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ADVANCE CONTRACT AWARD NOTICE: (ACAN) # 01B68-13-0219

The Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) has a requirement to put in place a contract with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) to carry out data collection and analysis activities on the corn fields of its members.

The purpose of this Advance Contract Award Notice (ACAN) is to signal the government's intention to award a contract for these services to the pre-selected supplier:

**Ontario Federation of Agriculture
100 Stone Road West, Suite 206
Guelph, Ontario
N1G 5L3**

Before awarding the contract, however, the government would like to provide other suppliers with the opportunity to demonstrate that they are capable of satisfying the requirements set out in this Notice, by submitting a statement of capabilities during the 15 calendar day posting period.

If other potential suppliers submit a statement of capabilities during the 15 calendar day posting period that meet the requirements set out in the ACAN, the government will proceed to a full tendering process on either the government's electronic tendering service or through traditional means, in order to award the contract.

If no other supplier submits, on or before the closing date, a statement of capabilities meeting the requirements set out in the ACAN, a contract will be awarded to the pre-selected supplier, as referenced above.

BACKGROUND

The Science and Technology Branch (STB) of AAFC recently received funding to undertake a project examining the sustainability of removing corn stover from the fields of corn growers in south western Ontario for use as a feedstock to produce renewable biofuels and biochemicals. Generally, stover is left on the fields as a soil cover against soil erosion.

The proposed work will increase STB's understanding of the sustainability and viability of removing corn stover from farmers' fields for the development of biofuel and biochemical corn stover supply chains in Ontario and Quebec. In particular, this project will determine the delivered cost per tonne of stover, and the potential changes in soil carbon and several other sustainability indicators related to the removal of corn stover from corn fields. This information is of critical importance to farmers who need to understand the economic and environmental impacts of removing the stover from their fields. Using corn stover as a feedstock in the production of biofuels and biochemicals represents a new opportunity for the agricultural sector to diversify and increase its revenues from an existing crop.

CURRENT REQUIREMENTS

The contractor will perform data collection and analysis directly from farmer's fields which represent a unique method of real time data collection versus the traditional method of conducting research on small research plots on AAFC research stations.

DELIVERABLES:

The contractor will conduct the following activities and provide the data and other results to STB:

- Fall and spring soil sampling
- Testing of harvest equipment and subsequent impact on crop and soil quality parameters
- Collection of corn production practices information and sustainability data
- Economic analysis

STB will analyze the soil sampling tests and determine parameters of sustainability.

CONTRACT PERIOD

The resulting contract will be valid from date of award to March 31st, 2015.

QUALIFICATIONS & JUSTIFICATION

To fulfill the requirements of the contract, the person or firm must be able to have easy, unencumbered access to:

- a large number of commercial scale corn fields on which the data collection will occur;
- the farmers of these commercial scale corn fields and
- the farmers crop production and management records.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is Canada's largest voluntary farm organization representing more than 37,000 farms across Ontario.

In its efforts to work towards a profitable, sustainable future for its members, the OFA has 20 trained field staff in 15 geographical zones, 31 organizational members and affiliates, and a highly-skilled research staff in a wide range of areas including:

- Biomass Carbon Foot printing
- Grading Considerations Agricultural Residue
- Business Case Development for a Cornstalks to Bioprocessing
- Assessment of Hay Crop Acreage and Pasture Land for Biomass Production
- Energy Market Alternatives for Commercially Grown Biomass
- Biomass Crop Residues Availability for Bio-Processing
- Environmental Sustainability Attributes of Biomass

Through its membership and affiliate organizations, the OFA will gain easy, unencumbered access to the large number of corn fields required to carry out the data collection and initial analysis associated with the project. The expertise of its staff in the area of corn stover supply chains, economics and environmental sustainability will provide experienced and knowledgeable data collection and analysis, and project management.

ESTIMATE OF COSTS

The resulting contract will be valued at \$120,000.00 CAD plus applicable taxes.

SUPPLIER NAME AND ADDRESS

**Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA)
100 Stone Road West, Suite 206
Guelph, Ontario
N1G 5L3**

CONTRACTING AUTHORITY

Lyndsay Rajaram, Senior Contracting Officer
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)
Central Material Management Centre (CMMC)
Professional Services Contracting Unit
1285 Baseline Road, T3-5-352
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C5
Tel: 613-773-0933
Email: lyndsay.rajaram@agr.gc.ca

SUPPLIERS RIGHT TO SUBMIT A STATEMENT OF CAPABILITIES

Suppliers who consider themselves fully qualified and available to provide the services/goods described herein, may submit a Statement of Capabilities in writing to the address identified below.

Statements of Capabilities must be delivered to and received by the Contracting Authority on or before the closing date of November 27th, 2013 at 12:00 (noon Ottawa time) to the following address

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)
Central Material Management Centre (CMMC)
Professional Services Contracting Unit
1285 Baseline Road, T3-5-352
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C5
Attention: Lyndsay Rajaram, Senior Contracting Officer
Solicitation Number: ACAN: 01B68-13-0219

The statement of capabilities must clearly demonstrate how the supplier meets the advertised requirements.

Statements of capabilities must be received by the contracting authority on or before the closing date/time. Statement of capabilities received on or before the closing date will be considered solely for the purpose of deciding whether or not to conduct a more extensive tendering process. Information provided will be used by the Crown for technical evaluation purposes only with respect to a decision to proceed to a further competitive process.

Suppliers that have submitted a statement of capabilities will be notified in writing of AAFC's decision to proceed to award the contract without a further additional tendering process.

Should you have any questions concerning this requirement, contact the contracting officer identified above. The AAFC file number, the contracting officer's name and the closing date of the ACAN must appear on the outside of the envelope in block letters or, in the case of facsimile transmission, on the covering page.

The Crown retains the right to negotiate with suppliers on any procurement. Documents may be submitted in either official language of Canada.