

**FOR THE PROVISION OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR
THE DEFENCE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (DRMIS)
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE AND
FOR THE SIGMA SYSTEM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND GOVERNMENT
SERVICES CANADA**

**SOLICITATION NO. W8474-126279/F
AMENDMENT 003**

This amendment contains the following sections:

1. Questions and Answers (Set 2)
2. Modifications to Solicitation

Section 1: Questions and Answers (Set 2)

Note: Questions are numerically sequenced upon arrival at PWGSC. A question and its answer will be provided via BuyandSell as the response becomes available. Potential bidders are therefore advised that questions and answers may be issued via BuyandSell out of sequence. The following questions have been received. In accordance with Article 13 under 2003 Standard Instructions - Goods or Services - Competitive Requirements (2015-07-03) which has been incorporated into the RFP in accordance with Article 2.1 of Part 2 of the RFP, the questions and corresponding answers are provided to all potential bidders as set out below:

- Q5. With respect to Joint Venture bidders. The RFP requires Secret Security Clearance and Controlled Goods Certification. As only suppliers who are currently qualified to do business with the Government of Canada could have these clearances, is it acceptable for the lead member of the Joint Venture to hold the appropriate level of clearance and the other member of the JV not to hold this clearance to allow JV's of expert companies in Canada and those companies qualified under NAFTA to submit a bid. This would expand the pool of bidders to allow a fair and equitable competitive process.
- A5. With regards to the Security Requirement, please see Part 6, article 6.1. The Bidder must satisfy the security requirements, or in the case of a joint venture, each member of the joint venture must meet the security requirements as indicated in the RFP.

With regards to Controlled Goods, please see Part 6, article 6.3 (a).

- Q6. **Regarding** Section 1.11 (b) Work Share:
Section 1.11 (b) reads in part "Under contracts.....Task Authorizations **may be issued** to the third ranked bidder: (i) for **up to 25% of the total work requirement**, as defined in the DRIMS and SIGMA Scope of Work, as directed by DND and PWGSC, respectively; (ii) in the following circumstances: (A) overflow....; and (B) Independent Advice.....". This language is very broad and, in bidder's experience, could result in the third ranked responsive bidder never being issued a Task Authorization under its contracts.

Can the Crown please clarify if it is its intent that the third ranked responsive bidder be awarded work under its contracts? Does the Crown intend that this work will approach 25% of the total work requirements defined in the DRIMS and SIGMA scope of work?

- A6. Canada may issue Task Authorizations to the third Contractor in which it may reach up to 25% or exceed, as follows:

The third Contractor may be awarded Task Authorizations under its contracts with each department in the following circumstances:

1. the Contractors holding 1st contract with each department respond to a draft Task Authorization,
 - a. fail to respond on the time for the TA response specified or
 - b. in writing that they
 - i. are unwilling to perform the task,
 - ii. are unable to provide the resources, or
 - iii. are unable to perform the task,
2. Canada requires independent advice, or
3. When Canada requires to direct work for which it may be up to 25% of the work requirements.

Q7. Section 2.6 of the Solicitation allows the Crown, at its discretion, to hold a bidder's conference should the Crown deem it necessary to do so.

Can the Crown please clarify if it intends to hold a bidder's conference and, if yes, advise bidders of the dates for such conference so that we can plan to attend?

A7. Canada does not intend to hold a bidders' conference at this time.

Q8. Section 4.3 reads "STEP 2 - POINTS ALLOCATION: For each period and Resource Category **randomly selected points** will be allocated as follows". Subsection (f) of 4.3 goes on to state that "Canada will randomly select the Resource Categories to create a subset for the financial evaluation" and then describes the process to select these categories.

We believe the Crown's intent is that it will randomly select the Resource Categories that will be awarded points and then allocate points calculated in accordance with the methodology set out in (A), (B) and (C) of Section 4.3 for each of the six (6) periods set out in the rate card. We also believe that the Crown's intent is to evaluate and score a representative sample of the Resource Categories and periods (>60%) so as to ensure a fair evaluation process.

Can the Crown please (a) confirm our interpretation of this requirement; and (b) confirm that it will evaluate a representative sample of the rates?

A8. Canada will randomly select a representative sample from the 107 Resource Categories, to create a subset for financial evaluation purposes, prior to bid closing.

In the event that three or more bids are determined responsive, the randomly selected Resource Categories (subset) and each period, will be allocated points as described at article 4.3 (A) (B) and (C).

Q9. At Annex B, the rate card includes three levels of the Extract, Transform and Load (ETL) Specialist role - a level 3, level 2 and level 3.

Bidder believes that this last level 3 is a typographical error and should be read as a level 1 Extract, Transform and Load (ETL) specialist.

Can the Crown please confirm this interpretation and amend the RFP to reflect this interpretation?

- A9. Yes. Please see Annex B revision 001 attached.
- Q10. At Attachment A, the criteria in M1 and M5 only ask for 2 contracts in each category, criteria R5 and R6 then ask for 3 examples of contracts for Canadian and Military contracts. It is assumed that the crown would consider the contracts provided as compliant to R1 (additional to M1) and R3 (additional to M5) to be valid to be scored against R5 and R6. Can the Crown please confirm?
- A10. For criteria R5 and R6, points are allocated on contracts provided in M1 and M5. Additional contracts provided in R1 and R3 will not be considered against R5 and R6 for additional points.
- Q11. Due to the Holiday season and availability of personnel to provide the Crown with the quality response required, Bidder respectfully request a two week extension to complete the response. As requested by the Crown, references must be provided for all contracts and therefore approvals be granted and these also need to account for client availability through the holidays.
- A11. Canada has considered your request. The closing date has been extended to February 5, 2016 as per Amendment 002.
- Q12. At Attachment A, for R2, consistent with the scoring, please confirm that the Crown is looking for the stated demonstrated experience in only one of the contracts provided in M1.
- A12. Correct.
- Q13. At Attachment A, for R4, please confirm that for maximum points, only five "SAP modules designed, developed and implemented in the contracts provided in M5 and R3" need to be provided and can be spread across the contract references provided.
- A13. Yes multiple contracts provided in M5 and R3 can be used against this criterion.
- Q14. Please confirm that 7.10 (e) and 8.9 (e) only apply in the case of 7.10 (a) (iii) and 8.9 (a) (iii) Additional Firm All-Inclusive Per Diem Rates.
- A14. This would apply to all methods of payment when one responsive bid is received. It only applies to Additional Firm All-Inclusive Per Diem Rates when more than one responsive bid is received.
- Q15. In section 7.2 Task Authorization (h) Contractor's Response to Draft Task Authorization, the Contractor response time of 5 days to draft Task Authorizations is a very aggressive turnaround time. We respectfully request the Crown increase the response time to the industry standard of 10 days.
- A15. The response time will be specified on each draft TA as indicated in article 7.2 (h). The minimum response time will be 5 days however can be longer depending on the complexity of the draft TA.
- Q16. At Attachment A, for M1, please confirm that the two contracts must be for "separate clients".
- A16. Correct.
- Q17. At Attachment A, for M5, please confirm that the two contracts must be for "separate clients".
- A17. Correct.

- Q18. At Attachment A, for consistency across requirements we respectfully request that M1 be amended from 36 months to 24 months similar to M5.
The Bidder must clearly demonstrate that both contracts provided under M1 have been for work completed for a minimum duration of **24** consecutive months within the last 96 months from bid closing date.
- A18. Based on our requirement for a 36 months initial contract for steady-state in-service service, the M1 criterion will remain as-is.

Section 2: Modifications to Solicitation:

1. DELETE: Request For Proposal Part 1 to Part 8 revision 001.
INSERT: Request For Proposal Part 1 to Part 8 revision 002, changes to the RFP are highlighted in yellow, attached.
2. DELETE: Annex B - Financial Bid.
INSERT: Annex B – Financial Bid revision 001.

ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS REMAIN UNCHANGED