

ADVANCE CONTRACT AWARD NOTICE

TITLE: Changes in the newspaper industry

INTRODUCTION:

The Department of Canadian Heritage has a requirement to obtain expert advice and public policy information related to the current situation of the Canadian newspaper industry. The purpose of this Advance Contract Award Notice (ACAN) is to signal the government's intention to award a contract for these services to Canada's Public Policy Forum. 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.

BACKGROUND:

The work will involve the following: expert advice, information gathering and analysis including roundtables, stakeholder/academia consultations and qualitative research.

The proposed contract is for a period of approximately 6 months, starting as soon as the contract is awarded. All activities and deliverables must be completed and delivered by December 31st, 2016. The value of the contract is \$200,000 (excluding applicable taxes).

MINIMUM ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS:

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

- Vast knowledge* of the current media landscape, especially the newspaper industry (both print and digital)
- Vast knowledge* of the current Canadian public policies related to media, including legislation, and how they are developed
- Extensive** experience in outreach activities on public policy issues such as panels or roundtables with high profile industry stakeholders
- Extensive** experience in citizen engagement and in-depth research
- Extensive** experience in developing policy papers pertaining to cultural and economic subject matter
- Extensive** experience in working with government officials
- Extensive** experience in holding public policy related discussions
- Experience in managing cost-shared projects
- Ability to engage with multiple stakeholders from such fields as academia, public administration and industry

- Ability to provide or access expert advice for legal and financial matters
- Ability to access and analyze international industry data in a timely manner
- Ability to provide services in both official languages

* Thorough understanding of a topic, including the perspectives of different stakeholders and associated political, economic, legal, social and technical considerations. This understanding would normally be obtained through substantial research, stakeholder outreach and first-hand industry experience completed in the last year.

**Minimum of 5 years with experience in the last year.

The Contractor shall be contributing financially to the project for an amount of at least \$70,000.

As part of their statement of capabilities, any supplier wishing to demonstrate its capability will need to be able to demonstrate that it is capable of securing an equivalent or greater financial contribution from its business partners or associates that are not in any manner or degree with the performance of its obligations under this Agreement in conflict of interest, even perceived or apparent, in regards to the nature of the work that needs to be performed.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

The contractor declares that the contractor and its partners and associates have no pecuniary interest in the business of any third party that would cause, or seem to cause, a conflict of interest in carrying out the Services, and should such an interest be acquired during the life of the Agreement, the contractor shall declare it immediately to the Departmental Representative.

The contractor shall not have any tests or investigations carried out by any persons, firms, or corporations, that may have a direct or indirect financial interest in the results of those tests or investigations.

The contractor acknowledges that individuals who are subject to the provisions of the *Conflict of interest Act*, 2006, c. 9, s.2, the *Conflict of interest Code for Members of the House of Commons*, the *Values and Ethics Code for the Public Service* or all other codes of values and ethics applicable within specific organizations cannot derive any direct benefit resulting from the Agreement.

JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PRE-SELECTED SUPPLIER:

The chosen organization is currently engaged in work related to the newspaper industry which will ensure access to immediate and recent expertise in order to complete the work within the required timeframe. Also, the organization has demonstrated its ability to mobilize industry partners and associates, and has shown concluding results in channeling various input towards providing expert advice on public policies. Furthermore, the leadership team in place has significant experience and knowledge of the Canadian newspaper industry.

The organization and its partners (independent foundations) are also participating financially to the project with non-governmental funds of at least \$70,000, reducing the financial contribution of the federal government.

Ownership of any Foreground Intellectual Property arising out of the proposed contract will vest with the Contractor.

RESPONSE:

Suppliers who consider themselves fully qualified and available to meet the specified requirements may submit a statement of capabilities in writing to the Contracting Authority 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.

The closing date and time for accepting statements of capabilities is June 3rd, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. EDT.

Inquiries are to be directed to:

Line Séguin
Procurement and Contract Specialist
Contracting and Materiel Management Directorate
Department of Canadian Heritage
Telephone: 819-997-2389
E-mail: pch.contracts-contracting.pch@canada.ca

Statements of capabilities are to be sent electronically (by e-mail) to:

Line Séguin
pch.contracts-contracting.pch@canada.ca

POLICY INFORMATION:

- Applicable Exceptions to soliciting Bids under the Government Contracts Regulations (GCRs) (10.2.1 Section 6d): Only one person or firm is capable of performing the contract.
- This requirement is subject to the following trade agreements:
 - Agreement on Internal Trade
 - Canada-Chile Free Trade Agreement
 - Canada-Columbia Free Trade Agreement
 - Canada-Panama Free Trade Agreement
 - Canada-Peru Free Trade Agreement
 - Canada-Honduras Free Trade Agreement
 - Canada-Korea Free Trade Agreement
 - North American Free Trade Agreement
 - World Trade Organization Agreement on Government Procurement