

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

**On behalf of:
The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)**

**For:
Field-usable non-intrusive/stand-off detection and identification instruments**

RFI # 47419-188164

1. PURPOSE:

This engagement is being conducted under the Smart Procurement approach and seeks to engage industry in the pre-solicitation phase.

The purpose of this RFI is to:

1. Obtain information from suppliers regarding their portable, field-usable instruments at Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 8 or 9 for the non-intrusive/stand-off detection and identification of synthetic opioids. The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) has outlined a list of technical requirements and evaluation criteria enclosed as **Attachment 2**, and is requesting suppliers to describe their ability to satisfy the requirement.
2. Obtain information from suppliers regarding their ability and willingness to provide their instrument to the CBSA for laboratory and field testing by the CBSA, as the basis of a procurement. This includes the basis upon which the instruments would be provided.
3. Obtain feedback regarding the CBSA testing procedures and methodologies.

The Rules of Engagement for this RFI are enclosed as **Attachment 1**, and technical information, preliminary evaluation criteria, required response information, and a list of proposed questions is enclosed in **Attachment 2**.

2. BACKGROUND:

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) has a need to non-intrusively detect and identify non-traditional agents, including natural, synthetic or semi-synthetic opioids in various operational scenarios encountered by border services officers, before entering Canada, or by law enforcement members across the country.

The requirement ensues from the research and development (R&D) Call for Proposal process #W7714-16DRDC, supporting a science and technology challenge of the Safety and Security Program (CSSP) Project (CSSP-2017-CP-2302). CBSA is the lead government agency on the project with Public Safety Canada (PSC), Correction Services Canada (CSC), and the Ministère de la sécurité public du Québec (MSP) as project partners. Additional information regarding the CSSP can be found at: http://www.science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_5B5BE154.html?OpenDocument

3. PLANNED REQUIREMENT:

The CBSA wishes to:

1. Acquire non-intrusive detection instruments
2. Acquire operational training on the instruments
3. Test all instruments in a laboratory and field settings for a period of 6 months
4. Provide instrument testing performance feedback to the contractor(s)

4. ACQUISITION STRATEGY:

It is anticipated that a Request for Proposal document will be posted on the Buy and Sell website (www.buyandsell.gc.ca).

R&D is excluded from the International Trade Agreements and subject to the Canada Free Trade Agreement.

Depending on the number, nature, and costs of instruments meeting the specifications, one of three acquisition strategies may be used;

1. Borrowed, with provision to cover Shipping, Travel and Living Expense, to a limited amount of \$10,000.00 per supplier;
2. Leased; or,
3. Purchased.

Each proposed acquisition strategy includes provision to cover labour costs in relation to the training services.

5. ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:

This RFI is to be posted on GETS for 38 calendar days to allow for industry to adequately respond to the proposed questions.

Interested suppliers will have an opportunity to participate in a group conference call. During the conference call, the evaluation procedure for testing the instruments will be discussed. The discussion will include the testing materials to be used in the evaluation process, the evaluation procedure, as well as the reporting of evaluation results. Suppliers will also have the chance to ask questions. The conference call will take place on November 23, 2017. All interested suppliers must contact the Contracting Authority herein to receive the presentation, time, and contact information. Participation in the conference call is not mandatory.

Attachment 1

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT FOR SUPPLIER CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

An overriding principle of the supplier consultation is that it be conducted with the utmost of fairness and equity between all parties. No one person or organization will receive nor be perceived to have received any unusual or unfair advantage over the others.

1. NATURE AND FORMAT OF RESPONSES REQUESTED

The questions contained in **Attachment 2** are intended to elicit feedback from suppliers as outlined in the RFI. Respondents are invited to respond to Canada's questions and provide comments regarding the content and format of any draft documents included in this RFI. It is not expected that all questions will be addressed in each submission, nor should submissions be constrained by the proposed questions. Respondents should explain any assumptions they make in their responses.

2. RESPONSE COSTS

No payment will be made for costs incurred in the participation of this RFI and in the preparation and submission of a document in response to the RFI. Costs associated with participating in this RFI and with preparing and submitting a document are the sole responsibility of the Supplier.

3. TREATMENT OF RESPONSES

1. **Use of Responses:** The responses received may be used by Canada to develop or modify strategies and/or any contracting documents, clauses, terms and conditions. Canada will review all responses that are received by the RFI closing date. Canada may, in its discretion, review responses received after the RFI closing date.
2. **Review Team:** A review team composed of representatives of the Government of Canada will review the responses.
3. **Confidentiality:** Respondents should mark any portions of their response that they consider proprietary or confidential. All submissions will be held by Canada on a commercial-in-confidence basis and remain the property of Canada after they have been received. Canada will handle the responses in accordance with the *Access to Information Act* and the *Privacy Act*.

4. RESPONSE FORMAT

1. **Title Page:** The first page of each response should contain:
 - 1.1 The title of the respondent's response;
 - 1.2 The name and address of the respondent;
 - 1.3 The name, address and telephone number of the respondent's contact;
 - 1.4 The date; and
 - 1.5 The RFI number.
2. **Numbering System:** Respondents are requested to prepare their response using a numbering system corresponding to the one in this RFI. All references to descriptive material, technical manuals and brochures included as part of the response should be referenced accordingly.

3. **Number of Copies:** Canada requests that respondents submit electronically by email one copy of their response (see below for submission of responses instructions).

5. LANGUAGE OF RESPONSE

Responses may be submitted in French or English, at the preference of the respondent.

6. RESPONSE PARAMETERS

This RFI document is not a bid solicitation and no contract will result from it.

The issuance of this RFI does not create any obligation for Canada to issue a subsequent RFP and does not bind Canada legally to enter into any agreement or to accept or reject any suggestions.

Respondents are reminded that this is an RFI, and not a request for proposal (RFP), and in that regard, respondents should feel free to provide their comments and concerns within their responses. Canada reserves the right to seek clarifications from a respondent for any information provided in response to this RFI, either by telephone, in writing or in person.

6. SUBMISSION OF RESPONSES

1. **Time and Place for Submission of Responses:** Suppliers interested in providing a response should send it by email to the Contracting Authority at joseph.hulse@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca by November 16, 2017 at 14:00 EDT. Suppliers wishing to submit their responses via a channel other than email need to contact the authority indicated at "Enquiries" below.
2. **Responsibility for Timely Delivery:** Each respondent is solely responsible for ensuring its response is submitted on time to the correct email address.
3. **Identification of Response:** Each respondent should ensure that the response is identified and that the name and email address, the RFI number and title appear legibly in the email.

7. ENQUIRIES

All enquiries and communication with the Government regarding Canada's requirement under this RFI must be directed in writing to the Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) Contracting Authority as detailed below. Any clarification or information received from other Government officials will not be considered as an official response.

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Government of Canada

Attachment 2

1. Technical Information

1.1 Instruments Definitions

Barrier of Detection

The primary barrier - will be the container in which the material of interest has been placed (e.g., plastic bag, foil pouch, plastic or glass bottle, etc.).

The secondary barrier - will be that in which the primary container has been placed (e.g., envelope, cardboard box, bubble wraps, suitcase or a combination of various layers of wrapping materials).

The final barrier - is the package as intercepted by the authority (for example a courier envelope).

1.2 Instrument Tier Definition

The instruments will be separated into three tiers. The tier of instruments is based on the instrument's capability to penetrate barriers containing the material of interest.

- Tier 1 instruments (preferred) is identified as instruments which will penetrate through multiple barriers (primary, secondary and final barriers) concealing the material of interest. This would allow the operator to identify the material of interest without opening the final barrier.
- Tier 2 instruments (2nd choice) is identified as instruments which will identify the material of interest after opening the final barrier. Preference will be given to Tier 2 instruments which does not require removing the material of interest from the final barrier (Tier 2A). Secondary preference will be given to instruments which would require removing the material of interest from the final barrier but will perform the analysis through the secondary and primary barriers without requiring the handler to come directly in contact with the material of interest (Tier 2B).
- Tier 3 instruments (3rd choice) will consist of instruments requiring the sample present in the first barrier to be removed from the second barrier.

1.3 Tier Preference

Preference will be given to Tier 1 instruments. If none of the instrument meets the evaluation criteria, set out in article 2 below, of Tier 1, the evaluation will then proceed to Tier 2 instruments. If none of the Tier 2 instruments meet the evaluation criteria of Tier 2, the evaluation will then proceed to Tier 3 instruments. No instruments will be considered that requires opening the first barrier and coming in direct contact with the material of interests.

Preference will be given to portable or transportable instruments. Benchtop non-transportable instruments may be considered.

1.4 Instrument Testing

Four testing periods for different proposed instrument have been planned; they are as follows:

Evaluation period 1: February, 2018 – August, 2018

Evaluation period 2: April, 2018 – October, 2018

Evaluation period 3: June, 2018 – December, 2018

Evaluation period 4: August, 2018 – February, 2019.

1.5 Pre-testing Training

For the resulting laboratory and field testing, all suppliers / manufacturers will provide a technical representative to train the evaluators on the use of the proposed instrument at the CBSA Laboratory located in Ottawa.

2. Mandatory Criteria

The resulting contractors' proposed instrument must meet the following criteria:

- a. The proposed instrument must be based on electronic sensors, detectors or photodetectors;
- b. The proposed instrument must be aligned as a Tier 1, Tier 2A, Tier 2B or Tier 3 instrument, as outlined in article 1.2 above;
- c. The proposed instrument must be able to detect and identify the materials of interest, namely opioids (such as fentanyl). If the supplier is not able to demonstrate that the instrument can identify opioids (such as fentanyl), the manufacturer must be able to demonstrate that the system can detect and identify various organic materials and demonstrate how the system can be trained to detect and identify other chemicals such as opioids, including fentanyl.
- d. The operator skill level and training requirement of the proposed instrument must be suitable for non-technical personnel.
- e. The proposed instrument must be able to detect and identify materials of interest without manipulating the materials of interest or direct contact with the materials of interest (including wiping for traces, vapour sampling or otherwise).
- f. The proposed instrument must be at TRL 8 or 9.

3. Required Response Information

3.1 Information regarding the instruments:

Interested suppliers are requested to provide the following information:

- a. Model number of the instrument(s) to be made available for the evaluation. Please note that for suppliers with many different pieces of instruments for opioid detection, the instruments to be evaluated may be limited to two instruments and these selected are the choice of the evaluators.
- b. Cost of the instruments
 - i. Full purchase of instruments including all consumables, if any, and user training. Canada will own the instruments.
 - ii. 6 month lease price of the instruments including all consumables, if any. Also include user training, and option to purchase price at the end of the lease.
- c. A list of current users (if any) with contact information, of the instruments must be included in the response.
- d. Company name, address, telephone and e-mail address.
- e. Company contact name and telephone number.
- f. Company background information (location of company, contact information for company representative and or distributor in Canada if any, and web site address).
- g. As a minimum, the instruments specifications should include the following information:
 - i. The list of opioids and other narcotics (if any) which can be detected and identified.
 - ii. Estimated amount of material required for detection and identification for each analyte.
 - iii. The surface area interrogated, if applicable.
 - iv. The analysis time.

- v. The warm up time.
 - vi. The operating conditions.
 - vii. The type of instrument response.
 - viii. The identification capabilities.
 - ix. The technology used in the instrument.
 - x. The size and weight of the instrument.
 - xi. Safety aspects of the instrument (e.g., radioactive source, laser source, heat source, etc).
 - xii. Procedure and amount of material required to add a substance to the library, if applicable.
- h. The type of obstructions which can be penetrated to identify the concealed material of interest.
 - i. Brochures outlining the specifications and details of the instruments

4. Question Regarding the Requirement:

Interested suppliers are asked to answer the following questions:

1. Are there any mandatory criteria that should be included? If so, what are they and why?
2. Are there any mandatory criteria that should be removed? If so, what are they and why?
3. Of the three acquisition approaches that may be used with the potential future Request for Proposal, which do you prefer and why?
4. Do you believe that the laboratory test results will benefit your organization?
5. Do you have suggestions on how the laboratory tests should be conducted? If so, what are they?
6. Considering that participating suppliers will receive a copy of laboratory testing results for their instruments, would your organization be able to:
 - a. Provide an instrument for evaluation if no compensation was provided (no shipping, travel, and living expenses) and the CBSA expected to receive the instruments free of charge? If no, why not?
 - b. Provide instrument training if no compensation was provided (no travel and living expenses covered to provide training), and the CBSA expected to receive the instruments training free of charge? If no, why not?