

Sami Nouh, Senior Contracting Officer
Tel: 613-773-0941
Fax: 613-773-0966
E-mail: sami.nouh@agr.gc.ca

ADVANCE CONTRACT AWARD NOTICE: (ACAN) # 01B68-15-0084

The Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) has a requirement for the provision of a one (1) year contract with (2) one (1) year option periods for technical support, system maintenance, site hosting on Densan servers and on going enhancements to NewsLink.

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

Densan Consultants Ltd
611-250 City Centre Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
K1R 6K7

Before awarding a 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, a contract will be awarded to the pre-selected supplier, as referenced above.

BACKGROUND

For several years, PAB media monitoring officers have had access to NewsLink to monitor Canadian and international media effectively and to produce daily documents such as daily clippings and "At a Glance" which are distributed to the offices of the Minister, Parliamentary Secretaries and Deputy Minister, as well as to senior officials in the department. Densan Consultants Ltd. Created NewsLink, a system designed for electronic media monitoring distribution widely used throughout the federal government in Ottawa.

CURRENT REQUIREMENTS

AAFC has a requirement for the provision of a one (1) year contract with (2) one (1) year option periods for technical support, system maintenance, site hosting on Densan servers and on going enhancements to NewsLink.

The contractor will provide the following services throughout the validity of the resulting contract:

- Any new features that Densan develops (eg. improved search, email alerts, support for wireless devices, etc.) would be provided at no extra charge to AAFC as part of this maintenance contract.
- Free software upgrades during the maintenance period
- The hosting of AAFC's media monitoring system on a Densan server
- Unlimited telephone support between the hours of 07:30 and 17:00 Monday to Friday (holidays excluded)
- Unlimited on site & telephone support for all NewsLink Software Programs
- Web page redesign, custom features and server migration

- Free upgrades to all new versions of the NewsLink Software Programs that have been purchased by the Client;
- Free problem resolution modifications (bug fixes) to the NewsLink software modules;
- Discounts for purchase of new NewsLink products as and when they become available.
- Free participation in all NewsLink User Group activities for the designated Client contact(s);
- New features that Densan develops (eg. improved search, email alerts, support for wireless devices, etc).
- Densan will provide AAFC-PAB with maintenance and support for Newslink as described in the scope of work (five days a week, with a back-up person able to access all software and all versions). Payment for this service will be provided monthly.

CONTRACT PERIOD

The resulting contract will be valid for one (1) year from January 1st, 2016 to December 31st, 2016. The contractor grants to Canada the option to extend the validity of the contract by up to two (2) one (1) year periods under the same terms and conditions.

QUALIFICATIONS

To fulfill the requirements of the contract, the person or firm must be able to provide technical support, system maintenance, site hosting on Densan servers and on going enhancements to NewsLink.

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. This includes:

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

AAFC owns a perpetual licence for the Densan NewsLink product. Densan Consultants is the only authorized provider of NewsLink support services.

ESTIMATE OF COSTS

The contract value will be \$12,600.00 CAD plus applicable taxes. Each option period will have a maximum expenditure of \$12,600.00 CAD plus applicable taxes if Canada chooses to exercise. Total if all the option periods are used is \$37, 800.00 plus applicable taxes.

SUPPLIER NAME AND ADDRESS

Densan Consultants Ltd
611-250 City Centre Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
K1R 6K7

CONTRACTING AUTHORITY

Sami Nouh, Senior Contracting Officer
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)
Corporate Material Management Centre (CMMC)
Professional Services Contracting Unit
1285 Baseline Road, T3-5-337
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C5
Tel: 613-773-0941
Fax: 613-773-0966
Email: sami.nouh@agr.gc.ca

SUPPLIERS RIGHT TO SUBMIT A STATEMENT OF CAPABILITIES

Suppliers who consider themselves fully qualified and available to provide the services/goods described herein, may submit a Statement of Capabilities in writing to the address identified below.

Statements of Capabilities must be delivered to and received by the Contracting Authority on or before the closing date of December 19 , 2015 at 12:00 (noon Ottawa time) to the following address

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)
Central Material Management Centre (CMMC)
Professional Services Contracting Unit
1285 Baseline Road, T3-5-352
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C5
Attention: Sami Nouh, Senior Contracting Officer
Solicitation Number: ACAN: 01B68-15-0084

The statement of capabilities must clearly demonstrate how the supplier meets the advertised requirements.

Statements of capabilities must be mailed or faxed on or before the closing date/time. 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 file number, 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.