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PART 1 - GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Introduction

The bid solicitation is divided into seven parts plus attachments and annexes, as follows:

- Part 1 General Information: provides a general description of the requirement;
- Part 2 Bidder Instructions: provides the instructions, clauses and conditions applicable to the bid solicitation;
- Part 3 Bid Preparation Instructions: provides bidders with instructions on how to prepare their bid;
- Part 4 Evaluation Procedures and Basis of Selection: indicates how the evaluation will be conducted, the evaluation criteria that must be addressed in the bid, and the basis of selection;
- Part 5 Certifications: includes the certifications to be provided;
- Part 6 Security Requirements: includes specific requirements that must be addressed by bidders; and
- Part 7 Resulting Contract Clauses: includes the clauses and conditions that will apply to any resulting contract.

The Annexes include the Statement of Work and the Basis of Payment, Security Requirements.

The Appendixes include the Evaluation Criteria and the Financial Proposal Form.

1.2 Summary

By means of the RFP, NRCan is seeking proposals from bidders for....

1.2.1 To undertake an economic trade-off study and bench scale (small scale, such as on a laboratory work table) testing to optimize impurity removal (specifically iron and thorium) while minimizing reagent consumption and REE (rare earth elements) losses.

1.2.2 The requirement is subject to the provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the Canada-Chile Trade Agreement, the Canada-Colombia Trade Agreement, the Canada-Panama Trade Agreement, Canada-Honduras Free Trade Agreement, Canada-Korea Free Trade Agreement, Canada-Peru Free Trade Agreement and the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT).

1.3 Debriefings

Bidders may request a debriefing on the results of the bid solicitation process. Bidders should make the request to the Contracting Authority within 15 working days from receipt of the results of the bid solicitation process. The debriefing may be in writing, by telephone or in person.



PART 2 - BIDDER INSTRUCTIONS

2.1 Standard Instructions, Clauses and Conditions

All instructions, clauses and conditions identified in the bid solicitation by number, date and title are set out in the [Standard Acquisition Clauses and Conditions Manual](https://buyandsell.gc.ca/policy-and-guidelines/standard-acquisition-clauses-and-conditions-manual) (https://buyandsell.gc.ca/policy-and-guidelines/standard-acquisition-clauses-and-conditions-manual) issued by Public Works and Government Services Canada.

Bidders who submit a bid agree to be bound by the instructions, clauses and conditions of the bid solicitation and accept the clauses and conditions of the resulting contract.

The [2003](#) (2016-04-04) Standard Instructions - Goods or Services - Competitive Requirements, are incorporated by reference into and form part of the bid solicitation with the modifications to the text below. If there is a conflict between the provisions of 2003 and this document, this document prevails.

- **In the complete text content (except Section 3) Delete:** Public Works and Government Services Canada” and **Insert:** “Natural Resources Canada.” **Delete:** “PWGSC” and **Insert:** “NRCan”
- **Section 2: Delete:** “Suppliers are required to” and **Insert:** “It is suggested that suppliers”
- **Subsection 1 of Section 8:**
Delete: Unless specified otherwise in the bid solicitation, bids may be submitted by facsimile. The only acceptable facsimile number for responses to bid solicitations issued by PWGSC headquarters is 819-997-9776 or, if applicable, the facsimile number identified in the bid solicitation. The facsimile number for responses to bid solicitations issued by PWGSC regional offices is identified in the bid solicitation
- **Under Subsection 2 of Section 20:** Not applicable

2.2 Submission of Bids

It is the Bidders responsibility to ensure that proposals are sent to the following e-mail address, by the time and date indicated on page 1 of this RFP document:

len.pizzi@canada.ca

IMPORTANT

It is requested that you write the following information in “Subject” of the e-mail: NRCan-5000027076 - Impurity Control for Rare Earth Element Processing

The address above is reserved for the submission of your proposal. No other communication should be sent to that address.

Due to the nature of the bid solicitation, bids transmitted by mail or facsimile to NRCan will not be accepted.

NRCan will not assume responsibility for proposals directed to any other location.

The onus is on the Bidder to ensure that the proposal is submitted correctly to the above address. Not complying with the above instructions may result in NRCan’s inability to ascertain reception date and/or to consider the bid prior to contract award. Therefore, NRCan reserves the right to reject any proposal not complying with these instructions.



2.3 Enquiries - Bid Solicitation

All enquiries must be submitted in writing to the Contracting Authority no later than three (3) calendar days before the bid closing date. Enquiries received after that time may not be answered.

Bidders should reference as accurately as possible the numbered item of the bid solicitation to which the enquiry relates. Care should be taken by Bidders to explain each question in sufficient detail in order to enable Canada to provide an accurate answer. Technical enquiries that are of a proprietary nature must be clearly marked "proprietary" at each relevant item. Items identified as "proprietary" will be treated as such except where Canada determines that the enquiry is not of a proprietary nature. Canada may edit the question(s) or may request that the Bidder do so, so that the proprietary nature of the question(s) is eliminated and the enquiry can be answered to all Bidders. Enquiries not submitted in a form that can be distributed to all Bidders may not be answered by Canada.

2.4 Applicable Laws

Any resulting contract must be interpreted and governed, and the relations between the parties determined, by the laws in force in Ontario.

Bidders may, at their discretion, substitute the applicable laws of a Canadian province or territory of their choice without affecting the validity of their bid, by deleting the name of the Canadian province or territory specified and inserting the name of the Canadian province or territory of their choice. If no change is made, it acknowledges that the applicable laws specified are acceptable to the Bidders.

2.5 Improvement of Requirement During Solicitation Period

Should bidders consider that the specifications or Statement of Work contained in the bid solicitation could be improved technically or technologically, bidders are invited to make suggestions, in writing, to the Contracting Authority named in the bid solicitation. Bidders must clearly outline the suggested improvement as well as the reason for the suggestion. Suggestions that do not restrict the level of competition nor favour a particular bidder will be given consideration provided they are submitted to the Contracting Authority at least three (3) days before the bid closing date. Canada will have the right to accept or reject any or all suggestions.

2.6 Basis for Canada's Ownership of Intellectual Property

Natural Resources Canada has determined that any intellectual property rights arising from the performance of the Work under the resulting contract will belong to Canada, on the following grounds:

- the main purpose of the contract, or of the deliverables contracted for, is to generate knowledge and information for public dissemination;



PART 3 - BID PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

3.1 Bid Preparation Instructions

Canada requests that Bidders provide their bid in separately bound sections as follows:

- Section I: Technical Bid (1 electronic copy)
- Section II: Financial Bid (1 electronic copy) in a separate file
- Section III: Certifications (1 electronic copy)
- Section IV: Additional Information (1 electronic copy)

Prices must appear in the financial bid only. No prices must be indicated in any other section of the bid.

Canada requests that Bidders follow the format instructions described below in the preparation of their bid:

- (a) use 8.5 x 11 inch (216 mm x 279 mm) format;
- (b) use a numbering system that corresponds to the bid solicitation.

Section I: Technical Bid

In their technical bid, Bidders should demonstrate their understanding of the requirements contained in the bid solicitation and explain how they will meet these requirements. Bidders should demonstrate their capability and describe their approach in a thorough, concise and clear manner for carrying out the work.

The technical bid should address clearly and in sufficient depth the points that are subject to the evaluation criteria against which the bid will be evaluated. Simply repeating the statement contained in the bid solicitation is not sufficient. In order to facilitate the evaluation of the bid, Canada requests that Bidders address and present topics in the order of the evaluation criteria under the same headings. To avoid duplication, Bidders may refer to different sections of their bids by identifying the specific paragraph and page number where the subject topic has already been addressed.

Section II: Financial Bid

Bidders must submit their financial bid in accordance with the Financial Proposal Form in Appendix "2". The total amount of Applicable Taxes must be shown separately.

Exchange Rate Fluctuation

C3011T (2013-11-06), Exchange Rate Fluctuation

Section III: Certifications

Bidders must submit the certifications required under Part 5.



PART 4 - EVALUATION PROCEDURES AND BASIS OF SELECTION

4.1 Evaluation Procedures

- (a) Bids will be assessed in accordance with the entire requirement of the bid solicitation including the technical and financial evaluation criteria.
- (b) An evaluation team composed of representatives of Canada will evaluate the bids.

4.1.1 Technical Evaluation

Mandatory and point rated technical evaluation criteria are included in Appendix "1" – Evaluation Criteria.

4.1.2 Financial Evaluation

Mandatory financial evaluation criteria are included in Appendix "1" – Evaluation Criteria.

4.2 Basis of Selection

4.2.1 Highest Combined Rating of Technical Merit and Price

1. To be declared responsive, a bid must:
 - a. comply with all the requirements of the bid solicitation; and
 - b. meet all mandatory criteria; and
 - c. obtain the required minimum of 60 points overall for the technical evaluation criteria which are subject to point rating.
The rating is performed on a scale of 100 points.
2. Bids not meeting (a) or (b) or (c) will be declared non-responsive.
3. The selection will be based on the highest responsive combined rating of technical merit and price. The ratio will be 90% for the technical merit and 10% for the price.
4. To establish the technical merit score, the overall technical score for each responsive bid will be determined as follows: total number of points obtained / maximum number of points available multiplied by the ratio of 90%.
5. To establish the pricing score, each responsive bid will be prorated against the lowest evaluated price and the ratio of 10%.
6. For each responsive bid, the technical merit score and the pricing score will be added to determine its combined rating.
7. Neither the responsive bid obtaining the highest technical score nor the one with the lowest evaluated price will necessarily be accepted. The responsive bid with the highest combined rating of technical merit and price will be recommended for award of a contract.



The table below illustrates an example where all three bids are responsive and the selection of the contractor is determined by a 60/40 ratio of technical merit and price, respectively. The total available points equal 135 and the lowest evaluated price is \$45,000 (45).

Basis of Selection - Highest Combined Rating Technical Merit (60%) and Price (40%)				
		Bidder 1	Bidder 2	Bidder 3
Overall Technical Score		115/135	89/135	92/135
Bid Evaluated Price		\$55,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$45,000.00
Calculations	Technical Merit Score	$115/135 \times 60 = 51.11$	$89/135 \times 60 = 39.56$	$92/135 \times 60 = 40.89$
	Pricing Score	$45/55 \times 40 = 32.73$	$45/50 \times 40 = 36.00$	$45/45 \times 40 = 40.00$
Combined Rating		83.84	75.56	80.89
Overall Rating		1st	3rd	2nd



PART 5 – CERTIFICATIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Bidders must provide the required certifications and additional information to be awarded a contract.

The certifications provided by Bidders to Canada are subject to verification by Canada at all times. Canada will declare a bid non-responsive, or will declare a contractor in default if any certification made by the Bidder is found to be untrue, whether made knowingly or unknowingly, during the bid evaluation period or during the contract period.

The Contracting Authority will have the right to ask for additional information to verify the Bidder's certifications. Failure to comply and to cooperate with any request or requirement imposed by the Contracting Authority will render the bid non-responsive or constitute a default under the Contract.

5.1 Certifications Required with the Bid

Bidders must submit the following duly completed certifications as part of their bid.

5.1.1 Declaration of Convicted Offences

In accordance with the [Ineligibility and Suspension Policy \(http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ci-if/politique-policy-eng.html\)](http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ci-if/politique-policy-eng.html), the Bidder must provide with its bid the required documentation, as applicable, to be given further consideration in the procurement process.

5.2 Certifications Precedent to Contract Award and Additional Information

The certifications and additional information listed below should be submitted with the bid but may be submitted afterwards. If any of these required certifications or additional information is not completed and submitted as requested, the Contracting Authority will inform the Bidder of a time frame within which to provide the information. Failure to provide the certifications or the additional information listed below within the time frame specified will render the bid non-responsive.

5.2.1 Integrity Provisions – List of Names

In accordance with the [Ineligibility and Suspension Policy \(http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ci-if/politique-policy-eng.html\)](http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ci-if/politique-policy-eng.html), the Bidder must provide with its bid the required documentation, as applicable, to be given further consideration in the procurement process.

- Bidders who are incorporated, including those bidding as a joint venture, must provide a complete list of names of all individuals who are currently directors of the Bidder or, in the case of a private company, the owners of the company.
- Bidders bidding as sole proprietorship, as well as those bidding as a joint venture, must provide the name of the owner(s).
- Bidders bidding as partnerships do not need to provide lists of names.

Name of Bidder: _____

OR

Name of each member of the joint venture:

Member 1: _____



Member 2: _____
Member 3: _____
Member 4: _____

Identification of the administrators/owners:

SURNAME	NAME	TITLE

5.2.2 Federal Contractors Program for Employment Equity - Bid Certification

By submitting a bid, the Bidder certifies that the Bidder, and any of the Bidder's members if the Bidder is a Joint Venture, is not named on the Federal Contractors Program (FCP) for employment equity "[FCP Limited Eligibility to Bid](http://www.labour.gc.ca/eng/standards_equity/eq/emp/fcp/list/inelig.shtml)" list (http://www.labour.gc.ca/eng/standards_equity/eq/emp/fcp/list/inelig.shtml) available from [Employment and Social Development Canada \(ESDC\) - Labour's](#) website.

Canada will have the right to declare a bid non-responsive if the Bidder, or any member of the Bidder if the Bidder is a Joint Venture, appears on the "[FCP Limited Eligibility to Bid](#)" list at the time of contract award.

5.2.3 Status and Availability of Resources

The Bidder certifies that, should it be awarded a contract as a result of the bid solicitation, every individual proposed in its bid will be available to perform the Work as required by Canada's representatives and at the time specified in the bid solicitation or agreed to with Canada's representatives. If for reasons beyond its control, the Bidder is unable to provide the services of an individual named in its bid, the Bidder may propose a substitute with similar qualifications and experience. The Bidder must advise the Contracting Authority of the reason for the substitution and provide the name, qualifications and experience of the proposed replacement. For the purposes of this clause, only the following reasons will be considered as beyond the control of the Bidder: death, sickness, maternity and parental leave, retirement, resignation, dismissal for cause or termination of an agreement for default.

If the Bidder has proposed any individual who is not an employee of the Bidder, the Bidder certifies that it has the permission from that individual to propose his/her services in relation to the Work to be performed and to submit his/her résumé to Canada. The Bidder must, upon request from the Contracting Authority, provide a written confirmation, signed by the individual, of the permission given to the Bidder and of his/her availability.

5.2.4 Education and Experience



The Bidder certifies that all the information provided in the résumés and supporting material submitted with its bid, particularly the information pertaining to education, achievements, experience and work history, has been verified by the Bidder to be true and accurate. Furthermore, the Bidder warrants that every individual proposed by the Bidder for the requirement is capable of performing the Work described in the resulting contract.

5.2.5 Former Public Servant

Contracts awarded to former public servants (FPS) in receipt of a pension or of a lump sum payment must bear the closest public scrutiny, and reflect fairness in the spending of public funds. In order to comply with Treasury Board policies and directives on contracts awarded to FPSs, bidders must provide the information required below before contract award. If the answer to the questions and, as applicable the information required have not been received by the time the evaluation of bids is completed, Canada will inform the Bidder of a time frame within which to provide the information. Failure to comply with Canada’s request and meet the requirement within the prescribed time frame will render the bid non-responsive.

Definitions

For the purposes of this clause, "former public servant" is any former member of a department as defined in the [Financial Administration Act](#), R.S., 1985, c. F-11, a former member of the Canadian Armed Forces or a former member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. A former public servant may be:

- a. an individual;
- b. an individual who has incorporated;
- c. a partnership made of former public servants; or
- d. a sole proprietorship or entity where the affected individual has a controlling or major interest in the entity.

"lump sum payment period" means the period measured in weeks of salary, for which payment has been made to facilitate the transition to retirement or to other employment as a result of the implementation of various programs to reduce the size of the Public Service. The lump sum payment period does not include the period of severance pay, which is measured in a like manner.

"pension" means a pension or annual allowance paid under the [Public Service Superannuation Act](#) (PSSA), R.S., 1985, c. P-36, and any increases paid pursuant to the [Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act](#), R.S., 1985, c. S-24 as it affects the PSSA. It does not include pensions payable pursuant to the [Canadian Forces Superannuation Act](#), R.S., 1985, c. C-17, the [Defence Services Pension Continuation Act](#), 1970, c. D-3, the [Royal Canadian Mounted Police Pension Continuation Act](#), 1970, c. R-10, and the [Royal Canadian Mounted Police Superannuation Act](#), R.S., 1985, c. R-11, the [Members of Parliament Retiring Allowances Act](#), R.S. 1985, c. M-5, and that portion of pension payable to the [Canada Pension Plan Act](#), R.S., 1985, c. C-8.

Former Public Servant in Receipt of a Pension

As per the above definitions, is the Bidder a FPS in receipt of a pension? **Yes** () **No** ()

If so, the Bidder must provide the following information, for all FPSs in receipt of a pension, as applicable:

- a. name of former public servant; _____



b. date of termination of employment or retirement from the Public Service. _____

By providing this information, Bidders agree that the successful Bidder's status, with respect to being a former public servant in receipt of a pension, will be reported on departmental websites as part of the published proactive disclosure reports in accordance with [Contracting Policy Notice: 2012-2](#) and the [Guidelines on the Proactive Disclosure of Contracts](#).

Work Force Adjustment Directive

Is the Bidder a FPS who received a lump sum payment pursuant to the terms of the Work Force Adjustment Directive? **Yes** () **No** ()

If so, the Bidder must provide the following information:

a. name of former public servant; _____

b. conditions of the lump sum payment incentive; _____

c. date of termination of employment; _____

d. amount of lump sum payment; _____

e. rate of pay on which lump sum payment is based; _____

f. period of lump sum payment including:

- start date _____
- end date _____
- and number of weeks _____

g. number and amount (professional fees) of other contracts subject to the restrictions of a work force adjustment program.

Professional fees	Amount
_____	_____
_____	_____

For all contracts awarded during the lump sum payment period, the total amount of fees that may be paid to a FPS who received a lump sum payment is \$5,000, including Applicable Taxes.

5.2.6 Aboriginal Designation

Who is eligible?

- a) An Aboriginal business, which can be:
- i. a band as defined by the Indian Act
 - ii. a sole proprietorship
 - iii. a limited company
 - iv. a co-operative
 - v. a partnership
 - vi. a not-for-profit organization



in which Aboriginal persons have at least 51 percent ownership and control,

OR

- b. A joint venture consisting of two or more Aboriginal businesses or an Aboriginal business and a non-Aboriginal business(es), provided that the Aboriginal business(es) has at least 51 percent ownership and control of the joint venture.

When an Aboriginal business has six or more full-time employees at the date of submitting the bid, at least thirty-three percent of them must be Aboriginal persons, and this ratio must be maintained throughout the duration of the contract.

The bidder must certify in its submitted bid that it is an Aboriginal business or a joint venture constituted as described above.

- Our Company is NOT an Aboriginal Firm, as identified above.
- Our Company is an Aboriginal Firm, as identified above. The supplier must complete the certificate in the appropriate clause below.

SACC Manual clauses [A3000T](#), [A3001T](#), [M3030T](#), [M9030T](#), [S3035T](#) and [S3036T](#) contain a certification that suppliers must complete and submit with their bid/offer/arrangement. Failure by suppliers to submit this completed certification form with their bids/offers/arrangements will render the bid/offer/arrangement non-responsive.



PART 6 - SECURITY REQUIREMENTS

6.1 Security Requirements

There is no security requirement applicable to this Contract.



PART 7 - RESULTING CONTRACT CLAUSES

The following clauses and conditions apply to and form part of any contract resulting from the bid solicitation.

7.1 Statement of Work

The Contractor must perform the Work in accordance with the Statement of Work at Annex "____" and the Contractor's technical bid entitled _____, dated _____. (*to be completed at contract award*)

7.2 Standard Clauses and Conditions

All clauses and conditions identified in the Contract by number, date and title are set out in the [Standard Acquisition Clauses and Conditions Manual](https://buyandsell.gc.ca/policy-and-guidelines/standard-acquisition-clauses-and-conditions-manual)(<https://buyandsell.gc.ca/policy-and-guidelines/standard-acquisition-clauses-and-conditions-manual>) issued by Public Works and Government Services Canada.

7.2.1 General Conditions

[2010B](#) (2016-04-04), General Conditions – Professional Services - Medium Complexity, apply to and form part of the Contract.

- As applicable, replace references to Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) with Natural Resources Canada (NRCan).

7.2.2 Supplemental General Conditions

The following clauses apply to this contract:

[4007](#) (2010-08-16), Canada to Own Intellectual Property Rights in Foreground Information

7.3 Dispute Resolution

Mediation

If a dispute arising from this contract cannot be settled amicably through negotiation, then the parties agree in good faith to submit the dispute to mediation as administered by the Arbitration and Mediation Institute of Canada Inc. (AMIC). The parties acknowledge receipt of the rules of AMIC. The cost of mediation shall be borne equally by the parties.

Arbitration

If the parties cannot resolve the dispute through mediation within sixty (60) days, the parties agree to submit the dispute to arbitration pursuant to the Commercial Arbitration Act (Canada). The party requesting such arbitration shall do so by written notice to the other party/parties. The cost of the arbitration and fees of the arbitrator shall be borne equally by the parties. The arbitration shall take place in the city where the contractor carries on business before a single arbitrator to be chosen jointly by the parties. If the parties cannot agree on the choice of arbitrator within thirty (30) days of written notice to submit the dispute to arbitration, each party will choose a representative who will select the arbitrator. The parties may determine the procedure to be followed by the arbitrator in conducting the proceedings, or may ask the arbitrator to do so. The arbitrator shall issue a written award within thirty (30) days of hearing the parties. The award may be entered in any court having jurisdiction and enforced as a judgment of that court.

Meaning of "Dispute"



The parties agree that the word "dispute" in this clause refers to a dispute of fact or of law, other than a dispute of public law.

The parties understand that the Procurement Ombudsman appointed pursuant to Subsection 22.1(1) of the *Department of Public Works and Government Services Act* will, on request or consent of the parties to participate in an alternative dispute resolution process to resolve any dispute between the parties respecting the interpretation or application of a term and condition of this contract and their consent to bear the cost of such process, provide to the parties a proposal for an alternative dispute resolution process to resolve their dispute. The Office of the Procurement Ombudsman may be contacted by telephone at 1-866-734-5169 or by e-mail at boa.opo@boa.opo.gc.ca.

7.4 Security Requirements

7.4.1 There is no security requirement applicable to this Contract.

7.5 Term of Contract

7.5.1 Period of the Contract

The period of the Contract is from date of Contract to _____ inclusive (*fill in end date of the period*).

7.6 Authorities

7.6.1 Contracting Authority

The Contracting Authority for the Contract is:

Name: Len Pizzi
Title: [Procurement Officer](#)
Organization: Natural Resources Canada
Address: [183 Longwood Road South, Hamilton, ON, L8P 0A5](#)
Telephone: (905) 645-0676
Facsimile: (905) 645-0831
E-mail address: len.pizzi@canada.ca

The Contracting Authority is responsible for the management of the Contract and any changes to the Contract must be authorized in writing by the Contracting Authority. The Contractor must not perform work in excess of or outside the scope of the Contract based on verbal or written requests or instructions from anybody other than the Contracting Authority.

7.6.2 Project Authority (*to be provided at contract award*)

The Project Authority for the Contract is:

Name:
Title:
Organization:
Address:
Telephone:
Facsimile:
E-mail address:

The Project Authority is the representative of the department or agency for whom the Work is being carried out under the Contract and is responsible for all matters concerning the technical content of the



Work under the Contract. Technical matters may be discussed with the Project Authority; however, the Project Authority has no authority to authorize changes to the scope of the Work. Changes to the scope of the Work can only be made through a contract amendment issued by the Contracting Authority.

7.6.3 Contractor's Representative (*to be provided at contract award*)

Name:

Title:

Organization:

Address:

Telephone:

Facsimile:

E-mail address

7.7 Proactive Disclosure of Contracts with Former Public Servants

By providing information on its status, with respect to being a former public servant in receipt of a [Public Service Superannuation Act](#) (PSSA) pension, the Contractor has agreed that this information will be reported on departmental websites as part of the published proactive disclosure reports, in accordance with [Contracting Policy Notice: 2012-2](#) of the Treasury Board Secretariat of Canada.

7.8 Payment

7.8.1 Basis of Payment – Firm Price, Firm Unit Price(S) or Firm Lot Price(s)

In consideration of the Contractor satisfactorily completing all of its obligations under the Contract, the Contractor will be paid a firm price, as specified in Annex “___” for a cost of \$ _____. Customs duties are included and Applicable Taxes are extra.

Canada will not pay the Contractor for any design changes, modifications or interpretations of the Work, unless they have been approved, in writing, by the Contracting Authority before their incorporation into the Work.

7.8.2 Method of Payment

Option 1: *Use the following clause in contracts for goods and services (except construction and utility contracts) when a single payment will be made upon completion of all work and deliveries.*

Single Payment

Canada will pay the Contractor upon completion and delivery of the Work in accordance with the payment provisions of the Contract if:

- a. an accurate and complete invoice and any other documents required by the Contract have been submitted in accordance with the invoicing instructions provided in the Contract;
- b. all such documents have been verified by Canada;
- c. the Work delivered has been accepted by Canada.

Option 2: *Use the following clause in contracts for goods (except construction and utility contracts) with multiple deliveries when payment will be made on completion of each delivery*

Multiple Payments



Canada will pay the Contractor upon completion and delivery of units in accordance with the payment provisions of the Contract if:

- a. an accurate and complete invoice and any other documents required by the Contract have been submitted in accordance with the invoicing instructions provided in the Contract;
- b. all such documents have been verified by Canada;
- c. the Work delivered has been accepted by Canada.

Option 3: *Use the following clause in contracts for services when payment will be made on a monthly basis for work performed*

Monthly Payment

Canada will pay the Contractor on a monthly basis for work performed during the month covered by the invoice in accordance with the payment provisions of the Contract if:

- a. an accurate and complete invoice and any other documents required by the Contract have been submitted in accordance with the invoicing instructions provided in the Contract;
- b. all such documents have been verified by Canada;
- c. the Work performed has been accepted by Canada.

Option 4: *Use the following clause in contracts when progress payment against milestone will be made in accordance with an established schedule of milestones*

Milestone Payments

Canada will make milestone payments in accordance with the Schedule of Milestones detailed in the Contract and the payment provisions of the Contract if:

- a. an accurate and complete claim for payment, and any other document required by the Contract have been submitted in accordance with the invoicing instructions provided in the Contract;
- b. all work associated with the milestone and as applicable any deliverable required has been completed and accepted by Canada.

Option 5: *Use the following clause in contracts when advance payment will be made.*

Use this clause in conjunction with K9010C, if applicable

Advance Payment

Canada will pay the Contractor in advance for the Work if:

- a. an accurate and complete invoice and any other documents required by the Contract have been submitted in accordance with the invoicing instructions provided in the Contract;
- b. all such documents have been verified by Canada.

7.9 Invoicing Instructions

Invoices shall be submitted using one of the following methods:



E-mail:

NRCan.invoice_imaging-service_dimagerie_des_factures.NRCan@canada.ca

Note:

Attach "PDF" file. No other formats will be accepted

OR

Fax:

Local NCR region: **613-947-0987**

Toll-free: **1-877-947-0987**

Note:

Use highest quality settings available.

Please do not submit invoices using more than one method as this will not expedite payment.

Invoices and all documents relating to a contract must be submitted on the Contractor's own form and shall bear the following reference numbers: Contract number: _____

Invoicing Instructions to suppliers: <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/procurement/3485>

7.10 Certifications

7.10.1 Compliance

The continuous compliance with the certifications provided by the Contractor in its bid and the ongoing cooperation in providing additional information are conditions of the Contract. Certifications are subject to verification by Canada during the entire period of the Contract. If the Contractor does not comply with any certification, fails to provide the additional information, or if it is determined that any certification made by the Contractor in its bid is untrue, whether made knowingly or unknowingly, Canada has the right, pursuant to the default provision of the Contract, to terminate the Contract for default.

7.11 Applicable Laws

The Contract must be interpreted and governed, and the relations between the parties determined, by the laws in force in Ontario.

7.12 Priority of Documents

If there is a discrepancy between the wording of any documents that appear on the list, the wording of the document that first appears on the list has priority over the wording of any document that subsequently appears on the list.

- (a) the Articles of Agreement;
- (b) the supplemental general conditions **4007** - Canada to Own Intellectual Property Rights in Foreground Information (2010-08-16);
- (c) the general conditions **2010B**, General Conditions – Professional Services - Medium Complexity (2016-04-04);
- (d) Annex A, Statement of Work;
- (e) Annex B, Basis of Payment; and
- (f) the Contractor's bid dated _____.



7.13 Foreign Nationals (Canadian Contractor **OR Foreign Contractor)**

SACC Manual clause [A2000C](#) (2006-06-16) Foreign Nationals (Canadian Contractor)

OR

SACC Manual clause [A2001C](#) (2006-06-16) Foreign Nationals (Foreign Contractor)

7.14 Insurance

The Contractor is responsible for deciding if insurance coverage is necessary to fulfill its obligation under the Contract and to ensure compliance with any applicable law. Any insurance acquired or maintained by the Contractor is at its own expense and for its own benefit and protection. It does not release the Contractor from or reduce its liability under the Contract.

7.15 Contract Administration

The parties understand that the Procurement Ombudsman appointed pursuant to Subsection 22.1(1) of the *Department of Public Works and Government Services Act* will review a complaint filed by [*the supplier or the contractor or the name of the entity awarded this contract*] respecting administration of this contract if the requirements of Subsection 22.2(1) of the *Department of Public Works and Government Services Act* and Sections 15 and 16 of the *Procurement Ombudsman Regulations* have been met, and the interpretation and application of the terms and conditions and the scope of the work of this contract are not in dispute. The Office of the Procurement Ombudsman may be contacted by telephone at 1-866-734-5169 or by e-mail at boa.opo@boa.opo.gc.ca.



ANNEX "A" - STATEMENT OF WORK

Background

In recent years, a steady, reliable, and secure supply of critical metals has become increasingly important to major industrialized economies that seek to sustain their industrial base and develop advanced technologies, such as clean energy. In light of this, Canada, with its significant critical metal reserves, has an opportunity to supply some of the global demand for critical metals. However, to transition from promising mineral deposits to marketable products, investment in fundamental R&D and expertise is needed to address the complex technological challenges around the production, separation and processing of critical metals, and to better understand the global market for these key commodities.

Rare Earth Elements (REE) represent an opportunity for Canada to enter an emerging and globally strategic market. However, the metallurgy for Canadian ores containing REE involves a complex sequence of individual separation, refining, alloying and formation stages before they can be used in the production of permanent magnets, consumer electronics and other high value-added high-tech products.

Natural Resources Canada has been directed through Budget 2015 to undertake a significant effort to support the development of Rare Earth Elements and chromite in order to maximize Canadian value and benefits from these deposits.

Pregnant leach solutions (PLS) from Canadian orebodies commonly contain various impurities such as iron, aluminum, base metals, uranium/thorium and associated radionuclides as well as fluoride and phosphate. These elements must be separated from REE contained in the PLS, and while various techniques are quite well-known for this, further work is required to better assess which combinations of techniques are most economic. Options for the removal of uranium, thorium, lanthanum, cerium and yttrium are also important constituents for development of the Canadian industry.

Objective

To undertake an economic trade-off study and bench scale (small scale, such as on a laboratory work table) testing to optimize impurity removal (specifically iron and thorium) while minimizing reagent consumption and REE losses.

Work to be performed

There are three (3) sections to this work, outlined below. The bidder's proposal must address all three. While it is recognized that the best approach would be to undertake section one prior to starting sections 2 and 3, time requirements may not allow for this and therefore all sections may need to proceed concurrently. The bidders work plan must account for this. A separate final report must be generated for each section.

Bidders will design and undertake an appropriate work plan to address the overall objective and the specific requirements outlined for each section below. As a minimum, the work plan will consider the parameters identified in each section, and will include a brief description of the analytical methods to be used for chemical assays. A sufficient number of tests are required to ensure scientifically sound results and conclusions (standard QA/QC).

Minimum equipment requirements to complete the work include:

- Static or rotary furnace with temperature control up to 900 degrees Celsius
- Appropriate mixing and leaching equipment
- Solvent extraction apparatus
- Lab scale continuous IX equipment
- Access to analytical facilities for measurement of REE



1) Trade-off study for iron and thorium removal via precipitation (level of effort: approximately 25%)

Based on publically available literature and consultation with relevant industry professionals, a trade-off study is required to consider the following scenarios related to the removal of iron and thorium via precipitation:

- Limestone – its use produces gypsum in sulphate systems which may lead to REE losses;
- The use of non-calcium based reagents including sodium hydroxide, sodium carbonate, magnesium oxide, magnesium carbonate compared with calcium carbonate to produce $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_3/\text{Th}(\text{OH})_4$. This should include an analysis of one stage versus two stage precipitation;
- The use of high temperature baking allows for early rejection of thorium.

The study must consider the operational challenges, anticipated recoveries, and both capital and operational requirements. Based on the findings, make recommendations as to the methods deemed most likely to be successful and indicate specific priority areas where more research is required. Results from work completed in sections two and three should be incorporated into the final draft of the trade-off study as results permit.

All of the economic information must be provided in Canadian dollars. When monetary estimates are not available in Canadian dollars, foreign currency estimates must be converted and presented in Canadian dollars accompanied by an explanation of the exchange rates used.

Use of Canadian data should be prioritized over those from foreign sources (e.g., United States and European Union). When only foreign data is available, the Contractor should extrapolate the data for the Canadian market and support the extrapolation with valid assumptions (e.g., based on GDP, market share and demand in North America).

A clear explanation of any assumptions used and calculations made must accompany any data provided.

2) High temperature baking (level of effort: approximately 40%)

The primary objective of this study is to investigate the stabilization of thorium as poorly or insoluble species through high temperature baking. Sulfuric acid baking at temperatures around 200 – 300°C has been widely investigated and used to crack REE minerals however, under these conditions, thorium can be converted to highly soluble $\text{Th}_2(\text{SO}_4)_2$ and enter the PLS after the water leach. Under such circumstances, thorium handling may be a problem in subsequent steps in the flow sheet. High temperature baking may offer a method to reduce the thorium solubility and eliminate thorium in the early stage of production. A better understanding of these reactions in the high temperature baking process may lead to a better solution for thorium control and disposal. To examine this possibility, the following tasks are proposed.

The bidder will:

- Complete a literature review on the application of high temperature baking for REE processing, focusing on phosphate and sulfuric acid and their interactions with REE, Fe and Th. The review should include the conditions for the thermal decomposition of thorium sulfate and thorium phosphate species.
- Complete a literature/thermodynamic analysis of the solubility of thorium phosphate species in sulfuric acid media at temperatures between 25 and 800°C. The objective is to identify the conditions that produce insoluble thorium species.
- Study the effect of several variables in high temperature baking, using one REE concentrate (to be provided by CanmetMINING), on the dissolution of REE, Th and phosphate in the pregnant leach solution. As a minimum, the following variables should be included: temperature (minimum 5 levels), acid:concentrate ratio (minimum 4 levels), P:Th ratio (minimum 4 levels), and baking time (minimum 5 levels) within each test. Speciation of the baking products shall be identified.



Tests shall be undertaken using 100 grams of concentrate per test (to be supplied by CanmetMINING).

The water leach variables, including water leach temperature (4 levels), pulp density (4 levels), leaching acidity (4 levels), and any other parameters the bidder deems necessary, shall also be optimized in order to perform a proper leaching on the baked ore. The water leach results are to be used to study the dissolution of REE, Th and other impurities under various baking conditions. A 10:1 ratio of water:ore is recommended for the water leach.

The contractor must have the equipment and capacity to carry out acid baking experiments.

3) An investigation of multi-stage iron precipitation strategy in impurity removal from REE PLS and thermodynamic analysis and preliminary experimental study of REE-Fe-phosphate-sulphate solutions (Level of effort: approximately 35%)

Two-stage iron precipitation is used to decrease the REE loss in impurity removal from REE PLS. The Fe:P ratio is an important factor in REE PLS purification processing flow sheets. The chemistry of this system is expected to be very complicated, considering the interactions among Fe, hydroxide, P, Ca and REE.

The bidder will:

- Complete a fundamental thermodynamic review of the REE-Fe-phosphate-sulphate-water system at temperatures between 25 to 100°C. This component includes Eh-pH diagrams, speciation diagrams and solubility of different species, for both ferrous and ferric ions. Solution speciation is a critical part of this component.
- Based on the thermodynamic review, carry out limited iron precipitation tests at various Fe:P ratios, focussing on REE loss and thorium precipitation. Calcium carbonate and magnesium oxide are the two major alkalis for this purpose. As a minimum, variables should include: Magnesium oxide as the alkali, Fe:P ratio (minimum 5 levels), pH (minimum 5 levels), and temperature (minimum 5 levels). Analysis of the products must include neodymium, praseodymium, ytterbium, thorium, phosphate, sulphate and iron.
- Based on the optimal conditions determined above, carry out five (5) comparative tests using sodium hydroxide, sodium carbonate, magnesium oxide, magnesium carbonate and calcium carbonate as the alkali. Speciation (by XRD for example) of the solid precipitate should be performed at the bidder's discretion, whenever this information will help to understand the precipitation performance.

This work will be undertaken using a synthetic test solution with the base compositions provided by CanmetMINING.

Deliverables

Deliverable 1: An initial meeting within one (1) week of signing the contract. The date, type (telephone, video-conference, WebEx, in person) and place of the meeting (if in person) will be decided jointly between NRCan and the supplier. The objective of the meeting is to discuss the proposal, clarify the schedule, and refine/finalize the work plan.

Deliverable 2: Revised work plan for all test work based on discussion during Deliverable 1 discussion within 3 working days of Deliverable 1.

Deliverable 3: Progress Report: The Contractor must provide a progress report that provides a summary of work completed in all areas, results and issues encountered to date. This is to be received by March



29, 2017. Natural Resources Canada will review and provide comments to the Contractor within ten (10) working days after receiving the document.

Deliverable 4: Draft Reports: The Contractor must provide one electronic copy of a draft report for each area, which must contain all the study findings, recommendations and conclusions (with justification) on the best options to pursue at a larger scale, as per the Statement of Work by April 28, 2017. Note that this requires the completion of three (3) separate reports. Natural Resources Canada will review and provide comments to the Contractor within five (5) working days after receiving the draft report.

Deliverable 5: Final Reports: Submission of three (3) separate reports (in English) covering each test area, at the end of the project which must address all changes/comments provided by NRCan in Deliverable 4. An electronic copy of the report must be received by NRCan no later than May 12, 2017.

Schedule

The last deliverable must be submitted to NRCan no later than May 12, 2017..

Task	Dates
Initial Meeting(deliverable #1)	Within 5 working days of Contract Award Date (CAD).
Revised work plan based on deliverable 1 discussion (deliverable 2)	Within 3 working days of Deliverable 1
Progress report (deliverable #3)	March 29, 2017
Draft Report (deliverable #4)	April 28, 2017
Final report (deliverable #5)	May 12, 2017

Bidder's response

The general description of the work to be performed (bidder's response) must not exceed twenty (20) pages, CVs and realized projects description excluded. If the work description exceeds the maximum number of pages, only the first twenty (20) pages will be considered at the proposal evaluation stage



ANNEX "B" - BASIS OF PAYMENT

(to be completed at contract award)



APPENDIX “1” - EVALUATION CRITERIA

Bidders are advised to address these criteria in the following order and in sufficient depth in their proposals to enable a thorough assessment. NRCan’s assessment will be based solely on the information contained within the proposal. NRCan may confirm information or seek clarification from bidders.

Bidders are advised that only listing experience without providing any supporting data to describe responsibilities, duties and relevance to the criteria will not be considered demonstrated for the purpose of this evaluation.

The Bidder should provide complete details as to where, when (month and year) and how (through which activities/ responsibilities) the stated qualifications/experience were obtained. Experience gained during formal education shall not be considered work experience. All criteria for work experience shall be obtained in a legitimate work environment as opposed to an educational setting. Co-op terms are considered work experience provided they are related to the required services.

Bidders are also advised that the month(s) of experience listed for a project whose time frame overlaps that of another referenced project will only be counted once. For example: project one time frame is July 2001 to December 2001; project two time frame is October 2001 to January 2002; the total months of experience for these two project references is seven (7) months.

1. TECHNICAL CRITERIA

1.1 MANDATORY EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Mandatory Criteria listed below will be evaluated on a simple pass/fail basis. Proposals which fail to meet the mandatory criteria will be deemed non-responsive.



Criterion ID	Mandatory Criteria	Proposal Page #	Pass/Fail
M1	<p>Bidders Proposed Resources Experience</p> <p>Each of the following must be met and described in the bidders proposal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) At least one resource with hydrometallurgical experience related specifically to the processing of rare earth elements (Minimum 5 years within the last ten (10) years) 2) At least one resource with significant experience in conducting bench scale hydrometallurgical research and/or testing related to acid baking, leaching and precipitation (Minimum 3 years within the last ten (10) years) 3) At least one resource with significant experience in completing trade-off studies for assessing processing options within the mining industry (Minimum 3 projects within the last ten (10) years) <p>For each of the above, the bidder must indicate the name of the resource and demonstrate how he/she meets the criteria in the curriculum vitae (CV). An individual can meet more than one of the items above if qualified.</p>		
M2	<p>Bidders must provide curriculum vitae (CV) for each proposed resource.</p>		
M3	<p>Bidders must demonstrate that they currently possess the following functional equipment in sufficient quantities to ensure that the required testing (as stated in the SOW) will be completed on time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum equipment requirement to simulate high temperature baking processes and leaching: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Static or rotary furnace with temperature control up to 900 degrees Celsius ○ Appropriate mixing and leaching equipment ○ Solvent extraction apparatus ○ Lab scale continuous IX equipment ○ Access to analytical facilities for measurement of REE <p>Manufacturer and model numbers for major equipment should be provided where appropriate.</p>		

1.2 EVALUATION OF RATED CRITERIA

The criteria contained herein will be used by NRCan to evaluate each proposal that has met all of the mandatory criteria.

Proposals must achieve the stated minimum points required for each rated criterion to be assessed as responsive under the point rated technical criteria section; proposals not meeting the minimum required points will be deemed non-responsive.



Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Criterion ID	Point Rated Technical Criteria	Minimum Points /Maximum Points	Proposal Page #
R1	<p>Bidders Proposed Resources Qualifications</p> <p>Bidders core team member qualifications to a cumulative maximum of 10 points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical diploma (1 point) - Bachelor degree level (2 points) - Master degree level (3 points) - Doctoral degree level (5 points) 	10	
R2	<p>Bidders Proposed Resources Experience in completing bench scale hydrometallurgical tests for the processing of REE. Project example with brief description to be provided.</p> <p>Brief description must clearly demonstrate the experience and relevance (1 point per project up to 10)</p>	10	
R3	<p>Approach and Methods bidder must present a detailed work plan that meets the minimum requirements described in the SOW and clearly demonstrates a scientifically sound approach that will achieve the project goal.</p> <p>The bidders plan must clearly describe their approach to completing the requirements outlined in the Statement of Work and include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Experimental design, including overall approach, number of tests, and replication/verification of results for each section in the SOW; 2) Equipment that will be utilized in various tests, including analytical assays; 3) Methods to be used for data analyses and presentation; 4) Equipment to be utilized in carrying out all tests 5) solutions for overcoming challenges, mitigating risks and ensuring deliverables are met on time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - bidders plan addresses none of the requested items (0 points) - bidders plan clearly addresses only one of the requested items (1 - 10 points) - bidders plan clearly addresses only two of the requested items (11 - 20 points) - bidders plan clearly addresses only three of the requested items (21 - 30 points) - bidders plan clearly addresses only four of the requested items (31 - 40 points) - bidders plan clearly addresses all of the requested items (41 - 50 points) 	50	
R4	<p>Approach and Methods bidders plan identifies tasks, resources, milestones and schedule in table format that will satisfy the requirements of the Statement of Work</p>	10	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - proposal is missing information related to tasks, resources, milestones and schedule for all of the requirements in the Statement of Work (0 points) - proposal is missing information related to tasks, resources, milestones and schedule for many of the requirements in the Statement of Work (3 points) - proposal is missing information related to tasks, resources, milestones and schedule for some of the requirements in the Statement of Work (5 points) - proposal clearly identifies the required tasks, resources, milestones and schedule for all requirements in the Statement of Work (10 points) 		
R5	<p>Approach and Methods while the SOW indicates the minimum requirements, the bidder is encouraged to suggest research plan modifications that will clearly improve the quality, timeliness, integrity and relevancy of the test program. Rationale must be explained.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - proposal does not suggest modifications (0 points) - proposal suggests modifications that will produce minor improvements to the test program (5 points) - proposal suggests modifications that will produce minor improvements to the test program (10 points) - proposal suggests modifications that will produce major improvements to the test program (20 points) 	20	
Total points		100	

The evaluation grid described below will be used to evaluate the bidders' proposals based on each rated criterion.

EVALUATION GRID	
Excellent (100%)	The rated criteria are addressed in detail and the information provided shows that the bidder fully and thoroughly understands all elements of the rated criteria.
Very good (80%)	The information provided clearly shows the bidder fully understands all elements of the rated criteria.
Good (60%)	The information provided clearly shows the bidder fully understands certain but not all elements of the rated criteria.
Unsatisfactory (40%)	The information provided shows a limited understanding of the specified criteria, without showing that the bidder fully understands all elements of the rated criteria. The bidder shows basic communication skills. The project results presented are poor and non-significant.
Poor (20%)	The information provided shows that the bidder has a basic understanding of the specified criteria.
Unacceptable (0%)	The information provided does not meet the criteria.



2. FINANCIAL CRITERIA

2.1 MANDATORY FINANCIAL CRITERIA

Bidders must provide financial details as requested in this appendix. Proposals which do not contain pricing details as requested below shall be considered incomplete and non-responsive.

2.1.1 FUNDING LIMITATION

The maximum funding available for the Contract resulting from the bid solicitation is \$165, 000 (Applicable Taxes extra). Bids valued in excess of this amount will be considered non-responsive. This disclosure does not commit Canada to pay the maximum funding available.

This maximum **included a) the Price to perform the Work, b) any Travel and Living and c) Miscellaneous Expenses that may be required.**

Any bids received in excess of this maximum funding will be automatically deemed non-responsive and will not be evaluated.



APPENDIX “2” – FINANCIAL PROPOSAL FORM

1. FIRM PRICE - Milestone Payments

Bidder tendered all-inclusive firm price to perform the work is in Canadian funds, applicable taxes excluded. Any Travel and Living Expenses and other miscellaneous expenses must be included in the firm price.

The bidder must complete the schedule below indicating the firm proposed amounts for each step according to the indicated percentages:

Milestone #	Description of Milestone	Milestone Firm Price (applicable taxes excluded)
1	Progress report (deliverable #3)	\$ _____
2	Draft Report (deliverable #4)	\$ _____
3	Final report (deliverable #5)	\$ _____
Total Firm Price for Financial Proposal Evaluation:		\$ _____