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TPSGC
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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
Land Projects and Communication System Support
Division/Div des projets terrestres et support de
systèmes de communication
11 Laurier St. / 11, rue Laurier
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Québec
K1A 0S5

Title - Sujet Integrated Soldier System Project	
Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation W8476-112965/A	Amendment No. - N° modif. 006
Client Reference No. - N° de référence du client W8476-112965	Date 2012-03-28
GETS Reference No. - N° de référence de SEAG PW-\$\$RA-004-22437	
File No. - N° de dossier 004ra.W8476-112965	CCC No./N° CCC - FMS No./N° VME
Solicitation Closes - L'invitation prend fin at - à 02:00 PM on - le 2012-05-28	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: Hébert, Marc-André	Buyer Id - Id de l'acheteur 004ra
Telephone No. - N° de téléphone (819) 956-0194 ()	FAX No. - N° de FAX () -
Destination - of Goods, Services, and Construction: Destination - des biens, services et construction:	

Instructions: See Herein

Instructions: Voir aux présentes

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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 Request For Proposal (RFP) amendment 006 is to amend the RFP, distribute responses to inquiries and other communications so far submitted to Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) Contracting Authority.

Questions and Answers:

Q21. There is the following statement on page 3 of 7 (section 3.3.2):

"3.3.2 For the purpose of the Performance Evaluation (PE), the MLCS' main fabric, binding tapes, webbing and all other MLCS materials must be submitted in monochrome colour Coyote Brown or a close visual match to Coyote Brown. The elastics and polyester mesh can be submitted in black instead of the aforementioned colours if so desired. Furthermore, for the purpose of the Performance Evaluation (PE) the 1000 denier Cordura must be a commercially available cloth in accordance with Mil-C-43734D Class 3."

For the purpose of the Performance Evaluation (PE) what colour should the hardware be on the MLCS and Pouches (i.e. zippers, side release buckles, d-rings, snaps, grommets, etc...)?

A21. All hardware required for the MLCS and Pouches, including but not limited to zippers, side release buckles, d-rings, snaps and grommets, fall in the category "other MLCS materials". Hence they must be monochrome Coyote Brown or a close visual match to Coyote Brown. The only deviations away from the Coyote Brown colour that are allowed are for the elastics and polyester mesh, as indicated in section 3.3.2 of Appendix 2 of Annex CB of Volume 1.

Q22. Concerning the requirements about the buckle and lid of the pouch, more specifically, the pouch holding the ISS display may not have a lid or a buckle: Is it acceptable to use pouches that have been specifically designed to accommodate the ISS-S and thus deviate from the pouch design requirements stated in the bid documents? Pouches will be inspected and must pass and it is unclear from the bid documents if such a deviation will be acceptable.

A22. The intent of the ISS Generic Pouches TDP Manufacturing Data Appendix (Appendix 8 to Annex CB to Volume 2) is not to mandate that a lid be provided with all pouches. However, if a lid is provided, the design to keep the lid closed must be as per Appendix 8 to Annex CB to Volume 2. To clarify this aspect, appendix 8 to Annex CB to Volume 2 has been modified accordingly.

Q23. Please be advised that the OEM contacts for Harris Corporation have changed since the original LOI on this topic was issued.

A23. The revised Harris Corporation contacts for the AN/PRC-152(V)2(C) (“**PRC152**”) and RT-1796 (P)/PRC (C) (“**PRC117F**”) are as follows:

Cynthia Bucci
International Contracts Manager
HARRIS Corporation
RF Communications Division
585-241-8155
cbucci@harris.com

or

Michael Buddendeck
International Capture Manager
HARRIS Corporation
RF Communications Division
585-720-8606
mbuddend@harris.com

Q24. Communities of Interest (COIs) - The complexity of the configuration covered for the COIs and the Instructions to Bidders is open to some interpretation. There appears to be different expressions used in the Instructions to Bidders, for example "it must....." (clearly a mandatory requirement) and sometimes, "it is expected that...." (what does this mean) Some clarification would assist.

A24. The expression "it is expected that ..." found in the Technical Performance Specification (TPS) related documentation is used to provide contextual information for guidance only. Hence, it is not to be treated as a "Mandatory" nor "Rated" requirement.

Q25. TPS reference TPS-5347 states that the Tactical User Interface display maximum luminance level must be at least 300 cd/m2. The tactical user display solution could be based on trans-reflective rather than transmissive technology; this technology is able to reflect the sunlight to improve daylight readability without impacting on power consumption. The backlight brightness could be lower, say 200cd/m2 but achieve daylight readability without the need for a backlight reducing the active power consumption of the unit. The sunlight readability performance of a trans-reflective display

is better than the transmissive equivalent. Is this requirement meant to be prescriptive, or is an equivalence statement for alternative technology acceptable.

A25. TPS-5347 states that the Tactical User Interface display maximum luminance level must be at least 300 cd/m2 but doesn't specify how this is to be achieved. Hence, transmissive or trans-reflective technologies can be used as long as the resulting luminance level is at least 300 cd/m2 or equivalent. For the purpose of Bid Evaluation, usability and readability of the display will be assessed during the UAPE.

Q26. Clarification - With regards the MLCS for the P(Bid)/UAPE. Is it correct that the bidder is to supply vests in coyote brown to the patterns provided? Can the ISSP team provide either sample plates or advise where plates may be obtained?

A26. For the purpose of the Performance Evaluation (PE), the MLCS' main fabric, binding tapes, webbing and all other MLCS materials must be submitted in monochrome colour Coyote Brown or a close visual match to Coyote Brown. The elastics and polyester mesh can be submitted in black instead of the aforementioned colours if so desired. Furthermore, for the purpose of the Performance Evaluation (PE) the 1000 denier Cordura must be a commercially available cloth in accordance with Mil-C-43734D Class 3.

Additionally, all hardware required for the MLCS and Pouches, including but not limited to zippers, side release buckles, d-rings, snaps and grommets, fall in the category "other MLCS materials". Hence they must be monochrome Coyote Brown or a close visual match to Coyote Brown. The only deviations away from the Coyote Brown colour that are allowed are for the elastics and polyester mesh, as indicated in section 3.3.2 of Appendix 2 of Annex CB of Volume 1.

Ballistic plates will not be used during PE, therefore there is no need for them to be considered by bidder nor distributed by the Crown. Currently, DND has no plan to place ballistic plates into the MLCS carriers.

Q27. Volume 3, Annex CA (OWSS SOW) Para 4.3.3 provides a description of the "reconstitution" work task. The paragraph uses the phrase "clean and inspect for serviceability" to define the work. It is requested that the Crown provide clarification of the extent of the work to be performed. For example, does serviceability imply that the items are functional or that they are in "like new" condition?

A27. The intent of reconstitution is on an if, as and when required basis, to task the contractor with 1st and 2nd line Maintenance services in order to have a fast turn over in ISS coming

out of a mission and have a reconstituted Task Force batch of ISS put back into the CF Supply stream for issuance to the next mounting Task Force.

Depending on what the tasking authorization instructs reconstitution requirements would likely entail the following: The tasked quantity of ISS components are to be given a basic exterior cleaning, and inspection for serviceability (functionality). The serviceability inspection will likely be done in accordance with 1st or 2nd line maintenance tasks defined in the contractors' maintenance plan. This inspection identifies completely functional and non-functional components. The components which are serviceable will be segregated for return to the depot and/or retained depending on what the task authorization instructs. The ISS components which are identified as non-serviceable may be repaired, replaced, or disposal may be directed, depending on the level of repair of the specific component and what the task authorization instructs. If the contractor is tasked to reconstitute the components into a "like new" condition then this will be defined in a tasking authorization.

Q28. Not used.

Q29. We note that Canada has employed the assistance of private sector contractors in the preparation of the ISSP solicitation. In order for bidders to complete the Conflict of Interest Certification at Annex AD to Volume 1, Appendix 4. Can you please identify the private sector individuals and business organizations used by Canada?

A29. In preparing the ISSP solicitation documentation, the Crown has employed the services of the following Private Sector firms:

- Adga Group
- Advanced Human Factors
- Amtek Engineering Services Ltd.
- Artemp
- Automated Information Management Corporation (AIMCORP)
- EMCON Emanation Control Ltd.
- Human Systems Incorporated (HSI)
- Lansdowne Technologies
- Pennant Canada Ltd.
- Prolity Corporation
- Promaxis Systems Inc.
- Techserve
- Valcom Consulting Group Inc.
- Windfield Consultants Inc.

In most cases, the resources retained by the Crown through these firms signed Non-Disclosure Agreements. It is incumbent upon the Bidders to determine if a Non-Disclosure Agreement exists and/or if the resource retained has had any prior contribution to the development of the ISSP solicitation documentation or any knowledge of the ISSP requirement prior to the solicitation period commencement.

- Q30.** Canada's desire to ensure that the system delivered at P(Bid) does not vary significantly from the system to be delivered for Phase A is understood as it assures Canada that the system it assessed and evaluated at bid is the system Canada's soldiers will be issued for operations. However, the requirement at para 5.1.6 to Volume 1 needs clarification. If it is expected that the bidder's system will evolve from P(Bid) to P(Prod) state during Phase A, then the term 'baseline system' needs clarification.

Can Canada define what 'baseline system' means in this context?

Moreover, might Canada accept a re-wording of this paragraph to read: "We, (Name of bidder), hereby certify that the ISS P(Bid) submitted with our bid for the Performance Evaluation (PE) is a true representation of our Technical Bid, and the baseline system at the start of the System Qualification Phase (Phase A) of the Acquisition Contract will be based on our Technical Bid."?

- A30.** The system that the Bidder will deliver at PE constitutes what DND refers to as the "baseline system". In accordance with Volume 1 para 5.1.6, it is this baseline system that the Contractor will present at the start of the System Qualification Phase (Phase A) of the Acquisition Contract, more specifically at the System Requirements Allocation Review (SRAR). This doesn't prevent the Contractor from improving the baseline system between the P(Bid) Evaluation and the SRAR however, all changes to the baseline must be documented and treated as Engineering Change Proposals (ECP) as defined in Volume 2, Annex CA, section 7.3 titled "Configuration Control". These ECPs will be considered at the SRAR.

- Q31.** Appendix 9 of Annex CB to Volume 2, Para 2.2 states that: "The conceptual load information includes GFE equipment and associated Combat Pouches plus their mandated or recommended location, depending on the pouch, on the MLCS Carrier for use with the ISS both in training and on operations."

Please confirm which pouch locations are mandated and which ones are recommended.

- A31.** The placement of pouches on the MLCS should be done to facilitate: 'ease of access' and to control the centre of gravity of the soldier. It should be noted that for the most part soldiers will configure their MLCS and pouches in a very similar pattern as there is limited space and they are very similarly equipped both physically and with material. However, there will likely be some movement of pouches by evaluation soldiers during UAPE, normally these moves are small and would best be categorized as tweaking.

There are two mechanisms in place to ensure bid systems performance is not jeopardised by movement of pouches on the MLCS. The first one is described in the attachment 2 to Appendix 2 to Annex CB to Volume 1 ISS-A UAPE Preparation Instructions under sequence of events titled - *Training Stand* - where Bidders are to provide 145 minutes of training to soldiers on their respective systems (this training should include positioning on the MLCS, potential conflicts and how to extract ideal system performance). The second mechanism is a soldier/bidder confirmation that a more radical movement of pouches will not impact the performance of a bid system (this can take place at any point during UAPE). The selection and quantity of pouches for use at UAPE can be found at Appendix 9 to Annex CB to Volume 2 – MLCS Conceptual Load. Each soldier configuration listed in the MLCS Conceptual Load will be evaluated during UAPE.

- Q32.** Appendix 9 of Annex CB to Volume 2, Figure 3.1 C9 Gunner - Combat Pouches: Figure identifies Utility Large x 2. However Figures 3.2 to 3.4 only show one large utility pouch.

Please confirm that the C9 gunner MLCS should be designed for only one Large Utility pouch.

- A32.** Figure 3.1 is the correct baseline for the combat pouches for the C-9 gunner which includes two large utility pouches. One is mandated for inclusion on the basic C-9 gunner load while the other large utility pouch is provided for extra storage volume should the C-9 gunner require it for a given mission. Due to the modular capability of the MLCS, figures 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 demonstrate a conceptual load only and as such is accurate. Based on mission parameters and a soldier's personal needs and comfort all or only some of the pouches may be utilised on the MLCS. The second utility pouch may be placed on the front of the MLCS in lieu of the medical pouch. The medical pouch may then be attached on the rear of the MLCS or shingled off of the hydration pouch; or the second utility pouch may be attached on the rear of the MLCS or shingled off of the hydration pouch.

It is DND's intent to allow flexibility regarding where the ISS Pouches can be secured. During the UAPE, soldiers will evaluate various criteria regarding form, fit and function of the integrated solution. The bidder should ensure that their ISS solution does not interfere with the function of the Combat Pouches.

Q33. Appendix 9 of Annex CB to Volume 2, Figure 4.1 Commander.

Initial trials with the provided GFE shows that all of the listed pouches will not fit on the small MLCS platform in the configuration shown in Figures 4.2 to 4.4.

Annex CA of Volume 2, para 3.2.3.1.0-1 states that:

“The MLCS is a Canada provided design (Module C, Annex CB, Appendices 7 and 8) and consists of the vest Platform, Combat pouches and ISS Pouches. The Contractor, in their proposal, may have modified, or augmented the MLCS Platform or ISS Pouch designs in order to provide an optimal solution.”

Assuming that the size of the MLCS cannot change, can you please confirm if the second Large Utility pouch will be optional (as is for the Rifleman configuration, described in para. 2.3 of the appendix 9 of annex CB to Volume 2)?

A33. Figure 4.1 is the correct baseline for the combat pouches for the Commander which includes two large utility pouches. One is mandated for inclusion on the basic Commander load while the other Utility pouch, large is provided for extra storage volume should the Commander require it for a given mission. Due to the modular capability of the MLCS, figures 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 demonstrate a conceptual load only and as such is accurate. Based on mission parameters and a commander's personal needs and comfort, all or only some of the pouches may be utilised on the MLCS. The second utility pouch may be placed on the front of the MLCS in lieu of the medical pouch. The medical pouch may then be attached on the rear of the MLCS or shingled off of the hydration pouch; or the second utility pouch may be attached on the rear of the MLCS or shingled off of the hydration pouch.

It is DND's intent to allow flexibility regarding where the ISS Pouches can be secured. During the UAPE, soldiers will evaluate various criteria regarding form, fit and function of the integrated solution. The bidder should ensure that their ISS solution does not interfere with the function of the Combat Pouches.

Modifications to the RFP:

- 20.** At Volume 1, para 3.4.3:

DELETE "1.2" and

INSERT "1.3" in its place.

- 21.** At Document: Vol 2 Ann CB App 8, para 3.1.5

INSERT: "If a pouch lid is provided" at start of paragraph after subtitle.

- 22.** At Document: Vol2 Ann CB App 8 Att 1, para 1.3

DELETE "The pouch must include a lid that includes" and

INSERT " If a pouch lid is provided, the lid must include" in its place.

- 23.** At Document: Vol2 Ann CB App 8 Att 1, para 2.1 to 2.9 inclusive,

INSERT: "If a pouch lid is provided," at the start of each paragraph.

ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE SOLICITATION REMAIN UNCHANGED