



This amendment is raised to answer Industry questions and to modify the RFRE, draft RFP, SOR, Mandatory Requirements and Attachment 3.1.

Question 103:

Amendment 4 Issued July 4, 2013

Modification 17 (& repeated in Modification #18)

“On page 21 of 47 of the SOR, article 3.22.5: Delete in its entirety.

Insert:

3.22.5

a. The Contractor must ensure the following for primary site Solution:

- The Solution must vent hot air out of the back of the unit based on a hot/cold aisle configuration, with cooling from the front or bottom.
- The Solution’s power and network cables must route through the bottom of the unit.”

b. The contractor must ensure the following for the disaster recovery site:

- The Solution must vent hot air out the top of the unit using a chimney system and other than the front, the unit must be sealed on all other sides to ensure warm air exhaust is vented out of the top of the unit.”

Please can SSC/CBSA provide a diagram of the chimney system used in the Disaster Recovery Data system so we can ascertain as to how it will interface to our computer system cabinet.

Answer 103:

A design cannot be provided as the heat load and cfm requirements based on the solution will need to be calculated as to the size of opening that is required. The solution will need to be discussed with the disaster recovery site designers for specific details. The minimal requirement is that the cabinet must be top exhausting, not angled or from the rear and a large enough opening to exhaust the heat load from the equipment.

Question 104:

Is CBSA open to using Hadoop HDFS Storage to store image, audio and video data consisting of up to a minimum of 2GB of data.

Answer 104:

The technology used for the data storage component of the appliance technology is left up to the appliances OEM and expects all required storage to be integrated with the appliance such that Canada will not be required to manage it as a separate SAN.

Question 105:

Referencing Mandatory Reqs 3.1.18, query response times must not degrade by more than 10% when tables queries begin receiving updates regardless of data size. Can the above requirement be further quantified; this seems currently as a blanket statement, can the number of concurrent updates be defined along with concurrent queries being run.

Answer 105:

This requirement is stated as such because the expectations set by the vendors during the RFI stage of this RFP has led Canada to believe the capability exists using an appliance based approach to service queries. Canada will not define the anticipated concurrent updates and queries.

Question 106:

Ref 3.11.2 Point # 3 Enforce constraints to ensure that no duplicate values are entered in specific columns that do not participate in a primary key. Is CBSA willing to enforce this after data load using queries to check duplicate values?

Answer 106:

Please see Modifications 64 and 65.



Question 107:

Ref 3.14.5 and 3.14.6, Is CBSA willing to look at other tools for ETL apart from IBM InfoSphere Information Server Suite?

Answer 107:

No, this is out of scope for this procurement.

Question 108:

Ref 3.15.6 Is CBSA willing to consider a solution, which doesn't have incremental backup, but full backups with de-duplication capability, thereby reducing the overall size of the full backup for blocks which are already stored?

Answer 108:

Please see Modifications 66 and 67.

Question 109:

Ref 3.17.2 Is CBSA willing to consider dual-feeds for Primary and Disaster Recovery Site? By dual-feeds we mean running ETL jobs on the primary site and the DR site simultaneously.

Answer 109:

Canada will not make the requested change. This requirement does not support the current design for populating disaster recovery.

Question 110:

Ref 3.17.4 What is the bandwidth and latency between Primary site and DR Site?

Answer 110:

Canada will provide sufficient bandwidth between sites to allow Disaster recovery.

Question 111:

Ref (3.14.4) Solution must include data load utility that provides checkpoint re-start capabilities. Is CBSA willing to consider solution which do not have checkpoint re-start capabilities, but create error tables for rows, which are rejected due to errors? Since in a true MPP (Massively Parallel Processing) cluster checkpoint restart severely limits the ability to have scalable bulk data loading.

Answer 111:

No. Canada is not willing to consider such a solution. Canada requires checkpoint /restart capability on large loads to continue failed loads which fail due to errors more serious than data errors within specific rows.

Question 112:

Question 38 and 39 of amendment dated July 4 states that only the OEM's can respond to the RFP. In the interests of maintaining a fair and open competition we respectfully request that this requirement be changed to include any Authorized resellers and providers. Some fully qualified respondents and industry leaders only use a mature partner ecosystem as their fulfillment and/or value added reseller/integrator. Limiting this to the OEM would not only put qualified OEM's in a position where they could not respond but, more importantly, would decrease the value that Canada would realize. Further, the RFRE includes a number of items, including Form 3 which assume a 3rd party provider would be allowed/encouraged. If this is no longer the case, those organizations that require a reseller would have to go through a lengthy evaluation of the terms and conditions which, if not granted a 3 week extension, would put the OEM at an unfair disadvantage over any other OEM's that normally do not use 3rd party resellers.

Answer 112:

Please see Amendment 006, Answer 101.

Question 113:

Question 38 and 39 of amendment dated July 4 states that only the OEM's can respond to the RFP.



The Crown decided that only OEM's are permitted to respond to this requirement, can the Crown please provide some rational as to the expected benefit to Canada?

Answer 113:

Please see Amendment 006, Answer 101.

Question 114:

Doc 269189.U007, section 3.1.4

The Bidder should identify in sufficient scripted detail the manner in which their solution would integrate with the existing DB2 z/OS database engine seamlessly, such that existing DB2z/OS based queries will not have to be modified to exploit the solution and the existing DB2 optimizer recognizes solution as an option.

This rated requirement includes the need to support technology (DB2 Optimizer) that does not provide the latest advancements in this technology area, and as such will limit Canada in its ability to have the most effective solution with the lowest total cost of ownership. We ask that Canada consider removing this rated requirement in order to ensure they receive the latest in the area of query performance.

Answer 114:

Canada will not make the requested change.

Question 115:

Amendment : 269189.U011.E

Modification 13: On page 16 of 47 of the SOR, article 3.15.7:

Delete in its entirety.

Insert:

The Contractor's Solution must include the capability to allow read access to tables during a backup of the same tables.

The removed requirement is standard expectation of modern technology. The removal of this requirement diminishes the availability of service that can be offered to Canada.

Would Canada add a requirement for the solution to supply full Data manipulation functionality during backups as this would allow Canada to receive the best service levels possible, increase availability and reduce operational restrictions

Answer 115:

Canada will not make the requested change.

Question 116:

Amendment : 269189.U011.E

Modification 14: On page 16 of 47 of the SOR, article 3.15.7:

Delete in its entirety.

Insert:

The Bidder's Solution must include the capability to allow read access to tables during a backup of the same Tables

The removed requirement is standard expectation of modern technology. The removal of this requirement diminishes the availability of service that can be offered to Canada.

Would Canada add a requirement for the solution to supply full Data manipulation functionality during backups as this would allow Canada to receive the best service levels possible, increase availability and reduce operational restrictions.

Answer 116:

Canada will not make the requested change.



Question 117:

269189.U007.E.PDF

Page 2: 3.1.4

The Bidder should identify in sufficient scripted detail the manner in which their solution would integrate with the existing DB2 z/OS database engine seamlessly, such that existing DB2z/OS based queries will not have to be modified to exploit the solution and the existing DB2 optimizer recognizes solution as an option.

Evaluation Criteria:

100% (15 points): The Bidder's solution would integrate with the existing DB2 z/OS database engine seamlessly; such that, existing DB2z/OS based queries will not have to be modified to exploit the solution and the existing DB2 optimizer recognizes solution as an option.

20% (3 points): The Bidder's solution would integrate with the existing DB2 z/OS database engine seamlessly but existing DB2z/OS based queries will have to be modified to exploit the solution or the existing DB2 optimizer does not recognize solution as an option.

0% (0 points): The Bidder's solution does not integrate with the existing DB2 z/OS database engine seamlessly

We respectfully ask Canada to clarify what constraints must be respected for a solution to be compliant with this requirement:

1.Does this requirement permit the installation of new software modules in z/OS environment? Since Canada has expressed a desire to procure a data warehouse appliance solution, we assume the proposed solution should have zero footprint on the z/OS environment.

2.Does this requirement permit configuration changes in the z/OS environment? For example, a configuration change that would identify the external data warehouse appliance that will respond to certain queries. We assume that a configuration change would be compliant.

Answer 117:

1. Yes this requirement permits the installation of new software modules in z/OS environment.

2. Yes this requirement permits configuration changes in the z/OS environment.

Question 118:

Doc 269189.U004, section 3.22.10

Question 30:

RFP Document U004 Annex A Statement of Requirements

3.22.10 The Contractor's Solution must have power connectors from the customer equipment to our internal grid and supporting L6 type connectors.

This may be in conflict to 3.22.8 (The Contractor's Solution must have power supplies supporting both single and three-phase power)

For single phase or phase to phase AC solution, we can accommodate NEMA L6 plugs. However for 3-phase AC solution, we can't use L6 type connectors. but require 3-phase connectors such as NEMA L21

Answer 30:

Please see Modifications 019 and 020

Modification 19:

On page 21 of 47 of the SOR, article 3.22.10:

Delete in its entirety.

Insert:



3.22.10

a. The Contractor must ensure the following for the primary site Solution:

- All devices must operate between 208-220 volts;
- Connector types must be Nema L21 for 3 phase recommended or L6 single phase;
- All rack power distribution units used within Canada's Data Centre facilities must have fail arrest capabilities engineered within thus eliminating the potential of fault arrest occurring on the main power distribution system.

b. The Contractor must ensure the following for the disaster recovery site Solution:

- All devices must operate at 400 volt 3 phase 320 amps (230 volt 1 phase);
- Connector types must be Nema L22 for 3 phase;
- All rack power distribution units used within Canada's Data Centre facilities must have fail arrest capabilities engineered within thus eliminating the potential of fault arrest occurring on the main power distribution system.

Would the crown consider adding of NEMA L6-30R single phase power configuration for the DR site?

Answer 118:

Canada will accept NEMA L6-30R single phase power configuration for the DR site.

Question 119:

Doc 269189.U004, section 3.22.10

Question 30:

RFP Document U004 Annex A Statement of Requirements

3.22.10 The Contractor's Solution must have power connectors from the customer equipment to our internal grid and supporting L6 type connectors.

This may be in conflict to 3.22.8 (The Contractor's Solution must have power supplies supporting both single and three-phase power)

For single phase or phase AC solution, we can accommodate NEMA L6 plugs. However for 3-phase AC solution, we can't use L6 type connectors. but require 3-phase connectors such as NEMA L21

Answer 30:

Please see Modifications 019 and 020

Modification 19:

On page 21 of 47 of the SOR, article 3.22.10:

Delete in its entirety.

Insert:

3.22.10

a. The Contractor must ensure the following for the primary site Solution:

- All devices must operate between 208-220 volts;
- Connector types must be Nema L21 for 3 phase recommended or L6 single phase;
- All rack power distribution units used within Canada's Data Centre facilities must have fail arrest capabilities engineered within thus eliminating the potential of fault arrest occurring on the main power distribution system.

b. The Contractor must ensure the following for the disaster recovery site Solution:

- All devices must operate at 400 volt 3 phase 320 amps (230 volt 1 phase);
- Connector types must be Nema L22 for 3 phase;
- All rack power distribution units used within Canada's Data Centre facilities must have fail arrest capabilities engineered within thus eliminating the potential of fault arrest occurring on the main power distribution system.

Would the crown consider adding 3 phase power plug Hubbell HBL460R/C9W Blue 60A, IEC 60309, 3P4W-IP67, 3-phase, 4-wire or equivalent configuration for the DR site?



Answer 119:

Canada will accept 3 phase 208/220v with the Hubbell HBL460R/C9W 60A

Question 120:

Amendment No 004, Answer 13

Attachment 4.1 Mandatory Requirements, 3.20 Access Control, 3.20.12

Mandatory requirement 3.20.12 states, "The Contractor's Solution must include integration with CA E-trust Directory LDAP for authorization and authentication to the Solution."

The answer to Question 13 states, "All authentication and authorization must be off-loadable to LDAP. Whether it's to query the databases, administrative functions like restarting the solution, upgrading firmware etc.

Situations where maintenance tasks, such as firmware upgrades of the system, require inaccessibility to the network. One such example would be firmware upgrades of network related components. During this process, network connectivity is not possible and the required OS user is not be able to authenticate.

Please change mandatory requirement 3.20.12 to "The Contractor's Solution must include integration with CA E-trust Directory LDAP for authorization and authentication to the Solution wherever possible and applicable."

Answer 120:

Canada will not make the requested change. Please also see Modifications 68, 69, 70 and 71.

Question 121:

Attachment 4.1 Mandatory Requirements, 3.21 Operating Software and Software Upgrades, 3.21.3

Attachment 4.2 Rated Requirements

Mandatory requirement 3.21.3 states that the solution must work with other software, including the statistical package Clementine.

Adding a rated requirement for integrating Clementine capability natively within the appliance acknowledges solutions that push down statistical models and run real time scoring within the appliance.

Please consider adding a rated requirement to recognize solutions that integrate Clementine capability natively within their appliance.

Answer 121:

Canada will not make the requested change. As stated in Mandatory Requirement 3.21.3 - The appliance technology must work existing software. Canada is not restricting bidders with Clementine capabilities with a particular appliance.

Question 122:

Attachment 4.2 Rated Requirements

Proposed solutions should be evaluated on their demonstrated ability to minimize I/O and data movement while maximizing optimization and performance. Such capability can be achieved by solutions that leverage existing CBSA software tools to push down data manipulation functionality to the target appliance through a supported adapter thereby providing an ELT capability.

Please consider adding a rated requirement to recognize solutions that leverage the existing Information Server environment within CBSA to push down data manipulation functionality to the target appliance through a supported adapter thereby providing an ELT capability.



Answer 122:

Canada will not make the requested change. Please see Answer 121.

Question 123:

Attachment 4.2 Rated Requirements, 3.11 Data Technology and Integrity, 3.11.4

Rated requirement 3.11.4 states, "The Bidder should identify in sufficient scripted detail how data may be optionally inserted in columnar format instead of standard row based format and subsequently updatable."

Compression and fast data access are the features and benefits normally achieved with columnar storage. Other techniques can achieve these same features and benefits. CBSA direction to request a data warehouse appliance should focus on the performance benefits of the solution (the desired outcome) and not the specific technique used to achieve that performance. Query processing requirements outlined in Section 3.4 will be the quantitative measure of whether performance objectives are met.

We respectfully request that rated requirement 3.11.4 be removed to avoid focusing on "how" acceptable performance is delivered.

Alternatively, please consider modifying rated requirement 3.11.4 to, "The Bidder should identify in sufficient scripted detail how data may be optionally inserted in columnar format instead of standard row based format and subsequently updatable or must similarly describe in sufficient detail how compression and fast data access are achieved if another technique is used."

Answer 123:

Canada will not make the requested change. This requirement is not only performance related but also to include flexibility considerations. Having both storage techniques available where possible will meet this requirement.

Question 124:

Attachment 4.1 Mandatory Requirements, 3.21 Operating Software and Software Upgrades, 3.21.8

Mandatory requirement 3.21.8 states, "The Bidder must address any known vulnerabilities within their software and agree to address any 3rd Party software vulnerabilities used within the solution within 30 days from date of identification."

It is not possible to commit to addressing known vulnerabilities once identified within a certain time frame as the nature of the vulnerability resolution may require substantial remediation and testing.

Please confirm that mandatory requirement 3.21.8 refers to the need to address identified vulnerabilities through the development of a remediation plan within 30 days and does not impose a 30 day window to resolve the issue.

Answer 124:

Please see Amendment 002 Modification 007.

Question 125:

The current close date for the RFRE response is 22 July 2013. Several questions we submitted remain unanswered.

Please confirm that all vendor questions will be answered and the answers will be released in advance of the close date.



Answer 125:

The RFRE closing date has been extended to ensure that all Industry questions are answered.

Question 126:

Re:Amendment No 005, Answer 53

Draft RFP, Part 7 Resulting Contract Clauses, 7.3 Standard Clauses and Conditions, 7.3.1 General Conditions

Paragraph 26 of SAAC 2030 (2012-11-19) General Conditions - Higher Complexity Goods includes a clause entitled "Liability" that does not limit the Contractor's liability for damages.

A standard limitation of liability clause developed primarily by PWGSC is contained in contracts for Information Management/Information Technology (IM/IT) procurements. This limitation of liability clause reflects a commercially reasonable allocation of risk between Canada and the Contractor in keeping with Treasury Board policy regarding contractor liability in Crown procurements. Since this RFP describes an IM/IT procurement, Question 53 requested that SSC incorporate the standard PWGSC limitation of liability clause no. N0000C 2011-05-16 in Part 7 Resulting Contract Clauses of the RFP.

Answer 53 states, "Canada will not make the requested change."

The standard PWGSC limitation of liability clause no. N0000C 2011-05-16 is used in IM/IT procurements by the Government of Canada and its use was negotiated and agreed to by the Government of Canada and ITAC. As indicated in the SACC Manual, this clause is only used in IM/IT contracts because special authority was granted by Treasury Board to allocate risk in accordance with this clause only for IM/IT contracts. This clause is used in conjunction with general conditions 2030 that is referenced in the draft RFP. Further information is provided in <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/policy-and-guidelines/standard-acquisition-clauses-and-conditions-manual/5/N/N0000C/4>.

We respectfully request that SSC revoke Answer 53 and incorporate the standard PWGSC limitation of liability clause no. N0000C 2011-05-16 in Part 7 Resulting Contract Clauses of the RFP.

Answer 126:

Canada will not make the requested change.

Question 127:

Section 7.19 of the draft RFP requires the bidder to grant an Entity License, however the requirement for an Entity License does not align with the requirements of the Statement of Requirements or the Basis of Payment in Annex B (which require bidders to submit pricing in terms of capacity and concurrent users). Could SSC confirm what type of license will be required, an entity license or a license based on capacity and concurrent users? If SSC's decision is to require bidders to provide an entity license, bidders will require additional information regarding the scope of the "entity" in order to provide pricing.

Answer 127:

The software is based on an entity license only and not priced per user. As identified in Table 1 of the Basis of Payment, the costs should be provided for the Solution which includes all hardware, software, licenses, integration services and connectivity requirements.

Please see Modifications 74 and 75.

Question 128:

In amendment 5, question and answer 42 states the following:

Question 42:

Regarding Attachment 3.1 – Pricing Tables, Table 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. It is stated in Table 1 that "...The Solution must include all hardware, software, licenses, integration services and connectivity requirements." Would SSC please confirm the following?



a) All backup/recovery software and licenses to meet the requirements defined in Section 3.15 Backup and Recovery of Annex A, Attachment 4.1 and 4.2, must be provided in the bidder's proposal and price.

Answer 42:

a) Confirmed, that this is correct.

Can Canada please confirm that the solution does not need to include the licenses for Tivoli Storage Manager? We assume that Canada will provide the license for any TSM backup agent that is installed on the solution.

Answer 128:

Confirmed, the solution does not need to include the licenses for Tivoli Storage Manager.

Question 129:

Doc 269189.U007, section 3.1.4

The Bidder should identify in sufficient scripted detail the manner in which their solution would integrate with the existing DB2 z/OS database engine seamlessly, such that existing DB2z/OS based queries will not have to be modified to exploit the solution and the existing DB2 optimizer recognizes solution as an option

100% (15 points): The Bidder's solution would integrate with the existing DB2 z/OS database engine seamlessly; such that, existing DB2z/OS based queries will not have to be modified to exploit the solution and the existing DB2 optimizer recognizes solution as an option.

20% (3 points): The Bidder's solution would integrate with the existing DB2 z/OS database engine seamlessly but existing DB2z/OS based queries will have to be modified to exploit the solution or the existing DB2 optimizer does not recognize solution as an option.

0% (0 points): The Bidder's solution does not integrate with the existing DB2 z/OS database engine seamlessly

Would the Crown consider that all queries are certified SQL-92 compliant?

Answer 129:

The queries will be based on SQL:2003 ANSI/ISO standards which is a later revision of the SQL92 standard.



Modification 64:

On page 13 of 31 of Attachment 4.1, Mandatory Requirements, article 3.11.2:

Delete:

3. Enforce constraints to ensure that no duplicate values are entered in specific columns that do not participate in a primary key;
4. Enforce constraints on data values;

Modification 65:

On page 14 of 47 of the SOR, article 3.11.2:

Delete:

3. Enforce constraints to ensure that no duplicate values are entered in specific columns that do not participate in a primary key;
4. Enforce constraints on data values;

Modification 66:

On page 16 of 31 of Attachment 4.1, Mandatory Requirements, article 3.15.6:

Delete in its entirety.

Insert:

3.15.6	In addition to 3.15.5, the Bidder's Solution must be able to backup only the changes to the database/data since the last full backup.
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Modification 67:

On page 16 of 47 of the SOR, article 3.15.6:

Delete in its entirety.

Insert:

3.15.6	In addition to 3.15.5, the Contractor's Solution must be able to backup only the changes to the database/data since the last full backup.
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Modification 68:

On page 19 of 47 of the SOR, article 3.20.12:

Delete in its entirety.

Modification 69:

On page 21 of 31 of Attachment 4.1, Mandatory Requirements, article 3.20.12:

Delete in its entirety.



Modification 70:

On page 19 of 47 of the SOR, article 3.20.1:

Delete in its entirety.

Insert:

3.20.1	The Contractor's solution must integrate with LDAPv3 Compliant Directory for authorization and authentication to the Solution.
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Modification 71:

On page 20 of 31 of Attachment 4.1, Mandatory Requirements, article 3.20.1:

Delete in its entirety.

Insert:

3.20.1	The Bidder's solution must integrate with LDAPv3 Compliant Directory for authorization and authentication to the Solution.
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Modification 72:

On page 26 of 47 of the SOR, article 7.5:

Delete: The Bidder's Solution

Insert: The Contractor's Solution

Modification 73:

On page 32 of the SOR, Appendix 3, Definitions, after Operational Environments:

Insert:

Original Equipment Manufacturer	The manufacturer of the integrated hardware and software, as evidenced by the name appearing on the hardware, on all accompanying documentation and on mandatory certification reports.
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Modification 74:

On page 39 of 56 of the draft RFP, Annex B, Basis of Payment, Table 1, under Initial Requirement:

Add: The software included is to be an entity license only and not based by user.



Modification 75:

On page 2 of 15 of Attachment 3.1, Pricing Tables, Table 1, under Initial Requirement:

Add: The software is to be an entity license only and should not be priced per user.

ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS REMAIN THE SAME.