

**NRCan-500019246:
ESTABLISHMENT OF MINERALOGICAL DATABASE OF RARE EARTH ELEMENTS (REE) DEPOSITS
IN CANADA: STAGE 1: CURRENT KNOWLEDGE**

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. I am writing to enquire about the bid NRCan-5000019246: Establishment of Mineralogical Database of REE Deposits in Canada. Specifically, for Criterion R5, in Annex B, Section B2, I am looking for clarification on how the points are to be awarded:
 - a) Are the points awarded 1 point per project for up to five projects for performing literature searches and critical reviews (5 points), 1 point per project for up to five projects for identifying and extracting relevant data from various sources of information (5 points), and 1 point per project for up to five projects for identifying data gaps and research needs (5 points) – a total of 15 projects for 15 points?
 - b) Are the points for Criterion R5 awarded based on the projects previously listed for Criterion R2, R3, and R4?
Bidders should describe their experience in the three areas requested in Criterion R5 rather than simply listing projects. However, in doing so, they may refer to projects already listed in Criterion R2, R3 and R4 to illustrate their experience and demonstrate relevance to the current RFP.
2. On what date subsequent to the solicitation Closing Date of December 15, 2015 will NRCan decide on and inform the successful bidder?
A date cannot be provided at this time. It depends on the number of bids received and the time it takes to complete the evaluation process.
3. What time does the bidder have to sign the Contract upon notification of a successful bid?
It is recommended that the contract be signed as soon as they can.
4. On page 19 of the RFP, in Annex A, sec. 3.2, Deliverables, Deliverable #3, second last line, it states “The contractor must Natural Resources Canada will review and provide comments to the Contractor within five (5) working days after receiving the draft report”. It appears some text may be missing here or “The contractor must” should be removed. Can you clarify this to us?
The text “The contractor must” should be deleted.
5. Regarding the budget of \$25,000 for the report and database. In Part I: General Information, subsection 2. Summary, on page 4 of the RFP it states this is an initial stage with the top ten advanced REE projects in Canada and relevant comparable global deposits. Is it correct for us to consider only these entries in the database for this initial stage, with the exhaustive and consistent database to be created in a later stage?
That is correct, and the list of top ten advanced REE projects in Canada will be supplied to the successful bidder following contract award.
6. Can the contractor submit interim invoices with respect to the timing of the requested deliverables?
Invoices should be submitted according to the Deliverables Schedule in section 3.3 of Annex A: Statement of Work.

7. How soon after receiving contractor invoices will the invoices be paid to the contractor?]
Payment will be made after 30 days of receiving the invoice.

8. On page 19 in section 3.3, Schedule, the deliverable numbers do not match the sequence of numbers as described in section 3.2. I shall assume that Deliverable 4 is mislabeled as Deliverable 3 with a date of February 7, 2016 and the subsequent Deliverable #1 should be Deliverable 4 with a date March 1, 2016. Is that correct? That is correct.
The schedule dates as outlined in Section 3.2 should be followed.

9. On page 19 in section 3.2 and 3.3 Schedule, the final report receipt date is given as March 1, 2016; however on page 20, in Section 4.0, the Contract Duration is stated to be March 31, 2016. Does this mean that final payment and sign off will be as of March 31, 2016?
March 1, 2016 was the anticipated completion date for this project. However, March 31, 2016 is an ABSOLUTE completion date.

10. On page 19, section 3.2, Deliverable #2, “a comprehensive bibliography that will support the study” is mentioned. Am I correct to assume that this would be a Selected Bibliography, such that the References are expanded to include other publications directly related to the subject matter but not specifically cited in the text?
For this deliverable, the bidder should include a listing of references for all relevant literature being reviewed and NOT just those cited in the draft text.