

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 - ARCTIC MITT / CWW GLOVE	
Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation W8486-138507/A	Date 2013-03-28
Client Reference No. - N° de référence du client W8486-138507	GETS Ref. No. - N° de réf. de SEAG PW-\$\$\$PR-707-62512
File No. - N° de dossier pr707.W8486-138507	CCC No./N° CCC - FMS No./N° VME
Solicitation Closes - L'invitation prend fin at - à 02:00 PM on - le 2013-05-13	
Time Zone Fuseau horaire Eastern Daylight Saving Time EDT	
F.O.B. - F.A.B. Specified Herein - Précisé dans les présentes Plant-Usine: <input type="checkbox"/> Destination: <input type="checkbox"/> Other-Autre: <input checked="" 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 FOR ARCTIC MITTEN AND COLD WET WEATHER GLOVE PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT

1 SCOPE

1.1 Subject – Arctic Mitten and Cold Wet Weather Glove (product improvements).

1.2 Purpose – The purpose of this Letter of Interest (LOI) is to inform Industry that the Department of National Defence (DND) intends to make significant changes to the design, materials and construction of the current in service Arctic Mittens and Cold Wet Weather Gloves. DND wishes to examine existing Commercial Off the Shelf (COTS) and Military Off the Shelf (MOTS) designs and technology in an effort to consolidate its requirements. This LOI also seeks to investigate what products are currently available that may be feasible for procurement as a method of conducting an interim product improvement.

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 AMCW Arctic Mitten Cold Weather item to replace current issue Arctic Mitten.

1.4.2 CWWM Cold Wet Weather Mitten item to replace current issue CWWG

1.4.3 CWWG Cold Wet Weather Glove

1.4.4 LOI Letter of Interest.

1.4.5 DND Department of National Defence.

1.4.6 PWGSC Public Works and Government Services Canada.

1.5 Related Search Terms – Gloves, mittens, contact gloves, liner gloves, ski gloves, ski mittens, shell mittens, combat gloves, soldiers, soldier systems, hike, travel, soft goods, sewn goods, sew, apparel, textiles, fabrics, Insulation, Prima loft®, Gore Tex®, Climashield®, Nylon, Velcro®, MVPM (moisture vapour permeable membrane), hook and loop.

1.6 Background

1.6.1 Clothing and equipment is a vital component of soldier performance, confidence and attitude, this is especially true for dismounted infantry soldiers. A critical component of soldier performance is how a soldier can protect his hands from cold and wet cold environments. Hand wear is a critical component to ensure that soldiers conduct combat essential tasks such as operating weapon systems, using communication equipment and moving across difficult terrain under adverse climatic conditions. Further to this improved clothing and equipment is a critical component too ensuring good performance, good

morale and reducing casualties. The Canadian operating environment is one of the most challenging in the world with dramatic temperature fluctuations and conditions with Canadian soldiers operating in cold and wet cold conditions for extended periods. Cold weather hand wear in extreme cold is seen as a critical component of force protection in training and war.

1.6.2 The current issue Arctic Mitten and Cold Wet Weather Glove have been identified as items which due to their design, construction and materials do not provide sufficient protection throughout the climate they are intended to operate in. The current arctic issue mitten is virtually unchanged since the Korean War as a result Arctic Mittens have been viewed as a force protection issue. Given that commercial outdoor clothing and equipment has experienced revolutionary changes in design, construction and materials since the 1950's the requirement exists for a modernization of Canadian issue hand wear. Military hand wear systems need to be modular and adaptable to a changing climate or work rate. The Canadian Army is looking to modernize soldiers cold and wet cold hand wear so that it provides improved environmental protection to ensure that soldiers are protected and prepared to operate to the best of their abilities in extreme climatic and working conditions as required.

2 VISION OF FUTURE ARCTIC MITTENS COLD WEATHER (AMCW) and COLD WET WEATHER MITTENS (CWWM)

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

2.2 AMCW

2.2.1 Overview - The Arctic Mitten is currently issued to all Canadian forces personnel conducting training or operations in the cold to extreme cold climate. Specifically the AMCW needs the ability to operate in the temperature range of -10 C° to -51 C°. The AMCW is the primary mitten to provide soldiers sufficient insulation to operate in the different types of cold experienced throughout Canada. This is not limited to but includes the following types of conditions, cold wet, cold dry, mixed cold conditions and extreme cold with wind chill.

2.2.2 Liner Glove – A lightweight glove that can be worn inside the insulation liner mitten, or inside the mitten shell depending on the needs of the user based on climatic conditions or the metabolism of the user. Ideally this mitten should be able to provide sufficient warmth to act as an extra layer of insulation. This glove may incorporate natural or artificial materials and may or may not provide wind protection but must be able to dry quickly. Ideally it should be constructed in a manner that incorporates pre curve construction. The glove must be durable enough to withstand use as a “trigger glove” or operate radios and other pieces of mission essential equipment as required.

2.2.3 Insulation Liner Mitten – A separate mitten that must be able to be removed from the mitten shell to ensure rapid, efficient drying and or replacement with a spare set. This mitten should provide the bulk of insulation for the mitten. It must be constructed in a manner that incorporates pre curve construction. It may have the ability to attach inside the mitten. It should allow suitable room for the use of the liner glove so that mobility and dexterity are not compromised as would be reasonable of a high loft insulation mitten. Insulation should be weighted for the different areas of the hand in order to maximize effectiveness. This glove may incorporate natural or artificial materials and may or may not provide wind

protection but should be able to dry quickly. Ideally it should be durable in construction in the event that it is used on its own. The insulation liner mitten can incorporate patterns such as lobster claw, etc.

2.2.4 Mitten Shell – The mitten shell needs to provide a protective layer around the insulation liner mitten and liner glove and as such must be robust. The mitten shell must provide both wind and water protection and be constructed of materials so that it does not accumulate ice, snow or absorb water. The mitten shell may or may not include insulation in its design and construction based on the system approach to insulation. It must be constructed in a manner that incorporates pre curve construction so as to not fatigue the hand while worn. It should allow suitable room for the liner mitten to be inserted with or without the liner glove so that mobility and dexterity are not compromised as would be reasonable of a high loft insulation layer mitten. The mitten must have a robust palm that allows for grip in extreme cold yet remains flexible in order to allow the manipulation of basic controls such as a snow mobile. The mitten shell should also include a means of allowing the user to secure the mitten to the wrist so that it cannot fall off the hand to the ground when the hand is removed to operate weapons systems, radios or other mission essential equipment.

2.3 CWWM

2.3.1 Overview – The current cold wet weather glove issued to all Canadian forces personnel conducting training or operations in cold and wet climates is known as the CWWG. The CWWM needs the ability to operate within the temperature range of current CWWG which is +5 C° to -20C°. The CWWM will seek improve to provide thermal protection by keeping the fingers together in a modular system that will allow the user to scale thermal requirements against climatic conditions and metabolism of the user. It must be compact and lightweight so that it may be stowed with ease by the soldier on his load carriage. The intent of this mitten is to have components that allow soldiers the flexibility to operate in conditions that are wet, cold and wet and cold. The CWWM will operate within an extremely difficult climatic range and be the mitten used between the AMCW and combat gloves.

2.3.2 Insulation Mitten – The insulation mitten must be able to be removed from the mitten shell to ensure rapid and efficient drying. This mitten should provide both wind and water protection and materials used should not accumulate snow or absorb water. The design of the mitten should allow suitable room for the use of either the AMCW liner glove or combat glove inside depending on the operational or climatic environment. The insulation mitten may be worn alone or in concert with other gloves and as such should be robust. The mitten must have a robust palm that allows for grip in extreme cold yet remains flexible. It must be constructed in a manner that incorporates pre curve construction so as to not fatigue the hand while worn. The insulation liner mitten can incorporate patterns such as lobster claw, etc. The primary goal of the insulation mitten is to provide flexible thermal protection while allowing the user to wear a glove (trigger mitten/ combat glove) so that the operator has the capability to use weapons, radios, and other pieces of equipment as required.

2.3.3 Shell Mitten – The shell mitten must be water resistant and be capable of both wind and water protection and materials used should not accumulate snow, ice or absorb water. The design of the mitten should allow suitable room for the use of a liner mitten and/or combat glove inside. The shell must be constructed in a manner that incorporates pre curve construction so as to not fatigue the hand while worn. The mitten must have a robust palm that allows for grip yet remains flexible in cold conditions. It must be compact and lightweight so that it may be stowed with ease by the soldier on his load carriage. The mitten shell should also include a means of allowing the user to secure the mitten to

the wrist so that it cannot fall off the hand to the ground when the hand is removed to operate weapons systems, radios or other mission essential equipment.

2.4 General Considerations

2.4.1 The main components of the AMCW and CWWM should be based on Commercial Off-The-Shelf (COTS) or Military Off-The-Shelf (MOTS) designs.

2.4.2 Any materials used in the insulation mittens and or insulation gloves should if possible be constructed of materials that are no drip and no melt to protect the user as they may be exposed to flash fire and flame.

2.4.3 The AMCW and CWWM should be compatible stable with the current suite of operational clothing and equipment which includes but is not limited to the Clothe the Soldier Integrated Clothing Ensemble) which consists of a combat coat, parka, fleece and rain jacket.

2.4.4 The AMCW and CWWM should be able to be worn continuously for up to 18 hours a day for a period of 9 months without significant failure. This duration of time and usage is consistent with the length of current operational deployments.

2.4.5 The sizing tariff for AMCW and CWWM should be adjusted to account for the fact that the user will be expected to wear in some cases 3 layers and as a result need to reflect this increase to bulk width and length due to the number of layers.

2.4.6 The AMCW and CWWM should be constructed in such a way as to look modern and progressive in effort to enhance user perception.

2.4.7 The AMCW and CWWM design should be balance of comfort, simplicity, warmth and durability.

2.4.8. The AMCW and CWWM should have a resistance to basic POL such as gun oil, gasoline, naptha, and diesel etc. This is a result of the fact they will be exposed to these throughout the course of soldiers routines in cold weather.

3 RESPONSES

3.1 Instructions – Suppliers that have Mittens and gloves resembling the above Vision of Future AMCW and CWWM 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 website with general information about the Respondent and their product(s);

3.2.4 The name and/or stock 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 AMCW or CWWM.

3.3 Format – Written responses must be submitted in 3 hard copies only, and limited to 10 pages each. Responses must be in English and may include French copies, 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:

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 hand wear specification. DND is especially interested in determining which features would be valuable for hand wear 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
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