

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
Quebec
K1A 0S5
Bid Fax: (819) 997-9776

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
Professional Services Online & Temporary Help
Services Division/Division des services professionnels
en ligne et d'aide temporaire
11 Laurier St./11, rue Laurier
10C1, Place du Portage III
Gatineau
Quebec
K1A 0S5

Title - Sujet PROSERVICES	
Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation E60ZT-120001/C	Amendment No. - N° modif. 005
Client Reference No. - N° de référence du client E60ZT-120001	Date 2013-04-11
GETS Reference No. - N° de référence de SEAG PW-\$\$ZT-009-25428	
File No. - N° de dossier 009zt.E60ZT-120001	CCC No./N° CCC - FMS No./N° VME
Solicitation Closes - L'invitation prend fin at - à 02:00 PM on - le 2013-04-17	
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: Gilmour, Peggy	Buyer Id - Id de l'acheteur 009zt
Telephone No. - N° de téléphone (819) 956-7642 ()	FAX No. - N° de FAX (819) 956-9235
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
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

AMENDMENT 5

Reason for Amendment:

To respond to questions asked by Suppliers as a result of the consultations in March 2013.

Note: Amendment n° 6 with additional questions and answers will be posted on MERX on April 15, 2013.

Q.24 If you currently are a pre-qualified supplier in TSPS and are in the process of submitting a TBIPS proposal, do you only get grandfathered in for TSPS categories if TBIPS has not yet been awarded?

A.24 Yes.

Q.25 With reference to substantiated references, sometimes it is hard to get 1 email address, and you require we provide 2. I believe the RFSA said "must provide 2". Which is the correct wording?

A.25 You must provide one email address for substantiation, however, it is recommended you provide a 2nd email address.

Q.26 If my company is qualified under TBIPS in a certain category, is it automatically qualified in ProServices in the same category and we do not need to substantiate this category?

A.26 If you are a pre-qualified supplier in either TBIPS or TSPS, you will need to enrol in the Data Collection Component of CPSS - Supplier Module, and still fill in your categories.

Q.27 Is the ProServices RFSA coming out at same time as the TSPS RFSA? There should be no overlap.

A.27 They may be out at the same time, however, ProServices will close at a later date than CPSS.

Q.28 What benefits does a Designated Organization Screening (DOS) certification have for an individual who already has a Personnel Security Clearance of Secret level or more? Do we have to have a DOS?

A.28 During the process of an Organizational Security Screening for the DOS certification, the Industrial Security Services screens an entire organization to ensure it can safely access Protected information, assets and certain restricted work sites. A Personal Security Screening is the process of screening an individual for access to Classified assets, information and sites. The main difference between the two screening processes is that the former screens organizations while the latter screens individuals. Yes, all suppliers will require a DOS before award of a ProServices supply arrangement.

Q.29 Does each category have specific mandatory requirements. - can you give us an example?

A.29 At the Request for Supply Arrangement solicitation, there are only mandatory requirements as listed in Attachment B, Technical Evaluation. In the client's RFPs, there may be specific mandatory requirements based on client requirements.

Q.30 Under the category of HR, there is no sub-category for training, i.e. Business training. Where do training suppliers apply?

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- A.30 Under Learning Services method of supply.
- Q.31 How do we substantiate work where the technical authority (client) is deceased/retired and the unit has been dissolved, or the individuals are no longer in those jobs?
- A.31 For a retired person, a personal email can be used.
- Q.32 To clarify, the only grandfathered categories for ProServices are from TSPS or TBIPS, those qualified under PS Online can not be grandfathered, and why not? New ProServices bidders would bid on as "newly offered" categories.
- A.32 PSONline suppliers cannot be grandfathered into ProServices. The major change in ProServices is that resources (personnel) will not be evaluated; evaluation will be at the company level. In addition, 147 new categories will replace the current 66 under PSONline. These differences in technical evaluation and category definitions prevents us from grandfathering PSONline suppliers. Yes, they would bid on "newly offered" categories.
- Q.33 Can you elaborate on what categories/sub-categories will be available for non-IT communications, i.e. Strategic Communications, writing, editing, speechwriting.? There is a communications category on the draft TSPS RFP. Will the categories from TSPS SA that our firm is approved and on for, including the new Communications Consultant be grandfathered into the categories and services available to buyers using ProServices? What is being grandfathered into ProServices?
- A.33 There are no sub-categories. This will be addressed during the RFP stage from client departments. Yes, all TSPS and TBIPS categories will be available in ProServices. The communications category will be included in ProServices RFSA.
- Q.34 Is Translation Services being considered as a category.
- A.34 It is a separate Method of Supply.
- Q.35 Is CPSS the procurement vehicle to be used for Learning Services and workshops?
- A.35 The Centralized Professional Services System (CPSS) is a web-based tool used by suppliers and federal departments to access different methods of supply for professional services. Learning Services is a method of supply that is hosted on CPSS.
- Q.36 Can TSPS and TBIPS be used to issue contracts under the NAFTA threshold?
- A.36 Under the SO's they will be able to issue contracts below NAFTA, however, ProServices will be a mandatory tool for supply arrangements below NAFTA.
- Q.37 What accommodation or grandfathering will be done for suppliers on PSONline?
- A.37 As there are 147 new categories, replacing the current 66 categories on PSONline, there will be no grandfathering of PSONline suppliers. A current PSONline supplier must enroll in the CPSS Supplier Module and complete their information. Once the ProServices solicitation is released in April and is in CPSS as an "Open Solicitation", the supplier must then complete the Data Collection Component in CPSS.

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- Q.38 Is it mandatory to provide 2 email addresses for reference substantiation? Can you explain the intent of the second email address.
- A.38 It is mandatory to provide 1 reference, but we recommend 2. The intent of the 2nd address is if we don't get a response from the first email, then we go to the 2nd, to enable suppliers to verify their work experience.
- Q.39 Do we need to respond to the draft ProServices solicitation?
- A.39 No, it is for information only.
- Q.40 What is the refresh process? Can a category be added at any time?
- A.40 After the initial award of Supply Arrangements for ProServices, a perpetual refresh process will be initiated, enabling the pre-qualification of new suppliers and/or further pre-qualification of existing Suppliers, to add streams and/or categories. This refresh process will occur on a quarterly basis.
- Q.41 If I am operating as an individual only and not part of an incorporated company, how can I get a company security clearance? I have a personal one already.
- A.41 You can send an email to RCNSpengline.NCRPSOnline@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca requesting sponsorship.
- Q.42 Why is there no financial services category in TSPS/ProServices.
- A.42 As ProServices reflect the TSPS categories, in order to suggest additional categories please go to the Task and Solutions Professional Services team, please contact tsps-spts@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca . ProServices merely reflects TSPS categories.
- Q.43 When I submit the same reference name for several different projects under different streams, will you ensure you contact the reference only once, rather than multiple times for each project and stream cited.
- A.43 Reference substantiation verification is completed for each category.
- Q.44 In the review of proposals, it appears that the bids are first sorted by per diems and if the lowest bid meets the requirements, no other bids are examined. The response when asked how we rated in the review "We didn't look at yours". Is there not some other way, will the new Procurement Strategy correct this in some way?
- A.44 There are no per diem rates in the ProServices supply arrangements. Rates will only be required when a supplier is sent an RFP by a client department.
- Q.45 If existing active TSPS SO holders wish to alter their geographic area or per diems will they require a completed submission as applied to non-active SO holders?
- A.45 The category does not have to be re-substantiated and new regions and metropolitan areas can be added. The rationale for this is that our evaluation criteria does not include regions or metropolitan areas, the criteria cover years in business and experience in a category.
- Q.46 Company vs person: why is info requested for Aboriginal or Public Servants in receipt of a pension?

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- A.46 There are part of the Standard Terms and Conditions of PWGSC contracting vehicles.
- Q.47 Since ProServices will most likely be released before TSPS and TBIPS have been evaluated, will an organization bidding on ProServices have to "substantiate" categories that they have bid on for TSPS and/or TBIPS but have not yet been awarded under those? In other words, they will not be able to be grandfathered at this point?
- A.47 Yes a bidder would have to substantiate categories for ProServices if they have not been issued them under TSPS or TBIPS.
- Q.48 Insistence on "Professional Certifications" penalizes consultants who may have excellent academic qualifications and a wealth of relevant experience, whilst bringing little or no value to the ability to perform the work, will PWGSC consider deleting requirements for Professional Certifications?
- A.48 Professional Certifications are not required at the Request for Supply Arrangement solicitation stage. They will be used in a client's RFP to suppliers.
- Q.49 Can relevant projects be projects which have been carried out for a government client via a prime contractor? With reference to the Draft RFSA Attachment B; Mandatory Requirement M.2, can you please confirm that the "one (1) project per category.." can be a project which was carried out for a government department by the supplier or individual consultant, but contracted through a prime contractor? Please also confirm that, in such a case as described above, designated references can be members of the client government department, and not of the prime contractor .
- A.49 Yes to the project question. A reference to be used for substantiation must be a person who has never been employed by or acted as a consultant (or subcontractor) for the Bidder who can substantiate that the Professional Services were provided.
- Q.50 Can 1 project be used to substantiate work for several different categories, i.e. Submit the same project for 2 or more categories, including the same references?
- A.50 Yes, as long as the work description closely matches the list of tasks for each category.
- Q.51 How long does it take to get an Designated Organization Screening (DOS) security clearance?
- A.51 3 to 6 months.
- Q.52 Will you provide references with full descriptions of each category claimed and explain that the project does not have to have included all elements in the category?
- A.52 Category descriptions are available at Annex A. For M.3 References Substantiation, the project completed by the Bidder does not have to have included all responsibilities of the category description.
- Q.53 How will clients of ProServices search under specific categories? By company, by rate? If by company, then we would have to be on the categories under TSPS and TBIPS, is this correct? If so, what happens if we are not on Stream 5 under TSPS but under Stream 4 and the clients want one consultant in each of the categories? Would we come up for one or not at all given the client wants 2 resources? Supplier X is qualified under Stream 5 only, client has a requirement

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- for 1 resource in stream 4 and 1 resource in stream 5 - will Supplier X have a chance to bid on this requirement?
- A.53 Searches are done by category. Searches can be done for each category, or by searches with the supplier having multiple categories required.
- Q.54 Under DCC, are we required to register for every procurement vehicle i.e. TSPS, TBIPS, THS, etc. Or is the corporate data captured for all vehicles?
- A.54 You enrol once. The corporate data is captured for all methods of supply within CPSS. THS is not under CPSS at the present time.
- Q.55 Companies who grandfather from TBIPS and TSPS registrations into ProServices appear to have an advantage over new registrations to ProServices in that their eligible project experience can go back more than 5 years from today. This appears to create unfair competition between grandfathered and new ProServices suppliers. Please clarify if you agree that this creates unfair competition.
- A.55 TSPS and TBIPS suppliers must submit technical bids for the larger methods of supply, which substantiate their projects with a lot higher dollar threshold and must substantiate a lot more categories to be awarded a stream under either TBIPS or TSPS. To become a ProServices supplier is a much less rigid process, with suppliers only having to substantiate 1 project per category, and there are no minimum number of categories required.
- Q.56 Under which category do you suggest Professional Meeting - Conferences and Special Events Managers submit? Organized development Consultant, Project Executive, Project Administrator, Project Coordinator, Project Leader, Project Manager?
- A.56 There is a full description of what each category is comprised of, in Annex A, Requirements for ProServices (Category Descriptions) in both IT and non-IT streams.
- Q.57 As an existing Supplier what steps are required to be in ProServices.
- A.57 Suppliers who are currently qualified under another method of supply (such as TBIPS or TSPS) must bid on the upcoming Supply Arrangement for ProServices. They will need to download the Request for Supply Arrangement through www.Merx.com, go the Supplier Login on the Centralized Professional Services System (CPSS) Supplier Module once the ProServices solicitation is under "Open Dashboard" complete the Data Collection Component (DCC). In DCC they will have to check each category they have in TSPS and/or TBIPS, as "currently substantiated. There will be several pages which will need to be sent to Bid Receiving Unit as well.
- Q.58 If you don't get an email contact and are unable to verify a reference, will you notify us?
- A.58 If we do not get a response to our first email within the time frame specified, then we will send a 2nd email to the 2nd reference. If no response is received within the time frame specified, the Supplier will be deemed non-responsive in that category. The Supplier can re-apply at the next refresh.
- Q.59 If your professional certification has lapsed and will not be updated in time for the bid solicitation, can you still submit certification and provide updated certification at a later date.

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- A.59 Professional Certification is not required at Request for Supply Arrangement stage. They will be required when a client department sends an RFP to pre-qualified suppliers.
- Q.60 Please clarify how TSPS categories will be grandfathered in the context of TSPS renewal presently underway?
- A.60 As the TSPS renewal process will not be complete prior to ProServices solicitation, only the pre-qualified current TSPS Suppliers will be grandfathered. Additional Suppliers and categories can be applied at the next refresh. Or a supplier can submit technical proposals for ProServices for categories that are not in their current TSPS arrangements or offers.
- Q.61 Will PWGSC advise us of which of our categories can be grandfathered into ProServices or is it up to vendors to identify them?
- A.61 Suppliers will go into CPSS, Data Collection Component, and update their categories once ProServices is an "Open Solicitation".
- Q.62 If in the future we get qualified under new TSPS categories as a result of the quarterly refresh or the present renewal, what will be the process for getting these categories added to ProServices?
- A.62 For suppliers who are not qualified under ProServices, they will need to bid on the Request for Supply Arrangement for ProServices, submit the Grandfather certification at Part 5 - Certifications, and indicate in CPSS the categories that are already qualified and substantiated under TSPS. For suppliers who are already qualified under both ProServices and TSPS, who obtain new categories in TSPS, they should indicate so during the ProServices refresh through CPSS by adding new categories and selecting "currently substantiated".
- Q.63 When providing projects to substantiate experience, is only the title, client name and references required, or also a project summary.
- A.63 No project summary is required.
- Q.64 Our organization has a standalone TBIPS and a JV TBIPS. Additionally we have a TSPS JV with another separate organization for a total of 3 combined between TBIPS & TSPS. The grandfather clause states a maximum of 2 per entity - we have 3. Will we be forced to chose one or choose 2 of the 3 to include on ProServices.
- A.64 For each method of supply, there is a maximum of 2 bids generated from the same legal entity, for example 2 from TBIPS, 2 in TSPS, and only 2 for ProServices. Therefore only 2 can be grandfathered into ProServices, with the choice being the suppliers..
- Q.65 For qualification, when a company has been a key or sole contractor to another company who had the contract with the Crown, can these projects be used for qualification?
- A.65 Yes, subcontracting project experience is acceptable.
- Q.66 For former public servants, is there a time limit to keep reporting as a public servant? Should there not be a sunset for reporting? Can the data be captured so we don't need to keep reporting our former public servants?
- A.66 Former public servant is a one-year after leaving government.

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- Q.67 My sense is that the extra security requirements beyond the individual requirement would penalize sole proprietors. Can you consider special provisions for sole proprietors?.
- A.67 In line with the Professional Services National Procurement Strategy, all suppliers must have as a minimum a DOS. PWGSC will sponsor a firm up one level, if requested. You can send an email to: RCNSpenligne.NCRPSOnline@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca
- Q.68 I have been in business for several years, but just recently incorporated. Can I safely assume that when I make my submission I can attach my business registration as a sole proprietor and my incorporation papers, that you would allow this?
- A.68 As per Attachment B, Technical Evaluation, Mandatory M.1: you must demonstrate proof of being in business for at least 1 year from date of bid closing, by providing proof i.e. Certificate of ownership, business registration or tax returns.
- Q.69 You mentioned that once ProServices is in place, for requirements below the NAFTA Threshold, the mandatory procurement vehicle will be ProServices. Under what circumstances could THS be used at these same NAFTA Threshold levels?
- A.69 Temporary help services (THS) will not be part of ProServices. There are only three situations in which Temporary Help Services can be used: when a public servant is absent for a temporary period of time; when there is a requirement for additional staff during a temporary workload increase, in which there is an insufficient number of public servants available to meet the requirement; or a position is vacant and staffing action is being completed.
- Q.70 Timing – There may be some conflict with the timing of the current TBIPS RFSA. As an example, consider a company that currently holds TBIPS and expects to be awarded additional categories (specifically, the Cyber Security stream) under the TBIPS refresh -- if ProServices is issued before the TBIPS refresh is awarded, how would that company be grandfathered for those additional categories?
- A.70 In such as scenario, the Bidder should include the additional categories in his bid for ProServices. They can only be “grandfathered” in at the next refresh of TBIPS
- Q.71 Data Collection Component (DCC) – Before releasing ProServices, please ensure that the DCC has been enhanced with a “Print” function, such that the Bidder can print its entire proposal for review and approval before submittal.
- A.71 This will be considered for a future enhancement.
- Q.72 Page 11/34, last para – As written, the reader may be left with the understanding that an Aboriginal Bidder will receive either an Aboriginal OR a non-Aboriginal Supply Arrangement.
- A.72 A supplier is issued only 1 supply arrangement. A supplier can check the box offering Aboriginal services. A search can be conducted for Aboriginal suppliers, and all Aboriginal suppliers will be found, or can do a search for all, which will include all suppliers (Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal)
- Q.73 Page 13, 4. Grandfather Certification – At least two occurrences of “TBIPS or TSPS” should be “TBIPS and/or TSPS”, I believe.
- A.73 The RFSA is correct.

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- Q.74 Page 19, 7. Set-aside for Aboriginal Business – Perhaps this is not intended to be Heading number 7, but a sub-Heading? It begins, “This procurement is set aside....”, which clearly is not intended to apply to the entire ProServices RFSA.
- A.74 The RFSA is correct.- this clause is used if it is applicable.
- Q.75 If one project is used for more than 1 category - will the reference be contacted twice?
- A.75 As per previous Answer 43, reference substantiation verification is completed for each category.
- Q.76 Page 26, Local Offices – This paragraph is the first mention of “local offices” and, without further explanation, may leave the reader with the impression that they may only bid in places where they have local offices.
- A.76 Capturing a Local Office responds to PWGSC regional offices, i.e. All Suppliers meeting the search criteria are shown in the search results, and those who have a local office are also indicated.
- Q.77 Page 28, M.2 (a) – Please define “Project”, what attributes does a project experience need to meet to be valid i.e. minimum dollar value or minimum duration? If it is duration is it level of effort or contract period? Specifically, there should be some minimum value or number of days (at least 10) – you wouldn’t want one day’s work to qualify as a “project”.
- A.77 There is no minimum dollar value or number of days. For each category, the project must be within the past five years from date of bid closing and relate to that category, with 1 reference, preferably 2, to be substantiated.
- Q.78 Bid Solicitation, para 2.3 Requirement Valued at or below NAFTA Threshold – The title is confusing, since it applies to the entire RFSA.
- A.78 Supply Arrangements do not have a dollar value. It is at the next stage, when clients departments send our RFPs that the NAFTA threshold becomes effective.
- Q.79 What happened to STREAM #12: - Technical, Engineering and Maintenance Services, which was referred to in Attachment B Supply Arrangement Technical Evaluation, in the Letter of Interest (Draft RFSA), which was issued on the 12th of February 2013 ? When will the requirements for this STREAM be published?
- A.79 This was a new stream introduced by TSPS in their RFI. It will be included in the ProServices solicitation when posted on Merx in April.
- Q.80 There are no firm requirements in the Draft RFSA for what “professional certifications” are required for individual Categories. Some "professional certifications" which are available have limited actual professional standing. The holding of "professional certifications", some of which can be obtained with little actual experience in the field of expertise, often adds little or nothing to the ability to perform the task. Requiring "Professional Certifications", and awarding a substantial number of points for this, actually penalizes suppliers or individual consultants who might have very good academic qualifications and a wealth of very relevant experience, but do not hold a "professional certification" "relevant" to the category. We request that the requirement to hold "professional certifications" be deleted OR that additional years of relevant experience can be offered in lieu of, and earning the equivalent number of points as, a "professional certification".

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- A.80 No professional certifications are required for the ProServices solicitation. These **could** be required when clients do their RFPs against ProServices. However, in Answer 8 previously provided, we stated that: with enough experience and education, it is possible to qualify for the Senior level of expertise without any professional certification.
- Q.81 Can you please confirm that CEng (Chartered Engineer) or MIET (Member of the Institution of Engineering and Technology); both Professional Engineering certifications from the United Kingdom, will be acceptable "professional certifications" for ProServices categories for which a professional certification in engineering is appropriate? There are no firm requirements in the Draft RFSA for what "professional certifications" are required for individual Categories. The list of "professional certifications" on Page 49 of the Solicitation Amendment, issued on the 13th of February 2013, says "Acceptable certifications include but are not limited to those on the following list". Also, this list already contains certifications granted by foreign (i.e. not Canadian) organizations. With these facts in mind, in the interests of fairness of procurement, the above-mentioned UK engineering certifications (CEng & MIET) should be acceptable to ProServices as "professional certifications" for categories for which a professional certification in engineering is appropriate. Please confirm that this is the case.
- A.81 No professional certifications are required for the ProServices solicitation. These **could** be required when clients do their RFPs against ProServices.
- Q.82 We are qualified under the TSPS, and we submitted a request to be included in ProServices. We never did get a definitive statement as to whether we are 'grandfathered' or what additional steps we need to take to be grandfathered in. If possible, could you please have someone confirm whether we've done everything we have to do to be included in the new ProServices Supply Arrangement? And if not, what else we need to do to be grandfathered in?
- A.82 As stated previously, pre-qualified suppliers under TSPS/TBIPS can be grandfathered into ProServices. To be grandfathered, once the ProServices solicitation is posted on MERX, the supplier must go into CPSS Supplier Module and complete all the information in the Data Collection Component, plus submit the hard copies of what is required to the Bid Receiving Unit by the closing date.
- Q.83 A contact point for each project reference is required to substantiate work experience. My reference contact point has moved to another department as have many of the other people for that project. My contact point is willing to still act as a reference in terms of substantiating the work. Can I still use them even though they are no longer with that particular department? Also, what if the client is an individual, not a government dept. Or a company and there is only one person and email address.
- A.83 Yes you can use them, and also an individual if they have never worked for the Supplier
- Q.84 Is the backup contact point that is required, the backup for that particular job or a backup project that meets the same criteria?
- A.84 It would be a contact person for the same contract.
- Q.85 Can experience claimed as part of a subcontract be claimed for the purposes of qualifying for a category?

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- A.85 Yes, it can. However, a reference to be used for substantiation must be a person who has never been employed by or acted as a consultant (or sub-contractor) for the Bidder who can substantiate that the Professional Services were provided.
- Q.86 Will info already submitted for PSONline qualification be pre-loaded or does all the info need to be entered from scratch?
- A.86 PSONline data will not be used. As ProServices has all new categories, a Supplier has to enroll into the Centralized Professional Services System (CPSS) - Supplier Module. Once the ProServices solicitation is posted on MERX, it will then be an "Open Solicitation " in CPSS and the supplier must complete the information required.
- Q.87 Is there a separate aboriginal stream?
- A.87 No, there is no separate aboriginal stream. However, there is an "Aboriginal search". Only suppliers identified as Aboriginal Suppliers will appear in the search results.
- Q.88 Are new categories qualified for under ProServices grandfathered to an existing SO or SA? What attributes does a project experience need to meet to be valid i.e. minimum dollar value or minimum duration? If it is duration is it level of effort or contract period?
- A.88 The only grandfathering is from pre-qualified suppliers for TSPS and TBIPS at this time. A supplier must provide one project for each category they wish to bid on. There is no dollar value or level of effort for a project - the supplier must provide a reference for substantiation.
- Q.89 The Data Collection Component (DCC) module states in some instances that bidders must print the page for signature and submit a hard copy. However, there doesn't appear to be a "print" button feature within the module, resulting in very messy hard copies when printing via the file menu of web browsers. Is this an oversight and will this feature be included in future releases?
- A.89 There is no print button, it may be included in future enhancements.
- Q.90 The requirement for contract numbers is adding a huge amount of extra work for us – much of our work is done with provincial, municipal and private companies – only my bookkeeper would ever be aware of some kind of a number, but they will not be consistent across our clients (some are purchase orders, invoice numbers, and there are many contracts we do that are just in reference to a letter of description of the work – neither I, nor the reference being checked would know what the contract number is – This adds yet another layer of work – without adding any real information for the RFSO process – it certainly isn't removing red tape, which I thought these processes and PWGSC is supposed to be doing
- A.90 As per Attachment B, Technical Evaluation, last bullet states:
- ◆ Under the field "Contract/Project Reference #, the Bidder must insert the contract/call up number which matches the title of the project which the Bidder has input in the field "Project Summary Number".
- You can also use an invoice number - as long as the reference can substantiate your information.
- Q.91 We are a pre-qualified existing supplier on both TBIPS and TSPS SO/SA methods of supply. Please confirm that for the online mandatory requirement to provide references, for all categories we already supply (on TBIPS and TSPS), we would select "Currently Offered" and do nothing else on the DCC for this mandatory?

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- A.91 Yes, that is correct.
- Q.92 If we have 10 plus resources at our firm, does it make sense to have each resource fill out the data collection from their respective computers? Or will it work best if one admin person inputs all data on behalf of the resources?
- A.92 Only the supplier information goes into CPSS - Supplier Module. The resources information is at the next stage, when clients send out RFPs.
- Q.93 In your ProServices webinar, a panelist said that the CPSS is available now. However when I navigate to <http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/app-acq/spc-cps/nov2012-eng.html> the web page indicates that it is not available yet and to "Stay tuned!" Is CPSS available yet? If so, how to I access it?
- A.93 Your link is outdated. Please see the correct link below for the website. CPSS is definitely available now: <http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/app-acq/spc-cps/spc-cps-eng.html>
- Q.94 You mentioned that government departments can search for suppliers based on different criteria, including "region." Does this mean that suppliers outside NCR will be at a disadvantage?
- A.94 No, because there are 6 regions, 12 metropolitan areas and a Canada zone to be searched. No one is disadvantaged.
- Q.95 "Substantiation with a previous method of supply"...does any previous Standing Offer or Supply Arrangement meet this requirement? PS Online?
- A.95 It would be substantiation only under TSPS and/or TBIPS categories.
- Q.96 You demonstrated the draft system for grandfathered bidders. How will it work for non-grandfathered bidders - i.e. those of us registered with PSOnline only.
- A.96 For non-grandfathered suppliers, the Supplier has to enroll into the Centralized Professional Services System (CPSS) - Supplier Module and enrol their company information and main contact. Once the ProServices solicitation is posted on MERX, it will then be an "Open Solicitation " in CPSS and the supplier must then complete the information in the Data Collection Component.
- Q.97 Can one project substantiate multiple categories if relevant?
- A.97 Yes it can.
- Q.98 Page 12 of 34. Prior to an SA being established, we must provide the names of all individuals who will access protected information. Is this information to be provided on CPSS our hard copy? What if our staff complement changes over time?
- A.98 A supplier must hold a Designated Organization Screening (DOS) at Supply Arrangement issue. Once a supplier receives its DOS, he then must get security clearances for his personnel.
- Q.99 Will internal government staff be trained/educated on how to use these procurement vehicles?

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- A.99 There will be training provided to client departments.
- Q.100 Why are PSONline suppliers not being grandfathered?
- A.100 As explained previously, PSONline categories are being replaced by 147 new categories from TSPS and TBIPS. Therefore PSONline suppliers can not be grandfathered into ProServices.
- Q.101 Can we use our internal project number for non-government projects where we do not have a contract number for substantiation?
- A.101 As long as the number can be verified in your reference substantiation.
- Q.102 Why is there a limited time to respond to the request? How often will ProServices be open for qualifying?
- A.102 The current Letter of Interest on Merx does not require a response. It was to provide suppliers with an update and a draft solicitation for information on ProServices. Once the final ProServices RFSA solicitation is posted on MERX, Suppliers will have to respond. There will be a closing date for responses, then they will be evaluated. As ProServices is part of the Professional Services National Procurement Strategy, once it is in place, it will have perpetual refreshes, which will be evaluated quarterly.
- Q.103 My understand is that when ProServices is out on MERX a supplier will be able to grandfather ALL consultant categories of the streams and categories they are pre-qualified in under TSPS and/or TBIPS. For example if you are currently pre-qualified under Stream 1, categories 1 to 11, then you would be qualified under ProServices.
- A.103 Yes, that is correct, for example if you are qualified under Stream 1, categories 1 to 11, when ProServices is an "Open Solicitation" in CPSS and you are working on your response, under this stream and categories, you would mark "currently offered". You would do the same for any categories you are currently substantiated in within TSPS and/or TBIPS. If you wish to apply for new categories, you would check "newly offered" and provide the information requested in the mandatory criteria in Attachment B, Technical evaluation