

**RETURN BIDS TO:**  
**RETOURNER LES SOUMISSIONS À:**  
Bid Receiving - PWGSC/Réception des  
soumissions - TPSGC  
11 Laurier St./11, rue Laurier  
Place du Portage, Phase III  
Core 0A1/Noyau 0A1  
Gatineau  
Quebec  
K1A0S5  
Bid Fax: (819) 997-9776

**LETTER OF INTEREST**  
**LETTRE D'INTÉRÊT**

Comments - Commentaires

Vendor/Firm Name and Address  
Raison sociale et adresse du  
fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur

Issuing Office - Bureau de distribution  
Canadian Surface Combatant Project (CSC)/Projet Navire  
de combat canadien (NCC)  
105 Hôtel de Ville  
Gatineau  
Quebec  
K1A 0S5

<b>Title - Sujet</b> Bid Evaluation Support Services	
<b>Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation</b> W847S-150029/A	<b>Date</b> 2014-07-02
<b>Client Reference No. - N° de référence du client</b> W847S-150029	<b>GETS Ref. No. - N° de réf. de SEAG</b> PW-\$CSC-005-24555
<b>File No. - N° de dossier</b> 005csc.W847S-150029	<b>CCC No./N° CCC - FMS No./N° VME</b>
<b>Solicitation Closes - L'invitation prend fin</b> <b>at - à 02:00 PM</b> <b>on - le 2014-07-21</b>	
<b>Time Zone</b> <b>Fuseau horaire</b> Eastern Daylight Saving Time EDT	
<b>F.O.B. - F.A.B.</b> <b>Plant-Usine:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Destination:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other-Autre:</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Address Enquiries to: - Adresser toutes questions à:</b> Finlayson, Jim	<b>Buyer Id - Id de l'acheteur</b> 005csc
<b>Telephone No. - N° de téléphone</b> (819) 997-7393 ( )	<b>FAX No. - N° de FAX</b> ( ) -
<b>Destination - of Goods, Services, and Construction:</b> <b>Destination - des biens, services et construction:</b>  Specified Herein Précisé dans les présentes	

Instructions: See Herein

Instructions: Voir aux présentes

<b>Delivery Required - Livraison exigée</b> See Herein	<b>Delivery Offered - Livraison proposée</b>
<b>Vendor/Firm Name and Address</b> <b>Raison sociale et adresse du fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur</b>	
<b>Telephone No. - N° de téléphone</b> <b>Facsimile No. - N° de télécopieur</b>	
<b>Name and title of person authorized to sign on behalf of Vendor/Firm</b> <b>(type or print)</b> <b>Nom et titre de la personne autorisée à signer au nom du fournisseur/</b> <b>de l'entrepreneur (taper ou écrire en caractères d'imprimerie)</b>	
<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>

Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation

W847S-150029/A

Amd. No. - N° de la modif.

File No. - N° du dossier

005cscW847S-150029

Buyer ID - Id de l'acheteur

005csc

Client Ref. No. - N° de réf. du client

W847S-150029

CCC No./N° CCC - FMS No/ N° VME

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## **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)**

**FOR**

### **CANADIAN SURFACE COMBATANT BID EVALUATION SUPPORT**

**FOR**

**The Department of Public Works and Government Services Canada  
(PWGSC)**

This is not a bid solicitation. Canada is seeking feedback from industry with respect to Bid Evaluation Support

## **1.0 Introduction**

### **1.1 Overview**

The Canadian Surface Combatant (CSC) project will recapitalize the Royal Canadian Navy's (RCN) surface combatant fleet by replacing and updating the capabilities found in both the Iroquois-class destroyers and the Halifax-class frigates. This project will deliver ships capable of meeting multiple threats in both the open ocean and the highly complex coastal environment. These ships will optimize commonality of systems and design and will ensure that Canada can continue to monitor and defend its waters and make significant contributions to international naval operations.

In this Request for Information (RFI) related to Bid Evaluation Support for the CSC Project, Canada is seeking Industry input on the services and software products which are available to support the development of evaluation criteria and the execution of an evaluation process, based on a proven methodology and supported by software.

In responding to the questions included in this RFI, we would appreciate it if the information provided is complete and not require referencing other material not included in your response.

Note: This procurement is subject to the National Security Exception (NSE) and is therefore excluded from all of the obligations of the trade agreements.

### **1.2 Objectives of the RFI**

The purpose of the RFI is to help Canada determine Industry's capability to supply the services and software necessary to facilitate the CSC procurement.

The objectives of the RFI are to:

- a. provide an opportunity for those interested to make available information they feel Canada should be aware of when planning for the acquisition of proven expertise and professional advice in supporting complex, high-value defence procurements enabled by commercial software for structuring, managing and executing bid evaluations ; and
- b. enable Canada to develop bid solicitation documents for this work.

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## **2. Instructions to Respondents**

The following sub-sections provide specific instructions for respondents.

### **2.1 Nature of Request for Information**

This is not a bid solicitation. This RFI will not result in the award of any contract; therefore, potential suppliers of any goods or services described in this RFI should not earmark stock or facilities, nor allocate resources, as a result of any information contained in this RFI. Nor will this RFI result in the creation of any source list; therefore, whether or not any potential supplier responds to this RFI will not preclude that supplier from participating in any future procurement. Also, the procurement of any of the goods and services described in this RFI will not necessarily follow this RFI. This RFI is simply intended to solicit feedback from industry with respect to the contents of this RFI.

### **2.2 Response Costs**

Canada will not reimburse any respondent for expenses incurred in responding to this RFI.

### **2.3 Treatment of Responses**

**Use of Responses:** Responses will not be formally evaluated. However, the responses received may be used by Canada to develop or modify procurement strategies or any draft documents. Canada will review all responses received by the RFI closing date. Canada may, in its discretion, review responses received after the RFI closing date.

**Review Team:** A review team composed of representatives from Canada will review the responses. Canada reserves the right to hire any independent consultant, or use any government resources that it considers necessary to review any response. Not all members of the review team will necessarily review all responses.

**Confidentiality:** Respondents should mark any portions of their response that they consider proprietary or confidential. Canada and its consultants will treat those portions of the responses as confidential to the extent permitted by the Access to Information Act.

**Post-Response Review Meetings:** Canada may request individual Post-Response Review Meetings with respondents to provide clarity on information provided. If required, these will be held at the most appropriate location, to be determined at a later date. The intent of these meetings will be to provide an opportunity for a face-to-face discussion with respondents. Although respondents may request a meeting, and their request will be considered, Canada will determine whether it requires additional information from any given respondent and will schedule meetings accordingly. All such requests, by respondents, should be forwarded to the Contracting Authority.

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## 2.4 Response Format

Section 3 contains specific questions that are consecutively numbered. Respondents are asked to submit responses indexed by the specific RFI question number. Respondents are asked to repeat the question prior to their response for reviewer convenience.

Respondents are requested to submit one softcopy, in PDF format, of their response.

## 2.5 Numbering System

Each question has its own unique number. Respondents are requested to prepare their response using a numbering system corresponding to the one in this RFI. All references to descriptive material, technical manuals, and any brochures included as part of the response, should be referenced accordingly.

## 2.6 Enquiries

Because this is not a bid solicitation, Canada will not necessarily respond to all enquiries in writing or by circulating answers to all potential suppliers. However, respondents with questions regarding this RFI may direct their enquiries to the Contracting Authority identified herein.

## 2.7 Submission of Responses

Respondents should send responses electronically via e-mail to the Contracting Authority's address identified herein by the date specified on the front page of the RFI.

All requested information is to be provided to the Contracting Authority, preferably on or before the closing date of the RFI.

## 2.8 Contracting Authority

Contracting Authority: Jim Finlayson  
E-mail Address: Jim.Finlayson@pwgsc-tpgsc.gc.ca  
Telephone No.: (819) 997-7393

### 3. Questions

This section solicits specific feedback and comments on Bid Evaluation Support. Detailed comments and responses are requested.

Q1. Canada would like to acquire a holistic solution to support the evaluation of proposals in high complexity, high value defence procurements. This would include acquiring professional services to support the development of evaluation criteria and associated software to support the evaluation and selection process. Listed below are potential technical requirements. Do you view the criteria as stated below to be reasonable? Are there other requirements that should be considered? Please elaborate.

Mandatory Criteria 1	Professional services experience supporting the development of evaluation criteria for 5 competitive, high complexity, high dollar-value defence procurements in the last 5 years.
Mandatory Criteria 2	The software must have been used in the evaluation of proposals for at least 5 competitive, high complexity, high dollar value military procurements in the last 5 years.
Mandatory Criteria 3	The Contractor must, at all times during the performance of the Contract, hold a valid Facility Security Clearance at the level of SECRET, issued by the Canadian Industrial Security Directorate (CISD), Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) and Contractor personnel requiring access to PROTECTED/CLASSIFIED information, assets or sensitive work site(s) must EACH hold a valid personnel security screening at the level of SECRET granted or approved by CISD/PWGSC.
Mandatory Criteria 4	The Contractor must sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement prior to Contract award.
Mandatory Criteria 5	The software must be presently commercially available.

Q2. Canada would like a perpetual license for the software tool. What license elements should also be factored in from a contractual perspective? What is the estimated cost for the license? Is your license costing dependant on number of users?

Q3. When considering licensing and the appropriate unit(s) of measure, there are a number of elements that impact a potential contract. What elements do you consider to be significant?

Q4. We are aware that there are evaluation support software tools are commercially available. Canada requires a tool which is adapted to a military context. Are there certifications, qualifications or standards applicable to this category of software and your solution?

Q5. What is the availability of hosted services in a secure domain? Alternatively, what infrastructure would Canada need to consider to host your solution?

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Q6. Given the commercial availability of requirements management software (e.g. IBM DOORS), Microsoft Office software and web application software, what should Canada be aware of with regards to interoperability between your solution and aforementioned types of software?

Q7 From a management perspective, Canada considers accountability, accuracy, accessibility and reporting functionality to be important. What other considerations would you suggest?

Q8 From a technical perspective, Canada considers security, adaptability and compatibility to be significant. What other considerations would you suggest?

Q9 From a user perspective, Canada considers quality in use, quality in execution and quality in results to be significant. What other considerations would you suggest?

Q10 Given the questions above, is there additional data, information and/or knowledge Canada should be aware of with respect to the implementation of your methodology for the development of evaluation criteria and your software solution (e.g. Training, workshops and support)?