance with the Part 2 - Supplier Instructions, Article 2. Submission of Arrangements requirements set out in the solicitation."

As an existing THS SA holder who does not intend on applying for additional categories, could the Crown please clarify if we are still required to divide our submission into Sections I and II? If so, could the Crown please confirm if we should submit within Section I, the signed Front Page of the Solicitation and within Section II, the Annex H certification?

ANSWER 014

Existing THS SA holders who are not changing their technical arrangement currently on file with PWGSC may provide under separate cover their responses by Section I and Section II, as noted in Part 3-Supplier Preparation Instructions. Bidders are required to submit two (2) hard copies of the required documentation, soft copies are optional, specified in Part 3, Article 1.2 Submission Grid and follow the Submission of Arrangements instructions in Part 2 - Supplier Instructions, article 2.

Bidders are asked to review all previous questions and answers published to date. Canada has provided a response to this question/requirement in RFSA Amendment 001, Question and Answer 004 and RFSA Amendment 002, Questions and Answers 009 and 010 issued and made available to industry on March 1, 2013 and March 27, 2013.

QUESTION 015

We are currently qualified on previous EN578-060502 for all of Stream 4 and four Sub-Streams in Stream 5. We are interested in adding an additional Sub-Stream in Stream 5. Attachment 1 to Part 4 of the RFP provides examples for adding classifications to Streams 1-4; however, there is no clarification about the process to add Sub-Streams to Stream 5. Can PWGSC please clarify if we are required to?

- (a) Submit 20-40 resources for Stream 5, including 2-4 resources for the new Sub-Stream
- (b) Submit 2-4 resources for the additional Sub-Stream
- (c) Another option (if so, please explain)

ANSWER 015

- a. As stated in the previous RFSA solicitations EN578-060502/D and EN578-060502/E and the current RFSA solicitation EN578-060502/F, "Attachment 1 to Part 4, Mandatory Evaluation Criteria, M2C states: Experience of the Supplier

The supplier may provide up to a maximum of 40 temporary help resource names and may provide up to a maximum of 4 temporary help resource names in each sub-stream. The supplier must provide a minimum of 20 different temporary help resource names and a minimum of 2 different temporary help resource names in the sub-stream that are compliant.

The supplier may repeat any of the 20 compliant temporary help resource names in any of the sub-streams to demonstrate the 2 temporary help resource names in each sub-stream."

That is correct. Suppliers who wish to add a sub-stream under Stream 5-Professional Services, may provide up to a maximum of 40 temporary help resource names for Stream 5, but must provide a minimum of 20 different temporary help resource names that are compliant as defined under the mandatory criterion.

- b. Same below. The supplier may provide up to a maximum of 4 temporary help resource names in each sub-stream, but must provide a minimum of 2 different temporary help resource names in the sub-stream that are compliant.
- c. I don't understand the question for (c). Bidders must provide the information provided in the solicitation as per Attachment 1 to Part 4, Mandatory Evaluation Criteria, including M2C for the applicable stream and/or sub-stream.

QUESTION 016

We are an existing THS SA holder with no changes to the technical arrangement already on file and our submission will follow the requirements identified under Column C in the Submission Grid. An instruction in the solicitations calls for 2 hardcopies of and two soft copies of the technical offer and two hardcopies of the certifications. Since we are required only to submit Page 1 of the RFP and Annex H, can we put this together in one document? How many hardcopies are required? Are soft copies required as well?

ANSWER 016

Suppliers are asked to review all previous questions and answers published to date. Canada has provided a response to this question/requirement in RFSA Amendment 001, Question and Answer 001 as issued and made available to industry on March 1, 2013

QUESTION 017

Attachment 1 to Part 4 - Mandatory Evaluation Criteria: M2A, M2B & M2C: Experience of the Supplier - In order for a resource to be compliant, "Services of the above 20 compliant temporary help resource names must have been billed to a minimum of 3 different clients located in the National Capital Area."

It is our understanding that services must be billed to a minimum of 3 NCA clients for each stream, but it is not mandatory that ALL resources would have been performing work in the NCA.

For example if we were to provide 20 compliant temporary help resource names, 3 of which performed services in the NCA, but the other 17 performed services in various locations outside of the NCA, our interpretation would be correct and our response would be considered compliant specific to the above mandatory requirement.

ANSWER 017

No. As stated in Attachment 1 to Part 4 - Mandatory Evaluation Criteria, M2A, M2B, M2C. "The offeror must demonstrate that the services of the compliant temporary help resource names must have been billed to a minimum of 3 different clients located in the National Capital Area" for each stream the offeror wishes to provide services in.

QUESTION 018

Within "PART 4 - EVALUATION PROCEDURES AND BASIS OF SELECTION, 3. Security Requirement (1), before issuance of a standing offer, the following conditions must be met:

(a) the Offeror must hold a valid organization security clearance as indicated in Part 6A - Supply Arrangement;

2. Offerors are reminded to obtain the required security clearance promptly. Any delay in the issuance of a supply arrangement to allow the successful supplier to obtain the required clearance will be at the entire discretion of the Supply Arrangement Authority."

While our company is established as a provider of Temporary and Permanent Placement Resources, we are new to supplying the government of Canada and in result do not currently have any security clearance issued by the CISC. The above appears to conflict with the option to request sponsorship as detailed in section 1.4.3 and 1.4.4 in the Attachment 1 to Part 3 - RFSA Technical Response template.

As a new supplier, are we to go through the process as indicated on the ISP website <http://ssi-iss.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ssi-iss/org/org-eng.html> or are we able to obtain DOS reliability and/or FSC using the THS vehicle as a sponsor? Please provide any clarification.

ANSWER 018

The supplier must hold as valid security clearance as a minimum at the Designated Organization Screening (DOS) level issued by the Canadian Industrial Security Directorate (CISC), at the time of Supply Arrangement issuance. New suppliers who do not currently hold a DOS security clearance may request sponsorship by completing the RFSA Technical Response Template, sections 1.4.3 Security Sponsorship and 1.4.4 Security Sponsorship Details and include the sponsorship request with their bid submission.

Although a Supply Arrangement may be awarded to a compliant supplier, it will remain inactive and the firm will not be accessible as an active THS Supplier Online Search or to participate in THS procurements until the supplier's security requirement has been met for the Supply Arrangement. The Supply Arrangement Authority will activate the suppliers status accordingly upon notification from the supplier confirming CISC security clearance has been met.

QUESTION 019

On March 22, 2013, PWGSC (THS) awarded our company a supply arrangement as a result of our bid proposal under the previous THS RFSA solicitation no. EN578-060502/E which is now closed. Our company is now considered an existing THS holder.

I have the Annex "H" - Existing THS Supply Arrangement Holders grandfather certification signed off and also the first page of the RFSA.

- a. I will provide you with two pieces of paper, is this correct?

The confusion is Part 5 Certifications of this solicitation, Article 1. Mandatory Certifications Required Precedent to Issuance of a Supply Arrangement, 1.1 Code of Conduct and Certifications - Related documentation.

- b. What is the related documentation? Do you want this form signed off also? I thought it was covered through the grandfathering certification?

ANSWER 019

- a. All existing THS SA holders who are not changing their technical arrangement on file with PWGSC and are interested in being grandfathered and retaining their current supply arrangement must review the current solicitation posted on Merx since February 18, 2013 and submit as a minimum a signed certification (Annex H), along with the first page of the Request for Supply Arrangement following the bid submission requirements specified in Part 3, article 1.2 Submission Grid.

Suppliers are asked to review all previous questions and answers published to date. Canada has provided a response to this question/requirement in RFSA Amendment 001 and Amendment 002 issued and made available to industry on March 1, 2013 and March 27, 2013.

Yes, the supplier must provide Annex H and Signed Front Page of the Solicitation which is 2 separate pieces of paper.

- b. As stated in the email communiqué to all existing offerors issued on February 19, 2013 (<https://buyandsell.gc.ca/public-works-and-government-services-canada-revises-integrity-measures>) and in Part 5-Certifications, the grandfathering certification does not address the Code of Conduct which is a new provision for all existing suppliers to complete and meet.

QUESTION 020

Bidders can submit a maximum of two arrangements. It is stated the RFP, Part 3, Article 4, "Multiple Arrangements:

A legal entity can only submit: (i) one arrangement from the legal entity alone, or (ii) one arrangement from the legal entity and one arrangement from the legal entity in a joint venture with another legal entity where one of the joint venture member is a legal entity that complies with the Aboriginal Business Certification in Part 5- Certifications. Each arrangement must be a physically separate document. Each arrangement will be evaluated independently without regard to other arrangements submitted and, therefore, every arrangement must be complete. If a legal entity participates in more arrangements than permitted under (i) or (ii), Canada may require the legal entity to inform Canada as to which of its arrangements it wishes to withdraw."

- a. I can have two arrangements; one with my entity and one with a JV with an Aboriginal Supplier?
- b. Why does this restrict the non-aboriginal community from having two arrangements?
- c. For instance can I have one with my entity and a JV with non-aboriginal arrangements?

ANSWER 020

- a. Yes, suppliers can submit up to two arrangements as stated in the RFP article as referenced above. Each arrangement must be a physically separate document. Each arrangement will be evaluated independently without regard to other arrangements submitted and, therefore, every arrangement must be complete.
- b. This restricts all suppliers to have no more than 2 arrangements. One arrangement on the basis of a legal entity alone, and/or one as a legal entity in a joint venture. The reference to Aboriginal Business is that if the Joint Venture is seeking a status of Aboriginal Business it must meet the Certification.
- c. Yes.