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Core 0B2 / Noyau 0B2
Gatineau
Québec
K1A 0S5
Bid Fax: (819) 997-9776

SOLICITATION AMENDMENT MODIFICATION DE L'INVITATION

The referenced document is hereby revised; unless otherwise indicated, all other terms and conditions of the Solicitation remain the same.

Ce document est par la présente révisé; sauf indication contraire, les modalités de l'invitation demeurent les mêmes.

Comments - Commentaires

Vendor/Firm Name and Address
Raison sociale et adresse du
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Issuing Office - Bureau de distribution
Informatics Professional Services Division / Division
des services professionnels en informatique
11 Laurier St., / 11, rue Laurier
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Gatineau
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Title - Sujet TASK BASED SERV. (TBIPS SUP. ARR.)	
Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation W8486-141066/B	Amendment No. - N° modif. 003
Client Reference No. - N° de référence du client W8486-141066	Date 2015-02-17
GETS Reference No. - N° de référence de SEAG PW-\$\$ZM-384-28436	
File No. - N° de dossier 384zm.W8486-141066	CCC No./N° CCC - FMS No./N° VME
Solicitation Closes - L'invitation prend fin at - à 02:00 PM on - le 2015-02-27	Time Zone Fuseau horaire Eastern Standard Time EST
F.O.B. - F.A.B. Plant-Usine: <input type="checkbox"/> Destination: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other-Autre: <input type="checkbox"/>	
Address Enquiries to: - Adresser toutes questions à: Beaudoin, Michael	Buyer Id - Id de l'acheteur 384zm
Telephone No. - N° de téléphone (819) 956-0300 ()	FAX No. - N° de FAX (819) 956-1207
Destination - of Goods, Services, and Construction: Destination - des biens, services et construction:	

Instructions: See Herein

Instructions: Voir aux présentes

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

SOLICITATION AMENDMENT 003

This amendment is raised to:

- 1) incorporate questions and answers into the Solicitation.**
 - 2) insert definition of "Simulation" to Annex A; Section 6 Terminology.**
 - 3) replace Table titled "Initial Contract Period" under Section 2.1 Initial Contract Period**
 - 4) replace "Contractor Facility Requirements" from Attachment 4.1 evaluation criteria**
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1) Please include the following Questions and Answers:

Question 7: Submission of Only One Bid From a Bidding Group: Please confirm the practicalities of Part 3.1 (d). Natural persons, corporations, partnerships, etc are (or are not) allowed to participate in more than one bid? So the same natural person's resume would (or would not) be able to appear in different bids?

Answer:

Article 3.1 (d) refers to the bidder(s), not the resources being provided as part of the bid.

Question 8: Contractor Facility: Is the facility rate then a firm fixed rate that will be incurred every year the option for that year is exercised? Or is it something that is to be built in to the rates for all of the resources? Please confirm the values for F6-F10 are not considered a "per diem rate" for a "Resource Category" for the purposes of Section 4.3 (c), but they are still used to calculate Total Contract Value = F1+F2+F3+F4+F5+F6+F7+F8+F9+F10?

Answer:

Canada is seeking a firm fixed rate for the Contractor Facility (F6-F10) which will be used to calculate the Total Contract value.

Question 9: Definition of “simulation”: The term “simulation” is not formally defined, which would lead bidders to use other sources. Some of which may be fairly open ended. For example, according to IEEE 610:12-1990 “Simulation - A model that behaves or operates like a given system when provided a set of controlled inputs.” Wikipedia’s definition of simulation has a picture of a wooden mechanical horse simulator from WWI. Using only these definitions a simple excel spreadsheet would constitute “simulation software”. Similarly, the following trivial code snippet would qualify as a model of a clock:

```
while (true) {i++; Thread.sleep(1000); System.out.println(i);}
```

In order to provide more clarity, would the Crown consider inserting the following definition into Section 4 (Terminology) of Attachment 4.1?

Term #	Term	Description
3	Simulation	A human-in-the-loop software model that imitates a real world process or system over time. In order to be considered relevant for the purposes of this SOW the simulation must have been used on a training or experimentation event spanning at least 2 days. The software model must not be considered trivial (consisting of fewer than 5,000 Non-Commented Lines Of Code (NLOCs) of a 3 rd generation programming language).

Answer:

Canada will be assessing candidate submissions to establish their level of demonstrated experience with “Simulation” software. In order to further clarify the requirement, Please refer to the definition of inserted into Annex A Section 6 Terminology.

Question 10: Definition of “Military Simulation”. In order to provide more clarity, would the Crown consider inserting the following definition to Section 4 (Terminology) of Attachment 4.1?

Term #	Term	Description
2	Military Simulation	A simulation (as defined below) that is used by the military to fulfill military training objectives on training events in Canada (or any ABCA or NATO ally) with a Primary Training Audience of 10 or more people. This specifically precludes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C2/C4ISTAR tools, • Any application/tool that is not recognized by planners and participants of that exercise as a simulation necessary to the accomplishing of the training objectives of the event.

Answer:

Please refer to Annex A Section 6: Terminology for the description of Military Simulation.

Question 11: Definition of “Interface”. There are a number of locations in Attachment 4.1 where interfacing with certain applications or types of applications are cited. But without a formal definition as to what type, quantity and requirement of data transferred in the interface, nor a measure as to how and where the interface is used, it leaves a lot to interpretation. In order to provide more clarity, would the Crown consider inserting the following definition to Section 4 (Terminology) of Attachment 4.1?

Term #	Term	Description
1	Interface	A shared boundary across which information is passed between military simulations or a military simulation and a military C2 system. The interface must have been used by the military to fulfill military training objectives on training events in Canada (or any ABCA or NATO ally) with a Primary Training Audience of 10 or more people. The data passed on these training events must be recognized by planners and participants as necessary to the accomplishing of the training objectives of the event.

Answer:

Canada will be assessing candidate submissions to establish their level of demonstrated experience in interfacing with specific applications or specific types of applications. Canada will not include this definition as it would limit competition.

Question 12: Definition of Simulated To Live Interface Software. Without further clarification, the definition of Simulated to Live Interface (STLI) as it stands from the initial release of W8486-141066/B could be met by an industrious programmer in a few hours and yield a piece of software which accomplishes nothing useful, but meets the definition of STLI. As an example, take an open source word processing application (word processors are often found in "live" C2 suites, such as LCSS). Next download the MySQL JDBC driver, and Open-DIS libraries. Take the heartbeat from Open-DIS, put that value into the open document, and write the value into a simple one-column table in MySQL, and presto - the word processor would be considered a STLI. By defining the terms above and the following suggested changes to the definition of STLI, solutions that have more relevance to requirements of the SOW would be provided.

Term #	Term	Description
4	Simulated to Live Interface (STLI) Software	Software that interfaces between a military simulation and a live C2 system where the simulated environment is used to stimulate the live system and where the interface can transfer components of the live system to some or all of the military simulations. The STLI Software must also allow recording/capture of the data that passes between the interfaces. STLI Software must have performed these capabilities on training events in Canada (or any ABCA or NATO ally) with a Primary Training Audience of 10 or more people using the following protocols/standards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributed Interactive Simulation (DIS) - AND- • Structured Query Language

Answer:

Canada will be assessing candidate submissions to establish their level of demonstrated experience with STLI software. Canada will not include this definition as it would limit competition.

Question 13: In the Mandatory Resource Requirements found in Attachment 4.1 – Evaluation Criteria, there are educational requirements: 'A university undergraduate degree in Computer Science, Mathematics or Engineering...' Please confirm that a degree in Physics would be deemed compliant for this requirement. Note this question was asked in response to Solicitation W8486-141066/A.

Answer:

A university undergraduate degree in Physics would be deemed compliant for this requirement.

Question 14: Part 1 – General Information, Section 1.2 Summary, Clause (b) states 'It is intended to result in the award of a contract for Three (3) years.' This is in conflict with the rate tables beginning on Page 105 under heading 2.1 Initial Contract Period and Section 2.2 Option Periods, which indicate an initial term of one (1) year, with four 1-year options. Please clarify.

Answer:

The initial Contract will be for one (1) year with four (4) one (1) year option periods. Section 1.2 (b) will be amended to correct the error.

Question 15: Part 7 Resulting Contract Clauses, Section 7.1 Task Authorization, Clause (c) on page 25 refers to a contractor response to a draft task authorization of 2 days. We request that the Crown extend the allotted response time from two days to five days in accordance with the majority of other task authorization-based contracts. Note this question was asked in response to Solicitation W8486-141066/A.

Answer:

Please refer to answer 3. Canada is agreement. Canada will provide 5 days to respond.

Question 16: The response to Amendment 2, Question 5 of Solicitation W8486-141066/A indicated that DND's preference is for 1 or 2 physical locations within the NCR or within 250 KM of the NCR. Please confirm that this response remains valid for Solicitation W8486-141066/B, as long as the collective facilities are sufficient to accommodate up to 25 Workstations and a Server Room.

Answer:

Canada's requirement is for one (1) office space suitable to accommodate up to 25 workstations and a Server Room at contract award. Upon contract award, the Contractor must make the facility available within 30 days of written notice from Canada.

Question 17: Mandatory Requirement M1, Page 71 stipulates that the Bidder has demonstrated having sufficient office/work space to accommodate up to 25 Workstations. Please confirm that this facility is not required to be in place on bid submission, as long as the Bidder has satisfied the Crown that the facility will be in place once the resulting contract has been awarded.

Answer:

Canada confirms that the facility is not required on bid submission. Upon contract award, the Contractor must make the facility available within 30 days of written notice from Canada.

Question 18: With respect to the subject solicitation, we have the following recommendation of an "Improvement of Requirement During the Solicitation Period":

Part 2 – Bidder Instructions, Clause 2.5 Improvement of Requirement During Solicitation Period, page 9, indicates that the Crown will consider suggested improvements to the solicitation specifications or the Statement of Work. To that end, we recommend that the Crown consider adding another labour category to the Solicitation, called Programmer/Analyst (A.7) [CAMX], Level 2.

Our rationale for this addition is to ensure there is adequate coverage within the Modeling and Simulation team to address development and support requirements associated with the Civilian Activity Modeling for eXercises and eXperimentation tool (CAMX). CAMX has a long and proven history within the simulation world. CAMX is used, not only by the Canadian Army and DRDC, but also by NATO NC3A, the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom and the United States Secret Service. CAMX is used nearly exclusively with VBS2, and as such is used in most mid-fidelity to high-fidelity simulation exercises. It is a fundamental simulation tool within the Canadian Army's modeling and simulation portfolio and should be accorded the same level of support within the solicitation as the other simulation tools used (VBS2, JCATS, SimSpeak, ABACUS and JSAF).

We recommend that the mandatory evaluation criteria for the Programmer/Analyst [CAMX] category be similar to that of the Programmer/Analyst [VBS2] category, in terms of education and experience. We also recommend that the point rated criteria allow for a maximum point rated value of 14, but based on CAMX-related experience (likely including such areas as experience with C++, experience with similar crowd modeling simulations, experience with integration of artificial intelligence engines, etc.). From our knowledge of the industry, these mandatory and rated requirements would allow compliant bids from a number of bidders while ensuring a competitive process and best value for the Crown.

Answer:

Canada appreciates the recommendation however it will not be adding any resource categories.

Question 19: We have some highly qualified individuals that do not quite meet the specific "Computer Science, Mathematics or Engineering" or "CCPE"/"PEng" requirements but they are REALLY good and even have post-graduate degrees. Would the government be willing to change the contract to allow equivalency for post-graduate degrees from non-North American schools to be the same as PEng or EI-EAP? Please note that it can take many years of study to get a PhD - sometimes even longer than it does to get a PEng. And after all, based on the Statement Of Requirements, it is clear the work is not to build bridges or anything.

Answer:

Canada's is not in a position to change the requirement.

Question 20: Seeing as the government has lots of space now for DND at the old Nortel buildings, do we really have to have office space? It would save the government lots of money if they just put the people we find at Nortel.

Answer:

Canada has a requirement for the Contractor to have a facility to perform day to day work. The facility must have a suitable amount of space to accommodate up to 25 workstations. The facility must also have a Server Room suitable for housing hardware which will be used for setting up a development and test environment.

Question 21: Would it be OK to the government for a bidder to not have a workspace at the time of the bid, but promise to get one if they win? Just about any office in Ottawa would be able to accommodate desks and computers so it would not take too long to put in place. Could I just get my real-estate guy to give me an address and some pictures - the government does not need proof like a lease do they? If they do, would just a 6-12 month lease be OK? Realistically, by the time all the paperwork is done and the paint dries half the year is going to be over anyways. Getting a lease with 1 year options would be a real pain.

Answer:

Canada has a requirement for the Contractor to provide the Facility at Contract Award. Upon contract award, the Contractor must make the facility available within 30 days of written notice from Canada.

Question 22: If not, I am sure we could "team" with someone that has an office just for the purposes of the bid. We don't have to prove that the workspaces are not actually full with people working on other contracts do we?

Answer:

Canada has a requirement for the Contractor to provide the Facility at Contract Award. Upon contract award, the Contractor must make the facility available within 30 days of written notice from Canada.

Question 23: Regarding the pricing table on Page 105 of the RFP, specifically table 2.1 – Initial Contract Period, we note that the following categories are not included (likely because at this time there is an expectation that they will not be required during the Initial Contract Period):

Programmer/Analyst (A.7) [Simulation] Level 1; and

Programmer/Analyst (A.7) [VBS2] Level 2.

We respectfully request that these categories be included in the list, but with a Level of Effort value of zero (0) hours. The reason for this requested change is to enable a rate for these categories during the initial contract term, in case something changes and the Technical Authority (TA) determines that one or both will be required during that period. If there is no contract rate, the TA's needs may not be met.

Canada agrees with this recommendation but will include an estimated level of effort for evaluation purposes of 240 days.

Question 24: We are very interested in this opportunity. However, due to the extensive information requested in the RFP we respectfully request an extension to the current delivery date, of two (2) weeks, to provide us sufficient time to develop a quality, competitive response

Answer:

Due to operational requirements, Canada is not in a position to provide an extension.

2) Please add the following definition to Annex A;Section 6 Terminology

Simulation

A software system that runs models imitating a real world process, environment or system; used to stimulate live systems, in training or for experimentation.

Ex 1: Virtual BattleSpace 2 (VBS2) can simulate a battlefield including terrain, vehicles, personnel, troop movements and more. These troop movements can be seen in the live Command and Control tool (Land Command Support System) via the Virtual Command and Control Interface for training.

Ex 2: SimSpeak simulates the buttonology, user interface (UI), communication capabilities and models of a live radio system. The buttonology and UI train the user and the voice communications can be captured by the Virtual Command and Control Interface (VCCI) for replay during After Action Review (AAR) to assess the training audience's performance.

3) Please remove Table titled “Initial Contract Period” under Section 2.1 Initial Contract Period on page 105 and replace it with the following:

Initial Contract Period					
Resource Category	Level	Estimated Number of Resources (A1)	Level of Effort (For evaluation purposes only) (B1)	Firm Per diem Rate (C1)	Estimated Total (D1 = A1 x B1 x C1)
Programmer/Analyst (A.7) [Simulation]	1	1	240		
Programmer/Analyst (A.7) [Simulation]	2	1	240		
Programmer/Analyst (A.7) [VBS2]	2	1	240		
Programmer/Analyst (A.7) [JCATS]	3	1	240		
Programmer/Analyst (A.7) [SimSpeak]	3	1	240		
System Analyst (A.8) [ABACUS]	3	1	240		
System Analyst (A.8) [JSAF]	3	1	240		
Test Coordinator (A.10) [Simulation]	1	1	240		
Tester (A.11) [Simulation]	1	1	240		
IM Architect (I.5) [Simulation]	3	1	240		
System Administrator (I.9)	1	1	240		
System Administrator (I.9)	2	1	240		
System Administrator (I.9)	3	1	240		
Technology Architect (I.11) [Simulation]	3	1	240		
Enterprise Architect (P.2) [Simulation]	3	1	240		
Project Manager (P.9)	3	1	240		
F1 = Sum of D1 column					

4) Please remove “Contractor Facility Requirements” from Attachment 4.1 evaluation criteria and replace with the following:

Contractor Facility Requirements			
Mandatory Criteria – The Bidder (Company) must meet the following mandatory criteria. Failure to do so must result in the bid being declared non-compliant.			Where this is certified in the bid
Met			
Not Met			
M1	The Bidder certifies that it will have sufficient office space/work space to accommodate up to 25 Workstations at contract award (See Section 2.1 of Appendix 1: Hardware and Software Environments for recommended Workstation configurations).		
M2	<p>The Bidder certifies that it will have access to a “Server Room” in its facility at contract award. The Server Room must be suitable to house and operate hardware for a development and test environment (See Section 2.2 of Appendix 1: Hardware and Software Environments for more details). The following requirements must be met for the Server Room to be deemed compliant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adequate door width and height to allow moving the items into the room.• Adequate ceiling height to accommodate the hardware.• Equipped to deal with a potential fire in the room.• Adequate cooling (Air Conditioning) and ventilation to operate the provided hardware at the recommended performance specifications.• Adequate capacity and quality of electrical systems to support all the hardware powered on and running at the recommended performance specifications.• Abide by all building codes for a room that houses equipment of this nature.• Equipped with a locked door to limit access to the room.		

ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS REMAIN THE SAME