



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

Data Modelling Solution

PURPOSE OF THE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION:

This is not a bid solicitation. This RFI will not necessarily result in any procurement action. A contract will not result from this activity.

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) is seeking feedback from the vendor community on the availability of a Data Modelling Solution. Vendors are requested to provide specific responses to the product questions outlined herein. Vendors are requested to provide product whitepapers if available.

The objective of this Request for Information (RFI) is to gather the most current information possible from industry on the different Data Modelling Solutions as it relates to the CRA's business requirements.

The key objectives of the RFI include:

1. Receive responses from the vendor community about available solutions; and
2. Get a better understanding of the current and future trends; and
3. Vendors who establish via their response to the RFI how their products(s) meet the detailed solution requirements may be invited to provide an interactive demonstration and discuss in detail how their solutions meets the listed requirements.

PURPOSE OF THE SOLUTION

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) Data Services and Technology Management (DSTM) Division provides Data Management Services in support of CRA's IT mandate. DSTM responds to business data requirements by providing Data Modelling and Metadata Services.

Data Modelling Services within the Canada Revenue Agency provide data models for internal and external clients. The 150+ data modellers and data base personnel require a software product to create, modify, and maintain shareable models, the largest of which is the Agency Data Warehouse (ADW) model that has approximately 1600+ entities.

CRA uses data models created using Erwin Data Modelling tool to express data requirements at the conceptual, logical, and physical level. Although separate, these different models are interrelated.

Implementing a Data Modelling Solution that encompasses Model Management, Collaboration, and Integration components as well as Data Modelling features would allow DSTM to proactively identify interrelated models, improve consistency, and more effectively share models and metadata across CRA.

Delivering data modelling services more efficiently and effectively is a key priority of the DSTM Division.



SOLUTION REQUIREMENTS:

Respondents are requested to provide a detailed response, addressing each of the following questions:

Appendix A – Data Modelling Solution Questions

A. 1 - General Information	
1.	What is your company's overall methodology and approach to data modelling?
2.	What other products or services do you provide that is complementary to the data modelling solution? (E.g. metadata registration, collaboration products.)
3.	What are the available licensing models for a complete data modelling solution, including ongoing costs such as licensing or maintenance and support?
A. 2 - Product Line	
4.	List and describe all the various features / applications that comprise your solution or provide the configurations that your solution requires.
5.	Describe in what capacity your data modelling solution provides documentation and user interfaces functionality in English and French.
A. 3 - Training, Documentation and Support	
6.	Describe the training services that your company offers (types of training and resources) as it pertains to your data modelling solution.
7.	In general, how much time would it take for a user to become self-sufficient in using the solution?
8.	Describe your maintenance and support offerings (e.g. pre-deployment, post-deployment, consulting, after-hours support, 7/24 on-call support) and how you provide them?
9.	What are the activities and the type/level of expertise CRA would require in order to maintain the solution on an on-going basis? (E.g. database administrator for the repository)

Appendix B – Technical Questions

B. 1 – Data Modelling	
10.	List and describe the supported data models the Software Solution can create and modify. (E.g. conceptual, logical, physical.)
11.	List and describe the data modelling objects and features that comprise the data models that the Software Solution can create and modify. (E.g. entities, subtypes, attributes, relationships)
12.	List or describe any data modeling software limitations that the Software Solution may have. (E.g. number of objects per model, size of model file.)
13.	Can the Software Solution provide modelling templates that can be shared with other users of the software? Describe how the solution does this.
14.	Does the Software Solution provide forward and reverse engineering processes that provide database/model comparison and synchronization? Describe how the database and/or model updates would be processed.
15.	List all target database platforms that the Software Solution models support.
16.	List and describe all XML modelling features the Software Solution can provide.
17.	Describe how the software solution can distribute model diagrams and metadata information to business and technical users.



B. 2 – Integration Components	
18.	Describe all ways the Software Solution can be used to access model metadata.
19.	Describe how the Software Solution could move model metadata between various tools from different vendors.
20.	Does the Software Solution include an API that allows programmatic access to the models? Describe how this is done.
21.	Can the Software Solution trace data lineage upstream and downstream from model to model? Describe how this is done.
B. 3 – Model Management	
22.	Does the Software Solution have a data model repository?
23.	Does the Software Solution have submission management features that can accept, reject, modify, and view submissions that have been made to a model repository? Describe how this is done.
24.	Does the Software Solution provide a security management interface that allows authorization and access control for models and objects within the model repository? Describe how this is done.
25.	Can the Software Solution provide a search feature that searches all metadata within the model repository? Describe how this is done.
26.	Does the Software Solution provide audit features that tracks changes made to the repository? Describe how this is done.
27.	Does the Software Solution model repository provide versioning of model and model objects? Describe how this is done.
28.	Does the Software Solution model repository provide customizable data element standards that can be bound to all models? (E.g. naming standards, data type standards) Describe how this is done.



Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

Term or acronym	Description
ADW	Agency Data Warehouse
API	Application Programming Interface
Conceptual Model	A high-level data model identifying major entities and relationships not fully attributed and therefore not necessarily normalized. Some conceptual data models include key attributes only. Conceptual data models include un-normalized many-to-many relationships between business entities.
CRA	Canada Revenue Agency
DBMS	Database Management System
DDL	Data Definition Language
DSTM	Data Services and Technology Management
Linkage	A link that establishes the commonalities between a conceptual model and a logical data model or a logical data model and a physical data model.
Logical Data Model	An entity-relationship data model, including data attributes, that represents the inherent properties of the data, independent of software, hardware or performance considerations.
Physical Data Model	A data model depicting relational tables, columns, foreign key relationships and indexes. A physical data model is usually based on a logical data model, but may also be reverse engineered to describe an existing database design. A physical data model adopts physical naming conventions and the physical data types specific to a DBMS.
Reverse Engineering	The process through which the logical, physical, or conceptual model of a database is documented graphically from various information sources such as DDL code, data dictionary contents, or database contents.
RFI	Request for Information
XML	Extensible Markup Language

INTERACTIVE PRESENTATION SESSIONS:

CRA may at its sole discretion request meetings with interested respondents who have clearly addressed the Solution Requirements in their response to CRA to provide them with the opportunity for a follow-up to their written response and to present /discuss their capabilities in relation to this RFI.

Respondents may be contacted within 6 weeks of the RFI closing date to schedule the presentation. An Invite Agenda will be provided to the interested respondents. Specific questions or areas of interest to be covered during the session may also be provided and will be based on responses received.

The on-site presentation session will be located in the National Capital Region. The exact location and timeframe will be detailed in the Invite Agenda. However, at no time will the session exceed 2 hours in length. Respondents will also be asked to provide an electronic version of their presentation material after the presentation session.

The respondent sessions must cover specific details relevant to the key objectives stated within this RFI. As such, representatives attending the session must include Subject Matter Expert(s) in these areas in order to meaningfully respond to questions at the session.



RESPONSES AND ENQUIRIES:

Respondents are advised to clearly identify which portions of their response are proprietary. The confidentiality of each Vendor's response will be maintained. Due to the nature of an RFI activity, respondents must be aware that aspects (that have not been labelled confidential) of their responses may be used as a basis for any subsequent Request for Proposal (RFP), if and when the CRA decides to prepare for any future procurement initiative.

Information provided in response to this RFI will be divulged only to individuals authorized to participate in this RFI activity.

Responses to this RFI will not be used to pre-qualify or otherwise restrict participation in any future procurement process (e.g. an RFP). Responses will not be formally evaluated.

CRA will not reimburse any expenditure incurred in preparing responses and participating in the presentation sessions related to this RFI.

The vendor must provide a contact name, email address and telephone number when submitting their response.

In the event that a response is not sufficiently clear, CRA reserves the right to seek additional information at their sole discretion.

Respondents are requested to submit responses by Friday, November 8th, 2013, 2 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. The review of responses will begin after the date and time mentioned above. Responses received after that date may not be reviewed.

Electronic submissions are preferred.

Vendors are requested to submit responses to this RFI using the following facsimile number, e-mail or delivery address:

Canada Revenue Agency
Contracting Division
IT Distributed Section
250 Albert, Room 8073
Ottawa, ON K1A 0L5
Attn: Judy Bonacci
Telephone No: (613) 957-9266
Facsimile No: (613) 957-6665
E-mail: judy.bonacci@cra-arc.gc.ca

For delivery by hand or by courier, Monday to Friday 8:30am to 3:00pm, please contact Judy Bonacci to arrange a drop off time.

Only enquiries which clarify the questions asked or feedback requested may be answered with respect to this RFI.

All enquiries must be submitted via email to the attention of Judy Bonacci at judy.bonacci@cra-arc.gc.ca or by phone at 613-957-9266.