

1. An ACAN is a public notice indicating to the supplier community that a department or agency intends to award a contract for goods, services or construction to a pre-identified supplier, thereby allowing other suppliers to signal their interest in bidding, by submitting a statement of capabilities. If no supplier submits a statement of capabilities that meets the requirements set out in the ACAN, on or before the closing date stated in the ACAN, the contracting officer may then proceed with the award to the pre-identified supplier.

2. Definition of requirement:

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), in collaboration with the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), has a requirement to conduct a pilot study to permit a more accurate and complete picture of post-graduate award recipients than is currently available by using administrative data provided by post-secondary education (PSE) institutions. The pilot study will be conducted over 2 phases and will involve the following:

Phase I – Gathering and Analysis of Post-secondary education institution data

- Establish agreements (up to five) with post-secondary institutions.
- Data assessment of institutional administrative data – cleaning and validation of data fields
- Analyze administrative data to provide the following: i) identify the percentage of students receiving awards from the three agencies, ii) descriptive characteristics of the population of award recipients (e.g., gender, age, official language, etc...) iii) analysis of degree completion rates and time to completion for award recipients and the overall population .
- Prepare a report summarizing findings, including technical appendices containing tables and graphs.

Phase II – Analysis of Statistics Canada data

- Establish agreement with Statistics Canada for access to micro data.
- Data assessment of Statistics Canada data – cleaning and validation of data fields
- Link post-secondary institutional administrative data to Statistics Canada data;
- Analyze data to describe how award recipients perform in the labour market compared to the overall population; for example: post-graduation earnings and other labour market outcomes.
- Prepare a report summarizing findings, including technical appendices containing tables and graphs broken out by, for example, award type, degree, discipline grouping and sector.

3. Criteria for assessment of the Statement of Capabilities.

Minimum Essential Requirements. Any interested supplier must demonstrate by way of a statement of capabilities that it meets the following requirements:

- Experience
 - Demonstrated ability to negotiate access to post-secondary institution data (minimum 5 projects)
 - Experience cleaning and analyzing post-secondary institution data (minimum 5 projects)
 - Experience working with Statistics Canada micro data (minimum 5 projects)
 - Knowledge and understanding of the post-secondary institution research environment;
- Academic qualifications:
 - Project Director must hold a Ph.D. from a recognized university in the field of economics; members of the research team must hold advanced degrees in the field of economics.

4. Applicability of the trade agreement(s) to the procurement

This procurement is subject to the following trade agreement(s):

World Trade Organization - Agreement on Government Procurement (WTO-AGP)
North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

7. Justification for the Pre-Identified Supplier

The pilot study requires a supplier with a particular, specialized expertise working with university administrative data, as well as Statistics Canada's micro data on income using tax files. The supplier will be responsible for accessing obtaining both the institutional administrative data and Statistics Canada data. To be able to meet the project objectives and timelines, the supplier must be able to demonstrate that they have successfully done so in past projects. The proposed supplier has built tools to exploit the data of interest, has developed partnerships with relevant institutions and has demonstrated the technical expertise and experience required to carry out this project. To our knowledge, no other research group has undertaken a similar exercise.

8. Government Contracts Regulations Exception(s)

The following exception to the Government Contracts Regulations is invoked for this procurement under subsection 6(d) - *"only one person is capable of performing the work"*.

10. Ownership of Intellectual Property.

Canada intends to retain ownership of any Foreground Intellectual Property arising out of the proposed contract on the basis that the main purpose of the contract is *to generate knowledge and information for public dissemination*.

11. The period of the proposed contract.

The proposed contract for phase I will run from 4 January 2016 to 25 November 2016. The contract includes an option to continue with a second phase, which will involve analysis of Statistics Canada data.

12. A cost estimate of the proposed contract.

The estimated value of the contract is *\$150,000 (GST/HST extra); \$75,000 for phase I and \$75,000 for phase II*. A decision will be made at the end of phase I as to whether the pilot will continue to the second phase.

13. Name and address of the pre-identified supplier:

Dr. Ross Finnie
Director, Education Policy Research Initiative
University of Ottawa
75 Laurier Ave E,
Ottawa, ON K1N 6N5

14. Suppliers' right to submit a statement of capabilities.

Suppliers who consider themselves fully qualified and available to provide the goods, services or construction services described in the ACAN, 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.

15. The closing date for a submission of a statement of capabilities.

The closing date and time for accepting statements of capabilities is *December xx, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. EST*.

Comment [SM1]: Insert correct date

16. Inquiries and submission of statements of capabilities.

Inquiries and statements of capabilities are to be directed to:

Maureen Dubé,
Senior Advisor, Contracts

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Ottawa, ON, K4R 1C6
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