

Request for Information (RFI)

The Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) currently operates (12) *Halifax*-class ships and intends to operate them until their predicted end of life in approximately the 2032/36 timeframe. The intention is to establish long-term Work Period Contracts to provide maintenance support services to the modernized *Halifax*-class in order to maintain long term operational capability and seamless transition from the current Multi-ship contracts, while aligning support services with the future naval In-Service Support (ISS).

As the project progresses towards a formal Request for Proposal (RFP), this RFI will provide a continuous single point of official communication with industry. The project will use this RFI process for multiple purposes such as:

- a) Collaborating with industry on the Performance Work Statement, the Performance Requirements Specification, the procurement strategy, the Industrial and Technological Benefits and Value Proposition strategy, relational agreement, basis of payment and bid evaluation.
- b) Ensuring all interested participants receive the same information.
- c) Presenting the draft Pre-qualification process and soliciting comments and feedback.
- d) Presenting draft RFP documents to pre-qualified bidders and soliciting comments and feedback.

This initial RFI release is to:

- a) Request industry feedback on the draft Statement of Objectives and the draft Concept of Support.,. Note the Appendices and Attachments referenced in these draft documents will not be released with this initial RFI.
- b) Request industry feedback on the draft Industrial and Technological Benefits and Value Proposition (ITB/VP) approach.
- c) Request that industry provides answers to the questions listed in Annex 2 using an Excel template provided as an attachment to the RFI.

The information provided by industry may be used to support Canada's decision-making process such as finalizing requirements and determining the procurement strategy.

2. Nature of this RFI

This RFI is neither a call for tender nor a Request for Proposal (RFP). No agreement or contract will be entered into based on this RFI. The issuance of this RFI is not to be considered in any way a commitment by the Canada, nor as authority to potential respondents to undertake any work that could be charged to Canada. This RFI is not to be considered as a commitment to issue a subsequent solicitation or to award contract(s) for the work described herein.

Although the information collected may be provided as commercial-in-confidence (and, if identified as such, will be treated accordingly by Canada), Canada may use the information for budgetary purposes and to assist in drafting the Statement of Objectives, the Performance Work Statement, the Performance Requirements Specification, and the ITB/VP approach. All documents may be subject to change at the discretion of Canada.

Respondents are encouraged to identify, in the information they share with Canada, any information that they feel is proprietary, third party or personal information. Please note that Canada may be obligated by law (e.g. in response to a request under the Access to Information and Privacy Acts) to disclose proprietary or commercially-sensitive information concerning a respondent (for more information: <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/a-1/>).

Respondents are asked to identify if their response, or any part of their response, is subject to the Controlled Goods Regulations.

Participation in this RFI is encouraged, but is not mandatory. There will be no short-listing of potential suppliers for the purposes of undertaking any future work resulting from this RFI. Similarly, participation in this RFI is not a condition or prerequisite for the participation in any potential subsequent solicitation.

Respondents will not be reimbursed for any cost incurred by participating in this RFI.

3. Background Information:

The Department of National Defence *Halifax*-class MODERNIZATION (HCM) Program is part of DND's overall Halifax Class Modernization project, whose objective is to ensure the continued operation of the Halifax Class for the remaining duration of its life and its relevance in the expected operational environment. As part of the Halifax Class modernization (HCM) Program, Two (2) multi-ship refit contracts (MSC) were issued which provided the vehicles for the implementation of a wide range of engineering change work, equipment installation, docking work and corrective maintenance activities required under the Frigate Equipment Life Extension project. The Multi-Ship contracts have provided flexibility to address a myriad of issues currently being found on the

Halifax-Class Frigates. The Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) currently operates (12) *Halifax*-class ships and intends to operate them until their predicted end of life in approximately the 2032/36 timeframe, however the current Multi-Ship contracts will expire in 2018.

4. Requirement:

4.1 The Department of National Defence has a requirement to establish two (2) long term, performance based contracts with an initial contract period of four (4) years with options to extend the contracts for a period of up to a total of ten (10) years (2018 to 2028). The options can be one year or multiple year extensions and will be based on contractor performance assessment. The intent of these long-term work period contracts is to provide maintenance support services to the modernized *Halifax*-class in order to maintain long term operational capability and seamless transition from the current Multi-ship contracts, while aligning support services with the naval In-Service Support (ISS).

4.2 It is anticipated that the establishment of long-term Work period contracts will facilitate long term planning for all stakeholders, enhance relationship building while evolving contracted services over the in-service life of the *Halifax*-class. It will also provide effective and efficient Ship level maintenance support while containing overall support costs while meeting the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) readiness requirements, and obtain best value based on demonstrated performance and continuous improvement

4.3 In order to effectively support the ships on both coasts, there will be two separate Work Period Contracts – East, and West (individually WPC-E & WPC-W) for implementing platform maintenance/sustainment work, implementing Engineering Changes (EC) and Materiel and Technical support services. Ships, and their associated work periods, may be repositioned between coasts to meet operational requirements. Work periods are defined as one of; Docking Work Periods (DWP); Short Work Periods (SWP) or Engineering Change Work Periods (ECWPs).

4.4 The *Halifax*-class maintenance concept will continue to divide maintenance services into three levels: First (1st) and Second (2nd) Level support will be the primary responsibility of RCN Ships Staff (SS) and FMFs, and Third (3rd) Level support will be primarily provided by the WPC Contractor and some by FMF. However, the WPC Contractor must have the capacity and capability to augment RCN Level One and Two support when requested, and conversely, FMF & SS may assist the WPC Contractor to conduct Level Three maintenance.

5. Legislation, Trade Agreements, and Government Policies:

The following is indicative of some of the legislation, trade agreements and government policies that could impact any follow-on solicitation(s):

- a) This procurement may not be subject to the trade agreements as the National Security Exception has been sought;
- b) Comprehensive Land Claim Agreements (CLCA): (if applicable)
The provisions of the Comprehensive Land Claims Agreements will not apply to this procurement unless work is performed and / or goods are delivered within a land claim settlement area.
- c) Industrial and Technological Benefits and Value Proposition (ITBs):
The ITB policy will apply to this procurement. The ITB Policy is administered by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) with assistance from the Regional Development Agencies. To obtain information about Canada's ITB Policy, visit: <http://www.ic.gc.ca/irb>;
- d) Controlled Goods Program (CGP):
This procurement will be subject to the Controlled Goods Program. For further information on the CGP, visit: <http://ssi-iss.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/dmc-cgd/index-eng.html>;
- e) Federal Contractors Program for Employment Equity (FCP-EE): (if applicable)
The Federal Contractors Program for Employment Equity will apply to this procurement. For further information on the Federal Contractors Program for Employment Equity, visit: <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/policy-and-guidelines/supply-manual/annex/5/1>; and
- f) Fairness Monitor:
A Fairness Monitor will act as a formal oversight mechanism for obtaining independent validation on the fairness of the process for selecting an ISS contractor.

6. Estimated Project Schedule:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| • Request For Information (RFI): | Nov 2016 |
| • Industry Engagement Session: | Feb 2017 |
| • Pre-qualification: | Jan-Feb 2017 |
| • RFP issued: | Mar-May 2017 |
| • Bid Evaluation | Oct 2017 |
| • Contract Award: | Mar 2018 |

Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation
W8482-168260/B
Client Ref. No. - N° de réf. du client
W8482-168260

Amd. No. - N° de la modif.
File No. - N° du dossier
009FX.W8472-168260

Buyer ID - Id de l'acheteur
009fx
CCC No./N° CCC - FMS No./N° VME

7. Important Notes to Respondents:

Interested Respondents may submit their responses and questions to the PSPC Contracting Authority, identified below via email:

Name: Sharon Saslove
Title: Manager
Public Services and Procurement Canada
Acquisitions Branch
Marine Services and Small Vessels
Address: 455, De la Carrière Blvd
Telephone: 819-939-3233
E-mail: Sharon.saslove@pwgsc.gc.ca

A point of contact for the Respondent should be included in the package.

Changes to this RFI may occur and will be advertised on Buyandsell.gc.ca. Canada asks Respondents to visit Buyandsell.gc.ca regularly to check for changes, if any.

All enquiries and other communications related to this RFI shall be directed exclusively to the PSPC Contracting Authority. All enquiries must be submitted to the Contracting Authority no later than ten (10) calendar days before the RFI closing date. Enquiries received after that time may not be answered.

Because this is not a bid solicitation, Canada reserves the right to respond to enquiries pertinent to the requirement.

Please include, using the below response template, the appropriate SOO/PWS/PRS paragraph number in any comments or questions that you provide/ask, as shown in the below table. Please provide your feedback using an Excel file and return the Excel file to the PWGSC Contracting Authority.

Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation
W8482-168260/B
Client Ref. No. - N° de réf. du client
W8482-168260

Amd. No. - N° de la modif.
File No. - N° du dossier
009FX.W8472-168260

Buyer ID - Id de l'acheteur
009fx
CCC No./N° CCC - FMS No./N° VME

| Comment | Company/Section | Author of Comment | Document Name | RFI Question Number | Paragraph ID |
|---------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------|
| | | | ITB/VP | 1a | |
| | | | PRS | 1b | eg. PRS-107 |
| | | | PWS | 1c | eg. PWS-27 |
| | | | RFI | 2a | |
| | | | SOO | 2b | eg. SOO-12 |
| | | | | 3a | |
| | | | | 3b | |
| | | | | 4a | |
| | | | | 5a | |
| | | | | 5b | |
| | | | | 5c | |
| | | | | 6 | |
| | | | | 7 | |
| | | | | ITB/VP | |

8. Language of Response

Correspondence, questions and responses may be submitted in either official language of Canada.

9. Review Team

A review team composed of representatives of the Department of National Defence, ISEDC and PSPC will review the responses. Canada reserves the right to hire any independent consultant, or use any Government resources that it considers necessary to review any response. Not all members of the review team will necessarily review all responses.

10. Closing date for the RFI

10.1 The RFI will remain active until finalization and identification of the pre-qualified bidders estimated to be **28th of February 2017**.

10.2 Please provide your written feedback for the WPC RFI Questions to bidders for Consideration by 20 January, 2017.

Responses to this RFI are to be submitted to the PSPC Contracting Authority identified above.

11. List of Annexes

Annex 1 – Draft Statement of Objectives

Annex 2 – Draft Concept of Support Document

Annex 3 – Draft Industrial and Technological Benefits and Value Proposition (ITB/VP) approach

Annex 4 – WPC RFI Questions to Bidders

12. Draft performance Work Statement

Will be issued as soon as it becomes available

13. Draft Performance Requirements Specification

Will be issued as it becomes available.