

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 0B2 / Noyau 0B2
Gatineau
Québec
K1A 0S5

Revision to a Request for Supply
Arrangement - Révision à une demande
pour un arrangement en matière
d'approvisionnement

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
fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur

Issuing Office - Bureau de distribution
Electronic Information Technology Professional Srv
Div/Div des srv professionnels en technologie de
l'information électronique
11 Laurier St. / 11 rue Laurier
Portage III 0A1 - 1
Gatineau
Québec
K1A 0S5

Title - Sujet TBIPS	
Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation EN578-055605/G	Date 2015-03-12
Client Reference No. - N° de référence du client EN578-055605	Amendment No. - N° modif. 005
File No. - N° de dossier 003ei.EN578-055605	CCC No./N° CCC - FMS No./N° VME
GETS Reference No. - N° de référence de SEAG PW-\$SEI-003-28442	
Date of Original Request for Supply Arrangement 2015-02-06 Date de demande pour un arrangement en matière d'app. originale	
Solicitation Closes - L'invitation prend fin at - à 02:00 PM on - le 2015-03-23	Time Zone Fuseau horaire Eastern Standard Time EST
Address Enquiries to: - Adresser toutes questions à: Bouliane Manon L.	Buyer Id - Id de l'acheteur 003ei
Telephone No. - N° de téléphone (819) 934-4667 ()	FAX No. - N° de FAX (819) 956-7827
Delivery Required - Livraison exigée	
Destination - of Goods, Services, and Construction: Destination - des biens, services et construction: As per contract	
Security - Sécurité This revision does not change the security requirements of the solicitation. Cette révision ne change pas les besoins en matière de sécurité de l'invitation.	

Instructions: See Herein

Instructions: Voir aux présentes

Acknowledgement copy required	Yes - Oui	No - Non
Accusé de réception requis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Offeror hereby acknowledges this revision to its Offer. Le proposant constate, par la présente, cette révision à son offre.		
Signature	Date	
Name and title of person authorized to sign on behalf of offeror. (type or print) Nom et titre de la personne autorisée à signer au nom du proposant. (taper ou écrire en caractères d'imprimerie)		
For the Minister - Pour le Ministre		

Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation

EN578-055605/G

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

EN578-055605

Amd. No. - N° de la modif.

005

File No. - N° du dossier

003eiEN578-055605

Buyer ID - Id de l'acheteur

003ei

CCC No./N° CCC - FMS No/ N° VME

Amendment #5 follow:

SOLICITATION AMENDMENT 005

This amendment is issued to :

- A. **Modifications #4 and #5**
 - B. **Clarification to Solicitation Amendment 003, A18, 1.**
 - C. **Answer questions received from bidders for this TBIPS Re-compete solicitation**
-

The deadline to submit questions was March 9, 2015. This is the last amendment issued to answer questions before the closing date.

A. **Modifications #4 and #5**

Modification #4

Component II, Part 6B, article 2.3 :

Delete:

- 2.3 Tier 1 Requirement Limitations:** Clients may award contracts to Suppliers qualified in the applicable Categories only in accordance with the following:
- (i) **Requirement Valued below \$25,000 (GST/HST included):** Clients may direct a contract to an eligible Supplier in accordance with the Government Contracts Regulations.

Insert:

- 2.3 Tier 1 Requirement Limitations:** Clients may award contracts to Suppliers qualified in the applicable Categories only in accordance with the following:
- (i) **Left blank intentionally**

Modification #5

In Attachment H to Component I, section 05 Submission of Bids, article (d)

Delete the following text:

(d) send its bid only to Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) Bid Receiving Unit specified on page 1 of the bid solicitation or to the address specified in the bid solicitation. The facsimile number and related instructions for bids transmitted by facsimile are provided in Section 08;

Insert the following text:

(d) send its bid only to Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) Bid Receiving Unit specified on page 1 of the bid solicitation or to the address specified in the bid solicitation;

B. Clarification #1 to Solicitation Amendment 003, Q&A 18, 1.

Add the following text to A.18, 1.

If bidding for the standing offer, bidders (new and existing) must submit firm per diem rates through their DCC bid submission for each category, level of experience, region/metropolitan area for which they are submitting a bid.

C. Questions and Answers

Q25:

We have the following questions regarding the TBIPS requirement:

Question 1

Can the Crown please provide clarification regarding how existing SA/SO holders using the grandfather certification are to complete the Mandatory Criteria to Financial, Certification, Number of Months in Business, Insurance Requirements in the DCC.

(i) Do existing SA/SO holders select the check box with the “I agree to the statement above” or do existing SA/SO holders not check the boxes at all.

(ii) In the case of information - do existing SA/SO holders provide the information being requested on the page or leave the fields blank.

Question 2

M1 – Financial Certification

(a) If this certification is being signed by the Bidder's duly authorized representative are existing SA/SO holders still required to complete the CFO or CEO contact information in the DCC?

(b) If the answer is yes does the Crown want the contact information for the authorized representative or either the CFO/CEO?

A25:

Answer to Question 1:

(i) Existing Holders are being asked to select the boxes with the statement “I agree to the statement above”. Existing Holders must provide a fully completed Grandfather Certification and Bidder's Statement. Please refer to Attachment E to Component I as well as Component I, Part 5 Certifications.

(ii) Existing Holders can leave these fields blank.

Answer to Question 2:

(a) No. Existing Holder can satisfy M.1 Financial Certification through the Grandfather Certification.

(b) n/a

Q26:

We currently hold a TBIPS SA. We have previously satisfied the M.4 TCVB criteria for Tier 2 services. We were able to satisfy the minimum number of substantiated positive references for Tier 2 in all but one stream. Hence, we were awarded Tier 1 for that particular stream. We are now in a position to substantiate additional categories for the one stream currently limited to Tier 1 and thereby qualify for Tier 2 services.

(i) As we are currently qualified for Tier 2 we plan to provide grandfather certification for M.4 and not resubmit TCVB information. Is this correct even though we are seeking additional categories to secure Tier 2 for a stream currently qualified for Tier 1?

(ii) We plan to change the status on DCC for currently unsubstantiated categories to newly substantiated categories in the stream that was not awarded Tier 2. The total substantiated categories will then exceed the minimum for Tier 2. All other streams that are already Tier 2 qualified will remain unchanged and the grandfather certification will include M5 for those streams. Is this the correct approach for applying for a higher tier in a specific stream?

A26:

- (i) Yes, that is correct.**
- (ii) Yes, that is the correct approach.**

Q27:

We are an existing TBIPS SO/SA tier-2 supplier. Under the last refresh, EN578-055605/E, we were awarded SO / SA tier-1 and tier-2 for three streams. For a fourth stream—Stream 5: Project Management Services—we were awarded SO / SA tier-1 (we hold five substantiated categories; six are needed for tier-2).

We have questions about upgrading Stream 5 to tier-2.

On DCC—under Mandatory Criteria, Group 3 (Tier-2), Stream Information—with Stream 5 (P) Project Management Services Status set to “Newly offered”, under View Categories for Stream 5 (P) Project Management Services, the only options available for Category Status are “Newly substantiated”, “Newly unsubstantiated”, and “Not offered”; “Currently substantiated” is not an option to carry over our five substantiated categories from tier-1 to tier-2.

Our questions are as follows:

1. As an existing TBIPS tier-2 supplier, to upgrade Stream 5 from tier-1 to tier-2 under this refresh,
(i.) do we provide one more substantiated category, for a total of six (as we are a TBIPS tier-2 supplier who holds five substantiated categories that qualify us for Stream 5 at SO/SA tier-1 level)—if so, how do we enter our five currently substantiated categories into DCC (selecting “Newly substantiated” generates in a Substantiate Reference requirement); or

(ii.) must we provide six new substantiated categories (that is, re-substantiate the five categories currently substantiated at SO/SA tier-1)?

2. As an existing tier -2 supplier for three streams, to satisfy Mandatory M.3 Insurance Requirements and Mandatory M.4 Total Cumulative Valued Billed, do we provide only the Grandfather Certification when qualifying the fourth stream?

A27:

1. (i.) To qualify for Tier 2 in Stream 5, you must hold 6 substantiated categories. If you currently hold 5, then you need one more Substantiated Category (i.e.: one more category needs a positive reference). To identify a category as either 'Currently Substantiated' or 'Currently Unsubstantiated in the DCC, you must first identify the Stream as 'Currently Offered'.

(ii.) No, only the new categories require substantiation

2. Yes

Q28

We are an existing SO/SA vendor. Some of the roles or levels that we have applied for have not been approved by PWGSC. These roles/levels are not listed on the Annex E Qualified Categories and Rates (by Category) – Standing Offer. Two examples of roles/levels we have not been approved for are:

- **Stream 3, Role I.2, Database Administrator Level 1 (but approved for level 2 and 3)**
- **Stream 3, Role I.11, Technology Architect Level 1 and 2 (but approved for level 3)**

Questions:

- 1. What rationale does the PWGSC use when approving one level, but not the other?**
- 2. How to interpret the Rank column on the Annex E Qualified Categories and Rates?**
- 3. What is the range for the values listed in the Rank column?**
- 4. What is the best Rank?**
- 5. What is the worst Rank that the Role/Level will still be approved with?**

A28:

1. Please refer to Attachment D Standing Offer Financial Evaluation, section FO.2.
2. A company that is ranked #1 has the lowest financially responsive per diem rate.
3. There is no range for the values listed in the Rank column. All bidders whose per diem rate fell within the parameters of the financial evaluation are considered financially response
4. #1 is considered the rank that has the lowest financially responsive per diem rate.
5. The financial evaluation is based on a Median. Therefore, there is no set number of bidders that financially qualify. Please refer to Attachment D.

Q29 :

We are proceeding with our refresh of the federal program « TBIPS » until March 23, 2015, here are a couple of our questions :

- 1. In our bid submission, must we only complete the Grandfather Certification, or do we have to re-submit our references.**
- 2. We are current SA Holders and will be submitting by March 23. Are we automatically qualified for the same categories under the SO? If yes, is having to submit rates new this year, it seems to me that last year it wasn't necessary to submit rates.**

A29 :

1. If you are not changing your technical qualifications on file, then you would fall under Column C of the Submission Grid located in Component I, Part 3, article 1.4.

You must provide the completed Grandfather Certification to retain your technical qualifications.

You must provide the completed Bidder's statement.

You do not have to resubmit your references for M.5.

If applying for the SO, then you must submit firm per diem rates through the DCC for each category, level of experience, region/metropolitan area that you are bidding for (there are no rates under the SA).

2. Please refer to Solicitation Amendment 004, Q&A 20.

Q30:

We are submitting the following question regarding Bid Solicitation No: EN578-055605/G, specifically item # 2.5 Bid Solicitation (RFSO/SA) page 9 of 133 of PDF document (as highlighted below) provided to Bidders.

Question: Is there a possibility that PWGSC may extend the re-compete period for Solicitation No: EN578-055605/G to 2 years or even longer?

2.5 Bid Solicitation (RFSO/SA) on (page 3 of 14 from Component I)

The RFSO/SA documents contain all the requirements relating to this bid solicitation. Any other information or documentation provided to or obtained by a bidder from any source is not relevant.

In as much as possible, PWGSC will issue a bid solicitation intended to replace the Supply Arrangements and Standing Offers for the Services on an annual basis, although PWGSC reserves the right to choose to proceed with a different procurement vehicle for the requirement if it considers such action appropriate. Each such recompetition (a "re-compete bid solicitation) requires all bidders, including those who may have received a SO and/or SA under the previous solicitation, to submit a bid in response to the re-compete bid solicitation in order to continue to provide services under its resulting Standing Offers and Supply Arrangements. The terms and conditions of each re-compete bid solicitation may add, modify or remove Categories/Streams, and may otherwise modify the requirements of the previous bid solicitation. As such, each re-compete bid solicitation stands alone, separate and apart from any previous bid solicitation. While some aspects of a bidder's bid may incorporate by reference information already in the possession of Canada, all the requirements of a re-compete bid solicitation must be met by each bidder by the re-compete RFSO/SA closing date.

Bidders must submit offers for a Standing Offer in accordance with the terms of each re-compete solicitation and no such offers may be submitted after the re-compete closing date until the next re-compete solicitation is solicited. However, suppliers may submit a bid for a Supply Arrangement at any time by responding to the most recent refresh terms and conditions posted on GETS.

Canada reserves the right to issue supply arrangements to bidders who qualify throughout the entire period of the Supply Arrangement. Evaluations of such arrangements will be processed on a quarterly basis, with targeted schedules identifying bid due dates for each quarterly evaluation cycle.

A30:

Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) has undertaken a complete review of its professional services procurement with the goal of improving the efficiency of its procurement tools and it was decided that each Re-compete solicitation would be done on an annual basis.

For that reason your request is denied.

Q31:

Having worked on our response to this as an existing TBIPS supplier and having read through the RFS/RFP and subsequent amendments I wanted to reach out and just verify that I have this correct. As I understand, since we are an existing TBIPS supplier and are not looking to make any changes/add/remove any TBIPS tiers/streams that we are to complete/submit everything via the DCC (CPSS Portal) except for Attachment E to Component I (1. Grandfather Certification & 2. Bidders Statement) which should be submitted as a hard copy.

1. Am I correct in my understanding that our only hard copy submission should be a signed cover of the RFP/RFS and Attachment E?
2. May these items be submitted electronically or only in hard copy to:

Bid Receiving - PWGSC / Réception des
soumissions - TPSGC
11 Laurier St. / 11, rue Laurier
Place du Portage, Phase III
Core 0B2 / Noyau 0B2
Gatineau
Québec
K1A 0S5

Your confirmation would be much appreciated as I would hate to be declared non-responsive due to a misunderstanding.

A31:

1. Yes
2. They should be submitted in hard copy to the Bid Receiving Unit by the closing date and time.

Q32:

Question: Attachment H to Component 1: Standard Instructions – Request for Standing Offers and Supply Arrangements – Competitive Requirements. Section 01 Integrity Provisions – Bid: Section 10: “Foreign Offences” states:

“Foreign Offences

The Bidder also certifies that, within a period, as defined in the Time Period subsection, neither the Bidder nor any of the Bidder's Affiliates have been convicted of or have received a conditional or an absolute discharge, under any foreign offence that Canada deems to be of similar constitutive elements to the offences listed in these Integrity Provisions. Canada will also consider foreign measures declared by Canada to be similar in nature to the Canadian pardon, record suspension, or restoration of capacities by the Governor in Council.”

Question #1 Can you clarify that this can be limited to Bidder under TBIPS and delete “bidders affiliate”? What are the remedies?

Question#2: Please clarify if the Government of Canada would insert the previous Integrity Provisions clauses?

A32:

Answer #1: The PWGSC's Integrity Framework does not include any discretionary provision, therefore we are unable to make changes to it. <http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ci-if/ci-if-eng.html>

Answer #2: Same as A32, Answer #1 above.

Q33 :

1. We already have a Standing Offer : XXXXX-XXXXXX/xxx/EI. So, for the “refresh” we only have to complete the Grandfather Certification (if I've understood correctly.)
Our question is as follows:
2. If we add a category to our bid, is our Financial Bid under Grandfather Certification still good, or do we have to submit a new Financial Bid?
3. If we add a region to our bid, is our Financial Bid under Grandfather Certification still good, or do we have to submit a new Financial Bid?

A33 :

1. If bidding for the standing offer in response to this re-competition, then the bidder must submit firm per diem rates for each category, level of experience, and Region/Metropolitan area for which it is submitting a bid. An existing SO Holder that is not changing its technical qualifications would fall under Column C of the Submission Grid located in Component I, Part 3, article 1.4.
2. If bidding for an additional category, then the bidder must substantiate this category with a positive reference as detailed in Attachment B, M.5 Identification of Categories. Also, refer to A.33 1. above.
3. Please refer to A33 1. from above

Q34 :

Our company is an existing TBIPS holder applying for additional category(ies). Please confirm that any categories for which a company has been previously substantiated (therefore currently grandfathered on the new bid) count toward the total number of unsubstantiated categories the Bidder is eligible for. For example, we are currently substantiated for 9 out of 12 categories on Stream 5 (3 categories of 12 are currently unsubstantiated). In the new TBIPS SO/SA contract, there have been two (2) additional categories added to this Stream (P.13 Independent IT Project Review Team Leader and P.14 Independent IT Project Reviewer) making the new total of 14 categories.

Following the rules for unsubstantiated categories, it is bidder's interpretation that without substantiating additional and three (3) unsubstantiated categories, we would be eligible for four (4) unsubstantiated categories (50% of 9) with our current nine (9) substantiated categories. If the bidder's interpretation is correct, we could offer unsubstantiated category for one 1 of 2 additional categories as well as those previously covered, without substantiating additional categories in Stream 5.

Is the Bidder's interpretation correct? Please advise.

A34 :

The bidder's interpretation is incorrect. As per Attachments B & C, M.5 Identification of Categories, article 7 (iii), "the unsubstantiated Categories submitted through this bid process can only be awarded against Categories substantiated through this bid process." You would need two positive references (two newly substantiated categories in the stream) to qualify for one newly unsubstantiated category.

Q35 :

**We have the following question on the above mentioned RFP:
Due to the complexity of the solicitation would PWGSC consider granting bidders an extension?**

A35:

The bid closing date remains the same.

ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS REMAIN UNCHANGED.