

ADVANCE CONTRACT AWARD NOTICE

AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA – No. 01B68-15-0228

The Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) has a requirement for the provision of an online subscription to American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB) – The Plant Cell and Plant Physiology Online.

The purpose of this Advance Contract Award Notice (ACAN) is to signal the government's intention to award a contract for these services to:

American Society of Plant Biologists

15501 Monona Drive
Rockville, MD USA
20855-2768

Before awarding the contract, however, the government would like to provide other suppliers with the opportunity to demonstrate that they are capable of satisfying the requirements set out in this Notice, by submitting a statement of capabilities during the 15 calendar day posting period.

If other potential suppliers submit a statement of capabilities during the 15 calendar day posting period that meet the requirements set out in the ACAN, the government will proceed to a full tendering process on either the government's electronic tendering service or through traditional means, in order to award the contract.

If no other supplier submits, on or before the closing date, a statement of capabilities meeting the requirements set out in the ACAN, contracts will be awarded to the pre-selected supplier.

Project Title:

Library subscriptions to two electronic journals published by the American Society of Plant Biologists.

Background:

The American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB) is a professional society devoted to the advancement of the plant sciences. It publishes *The Plant Cell* and *Plant Physiology* and focuses on the physiology, molecular biology, environmental biology, cell biology and biophysics of plants.

CAL has subscribed to *The Plant Cell* and *Plant Physiology* online since 1999. These are key resources for AAFC staff. Articles from these journals were accessed over 9,400 times during the past 12 months. Licensing these electronic resources supports AAFC'S mandate by providing AAFC scientists and staff improved access to information. These e-resources directly support staff in Science and Technology Branch.

Details of the current contract:

Current contract expires on December 31, 2015. The cost per year was as follows:

| | | |
|------|----------------|----------------|
| 2013 | \$6,111.00 USD | \$6,099.39 CAD |
| 2014 | \$6,416.55 USD | \$6,824.64 CAD |
| 2015 | \$6,737.38 USD | \$8,454.06 CAD |

Objective:

The Canadian Agriculture Library (CAL) has received PRB approval (#201516-124) to issue a **sole source contract** to the **American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB)** to renew Library subscriptions to ASPB's two e-journals.

This requirement will be processed as a one year, sole-source service contract (with two option years) through AAFC procurement, posting as an ACAN on Buyandsell.gc.ca.

It is expected that this contract will be renewed annually for the foreseeable future so pricing for two option years has been negotiated with ASPB.

Scope of Work:

The American Society of Plant Biologists will license and deliver web access to the full-text content of the two subscribed e-journals as stated in the statement of work below for the time period specified in the license agreement.

- Provide AAFC and portfolio clients with department-wide web-based access to the ASPB e-journals via a secure network, using IP authentication.
- Ensure that the server has adequate capacity and bandwidth to support the usage of the licensee at a level commensurate with the standards of availability for information services of similar scope operating via the World Wide Web.
- Use all reasonable endeavors to make the licensed material available to the licensee and authorized users at all times and on a twenty-four hour basis, save for scheduled routine maintenance, and to restore access to the licensed materials as soon as possible in the event of an interruption or suspension of the service.
- Provide adequate and competent technical support and assistance to enable the licensee to make proper use of the licensed material.

Subject Coverage

| Journal Title | Coverage | Subject Coverage |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Plant Physiology | Vol. 1 (1926)-present | <i>Plant Physiology</i> is an international journal devoted to physiology, biochemistry, cellular and molecular biology, genetics, biophysics, and environmental biology of plants. It is one of the world's oldest and most well-respected plant science journals. |
| The Plant Cell | Vol. 1 (1989)-present | <i>The Plant Cell</i> publishes novel research of special significance in plant biology, especially in the areas of cellular biology, molecular biology, genetics, development, and evolution. |

Special Features

- Clients can create "custom saved searches" and receive research alerts when relevant new articles are published in specific areas of interest.
- Provision of table of contents and citation alerting services.
- Clients can set up individual accounts to bookmark favourite journals, articles and searches.
- Clients can set up RSS feeds for new issue alerts and contents from specific sections.
- Customer administration functionality to manage IP registration and usage statistics.

- Capability to export citations to EndNote, the AAFC standard for reference management software.
- Powerful database search engine.
- Participates in CrossRef reference linking system.
- Capability to interface with link resolvers, particularly TOURResolver from TDNet and 360Link from ProQuest
- Walk-in users shall have access to the full content while conducting research on Library premises.
- Archival provisions to guarantee access if the subscription is cancelled.
- Customer administration functionality to manage IP registration and usage statistics.
- Provision of monthly COUNTER-compliant usage statistics.

Minimum Essential Qualifications:

To fulfill the requirements of the contract the person or firm must be able to licence web access via IP authentication for AAFC’s multiple sites and Portfolio partners served by CAL, to the full text content of the subscribed material.

Government of Canada Regulations Exception:

The Treasury Board’s Government Contract Regulations, Part 10.2.1 Section 6 states there are four exceptions that permit the contracting authority to set aside the requirement to solicit bids. The exception for related to this ACAN includes:

- d. “only one supplier person or firm is capable of performing the contract.”

Justification for the Pre-Selected Supplier:

The Canadian Agriculture Library currently subscribes to two online resources (Plant Cell and Plant Physiology) from the American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB). This collection of online resources is only available from ASPB. ASPB is the publisher and producer of these online resources and has the proprietary rights to them. No other corporate entity can sign a license assigning rights to these electronic resources. The vendor is licensing use for AAFC’s 20+ geographic sites across Canada. Subscribing to the content online allows the Library to provide AAFC staff access to the material in a financially responsible manner. ASPB is the sole entity which can license access to the online content.

Contract Period:

The proposed contract is for a period of one (1) year, from January 1, 2016 extending to December 31, 2016, with two (2) additional option years.

The option periods that may be exercised under the contract will be effective:

- 1) January 1, 2017 extending to December 31, 2017
- 2) January 1, 2018 extending to December 31, 2018

Estimate of Costs:

It is intended to award a service contract to the supplier for the original contract period in the amount of **\$7,008.00 USD plus applicable taxes.**

Option Period #1: \$7,290.00 USD plus applicable taxes

Option Period #2: \$7,580.00 USD plus applicable taxes

Project Authority:

Roger Pawson
Head, E-Resource Management
Knowledge Services
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
1341 Baseline Road, T6-1-345
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C5
roger.pawson@agr.gc.ca
Tel: 613-773-1408

Contracting Authority:

Rhonda McBurney
Senior Contracting Officer, Professional Services Contracting Unit,
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada,
1341 Baseline Road, Tower 5, Floor 2, Room 346,
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C5
Tel: (613) 773-0934
Fax: (613) 773-0966
Email: rhonda.mcburney@agr.gc.ca

Suppliers Right to Submit a Statement of Capabilities:

Suppliers who consider themselves fully qualified and available to meet the specified requirements, may submit a Statement of Capabilities in writing to the contact person identified in this Notice on or before the closing date of this notice.

The Statement of Capabilities must clearly demonstrate how the supplier meets the advertised requirements. Statements of Capabilities must be delivered to and received by the Contracting Authority on or before the closing date.

The closing date and time for accepting Statements of Capabilities is: **Monday November 23rd, 2015 at 12:00 P.M. (EST, Ottawa time)** to the following address:

Rhonda McBurney
Senior Contracting Officer, Professional Services Contracting Unit,
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
1341 Baseline Road, Tower 5, Floor 2, Room 346,
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C5
Tel: (613) 773-0934
Fax: (613) 773-0966
Email: Rhonda.mcburney@agr.gc.ca

Requisition Number: ACAN no. 01B68-15-0228

Statements of Capabilities must be mailed or faxed on or before the closing date. Statement of Capabilities received on or before the closing date will be considered solely for the purpose of deciding whether or not to conduct a more extensive tendering process. Information provided will be used by the Crown for technical evaluation purposes only with respect to a decision to proceed to a further competitive process. Suppliers that have submitted a Statement of Capabilities will be notified in writing of AAFC's decision to proceed to award the contract without a further additional tendering process.

Should you have any questions concerning this requirement, contact the Contracting Officer identified above. The AAFC Solicitation Number (01B68-15-0228), the Contracting Officer's name and the closing date of the ACAN must appear on the outside of the envelope in block letters or, in the case of facsimile transmission, on the covering page.

The Crown retains the right to negotiate with suppliers on any procurement. Documents may be submitted in either official language of Canada.