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Vendor/Firm Name and Address  
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Electronics, Simulators and Defence Systems Div.  
/Division des systèmes électroniques et des systèmes de  
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<b>Title - Sujet</b> Remote Minehunting and Disposal Sys	
<b>Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation</b> W8472-105270/B	<b>Date</b> 2017-02-01
<b>Client Reference No. - N° de référence du client</b> W8472-105270	<b>GETS Ref. No. - N° de réf. de SEAG</b> PW-\$\$QF-101-26162
<b>File No. - N° de dossier</b> 101qf.W8472-105270	<b>CCC No./N° CCC - FMS No./N° VME</b>
<b>Solicitation Closes - L'invitation prend fin</b> <b>at - à 02:00 PM</b> <b>on - le 2018-02-28</b>	
<b>Time Zone</b> <b>Fuseau horaire</b> Eastern Standard Time EST	
<b>F.O.B. - F.A.B.</b> Specified Herein - Précisé dans les présentes <b>Plant-Usine:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Destination:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other-Autre:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Address Enquiries to: - Adresser toutes questions à:</b> Michael Rancourt	<b>Buyer Id - Id de l'acheteur</b> 101qf
<b>Telephone No. - N° de téléphone</b> (819) 420-1734 ( )	<b>FAX No. - N° de FAX</b> (819) 956-5650
<b>Destination - of Goods, Services, and Construction:</b> <b>Destination - des biens, services et construction:</b>	

Instructions: See Herein

Instructions: Voir aux présentes

<b>Delivery Required - Livraison exigée</b>	<b>Delivery Offered - Livraison proposée</b>
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<b>Telephone No. - N° de téléphone</b> <b>Facsimile No. - N° de télécopieur</b>	
<b>Name and title of person authorized to sign on behalf of Vendor/Firm</b> <b>(type or print)</b> <b>Nom et titre de la personne autorisée à signer au nom du fournisseur/</b> <b>de l'entrepreneur (taper ou écrire en caractères d'imprimerie)</b>	
<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>

RFI Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation  
W8472-105270/B  
Client Ref. No. - N° de réf. du client  
W8472-105270

Amd. No. - N° de la modif.  
Original  
File No. - N° du dossier  
101qf W8472-105270

Buyer ID - Id de l'acheteur  
101qf  
CCC No./N° CCC - FMS No./N° VME

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# **Remote Minehunting and Disposal System (RMDS)**

## **Request for Information Process (RFI)**

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## **1. Industrial and Technological Benefits including Value Proposition**

This requirement is not subject to the international trade agreements and falls within the framework of the Defence Procurement Strategy announced on February 5, 2014. Therefore, the Industrial and Technological Benefits (ITB) Policy including Value Propositions (VP) is being considered for this requirement. Under a future Request for Proposal (RFP), the ITB obligation will be equivalent to 100% of the eligible contract value, for both the Acquisition and In-Service Support (ISS) Contracts, whereas the Value Proposition evaluation framework may be based upon, in part, Industry responses received.

## **2. Background**

The RMDS will generate a modular, stand-off Naval Mine Countermeasures (NMCM) capability, designed to provide the full spectrum of Naval Minehunting operations and contribute to underwater domain awareness. Project scope includes the full spectrum of operations using unmanned and tethered vehicles except for airborne operations. Unmanned Surface Vehicles (USVs) and airborne minehunting operations are outside the scope of the RMDS.

The project intends to leverage proven Military and Commercial off the Shelf (MilCOTS/COTS) unmanned systems and Unmanned Underwater Vehicle (UUV) technology. RMDS payloads will contain modular subsystems that are portable and deployable.

## **3. Requirement**

The Department of National Defence (DND) has a requirement to acquire and support long term, Remote Minehunting and Disposal systems for the *Kingston*-class ships that will provide the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) with a capability to conduct the full spectrum of naval minehunting operations and contribute to underwater domain awareness.

### Acquisition Deliverables

- Multiple UUV systems including autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs), remotely operated mine disposal vehicles (training/inspection and combat variants), control systems, a technical data package, initial integrated logistics support, and training
- Two (2) operational payloads: (one east coast, one west coast) each consisting of the following subsystems:

- 1) AUV – Search, Detect and Classify subsystem:
  - Minimum four (4) Man Portable Shallow Water AUV's (not more than 45 kg)
  - Minimum four (4) Light Weight Deep Water AUV's (up to 300 kg)
- 2) Mine Disposal Subsystem:
  - Minimum four (4) Inspection/Training variant - unarmed reusable
  - Minimum twenty (20) Combat variant – explosive ammunition capable
- 3) Transportable Command Centre Subsystem:
  - Minimum two (2) Standard 20' ISO support containers

#### In-Service Support (ISS) Considerations:

ISS strategy concepts (including performance based contract considerations) are being considered by Canada and data/information from industry may be required. More information will be provided in a future RFI amendment. The following represents the estimated ISS scope required:

#### ISS Deliverables

- Twenty plus (20+) years support with a five (5) year initial period, plus optional extension periods
- Support will include steady state integrated logistics support such as:
  - repair and overhaul services if applicable;
  - parts and parts supply services
  - maintenance
  - technical investigation and engineering studies;
  - periodic technology refresh and technology insertion with a technology watch function;
  - a field support representative component;
  - or, deliverables based on standard commercially available ISS packages from industry.

## **4. Past Industry Engagement**

Initial engagement with industry took place in 2010. On 7 April 2010, Canada released a Letter of Interest (LOI) for RMDS. The objectives of the initial industry engagement were to:

- provide industry with general information and a preliminary set of RMDS high level specifications;
- examine off-the-shelf solutions that were in service with other navies or soon to be in service; and,

- 
- evaluate and progress towards a potential RMDS formal RFP process.

## **5. Purpose for Further Engagement**

This RFI serves a number of purposes. From a programmatic standpoint it fosters a dialog with industry in the early stages of the project in order to commence the establishment of a mutually beneficial and trust-based relationship.

The RFI process will help confirm or modify the requirement specifications, obtain indicative costing for an end-to-end solution, for both acquisition and ISS, and to confirm or modify the schedule. Canada must go through a series of gates in order to obtain funding approval for the implementation phase and industry participation/information is an important part of this approval process.

The magnitude of the information being provided and that will be requested is increased by the fact that the RMDS is pursuing a procurement strategy whereby the intent is to award one contract to the same supplier for both the Acquisition and ISS requirements.

This RFI process will provide a continuous single point of official communication with industry that will remain open until a formal RFP is released. This continuous RFI process will allow the project to use the RFI process for multiple purposes such as:

- a) update industry on developments since the last engagement in 2010;
- b) to collaborate with industry on the procurement strategy, Industrial and Technological Benefits and Value Proposition strategy, and technical requirements;
- c) obtain information regarding off-the-shelf technology, indicative costing, warranty information, and sustainment concepts;
- d) answer questions from industry to ensure all interested participants receive the same information;
- e) seek comments and feedback from industry on draft RFP documents;
- f) to provide project schedule updates; and
- g) announce potential engagement activities (as required) such as:
  - Industry Day Events
  - One-on-one meetings

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## 6. Forthcoming Engagement with Industry

While this initial RFI release does not request any deliverables from industry, subsequent amendments to this RFI process will detail requested deliverables Canada is seeking that will help advance the requirement and progress toward a potential formal RFP process. The following is an anticipated list of activities in the short term that will be initiated via a RFI amendment:

- a) Release of Draft Statement of Work and Specification
- b) Present analysis on Canadian industrial capabilities related to the RMDS procurement
- c) Exercise to obtain indicative, non-binding rough order magnitude pricing information
- d) Release of a Draft RFP for industry comment and feedback
- e) Release of other information and activities as required

## 7. Estimated Project Schedule

Winter	2017:	Post RFI Process to buyandsell.ca
Winter	2018:	Possible Planned Formal RFP Release
Summer	2018:	Possible Contract Award
Summer	2019:	Deliver First System
Fall	2019:	Deliver Last System
Winter	2019:	Ammunition and Ammunition ILS Delivery
Spring	2020:	Full Operational Capability

The above dates are planned dates and subject to change as the project marches towards its funded implementation phase. Canada would be interested in working with industry to confirm or improve the schedule. This will also be required for completion of cost estimates and cash phasing.

## 8. Additional Information Requests

Throughout the RFI process, the Contracting Authority may request additional information, clarifications or site visits from participating suppliers.

## 9. Security

There is no security requirement associated with this RFI; however it is anticipated that a security requirement will be associated with the potential follow-on solicitation and may be classified as SECRET.

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## **10. Trade Agreements**

The Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) applies to this requirement.

## **11. Comprehensive Land Claim Agreements (CLCA)**

This procurement is not subject to the Comprehensive Land Claim Agreements (CLCAs) as the final delivery points of the goods and services required are not within the Comprehensive Land Claims Settlements Areas.

## **12. Enquiries**

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 fifteen (15) calendar days before the RFI closing date. Enquiries received after that time may not be answered.

Care should be taken by suppliers 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 questions or may request that the respondent do so, so that the proprietary nature of the question is eliminated, and the enquiry can be answered with copies to all Suppliers. Enquiries not submitted in a form that can be distributed to all Suppliers may not be answered by Canada.

Changes to this RFI may occur and will be advertised through an RFI amendment on the Government Electronic Tendering System (*buyandsell.ca*).

## **13. PSPC Contracting Authority**

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Land and Air Equipment Procurement and Support Sector (LAEPSS)  
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## **14. Notes to Interested Suppliers**



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This is neither a call for tender nor a Request for Proposal (RFP), and no agreement or contract for the procurement of the equipment and / or services stated herein will be entered into solely as a result of this RFI. This announcement does not constitute a commitment by Canada. Canada does not intend to award a contract on the basis of the notice or otherwise pay for the information solicited. Any and all expenses incurred by industry in pursuing this opportunity, including the provision of information and potential visits, are at industry's sole risk and expense.

Any discussions on this subject with project staff representing the DND, PSPC, Innovation Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) or any other Government of Canada representative, or other personnel involved in project activities, shall not be construed as an offer to purchase or as commitment by DND, PSPC, ISED or Government of Canada as a whole.

Although the documents / information / data collected during this RFI process may be provided as commercial-in-confidence and will not be provided to a third party outside of Canada, Canada reserves the right to use the information to assist them in drafting performance specifications and for budgetary purposes. Requirements are subject to change, which may be as a result of information provided in response to this RFI. Suppliers are advised that any information submitted to Canada in response to this RFI may, or may not, be used by Canada in the development of the potential subsequent RFP. The issuance of this RFI does not create an obligation for Canada to issue a subsequent RFP, and does not bind Canada legally or otherwise, to enter into any agreement or to accept or reject any suggestions.

There will be no short-listing of Suppliers for the purposes of undertaking any future work, as a result of this RFI. Similarly, participation in this RFI is not a condition or prerequisite for the participation to any RFP.

As deliverables are requested by Canada, Respondents to this RFI process should identify any submitted information that is to be considered as either company confidential, proprietary or if the response contains controlled goods or classified information.