Shared Services Canada | Services partagés Canada

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# LETTER OF INTEREST

# LETTRE D'INTÉRÊT

**Comments - Commentaires**

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*Ottawa, Ontario*
*K1G 4A8*

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|---|---|
| **Title – Sujet**<br>**National Security Exception for Workplace Technology Devices, Software and Related Services** | |
| **Solicitation No. – N° de l'invitation**<br>2B0KB-14NNSE/A | **Date**<br>May 5, 2014 |
| **Client Reference No. – N° référence du client**<br>2B0KB-14NNSE | |
| **File No. – N° de dossier**<br>2B0KB-14NNSE | |
| **Solicitation Closes – L'invitation prend fin**<br>**at – à 11 :45 PM**<br>**on – le May 12, 2014** | **Time Zone**<br>**Fuseau horaire**<br>Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) / Heure Avancée de l'Est (HAE) |
| **F.O.B. - F.A.B.**<br>**Plant-Usine:** ☐ **Destination:** ☐ **Other-Autre:** ☐ | |
| **Address Inquiries to : - Adresser toutes questions à:**<br>Andrea Totten | |
| **Telephone No. – N° de téléphone :**<br>(613) 415-9164 | |
| **Delivery required - Livraison exigée**<br>N/A | **Delivered Offered – Livraison proposée** |
| **Destination – of Goods, Services, and Construction:**<br>**Destination – des biens, services et construction :**<br>See Herein | |
| **Vendor/Firm Name and Address**<br>**Raison sociale et adresse du fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur** | |
| **Facsimile No. – N° de télécopieur**<br><br>**Telephone No. – N° de téléphone** | |
| **Name and title of person authorized to sign on behalf of Vendor/Firm (type or print)-**<br>**Nom et titre de la personne autorisée à signer au nom du fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur (taper ou écrire en caractères d'imprimerie)**<br><br>**Signature** **Date** | |

Shared Services Canada | Services partagés Canada

**Notification to Suppliers**
**National Security Exception for Workplace Technology Devices, Software and Related Services**

This notification is being published in order to inform suppliers that Shared Services Canada (SSC) has invoked the National Security Exception (NSE) under Canada's domestic and international trade agreements in connection with goods and services procured by SSC related to workplace technology devices and software. This is part of a Government of Canada (GC) strategy to standardize, consolidate and re-engineer the delivery of end user device hardware, software and associated support services in order to enhance security and reduce costs.

As announced in Budget 2013, SSC's responsibilities have expanded to include the workplace technology devices, software and related support services. Workplace technology devices include all the devices that public servants, Ministers, and their staff use every day to access, create, process and store GC information. They include devices such as desktop computers, laptop computers, tablets, portable media storage devices (e.g., USB keys), printers and scanners. Today's devices are typically connected to the Internet, more portable than ever, more complex by design, and have far more functionality than previous generation devices. This makes them more useful as tools, but also makes them more vulnerable from an information technology (IT) security perspective.

Workplace technology device software includes, for example, an operating system to run the device; software programs used to access, create and process GC information (such as word processing software or spreadsheet software); a web browser that allows GC users to communicate with the outside world; and software that protects the devices (such as anti-virus software) or that protects the data stored on the device (such as hard-drive encryption software).
Various types of support services are required to assist those who use these workplace technology devices and software, such as help-desk support services and on-site support services.

WTDs and software are the gateway to most of the GC's IT infrastructure and are the means by which GC employees send and receive emails, transmit information across GC networks, and access information stored in GC data centres, making them attractive targets that provide unique opportunities for those who are intent on exploiting them. WTDs are the entry point to all of Canada's information holdings, which include, for example, classified and protected information, personal and private information of Canadian citizens, confidential and trade secrets of third parties, and other sensitive information – a third party accessing this information could affect Canada's national interests and national security.

A recent threat assessment conducted by the GC confirms that threats to workplace technology devices and software are prevalent and threat actors are actively exploiting opportunities in this realm of information technology. In addition, the GC has confirmed that threat vectors (i.e., entry points for cyber-attacks) continue to expand with workplace technology devices and software becoming more frequent targets, concluding that threats to WTDs and software pose a high level of risk to the GC's infrastructure and thus to sensitive GC information.

This National Security Exception will apply to a variety of procurements, which may involve different procurement strategies.

The Goods and Services Identification Numbers (GSINs) listed above as part of this NSE invocation notice are included solely as a matter of convenience in order to allow for broader dissemination of the notice to suppliers that have registered for this service/feature and should not be construed in any way as limiting NSE invocation only to the goods or services associated with these GSINs.