The following questions and answers are regarding RFP 01R11-15-S006 for Online Delivery Services - RISMA.

QUESTION 1

The RFP indicates "a web segment is to be developed" is this to be developed as standalone system or part of GeoCENS? That is could you provide clarification on the expectation of the system you are requesting:

Is the proposed work to develop an independent new system RISMA or build into GeoCENS or interface with GeoCENS through web services?

ANSWER 1

We need to have a system that will deliver the soil moisture data to our users reliably, cost-effectively and in a user friendly format. The proposed work does not have to be dependent upon the GeoCENS system at all, and all bids will be reviewed and evaluated on their own merits.

QUESTION 2

What role is GeoCENS playing with respect to this new project?

ANSWER 2

GeoCENS is independent of this new project. They may choose to bid on it we do not know.

QUESTION 3

Can we get information about the GeoCENS such as design document and functional specification/data model if we are developing or interfacing or retrieving data from this system?

ANSWER 3

GeoCENS is independent of this new project, and RISMA (raw and calibrated) data are to be retrieved from the AAFC server.

QUESTION 4

Can you provide comments if GeoCENS met all your requirements and if there were any deficiencies in the system?

ANSWER 4

The GeoCENS web interface met all the functionality requirements. However, the stability of the system could be improved.

QUESTION 5

If GeoCENS is part of this project has it been deployed to support
public request? That is was design as operational system or
prototype?

ANSWER 5

GeoCENS is independent of this new project.

QUESTION 6

Is the contractor responsible for supporting this system if they have
to interface or develop onto it?

ANSWER 6

The contractor will be responsible to develop a new web interface or adapt their pre-existing interface to
meet the requirements included in this RFP. The contractor would also be responsible to maintain the
functionality of this interface throughout the duration of the contract.

QUESTION 7

Do you have expectation on the number users that will be requesting
data both total and concurrently that system has to support?

ANSWER 7

The total number of expected users is unknown at this time, but it is currently under 100.   We are
expecting a continuous increase in the number of users so the past numbers should be considered just an
indicator of the capacity needed.

QUESTION 8

Please clarify that the vendor is responsible for the providing the
hosting environment. Could you elaborate on the deployment of the new
system:

Is the contractor responsibility to host the web platform or is AAFC
going to provide an existing server?

ANSWER 8

The contractor is responsible to host the platform.

QUESTION 9

Does the web platform need to retain the soil moisture database, if
not where will the data reside?

ANSWER 9

Yes.

QUESTION 10

Can the new system be a cloud based system?

ANSWER 10

Yes, providing it meets the criteria in the RFP.

QUESTION 11

Is there an defined Service Level for this system(Help desk
requirements (24-7 or regular business hours), hours for help desk,
response times for incidents, acceptable downtimes etc.) ? If not can
you provide an idea of what these might be?

ANSWER 11

Yes, the RFP stipulates that user technical support is to be provided through email or telephone in English
for the users at a minimum from Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., excluding statutory
holidays. Response times for incidents are to be specified to less than 24 hours. Acceptable downtime for
the system is to be specified to less than 24 hours, but a forewarning notice will be required to be
displayed on the platform's website to inform users of the downtime.

QUESTION 12

What web browser type and version is required for support? Is mobile
support required?

ANSWER 12

 The most recent version of Internet Explorer (currently 10) and Mozilla Firefox (currently 31.0) is
required for support. Mobile support is not required.

QUESTION 13

Is all the web content for the network description in ready format for
providing once the contract is awarded?

ANSWER 13

Yes.

QUESTION 14

What interactive functionality is required from the web map? Is this
just for displaying the location or are there any functionality you
would like to have with map and data?

ANSWER 14

The web map is to include the location of the sub-networks and for each sub-network, a link is to be
provided to directly access a page that will display another map of the sub-network and a list to access the
various stations within that sub-network.

QUESTION 15

To what degree is the system to be security hardened? For example
would a formal security analysis/penetration test be required or
simply follow standard best practices.

ANSWER 15

Standard best practices are to be followed.

QUESTION 16

For data visualization capabilities are the parameters requested
already calculated in an existing database such min/max Temp or is the
contractor responsible for deriving these values?

ANSWER 16

The equations for the statistics can be provided to the contractor. Given that there is a constant flow of
near real-time data, the contractor is responsible to implement these equations in their system.

QUESTION 17

How much data parameters need to be converted as indicated in v.?

ANSWER 17

Six parameters will require conversion (processing): Average wind direction; average wind speed;
maximum wind speed; minimum wind speed; total precipitation, past hour; total precipitation, since
midnight.

QUESTION 18

Can you further elaborator on expectation for displaying "each sub-network in a timely manner" when specifically how long is consider not timely i.e. 5s?

ANSWER 18

An acceptable wait time is less than 5 seconds.

QUESTION 19

Can you elaborate what you specifically want graphed i.e. is all meteorological and soil moisture values or specific ones? What customizable functionality are you expecting?

ANSWER 19

The interface should allow for graphical display of all parameters (meteorological and soil moisture/temperature) collected with different options of time series (1 week, 1 month, 6 months, 1 year, all data). The capability for graphical display can be accessed through the sub-network page or a standalone page.

QUESTION 20

Do you have specific "look-feel standard for web content and if so can you provide this?

ANSWER 20

No, there is no standard for the look and feel of the website.

QUESTION 21

Please confirm and clarify the correctness of the statement "must be fully functional by September 30, 2014", Are you expecting the new system fully functional by this date in operational mode for the public? And if so, is AAFC aware of existing solution that will meet all the requirements? How was this date determined?

ANSWER 21

The system is to be fully functional by September 30, 2014, i.e. operational and accessible for the public. This was stipulated to ensure continuity in the RISMA data accessibility. As per the RFP, AAFC felt it was necessary to tender the requirement as there may be other companies that can offer the services we need. This will ensure an open and transparent approach while seeking best value for the Crown.