

ACAN - SOLICITATION NUMBER: 17-22062

Fire Safety in Housing

1. Advance Contract Award Notice (ACAN)

An ACAN is a public notice indicating to the supplier community that a department or agency intends to award a contract for goods, services or construction to a pre-identified supplier, thereby allowing other suppliers to signal their interest in bidding, by submitting a statement of capabilities. If no supplier submits a statement of capabilities that meets the requirements set out in the ACAN, on or before the closing date stated in the ACAN, the contracting officer may then proceed with the award to the pre-identified supplier.

2. Definition of the requirement

For years, stakeholders and partners have asked Codes Canada and the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes (CCBFC) to consider the fire performance of houses in regards to occupants' as well as emergency responders' safety. In 2015, the Executive Committee of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes (EC) agreed to a new strategy to address these requests in order to reach a decision on the fire safety in housing. In February 2017, the EC identified this task as a priority.

In order to assess the adequacy of the fire performance of houses one needs to understand how inherent fire safety features and construction materials found in today's houses have influenced the fire performance over time. It is also important to identify the societal expectations for the safety of occupants today and into the future. Both considerations, current fire safety of residents in houses and societal expectations also need to include fire-fighting practices when it comes to rescue operations in burning homes.

The objective of this project is to provide CCBFC objective information that can be used to rationalize a decision on whether current fire safety in housing is adequate and whether additional changes may be necessary. In other words, quality, objective information is needed to understand the positive impact of those fire safety measures that have already been implemented over time as well as the potentially negative impacts introduced by more flammable or faster burning construction materials, and to allow an objective look at the fire safety risk of homes for residents and emergency responders.

NRC requests under the deliverables of this contract that consultant

- Establish objective information on historical records, research on fire performance of houses, research on egress and evacuation for residents and emergency responders, fire incidents data and fire fighter operations data.
- Describe the impact of code requirements on the fire performance of houses over time, for example the introduction of smoke alarms or the arrival of engineered wood framing or exterior foam insulation sheathing.
- Determine the current state of fire safety risk for residents of houses and firefighters during their operations on burning houses.
- Provide a final report, including all electronic data gathered.

3. Criteria for assessment of the Statement of Capabilities (Minimum Essential Requirements)

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

- Minimum 15 years nationally recognized knowledge and research experience that includes gathering fire incident data, analysis and implementation of the results in frameworks for the evaluation of the impact of code or other requirements.
- Extensive experience undertaking literature reviews in developing a basis for research projects, gathering published reports and papers on the range of data sets and analysis methodologies use, advantages, disadvantages and limitations reported by other researchers, and current practices and trends.
- Recognized expert on the historic development of the current fire-related building code requirements and application of those requirements to building designs.
- Extensive experience working with standing and technical committees developing the building codes in Canada and internationally.
- Previous research experience working in the area of human behavior, utilizing performance-based approaches for evaluating occupant safety utilizing a comparison of ASET and RSET analyses. In addition, the team also has experience with research and performance-based designs utilizing evaluations including tenability criteria for firefighters.
- Research experience with Fire Departments in various jurisdictions, including working with them to gather firefighter statistics that could be utilized for a better understanding of the fire problem and holistic impact of fire safety building requirements on the outcomes of fire events.
- Demonstration of experience of producing research papers and reports, and presenting technical content to a wide range of practical audiences with diverse backgrounds.
- Be a current member of the Standing Committee on Use and Egress.

4. Applicability of the trade agreement(s) to the procurement

This procurement is subject to the following trade agreement(s):

- Canada Free Trade Agreement (CFTA)
- North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

5. Justification for the Pre-Identified Supplier

JENSEN HUGHES is the only known vendor that can perform the proposed scope of work, which requires knowledge on the historic development of the current fire-related building code requirements and application of those requirements to building designs.

JENSEN HUGHES has a wealth of experience in undertaking literature reviews in developing a basis for research projects, in gathering fire incident data, analysing and in implementing the results in frameworks for the evaluation of the impact of code or other requirements.

JH senior engineer is a current member of the Standing Committee on Use and Egress and has been a member since 2009. As part of his involvement on the Standing Committee he has a detailed understanding the changes to Part 3, 9 of the NBCC and the NFC of the NBCC from the 2010 to the 2015 editions. JH personnel have a detailed knowledge of both current and historical building codes, from city, provincial, National, and international jurisdictions.

6. Government Contracts Regulations Exception(s)

The following exception to the Government Contracts Regulations is invoked for this procurement under subsection 6 (d) – Only person is capable of performing the work.

7. Ownership of Intellectual Property

The Intellectual Property will be owned by the NRC.

8. Period of the proposed contract or delivery date

The contract period will be 10 weeks from commencement of contract

9. Cost estimate of the proposed contract

Contract value will be to an upset limit of \$100 000 CAD (HST included).

10. Name and address of the pre-identified supplier

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11. Suppliers' right to submit a statement of capabilities

Suppliers who consider themselves fully qualified and available to provide the services described in the ACAN may submit a statement of capabilities in writing to the contact person 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.

12. Closing date for a submission of a statement of capabilities

The closing date and time for accepting statements of capabilities is October 4, 2017 at 14:00 hrs. EDT

13. Inquiries and submission of statements of capabilities

Inquiries and statements of capabilities are to be directed to:

NRC Contracting Officer: Melody Ellis
National Research Council
Bldg. M-22, 1200 Montreal Rd, Ottawa, ON
Telephone: 613-993-4461