

DIRP Stakeholder Day: Questions and Answers

January 13, 2016

Q: Can you confirm that the current DIRP solicitation is a one-phase process (as the previous DIRP call for proposals was two-phased)?

A: Confirmed.

Q: With regards to Academia's participation in the DIRP program, it is unclear how the cost-sharing aspect would work, where is their 50% coming from?

A: From somewhere other than the Government of Canada.

Q: Are sponsors required, as they were for the previous DIRP?

A: No.

Q: Proposals must demonstrate military relevance; what constitutes military relevance?

A: If the proposal responds to one of the Strategic Objectives, it will have military relevance.

Q: How many Calls for Proposals will there be?

A: More frequent DIRP calls with Strategic Objectives are anticipated.

Q: What if there are unfunded, compliant proposals?

A: Unfunded, compliant proposals could be funded later on, depending upon funding availability and the bid validity period.

Q: Is the Space-based Surveillance Requirements document available?

A: No, it is currently under development within DND. The final, approved version is not currently available.

Q: Is "stacking" (using funding from another Canadian government sources) allowed under this program?

A: No.

Q: What is the expected project duration?

A: The expected project duration is not specified. We recommend delivery within 2 years if possible.

Q: Can a foreign company be the lead Bidder, as long as the Canadian content requirements are met?

A: Yes. This will be revised in the Guide Book.

Q: Who owns the resulting IP?

A: The resulting IP rests with the Innovator.

Q: Is it possible to provide us with a more detailed definition of what an Innovation is? For example, do internal corporate tools, R&D projects and/or academic projects count as Innovations?

A: Yes, an Innovation involves research risk, generation of IP, or advancement of Technology Readiness Level (TRL). This will be revised in the Guide Book.

Q: Can DIRP project overhead/employee benefits be used to leverage NSERC/Mitacs/OCE or similar graduate student-based programs and grants?

A: Yes, provided that the cost-share contributes to the deliverables of the proposal and there isn't stacking (i.e., using funding from another Canadian government source) involved.

Q: Are there specific details on the Innovation Manager's educational/technical/business background requirements? This was also related to the question of what the intent was behind asking for the Innovation Manager's business/financial educational background and experience?

A: This is left open for the Innovator to identify.

Q: Can you provide us with more details, scenarios and/or strategies regarding the joint ISR Program priorities, e.g. maintaining/improving MDA, maintaining/improving Arctic Intel, conducting IPB, executing DCPD, maintaining awareness of space-based sensors?

A: No, we are trying not to unduly constrain the nature of the Innovations received.

Q: For points 2.1.2, 2.1.3 and 2.1.4, do the two evaluation scale tables indicate the same elements?

A: Yes, both tables in each Section indicate the evaluation point scale.

Q: In point 2.1.3.5, what is a sub-Innovator or collaborator and are they necessary within the proposal?

A: Sub-Innovators or collaborators may be sub-contractors and are not necessary.

Q: When do we expect the RFP to be released and for how long?

A: By mid-February (est.), for 40 calendar days.

Q: Is there an advantage to providing proposals to address multiple strategic objectives?

A: No.

Q: How does the estimated \$7 Million in funding work?

A: The maximum contribution from government towards each Innovation is \$1 million, there could be several Innovations addressing each Strategic Objective, and the maximum number of Innovations funded depends upon the responsiveness of the Innovations received.

Q: Can the supplier investment be in-kind?

A: No.

Q: Please provide further details available concerning security clearances?

A: More information is available from the Canadian Industrial Security Directorate (CISD) within PSPC.

Q: Is there any flexibility in the 50-50 cost sharing formula.

A: No.

Q: Why a minimum of 50% Canadian content?

A: To maximize the number of Innovations received to achieve the Strategic Objectives while showing benefits to Canada.

Q: Is there a limit on the number of projects proposed by a single Innovator?

A: No.

Q: Could the experience requirements be revised to “within the last 5 years” (as opposed to 3 years)?

A: Yes. This will be revised in the Guide Book.

Q: Can proposals assume that data could be GFE?

A: Yes.

Q: If, after 6 months, objectives change direction, what would happen?

A: Activities within the Innovation could evolve provided they are within the original scope of work and budget, and are agreed-to by the appropriate authorities.