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Bid Receiving - PWGSC / Réception des soumissions - TPSGC

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Gatineau
Québec
K1A 0S5

**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

Vendor/Firm Name and Address

Raison sociale et adresse du
fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur

Issuing Office - Bureau de distribution

Electronic Information Technology Professional Srv
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Title - Sujet TBIPS	
Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation EN578-055605/E	Date 2013-02-14
Client Reference No. - N° de référence du client EN578-055605	Amendment No. - N° modif. 005
File No. - N° de dossier 003ei.EN578-055605	CCC No./N° CCC - FMS No./N° VME
GETS Reference No. - N° de référence de SEAG PW-\$\$EI-003-25338	
Date of Original Request for Supply Arrangement 2013-01-18 Date de demande pour un arrangement en matière d'app. originale	
Solicitation Closes - L'invitation prend fin at - à 02:00 PM on - le 2013-03-04	
Time Zone Fuseau horaire Eastern Standard Time EST	
Address Enquiries to: - Adresser toutes questions à: Benoit(003ei), Real	Buyer Id - Id de l'acheteur 003ei
Telephone No. - N° de téléphone (819) 934-4667 ()	FAX No. - N° de FAX (819) 956-7827
Delivery Required - Livraison exigée	
Destination - of Goods, Services, and Construction: Destination - des biens, services et construction:	
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		

Solicitation Amendment #5

This Solicitation Amendment is raised to make the following:

A: Modification

B: Questions and Answers

A: Modification #5

Delete the following information under: Part 3, Section I: Technical Bid, second paragraph.

B: Questions and Answers

Q32:

- 1. Where do we get the Financial and Technical Templates (Excel) to submit for Refresh?**
- 2. Can we use the existing Templates submitted last time and update as follows:**
 - a. For “Technically Compliant” Roles can we revise the Rates or do we leave the existing Rates as is?**
 - b. For “Unsubstantiated Award” Roles we provide proper references but can we revise the Rates or do we leave the existing Rates as is?**
 - c. For “Newly Substantiated” Roles (i.e. Stream 6 & 7) we provide References and Rates. Please confirm.**
 - d. For Tier 2 Certifications, Qualifications for Class#1 to Class #5 is same as before but Class #6 & Class#7 will be as per your email date January 22nd and given below. Please confirm.**
- 3. Finally, it would be highly appreciated if the due date for submission can be re-scheduled to March 18th;**

A32:

1. Please refer to Solicitation Amendment # 2, A2, 1.
2. No. The templates used for previous solicitations will not be accepted in response to this solicitation.
 - a. It is the Bidder's decision whether or not to change its rates for the SO. Please refer to A44 from this Solicitation Amendment.
 - b. Please refer to A32, 2a above.
 - c. Yes, if the migration process detailed in M.5 does not apply.
 - d. Please refer to Solicitation Amendment #3, A5. If this does not answer the question, please reword it and resubmit it.
3. The date of bid submission remains unchanged.

Q33:

I would appreciate your assistance to clarify the requirements for the following aspects of the bid:

- 1) **What references are needed per category and per stream?**
 - a. **Can these references be contract, permanent or both?**
 - b. **Are references to be from the past year only? If no, how far back?**
 - c. **Where are these references entered into the online tool? Or are they submitted in hard copy?**
- 2) **Does a bidder only qualify for those categories with references in the stream? Or after a certain number does the bidder qualify for the whole stream?**
- 3) **For this chart below, which outlines the reference requirements per stream, does this mean that with the specified number of references per stream, that the bidder qualifies for the whole stream?**

	Minimum Number of Positive Substantiated References	
	SO and SA Tier 1	SA Tier 2
Stream 1 - Application Services	6	9
Stream 2 - Geomatic Services	4	6

Stream 3 - IM/IT Services	4	6
Stream 4 - Business Services	5	7
Stream 5 - Project Management Services	4	6
Stream 6 - Cyber Protection Services	6	9
Stream 7 - Telecommunications Services	4	6

4) On the front page of the bid, it indicates that the closing date is March 4th, 2013. On page 36, the submission due date is February 23rd. Please confirm what date the response to the TBIPS refresh is due.

5) In Section 15, page 40 of the bid, it states the regions that can be bid on for the supply arrangement. What are the qualifications for each region and how is the response provided? Hard copy or online system?

6) For "Section One Technical Bid", page 16, could you please outline what the government would like included as substantiation of technical capability. Is this about the company? Or the application on specific streams and categories? Or both.

A33:

1. Please refer to Solicitation Amendment #4, A30.
 - a. Both are acceptable.
 - b. Please refer to M.5 of Attachment B and/or C, first paragraph.
 - c. The reference information must be submitted through the Data Collection Component (DCC) of CPSS and should not be submitted in hard copy. For detailed instructions on the DCC, please refer to the section "Mandatory Criteria" of the "Supplier Easy Steps - for the Data Collection Component" from the link: <http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/app-acq/spc-cps/espfccd-sesdcc-eng.html>
2. A bidder can only qualify for a category as substantiated or unsubstantiated. The total number of qualified categories will depend on the number of positive references received. Meeting the requirements for a given stream does not automatically qualify a bidder for all categories in that stream.
3. No. Please refer to A33, 2 above.
4. Please refer to Solicitation Amendment #4, Modification #2.
5. There are no geographical qualifications. Bidders must identify in the Data Collection Component which regions they wish to offer their services for.

6. Please refer to Modification #5 of this Solicitation Amendment.

Q34:

Could you please advise what is required for a 'substantiation reference'?

A:34:

Reference details (such as: Company Name/Government Department, Contact Name, Position, Telephone Number, email address, Contract/Project Reference Number, Subsidiary/JV information, etc.) must be inputted into the Data Collection Component. Please refer to A.33 1) c. from this Solicitation Amendment.

Q35:

1, Please confirm that rates are provided for the RFSO, using DCC, and that no rates are required for the RFSA.

2, Stream #6 - Cyber Protection Services,

a) Please confirm that if a bidder provides 9 substantiated categories then the bidder will automatically qualify for Tier 2 and will qualify for all 17 categories.

b) If we provide 9 substantiated categories, do we need to identify the remaining 8 categories as 'unsubstantiated'?

A35:

1, Please refer to A44 from this Solicitation Amendment.

2,

a) That is incorrect. If nine categories in Stream #6 receive a positive reference, then the Tier 2 requirement will be considered met under M.5 only. Please refer to A33, 2 above and to A5 from Solicitation Amendment #3.

b) No. The ratio is 2:1. Please refer to M.5, article 7. of Attachment B and/or C.

Q36:

Re Data for DCC as it relates to EN578-055605/E

Please can you kindly clarify the following as it relates to the TBIPS Refresh RFP ?

1. We are a Canadian subsidiary but work in a seamless partnership with our parent company to deliver services here in Canada. As such, can we assume that it is equally

acceptable for us to leverage references for projects won internationally by our parent company and/or other European subsidiaries/sister companies ?

2. Our understanding is that if we respond to the Supply Arrangement only, no per diem pricing needs to be provided at this stage. If that is the case, it is not clear what we need to input in the DCC tool under "Services Offering for Supply Arrangement>Region>Tier # " as the table that appears seems to suggest that pricing needs to be filled in for the 7 stream (Junior, Intermediate and senior pricing). Stream 1 on the other hand is simply a yes/no drop-down . Please clarify.

3. Can the Projects provided for the Total Cumulative Tier 2 be used for the Tier 1 response as well ?

4. Can the same references be used for the SA Tier 1 and SA Tier 2 response ? Can we go further and assume that qualifying for Tier 2 automatically qualifies a vendor for Tier 1 and as such no references are required for SA Tier 1 ?

5. Can the same reference/client or company be submitted for multiple categories if the bidder actually delivered a variety of projects to this same client ?

6. We are looking to initiate the corporate security clearance process as soon as possible. We would appreciate the Offer/Arrangement Authority consider security sponsorship as we seek this initial DOS clearance. Please confirm how we secure this sponsorship.

7.

a) If a bidder applies for National Zone/Canada Wide services do they correspondingly need to have physical office locations across Canada ?

b) How does geographic location influence the selection criteria for invitations to project RFP's ?

8. Task Authorizations : Per page 50, it states that a contractor is not required to submit a response to every draft TA sent to it by Canada. When is this TA sent to the contractor, is it once they qualify for this Standing Offer arrangement, or once they actually responded to an RFP on Merx that they are interested in ?

9. International Consultants: Assuming that a vendor (with corporate security clearance and approved on this TBIPS SA) is subsequently successful in its bid for a project- related RFP with a DOS Reliability level requirement.what does the bidder need to be aware of in terms of security clearance process/ timelines/issues if they plan to leverage international resources that have no individual Canadian security clearance ?

10. Please advise when the the SPIBS Refresh can be expected and if the DCC tool will equally be leveraged (quite effective).

11. The RFP asks for certificate with an effective date of this bid submission. Our firm has a valid insurance for commercial liability that is still valid. Can this be submitted ?

12. In the bottom of the online Category Substantiation Form it asks if the project was delivered by our Subsidiary, Name of Subsidiary and name of Resource".

If the answer is No (as we are the Canadian subsidiary/bidder), do we have to provide a Resource name for each category, and if so where ?

A36:

1. Yes.

2. That is correct - there are no rates for the SA.

Please note: On the DCC page titled "Services Offering for Supply Arrangement", the fields have a default setting of "yes" for all levels for each category that the Bidder is applying for within the Mandatory Criteria / Stream and Category section. If the Bidder wants this category under the SA in all three levels, then the default can be left as is. If the Bidder doesn't want a level, then the Bidder must change the "yes" to a "no".

3. Yes

4. Yes

5. Yes

6. Please refer to Amendment #4, A22.

7 a) No

b) The Client must select qualified suppliers in the Region or Metropolitan Area where the work is to be performed.

8. The TA process will be identified in the RFP or ACF to qualified suppliers once the new SO and SA's have been awarded. The TA process has no bearing on the qualifications for this bid solicitation.

9. This process falls outside of TBIPS. Please refer to the Canadian Industrial Security Directorate (CISD): <http://ssi-iss.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/index-eng.html>

10. The SBIPS Refresh Solicitation EN537-05IT01/G is available on MERX.

11. Yes, as long as it is still valid on the closing date.

12. If the work performed was not provided by a Subsidiary or JV member, the fields titled "Name of Subsidiary or JV member" and "Name of Resource" can be left blank.

Q37:

Could you please advise what is required for a 'substantiation reference'?

A37

Please refer to A34 from this Solicitation Amendment and to A30 from Solicitation Amendment #4.

Q38:

I am an incorporated single-person computer consultant. I am interested in signing up for “TBIPS (task-based informatics professional services) - SA (Supply Arrangements)” so I can bid on MERX opportunities. My Procurement Business Number is (proprietary information).

As an individual, I have Secret Level II security clearance, but my corporation does not have the “Designated Organization Screening (DOS)” from Canadian Industrial Security Directorate (CISD).

My questions to you are:

- a) Is the SA & DOS appropriate for a one-man incorporated computer consultant, or is it really intended only for large companies?**
- b) Ie. Is this something I should pursue?**
- c) How do I find an Approved Source to sponsor me for the DOS?**

A38:

- a) Suppliers capable of meeting the requirements of this bid solicitation are invited to submit a bid. Please refer to the mandatory criteria (M1, M.2, M.3, M.4, M.5, M.6) of Attachments B and/or C.
- b) That decision rests with the Supplier.
- c) Please refer to Solicitation Amendment #4, A22.

Q39:**1. RE: The data collection component**

I am trying to understand the DCC functionality and would like to make sure I am not missing anything:

- a) Is there any automatic functionality to the DCC that verifies that all mandatory fields have been completed before a company can submit their proposal?**
- b) Is there any way to review the entire submission prior to submitting the proposal? I.E. Can we pull up a summary page that includes all the sections of the submission at one time, or, do we need to verify each section, sub-section, etc. one page at a time?**

2. RE: M.4 Total Cumulative Value Billed (TCVB)

We have a number of questions about the information required for TCVB

- a) (i) **Is a Contract/Project # a mandatory field?**
 (ii) **If yes, is this simply a “counter” that applies to this bid (i.e. project 001, project 002, etc.), or**
 (iii) **is this supposed to be some reference number familiar to the client? In many cases, there is no contract/project #, especially for projects in the private sector. If this is required, what can we enter when no such number exists?**
- b) **In the sample table there is a column relating to TCVB and subsidiaries. Is this a mandatory column, even if a company has no subsidiary? Are we just supposed to put “Confirmed” for every single project. This seems like a waste of space and it will make the table harder to read as it shrinks all the other columns to make it fit.**
- c) **Please confirm that bidders do not need to identify the client organization nor a client contact as part of demonstrating TCVB.**
- d) **With regards to the \$ value of contracts to be included in TCVB could you please confirm that it is based on the amount of work billed (i.e. invoiced) between March 5, 2010 and March 4, 2013? For better clarity can you confirm the following scenarios:**
- (i) **For a project which started February 15, 2010 and ended March 15, 2010 and invoiced on March 30, 2010, the full amount of the invoice would be included in TCVB.**
- (ii) **For a project which started February 15, 2013 and ended March 15, 2013 and to be invoiced on March 30, 2013, none of the contract value would count**
- e) **If the closing date for the RFSO/RFSA gets extended, please confirm that this will not move the start date of the three-year window for demonstrating TCVB? Alternatively, if the closing date is extended, can bidders choose to start a three year window that is based on the original closing date, or, choose a three year window that ends at the new closing date?**

3. RE: M.5 Category Substantiation (Part of DCC)

- (i) **Is a Contract/Project # a mandatory field?**
 (ii) **If yes, is this simply a “counter” that applies to this bid (i.e. project 001, project 002, etc.), or**
 (iii) **is this supposed to be some reference number familiar to the client? In many cases, there is no contract/project #, especially for projects in the private sector. If this is required, what can we enter when no such number exists?**

4. Re: RFSA Front Page(s)

Do bidders need to submit a completed and signed hardcopy of the RFSA Front Page? Do bidders also have to submit a completed and signed hard copy of the Front Pages of the Amendments?

A39:

1. RE: The data collection component

a) No. Similar to the previously used spreadsheets there is no automatic function in place within the DCC to verify that a bidder has fully completed a response prior to submitting. It is the responsibility of the bidder to ensure that all information is complete. Once a bidder has verified the pages within the sections, they must change the status of each section to 'Completed' on the Response Home Page prior to submitting.

b) No. Unfortunately there is no summary page available to bidders in the DCC. The status of each section must be manually changed by the supplier to 'Completed' on the Response Home Page before the supplier can submit their response template to PWGSC.

2. RE: M.4 Total Cumulative Value Billed (TCVB)

a) (i) Yes

(ii) No

(iii) The bidder is required to provide information that the Client can quickly refer to if and when they are contacted.

b) No, this information must be provided only if applicable.

c) Confirmed. However if provided will be accepted.

d) Confirmed

(i) Confirmed

(ii) Confirmed

e) For the purpose of this bid solicitation, the 3 year period starts on March 4, 2010 and ends on the closing date whether extended or not.

3. RE: M.5 Category Substantiation (Part of DCC)

(i) Yes

(ii) No

(iii) Yes. The information provided in this field must be accurate so that the reference can quickly refer to it if and when they are contacted.

4. Re: RFSA Front Page(s)

No, it is not mandatory.

Q40:

1) Given the limitations imposed on bidders in Section 1.3 on page 12 of the RFP document, can a company be part of two separate TBIPS bids for both Tier 1 and Tier 2, or are companies limited to 2 bids for all TBIPS tiers?

2) If a company is limited to two bids for all TBIPS tiers, then does a company need to resubmit all existing streams again if it simply wants to add a JV partner to its team to satisfy another stream requirement?

A40:

1)

A bidder that is a joint venture is considered as one (1) legal entity. Please refer to Amendment #3, A10, 1 & 2.

2) Yes, this would be considered as a change to the legal entity of the bidder. The bidder would need to apply as a new bidder.

Q41:

1) Would vendor who awarded both Standing Offer and Supplier Arrangement bounded by the pre-defined rates under their SO when bidding on SA opportunity because of the "Price Protection - Most Favoured Customer" clause in the SA agreement?

2) In regards to substantiated reference under Attachment C - M.5. We have project which covers multiple categories within the same stream and also across different streams. Can we reference the same project for different categories?

A41:

1) It is a possibility depending on individual requirements.

2) Yes

Q42: In Attachment C, the Supply Arrangement Technical Evaluation section, in paragraph 5 of M5 the process for validating substantiating references is described. The link that is specified (<http://www.tpsgc.gc.ca/app-acq/sptb-tbps/categories-eng.html>) is based on the current TBIPS category structure and does not reflect the revisions to the categories and streams in this refresh. Will this be updated prior to sending the emails to validate substantiated references?

A42:

The category descriptions for all categories will be made available to the reference(s).

Q43:

For Stream #6 (C) Cyber Protection Services, the spreadsheet you provided as an attachment to the email “Existing Supplier Qualifications”, lists “Insufficient Categories” and “References Required this Refresh If Requesting as Category” for all categories.

We currently hold 13 of the Stream 6 categories on our current CPSA Contract, for which we provided detailed substantiation in our original CPSA proposal for 7 of the 13?

The grandfathering instructions provided are confusing to us. Could the crown please clarify the following assumption/questions:

- 1. Was the email attachment incorrect in stating “Insufficient Categories” and “References Required this Refresh If Requesting as Category” for this stream?;**
- 2. Can we grandfather over 6 of our 7 substantiated categories? If yes, can the crown re-confirm which of our 13 CPSA categories are substantiated;**
- 3. If we carry-over our PKI Specialist from our current TBIPS contract, we could then grandfather only 5 of our 7 CPSA current categories - Correct?**
- 4. Can we also then provide pricing for an additional 3 unsubstantiated categories, without having to provide references?**
- 5. If our assumptions above are incorrect, must we re-qualify for Stream 6 categories, in the same manner as companies who do not hold a current CPSA contract?**

A43:

Please note that the Migration Process, as described in M.5, 8. of Attachments B and C that apply to CPSA and TEMS Holders only.

1. The e-mail was correct.
2. For the new Stream 6, the existing CPSA Supplier is being granted up to 6 substantiated Categories (including the categories transferred from the TBIPS IM/IT Stream) of its choice plus 3 unsubstantiated Categories of its choice. The Bidder must identify those categories as either “Currently Substantiated” or “Currently Unsubstantiated” in the Data Collection Component (DCC) of CPSS. Please refer to Amendment #3, A16.
3. For the migration process for CPSA Suppliers (who are already TBIPS suppliers):
If you are carrying over the PKI Specialist category, then you would identify that category as “Currently Substantiated” in the DCC and select 5 more categories of your choice as substantiated plus 3 more as unsubstantiated. See A33, 2 above.

4. Yes
5. Refer to M.5, 8c) of Attachment B and/or C.

Q44:

In the TBIPS Refresh RFSA/RFSO, it states:

This document also allows bidders who were issued a SO under the last refresh solicitation to update their rates and bidders who were issued an SO and/or SA under the last solicitation to submit bids against additional categories, tiers, levels of expertise, regions, and metropolitan areas.

Question 1a)

Is it correct to assume from this clause that, for this refresh, bidders cannot update their rates for existing categories under the SA?

Question 1b)

If the answer to question 1a) is yes, will PWGSC reconsider this position, and allow bidders to update their rates for both the SO and the SA?

A44:

- 1a) That is correct. The provision of rates under the TBIPS SA has been discontinued.
- 1b) No

Q45:

Our questions and comments are listed below:

Re page 41 of 108, SA Section 2, Bid Solicitation Process, sub-section 2.1: “Canada may consolidate requirements across Clients and award Contracts on a periodic basis to receive best or better pricing.”

Consolidation of requirements typically prevents (“company name”) participation which eliminates the option to provide the unique specialisations and capabilities of boutique integrators who invest in their employees’ capabilities to introduce innovative solutions to the federal government.

If Canada considers sub-contracting is a solution, this has proven ineffective in the past as it typically results in either one or both of the following:

- **Contracting lesser qualified consultants at a higher cost due to the additional margins applied by the general contractor (double layer profit margins required). In order for the contractors to maintain their profit margins, they cannot sub-contract with the**

better qualified, experienced and knowledgeable individuals but rather must sub-contract with individuals that meet the very basic minimum requirements.

• **The general contractors often sub-contract expert (“company name”) integrators for a short period in order to gain the knowledge, and then replace the experts with their own individuals, thereby eliminating the services of the (“company name”).**

1: Please interpret the meaning and intent of your statement above.

Re Amendment 3, page 6, your response to Q13: You agreed with the questioner that SO rates are copied to the SA. Yet, there is no reference to this in the TBIPS RFP document. Upon testing this, we confirmed that we are unable to input SA rates but we are able to copy them from the SO to the SA. According to Part 4, Section 1.2, p. 18, “No financial evaluation of bids is required to be issued a Supply Arrangement”.

2: What is the purpose of the SO and SA rates being identical and how will these be used?

A45:

- 1: Refer to A44 from this Solicitation Amendment.
- 2: Refer to A44 from this Solicitation Amendment.

Q46:

Page 217 of the PDF file for the TBIPS (Solicitation No. EN578-055605/E) states: “For each Category, substantiating information will be obtained based on an e-mail containing the following information, sent to the reference indicated in the bid ... closely match the TBIPS Categories listed in the table below. (For a description of the TBIPS Categories, please see the following link (<http://www.tpsgc.gc.ca/app-acq/sptb-tbps/categories-eng.html>)). The web site from the referenced link does not seem to contain the TBIPS Categories for the new Streams 6 and 7. We wish to apply for these new streams, so can we assume that they will be added to the web site in time for the reference checks?

A46:

Please refer to A42 from this Solicitation Amendment.

Q47:

I refer to the following two clauses pertaining to the TBIPS SO and SA respectively.

M.4 TOTAL CUMULATIVE VALUE BILLED

Within the last three years immediately prior to the closing date the Bidder must have invoiced for, and provided Informatics Professional Services to Outside Clients above the \$1 million minimum billing threshold.

1. To demonstrate this requirement, the Bidder must provide, at a minimum, the following billing details: Contract/Project Title, Contract/Project Number, Start Date, End Date, Amount Billed (for Informatics Professional Services only), and Description of the Services Performed.

M.4 TOTAL CUMULATIVE VALUE BILLED

Within the last three years immediately prior to the date of bid submission, the Bidder must have provided Informatics Professional Services to Outside Clients above the following minimum billing thresholds:

a) To Qualify For SA Tier 1: The Bidder must have invoiced for Informatics Professional Services a total cumulative value billed (TCVB) of a minimum of \$1.5 million;

1. Are these requirements mandatory?

2. Can current SO/SA holders be grandfathered in regard to these requirements? While we have met these requirements in the past, given the current economy and the reduced level of public sector business available over the past three years, it is increasingly difficult for small and medium-sized businesses to meet them. We suggest these limits be reduced significantly or eliminated; otherwise PWGSC is discriminating against smaller businesses and excluding them from competing for work for which they are fully qualified and, more importantly, providing services they have been providing to the federal public service for decades.

A47

1. Yes
2. Yes. Please refer to Attachment E.

Q48:

I have a question as it relates to TBIPS SA or SO Holders.

If a company is on TBIPS as a member of a JV with 2 other companies.

Can that company, independently use project references for projects completed under the JV SA or SO to bid independently on other work and claim them as their own?

FOR instance - If I am a member of a 3 compayn JV and under that vehicle I do a project at CBSA that is valued a \$2million. Can I then claim that the project reference for that

project belongs to my company rather than to the JV as a whole and use that to demonstrate corporate experience when bidding on another RFP alone as my company?

A48:

Yes, if the work was performed by your company under the JV. The reference will be required to positively substantiate that the services were provided by your company.

Q49:

Concerning the TBIPS refresh – we have 2 classifications that are substantiated that have been moved to the newly created stream 6. When entering info in CPSS, should we on the “streams and classifications” page call stream 6 “currently offered” or “newly offered”? We want to win the rest of this stream but if we call the stream “newly offered” on the stream and classifications page we are unable to select “currently substantiated” for the classifications we already hold. Please advise.

A49:

Select the stream as “currently offered”.

Q50:

1. We are currently Tier 1 TBIPS SO holder. We would like to get qualified for Tier 1 TBIPS SA in this solicitation.

a) Do we need to provide references again for categories which were already substantiated for the SO during last solicitation?

b) In other words, would substantiated categories from the SO get transferred to the SA if all mandatory requirements of the SA are satisfied?

2. Can the amounts invoiced for the (“program name”) or the (“program name”) be considered to be Informatics Professional Services?

A50:

1 a) No

b) Yes

2. Yes, if the work billed was for informatics professional services provided to an outside client.

Q51:

1) Attachment C, Section 7 iii). We are not clear what this item says. Would PWGSC please clarify further?

2) Attachment C, Section 8 b) i). Does "granted" mean the SOSA holder will be awarded these selected categories as "substantiated"?

3) Attachment C: What is the intent behind an "unsubstantiated" category and how are substantiated and unsubstantiated categories different outside of the bidding process?

A51:

- 1) Any newly unsubstantiated categories can only be awarded as a result of newly substantiated categories.
- 2) Yes
- 3) The intent is to provide bidders with the opportunity to gain experience within the TBIPS method of supply. "Substantiated" and "unsubstantiated" designations are only used for qualification purposes under this method of supply.

Q52:

Please clarify the following:

- a) **Exactly which documents are to be sent in hard copy?**
- b) **Exactly which documents are to be sent via the portal.**

A52:

- a) Please refer to Solicitation Amendment #4, A21,1b) and to Component 1, Part 1, article 1.4 Submission Grid.
- b) See answer A52a) above

Q53:

Our firm is currently a TBIPS SO/SA holder. We are also a CPSA holder but we are in a Joint Venture for CPSA . We want to respond to the TBIPS Refresh including stream #6, Cyber protection services, without the joint venture arrangement. In our current status spreadsheet we received from PWGSC, for stream #6, Cyber protection services, we have C5 and C16. (2 substantiated categories) we used to have under the IM/IT stream. Based on answers 10 and 29:

- a)
 - (i) **Is our understanding correct that if we want to qualify for Tier 2 in stream #6, Cyber protection services, we would receive C5 and C16 and in addition, we would need to provide 7 additional substantiated references (to meet the minimum of 9 required for Tier 2).**
 - (ii) **If we qualify in all 9 substantiated categories then we would qualify for all 17 categories.**

b)

If our understanding of a) is correct, can you please clarify how we label the remaining 8 categories? Are they labelled 'unsubstantiated categories'? and would we need to prioritize them?

A53:

- a) (i) Yes
(ii) No. Please refer to A33, 2. of this Solicitation Amendment.

b) To qualify for all 17 categories in this scenario, a minimum of 10 categories would be newly substantiated and a maximum of 5 categories would be newly unsubstantiated. Newly unsubstantiated categories must be prioritized.

Note: This scenario is based on the assumption that all 10 newly substantiated categories receive a positive reference.