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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
Science Procurement Directorate/Direction de
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11 Laurier St. / 11, rue Laurier
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Gatineau, Québec K1A 0S5

Title - Sujet ORBITAL ANTENNAS (MEOSAR) PROJECT	
Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation W8474-12MS02/B	Amendment No. - N° modif. 002
Client Reference No. - N° de référence du client W8474-12-MS01	Date 2013-01-09
GETS Reference No. - N° de référence de SEAG PW-\$\$\$ST-005-25271	
File No. - N° de dossier 005st.W8474-12MS02	CCC No./N° CCC - FMS No./N° VME
Solicitation Closes - L'invitation prend fin at - à 02:00 PM on - le 2013-01-15	Time Zone Fuseau horaire Eastern Standard Time EST
F.O.B. - F.A.B. Plant-Usine: <input type="checkbox"/> Destination: <input type="checkbox"/> Other-Autre: <input type="checkbox"/>	
Address Enquiries to: - Adresser toutes questions à: Chan, Alan	Buyer Id - Id de l'acheteur 005st
Telephone No. - N° de téléphone (819) 956-1691 ()	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
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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 Amendment answers questions from potential bidders

Questions and Answers

Question 1

I have downloaded and reviewed the RFQ for the project listed in the subject line of this email. I have a question about an item in the SOW. On page 4/10 of the SOW, paragraph 6.1.1.9 the antennas and associated hardware must “receive and decode the (LHCP and RHCP) signal, and display the Cospas-Sarsat Emergency Beacon on the Experimental MEOLUT Display.” Although no other part of the SOW seems to indicate we are to supply an Experimental MEOLUT display, I want to be very clear that the SOW is just about supplying all the front end equipment up to the point of a 4.5 MHz IF signal, and that I do not misunderstand what is being requested.

I am interpreting the purpose of this paragraph 6.1.1.9 to mean that a CRC owned Experimental MEOLUT Display and processing hardware (to be supplied by CRC but not so stated in the paragraph) is to be connected to the hardware specified in the SOW, and that when connected properly, the associated CRC processing hardware will take the 4.5 MHz IF from the hardware specified in the SOW, and then the CRC software will all work together compatibly to display the Cospas-Sarsat Emergency Reference Beacons from Toulouse, Edmonton, Thule, and NASA on the CRC MEOLUT Display.

In other words, we do not interpret that this paragraph 6.1.1.9 to mean that an implicit part of the SOW is for the vendor to provide processing hardware and software to convert the 4.5 MHz IF signal into a MEOLUT display, but rather that we would be compatible with this existing CRC equipment, and proof of compatibility would be that we can expect to see the various emergency beacons displayed. Do I interpret this correctly?

As a secondary point, we feel this capability should be demonstrated at the SAT, but not be part of the FAT, because the processing hardware and software and MEOLUT display do not exist at our facility. Do you agree? To demonstrate this capability at the FAT would require shipping this equipment to our facility, which is possible, but expensive and would cause delays for the FAT.

Answer 1

Yes, the bidder is right in his assumptions. The Vender must provide only the equipment mentioned in the SOW, which must down convert the signal from the the MEOSAR Repeaters down to 4.5 MHz; CRC's existing experimental MEOLUT will take that 4.5 MHz signal, process it, and then display the Cospas-Sarsat Emergency Reference Beacons from Toulouse, Edmonton, Thule, and NASA on the CRC MEOLUT Display. This paragraph was included to state that when properly connected to CRC's experimental MEOLUT, the Vender's equipment has to be

compatible with the MEOLUT equipment, and therefore allow the display of the aforementioned emergency reference beacons on the experimental MEOLUT display.

He is also right in saying that this requirement will be tested on site (at the SAT only).

Question 2

After reviewing the requirements in the SoW, I would like to clarify the following questions:

1. Does deliverable 7.1.7 imply that the bidder is responsible for hiring the crane service and paying for the crane as needed? The amount of crane work will vary depending on the number of locations where antennas are to be installed, how many install on the ground, and how many on towers. There are charges to call cranes to different locations and for different amounts of time on site. We could break this out in the pricing if you wish to give you more time to decide on these details of number of sites and number of towers.
2. 7.1.7.2 Will DND/CRC install the mounting studs in the foundations to match the pre-installation requirements? We ask because cold weather chemical anchors are expensive and time consuming to install and the actual foundations are not clearly specified as to how many will be on towers and how many in concrete. In addition if on a tower and the studs are not supplied by the customer then the implication is difficult high level drilling and work UNDER the top platform of the towers, another significant expense. We currently choose to interpret that CRC will do normal preparation with includes having the mounting studs ready and if this is wrong we have significant extra work to accomplish.
3. Section 7.1.8. It is assumed that only 1 each of all spares is desired.
4. It is never explicitly called out, but who is responsible for running the system cables from the base of the antenna positioners to the interface to the Front End? We are clear that we supply these cables with the correct connectors, but our normal process is to have the customer's electricians pull these cables through whatever conduits and cable trays that they may install to meet electrical codes. It may be that these cables are simply run in a trough on the ground and wire tied to the towers, but this still implies a possible bucket truck on the tower. Most customers run these inside of 3" or 4" conduit. If DND/CRC will have all the cable trays, conduits, etc. in place then the labor to run the cables is not so bad, but we would still prefer to have this be a pre-installation activity that is done by DND/CRC in parallel with everything being done here. In any case we will do whatever you wish, but if we are responsible for this, then we will be hiring unknown electricians at a rate that is probably much higher than you can get with your existing relationships. We would be willing to use your designated electricians if that would help, but then we need an estimate for the work which goes back to the number of sites, towers, ground level foundations, etc.

Answer 2

1. DND will hire a crane from our list of Ottawa providers, it is not the responsibility of the Contractor.
2. We will put all 4 of the new antennas on towers. So the question do not apply.
3. Yes, it is for 1 set of spare for the whole system.
4. DND will be responsible for the running of the cable.

Question 3

..... While the delivery date wasn't specified, the allocation of evaluation points, essentially achieves the same result. Unless delivery is made before the end of the fiscal year end (March 31), a bidder has virtually no chance to win the competition.....

Answer 3

Key in this matter is the COSPAS-SARSAT Demonstartion and Evaluation Plan as per below, (http://www.cospas-sarsat.org/images/stories/SystemDocs/Current/cs_r018_oct_2012.pdf) Page 77 of the PDF document, section 6.1.1 states that "... the testing period for the MEOSAR D&E is planned for the years 2013 to 2015. Therefore the assets required are expected to be ready by 1 January 2013."

It is therefore imperative to have delivery of the Antennas at the earliest opportunity as possible. However, to address the concerns raised by Industry, we have modified the rated criteria R9 to provide a broader point allocation scale. Please refer to the revised Attachment 1 Mandatory and Evaluation Criteria for more detail.