

This amendment is raised to modify Challenge EN578-DB1701 (Protecting Canada’s Soldiers with lighter and more durable resistant armour), and to answer bidder questions.

At page 2 of the Solicitation document,

DELETE:

The base plate (Module 1) must be a full composite plate (i.e. non-ceramic) providing the specified level of protection against rifle bullets.

INSERT:

The base plate (Module 1) must provide the specified level of protection against rifle bullets.

Bidder questions and answers:

Question 1:

What is the deadline to submit a proposal? Do we have 40 days or until March 29? Is there any benefit in submitting a proposal earlier than the deadline?

Answer 1:

The closing date for the Challenge Call for Proposals (CFP) EN578-DB1700/A is March 29, 2018. However, each individual Challenge will have its own closing date as well. For each Challenge, proposals must be submitted by the closing date and time indicated on tender notice page for that individual Challenge on buyandsell.gc.ca. Refer to the Challenge CFP solicitation document, Part 3 - Proposal Preparation Instructions for information on how to submit a proposal. Please note that additional Challenges may be posted under the Challenge CFP at a future date, and once again, each of the Challenges will have its own individual closing date and time and that will be the deadline by which all proposals must be submitted for that particular Challenge.

There is no benefit or advantage in submitting a proposal prior to the Challenge closing time as the evaluation process will not begin until after the Challenge closes.

Question 2:

Since this is a challenge for which nothing exists will you accept developmental items?

Answer 2:

The Challenge CFP is accepting proposals that fall between Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 7 – 9 in the pre-commercial space. Please refer to the BCIP website for the definitions of "TRL" and "pre-commercial".

Question 3:

Would you extend the closing date as it is only apparent now that the Challenges requires innovations at TRL 7 or higher which must be developed by the due date?

Answer 3:

The goal of the Challenge CFP is to solicit proposals from bidders who have an innovation that meets the scope of the Challenge and is at the TRL 7 – 9 at the time of proposal submission. The requirement for innovations at TRL 7 – 9 has been part of the BCIP CFPs in the past and is not a new development.

Question 4:

Please clarify: Are you looking for an attachment system to fit over a soldier’s current vest that can accommodate multiple plates, but does not interfere with additional add-ons?

Answer 4: This Challenge is soliciting proposals for modular plate components with increasing protection levels (low, medium, high). The plates are modular in order to be used for protection against a variety of threat levels. So, we are not necessarily looking for attachments but we will consider all solutions that meet the scope of the Challenge. For example, if the plate is an attachment to existing armour that would be considered.

Question 5:

Why is ceramic not acceptable for the base plate (Module 1)?

Answer 5:

A variety of solutions including ceramic will be considered if they can meet all the requirements of the Challenge including size, weight and areal density. Challenge EN578-DB1701 is amended to remove the requirement for a non-ceramic base plate (Module 1).

Question 6:

Can single modules be proposed or do all three have to be proposed?

Answer 6:

For this Challenge, we are looking for proposals that include all three modules.

Question 7:

Is there a thickness limit for the plates?

Answer 7:

Please refer to the Challenge solicitation document for information on the thickness of the plates.

Question 8:

Existing products are procured through the normal channels so how is this a Challenge?

Answer 8:

The Challenge CFP is accepting proposal that fall between Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 7 – 9 in the pre-commercial space. Please refer to the BCIP website for the definitions of "TRL" and "pre-commercial".

Question 9:

May we contact scientists at DRDC Valcartier to discuss our potential project?

Answer 9:

No, the purpose of the teleconference today is to answer all questions regarding this challenge. To verify their eligibility, bidders should use the request for proposal form to demonstrate how they meet the challenge criteria. All questions should be directed to the Contracting Authority at the following address: S5GP.SCPD@pwgsc.gc.ca.

Question 10:

How long will we have to wait for news about our new bid? And what are the steps to take after that?

Answer 10:

Response time is estimated at about 6 weeks. With respect to the next steps, please refer to the Challenge Call for Proposals solicitation document.

Question 11:

If I personally know a DRDC scientist and I discuss this project with him or her before submitting it, is this "legal"?

Answer 11:

As the Challenge Call for Proposals is a procurement process that must be fair and equitable for everyone, all questions should be directed to the Contracting Authority at the following address: S5GP.SCPD@pwgsc.gc.ca.