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Bid Receiving - PWGSC / Réception des soumissions
- TPSGC

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/D	Date 2012-04-25
Client Reference No. - N° de référence du client EN578-060502	Amendment No. - N° modif. 008
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-004-24061	
Date of Original Request for Supply Arrangement 2012-03-26 Date de demande pour un arrangement en matière d'app. originale	
Solicitation Closes - L'invitation prend fin at - à 02:00 PM on - le 2012-05-08	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 IN RESULTING CONTRACTS	
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	Yes - Oui	No - Non
Accusé de réception requis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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 #008 IS RAISED TO AMEND THE RFSA AND TO ANSWER QUESTIONS**AMENDMENTS**

4. On page 142 of Annex "A" - Requirement, Classification: Financial Management, Intermediate, Minimum Mandatory Qualifications, Education, 3rd bullet,

Delete:

Current and valid certification as a Chartered Accountant (CA), Certified General Accountant (CGA) or Certified Management Accountant (CMA) is required

Replace with the following:

Chartered Management Demonstration of continuous advancement towards obtaining certification as a Accountant (CA), Certified General Accountant (CGA) or Certified Accountant (CMA) is required

5. On page 143 of Annex "A" - Requirement, Classification: Financial Management, Senior, Minimum Mandatory Qualifications, Education, 4th bullet,

Delete:

Current and valid certification as a CA, CGA or CMA is required

Replace with the following:

Chartered Management Demonstration of continuous advancement towards obtaining certification as a Accountant (CA), Certified General Accountant (CGA) or Certified Accountant (CMA) is required

6. On page 145 of Annex "A" - Requirement, Sub-Stream 5b - Procurement, Classification: Materiel Management, Junior level, Minimum Mandatory Qualifications,

Delete: 3rd bullet under Education:

Demonstration of continuous advancement towards obtaining certification as a Certified Professional Purchaser may be required

Insert:

Association Asset Qualifications:
Current and valid certification or membership in the Purchasing Management of Canada (PMAC) is considered an asset

7. On page 145-146 of Annex "A" - Requirement, Sub-Stream 5b - Procurement, Classification: Materiel Management, Intermediate, Senior and Advanced levels, Minimum Mandatory Qualifications,

Delete: 3rd bullet under Education:

Demonstration of continuous advancement towards obtaining certification as a Certified Professional Purchaser is required

Insert:

Asset Qualifications:

Association Current and valid certification or membership in the Purchasing Management of Canada (PMAC) is considered an asset

8. On page 147 of Annex "A" - Requirement, Sub-Stream 5b - Procurement, Classification: Procurement, Junior level, Minimum Mandatory Qualifications,

Delete: 3rd bullet under Education:

Demonstration of continuous advancement towards obtaining certification as a Certified Professional Purchaser may be required

Insert:

Asset Qualifications:

Association Current and valid certification or membership in the Purchasing Management of Canada (PMAC) is considered an asset

9. On page 147-148 of Annex "A" - Requirement, Sub-Stream 5b - Procurement, Classification: Procurement, Intermediate, Senior and Advanced levels, Minimum Mandatory Qualifications,

Delete: 3rd bullet under Education:

Demonstration of continuous advancement towards obtaining certification as a Certified Professional Purchaser is required

Insert:

Asset Qualifications:

Association Current and valid certification or membership in the Purchasing Management of Canada (PMAC) is considered an asset

ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS REMAIN UNCHANGED

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

QUESTION 65

I'd like to propose an edit for part 3 on page 11 (see below). Issue: A legal entity wishing to engage in a joint venture and who holds Aboriginal Status cannot enter in a joint venture with a legal entity who isn't certified as an Aboriginal Business. With the reverse being possible, I thought it would be best for PWGSC to modify this section in order to be fair with both types of companies.

Part 3 - ARRANGEMENT PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS - page 11.

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 a legal entity, one of which, (delete "that") complies with the Aboriginal Business Certification in Part 5 - Certifications....

ANSWER 65

Article 4 - Multiple Arrangements has been amended as follows:

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.

Refer to RFSA amendment 006.

QUESTION 66

In regards to the subject RFSO/RFSA, we have the following clarification questions:

For this refresh of the THS RFSO and RFSA there is no indication of a rate card being required for submission against either the SO or SA.

- a. What will be the procedure for determining rates and inviting vendors for RFSA requirements?;
- b. Please confirm that for classifications where vendors were previously found technically compliant, but financially non-compliant that qualification in the classification will be retained where 'Appendix A to Attachment 1 to Part 4' is used to confirm Qualification under existing/active RFSO/RFSA. As such, are vendors to assume that only technical compliance is required for both the RFSO and RFSA refreshes?

ANSWER 66

- a. Suppliers will submit prices for classifications at the Request for Proposal (RFP) stage and their financial proposal will be evaluated at that time. Please refer to Part 6B - Bid Solicitation Process under the Supply Arrangement on page 35 of the RFSA.
- b. PWGSC confirms that for classifications where vendors were previously found technically compliant, but financially non-compliant that qualification in the classification will be retained where 'Appendix A to Attachment 1 to Part 4' is used to confirm Qualification under existing/active RFSO/RFSA as well as meet all the requirements in the solicitation. Yes your assumption is correct that only a technical compliance is required.

QUESTION 67

We are not clear on how you want Appendix A to Attachment 1 to Part 4

Certification for Suppliers Qualified under the Supply Arrangement Issued under RFSA no. EN578-060502/C presented in our response, is it to be included in the with certifications? And we don't see anything in the SA that indicates how we fill it out? Please clarify. Examples would be helpful.

ANSWER 67

To complete Appendix A to Attachment 1 to Part 4 Certification for Suppliers Qualified under the Supply Arrangement Issued, suppliers are required to check either the first option when they have qualified for the entire Stream, or the second option if they have only qualified for two categories under that Stream.

For example under Stream 1, a supplier who has previous qualified for Classification : Clerk and Classification : Secretary would select the 2nd option and name the two classifications they previously qualified in. They would then print and sign the certification and include it with their arrangement.

Stream 1

_____ for all classifications in Stream 1 for which the Supplier is qualified under the Supply Arrangement issued under RFSA no. EN578-060502/C, or

___X___ for the following classification(s) in Stream 1 for which the Supplier is qualified under the Supply Arrangement issued under RFSA no. EN578-060502/C:
Clerk, Secretary

QUESTION 68

Please find below a question in regards to the technical response templates for THS RFSO E60ZN-110002/A and RFSA EN578-060502/D

On the supplier profile tab in the THS Response Templates (both RFSO and RFSA) the "governmental department of company name" column in the table to respond to Attachment 1 to Part 4 M2A, M2B and M2C does not allow us to type in company names. The column only provides a drop down list of government departments and agencies. How are we to provide the company name if the client was not a government department or agency?

ANSWER 68

In the supplier profile tab in the Technical Response Templates (both RFSO and RFSA) offerors/suppliers are to select "other" from the drop down list and type the company name in the client info column.

QUESTION 69

I wanted to propose an edit for the Financial Management Classification.

The required accounting designation in the intermediate and senior level has been a challenge for clients and suppliers and this re-compete is an ideal opportunity to get this issue resolved. Many finance professionals with the required experience and expertise who work at the intermediate and senior level (FI2-FI3 equivalence) do not have their accounting designation but have a combination of relevant work experience and education. Most of them had worked at intermediate and senior FI levels prior to the release of the new SOSA (May 2009) but, since then, have had challenges securing work due to the designation requirement.

My official question:

Would PWGSC consider the following edit for its intermediate and senior Financial Management Classification description (page 142-143 of 223)?

Education:

- Current and valid certification as a CA, CGA, CMA or a combination of relevant work experience and education is required.

--- This edit would undoubtedly help users/clients access a larger pool of qualified applicants.

ANSWER 69

Annex "A" - Requirement has been reviewed and amended with some changes to this classification.

QUESTION 70

We would like to confirm that for Stream 5, we can identify 20 - 40 professional services references and enter these in lines 233 through 272. Then for those Sub-Streams that we desire, we can enter 2- 4 references for each Sub-Stream and that any of these 2-4 references can be repeats from what we entered in lines 233-272. Can you confirm?

ANSWER 70

Please refer to Mandatory Criteria MC2 where PWGSC asks for "temporary help resource names" and not "professional services references".

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.

In order for a resource to be compliant:

- Each resource must have worked a minimum of 37.5 hours between May 20, 2005 and solicitation closing date inclusively rendering services for which the offeror received payment .
- Services of the above 20 compliant temporary help resource names and the 2 compliant temporary help resource names for each sub-stream must have been billed to a minimum of 3 different clients located in the National Capital Area.
- The above 20 compliant temporary help resource names and the 2 compliant temporary help resource names for each sub-stream can be the same names as provided for M2A or M2B or both criteria.

For M2A, M2B and M2C, the following information must, as a minimum, be provided for each of the temporary help resources named:

- 1) THS Classification and level as defined in Annex "A" - "Requirement" that closely match the duties the resource provided;
- 2) Name of the Joint Venture member that supplied the resource if it is applicable;
- 3) Start and End Dates of the temporary help placement; and
- 4) Client Contact

QUESTION 71

In order to complete our submission, we kindly ask for the following clarifications:

-
- a. We note that a few new positions have been added in this round, including Driver under Stream 1, Designing Services in Stream 4, and Evaluation Analyst in Sub-Stream 5a. Can you please confirm that these are the only new categories suppliers should be aware of?
- b. We note that the new Driver position falls under Stream 1. In our experience, this type of position would typically not be included as an Office Support role. Can you please confirm that the Driver position is listed in the correct category?
- c. We note a few changes (some very minor) to several of the position titles in English. Can you please confirm whether the positions listed below remain essentially the same or whether there are any material changes to the responsibilities for each?

PREVIOUSLY POSITION TITLE

Desktop Publishing
 Technician - Electrical and Electronics
 Technologist - Electrical and Electronics
 Librarian
 Human Resources - Staff and General Relations
 Biology
 Chemistry
 Toxicology

CURRENT POSITION TITLE

Desktop Publishing/Graphics
 Technician - Electrical and Electronics Engineering
 Technologist - Electrical and Electronics Engineering
 Librarian/Archivist
 Human Resources - Staff and Labour Relations
 Biologist
 Chemist
 Toxicologist

- d. As requested, we will replace Appendix A to Attachment 1 to Part 4 with the version provided in Amendment 1. Can you please confirm that this section should be completed and provided as part of our Section of Certifications?

ANSWER 71

- a. Yes. PWGSC confirms that these are the only new classifications that were added.
- b. The classification "Driver" falls under Stream 1 - Office Support.
- c. We confirm that the positions listed remain essentially the same.
- d. It can be included as part of the Certifications Section or part of the Technical Section.

QUESTION 72

We'd like to request an extension to the deadline of May 8, 2012 of the THS RFSA and RFSO (Solicitation Numbers: E60ZN-110002/A and EN578-060502/D).

One of the reasons is that we'd like to propose some changes to the Classifications.

For example, for the Financial Management Classification- Intermediate, the qualifications require 3 years experience AND current certification as a CA, CGA or CMA. This is unrealistic for the Intermediate level in which few candidates have completed their CGA or CMA (many are pursuing it during the intermediate stage of their career). The problem for clients is that the low rates in this category do not allow candidates that are certified to be paid appropriately. Further, our clients would be happy with candidates that have the experience and are at the PACE stage of CGA for example. The final certification may not yet be complete, and once it is, their rates are in the Senior plus levels. Further, if it is to list a certification that is underway, it should include CIA and CFE. There are other relevant financial designations or certifications that should be included.

We would like to propose some of these edits but still need time to complete this review to make the Classifications relevant.

Therefore, we are requesting a 4 week extension for both Solicitations.

ANSWER 72

Annex "A" - Requirement has been reviewed and amended with some changes to this classification. PWGSC will not extend the solicitation period for the RFSA no EN578-060502/D as suppliers will have an On-Going Opportunity for Qualification. The solicitation closing date is May 8, 2012 at 2 pm.

As per PART 2 - SUPPLIER INSTRUCTIONS, Page 7 of the RFSA:

"On-Going Opportunity for Qualification

A notice will be posted on the GETS for the duration of the Supply Arrangement Period to allow new suppliers to become qualified and to allow existing suppliers, who have been issued a supply arrangement to qualify for classifications, streams and/or sub-streams for which they are not already pre-qualified. No existing Supplier will be removed from the qualified supplier list because of the addition of new Suppliers.

Cycles for Qualification

Canada reserves the right to conduct the evaluation of arrangements in cycles, not less than quarterly. That is, Canada may collect arrangements received over a calendar year quarter, in order to conduct the evaluation of all those arrangements concurrently as part of a single cycle of qualification. Arrangements received before the Initial Closing Date will be considered for evaluation during the first cycle of qualification. Arrangements received after the Initial Closing Date will not be considered during the first cycle of qualification, but will be considered for evaluation in due course."

Refer to RFSA amendment #006, question and answer 52, amendment #007, question and answer 59b.

QUESTION 73

M2C:

"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.

In order for a resource to be compliant:

- Each resource must have worked a minimum of 37.5 hours between May 20, 2005 and solicitation closing date inclusively rendering services for which the Supplier received payment.
- Services of the above 20 compliant temporary help resource names and the 2 compliant temporary help resource names for each sub-stream must have been billed to a minimum of 3 different clients located in the National Capital Area.
- The above 20 compliant temporary help resource names and the 2 compliant temporary help resource names for each sub-stream can be the same names as provided for M2A (Streams 1, 2 and 3) or M2B (Stream 4) or both criteria."

We understand that it is a mandatory requirement to provide a minimum of 20 different temporary help resource names under Stream 5 and that a minimum of 2 different temporary help resource names be proposed per sub-stream.

However, what is unclear is whether we are permitted to propose more than 4 temporary help resource names per sub-stream to achieve the mandatory minimum of 20 different temporary help resource names under Stream 5.

To clarify - If we are interested in proposing only three sub-streams under Stream 5, and we are capped at 4 temporary help resource names within each sub-stream, then we would be unable to provide the mandatory minimum number of 20 different temporary help resource names for Stream 5, as we would only be permitted to propose 12 resources (maximum of 4 names X 3 sub-streams = 12 resources).

We assume that the Crown's intention is not to force bidders to propose five sub-streams under stream 5 in order to achieve the minimum 20 different temporary help resource names for the stream, as this would be inconsistent with the way in which all of the other THS streams are being qualified.

Please confirm our understanding is correct in that the objective of proposing services under one or more streams of the THS SA is: for bidders to demonstrate their capacity in providing THS resources as and when required by the Crown under one or more sub-streams; and that to demonstrate this capacity, bidders are permitted to propose more than 4 temporary help resource names (within fewer than five sub-streams) to achieve the mandatory minimum of 20 different temporary help resource names for stream 5.

If we are mistaken in our understanding, and this is not the objective, would the Crown please clarify the approach to qualifying Stream 5 differently than the rest of the THS streams?

ANSWER 73

Your understanding of the following is correct that in order to demonstrate their capacity in providing THS resources bidders are to propose 20 temporary help resource names for Stream 5 . Bidders are permitted to include the 4 maximum temporary help resource names (within fewer than five sub-streams) and also include additional resource names for those substreams to achieve the mandatory minimum of 20 different temporary help resource names for stream 5.